

# LACK OF ACTION

## OUR MANAGEABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

NEW ZEALANDERS have frequently been referred to as a people lacking in vision and enterprise and prone to much talk without taking action. But certainly they cannot be justly accused in these directions when it comes to such matters as currency, wages, the day's takings, income, etc; which, in the long run, are all dependent upon the due conservation of natural resources. When it comes to the conservation of these resources, ample justification can be found for the accusation as to New Zealanders' lack of vision; for wages, income, the value of currency, and such like matters are dependent upon a continuance in perpetuity of the products from our great renewable natural resources such as the soil, the forests, the waters, yet the concern day by day is not about these, but with reference to monetary matters affecting our immediate sustenance. Unless, however, the main issue of conservation is attended to, all such ideals as a higher standard of living, social security, wages, incomes, must in the end be defeated and exist for the moment merely as fleeting hopes. Despite the war, other countries are not acting in the same manner as New Zealand. They recognise the war as being but a temporary happening to be followed by what must be a great effort to re-stabilize methods of existence. Thus in Cape Colony, a bill, "The Forest and Veld Conservation Bill," is before parliament, with a view to giving the government the power to arrest erosion. It is now contended by the supporters of this bill that the government will be enabled to stop one of the greatest dangers to the country by undertaking reclamation work on private lands whenever it is the opinion of the Governor-General that such steps should be taken. Private lands may even be expropriated if it is of public benefit to do so.

Innumerable instances occur in New Zealand where the land is being mined for the immediate benefit of the owner during his lifetime, to the detriment of neighbouring and lower lands and of posterity.

As from June 30, 1940, the United States Bureau of Biological Survey and United States Bureau of Fisheries, transferred respectively from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Commerce under reorganization plans, were consolidated. The new agency is now known as the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

A similar step has long been advocated for New Zealand by the Forest and Bird Protection Society and others. Much talk and much argument has taken place for and against the proposal to form a department of conservation. Nothing, however, happens, while other countries grasp the necessity and take action.

Efforts to include in the new service the very efficient United States Forest Service which is now attached to the Department of Agriculture have so far not succeeded. Wild life and forestry are, however, so inter-allied that it is probably only a matter of time when they too will be transferred to the Department of the Interior and form a solid foundation upon which a Department of Conservation can be formed.

Perhaps, however, the proneness of New Zealanders to lack action in matters which really count is due to climatic influences. The Maori has similar failings. He holds many koreros without result.

---

## HELP PREVENT FIRES . . .

... and thereby Save New Zealand from  
New Zealanders for New Zealanders!