

The case is by no means hopeless, because when fire and animals are removed from our forests the regeneration in a few years is almost unbelievable, and the birds promptly increase amazingly with the enhanced food-supply and more favourable conditions, as the writer has seen on a limited area.

ARE WE PROGRESSING?

Present-day carelessness in regard to forest fires would receive a decided check if the penalties therefor enforced in the days of Frederick the Great were re-enacted. In a proclamation on December 3, 1775, the Emperor decreed that "Anyone starting a fire in or within 100 paces of a forest, or using a pitch torch or any fire when fishing in any lakes within and on streams or creeks flowing through a forest, or who smokes tobacco during the dry or summer season within a forest, even though no damage be done, shall be punished with a 4-week gaol sentence, and, if any damage results, shall pay such damage. Any person wilfully or maliciously starting a fire in a forest, with intent to damage said forest, shall be punished with a 10-year penitentiary sentence at hard labour, and upon establishing the moral responsibility the sentence may be increased even to the death penalty."

AMBULANCE WORK.

Out in the midst of traffic fluttered the wounded sparrow, its broken wing dragging. Cars whizzed by, each wheel a threat charged with death. Few of the motorists saw the bird, but finally one woman driver noticed the pathetic little creature and swung her machine to the curb to rescue it. Just as she was about to pick it up, however, recounts a news story in the "New Orleans States," two other sparrows alighted one on each side of the injured bird and, catching its wings with their bills, dragged it to the sidewalk. Then, with the skill of human workmen lifting a heavy piece of furniture, the two rescuers hauled it over the curb and into a clump of bushes.

A somewhat similar happening to this occurred at Paekakariki, near Wellington, where a silver-eye was seen to lead its mate, which had a hurt wing, up into a ngaio tree by hops and jumps right up to a feeding tray placed in the tree. While the wounded bird fed, its mate drove off all other silver-eyes.

Similarly, snipe have been reported to be well up in splint methods and are credited with being adepts at mending legs which have been broken by shot, with odd bits of grass, etc.