



peninsula. Belgium has 665 persons to a square mile; Great Britain, 374; Italy, 330; Germany, 325; Austria, 242; France, 191; just before the war Germany was increasing her population at a rate of about one and a half per cent. yearly; the increase in the rest of Europe was less rapid. Where is the land by which these peoples and their progeny, undestroyed by future war, are to live? Westward emigration ceases on our Pacific Coast—Japan has 385 persons to a square mile and China 172. Parts of the northern and southern temperate zones are sparsely populated; the United States has 34 persons to a square mile; South Africa, 15; Argentine 7; Canada, 2; Siberia, 2; Australia, 2. But, already, there are n large unsettled and unappropriated areas in Canada, and the United States will soon import, rather than export, foodstuffs.

Look at a map of the world. The tropical belt is usually said to extend between  $23^{\circ} 7'$  north and  $23^{\circ} 7'$  south of the equator. In all that area, excepting parts of southern Asia, there are few people and little more than outposts of European civilization. Phœnicia, Greece, Rome, Spain, Portugal, Holland, France and Great Britain, during the past three thousand years have successively and repeatedly endeavoured to establish off-shoots of their stock in the tropics. For a time, some of the colonies were prosperous and seemed likely to be permanent; northern Africa is dotted with the ruins of Grecian and Roman cities; in 1650 A.D., Portuguese Loando had 15,000 persons—now it has about 3,000; the success of Spain's empire in the Americas covered more years than does the history of the United States. Many causes, local and European, economic and political, contributed to the failure of these colonies. One cause and the most important, was always present; the tropics were unhealthy for Europeans. The last twenty years have shown that disease, not climate, caused that unhealthiness. In the last twenty years, means of preventing or curing diseases that were formerly irresistible have been discovered. Europeans, with their accustomed domestic animals, can now work and live in areas where their fathers perished. When the French failed at Panama they had buried 20,000 persons. When the Canal was built, the death rate in the canal zone was less than the death rate of New York. To-day, Europeans spend years in Africa without malaria; yellow fever, already a rarity, may soon disappear from Central and South America; in Northern Australia, a virile, all white population is proving that it can work with its hands and thrive in the tropics.

There are many places in the tropics where extreme heat