

Nursery Grounds and Formation.—The major portion of the land is hilly. The area suitable for nursery purposes (some 14 acres) was subsoil ploughed to an average depth of 12 in. The ground has been laid out in convenient blocks with necessary roads, shelter-belts being provided to form break-winds. A portion of the seed-bed ground was mock-trenched to a depth of 18 in.; this work was difficult and laborious owing to the natural hardness and dry condition of the soil. 25½ chains of shelter-hedges were planted of *Berberis aristata*. This plant, considering the season, has done remarkably well.

Fencing, &c.—The boundary-fences have been considerably strengthened and improved; serviceable entrance-gates have been hung on strong concrete pillars, this substantial work adding considerably to the appearance of the nursery. The main entrance road has been formed and metalled. Good horse-paddocks, well watered and securely fenced, have been enclosed.

Water-supply.—A steady supply of good, pure water is obtained from a spring in the nursery grounds. A thorough efficient service has been laid both for tree-growing purposes and the general requirements of the nursery. A reservoir with a capacity of 3,500 gallons was constructed at an elevation of 120 ft., from which a splendid working-pressure is obtained, and should supply every need in this direction for some time to come.

Buildings.—The old sheep-station outbuildings, men's hut, stable, and store-room were in a very bad state of repair; the whole have been completely renovated, and altered to suit the requirements of the Department. These buildings are now comfortable and in every respect suitable.

Seed-frames.—To protect the young seedlings 195 seed-frames 18 ft. by 6 ft. were constructed during the year.

Great credit is due to the workmen for the intelligence and energy displayed during the heavy work of the past year. The whole of the improvements have been carried out by the handy men of the staff, no professional mechanics being employed.

One-year-old Trees.—Seed-sowing commenced on the 28th September and finished on the 8th October. All the seeds germinated well, but a great number of the young plants soon succumbed to the dry and unfavourable season. The plants are weak and have made poor growth.

Lined-out Trees.—Lining out was begun on the 7th August and completed on the 15th September. The growth is very poor, the plants never having a chance to get a hold of the ground. Little or no rain fell during the planting-season, the long drought and the great heat experienced during the summer being entirely responsible for the poor results. The total number of trees lined out was 545,000.

The total for the year of trees raised is 176,000; value, £178. Total number of trees in nursery at 31st March, 297,600; value, £447 17s. Estimated number of trees available for planting out in plantation, 118,600.

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

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Maximum Tempera- ture.	Date.	Minimum Tempera- ture.	Date.
1906.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
March	0.29	6	77	11th	26	30th
April	2.06	7	78	21st	26	2nd
May	1.35	10	68	3rd	26	5th
June	2.09	3	64	21st	20	26th
July	0.96	8	59	13th	19	30th
August	0.36	5	66	20th	20	7th
September	2.16	5	75	29th	22	17th
October	0.47	6	75	19th	25	1st
November	0.79	7	87	24th	28	15th
December	1.77	6	97½	25th	34	10th
1907.						
January	0.39	7	95	22nd	36	20th
February	1.28	10	91	25th	42	8th
Totals	13.97	80

Statement of Accounts.

	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Amount at the 31st March, 1906	...	750	0	0
Tree-growing	401	3	1
General maintenance and repairs	...	34	6	3
Nursery-formation	234	7	7
Horse-feed	17	13	8
Manures	3	5	4
Tree-seeds	41	18	8
Tools, implements, &c.	256	9	7
Seed-frames	247	19	11
Water-supply	132	3	7
Buildings	186	10	3
Fencing	124	13	11
Miscellaneous works	38	10	8
Supervision	22	0	0
		£2,491	2	6