

NEW DESIGN FOR THE MIDLANDS

by David Porteous

ROGER WALKER is a typical Midlander, living in bustling Birmingham. He is as modern as the new buildings sprouting everywhere in the heart of the city—some of which he has helped design. The kind of up and coming executive who planned to have a Fiat 500 last year, a Ford Cortina this and next an E-type Jaguar. In fact he and his wife were al-

says. His family support him in this new venture.

The Walkers are some of the men and women from all sections of life who invited the MRA European revue, *Anything to Declare?* to come to the Midlands. His wife, an artist in her own right, designed and produced posters advertising the special showings for the university and the motor industry.

Another family who were hosts to the cast were the Albert Ingrams. He is a British Motor Corporation shop steward. At a public meeting this week he attacked 'the bloody mindedness' in the motor industry. 'I am radical and I am militant because I believe in the concepts of MRA.' He gave an illustration of how this worked in practice. His previous firm had to reduce its number of workers because of an amalgamation. The man-

agement presented him with the list of those men who had to go. Ingram suggested that men who had the skills to gain other employment should volunteer to go instead. In 24 hours Ingram had his list with his own name at the top. The workers with young families whose jobs had been threatened were kept on the payroll.

'If any trade unionist bases his ideas on what is right and not who is right,' says Ingram, 'industry would cease to be the bloody battleground it is today.'

With this in mind he invited shop stewards, foremen, assembly line workers—his colleagues—to come to the performances of *Anything to Declare?* A BMC foreman called the show 'soul searching'. A car firm director said, 'After studying MRA I begin to feel that we in management have failed to get to the heart of the prob-

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photo Maillofer

Conrad Hunte, former West Indian test cricketer, and Harvey de Pass, Education Welfare Officer for Wolverhampton

ready driving a Fiat and Cortina.

Now suddenly he has decided to take a cut in salary. Birmingham's population may soon outpace its building programme. And Walker feels the urgent need to train new architects and find new methods which can bridge that gap. So he has decided to leave a partnership in an architects' office to take up teaching architecture and undertake research.

'MRA has given me the guts to do what I knew needed to be done,' he

'Social revolution started in villages', says Indian farmer Maruthi Yadav (see photos p. 3 & 4)

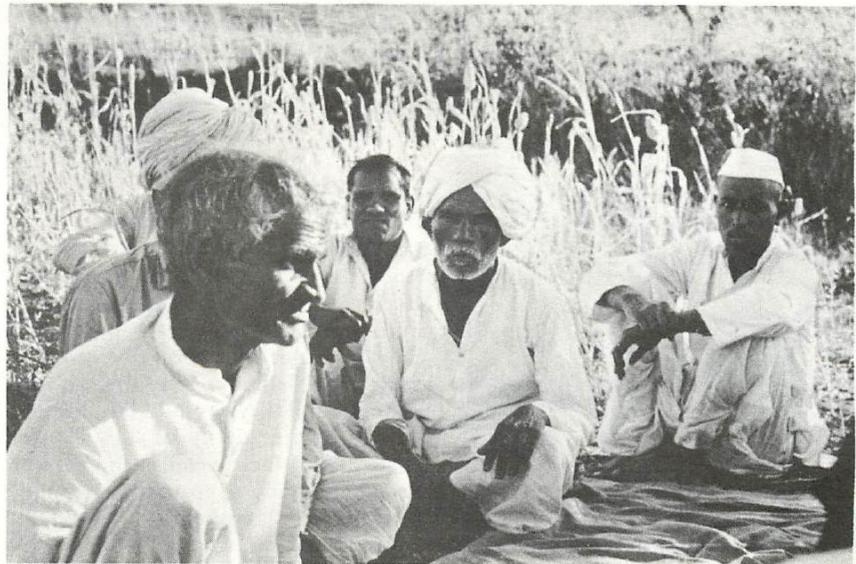


photo Jorgensen



Birmingham schoolchildren listen to songs and talks by 'Anything to Declare?' cast
photos Maillefer

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lem. It is clear that money is no longer an adequate incentive.'

The *Solihull News* had the headline, 'MRA put on a superb show'. It described one of the scenes as 'a fine lesson in co-operation between management and workers. It calls for new attitudes and loyalties from trade unionists and employers.'

