

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk

A MONARCH OF THE FOREST.

The secretary of the Club, Mr John Yeats, M.A., read the following contribution forwarded by Mr Andrew Bell, forester, Forglen:—“On the estate of Forglen, Banffshire, there was blown down by the storm that raged from the 24th to 28th December 1906 a very large Scotch fir tree. It is of the real old style of the native Highland pine (*Pinus Sylvestris*), with a bonnet or round head of branches. I have just had the tree cut from the root, and I am very much taken up with its extraordinary size for a Scotch fir. It contains 114 cubic feet of good, sound timber, and is per-

fectly sound at the root, the wood being of beautiful quality. It has a straight, clean stem of 22 feet without a branch, and measures nearly nine feet in circumference at four feet from the ground. It is very rare that a Scotch fir of this size is come across, and I have never seen or heard of a larger one. By counting the annual rings or growths, I make the tree to be from 145 to 150 years of age. The Meadow Head wood, where this tree was grown, is about 100 acres in extent, and was until some forty years ago composed entirely of old firs of this class. At that time it was severely thinned, the old trees being left at distances of thirty yards apart, when the whole ground was replanted with spruce at about four feet apart. The monarch, which has just succumbed to the storm, was one of the standards left when the thinning took place."

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr Bell for his interesting communication.