

Business Meeting

The meeting was opened by Chairman Kriebel at about 5:00 P.M. on October 9, 1959 in the new Forest Products Utilization Research Building. The first topic discussed was to what extent we could cooperate with the Forest Tree Seed Certification Committee of the International Crop Improvement Association. Dr. Kriebel announced that he had set up a Seed Certification Subcommittee composed of Dr. Nelson Spaeth, Dr. Brooks Polk, Dr. William C. Bramble, Ernest J. Gebhart, and G. A. Limstrom, Chairman. As a basis for discussion, Limstrom read excerpts of a report on "Forest Tree Seed Certification in the United States," presented by John W. Macon at the Lake States Tree Improvement Conference at Ann Arbor, Michigan on October 7.

Polk thought that we should first review the work that has been done in other states and regions, and stated that there had been several articles in recent years on proposals for seed certification laws. He thought that as a minimum for shortleaf pine we should strive to eliminate seed collections from unmerchantable, limby and crooked trees. In Missouri seed source records are maintained in the State nurseries, but that seed tree quality is not being specified.

Gebhart stated, "I fail to see where state legislation is going to improve the program, if we don't have some control beyond that point; if you legislate something you restrict a few. That doesn't mean that everyone is going to use the information. Maybe we can't even buy the seed. We have been buying seed from European sources and accepting their certification; if we go beyond this we would be at cross purposes with these sources. We need more seed certification for hardwoods. We should attempt to locate several seed sources. Our crews collecting seeds do not have the training, nor have we told them what to look for when collecting seeds."

Jokela suggested the possibility of getting our state nurseries to certify their stock as to source of seed. Gebhart said that they have that information in the seedbeds and to the sorting tables, but after that the record is lost.

Kriebel emphasized the point that though we should find out the quality of the seed, we need to know more about the seed trees; the location of apparently superior stands of various species should be recorded and efforts made to use them as collection areas for seed. As a beginning, he thought that the shortleaf pine stand near Ratcliffburg, Ohio (west of McArthur), was a good local source of seed for this species.

Kriebel thought that men working in the production end of forestry could help us decide what the desirable characteristics of a particular species are. He also mentioned that the North Central Regional Committee -- an organization of land-grant agricultural experiment stations including Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota as well as those states in the Central and Lake States -- gave forest tree improvement a high priority among new projects to be initiated when federal funds become available. The consensus of that group was that cooperative regional research between states could best be directed initially toward provenance tests, although some consideration should be given to tree breeding when and where suitable genetic material is available. Kriebel pointed

out that there is not enough breeding material known at this stage, nor do we know enough about quality to start a large-scale breeding program. He also suggested that the Central States Forest Tree Improvement Committee work closely with the North Central Committee of the agricultural experiment stations. This cooperation was discussed at our Purdue meeting last year, and at that time we felt our primary concern in the Central region should be with hardwoods.

At this point Polk stated, "Someone pointed out this morning about their work in old field hardwoods. We have very poor results in Missouri with hardwood plantings." Gebhart said that "We plant about 6 million trees a year on strip-mined land and they are practically all hardwoods and we have better results on these sites than on old fields."

Limstrom summarized the discussion on seed certification by stating that the consensus of the group was that we should avoid advocating any hasty, ill-advised legislation on the subject, -that we should cooperate with the national and international seed certification committee, make a thorough review of the literature, and conduct a survey of work done in other states and regions; that we should begin studies of seed-tree qualities in hardwoods.

The next item of business brought up by the Chairman was the selection of officers and the policy to be followed in future meetings. A motion was made by Dr. Bramble that the present officers serve another year. This was seconded by Dr. Chapman, and approved by acclamation of the group in attendance at the meeting.

The question of frequency and location of future meetings was then discussed. It was generally agreed that meetings should be held every other year, beginning with a meeting in the vicinity of Chicago in 1960. The suggested date was the day before the Central States Section Meeting of the S.A.F. at the same location. Jokela pointed out that the Illinois Technical Forestry Association is interested in tree improvement and would like to get something done in this field. Active participation by members of the ITFA at the 1960 meeting is therefore assured. A program committee for the 1960 meeting is to be formed early in the year.

Kriebel then brought up the desirability of publishing the proceedings of the first Central States Forest Tree Improvement Conference. All present appeared to be in favor of this project. The problem of processing the publication then was discussed. Representatives from several state and federal agencies and two industrial organizations expressed the belief that the processing could be done on a cooperative basis. Schramm, the Alton Box Board Company and Charles Breeding of the Ohio Reclamation Association stated that their organizations might contribute to the expense of processing the proceedings.

A general discussion of dues then followed. It was pointed out that the Northeastern Committee has dues of \$2.00 per year, and that the Lake States group also has a paying membership. No specific action was taken on this question.