

officially opened by the Chief Secretary for N.S.W. (Hon. C.A. Kelly, M.L.A.), and the opening ceremony was televised.

The agenda was a lengthy one. Subject headings for the discussions were Research, Education and Publicity, Registration and Licensing, Management, Wild Ducks, Interstate Co-ordination, Bird Banding, Collection of Specimens and States' Authority in Lands held by the Commonwealth. A verbatim report is to be published, and any officer desiring to read the report may borrow it from Head Office.

Features of the conference were a complimentary dinner tendered to delegates by the Government of N.S.W. at the Hotel Metropole, Sydney, and an excursion to the Barren Falls Nature Reserve near Kiama, on the nearer south coast of New South Wales.

WILD DUCKS A HAZARD?

People who ate wild ducks which had consumed the vermin-poison 1080 could become ill, deputy-Public Health Commissioner Dr. W.S. Davidson said recently.

It was extremely unlikely, however, that they could receive a toxic dose in this way. It seemed safe to assume that poison sufficient to kill a human would be sufficient to kill a duck, but the resistance of ducks to the poison had not been established yet.

The deputy commissioner said it was not the first season that 1080 had been used. So far there had been no reports of illness.

ROYALTY ON ROOS LIFTED

The royalty payment of 9d a skin on all grey kangaroo skins has been lifted for a trial period of two years.

The Minister (Mr. Kelly), in a recent press release, said that the Farmers' Union hoped that the lifting of the royalty would bring about increased activity by professional and amateur shooters in those areas where kangaroos were over-plentiful and causing serious damage.

On the present low market price of 4/- per lb. for first-grade skins caused by a decrease in overseas demand, the royalty payment absorbed an unfair proportion of the hunters' net return.

He warned that licenses to authorise the sale of skins of kangaroos taken in the South-West Land Division were still required.