

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.

#### APPEAL FAILS

In Sydney, on December 4, the High Court of Australia dismissed an appeal by Dr. J.S. Marian, formerly managing secretary of the Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd. Dr. Marian had appealed against a dismissal by Mr. Justice Wolff in the Supreme Court of Western Australia in June last, of his claim for damages against the Society (see Bulletin, VII, 7, July, 1958).

His claim was for money he said the Co-op had agreed to pay him when he relinquished his appointment. The Co-op maintained that Marian had been dismissed, and that it had good reason for dismissing him.

#### WHALE OIL MARKET SHAKY

The uncertainty and depressed state of the sperm oil market may delay the resumption of the Cheynes Beach Whaling Co's operations.

The company ceased operations for an indefinite period on December 19 while staff take holidays and maintenance work is done. The market situation will influence the date of resumption.

Total catch for the 12 months ended November was 347 whales - 265 sperm and 82 humpback, but a succession of gales and a breakdown in one of the company's chasers early in the season hampered operations.

Total exports for the season were 1,970 tons of sperm oil and 651 tons of humpback whale oil. The output of 610 tons of whale meal was sold in W.A.