

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL FORESTERS
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NEWS NOTES No. 14

January 1, 1961

Just a little over 10 years ago the International Society of Tropical Foresters came into existence, created by a small body of professional foresters meeting in Washington, D. C. Now entering its second decade, the Society has increased to a membership of over 300, representing every nation possessing tropical forests and including most of the world's most distinguished tropical foresters. In the years ahead the Society plans to further its specific aims, which are: to promote the practice, science and standards of tropical forestry throughout the world; to act as a center of professional information and communication; and to make available to its members notices of important additions to tropical forestry literature and the dates and places of relevant meetings.

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Fifth World Forestry Congress. The Fifth World Forestry Congress held in Seattle, Washington, August 29 - September 10 was the largest, and in many respects the most important of any world forestry congress. Its success was due in no small part to the work of many ISTF members. Among those holding important positions in the Congress were I. T. Haig, Director General; V. L. Harper, Chairman of the Executive Committee; Hardy Shirley, Chairman of the Program Committee; A. C. Cline, Chairman of the Silviculture Committee; and Tom Gill, Chairman of the Attendance Committee and of the Tropical Section. Robert Winters served as Travel Arrangements Officer. Enrique Beltran was elected Co-President of the Congress and was also author of an excellent paper on education for political and industrial leaders. Frank Wadsworth served as technical secretary of the Tropical Section, and Tiburcio S. Serevo as Chairman. Other eminent ISTF leaders in tropical forestry attending the Congress include H. H. Chapman, Sir Harry Champion, Professor Malcolm V. Laurie, L. J. Cummings, Florencio Tamesis, L. R. Holdridge, A. Aubreville, E. L. Demmon, and H. B. Donaldson. Among our members presenting papers were Paul Bedard, Frank Wadsworth, H. F. Mooney, C. A. Donis, Henry Dawkins, N. S. Kaikini, M. K. Shawki, U. Aung Din, Johannes Weck, and A. Aubreville. Nearly 2000 registrants from 65 nations and 6 international organizations attended the Congress, making it the largest gathering of foresters ever held in the history of forestry. More than 100 educational exhibits and about 75 motion picture films were displayed. There were two pre-Congress and five post-Congress tours in the United States and a special tour in British Columbia. About 450 papers were presented in full or by title during the three plenary, three general, and 39 technical sections. The official languages were English, French and Spanish. The papers are to be published in 1961 in an official Proceedings probably in three volumes. There were a number of Congress

recommendations. With respect to the tropics, the Congress recommended intensification of research in the adaptation of aerial photography to the peculiar problems of tropical inventories. The great need for trained men at both the technical and professional levels, especially in tropical countries, was repeatedly emphasized. The Congress also recommended that several forestry schools or special institutions give instruction in world forestry to prepare teachers and technologists for staff missions abroad sponsored by FAO and other agencies. It was the sense of the Congress that the most satisfactory system of forest land tenure in many countries is a combination of government control and the delegation to private interests over long term periods of some or most of the responsibilities of ownership. The section on Tropical Forestry was fully attended and proved one of the most popular sections of the Congress. It included four major topics: Topic 1 - The Regeneration and Establishment of Tropical Forests; Topic 2 - Obstacles to Tropical Forestry; Topic 3 - Intensive vs. Extensive Management of Tropical Forests; Topic 4 - Shifting Agriculture. The menace of shifting agriculture was the subject of much discussion. Paul Bedard read a paper on its benign and malignant aspects. Case histories were cited by H. F. Mooney for the Near East and Florencio Tamesis for the Philippines. The Congress recommended that countries faced with serious problems of shifting cultivation seek financial and technical assistance from appropriate organizations and that permanent working groups be set up for a world-wide study of the problem.

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The Smithsonian Institution has been asked to consider reprinting Standley's "Trees and Shrubs of Mexico" (Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb., vol 23, pts. 1-5, pp. 1-1721, 1920-1926) which has been out of print for years. The Institution would welcome expressions of interest from ISTF members in such a reprint, the cost of which would be approximately \$20. Address inquiries to Editorial and Publications Division, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.

