Several trials were made with the recently imported hole-borer, the working of which is briefly described in another portion of the report. On the cleared areas an operator can easily prepare 800 holes daily, and with practice this number should be increased fully 25 per cent. without overexertion on the part of the manipulator. Before the advent of the coming planting season an extended trial of the machine over an acre or two will be made, and it is more than likely that the result of same will influence our future planting-work.

Fire-breaks.—The yearly increasing labour essential in keeping our fire-breaks in an effective state may be gauged from the fact that two teams of horses were employed for about two months in ploughing, discing, and cultivating these intersecting fire-lines, which extend over an aggregate distance of

about nine miles, and average about a chain in width.

The caretaking service was maintained on Sundays and holidays during the summer months, and it is gratifying to be able to report the entire absence of any outbreak of fire.

Rabbiting.—Since the acquirement of this property incessant warfare has been directed against the rabbit pest. Naturally, the rough nature of the ground makes effective work difficult, and it is improbable that we could have continued planting in safety had the divisional fencing scheme not been introduced. By this means we are able to eradicate the rabbits over an area large enough to contain one year's planting, after which the rabbiter, with his traps, dogs, ferrets, fumigator, and poison, devotes his energies in preparing another block for the ensuing season. It has been necessary this year to occasionally provide assistance to the rabbiter, who has accounted for close on five thousand of the destructive animals during the twelve months under review.

General Maintenance.—The increasing expenditure allocated under this heading was not unforeseen, as with each year's planting an additional 500 acres or more of trees require to be attended to in the form of pruning, removal of interfering grass-growth, replanting failures, &c. In arriving at the upkeep-cost (8s. 7½d. per acre) consideration has also been given to fire-break labour, horse-shoeing,

and repairs.

Revision of Records.-In examining the concentrated statements herewith, it will be seen that credit to the extent of some 700,000 trees given for the previous planting has been withdrawn. In accounting for this, it might be explained that when the acorn-planting scheme was being applied each seed germinating was duly credited as a tree planted. The whole venture was not attended with success, as, although the acoms freely germinated and developed into sturdy yearling oaks, their consequent annual progress was so disappointing that replanting the whole area with more suitable varieties was unhesitatingly adopted, but up to the current year no deduction from the original totals was made for this wholesale replanting.

By a careful analysis of trees planted, and a liberal allowance for deaths since initiation, it was ascertained that at the present time there are, at this station, 5,164,862 forest trees, occupying an

area of some 1,897 acres.

The expenditure for the year was £3,215 10s. 4d., which provided employment for 23.5 men. Since the beginning of operations here £17,555 3s. 11d. has been expended, the details of which may be seen on reference to tables appended.

	Schedu	le II	-States	nent	of .	Expend	litur	c.			
					For Year.			To	To Date.		
Planting operations and maintenance						£	s.	d.	£	s.	
Tree-planting					٠.	915	11	1	3,863	2	6
Pitting						1,042	0	3	5,453	14	10
Clearing									648	3	
Cartage of tree	s					53	12	0	272	10	5
General upkeep	of plants	ation			٠.	769	16	9	3,377	7	4
General repairs						23	1	10	342	16	9
$\mathbf{Horse}\text{-}\mathbf{feed}$						27	1	6	78	12	5
Permanent works-	•										
Fencing						99	15	3	1,105	19	0
Formation ·									259	11	10
Buildings						20	17	7	244	5	4
Stock, implements, &c.—Tools, implements 8 14 1							255	10	6		
Supervision and clerical—											
Salaries-											
Supervision of free labour			,		175	0	0	1,200	0	0	
,, prison labour							, ·				
Nurseryman's proportion of clerical as-											
sistance				80	0	0	453	9	4		
VI. V . V . V . V . V . V . V . V . V .					-						
						£3,215	10	4	£17,555	3	11
	S	chedule	111	-Tree	s A	ccount.					
									umb		
Trees received during the		u.							1,4	68,9	97 5
Less to replace	blanks	•	•	• •		• •		• •		89,2	275 ——
Planted on new are	a	_	_						1,3	79,7	700
Previously planted								• •		85 ,1	
110 Housing planted	••	•	•			• •		• •	0,.		
Total number planted on 1,897 acres (average age, four years)) 5,1	64,8	362