The director of training in one car firm asked the cast to give performances for his apprentices. These young trainees were responsive to the idea that they could have a part in solving the problems in the industry for the sake of the world. If they were not straight, how could they deal with the fact that one firm lost in stolen parts the equivalent of a whole car each day? If they slacked, what had they to say about firms where absenteeism was 15%? If they could not

Austin workers, their families and friends at 'Anything to Declare?' presentation at Rubery Social Club



resolve differences, what answer did they have for the firm which lost the equivalent of its whole American export in stoppages?

One young apprentice decided no longer to hide botched up work and waste materials. Others decided to do away with the habit of getting their attendance at lectures recorded and then slipping out unnoticed.

These kind of decisions were being taken not only in the motor industry but in the schools all over Birmingham where the cast gave programmes. In one school a teacher reported an entirely new atmosphere among the students and in the staff-room. 'A definite battleline has been drawn between good and evil,' said a senior teacher. In her school a group of girls raised £5 which they presented to the cast for their expenses. And some will be joining the cast in the holidays. The headmistress of a school in Smethwick, where many of Birmingham's 72,000 immigrants live, said, 'You have shown us what a straight thinking force of youth can do in the world.' An Indian teacher after discovering that MRA was financed by sacrifice emptied out his wallet.

Many young men from industry and from the university helped the stage crew of the show make the swift moves from theatre to theatre. Not only were performances given in Birmingham's famous Repertory Theatre and Solihull Civic Hall, but also to an audience made up of 80% Austin workers and their wives in the Rubery Social Club and at the City's two universities. The Birmingham University paper, *Redbrick*, wrote, 'In song after

CHESHIRE FARM WORKERS FIND EMPLOYMENT

FRED PEART, MP, the Minister of Agriculture, has welcomed an initiative by James Silver, Manager of the estate at Tirley Garth, the MRA training centre in Cheshire.

This estate is in the area worst hit by foot and mouth disease and Silver has been trying to find temporary employment for workers from affected farms.

At the beginning of the year he decided to raise a fund from the sacrifice of townspeople to provide suitable work for these men.

'Christmas at Tirley Garth has been quiet,' he wrote to many people, 'but not so quiet as the farms which have lost their livestock through foot and mouth . . .'

Over a hundred people sent money.

I felt very deeply the sad state of affairs in the county,' says Silver, 'and feared for the drift of men from farming into heavy industry.'

With the help of the local branch of the National Farmers Union men who needed work were found it. Some were soon employed in farm maintenance that would otherwise have been neglected or in clearing up the extensive storm damage in the area.

One farmer had a small herd of cattle of his own before the disease. When the cows went, the milk cheque stopped coming. He started to live on compensation money. But that would have soon meant the end of his farm. Now he is working temporarily with Silver.

Farmers will be able to get their men back after the crisis.

The scheme has been recommended officially to all parts of the county. The Minister of Agriculture in a message to Silver wrote, 'The kind of thing you are doing is very welcome.'

song we are impressed with a highly realistic goal, "the renaissance of the individual conscience"—or more simply "the guts to stand alone". This weekend students, schoolchildren and men from the motor industry are coming to London to see the musical, *Annie*, to meet and plan further with the cast of *Anything to Declare?* before they return to the continent.

India's villages: the source of a nation's recovery

INDIA'S FOOD PROBLEM is a world problem. The conscience and purse of humanity is more and more involved in it. A famine in India captures the headlines and the TV screens of the world. A bumper crop, as in October 1967, causes mankind to heave a sigh of relief.

Gunnar Myrdal, in his recently published three volume study of India and neighbouring countries, entitled *Asian Drama: an Inquiry into Poverty of Nations*, says that the postponement of India's needed social and economic revolution during Nehru's time, now shows signs of becoming permanent. Unless reforms are made an integral part of the development plans, he says, India and other south Asian countries cannot advance.

'If the well-springs of Indian development efforts seem now to be drying up, the explanation must in large part be traced to the inability, or unwillingness to reform the social and economic structure of the country,' Myrdal writes.

