

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Society has in the past twelve months continued to progress in a very satisfactory manner as heretofore and actively pushed innumerable matters in the interests of our birds and forests. Amongst these may be mentioned the kea question, and our efforts, assisted by other organisations, resulted in the bounty being reduced from 5/- to 2/6. It was emphasised that any harm these birds do should be controlled at the expense of the land-owner, many of whom hold large areas at peppercorn rentals, and not at the expense of the taxpayer.

More money per annum was being spent on the destruction of these birds, many of which had never seen a sheep in their lives, than was being spent in checking that major menace to the homes of our forest inhabiting birds, to wit, plant-eating animals in our forests.

The Society has also been exceedingly active in this latter major menace, and the Conference held on the 7th May last in Christchurch was the culminating point for the time being of our efforts. It is pleasing to note that the public have at last been awakened to the gravity of this menace to our national prosperity, and that active steps are proposed to combat the evil if possible. Our Society can be relied upon to inform the public if any relaxation occurs in the present good intentions.

A branch of the Society has been formed in Otago with headquarters in Dunedin, and it is felt that their endeavours will materially assist the efforts of the Society as a whole in our great national work as many members in this district have shown great activity and given invaluable assistance in the past year.

A branch will also be formed in Southland, with headquarters at Invercargill, in a few days. Mr. J. B. Thomson, one of our energetic vice-presidents, is active in this matter.

Our financial side shows a credit of £416 18s. 4d. on the 31st December last, but all this and more will be absorbed by expenses in producing bird charts for our schools, posters in reference to the animals in our forests question, etc. The finding of an artist capable of producing paintings accurate in ornithological detail has proved an obstacle to progress in reference to the bird charts, but your Executive think that this has now been overcome.

The demise of our late President, the Hon. Sir Thomas Mackenzie, has been very unfortunate. It was at his suggestion in 1922 that this Society was formed, and during all his lifetime,