



STOCK-TAKING ON THE CAMPAIGN

"The Listener" Asks Some Questions About Christian Order

WE have been conducting another inquiry; but this time on a wider scale than usual—an inquiry into the extent to which the Campaign for Christian Order has affected people. The Campaign has now reached the end of its active phase for this year (though, it is almost certain to continue in a slightly different form during 1943) and as is shown even by our own correspondence columns, it has at least aroused considerable interest. In an endeavour to present a cross-section of public opinion, our representatives have put four questions to people—as many and as different people as we could find. We have questioned hundreds of people in many parts of the country, as far apart as Dunedin and Auckland, and in as different circles and ways of life as possible. We wanted to find out whether the campaign upon which so many church people have built considerable hopes has touched a wider public, and whether people think that it is likely to have any noticeable effects upon society.

- These are the questions that we asked:
1. Have you heard of the Campaign for Christian Order?
 2. How did you hear about it? By listening to the radio, by going to Church, or just from hearsay?
 3. Do you know of anyone who is actually doing anything about it?
 4. Do you think that the Campaign will have any effect on the social and economic order?

EVEN by asking questions of as many people as possible and in as many centres as possible we realise that we can get only an approximate idea of what people are thinking. For instance, it is plain that the Campaign has been a success on the publicity side. Nine people out of ten have at least heard of the Campaign. They heard about it in a variety of ways; by reading, by leaflets dropped at their gates, by posters, and by listening-in to special broadcasts. Generally, it was the churchgoers who answered Question 4 in the affirmative, though there were always a few others as well. But if the organisers of the Campaign hoped to arouse the mass of the people they must be rather disappointed, though they would argue that the Campaign can only have long-term results which would not be revealed by our survey.

Here are some of the comments on this last question:

One of Each

A COMMUNIST, now in camp, said, "Yes, the Campaign will have an indirect effect on the social order, because the Church reaches people not otherwise touched by Socialist knowledge. By rousing the social conscience it is contributing appreciably towards the new economic order."

"The Campaign will perhaps save us from Socialism," said a tram conductor, on the other hand.

Sermons or Houses?

A YOUNG housewife said that she thought that the Campaign offered nothing constructive, but contented itself

order. State houses make good homes and good homes make good citizens."

School-Teachers Differ

A TEACHER said: "If they carry on long enough they may have some effect on the lives of individuals—for instance, by giving better housing conditions for the poor—but they won't be able to change the economic order. I think money is ruthless, and although it may give way an inch or two now and then, it will always be the controlling factor. I don't think there is much carry-over from church sermons to business; there are not really any ideals in the commercial world."

Another school-teacher gave a different point of view. "I think the next move should be to set up a New Zealand Christian Fellowship on the lines of the Industrial Christian Fellowship in England to form groups composed of clergy and laymen to study the question of how our social and economic system can be brought into line with Christian ideals."

The State or the Individual?

THE husband of the young woman who believed in State houses complained that the Campaign was just one

Analysis

HERE is an analysis of the answers we received, worked out on a percentage basis:

To Question 1: 90% answered Yes; 9% No; and 1% were doubtful.

To Question 2: There was a wide variety of answers. 23% of those asked had heard of the Campaign through going to church.

To Question 3: 26% answered Yes. 74% No.

To Question 4: 25% answered Yes; 65% No; and 10% were doubtful.

more social workers' effort and that although social work was good within a small compass it was never anything more than a dribble in the ocean—the real work, he said, had always to be done by legislation. Governments, not social workers, were alone powerful enough to abolish the evils which everyone recognised and deplored. He said: "If the people's conscience had been able to have any effect, all the evils—economic and social—would have disappeared long ago; for everyone admits that the evils are there, but everyone continues to flout the law or his own conscience."

Home Guardsmen Reply

AMONG those questioned was a group of Home Guardsmen at a Sunday parade in Wanganui. Most of them had heard of the Campaign through the usual sources, but one of them commented, "It is like an advertisement for a patent medicine, and in our own opinion we are not ill and do not need any medicine." "The Campaign does not interest those who do not go to church," said another. "Anyhow, what did the Church do to help the down-and-outs in the slump? And why did bishops in England still have £10,000 a year while people were starving? It is the monied classes who support the Church as an institution and after this crisis the churches will slip back as they have done before."

Churchmen and Housewife

A GROUP of Presbyterian churchgoers to whom the fourth question was put agreed that they thought the campaign would eventually have beneficial results socially and economically, first by developing Christian principles in a gradually increasing number of individuals, and later, as these principles became

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★ All Shades Of Opinion ★

Here is a selection of typical answers to our questions, drawn from all kinds of people in different parts of the country

QUESTIONS 1 & 2		QUESTION 3	QUESTION 4
Tram Conductor	Yes. Advertisements, placards.	No.	No. Though temporarily more may go to church.
Journalist	Yes. Listened to "Any Questions?"	No.	Slight. It's making religion less of an opiate and more of a pick-me-up.
Business-man	Yes. Church.	Yes. I know one man who is trying to harness the Church to the political machine.	No.
Policeman	Yes. Reading.	No.	No. Only morally, and not before its time, either.
Lawyer	Yes. Advertisements.	No.	No.
Shop Assist.	No. Is it an evangelical mission?		
Housewife	Yes. Leaflets, reading.	No.	No. Nobody takes any notice, except those who go to church, anyway.
Office Girl	Yes. Radio, papers.	Yes.	I don't know. I'd certainly rather have Christian Socialism than just Socialism by itself.
Doctor	Yes. Listening. Church.	Yes, several.	Yes, very beneficial.
Odd-Job Man	Yes. Church.	Yes, but only church people.	Yes, but it's not very clear how. God moves in a mysterious way.
W.R.E.N.	Yes. Radio.	No.	I don't know.