

been told to us time and time again by experts in forestry and botany of world-wide repute; we look apathetically on while deer and the like do their fell work. Verily we are a peculiar people.

Apart altogether from their incalculable commercial value, our forests are or should be the proud heritage of every New Zealander because out of 283 kinds of trees and shrubs which go to form the whole, not more than 10 kinds are found wild in any other country. We are told that they are really tropical forests growing in a temperate region and on them depends the character of our world famous scenery, therefore if we destroy these inestimable forests or allow deer to do so then the hope of New Zealand becoming a great tourist resort is gone for ever. Gone too would be our delightful bird life. Yet the authorities permit deer and many other plant-eating animals to be preserved and fostered in our forests.

Nay, even the very Department which connives in the preservation of animals for sporting purposes in our forests spends large sums of money annually in an endeavour to attract tourists to see the forest scenery which, by the time visitors reach our shores in sufficient numbers to reimburse us the money spent, will have disappeared or at least be further greatly marred.

Let us look at the matter square in the face. On the one hand we have the Department of Internal Affairs heading the attempt to foster animals suitable for sport and at the same time the Forest Service is doing what little it can but very ineffectually, owing to lack of funds, to mitigate the menace. The revenue in part, however, from our forests, which could be devoted to lessening the evil these trespassing animals do is taken from the Forest Service by the Department of Internal Affairs and handed in part to Acclimatisation Societies, which by the way already annually filch revenue from State Forests by way of issuing opossum trappers licenses to work in them and which also receive revenue from deer and foster them while the salaries to pay the officers in each Department thus working at cross purposes all come out of the public purse. The matter is nothing new but has been going on for years. Surely the time is long overdue when common sense should be brought to bear on this matter and the warnings of forest and horticultural experts heeded.

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"If it were not for birds no human being could live upon the earth, for the insects upon which birds live would destroy all vegetation."—MICHELET.