

be faced with an unpronounceable A.N.Z.P.P.I.T.A.; for that is what it seems to be becoming.

For the first time also the A.P.P.I.T.A. Conference held a Forestry session. The theme, naturally, was the inter-dependence of forest industries and sustained yield forest management. The New Zealand papers presented were:—

A. D. McKinnon: The Raw Material—Wood Species other than Radiata Pine.

F. E. Hutchinson and J. E. Henry: Growth and Development of *P. radiata* Forests on Holdings of N.Z. Forest Products Ltd.

J. L. Harrison-Smith: The Growth and Yield of a *P. radiata* Plantation for Integrated Utilisation.

It is somewhat surprising to note that there were no papers on the greatest of all the new integrated forest industries, Tasman, or on the management methods employed in its area of raw material supply, the Murupara Working Circle.

Institute members will have the opportunity to read the papers of both conferences in the published proceedings.

## OBITUARY

### S. E. MASTERS

With deep regret we record the death of S. E. Masters, a member of this Institute and a forester held high in the esteem and affection of all who knew him.

It is probable that, in the years to come, Stan Masters will be best remembered for the part he played in the work of the National Forest Survey. He will be remembered as the man to whom the lion's share of all credit for the work of the survey properly belonged. In particular, he will be remembered as the man who, starting from scratch, built up as fine a photogrammetric survey draughting unit as any forest service could wish to see. But those of us who knew him best would prefer to see him remembered for his personal qualities, for his dogged determination, for his willing acceptance of any task thrust upon him, for his capacity for sheer hard work, and for his unfailing loyalty to his fellow officers, superior or subordinate.

Some of us rise high in the ranks of our profession through natural inborn ability, an ability for which we can take no personal credit. Some of us rise high almost by chance; the dice fall happily for us. Stan Masters found nothing easy. The one quality that he possessed in abundance, the quality that brought him through the ranks, was guts. There is no other word that is at all adequate. Courage, determination, endurance, fortitude, the quality comprehends all these and more. This quality was his hall mark.

He entered the New Zealand Forest Service in 1928 as a cadet draughtsman, serving his apprenticeship in Wellington before transfer,

as draughtsman, to Nelson Conservancy in 1936. In those days a conservancy office was still a small affair, staffed by a few officers and without the rigid job definition necessary today. Masters rapidly became a jack-of-all-trades, draughtsman, unofficial confidential secretary to the Conservator, field surveyor, supervisor of vehicles, and stand-in man for all and sundry. Is there some extra job to be done? Give it to the draughtsman! Is someone ill, on leave, or absent in the field? Ask the draughtsman to hold the fort for a while! Is there a cruising job to be rushed through? Send out the draughtsman! Masters became as near indispensable as any man can be. He knew where things were and what things had or had not been done. It has been said that the Nelson motto became, "When in doubt ask Masters". This may be an exaggeration but it contains an element of truth.

And all the while he was plugging along towards his Bachelor of Arts degree. While still in Wellington he had commenced part-time studies in science but a science degree could not be taken extramurally. An arts degree it had to be, with emphasis on mathematics. The award of this degree, and few degrees can have been harder earned, led to his transfer to the Professional Division of the Forest Service. He was no longer, officially, a draughtsman but a forester.

He continued in Nelson until 1946 when he was transferred to Rotorua as an officer of the newly established National Forest Survey. To begin with, he was a field officer but, by 1947-48, he was officer-in-charge and had assumed direct personal responsibility for all photogrammetric work while still continuing with his field duties. The photogrammetric task, alone, was a man-size job. He had first to learn the techniques himself, then to train unskilled recruits in the necessary skills. No one would have criticised him had he abandoned all field duties. But the going in the field was tough and he was not a man to send others where he was not prepared to go himself. Through the Ureweras, through South Westland, through the King Country and through the Catlins, he slogged with a pack on his back checking the work of survey parties, sharing the bad going and the worst weather.

But no man could maintain this pace indefinitely. In 1954, following a particularly strenuous bout of field work in Stewart Island and the Catlins, he suffered a stroke which left him partially paralysed. This, however, yielded to treatment and in six months time he was back on the job, immersing himself in the mass of computation work required in the final stages of forest survey. The end came in 1956 with a second stroke while he was in the field testing ground survey procedures to be used in connection with air survey of exotic forests.

To his wife and two daughters, we extend our most sincere sympathy.

J.T.H.