

the spread of gorse and broom to properties lower down the valleys will likely in the near future prove disastrous to holders of properties in that direction if the matter is not attended to.

Drains were made at various places through the property to assist in draining the low-lying portions.

It is proposed to prepare 30,000 pits during the coming winter, in readiness for planting the enclosed area with suitable hardy trees in the early spring-time.

The expenditure incurred since the initiation amounted to £39 9s. 7d.—total cost of fencing material not included—providing employment for two men for two months.

Details of expenditure and values are appended.

D. RISK, Foreman.

R. G. ROBINSON, Nurseryman in Charge.

HANMER SPRINGS NURSERY.

(Area, 20 acres; altitude, 1,225 ft. (approximately).)

During the past year rain fell on 164 days, with a total of 62·18 in. September and February were the wettest months, 10·45 and 10·37 in. respectively being recorded. The maximum shade temperature (91 deg. Fahr.) occurred on the 13th December, and the minimum, 13 deg., on the 5th June.

No records of the rainfall were taken previous to this year, so that a comparison with other years cannot be made; but old residents regard the rainfall as the heaviest experienced for many years.

Seed-sowing was commenced on the 31st October—fully a fortnight later than the year previous—and was finished on the 6th November. All species germinated well, and are a good crop, with the exception of Oregon pine, this being practically a failure. As only 3 lb. was sown, the loss was not great.

Lining out was started early in August, and finished on the 20th September, 416,840 trees being dealt with, at a cost of 3s. 7½d. per thousand, the area occupied by the same being about 4½ acres. Trees to the number of 118,000, comprising larch, Oregon, and Aleppo pines, were lined out, at a cost of 2s. 5½d. per 1,000. Showery weather was experienced while the work of transplanting was in progress, giving the trees a splendid start, and all have done well, except *Pinus halepensis*, of which fully 30 per cent. have died. Apparently this tree is not suitable for planting at Hanmer.

The number of trees raised in the nursery during the year was 750,000, valued at £759 5s. (See Schedule E.)

The estimated number of trees in the nursery on the 31st March, 1906, was 1,395,840 (see Schedules E to E²), valued at £2,268 5s. 2d. The total number of trees grown in the nursery since its initiation is 1,378,000, valued at £1,402.

Trees—number, 35,210, valued at £61 4s. 7d.—were transferred from the nursery to the plantation. The estimated number available for the coming season is 400,000.

Nine new seed-frames were made by prison labour in a very satisfactory manner.

About 2 acres of scrub was cleared off a portion of the nursery area, and the ground ploughed and cultivated in readiness for lining-out purposes next season.

The average number of labourers (free) employed during the year was four (including one boy).

Details of expenditures and values, and schedules of trees are appended.

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

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Maximum Temperature.	Date.	Minimum Temperature.	Date.
	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
1905.						
April	2·85	10	83	1st	27	19th
May	3·07	10	69	10th	25	19th, 26th
June	7·705	14	64	14th, 23rd, 24th	13	5th
July	4·01	11	66	24th	17	3rd, 4th
August	3·45	13	68	18th	18	11th
September	10·45	21	66	17th, 18th	29	2nd
October	5·28	14	74	24th	26	15th
November	4·67	14	78	5th, 29th	32	12th, 16th
December	3·135	13	91	13th	34	2nd, 24th
1906.						
January	4·13	17	86	14th	32	7th, 24th
February	10·37	16	81	2nd	33	19th, 20th
March	3·06	11	82	2nd	30	14th, 27th
Totals	62·18	164

W. CROMB,

Nurseryman in Charge.