

Appeal for Bequests

Is there any cause more worthy of bequests by public-spirited citizens, than the objectives of the Forest and Bird Protection Society, which is working wholly and solely for the welfare of New Zealand, present and future? Here is a suggested form of bequest:—

"I give and bequeath the sum ofto the Forest and Bird Protection Society (Incorporated), and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Society shall be a complete discharge to my executors for the legacy hereby given to such Society."

The working record of the Society and the personnel of its membership and Executive are a good guarantee that the best possible use will be made of such bequests.

Call for Sanctuaries

The Society would also welcome the responsibility of administering suitable sanctuaries for land or sea birds, provided that a small annuity is added for the payment of a caretaker. Such sanctuaries could be named after the donor, and would thus be a perpetuation of his name as a saviour of New Zealand's forest and bird life. It is suggested that such sanctuaries should be administered in a manner to ensure their return to the original natural conditions as nearly as possible; to prevent the destruction of native predators, except upon the recommendation of recognized authorities on wild life conservation; to eliminate all exotics to the utmost extent.

Morepork—Expert Rat-Catcher

Captain Sanderson says that during the past few years a morepork has wintered in his bushy place at Paekakariki. The bird has proved much more skilful than a cat in killing mice and rats. After the morepork has been in its cosy winter-quarters for a week no rodents are caught in the traps which are always left set for them where birds cannot be harmed.

Deer Kill Trout

"Deer kill trout," calmly remarked a bird-lover to an angler friend.

"What!" exclaimed the fisherman incredulously as his eyebrows rose to the limit. He thought that his friend was trying to make him believe that stags waded into streams, dipped their antlers and tossed up trout while hinds reclined on the banks admiring the prowess of their lords and masters.

"Yes, deer kill trout," repeated the bird-lover. "You anglers are constantly complaining about the heavy losses of trout when big floods scour streams, swish away the food of trout and dash plenty of them to death. In many cases those floods are due to destruction of water-regulating forests in high country. Deer are killing forests in such country. Therefore, as deer are promoters of floods they must be ranked among the deadly enemies of trout. I could say more —."

"Enough," interrupted the angler. "You're right. I'm with you all the way in the war on deer."

Sport! Oh, Yes!

Some comments of Jay N. Darling (late chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U.S.A.), which can apply to New Zealand:—

"No major sport in the world (with the possible exception of the wrestling game) has suffered so much from abuses within as the time-honoured recreation of wild-fowling. The boys like it so well they've about ruined it. . . ."

"Speaking by and large, everything goes in the great conglomerate fraternity of those who take fish and game by fair means or foul. Nothing is barred. You may shoot out of season, exceed the bag limit, buy ducks of a bootlegger, bribe a game warden, have your Senator intercede with the judge and still be accepted in good sportsmen's society. If you can carry home one bag limit in the open, hide a gunny sack full under the seat cushions and stuff another dozen in your spare tyres and get as far as the club ice-box with them, it's heigh-ho and a great joke on the Fish and Game Department."