

## MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND SANCTUARIES.

### Nature's Balance Must be Kept.

It is well known that some disastrous blunders have been made in the importation of certain creatures into New Zealand; but it is not so well known that mischief can be done by the transfer of native birds from one part of the Dominion to another.

This subject is treated very impressively by Mr. Joseph Grinnell, of Berkeley University, California, in an article, "Natural Balance for Wild Life in National Parks and Its Maintenance," in the January issue of the "Journal of the Society for the Preservation of Fauna of the Empire." A perusal of this article shows that the writer's reasoning supports the policy of the Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand with regard to the transferring of native birds to sanctuaries and other reservations where they have never been known to exist. It is perhaps, however, only natural that those with a limited knowledge of wild birds as wild birds should in their zeal to save some apparently threatened species or for other reasons seek to apply methods to wild birds which are more applicable to the domestic fowl.

Here are some very important passages of Dr. Grinnell's article:—

The functions of the National Park Service have been stated in ideally concise wording by Director Mather, quoted by Mr. Albright, as follows: "To preserve National Park areas in as nearly as possible their natural condition and at the same time to make them accessible to the people for study, for recreation, and for play."

It is implied clearly, I think, in this statement that *all* of the natural features included within said areas, animate as well as inanimate, animal as well as vegetable, are equally to be conserved. Granting therefore that animal life within the borders of National Parks is valuable in stimulating the human senses of far-seeing and far-hearing, in furnishing objectives requiring recreational exercise of both mind and body to bring them within ken, in furnishing an aesthetic appeal of a high type and an intellectual motif of infinite resource, then how can this asset best be treated from an administrative standpoint?

The present writer's experience, over a period of years, has brought some degree of familiarity with the animal life and the conditions bearing upon it in certain parts of the Pacific district. The accumulation of detailed facts and reflections making up