

		acc.		
Ashentilly (2)	+1 -1	62.		
Balbride (12)	bal. part 3F @ £40	69 60	Market Stance (212)	3
Balbride Belts (22)		3	Mounthammock (216)	+1 53
West (26)		9	Mullochs (224)	-1 202
Balfour Belts (22)		38	Mundernal (234)	say 106 248
Belladrum (40)		44	Northrae (242)	-1 206
Beltownie (50)		14	Nursery (254)	3 1/2
Bankhead (54)		2	Polisio (264)	+1 205
Barns (56)		12	Rhinduckie (288) (out)	
Brachmont (64)		106 60	old land & wood	464
Bruntyside (70)		82	Sawmill (300)	80
Bairnfield (76)		23	Shillofad (310)	✓ 100 (81)
Bairnhill (80)	-1	14	Slug (316)	53
Bairn m. Barn (86)		62	StFadh gyle (324)	83
Bairnshe (94)	- 3/4	14/3 (5/4)	Strathie (332)	52 52 25
do Blump		←	Summeryside (340)	36
Balla drum (104)		6	Spayhill (348)	2
Bastehill (108)		1 1/2	Target (348)	85 1/2 160
Blane (110)		60	Warren (356)	-2 90
Brigisaff (118)		89	Woodlands (366)	40.
Briglag (126)		45		
Burrackstone (134)	+2	44		3540
Benside (142)		11	deduct Rhinduckie	464
Bramallan (148)		3		3103
Bolie (152)		6		3 1/4
Flatteto (152)		2		3099 3/4
Free Church (164)		69		
Funach (164)	+2	224		
Gallowhill (176)		9		
Garrod (180)	92 + 4	93		
Glenhead (188)		8		
Hillhead (192)		17 1/2		
Keith's Hill (194)		3		
Kincluney (198)		2		
Kirkton (202) (out) part		45		

MUNDERNAL

Extent 278 acres. Planted 1878-81. Fir larch & SS. Altitude 450-800'

General Description

This wood stretched along the North side of Mundernal Hill from Inchloan to Meikle Tulloch. The soil and situation is very suitable to the growth of SP and larch.

1884
(Mr Rae)

SP and larch 3-6 years old. NW exposure. Soil very good for larch or SP. Lower portions planted first, upper portion planted 3 years ago. Lower portion doing very well and not in a state to determine BU. The upper portion will show in a year or two what BU will be required but I would not be inclined to plant as high as has been done heretofore. East exposure requires some BU but before doing so a good many drains would have to be put in as it is at present insufficiently drained. South exposure. This portion of Mundernal is in a very bad condition and would require BU with SP 2+1 principally, and a few larch where ground suitable. The ground here is not very suitable for timber growing and I should be inclined to BU other and better grounds before attempting this portion. Hollow between Mundernal and Cairn-mon-Earn requires a good many more drains, and BU with strong spruce.

- 1891 Cut and cleared shooting ride along side of Target Wood and repaired fence opposite Pitcowdens Farm. Cut and cleared boundary between plantation & hill.
- 1892 Part of this plantation burned by accident near Pitcowdens. Repaired fence opposite Pitcowdens Farm.
- 1893 Built stone props between plantation & hill from Slug Road to Gennel.
- 1894-96 Nil
- 1897 Intersected the whole of this plantation with shooting rides, these being laid off up the slope in parallel lines & about 200 yds apart. A central ride, extending almost the entire length of plantation being also cut along the face of slope.
- 1898-1926 Nil
- 1927&28 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 1929

NORTHBRAE

Extent 206 acres. Planted - acres 1835-40. Acres 1882 -85 Varieties - Fir, larch, spruce & Douglasie. Altitude 220-550 feet.

General Description

This plantation occupies the ground sloping to the North West from the farm of Northbrae to estate March with Tilquihilly. The soil is deep and generally dry and suitable to the growth of Scots Fir on the Higher parts and Larch, Spruce and Douglasie on the lower.

1884
(Mr Rae)

207 acres young wood and about 20 acres of old wood. The young wood consisting of Scots Fir Larch and Spruce was planted 2 years ago and is not yet in a state for beating up, but this will undoubtedly require to be done in a few years. Owing to Bracken and Long Grass it will be difficult to get trees up in some parts. The Brackens and Grass will have to be cut annually for a good few years. The whole of the drains require scouring immediately. The old wood near Cairnhill consists of about 15 acres almost entirely Scots Fir and about 5 acres of Scots fir, larch and spruce of from 45-50 years of age, growing well. A few trees for estate purposes can be got out of this portion.

1885-6
(Mr Rae)

The following plants were put in during season 1885-86 namely 71000, 2 year, 2 year larch. All the drains require to be scoured immediately. The work is being done by contract at the rate of 3/- per hundred yards for small drains. The young trees away from the hilly part of this plantation are doing well, but will require a good many spruce & larch to complete the beating up of the good portion which ought to be done.

1891

Report on the Plantation of Northbrae, Durris Sept. 12th 1891. Northbrae young plantation consisting of 207 acres was planted in 1882 with Scots Fir, Spruce & larch. The lower part of this plantation consisting of ~~207 acres~~ about 137 acres, has been beaten up 6 years ago, and where clear of whins the plants, Scots Fir especially are thriving well. Shooting rides about 200 yards apart and 20 feet wide have lately been cut and are situated to suit all after work, such as carting etc. connected with the plantation. In some places the whins have grown so close as to endanger the existence of the plants. Where this is the case I propose to give relief with the hand in the immediate neighbourhood of the plants. The nature of the soil and cover is very suitable for breeding and harbouring rabbits which from time to time have ripped the shoots off the larch plants, thereby causing their death or deformity. I beg to recommend that before any further beating up is done which has been already too long delayed, that the rabbits be cleared out entirely, and any open spaces filled up with strong plants such as spruce now in stock in the nursery. The upper part of this plantation consisting about 70 acres has never been filled up. Although this work would have been better if done sooner, I recommend that it be gone on with this Autumn or during February and March next year. Prior to such work the ground should be cleared of whins and broom part of which is already out. Rides should be laid off and cleared as is now done on the lower portion. If this work cannot be got through with in time for having rabbits killed so that planting could be done in October, it should be seen to that it is done in time for planting in February and March of next year. The ground is mostly suitable for growing Scots fir and larch and excepting a few hollows which should be filled up with spruce

NORTHBRAE (ctd.)

- 1891
(cont.) I propose that these varieties be used all over. As to the cost of above work it would be very difficult to estimate the clearing of the ground & Forest Free Price Lists for this year have not yet been issued, but estimating from former price lists it will cost about £175. The fences along Cairnhill side of this plantation have been gone over this spring and are sufficient. Those opposite Northbrae Farm will require two bars of wire on top of dyke and those on March side will also require repairs. (Signed) Alex Lawson, Forester. Some Scots Fir cut for estate purposes in old portion. Dead wood cut in old wood near Cairnhill Croft.
- 1892 Some Scots Fir cut for estate purposes in old portion. In young portion whins on upper part cut and cleared in preparation for filling up and ditches scoured. Cut and cleared extensive shooting rides to admit of rabbits being killed down, before planting. Cut down whins on lower part, where hindering the growth of plants. Filled up with Scots Fir and larch ground on upper part adjoining Northbrae and Cairnhill. Also soft ground near Cairnhill Croft filled up with spruce.
- 1893 In young plantation, filling up continued in centre of upper part.
- 1894 Filling up continued in centre of upper part. Some damage was done in older part of this plantation by gale of 22nd Dec. 182 Fir trees being blown.~~DOWN~~
- 1895 All blown trees in old part of plantation sold to A & G Paterson Banchory and removed.
- 1896 East side of planation beaten up with 40000 Scots fir 1 yr 2 yr from Nursery.
- 1897 West side of plantation cleared of whins and beaten up with 25000 2 year old seedling larch from Smith and Sons Aberdeen, and 40000 2 year old Scots fir from Home Nursery.
- 1898 Cut extensive shooting rides in North east part next Northbrae Farm also additional rides from east to west side of plantation. Owing to the extreme thinness of crop of timber now left standing in old part of plantation, near Cairnhill Croft, and also as there is already a healthy crop of Douglas Firs of about fifteen years of age partially covering the ground, it was seen to be necessary in order to preserve the young crop to have all the old timber cut down, and as the conditions relative to soil, subsoil and shelter are highly favourable to the successful growth of this species, it is proposed to form the whole of this part into a purely Douglas Fir Planation. The timber consisting of 3085 Scots Firs was included along with the Plantation of Cairnhill and exposed for sale as one lot which was purchased by Messrs A & G Paterson, Banchory, for the sum of £1052. The Proprietor agreeing to spend the sum of £5 in assisting in the extra labour incurred in taking down trees overgrowing Douglas Firs and preserving the same from injury. Renewed wire fence on top of dyke on south side next Cairnshee Farm. Parts of this plantation now require a slight thinning.
- 1899 The Scots firs sold to Messrs Paterson have not yet been removed, but they have agreed to cut those standing among the Douglasie at once, and leave those outside for another season as a protection from the wind till the Douglasie get firmed up after thinning.
- 1900 The greater part of the timber has now been removed by the purchaser.
- 1901 All the timber has now been removed by the purchaser but unfortunately most/

NORTHBRAE (ctd.)

- 1901
(cont.) most of the Douglas Firs have been blown when deprived of the shelter from the Firs. The greater part of the brushwood and the blown Douglas Firs have been cleaned up. The ditches will require to be scoured during the ensuing summer preparatory to replanting.
- 1902 Nil
- 1903 Cleaned up the remainder of the brushwood and completed the scouring of ditches.
- 1904 Cleared an entrance to ride at NE corner. A cistern was allowed to be built towards centre of plantn. and waterpipe laid to provide an additional supply of water for Knappach House. The plantation was visited by the English Arborl. Socy. who pronounced it as being in a very satisfactory condition.
- 05 Received from the Trustees of the late Mr Lindsay, Knappach, £2 in payment of damage done to trees in cutting pipe track. Scoured a few drains in lower part of plantation.
- 06 Nil
- 07 Cut a few suppressed larches for light fencing and net stakes.
- 08 Nil
- 09 Divided the S portion into two divisions for grazing for the tenants of Cairnshee and Cairnhill.
- 10 Cut a no. of suppressed and backgoing larches for fencing purposes.
- 11 Nil
- 12 Cut dead trees as firewood, also backgoing larch for fencing.
- 13 do do for estate purposes.
- 14 Commenced planting some 14 acres of this plantation with SP & DF from Nursery also a few spruces.
- 15 Finished planting the above.
- 16 This will require to BU soon.
- 17&18 Nil
- 19-22 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 23-25 Nil
- 26&27 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 1928 Nil

NURSERY

Extent 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ Acres

Altitude 330 feet

General Description

The Home Nursery is situated between the Home Farm Steading and the forester's cottage. It slopes gently to the N & E. The soil on the higher part is light and dry, resting on an open gravelly subsoil. On the lower part the soil is of a clayey nature with a retentive subsoil.

- 1891 The several brakes* cleared of plants that had stood in close lines till quite useless. All plants which were likely to be of any use removed and cared for as the work proceeded. Perennial weeds that had been allowed to get established everywhere cleared out as far as possible. A croft* of turnips and potatoes grown on all vacant ground.
- 1892 Where the ground had been got cleared of perennial weeds top dressing was applied and the commencement of a useful stock of trees and plants laid down.
- 1893 The ground further cleared of weeds and useless plants and heavily top dressed and the stock of useful plants increased and extended. Several beds of DF Spruce and SP seeds sown, also small plots of ornamental coniferae including *Abies Excelsa pendula*, *picea nobilis* etc.
- 1894 Useful walks and roads laid down and the breaks levelled to suit the cultivation of small plants by shade and line. Top dressing continued to repair the loss caused by removing large plants. The stock of useful plants increased. SP and DF seedlings thinned and lined out and small quantity of seeds sown.
- 1895 The lower part of west side improved by a liberal top dressing, 2-6" leaf mould and earth being added. All the 2yr DF lined out, also 2yr SP. Other useful and ornamental plants removed as required. A quantity of DF and other conifer seeds sown. 4M 1+2 Df sold to W Smith and Son and the whole of the balance except 10M 1+2 and 10M 2+1 reserved, sold to Ben Reid who took delivery of a small portion. Some sales of *Picea Nobilis* were also made.
- 1896 Seed beds thinned and lined out. B Reid ~~REID~~ removed almost all their DF and a no. of *Nobilis*. 20M DF transplanted, and large numbers of DF, spruce etc. planted in policies and adjoining plantations. Road making completed and all forest and ornamental hardwood plants pruned.
- 1897 Removed a large quantity of forest and ornamental trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants and planted out in policies and adjoining plantations. Sold to B Reid 44 *Picea Nobilis* @ 3/- and 15M 2yr seedling DF @ 20/-. Sold to W Smith & Sons 30 PN @ 2/6, 20@ 2/- and 5M DF at 18/-. Sold to R B Laird & Sons 5M DF @ 15/-. Top dressed with leaf mould top border, west break and part of lower E Break.

