

We were pleased to find that in most cases the gates were of iron, well constructed and well hung; but it would be desirable to substitute iron gates for the few wooden gates that now exist, so as to better insure the fence.

The floodgates as a rule are good, but where constructed of wood they should in every case be backed with wire netting.

It is satisfactory to note that the Board under its regulations insists upon careful maintenance by the caretakers, and provides regular inspection by the Board's Inspector, Mr. Lance. We trust, however, that the advantages to be gained by periodical inspection of the whole of the fence by members of the Board will not be lost sight of. In this way the Board will be always able to judge for itself of the satisfactory condition of the fence, and so be thoroughly independent of outside rumour.

We have thought it our duty to draw attention to the few points on which the fence was deficient, but we are happy to be able to report that we believe the fence to be carrying out the work for which it was erected, so long as it is carefully maintained and improved in such manner as experience proves necessary.

So far as we were able to see, very few rabbits or scratchings were to be found on either side of the fence; still we are glad to learn that, as a further precaution, a second line of fence is to be erected from the Upper Waiau Bridge up the south side of the Waiau, as undoubtedly some few rabbits exist on the high country south of the present Clarence line and the River Waiau.

It is also a matter of encouragement to the Board to observe that their work is being materially assisted by the erection of so many private rabbit-proof fences adjacent to the Board's fence.

In conclusion, we desire to record our thanks to the Board and to their Inspector for the kindness shown in assisting us towards the performance of our duties.

We have, &c.,

THOS. DUNCAN, M.H.R.,	} Rabbit-fence Commissioners.
J. S. RUTHERFORD,	
W. C. WALKER,	
J. T. SHAW,	

The Hon. J. McKenzie,  
Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Wellington.

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