

## Annual Report on the Operations of the Forests Department for the Year ended 30th June, 1944.

### INTRODUCTION.

Owing to the shortage of manpower, no developmental works in forest management and silviculture were undertaken, and attention was concentrated on utilisation projects, fire control and maintenance of roads, firebreaks and telephone lines.

During the war the main responsibility of the Department has been the protection of the natural forests from fire to permit the unhampered operations of the sawmilling industry in cutting for defence purposes, and to prevent the destruction of the valuable young forest now growing; thus safeguarding the timber industry of the future.

Roads, tracks and trafficable firelines now requiring maintenance total 11,000 miles, and protective burning is carried out each year over 3,000 miles of firebreaks of five chains or more in width, in addition to the early burning of large areas of mill tops, marginal forest and waste land.

The production of timber amounted to 8,806,000 cubic feet in the square, valued at £1,500,000. Of this quantity, 1,459,000 cubic feet was from private property. In 1938 the corresponding total volume was 14,250,000 cubic feet, but during the war years there has been a progressive reduction in output in Western Australia due to lack of manpower and machinery.

Since the annual report has not been published for the past two years, the following summary of the interesting war-time activities of the Forests Department during this period is included.

Progressive loss of manpower from the sawmilling, firewood cutting, and other rural industries has necessitated this Department providing assistance in a variety of undertakings which are not its normal function.

In order to furnish additional manpower for these works, the Civil Aliens Corps was formed as a pool of rural labour and placed under the control of the Forests Department. This Corps reached a maximum of 260 men, but has since been reduced by transfers to other parts of Australia. The administration of the Corps has been carried out by the existing staff of the Department.

Aliens' camps have been established at Mundaring Weir, Gnangara, Jarrahdale, North Dandalup and Inglehope. The latter centre was the ideal one, houses being available, and wood alongside the railway with a minimum carting distance, but unfortunately adequate railway trucks could not always be provided as required. Permanent camps have now been built at three centres within 50 miles of Perth; Gnangara, Kar-net and North Dandalup, where the men are engaged on firewood cutting. Due to requirements for prisoners and C.A.C. workers, these camps have a much higher standard than most W.A. bush camps.

C.A.C. gangs have been sent away to other urgent works from time to time, to assist in the sawmilling industry and in the digging of potato crops.

The largest of these new activities which have developed as a result of the war has been the maintenance of firewood supplies to the cities of Perth and Fremantle.

Departmental employees as far south as Kirup and Jarrahood have been engaged on this work when not required for fire control and rendering assistance to the timber industry.

Assistance has had to be given to a number of hospitals and Government institutions in connection with firewood supplies where, owing to shortage of coal, it was necessary to substitute wood fuel.

A number of Conscientious Objectors were directed to forest work, and a camp was established on the coastal sandplain for the cutting of banksia firewood.

During the past two years, 120,000 tons of wood have been supplied by Departmental employees and the C.A.C. to the Metropolitan Area, a number of country towns, and the Nos. 1 and 2 Pumping Stations.

The Department has, with the members of the Civil Aliens' Corps under our control, dug potatoes from Cookernup to Kirup, Lowden and Dardanup from the Spring crops in 1942 and 1943, and the Autumn crops in 1943 and 1944. The total number of tons dug so far is 3,598.

This work has involved the erection of temporary camps for comparatively large gangs at a number of centres, the provision of additional transport to supplement that available to the growers, and detailed planning of the digging programme in order to keep large numbers of men continuously employed.

A considerable number of Forests Department employees have volunteered for loan to the sawmilling industry from time to time to meet requests for assistance. These have been connected, chiefly, with bush operations, in which acute shortages of key personnel could be rectified in no other manner. An average of 50 men have been engaged in this way. In addition, gangs of aliens have built bush tramlines and supplied logs at three large mills cutting timber for essential defence contracts.

The production of canning beans for the Services has necessitated the use of a large number of bean sticks. The Department, with its own employees, has commenced cutting for one order of 750,000 of these sticks.

