

N.Z. Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs



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Pilot Officer E. W. Barnett.

ONCE again the festive season is over, heralding the end of another calendar year—a year that has been an eventful one in the history of the British Empire, and, I venture to say, in the history of the whole civilised world. This has been the second New Year since there was again forced upon peace-loving peoples the trials and troubles of war; forced upon them through the insane ambitions of a man who has set himself up to dictate the mode of life to the peoples of Europe; one who would deprive them of those things which are most dear to the heart of man—freedom of thought and action.

During the past year the peoples of the British Commonwealth of Nations have responded to the call of their leaders to resist the efforts of Nazidom in its bid for world domination; and, in particular, the manner in which the people of Great Britain have re-

Dominion President's New Year Message To Young Farmers

sponded to that call, and the courage and determination they are exhibiting during these days of tribulation has aroused the admiration of their compatriots, and indeed the admiration and respect of other nations that are remaining neutral.

So, then, as one organisation in a country which, although the smallest partner in the British Commonwealth, is by no means least in loyalty and service, we should strive to our utmost to uphold that tradition of fortitude, self-sacrifice, and courage. In reviewing what we as an organisation have accomplished during the period of the war, it is evident that we have more than held our own with other organisations in assisting in the various public appeals for financial and other assistance; but we have done more than that, for we have kept our organisation alive; kept it active in the provision of many things which are of value to the young farmer, and the older farmer, too, in their effort to render to the country their part in the war effort—increased production.

The members of our organisation are now divided into several classes. Firstly, those who are serving overseas; secondly, those who are serving in some capacity with the Forces at home; thirdly, those who are waiting to enter the Army, Air Force, or Navy; and, lastly, but by no means least, those who, through force of circumstances, are serving on the land. To each of

these sections I would like, as your Dominion President, to give what may be termed a New Year message.

To those who are serving overseas, I would say that although you are no longer active in our organisation, you are not forgotten. Each and every one of you has, through your action in volunteering for overseas service, placed yourselves on a plane which all would strive to reach. You have shown that you have within you those qualities of service and unselfishness which are the hall-mark of character; have shown a realisation and appreciation of the responsibilities of citizenship in its widest sense, and have shown that there are yet those who are willing and able to accept from their forbears the torch of freedom and liberty, and carry it on. Those of us who remain behind will strive as you do to "do our bit"; to assist you all we can on the "home front"; to give to you those supplies which are so necessary to the waging of a successful war; and to ensure as far as possible that everything which it is within our power to provide, whether in goods or material assistance of some other kind, is ready when the call is made. You did not fail us when the time came, and we shall not fail you.

To those of you who are serving in some capacity or other with the Forces at home, I would say that you also are "doing your bit." Many of you have in all probability volunteered for