



Already we have not enough houses. As men return from overseas and marry a new peak in the demand for houses will be reached. Furnishings, fittings, linen, gardening implements, and all the supplies that go with the establishment of a home will be required in quantity, and there will be further demands on electricity, fuel, water, and drainage services. Skilled workers in the building and allied trades will be wanted in record numbers.

Coupled with these demands will be a shortage of consumer goods such as clothing, cutlery, prams, radios, and an increase in spending-power. People with war savings will want to spend them. So will industrialists with capital reserves. Servicemen will have their deferred pay and rehabilitation loans ready to use for clothes, tools, homes, businesses, furniture. By the end of the war the potential spending-power of New Zealand is estimated to be two hundred million pounds, three times the pre-war figure. Let loose on the market it would cause prices to sky-rocket high above their war-time levels.

These are a few of the problems. Others will be the overload on transport facilities, the disposal of war materials and the relaxation or removal of wartime controls and restrictions. New Zealand will also be asked to play her part in the solution of international problems.

Without organization national chaos might well result. Possible supply-jams, delays, unemployment, action by

pressure groups, motor-cars instead of houses, liquidation of overseas assets in luxuries instead of the provisions of key machinery, all point to the need for co-ordinated planning. No organization could guarantee a completely smooth passage through this period, but a measure of alleviation and improvement could certainly be achieved.

But for work of such national importance it is obvious that national co-operation is required and that agreement among all sections of the community is the best guarantee of the success of any attempt at organization. Thus the job of the Organization for National Development is to gain the co-operation of all Government departments and all organizations of workers, manufacturers, employers, farmers, servicemen, local authorities, &c. It also aims to keep in close contact with similar departments in other countries and so fulfil its major role of clearing-house for plans on post-war matters as affecting the Dominion. It is under the control of the Prime Minister.

The general aims of the Organization for National Development may be summarized as—

- (a) Maximum use of the whole resources of the Dominion.
- (b) Full employment of the labour force.
- (c) Progressive improvements in living standards.

The war has shown that, whatever the defects of the pre-war economic arrangements of the countries of the world, they all possessed a latent capacity to produce. With a common goal under conditions of planned production and with a fluid labour force they got down to producing as never before.

But their produce, instead of remaining to enrich the national life, was partially blown up or sunk. Still the lesson can be learned that what can be done in wartime can also be done in peacetime provided the basic principle of positively studying, organizing, conserving, and fully developing the national resources is applied.

The practical realization of these post-war aims involves much exploratory work