

① Unit Area additions and disposals.

Additions :- Nil.

Disposals :- 545 acres arable to G.P.O. at Radio Station site

<u>Acquisitions pending</u>	<u>Woodlands</u>	<u>Plantable</u>	<u>Unplantable</u>
Bairnfield Collate	20 acres	94 acres	- acres.
Letterformie "	22 "	313 *	9 "
Belfur "	no figures	available.	
Total acres = 42		407	9.

* 196 acres standing timber.

② Years Work :-

The work that can be said here is that we are still trying to attain better results at cheaper cost and to this end progress is slow. Some costs have in fact risen but a part of this may be attributed to the weather which has been very broken and wet throughout the summer.

The planting programme can be called a success, growth has been splendid and B.U. is reasonable. We have had no real failures but some disappointing spots, mainly due to difficult drainage.

Many jobs were restricted due to labour requirements for blown timber.

③ Wage Payments :-

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
B.U.	£ 1255	£ 762	Bill held over plant shortage.
Warding	£ 1300 £ 650	£ 2006	Supp. etc. required due to weather.
Drains upkeep	£ 1930	£ 1309	Improved costing revised programme.
Fences	£ 240	£ 84	Mostly done at Rother-part.
Wire prot.	£ 930	£ 654	British summer.
Rabbit "	£ 2845	£ 1954	
Planting - Manuring	£ 2160	£ 2018	First year.
Clearing scrub	£ 940	£ 441	Restricted for future years.
Drains new	£ 240	£ 94	P. 55 acres.
Fences	£ 145	£ 39	-

Local Supervision

	<u>Foremen</u>	<u>Foreman</u>	<u>Ex. School Gangers.</u>
At beginning of year	1	2	1
" end "	2	1*	1

* One foreman on loan to Glenlivet for timber operations

The ex. school ganger is in charge of a beat, as part of his training, and is doing quite well.

1. Labour.

Figures were high over the whole year, due to timber operations. In midsummer when a large number of boys were employed on weeding they reached 127. Normally they were around 105 most of the year.

In an ordinary year the brown lands labour fitters are employed from September to February and figures are lower outside these dates, but pressure of work necessitated. The recruitment of more local labour which was fairly readily available and figures very this year quite even over the year.

For the future no labour shortage is likely in fact the reverse in this case due to the much improved conditions for men.

End of year figures.

Gangers.	Grade I.	Grade II	Grade III	Boys	Women.
5	21	13	11	9	2.

Two of the boys employed intend to go to Forest School.

(6a). Forest Operations

		f.	s.	d.	
Yelling - thinning	16,685 cf.	249	9	8	4.02 ⁵ per cf.
Extraction	15,910 cf.	153	1	0	2.4 ² " "
Browscutting	129,756 cf.	1610	18	1	2.9 ² " "
Peeling	28,745 cf.	513	14	8	4.2 " "
Sawmilling	46,594 cf.	130	4	8	4.1 " "
B. U.	304 acres	699	14	2	12.1
Weeding 19.52	104 "	1642	14	6	82/93 ¹ "
Weeding '54.	46 "	186	5	3	79 ¹ "

		$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	
Harvesting 44, 48 - 53.	24 acres	154	11	3
Drains upkeep.	3234 chns.	1309	4	11
Drains new.	108 "	92	0	3
Drains new (plgh)	69 "	2	8	0
Scrub.	125 acres	511	13	11
Ploughing	224 "	119	19	11
Planting	529 5 "	1405	18	2
Maintenance	256 5 "	292	12	0
Fences repair	182 chns.	83	6	8
Seed collection	68 lbs.	16	0	3
Fences new	229 chns	138	9	5

Kiln. 1443 bushels of cones were kilned & cleaned 340 cones and seeds were cleaned producing a total of 959 lbs of seed at a cost of £288.6.1 average cost per lb. - 4/8 1/2.

(b1) Forest operations cont.

329 5 acres were planted. Regeneration on the high lying areas was nil, and on the low lying areas mainly consisted of Birch groups which were interplanted with S.P. D.F. Grands & L.

Survival rates have been quite good. Excepting some wet pockets on the low ground which were difficult to drain.

Prep. ground on Stracks was done by fine plough and no further draining has so far been needed. The fine plough was used to some extent on the low lying Cuckenhading area but with less benefit to the drainage.

Planting was done in the bottom of the furrows where ploughed with the exception of spruces. Species used were mainly S.P. with a mixture of N.S. at 200 per acre. On the Stracks area we added Birch at 60 per acre in groups of five plants at 60 ft. apart. In all cases E.L. was mixed with S.P. This mixing of Birch & Larch with the pine made the planting a costly one due to the Birch & Larch not being available when required and the area had then to be overplanted.

(b2)

Beating up was restricted to below the ultimate due to shortage of S.P. Where B.D. requirements were not too heavy on S.P. areas E.L. - Birch were used, and on S.P. areas near the sea C.P. was used.

(B11)

Weeding:-

Was quite a problem this year due to the very wet season and which it was hoped would stand over another year had to be needed.

A supplementary estimate of £650 was needed to finish the year.

Bleaching:-

Was restricted to blown areas which were unproductive and was done more for protection reasons than any other.

Establishment of Plantation:-

Plots of P 46 are still requiring treatment for check of pine spruces planted in heather.

A small area was dealt with this year by mulching with waste from the peeling machine and some results are expected by next year.

P 46, 47, 48 & 49 can be considered as established in so far as no further weeding or B.D. is required, with the exception of a few spots where damage was done in extraction of blown timber.

Thinning Progress:-

No thinning was done in F.Y. '53 but a start was made with markings early in F.Y. '54 and later in the year, felling, skidding and peeling commenced.

