

In spite of a forest expenditure which, though small, is too large to waste, and a certain forest revenue, the first steps have not yet been taken in ordinary forestry organization in New Zealand. Forest demarcation, which was almost finished in Victoria three years ago, has not yet been started in New Zealand. New South Wales expects to finish the bulk of its forest demarcations this year. South Australia demarcated its forest reserves many years ago. Not only has New Zealand not begun its forest demarcation,* but it has not yet framed a forest Act worthy of the name. Even the weak State Forest Act (No. 184 of 1908) remains a dead-letter. Of State forests in the ordinary sense of the word not an acre has yet been constituted. The forest school contemplated in the Forest Act remains on paper only. There is not in New Zealand a trained forester in the European or American sense.

FOREST EMPLOYMENT.

Nothing, I may repeat, has yet been done in New Zealand to develop with forests and small farms the mountain lands as in the Vosges Mountains and Black Forest areas. As mentioned, these mountain-forest areas in Europe are, many of them, giving an average net return of £2 10s. an acre. This, it must be remembered, is the mean net yearly yield of the forest over the whole area, not the yield from an acre of forest at the end of eighty or ninety years. It is more than the returns of ordinary grazing-farms; it may exceed the net yield from many cultivated lands. These valuable European mountain forests go with small farms in the valleys and the opening-up of the country with good mountain-roads.

Land so developed gives much employment. The average employment in the forests of Bavaria is one man per 130 acres of forest. The employment afforded in other cultivated European forests is discussed in my recent report on Australian forestry. Besides the employment in the forest there is the employment in working up the forest-produce. In these European forest valleys are timber and pulp mills giving employment to a large industrial population. Statistics show over seven hundred pulp-mills in Germany; in England two only, and these fed by imported timber! The pulp-trees are spruce, silver-fir, and poplar, all three growing well in New Zealand almost wherever they have been planted, and spreading naturally in the native forests when once introduced and cared-for by foresters.

The introduction of systematic forestry now would be opportune. There is certain to be much demand for employment after the war,

* Preliminary action for the demarcation of the Waipoua Forest has now been taken.