

acceptable to the Department. Later on the Tokaanu staff caused considerable trouble. On one occasion the launch was set on fire; on another the launch was lost for some hours, it having been blown from anchorage; and lastly the large hauling-net was lost overboard. Later the staff were dispensed with, the depot closed down, and the operations for the remainder of the season confined to the Taupo end of the lake.

For the convenience of tourists and others arrangements were again made whereby tourists could get their catches cured at a cost of 10s. per dozen fish.

The work of bringing about a general improvement of the fisheries in such a vast extent of water as Lake Taupo must necessarily vary, as each season's work is governed by the weather conditions. The work carried on in Lake Rotorua was made practically easy, as in such a lake weather conditions do not cause many delays, and the lake-bottom afforded good grounds for netting purposes. To bring the fish back to their present fine condition in Lake Rotorua the work had to be systematically carried on for three years, so that it is expected the work at Lake Taupo will take a much longer period. At present the work is carried out with two launches, each with a staff of three men. They leave for the fishing-grounds each day about 2 p.m. and return next morning between 4 and 10 a.m., on occasions the launch during the time having run some thirty miles. Along all the shore of the lake there are only a few good places where the net can be safely used, as large beds of submerged rocks and trees are found at the mouth of nearly every river. At such places only the set nets can be used, and, as they require to remain set some hours before lifting, there is always the danger of the lake becoming so rough that the nets have to be left until such time as the weather again moderates.

The particulars of the work done at the two depots, Rotorua and Tokaanu, are as follows:—

<i>Rotorua Depot.</i>					Number.	Weight. lb.
Lake Rotoiti—						
Fresh trout	...	...	...	...	2,494	6,782
Lake Taupo—						
Fresh trout	...	...	...	...	3,426	12,433½
Smoked trout	...	...	...	...	340	751
Season total	...	...	...	...	6,260	19,966½

Number of fish rejected, 740; total number caught, 7,000. Total weight of fish caught from Rotoiti, 3 tons 11 cwt. 3 qr. 22 lb.; total weight caught at Taupo end, 7 tons 14 cwt. 0 qr. 8 lb.

<i>Tokaanu Depot.</i>					Number.	Weight. lb.
Fresh trout	...	...	...	...	5,046	17,446½
Smoked trout	...	...	...	...	2,681	6,490
Season total	...	...	...	...	7,727	23,936½

Number of fish rejected, 780; total number caught, 8,507. Total weight of Tokaanu fish caught, 15 tons 3 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. In all 11,493 fish were taken from Lake Taupo, weighing 22 tons 17 cwt. 3 qr. 16 lb.

During the year 1st June, 1919, to 31st May, 1920, 1,117 shags' heads were purchased, at a cost of £139 12s. 6d.

HATCHERY OPERATIONS.

The ova-collecting season started on the 5th June, 1919, and a daily collection of ova was made up to the 15th August last, a total of 2,245,000 ova being collected.

As usual, free contributions of ova were made to the North of Auckland rivers, and a large consignment of rainbow-trout fry was also liberated in the rivers of the Tongariro National Park. Large consignments of ova were disposed of at Gisborne, Napier, Wellington, Sydney, and Auckland. The total number of rainbow ova disposed of was 1,475,000; the total number of rainbow fry, 578,000; total, 2,053,000.

F. MOORHOUSE,
Conservator of Fish and Game.

The Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington.

IX. REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF TOTALIZATORS.

Wellington, 13th October, 1920.

I have the honour to submit my second report on the inspection of totalizators for the racing year which ended on the 31st July last.

The number of days on which the totalizator was used during the year was 284, made up as follows: Racing clubs, 216 days; hunt clubs, 8 days; trotting clubs, 60 days: total, 284 days. This number is forty-eight days more than last year, when the number of days was curtailed owing to the war, and is three days in excess of the number allowed by statute—namely, 281. The three extra permits were used as follows: One for the special trotting meeting held in Christchurch on the 6th September, 1919, on the occasion of the visit of Admiral Lord Jellicoe; and two special race meetings, of six races each, held in Auckland and Christchurch in April and May respectively, on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The three extra permits will require to be validated by legislation.

Although the trotting clubs held only sixty days' trotting, there were ninety-nine trotting races included last year in racing-club programmes, equal to over twelve full days' trotting.