

until their numbers, and the guano returns, fell. Then the South Americans returned to the good old Inca tradition of guanay protection. We can all learn from the aborigines.

Because fish teem in the Humboldt current, because guanays are proportionate in number, because the arid breeding islands are small in proportion to the millions of birds and compel them to nest close together—for these reasons guano accumulates on the islands in such quantity as to provide a huge fertiliser industry, which makes the guanay the greatest revenue-producing bird in the world.

### KILLING NO MURDER.

According to Acclimatisation Society logic, the guanays should be put to the sword. Their fish-consumption makes New Zealand shags look like novices.

New Zealand logic always regards killing as murder, but in Nature killing is often no murder at all. For instance, probably there are

more birds and more fish off this South American coast than anywhere else in the world, except perhaps in parts of the Antarctic. Where nature has created a balance between the preying creatures and the creatures preyed on, the predator is no murderer. The gunman who kills him is.

Here, then, is a contrast that excites thought: The Acclimatisation Societies and the Department of Internal Affairs in New Zealand destroy shags to protect fish, but the Peruvian authorities strictly protect the shag, with the result that both fish and shags abound as they do in few other areas. It is a cardinal fact that a plentitude of wild life almost solely depends upon a bounteous food supply. The natural enemy is a most important factor in that it helps in the preservation of the species preyed upon by eliminating the easily caught weak members—the ill-fed, the diseased, the deformed. Thus the natural enemy has its indispensable mission and its place in Nature's scheme.

### EVOLUTION.

In nature all forms of life are ever changing. This process has gone on for ages upon ages ever since life came into being on this planet. Plant life sprang originally from minute forms. Ages upon ages produced the present form of trees and this changing process in form is even now taking place. What a great forward step it was when, say, such a plant as a tree fern produced a branch or branches. One such tree fern exists near Shannon which is protected by law. For years past this specimen was unique in New Zealand as showing the evolution of a tree fern into the branching form of more advanced types of trees. Two more such trees have now, however, been located by a junior member of the Forest and Bird Protection Society, Master John Mitchell, of Shannon. The photos below illustrate the appearance of these new finds.

