

HAAST

MERCER

newly

CULLING

In 1924 D. J. ... had ...
 in the ... flight. ...
 for ...

This was extended to the KARANGARUA & will ^{be} taken down
 to the Haast & then across the range to the Cold Lakes
 of Haast, ^{and connect with} the main north-south ~~main~~ railway & roads
 of the South Island. Bro. a Capt. Mercer was flying a
 regular service up & down the coast parallel with the
 main road & could always arrange for a small party
 to fly from Christchurch over the Alps to the West
 Coast, I was it & went again to Haast the road & rail
 on East Coast again. As magnificent a flight as could
 be found anywhere.

He had made a speciality of landing deer stalkers
 on the star flats which occur on ^{newly} all the West Coast
 Rivers above the lower gorges where they were in the
 heart of deer country where deer needed to be kept down
 & a man might be paid for culling them.
 It is not surprising that New Zealand Climbers were
 among the first to turn to the use of planes to help
 them to overcome the weary work of "swagging in"
 which took so many precious days of a holiday or
 at all events & dropping their stores well up the
 valley. The first attempt was not a success
 the party were unable to obtain a ^{small} ~~small~~ parachute,
 which a local man lent copy: at the
 last moment they got a drawing, but it did not
 make clear that string should ^{not} only pass through