

happened in the United States of America and in other colonized lands. The final results of our present methods of mere exploitation for the moment must have much more disastrous effects in New Zealand, in proportion to its size, than in America, because the configuration of this Dominion unfortunately is peculiarly adapted to the forces of both sheet and gullying erosion.

Typical Cases of Muddle.

In a nutshell, the present methods of land management, or rather, mismanagement, can only end in grave national disaster. Instances could be quoted of ruinous land management from end to end of the Dominion, but let us be content with instancing merely one—the Wanganui River district. Here we see three variant efforts: One, to use the steep and at times precipitous country adjacent to the river for pastoral purposes; another section seeks to save the scenic value. Now we cannot have both the forest, which makes the scenic value, and the land for pastoral purposes. A third section seeks to have a harbour at the river mouth, and did excavate a large hole there for that purpose. The excavation was, of course, promptly filled up with silt and debris from the forest-denuded steep hillsides. The taxpayer pays for all three sections, each working against the others.

Surely it should have been obvious at the outset that if the forest were destroyed the making of a harbour at the river-mouth would not be possible. The first essential was to decide to what use the land adjoining the river should be put. For grazing the land was too steep generally and could not long remain productive in pasture, owing to the inevitable loss of the top soil, which could not be held *in situ* owing to the steep gradient. Therefore the scenic value, it appears, would have been the wisest selection instead of trying, as it were, to eat the cake and have it too.

Europe's Lead in Sanity.

In Europe how different is the question of land management handled! Protection forests have been established and are safeguarded, so much so, that in a mountainous country like Switzerland it is necessary for the landowner in some districts to get the permission of the authorities before he may fell a tree—and rightly so, because the public in general, besides the actual owner, have to suffer because of unnecessary wanton forest depletion. Forests in Europe are, however, looked upon as an ever-recurring productive crop, and not, as in New Zealand, merely handed over to some individual for destruction.

Wanted—A New Zealand Roosevelt.

Here in New Zealand there is a great opportunity for some far-seeing Roosevelt who can rise great enough to override the