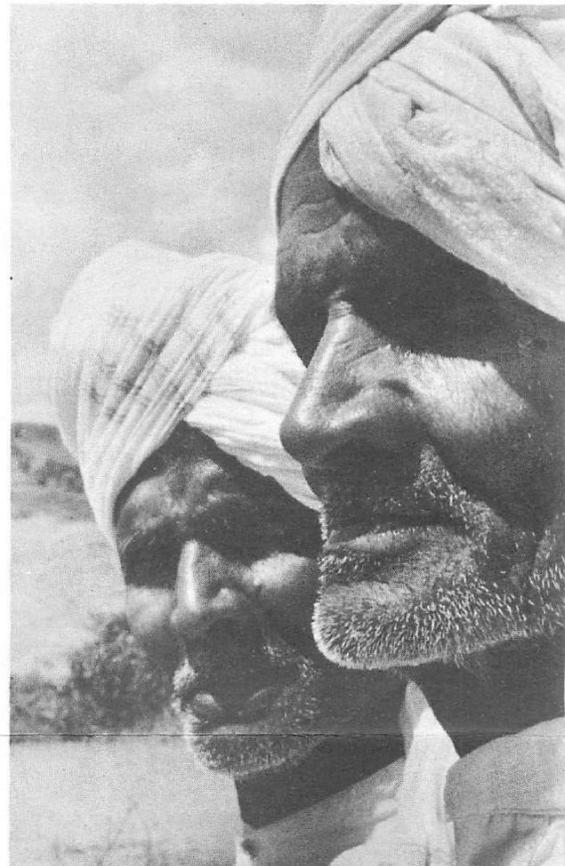
About 70% of India's 530 millions are dependent on agricultural pursuits. There are about half a million villages in India. The nation's 176 million head of cattle represents a quarter of the world's total cattle population.

In the last few weeks villagers from the central Indian state of Maharashtra have been pouring in to 'Asia Plateau', the MRA training centre at

Panchgani, 160 miles from Bombay, searching for solutions to their problems. A 75 year old farmer said, 'If you change 50 villages in India, the whole country will feel the impact.' The leaders of one village wrote to the Union Home Minister, Y B Chavan, on the changes that had taken place in their village. They said that MRA was moving 'faster than a galloping horse' and was the way of rebuilding Maharashtra and India. Chavan comes from the Maharashtra town of Karad (see photo below).

Key in this development in the villages of Maharashtra has been the sudden ending of a feud between two brothers. It has caught the attention of villages throughout the Satara District. One of the brothers was Maruthi Yadav, named by the Indian news-weekly, *Himmat*, as the Man of the Year—a farmer who had increased his rice yield by three times in the last five years.

For the past 15 years, however, says Maruthi, 'there was a tug-of-war between my elder brother, Narayan Rao, and myself as to who was the bigger of the two.' Listening to the inner voice one day when visiting the MRA centre, Maruthi had the thought: 'Ask your elder brother, Narayan Rao, for his forgiveness for the years of bitterness and division.' He spoke aloud his thought to Narayan Rao in front of others and sat down. A few days later, Narayan Rao said at a Panchgani citizens' meeting,



Brothers Narayan Rao and Maruthi Yadav
photo Channer

'Disunity is destroying our country. MRA has the answer to it.' Swinging his arms in an embrace he said, 'After meeting MRA my brother and I got united. Is that what the country needs? We need to open our eyes, ears and hearts and accept this idea. If we don't we are traitors to this nation.'

This reconciliation has stimulated a flow of people now between the MRA centre and 42 of the villages in the surrounding areas. A correspondent, now at the MRA centre, writes:

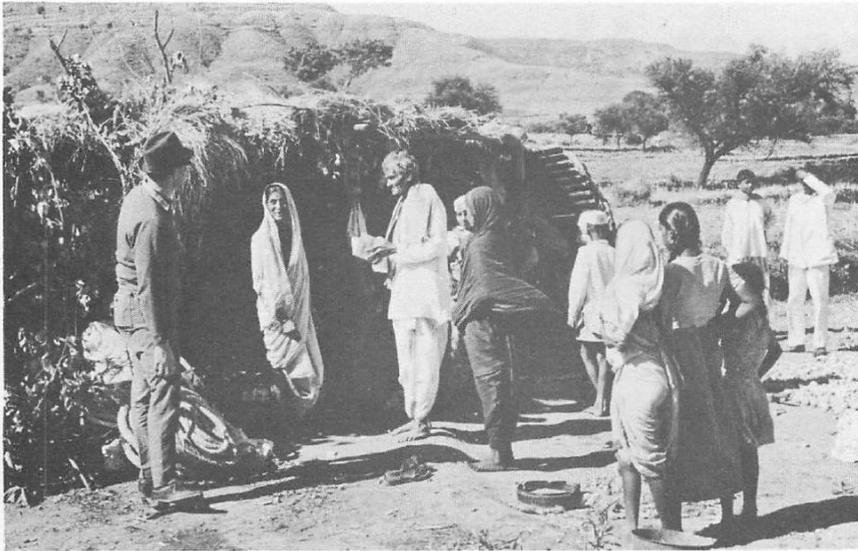
'Five of us—three Indians, a Norwegian and a Swiss went to Karshi, six miles down the Krishna valley. The ladies in brightly coloured saris, washing by the stream, and the water-buffalo wading was the first sight that