Other Defence orders directly supplied by the Department were boat knees and ships' masts and derricks for local shipbuilding. Tuart logs were despatched to the W.A.G. Railways Department.]

Substitute timbers for imported axehandles were produced for local handle factories, and substitutes for imported canes supplied to the Blind Institute.

Vegetable seeds (carrot, beet and lettuce) were produced at the Hamel Nursery for the Commonwealth Vegetable Seeds Committee.

A small sawmill to cut thinnings of Pinus pinaster was erected at the Gngangara plantation to augment the production of pine timber for cases for war industries. Other pine logs have been supplied to case mills from the Mundaring and Ludlow plantations.

At the request of the Rationing Commission, the Department has undertaken the distribution of extra meat coupons to bush workers as a well distributed staff is available to supervise the issues. An officer in each Division is responsible for the issue of coupons to men whose living conditions are considered to entitle them to extra meat.

The past summer provided one of the most serious fire seasons experienced by the Department. The number of fires attended was 517, compared with 149 in the previous year. This was particularly serious, as gangs in some instances had been reduced below the minimum necessary for safety and there was so little manpower in the country which could be called upon in an emergency. The fire loss in the fully protected Zone A was unusually high, reaching a total of 4,711 acres burnt by fires in a number of districts; 10½ acres of pines were destroyed. It was only through the untiring efforts of the staff and employees of the Forests Department and the personnel of Sawmilling Companies that widespread loss was averted.

Gangs of women were employed with considerable success on controlled burning, and in actual fire fighting, proving invaluable in view of the acute shortage of manpower. Women have been employed as "fire spotters" on the less lonely towers, five of which have been operated in this way. Some have worked on the tallest lookouts at nearly two hundred feet above the ground. Unfortunately, few offer for this work and only one girl has retained her employment over a number of seasons.

Broadcasting of the daily Forest Fire Hazard was stopped for security reasons on the entry of Japan into the war, but it is hoped this restriction may be lifted for the coming Summer.

The extension of fire control over large areas of forest at present relatively unprotected is of vital importance to our future timber supplies, and this protection will be possible only by the development of a substantial track programme in the post-war period.

The first plywood factory in Western Australia was started during the year, using Karri as its raw material. A satisfactory technique permitting the use of this hardwood has been developed.

Included as an Appendix is a brief report on the administration of the Timber Industry Regulation Act, 1926. This Act was designed for the protection of workers in the industry and during the year ended 31st December, 1943, 195 inspections of timber holdings were made by the District Inspector. 562 notifiable accidents were investigated. The average period of incapacity was 20.8 days per person injured, and only one fatal accident occurred.

#### THE FOREST AREA.

The area of State Forest was increased by 25,815 acres and the total area is now 3,393,031 acres. A new State Forest, No. 57, covering 25,500 acres of Jarrah forest extending south-east from Nannup was dedicated. Numerous small additions amounting to 1,243 acres were made and excisions and reversions to the Lands Department, for selection and alienation, totalled 928 acres.

The area of Timber Reserves controlled by the Department was increased by 2,761 acres and the total is now 1,778,111 acres. The recent addition is to the north of the Gngangara Pine Plantation and has been reserved for the extension of that area.

#### REVENUE.

The gross revenue of the Department was £227,350, an increase of £37,112 over that for the previous year. Revenue from sandalwood amounted to only £53, compared with £1,859 for last year and £13,703 for the pre-war year of 1939. No export trade in Sandalwood existed and only a small demand for oil distillation was experienced.

The continued reduction in gold mining activities is reflected in the low level of revenue, amounting to £6,705, received from the Goldfields Districts.

Territorial revenue covering royalties on forest produce declined by approximately £9,000, mainly as the result of reduction in the number of men in the industry. The revenue from this source amounted to £120,928, as compared with £129,699 for the previous year.

