

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

REPORT OF THE BRITISH FORESTRY COMMISSION

THE seventeenth annual report of the British Forestry Commission with the details of a plan for afforestation and forest workers' holdings in connection with the Special Areas of England and Wales is given in the *London Times*.

The areas concerned are the mining districts of South Wales, Durham and Tyneside, Haltwhistle and West Cumberland. It has been estimated that within about 15 miles of these Special Areas there are some 200,000 acres of land which might be acquired for afforestation and that 1,000 forest workers' holdings might usefully be established. As a first instalment, covering three years and largely as an experiment, the commissioners were authorized to acquire and to begin planting 100,000 acres and to establish 500 holdings.

The financial provision for the year beginning April 1, 1936, amounted to £200,000, thereby increasing to £700,000 the total sum voted by Parliament to the Forestry Fund in that year. The plans were announced late in February, 1936. The report surveys the first seven months of preparatory work. Three factors were involved: provision of suitable small trees for planting, acquisition of land and provision of skilled staff.

Steps were taken in the spring of 1936 to cultivate a larger area—over 100 acres—of nursery ground and to sow seed additional to normal requirements. The largest new nursery established was at Tair Onen, near Cardiff. Up to May, 1937, the acquisition of 14,100 acres of plantable land had been completed and the acquisition of an additional 23,600 plantable acres had been approved; 86 forest workers' holdings had been completed or were in course of establishment. No additional planting was possible in the winter of 1936-37, but plans are being made for the planting of 3,350 acres in 1937-38.

The report states that the scheme for the Argyll National Forest Park has now taken definite shape. The park comprises two closely adjoining areas in an unspoilt and almost uninhabited district immediately west of Loch Long. The area, which is approximately of 100 square miles, includes within its present boundary the hills and glens around Arrochar, Ardgail, Glenbranter, Glenfinart and Benmore. A public camping ground, car park and buildings for the use of campers have recently been provided at Ardgartan.

The Argyll Park having been found so far to be successful, the commissioners have been encouraged to consider the formation of a somewhat similar area in Wales. A committee, of which Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Wynne Finch is chairman, is now examining the

possibilities of the commission's areas in Snowdonia as a further national forest park.

The total area of land in the commissioners' control is now about 954,500 acres. The area planted last year was 20,576 acres, bringing the total area planted by the commission to 296,452 acres.

THE PROPOSED REINCORPORATION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

AT the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society, to be held at Rochester, N. Y., from September 6 to 10, a general assembly is called for 2 o'clock on the afternoon of September 8, to act upon a resolution authorizing the directors to take such steps as are necessary to reincorporate the society, either under the laws of the District of Columbia or by act of the Congress.

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry writes:

The directors have given this matter careful and detailed consideration and are convinced that such incorporation is in the best interests of the society. With such incorporation the status of the society as a national organization is firmly established and its freedom to operate in any state or any group of states is made certain. It would place the society in a position where it may hope to obtain a central home like that of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the National Education Association, the National Geographic Society and the Carnegie Institution. Being national in scope, indeed international, our members will have an *esprit de corps* and a feeling of corporate unity which they do not altogether possess by our present incorporation in a single state. Our Council and Board of Directors consist of representatives selected from the various regions of the country, irrespective of the fact that we are a New York State corporation. Individuals in these governing bodies are repeatedly hampered in the performance of their duties by lack of knowledge of the laws of the State of New York. Under federal charter this difficulty is eliminated, as the society will be subject simply to its own act of incorporation.

The society's legal headquarters are in New York. It also maintains offices in Washington, one in Massachusetts and one in Ohio. As an educational and scientific organization it is and always has been exempt from state and national taxation. In the District of Columbia it is exempt from taxes on any real estate it may own and use for society purposes, but an old law has just been uncovered which makes it liable to personal tax.

The society wishes to be wholly national and to function from the Nation's capital. All income of the society is devoted exclusively to the advancement of our country's welfare. If federal incorporation is granted, the income of this society, just as the income of the Carnegie Institution, the income of the National Academy of Sciences