

CONICAL HILLS PLANTATION, OTAGO.

(Area, 3,672 acres; altitude, 400 ft. to 1,050 ft.; commenced operations, 1903.)

A steady rate of development in tree-growth is being made at this station, and particularly pleasing are the *Pinus Laricio* on the eastern slopes. Unfortunately, much of the planted area is exposed to the violent south-westerly winds experienced from time to time in this district, and it is regrettable that we should have been visited by one of these gales at the most critical growing-period of the year. As might be expected, a good deal of damage resulted, although the majority of injured trees are showing evidence of recovery, which will be hastened by judicious pruning. The spruces, which are universally commanding more attention now than for years past, having become established, are developing rapidly, and so far show no traces of disease. On the flats and gullies their headway is more pronounced; but even on the higher altitudes the trees do not yet show the leaning tendency so characteristic of other varieties planted in similar situations. The gradual replanting with *Pinus radiata* of small blocks upon which unsuitable trees were originally planted is being steadily continued. Less horse-work was devoted to the fire-breaks, as the sheep kept most of the unplanted spaces comparatively free from vegetation. The services of the three men employed here have been used entirely for general maintenance work; but on labour becoming more plentiful it will be necessary to numerically increase the staff and undertake various works much in need of attention.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £1,087 16s. 2d., and total to date £32,458 7s. 7d.

Acreages of Trees planted.

Name of Tree.	Area.	
	Pure.	Mixed.
	Acres.	Acres.
<i>Pinus Laricio</i>	1,013	..
„ <i>radiata</i>	433	..
„ <i>austriaca</i>	169	..
„ <i>ponderosa</i>	204	..
„ <i>muricata</i>	14	..
„ <i>Benthamiana</i>	10	..
„ <i>strobus</i>	3	..
„ <i>rigida</i>	1	..
„ <i>pinaster</i>	2	..
„ <i>halepensis</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	..
„ <i>Taeda</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	..
<i>Larix europaea</i>	909	..
„ <i>leptolepis</i>	4	..
<i>Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia</i>	40	..
<i>Picea excelsa</i>	90	..
„ <i>sitchensis</i>	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	16	..
„ <i>americana</i>	3	..
<i>Betula alba</i>	44	..
<i>Populus</i> (species)	12	..
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	20	..
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	2	..
<i>Salix viminalis</i>	2	..
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	13	..
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
„ <i>Lawsoniana</i>	1	..
<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	..
<i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i>	2	..
<i>Quercus pedunculata</i>	2	..
<i>Eucalyptus</i> (species)	2	..
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> and <i>P. Benthamiana</i> .. .. .	..	42
<i>Picea excelsa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> .. .. .	..	225
<i>Acer pseudo-platanus</i> and <i>Quercus pedunculata</i> .. .. .	..	60
<i>Pinus Laricio</i> and <i>Larix europaea</i> .. .. .	..	10
<i>Picea excelsa</i> and <i>P. sitchensis</i> .. .. .	..	62
<i>Pinus Laricio</i> and <i>P. ponderosa</i> .. .. .	..	27
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> and <i>P. austriaca</i> .. .. .	..	80
Totals	3,027 $\frac{1}{2}$	506
	3,533 $\frac{1}{2}$	