

## CONSERVATION OF RESERVES AND SANCTUARIES.

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With reference to this matter, it is presumably unnecessary to state how our reserves and sanctuaries are controlled, and the many departments with ever-changing Ministers and bodies which participate in this control, a system which can only lead in the end to nowhere, and, what is worse, to great confusion.

Departments are often placed in unenviable positions owing to this diversified control; one body will frequently be working in opposition to others, needless expense is incurred, any expert knowledge available is diffused and wasted, and Ministers are pestered with the representations of various interests, each seeking to use these reserves for their own ends instead of nationally.

Now, how can all this be obviated? Might not a board of gentlemen, with a New Zealand national spirit, be set up under a Department, but elected mainly by scenery and bird preservation organisations, to supervise the care of all reserves, etc.? To give good results this Board would have to be a small one of not more than five members (large Boards are expensive and cumbersome). The members of this Board would consist of gentlemen skilled in forest and bird life, in conservation, and certainly of one member at least expert in organisation and business methods. (Scientists invariably fail in this matter, as they are not trained in business.) Now, the first essential is to get the public on the right side, and this can be done by issuing interesting literature on forest and bird life and such like. Tell them it is theirs to care for and cherish, also that these truly wonderful possessions of the people are unique, and detail after detail of intense interest could be given. For this purpose we might adopt the method of having just a small combined publicity and research Department under the Board of Control. The research man or men settle the knotty questions in a scientific manner as to whether any plant, bird, or animal should be transferred, introduced, or exterminated, and thus save thousands or maybe millions of pounds loss to the country, as witness the rabbit and many other pests introduced into the Dominion. Next, two field inspectors would be required, one for the North and one for the South Island; under these, curators on reserves worth the expense. Small reserves could be left to the honorary care of some local enthusiasts with rangers' powers. Gaudy enamelled plates should be placed at all likely places of access on all reserves.