

During the year good progress has been made with the general improvement of the nursery; the formation of extension area has been completed, and all roads throughout the nursery have been gravelled where absolutely necessary. The appearance of the nursery has been much improved during the year by the planting of shelter and ornamental shrubs on spare areas of land, also by sowing grass amongst shrubs.

The water-supply obtained from Hanmer Township supply continues satisfactory, and an abundant supply of good water is always available for all nursery purposes.

The erection of new five-stall stable, commenced last year, was completed during April, and the old stable converted into an open shed for the storage of implements; a lean-to was also erected, adjoining stable, for the purpose of storing harness, &c. The implement-shed is now too small for the storage of all implements and vehicles, and it is necessary to leave two drays and a wagon outside; this will necessarily cause depreciation in their value.

Further accommodation is urgently required at the Nurseryman's quarters, as the present cottage consists of three small rooms, which are quite inadequate for requirements.

For the purpose of providing additional paddock-accommodation for the horses, 10 acres of grasses and clover were sown during September, with very favourable results. The horse-paddocks now comprise 25 acres of good pasture.

The average number of hands employed daily during the year was six men and three boys.

Thirty-five tons of oat-sheaf of excellent quality and 5 tons of swedes and horse-carrots were grown during the year for horse-feed.

Schedules are appended of trees in stock and sent out during the year, also details of expenditure and values for the year and to date.

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.
1908.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
April ... ..	4·10	14	72	2nd	29	20th
May ... ..	4·45	11	70	3rd	26	30th
June ... ..	3·37	13	63	5th	27	3rd
July ... ..	6·79	17	57	23rd	17	12th
August ... ..	2·28	10	58	30th	21	10th
September ... ..	3·25	12	69	29th	29	20th
October ... ..	5·05	18	81	12th	30	29th
November ... ..	0·86	9	79	20th	34	13th
December ... ..	2·11	17	70	8th	33	10th
1909.						
January ... ..	7·63	15	82	23rd	35	2nd
February ... ..	0·68	5	83	19th	42	25th
March ... ..	4·20	10	80	7th	32	30th
Totals ... ..	44·77	151	...	...	...	...

*Statement of Expenditure.*

	£	s.	d.
Amount at the 31st March, 1908	3,923	8	5
Tree-growing	727	4	2
General maintenance and repairs	139	13	2
Nursery-formation	17	6	5
Horse-feed purchased and grown	118	16	8
Manures	15	9	6
Tree-seeds	96	15	0
Tools, implements, &c.	85	4	9
Water-supply	106	19	4
Buildings	110	1	1
Fencing	38	6	7
Miscellaneous works	8	6	7
Proportion of Nurseryman's salary	90	0	0
Supervision	36	10	0
	£5,514	1	8