

can be easily ploughed, and the climatic conditions are suitable, certain species of trees, such as *Eucalypti*, might profitably be grown by direct sowing.

Fire-protection.—An improved system for dealing with outside fires which endanger the planted area has been in operation during the dry season. The eastern boundary, which follows the Wairoa Road for a distance of about five miles, owing to the difficulty of seeing it from other parts of the plantation, has been proved by the experience of former years to be particularly dangerous. On this boundary a Ranger has been stationed, whose duty it is to patrol the road during dry weather and to attend to the fence and fire-break, and such matters as trespassing persons, stock, &c. For his accommodation a small building was erected near his work, where he also keeps an outfit of tools sufficient for the use of ten or twelve men, thus reducing loss of time as much as possible should any fire in the vicinity be considered dangerous. The building is connected by telephone with the nursery, and, if necessary, communication may be obtained at any time of day or night. The appointment of a Ranger relieves the responsible officer on duty considerably, as on Sundays and holidays he has quite enough to do in attending properly to other parts of the plantation. On a recently acquired section on the Waiotapu Road two huts for workmen have been erected in a position from which several miles of the boundary on that side may be seen. The men living there take turns in staying about the camp on Sundays during dry weather, and would be ready to give prompt warning of and render assistance in dealing with an outbreak occurring in the neighbourhood. In addition to these buildings, an old kitchen and dining-shelter previously used by the Health Department is being converted into suitable quarters for workmen, so that in future a number of men will always be available in case of emergency.

For the next season's tree-planting pits to the number of 774,700, prepared by prison labour, are available, and it is intended to shortly commence with the preparation of an area of land sufficient to accommodate another 800,000 trees.

D. J. BUCHANAN,
Assistant Forester.

Schedule II.—Statement of Expenditure.

	For Year.			To Date.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Planting operations and maintenance—						
Tree-planting	465	19	9	6,444	13	6
Pitting	639	6	2	6,785	15	2
Clearing	942	13	1	8,766	19	2
Cartage of trees	17	13	10	344	9	8
General upkeep	1,618	3	4	11,389	10	3
Thinning	28	18	0	97	15	7
General repairs	121	0	3	943	10	10
Horse-feed	241	8	0	1,247	16	11
Permanent works—						
Fencing	65	19	10	1,201	7	8
General formation	140	3	4	2,231	15	5
Buildings	201	14	9	1,380	15	4
Water-service				95	5	6
Stock, implements, &c.—Tools and imple- ments	162	7	11	799	2	1
Supervision and clerical—						
Supervision of free labour	490	17	0	4,430	0	4
„ prison labour	170	0	0			
Clerical assistance	42	0	0			
	5,348	5	3	46,158	17	5
Value of prison labour for which no payment has been made, apportioned in above items	53	19	5	7,607	18	2
Actual expenditure	£5,294	5	10	£38,550	19	3

Schedule III.—Trees Account.

	Number.
Trees received during year	1,702,745
Less to replace blanks	444,175
Planted on new area	1,258,570
Previously planted	12,687,026
Total number planted on 6,224 acres (average age, six years)	13,945,596

Schedule IV.—Property Account.

	£	s.	d.
Land (9,547 acres): Crown land not charged to Forestry Account..			
Buildings	1,051	16	5
Improvements	1,612	1	2
Fencing	761	19	11
Stores in hand	785	15	3
	£4,211	12	9