

In industrial life we are about to make a fresh start; are we to go forward with more feverish energy along the old roads of selfishness and exploitation?

We need a million new houses in Britain; are they to be built around the borders of towns already overgrown and unhealthy, and are landowners to continue to make unearned profit out of public needs?

Many thousands of our countrymen, offering themselves freely in the service of great impersonal ends, have cut themselves loose from old bonds of thought and of circumstance, and have been living on terms of comradeship with their fellows of all classes; are they to return to the old, contracted ways?

Women have come out into a new fellowship with men in work and in opportunity; are they now to retire again?

We do not say that our proposal is the only way of finding answers to such questions. But we do believe that for many people it will give the most satisfying and comprehensive reply. Just as we pointed out, in the introductory chapter, how the making of a New Town, based on association in the well-planned production of things that are of fundamental use, involved the synthesis of many different ways of thought and of experiment in social advance, so now we should like to point out that it meets also all the many insistent challenges of this special hour. It is an enterprise in which both men and women can find satisfaction for their eager longing after a new start in a simpler and more brotherly way of life. It is a reconstruction scheme in land tenure, housing, industry, agriculture, education, civic and domestic affairs, and it brings all these sides of life into relation with each other.

With such a comprehensive aim, it is evident that we need the hard, continuous work, as well as the enthusiasm and the ideas, of men and women of every variety of experience and interest. Our appeal for help takes therefore many forms.