

Seedling Trees.—The number of trees raised from seed during the year is estimated at 5,761,535, and the number thus grown to date is 37,192,644. These trees have made extraordinarily good growth, which is due to the fact that they were protected by the seed-frames during the hot dry weather in December that adversely affected the lined-out trees and two-year-old seedlings which were not so protected. The larch crop, which is very fine, is smaller in number this year owing to the scarcity of feed. On the other hand, the *Pinus Laricio*, of which more seed was procured, germinated splendidly, and there is therefore an abundance of this species. *Pinus ponderosa* is a good crop in respect both to germination and growth, as are also *Pinus radiata* and *Eucalyptus Stuartiana*. Redwood germinated very sparsely, but what trees there are are nice sturdy plants. A number of other species were grown experimentally, and details of these will be found in Schedule I appended. Of these, the western larch (*Larix occidentalis*) deserves special mention. This species is reputed to be a very valuable timber tree, and this is the first occasion on which it has been grown here. From inquiries that have been made so far, there seems a probability that seed of this species will be somewhat difficult to procure. We are indebted to Mr. T. W. Adams, Greendale, Canterbury, for the small packet which was sown this year.

The two-year-old seedling trees have not made their usual vigorous growth, but are still of a size suitable for transferring to the plantations. The larch seedlings were much infested with the grass grub, which caused a number of trees to die off during the dry spring months. This trouble was reduced somewhat by injecting bisulphide of carbon in the parts of the seed-beds most affected, but it is a tedious undertaking to carry out this treatment over a large area of ground.

Amongst the lined-out trees the growth generally is below the average, but, on the other hand, scarcely any failures have occurred. The *Pinus Laricio* are particularly good, and the other species of pines fair, but amongst the larch the growth is very patchy. Twenty-five acres of vacant land in the nursery were, in the spring, sown down in oats and ryecorn in mixture, and resulted in about 30 tons of fairly good sheaf, which it is proposed to chaff. Horse-feed is a fairly big item in our expenditure, and this crop will therefore effect a considerable saving. The land is certainly not entirely suitable for such crops, but, even with fair results, cropping may be regarded as profitable. It is proposed to take in a further area of about 16 acres simply for growing horse-feed. The shelter plantations and hedges in the nursery have now attained to a fair height, and their influence on the crops is being felt more every year. These have enhanced the value of the property both from a utilitarian and scenic standpoint, and the grounds now attract a large number of visitors.

During last winter trees to the number of 5,102,400, valued at £8,777 8s. 10d., were sent out from the nursery (details in Schedule 4). Besides these trees, a large number of seedlings were sized and got ready for lining-out, the total number of trees actually handled in the nursery during the year being 8,300,000. The cost of the various operations was as follows: Lifting, counting, and tying into bundles cost 2s. 2d. per thousand trees; sizing seedlings cost 1s. 3d. per thousand; lining-out trees in nursery cost 1s. 7d. per thousand.

For the coming winter preparations are in hand for transferring about five million trees to the Whakarewarewa and Waiotapu Plantations. The number of trees sent out from the nursery to date is 27,395,209, and their value £55,237 14s. 7d. Details of stock in hand and trees transferred and expenditure and vaules are appended.

Vouchers dealt with during the year were 251, covering a total amount of £10,630 1s. 6d. The correspondence—Inwards, 560; outwards, 749; parcels (out), 53: total, 1,362. Official stamps used for postages and telegrams totalled £9 16s. 3d.

The following is a record of rainfall and temperature for the year (1909-10):—

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days on which Rain fell.	Highest Reading of Ther- mometer.	Date.	Lowest Reading of Ther- mometer.	Date.
1909.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
April	3.35	10	75	9th	29	13th
May	5.41	17	71	1st	25	29th
June	4.26	15	68	22nd and 23rd	25	1st and 10th
July	9.59	16	61	19th and 27th	24	14th
August	12.01	18	62	31st	24	13th
September	4.93	18	67	28th	26	5th
October	5.69	16	74	14th	31	15th
November	3.91	14	79	12th	34	8th
December	3.30	8	88	17th	40	22nd
1910.						
January	11.02	15	87	5th	42	2nd
February	7.54	8	84	23rd	46	2nd
March	5.66	18	79	18th	40	25th
Totals	76.67	173	...	...	...	...