

Valleys of Lost Hope.

Nature's Revenge for Man's Folly.

Here is a story of "The Valley of Lost Hope," in the Mississippi region, told by B. W. Jones in the July issue of "American Forests"—just the kind of story that can be told of some valleys of lost hope in New Zealand—the story of Nature's revenge for man's folly in going against her insurance policy of forests for the protection of top soils.

More than a century ago, a settler, Tom Hamer, took up some wooded land in hilly country of the Mississippi. He hoped to establish a prosperous farm, which would be a permanent home for his descendants. Affairs went well enough for some years, until Nature began to inflict punishment for mistakes. In little more than half a century the Hamer estate became a "Valley of Lost Hope."

"Much of the timber had been cut from the land," the chronicle runs, "and through the annual application of fire to the woods the natural covering of the soil had been either partially or wholly destroyed. The rains came, and soon small washes began to appear about the farm, growing larger and larger each passing year through the action of water and frost. This process gradually destroyed outright a large



AN AMERICAN "VALLEY OF LOST HOPE."

Due to the stupid destruction of protective forest. New Zealand has worse "Lost Hopes" from the same cause.