

GENERAL.

My connection with the Scenery Preservation Commission terminated on the 31st March, from which date I resumed my ordinary duties, and I have to thank Mr. H. A. Goudie, Nurseryman in Charge at Rotorua, for the able manner in which he has carried on the supervision of the Department during the year, as well as the compilation of this report.

The following are the reports of various stations.

EWEBURN NURSERY.

(Area, 49 acres; altitude, 1,400 ft.)

During the past year rain fell on 113 days, with a total of 17.41 in., the maximum monthly fall being 3.82 in., recorded in January. The minimum shade temperature, 13 deg. Fahr., was registered on the 7th June, and frost occurred on 170 nights. The highest temperature was 81 deg., on the 13th December.

Frost occurred during every month of the year, and the rainfall was somewhat higher than last year, and distributed over a greater number of days.

The total rainfall since the inception of the nursery is 154.23 in., or an average of 16.59 in. for the past nine years, and the number of days on which rain has fallen is 759.

The highest reading of the thermometer was 96 deg., in February, 1896, and this temperature has never since been reached.

The last spring was a very dry one, and it was feared that the lined-out trees would suffer, but as rain set in directly after planting the situation was saved, and the crop is the finest grown since the initiation of the nursery.

Pinus maritima, which was grown for experimental purposes, made very good growth and transplanted well. *Pinus halepensis* have also made very good growth, although they were a total failure the previous year after being lined out, owing to the damp condition of the soil consequent on excessive rains.

The trees on the seed-beds have made fair growth, but the crop of *Pinus Laricio* was not as good as it should be, and a large number "damped off" after germinating.

Larch is a very good crop, and all the other varieties sown have done well. One pound of seed each of *Pinus Jeffreyi* and *Pinus Torreyana* was sown for trial, and both have grown satisfactorily, but as they have not yet had a winter to contend with it is hard to give a definite opinion as to their suitability for extensive growing here.

The number of trees "lined out" was 356,636, at a cost of 4s. 7½d. per 1,000.

The number of trees sent out to Government plantations during the year was 157,400, their value being £410 2s.

The number of trees sent out to date amounts to 772,562, and their value £2,257 9s. 5d.

The number of trees of various ages in the nursery at the 31st March was 945,950, their total value being £1,672 13s. 9d.; and the number raised since the commencement of operations is 1,694,582, of a value of £3,861 0s. 5d. The details of the preceding figures will be found in Schedules A to A³ (appended), and the summaries.

During the year the horse and hand hoes have been kept in use as much as possible, and weeds, &c., kept from seeding.

Land not required for planting was utilised for growing horse-feed, and an area of about 4 acres was sown down in oats, the yield being 11 tons of good oaten sheaf. Although the rainfall was not heavy, this shows what can be grown in this district with good cultivation.

A new stable and workshop of wood, with concrete foundation, was erected. The old workshop has been converted into men's quarters, and is now convenient and comfortable. The whole of these improvements were carried out by nursery labour.

The average number of men employed during the year was five (day-wages).

Details of expenditure, values, &c., will be found on schedules appended.

The following is a record of rainfall and temperature for the year:—

EWEBURN NURSERY.

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Maximum Temperature.	Date.	Minimum Temperature.	Date.	Number of Days on which Frost occurred.
1905.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.		
April ...	1.65	11	68	1st	22	23rd	13
May ...	0.70	4	62	10th	16	25th	23
June ...	1.47	8	50	21st, 25th	14	3rd	28
July ...	0.69	7	48	23rd	14	4th	31
August ...	0.38	6	48	2nd, 31st	16	11th	29
September ...	1.63	13	54	25th	25	25th	17
October ...	0.92	8	60	5th, 6th, 17th	21	11th	9
November ...	2.01	13	76	13th	26	24th	7
December ...	1.71	15	81	13th	26	24th	2
1906.							
January ...	3.82	14	78	11th	28	7th	4
February ...	2.07	10	74	11th, 14th	31	20th	2
March ...	0.36	4	73	2nd	25	30th	5
Totals ...	17.41	113	170

A. W. ROBERTS,
Nurseryman in Charge.