#### REVENUE FROM FIREWOOD OPERATIONS.

Approximately 80,000 tons of firewood were produced by Departmental employees and members of the Civil Aliens Corps under the direct control of the Department and of this, 58,000 tons were sold to Government Institutions and woodyards in the Metropolitan Area and 15,000 tons to the Goldfields Water Supply Pumping Stations at Mundaring Weir. Revenue from this source amounted to £73,466.

### REBATES OF INSPECTION FEES.

The rebate of 25 per cent. on inspection fees on all sawn timber, including sleepers, for export was continued and amounted to £959 15s. 5d.

### SAWMILLING AND HEWING.

The production of log timber, exclusive of mining timber, amounted to 26,708,685 cubic feet, from which 8,806,414 cubic feet of sawn and hewn timber was recovered. This represents a further decrease of 3·8 per cent. on the production for last year. A progressive reduction in timber output has been recorded since 1938 when 14 million cubic feet of squared timber was produced.

Log timber, (21,998,377 cubic feet) yielding 7,296,852 cubic feet of sawn timber was obtained from Crown lands. This represents a further reduction of 4·7 per cent. on the production for last year.

Production from private property amounted to 1,444,571 cubic feet of sawn timber compared with 1,343,861 cubic feet for last year.

All these figures represent a considerable decrease in production since the commencement of the war.

The production of hewn timber was only 42·4 per cent. of that for the previous year, the total amounting to 64,991 cubic feet. A greater proportional reduction in the amount from private property was recorded than that from Crown lands. The volume of logs from which this was obtained was 324,955 cubic feet, compared with 12,867,700 in 1938.

### TIMBER PRODUCTION.

PRODUCTION OF TIMBER FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1944 (EXCLUSIVE OF MINING TIMBER, FIREWOOD, AND PILES AND POLES.)

Forest Division No.		MILL LOGS.					HEWN TIMBER.				Grand Totals.	
		Jarrah.	Karri.	Other.	Total.		Jarrah.	Wandoo.	Total.			
					In Log.	Recovery of Sawn Timber.			In Square.	In Square.	In Log.	In Square.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)		
	Crown Lands	cub. ft. 16,183,528	cub. ft. 5,032,245	cub. ft. 782,604	cub. ft. 21,998,377	cub. ft. 7,296,852	cub. ft. 50,433	cub. ft. 890	cub. ft. 254,115	cub. ft. 50,823	cub. ft. 22,252,492	cub. ft. 7,347,675
	Private Property	2,678,837	1,128,779	577,737	4,385,353	1,444,571	12,843	1,325	70,840	14,168	4,456,193	1,458,739
	Grand Totals	18,862,365	6,161,024	1,360,341*	26,383,730	8,741,423	63,276	1,715	324,955	64,991	26,708,685	8,806,414

Figures in columns (1), (2), (3), (4), (8), and (10) are in the round based on full volume measure. Figures in columns (5), (6), (7), (9), and (11) are the volumes of sawn or hewn timber measured in the square.

\* Comprises 662,001 cubic feet Wandoo; 232,912 cubic feet Pine; 191,558 cubic feet Sheoak; 169,641 cubic feet Marri; 76,610 cubic feet Blackbutt; 19,369 cubic feet Tuart; 3,621 cubic feet Morrell; 2,544 cubic feet River Banksia; 1,270 cubic feet Mallet; 408 cubic feet Other Banksia; 407 cubic feet York Gum.

The volume of thinnings from Departmental Pine Plantations and some mature trees surrounding old buildings was 64,329 cubic feet.

The quantities of sawn and hewn timber measured in the square produced from Crown lands and private property for the past two years are set out in Table 2.

TABLE 2.

