

## B. DEER, THAR, CHAMOIS, AND GOAT DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS, YEAR 1939-40.

(1) *Numerical Results and Geographical Analysis for Financial Year, 1st April, 1939, to 31st March, 1940.*

During the financial year a total of 45,051 of the above animals were destroyed, the distribution being shown below. Deer-skins numbering 15,282 were recovered.

—	Deer.	Thar.	Chamois.	Goats.	Pigs.	Cattle.	Total.
Urewera - Lake Waikaremoana ..	841	..	..	..	44	7	892
Kaimanawa, Kaweka, and ranges ..	5,700	..	..	..	..	..	5,700
Ruahine Range .. ..	1,201	..	..	..	..	..	1,201
Eastern Wairarapa .. ..	816	..	..	1,397	..	..	2,213
Tararua Range .. ..	1,021	..	..	203	23	..	1,247
North Nelson (north of Buller River) ..	3,454	..	..	423	27	..	3,904
South Nelson-North Westland (Buller to Wataroa Rivers)	7,778	..	124	226	14	..	8,142
Marlborough-North Canterbury (Wairau to Rangitata Rivers)	13,035	10	452	770	12	..	14,279
South Westland-Otago-South Canterbury	6,701	53	316	..	..	..	7,070
Stewart Island .. ..	399	..	..	..	4	..	403
Totals .. ..	40,946	63	892	3,019	124	7	45,051

(2) *Numerical Results and Geographical Analysis for Season 1st June, 1938, to 31st May, 1939.*

These months comprise last year's natural shooting season. During this season a total of 38,354 animals were destroyed, as follows :—

—	Deer.	Thar.	Chamois.	Goats.	Pigs.	Total.	Skins.
Urewera - Lake Waikaremoana ..	1,976	..	..	..	85	2,061	1,283
Central North Island (Kaimanawa, Kaweka, and ranges)	171	..	..	5	..	176	65
Ruahine Range .. ..	4,947	..	..	..	..	4,947	2,207
Tararua Range .. ..	2,538	..	..	769	58	3,365	568
Southland (Fiordland National Park) ..	81	..	..	..	..	81	58
Central South Island, South Westland, South Canterbury, and Otago	23,781	959	1,813	815	..	27,368	7,882
Stewart Island .. ..	345	..	..	..	2	356	..
Totals .. ..	33,848	959	1,813	1,589	145	38,354	12,063

The remainder of this report refers to the financial year ended 31st March, 1940.

(3) *Sphere of Operations, Tactics employed, and General Progress.*

The outbreak of war and other factors resulting in a shortage of supervising staff necessitated a postponement of the full application of the principle, as outlined in last year's report, of allocating officers permanently to certain areas, with the result that this system has been applied only to the Urewera-Lake Waikaremoana and Stewart Island areas, while in the cases of the Tararua Range and the Fiordland National Park its inception was postponed for one year.

(a) *Urewera-Lake Waikaremoana Area.*—The operations of the permanent organization established in this area were continued, though subjected to some reduction as the result of its being found necessary to make use of the services of the resident officer in a South Island area for a portion of the year.

It is considered, however, that the progress so far made was maintained.

(b) *Tongariro National Park, Kaimanawa, Kaweka, and Ahimanawa Mountains Area.*—A thorough scouring of the National Park by two energetic and highly skilled officers revealed the fact that deer are comparatively scarce there, and the belief is confidently held that intensive operations in the adjacent Kaimanawa Mountains, where deer are comparatively numerous, will automatically bring about the desired result with regard to deer infestation in the National Park, which is not country that they would inhabit from preference.

Large-scale operations by an average of twenty men were conducted throughout the season (November to May) in the whole of the group of mountains comprising the central watershed of the Island (the Kaimanawa, Kaweka, and Ahimanawa Ranges) starting at seven different points along the outside of the one-hundred-mile-sided equilateral triangle and working progressively towards the cluster of peaks and high ridges at its centre.

It was found that the operations in this area of two seasons ago have had a marked effect, and further outstanding reductions have been achieved.

It can now be confidently anticipated that a continuation for a time at least of the present policy of conducting intensive operations biennially will result in ultimate success in this area.

(c) *Ruahine Range and Tararua Range Areas.*—These results refer merely to the portions of the operations in the areas which were conducted after 31st March, 1939, and were dealt with in last year's report.