

the nurseries must necessarily have a larger area, one which in their aggregate will be equivalent to four per cent. of that of the plantations. This percentage, however, applies to coniferous species only. Broad-leaf plants, which are usually set out at wider spaces, require a much larger percentage of area for their propagation. An enclosure of two acres, after setting apart enough ground for seed beds, will furnish each year about 138,000 four-year-old transplants of coniferous species, the number varying somewhat according to the space allotted to paths and roadways.

A nursery may be permanent or temporary as forest conditions may require. The latter is made in some instances merely to supply plants for some particular locality, after which being no longer necessary, it is abandoned. If the plot will not be needed again for many years it is allowed to grow up to a young forest, some of the taller and more promising transplants being left in the beds at proper intervals for this purpose.

In most nurseries screens are used for protection against heat and frost and for protection against birds; and the beds are covered during the winter with moss or litter to prevent the seedlings from heaving. But the practice in these respects varies with the species and according to the climate or soil.

The Forest Department of the Cape of Good Hope has induced the Government to provide a large fund for afforestation on the principle of a loan. It is commented on by the Chief Conservator in his report as follows:—

For the Forest Department the event of first importance during the year under review has been the recognition of the principle of afforestation by means of money raised under loan. This is as it should be, especially when it is realized that much of the work to be done is for the benefit of the State in years to come, and it is only right that the money expended thereon should fall as lightly as possible on the present generation.

The practical recognition of this principle culminated during the 1906 Session in the inclusion in the Loan Bill for that year, of an item of 82,000 for the prosecution of Plantation Extension, Work at the following plantations, viz.:—Tokai, Kluitjes Kraal, Fort Cunynghame and Concordia, and for the completion of the Port Elizabeth Drift Sands Reclamation Scheme.

This method is without doubt the more sound, as well as the more economic one. Under the system previously wholly followed, namely, that of planting under yearly provision, voted on the Estimates, no continuity of work at any one plantation is guaranteed, for the funds so provided are liable to expansion or reduction as the financial barometer of the country goes up or down, and consequently work carried out under these conditions is always more costly than if carried out under