

EXTINCTION OF AMERICAN ANIMALS.

Mr. Ernest Ingersoll, in a paper just published by the American Geographical Society, makes a startling record of the extinction of wild animals from this continent by the settlement of the country. Much of this lamentable decrease of animal life was unavoidable. But Mr. Ingersoll does well to descant upon the ruthless waste of one of our most valuable resources. Only twenty-five years ago the great plains were covered with buffaloes, and Mr. Ingersoll says: "I myself have seen steamboats halted on the Upper Missouri by swimming bands of the finest of wild cattle." But the extension of the Pacific railways has been made the occasion of a needless extermination of them. The elk, moose and deer have suffered a similar fate, until now it is said that the elk, which eight years ago were seen in thousands on the plains of the Sweetwater and in the Wind River Mountains, have practically been driven to their last refuge in the Southern Rocky Mountain plateau.

Mr. Ingersoll shows that this baleful disturbance in the natural order of animal life is not limited to the land alone. Seals, which once disported in the Atlantic surf along this coast southward to Cape May, have retired to the Newfoundland or Labrador coast. The habitat of the oyster on our Atlantic coast has seriously decreased. The feathered tribes, especially the prairie chicken, the wild turkey, ducks and all game birds, have been sadly depleted, and still the slaughter goes on almost unchecked.

Mr. Ingersoll suggests that an arrest might be put upon this uncalled for destruction by making and enforcing "a law which should permit so-called sport to be indulged in only by a selected few who had proved their capacity for common sense and self-restraint.—*N. Y. Herald*.

THE NICARAGUAN FOOTPRINTS.

Geological students will remember, says the London Times, that last year much interest was caused by the announcement that human footprints had been discovered in the solid rock in a quarry over Lake Managua, in the territory of Nicaragua. The interest was increased by the statement that those footprints had been overlaid by eleven different layers of stone, extending to a depth of four meters. This seemed to indicate an antiquity for our race quite transcending all conjectures hitherto hazarded. An Austrian gentleman, Herr H. E. Low, has obtained and forwarded to the Imperial Museum in Vienna, twelve large stone slabs bearing those footprints. They are about three-quarters of a meter square, and weigh alto-