



A Mill at Mokai, Hamilton District.
Note erosion already occurring in
distance.

FEEDING FANTAILS.

Master Frank Chambers, of Opunake, writes to the Society about feeding fantails, which are not usually amenable to artificial feeding because they catch their prey on the wing.

"On our farm we have two patches of bush where a number of fantails obtain sufficient food to exist upon. One day, while I was digging in the garden, a fantail came and settled on a fence close by. Perhaps, with the idea of getting a spell from the digging operations, what proved to be a good scheme occurred to me. I ran up to the house and collected a number of flies, which I killed and offered to Fanny, but she would not eat them. Quickly I secured some live flies which were released and promptly captured by my guest. In a few days' time, after training the bird in this manner, it began to eat dead flies or spiders.

"Over at Grannie's, in the camelia bushes, there are quite a number of fantails, which I

Wanganui Valley, the Manawatu, the Wairarapa, and the Hutt Valley are seemingly ignored. They have been ignored for half a century and more. Now surely the time has come to shake up the dry bones of State neglect!

How can these King Country forests be secured against further destruction? That is a matter for the earnest consideration of our new Government, whose members, we are sure, do not wish to see the country exhaust not only its forest capital but its very life. It must be emphasised that we are living on our capital by allowing these forests to be swept away for the benefit of sawmilling interests and a trifle of royalties for the State. Once gone, and the land impoverished, what can replace them?

Certainly not those exotics; their value is discredited in other countries, and they can never be so suitable for New Zealand cultivation as the vegetation native to the soil.

feed by running along the path with a fly or a spider in my hand. The insect is thrown up in the air at the right moment, and along comes a fantail like a flash and seizes the prey. Then back it goes to the same perch every time ready for my next run."

NATURE CLUBS.

In recent American papers reference is made to an excellent idea. Nature clubs are formed with a limited membership of, say, one hundred. There is an entrance fee and an annual subscription. The funds are put into the purchasing of a sanctuary for nature. The aim is to return the sanctuary to its natural condition with its special plants and living creatures. No aliens to the locality are encouraged, but any original life, if lost, is re-established if possible. Competition is, of course, engendered amongst these clubs as to which can be the most successful. Now, who is going to start the first Nature Club in New Zealand?