



SUMNER HOTEL, S. BROOKING, Proprietor.

First-Class Accommodation for Tourists and Cyclists.

Charges very moderate. Wines and Liquors of the best quality.

DEERSTALKING.

By "CASTLEWOOD."

One of the most enjoyable holidays that a Christchurch sportsman can spend is a week among the red deer in North Otago, or among the fallow deer at Tapanui, in Southland. Either place can be reached in two days from town, so that the trip can be done in a fortnight. The train will land a sportsman at Tapanui, which is only a mile or two from the best shooting ground, but anyone going to North Otago must take the train to Kurow, and then go by coach to Omarama and by another conveyance from there, or drive right through from Kurow. The deer are to be found on the stations on the eastern side of Lake Hawea and up the Hunter Valley at the head of the Lake, and if the latter spot is selected, it will probably take four or five days to get through from Christchurch. The best plan for a sportsman who does not know the country is to arrange with Mr. W. G. Munro, or Mr. T. A. Munro, Kurow, for guide, conveyance, pack horses and camp equipment. The cost will be about £10 each from Kurow.

The first red deer in the North Otago district were liberated on the Morven Hills run in 1869 by the late Hon. John McLean, and so rapidly have they increased that the herd now numbers many thousands, and they occupy a tract of country about 100 miles long by 50 wide. As a good deal of the country is practically unstocked, there is abundance of feed for the deer, and in the upper part of the district there are large white birch forests that provide splendid winter cover. A sportsman who takes up deerstalking must be good at hill work, as the ranges run to 5000 to 6000 feet in height. In the country free from bush the stalking must be done from above, as the air currents are nearly always up the gullies, in the basins of which the deer are generally to be found. In the bush country, while there may not be so much high climbing, the work is rougher and even more arduous. In making the trip, one must not set out with the idea that the sport is as easy as shooting hares among the tussocks on the plains, and that good condition is not sufficient, but must be backed up with some knowledge of hill work.

BALLANTYNES ARE LEADERS OF FASHION.