

CHILD MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

FATHER STINSON'S BROADCAST

Father Stinson, Director of the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association in Australia last night broadcast to the people of Malta over the Redifusion system. His talk was afterwards given in Maltese translation by Mr. J. Axisa, the Director of Emigration.

Father Stinson said that he was extremely grateful to the Government of Malta and to the broadcasting authorities for giving him the opportunity of speaking to the Maltese.

Father Stinson said that Australia is a country very rich in resources. She has valuable mineral deposits; she has coal mines in every State, and unlimited supplies of timber; she has the rich farming areas, where hundreds of thousands of sheep are bred and millions of bushels of wheat and other cereals are produced. There is the beef industry, the dairying and fruit industry, the sugar-cane fields and almost every form of primary and secondary production and industry.

Room for All

To develop these resources Australia must have population and that is why that country has embarked on a programme of migration. Father Stinson assured everyone that there is work and future prosperity for all new settlers. There is a place in Australia for each and every able-bodied, energetic man and woman who is prepared to work hard, to make sacrifices, and to be patient. It takes time to adjust oneself to new surroundings, to find the most suitable conditions of employment and accommodation, to find the real place in Australia. These things cannot be done in a few weeks, and one should not be disappointed or discouraged. If he meets with difficulties and obstacles in the early days of his new life in Australia, if one perseveres patiently he will never regret his decision to have migrated to Australia.

Position Improved

Father Stinson continued: "It has been said that at the present time in Australia there is no work. That was true for a few months of this year, but now the position has improved and by Christmas there should be full employment for everyone who

comes to our shores.

"There were several reasons for the recent unemployment, I believe. First, since the war we have absorbed nearly 700,000 emigrants, and it was necessary to make a readjustment of policy to ensure employment for all, and further developments of home production. That adjustment was made by the imposing of import restrictions introduced on May 1. It took months for the effect of those restrictions to be felt, but it is being felt now. Huge cargoes of imported goods are not now coming into the country, and our own factories are reinstating their employees and extending their operations.

"The second reason for the recent unemployment was a number of Communist inspired strikes, which sought to disrupt our programme of developments. I hope that we will have many more Maltese people coming to Australia."

Catholic Upbringing

Father Stinson then spoke of the Agreement between the Maltese and Australian Governments about the migration of Maltese children to Australia, and that in Western Australia there already were some 70 Maltese boys. Father Stinson explaining what happens to child migrants and how they got along, added: When these children arrive in Australia they are placed under the guardianship of the Federal Minister of Immigration whose duty it is to see that everything possible is done for the children. The boys are placed in Catholic homes controlled by the Christian Brothers. Also attached to each home is a staff of Catholic sisters whose duty is to nurse the children if they are sick and to care for the domestic arrangements.

Immediately the children are put to school and great emphasis is placed on teaching them English. The children themselves are very bright and intelligent, and even those whose English is almost non-existent when they arrive in Australia, are able to make themselves understood in about six weeks.

The boys receive the ordinary primary school education until they complete the sixth standard. Then a decision has to be made about them. If they are good in school and show that they would profit by further education then they are put through their secondary schooling, and there is no reason why they should not carry on with a university education. The Government in Australia is quite prepared to finance them until such time as they are able to support themselves.

If the boy is not likely to profit by higher education, but appears likely to become a capable skilled tradesman, then he is given training in one or other of the trades —

carpentry, bricklaying, plastering, painting, plumbing; and so his school education goes on the same time, but now it becomes more specialized and concerned with his future in the trades.

Great Opportunities

These boys are not allowed out to employment until they are 16 years of age. Then they are placed out in good Catholic homes, approved by the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, and the State Government. The boys are visited regularly and every precaution is taken to ensure that they come to no harm. Some boys are kept on in the colleges after they are 16, either because they wish to continue with their schooling or because it is felt that they are too immature to be placed out.

Father Stinson concluded: "This Child Migration Scheme to Australia has been most successful. You can be very proud of your children. They have settled in well and are extremely happy. They are very smart children, and they all have a very bright future ahead of them. Australia can give them many opportunities that are not available to them here in Malta. By letting them come to Australia when they are young, we can train them into the Australian way of life, and we can plan their future for them. We want many more of your children, and the younger you can send them to us so much the better.

"We want not only boys, we want girls also. We can train them as nurses, teachers, short-hand typists, dressmakers, hair-dressers, and many other forms of suitable employment. This is a great opportunity for you. It is our idea that if you let us have the children then we will try and manage for their parents to come also, and thus reunite the whole family in Australia."

