

from all its bearings in last year's report, I can only indorse what I there stated. The number of rabbit-skins exported during the last financial year shows that good work has been done, while the gradual increase in the number of sheep in Otago shows that rabbits must be diminishing in numbers. I cannot, however, at present hold out much hope of any cessation to the continuous annual expenditure and exertions necessary to keep the evil within bounds until the natural enemy turned out has increased sufficiently to act as a check on the pest's increase.

It is satisfactory to see, on country overrun two years since, that the carrying capacity of some runs has again increased by thousands of sheep, and on others full percentage of lambs, with excellent clips, were obtained, attributable to reduction in numbers of rabbits, together with two favourable seasons for pasture.

Attached returns show the Government expenditure for the year and other tabulated matter.

I have, &c.,

BENJN. P. BAYLY,

Superintending Inspector.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Wellington.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE, &c.

District.	Number of Tenders accepted.	Amounting to			Quantity of Phosphorus used in District.	Quantity used for Crown Lands.	Quantity sold.	Quantity on Hand on 31st March last.	Total Number of Skins exported from the Colony during Year ended 31st March, 1885.	Value.	Estimated Area of Crown Lands to be dealt with this Year.
		£	s.	d.							
Napier ... ..	...	...	...	...	5	5	...	5	...	...	13,000
Wellington ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	889,436	9,220	...
Wairarapa North ... ..	4	30	10	0	8	4	4	...	...	...	...
Wairarapa South ... ..	13	171	15	0	148	18	130	32	...	...	25,000
Nelson ... ..	1	25	0	0	41	6	35	41	...	...	...
Blenheim (Picton) ... ..	1	65	0	0	35	35	...	198	68,736	848	...
Kaikoura ... ..	1	20	0	0	40	40	...	70	...	...	4,000
Timaru ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	30	...	...	...
Lyttelton ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,525,730	15,728	...
Oamaru ... ..	2	68	0	0	150	...	150	...	24,534	256	5,000
Palmerston ... ..	9	98	0	0	193	...	193	333	...	...	3,000
Dunedin ... ..	2	38	0	0	40	10	30	180	7,014,993	79,242	15,000
Naseby ... ..	1	5	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	600
Clyde ... ..	4	709	11	0	...	...	80	540	...	...	27,700
Tuapeka ... ..	10	266	0	0	...	47	591	412	...	...	34,800
Balclutha ... ..	8	143	10	0	...	158	242	318	...	...	7,000
Queenstown ... ..	4	423	0	0	...	50	40	400	...	...	40,000
Invercargill ... ..	12	380	0	0	...	100	...	300	345,636	3,346	...
Southland ... ..	10	429	18	7	...	203	300	574	...	...	258,300
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	<b>82</b>	<b>2,873</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>9,869,065</b>	<b>108,640</b>	<b>433,400</b>

GENERAL REMARKS.—Payments to agents, labour, material purchased, and other contingencies not included in this expenditure. It is impossible to give the number of skins from each district; but the total export for the whole colony from the 1st April, 1884, to the 31st March, 1885, is shown herein, as exported from the different ports. The number of rabbit-skins exported during year ended 31st March, 1884, was 9,892,341, of the value of £100,677.

APPENDIX.

SIR,— Colonial Secretary's Office (Stock Branch), Wellington, 1st April, 1885.

I have to request that you will be good enough to furnish replies to the following questions with as little delay as possible. The period to which these questions refer is between the 1st April, 1884, and the 31st March, 1885.

I have, &c.,

B. P. BAYLY,

Superintending Inspector.

Rabbit Inspector,

- (1.) What means have been adopted for destroying rabbits?
- (2.) Have you any recommendations to make?
- (3.) What progress has there been made?
- (4.) How many tenders have been accepted?
- (5.) What did the whole of them amount to?
- (6.) Number and description of reserves you will require to deal with, and the approximate area of such available for grazing purposes?
- (7.) What quantity of phosphorus was used for Government purposes?
- (8.) What quantity was sold to private individuals?
- (9.) What was the quantity on hand on the 31st March last?
- (10.) Number of skins exported?