

## BRITISH MAMMALS

### RED DEER IN SCOTLAND

At a meeting on 4th January, 1955, the Council considered the Report of the Committee on Close Seasons for Red Deer in Scotland. The attitude of the Society towards the Report was defined as follows :—

1. The Society supports the majority report of the Close Seasons Committee with its recommendations for close seasons, classification of deer as game, formation of regional Deer Control Boards, restrictions on the acceptance and release of venison into and out of cold storage during the close season, appropriate fines for offenders and the extermination of marauding deer and of deer which have moved into areas where they cannot be tolerated.

2. The Society admits that the question of the present population of red deer in Scotland is open to argument. It agrees that the number of deer which the country can usefully support has not yet been decided. But the Society considers that opinions on these questions, though they might properly be put forward in support of controlled operations to reduce deer numbers, can be no justification for unrestricted, haphazard, and wanton slaughter. This slaughter will go on as long as it is profitable and legally permissible.

3. The Society points out that all members of the Deer Committee reported in favour of a close season for red deer, though three of them wanted it deferred. It therefore suggests that the Government should declare its intention of introducing a close season for red deer in Scotland, within a definite time—say, three years. This interval would allow the parties concerned to compose their differences.

---