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Six thousand at MRA meeting in Karad, Maharashtra industrial town

photo Leggat



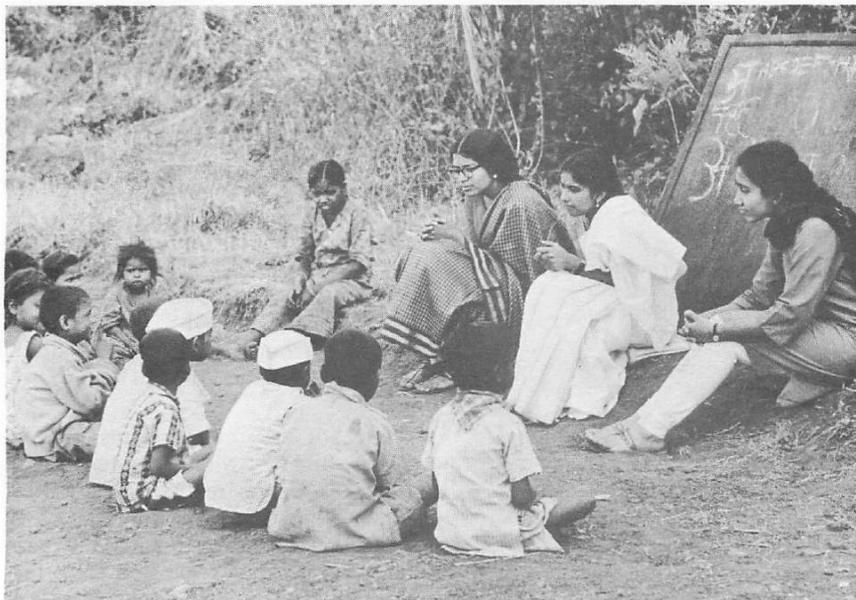


(Above) Maruthi Yadav and his wife receive Swedish farmer Ove Jensen. Many Maharashtra farmers live in huts because of the recent earthquake *photo Jorgensen*

Anasuya Paithankar, from another part of Maharashtra, tells villagers about MRA.



(Below) Children of the construction workers at the MRA centre are being taught at newly started school *photos Leggat*



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greeted us. The children came running and crowded around to welcome us. They had earlier seen a puppet show, *The Key*, by Monica Flütsch from Switzerland. The puppet show tells a story of a grandmother and her four grandchildren. She teaches her grandchildren to listen to God and say "sorry" to those they have wronged. The puppet show is being presented regularly in the villages.

'Since this was our second visit to Karshi, we felt very much at home. On our arrival we were summoned to a meeting with 300 children, squatting in neat rows on the clean but crowded floor of a thatched hut. We were offered chairs to sit on.

'The men and women soon gathered outside, keen to hear what we had to say. An old man with a bright red turban, carrying a child on his shoulder, sat with the children to attend the school.

'During the meeting we listened to God for His guidance. A 10 year old girl said she needed to have clean hands and a clean heart to clean up her village and the country. A young teacher stood up in front of her students and her father, who is headmaster of the primary school, and put things right with her colleague with whom she had not spoken for four years.

'We taught the children a song in the local language which they sang with conviction. When we were about to leave, one of the masters came to us and said, "We all know that the Moral Re-Armament centre in Panchgani is our responsibility. India will arise through this centre." Then he asked the students to bring the food and money they had collected for the centre. The contributions came out of pockets, schoolbags and neatly tied cloth bundles. They included rice, peanuts and wheat. We were not prepared, so we held out our scarves into which they poured their gifts. Poorly dressed children with bare feet gave their last paise, in amounts ranging up to one rupee.

