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IMMIGRATION MEANS MORE - NOT LESS - WORK.

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Australia.

Although I know that the majority of Australians have a sane, balanced approach to the immigration question, there still remain a few who are tortured by the old bugbear that immigrants may take jobs now occupied by Australians.

This, of course, is a fallacy. In fact, the opposite is the case. In our expanding economy, and with the Government's policy of full employment, immigrants will make jobs as well as take them. We need more and more workers for our developing industries, and these new Australian citizens, by increasing the consumer population, will create extra work for others.

Side by side with this factor is the steadily increasing flow into Australia of entirely new industries, which will provide vast employment fields for immigrant workers and for Australians as well. Overseas manufacturers who are involved in this highly satisfactory form of migration show their confidence in Australia's industrial future under Labour administrations, and it needs only the same degree of confidence by the working men and women of Australia for them to see that immigration will fit easily into our programme of full employment and social security.

Labour in this country has fought grimly and dourly through generations of repression and exploitation to achieve its present working and living standards. We do not intend lightly to throw these hard-won rights aside. And we are actually preserving them and making them more secure when we plan to develop fully the resources of our three million square miles, and put the country as firmly on the economic map as it is on the political ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{one} ~~the~~ military ~~ones~~.

To do this we need immigrants - and a lot of them. But we have no intention of repeating the tragic blunders of the "promised

land" immigration of the 20's, when hundreds of thousands of deluded Britishers were brought out here - by non-labour Governments - without previous consideration of the absorptive capacity of the country and of the suitability of the immigrants themselves.

They were settled on land ^{about the farming of} which they had no idea ~~how to~~ farm ^{the land might have been} ~~for~~ [^] was worthless for farming, anyhow, ^{The settlers were sometimes} placed in jobs on farms and stations to which they were hopelessly unsuited by either temperament or experience.

Disillusioned, thousands either returned to the Old Country or drifted into the cities to compete with Australians who were already finding things difficult on the post-war labour market. They were all too eager, in their desperation, to accept any job at any wage and ^{on any} conditions.

The animosity and suspicion bred at that unfortunate stage of our history left a bad taste in both Australian and British mouths for two decades.

This time, however, there is a planned, intelligent programme of immigration based on Australia's calculated capacity to absorb at least 70,00⁰_k migrants a year without disturbing economic balance. This figure is roughly equivalent to the rate of natural increase in our population by excess of births over deaths.

Each Australian State has set up, through its Immigration Authority, an advisory Committee comprising representatives of the Commonwealth and State Immigration Departments, the Commonwealth Employment Service, and other experts. Under the supervision of these Committees, surveys have been conducted to ascertain the industrial and ^{accommodation} ~~social~~ absorptive capacity of each State. Results of these surveys will form the basis for allocation of migrants to the various States when they arrive. Newcomers nominated by friends or relatives will, of course, be free to go to the State from which they were nominated.

Similar surveys will be made from time to time to keep the allocation system up to date with changing conditions.

This organisation within industrial circles is one of the features of immigration under the present plan which, while contrasting sharply with methods of 20 years ago, protects the Australian

worker's standards, his opportunities of employment, and at the same time gives the immigrant what we promised him - a reasonable assurance of economic security.

The State Immigration Authorities, in conjunction with the Commonwealth, have also made a survey in each State of the facilities available at present, or required, for the temporary accommodation of immigrants as they arrive.

It is quite clear that our problem is not finding jobs for immigrants - ^{it is} ~~is~~ finding houses. The Commonwealth and State housing programme aims at building 50,000 houses a year until we catch up on arrears. But in the meantime, there are thousands of Australians waiting for houses, and we cannot very well expect them to cheerfully give way to immigrants when new houses become available.

The Commonwealth and States have ensured, therefore, that the first "waves" of migrants brought to Australia under the free and assisted passage schemes will be selected in such a manner as not to aggravate the housing situation. We are doing this by granting priority of passage to migrants nominated by friends or relatives in Australia who are prepared to accommodate them in their own homes. Among nominated migrants, workers essential to Australian industry will be given precedence. Children for existing child migration schemes (Farm Schools, etc) are also high on the list.

There are 14 categories of priority for those to be brought to Australia under the Anglo-Australian migration agreements, and every individual immigrant in the first three groups is to have accommodation guaranteed without needing a home for himself in Australia. And on estimates now available in London it is apparent that all the immigrants who are likely to get shipping space in the next year or so will come from one of these top priority groups. So that answers one of the questions most frequently asked - "Where are immigrants to find houses?"

The Commonwealth and States have agreed that where the transfer from Britain to Australia of groups of workers is proposed for defence or other projects, such groups will be given a high priority of shipment, based on the urgency of the project.

building workers who are arriving early in January. They will go to Canberra at first, where they will be accommodated in military-style huts near Kingston.

Australian building workers in the capital city are looking forward to meeting their new workmates, and both the men and local union leaders have promised their co-operation when the British lads arrive.

These craftsmen are the vanguard of many thousands of skilled men and women, too - who will be coming out to fill the continually increasing demand for labour in our secondary and tertiary industries. We must welcome them as added strength to our nation, in industry, in our social structure, and in defence.

Experience has taught us that even with the best fighting men in the world we could not hope adequately to defend our country from attack with the population at its present strength. We are building an edifice for the future which must incorporate strength as well as comfort in its construction. To complete it and to man it effectively, we need many more pairs of hands.

I am sure ^{the Australian people} you will ~~all~~ be with ^{us} ~~me~~ in encouraging those who chose Australia for their future, making them feel at home, and helping them become good and useful Australians.