*breaks

*presumably "crop". TA

NURSERY (CTD.)

- 1897
(cont.) Lined out 81M 2yr DF and a small quantity of 1yr DF and NS. Transplanted Hwds and other varieties in top border. Enclosed and partly planted a triangular piece of ground extending to .5 acres at NW corner of Dam Park to be used as a supplement to Nursery for the temporary planting out of evergreen stock, and from which a supply of large ball plants for use in Policies and elsewhere can readily be had. A large quantity of DF and other conifer seeds sown from cones collected in Policies in 1896.
- 1898 Large quantity of DF and other trees and shrubs removed and planted out in Policies and surrounding plantations. Lined out 104M 1yr DF 5.5M 3yr Df. Transplanted 6.5 1+2 DF and lined out a number of 2yr and 3 yr. Exotic conifers. Sold to Dicksons & Co Edinburgh 14M 1+2 DF @ 35/-; 2M 2+2 DF @ 45/-. Sold to B Reid & Co Aberdeen 10M 3yr+0 DF @ 22/6. Sold to W Smith & Son 4.5 3+0 DF @ 20/-, 33 DF 4'0" @ 20/- per 100 and 200 DF 3' @ 16/- per 100. Sold to Lord Saltoun Philorth 1M 1+0 @ 20/- and 100 do. 3' @ 20/- per 100. Sold to Wm. Baird Esq. of Elie 2M 1+0 @ 20/-. Sold to A Ogston Kildrummy 45M do. 2+2 @ 40/- of which number 20M were taken delivery of. ~~XXXX~~ Sowed a quantity of Nobilis seed and small lot of DF. Made further additions to the stock of ornamental trees and shrubs in Nursery.
- 1899 Sowed out in beds a quantity of DF and Nobilis seeds, lined out 45M 2yr SP, 40M 1yr 2yr DF and transplanted large quantities of forest and ornamental trees. A Ogston Kildrummy removed the remaining 25M of his purchase of DF. Sold to Her Majesty the Queen 5M 2+2 DF @ 45/- per M. to J Wallace Esq Loch Ryan 2M do. @ 45/-, to E MacKenzie Esq. of Belmaduthy 1M do. @ 45/-, to Colonel Johnston, Newton dee 1M @ 45/-, to Dickson's & Co. 1000 @ 45/- and 2M do. to @ 35/- to D W Thomson Edinburgh, 1000 do @ 40/- etc etc. Further additions were also made to the stock of ornamental and forest trees, rhododendrons, laurels etc. in Nursery.
- 1900 The usual spring work of sowing seed beds and lining out transplants undertaken. Sold DF and other plants to the amount of £60. Made a few additions to the stock of forest and ornamental trees.
- 1901 Lined out 50M 2yr larch, 30M 2yr DF, 5M Nobilis. Transplanted a quantity of DF and other forest ornamental trees and shrubs. Sold DF plants to the value of £152. Made additions to the stock of ornamental trees and shrubs. Sowed out seed beds and filled up frames with cuttings of laurels etc.
- 1902 Lined out 200M larch seedlings, 100M SP, 5M rhododendron ponticum 6"-9" and a quantity of P. Nobilis, Corsican & Weymouth pines and a few other varieties of ornamental and forest trees and shrubs. Owing to the scarcity of seed on the DF for the last few years only a small quantity of plants has been raised and this year no sales have been made. 1902 has however proved a prolific year and advantage has been taken of the opportunity by collecting a large stock of cones.
- 1903 Sowed out in beds a large quantity of DF and other tree seeds. From the DF about .5 million seedlings have been produced with smaller quantities of Tsuga Het. & Abies Menziesii. Lined out 50M 2yr purchased SP. 25M purchased 1yr larch, 30M own 1yr DF and about 20M Cypress and 10M Tsuga 2yr all own seedlings. Enclosed and planted on sides of/

NURSERY (CTD.)

1903
(cont.)

of centre path an ornamental border with exotic Coniferae and deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs mostly procured from Wiseman, Elgin in exchange for homegrown plants. Owing to excessive frosts in the months of April, May and June the whole of the 1yr seedling larch and a large % age of the older larches in Nursery lost their leaders or were killed outright.

1904

Owing to the entire absence of DF and other conifer seeds in 1903 no sowing took place. Lined out 50M EL and 25M SP purchased from Dickson. Edinburgh 5M Beech purchased from Ben Reid, 125M DF 1yr 4M Targa from own supply and transplanted other forest and ornamental trees and shrubs. Filled up the frames with cuttings of holly, laurel and flowering and ornamental trees and shrubs. Replaced the wooden fence at E end with stone and lime wall. Drained with pipes at 5yds apart the eastern plot and a part on low side of centre road on which it is proposed to grow seedlings. Injury resulting from frost lifting and late spring frosts which has been excessive in late years will now be mitigated on these parts.

The nursery in its present state is insufficient for the requirements of the estate consistent with a proper system of cultivation and manuring of the soil so as to provide the best class of plants, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the area at least should always be under greencrop. potatoes preferably, to enable the ground to be thoroughly cleaned and cultivated before being planted out with seedlings. This could be accomplished by moving the fence on S side 30yds back into grass field and making what is now the top border into a good working break.

1905

Sowed DF seed and other exotic varieties of spruce. Lined out 13M 2yr DF 50M 1yr EL 25M 2yr Sp 4M 2yr SS and 10M Beech. Rearranged upper half of ornamental borders and made further additions to the stock of exotic trees and shrubs. As a result of the constant recropping of the ground with forest trees great loss has been caused in a plot of 2+1SP by an attack of the fungoid root disease (sent to Edinburgh for expert identification). The attack has been general over the whole part and about 50% of the plants will, I believe, succumb before growth again sets in. The DF have also, to a less extent, suffered from the same disease and there is no other remedy than a complete change to greencropping and early digging in winter to overcome the disease. When it is understood that plants attacked are generally killed the first year the ~~serious~~ serious nature of the disease should be apparent and urgent means taken to check its spread.

Owing to scarcity of plants only 40M 2yr DF were sold, the price at rate of 20/- per M.

1906

Sowed out in beds an large quantity of DF and other tree seeds. Lined out 40M SP 40M EL and lesser quantities of DF & SS. Transplanted the usual quantities & varieties of forest and ornamental trees and shrubs. Sold DF plants to the undermentioned purchasers as follows:

Ben Reid & Co. £74/15/-

Capt. R Coke, Holkam £10

R Tullis Esq. Strathendry £7/10/-

Dicksons Edinburgh £18/15/-

Sir Alex Baird, Urie £8

R Munro Ferguson, Raith £6

the sales amounting to the sum of £143 12/-
It/

NURSERY (Ctd.)

1906
(cont.)

It has been arranged to add about an acre, taken from the field above to the present Nursery. This addition will enable a complete and much needed change in the present system of recropping the ground with forest plants and at the same time simplify and accelerate the spring work of L.O. seedlings. A green crop in all cases being followed by further cultivation and preparation of the soil so as to be in readiness for the succeeding crop of forest trees.

- 1907 As recommended in last year's report the additional ground has been added to the nursery and stocked with trees suitable for hill planting. Owing to a poor crop of cones in the previous year only a small quantity of seeds were sown but a large no. of forest trees were lined out including 100M spruce, 50M larch, 40M SS and 50M DF in various sizes. Sales to the extent of £127 were made, chiefly in DF. A part of the Nursery was laid down in green crop in order to get the ground manured, and cleaned for the L.O. seedlings.
- 1908 Continued the seasonal work of seed sowing and L.O. plants and sold DF seedlings and transplants to the extent of £221-17-3.
- 1909 As no DF or other exotic tree seeds were produced in the preceeding year no seed sowing took place. A large stock of DF and other exotic ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ seedlings and transplants as also larch and SP was lined out. Sales to the value of £229-6-6 were made of which total B Reid and Co. paid £162/15/-.
- 1910 Sowed out a large area with DF and transplanted the usual requirements of larch, SP DF etc. Sales to the value of £192 were made, B Reid & Co. paying £131-10/-, Little of Ballantyne, Carlisle £27-10/- and W Smith & Sons Aberdeen £22-10/- of that total.
- 1911 Sowed DF Cup-noot & tanga. LO about 145 M DF 50M SP 50M EL and transplanted some DF and other forest trees. Sold to B Reid plants to the value of £106/8/9. Smith & Son Abdn. £25, and other minor sales were made, the total amounting to £162-4-11.
- 1912 The usual spring work of sowing seedbeds was undertaken and also the laying out of a large no. of larch, SP spruce and DF. Amount realised for sale of plants was £212-18/-. Ben Reid paying £67-17/- Smith & Meldrum Forfar £39-15/-, Little & B Carlisle £22-10/-, Dickson's Chester £18-9/-. Balance made up of minor sales and £7-15/- got from Gavin & Gill Abdn. for potatoes.
- 1913 Removed a large no. of forest and ornamental trees and shrubs to be planted out in plantations and policies. The annual work of seedsowing carried out in spring and 16 plants ditto previous year. Sales amounted to £300-3-1 of which B Reid paid £254-3/-. Smith & M Forfar £8-16/-. W Smith & Son £6-5/- the balance of £20-19-1 was for sales of small amounts. Owing to the excessive drought during summer many young plants did not make usual progress.
- 1914 Sowed large area with larch SP spruce, DF Cup Noot, etc. The usual spring work was completed. Sales of plants and potatoes amounted to nearly £150.
- 1915 Spring work was not completed very satisfactorily. Owing to the war the/

NURSERY (ctd.)

1915	the staff was depleted and it was a tedious job. Sales to the amount of £17 were carried through.	
1916	Very little work was got done in the Nursery this year as outside and farm labour had to be attended to. £10-10/- received for potatoes.	
1917	Only absolutely necessary work was done as no men could be got. Sales £35/11/6.	
1918	Still another year of shortage of labour. Sales £160-18-10	
1919	Nursery work done in fairly good time this year. Sales £42-2-4.	
1920	Labour more plentiful now. Sales £57-17-6.	
1921	Trade better.	£227-10-6.
1922	Nursery finished satisfactorily.	87-16-0
1923		216-4-4.
1924		90-13-6
1925	Nursery work done in good time	(Plants £46-15/- (Spuds 26-11/-
1926	Much planting out in the plantations	(Plants 66-12/- (Spuds 9-3-7
1927		Spuds 23-10/-

POLICIES

Extent 205 Acres

Altitude 125 - 400 feet

General Description

General exposure is to N. Surface very irregular & lends itself admirably to every form of ornamental planting, embracing both abrupt & gentle slopes, round & rugged eminences and romantic glens & ravines. Soil a deep moist loam on a stony clay subsoil peat almost entirely absent. Soil & situation are suitable for most varieties of trees & shrubs.

1885-86
(Mr Rae)

The whole of the policies except the portion beneath the west gate in the Broomie ward Park has been thinned, and most of the necessary trees been removed, but there still remains a good many trees to be removed in order that the finer trees may have room to grow and of course the portion beneath the gate referred to will have to be thinned also. The whole of the flat next to the West Lodge has been thinned and brushed. The drains on this portion will require scouring soon, and that next the dam have the whins cut out and blanks filled up with large spruce. The most of the Hwds. will require pruning at time of leaf fall. The rhod-s in the policies are in very bad health, having been too long in one place. During the coming autumn it is intended to lift the most of them, put fresh mould at their roots, lessen the no. of plants in a clump and thus spread them over a larger area thereby improving their health and adding to the beauty of the policies.

1891

Report by Factor & Forester.
To H R Vaird, Esq.
Durriss.

