

any one station amounted to five thousand, and there are five runs on which severally from two up to five thousand were destroyed during the same period; these numbers are quite sufficient to warrant the utmost vigilance being exercised. A colony of rabbits was also discovered towards the head-waters of the Rangatata upon unoccupied Crown lands; where these originally sprang from is not certain, but immediate steps have been taken to have this ground thoroughly poisoned; and all along this line of country a constant supervision should be carried out, so that the pest can be grappled with at once should it appear.

Returns attached show the Government expenditure for year and other tabulated matter connected with working of the department.

BENJN. B. BAYLY,
Superintendent Inspector.

STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE, &c.

District.	Number of Tenders accepted.	Amounting to	Quantity of Phosphorus used in District.	Quantity used for Crown Lands.	Quantity sold.	Quantity on hand on 31st March last.	Total Number of Skins exported from the Colony.	Value.	Estimated Area of Crown Lands to be dealt with this Year.
		£	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.		£	Acres.
Napier ...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...
Masterton (Wellington) ...	20	209 9 0	479	79	400	88	706,894	7,901	30,000
Nelson ...	1	37 0 0	55	20	35	15	...	...	...
Blenheim ...	...	...	310	...	310	40	...	...	...
Kaikoura ...	...	...	275	150	125	70	...	...	4,000
Timaru ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lyttelton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,745,954	16,491	...
Oamaru ...	1	45 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Palmerston ...	5	62 10 0	378	...	378	522	...	...	8,977
Dunedin ...	4	357 0 0	...	...	...	560	...	...	34,000
Naseby ...	1	12 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clyde ...	7	947 6 5	640	...	640	820	6,514,884	67,055	...
Tuapeka ...	11	349 10 0	490	25	465	460	...	...	...
Balclutha ...	2	89 0 0	412	72	340	288	...	...	123,101
Queenstown ...	10	464 3 4	660	232	428	40	...	...	55,000
Invercargill ...	15	715 0 0	400	90	310	400	924,609	9,230	...
Southland ...	14	598 6 9	780	234	556	1,050	...	...	159,780
Totals ...	91	3,886 5 6	4,879	902	3,987	4,373	9,892,341	100,677	414,858

GENERAL REMARKS.—Payments to agents, labour, material purchased, and other contingencies not included in this expenditure. It is impossible to give the number of skins from each district; but the total export for the whole colony from the 1st April, 1883, to the 31st March, 1884, is shown herein, as exported from the different ports.

APPENDIX.

SIR,— Colonial Secretary's Office (Stock Branch), Wellington, 4th April, 1884.

I have to request that you will be good enough to furnish replies to the following questions with as little delay as possible. The period to which these questions refer is between the 1st April, 1883, and the 31st March, 1884.

I have, &c.,

B. P. BAYLY,
Superintending Inspector.

Rabbit Inspector,

- (1.) What means have been adopted for destroying rabbits?
- (2.) Have you any recommendations to make?
- (3.) What progress has there been made?
- (4.) How many tenders have been accepted?
- (5.) What did the whole of them amount to?
- (6.) Number and description of reserves you will require to deal with, and the approximate area of such available for grazing purposes?
- (7.) What quantity of phosphorus was used for Government purposes?
- (8.) What quantity was sold to private individuals?
- (9.) What was the quantity on hand on the 31st March last?
- (10.) Number of skins exported?
- (11.) Number of prosecutions?
- (12.) Number of convictions?
- (13.) Number of dismissals?
- (14.) Names of owners of properties dealt with under section 11?
- (15.) Number of ferret-breeders?
- (16.) Have any ferrets been turned out, and, if so, with what results?