

of it to build 1,250 farms of 160 acres each, all having a depth twice that of the average upland soil of America. Many have used the expression "as rich as the soil of the Nile" without knowing that the alluvium of the Mississippi flood plain is still richer.

"Three billion tons of soil lost every year is an incomprehensible quantity. To haul its equivalent from our fields and dump it into the oceans and valleys would require the simultaneous loading of a fleet of trucks running six thousand abreast, every minute throughout every day and night, year in and year out. If it is possible to visualise such an unending parade of hurrying trucks, then one can develop a fairly clear picture of the prodigious cost of this annual washbill of the fields of America.

"When this soil has departed from its place of origin it cannot be hauled back. We can restore land which has been sapped of its plant food by continuous cropping, if the solid soil material still remains in the field; but the soil removed by erosion can not be restored for the simple reason that not merely the plant food is taken, but also the humus, the mineral soil particles and the myriads of beneficial microscopic organisms dwelling within the soil."

New Zealand's physical features—mountainous country from which many rivers have comparatively swift courses to the ocean—should intensify the people's fear of erosion. Obviously this country cannot afford to have much of its best soil swept out to sea, where it is a nuisance to Harbour Boards instead of the benefit it would be to farmers if left in its natural place!



WHITE HERON IN ITS MODERNISED HABITAT.