Joint Report & Recommendation by Factor & Forester on the wood and Policies surrounding Durriss House with a view to enhance their appearance as ornamental grounds, to increase their usefulness as a game cover and at the same time to improve the future value of the marketable timber.

- I Den above, opposite and below Mansion House. This is at present in a very neglected condition with quantities of dead wood, branches and leaves everywhere and one part near Kitchen Entrance appears to have been a general receptacle for all manner of rubbish. Such decaying matter is most injurious to the healthy growth of trees and shrubs and already many of the Silver Firs in this part of the Policies are infested with Bug and are consequently in an unhealthy condition. The old gaswork has already been taken down and will be entirely removed bye & bye. We propose the following viz.
1. Lop off all dead and straggling limbs and branches from the stems of deciduous trees such as Chestnut, Beech Elm, etc. Cut down any unsightly specimens of the above or to make room for any really good evergreen tree.
 2. To head back all trees of an evergreen nature which are situated where it is impossible for them to become well formed trees of their kind thus inducing them to branch out and form cover.
 3. To clear the ground of all branches and decaying wood, leaves and other debris so as to form as hard and healthy a surface as is possible to have where grass wont grow.
 4. To cut down and remove all firs attacked with Bug so as to prevent the spread of this pest.
 5. To plant clumps where there is a fair chance for plants to grow, with DF fir and some of the dense growing varieties of GL and C & C so as to form a permanent and living undergrowth. This can be done by removing the leaders of the high growing varieties periodically as circumstances require.

II

Ornamental Trees and Shrubs on Avenues and Paths. These are in many instances so overcrowded that the general effect is seriously marred and the individual plants (in not a few cases rare specimens) are losing their lower branches and symmetry. In such cases we propose the following ~~XX~~ viz.

6. Cut back those evergreens which will spring again from the lower branches such as laurels, bays etc.
7. To remove all dead and dying bushes or branches.
8. To prepare the most likely where overcrowded for transplanting next year by cutting round the roots now and supplying fresh mould.
9. To transplant all rhod-s which are within 7' of the edge of avenues to a more suitable place with proper mould.
10. To remove the surface soil from unhealthy Rhod-s and replace with fresh and suitable soil.

III

Nobilis Avenue. Many of the trees in this double line of Nobilis have double tops and there are several blanks both in these and the hardwoods which require filling up. The immediate background is much in want of thinning so as to give the finer firs an opportunity of retaining their lower branches and filling up. In some cases this has been so long neglected that it can only be amended now by young trees planted in front so as to hide the base trunks of the larger ones. There is a hardwood tree between each of the Nobilis, there being birch on each side of the western half and Horse Chestnut on the one side and lime on the other side of the E half of said avenue. Many spruces and SP are still growing between the rows of Nobilis and much debris lies everywhere. In this case we propose the following viz.

11. To prune all double-headed Nobilis.
12. To prepare now suitable Nobilis and H-wood trees where they can be best spared in other portions of the policies ~~XX~~ or plantations for transplanting next year or the year following so as to make the two lines complete.
13. To prune all straggling branches of hardwoods so as to bring them into good shape.
14. To thin the background so as to give the DF, Deodara etc an opportunity of filling up and where there is an absence of evergreen to fill in with young plants as above.
15. To remove such of those spruces & SP in the centre of avenue as are spoiling the principal trees, but leaving all others meantime as they are ~~EXAMINING THE EXISTING PLANTS~~ they are growing well and improving in value - unless you desire to have the avenue cleared from end to end now.
16. To remove all debris.

N.B. We beg to note here that that part of the Nob. Avenue opp. garden is so narrow that there is considerable danger in thinning ~~XX~~ so as to get a green background in case of the wind blowing down the larger trees. This could be safeguarded by increasing the width by planting, particularly at one corner of Grass Park.

IV

Plantations around house and within Policy Walls. They afford excellent cover but the former practice of leaving for that purpose all dead tops and branches where they fell is a most objectionable course and as before remarked, is very injurious to the healthy growth of trees and shrubs and spontaneously breeds parasites on the backgoing plants and harbours vermin of a larger growth in its midst. Many of the finer specimen pines require more room and most of the permanent Hwds. are much in want of pruning in order to induce a better growth of trunk with less of limb for/

POLICIES (CTD.)

IV

for marketable purposes. In this case we propose the following viz.

17. To remove all dead tops, branches and other debris.
18. To prune the hardwoods.
19. To lay over certain evergreen firs and other trees where suitable and over abundant so as to secure an immediate growing cover.
20. To top certain evergreen firs and other trees where suitable and over abundant and particularly where their absence is required by others, so as to secure an immediate undergrowth and prevent a bare space.
21. To procure and prepare young quick growing plants ~~for~~ for cover and plant these in clumps in future years where most suitable for their growth and a likely place for game cover.
22. To form immediate and temporary cover where unsuitable for laying or topping, by building fresh evergreen branches round the stems of H-woods trees at convenient places which would be removed when no longer required.
23. To clean out all open drains where necessary.

V

General Observations. The amount of work involved in the foregoing report and recommendations although absolutely necessary need not be wholly undertaken this season but spread over several years. Attention being in the first place directed to those portions of the policies and plantation within sight of the house and the principal walks and drives as also the most parts of the interior of the woods and even those parts must be treated with ~~care~~ caution and care, always aiming at permanent and future effects than at present appearances. For the successful carrying out of the cover planting of this work we consider it an absolute necessity to have the plants under your forester's control in the Home Nursery for at least one year both for the manipulation of the roots previous to transplanting and to prevent their exposure to the weather while that work is being done.

The foregoing work cannot be fully detailed in any Report as every different plant and its position must be studied on the spot with the relation of those adjoining it, as the work proceeds, and where any doubt arises as to the removal of a tree, bush or branch it will be left for another year. No notice is taken here of drives, paths, burns and bridges as these will be best considered further on and may form the subject of a supplementary report.

Humbly reported by

Durris 17 January 1891

(Signed) Thos. Braid, Factor

(Signed) Alex Lawson Forester.

1891

Cleared out a quantity of dead wood in Kennel Wood which had been cut and left lying, and prepared a number of ornamental trees for transplanting. Ground cleared of branches and other rubbish in Home Farm Belts and along roadside of Quarry Wood.

1892

Stance cleared in Kennel Wood for Keepers House and Kennels. Oaks and other hardwood trees pruned and cleared of dead branches and a general thinning carried out in Quarry Wood. Stance cleared in Home Farm Belts for New Cottages.

POLICIES (CTD.)

- 1893 transplanted from Kennel Wood to Quarry Wood etc. Hardwood trees cleared of dead branches, and suckers in Kennel Wood, and thinned along roadside belt. Branches stacked and arranged for game cover in Quarry Wood and a number of ornamental trees planted along roadside. Stone and lime dyke built on West side of Home Farm. Belt from road to Home Farm Cottages.
- 1894 The wood has suffered considerably by a gale on November 1893. All the useful trees blown down were cut up for estate purposes, and the blanks thus caused filled up with large specimen plants from other parts of the policies and from the Nursery. Thinning was also carried out on the gradual system previously adopted. Opposite garden frame ground however a number of old trees were removed in block, to admit of light. Transplanting of large and small ornamental plants and shrubs was carried out all over policies, and a beech hedge planted on top of sunk fence along east avenue. Fences were repaired and renewed on those parts adjoining Lodgepark and the surface ditches scoured alongside of Nobles Avenue. In neighbourhood of Kennels the old wood was partly opened up and planted with all kinds of ornamental trees and shrub. A new road from public road to Kennels was also made and fenced. On 22nd Dec. a severe gale uprooted some 446 specimen trees, including some of the best of the Collection, besides breaking and maiming trees on all parts of the policies.
- 1895 All blown trees removed and cut up for estate purposes and the blanks thus caused planted with useful and ornamental trees, and shrub. Few improvements carried out owing to severe winter.
- 1896 Road from House to coach stables renewed and surroundings levelled and tidied up. Both paths from House to Laundry drained and metalled also path along front of old garden. A good deal of planting carried out principally Douglasie and Spruce all from Nursery. Fence renewed on dykehead along Boamsbank. Surroundings of Private Chapel in Westwood Park partially laid out and footpath formed from avenue west of house to same. Quarry plantation cleared of blown trees and brushwood and all hardwood trees carefully pruned. Ground prepared for hedges on face dyke by roadside at East Lodge and at Site of Kennels. Garden at Clune Cottage cleared of trees. Plantation at Kennels cleared of ~~brushwood~~ brushwood and blown timber partly removed and used for estate purposes.
- 1897 Plantation at Kennels and Quarry Plantation beaten up with a mixture of hardwoods, Alnus Douglasie, alnus Mengiasie and Spruce. All the part of Policies on the south side of Avenue between East Lodge and Chapel cleared of brushwood, the hardwood trees pruned, and the vacant spaces replanted with a mixture of hardwood. Abies Douglasie, Larch and Spruce. A quantity of large spruce bale plants taken from Denside and Craigiecliff Plantations and planted in part on east side of East Lodge. Beech hedge planted on top of face dyke on side of avenue opposite Lodge Park renewed. Pruned off the large branches from the hardwood trees overhanging back road from Quarry to Gordon Cottage. Completed the formation of footpaths to Chapel the grounds levelled and sown out in grass under the personal direction of Messrs. Baird, a large quantity of ornamental varieties of evergreen and deciduous/

POLICIES (CTD.)

- 1897 deciduous trees and shrubs planted out in grounds and walls of chapel covered with climbing evergreen and flowering plants, and the whole surrounded by a substantial wire netted fence 3' 6" high. Plantation on sides of walk leading from Chapel to main avenue well filled up with large Conifers procured from Home Nursery, and other parts of Policies and sides of walk planted out with many fine varieties of Waterer's hybrid Rhododendrons and Laurels from Home Nursery and Rhods from Ben Reid and Co. Den on North side of Mansion House beaten up Rhods, ponticum and Laurels, 1100 of the former being used there and on sides of church walk. Substantial round larch fence erected on North side of avenue, east of Mansion House, Croquet Green at Mansion House trenched, levelled and turf relaid on a Coating of river sand. Continued thinning out trees on sides of avenue, where still standing too closely together, to admit of the perfect development of these trees selected as specimen standards, and removed other trees where standing too close to side of Avenue, to permit of the laying down of a foreground of low growing evergreen and flowering shrubs, which will greatly add to the beauty of the approaches. Prepared for transplanting a large number of ornamental trees and shrubs on sides of avenues, and in black ground shrubberies, where pressing too closely on each other or unsuitably situated.
- 1898 Continued the thinning out of overcrowded trees on sides of avenues and throughout Policies. Cleared out most of the spruce trees in Den behind Mansion House, and planted out the ground with Rhododendrons Porticiuni 1000 of the same being procured from other parts of Policies along with Laurels, variegated box of hardwoods from Ben Reid and Co. and Home Nursery. Planted out the vacant ground on sides of Japanese Walk, with Abies Douglasie 3-4ft high; beat up the vacant spaces on sides of ~~Stone~~ Stonehaven Avenue, part at east end of old garden and other parts in Policies, and planted out vacant ground at old Kennels with plants of a like size all procured from Home Nursery ~~22~~ 6250 plants being used over all. Prepared for future transplantations in black ground, shrubberies and throughout policies, large number of ornamental trees and shrubs and transplanted many of the above formerly prepared into open spaces on sides of East and Stonehaven Avenues caused by the removal of large trees grubbed out to relieve other specimen.
- Formed croquet green in E corner of Greens Park, the ground in the first instance being well drained, pipe drains being placed at 12' apart, the site levelled and allowed to consolidate. A depth of 8" of engine ashes was then applied and the whole finished off with 4" fine mould well manured and sown out with B Reid and Cos Pavilion mixture of Lawn Grass seeds on 20 June and the ground was ready for play by 12 Aug. having then a beautiful surface which improved every week during the season.

POLICIES (CTD.)

