

Owing to the very bad state of the road between the railway-station and the plantation—a distance of four miles—the cartage of trees was a very expensive item, amounting to £50 1s. 8d.

395,500 pits were opened up, at a total cost of £316 8s., the average cost per thousand being 16s. 23,500 pits were reopened at a cost of 12s. 6d. per thousand. The total number of pits available for this season's planting is 35,400.

A hundred and thirty acres of fern land was burnt off, at a cost of 1s. 4½d. per acre, and 90 acres of dry timber and manuka were felled by contract for 4s. 6d. per acre.

As the fern in this district grows so quickly, it was decided to try cattle as an experiment, to test their suitability as a means of destroying the growth of fern on boundary as a precaution against fires, and for this purpose 160½ chains of fencing was erected 1 chain inside boundary-fence, at a cost of 8s. per chain. A dividing-fence of three wires, 54 chains long, was erected in horse-paddock, at 7s. 5d. per chain.

The plantation being situated in a very bleak position, it was found necessary to erect a four-stalled stable.

During the early part of the year it was decided to build quarters for the accommodation of the workmen, but, owing to the Department resuming certain areas of land with cottages already erected thereon, the building was not required. Two cottages were purchased, one for £10 and another for £7.

Trees planted out during the season have taken well, with the exception of Oregon pine, these having all died—for no visible reason other than being unsuited to the climate and soil. American white-ash and redwood have done exceedingly well. Some of the *Eucalyptus redunca* planted four years ago have attained a height of 20 ft., with a girth of 18 in. *Podocarpus totara* have taken fairly well, there being about 15 per cent. dead; the rest are growing slowly.

Clearing round and pruning trees, and clearing and chipping fire-breaks, cost £529 6s. 6d.

The average number of men employed during the year was 11·97.

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.
1907.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
April ...	12·01	14	78	1st and 9th	36	29th
May ...	4·03	13	72	12th	30	14th
June ...	12·06	14	68	13th	28	16th
July ...	17·71	20	64	22nd	34	10th
August ...	14·45	24	66	29th	32	21st
September ...	3·01	15	72	25th	28	17th
October ...	4·96	13	78	21st	34	5th and 16th
November ...	6·75	11	88	20th	38	14th
December ...	12·59	12	84	19th	36	27th
1908.						
January ...	0·41	3	86	10th	50	6th and 19th
February ...	2·08	13	88	16th	50	17th
March ...	20·06	18	84	5th	44	16th and 17th
Totals ...	110·12	170	...	...	...	...

Expenditure.				£	s.	d.
Amount at the 31st March, 1907	...	...	...	3,103	9	8
Pitting	...	...	...	370	2	6
Tree-planting	...	...	...	286	4	6
Clearing	...	...	...	29	5	3
Cartage of trees	...	...	...	50	1	8
General upkeep of plantation	...	...	...	529	6	6
" repairs	...	...	...	10	18	7
Horse-feed purchased and grown	...	...	...	0	17	5
Fencing	...	...	...	87	18	5
Buildings	...	...	...	63	15	8
Tools, implements, &c.	...	...	...	38	15	9
Miscellaneous works	...	...	...	9	16	4
Salaries—						
Foresters	...	...	...	160	0	0
Nurseryman's proportion of, and travelling-expenses	...	...	...	18	0	0
Supervision	...	...	...	16	3	0
Tree-seeds	...	...	...	10	1	9
Road-formation	...	...	...	3	16	4
				£4,788	13	4

CHAS. HOOPER, Assistant Forester.  
A. GORDON, Nurseryman in Charge.