

SALE OF TREES TO FARMERS AND LOCAL BODIES.

There was considerable activity throughout the South Island in tree-planting, and the total number of trees distributed to settlers and public bodies almost doubled that of the previous year. The total number of trees sent out during the year was 458,467, making the total number supplied to date 1,315,823. The number of private individuals supplied was 476, and public bodies 38. There was also 51 lb. of tree-seed sold. The main demand was again for *Pinus radiata* and *Cupressus macrocarpa*. While there have been one or two isolated complaints regarding results of planting, there have, on the other hand, been many excellent reports as regards both packing, condition of trees on arrival, and results of planting.

REVENUE.

Revenue derived from South Island State plantations and nurseries during the year is as follows :—

	1922-23.			1921-22.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sales of trees	1,759	9	6	752	10	2
Sales of tree-seeds	55	19	10			
Sales of firewood	75	2	6	112	0	3
Sales of poles, stakes, &c.	6	18	8			
Grazing	41	10	0	11	0	0
Sales of sheep	662	13	1	353	17	4
Sales of wool and skins	99	0	9	68	14	8
House rentals	271	16	10	404	10	8
Sundries	29	0	1	309	9	11
	£3,001	11	3	£2,012	3	0

DISPOSAL OF RANFURLY NURSERY.

This property, on which operations were discontinued during the year, has been kept in fair condition, and it is hoped that a sale will be effected during the coming year. The care of the property has been handed over to the Lands Department.

TREE-PLANTING PROPOSALS FOR 1923-24.

The proposed operations for the coming year comprise a planting scheme of approximately 1,100,000 trees on an area of about 1,400 acres. Of these 800,000 trees will be planted at Hanmer Springs and Balmoral Plantations, and the remaining 300,000 at Greenvale. Very little preparation will be necessary at Balmoral, but at both Greenvale and Hanmer Springs a fairly large amount of fencing will be necessary, and at Hanmer there will probably be a fairly large clearing charge.

TRANSFER OF REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

The removal of Canterbury-Otago regional headquarters from Tapanui to Christchurch, which took place in March, has already resulted in bringing the Service into much closer contact with the public, and great extension of afforestation is confidently anticipated. The number of callers in search of information relative to tree-planting exceeded in the first six weeks the number for a year at Tapanui.

ANNEXURE IV.—SUMMARIES.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS IN NURSERIES DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1923.

Name of Nursery.	Total Expenditure.								Trees in Nurseries.			
	Tree-growing.		Maintenance.	Buildings, &c.	Total.	Estimated Trees raised during Year.	Output of Trees.		Estimated Number in Nurseries at 31st March, 1923.			
							Trees sent to Plantations during Year.	Trees sent to Outside Places during Year.				
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.				
Rotorua ..	6,853	2 9	283	0 6	40	12 0	7,176	15 3	6,225,000	3,265,275	1,015,164	9,248,000
Tapanui ..	2,071	12 0	2,208	12 5	124	13 10	4,404	18 3	1,993,750	395,125	157,004	3,457,920
Ranfurlly* ..	93	8 10	502	2 11	..	..	595	11 9	..	46,300	26,202	..
Hanmer Springs ..	1,129	13 0	1,255	15 8	176	10 3	2,561	18 11	1,781,900	78,330	277,261	3,093,400
Naseby ..	404	0 6	..	..	..	..	404	0 6	275,500	..	..	580,550
Totals ..	10,551	17 1	4,249	11 6	341	16 1	15,143	4 8	10,276,150	3,785,030	1,475,631	16,379,870

* Nursery now closed.