

OBITUARY

JAMES DEANS (1887-1963)

It is with deep regret that we record that James Deans of Homebush, an Honorary Member of the Institute since 1955, died on September 2, 1963, at the age of 76.

A farmer with a lifelong interest in horticulture and forestry, James Deans made Homebush one of Canterbury's show places, renowned for its trees and shrubs, and equally well known for its hospitality towards the many who came to admire and enjoy this felicitous commingling of farming and forestry.

For his long service to the community as a member of several local authorities in Canterbury, he was made a C.B.E. in the Honours List of June, 1963. In 1947 he was appointed to the Selwyn Plantation Board and was chairman over the period 1957-61.

Older members of the Institute who passed through the Canterbury School of Forestry in the 1920's and 1930's will recall their early field training at Homebush and the many kindnesses received at the hands of the Deans family. James Deans' work for forestry in Canterbury will endure long after him, as will his memory in the hearts and minds of all those with whom he came in contact.

FRANCIS WILLIAM FOSTER (1893-1963)

Francis William Foster died suddenly at his home in Melling, Hutt City, on October 27, 1963, at the age of 70. The members of this Institute extend their sincere sympathy to his wife, daughter, and two sons. With his passing, forestry and this Institute have lost a staunch supporter and friend. An inaugural member, secretary 1928-30, vice-president 1931-32, president 1932-33, a councillor from 1934-37, and elected an honorary member in 1951, he took his full part in the life of the Institute.

Foster was born on March 6, 1893. His scholastic record was a bright one. He matriculated and gained a junior scholarship in 1909, a senior scholarship in 1911. In 1914, when he had passed the first section for his B.A. degree, his studies were interrupted by World War I. (The degree was conferred in 1920.) After serving with the Expeditionary Force from 1914 to 1919, Foster attended the Edinburgh School of Forestry from 1919 to 1922 under a N.Z.E.F. scholarship. The other recipients of World War I forestry scholarships were C. M. Smith and R. B. Steele and all graduated B.Sc. For. in 1922, the first of a long succession of N.Z. students to graduate in forestry from that university.

Foster had joined the Customs Department in Christchurch as a cadet in 1909, was transferred to Wellington in 1912, and remained on the staff of that department until his return from overseas in 1922, when he was transferred to the Forest Service, as a temporary forest guard. He was appointed to the permanent staff as forest ranger in 1923, to the professional division as forest assistant, Wellington, in 1925, and in 1926 transferred to Auckland. In 1928 Foster became acting-Conservator of Forests, Nelson, and in 1930