

## CHAPTER XIII

### WAYS AND MEANS

There is no reason why cities, co-operative societies, or private corporations with a limitation on profits should not promote colonies, as they have promoted garden cities in England. In fact, it is quite probable that as soon as government experiments have proved successful private developments will be undertaken. In Australia the colonies are promoted by the several states, although the federal government co-operates with them. This gives variety and local oversight and places at the command of the local authorities the superior credit advantages of the federal government.

The amount required for these projects is large but it is negligible in comparison with what we have spent on the war. To provide 100,000 farms and homes for 400,000 people would involve an outlay of less than \$500,000,000. The amount would not be spent at once, for the colonies would develop slowly, and the money would come back under the repayment

plan. Australia has already appropriated \$100,000,000 for soldiers' colonies. Were we equally generous our appropriation for the purpose would amount to \$2,000,000,000.

All this, it is true, involves a new conception of credit. But credit should be an agency of service. And this, strangely enough, is just as easy to establish as its control by a few and its use for the promotion of huge undertakings and private business.

The simplicity of such credit organization is seen in the success and wide-spread development of the Raiffeisen and Schulze-Delitzsch credit systems of farmers and workers which have long been in existence all over Europe. The people do their own banking with their own money. And their losses are negligible. In Ireland \$550,000,000 has been advanced by the British Treasury for the purpose of aiding Irish tenants to buy a piece of land. In Denmark \$18,500,000 has been advanced by the state to convert 14,000 agricultural workers and tenants into farm-owners. Credit has been widely socialized in Australia, where \$68,000,000 with which to develop the colony idea has been loaned by the several states.

So far as known there has been no loss in any of these countries from these advances. In fact, there has been such an increase in the value of the land that there is scarcely any possibility of loss.

**Credit After the War.**

Credit after the war must be turned to new uses. It must become a public or quasi-public, not an exclusively private function. The devastated countries of Europe can hardly rise from the ashes unless banking and credit are dedicated to the rebuilding of the desolated world. It must be used to build homes, to bring the land under cultivation, to buy farm-machinery, horses, cattle, seeds, to aid the worker, to develop industries small as well as great. Unless Europe utilizes its credit agencies in this way Europe may starve. It may not come back to anything like normal existence for generations.

The immediate future of the world lies in the hands of those who control the credit of the world. If credit is used to aid the farmer and the small business man the recovery may be rapid. If it is used for exploitation; if it is

permitted to follow opportunities for the greatest return; if it is exported to backward countries in the interest of high finance as has been done in the past, it is quite possible that industrial and social collapse may become permanent. Civilization may even pass into eclipse as it did during the Dark Ages following the decline of Rome.