

and an environment lovely to the eye sacrificed.

The foregoing are facts relative to only part of the United States of America, but in my travels I have seen with despair the good soil being carried down the great rivers of China and Africa as well, and being blown away in Australia, the primary cause being man's unwise interference with those features of nature which were meant to be of a protective character.

And what of New Zealand? We have the example of these other countries to guide and warn us, but on we go, gaily throwing cigarette butts and matches along the bush-lined roads, firing natural cover, hacking down trees from mountain sides and hill-tops and ruining for ever a natural beauty with no compensating result whatever, dissipating a capital fund, of the interest of which we are wickedly or carelessly depriving posterity—the only effect the ruination of the hillside and the plains below! For the most part these areas are not replanted, but we spend thousands in straightening water-courses to give the floods which now follow quicker run to sea with their valuable cargoes of life-giving soil!

New Zealanders, awake! It is not too late to save what remains and possibly to rehabili-

tate much that has been despoiled. Europe has learned the lesson, and Denmark, much in the news to-day, has now twice as many forest trees as she had 75 years ago; Sweden began to preserve her forests in 1600, and adopts a wise policy of cutting and replanting; while in Asia, Japan over 50 years ago initiated an erosion-prevention policy with results that are the joy of all who visit that land. And America is not asleep!

The State must have the co-operation of the people, and landowners especially must be prepared to help—themselves. It will be costly, but, as has been wisely remarked, further delay will be more so.

From "Rich Land, Poor Land," a study of waste in the natural resources of America, by Stuart Chase, and published by Whittlesey House, New York and London, I have used the main material for this article. I recommend this book, and hope it will be widely read. Applying its final paragraph to this country, I conclude: "The strength of New Zealanders is due to these islands. They have moulded us, nourished us, fed their abundant vitality into our veins. We are their children, lost and homeless without their strong arms about us. Shall we destroy them?"

*1st Prize Seabird Section. Photographic Competition, T. W. Collins—RED-BILLED GULLS ON BIRD ROCK.*

