

way and the other gets tangled in the wool and there you are sitting down just where the shearer wants to dump his next-to-be-shorn sheep, so you sheepishly gather yourself and the tangled fleece up and walk as calmly as possible back to the table, where you fling the wool so it falls exactly as it shouldn't. And looking towards the door you see the young woman laughing, curse her, and before you've dagged it, trimmed it, &c., &c., there's the next shearer singing out "Floor Boy!"

I could write more about it, but I'm trying to forget. There's the job of getting the last little bit of wool from what I'd swept into the corner as so much waste—but it's too sordid. There's the bruise on my leg where the sheep in its distress inadvertently kicked me. If it had felt like kicking any one, why me? I didn't want to assist in the shearing any more than it wanted to be shorn. It was just the sheep's kick against society, and I was the scapegoat.

And the pay! It's enough to live on if you're content to have nothing but something that fills to satisfy your hunger, nought but tea to satisfy your thirst, and nought but a tic in your bed. Anything else is beyond your means, it's not for you to hope for, you're but a farm hand



and the meagre wages leave not a dime for fun.

They can say the life is healthier, living is cheaper, a woman likes a man who's tough—NO! — they'll have to spin a better yarn than that before they pull the wool over my eyes.

100 YEARS OF CHANGE

New Zealand's Vegetation

Condensed from "A Century's Change: Natural to Cultural Vegetation in New Zealand," by Kenneth B. Cumberland.

THE CHANGE from natural to cultural vegetation has taken twenty centuries in Europe and four in America. New Zealand has done the job in a hundred years, but this rapid change-over has only been achieved at the cost of irreparable damage to our agricultural resources. The basic causes of the injuries caused by thoughtless exploitation of the land are sketched in the following article.

This country before the Maori arrived in the fourteenth century was probably clothed entirely in forest. About 97,200

square miles of it. Until that time, no man or beast (save the moa) had been present to cause destruction. But by 1840 and the arrival of the pakeha, the area had dwindled to 53,000 miles, as a result, it is thought, of such natural agents as showers of volcanic ash and lava flows in the North Island and bush fires in the South. Other types of vegetation were bracken fern, tussock, and the high-altitude plants.

In 1840 all the districts with heavy rainfall were bush-clad, the vegetation varying so much that some parts could be