1898

	<u>Height</u> (feet)	<u>Girth</u> (ft/ins)	<u>Where Growing</u>
Abies Albertiana	81	4.8	E. from Mansion house on N. side of E avenue.
Abies Douglasie	96	11.3	N. side of road to gardens. Planted about 1840 256 cu.ft. OB taken in 5x18' lengths.
Abies Menziesii	75	6.0	On N side of path to Home Farm.
Abies Orientalis	61	5.5	On E side of East Avenue
Picea Amabilis	48	4.6	On S side of E aven. opp. lower end of Den Path.
Picea Cephalmica	56	5.11	Foot of Den
" Fraserii	60	4.6	N side of East avenue
" Grandis	73	8.3	Between road to gardens and Well Path near big DF.
" Lasiocarpa	56	5.10	On S side of path E from Ivy Bridge.
" Magnifica	73	5.6	Beside Grandis see above
" Nobilis	71	7.3	Close to Tunnel Bridge.
Sequoia Gigantea	65	6.0	Beside Menziesii (see previous page)
Yew English	35	9.1	On lawn in front of mansion House.
Holly	30	6.8	On lawn in front of Mansion House.

1899

Continued the weeding out of the large Silver Firs and spruces on sides of avenues. On the west side of Stonehaven Avenue a number of large silvers were grubbed out and a dump of Abies Menziesii introduced with a foreground of large Hybrid Rhods. The shrubberies at Stonehaven gate, west lodge and around Laundry Green were cut over and filled up with Laurels taken from surrounding plantations and Home Nursery. Cut out the large spruces left in Den behind Mansion House and on bank in front of Old Garden. The part at Steps planted with large birch standards and the whole ground work filled in with Rhodn. Part procured from Dickson, Edinburgh and other parts of Policies about 1200 in all being used in these parts. Grubbed out two clumps of spruce and other firs on the bank North of Avenue overlooking the west garden to admit more sunshine to Green houses.

Transplanted a large no. of Rhods for Black Ground, shrubberies and clumps nearby, to other parts of Policies. Pruned in closely all the overhanging trees on public roadside from Flabbets to Gordon Cottage, also at Denside Cottage. Grubbed out trees on site of new Cottage for butler and opened pits for large transplants around larder. Recrated with gravel from Denside Gravel Pit the greater part of Stonehaven ave; front of Mansion House, paths to Laundry & Stables and part of East Avenue.

1900/

POLICIES (CTD.)

1900

Spruce and silvers on the banks of the den W of the house most of which have now been removed and in others places hardwoods and other ornamental trees have been introduced and the ground work filled up with rhods and larches (1M rhods procured from Dickson & Co.) were used on the part planted this season. Cleared a space for site of Butler's Cottage, formed a carroad to back of same, and finished off the front and sides of house by levelling, turfing and laying down footpaths and the whole enclosed with a rabbit proof fence of DF splits. Filled up the part between back road (to stables) and larder with DF 8-10' high to form close growth. Continued the general renovation of shrubberies at Laundry, West Lodge and Stonehaven Avenue entrance. These have now a fresh appearance and may be easily kept so by occasional thinning out of the stronger wood. The ground on dykehead between Kennels and public road was trenched and made up with good soil from adjoining fields and beech hedge planted.

1901

All the old spruce and silvers except a few trees towards W end of old gardens now removed from banks of den West of house, and instead large beech and other hws. planted and ground filled up with 2.5M rhods. This part is now finished but a few years' growth will be required on the rhods to show the full value of the improvements carried out. Work similar to foregoing was also carried out on sides of Church Walk and road to Gardener's House. Cut out all the spruce in den behind House and cleaned up the old Hws. The appearance of this part has been much improved and the same treatment might with advantage be extended to the lower end of den both from an artistic and game procuring point of view. The spruce and DF undergrowing the large hws. now afford little cover for game and in this stead and where headroom can be found I would suggest that large clumps of laurels rhododendronwood be formed. Cleared all the spruces off beech hillock which will be replanted in Spring with Be. or other hws. standards. The young Df growing there being taken advantage of as nurses. Widened and remade the road leading to gardens as far as the foot of well path. Cleared out all the large SF and spruce in the belt at Home Farm and sold to Dyer & Co. Ground was replanted at once with hws. and large bad plants of spruce and DF and already provides excellent game cover. Prepared line for hedges on dykehead on the N & E sides of above and also on dykehead around bend at Gordon Cottage and at top of Lodge Park. Apart of the background shrubberies was rearranged and a no. of other parts of policies. Continued the thinning out of trees and making up with ornamental shrubs on the sides of E and Stonehaven Avenue.

1902

Continued the thinning out of the spruce and SF on the sides of approaches to lighten the density and make room for trees of lighter foliage and greater variation in shade of contour. Rearranged clumps of large hybrid rhods on side of E avenue. Planted up beech hillock and steep bank at E end of old garden with hws. On the high ground Df being used as nurses while the bank and sides of path leading to Old Garden was planted out with rhodn. ponticum to form a close mass of undergrowth. ~~EXET~~ Cut out a number of spruce on sides of maple walk and replanted the ground with ornamental trees. Rearranged shrubbery at Chapel and triangular part leading to Gardens under the supervision of Mrs Baird. Planted beech hedge on dykehead at Home Farm Belts, roadside near Gordon Cottage and top of Lodge Park and prepared line of hedge between Garden Cottage and gate leading to Gardens. Cut out the large SF and spruces in den on the upper side of Ivy Bridge to expose to view the natural scenery existing there and cut out all the small spruces in the den on the lower side of bridge to admit of the introduction of an undergrowth of rhods. Rearranged clump/

POLICIES CTD.

1902 CTD. clump at top of Lodge Park and introduced a ground work of yew and larch.

1903 Planted up clearings at Ivy Bridge with clumps of Rhodns. Terns, willows and other deciduous trees; removed the remaining spruces on the lower side of maple walk and completed the planting there. Cut a no. of the old spruces on the S. side of E drive and filled up the blanks with laurels etc. for game cover. Continued thinning out for effect on the sides of approaches, and rearranged clumps of hybrid rhodns and other shrubs in black ground shrubbery and bark opposite. Thinned out the sides of Nobilis Avenue and scoured and deepened ditches there and in plantation of N Side. Enclosed with larch railed fence and planted a part surrounding dam at Home Farm, large tall plants being got for the purpose from enclosure nearby which is being discontinued. Planted hedges at Backroad and Gardens Cottage.

1904 Thinned out the strips of young plantation on both sides Shaven Avenue. Pruned the dead branches off a no. of th exotic trees. Grubbed out trees in bank at west end of Gardens to provide additional space to grow plants in pots. Little cutting done in policies during the year except blown trees most of the plantations having now been gone over.

The policy grounds were visited by the E.A.S. on 17 Aug. under the leadership of George Marshall, Liphook, Hampshire, President. The 130 visitors were very much impressed by the extensive collection and vigorous growth of the ornamental coniferae shown them agreeing that nowhere had they ever seen those trees in such wealth and beauty of foliage. The DF both as an ornamental and timber tree was especially taken note of, while the SS Nobilis, Lasiocarpa and Grandis were thought to be well worthy of cultivation. A plan of the policies was prepared and measurements of a no. of the best specimen trees taken commencing at E Lodge and numbering westward. The no. on the plan signifies the site of tree, and particulars as to name, height and girth at 5' shown in report.

No.	Name	Ht.	Grth.	No.	Name	Ht.	Grth.
1	A. Albertiane	57	7'6	20	A Douglasie	110	7'0
2	P Lasiocarpa	57	5'9	21	English Yew	40	8'5
3	P Grandis	67	5'8	22	"	49	9'0
4	P Pectinata	81	9'10	23	DF	56	6'0
5	P Appolinis	52	4'9	24	Cedar	35	6'10
6	P Ceppelinica	55	7'1	25	P Grandis	81	9'6
7	P Amabolis	47	5'3	26	P Magnifica	80	6'6
8	P Fraserii x	52	3'5	27	P Lasiocarpa	64	4'3
9	P "	61	4'9	28	P Menziesii	87	6'0
10	A Albertiana	65	6'3	29	P Nobilis	69	7'2
11	P Grandis	64	4'10	30	DF	82	8'10
12	"	74	5'10	31	DF	106	12'0
13	P Numidica	35	2'9	32	Larch	82	7'10
14	Oak	66	8'8	33	P Nordmenniane	62	5'4
15	Th. dolabrata	13		34	DF	81	7'0
16	Ab orientalis	60	5'8	35	P Lasiocarpa	74	7'6
17	" "	61	6'3	36	SS	78	6'0
18	" Albertiana	85	5'0	37	P Nobilis	80	7'9
19	P Lasiocarpa	58	5'4	38	A Albertiana	64	6'4

X NORTH SIDE E. AVE

X LAWN IN FRONT OF HOUSE

POLICIES ctd.

1905

Cleared away most of the old SF and spruce on bank at Garden Cottage and filled up all the spaces with Rhodns. making the whole bank into a mass of same. Two large DF cedrus atten were cut here, the timber in both cases being of excellent quality. Cut out all the spruce, silver and other conifers in part on N. side of road between old and new Gardens and filled up the ground with Hybrid and other rhodns azalee and laurels. Box and cotton-laster being used for massing under the old trees left standing. This has brought that part into general keeping with the surrounding grounds and when in bloom will add further beauty to the entrance to Gardens. Thinned out most of the natural birch to relieve the ornamental trees in strip on north side of new gardens and cleared off all the trees overhanging the Beech Hedge on the N side of same. Cleared out a no. of the old spruce trees in forming a rubbish depot at W end of Gardens and screened the site with large DF and other trees.

Denside clump which had become too open to afford shelter to game was also taken in hand, and a no. of the older trees at SE corner being cut out and the ground filled up with tall plants of DF spruce, cypress and yew and clumps of snowberry planted along roadside. Pruned the Hwds. at Croquet green and planted a close margin of cover plants there and westward, and planted closely the sides of the path leading from Stables to Home Farm. Cleared away the trees overhanging the young Beech Hedge at E Lodge and filled in the open spaces with rhodns. and planted in clumps at foot of Den Rhodns. (3M).

Thinned out and rearranged blackground shrubbery, the larger plants being added to the clumps on hill opposite. Grubbed out a few trees on E Drive and on W side of Butler's House and filled up the spaces with Rhodns. and laurels.

1906

Thinned out the clump of trees between Laundry and the lawn above Mansion house which had become ineffective as a screen to the former in order to admit of the ground being filled up with evergreen trees of large size. It is also proposed to plant a foreground of Rhododendrons along the north and west sides, for which purpose the ground has now been trenched and prepared for planting. Removed a number of trees from around stable buildings, on the back road leading to Mansion House, on the hill on the South side of gardens and on the east of Gardeners Cottage, where they have outgrown their usefulness. The vacant spaces to be filled up with Rhodns. or other low growing shrubs. Many of the older spruces are showing unmistakeable signs of decay and from an ornamental or a game cover aspect are now of little account. The work of removing these must obviously be undertaken only after full consideration and very gradually so as not to open up the canopy unduly to the influence of gales. Already many thriving young clumps of Douglas Fir and hardwood are being established, and working these on the compartment system, they might be gradually extended where ever possible or desirable until all the decaying spruces have been removed. The plantation behind the Quarry is at present neither useful as game cover nor for the purposes of growing good timber and could with advantage to both causes be treated in this manner. An exceptionally heavy snow storm fell during the last week of December and considerable damage was done to trees and shrubs the oaks suffering most of all. Many of these were hopelessly disfigured, as were also some of the finest specimen Beeches.

1907

Continued the work of thinning out trees on sides of avenue at East Lodge, Tunnel Bridge and in part on south side of east drive. Planted in and around clump in front of house with Rhodns. part at E Lodge, and At ~~XXXX~~ Gardeners Cottage. Pruned the hardwoods cleaned up the brushwood and planted up the part on S side of E drive with large DF of 3-4. Prepared/

POLICIES etc.