Year.	From Crown Lands.			From Private Property.			Estimated Value of Timber obtained.
	Sawn Timber other than Sleepers.	Sawn Sleepers.	Hewn Sleepers.	Sawn Timber other than Sleepers.	Sawn Sleepers.	Hewn Sleepers.	
1942-43	cub. ft. 5,870,912	cub. ft. 1,790,090	cub. ft. 106,482	cub. ft. 1,195,686	cub. ft. 148,175	cub. ft. 46,481	£ 1,496,000
1943-44	5,599,833	1,697,019	*50,785	1,295,217	149,354	14,168	1,490,000

\* The total of hewn timber other than sleepers amounted to only 88 cubic feet.

The number of sleeper hewers registered for the year was 42, although the average number working on both Crown lands and private property was only 23.

The average number of men employed in the sawmilling industry throughout the year was 2,718; sawmills in operation totalled 118, compared with 114 last year. The number operating on State Forest and Crown lands was 73, and these were responsible for the greater part of the output.

### FIREWOOD PRODUCTION.

The Government through the agency of the Forests Department has continued its policy of assistance in firewood production to supplement supplies reaching the Metropolitan Area through the usual channels. The quantity supplied by the Department during the year under review was approximately double that of the previous twelve months.

Every effort has been made to encourage the marketing of mill waste as firewood, but action in this direction has been hampered by the lack of railway trucks and the inability of the Railway Department owing to coal shortages to transport the wood to Perth. Of the waste produced at the various mills, 136,000 tons were used by the mills as fuel, and 54,000 tons were sold as firewood.

During the summer months, the Forests Department accumulated large reserves of firewood in the bush which enabled supplies to be maintained to the Metropolitan Area throughout the winter, thus avoiding a repetition of the shortage experienced during the previous year.

Firewood distributed by the Department during the year apart from 15,000 tons of wood supplied to Nos. 1 and 2 Pumping plants, amounted to nearly 60,000 tons. Practically the whole of this was supplied to the Metropolitan Area. Sixty-five per cent. of the wood was produced by the Civil Aliens Corps under the control of this Department, 23 per cent. by Departmental employees, and 12 per cent. by contractors.

Owing to the shortage of rail transport for firewood, it was necessary to organise a road transport service for the delivery of approximately 50 per cent. of the production. Wood was obtained from fifteen centres for the Metropolitan Area, and the average haulage distance was 48 miles.

Of the wood produced Departmentally, apart from that supplied to Hospitals, Government Institutions, etc., 51,000 tons were delivered to 100 Metropolitan woodyards. In addition to this wood, Metropolitan supplies were augmented by 59,000 tons obtained by persons operating under permits on Crown lands, and it is estimated that a further 40,000 tons were cut and supplied from private property and 25,000 tons of mill waste supplied.

#### TIMBER INSPECTION.

Sawn and hewn sleepers inspected throughout the year amounted to 1,623,431 cubic feet, while sawn timber other than sleepers submitted for inspection totalled 281,004 cubic feet.

Two thousand four hundred and ninety-one piles and poles containing 78,310 lineal feet were inspected.

#### OTHER FOREST PRODUCE.

Mining timber supplied from Crown lands and private property in the Collie and Goldfields Divisions amounted to 18,879 tons, approximately the same as last year.

Firewood produced on the Goldfields amounted to 214,546 tons, compared with 254,493 for the previous year. This reduction is attributed mainly to reduced mining activities, lack of manpower and industrial disturbances on the Goldfields' Firewood Supply wood line.

The production of sleepers for the Goldfields wood lines was maintained at 19,957 cubic feet—a considerable reduction on that of only two years ago.

Charcoal production of State Forest and Crown lands amounted to only 3,162 tons. Most of this produce is now obtained from private enterprise on country not held under lease or license from this Department.

Piles and poles obtained from Crown lands and private property totalled 307,397 lineal feet, a reduction of 64.6 per cent. on the figures for the previous year. The number of fencing posts and rails increased by approximately 6,000 to 44,354. Ship masts and boat knees were also obtained from a number of timbers.

Supplies of mallet bark for tannin extraction were difficult to maintain, and the total stripped was only 366 tons, compared with 587 tons last year. Mallet timber was supplied to a factory for turning axe handles.

