

National Insurance

It has been many times stated that the Commonwealth Government fully appreciates the value of the service rendered to the community by Friendly Societies. A close examination of the proposed legislation of the National Insurance Bill, obviously reveals the fact that, under it, the Friendly Societies, unless more adequately protected, will suffer by its provisions.

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Bulletin No. 2.



VICTORIAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"Made in Australia"



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AUSTRALIAN NATIVES' ASSOCIATION
(Victorian Board of Directors)
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BULLETIN No. 2.

"Made in Australia"

THE Commonwealth of Australia has yet to definitely establish itself as a Nation. To that end a larger population is vitally essential. In the circumstances of to-day, however, the acquisition of any considerable number of people from overseas is practically impossible. Probable migrants—of the right type—very properly seek an assurance as to the certainty of permanent and profitable employment in the land to which they are invited. At present no such assurance can be given; and this fact, with others, tends to make the Immigration policy of Australia a decided failure.

The remedy for this state of affairs is very closely associated with a fuller and wider acceptance of the "Made in Australia" policy, not only by Governmental and public bodies, but by the public at large. The latter holds the key to the situation, for, if each individual will only exercise a little personal patriotism in selecting and using nothing but Australian commodities where available, the importation of overseas goods would greatly diminish, the unemployment would practically disappear, and the guarantees that intending migrants desire could be freely given and duly honored.

In the domain of Agricultural pursuits—so often recommended by those who are either unaware of the facts or careless of the consequences—the openings for employment are, relatively speaking, steadily decreasing. To indicate the nature of such decrease it may be mentioned that, during the last ten years, there has been a reduction of 45,000 persons employed in agricultural pursuits, notwith-

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standing the fact that within the same period the area devoted to agriculture has been extended by over five million acres. These results are partly due to the greater amount of scientific knowledge that is now brought to bear upon the cultivation of the soil, but more particularly to the greatly increased use of modern machinery—much of it of Australian origin, both as to invention and manufacture.

On the other hand, the farmers' extra machinery (set down by the Commonwealth Statistician as being of the value of thirteen millions sterling, making the total more than double the amount of ten years ago), has added to the number of employees engaged in Australian factories. This number to-day is 467,247, as against 331,728 in 1914; an increase of 135,519.

This addition could be largely supplemented if considerably more of the goods consumed in Australia were made in Australia. It is a reflection upon the citizens of the Commonwealth that, during the last four years alone, they have purchased approximately six hundred million pounds' worth of goods imported from overseas. As, during that period, the population has averaged a total of six millions, the value of the importations comes to exactly £100 per head, or approximately £400 per family.

Taking the matter a stage further, it may be pointed out that the cost of labor on manufactured goods, is at least sixty per cent. of the total. It is clear, therefore, that over the years indicated the average Australian family gave to some overseas artisan, instead of to a fellow Australian, work and wages to the value of £240. To be quite fair, however, it has to be admitted that the whole of the imported commodities cannot be produced in Australia. Nevertheless the proportion which Australia could furnish is very large, and if the amount

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be reduced from £240 to £200 per family, it will be readily recognised that a vast amount of money has been, and is being every year, paid to overseas work-people, which could be much more advantageously paid to Australians.

To give a striking illustration of how a preference in the purchase of Australian-made goods may serve in abolishing unemployment, the following matter is extracted from the "Register" newspaper, Adelaide, S.A., of April 24, 1929:—

"It is astonishing the difference that can be made by that preference. Here is an instance. The boot industry was declining. Employers assisted employees who were out of work—in addition to the unemployment the factories were working part time—to make a house to house canvas, appealing for support for the local article. The result was that those out of work returned to their jobs, and the factories worked full time."

To the foregoing recital of facts a comment was added, that, if the public could be induced to wear nothing but locally-made boots, "several thousands more would be employed."

Enlarging upon the statement of the "Register," it may be pointed out that, taking the present ratio of employment to production in Australian factories, it requires twelve hundred workers to make a million pounds' worth of goods. If, therefore, out of the enormous quantity of goods which was imported last year, one hundred million pounds' worth had been made in Australia, employment would have been found for no less than one hundred and twenty thousand additional workers.

Further investigation on these points goes to show that, on the average, each of these workers would have been the means of work or sustenance for five others. It is thus very clear that, if Australia made

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THE Commonwealth of Australia has yet finitely establish itself as a Nation. To end a larger population is vitally essential in the circumstances of to-day, however, the acquisition of any considerable number of migrants—of the right type—very properly assured as to the certainty of permanent profitable employment in the land to which they are invited. At present no such assurance is given; and this fact, with others, tends to the failure of the Immigration policy of Australia.

The remedy for this state of affairs is closely associated with a fuller and wider acceptance of the "Made in Australia" policy, not only by Governmental and public bodies, but by the individual citizen at large. The latter holds the key to the solution. If each individual will only exercise personal patriotism in selecting and using Australian commodities where available, the importation of overseas goods would greatly be reduced, and unemployment would practically disappear, and the guarantees that intending migrants desire would be freely given and duly honored.

In the domain of Agricultural pursuits—recommended by those who are either ignorant of the facts or careless of the consequences—opportunities for employment are, relatively, steadily decreasing. To indicate the nature of the decrease it may be mentioned that, during the last ten years, there has been a reduction of 40 per cent. in the number of persons employed in agricultural pursuits.

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another hundred million pounds' worth of the goods annually required, there could be added another half a million people to the present population. Moreover—and this is important—with every such addition the process can be relatively repeated. It is little wonder, then, that Lord Burnham, speaking at the Royal Colonial Institute in London on "Australia As I Saw It," said: "It was only by the fostering of her secondary industries that Australia could hurry up her population."

Viewed from another angle, it has to be remembered that every citizen of the Commonwealth is a taxpayer. All are feeling the strain of the enormous burden of the public debts—now amounting to something over a thousand million sterling—involving an interest charge of a million pounds a week. If additional citizens could be secured, it is obvious that the greater the number obtained the lighter the load of taxes that each must individually bear. For instance, the present interest charge is, roughly, £8 per head; but were there twice as many people to pay the sums required the individual contribution would be only half of that amount. If, then, the secondary industries of Australia can be extended to cover and provide for most, if not all, that the citizens wish to buy, it is very clear that many excellent financial results must naturally ensue.

One other point may be made. A proper loyalty to Australia is not disloyalty to the Empire of which it forms a part. It is the very reverse. A becoming sentiment for both is not only possible, but entirely compatible with the highest form of patriotism. If Australians fail to properly utilise the magnificent heritage which is theirs, not in one direction only, but in all, they can be rightly charged with being recreant to their trust. On the other hand, if they do make use of their natural resources to the fullest extent, they make a practical contribution not merely to the advancement of the Commonwealth, but to the strengthening of the Empire as a whole.

"Made in Australia."

For the preceding reasons, not to enumerate others that could be mentioned, there is ample justification for the individual adoption of the slogan—

"WHEREVER YOU TRADE BUY AUSTRALIAN-MADE."



**Support Your Country
and
It Will Support You.**

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Immigration and Alien Restriction

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