

## DOMINION RECONSTRUCTION

### CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Such wide-spread support has been received for the Dominion Reconstruction Conference that it has been possible to fix a date for the interim Conference. This will be held in Auckland from November 27th to November 30th.

The Convening Committee now consists of members of over fifty different organisations whose supporters total more than eighty thousand.

The Conference, at which will be present delegates and individuals from all parts of the Dominion, will discuss:

A.—PERSONAL RECONSTRUCTION, covering physical well-being, mental and moral advancement and spiritual development, and

B.—SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION dealing with (a) National Efficiency and Social Progress; (b) National Nutrition; (c) Agriculture and Farming; (d) Economics and Finance; (e) Industry and Commerce; (f) Women's Interests; (g) Youth Activities; (h) Education; (i) Publicity and Subsequent Action; (j) International Relationships and World Reconstruction.

The Conference aims to produce a People's Plan for Reconstruction which will act as a guide to individual happiness and wellbeing and guide our nation in the important task of Christian Reconstruction which will remove causes of ill-health, depressions and injustices. It aims to provide that moral and spiritual leadership which can shorten the present days of tribulation and lay the foundation stones for the building of a new and better world.

The Conference programme and full particulars are available for all who write to Box 944, Wellington.

## KOKINIA CAMP

### N.Z. Prisoners Of War In Greece

During the last few months numbers of people in New Zealand have been advised by the Government that relatives, wounded either in the Greek or Crete campaigns, were prisoners of war at Kokinia, in Greece. One letter received from that place stated that there were more than 600 men from Crete alone.

Seeking information about this place (which does not appear on most maps) a reporter was told by Mr. Garland, vice-consul for Greece in Wellington, that the patch of country known as Kokinia was flat land, sand and rock, situated roughly half-way between the port of Piraeus and the city of Athens. This area was considered waste land till the Turks drove the Greeks out of Asia Minor in 1922. That meant the uprooting of over a million people, and refugees from the country round about Smyrna streamed across the Aegean into Greece. The then Government, under great duress, had to do something for these people, most of whom had been utterly ruined. Looking round for some place to house them, the Government selected Kokinia as an area handy to both the city and the port, yet cheap land. So houses were built by the hundred on this extensive flat.

Mr. Garland related how a humble sergeant in the Greek army was left a mountain in this district by his grandmother when she died. It was not a very fruitful mountain, still it furnished pasture for a few hundred goats, the return from which supplemented his meagre pay. Then came the settlement of Kokinia, a few miles away. Greece is deficient in timber, and almost all the lumber it requires has to be imported. So, having no timber to build houses for the refugees from Asia Minor, the Government had to build them of stone, a craft well developed in that country. Where to get the stone? Handily located was Alisida and the sergeant's mountain. It was found on investigation to be composed of good building stone, so contracts were made, the stone was hewn out in huge quantities, carted to Kokinia, there to rise again in the form of houses. And as the mountain disappeared, a good flat area was created in its place. The story told how that sergeant, who had never dreamed his mountain was worth very much, died a multi-millionaire. The stone he sold to the Government comprises the greater part of the town of Kokinia, where so many New Zealand troops, captured in Crete, are held in hospital and convalescent camp.

## N.Z.E.F. IN WESTERN DESERT

### Mr. Jordan's Tour

### TROOPS IN SPLENDID FETTLE

CAIRO, November 16.

"Having seen our men in forward positions, I can assure the people of New Zealand that they have every reason to be proud of their soldiers. They are extremely cheerful in their work happy in their companionships, and eager to engage in the task for which they have been so well equipped," said the High Commissioner, Mr. Jordan, who has returned after a 1000-mile tour of the Middle East to inspect New Zealand troops.

In the desert Mr. Jordan met military leaders and heard words of praise for the New Zealand soldiers. He received a thrill of pride as he heard Dominion soldiers in lorries call out, "Good old Bill."

After the dull skies of England, the bright sands of the desert and the blue waters of the Mediterranean were a welcome change for him. Later, lunching with South Africans, he found himself involved in the most absorbing topic of present-day desert discussion—Rugby football.

On his way back he saw New Zealand sailors aboard one of His Majesty's ships at a Middle East port. He also met specialized New Zealand engineer troops detached from the division, but carrying out a very important task vital for success in desert operations. The adaptability of the New Zealanders impressed him.

Mr. Jordan found time to visit the newly-established hostel near Alexandria. "Contributors to the National Patriotic Fund would indeed be very pleased to see how their money is being spent," he remarked.

On Saturday he lunched at the British Embassy in Cairo. On Tuesday he is to inspect a parade of New Zealand troops, and will see the New Zealand reinforcements at the training camps. Meanwhile he is having a busy time visiting the New Zealand hospitals in the Cairo area.

## AUCHINLECK'S PRAISE

### New Zealand Troops In Middle East

A cable message which has been received by the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, from the High Commissioner for New Zealand in the United Kingdom, Mr. W. J. Jordan, states that he has completed his visit to the New Zealand troops in the Western Desert, and found them in perfect condition and in the highest spirits.

The message added that General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, and General Cunningham, formerly Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in East Africa, had both expressed to him high admiration of the New Zealand troops and their pleasure at having them under their commands. They had also expressed the greatest confidence in Major-General Freyberg, General Officer Commanding, Second N.Z.E.F.

"What line of business do you expect you boy to go into?"

"Well, we've decided to make a lawyer out of him. He enjoyed mixing into other people's business so much that we figured he might as well get paid for it."

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