- 1907 Prepared and transplanted from black ground shrubberies a number of over grown specimen trees and shrubs to other parts of the policies. Similar work to that undertaken on the S side of east drive might with advantage be carried out in the lower part of den where already a no. of thriving clumps of young DF have been introduced. The part on W side of burn between Broomward and public road especially requires to be taken in hand. The spruces there are already overripe and show signs of decay, while such Hwds, as remain are being crowded out. The spruces having been grown with unlimited space are of little value, either as timber or game cover now having lost their lower branches and as a quantity of suitably sized DF are now in the nursery advantage might be taken of these and a part of the work proceeded with during the coming winter.
- 1908 Only a few trees were cut on the sides of approaches as most of these have now been carefully gone over and all but the standard trees removed. It is proposed for the ensuing year to open out spaces in the part on the S side of E avenue for the purpose of gradually removing the old spruce and SF which are now useless as game cover and of little value as commercial timber and introduce a young crop of a more valuable species. By working the plantations within the policies on this - the group system - their amenity will always be preserved, a high quality of timber may be produced and a certain amount of young plantation for game cover will always be present on the area. Planted game cover around greens park lower end of Den and between Chapel and Stonehaven ave. Pruned the oaks and other Hwds. on roadsides and other parts of Policies.
- 1909 The work of regeneration in the part proposed above has now been begun and a no. of large groups of DF formed. Extensions on the size of these groups should take place only at periodic intervals so as to avoid unnecessary risk of windfall and they should be of such a size as to provide with each extension a sufficient width for cultural treatment. Regenerative operations for similar character have been begun in the Quarry Wood, a no. of openings having been made in the eastern part of plantation. Removed all the large DF overhanging the road between Estate Office and Sawmill Cottages.
- 1910 Replanted the parts cleared of trees at Sawmill Lodge with large hybrid rhodns, laurels and ornamental broadleaved trees. Formed groups of DF in Quarry Wood, commenced the clearing out of all the spruce and SF in the part between maple walk and back road to Gardens with the view of lightening the density of shade and the introduction of a more ornamental groundwork of rhododendron etc. In like manner the triangular part at the foot of S'haven approach was dealt with, also E end of Quarry Wood.
- 1911 Completed the clearing out of all the old spruces, SF and a no. of the older DF in the parts above mentioned, the timber being sold to A & G P for private tender for £195. Part of the area so cleared was planted up with clumps of rhodns, while in the Quarry Wood the ground was close planted with maple and other Hwds. and a ground wrok of laurels introduced for the purposes of game cover and from which ball plants may be had as required for other parts of the policy grounds. Rearranged black ground shrubberies on sides of W approach and in chaped grounds.
- 1912 Chapel strip pruned and tidied up. The Hollies west of Durris House were all cut down and the roots grubbed out. To preserve the amenity of the place Hybrid Rhods were planted in place thereof. From Stonehaven drive westwards the wood was thinned consisting of Spruce and DF which were afterwards sold.

POLICIES ctd.

- 1913 The wood which was cut in 1912 was sold to A & G P for £288/ 8/9. The clump between backroad and stables was cleaned up and replanted with rhods. and laurels. The border to the E between Chapel Walk and S'haven Drive was renewed, being dug up and fresh ornamental shrubs - lilacs, rhods(hybrid) etc. planted.
- 1914 Some of the flower borders were dug up and renewed and the usual tidying up seen to.
- 1915 Grass cut, leaves raked and taken away, also usual clean up attended to.
- 1916 The usual cleaning up done. Grass cut etc.
- 1917 Labour scarce. Very little done, only tidying up.
- 1918 Labour still scarce owing to the war. Little work done.
- 1919 The usual cutting of grass was seen to and the flower borders cleared up, also the drives cleaned.
- 1920 No extra work was done in the Policies this year, as there is so much of other work fallen back in recent years. Wood sold in Chapel Belt value £775.
- 1921 The grass cut and the usual cleaning up done, also leaves raked and carted away.
- 1922 The usual tidying up done.
- 1923 The flower borders and grass cutting were seen to, also leaves taken away.
- 1924

QUARRY PLANTATION

6 acres. Planted 1915. DF, JL, Copper Beech. Altitude 300-400 feet

Gen.

Desc.

This wood occupies the site at the back of the Nurseries. Good moist loamy soil over all and specially suitable for DF while the purple beech will form an artistic contrast against the green pines as seen from the public road.

1916 BU the part damaged by rabbits.

1917-26 Nil

27 & 28 Cut blown trees as firewood.

1929 (No entry).

RHINDBUCKIE

467 acres. Planted 1843 & 49. Fir, Larch & Spruce. Alt. 400 - 800'

General

Description

Occupies the high ground on NW corner of estate and adjoins Tilquihilly on the N and W sides. Exposed to E and S. Surface irregular and stony. Soil generally good and dry and suitable for SP and larch.

1884

(Mr Rae)

467 acres consisting of larch and SP about 35 years. This wood has at one time been much damaged by squirrels, a good many of the firs having lost their tops. A judicious thinning would greatly improve the wood and yield a large quantity of pitwood. A portion next E Mulloch say 30-40 acres requires immediate thinning and brushing. Thinning proposed to be done this winter by contract. Portions of the wood at the highest altitude, where the crop is thick and stunted, require early attention.

1885-86

(Mr Rae)

17 acres of this plantation was brushed during the season, and 2,000 fir thinnings sold to A & G P @ 3½d. There are a good many more fir thinnings suitable for them. It is intended to mark these during the coming autumn and to take in offers for the same. The removal of these trees would greatly improve the health of the plantation. Portions of the wood at the highest altitude, where the crop is thick and stunted, require early attention.

1891

Report on Rhindbuckie and Cairnshee Plantation.

Thomas Braid, Esq. Factor.

4 January 1891

Sir

In reference to our conversation regarding plantations of Rhindbuckie and Cairnshee, I beg to submit the following proposals which if you see fit to carry out, will I think improve the health and appearance of these plantations as well as their value. In the former there is a large quantity of dead trees standing especially in the most inaccessible parts - these are suitable for firewood and should be sold at a low rate to encourage ~~an~~ a clearance as soon as possible. The ground is also littered with dead trees and stumps which have fallen in course of decay, and are as a rule useless even for firewood. An effort should be made to get the farmers and other buyers to clear away as much of this rubbish as possible along with the more useful firewood trees. As soon as a clearance is thus made, I propose that all backgoing trees be marked, classed and counted for sale along with the heavier trees already mentioned. This would form a lot of wood of considerable value, but the whole wood has been so fearfully mismanaged as to detract from its value in the eyes of a purchaser at first sight. I would therefore propose that a portion of this or some adjoining plantation be exposed for sale in the first place and offer this lot of thinnings at a subsequent period, or in other words when a merchant had become accustomed to the state of Rhindbuckie.

Cairnshee Wood is now entirely clear of dead wood and its appearance very much improved thereby. All backgoing fir trees should be prepared for sale along with those in Rhindbuckie. I observe signs of decay in the larch here, and propose that it be used extensively for estate fencing of which as you know a great deal is in want of being done and that these larch for fencing ~~be~~ be marked in autumn when back going ~~the~~ trees can be detected by their foliage.

- 1891 Most of the younger plantations are also in want of thinning, or cleaning out of backgoing and dead trees which would command a good price if a wood merchant was encouraged on to the ground, but if depending on these men as already situated to the estate, they are almost worthless. In my opinion the success of the Forester's Department here depends largely on such an arrangement because backgoing wood could then be sold while yet in life, instead of letting it die to be sold for little more than pays the labour of cutting it down, not to speak of the effects of the different systems on the health of the plantations.

I am etc.

(Signed) Alex Lawson - Forester.

- 1891 Cleared part of dead wood and cut larch, principally for fencing.
- 92 Made a further clearance of dead wood, and cut a few larch.
- 93 The dead wood cut over most inaccessible parts of wood, collected and stacked in openings on the ground for the sake of the health of surviving trees. Area so treated exceeds 100 acres. A new pasture fence erected across plantation between Eslie and Pilmuir. A new fence erected on N E side opposite Bogforran and Inkerman.
- 94 A quantity of larch cut for fencing for Westhills and c.. Fencing repaired and partly renewed on SE side. Gale of 22 December uprooted a no. of trees, especially on NE and comprising 1210 larch, 11 spruce, 793 firs = Total 2014.
- 95 Renewed fence along burnside below Inkerman croft, also opposite Bogforran and West Mulloch. Blown trees sold in April to A & G Paterson who removed the greater part of them. A quantity of deadwood was also cut over the low part of plantation.
- 96 Cleared brushwood and cut dead wood.
- 97 Cut a quantity of larch fencing and dead trees for firewood. Repaired march dyke.
- 98 Cut a no. of larch trees for fencing purposes and dead trees for firewood.
- 99 Sold to A Milne, Mill of Cammie, 120 blown larches partially decayed for £9/10/-. Cut a no. of larches for fencing purposes and dead trees as firewood. The larches on the W slope are showing signs of premature decay, dry rot being prevalent to a large extent. On the E slope near Bogforran the larch is growing vigorously while the SP are rapidly dying out. It would be advisable, as soon as convenient to cut over this part and replant with larch exclusively. The nature of the soil which is inclined to dampness is detrimental to the successful cultivation of the pine tribe, while on the western slope where the soil is poor and thin and the exposure more severe, SP should take the place of larch.
- 1900 Cut a large number of dead trees for firewood, and a few larch for estate. This plantation as a whole is of great value. Larch up to the present have done very well, particularly on the W side, and on these the main value of the plantation rest SP however, except a small area above Pilmuir Farm show a stunted growth and are of very indifferent quality. The death rate among SP has for a no. of years been excessive and the moss grown stems and unshapely heads/

RHINDBUCKIE (CTD.)

- 1900 heads prove conclusively that in 10 or 15 years the SP as a whole will have reached their most valuable stage. The plantation was counted and classified with a view to being purchased by the Proprietor of Tilquhillie who wished to acquire the ground as an addition to his grouse moor, and it was found to contain 76,091 larch, 93,324 SP 3028 spruce = Total 172,443 trees and a money value of at least £ 20,000 allowing deductions on the present high price of timber.
- 1901 The whole of this wood was sold as one lot to A & G Paterson for £ 20,000 according to the Book count but on the figures being checked by the purchaser it was discovered that there were only 72,122 larch, 82,480 SP and 3028 spruce which consequently reduced the price to £ 19,109/10/- £2000 has already been paid and the remainder falls due in annual instalments of £3000 and the balance on 1 December 1907.
- 1902 The purchaser has now cut 15,465 Spruce & SP & 8750 larch and paid a further instalment of £3000.
- 1903 The purchaser has now cut 16,858 spruce and SP and 19,727 larch and paid the third instalment of £3000.
- 1904 No further cutting has taken place during the year. Paid a fourth instalment of £3000.
- 1905 Purchaser has now cut 17,683 spruce and SP and 40,099 larch and ~~£~~ paid 5th instalment of £3000.
- 1906 Purchaser has now cut 17,906 spruce and SP and 42,108 larch and paid 6th instalment of £3000.
- 1907 The purchasers have now paid the last instalment of £2091/10/-.

SAWMILL

80 acres planted 1841-81. Fir, larch, spruce & DF. Alt. 280-400'

General

Description Lies between Woodlands Crofts and Clune Wood and along E side of Clune between the burn and Denside Farm. Slopes to N. Soil deep and capable of being kept fairly dry. All the ground suitable for DF.

- 1884
(Mr Rae) 20 acres SP Larch and Spruce 43 years, remainder of SP larch, spruce and hardwood of various ages, parts of which require thinning and brushing down.
- 1885-6
(Mr Rae) A good part of the older portion of this wood will require thinning and brushing down during the coming winter.
- 1891 A no. of trees larch, spruce, and SP cut for general estate purposes. Drained main road and scoured surface ditches.
- 1892 Transplanted spruce and DF trees along roadside and cut heavy wood for estate purposes.
- 1893 Transplanted a no. of spruce and DF along roadside and cut heavy wood principally spruce and larch for estate. Bridge renewed on main cart road.
- 1894 Surface ditches scoured on SE side. Quantity of heavy larch, SP and spruce cut for estate purposes. A few of the largest of the spruces were uprooted by the gale of 22 December.
- 1895 All blown trees removed and cut up for Est. Purp. except a few larch which are still lying on west side. The main road repaired and bridge on same renewed. Upper half of fence along east side renewed.
- 1896 Lower half of fence next Denside renewed.
- 1897 Nil
- 1898 Cleared out the remainder of blown and straggling trees in part towards east end of plantation, burned brushwood, scoured ditches and planted with DF. 1 + 2. The plants have however been entirely destroyed by rabbits during the year and the ground will consequently require to be planted in the forthcoming spring when the whole ground on which the DF are growing containing about 14 acres will have been enclosed by wire netting. The remaining 500 larch were sold to A & G P for £265.
- 1899 Enclosed the part with DF with netting, but cut remaining SP from enclosure smaller sized sold to John Souter for £20, larger used for estate. Scoured and deepened the ditches on parts cleared of timber, burned brush and replanted with pitted plants parts rabbit damaged 1898 and all vacant spaces with plants of like size. No. used 40M 2+2 6M 1+2 DF, 1000 JL & 500 Colorado DF were planted out as an experiment at the lower end of enclosure, close to roadside. Cut a no. of larch and SP on east side of Sawmill Burn for Est. purposes.
- 1900 The ground previously planted was again BU and the part where the larger DF are standing was cleared of oak and SP to encourage the height growth and development of the DF. The SP were used for estate, the oaks sold to/

SAWMILL (CTD.)

