

tree-planting is so far a pronounced success on this arid waste land. Only a cursory glance is sufficient to show that the trees are thriving and vigorous. Of the various species planted *Pinus ponderosa* predominates, and has evidently found a congenial home in this stony land. *Pinus austriaca* is doing well, as is also *Pinus ponderosa* var. *scopulorum*. The marginal lines of *Populus fastigiata* and *P. deltoides* were not a success generally, only a patchy "strike" taking place, and it is doubtful whether they will succeed in this locality. Trees to the number of 649,842 were received from Hammer Nursery, and with one or two exceptions there was a good "strike," some small lots of Douglas fir, *Eucalyptus Macarthuri*, and *Pinus pinaster* being the exceptions. In a rather late planting of *Pinus radiata* the death-rate was heavier than usual. Tree-planting in this district should be commenced as soon as possible in early winter and completed early, before the prevailing north-west winds set in.

The remaining unfenced portion of the first area acquired was enclosed with rabbit-proof fencing, the total length of fence being 176½ chains, the whole of the posts for this work being supplied from the Hammer Plantations. A total of 568,920 pits were opened, and of that number 155,200 are available for the coming season's planting. The additional area, 6,589 acres, which was acquired is for the most part covered with manuka scrub. The whole area was recently surveyed and laid off in blocks of approximately 250 acres, which will greatly facilitate the present and future working of them. An adequate system of fire-breaks has been put into effect throughout the whole of the forest reserve. Clearing operations on a block of the new area are well advanced, approximately 140 acres of scrub being felled, and all firewood saved for the use of employees in camp. The procurement of efficient workmen during the pitting and planting periods gave some trouble, but ultimately a fair gang was obtained. The rabbit pest, which is ever before us in this district, was kept in check by trapping and poisoning. It is proposed to plant from 800,000 to 1,000,000 trees during the coming season should the necessary labour be available.

The average number of men employed during the year was 977.
The expenditure during the year amounted to £5,428 8s. 9d., and total to date £7,471 11s. 2d.

Acreages of Trees planted.

Name of Tree.	Area.	
	Pure.	Mixed.
	Acres.	Acres.
<i>Pinus Laricio</i>	55	..
„ <i>ponderosa</i>	121	..
„ <i>Benthamiana</i>	1½	..
„ <i>radiata</i>	33	..
„ <i>austriaca</i>	219	..
„ <i>muricata</i>	7½	..
„ <i>pinaster</i>	2½	..
„ <i>ponderosa</i> var. <i>scopulorum</i>	3	..
<i>Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia</i>	10	..
<i>Betula alba</i>	1	..
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	1	..
„ <i>fastigiata</i>	3	..
Totals	456	..
	456	

PART II.—NATIVE FORESTS.

(By E. PHILLIPS TURNER, F.R.G.S.)

OUTPUT FROM MILLS.

At the present time the output of timber by the different mills cannot be satisfactorily obtained; approximations, however, are got by either personal inquiries made at the mills by departmental rangers or by application to sawmillers' associations. As far as could be ascertained, the total output for the year was 247,980,000 superficial feet, being 104,520,000 ft. less than for the previous year. Of the total production the Auckland Land District produced 87,165,516 ft., Wellington 69,120,000 ft., Westland 46,760,100 ft., and Southland 20,000,000 ft. In Canterbury there were about 1,000,000 sup. ft. of *Pinus radiata* and *Eucalyptus* timber milled, but practically no native timber, supplies of this last being obtained from other districts. The output of kauri was 20,890,359 sup. ft. Slackness in the building trade, scarcity of labour, shortage of tonnage for export, and other war conditions have all had an influence in lessening production.