"A PLEA FOR SANEITY.

COMMERCIAL CHAMBERS CONFERENCE.

MR. W. J. HILL'S ADDRESS.

MELBOURNE, Monday.

Open-wed in Melbourne to-day, the delegates of the Australian conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Australia, to-day listened to a thoughtful address from the President (Mr. W. J. Hill), of the South Australian chamber.

Mr. Hill began with the declaration that he had broken from precedent and had not listened to the last two parts. First, he proposed to give a few reflections arising from recent happenings in the Commonwealth under the title of "A PLEA FOR SANEITY," and afterwards to give a digest of financial and commercial matters. He felt that he would be failing in his duty were he to shirk the opportunity of concentrating attention on some of the problems and perplexities of commerce in the recent past, and that the more important present and future. The chambers of commerce, although not political to the extent that they were not allied to any particular party, obviously

Mr. W. G. T. Goodman (General Manager of the Municipal Tramway Trust) opened the formal proceedings of the conference on Saturday. An esteemed world authority on transport engineering, and has been long interested in the geometric student, and has been a member of the Board of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and Fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

MR. W. J. HILL, President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Australia.

MR. W. G. T. GOODMAN

who was 33 years of age on Saturday.

Economists, before being engaged to design and construct the tramway system, was electrical engineer, and has held several positions in the field of electricity. He has been in several countries, and has several times travelled around the British isles. His knowledge is extensive and profound, and he has had the services of a number of experts in the field of electricity.

A Bread Interpretation.

Mr. Hill continued: In planning this address, the word "commodity" was the main subject of the annual assemblies of the chambers. It was stating a well-worn phrase to emphasise the importance of the Commonwealth Government's policy of free trade and low duties. The chambers of commerce, as such, are not political, but they are the representatives of the community. Their main purpose is to foster trade and commerce. A Bread Interpretation.

A Bread Interpretation.

Mr. Hill continued: In planning this address, the word "commodity" was the main subject of the annual assemblies of the chambers. It was stating a well-worn phrase to emphasise the importance of the Commonwealth Government's policy of free trade and low duties. The chambers of commerce, as such, are not political, but they are the representatives of the community. Their main purpose is to foster trade and commerce.
emphasize our abhorrence of the backsliding to unproductive and unremunerative pursuits. Imperialism or Realism are in no wise incompatible. As a commercial community of Australia, we shall not demand that the whole Empire be under the same system of Government, but we shall demand that the day shall come when the commonwealth of Australia, through its daily conduct, shall stand squarely for the principles of trade. Only thus can we hope for the industrial advance which we are all praying for.

As business men, we were pleased with the Minister's announcement that there was a small balance on the face of Australia but that the Commonwealth fleet of steamships might be able to cut their losses and got out of the ship building business. Australia is but emphasizing the name of Australia when things were blue, but not quite so dark as now. It might have been otherwise had Australia's products included the ranks of the maritime unions. No Government in the world could, or would, insist on socialistic experiment in face of such unanswerable difficulties imposed by unionistic holocausts, and regrettable happenings as have recently occurred in the ports and harbours of the Commonwealth. A direct resultless loss on the fleet to date is more than the cost of the book. Price half a million and working to September 30 last, and plus all the losses since then. As practical and experienced men, we congratulate the Prime Minister on the position with the Pensions. 

Australia unanswerably is the second most enterprising country of the world and no better work can be done in the ranks of the shipping industry than in Australia. The Australian Government cannot be blamed for the results. All the instruction is given to the ship owners, and now that when the time comes they can go out on their own account, so we as members of the community of Australia may demand that the time shall come when the line of efficient ships will be efficiently protected. 

Sound Government levies industrial controls, instinctive in the claims of the community, the balance of the Commonwealth's greatest needs. Sanity in commerce may not be a panacea for all our ills, but it can be a start. It can provide a chance for all, plus a reasonable living of the worker. To sweep the cobwebs of industries is to get our great problems, eventually, in a position to be successfully surmounted; our gravest difficulties are not in the financial outlay, but in the production of goods:

Too Much Borrowing.

"In the first place, it was recognized that the continued borrowing in London by various Governments, the loans and advances, were an Australian balance at that point, and that the process should be curtailed. Recognizing these, we should stand to refrain from going on the London market for new loan money at any rate. To some extent, it has retarded the further advance of the areas. Australian prosperity, and general increase in population has been a bane rather than a boon. It is not well to forget that a bond is a sound, and not a dead heart. As a nation, we must learn the lesson of the past. The country is barely touched, and in several years, the stunted heart of the Commonwealth is working through, is sufficient, the limit of population is the South. North time do what the West." 

Production.

"The production problem of Australia raises its head. The production of our people is not in the least, the completed returns for 1922. 

Wool and Wheat.

A halt has been called in the upward curve of wool prices, and any further increase of offerings has been found necessary in an effort to steady the decline and in the wool trade that prices will not be lower, but at the same time a return of these prices will be nearer the mark. The regional trade is being recognized by the various producers. It is time we began to sit up and take notice of the fact that we are making in the wool trade in the Commonwealth. The Government is a producer of our great staple—wheat and perhaps more cause for real satisfaction. In every State of the Commonwealth the crop was good, in some cases very good. A time diminished what otherwise would have been a bumper crop on record. Australia does not hold the same commanding position in the world as it did; but the wool market is generally stable. The leading factors in the wheat markets are generally satisfied, and the market is firming up. The demand is not for big prices; neither do we offer low prices. If it is, what would be worth as much as a poor European harvest, it is just the right thing. A log reduction in the Commonwealth market is a fact. The Commonwealth, in raising the standard of prices in the wheat markets, has not done so mean bigness; neither do we demand low prices. It is just the right thing. A log reduction in the Commonwealth market.