

A dangerous move which must be countered

AN ATTEMPT to change the National Parks Act to suit the aspirations of deerstalkers and hunters is being made by means of a private member's Bill.

This was announced by a prominent member of Parliament, and it is aimed at halting the removal of wapiti from Fiordland National Park, which is the policy of the National Parks Authority, the Fiordland Park Board, the Wildlife Service, the Minister of Lands and Forests, and of the Society.

Further, the private Bill will seek to set up a defined wapiti reserve in the Stuart and Murchison Mountains area of Fiordland National Park where wapiti hunting can take place without the constraints of the Act and to the detriment of the resident takahe.

Since its foundation the Society has recognised the damage to vegetation caused

by deer generally and in particular by the wapiti. The Society has documentary evidence of this damage in spite of erroneous arguments to the contrary being used today to allay public concern.

Deer and Resulting Devastation in New Zealand, by Roy Nelson, sets the matter straight with evidence from authorities of the past and the present. This evidence is incontrovertible and should be heeded by all. Copies of this booklet should be available from branches, but if they are not, head office can supply them for \$1 each.

The peril is extreme, as many members of Parliament are sympathetic to the deerstalking cause, and unless you make your local member of Parliament aware of the real dangers, there is every chance that the Bill will be passed.

This would mean that:

- The Bill would put all

national parks at risk, areas could be withdrawn at will just to provide hunting reserves for this sporting minority, and the practice of protecting these imported animals in the national parks with all their damage to the natural forests would continue.

- The Bill would put at risk the unique *Notornis* (takahe), one of New Zealand's most endangered ground walking birds, which occupies the same area as the wapiti and is diminishing as a result of competition for food by the wapiti. This area must be cleared of wapiti, as the Government is now doing, and not made a special wapiti hunting area.

Please write to, or contact, your member of Parliament and make your views known on behalf of the Society.

—David G. Collingwood,
National Conservation
Officer

BOOKS

The Paparoas Guide: Andy Dennis

Here is a book written with a mission: to show how rich and diverse the Paparoa country is and to commend this largely unknown region for a new national park running from high levels to the sea.

The book is beautifully produced, up to the highest standards in editing and printing, and it was absorbing to read to one who hardly yet knows the Paparoas.

Andy Dennis over the years has come to know this territory, with bush, landforms, and coast, as well as any one living. His book is one that could never have been written just as a hurried brief for a cause. It comes from a tramping acquaintance experience that is wide and detailed, from a love of the terrain, and a desire that it should belong to all New Zealanders.

The guide is practical in arrange-

ment, but there is everything there an inquirer could want. It begins with a thorough description of the tracks, with the many walks close to the main highway, and then the longer tramping tracks of the Razor Back road, Buckland Peaks, Pororari River, and Croesus and Moonlight Valley. You learn the story as you tramp, with efficient introduction of landforms and vegetation.

There are other special topic chapters: on the central wilderness and the ways into it; caves and caving in this intriguing karst country; the geological history and landforms; and the flora and fauna. All these are well illustrated with photographs and line drawings from a wealth of sources. The result is one of the most compact and thorough accounts we have from any region of New Zealand.

For good measure there are also appendices: on history and local knowledge; directions how to get there and where to stay; place names, maps, and tramping information.

The appendix that will be most used is the summary of the case for a Paparoa National Park. Every member of the Society ought to become familiar with this and be able to advocate it.

The region's unique features would be that it is the only unmodified lowland karst area left in New Zealand; it has an outstanding unlogged lowland forest rich and diverse in birds; it has a spectacular coastline, including the famous Punakaiki "pancake" rocks; and it contains a wide range of geology and landforms.

Andy Dennis and the Native Forests Action Council are to be warmly congratulated on their *Paparoas Guide*.

—John Morton,
Professor of Zoology

Andy Dennis and Native Forests
Action Council, \$12.