'The villagers feel the MRA centre belongs to them and whoever comes from any part of the world to it is their responsibility.'

Once the villagers of India begin to experience God the dried up well-springs of Indian development will flow again.

Money being raised for Panchgani centre

'ASIA PLATEAU', the MRA centre at Panchgani, India, can already provide accommodation for 150 people. Construction of the second residential building is now in hand, and scheduled for completion, together with a theatre and guest bungalow, by the end of the year.

This will cost £130,000 and a distinguished committee of which Lionel Jardine, CIE, is the Treasurer, have undertaken to raise in Britain £25,000 in the next nine months. Britain's contribution to the first phase of the construction was £10,000, given by over five thousand donors.

FRESH WORLDS TO CONQUER

by H S Addison

'THERE IS ENOUGH in the world for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed. If everybody cares enough and everybody shares enough, everybody will have enough.'

It was in 1931 that I first remember hearing those words. They were spoken by Frank Buchman in a speech at Oxford. He was calling for 'emboldened leadership in the present world crisis', and he spoke with passion of the revolutionary forces stirring. It was a moment when children were dying of rickets in Liverpool while millions of bags of coffee were being thrown into the sea off the coast of Brazil.

Today children are no longer dying of rickets in Liverpool. But in Recife, the great port of Northern Brazil, ten children are still dying every day of malnutrition, or of diseases caused by it.* Thirty thousand people in Bombay, forty thousand in Calcutta, sleep on the streets every night, because they have no other home. Every morning the police go round the streets and pick up the bodies of those who have died on them during the night.

It is tempting to batter people's minds with statistics. But only those who have seen it with their own eyes can imagine the reality. Many of the men of my generation got a glimpse—and more than a glimpse—of it, during the second world war. After wandering around the streets of Calcutta for a few days while I waited for a troop ship to take me to Burma, I thought I should never sleep at nights again.

The worst feature of the situation is that the gap between the economies of the 'have' and the 'have-not' countries is steadily growing wider and will continue to do so unless the present trend is reversed. Yet the fact remains that there is enough in the world for everybody's need, even today when the resources of science and technology have yet to be fully deployed. 'The combined intelligence of modern man can meet the challenge today,' writes Ritchie Calder. 'Only . . . we have to do it in less than 20 years.'

* 'The Hunger To Come' by John Laffin, page 20.

To remind ourselves of these facts is salutary at a moment when we are tempted to moan at the 'austerities' and 'sacrifices' imposed in Britain by the Chancellor's Budget and foreshadowed in the United States by the threat to the dollar.

There are times when material needs are a moral challenge. This was so in Britain four generations ago, when 1500 people slept in cellars in Liverpool, and children of six worked from 12 to 19 hours a day in factories, and grew up twisted and malformed from disease and hunger and sheer exhaustion. The struggle to end all that gave point and passion to British political life for a hundred years.

That battle, by and large, has now been won. We have the Welfare State and the Affluent Society. It has been a heroic struggle and a historic vic-

tory. But there is nothing heroic in congratulating ourselves on the achievements of our forebears. Nor does the defence of what they won provide an adequate theme for our national life today—especially when it is presented in the setting of a Britain which, we are told, must be content with a steadily diminishing role in world affairs.

It was said that Alexander the Great, after he had overrun with his armies the entire known world of his day, 'sighed for fresh worlds to conquer'. Unless we as a nation can find, in the social and moral field, fresh worlds to conquer—and set about conquering them—then, by what seems to be a law of history, prosperity will lead to decadence, our lives will lose purpose, freedom itself will cease to be valued because it will

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SECOND WAVE OF BRITISH TRADE UNIONISTS FOR INDIA

FOUR BRITISH trade unionists from the shipyards, construction industry and London Airport left London this week for India to meet an urgent appeal for help from Rajmohan Gandhi, one of the men mainly responsible for Moral Re-Armament's programme in Asia.

They were the second wave of workers who have gone to India. Gandhi, last year, asked for MRA-trained British workers to help in the battle to save a collapsing Indian economy. The first group of workers left before Christmas and returned a few weeks ago.

