

REPORT ON THE AFFORESTATION OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH ISLAND, 1914-15.

[By the Superintending Nurseryman, North Island, Rotorua.]

In presenting this report upon the afforestation-work at the North Island stations for the past year I regret that, owing to the drought which was prevalent in most parts of the Dominion during the spring and summer, the usual measure of success cannot be claimed. From August to February the rainfall was very light, and the few showers which were recorded failed to do any good owing to the rapid evaporation of the moisture from the soil. In the plantations the losses have been greatest at Kaingaroa and Waiotapu, where the soil is greatly lacking in humus; while at Whakarewarewa and Puhipuhi the losses are not greatly above normal. The losses in the nursery are principally due to the failure of many of the seeds to germinate. Those sown early in the spring have done fairly well, while the later-sown ones in most cases are very sparse. The growth has generally been very poor, but no doubt the moister conditions which commenced early in March will ensure a satisfactory autumn growth.

During the year the area of land planted was 1,416 acres, the principal species used being Corsican pine and Monterey pine (*P. radiata*). Of the last-named species, the area planted was slightly over 500 acres. The total area of plantation in the North Island formed since the commencement of operations in 1898 is 16,340 acres. In the nursery the trees raised during the year are estimated at seven and a quarter millions, the principal species raised being Corsican pine, Monterey pine, yellow-pine, Weymouth pine, Douglas fir, sweet-chestnut, *Eucalyptus Macarthuri*, and *Eucalyptus resinifera grandiflora*. Owing to the failure to secure seed of Corsican pine in 1913 there are practically no trees of this species available for planting during the coming winter. The shortage in this respect is partly compensated for by the Monterey-pine crop, but the climatic requirements of these two trees being slightly different, this shortage will directly affect the planting at Waiotapu and Kaingaroa, where the Corsican pine is the more suitable tree to plant.

PRISON LABOUR.

Following is tabulated information regarding this class of labour. It is gratifying to be able to report that the prison camps have been well supplied with prisoners during the year, and that the average number employed is considerably greater than for the previous twelve months.

Summaries of Prison Labour.

Year.	Waiotapu Plantation.			Whakarewarewa Plantation.			Kaingaroa Plains Plantation.		
	Average employed.	Total Value of Work.	Average per Man.	Average employed.	Total Value of Work.	Average per Man.	Average employed.	Total Value of Work.	Average per Man.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1900-1	20-00*	170 0 0	8 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
1901-2	18-00	437 18 6	24 6 7	..	..	..	..	..	..
1902-3	22-59	904 12 11	40 0 11	..	..	..	..	..	..
1903-4	30-00	902 3 0	30 1 5	..	..	..	..	..	..
1904-5	43-00	1,562 0 0	36 6 0	11-00‡	332 13 7	30 4 10	..	..	..
1905-6	42-56	2,440 8 5	57 6 9	14-19	771 8 4	54 7 3	..	..	..
1906-7	35-62	2,978 0 0	83 12 1	11-50	762 11 0	66 6 2	..	..	..
1907-8	38-64	3,878 7 6	100 7 5	15-05	1,103 5 2	73 6 1	..	..	..
1908-9	32-83	3,496 19 2	106 10 4	13-16	971 10 0	73 16 5	..	..	..
1909-10	27-81	3,164 19 2	113 16 0	10-89	789 7 6	72 10 10	..	..	..
1910-11	23-45	2,390 7 1	101 18 7	10-44	957 0 3	91 13 4	..	..	..
1911-12	17-04	1,750 5 0	102 14 3	11-16	934 19 9	83 15 7	..	..	..
1912-13	15-20	1,198 16 9	78 17 5	9-51	931 3 2	97 18 3	..	..	..
1913-14	..	..	..	11-66	1,019 17 3	87 9 4	12-36	1,113 5 0	90 1 4
1914-15	..	..	..	15-56	1,225 16 7	78 15 7	17-45	1,676 8 8	96 1 5
Totals ..	..	25,274 17 6	..	..	9,799 12 7	..	..	2,789 13 8	..
Averages	30-35†	..	68 18 9	12-47§	..	73 2 1	14-90	..	93 12 5

* One month's work.

† 12-08 years.

‡ Nine months' work.

§ 10-75 years.

Year.	Average Number employed.	Value of Work.	Value per Man per Day.
<i>Waiotapu Plantation.</i>			
1900-13	..	30-35	25,274 17 6
<i>Whakarewarewa Plantation.</i>			
1914-15	..	15-56	1,225 16 7
1905-15	..	12-47	9,799 12 7
<i>Kaingaroa Plains Plantation.</i>			
1914-15	..	17-45	1,676 8 8
1913-15	..	14-90	2,789 13 8