NEWS AND NOTES

FIELD NOTES

BY I. C. M. PLACE

Joint Annual Meeting of the C.I.F. and S.A.F.

My absence has not deterred me in the past from commenting on the annual meetings of the C.I.F. Since I was actually there this year, a few remarks would seem to be appropriate, particularly as this was a joint meeting with the S.A.F.

American delegates outnumbered the Canadian by roughly five to one. Nevertheless, the S.A.F. treated us handsomely and shared time equally with the C.I.F. in the technical sessions. Indeed the prominent part played by Canadians may be judged by the greeting that met Frank Hall at the nearest liquor store: "Say, what's this meeting of foresters about—nearly all Canadians, aren't they?"

The Board of Directors' meetings are apt to be long and somewhat tiresome, with most of the decisions being pretty well cut and dried under the president's chairmanship. This year's meeting was quite exciting with the directors really directing. Echoes of this could be heard in the general business meeting the next day. The chief complaints were that the executive had ignored the C.I.F. constitution for sake of expediency (particularly in moving the national office from Toronto) and that the sections did not know what was happening on the national scene. The executive's actions were endorsed, but there was little doubt that the executive would be more circumspect in the future.

As usual, the program was far too full for anyone to hear more than a few papers and these varied greatly in quality. Several, however, caught my interest. Dr. de Vos' paper sketched nicely the impact of land clearing and lumbering on the distribution of animals in the Great Lakes Region. John Stelfox documented the effect of Northwestern Pulp and Power Company's strip cuttings in Alberta on browse for moose, deer and elk. Sydney Weitzman admirably summarized the problems of watershed management in the Lake States; his comments were often directly applicable to adjacent Canada. Clifford Ahlgren gave a good commentary on some magnificent 'before and after' pictures of prescribed fires in the Lake States and Scandinavia. Finally, William Beaufait showed an excellent film that he had directed on the use of prescribed fire in regenerating jack pine.

The first four papers will probably appear in the *Journal of Forestry* or *The Forestry Chronicle*. I believe that the film is available on loan from the Extension Department, Michigan State College of Mining & Technology, Houghton, Michigan. The waiting list is probably long, but the picture is worth waiting for.

I think most people will agree, however, that the lobby conferences are the best part of such meetings. Here I believe that a combined meeting has

a certain glamour lacking in the annual meetings of either society by itself. Representation is wider; there is greater opportunity for cross fertilization of ideas; and most delegates seem to be more on their mettle. Indeed I have often wondered whether a meeting could not be organized around the lobby conferences. A skeleton framework of formal sessions would be necessary to give some coherence to the gathering, but these might be limited to say two good papers in both the morning and the afternoon in each technical session with an hour interval between the end of one paper and the beginning of another. Programs of the different technical sessions could be so staggered as to allow one the choice of hearing most papers given at the meeting or arguing over a cup of coffee.

C.I.F. Recommendations

One of the important functions of the C.I.F. is to speak for the profession on forestry matters of local and national concern. Sections often take appropriate local action but it is extremely difficult to develop a coordinated report that represents all Canadian foresters, effectively. The usual reaction is that by the time one eliminates the differences of opinion within and between Sections there is little of real value left.

We don't accomplish much if our reports read as though they had been tossed together at an evening bull session by a number of well-meaning, but poorly informed foresters. Such reports cannot enhance respect for the C.I.F. A telegram saying "Do more of everything in forestry", would be also equally helpful.

When the C.I.F. accepts a task of National significance it must appoint an able committee. In addition to soliciting suggestions from the Sections, the committee should study thoroughly the programs of the agency concerned, its departmental organization, and the business or constitutional framework under which it operates. A truly effective brief should contain a few broad suggestions on policy and fields of activity and should amplify these in detail on specific points. It must represent the very best that Canadian foresters can do.

As past chairman of the Algonquin Section I recognize the difficulties involved in securing and presenting local and National points of view effectively. At the same time I hope that our Committee presently considering development of a National C.I.F. program and policy will insist that if the Institute is to submit briefs that help create the public image of our profession, they should be well done or not sent. In short, they should be briefs, not bloomers.

YALE INDUSTRIAL FORESTRY SEMINAR

Yale School of Forestry announces its Eighteenth Industrial Forestry Seminar to be held January 22-26, 1962 at New Haven, Connecticut.

The Seminar will be on the topic "Management of Logging Operations." Discussion leaders will be Herbert I. Winer, assistant professor of lumbering at Yale, John L. Taylor, C.P.A. whose accounting experience has been in timber and logging, Howard V. Perlmutter, visiting professor of industrial administration at Yale, C. R. Silversides, Development Engineer, Abitibi Power