

sea-level, while the highest point on the estate is about 1,450 ft. The rocks are marked by the Geological Survey into two main types—schists (epidiorite, hornblendic, chloritic, and talcose) and grits (greywackes, quartzite, and quartz-schist). There are also a number of intrusive dykes of basalt and dolorite. The route followed by the society lay almost wholly on the schists.

The soil changes rapidly from place to place; on the steeper slopes it is generally a yellowish loam of good depth; on the gentle slopes there is everywhere a tendency for peat to form, and on badly drained sites this formation goes on to a depth of several feet. The whole area has been heavily glaciated, generally in a direction parallel with the loch, with the result that the ground on the upper slopes is very broken. What were formerly numerous small glacial lakes are now the sites of peat bogs. At the north end of the property, near New York pier, and again near Ford, there are considerable areas of fluvio-glacial deposits.

The sea is only four miles distant from the western boundary of the estate, but a certain amount of shelter is derived from the intervening high land. Apart from persistent winds, the climate is mild and well suited to tree-growth. The rainfall varies from 70 in. to 90 in. per annum; the snowfall is light and does not lie long. Winter frosts are of short duration, and are not severe. Late spring and early autumn frosts are frequent.

In general, the conditions obtaining on this estate are not unrepresentative of very large areas of rough grazing-land along the west coast of Scotland.

Utilization at Time of Purchase.—At the time of purchase the estate was divided into four farms carrying the stock indicated below:—

Name of Farm.						Approximate Area.	Sheep.	Rental per Annum.
						Acres.		£
Salachry	..	..	..	..	..	635	300	66
Torran	..	..	..	..	..	2,800	1,900	190
Arichamish	..	..	..	..	..	4,900	2,700	150
Barmaddy and Cruachan	..	..	..	..	..	4,000	1,750	190
Totals						12,335	6,650	£596

Torran farm carried, in addition, some twenty to thirty cattle.

There were also some 200 acres of scrub, oak, ash, and birch of little value, and about 80 acres of plantations.

Considerable outlay has been necessary on the buildings which were on the estate at the time of purchase. Up to the 31st March, 1914, approximately £2,495 was spent on repairs and improvements to houses and buildings let with the farms, and sporting, and in erecting two new cottages. This is exclusive of outlay on buildings used for forestry purposes.

Afforestation Operations.—Nursery: In the summer of 1908 8½ acres of land at Ford were fenced off to form a nursery, and in the following spring plants were lined out and seed sown in 2½ acres of it. The nursery was subsequently extended to the total of 8¾ acres. The soil is light and gravelly, and has gradually been worked into condition. The want of a good supply of farmyard manure has been felt, but guano and artificial manures have been used with fair success.

Planting: At the time of purchase the lease of Aerihamish Farm was falling in, and it was judged advisable to begin planting operations at the east end of that farm. The method employed was to fence off a block containing, roughly, 400 acres, and to cut off successive strips of about 150 acres each by a temporary fence running more or less at right angles to the loch. In this way the ground was grazed up to the time of resumption for planting. The permanent fencing has been exclusively iron and wire, with hare-netting. For temporary fencing iron and wire have also been used, but with a sheep-netting only. The greater part of the planting has been done with the half-round planting-spade. The only exceptions were in 1909–10, when the plants were notched in, and later when a rocky face was planted with the planting-arrow, and some small lots of large-sized plants were pitted. The bulk of the plants have been two-year two-years, but some two-year one-year, and a few two-year seedlings have been used as well. The areas actually planted from year to year are as follows:—

Year.	Area planted.	Total Number of Plants used for Planting and Beating up.
1909–10	190	674,000
1910–11	169	664,100
1911–12	187	509,600
1912–13	178	445,900
1913–14	150	346,600
Totals	874	2,640,200

Of the total number of trees planted out, 1,474,100 were lifted from the nursery at Ford, while the remaining 1,166,100 were purchased from nurserymen in this country. Of the plants in the nursery a small proportion only have been purchased from nurserymen abroad, the remainder being obtained from seed or from British nurserymen. It is hoped, now the nursery is in full working-order, that practically all the plants required will be raised direct from seed.