

IN THE CHURCHES

Can Help in Mastering Economic Ills

The Church has a contribution to make to the mastery of economic troubles, though it has no solution to offer as a Church.

STATING THIS at Scots Church yesterday, Rev. A. Crichton Barr said not only must the Church have a deep concern with these troubles which affected the life, conduct and character of the nation, but it was being hit on every side by the rocketing prices of all commodities.

"Many of its ministers and their families are fighting hard to maintain themselves in food and clothing, while minor luxuries are non-existent in most manse," he said.

The Church could help to create that attitude of willing co-operation on all sides without which the wisest programme might prove ineffective.

Mr. Barr made the following suggestions which, he said, were central to the Church's message and vital to the economic health of Australia:

- A truce to political bickerings on this national issue, as only total endeavor and cheerful sacrifice by every section of the community would arrest the deterioration of the national economy.

- A firm rein on luxurious living, which Australia could not afford until she produced more.

- All workers to work with a will and so earn their high wages.

- Curtailment of profits instead of, as in present circumstances, fortune seeking in the form of vampirism.

Less emphasis on sport and more evidence of the spirit of service.

Spiritually Blind

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the world today, Rev. T. Kennedy said at St. Patrick's Cathedral yesterday.

Christians were divided from one another, while the forces of Satan were strongly banded together in Communist brotherhood, bent on the destruction of Christianity itself.

By the grace of God, St. Paul, an arch-persecutor of the Church of Christ, became a great champion among the Gentiles, and his influence would last to the end. They should pray that present-day persecutors would be changed, like Paul, into champions of Christ.

This had happened in the case of Bulenz and Hyde, two former high-ranking Communists, who were now propagating doctrines of Christ instead of the evil principles of hate, bloodshed, revolution and class war.

If they could be so changed why could not others, who were still spiritually blind, deaf and dumb, become exemplars of the truth? Would that the ears of all were opened and that all Christians were united!

Rev. Sydney MacEwan sang High Mass at the cathedral, and Archbishop Mannix presided. The choir was directed by Rev. Dr. P. Jones.

Birtheright

"If we forget that it was not by our intelligence alone, but by God's help, our country was saved in its time of peril, and we live a life of selfishness, we shall forfeit the title deeds of this wonderful country," Rev. Esmond New said last night.

Mr. New was preaching at a Masonic service at St. Kilda Presbyterian church.

He said that in those fateful days of war Australians had a political truce, their leaders stood shoulder to shoulder, workers put aside their differences and did team work with employers, and Protestants and Catholics found a new basis of understanding.

"We were determined this

basis of understanding.

"We were determined this should remain a land for free people, who believed in Constitutional Australian democracy, the very basis of which



REV. ESMOND NEW.

is the religious faith of Christianity," he continued.

Times had changed, and he asked if they had really learned much from the perils through which they had passed.

Men were now squandering their birtheright, forgetting the past, its rich traditions and its salvation from peril by the power of the eternal God, and were setting aside freedom, establishing bureaus and issuing edicts without the authority of the representatives of the people.

Controls

ESCAPE from controls was not to be found in the economic but in the moral sphere, the Dean of Melbourne (Very Rev. Roscoe Wilson) said at St. James's Church, Dandenong, last night.

"There is a bushranger consciousness today instead of the Christian consciousness of a

sciousness today instead of the Christian consciousness of a generation ago," he said.

There were only two alternatives to external controls—coercion or conscientiousness—and until men were prepared to discipline themselves they surrendered that right to the Government.

"This freedom we desire will never come until it is deserved, and no greater demonstration of the need of true religion could be found than the present uneasiness," the dean continued.

"It is unrealistic to blame all our social evils upon Communism. Most of them are due to the 'old Adam'—the inherent selfishness in man which, up to now, has defeated every idealistic conception in the mind of man and shown its ugly head in every section of the community.

"Once again Christ is calling men individually to follow him and to raise the standard of character," he concluded.

Churches Combine

SIX Protestant Churches in Canterbury held their quarterly combined service in Canterbury memorial hall last night, organised by the Ministers' Fraternal.

It was also a civic service, the mayor of Camberwell (Cr. R. G. Armstrong) and councillors and town clerk (Mr. Aitchison) taking part with Parliamentary representatives.

Rev. Alan Watson, of Toorak Presbyterian Church, in his sermon, said there were three standards of human behavior.

These were: (1) It suits me. (2) Everybody does it. (3) Is it right?

The third was the one that fitted into the Kingdom of God. In other words it meant, "What is the will of God?"

Boys' Brigade

Members of 1st Melbourne Company of the Boys' Brigade held a church parade at Armadale Baptist Church and a march past in honor of the visiting overseas secretary (Mr. W. H. McVicker).

The mayor of Malvern (Cr. J. Johnson) and councillors were present.

Rev. Wesley J. Bligh conducted the service and Mr. McVicker gave the address.