

SESS. II.—1884.
NEW ZEALAND.

BOTANIC GARDEN BOARD, 1883-84

(FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

MEETINGS of the Board were held during the past year on the following dates: The 3rd August, 1883; the 20th December, 1883; and the 20th March, 1884.

The expenditure during the year has been £431 0s. 8d.; the chief items being as follows: The shrubberies were cleaned and forked over at the proper season in early spring; the fences were put in repair, and several new screen fences of tea-tree were erected; the entrance has been improved by cutting away the bank and removing a large quantity of earth and gravel. In September last, owing to the level of the Tinakori Road being altered, it was necessary to erect a breastwork to support the bank. The gates and other wood-work, and also the ranger's cottage, have been repainted.

A large amount of labour has been devoted to the nursery-ground, and very large stocks of the best species of forest trees have been raised for distribution to various public reserves. The propagation of the best varieties of the olive and other useful plants has been continued, the expense of this work and the preparation of the necessary ground for future operation in the same direction being defrayed from a special grant from the Minister of Lands.

The batten house, which has proved of great service in raising plants that are unable to stand full exposure to the sun and wind, has been thoroughly repaired, and experience has proved that such inexpensive structures are quite as valuable as glass-houses for the particular purpose in view, and that no forest nursery should be without one. It is proposed, as soon as the state of the funds at the disposal of the Board will permit, to give increased accommodation of this kind. The number of plants distributed to public bodies this season has been 3,225 well-established trees, besides many thousands of smaller-sized plants. The number sold has been 1,818. The stock now on hand is 2,800 trees in the second year and about 6,000 seedlings which have been once shifted; and, in addition, the seed beds are full of young trees of the present season, most of which are *Cupressus lawsonii* and *macrocarpa*, raised from seed collected from the trees grown in the gardens.

Seeds and in some cases trees have been largely supplied to the Railway Department during the year, and local nurseries have been established by the department in connection with the various sections of the railways throughout the colony, where a stock will be raised for planting the railway reserves and also for local distribution.

The seeds imported by Government for the current season, at the suggestion of the Board, have been chiefly selected from the Eastern States of America, and have been freely distributed to all public domains, and to persons in all parts of the colony who have facilities for raising them. By this means a vast amount of progress is quietly made in stocking the colony with forest trees.

The Board has to acknowledge valuable gifts of plants and seeds from the following: The Hon. Mr. Mantell, Mr. T. Mason, Captain Fairchild, Mr. J. Harding, Mr. W. G. McCullough, (Australia), Sir Norman Campbell, and Dr. Hector.

The Hon. Treasurer's statement of accounts is appended, and shows a balance to the credit of the Board of £238 12s. 1d.

Approved by the Board.

WM. F. DRUMMOND JERVOIS, Chairman.
30th September, 1884.

JAMES HECTOR,
Manager.

ACCOUNTS OF BOTANIC GARDEN BOARD, 1883-84.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance in hand on 3rd August, 1883	195	14 4	Garden work (including keeper's salary, nursery work, roads, and preparation of ground for special purposes)	388	6 9
Share of rents from Wellington city reserves, 1st October, 1882, to 31st September, 1883	246	10 3	Purchase of plants	6	0 0
Contribution from Government	200	0 0	Materials—paint, ironwork, tools, and miscellaneous	21	13 11
Sale of plants and flowers	23	8 2	Purchase of horse	15	0 0
Sale of hay	4	0 0	Balance	238	12 1
	£669	12 9		£669	12 9

29th September, 1884.

ARTHUR STOCK,
Hon. Treasurer.