Check out
A very interesting
Outlines of
Australia

1952

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Room for All

Develop these resources. Australia must accept that its population and that its country has embarked on a programme of migration. Father Stinson urged everyone that there is work and future prosperity for all new settlers. There is a place in Australia for each and every able-bodied, energetic man and woman who is prepared to work hard, to make sacrifices, and to be patient. It is time to adjust oneself to new surroundings, to find the most suitable conditions of employment and accommodation, to find the real life in Australia. These things cannot be done in a few weeks, and one should not be disappointed or discouraged. If he meets with difficulties and obstacles in the early days of his new life in Australia, if one perseveres patiently he will regret his decision to be migrated to Australia.

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The Building Industry Sound Policy Needed

By "DEMOCRAT"

The announcement in the Legislative Assembly that the Rent Restriction Bill will be revised in the near future came as a tonic. The expected shake up from prolonged lethargy to one of direction on the road to economic recovery and sound finance will be welcome.

Furnished houses and flats represent an invisible export and as such, they deserve a subsidy in the same way as export trade is directly or indirectly subsidized by Governments abroad. If the subsidy is denied them, controls and hindrances should be sensibly eased if not eliminated.

New unfurnished houses and flats, outside the circle of War Damage reconstruction, are totally negligible, except in solitary cases built for the personal use of owners. It would be bad business for any entrepreneur to invest in a building enterprise at 3 1/2 per cent. gross rent when the bank rate is 4 per cent. and bankers' advances from year to year are as high as 5 1/2 per cent.

INTEREST RATES

If the country adopts a sound policy and desires to make building an attractive proposition, then the interest allowed must be at least at the rate of 5 1/2 per cent on cost of works, and this must necessarily be accompanied by a proviso either that maintenance, comprising both inside and outside repairs and periodical painting of woodwork, should be on account of tenant or an addition of 40 per cent on 1939 rents as allowed in the U.K. today.

This arrangement is expected to produce new unfurnished houses and flats and the Legislative Assembly has to choose either to offer economic terms to prospective investors in building or have no new unfurnished houses or flats in Europe, especially in the United Kingdom, the tug-of-war between political parties is represented by the greater number of houses per annum planned and built for use by the people, and it would not be amiss if a building policy be adopted similar to that existing in other European countries. The

alternative would be to keep at a high pitch the present clamour for unfurnished houses and flats without the slightest chance of this just demand ever being filled.

The law on rent restrictions enacted before the war where houses over £40 per annum were totally freed from all restrictions, gave good results, and immediately the law came into force unfurnished houses and flats grew like mushrooms everywhere in Sliema, and labourers in the building trade were given a chance of employment. To create employment on the basis of remunerative productivity appears to be most desirable.

To switch employees from road making to house building would be a step in which both Government and Opposition will certainly agree, for both the Prime Minister and Mr. Mintoff have agreed in explicit terms on the desirability of enhancing the national income.

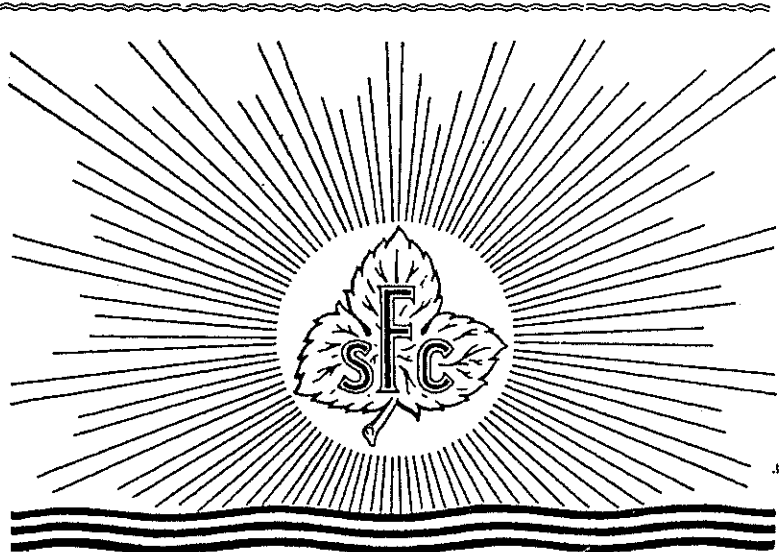
Unlike dwelling house, on which controls may be justified on humanitarian grounds, the rent of shops represents a purely commercial deal between an enterpriser of building and a retailer; and where there is the consent of both parties any interference with the freedom of trade appears to be uncalled for and the undoubted tendency of reducing the national income involving less income tax, less Succession Duty, etc. when most required by Government is certainly to be avoided.

As the demand increases and appears to become daily more urgent then Government should lose no time in coming to grips with this most important problem.

Sound governments must have sound finance and any attempt at indirect welfare at the expense of sound finance by uneconomic rents is bound to bring disastrous results.

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