

anxious to assist the Government to the full extent of its power.

Mr. T. Turley condemned the Government for allowing the price of timber to be raised without consulting the workers in the industry, who could have given valuable information. He protested also against the disposal of milling rights to private syndicates.

Sir Francis Beil said that he had been very pleased to hear the deputation, as they had voiced many of the principles which he had been fighting to have recognised. But when he went down to the West Coast and advocated those principles they passed a resolution to the effect that the sooner he was out of the Government the better. The waterside workers were against him because he proposed to stop export of timber, though how he was to conserve the timber for the people of New Zealand without stopping export he did not know. They knew that reafforestation was only a small part of the business. They had one area of 37,000 acres which had been replanted, at Waio-tapu, and which he believed was the largest area replanted in the world. It cost £300,000, but they could not go on that way. The most important part of the policy of the Government was the conservation of the timber and maintaining it for the use of the people of the Dominion. The question of co-operative milling had been under consideration for some time, but it was not desired to put it into operation where timber was coming off areas over which millers held rights. Of course co-operative milling to reduce the price of timber by competition was a different question entirely. He took the whole responsibility for the increase in the price of timber, and he was afraid that he must plead guilty to not consulting the workers, but it was the millers that they were at war with, and, having examined all the books and statements of costs, they fixed the price at what they considered a figure which would allow the miller a fair profit. He did not see how the workers could have given any assistance, except in checking charges. Any information on these lines the Department would be pleased to consider. He agreed with what had been said about inspection, but they were having the greatest difficulty now because they imposed such conditions on new leases of State forest areas.

An Appeal to Reason.

The Call for a New Order of Relationship.

(Contributed to the "Dominion" by the N.Z. Welfare League).

We write this as an open letter to the members of the New Zealand Employers' Federation in the hope that what is said may evoke a better understanding of what they, and all reasonable minded

citizens, have got to recognise at this stage of our country's history.

Your federation has definitely affirmed "that the time has now arrived when the employers of this Dominion must recognise that a new order of relationship between individual employers and their workers must be established." It was in consequence of that affirmation of yours that your recent conference was held, at which we made an appeal for the calling together of a joint national conference representative of employers and workers. For the present your federation has officially declined to join in asking the Government to call such a conference. Your right to form such an opinion is unquestionable, but we desire to suggest to you that it does not help to establish conditions of reason and mutual good will for your bulletin to write, as is done in the last issue, that "on the one hand we have a body of opinion clamouring for a full dress national conference, properly stage-managed, with limelight effects, so to speak, etc." Those who differ in opinion with your federation have an equal right to their opinion and in publishing such assumedly smart writing your federation is unconsciously reflecting upon all who are supporting the national conference proposal, even its own members, of whom, we understand, there are quite a number.

A NEW ORDER OF RELATIONSHIP.

We agree entirely with your federation that a new order of relationship between employers and employees must be established. As a movement towards this new order your federation suggests a programme of work on these lines:—

- (1) In workshops—meetings with employees, establishing committees, personal inquiry into grievances, consideration of suggestions.
- (2) Educational propaganda within the establishments on matters affecting the common interests of both employers and workers.
- (3) Consideration of the system of payment by results (either by piecework, premium or bonus system, profit-sharing, superannuation funds) as may be best applicable to each particular business.
- (4) To recommend that the Government make adequate provision for unemployment and invalidity insurance.
- (5) Assistance by the Government to workers to build and purchase their own homes.

Let us examine how far these proposals are the declarations of a new order of relationship, and first of all, as a means of guidance, let us be sure that we have a common understanding of what is meant by the words, "a new order of relationship." Clearly a new order must relate to systems that have not previously existed. What is the order of relationship, then, that does exist? In the minds of many employers the relationship between the individual employers and their employees is the re-