

petty individualist's interests and set about getting our land management on to sane lines ere erosion has assumed the upper hand. Our few remaining forests should, as a matter of course, be rid of all trespassing plant-eating animals at no matter what cost; protected from fire, and allowed to revert to their primitive conditions. All land, which has gone out of production on steep hillsides and on poor soil, should be abandoned for its hoped-for use and treated as part of the protection forests, beside much high country now used for merino production. The plant life on any area of a decided-upon general steepness, or above a certain stated elevation, should be conserved.

In this way, and in such a manner only, can the future prosperity of this Dominion be assured. No such measures as tampering with currency, bounties to farmers, false exchange rates, or other temporary expedients can have the slightest effect on erosion's terrible toll of our top soil.

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### YOUNG ENTHUSIASTS.

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Further pleasant evidence of the progress made by the Forest and Bird Protection Society is seen in the ever-increasing enrolment of boys and girls—the future possessors of New Zealand. The young folk write some charming letters to the Society—and now and then one makes a delightful sally into verse. For example, here is a heart-touching letter to the secretary from Nion Shaw, who lives away up at Taupaki, North Auckland:—

“One day when my two sisters, a friend and I were tramping up to the bush, we had to cross the road. There, lying on the road, was a poor helpless yellow-hammer with one leg broken. When we had picked it up my sister cuddled it up in her warm hands while we three went out to gather straw. Soon we came to a bridge, and it was my turn to hold the bird. While I was holding it, it stood up in my hand and flew over into a totara tree on the other side of the stream. We were all very glad to know that it had recovered.

“I very much enjoy the little books I receive from you. It is my hope to be a life member some day.”

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### A PREDICTION OF H. GUTHRIE-SMITH.

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In his preface to *“Mutton-Birds and Other Birds,”* published in 1914, H. Guthrie-Smith wrote (in regard to the need of a strong organisation for the saving of native birds):—“In truth, the matter is not one to be dealt with by an individual. It is only the consensus of opinion of a Society, yet lacking in New Zealand—a Society for the Protection of Native Birds and Native Plants—that can carry weight.”

To-day the Forest and Bird Protection Society has the weight which is winning on a wide front.