

re-establish the suspended industries, to help rebuild the ravaged territories of Belgium and France, and to re-equip the nation for the peaceful competition of commerce in the immediate future. Whether employment will be found for everybody is not quite certain. I hope the demand will be quite equal to the supply; but whatever may be the opportunities for employment in this country, there are no doubt great numbers of demobilized soldiers and women who are determined to travel. The yearning for adventure is not yet dead. This tendency is prompted by the spirit of unrest which is consequential on every national upheaval after a long war. Others, again, will feel constrained by the limits of their own circle with which they have formerly been content; and there is, moreover, an undercurrent of opinion that life is more comfortable and money more easily earned in the Dominions. Unfortunately, or fortunately, there is plenty of elbow-room in Australia. The population was small before the outbreak of war, but it has been seriously reduced since then. The cities are too large. The country is comparatively empty. If there is to be an exodus from these shores then let the stream be confined within the boundaries of the Empire to people our Dominions, to strengthen our manhood, to increase our resources. It is no longer a question of losing people if they are conserved to the great Commonwealth of Nations. Migration has become an issue of equally vital interest to the mother country and the Dominions.

The situation in Australia is unique and urgent. It is one of the largest of the Dominions in territory; geographically it is remote and isolated, inadequately defended against attack owing to the shortage of population, and seriously handicapped in respect of British immigration by distance and cost of transport. The passage rates prior to the war were quite beyond the reach of the ordinary immigrant, and the contributions by the State Governments became burdensome if carried out on a large scale. During the war the steamer fares were raised to prohibitive figures and the outlook was far from encouraging. The attitude, however, of the Secretary of State for the Colonies is most heartening and fraught