- p>1900 to Dyer & Co. for £26/16/-. It is intended during next spring to pit plant all the area from which the oak and SP were taken and finish the planting of all the enclosed part which is cleared.
- 1901 Ground recently planted again BU and the remainder of the enclosure (except a small part at W corner still under SP) planted with large DF.
- 1902 Cut SP in enclosed part as required for estate. Pruned long branches on the older trees and again BU with DF. Cut and peeled for estate a no. of the best larches by burnside near to Estate Office. Cleared of trees a space in the hollow west of Sawmill to provide a site for Curling Pond and commenced formation of same.
- 1903 Deepened all the ditches in lower part of enclosure and BU blanks in western part. Sold birch trees cleared off site of curling pond to John Bisset for £23/10/7 the rate per ton being 12/-. Continued the clearance as required of the remaining larches and SP in the old part of plantation at E. side.
- 1904 Cut a no. of blown trees around curling pond, also larch cut and peeled for estate purposes.
- 1905 Cut a clear space around curling pond where the trees are being gradually being blown down, and replanted in clumps of cypress, nobilis, SS and Tsuga. Cut and peeled a no. of larch for estate and dead trees as fire-wood.
- 1906 Cut and peeled a no. of larch for estate. The western part on which the older DF were allowed to remain at the time of replanting will require attention. The freely ramifying branches are interfering injuriously with the heads of the younger trees and will require to be severely cut back. The question of management here, owing to the diverse ages of the older and younger trees, is a complicated one and the expenses incurred in the continued pruning back of the widely spreading branches can only be obviated by the greater part of the isolated trees being cut as soon as they reach a useful size. The timber of these trees is of low technical value and largely presents the development of the younger and more valuable crop. Where they stand in clumps of a few trees together they might be allowed to remain.
- 1907 Cleared out the remainder of the old spruce and SP trees in the E part of wood and used estate. Enclosed the ground with netting and replanted enclosure with DF. Stump pruned the older DF in centre of wood to give younger crop headroom.
- The part on the W side of service road, as it now stands is yielding a poor return, the only trees of any value init being the few larches mixed throughout the others. These might be used for estate along with the most serviceable spruce and SP as occasion demands and the ground cleared immediately. The soil is excellent for either larch or DF but too moist for present crop of SP.
- 1908 Cleared off the old spruce in part on the E of Curlin pond with a view to replanting with SS for which the ground is well adapted. Filled up the blanks in the centre clump of DF and in the part on E side of burn planted last year. Cut and peeled larch for estate.
- 1909/

SAWMILL(CTD.)

- 1909 Planted the part on the E of C. Pond with SS, 3500 per acre. Filled the remainder of the old spruces on W side of road leading to curling pond, all the timber, as formerly being used for estate. Cut and peeled larch for estate and continued the clearance of the trees from the parts marked out for replanting.
- The DF cultures were inspected by the members of the Coast errsim Committee headed by Mr Rider Haggard and Dr. Wm. Somerville. Prof. of For. in Oxford University as also by Messrs Mundt & Bramsen of the Danish Forest Service and were pronounced to be in a thoroughly satisfactory condition both as regards the rate of growth and density of stock. Equally laudatory expressions were used with regard to the growth of the DF on other ~~NINE~~ parts of the estate and the quality of the timber as exhibited to the Commission. The tall clear growth of the SS was also favourable commented upon and amongst all the spruces was thought to be the most deserving of notice as a commercial ~~XXXXXXXX~~ timber tree.
- 1910 In the early part of the year the estate was visited by Prof. Heinrich Mayor of Munich University and Dr. Shirasawa, Chief of the Experimental Station, Tokyo, Japan. for the purpose of inspecting the growth of the newer coniferaw under silvicultural conditions. Chief interest was shown in the appreciation in which they held the DF and SS both of which were regarded as capable of yielding high economic results. The silvicultural condition of the young woods was thought to be equal to the best continental results and the opinion was expressed that great care would be required in the future management in order to insure stability of crop. Shooting rides were formed in the eastern half and a commencement made in the W half to remove the overhanging isolated trees.
- 1911 Additional shooting rides formed in the E $\frac{1}{2}$ and the further pruning up or removal of the overhanging trees in the W $\frac{1}{2}$ continued. A certain amount of work still remains to be done and as the process must naturally be a recurring one it may be found the best course when the trees have reached a marketable size to remove all but those in the larger clumps. Erected wire netting on dykehead opp. curling pond and BU the ground, a line of Larix occid. being planted along roadside. Those are the first of the species planted on the estate and are from seed collected at the Northern extremity of the range of the tree.
- 1912 Nil
- 1913 Brushing up dead wood form DF stems. Cutting out suppressed trees and laying aside for stack props.
- 1914-18 Nil
- 1919 A good deal of planting was done here in the spring.
- 20&21 Nil
- 1922 Cut out dead wood for firewood and also for stack props.
- 23 The standing trees in Sawmill Wood have all been cleaned up. Taken the dead branches from the DF stems and thinned it all out. This wood has been badly damaged by wind exp. in the damp parts.
- 25 & 26 Nil
- 27 The greater part of the DF in the lower end of this wood was severely damaged by the windstorm of 28 Jan. The trees have been cut and sold to A & G P.
- 1928 Another ~~400~~⁴⁰⁰ trees blown this year and we are still removing the wood.

SHILLOFAD

100 acres. Planted 1873-78. Larch, fir, NS and SS. Altitude 500-700'

- Gen. Desc. Occupies the N base of Shillofad Hill and adjoins Garrol Wood at W side. Exposed to N and E. Soil of a deep peaty nature and inclined to be wet. By attention to surface ditches everything is suitable for spruce and SP.
- 1884
(Mr Rae) From about 6-11 years SP larch and spruce. Thriving fairly well but will require BU with large strong plants as the herbage is rank. The long grass will have to be cut annually for a good few years in order to let the plants up. In the hollow between the heather and grass a few drains would be beneficial.
- 1885-6
(Mr Rae) The drains in this wood require scouring which is being done this summer, @ 2/6 per 100 yds. A no. of new drains are also required, these are being presently done at 8/- per 100 yds. A no. of large larch, spruce and SP will be required for BU this plantation, the soil of which is very good.
- 1891 Cut and cleared a road from Garrol to grouse moor, bridged ditches, made road passable for pack horses, and erected a gate at each end of road.
- 1892-1900 Nil
- 1901 Fence on S side renewed.
- 1902-12 Nil
- 1913 Blown larch and SP sold to A & G Paterson along with trees in Garrol Wood.
- 1914,15,16 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 1917,18 Nil
- 1919,20 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 1921 Sold to A & G Paterson. See Sales Book.

This is part of Garrol Wood. 68 acres refer page 182.
Land let to Michie, Garrol Farm, for grazing for 6 yrs. from 1929.

SLUG

53 Acres planted 1861. Fir larch and spruce. Altitude 540-700'

Gen. Desc.	
	Occupies a deep sheltered position between Mundernal and Craiglug (Craigour?) Mills on the course of the Slug Road. Triangular in shape and slopes to N. Soil sharp and dry and suitable for SP, larch and spruce.
1884 (Mr Rae)	Chiefly SP and a quantity of larch and spruce 23yrs. Recently thinned, but all dead, dying and buried trees should be removed and the whole brushed NE at once.
1885-6	Thinned and brushed during season. A few drains still to scour.
1891	Cut dead wood and rick posts for farmers in neighbourhood.
1892	Cut dead wood and scoured ditch opposite Darnford Farm. Repaired fence on NE side of plantation.
1893	Erected pasture fence through plantation from N to S.
94	A small space in centre of plantation suffered by gale of 22 December.
95	Blown trees partly removed, larch being used for fencing and SP sold for firewood.
96	Cut a no. of larch trees for fencing. Blown SP sold for firewood.
97	A no. of larch trees cut for fencing west hills. Some blown SP sold for firewood.
98	Cut dead trees for firewood. Removed wire fence on S side by Slug Road and erected light wire fence on dykehead on W. side next Darnford Farm.
1899&1900	Cut a no. of blown larch for estate, and dead trees for firewood.
1901-05	XXXX Cut dead trees as firewood.
1906	Nil
1907	Cut dead trees for firewood.
1908-10	Cut dead trees for firewood and a few larch trees for fencing.
1911&12	Cut a quantity of backgoing larch for fencing.
1913-15	Nil
1916	Ditto 1911&12
1917&18	Cut dead trees as firewood.
1919	Cut dead trees as firewood also larch for fencing.
1920	Cut dead trees as firewood also larch for fencing.
1921	Sold to A & G Paterson. See Sales Book.

SPYHILL

2 acres planted 1914.	SP and larch	Altitude	?
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1914	As Spyhill Farm is very exposed this plantation was planted to shelter from W winds.
1915	Nil
1916	Hares and rabbits did much damage, so the plantation required BU and some replanting was done.
1917-29	Nil

STRATHGYLE

83 acres planted 1878. Fir, larch and a few NS, SS & DF. Alt. 700-800'

Gen. Desc.

Occupies the N slope of Strathgyle Hill and the flat ground above Pitcowdens N. exposure. Soil peaty nature and would grow SP and spruce by attention to surface ditches.

1884
(Mr Rae)

About 6 years planted. SP, larch & spruce. This portion had originally been planted with 2yr seedlings which are only now beginning to appear above the heather and I am afraid they will never come to be timber of any consequence. The greater part of the lower portion of this Division has been BU a year ago with larch SP and spruce so that in the meantime it would be premature to advise what should be done as to BU for a year or two. The higher portion of the hill have not been BU. These I consider should be abandoned, and more ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ attention given to the lower and better portions for wood growing. A few drains are required along side of moss road and at patches on the E & W side of the division. Hollow between Strathgyle and Mundernal - Soil very good but the plants look sickly. I would recommend this portion to be properly drained as early as possible and replanted with good stout plants next winter, when from the nature of the soil the plants would be certain to succeed.

- 1891 Part burned opposite Monthammock.
- 1892 Boundary between plantation and hill defined & cleared, and thinned flat west of peat moss road.
- 1893 Transplanted DF and spruce to Policies, Drumallan & Kinclunry belts. Fence renewed between Plantation and Monthammock pasture.
- 1894 Nil
- 1895 Fence renewed opposite C-daff pasture.
- 1896-1900 Nil
- 1901 BU part east of peat road above Pitcowdens with SP & spruce.
- 02 Nil
- 1903 Scoured the main ditches in eastern part next Monthammock rough ground.
- 1904 Scoured the ditches in the part under SS & pruned for shooting rides where necessary.
- 1905 Continued the scouring of ditches in the lower part of plantation. The SS here have made remarkable growth and have proved that for planting in exposed sites with a damp soil it is superior to any other known variety of spruce. Where put in at 6' apart with spruce between the latter have been suppressed and in many cases killed outright some years ago. The DF has not been able to hold its own with the SS although, still, a long way ahead of both spruce and SP. Unfortunately the SS do not stand at regular distances over the whole area, in some places as wide as 12' apart, and in these parts the spruces have had full opportunity for development, but from measurements taken at random over the whole plantation the result shows that the volume of wood produced by SS is more than double, and in some parts almost treble, the amount produced by the spruce.

STRATHGYLE (CTD.)

