

John Bull Wakes up.

For generations past it has been the consistent policy of British Governments to neglect the question of home forestry, and to rely on other countries to supply the Empire's timber needs, and this seems all the more strange when across the channel, at no distance from their doors, they had the object lesson provided by France and Germany, two important nations upholding probably the most advanced forest policies in the world, and in a self-contained way supplying from the productions of their forests almost the whole of the domestic and industrial needs of their enormous populations.

Then came the great war and Britain found herself so unprepared in many directions, to provide the resources necessary for its successful conduct, that had it not been for the forests of France, and the fortunate circumstance that she was allied with that country, it would have been quite impossible to prevent the Hun armies from over-running Northern Europe, or perhaps from shelling the southern shores of Great Britain.

A recent article on "Wood and War" states amongst other things:—

As has been said for food so might it also be said, that wood will win a war. It can at least be said that without wood we could not have won the recent war. Sixty thousand feet (board measure) of lumber were required per mile of trench, or fifteen billion feet for the French front alone, not including the millions of feet required for shelters, artillery screens, etc. Because of the ease with which it is shaped and built into positions, wood cannot be substituted by any other material. Speed is a prime factor in war; wood makes speed possible. Problems in mining, transportation and housing behind the lines are absolutely dependent upon it. England stands to-day as a living example of the dependence of warring nations upon ample local wood supplies. Her past supine attitude towards reafforestation and forest management has cost her dearly.

And here are the evidences of a lesson well learnt, for the Britisher though slow to profit by example is not altogether foolish. Before the war had concluded Committees on reconstruction had been appointed throughout Great Britain, and one such on Forestry presented so strong a report on the needs of a home policy, that legislation has already been passed for the creation of a National Forestry Commission with powers to manage the existing home forests, and in order to render the United Kingdom free of imported timber in future, with authority to acquire land and to either plant or encourage the planting of somewhere about two million acres of coniferous forest during the next 40 years.

Then in addition a conference of representatives from several Dominions has been summoned to meet in London next month, with the view of presenting statements dealing with the forest resources of each country, and of taking stock, and conferring upon the steps necessary to protect and develop these resources in the interests of the Empire as a whole. This Conference is the direct outcome of the experi-

ences of the war, and Australia has prepared its evidence and will be worthily represented by two delegates sent to take part in it. That its results will be of lasting advantage to the British Empire there can be little reason to doubt, and seeing that it represents the awakening of a People's conscience upon a very important but much neglected National question, all advocates of forestry will in keeping rejoice. Yes, John Bull has undoubtedly waked up, and it does not seem that he is likely to go to sleep again.

Brick-Making in Wellington.

The Wellington Gas Company is extending its field of industrial endeavour by setting up what promises to be an extensive brick manufactory. For some years past the company has had to find locations for the depositing of the large quantities of clinker, which is the residue of its furnaces, and as this has had to be carted considerable distances from the works the charge for cartage has been a gradually increasing one. Some time ago experiments were conducted to determine whether it would not be practicable to use this waste product in the manufacture of bricks, using the local clay as the binder. The bricks turned out in the rough were pronounced to be of good quality, which fact induced the company to set up a kiln, with the result that a moderate supply of bricks is being turned out, some of which are being used in the construction of the new wing to Victoria College. Later the company intends to establish four kilns, and so enter seriously into the brick business in Wellington.

The Bricklayer on Top.

A story is told by a Wellington architect the truth of which he vouches for. A professor, thinking that his salary was not adequate for the present times, decided to become a bricklayer. Bricklayers, he read, can earn 3/6 per hour, plenty of work guaranteed. The work seemed so stupidly simple to him that he thought he would like the change. He applied to a local builder for a job in Wellington. The builder asked him what he could do. He said he was a professor, but wanted to learn some branch of building. He said he thought he would like to be a bricklayer. "Go and see the foreman bricklayer," said he. The professor found the foreman and asked him for a job. "Do you know anything about laying bricks," said he. "No," said the professor, "but I can soon learn." "No you don't," said the foreman, "you're not going to begin at the top of the tree. Go and learn to be a bally architect first and gradually work your way up."

Auckland University Competition.

The three Assessors for the Auckland University Competition are Professor Leslie Wilkinson, A.R.I.B.A., Chair of Architecture, Sydney University, Mr. W. A. Cumming, F.N.Z.I.A., Auckland, and Mr. Basil Hooper, A.R.I.B.A., of Dunedin.