

wants—housing, firing, grass, fodder, recreation-grounds, &c. The nearer the forest can economically be kept to a man's back door the lower the cost of living. England has destroyed its forests; it has little State forestry now, and pays out forty-three millions sterling a year for imported timber and forest produce. England loses, too, with the loss of its forests a great rural industry and the pick of its manhood. New Zealand cannot afford to follow this example. France, on the other hand, has nearly double the whole population of New Zealand employed in the care and working of French forests and in forest industries. Similarly, Germany has some four million people living directly and indirectly on its forests; otherwise, with its intense earth-hunger, it would not keep one-fourth of its area under forest.

Some of the war maps that have been published lately present a picture of forest in the most industrial part of Europe, which is a striking object-lesson. While New Zealand, as regards forestry, is now drifting into the condition of the old-time misgoverned countries of Europe—Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Greece—the war maps of France and Germany show that they, in their most advanced and industrial parts, have some 25 per cent. of their areas occupied by forest, which is dotted about the country among the fields, villages, and towns. I could give some interesting accounts of the extraordinary cheapness of living and the well-being of the people dwelling in the forest valleys of the Vosges and Black Forest.

GROWTH OF NEW ZEALAND TIMBER-TREES.

Forestry in New Zealand has been misjudged by the entirely erroneous idea that the New Zealand native timber-trees grow more slowly than the ordinary timber-trees of other countries. Statements to that effect are common, but they will not bear critical examination. I find that most of the timber-trees of New Zealand grow faster than the timber-trees of Europe and America—rimu and kauri, the two chief timbers, decidedly faster. As already mentioned, according to the last published returns, the New Zealand timber-trees grow some 50 per cent. faster than two of the chief native timber-trees of South Africa. It is the same story if we compare the growth of New Zealand trees with those of North America, as may be seen by reference to pages 363 to 367 of a recent work on American forestry by Professors Moon and Brown. Nearly all the American timbers grow rather slower than kauri and rimu, some much slower.

The mistake regarding the growth of New Zealand trees has arisen from two causes—(1.) Comparing trees such as kauri, rimu, and totara, trees of the dense evergreen forest, which generally