

Details of Three-year-old Trees, sown 1913-14.

Name of Tree.	Number in Nursery-lines.	Remarks.
<i>Pinus austriaca</i>	353,000	Strong trees.
„ <i>Laricio</i>	5,000	„ plants.
„ <i>ponderosa</i>	74,000	Very fine growth.
„ <i>muricata</i>	10,000	Strong trees.
„ <i>scopulorum</i>	5,700	Medium plants.
<i>Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia</i>	6,000	Poor plants.
<i>Betula alba</i>	250	Good plants.
Total	453,950	

Trees transferred from Nursery to Plantations, &c., 1915-16.

Where sent.	Name of Tree.	Number.
Hanmer Springs Plantation ..	<i>Pinus Laricio</i>	344,625
	„ <i>ponderosa</i>	199,875
	„ <i>radiata</i>	169,325
	<i>Larix europaea</i>	13,000
	„ <i>leptolepis</i>	20,850
	<i>Eucalyptus Macarthuri</i>	12,200
	„ <i>viminialis</i>	3,700
	„ <i>Muelleri</i>	25
		763,600
Public Works Department	Larch and pines	34,500
Selwyn Plantation Board	Pines	75,500
Mackenzie County Council	Larch and pines	31,500
Mackenzie Domain Board	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	1,000
Total		906,100

HANMER SPRINGS, PLANTATION, CANTERBURY.

(Plantation Foreman, A. J. Boydell; area, 3,668 acres; altitude, 1,225 ft.; commenced operations, 1901.)

Afforestation operations are generally attended with success at this station, and the past season has been no exception to the rule. The phenomenally dry winter, spring, and summer experienced throughout the greater part of the Canterbury Province did not affect to any great extent the Hanmer Plains and immediately surrounding district, although at times a heavy rainfall would have been highly beneficial. Even in the driest season Hanmer is practically immune from the serious effects of drought, coming as it does within what is familiarly known as the north-west shower area. It would, however, be wrong to convey the impression that the drought was entirely escaped, as a rather heavier percentage of deaths is noticeable among the newly planted trees than is usually recorded in a normal season.

Tree-growth.—The usual uniform growth has taken place among all varieties of established trees, and the various blocks are looking remarkably well. Some trial plantings of eucalypts proved a complete failure, owing to the prevalence of heavy north-west winds for a long period immediately subsequent to planting. Under normal conditions, however, these trees would probably prove a success. The growth among trees planted during the season has been above the average; but the death-rate has been heavier than usual, especially *Pinus radiata*, probably owing to the unusually dry spring. A late frost in October cut back the tender leaders of the Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, and larch; but these trees subsequently recovered and are now looking quite healthy.

Tree-planting.—Tree-planting was commenced on the 24th May and was completed on the 23rd September, the total number of trees planted for the season being 763,600, at a cost of £348 5s. 10d. Of this number, 28,900 were used to replace failures in the preceding season's planting. Under the new system of spacing the trees were planted at distances varying from 4 ft. to 6 ft. apart. The area planted for the year was 410½ acres, making a total area to date of 2,941½ acres under forest, containing 7,626,411 trees. This completes the planting of the ground now available with the exception of a small block adjoining Jollie's Pass, which it is anticipated will be cleared, fenced, and planted during the coming season. The temporary curtailment of operations during several months following the completion of tree-planting consequent on the shortening of hands has had the effect of placing this station in a partial state of unpreparedness to cope with the coming season's output of trees from the nursery. With the recent readjustment of labour, however, and some speeding-up, a successful season may be looked forward to.