

ANALYSIS OF ALL REPORTED FOREST-FIRES ON AND CONTIGUOUS TO STATE FORESTS.

Forest-conservation Region.	Forest-fires : Number, Character, and Area.										Money Value of Forest-wealth destroyed.					
	Number detected.		Timber Land burned. (Acres.)		Cut-over Land burned. (Acres.)		Scrub Land burned. (Acres.)		Total Area burned over. (Acres.)		Merchantable Timber.		Valuable Regrowth.		Total Value.	
	S.F.	Priv.	S.F.	Priv.	S.F.	Priv.	S.F.	Priv.	S.F.	Priv.	S.F. £	Priv. £	S.F. £	Priv. £	S.F. £	Priv. £
Auckland ..	4	..	..	1,530	34	1,170	5	3,127	39	5,827	..	1,019	..	..	..	1,013
Rotorua ..	1	2	3.5	327	..	3,296	35.5	7,273	39	10,896	7½	537½	..	25	7½	562½
Wellington	2	6	5	..	66	13,670	460	16,313	531	29,983	10	600	62½	463½	72½	1,063½
Nelson-Marlborough	5	11	1.5	792	..	4,560	248.5	7,190	250.2	12,540	1½	258	1	..	2½	258
Westland ..	5	..	..	..	114	25	..	..	114	25	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury-Otago	4	3	20	100	..	..	150	..	170.5	137*	20	100	..	..	20	100
Southland	4	2	15	30	160	866	..	..	175	896	170	900	..	..	170	900
Totals	25	24	45	2,779	374	23,587	899	33,903	1,318	60,304	209½	3,408½	63½	488½	272½	3,897

Forest-conservation Region.	Cost of Protection, Prevention, Detection, and Control of State Forests.						Origin of Forest-fires.															
	Fire Patrol Force. (No. of Men.)		Wages Cost.		Fire Equipment Cost.		Locomotion Cost.		Total Cost.		Sawmilling Operators.		Travellers, Trappers, Sportsmen.		Land-clearing Operators.		Unknown Agencies.					
Auckland	7	Period of Employment: November to March.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	S.F.	Priv.	S.F.	Priv.	S.F.	Priv.	S.F.	Priv.			
Rotorua ..	13		744	19	1	..	..	81	0	0	825	19	1	3	..	..	..	93	3	12		
Wellington	4		1,308	9	7	101	9	2	77	0	6	1,460	13	4†	..	2	..	44	1	128		
Nelson-Marlborough	8		154	9	8	..	..	..	59	1	8	213	11	4	1	8	..	2	5	145	1	4
Westland ..	4		187	15	5	..	..	..	103	10	2	291	5	7	..	..	1	..	2	141	2	10
Canterbury-Otago	13		81	13	8	..	..	29	2	9	110	16	5	..	..	1	..	..	2	4	..	
Southland ..	1		493	19	7	..	..	16	6	6	510	6	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	1	
Totals	50	..	84	7	8	..	..	30	14	7	115	2	3	4	..	..	..	3	18	..	2	
Totals	50	..	3,055	14	8	101	9	2	396	16	2	3,528	17	5	6	13	2	3	11	443	14	157

\* The numbers include all fires reported whether in State forest or not. † Includes £75 3s. 3d. for labour.

OFFENCES UNDER THE FORESTS ACT AND REGULATIONS.

Four prosecutions against offenders were instituted during the year and convictions secured in each case. One conviction was for a small timber trespass, two for illicit kauri-gum digging, and one for lighting a fire without a permit in a forest-fire district.

WILD PIGS AND GOATS.

The Departments of Lands, Agriculture, and the Forest Service joined financial forces last year to make a beginning at reducing the number of wild pigs in the Whangamomona County (Taranaki Province). As a result of this contribution the Service undertook the operation of the campaign, and through the payment of 1s. per snout to the local settlers 4,781 pigs were destroyed. It is recognized that this assistance is helpful in assisting the farmers of the region to deal with this pest, and it is proposed to considerably extend the grant in order to deal with other badly infested areas. In other forest areas—e.g., in the Orongorongo—goats have become well established and are doing definite and serious damage to the vegetation of this attractive recreational and protection forest. With a view to decimating this vermin permits to carry firearms in the forest were granted for this reserve, and it is hoped that by this means the number of goats in this popular Wellington rendezvous will be appreciably lessened.

DEER.

Subsequent to the conference of representatives of Government Departments and acclimatization societies, held in Wellington on the 11th April, 1923, to consider the question of deer-control, district officers of the Departments of Agriculture and Lands were interviewed, and with their assistance areas in which it was considered deer were too numerous were demarcated. Maps showing these areas were then prepared, and where possible the acclimatization societies concerned were interviewed, and the proposal to remove protection from the demarcated areas was fully discussed. Subsequently the data were forwarded to the Department of Internal Affairs for action, and in every case protection was removed from the areas recommended. Aggregated, these areas total some 11,250 square miles. Following the recommendation of the Department of Internal Affairs, a subsidy of £1,000, to be paid as a bonus on deer destroyed, was voted by Cabinet and distributed among acclimatization districts on a *pro rata* basis, according to the number of deer estimated by the Forest Service to be in each district. The effect which the removal of protection and payment of a bonus will have in reducing the deer is as yet too early to state in figures, but the general opinion among landholders in the districts recently visited is that the depredations will be greatly alleviated and much good will result.