

DUSKY HILL PLANTATION, OTAGO.

(Area, 845 acres; altitude, 400 ft. to 800 ft.; commenced operations, 1898.)

The weather conditions prevailing here during the past year were not conducive to the healthy development of trees. A mild winter followed by an unusually dry spring accounted for an early cessation of tree-growth, particularly in larch, which have again prematurely shed their needles. There is no doubt, however, that a steady girth-development is being made by the larch, and notwithstanding contrary opinions expressed in certain quarters it is evident that at least at this station the larch plantations will prove a fairly remunerative proposition. A fairly uniform progress may be noticed in the various pine, spruce, and oak blocks.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £454 4s. 4d., which amount was required for the general maintenance of the plantation, purchase of sheep, &c. The grazing proposition was fairly successful this year, although experience now gained proves that at present the constant feeding-capacity of the reserve, without providing winter feed, is in the region of a hundred ewes. Much difficulty was experienced in mustering the flock, but the results attained fully justify the continuation of the scheme.

Acreages of Trees planted.

Name of Tree.	Area.	
	Pure.	Mixed.
	Acres.	Acres.
<i>Pinus Laricio</i>	155	..
„ <i>ponderosa</i>	21	..
„ <i>radiata</i>	22 $\frac{3}{4}$	..
„ <i>austriaca</i>	62 $\frac{3}{4}$	..
„ <i>muricata</i>	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	..
„ <i>pinaster</i>	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
<i>Larix europaea</i>	233	..
„ <i>leptolepis</i>	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	..
<i>Picea excelsa</i>	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
„ <i>sitchensis</i>	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	..
<i>Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia</i>	17	..
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	..
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	..
<i>Acer pseudo-platanus</i>	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
<i>Betula alba</i>	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	..
<i>Quercus pedunculata</i>	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	8	..
<i>Quercus pedunculata</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , and <i>Acer pseudo-platanus</i> .. .. .	..	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Quercus pedunculata</i> and <i>Acer pseudo-platanus</i> .. .. .	..	28 $\frac{1}{4}$
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> and <i>P. austriaca</i> .. .. .	..	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
<i>Pinus austriaca</i> , <i>P. Laricio</i> , and <i>P. ponderosa</i> .. .. .	..	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Pinus Laricio</i> and <i>Quercus pedunculata</i> .. .. .	..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> and <i>Quercus pedunculata</i> .. .. .	..	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
<i>Pinus austriaca</i> and <i>Quercus pedunculata</i> .. .. .	..	6
<i>Larix europaea</i> , <i>Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia</i> , and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> .. .. .	..	9
<i>Pinus austriaca</i> , <i>Quercus pedunculata</i> , <i>Acer pseudo-platanus</i> , and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> .. .. .	..	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
<i>Pinus radiata</i> and <i>Picea excelsa</i> .. .. .	..	1
<i>Pinus radiata</i> , <i>Quercus pedunculata</i> , and <i>Acer pseudo-platanus</i> .. .. .	..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Picea excelsa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> .. .. .	..	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Totals	645	100 $\frac{3}{4}$
	745 $\frac{3}{4}$	

TAPANUI NURSERY, OTAGO.

(Area, 173 acres; altitude, 500 ft.; established, 1897.)

Although an extremely dry summer was experienced and our water-supply completely gave out, the year's tree-raising operations must be regarded as decidedly satisfactory. The rainfall, amounting to 34.48 in., was spread over 158 days, whilst the extremes of shade temperature were 88° and 22° F.

Raising of Seedlings.—As the nursery was well stocked with seedlings, a comparatively small quantity of seed was operated with in the spring-time; but, as disclosed in the appended schedule, some 1,417,500 young trees resulted, and this number should be quite sufficient to meet anticipated requirements. From 110 lb. of seed 600,000 sturdy *Pinus radiata* were raised, and, as these have been given more growing-space, it is reasonable to expect a better growing percentage when their transplantation is undertaken. Another outstanding crop is the 60,000 *Cupressus macrocarpa*, which tree is being propagated more extensively now in order to meet the requirements of private planters. For a similar reason the increased growing of poplars is being aimed at, and over 10,000 cuttings of *Populus deltoides* and *P. fastigiata* were rooted with little loss in the undertaking.