



Zealand, while books on tools and machine tools, new metals and alloys, electro-plating, wood-working, plastics, and chemicals have continued to be in demand.

#### Food Shortages and Basic English

Recent food shortages have been reflected in the keen interest taken in books on bee-keeping, poultry-farming, and vegetable-growing, while the shortage of children's toys has led to a big demand for material on toy-making. Great use has been made of books on furniture-making, weaving and spinning, compost, soil physics, and reconstruction, especially the more practical aspect, such as town-planning, architecture, and interior decoration.

During the last two or three years books on child psychology have been in great demand by all types of readers. Sociology, history, and the allied group of current affairs and economics are read fairly steadily, although this class of issue is probably swelled by secondary school pupils and students who make extensive use of the reference department.

For a short time there was a boom on Basic English books, but that rapidly died down. There has been a steady



rise, however, in the interest taken in modern languages since the outbreak of war, especially in French, Chinese, Russian, and Arabian, while Japanese was being studied particularly by those who were in charge

of Japanese prisoners-of-war in New Zealand.

One feature of the increased reading has been a much greater number of reservations, and on the whole they have been for a better type of book. It is the hope of the library authorities that the wider spread of adult education and the direction of children's reading while they are still at school will raise the general level of the public's reading in the not-too-distant future.

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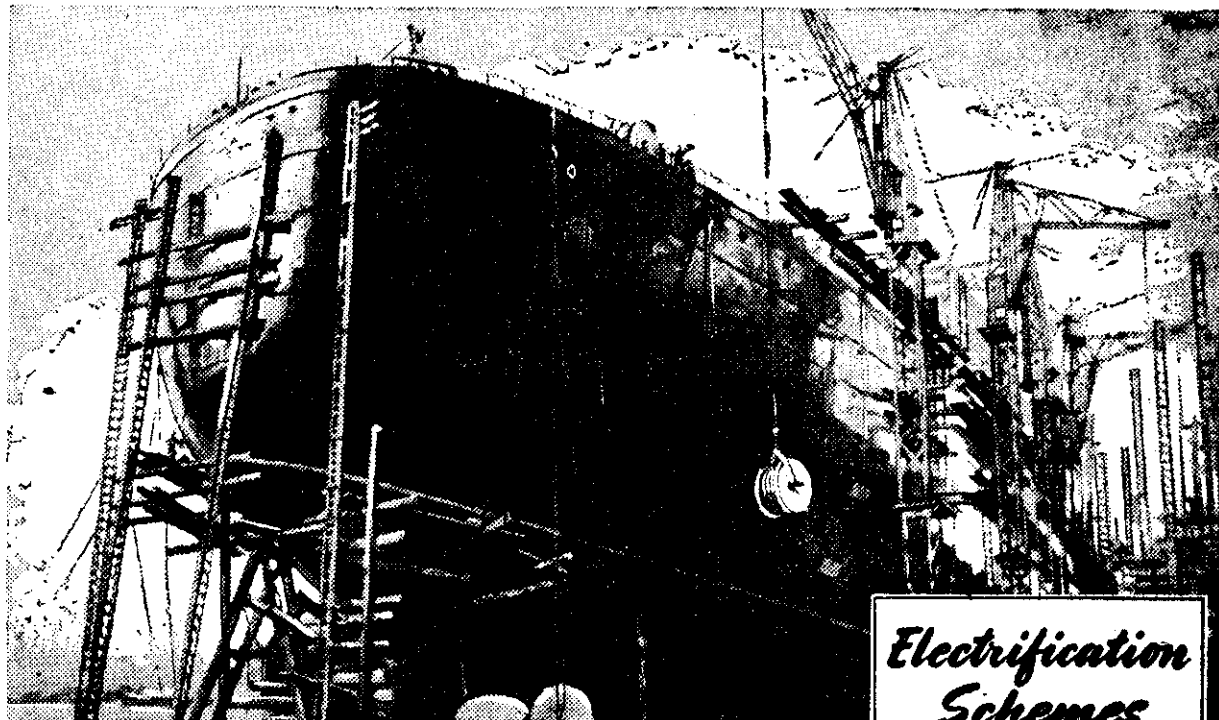
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