

wealth and degenerated to poverty because of the same error our economists are now making.

Boiled down to the fundamental truth, the history of civilisation, since man was created, is largely made up of the rise and fall of empires through the exhaustion of resources. History, therefore, in reality turns out to be the story of hungry man in search of food. Conservation is the job of so managing our soils, waters, and gifts of nature on this continent of ours that man's search for these necessities shall not be in vain.

If we do neglect conservation as history has ignored it in the past, and any considerable portion of our population does search in vain for existence, we shall have increasing poverty, social upheavals and, *in spite of our high ideals and worship of peace*, we shall have *more* wars instead of *fewer*, for wars are the spawn of empty stomachs, and empty stomachs follow—as the night the day—the excess of demand for natural resources over the supply.

Wealth will continue to exist on this continent only so long as the natural resources of our soil and water continue to yield up their riches in proportion to the requirements of our population. That population already includes a widening margin of want and unemployment. When these resources are further depleted, as they have vanished from vast areas on other and older continents, prosperity, standards of living and social contentment among our people will vanish.

Few are aware of the incalculable cash losses which have been ignored by the people of this continent through the persistent habit of calling everything profit which we rip from the soil.

We have left no debit slip in our national cash drawer for the exhausted resources which have gone for ever when we harvest and remove any considerable crop from the soil.

If nature's pantry had been wisely guarded, our relief rolls would have been a fraction of their present appalling magnitude.

The time will surely come—indeed if it is not already here—when the widening fringe of unemployment and hunger will threaten the stability of *our* social institutions as it has upset other governments and other nations before us, when bulging populations have burst through their geographic and legal boundaries and involved themselves and their neighbours in

bloody warfare. Japan has already passed the crossroads. If she had stayed within her boundaries she would have starved.

We may juggle our currency, we may substitute dictatorship for democracy, we may set up devices for redistribution of wealth and social security, but none of these, nor all of them together, will restore the sustaining land we have wastefully depleted. It will not put back the forests on our eroding hills, it will not restore the fish in our polluted streams and vacant waters of the seaboard. Only we ourselves, by studied processes, can accomplish this recovery.

Conservation becomes, then, *not* a matter of sentimental appreciation of the beauties of nature. It is no idle humour of the experimental laboratory; it is grim business for statesmen.

ALBATROSS FUND.

THE following further donations have been received in aid of the fund to reimburse the Dunedin enthusiasts, who have advanced the money to erect a man proof fence to protect the albatross, which are endeavouring to re-establish their ancient nesting ground at Taiaroa Head:—

DONATIONS TO ALBATROSS FUND.

Previously acknowledged ..	7	1	0
Mr. H. B. Stuckey ..	10	6	
Master A. C. Lambie ..	1	0	
Mr. F. M. Low ..	10	0	
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"L.S.G." ..	5	0	
Mr. D. Ferguson ..	10	0	
"A.A." and "E.M.B." ..	5	0	
D. H. Graham ..	1	6	
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