

NASEBY PLANTATION.

(Area, 1,350 acres ; altitude, 2,300 ft.)

During the year the removal of the fence from the commonage-site has been carried out, and an area of 1,200 acres been acquired from Run 219c, Naseby, and on which the fencing has been erected.

In order to facilitate the work, as the season was advancing, only a small portion was fenced, but the whole area is at present being enclosed in readiness for the coming spring.

Owing to there being so much haulage and dismantling, &c., of fencing material, the average cost of maintenance has been greatly increased, and is therefore hardly a fair average.

During last season 156,075 trees were transferred to Naseby Commonage site, and of these, 31,240 still remain in the trenches. Some 65,925 were used on the commonage-area, which was eventually abandoned, and the remainder, having died in the trenches, should not be put down as failures on the new or old area.

The remaining trees could not be removed owing to the lateness of the season, but will be transferred during the incoming spring. There were 326,300 trees removed to the new area from the nursery, and I am sorry to have to report that of these 24,550 had to be thrown out as they died in the trenches.

These were some of the first trees lifted and bundled in order to be sent to Conical Hills Plantation, but were retained here as the Government acquired the extension property later, and, consequently, the trees remained too long in the bundles before being planted out.

Pitting was commenced in July, but as the ground was too hard owing to the frost, good progress could not be made at first, but during the months of September and October better progress was made. The spot is an ideal one for trees, but, owing to the turfy nature of the ground, it requires to be all pitted before the winter, in order to pulverize the soil ; and this is being done for the reception of the trees during the coming spring.

Trees planted out are doing very well, and from all appearances the percentage of deaths will be very small, the larch especially having done exceedingly well.

The trees on the old site are making excellent growth, and a plan of the area subdivided into blocks has been compiled.

The number of trees planted on the new area is 301,750, at an average cost of 11s. 8d. per thousand. The total number planted to date in the old and extension area is 682,204.

Some 360,750 grubber pits were made, at an average cost of 10s. 9d. per thousand, and of these 59,000 remain open for the trees during the next spring.

The expenditure for the year is £867 8s. 10d., and the expenditure to date is £3,644 17s. 11d.

A hut was erected during the year by the employees, and another removed from Gimmerburn. Two tents on frames were also erected on the ground.

The average number of men employed was 5.5, day-labour.

During the incoming year a thermometer and rain-gauge are to be installed at this station.

Details of accounts are appended.

Schedule II.—Statement of Expenditure.

| | For Year. | | | To Date. | | |
|--|-----------|----|----|----------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Planting operations and maintenance— | | | | | | |
| Tree-planting | 191 | 5 | 5 | 696 | 5 | 11 |
| Pitting | 193 | 18 | 4 | 764 | 10 | 3 |
| Clearing | | | | 20 | 17 | 10 |
| Cartage of trees | 21 | 4 | 0 | 92 | 1 | 9 |
| General upkeep of plantation | 203 | 10 | 3 | 928 | 19 | 3 |
| General repairs | 7 | 18 | 6 | 7 | 18 | 6 |
| Horse-feed | | | | 164 | 10 | 0 |
| Permanent works— | | | | | | |
| Fencing | 112 | 10 | 1 | 480 | 2 | 9 |
| Formation | | | | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Buildings | 47 | 2 | 3 | 85 | 0 | 0 |
| Stock, implements, &c.—Tools, implements | | | | 1 | 12 | 6 |
| Supervision and clerical— | | | | | | |
| Salaries— | | | | | | |
| Supervision of free labour | 60 | 0 | 0 | 248 | 10 | 11 |
| Nurseryman's proportion of clerical assistance | 30 | 0 | 0 | 149 | 8 | 3 |
| | £867 | 8 | 10 | £3,644 | 17 | 11 |

Schedule III.—Trees Account.

| | Number. |
|---|---------|
| Trees received during the year | 326,300 |
| Less to replace blanks | 24,550 |
| Planted on new area | 301,750 |
| Previously planted | 380,454 |
| Total number planted on 260 acres (average age, five years) | 682,204 |