Wandoo logs used in the production of tannin extract amounted to 43,137 tons.

Tuart logs amounting to 19,369 cubic feet were obtained by the W.A. Government Railways and all of this was supplied by the Forests Department.

Pine thinning in the Mundaring Weir and Ludlow Plantations was continued and 64,329 cubic feet of logs were made available, principally for case manufacture.

Ten thousand W.A. Willow canes, approximately 6 feet long, have been supplied to the W.A. School for the Blind for use in basket making.

Sandalwood production amounted to only 52 tons. This was due to the complete cessation of the export trade and the greatly reduced internal demand for sandalwood oil.

#### FOREST OFFENCES.

Forty-five offences were reported during the year and proceedings against offenders were taken in six cases, as a result of which fines and costs amounting to £46 were imposed. Warnings were issued in seventeen cases, and the remainder were dealt with by the collection of royalty, confiscation of timber illegally cut or forfeiture of deposit. The amount received by the Department in this way was £117.

#### EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue Fund covering cost of general administration of the Forests Act and Regulations amounted to £29,272, as compared with £29,017 for the previous year.

In addition to this, an amount of £107,833 was provided from Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet expenditure on firewood cutting for Nos. 1 and 2 Pumping Stations at Mundaring Weir, Metropolitan Markets and Government Institutions, mallet bark stripping, potato digging, and various other war-time emergency conversion projects.

An amount of £14,903 was provided from General Loan Fund for works connected with Forest Regeneration and Pine Planting.

An average number of 282 wages employees were engaged on fire control and general forest work during the year. This included firewood cutting for the Metropolitan Area and certain country towns, assistance to sawmillers in falling and log hauling, some work in sawmills and timber tramline construction, and the supply of a variety of forest products, including pine thinnings, tuart logs, cane substitutes, boat knees, ships' masts, etc.

Three-fifths of the net revenue of the Department amounted to £26,438 19s. 1d. for the year, and this amount was transferred to the Reforestation Fund in accordance with the provisions of Section 41 of the Forests Act, 1918.

The Treasury Department credited the Fund with an amount of £26,715 1s. 1d., an over credit of £276 2s., which will be adjusted during the current year.

The following tables set out the position of the Reforestation Fund as at 30th June, 1944:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Revenue for Year 1943-44	...	...	...	...	...	...	227,349	14	10
Consolidated Revenue Fund Expenditure	...	...	...	137,105	10	7			
Less Timber Industry Regulations—Salaries and Incidentals	...	...	...	1,197	14	7			
							135,907	16	0
Interest on Loans	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,025	14	8
Sinking Fund	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,251	5	3
Audit Fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	0	0
							183,284	15	11
Net Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	£44,064	18	11

#### REFORESTATION FUND.

Balance as at 30th June, 1943	...	...	...	...	...	...	77,230	0	4
Three-fifths Revenue transferred	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,715	1	1
Directs Credits	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,061	6	5
Recoups, Assistance to Sawmills, other Departments, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,366	11	11
Treasury Adjustment	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	0	0
Treasury Grant	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,000	0	0
							92,162	19	5
							169,392	19	9
Less Expenditure, 1943-44—									
Reforestation and Afforestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	83,624	14	0
Assistance to Sawmills, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,366	11	11
							100,991	5	11
Balance in Fund as at 30th June, 1944	...	...	...	...	...	...	£68,401	13	10

The amount of £26,715 1s. 1d. credited by Treasury Department as three-fifths of net revenue is over-credited by an amount of £276 2s., which will be adjusted during the current year.

#### Motor Vehicle Depreciation Account.

By Balance as at 1st July, 1943	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,491	18	11
By Transfer of Depreciation on Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,580	9	5
							4,072	8	4
To Purchase of New Motor Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,882	12	1
Balance in Fund as at 30th June, 1944	...	...	...	...	...	...	£189	16	3

Treasury Department accounts combine both Reforestation Fund and Motor Vehicle Depreciation Account and show a total credit of £68,591 10s. 1d. as at 30th June, 1944.

