

What People Are Thinking — When They Do Think

(Continued from previous page)

building of the bombed cities. Before we make detailed plans we shall need to see what they look like when the bombs stop falling. But we can agree now to try to abolish slums and congested areas, and be agreed that the rebuilding shall be done according to some settled plan. Now by what principles shall we work as we face not only our ruined cities but ruined nations? The Church takes its stand upon Christian principles and calls upon all Christian people to act on them. But lip service to principles or charters is no guarantee that they will be put into practice. The ultimate issue is a moral and spiritual one. It means that people must be so changed that they ask not 'What do I get?' but 'How can I serve?' That does not mean that the Church is concerned purely with the salvation of individual souls. A change in individuals does not necessarily guarantee the removal of evil conditions in the social order. Christians must strive to see that Christian principles are made effective in public as well as private affairs. My chief hope for the immediate future is that in many countries there are signs that a large number of Christians are striving to do this."

LABOUR LEADER

"YES, there can be a brave new world after the war, but it depends upon the people themselves," said M. Moohan, National Secretary of the New Zealand Labour Party. "The people must know what they want, and go all out to get it. It was because the people of Germany and the people of Italy didn't know what they wanted after the war that they drifted into the arms of Hitler and Mussolini. The people of New Zealand must ensure for themselves after the war:

1. Homes for the people to live in.
2. Economic security: income for 52 weeks of the year.
3. A voice in the management of industry.

There need be no revolution. All these changes can be brought about within the present political structure. Democracy can be made as efficient in production as any totalitarian state."

BIG BUSINESS

R. H. NIMMO, a prominent Wellington business man and a former president of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, observed that anyone who refused to see the writing on the wall was either living in a fool's paradise or was deliberately closing his eyes to the obvious changes which were already taking place in the world. "Just prior to the war," he said, "I made a world tour, visiting the United States and various countries on the Continent, including Germany. Even then it was plain to me that the stage was set for change. As I see it, it will involve, in particular, completely different relations between industry and commerce on the one hand, and labour on the other. The industrialist, and the employer in general, will have to realise more than ever his responsibility to labour."

"No, I am not one of those business men who hold up their hands in horror at the world Socialism, for Socialism is on the way. I do not mean National Socialism. I for one would resist strenuously any attempt to socialise my business that way. And whatever happens, there must be adequate provision for the development of individuality and enterprise. I'm inclined to think that Britain, after the war, will adopt neither fascism nor extreme communism nor any other violent 'ism,' but an order based on sweet reasonableness. As I said, I think that order will be in some respects what we used to know as Socialism."

SMALL SHOPKEEPER

"I READ in some of these newspapers I stock all about what's going to happen after the war and how we're all going to live happily ever after. I'll certainly be a better world for us mothers when our boys come home, but apart from that I don't think there'll be much change. Collectivisation? You mean I'll run my dairy under Government control? No, thank you! I've worked up my own little business and I'd like to keep right on owning it. But one good thing—after the war I hope I won't have to keep rushing out to tell people I haven't got any eggs."

TOBACCONIST AND STATIONER

"THE English are a nation of shopkeepers, and a tradition built up over the centuries will not disappear in a night. No, thank God! We have seen already what State Marketing means, and householders will not wish to see an extension of the system. They will want eggs again, and honey, and cheap vegetables, and fruit, and they will turn back to private enterprise for the supplies they used to get. No, I don't see New Zealand going any further into State control, though there are of course many people trying to push it that way."

FILM WORKER

"YES, there has been a change in the temper of the people all right, but not in the temper of those who govern them."

"Do you really believe that?" was asked, "Surely in a democracy the Government reflects public opinion?"

"Not necessarily: it often takes a long time to catch up. And I think this is one of those occasions in history when the Government is almost centuries behind the thought of the people. That's shown, surely, by the fact that the authorities are still conducting the war on the basis of the status quo."

"And after the war? We're certainly looking forward to a brave new world even more now than they were in 1919—and yet look how disappointed they were then."

SCHOOL TEACHER

"I AM sick of the sound of the jargon spoken in the name of Education," said an ex-President of the New Zealand Educational Institute. Nevertheless, I confidently forecast that if things take an upward turn after the war, the port- (More opinions will be found on next page).

MOSCOW NEWS

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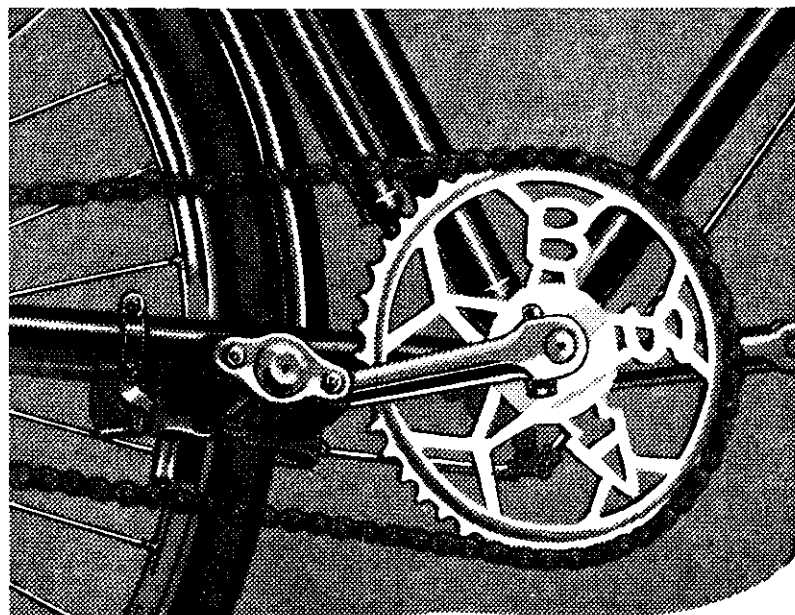
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