

and free, and shows signs of extreme dryness in summer. The plantation is divided into two portions by a road-line. On the higher and exposed parts a good many blanks occur, which have not been filled up. The trees have been planted much too wide apart (6 ft. to 12 ft.) to produce good timber, but, notwithstanding this, those suitable to the soil and climate have made excellent growth during the thirteen years they have been established. The following species have succeeded best: viz., larch, spruce fir, *Pinus austriaca*, *Pinus strobus*, *Pinus ponderosa*, English birch, and *Thuja gigantea*. So far as can be ascertained, about 76,000 trees in all were planted, and probably there are 50,000 which have more or less established themselves, but it is difficult to give the exact number owing to the scattered nature of the planting. Many of the deciduous trees have made double leaders and strong side branches, the result of too wide planting. These are at present receiving attention by shortening back any strong side shoots and confining the leaders to a single stem.

Several old gorse hedges running through the plantation had been allowed to spread—in some cases over 2 chains in width—and the risk from fire necessitated prompt action in grubbing and burning the whole of this out. The work was rendered somewhat difficult and expensive owing to the necessity of carrying the gorse out of the plantation for burning to prevent possible damage to trees.

On the northern boundary a road-line 25 chains in length will require fencing, and also a few repairs to existing fences.

In order to keep down the strong growth of grass amongst the trees, and the consequent risk of damage through fire, the area has been leased to an adjoining settler at an annual rental of £11 4s. per acre for grazing by sheep only.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1ST APRIL, 1901, TO 31ST MARCH, 1902.

<i>Eweburn Nursery.</i>				£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1901	...	...	...	4,236	18	3
Tree-growing (three crops)	...	...	...	247	9	6
General maintenance	...	...	...	115	11	9
Nursery-formation	...	...	...	45	13	11
Horse-shoeing and general repairs	...	...	...	24	11	4
Horse-feed (purchased and grown)	...	...	...	34	9	1
Seeds (tree)	...	...	...	34	1	6
Tools, implements, &c.	...	...	...	27	4	11
Fuel, cartage, and railage	...	...	...	14	0	7
Water-supply	...	...	...	15	14	3
Seed-frames, new, additional	...	...	...	50	17	3
Supervision	...	...	...	45	0	0
				£4,891	12	4
<i>Tapuanui Nursery.</i>				£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1901	...	...	...	4,436	12	1
Tree-growing (three crops)	...	...	...	789	6	3
General maintenance	...	...	...	113	8	9
Horse-shoeing, repairs, &c.	...	...	...	37	14	0
Purchase of 2,018 posts at £1 per hundred	...	...	...	20	3	8
Manures, &c.	...	...	...	15	2	6
Horse-feed (purchased and grown)	...	...	...	64	6	9
Seeds (tree and shrub)	...	...	...	72	12	10
Tools, implements, horse, &c.	...	...	...	62	5	4
Seed-frames, new, additional	...	...	...	39	11	4
Building cookhouse and additions to same	...	...	...	97	3	5
Asphalting shed, and general improvements	...	...	...	36	5	1
Supervision	...	...	...	65	6	4
				£5,849	18	4
<i>Whakarewarewa Nursery.</i>				£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1901	...	...	...	4,190	13	8
Tree-growing (three crops)	...	...	...	718	9	2
General maintenance	...	...	...	227	18	4
Formation (extension of nursery)	...	...	...	189	17	0
Seeds (tree and shrub)	...	...	...	66	10	4
Manures, lime, &c.	...	...	...	99	7	8
Horse-feed (purchased and grown)	...	...	...	91	3	2
Fencing, hare-proof, around nursery	...	...	...	62	8	4
Seed-frames, additional, and repairs to	...	...	...	24	3	4
Horse-shoeing and general repairs	...	...	...	28	17	9
Tools, implements, &c.	...	...	...	32	14	6
Water-supply	...	...	...	6	7	2
Building raupo shelter-whare	...	...	...	5	16	3
Miscellaneous works	...	...	...	31	11	10
Supervision	...	...	...	72	3	0
				£5,848	1	6