#### REFORESTATION.

In continuance of the policy of keeping Departmental operations to a maintenance basis for the period of the war, no developmental works in management and silviculture were undertaken. These have all been reserved for attention in the post war years and a lengthy programme of essential works is being built up. Maintenance of roads and firelines essential to the adequate protection and access to the forests was undertaken as far as the limited staffs and pressure of additional war time duties would permit, but these works have fallen seriously into arrears with a consequent threat to the forests.

Roads and firelines were extended by 132 miles and a total of 11,131 miles, nearly all of which are trafficable, have now been built by this Department.

An additional 35 miles of single wire earth return telephone line was erected, and the necessary maintenance repairs and adjustment to the 1,249 miles of line now in use was carried out wherever required.

No regeneration operations in either Jarrah or Karri were undertaken and the areas regenerated are the same as reported last year.

Type mapping and assessment of a further 19,500 acres were completed in the Dwellingup, Kirup, Manjimup, and Pemberton Divisions. 2,450 chains of permanent line plots were completed, and 2,400 partially completed for periodical remeasurement and stocktaking of the forest. These were established in 35,000 acres of cut-over Jarrah and Karri forest.

Sample assessments of Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) extending over 55 acres of plots were carried out, to obtain information regarding the distribution and value of this species for paper pulp manufacture. The suitability of this timber for the production of paper is now being investigated by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.



An unusually large number of fires arose from burning-off operations on private property, and stock-owners, when travelling stock through State Forest or pasturing cattle on forest country.

The absence of the usual early March rains was primarily responsible for many burning-off fires becoming uncontrollable, and extending over large areas of private property and State Forest. In some districts the early closing of the burning period led many farmers into errors with their burning operations, and considerable areas were unintentionally burnt during the first three weeks in March.

An unusually large area of Zone A, amounting to 4,711 acres, was burnt over, though severe damage was sustained by only 1,910 acres, and 10½ acres of *Pinus pinaster* seven years of age were destroyed by fire.

Some of this damage resulted from controlled burning operations in spring, when attempts were made with unskilled labour to complete the burning of firebreaks unburnt the previous year.

Considerable valuable assistance was again rendered by the Commissioner of Police in making trackers and detectives available at short notice to investigate the occurrence of fire wherever justified.

#### RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION.

At Dwellingup and Pemberton the operations of the fire weather stations were continued and daily recordings of the recognised fire weather elements were made. From this data, together with additional information regarding the general weather movements provided daily by the Divisional Meteorologist, the usual fire weather forecasts were prepared and disseminated to district officers over the Departmental telephone system.

It is hoped that regulations may now be sufficiently relaxed to permit the regular broadcasting of this Department's daily fire weather forecasts. These forecasts not only govern the daily organisation of the Department, but serve an ever increasing function in guiding generally in their burning-off operations.

During the year a Forest Products Utilisation Panel was established within the Department to report on matters relating to the utilisation of forest products.

Schools of instruction in fire control organisation and technique were held during the early summer and attended by staff officers and overseers.

In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, and the Dairy Products Marketing Board, the use of local timber to replace imported softwood in the manufacture of butter boxes was investigated. It was shown successfully that boxes made from seasoned Jarrah, sprayed on the inside with a casein formalin mixture did not impart any taint or flavour to the contents and proved a satisfactory substitute for the imported article.

Considerable assistance was given a local company, Westralian Plywoods, in the selection and supply of Karri logs suitable for the manufacture of plywood. The selection and grading of logs for this product is still being carried out, and three-ply of high quality is now being manufactured on a commercial basis.

Data resulting from experiments laid down by the Department of Agriculture were examined by the Statistical Branch of this Department.

Investigation into pine thinning and further observations on the taper in *Pinus pinaster* were continued.

Remeasurement of earlier experiments in the field of pine nutrition were carried out and data recorded for future publication.

