

destructive to the *Picea sitchensis*, the growing of the tideland spruce in this district may be successfully accomplished. In sheltered situations the *Quercus pedunculata* continue to register an annual vertical growth of about 18 in., whilst even more rapid headway is discernible among the *Fraxinus excelsior* compartments.

The *Fraxinus americana* are decidedly more frail trees than the English variety; but, nevertheless, are now beginning to develop favourably. Although *Pinus austriaca* grew with greater rapidity in the early stages, *Pinus Laricio* is now gradually proving its superiority, both as a faster grower and more healthy forest tree. Isolated specimens of the former variety are at times literally covered with an aphid, which, however, does not appear to lessen the vigour of the tree to any extent, but certainly creates a disfigurement. It is now evident that the Japanese larch (*Larix leptolepis*) is no more able to withstand a partial drought than the European species; and of the two varieties, growing under precisely the same conditions, the latter one has certainly recovered more speedily and grown with greater uniformity.

Some six years ago an exceptionally severe frost accounted for the destruction of a natural broad-leaf bush, and the area thus deforested was eventually underplanted with walnuts and chestnuts. These trees have succeeded beyond expectations, and will now probably average 9 ft. in height; whilst from a number of specimens fully matured nuts were gathered this year.

Apart from the planting of some 24,630 trees (as per schedule), which were used purely for replanting purposes, the two employees engaged at this station have devoted their time to the general maintenance-work, and included in this labour may be mentioned tree-pruning, removing coarse growth from around young trees, repairing roads and water-tables, rabbiting, and caretaking.

Buildings.—A most satisfactory result attended the uniting of the unused huts, and quite a substantial dwellinghouse is now available for the foreman. A combined wash and coal house has also been erected by our own labour, besides sundry improvements effected to immediate surroundings.

Presence of Deer.—With the increase of shelter, and consequent difficulty in locating their whereabouts, the red-deer are causing rather more damage to young trees than formerly. The ravages of the destructive animals are chiefly confined to ash-saplings, which usually receive such extensive damage as to necessitate immediate cutting-back to ground-surface. Employees receive authority from time to time to destroy deer; but rarely get an opportunity to fire at the animals from an effective distance.

Rabbiting.—The ill effects arising from a dry season was again brought into prominence by the Pomahaka River failing to check the ingress of rabbits from opposite properties, which, of course, are not so free from the pest. Fortunately, no great difficulty is experienced in trapping, although some little time generally elapses ere the haunts of the intruders are known.

An expenditure of £457 11s. 4d. was incurred during the year, giving employment to two men, and the total to date reaches £12,459 1s. 7d.

The value attributed to buildings, fencing, &c., is recognized at £1,010 19s., whilst the total cost of tree-planting operations since initiation amounts to £11,439 2s. 7d.

Details of expenditure. Trees Account, Property Account, and balance-sheet are appended.

Schedule II.—Statement of Expenditure.

	For Year.			To Date.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Planting operations and maintenance—						
Tree-planting .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pitting .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clearing .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cartage of trees .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
General upkeep of plantation ..	..	157	7 7	..	2,410	14 7
General repairs .. .. .	..	14	16 5	..	52	19 11
Horse-feed .. .. .	..	6	14 6	..	112	8 11
Permanent works—						
Fencing .. .. .	..	..	..	..	258	2 3
Formation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	366	7 2
Buildings .. .. .	..	103	12 10	..	368	18 6
Stock, implements, &c.—Tools, implements ..	..	..	..	..	145	8 9
Supervision and clerical—						
Salaries—						
Supervision of free labour .. ..	..	150	0 0	..	955	10 0
Nurseryman's proportion of clerical assistance .. ..	..	25	0 0	..	361	14 2
	£457	11	4	£12,459	1	7

Schedule III.—Trees Account.

	Number.
Trees received during year	24,630
Less to replace blanks	24,630
Planted on new area .. .. .	..
Previously planted	2,180,837
Total number planted on 845 acres (average age, seven years) ..	2,180,837