

to the Dominion Assembly at Palmerston, and the abolition of the old-time upper-house, has proved an undoubted success, and although the new departure was opposed tooth and nail by the reactionary party as being a cumbersome and costly method of government, it has been the means of securing almost perfect representation and fair allocation of public moneys.

"Instead of fostering parochialism, as prophesied by the 'rookers,' it has practically eliminated provincial jealousies.

"Our fortunate immunity from war, and the dread of invasion, is no doubt due to the system of universal military training instituted thirty years ago. We have transferred our Imperial Navy subsidy to our big sister, the mighty Commonwealth, and the splendid warships now patrolling and guarding New Zealand coasts are sterling tributes to the equipment and efficiency of the naval ship-building yards at Sydney.

"The expatriation of the last batch of Chinese is now an accomplished fact, although the expense to the country has been enormous.

"Fifty years ago there were but six electorates in which the sale of intoxicating liquors was prohibited, and to-day 'No-license' holds sway in the entire Dominion.

"Another item in our national progress is the establishment of coaling stations for the Imperial and Commonwealth Squadrons at Point Elizabeth and Auckland, where only State coal is bunkered.

"I am proud to have lived to see Auckland attain a population of half-a-million, and commend the wisdom of the State Legislature in granting the £10 per annum bonus for each child in families exceeding four."

D. BLACK.

Hamilton.

THIRD.

APPROVING STATE CONTROL.

The condition of the people of New Zealand in the year 1908 will be much happier than at present, consequent upon the spread of Socialistic and altruistic principles.

The land of New Zealand will belong to the people, and those who require a large

or small area for their own use will pay the yearly value (or rent) of that area of the national land into the national treasury.

The State will own all the coal mines, work all the saw mills, all the coastal steamers, and, in conjunction with the people of Australia, will run the inter-colonial boats.

The supply of bread, meat, flour, and other articles of food will be in the larger towns, managed by the Municipal Councils. In the country districts it will be mainly in the hands of co-operative societies, and only in the very remote places will the old-style storekeeper survive.

Flour-milling, and to a great extent wheat-growing, will be national matters, no profit being made by the State, but the full benefit of improved and cheaper methods being passed on to the people.

Boots, clothing, furniture, and other commodities will be made at State factories, which will almost completely supersede private ones, not that any law prevents or forbids "private enterprise," but because the superior quality of the State-made articles will make private factories unnecessary.

It follows, then, that the bulk of the people will be employed by the State or the municipality, and that the functions of Parliaments and Councils will be greatly extended. This will cause deep interest to be taken in elections, and a more intelligent electorate will demand a more intelligent stamp of men, and women, than secure election at present.

State education will be more extensive, and for a longer period than now, the first 20 years of each child's life being devoted to study, travel, and culture.

The religious beliefs of the people will be much broader and much more varied than at present, and there will be a general desire to taboo dogma and teach and practice the altruistic idea.

At age 45, all who desire can claim a pension sufficient for decent subsistence, but the majority will prefer to keep on working, and every provision will be made in the State factories, workshops, etc., for the provision of suitable tasks. Those who refuse to work, and are physically fit, will be treated as criminals or imbeciles, as the case may be.

Steam will be a much-used motive power, but where waterfalls abound, the water-turbine will generate vast stores

of electrical energy, largely for the running of the State industries.

Intoxicating drink will be prohibited throughout the length and breadth of the land, and indulgence therein will be classed with opium-smoking and morphia injection.

Summed up, in 50 years' time it will be impossible to find a willing worker without a job, or a landlord or a capitalist growing rich through the toil of others, and the freedom from anxiety as to the future will cause the marriage rate and the birth rate to increase instead of dwindle. It will be expected of every healthy man that he shall study in his youth, work well in his manhood, and, if he is able to serve his country as a Councillor or M.P., that he should be willing to do so. Of every healthy woman, it will be expected that she should cultivate her mind (on other subjects than fashions), and do tasks for which she is fitted in the national or communal factories, etc.; while the highest honours will be paid to those who are the mothers of the coming race. There will be no room for the loafer, the spieler, the drunkard, or the wanton.


SPENCER E. WARNER.

AFTER FIFTY YEARS.

"See them these glass houses; well, we grows and ripens all manner of delicious fruit and vegetables there all the year round, and exports 'em all over the world." The speaker was sitting on the slope of a mountain near Rotorua, and as he spoke he pointed to acres of low glass-covered buildings, and continued talking like a phonograph. "All heated by water and steam from the springs and geysers. See that building over there; that's the greatest incubator in the world. We hatch chicks by the million there, and export 'em, too. That spring has a large overflow of water just the temperature for hatching eggs, and never varies; and the hardest work about the whole thing is lifting out the broken eggshells after the chicks are hatched. See them works over there; well, that's where they generate all the electricity used in the North Island. Grand piece of work that, to harness up all that steam power as has been belching and blowing and busting year in and year out, and never cost a cent


to keep it going. Them clouds over there is the new geyser; the Government owns it, same as these other undertakings. Yes, they made it. Had a job to get it to go at first, but goes all right now, and old fogeys say it beats Waimungu as used to be. You see, we knew that stream of water was cold before it reached that particular basin, and it was considerably warmer below that where it emerged like. Well, we just had to turn the stream round another way, and just let enough cold water into that blowhole, for such it proved to be, to cause the action to take place. Yes, people come here every day from all parts of the civilised world to see the sights. Most of 'em travel by air-ship, and, of course, come from anywhere and everywhere, and arrive at any hour, day or night. Well, they wasn't much till fifteen years ago, when this new power was discovered, two pounds of which will drive the machinery the whole trip. It laid all the old ideas aside, and now they make the trip from London in fifteen days. The machine is quite simple, and easier to manage than a perambulator. Our population is just two million now. There are very few of them descendants of the old stock. The people stopped rearing children here, so you see our country has been dumped full of all colonies from other countries, and it's clearing for one to hear pure English now; one hears it so seldom. There's a great many of 'em employed in the mines down South, and also in the iron-and-steel industry. That stuff is shipped in huge liners to Manila to the great works there, to be manufactured. Dairy produce? Yes, since the Lunna Canal has been finished, our export has increased—well, something enognous. Yes, sir, all our timber has been gone this last twenty years, every stick of it; so what bit we use now comes from South America. We use a patent material in place of it for building now—easy made, and cheap, and lasts just as long. Had to get something." I strode away down the hill, and left him talking, talking, and I imagine I can still hear him. I was hustled away back to Auckland by electric train, through lovely country, covered with dairy herds and sheep—country I was told had been years previous a waste of stunted scrub and bracken.

—B.I.L.



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