



Lake Barra (South Westland), which bears the name of its discoverer, a deer-hunter.

for shelter in conjunction with sleeping bags.

Planning the Campaigns.

Much scrutiny of maps is done before the season's work is decided. Areas where deer are known to be numerous are studied according to the topography. Watersheds are most favourable and work is so schemed that, working up the rivers towards the sources, two parties help each other. Deer disturbed are caught in cul-de-sacs, but some escape over the mountain pass to be contacted by parties in neighbouring valleys. The hunting in no case is haphazard, but planned to be cumulative.

South Island conditions are favourable for the increase of deer. Spending winter in the bush on mountain slopes, deer climb above the bush in spring when melting snow leaves exposed vast areas of mountain "meadow" or tussock. Females there have abundance of food when the young are born and the progress of the young is assured. In the autumn the deer concentrate in the lower bush and browse intensively upon edible shrubs. Later in winter, moved by great hunger, they eat any green thing.

Winter Shooting.

Winter hunting is rare. Some localities, however, lend themselves to winter shooting and they have been worked with marked success. Marlborough is one such area. The ground in shady parts is frozen almost continuously and makes work extremely dangerous.

Where the road or lake ends base camps usually are established. Horses or launches are used to the farthest limit. A party usually consists of two or more pairs which might separate for weeks at a time. The pairs work separately, but at some times during the season gather for grand drives.

Heavy loads are carried by the men. As much as 80lb. is borne on the outward journey, increased on the inward journey by