

and many noble deeds have come to light during the epidemic, in which doctors, nurses and men and women helpers have acted, as heroically as many of our men on the field of battle. Notwithstanding our sordid pursuits in an age of "Commercialism" all this goes to prove the innate goodness of human nature in times of crisis.

When the epidemic is stamped out, as it surely will be, we look forward to a period of activity for our industry, and in this connection we notice it is hoped that about 60,000 men will be repatriated at the rate of 5000 monthly during the next 12 months. Let us hope they will all find profitable employment and be absorbed by the community through the organisations set up to avoid any undue disturbance of economic conditions.

As a result of the Armistice, freights have almost immediately dropped 25%, and insurance likewise is considerably reduced from Home ports to the Dominions. There can be no doubt that our supplies of wire-rope, (which at one time caused millers much anxiety) will shortly resume normal proportions, and the Government has already cabled the Imperial authorities with respect to fencing and barbed wire, in order to obtain a share of the stock manufactured for war purposes. Essential industries are receiving first consideration in the scheme of demobilisation, and as factories are enabled to replace munition machinery with that in use before the war, we may confidently look forward to supplies of all the necessities we have been accustomed to, and prices must later on gradually decline.

Writing with regard to the timber position in Victoria in September an exchange says:—

"Owing to the scarcity of shipping, consequent upon the war, the importation of timber from abroad has greatly diminished since 1914. In that year over 51,000,000 super-feet of dressed floorings, linings, and weather-boards were imported into Victoria, as compared with a little over 1,000,000 feet during the 12 months ended June 30th, 1917. The figures for this year are not available, but the shipments have been few, and to-day Baltic deals and American red pine are practically "off the market." No supplies of red pine or spruce have been received from Scandinavia for two years. There has also been a decrease in the importations from Eastern Canada, but recently there has been a fair amount of shipping space available in the Pacific, and the importations from the western States have risen to 50,000,000 feet in the past six months. If during the second half of this year this proportion be maintained, the imports of building and construction timber, such as Oregon red pine and Pacific pine, should be almost equal to those of the pre-war period."

A Gazette extraordinary contains regulations providing that after November 1 all butter for ex-

port must be packed in rectangular boxes, of which the inside measurements shall be 15½in. by 10½in. by 11½in., and the outside measurements shall be 16½in. by 11½in. by 12½in.

Of no use are the men who study to do exactly as was done before—who can never understand that to-day is a new day. We want men of original perception and original action, who can open their eyes wider than to a nationality—namely to considerations of benefit to the human race—can act in the interests of civilisation, men of elastic, men of moral mind, who can live in the moment and take a step forward.

It's the knowing man who knows enough to know there's a lot he doesn't know.

Pluck will win—its average is sure,
He wins the fight who can the most endure.
Who faces issues, he who never shirks.
Who waits and watches and who always works.

Of the three or four million acres of useful forests that Western Australia possesses nearly the whole of it is made up of jarrah and karri.

A splendid work of the most fundamental importance is going on there at the present time and it is being undertaken solely for the purpose of protecting generations of Australians yet unborn. The Forest Administration of Western Australia, being actuated by statesman-like ideals and scientific method, is investing money now for profit in the future. The work referred to is a complete census or survey of the State's forests as they now exist.

An awakening of forestry consciousness in Tasmania is worth noting. Parliament last session voted £500 for investigation purposes, and recently the Premier conferred with a specially appointed committee with a view to the formulation of a policy. Two initial steps have been suggested. Mr. Mackay, Conservator of Forests in Victoria, is to be asked to visit Tasmania and guide the committee; and preparations are being made to plant quick-growing pines. There is no indication yet that Tasmania is determined to protect its magnificent native timbers from destruction. Perhaps that will come.

Pinus Insignis for Fruit Cases.

A practical demonstration of the value of plantations of insignis pine (*P. insignis* or *radiata*) in relation to the fruitgrowing industry is now in progress near Hastings, Hawke's Bay. The plantation in question was made between thirty or forty years ago by the late Mr. Thomas Tanner, an old settler in the district. It was recently purchased by Messrs. Apsey, White, and Co., Ltd., of Hastings, in connection with their fruit-handling and cold-storage business. The price of white-pine fruit-cases