

An expedition was sent to the Three Kings Islands for the purpose of exterminating the goats thereon. It is believed that the purpose of the expedition was successfully accomplished.

Although the figures of animals killed show a substantial increase over the figures of any previous year, this is mainly accounted for by the intensive goat-destruction campaigns which were carried out in Marlborough, Southland, and Hawke's Bay. The campaign carried out in the winter months of 1946 in Marlborough was conducted over the entire goat-infested area lying between and including the watersheds of the Wairau and Clarence Rivers. This area had a very high degree of infestation, but as a result of these operations the number of goats has been reduced by approximately 70 per cent. The operations carried out in the Southern Lakes and Hawke's Bay districts were conducted on similar lines. A total of 96,716 animal pests were destroyed during the financial year ended 31st March, 1947. A total of 7,058 deer-skins and 14,461 goat-skins were recovered.

(5) *Animal Pests destroyed*

The numbers of animals during the financial year ended 31st March, 1947, showing the zones of operations in which they were destroyed and the numbers of each species, are set forth in the following table :—

Area of Operations.	Deer.	Chamois.	Tahr.	Goats.	Pigs.	Wild Sheep.	Totals.
<i>North Island</i>							
Urewera country	784	..	..	..	102	..	886
Kaimanawa, Kaweka, and Ahimananawa Ranges	2,709	..	..	4,382	315	1	7,407
Ruahine Ranges	1,427	..	..	396	12	85	1,920
Tararua Ranges	924	..	..	161	1	..	1,086
Mount Egmont	..	..	..	1,107	..	..	1,107
Three Kings Islands	..	..	..	393	..	..	393
<i>South Island</i>							
Marlborough-Nelson	1,441	14	..	50,469	4,604	3,570	60,089
Southland and Otago	6,083	..	..	16,111	40	..	22,234
Mount Cook region	..	642	801	..	..	..	1,443
Stewart Island	151	..	..	..	..	..	151
Totals	13,519	656	801	73,010	5,074	3,656	96,716

Towards the end of the year a considerable fall occurred in prices being paid for deer-skins, and the indications were that a further fall was imminent. It is evident that any further decrease will result in some curtailment of operations by private commercial hunters. Departmental sales of 303 ammunition to private persons have now ceased. The number of deer-skins exported during the calendar year ended 31st December, 1946, was 97,057.

D. ROTORUA ACCLIMATIZATION DISTRICT

(1) *The Fishing Season*

Owing to the lengthy and continued dry weather conditions during the whole of the fishing season, most of the fish made their way into the deeper waters of all lakes, and this had a detrimental effect on fishing generally. Despite this factor, some very fine fishing was experienced by some anglers at varying intervals, and the condition of the fish taken was found to be very good. A very large number of anglers visited the district and there was an increase in the number of licences issued as compared with the previous season.

Some excellently conditioned fish were taken, as shown by the following recorded weights :—

Rotorua Area.—10 lb. (8 fish); 11½ lb. (7 fish); 13 lb. (2 fish); 15 lb. (2 fish); 16½ lb. (2 fish).

Taupo Area.—10 lb. (3 fish); 11 lb. (5 fish); 12 lb. (3 fish); 14 lb. (2 fish).