

The State of the Nation

ECONOMIC SURVEY, 1953, presented by the Rt. Hon. S. G. Holland, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; Government Printer, 1953.

(Reviewed by W. Rosenberg)

THE more one looks at political developments in this country the more one is convinced that a fundamental political change has occurred between the 1930's and the present time. Prior to 1939 New Zealand had a two-party regime of the British type where parties represented different ideologies. Since the end of the war the difference between the parties seems to have become that between the *ins* and the *outs*. In other words, New Zealand seems to have adopted the American style of government where the outsider just cannot understand what is the difference between the two parties.

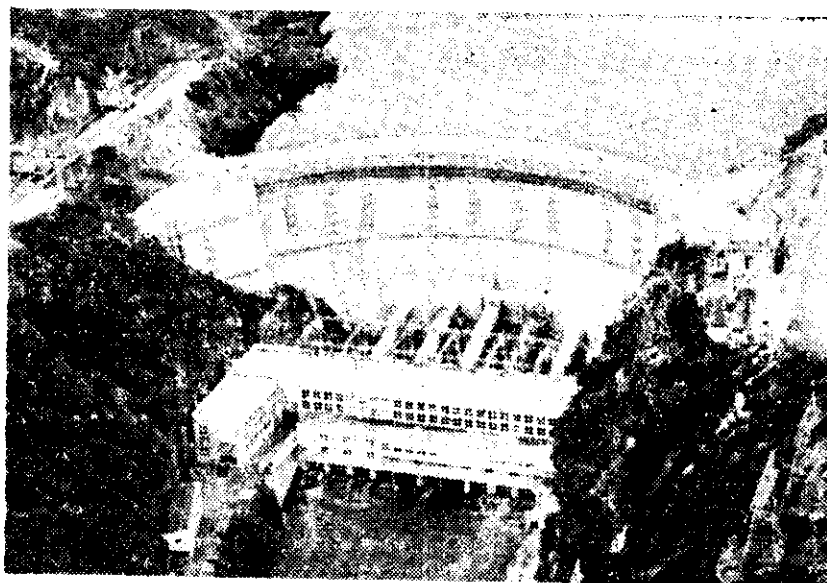
Reading the Government's *Economic Survey, 1953*, one is struck by the similarity of outlook between our present Government and that of any alternative administration. And the reason for this similarity is simple: the parties have agreed, more or less, on a common objective—and that is that the present economic structure is to be maintained

in its essential private enterprise shape backed by a considerable public sector. But they have also agreed that the private enterprise system is continuously on trial, namely, that it must produce the goods that make possible continuously rising standards of living. And since standards of living are so closely wrapped up with production there is unanimity about the need for greater production.

If we take the common objective of greater production for greater welfare in a private enterprise society, and put it in the environment of the New Zealand of 1953, we get the *Economic Survey, 1953*.

This survey starts out with the fact that we will be three millions in this country by 1975, assuming present trends to continue. Well, if we wish to maintain our living standards, three millions means 21,000 new houses every year, over 5000 new classrooms within 10 years, several hundred thousand kwh. new electricity generation, more railways, roads, bridges; a new telephone system; some 3000 more hospital beds and so forth.

To finance such expenditure we must raise production—first and foremost primary production. So the survey con-



Several hundred thousand new kwh., more railways, roads, bridges . .

templates the problem of improving approximately ten million acres of occupied marginal hill country in the North Island. The present yearly rate of development of unimproved land is about 80,000 acres, of which 30,000 acres are developed by private owners and the remainder by the Lands and Survey and

Maori Affairs Departments. This development will continue.

In all, the survey assumes that it is realistic to expect an agricultural production increase of the order of 30 per cent in New Zealand as a whole by 1975. Forestry and manufacturing are other branches of production which will

Buy with an
on the Nib...

Onoto is world
Famous for its Nib!

For over 70 years Onoto Pens have been recognised as the ultimate in fine English Craftsmanship . . . in design and precision. The Nib illustrated is a typical example of this perfection. When you buy with an eye on the nib you will always buy Onoto.

The British Pen-Famous for its Nib
Onoto

FROM ALL LEADING STATIONERS & JEWELLERS.
SERVICED THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND.

Made by: Thomas De La Rue Ltd., London.
Distributors: Bennett & Thomson Ltd., Wellington.



DISPEL
AIR REFRESHER

WITH THE NEW
QUICK-WICK

THE ONLY
WICK-TYPE HOUSEHOLD-
DEODORISER WITH
ECONOMY REFILLS

Don't put up with cooking, tobacco or other unpleasant smells about the home. For only 4/6 a bottle DISPEL will kill that smell. Double size refills cost only 4/3. DISPEL, and only DISPEL, gives you this amazing economy refill.

KILL THAT SMELL
WITH
DISPEL

Distributed by
FASSETT & JOHNSON LTD., Wellington,
for ADVANCE INDUSTRIES LTD., London.