

From Rabbit-Inspector MILLER, Palmerston, Otago.

(1.) Poisoned grain, shooting, dogging, trapping, and ferrets. (2.) None. (3.) Satisfactory progress. (4.) Five. (5.) £62 10s. (6.) Mining Reserve, Dunback, Sections 11, 12, 13, and 14, 262 acres; decided by Land Board to lease these for grazing purposes. Government Sections 11 and 14, Waihemo, 400 acres (agricultural); decided also to lease these for grazing purposes. Mount Royal Bush Reserve, about 200 acres. Goodwood Native Reserve, 215 acres. Country reserved for a hundred in Waikouaiti District, from Runs 171 and 171A, 7,500 acres. Sections 14 and 15, Block IV., Dunback, 400 acres. Total, 8,977 acres; and nearly all fit for grazing. (7.) None. (8.) 378lb. (9.) 522lb. (10.) None. (11.) Eleven. (12.) Eight. (13.) Three. (14.) None. (15.) Four. (16.) Ferrets have been used and turned out in some places and with fair results. *General Remarks.*—I have convened meetings of landowners in different parts of my district with the object of discussing the best means of dealing with the pest this season, and to arrange for simultaneous action in the matter. Most landowners appear willing and anxious to do their utmost this winter in the destruction of the pest.

From Rabbit Inspector JOHNSON, Dunedin.

(1.) Phosphorized grain, bisulphide of carbon, trapping, dogging, and shooting. (2.) Consider the Rabbit Act as it at present stands quite satisfactory. (3.) Satisfactory. (4.) Four. (5.) £357. (6.) Four (Hundreds); approximate area, 34,000 acres; all available for grazing purposes. (7.) (8.) None. (9.) 570lb. (10.) 6,514,884. (11.) Three. (12.) Three. (13.) (14.) None. (15.) Six. (16.) Ferrets have been turned out, but not in sufficient numbers to mark result. *General Remarks.*—The Act generally has worked well, and been marked with satisfactory results: rabbits have been considerably reduced throughout the whole Provincial District of Otago.

From Rabbit Inspector SHAW, Naseby.

(1.) Poisoning during the winter; dogging, shooting, trapping, and digging-out for the remainder of the year. (2.) None. (3.) Great progress has been made during the year to eradicate the pest, and the efforts have been successful. (4.) One. (5.) £12. (6.) Township reserves (Hyde). On other reserves the rabbits are being destroyed for grazing right. (7.) (8.) (9.) None. (10.) 457,000. (11.) (12.) (13.) (14.) None. (15.) One. (16.) Eighty-eight ferrets have been turned out on Linburn Station, but sufficient time has not yet elapsed to prove results. *General Remarks.*—All owners of land have willingly and energetically done their utmost to keep the rabbits under in Maniototo County, with the exception of one who held a grazing right on condition of destroying rabbits thereon, but, failing to do so satisfactorily, the said right has been cancelled.

From Rabbit Inspector BOURCHIER, Queenstown.

(1.) Phosphorized grain, trapping, ferrets, and in places shooting, together with the use of patent exterminators. (2.) One that I think would be the wisest would be to have a breeding establishment formed at Queenstown for ferrets. If something like this is not done, the whole Province of Canterbury will be inundated from this district in the course of a few years, the country at the head of the lakes being densely covered with forest, through which no persons can travel. Ferrets I think would work there to perfection. (3.) There has been a marked diminution of rabbits during period mentioned, but hardly so great as last year. Owing to the nature of the country and the mildness of the winter, rabbits on the high ground escaped, and restocked the low ground in the spring. (4.) Ten. (5.) £464 3s. 4d. (6.) Five hundred reserves; about 55,000 acres, not counting unoccupied runs; most of the reserves are from one to ten to fifty acres; and seven commonages. (7.) 232lb. (8.) 428lb. (9.) 40lb. (10.) Impossible to state from this district. (11.) Three. (12.) Three. (13.) None. (14.) Robertson and Co., McBride, Evans, O'Kane, Patterson, Coffee, Black, Trotter, Brown, Flint, Hallenstein, Gunn, Cameron, Hazel. (15.) Nine. (16.) So few have been released that it is impossible to say with what results. *General Remarks.*—This year there is far less Government land to deal with than last, as most of the Shotover runs were taken up at a reduced rental, but lately some more have been thrown up, viz., Nos. 5, 11, 12, 13, and 15. These, together with the old Run 438, and commonages, besides those portions of blocks taken out of runs for settlement, comprise the land to be operated upon in this district by the Government.

From Rabbit Inspector MILES, Clyde.

(1.) During winter months poisoned grain; rest of year dogging, shooting, and trapping. In some cases ferrets have been worked in hand, and on some stations ferrets have been turned loose; also drowning-out, digging-out, and in some instances, where suitable, patent exterminating machines have been used. (2.) That the weka, or Maori hen, be gazetted as a natural enemy, as, to my certain knowledge and personal observations, they help greatly to keep down the increase. No doubt many are caught in traps, so are ferrets; but I know that many rabbits kill them purposely, knowing them to be a great enemy to the rabbit. (3.) Very good; 443,819 more skins having been returned this year than last. The sheep have in most cases come in remarkably well, are in good condition and healthy, and the loss has not been so heavy this year as last; also a very good show of grass. (4.) 1st, two let, and expired during year; 2nd, five let, and unexpired—see answer to (6). (5.) 1st, amounted to £225 6s. 5d.; 2nd, amounted to about £722, more or less. (6.) Clyde Commonage and Mining Reserves adjoining, about 7,000 acres; Cromwell Commonage and Mining Reserves