

Again, there are ever so many Government Departments with some sort of a finger in the management of reserves and sanctuaries, game, etc.

The Lands Department controls a number of reserves and forests.

The Forest Service controls a number.

The Tourist Department gets its oar in somewhere.

The Department of Internal Affairs interferes in a number of matters concerning game, etc. And this seems to be the Department that bosses collectors' permits, a factor of great danger.

Fish seems to be partly under the last two Departments, and also under the Marine Department. And the Marine Department's lighthouse-keepers, in some cases, are in a position to help (or not to help) the native fauna.

To complete the Babel, the acclimatisation societies fall in at the tail of the departmental procession. And the police are occasionally pressed into the service, where poaching is concerned.

Anything more weirdly ineffective than this network of authorities, mostly incompetent or inactive, it would be hard to imagine.

KAPITI SANCTUARY

Three members of the New Zealand Native Bird Protection Society and also of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, who recently visited Kapiti, have furnished the following report to the Secretary of the former Society.

In the area of bush on the northern end of the sanctuary, where the animals have been driven off, the regeneration of the forest is very notable, large numbers of young seedlings are in evidence and the bush has taken on a fresher aspect while the trees are bearing much more berries with a corresponding increase in bird life, in fact the number of tuis, Popokotea and wekas remind one of old-time bird conditions in New Zealand; large numbers of young birds of these species being present. A nice few pigeons are to be seen, besides parakeets both red and yellow headed, bellbirds are fairly numerous, robins have also somewhat increased. Kaka are scarce, also fantails. No wrens, warblers or riflemen were seen. One kiwi was heard calling one night and was within a few feet of one member of the party. As to sea birds: penguin, gannet, mackrell gull, blue herons, tern, black-backed gull have held good.

In the southern area, south of Taepiro Gully, numbers of animals, including from 1000 to 1500 sheep, are still present and the forest in this area does not therefore show equal regeneration.

In parts where animals are scarce the natural coastal fringe