

interesting that the effect on the hide was strictly local. Sole leather from the damaged hides compared with sole leather from the control hides gives similar figures as regards resistance to abrasion, apparent density and water absorption. Nevertheless, it was proved that delay between flaying and drying causes considerable putrefactive damage, especially in a humid climate.

D. JORDAN LLOYD.

FORESTRY IN ASSAM

ASSAM is still one of the most undeveloped provinces of India, in spite of the long period it has been under British Administration. This is in the main due to the considerable area occupied by the hill districts inhabited by various tribes whose chief method of livelihood is by the practice of shifting cultivation, that most wasteful of agricultural methods. The backward condition of these peoples must be attributed to the guiding rule of British administration that the customs of the people should not be interfered with, once tribal warfare and other practices incompatible with modern ideas had been stopped. The consequence is that, in spite of the lapse of well over half a century since forest conservation began to be introduced into parts of Assam, forest reservation has made little progress in the hill districts. Even in the Lushai Hills, we read in the "Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Assam for the year 1940-41", by C. Mackarness, Senior Conservator of Forests (Shillong, Assam Govt. Press, 1941) "A Forest Regulation has been proposed and a draft submitted to Government which in a modified form has been forwarded to the Governor-General in Council for assent." The report on this subject continues: "The hill districts of Assam possess an inadequate proportion of Reserved or Protected forests which provides one reason for erosion and flood damage." It may be asked, it is being asked with increasing pertinence, when will the Governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations—for the matter is equally urgent in many of them—face up to this question of the enormous damage and waste which is increasing annually through deforestation erosion and flood damage. It may be that the War may prove the salvation of these Assam hill districts, since it would seem apparent that for military purposes communications are being opened up in what has heretofore been a wild mass of more or less inaccessible hill tracts.

Another factor on which evidence is forthcoming in this report is the want of collaboration between the Agricultural and Forestry Departments, no new thing unfortunately in the Empire, as recent reports have shown here in Great Britain. In spite of the vigorous opposition of the Assam Department a part of the Jamira forest has been disforested for permanent cultivation. It has since been found that this is impossible owing to the hilly configuration, as has been pointed out by the forest officers and since confirmed by the settlement operations. To the Forest Department will fall the task of endeavouring to reafforest the area. The Government policy vis-à-vis the large area of so-called Unclassed Forests in which no reservations have been made appears to be dangerously vacillating, in spite of the fact that a considerable proportion of the forest revenue comes from these large tracts amounting to some 16,000 sq. miles, and that protection for some of the area must be of vital importance to the country as a whole.

An item in the report of interest to those who have studied the question of the preservation of the fauna of India and elsewhere is the reservation of a considerable tract of forest as a sanctuary for wild buffalo in North Lakhimpur. Assam was an early leader in India in the formation of such sanctuaries, the first being for rhinoceros.

The report merits careful study; it includes special notes on the work of the departmental research officers. It is also a model which might be followed, for it includes a number of excellent photographs depicting various forestry operations and also three pictures taken by honorary forest officers in game sanctuaries of wild buffalo, sambhar and—a striking portrait—of a tiger advancing in the jungle towards the spectator.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(Meeting marked with an asterisk is open to the public)

Monday, October 12

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS (at the Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London, W.1), at 10.30 a.m.—Discussion on "The Education of a Physicist"; at 2 p.m.—Discussion on "Training for Research in Industrial and Applied Physics".

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (YORKSHIRE SECTION) (under the auspices of the Chemical Society, Leeds Area Local Section, in the Chemistry Lecture Theatre, The University, Leeds), at 6.30 p.m.—Dr. F. Fairbrother: "Radioactive Isotopic Indicators"

Tuesday, October 13

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING GROUP OF THE SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (joint meeting with the INSTITUTION OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS) (at the Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1), at 2.30 p.m.—Mr. E. F. MacFaggart: "The Production of Radium".

INSTITUTE OF FUEL (at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C.2), at 2.30 p.m.—Mr. W. M. Selvey: Presidential Address. Dr. Arno Carl Feldner: "The Analysis and Testing of Coal in relation to its Properties and Utilization" (Melchett Lecture).

ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY (at the E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau, 2 Savoy Hill, London, W.C.2), at 5 p.m.—Mr. R. O. Ackerley: "Seeing is Believing" (Presidential address).

Wednesday, October 14

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (FOOD GROUP) (at the Chemical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1), at 2.15 p.m.—Dr. Magnus Pyke: "Vitamin Content of Certain Vegetables"; Mr. A. J. Curtin Crosbie: "New Beer Disease Organisms"; Mr. Alan H. Ward: "Location of Vitamin-B₁ in Wheat".

Friday, October 16

NORTH-EAST COAST INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS (at the Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle-upon-Tyne), at 6 p.m.—Annual General Meeting. Mr. J. Ramsay Gebbie: Presidential Address.

Saturday, October 17

NUTRITION SOCIETY (at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London, W.C.1), at 11 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.—Conference on "Trace Elements in relation to Health"

Sunday, October 18

ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS (SOUTH WALES AREA) (at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff), at 10 a.m.—Conference on "Science for Victory".*

APPOINTMENTS VACANT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments on or before the dates mentioned:

LECTURER IN MECHANICAL OR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING in the Cannock Chase Mining College—The Director (H), County Education Offices, Stafford (October 14).

GAS ENGINEER and MANAGER of the County Borough of Warrington Gas Undertaking—The Town Clerk, Town Hall, Warrington (endorsed 'Engineer and Manager') (October 16).

ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZER to the Holland County Council Agricultural Education Committee—The Principal, Agricultural Institute, Kirtton, Boston, Lincs. (October 17).

TEACHER FOR DAY AND EVENING ENGINEERING CLASSES—The Principal, County Technical College, Gainsborough, Lincs.

WOMAN LECTURER IN PHYSIOLOGY—The Principal, Liverpool Physical Training College, Barkhill Road, Liverpool 17.

LECTURER IN ENGINEERING at the Achimota College, Gold Coast—The Secretary, Overseas Manpower Committee (Ref. 391), Ministry of Labour and National Service, Hanway House, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1.