- 1906 It is now proposed to add the western part of the bog - in a line with the eastern side of Monthamock plantation to Strathgyle and a beginning has been made with the necessary drainage of the ground. The surface is broken & irregular & mostly covered with heath. After being drained and a year or two allowed for consolidation the soil should be in a farmable state for the reception of SS with which it is proposed to crop the ground. As a means of cheapening the expense of planting equal proportion of SS & NS may be used and put in at the rate of 4840 plants per acre. By the time the plantation has reached 25-30 years the spruces will have been suppressed and the crop therefore composed of 2420 SS approx. Unless a new market has arisen for spruce thinnings these will not repay the expenses of the labour incurred in removal and as their presence will tend to equalise the temperature within the plantation no harm can accrue to the permanent crop by their being left where they stand. Should an opportunity occur the eastern part might advantageously be added to the plantation. The ground would require less in the way of drain age and a very considerable saving could be effected in the upkeep of fencing which on the E, S & W sides at present is maintained by the proprietor.
- 1907 Continued the draining in part of bog to be added. It is proposed to commen planting here next spring when the plants now growing in the nursery will be ready to plant out.
- 1908 Continued the draining of the bog land the eastern part of which is now ready for planting. In the western part the soil is especially moist and a few large main ditches will be necessary in order to drain the soil. It has now been decided to postpone the planting here and all preparatory work has be suspended.
- 1909-18 Nil
- 1919 Cleaned out all dead wood in low part next to peat road and removed blown trees which were used for estate purposes, dead wood being used for firewood.
- 1920-26 Nil
- 1927 Much damage has been done to this wood by the great gale of 28 January. The east part suffered most. It has been all cut off root and sold to A & G Paterson per cube foot.
- 1928 The remainder of the SS has been sold to A & G P also a part to the west of Pitcowdens where the peat road runs through the wood.

STRATHIE

52 acres planted 1858. Fir, some larch & austrian pine. Alt. 300-500'

Gen. Desc.	Situated between Pitcowdens & Strathie Farms & exposed to the N. Soil light & dry but of good depth & quality & very suitable for larch DF & spruce.
1884 (Mr Rae)	53 acres chiefly of SP with slight mixture of larch about 26yrs. This wood would be improved by a jud. thinning and would yield a large quantity of pitwood. Brushing would be done advantageously.
1891	Cut dead SP and backgoing larch for fencing.
92&93	Nil
94	Dead wood out and removed and a few larch cut for estate purposes. A no. of trees along N side were uprooted by gale of 22 December.
95	The blown trees nearly all cleared out.
96	Cut a no. of blown SP for firewood.
97	Nil.
98	Erected light wire fence on dykehead on W side next Meikle Tulloch and renewed fence on S side next Pitcowdens. Cut dead trees for firewood.
99	Renewed the entire length of wire fence on S side next to Pitcowdens. Divided the plantation with wire fence for grazing purposes, the larger portion being grazed by Strathie and the smaller portion at E end by S burn Croft.
1900	Nil
01	Cut blown larch and sold to Dyer & Co. and a no. of dead trees cut as firewood.
02	Brushed up trees above roadside and cut out dead trees as firewood.
03	Cut a roadway into plantation and cleared out all the dead and backgoing SP, and sold to John Bisset for £44/17/8, i.e. 5d per cub.ft for sawing wood and 6d per tree for firewood.
04	Cut blown trees for estate purposes.
05	Cut a no. of blown trees, planted a belt of beech and cypress along roadside and filled up the blown space at E end with DF.
06	Cut dead trees as firewood and blown larch for estate.
07	Nil
08-11	Cut dead trees as firewood.
12	Cut dead trees as firewood and larch for estate.
13	Cut dead trees as firewood.
14	Nil

STRATHIE (CTD.)

- 15 & 16 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 1917 Sold about 25 acres to A & G Paterson for £2350.
- 1918 Nil
- 1924 The top/ part of this wood has been cleared of standing timber. All the brush and scrub cleared up also surface ditches attended to. Planted with larch unless a narrow strip at W side which was planted with SP and at E side along both sides of the burn which is planted with DF and a few hard-woods.
- 1925-27 Nil
- 1928 BU and planted a great part where there were very many blanks.

SUNNYSIDE

36 acres planted 1849. Fir, larch & ornamental conifers. Alt. 300-400'

- Gen Desc. In form of broad belt sloping gently to S between Funach and S side Farms. Runs parallel to main portion of Funach plantation about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant. Soil fair depth and dry, suitable for larch & SP.
- 1884
(Mr Rae) 37 acres principally SP with a no. of larch and C about 35 yrs. A thriving wood out of which a no. of pitwood trees were jud. taken. Cut a no. of larch for fencing etc. could still be taken out advantageously and the wood then left till sold.
- 1891 Cut dead wood also a few backgoing larch.
- 92 Fenced roadside, and thinned ornamental trees there. Cut SP and larch for estate etc.
- 93 Scoured flow ditch along S side Farm thinned orn. trees on roadside and cleared away all dead trees.
- 94 This wood suffered in gale of '93 (nov.) The blown trees were all removed and cut up for general purposes. Great damage was done to N side of this wood by gale of 22 December the following trees being blown: 1194 larch, 66 spruce, 3034 SP, 12 SF. Total 4306.
- 95 Blown trees sold in April to A & G P but not removed.
- 96 All blown trees removed by A & G Paterson and greater part of area cleared of brushwood. The broken topped and straggling SP were sold to John Bisset Maryculter. A no. of larch were used for estate purposes.
- 97 Sold a few blown and straggling SP trees to John Bisset, also 252 blown SP to John Souter @ 1/6d each.
- 98 Lower part at E end fenced off cleared of brushwood and planted out with 1+2 DF 12M being used. Sold to J Souter 242 blown larch @ 8d per c.ft, and 457 SP @ 4d. Total £92/18/4.
- 99 Scoured & deepened the main drain the entire length of plantation, sold 232 SP to John Souter for £19 and cut dead trees for firewood. The part planted out last year will require further draining during the forth coming summer.
- 1900 Cut all the straggling trees on the blown space near the top end of plantation about 10 acres; thoroughly drained the whole and planted out with a mixture of larch & spruce. 1 spruce being used to 3 larch. The DF planted at the lower end of Plantn. are growing vigorously on the dry ground but a part still undrained will require attention during next summer as the plants there are not making much headway owing to moisture excess.
- 1901 Nil
- 1902 BU the part planted with larch and cut dead trees as firewood.
- 1903 Nil
- 1904 Beat up the part planted with Larch & Fir, sold to John Bisset the blown trees for £18/17/6.

SUNNYSIDE (CTD.)

- 1905 The larch and Scotsfir used in beating up, have again been badly damaged by ground game, and the whole area will again have to be thoroughly beaten up. The Douglas Fir at the lower end are now closing up and doing remarkable well.
- 1906 Again beat up the Western part with larch and planted a wind mantle of Beech on North side. The young Douglas Firs here as elsewhere where closely grown suffered but little from the effects of the great snow storm in the end of December.
- 1907 Nil
- 1908 The plantation has suffered extensively from damage by ground game, and it has again been necessary to beat up the ground. The lower part which exhibited signs of over moisture, was thoroughly drained while all the ditches throughout the remainder of the area were scoured. Little further beating up can be done here now to good effect but with freedom from further damage by ground game there is a sufficient density of stock on the ground to form a close plantation. The Douglas Fir Plantation at the east end of wood is in a thriving state, and has now formed complete canopy. The straggling trees of Scotsfir, spruce and silver fir, along roadside are now interfering with the tops of young Douglas firs and it would be necessary to remove them within the next few years.
- 1909 Nil
- 1910 Opened shooting rides in west portion and scoured the ditches, the ditches over the whole wood.
- 11 Cut a few larch trees for estate purposes.
- 12 Cut dead trees as firewood and larch for estate purposes.
- 13 " " " " " " "
- 14 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 15 Cut dead trees as firewood also larch for strainers.
- 16 " " " " " " "
- 17 Nil
- 18 Sold to A & G P along with Free church and Balladrum Den Woods. See Sales Book.
- 19 There are about 10 acres of the young plantation and the trees here are doing all right.
- 20-24 Nil
- 1925 Where the wood has been cleared off we have got all ditches cleaned and the ground replanted with Scots Fir, Larch, and Sitka Spruce.
- 1926 Nil
- 1927 Beaten and planted up a large part of this as much damage has been done by rabbits.
- 1928 Nil.

SPYHILL

2 acres planted 1914.	SP and larch	Altitude	?
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1914	As Spyhill Farm is very exposed this plantation was planted to shelter from W winds.
1915	Nil
1916	Hares and rabbits did much damage, so the plantation required BU and some replanting was done.
1917-29	Nil

TARGET

Extent 110 acres, planted 1865, varieties Fir, Larch Douglasie, and Amer. Spruce, Altitude 350-500 feet.

Gen Desc.	This plantation derives its name from its proximity to the rifle range. It is situated on the brae of Mundernal hill opposite the farm of Calladrum, and is fully exposed to the north. The surface is uneven and in some places rocky. The soil is of good depth, and quality that on the hollows being composed of peat any variety of forest trees would grow here and the greater part of the extent suit Douglasie well.
1884 (Mr Rae)	110 acres consisting chiefly of Scotsfir and a few larch of about 19 yrs. The plantation has recently undergone a careful thinning, and is in a very thriving condition, but would be very much improved by being immediately brushed down. Some of the drains require scouring out. A few trees might be taken out from the west end of the plantation.
1885-86 (Mr Rae)	The whole of this plantation has been brushed during the season 1885-86. It is intended to clean out the drains that are choked during this summer and during the coming winter to thin out the dead larch and small fir where necessary. This will not be an expensive operation.
1891-92	Cut dead wood.
1893	Backgoing larch cut for fencing in neighbourhood.
94	Backgoing larch were removed and cut up for fencing purposes.
95	Dead wood removed.
96-98	Nil The Scots firs in this plantation have been severely damaged by squirrels, the prevalence of blanks and presence of large numbers of dead trees throughout plantation being directly attributable to the depredations of this pest.
1899-1900	Nil
1901	Cut dead trees as firewood.
1902	Cut dead trees as firewood. The lower ground by burnside will require draining at an early date.
03	Cut dead trees as firewood. All the main drains have now been scoured and deepened, but the health and appearance of the plantation would be materially improved by the clearing out of all dead and decaying trees. Roads would require to be laid off to admit of the extraction of the dead wood which abounds everywhere owing, principally to the effects of damage by squirrels and also to some extent to bad drainage. The fungus, agaricus mellens is present in some parts and the spread of the parasite is facilitated by the abundance of dead and decaying matter furnishing as host.
1904-10	Cut dead trees as firewood.
1911	Cut dead trees as firewood and opened out road to quarry of Gennel road.
12	Cut dead trees as firewood and larch for fencing.
1914-24	Nil

TARGET (CTD.)

- 1925 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 1926 " " " " .
- 1927 The wind storm of 28 January did a good deal of damage here. All the blown trees have been sold to A & G Paterson and are being cleared away now.
- 1928 Nil.

WARREN

90 acres, planted 1834-50. Fir, larch & Hardwood. Alt. 170-500'

Gen Desc.	Occupies the slope to the S of the Home Farm and is exposed to the N. Fair depth of good moist loamy soil over all, suitable for larch, spruce & DF.
1884 (Mr Rae)	Requires a jud. thinning and dead & dying trees removed. Large quantity of average 16' pitwood could be got also a good many trees of larger sizes. A portion would be improved by brushing.
1891, 2 & 3	A no. of heavy trees cut for estate purposes.
1894.	A large enclosure for rabbits formed here by the erection of a substantial wire fence and netting. Ald wood considerably thinned out to encourage growth of grass, & the timber used for estate purposes. This plantn, suffered terribly from gale of 22 Dec.
95	Blown trees partly removed for estate purposes. Main road renewed for about $\frac{1}{2}$ its length and a new road formed from Denside Cottages into centre of Warren on S side. XXXXXXXXXX
96	Burn across road on S side bridged and the renewal of main road continued, a part of the blown timber at S end was sawn in wood by John Bisset by contract and used mainly for estate. 50 larch sold to Gray & Harrow, Aberdeen @ 10d per cub. ft. Price obtained £31/9/-.
97	Cleared out the rest of the blown timber which was sawn in the wood by J Bisset at contract rates and used mainly for estate. Sold a few larch to Gray, Harrow & co. @ 10d per cub to & 25 SP @ 5d per cube. Sold to J Bisset 71 larch trees @ 8d per cube, realizing £27/15/4. Young part of plantations On S Side of main road excessively thinned out, the remaining trees brushed down and ground cleared to encourage grass growth. The larch thinnings reserved for estate & the spruce & SP thinnings along with a few birch sold to J Bisset for £23/12/9. Cut over dead wood and cleared brush in a part of old plantn. on S side main road. Still a large amount of work to be done in connection with the cleaning up of this part of plantation.
98	Sold to Bisset larch @ 8d & 10d per cube, spruce & SP @ 4d per cube which along with a quantity of boards and backs from Warren Sawmill & SP thinnings realized £94/13/10. Sold to P Bisset & Son Avdn. five selected larch trees @ 1/2 per cube = £5/5/- . Sold to Gray, Harrow & Co. 25 larch @ 10d per cube = £18/2/6. Young part of wood thinned and cleared of brush the previous year was sown out with grass seed.
99	The timber standing on the S side of service road & within the netting enclosure comprising 3412 SP 1085 larch & 27 spruce was sold in December to Dyer, Peebles for £1200. 12 months allowed to clear same.
1900	All the timber has now been removed from within the enclosure as also the margin on SE side outside the fence. The latter part being sold to Dyer & Co. for £105/11/3. A few blown larch spruce & SP in the young part of Plantation also sold to Dyer & Co. for £23/1/6. It is intended to plant up the enclosure again as soon as advisable and in preparation for same a quantity of larch seedlings have been laid out in Nursery to stock the ground. Larch will form the main crop but in some of the more sheltered XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX hollows DF may be used. As the part on lower side of service road has proved of little real value as a rabbit warren it should now be put under forest management.

