

In India, so great is the usefulness of the forest as a grazing reserve in times of famine that it has been declared that forestry in India was worth all that it has cost if only for the value of the grazing in the forest during times of drought.

#### FORESTRY SOCIETIES ABROAD.

It has for some time been seen in Australia that, owing to want of forestry, there is a yearly increasing economic loss, which amounts in the aggregate to an enormous sum. Lately, when drawing up a report on forestry for the West Australian Government, I took out the official figures, and this is what they show: When the war broke out the average timber importation to Australia was valued at three and a half millions yearly. The timber-export trade had not increased for some years, and amounted altogether to barely one million, while there was a two-and-a-half-millions importation of hardwood to Europe, which Australia with better forestry might have filled. Then there is the shrinkage in the home supplies of timber, making house-building and railways dearer, fencing-timber for farmers more costly, and causing indirect loss to various industries. Altogether, it is shown by official statistics that when the war broke out the want of good forestry was costing Australia at the least some eight millions yearly.

This position of affairs has led to the formation of an Australian forest league, which had its origin in the following resolution passed by the Inter-State Conference on Forestry held in Sydney in November, 1911: "That early steps be taken in each State to found an association for the advancement of forestry, to be styled the Australian Forestry League, the draft articles of association of such league to be drawn by local committees in each State." This was accordingly done, and the first general meeting of the League took place at Melbourne in November, 1914, the Governor-General of Australia presiding. I had the good fortune to be present at this meeting. The Australian Forestry League has at present but a small subscription of 5s. per annum. It is hoped this may be increased and a League periodical issued.

Other Australian associations that bring forward forestry matters from time to time are the Australian Natives' Association, the Million Club, and various Chambers of Commerce. So far none of these associations has done anything in the nature of exacting pledges from members of Parliament that a patriotic forest policy be insisted on, but they are constantly bringing forest matters before the public and the Government. The most consistent advocate of forestry in Australia has been the Melbourne *Age* newspaper.