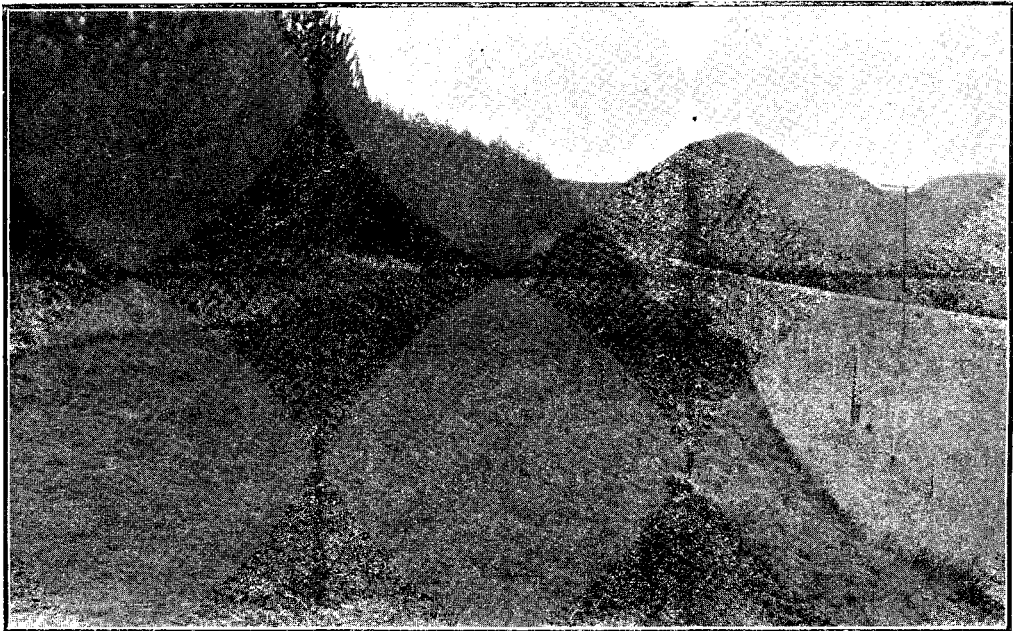


ANALYSIS OF ALL REPORTED FOREST-FIRES IN STATE FORESTS—continued.

Forest-conservation Region.	Cost of Protection, Prevention, Detection, and Control of State Forests.					Origin of Forest-fires.			
	Fire-patrol Force. (Number of Men.)	Wages Cost.	Fire-equipment Cost.	Locomotion Cost.	Total Cost.	Sawmilling Operators.	Travellers, Trappers, Sportsmen.	Land-clearing Operators.	Unknown Agencies.
Auckland	9	£ 742 0 0	£	£ 48 0 0	£ 790 0 0	..	..	2	2
Rotorua ..	9	726 11 6	.. ..	24 13 6	751 5 0	..	..	..	..
Wellington	2	129 8 9	0 1 3	29 12 4	159 2 4	..	..	1	2
Nelson-Marlborough	2	256 15 8	32 0 0	29 15 10	318 11 6	..	..	1	1
Westland ..	5	62 0 0	.. ..	.. ..	62 0 0	..	..	..	..
Canterbury-Otago	17	641 7 9	.. ..	56 19 0	698 6 9	..	..	..	1
Southland ..	4	146 3 6	.. ..	44 18 2	191 1 8	..	..	..	3
Totals	46	2,704 7 2	32 1 3	233 18 10	2,970 7 3	..	..	4	9



FIRE PROTECTION : EFFICIENT FIRE-BREAK. ROTORUA PLANTATION.

5. FOREST WILD LIFE.

Deer.

All conservation regions report an increase in these vermin, and this Service again places on record its opinion that protection on all species of deer (except moose and wapiti) should be removed for a period of at least three years, and that payment of a bounty on killed deer should be continued during that time.

Protection has been removed from this pest on the State plantations throughout New Zealand, and during the latter part of the period under review the Service inaugurated a campaign for the destruction of deer on these areas. This included the payment of a bounty of 2s. per tail on all deer killed in plantations, the carrying-out of poisoning experiments, and the establishment of salt-licks for the purpose of attracting deer to places where they might be easily shot.

Forest Service officers acting as receivers of deer-tails for the payment of bounty report the collection of 2,946 tails, of which 2,001 tails were received at Tapanui from the vicinity of the Blue Mountains, Otago.

Opossums.

The returns for the 1926 opossum-trapping season disclose an increase in both the number of trappers' licenses issued and the number of skins upon which royalty was paid. The share of license fees, royalties, &c., credited to the State Forests Account was £4,679 13s., an increase of £605 17s. 11d. over that of the previous year.

Year.				Number of Permits issued.	Number of Skins taken.
1922	..	..	..	381	54,357
1923	..	..	..	679	109,905
1924	..	..	..	462	95,639
1925	..	..	..	720	145,778
1926	..	..	..	1,051	157,480