

sheered dinghy for use on local waters. The new dinghy, which can easily be loaded on and off a trailer or utility by one man, is 13 ft. long by 3 ft. 6 in. beam, and was built under the superintendence of the Supervising Inspector (Mr. Bramley), who personally made the moulds and cut the timbers. This dinghy was launched towards the end of last month and used for an extensive patrol of the lakes in the Mandurah district by Messrs. Melsom and Traynor on July 24 and 25. They found it most satisfactory; it manoeuvred very well and quickly, and was very light to handle.

This is in fact the second bondwood boat built on the Department's premises, and it is proposed to build more of such boats, firstly to make the field staff more mobile, and secondly to give the younger inspectors some idea of boat-building techniques.

Not taking into account the cost of labour, the new dinghy cost about one-fifth of the price quoted by local boat-builders. The Department's warmest thanks are extended to Mr. Bramley, who originally conceived the idea, for his foresight and initiative.

KANGAROOS IN GINGIN DISTRICT

Following correspondence with the Gingin Road Board concerning the depredations of kangaroos in its district, a party comprising the Chief Warden of Fauna (Mr. Fraser), the Chairman of the Agriculture Protection Board (Mr. Tomlinson) and Messrs. H. B. Shugg, Acting Secretary, Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, and J. Traynor, Fauna Warden, spent the period July 22-24 in the Gingin area.

An inspection was made on the first day by the party north-west of Gingin to Regan's Ford on the Moore River, and thence to Mr. W. de Burgh's property at Cowalla.

On the following day, accompanied by Mr. de Burgh himself, the party covered a large part of the district to the north and west of the Moore River to as far west as the coastal hills. This gave the visitors a first-hand appreciation of the scope of the problem. The introduction of newer methods of farming, i.e.,

the use of trace elements (zinc, copper, tin, etc.) has more or less revolutionised farming techniques in this country, which has hitherto been largely valueless. Large areas are now being cleared and sown down with lupins, but the disturbance of the natural habitat of the kangaroos in the thickets, and the provision of succulent food in the shape of lupins, have brought about a very difficult problem indeed. Great numbers of tracks of kangaroos, particularly under fences, were observed and indeed quite a few kangaroos were seen, as well as several mobs of emus.

On the last morning the party was present at a meeting of the Road Board, called for the purpose of putting forward the Board's case. The main points discussed were the increase in numbers of kangaroos, the likelihood of interference with closer settlement schemes by their depredations, and the existing system of licenses and royalty payments. After being informed of the responsibilities which would devolve upon it if kangaroos were declared vermin, as originally requested, the Board changed its request to one that an open season be declared in the district and that licenses and royalties be abolished. Mr. Fraser informed the Board that there appeared much justification for the declaration of an open season, but not for the abolition of royalties and licenses. He promised, however, that the information which had been gathered by the party would in due course be placed before the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee for consideration.

Mr. Tomlinson addressed the Board at some length in relation to vermin control generally, following which the meeting closed and the visitors were entertained at luncheon by the Board. The party returned to Perth the same afternoon.