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The Government of India during 1961 will celebrate a hundred years of forest administration in that country. Systematic scientific management of India's forests commenced in 1861. Two volumes of centenary publication will be issued describing all aspects of India's forests.

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The Caribbean Forester, Vol. 20, Nos. 3 and 4, published by the Tropical Forest Research Center, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, contains an article on "The Coastal Swamp Forests of Narino, Colombia, by F. Bruce Lamb, and a short note on "Forestry and the Timber Trade in the Caribbean Area" by M. M. Gallant.

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ISTF members have been actively writing on mangrove during the past year. Frank Wadsworth has an article "Growth and Regeneration of the White Mangroves in Puerto Rico" in the July-December issue of the Caribbean Forester; Acosta Solis, an article on the mangroves of Ecuador in the Journal of the Ecuadorian Institute of Natural Sciences; M. A. Huberman, an article on "Mangrove Silviculture" in Unasylva.

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An excellent brochure has been issued by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, containing a synopsis of the work and growth of the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau at Oxford, England. This Bureau founded to serve forestry, wood technologists, and scientists working in related fields, is a unique, and for many professional workers, an indispensable organization which deserves to be better known and more adequately supported. The brochure is obtainable from the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux Central Sales, Farnham Royal, Bucks, England.

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The Lumberman (Manila) for April/May 1960 contains an article by Carlos Fernandez, one of the great conservation leaders of the tropical world. In it he discusses the need for forests in the Philippines, forest influences and desirable land utilization.

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The first international training course in aerial forest inventory ever to be given was held in August and October at Kuala Lumpur and British North Borneo. The final month spent in British North Borneo was entirely devoted to field trips within the tropical forest area of that region.

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Pedro Veillon contributed an article on "The Economic and Ecological Basis for the Introduction of Central American Tropical Conifers into Venezuela" in the bulletin of the Latin American Forestry Institute in Merida. Veillon discusses the present situation in production and consumption of forest products in Venezuela and possibilities of increasing local production. Suggestions are made for the establishment of exotic plantations.

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At the 7th meeting of the Latin American Forestry Commission held in Mexico, prominent among those selected for 1960-62 offices were the following ISTF members: President, Enrique Beltran; Second Vice President, Flavio Bazan. On the Regional Committee for Forest Research V. L. Harper was chosen President; Gerardo Budowski, head of

the Section for Forest Terminology; and Frank Wadsworth, head of the Section on Reforestation.

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The Department of Natural Renewable Resources of Paraguay has undertaken a work program based on the creation of forest nurseries in various zones of the Republic. These, in addition to propaganda value, will serve for the production of much needed planting stock. The program is intended to facilitate the production of trees adapted to the climate in the various regions and chosen for rapid growth and ultimate utility.

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The National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council of Washington, D. C. sponsored in May, 1960 a conference on tropical botany. Among those invited were ISTF members L. R. Holdridge and Frank Wadsworth. The need for this conference lies in the fact that the tropical portion of the earth is one of its most poorly known and scantily appreciated regions. Yet its vast area, its potential productivity and the extent of its unsolved problems make it of direct interest. Widespread ignorance of even the most elementary conservation techniques is today especially evident in tropical regions where deforestation and erosion are rapidly destroying the vegetative cover of wooded mountains and grassy plains. Many types of vegetation exist only in the tropics, not only the lowland rain-forest, but also subtropical forest, evergreen forest, mangroves, swamps and a great diversity of arid areas and deserts. There is urgent need for an information center for the organization and dissemination of up-to-date inventory records of the facilities, personnel and areas demanding attention in the botany of tropical areas. The Conference recommended that the National Academy of Sciences establish a Tropical Plant Science Board. This Board, in cooperation with organizations throughout the tropical world, would aim to correlate, stimulate and seek support for the development of tropical plant science in all its disciplines.

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In Vol. 20, Nos. 1 and 2 of the Caribbean Forester for 1959, F. Bruce Lamb contributes a selected annotated bibliography on Mahogany. This is a well selected list of 240 works from world sources dating from 1754 to the present time.

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