

by flood-waters, requiring considerable expense in keeping out cattle. This was replaced by 25 chains of five-wired fencing on higher land. A substantial four-roomed cottage with lean-to and outbuildings was purchased, and erected on a site overlooking the greater portion of the plantation.

This is the first season eucalypti have been planted extensively without moss in this plantation. Where the trees were from 12 in. to 18 in. high at the time of planting the death-rate is not more than 2 per cent.; the smaller trees are a failure, especially so in the case of *E. rostrata*. *E. Stuartiana* have made vigorous growth, one tree reaching a height of 4 ft. 4 in. in one year, the average growth being about 18 in. The difference in mossed and unmossed trees is not marked, though the latter are slightly sturdier. *E. resinifera* have made good healthy growth. *E. amygdalina* and *rostrata* are not so good, the approximate death-rate being fully 25 per cent., principally amongst the smaller trees. Several of the *E. Stuartiana* planted three years ago are now from 15 ft. to 18 ft. 2 in. in height, with girths from 9 in. to 11 in. This species is perfectly clean and healthy, and entirely free from the ravages of insect life.

Clearing round trees, planting blanks, and upkeep of fire-breaks, &c., cost £790 1s. 6d.

The Department having decided to discontinue raising trees at Ruatangata Nursery after this season, it would be advisable to sow a small quantity of *E. Stuartiana* seed on the plantation, the trees to be utilised for replacing blanks, as this season's planting will not nearly cover the whole of the plantation; fully half a million more trees will be required.

The average number of men employed was 11·03.

The following is a record of rainfall and temperature for the year :—

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Maximum Temperature.	Date.	Minimum Temperature.	Date.
1909.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
April ...	2·44	11	76	5th, 6th, and 24th	34	26th
May ...	7·79	18	70	5th and 6th	36	17th
June ...	3·76	19	64	5th and 20th	38	9th and 20th
July ...	13·67	21	66	10th	34	1st and 25th
August ...	11·44	20	62	4th, 24th, and 25th	30	10th and 19th
September ...	12·67	22	66	16th and 27th	32	10th
October ...	4·59	16	66	3rd, 12th, and 31st	38	10th and 14th
November ...	5·95	13	78	11th and 19th	42	7th
December ...	1·78	11	82	18th	46	15th
1910.						
January ...	4·86	13	82	25th and 27th	50	2nd
February ...	12·34	14	78	16th	55	3rd
March ...	7·73	18	74	12th	52	18th, 23rd, and 25th
Totals ...	89·02	196	...	...	...	...

Statement of Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1909	6,486	11	8
Pitting	244	8	6
Tree-planting	116	2	5
Clearing	72	17	6
Cartage of trees	21	18	1
General upkeep of plantation	804	15	10
" repairs	22	18	5
Horse-feed purchased and grown	1	15	11
Buildings	90	11	4
Tools, implements, &c.	0	18	9
Salaries—			
Foresters: Supervision of free labour	170	0	0
Nurseryman's proportion of	20	0	0
Proportion of clerk and accountant's salary	44	0	0
Supervision	25	0	0
	£8,121	18	5

J. MASON, Plantation Foreman.
A. GORDON, Nurseryman in Charge.