

the Perth Town Hall, and by the Australian Inland Mission at Kalgoorlie, again included displays by this Department with Inspector J.E. Munro in charge.

At the Perth Town Hall the Show was again well attended and, it is felt, served a particularly useful purpose in acquainting the public with the value of wild life, not only from the aesthetic, but also from the economic and scientific angles.

In addition to the many large entries that dominated the scene, there were exhibits displayed by one hundred or more small contributors.

The exhibition in the Kalgoorlie Town Hall from September 22 to 25 was reported to have been an even greater success than those of previous years. The marine and faunal specimens exhibited by the Department created great interest and the lecturettes delivered and general information made available by Inspector Munro were again highlights of the show.

#### WHAT IS THE USE OF SHAGS AND SEALS?

A report received from Cape Town says that the South African Division of Fisheries will shortly commence extensive research on the effect of predators on a fishery. The Director of the Division, Dr. J.M. Marchand, believes that the investigations will take a long time, and he cannot say when it will be possible for results to be released. The programme will seek to find the effect that seals, cormorants, shags and penguins have on a fishery, and particularly to discover the quantity of fish each eats each day. An attempt will also be made to ascertain whether the balance of nature will be upset if seals and birds are declared to be pests and large numbers subsequently destroyed. It is believed that birds are responsible for much of the phosphate and nitrate in the sea along the coast, and that if they are killed the fertility of the fishing grounds will most likely suffer.

The research has been initiated following an attempt in the South African Senate to have shags and seals exterminated.