

Buildings, Improvements.—The steady increased expenditure in the item horse-shoeing and repairs was responsible for the Department's decision to carry on blacksmithing work at the nursery, and accordingly a roomy smithy, with all necessary appliances, was erected, and all horse-shoeing, plantation and nursery repairs are effected by the blacksmith, principally during wet weather, whilst the remainder of his time is devoted to general nursery work. The main stable building has been rendered considerably more serviceable by the addition of two extra stalls and loose-box for young horses, and the inclusion of a much-wanted shed for wagon and dray.

Arrangements are also well in hand for the extension of sizing-shed, as the amount of room available last winter was quite inadequate for satisfactorily dealing with nursery stock.

An area of about 12 acres used as a horse-paddock was drained with 2 in. tiles, ploughed, and sown in black oats, and extra returns fully justified the extra labour incurred.

About 11 acres of ground on lower portion of nursery was sown down in grass, and the erection of about 18 chains of fencing permits the using of this block for grazing purposes.

Shelter plantations are growing rapidly, and are now giving sufficient protection to the seed-beds without having to resort to our customary artificial method of scrub fencing. 1,200 shelter-trees, principally *Pinus muricata*, were planted on the boundary-line adjoining cemetery reserve, and these have, with few exceptions, grown well.

It is gratifying to report that the attack on *Pittosporum* hedges by the native scale has not been so persistent as in the two former years, and there is every reason to believe that the spread of the disease has been checked by judicious spraying.

The average number of men employed was 12·11.

Horse-feed to the value of £103 9s. 7d. was harvested from 23 acres. The oat-crop was a decided success, and there is every likelihood that our stock of oaten sheaf will more than meet requirements. About 9 tons of rye and clover and 3 tons of carrots were grown on spare blocks, but the latter produce is somewhat below the average quality.

The following items of labour were also included in list of expenditure: Formation and gravelling of roads, cultivating plantations, painting outbuildings, attending shrubbery and general maintenance.

Statements of expenditure and values are appended.

For the coming season arrangements are being made for the transference to local plantations of about 1,250,000 trees.

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

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Highest Reading of Thermometer.	Date.	Lowest Reading of Thermometer.	Date.
	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
1908.						
April ...	3·32	17	71	3rd	28	19th
May ...	1·86	11	65	6th	26	25th
June ...	4·29	16	66	5th	26	20th
July ...	8·89	18	52	4th	24	12th
August ...	2·76	10	56	14th	26	26th
September ...	0·86	6	69	15th	27	16th
October ...	3·74	16	78	11th	36	14th
November ...	2·04	12	75	29th	38	24th
December ...	4·14	16	79	26th	32	9th
1909.						
January ...	4·80	19	86	23rd	33	6th
February ...	1·19	7	88	5th	40	19th
March... ..	2·03	9	86	9th	40	29th
Totals ...	39·92	157

Statement of Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at the 31st March, 1908	15,245	17	1
Tree-growing	1,150	15	6
General maintenance and repairs	150	11	1
Nursery-formation	82	19	10
Horse-feed purchased and grown	104	7	6
Manures	18	5	11
Tree-seeds	116	16	3
Tools, implements, &c.	78	1	6
Buildings, smithy and additions to stable	118	17	9
Fencing	9	2	1
Miscellaneous works	20	3	9
Proportion of Nurseryman's salary	150	0	0
Supervision	24	6	8
	£17,270	4	11