

purposeful flights to and from the feeding grounds, or assembled in flocks like snowflakes over shoaling fish. It is then that the name "kahawai bird" is appropriate; fishermen know well that a flock of birds "working" actively over an agitated patch of water is a sign that kahawai or kingfish are likely to be about, attracted by the same shoals of surface fish which are the prey of the birds.

The well-grown young in midsummer, have prettily striped upper plumage, and follow their parents away from the nesting colonies to nearby beaches, where they continue to beg food until February or March, when the moult of the old birds puts a stop to their nurse-maid's duties. There are vast casualties throughout the season from storm

and accident, and it is seldom that there are even half as many chicks as there are pairs of adults in the summer flocks: in one case 186 parents had produced only 25 young.

In the winter months terns may continue to frequent shores and sandy beaches at the mouths of rivers such as the Waikanae and Ohau in Wellington, or at Manukau and Kaipara Heads in Auckland. Nevertheless, the kahawai bird seems scarcer in winter than at other times, and there are areas where it is reported to be absent altogether.

In Australia, where this tern has not been found breeding, numbers have been recorded in the winter, and it seems likely that some of our New Zealand birds wander across the South Tasman to the Bass Strait area in the winter.



POSSIBLE JOBS FOR SERVICEMEN

WATCHMAKING

The normal period of apprenticeship for watchmaking is six years, but a shorter adult apprenticeship is to be introduced to meet the needs of returned servicemen, who will have their wages subsidized during their period of training. The prospects in the trade are good, as there will be a shortage of skilled men for many years. This acute shortage of men is due not only to the war, but also to the fact that very few apprentices have been trained during the last decade. A man with aptitude for this class of work, therefore, seems assured of a living. Besides being interesting, the trade is well suited to disabled men, providing their eyesight is good.

The New Zealand Horological Institute wishes to help the Government to train such men. For further information communicate with Mr. T. Drake, President of the Wellington Branch of the Horological Institute, whose address is Levy Building, Manners Street, Wellington.

Watch-repairers to-day, are receiving £7 to £8 per week.

WICKER-WORK

This work calls for manual dexterity, with the result that, on the average, a man who has been trained from youth is more efficient than one who has learned his trade later in life. While the making of baskets takes only a few months to learn, the art of making more complicated articles, such as prams, requires a much longer period of training. The normal term of apprenticeship is five years.

Provided materials are available, there seems to be a reasonably good chance of employment in this occupation after the war. At present New Zealand is cut off from some regular sources of supply of raw materials—e.g., the Dutch East Indies.

STONEMASONS

In New Zealand the work of skilled stonemasons seems to be on the wane owing to the development of coloured concrete and terrazzo. Many of the tradesmen appear to be engaged on monumental masonry, and turn their hands to other types of stonemasonry