WARREN (CTD.)

- 1900 Soil is of 1st class quality and the best trees of the present crop could be taken advantage of for a shelter for an underplanting of DF which in that part ~~WARREN~~ would yield a splendid return. The ground behind the old kennels where the oaks are standing should also be close planted with DF to assist in preserving the quality of the oak timber which is rapidly deteriorating through the growth of epicormic branches.
- 1901 All the ditches have been scoured on the cleared part & the ground now ready for planting. Beginning will be made in spring at the E end. It has now been arranged to discontinue the rabbit warren & plant up all the ground within the enclosure for which purpose a sufficient quantity of seedlings will have to be lined out in Nursery next spring.
- 1902 Scoured the remaining ditches on high side of road and in the hollow on the low side. Planted a part at E end with larch. Removed netting from fields opposite kennels & re-erected same on burn side to exclude rabbits from planted ground.
- 1903 Planted the part west of old mill site, the ridges & poorest part of ground being planted with SP, the large hollow and a strip along roadside with DF, and all the remainder with larch. The DF above rabbit height are doing well but the smaller plants along with the larch and SP have been badly damaged by rabbits & hares. The severe frosts of April, May & June also killed outright a number of the larches on the parts most exposed to the morning sun and "pine weevil" was also present on the high ground next Ashentilly plantation. All the ground covered by bracken towards E end of plantations has been pitted, preparatory to being planted with larch of large size.
- 1904 BU the whole of the ground previously planted with the exception of a strip along roadside west of old mill site. Cut over the brackens where interfering with the heads of young plants.
- 1905 BU the part which had not previously been gone over. Scrubbing the surface where there was an accumulation of thick tufty grass & mosses was practised & the result has been entirely successful. The cost is considerably higher than in notching but the results attained more than compensate for the increased expenditure. Again cleared the plants of bracken, and as this work owing to the turning in of pheasants cannot be undertaken in the proper season when the young growth is young & brittle and easily broken over, the expense of cleaning has been heavy as well as too long delayed for the good of the plants.
- 1906 BU all the parts previously planted with larch & freed the plants from the growth of bracken & broom. The part on the lower side of the road which was severely thinned for the warren is not satisfactory for timber growing and as the timber could not be profitably marketed for 25-30yrs, under-planting might also profitably be undertaken here. In the part under oak a satisfactory growth of naturally reproduced ash has established itself and as the soil is eminently adapted for that species it would be advisable to encourage the extension of the area for self-seeding. This may be done by a slight thinning out of the older trees and the further admission of light as far up to burnside as the old hatchery. The large beech trees there are only of use for firewood and might be taken out along with the large spruces below the old Kennels. It was formerly proposed to underplant this part with DF but as the ash has come up naturally preference should be given to it.
- 1907 BU the younger parts planted with DF and the part at E end with SP.

WARREN (CTD)

- 1908 Beat up all the part planted with larch and scotsfir and planted the part on the outside of rabbit proof fence on the east side with larch, a strong belt of Beech and mountain ash being planted as a wind mantle. The larches and Scotsfirs generally are in a thriving condition as also most of the DF's, but in some parts the latter have been attacked by a parasitic fungi, the name or history of which is as yet unknown. Its presence however has been noted throughout Scotland generally and has by some of the leading Cryptogamists been ascribed as an after effect of the sever frosts of the preceding years.
- 1909 Felled the old spruces on the north side of burn behind the ~~XX~~ old Kennels, thinned out the diseased larches on the south side along with the suppressed Scotsfirs and thinned out the hardwoods by burnside at east end Preparatory to underplanting with shade bearing trees for the purpose of game cover. The spruce timber along with the thinnings of larch and Scotsfir and the small hardwoods were sold to Charles Smith timber merchant, Culter, for the sum of £113/14/11. Underplanted the hardwoods with SS, Albertiana & Norway Spruce. The former two species being pitted and the latter notched in between. During the year the NS have been almost entirely destroyed by rabbits; the SS have been less damaged; the albertiana have not been touched. It will be necessary to beat up the ground again, but with the present head of rabbits there is no likelihood of any better result accruing from the added outlay in planting and meantime further beating up will be postponed. Before commencing the underplanting of the part under larch, it would be necessary to further thin out all the weak and badly developed trees as there is still too close a stand of stems on the area. This can now be done with greater safety as the trees are now more wind firm, and less likely to be overturned, as game cover is of first importance here, the underplanting should be so carried out as to give the best results from the game point of view and large clumps instead of a continuously solid block of planting would be likely to yield that result. In the main block of young plantation shooting rides were laid off at suitable distances for covert shooting and the rides, cleared to a width of 18'. On account of disease in the Douglas firs it was found necessary to grub up and burn a large number of plants no disease as in other parts of the estate being most prevalent where a strong growth of bracken had taken possession of the soil.
- 1910 Felled the old beech trees on side of service road to improve stance for pheasant shooting, the timber being used principally as firewood.
- 1911 Removed wire netting from eastern part for use at Kirkton Wood.
- 1912-18 Nil
- 1919 The larch was very much damaged by a heavy fall of soft snow which after lying on the trees for several days broke down a great number in some parts thus leaving big blanks.
- 1920 Part of the larch that was damaged by the snow in 1919 were cut & used for stack props and nett stakes.
- 1921 In the top part of plantn. the stems of the larch were cleaned down and all weakly ones were thinned out & used for sheep nett stakes.
- 1922 Thinned & cleaned down all the remaining stems from Service Rd. at W end of plantn. to about $\frac{1}{2}$ way eastwards; all larch being laid aside for fencing posts and sheep nett stakes.
- 1923 Nil
- ~~1924~~ 1924 Cut some trees for estate purposes, & netting stakes.
- 1925-28 Nil
- 1929 Cleaned the ditches on top part & planted it with Menzies Spruce, in wet parts.

WOODLANDS

Extent 70 acres, planted 55 acres 1857, planted 15 acres 1874. Varieties Fir Spruce and a few larch. Altitude 300 - 360 feet.

Gen. Desc.	This plantation occupies a flat portion west of Woodlands Crofts and also extends in the form of a belt eastward to the steading of Upper Balfour. The soil is generally thin, and the central portion is inclined to be wet. The dry ground is suitable to the growth of Scots Fir and larch and the wet parts to that of spruce.
1884. (Mr Rae)	55 acres of wood about 27 years of age and about 15 acres young wood about 10 yrs old. The oldest portion of the wood is composed chiefly of SP & requires immediate thinning & brushing down. A good many of the thinnings would be suitable for 11" average pitwood. Surface drains require attention. The young portion of the wood is thriving well in some parts, but the upper portion is inclined to be wet and filling up with largw spruce required to be done.
1885-6 (Mr Rae)	The oldest portion of this wood was thinned and brushed during the season and last summer the drains were scoured and a few new drains put in on the younger plantation where necessary.
1891	Cut & cleared shooting rides & erected footbridge on leading ditch. Erected rabbit fence along east and part of N sides.
1892-4	Nil
1895	Cleared of dead wood.
96	Removed most of the blown SP & cut out dead wood. Brushed down a part at S end of young plantations.
97	Cut dead wood.
98	Renewed wire fence on E side next Woodlands Croft No.I Cut dead trees for firewood & a few larch for fencing. Surface ditches require scouring.
99	Scoured and deepened the main ditch from NW corner to near E end above Woodlands Crofts. Cut blown & dead trees as firewood.
1900	Cut dead wood and a few blown larches.
1901	Cut blown larch & sold to Dyer & Co. also a large quantity of blown SP as firewood.
1902	Brushed up the trees along roadside and cut dead trees as firewood.
1903	Cut dead trees as firewood.
1904	Cut all the dead & backgoing trees, the former as firewood and the latter for Estate Purposes.
1905	Cut blown trees for estate purposes and dead trees as firewood and scoured ditches on E end of plantation.
1906&7	Cut dead trees as firewood.
1908	Cut dead trees as firewood and thinned out the suppressed poles in the younger part, and scoured the ditches over the whole area. The spruces in the younger part are making satisfactory growth and give promise of yielding a good return. The SP on the contrary are making poor growth and indicate the unsuitability of the soil for the pine species. In all future cultural thinnings preference should be given to the spruce as the ultimate crop and in parts where the crop is too thin steps should be taken to introduce a sufficient matrix of spruce to eventually form a pure spruce wood.

WOODLANDS (CTD)

- 1909 & 10 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 1911 Cut dead trees as firewood and commenced marking for thinning.
- 1912 & 13 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 1914 Cut dead trees as firewood, also pit props which were sold to A&G.P. for £100.
- 1915 & 16 Nil
- 1917 to 24 Cut dead trees as firewood.
- 1925 & 26 (No entry.)
- 1927 There was a good many trees blown here with the windstorm end of Jany.
- 1928 Sold blown trees to A & G.P.
- 1929 There have been another 130 trees blown here. They have been cut off root and shed. Will either use them for estate purposes or try and sell them.

GENERAL REMARKS ON PLANTATIONS

- 1902 The work proposed has not yet been undertaken at Craigiedaff, Northbrae or Glenhead, and the thinning out of backgoing and inferior trees in Market Stance, Free Church and Currackstane Woods may be spread over the next 3-4 years by which time D.F. plants of sufficient size and quality will be available. After finishing the planting on hand the nursery will be almost cleared of D.F. other than 1 yr seedlings of which there are only about 40 M.
- 1903 Along with the Young woods of Craigiedaff, Northbrae and Market Stance previously mentioned attention will not have to be given also to the young plantation of Denside (young part) Garrol and Mulloch. A general thinning is not required but where the crop has come away strongly and stands close on the ground, relief is now necessary. It would be sufficient in the first instance to take out only the dead and suppressed trees and an effort should be made to prosecute the work steadily until the whole has been gone over a first time. Funach plantation (young part) also requires attention in the same way but the work is less urgent than in the young plantations which have not already been gone over.
- 1904 The rough ground on the sides of burn between Little and Meikle Tulloch farms might profitably be planted, besides yielding much required shelter for the farm and buildings of Little Tulloch. The ground never having carried a previous crop would be a favourable site on which to rear a crop of larch. A large stock of D.F. plants will be available for use next spring. With these it is proposed to complete the planting of Balladrum and the part of Sheeochside.
- 1905 Wire netting young plantations against ground game, although in the first instance the most expensive method it seems to be the only effective way of protecting against the damage done by hares and rabbits and although the head of these may not be large they are sufficiently numerous to render the establishment of our young plantations a difficult and unsatisfactory problem. It has been found impossible without constantly incurring expenditure in replanting to establish these plantations without undue expenditure and loss of time, and the result in some cases only a partial restocking. Larch and D.F. are especially susceptible to the attack of ground game and I believe it would be hopeless to attempt to establish plantations of these varieties without efficient protection by wire netting and power to the forester in charge as in the case of squirrels, to have every rabbit found within the enclosure killed on sight. As squirrels were doing much damage to D.F. cones which they devour while also in air unripe state, permission was granted to the forester to employ a man in his own staff to destroy them. A gun was procured and during the last fortnight of cone collection over 100 were destroyed.