

Government and private estates, in connexion with the plantings of early 1938.

During the course of the year, the report states, "an interesting landmark, the million acres, was passed, the total acquired to the end of the year being 1,008,500 acres".

The report contains some interesting remarks on amenity and the opposition of local bodies to afforestation work in what are considered 'beauty spots', on national forest parks and on private woodlands—all points of considerable interest to the general public. The Commission is now engaged in undertaking a census of woodlands in Great Britain, the last census, a somewhat inadequate one, having been undertaken in 1924.

St. George's Day among Serbian Gypsies

ST. GEORGE'S DAY (Djurdjev Dan) is of all "Slavas" that most enjoyed by the Gypsies of Serbia. This feast, Dr. A. Petrović says in his continuing study of the Serbian Gypsies (*J. Gypsy Lore Soc.*, Ser. 3, 17, 2; 1938), is not only a holiday, but also a harbinger of spring and new life—first of all with respect to food when new vegetables are available, from which a woman, using salt and a little bread, will make a salad to last a family for a whole day. It is also the time when the gypsies cease to sleep in the house and take their bedding and the anvil outside. They sit, eat and sleep in the open air.

In the old days, when many Serbian gypsies had no permanent dwelling-places, on October 26 O.S. (St. Demetri's Day) they used to select the village in which they would stay for the winter; but as soon as spring had come, all left their winter quarters to meet at some previously appointed spot on Djurdjev Dan. One such place was Mirijevo, near Belgrade. At such a meeting two to three hundred tents of gypsies would be gathered together. Every family slew a sheep for the ceremonial meal. In this meal the whole body of the sheep was brought to the table with the horns still on the head to show how large the sheep had been. The larger the horns, it was believed, the bigger the sheep. All the gold and silver coins the family possessed were hung around the neck of the roasted sheep, indicating what sort of a year the host had had. After this followed greetings and questions as to the happenings of the preceding year. Marriages followed. Eating, drinking and revelling lasted the whole day. In this manner they said they were seeing the winter off down-stream, along the Danube.

At Kopljari, on the eve of St. George, a thread was taken and hung for a time on a rose-branch. It was then fastened around the neck of a child, where it was left until it broke. Members of the family gather and weave garlands of flowers, one being thrown on the wood-shed for storing maize with the words "Let the shed be full of maize". Another is thrown on the corn-loft with a similar formula. At night one of the men goes to the field of a rich man and gathers green corn, which he then throws on his own fields, with a formula expressing his desire to become a "master", as the man from whom he has stolen the corn. A branch stolen from another man's tree is made into a cross and painted to ensure fertility "like that of the hazel-nut". An elaborate ceremonial is observed in preparation for the feast, and all must first bathe naked in the river.

Science News a Century Ago

The Entomological Society

At a meeting of the Entomological Society held on October 1, 1838, J. F. Stevens, president, being in the chair, "The Rev. M. Taylor presented specimens of the different sexes of a species of wasp, and of *Ripiphorus paradoxus*, a singular species of beetle which is parasitic in their nest. An extended discussion in which several members joined, took place relative to the hexagonal formation of the cells of bees and wasps, in reference to Mr. Waterhouse's theory upon the subject. The following memoirs were read: 'Notes upon the Egg-Cases of the Blattæ and their Parasites by Mr. Sells. 2. A few words in reply to Mr. Macleay's Remarks upon the Metamorphoses of Crustacea, by Mr. Westwood. 3. Observations on the Habits of the Cæstridæ by Mr. Sells.'

Charles Tennant (1768-1838)

ON October 1, 1838, Charles Tennant, founder of the chemical firm of Charles Tennant and Co. Ltd., died at Glasgow at the age of seventy years. Born at Ochiltree, Ayrshire, on May 3, 1768, he was educated at the parish school and was then set to learn silk manufacturing. When twenty years of age he became the managing owner of a bleaching field at Darnley near Paisley, where he discovered a method of controlling chlorine gas by the admixture of lime. His discovery led to the abandonment of the old processes of boiling the cloth in weak alkali and of exposing it to the sun and air for several days, and effected great savings. In 1800, with the aid of four partners, he established the famous works at St. Rollox, Glasgow.

Although Tennant was unsuccessful in upholding the validity of his patent in the courts, his services to industry were acknowledged by the bleachers of Lancashire presenting him with a service of plate. A history of the firm he founded was published in 1922.

Science in Austria

ON October 6, 1838, the *Athenæum* published an article by its correspondent in Germany, who referred to science in Austria. "It is a remarkable fact," he wrote, "that Vienna is the only European capital in which there is no academy or association for the cultivation of science, organised under the sanction and encouragement of the State." Leibnitz had made an attempt to found such an institution and a plan was brought forward under Maria Theresa in 1773, but "nothing further was dreamt of the special cultivation of science in Austria, till last year; when twelve men, well known for their learning and abilities presented, by the hands of the Archduke Lewis, a petition for the establishment of an Academy of Science at Vienna. These twelve men were—Jacquin, Littrow, Prulite, Baumgartner, Elsingshausen, and Schreiber, as representatives of the Mathematical and Physical class; and Kopitar, Wolf, Buchholz, Arneth, Chonel, and Hammer-Purgstall, for the Philological and Historical class. No notice has, we believe, been taken of this petition; and we presume that Prince Metternich does not deem it becoming in a fond and paternal government to give its subjects the pain of thinking."