A limited number of field trials in pine establishment were carried out to provide continuous record under varying climatic conditions.

Detailed assessments of areas cut over by various sawmilling companies were continued as opportunity offered to provide information regarding tree marking standards, volume of timber remaining, and data for future working plan provisions.

#### ARBORICULTURE.

Tree planting by local authorities and other public bodies continued on a greatly reduced scale compared with prewar activities, and sales of trees from the Hamel Forest Nursery were consequently very limited. The demand from private persons was fairly well maintained and increased slightly over that of the previous year. 26,466 trees were sold and 2,990 supplied free to institutions, public bodies and Departmental centres.

Experimental plantings of Guayule for the production of rubber were made and 1,000 plants supplied to the Department of Agriculture. Sowings were also made of another rubber-producing plant—*Taraxacum Kok-sagnyz*—but these failed to withstand the long dry summer.

Sugar Gum, Maritime Pine and Monterey Pine were the trees in most demand, while Victorian Ti Tree, Brush Box and Pepper Tree also sold well.

No pines were raised for distribution to other Departmental centres.

Fifty thousand onion plants were raised and sold to local orders.

Portion of the Hamel Nursery was sown to carrots for the production of seed urgently required by the Commonwealth Vegetable Seeds Committee.

## STAFF.

*Killed on Active Service.*

Flying Officer W. G. Sharpe, Assistant Divisional Forest Officer, has been reported Missing, presumed Killed, near Benghazi, North Africa.

Pilot Officer A. Pearce, Clerk, Records Branch, was killed on Active Service off the coast of Portugal.

*Transfers, Retirements, etc.*

Mr. G. W. M. Nunn, Divisional Forest Officer, resumed duty after more than two years' Military Service.

Mr. H. E. Graham, Draftsman, resigned on being elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Foresters A. O'Leary and D. Middleton and Assistant Forester A. L. Opperman retired on reaching the retiring age, and Assistant Forester B. Trainor was retired on account of ill health.

Two members of the staff were granted indefinite Military Leave ; two juniors were appointed to the permanent staff ; four female juniors (clerks and typists) resigned, and the number of persons temporarily employed under the Public Service Act was increased by one Draftsman and 13 women.

The year under review has been a difficult one for the staff, and I have great pleasure in recording my appreciation of their loyal and efficient co-operation in carrying out the many activities of the Department.

Perth, 15th September, 1944.

T. N. STOATE,  
Deputy Conservator of Forests.

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## APPENDIX 1a.

## CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

Consolidated Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for Year ended 30th June, 1944.

DR.			CR.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Log Royalties, General Mills ... ..	99,351	10 3	By Salaries ... ..	24,879	6 4
„ Log Royalties, Sleeper Mills ... ..	13,602	9 6	„ Incidentals ... ..	2,984	12 7
„ Hewn Timber Royalties ... ..	969	18 3	„ Firewood, Nos. 1 and 2 Pumps ... ..	10,986	16 6
„ Sandalwood Royalties ... ..	52	17 3	„ Firewood, Metropolitan and Conversion Projects ... ..	96,846	8 3
„ Pile and Pole Royalties ... ..	2,415	5 1	„ Timber Industry Regulations ... ..	408	9 8
„ Miscellaneous Royalties ... ..	4,535	15 1	„ Pine Conversion Costs ... ..	999	17 3
„ Goldfields Revenue ... ..	6,705	5 0			
„ Rents ... ..	1,099	4 11	Total C.R.F. Expenditure ... ..	137,105	10 7
„ Inspection Fees ... ..	3,018	4 11	„ Excess Revenue over Expenditure ... ..	90,244	4 3
„ Sales Pine Timber ... ..	2,147	16 8			
„ Sales Firewood, Metropolitan ... ..	60,421	4 1			
„ Sales Firewood, Nos. 1 and 2 Pumps ... ..	13,044	13 6			
„ Miscellaneous Sales ... ..	1,137	14 4			
„ Potato Digging Charges ... ..	5,616	8 4			
„ Alien Canteen and Mess ... ..	11,284	9 0			
„ Miscellaneous Receipts ... ..	1,948	18 8			
	£227,349	14 10		£227,349	14 10

## APPENDIX 1b.

Consolidated Statement of Afforestation and Reforestation Expenditure for Year ended 30th June, 1944.

