

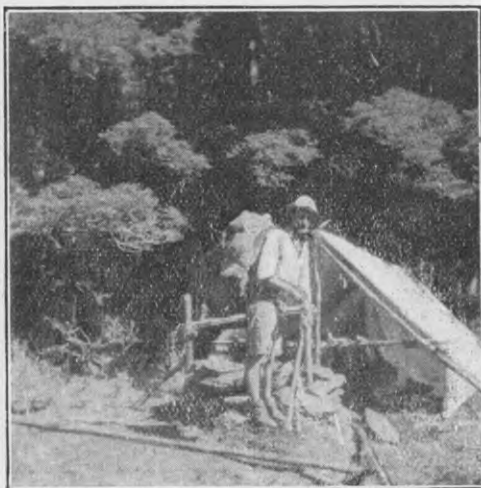
provides a living for hunters and revenue for the Department to maintain its war. Buckskin jerkins, celebrated in Old World story, and many other articles are being made out of the skins. The demand in New Zealand, Australia, U.S.A., Germany, and England exceeds the supply. Soft and pliable as babies' shawls are the skins cured in New Zealand. Strong men cannot break deerskin bootlaces or thongs.

Country where deer congregate is wild and perilous of access. Official hunting parties have operated throughout the whole of the main divides of the South Island, in Stewart Island, in the Tararuas, and, several years ago, in the Waikaremoana district. Private hunters operate in the Westland area and at the heads of Lakes Hawea, Wanaka, and Ohau. That gives relief to farms and less remote areas, but forces the Government to enter the back country, where commercial hunters could not operate economically because fewer skins can be saved. Shooting about the margins of the wild country could go on indefinitely without lessening the number of deer in the remotest areas.

Many attributes must be possessed by hunters—enthusiasm, fitness, energy, bushcraft, markmanship, knowledge of deer, skill in skinning the animals and stretching and packing skins. They must be naturalists in their way, interested in more than the mere chase.

“Flying Camps.”

One of the most effective ways of working in remote country is for men to set out on what are called “flying camp” trips, carrying with them all equipment, food, and ammunition necessary to last four or five days. Experience and research have led to a special technique being shaped. All things used must be as light as efficiency permits. Silk alpine tents are carried, but in fine weather hunters sleep in the open or under a bivouac of waterproof sheeting. Some trek without bedding or tents and use deerskins in place of blankets or



A Start from a Flying Camp.