

## GROWTH OF TRADE

Between 1880-1884 Great Britain's exports of manufactured goods were valued at £206,000,000, Germany's at £93,000,000, and America's at £26,000,000. For the years 1902-1906 Great Britain rose to £250,000,000, Germany to £177,000,000, and America to £100,000,000. The increases were: Great Britain 21 per cent., Germany 90 per cent., and America 285 per cent. Some writers said that we must be careful not to upset Germany because she bought so much from us. True, but if they analysed what she bought they would find that she bought coal, food stuffs, and raw materials, which were essential to the manufacturers. What she sent to Great Britain were manufactured goods, on which the manufacturer had made his profit and the workmen received their wages. In 1913 Germany bought from England £40,000,000, and we bought from Germany £80,000,000; a half of this latter amount was a fair estimate for wages paid in the process of manufacturing. If the greater part of these goods had been made in Great Britain and the millions spent in British wages, what a difference it would have made to British manufacturing centres.

## SALVATION IN WAR

After referring to questions of emigration and the huge resources of the Empire, Mr. Marriner said: "This war is going to be the salvation of our Empire. Money was so easy of accumulation that we were getting indolent, while our more strenuous competitors were taking advantage of us. This will all change. We have been shown the abyss that we were making for. Our commerce, patent laws, and tariffs must be amended so as to stop once and for all our markets being exploited for the benefit of foreigners. Our greatest commercial opponent is now busy manufacturing a large quantity of goods which are under the organisation of the Government, and as soon as peace is declared, will flood the markets, turn them into money so as to give her the financial help to gather strength to further fight our economic conditions in the future. This must be stopped before the crisis comes, and we, one and all, must strengthen the hands of Governments to see that these goods are not allowed to upset our British commerce. In the past the commerce of Great Britain has been built up by the individual, and upright efforts of the business population against strong hostile tariffs and subsidised steamers. Governments have seldom helped, looking rather upon business as outside their domain, and politicians have taken the place of men of expert knowledge. For the future party systems with their pernicious legislation must cease, and only the best brains be employed. Commerce must receive its full recognition and assistance from the Governments, and officialism must be brushed aside. The future will call for the best in us all as the problems of future government and commerce are stupendous."

In conclusion, Mr. Marriner said he was optimistic as to the future. He hoped to see the whole of the Empire allowed to have a say in the Empire's policy, and then with system, application and the

complete organisation of our huge wealth, we could rise to higher things, and bring peace and blessing to the smaller nations of the world.

Loud applause greeted the conclusion of Mr. Marriner's speech, which was followed by the exhibition of some excellent lantern slides of German towns.

## Too Much "Speculative" Building in Auckland

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AUCKLAND FIRM OF BUILDERS REPROVED BY MAGISTRATE

In Auckland recently two bankrupt builders were brought before the magistrate by the Official Assignee on charges of failing to keep proper books and with incurring debts whilst they were insolvent.

The accused, and his son carried on business in the latter's name, the father being responsible for the books and the son for watching the building operations. They carried on business without capital on the lines generally known as "Speculative building."

According to the evidence of the Assignee, when the business failed the accused's debts amounted to £968. There were no assets. No books had been kept, but the defendants must have known that they were insolvent some considerable time before their bankruptcy, yet with that knowledge they had contracted considerable debts. Evidence was given by several creditors as to the manner in which credit had been obtained from them by the accused.

Herbert William de Baugh admitted that books were not kept. Nevertheless, he said, when the debts were contracted reasonable hopes were held that they would be able to settle.

In convicting the accused, the magistrate said he had no sympathy with the style of building carried on by the accused. Building houses with other people's money, with the hopes of selling at a profit, was not right. He was surprised at business people, however. It was inconceivable that a person would be allowed to contract debts running into large amounts when there was no security other than word of mouth. There had been too much speculative building in Auckland, and he was going to impose a sentence which he hoped would be a lesson to others. The elder accused would be sentenced to two months' imprisonment without hard labour, on each of the three charges of obtaining credit, the terms to be concurrent. The younger accused would be convicted and discharged on each charge. On the charge of failing to keep books both accused were convicted and discharged.

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The gradual change in character which has been traced in the external treatment of houses of the later part of the seventeenth century and of the eighteenth is also to be found in the internal decoration. The exuberant and vivacious detail of Elizabethan and Jacobean work gave way to the more sober and scholarly rendering of Inigo Jones, Webb, Wren, and their successors.—*J. Alfred Gotch.*