

from more serious epidemics, the reason is perhaps to be found in a fact mentioned in the appeal: 'Some years ago duck shooting was not nearly so popular as it is at present.' This situation might be altered when fowlers succeed in killing the last duck."

The man on the land is the initial sufferer from fluke and similar stock diseases, but the remedy is in his hands. The majority of farmers, however, do not happen to have lakes or lagoons on their properties, but there is generally some suitable depression which can be made to hold water with the aid of a dam or some other method.

A most important essential is that duck reservations should be fenced, leaving ample space around the water to permit cover in the shape of raupo, and other plant life, to establish themselves. This cover gives protection from enemies besides providing extended feeding ground and nesting places. If the land owner is prepared to go further still, then the ducks can be regularly fed by throwing wheat, barley, and other food in shallow water. The ducks will get all of it then, and the sparrow will be defeated. In this latter case, if the ducks are shot at, the whole operation becomes illegal and punishable.

All shooting will, of course, be prohibited in or near the sanctuary. In Canada and in the United States of America such reservations are called "duck ports." The following remarks as to their effectiveness are culled from "*Readers' Digest*":—

"Hundreds of duck ports—small sanctuaries where waterfowl are welcomed, fed and protected—have been established all over the

country since the idea originated a generation ago, and, oddly enough, some of the most popular are in great cities. What hunter would think that the gaudily-plumed wood duck would make the lagoons of Jackson Park, Chicago, a stopping-off place, or expect a pond in New York's Central Park to be black with many kinds of waterfowl, some of which set up city housekeeping? On Roaches Run, Washington, D.C., people are treated to the sight of feathered and human fliers taking off and landing together with the duck port enjoying the greater patronage.

These refuges not only conserve America's colourful waterfowl which in many cases are being rendered homeless, but often transform a mosquito-ridden swamp into a place of beauty. At Lake Merritt, originally a marsh area in the heart of Oakland, Cal., men, women and children spend hours in winter watching the home life of nearly 10,000 wild ducks of 15 varieties, and of six varieties of wild geese, swans, herons, etc.

Small duck ports can be established by enterprising communities or individuals with little effort or expense. It is easier to attract wildfowl near migration routes, of course, but given certain attractions they will come to most localities."

In New Zealand such reservations can be protected by law, if the occupier of the land so desires, either by having the area gazetted as being excluded from shooting or, when no dogs whatever or guns are permitted, as absolute sanctuaries. The Forest and Bird Protection Society will be glad to furnish further information with regard to restrictions on shooting and assist any applicants on request.

#### ON A SANCTUARY.