DR.			CR.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Division No. 1 ... ..	6,875	5 8	By Reforestation Fund ... ..	83,624	14 0
„ Division No. 2 ... ..	4,716	8 5	„ Loan Fund ... ..	14,903	3 6
„ Division No. 3 ... ..	8,990	8 1	„ Federal Aid Road Grant ... ..	3,000	0 0
„ Division No. 4 ... ..	8,769	12 4	„ Motor Vehicle Depreciation Account ... ..	3,882	12 1
„ Division No. 5 ... ..	10,090	6 10	„ Pine Conversion Account ... ..	999	17 3
„ Division No. 6 ... ..	9,564	15 0			
„ Division No. 7 ... ..	6,012	0 9			
„ Division No. 8 ... ..	6,568	6 7			
„ Division No. 9 ... ..	5,780	13 11			
„ Division No. 10 ... ..	8,579	8 10			
„ Division No. 11 ... ..	6,933	1 4			
Total Divisional Expenditure ... ..	82,880	7 9			
„ Training of Staff ... ..	26	3 1			
„ Research and Investigation ... ..	1,042	9 5			
„ Preparation of Working Plans and Topographical Surveys ... ..	987	5 0			
„ Salaries and Allowances ... ..	7,713	18 10			
„ General Equipment and In- cidental ... ..	6,037	3 5			
„ General Silviculture, Arbori- culture, and Forest Pro- tection ... ..	200	6 9			
„ Motor Vehicle Depreciation ... ..	2,580	9 5			
„ Purchase of Motor Vehicles ... ..	3,882	12 1			
„ Pay Roll Tax ... ..	585	3 0			
„ Cash Orders not allocated at 30th June, 1944 ... ..	474	8 1			
	£106,410	6 10		£106,410	6 10

## APPENDIX 2.

## TIMBER INDUSTRY REGULATION ACT, 1926.

*Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1943.*

The number of sawmills operating under the provisions of the Act at the close of the year totalled 118. The approximate number of persons employed on timber holdings was 2,718, representing an increase of 103 on the figures for the previous year. Throughout the year, 195 inspections of timber holdings were made by the District Inspector and Workmen's Inspector to maintain the standard of working and living conditions required by the Act. In the course of these inspections, five requisitions were issued, covering mainly minor defects which received satisfactory attention.

Five hundred and sixty-two notifiable accidents, one of which proved fatal, were reported and investigated.

The number of accidents per 100 persons employed was 20·8.

Detailed records of accidents indicate that 82·2 per cent. of all accidents were sustained by persons of British nationality, and that 11·5 per cent. occurred to persons of 21 years of age and under.

Incapacity, as a result of accidents, involved a loss of working time of 11,697 days, representing 20·8 days per person injured.

Returns as listed hereunder, have been prepared, but are not incorporated in this report :—

1. Number of notifiable accidents reported in accordance with section 14 of the Act, according to months, and indicating the age and nationality of the injured person, the period of incapacity, the number of cases on which the first-aid outfit was used, and the monthly fatigue symbol.
2. The number of accidents reported during 1943, and their classification according to location and nature of injury.
3. The number of accidents classified according to cause of accident and location of injury.
4. The number of accidents classified according to cause of accident and nature of injury.
5. The number of accidents classified according to the months and days of the week on which the accident occurred.
6. The number of hours worked on the day and up to the time of injury, by the person injured.
7. A return showing by months the time at which the notifiable accidents occurred.
8. A return showing the personal cause of accidents as determined by the Inspectors.

Perth, 15th September, 1944.

T. N. STOATE,  
Acting Controlling Officer.