

THE WAR ON DEER.

Adventures of Hunters.

(By "One of Them.")

The most adventurous calling in New Zealand to-day probably is that of the select band of fewer than one hundred deer hunters who for six months of every year strive in the wildest and remotest regions. Winter forces even these hardy men to give up the chase. They are engaged then in repairing their equipment, discussing market prices for the skins they were able to save and telling tales of new discoveries by mountains, forests and streams—tales of marksmanship and the thudding of deer feet flying from death.

Early settlers aimed to Anglicise this land of lonely beauty by introducing red deer in various areas from the 'seventies onwards. In increasing numbers the deer spread out and penetrated the remotest country. They return to the margins of farms periodically, but shooting there has driven them to the wilds, and hundreds of thousands are killing vegetation of all kinds. In the past five years 120,000 deer have been killed.



On the trail of Deer in South Westland.