

operator, sewing twenty skins together in three hours, uses up these $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of thread in three days.

When the pieces are sewn together, the rug or carpet is laid flat, moistened, tacked out, and stretched for twenty-four hours. This prevents any likelihood of buckling, or lying unevenly upon the floor. Next day the rug has felt linings sewn beneath it, the edges are trimmed, and the wool is given a final spruce up with a metal comb. Then at last it is ready for display in shop windows.

At Wanganui, 250 rugs are being turned out each week. In Wellington a smaller factory, belonging to the same firm, produces 100 weekly. Carpets, of course, take more time, and are heavier and more cumbersome for operators at the sewing-machines. Yet these, too, are being produced as well, little more than one a fortnight it's true, but, with the experience gained, the firm is planning for more rapid production. Carpets (modestly



limited to matching or contrasting wools) are built up from either 9 in. squares or from skins measuring $31\frac{1}{4}$ in. by $22\frac{3}{4}$ in.

In the last-named size it takes twenty skins to make a carpet 10 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft., and it's all yours for about £30—if you have the money, and if you've been lucky enough to get a floor with a house or a flat around it.

THE WIND AND THE RAIN

From a Report by KENNETH B. CUMBERLAND

NEW ZEALAND'S soil erosion problem has two outstanding characteristics—first, its seriousness and extent, and, second, the different forms it takes in different regions. Soil erosion is extensive, especially when you consider how small New Zealand is, and serious when you consider how short a time Europeans have been here. It becomes still more serious though, when you remember that the national economy and high living standards of New Zealand's million and three-quarter people both depend almost entirely on a restricted range of exports—all derived immediately from the soil.

Four years' reconnaissance study of the wasteful use of our soil shows above all, that soil erosion is a distinct and separate problem in different areas, each area demanding its own solution. In spite of the small total area of New Zealand, conservation must be set about regionally and the cultural and physical conditions which have hastened erosion must be thoroughly understood. Natural geologic erosion in New Zealand is more

rapid than in older countries. Geologically, the earth's crust that forms New Zealand is of recent origin, which means that it is sharply elevated, and high elevation and small area mean steep run-off. This, with climates which actively help erosion, has made the structure of the country even more prominent. You will have noticed how most of our landscape is made up of steep, deeply-bitten hill faces, and abrupt and ever-changing breaks of slopes.

Climate ordinarily wears away the land. But if Nature is left to itself an uneasy balance is maintained. With the appearance of man this delicate balance is upset and climate ranges itself alongside him as chief collaborator. It is different climates and different elements of climates that to a great degree determine the rate and kind of accelerated erosion. Twelve month extremes of temperature don't matter nearly so much as daily temperature variations, which in New Zealand are considerable. In easterly districts generally and the South Island interior