

*Acclimatization.*

*Deer.*—During the season twenty-one licenses at a fee of £3 each were issued to shoot red-deer stags, and each licensee was allowed two heads of not less than ten points each. A total of thirty-four heads was secured, ranging from ten to fourteen points.

The red-deer herds at Mahia Peninsula and Lake Waikaremoana are now increasing, and the addition of new blood in past seasons should benefit both herds. A separate license was issued for each of these herds and several fair heads were shot, the bush stags from the Waikaremoana Forest having good heavy antlers. Some very fine stags are reported as having been seen in this locality, but they are mostly in the heavy bush country, rather than near the lake.

One fine full-grown hind was presented to the Department by Mr. Shrimpton, of Hastings, and one fallow buck was presented to the Department by the Wellington Zoo in exchange for a stag of the same species given to the Zoo by this Department.

Eight Sambar deer were captured by the Ranger in the Himatangi district, and were brought to Rotorua for liberation with the existing herds of the same species.

*Feathered Game.*—Twenty-eight young pheasants were reared by the Ranger, 132 were purchased from the Auckland Game Farm at Cambridge, and eight from the North Canterbury Acclimatization Society. All of these (total 168) were liberated in various parts of the Rotorua Acclimatization District.

*Fishing.*

*Distribution of Trout-fry.*—During the past season 165,000 rainbow-trout fry were liberated in the following waters of the Rotorua district: Okataina Lake, 16,000; Okareka Lake, 2,000; Rotoma Lake, 20,000; Okara Lake, 4,000; Whakatane River, 50,000; Whirinaki River, 6,000; Tahanatara River, 15,000; Tikitapu Lake, 2,000; Rotokakahi Lake, 2,000; Ngahewa Lake, 4,000; Rerewhakaitea Lake, 2,000; Waikato River, 10,000; Mokai Stream, 6,000; Rangitaiki River, 26,000.

The fish in Lake Okataina are in very good condition, and in compliance with numerous requests a small launch has been put in this lake, where it is now available for hire by fishing-parties.

*Waikaremoana Hatchery.*—This hatchery was enlarged, and an outfit of ten new hatching-boxes was added to the plant. These were fitted with the necessary wire screens for baskets and trays to facilitate the stripping and hatching of the requisite amount of ova and fry required to stock up the lakes and rivers in the Wairoa (Hawke's Bay) County. The whole of the work of renovating the hatchery and stripping was carried out by the Ranger.

The following quantities of ova were received and hatched and liberated in this district: 50,000 brown-trout ova from Marine Department Hatchery, Hakataramea; 60,000 brown-trout ova stripped from Lake Waikaremoana trout; 250,000 rainbow-trout ova from Rotorua hatchery; 205,000 rainbow-trout ova stripped from Lake Waikaremoana trout: total ova laid down in hatchery boxes, 565,000.

In the liberation valuable assistance was given to the Ranger by Messrs. George Ormond and A. Hall, the president and the secretary respectively of the Wairoa Rod and Gun Club.

*Electrical.*

During the year thirty-six new consumers were added, and 512,163 units of energy were generated at the power-house. The usual maintenance work was carried out, and the only noteworthy fact in connection with this branch of the work is that we have now reached a stage when the machines at Okere cannot fully meet the public demand for energy. The fact has been recognized by the Government, and arrangements are now under way for the erection of a new power-house on the site farther down the river, where greater water-power will be available. Certain formalities are necessary in the taking of the Native land for site and roadways, and these will take time.

*Water and Drainage.*

During the year eighteen new consumers have been connected with the water-mains, and eleven drainage connections have been made. The wooden water-mains still continue to give us considerable trouble with leaks, the total number during the year averaging eleven per working-day. It is satisfactory, however, to be able to record that the work of replacing these wooden mains with iron ones is now definitely in progress, and during the year a total of about 58,000 ft. of 6 in. mains has been laid in various streets. The work has been very much delayed by the disorganization of shipping through strikes in Australia, but matters in that respect have considerably improved, and long-delayed shipments of pipes are now coming to hand.

*Work for other Departments.*

A considerable amount of work (running into several thousand pounds in value) has been carried out by the works staff of this Department for the Defence and Public Health Departments, principally the former. The work was mostly in connection with the Military Hospital on Pukeroa, and comprised plumbing, installation of pumps and pipe-line for supply of hot mineral water for massage treatment and baths, electrical installations, water-supply, drainage, and concrete-work in connection with baths. This enables these Departments to dispense with the necessity for keeping a mechanical staff in Rotorua to carry out these works.

*Bath Building and Balneological Work.*

During the year Dr. A. S. Herbert, who was for so many years in charge of this branch of the Department's activities, found it necessary for private reasons to return to England, and the Department was reluctantly obliged to part with the services of this most courteous and capable officer. Arrangements have, however, been made with Dr. Herbert to act in an advisory capacity in England, so that New Zealand will not be altogether deprived of his services. The vacancy was filled by the appointment of Dr. J. D. C. Duncan, formerly in charge of Hammer Springs (but who was absent for four or five years serving with the military forces at the front).