End of year figures are as follows:-

Yell. med. - peeled = 100.5 acres = 29,432 cft.

Total marked = 418 " = 112,000 ". Giving an average yield of 282 cft per acre.

By end of Forest Year '58 we should be into normal 6 year rotation thinning of pines. Spruces being dealt with when the need arises later in that period.

(B12)

Seed collection:-

Pine cones particularly are extremely scarce and the prospects for next year are no better. This statement is based on a check made on all areas to be thinned while marking was being carried out.

(B13)

Thinning area:-

Sect. I.	1264 sq. Yds.
" II	2404 " "
" III	2914 " "

negative fallow.
to be planted up.

Oak seedlings	1144	-	51,000 worth
Birch "	196	-	3,000 "
Birch 40	315	-	5,000 "
Hy. L. "	84	-	3,000 "

Secr III 1145 sq. yards fallow.

The total area of the whole headland masonry is to be planted up and has therefore no significance in future programmes.

(b) Observations of movements of nursery stock - nil.

(Bri). Seed sowing and lining-out

902 lbs of Oak seed produced 51. in workable plants.

34 lb Buch 3.

12 No. Birch lined out produced 5 " "

Work at 56 plants per lb. of seed is bad bar -

Book at 81 is disallowed.

In addition to this we sowed 50 lbs of Beech - on a cultivated hardwood site with side shade and again we have 3,000 plants. As the Beech are still germinating we will leave this over for another year.

In private gardens we sowed 421 lbs of seed (Beck) which produced 111 m. viable plants i.e. 230 per lb of seed. Still under 50%.

(Qvii) Stocks

Stocks are so small that they will have no effect on future requirements.

(Bm) the Protection

There were no fires of any importance and throughout much of the summer one would have experienced great difficulty in lighting a fire.

In normal times the unit is placed at dangerous. It is also an aid unit for three adjoining forests:

A fully equipped trailer is kept standing by at all times as dangerous conditions can arise very rapidly. On this forest the emphasis is laid on the use of water and the stand by trailer carries a tank with 100 gallons this being augmented by portable supplies from raised tanks situated throughout the forest at road junctions and holding from 600 - 800 gallons each.

Recommendations:- The urgent need is a supply of efficient smoke marks. To get into a fire with water means stirring the travelling head of the fire from front or back depending on location of fire to roads, breaking this and preferably with two separate holes work done each side. To carry all this out a lot of training is needed. and we are not yet fully efficient. but to get anywhere at all we require at least 10 smoke marks and 10 hand axes one belted round each man's waist. This allows for one man as the nozzle and fire men carrying the line hole over the shoulder leaving one arm with the hand axe free to chop down smallish burned trees, making it possible to manipulate the hole to the position required instead of persistently stopping the water and

adding more here.

This is not theory. We have actually struck these snags in burning scrub areas. Future practice will be carried out in all burning operations.

Other protection:

The most important event took place in the last days of the forest year. Hypomelanus was reported on our boundary with Silver Horse Estate. We felt rather sad about this as we had hoped to have almost complete control of rabbits in another year as the cost of spray section but any help is welcomed.

Rabbits	-	6374	Were caught plus those quilled.
Brown Hares	-	38	
White Hares	-	43	
Pigeons	-	461	Were shot.
Stoats	-	51	Were killed
Hooded crows	-	19	Were shot.
Red squirrels	-	11	Were killed
Stoats	-	1	Was killed

I am told that this is the first fox killed in this region for 28 years. Many people hereabouts had never seen one.

The Bupalus Moth is rather disturbing, fairly high numbers of larvae being found on the Ordiga section of the Deer Park.

(Bx)

Fencing:

Was limited to the following:

85	Chrs	temporary rabbit fencing @ 4/	per chr	=	£29.15.0.
144	"	permanent " " @ 15/	" "	=	£108.14.5.
				=	£138.9.5.

(Bx1)

Felling, thinning & sales of produce.

Block felling of block timber is complete. 29,000 cubic feet of thinning have been felled and peeled at stump. All marking of thinning planned for felling in F.Y. 55 are completed. There are large stocks of stumps and props on hand, disposal rate is slow but steady.

Since we settled into regular felling of thinning the cost has been three pence for felling and three pence for peeling per c.f. There are pit rates and may have to be increased slightly as peeling becomes more difficult in the winter time.

Average costs over the year were as follows.

Felling & thinning	-	4.02	pence	per	c.f.
Peeling including machine	-	4.2	pence	"	"

(6) contd.

Extraction	2.4	pence	per	cubic	feet.	} Labor charges.
Processing	2.9	"	"	"	"	
Skidding	2.1	"	"	"	"	

There are obvious difficulties in sales of produce since we are not producing only what is most needed but also large quantities of material which is not in demand.

If we are to continue we should have a specialist on this job but we should be well advised to leave it to the trade to do all the sales of processed timber and make it a condition of sales of future timber, that the merchant working the thinnings takes over all stocks of poles and crows on hand subject to a percentage reduction, at the conclusion of all blow timber operations.

④ Road operations

There has been little done in the F.Y. under report except some grading which was very satisfactory.

Earlier made roads are settling down now and some evidence is forthcoming that on the steeper slopes culverts should have been closer together to reduce heavy flows of water which are causing the road edge to erode.

In the conditions prevailing on this forest, future culverts should have gravel traps at the inlet about 3' long and the culverts should be inclined quite sharply to carry any gravel right through. At present the only level section is inside the culvert and the gravel lies there eventually choking the pipe and may cause serious erosion during heavy rain.

R. D. Wilson