

Increase of the Rabbit.

The rapid increase of the rabbit, owing to the favourable circumstances of climate, soil, and shelter, coupled with the absence of natural enemies inimical to its development, clothes the danger of its presence with a palpable significance, seeing that, where climatic influences are not as felicitous, the fecundity of the rabbit is the theme of naturalists.

Simultaneousness of Action.

Under these circumstances simultaneousness of action on the part of the Government, pastoral tenants, and freeholders would seem to become a necessity: the first, to insure a future benefit in increased rentals on the expiration of the present leases; the second, to enable them to secure the accumulations of past thrift, industry, and enterprise; the last, to hand down to posterity an improved and unimpaired estate.

VIII.—CONCLUSION.

On looking over this report, before transmission to your Honor, a fear has arisen that the facts we have adduced, and the inferences we have drawn from them, may be regarded as having been too darkly tinted; and yet, on recalling what we personally observed, the conversations which we have held, the accounts which we have been allowed to examine, and when we remember the agreement of converging statements respecting any particular point, we feel we should be doing our informants injustice did we not faithfully record what we have heard, and that we should be doing your Honor and ourselves an injustice did we not submit what we have ourselves seen, and what we believe. That the case is one which causes much anxiety is beyond all doubt; and we feel assured that if the public estate is to be rescued from serious depreciation, and private interests from calamities and losses, in no small measure the results of an outside visitation of at one time an apparently insignificant but now of an extremely serious character, this can only be obtained by the application of a remedy which shall be immediate, compulsory, and universal.

His Honor the Superintendent, Otago.

J. RICHARDSON.
WALTER H. PEARSON.

APPENDIX.

AREA OF RUNS, PROVINCE OF SOUTHLAND.

Run.	Gross Area.	Alienated.	Leasehold.	Run.	Gross Area.	Alienated.	Leasehold.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
112	46,250	19,303	26,947	191A	4,204	614	3,590
116	26,000	16,555	9,445	195A	26,980	13,150	13,830
119A	25,000	16,535	8,465	195B	16,000	8,381	7,619
119B	22,000	18,540	3,460	198	37,000	1,150	35,850
133	11,750	4,754	6,996	207	13,200	6,023	7,177
135	16,120	9,861	6,259	207A	6,500	250	6,250
135A	5,350	860	4,490	207B	10,950	10,120	830
142	2,900	403	2,497	208	26,180	...	26,180
143	24,000	4,838	19,162	214	29,000	8,804	20,196
143A	11,400	1,347	10,053	300B	7,800	1,250	6,550
143B	11,600	2,730	8,870	302	26,636	2,583	24,053
146	21,150	12,969	8,181	302A	6,720	98	6,622
148	56,185	34,330	21,855	302B	7,200	...	7,200
149	22,800	5,912	16,888	329	9,500	330	9,170
150B	12,800	6,963	5,837	352A	30,000	430	29,570
153	26,900	7,382	19,518	352B	10,000	...	10,000
154	23,500	6,677	16,823	394	22,500	690	21,810
154A	2,480	1,592	888	395	3,800	...	3,800
156A1	15,000	4,360	10,640	396	15,000	7,272	7,728
156A2	12,400	4,815	7,585	417	1,900	...	1,900
156B1	11,200	9,659	1,541	418	4,000	...	4,000
156B2	8,200	7,220	980	419	120	50	70
159	24,600	15,407	9,193				
165	19,000	8,750	10,250				
166A	25,200	2,419	22,781	Total ...	1,096,475	348,725	747,750
166B	10,000	2,260	7,740	415	44,640	...	...
173	40,000	820	39,180	397	27,360	...	...
176A	21,270	8,318	12,952		500,935	1,000	Stewart Island.
176B	17,280	...	17,280				
181	65,000	41,880	23,120		279,444		Bush on pastoral country unoccupied.
187	58,000	7,912	50,088				
188	39,500	10	39,490				
190	20,300	670	19,630				
190A	1,080	...	1,080		1,948,854		Total area of province out of Hundreds.
191	25,070	1,479	23,591				