

126. The **area** of forest per head of population is an important factor in considering the sufficiency of woodland for the home requirements of a country. The following are the areas per capita in some of the principal countries :—

Country.	Acres per head.	Country.	Acres per head.
Canada	136·00	Norway	9·64
Austria-Hungary	1·04	Roumania	41
Belgium	·20	Russia (Europe)	3·97
Denmark	·21	Spain	·95
France	·61	Sweden	9·30
Germany	·70	Switzerland	·70
Holland	·12	United Kingdom	·07
Italy	·34	United States	7·03

127. From these figures it may be deduced that a percentage of at least 25 per cent of forest carefully and scientifically cultivated is required to supply the local demand in countries with the dense population of Europe. Thus, of the three great powers, France, Germany and Austria-Hungary, which are also foremost in scientific forestry, France, with 18 per cent in forest, while supplying itself with firewood, has to import timber largely, to the extent, it is estimated, of more than a third of its requirements for building and such purposes ; Germany, with 26 per cent in forests, imports in excess of its exports a considerable quantity of wood, but only a small proportion of its total consumption ; Austria-Hungary, with 30 per cent in forest, and a less dense population, is a large exporter of timber. In all these cases the forests are maintained undiminished or even slightly increased. Other great timber exporting countries, Norway, Sweden and Northern Russia, have undoubtedly been drawing upon their resources by diminishing their forests.

128. As throwing light upon the practicability of afforesting our prairies, the fact is of interest that on the Russian steppes, the prairies of that country, the Government has in recent years made plantations amounting to 130 square miles, and is making additions of about 3 square miles each year.