

How many more years of continuous loss will be required to impress on New Zealanders in the mass—particularly their representatives in Parliament—the cold hard fact that their country is wasting away?

The fear of erosion in the United States of America is now so keenly felt that the great Civilian Conservation Corps—an organisation due to President Roosevelt's big national plan—is hard at work to check the scourge. Similar action must be taken in New Zealand. The longer the necessary action is delayed, the greater will be the penalty on the people and their descendants, for some of the havoc will be beyond repair.

One vital need is a war of extermination against deer which are bringing death to native forests.

THE THOUGHTLESS CAGER.

Should Try the Same Life.

Members of the Scottish Society for the Protection of Wild Birds had a very pleasant field day recently when a hundred wild birds were set free from cages. A report of the incident mentions that the birds "expressed their delight in repeated chirpings and flutterings of wings."

Of course, the majority of cagers do not have a notion that they are deliberately cruel, but they are certainly thoughtless. To an imprisoned bird, pining for liberty, a cage is always a cage, a cramping gaol, whatever may be the owner's state of mind or heart.

Some of the persons, who keep birds in close confinement, try to persuade the public that the captives, relieved from the problem of "cost of living," rather like being penned up. Such assertions are sheer nonsense. The organism of birds is highly sensitive, and the prisoners usually are grievously conscious of their misfortune.

Those individuals might have a different view of this matter if they were shut up for a few weeks or months in a cage which did not give them enough space to exercise their limbs. Even if they were well fed, and greeted with plenty of "baby-talk," they would not take kindly to the imprisonment. There is something wrong with the make-up of persons who can ignore the feelings of a caged bird.