

NEW ZEALAND FOR DEER OR MANKIND?

The Vital Factor of Forests.

Recently several New Zealand newspapers published an article with the following impressive headings: "Menace of Deer—Huge Herds Seen—Forest Suffers Severely—Extermination of Pest Urged." The district concerned was around the headwaters of the Hopkins River, at the back of Lake Ohau, Canterbury. Statements of the havoc wrought by deer in that region were given by Messrs. R. H. Booth (New Zealand Alpine Club), H. McD. Vincent and D. Minson (Canterbury Mountaineering Club).

On one flat of about ten acres they saw more than fifty deer. On the return journey they counted 182 deer along a ten-mile stretch of river-flats. They said that in one locality "they could have mown down a hundred or so with a machine-gun without any stalking."

"The ravages of the deer were only too obvious," the report continues. "The beech forests were riddled with miles of deer tracks. There was no new seedling growth. The bush was in a state of absolute degeneration. Tracks traversed every bluff above the bush level. For some time the climbers were puzzled by great patches of turf torn from the earth on the steep slopes until they discovered that they had been uprooted by stags attempting to rid themselves of their season's antlers. Those turf-denuded patches were the obvious cause of slips. At the Waitaki Power Station concern was expressed at the degeneration of the beech forests because of the effect on the Waitaki



THE COUGAR, a fierce natural enemy, helps importantly to control deer in North American Forests.