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*Editorial.*

### **THE THIRD YEAR OF PEACE.**

The outlook for agriculture in this third year of peace is brighter than for most phases of postwar life. The world at large continues to be ruptured by political dissent and there seems little likelihood of reasonable agreement in the near future. Likewise in many other fields the optimism at the conclusion of hostilities has not been justified by events.

Agriculture's future is decided by a host of factors operating dynamically in a world of turmoil. Over and above the political and social difficulties there are economic facts which need to be faced. In the first place, on all sides there is a terrifying shortage of foodstuffs. Many previously well-fed nations are experiencing actual starvation, the worst of all possible hardships, in some cases the intake of food being reduced nearly by half, whilst in areas where living standards were low even before the war, the degree of intensity of suffering from malnutrition and starvation is, from eye witnesses' accounts, appalling. The world cries out for food, turning to the big producers—U.S.A., Canada, Australia and the Argentine—to relieve the burden of food shortages.

The United Nations have organised to meet the challenge of hunger. The emphasis is on production and more production. The conferences of F.A.O. and the Trade Talks at Geneva have given a unison to all nations' efforts never achieved before. The International Financial Institutions are organised to make purchasing power available to struggling nations.

Australia's position can only be seen clearly in the context of the world food situation. We have already signed long-term contracts with Great Britain, our best customer, which effectively guarantee the stability of our pastoral and dairy industries for some years, and there is a demand for such surpluses of wool, meat and other products as we may be able to dispose of. A word of warning, however, needs sounding. Whilst there would appear to be a new phase of prosperity opening up for Australia for both her primary and secondary industries, this opportunity will not be grasped unless scientific and commercial development continue hand in hand. Farming in Australia must have firm business foundations, which require radical cutting of unnecessary expenditure, then adoption of the more efficient methods of production and the selling of the cheaper and better article. The world consists of "have" and "have not" nations. Australia is in the first category and it must not be overlooked that unless there is ability to pay there can be no sale.