The trade unionists who left this week are (left to right) Les Dennison, Chairman of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives in Coventry; John Mackenzie, a Boiler-makers' branch secretary at Lithgows, Clydeside shipbuilders; Frank Abbott, shop steward at London Airport; and Duncan Corcoran from Glasgow. They have raised the money for their fares to India and back and their expenses from friends, workmates and colleagues all across Britain.



photo Strong

PORT OF BRISTOL WELCOMES MELBOURNE DOCKERS' LEADER

THE PORT of Bristol Authority, well-known for creative ideas such as the new docks system at Portbury, were hosts last week to Melbourne dockers' leader Jim Beggs and his party.

Beggs, last year's senior vice-president of the Melbourne branch of the Australian Waterside Workers' Federation, is currently visiting British ports and meeting dockers, their leaders and management representatives.

The party was first shown round the Port and its facilities. This included a 20 minute flight in the Port's helicopter to view the Dock estate and the surrounding industrial area. Later they were entertained to lunch in the Avonmouth Dock offices.

The luncheon was hosted by the Chairman of the Port of Bristol Authority, Alderman Sir Kenneth Brown. Also in the party were George Edney, General Manager of the Port; R W Bubbear, Assistant General

Manager; R Woodall, Chief Docks Manager; D W Cooper, Manager Avonmouth Docks; Herbert E L Brown, Chairman of Port of Bristol Employers' Association; J H Ford, Manager of the National Docks Labour Board; and M Ainslie, Liaison Officer for P B A.

Contribution

Beggs spoke briefly of the effective part that Jack Carroll, a Bristol dock-er, had played when visiting Australia last year, in creating understanding amongst the trade unionists and between them and the employers. Beggs said that this had been a significant contribution towards the smooth way in which the recently-introduced de-casualization scheme had proceeded in Australia.

While in Bristol, Beggs was received by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Rev F C Vyvyan-Jones.

ASIA CAN LEAD THE WAY

FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY people, including large numbers from Asia and East Africa, attended an assembly last Sunday in the Westminster Theatre, London, on the theme, 'Asia can lead the way'.

Vijitha Yapa, from Ceylon, the chairman of the assembly, said that Asia's leadership could be in changing the motives of people, modernizing the character of men to meet the crises of today and tomorrow. He said that the new MRA centre in Panchgani, India, was training people to give this leadership. He announced that a delegation of 40 from Ceylon would attend a conference in Panchgani during May.

Other speakers at the London assembly were from Ceylon, Hong Kong, India and Vietnam. The Asians gave strong support to the British trade unionists going to India to aid Rajmohan Gandhi (see report page 5).

French aerospace executive speaks

RENE LUCIEN, one of the outstanding men of the French aerospace industry and President of Messier S A, spoke at a reception at MRA's headquarters in 45 Berkeley Square, London, last week on 'The Purposes of European Collaboration'.

Those present included managing directors and sales directors of the major British aerospace companies, union organisers, shop stewards, shop floor workers, aviation correspondents and diplomatic representatives from the French, South African and American Embassies.

During his talk Lucien spoke of the successful teamwork between his firm and the Dassault company in France, and the Dowty Group in Britain.

He said that the character of men was important for successful collaboration and to make that wider was essential for the survival of Europe and its ability to face world problems.

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cease to have meaning, and we shall be conditioned for slavery. Without great moral themes which give direction to national life, our people will languish and die.

Paradoxically enough, we shall never release the energies needed to throw off our economic ills until as a nation we take on, with the rest of the world, the great purpose of ending the famine and poverty of the developing countries. They should be as much an outrage upon the conscience of the affluent nations of the West today as the condition of the workers in Britain was an outrage on the conscience of our people a century ago.

But as we set about it, we shall have to reckon with one simple but fundamental fact. This time we shall be fighting, not for ourselves, but for others. We shall need not only to lift our sights to new targets, but to find new motives for striving to reach them. We shall need a growth of character to match the larger goal. The two go together. The challenge, as we accept it, will call forth the change. As we learn to care enough, everyone will have enough. Right across the world, empty stomachs will be filled with food, empty hands with work, and empty hearts with an idea that really satisfies.

**MARGARET BURTON
GERALD HELY
ROSLYN DUNBAR
and full company**

in

ANNIE

at the

Westminster Theatre

Books and Lyrics by

Alan Thornhill

Music by William L Reed
