

ACHIEVEMENT OF MORAL REARMAMENT "Worked Wonders" In British Industries

"Britain is fighting her way up, and fighting successfully, to a new economic stability and a new nationhood," said Mr. W. Farrar Vickers, a British industrialist and a prominent member of the Moral Rearmament Movement, when he spoke to City Rotarians yesterday on moral rearmament and rise of a new spirit in industry.

"The British working man is as sound as ever, and working as well as ever. All he has been deprived of is sound leadership, and this is coming." Individual managers were providing this new form of leadership. It was not a Government scheme. It was not possible to understand this unless one took into account the 25 years work of moral rearmament.

This new age was an ideological age, and the battle of the ideologies was being fought in the factories. The question was whether we should have a society ruled by the idea of mechanical and material perfection, or one ruled by spiritual force. Communism could not be fought with its own weapon, materialism, and a new idea was needed to win the hearts of Communists, men who looked for greater justice in society. This was where moral rearmament came in.

A NEW SPIRIT

He could give instances from many industries where moral rearmament had worked wonders, increasing production, bringing better teamwork between labour and management, providing an inner incentive, and an answer to Communism, said Mr. Vickers. But he would quote from the coal industry, which was the key to Britain's recovery, and which had recovered amazingly from its parlous plight of a few years ago.

Mr. Vickers then gave instances of how moral rearmament had produced co-operation in the coal fields, and increased output by improving industrial relations and giving the miners an incentive. When, in 1947, Senator Bridges visited England to see if Europe could be saved, the Mineworkers' Union submitted a report to him which began: "We need moral rearmament in every pit." This was the official reaction of a coal miners' organisation.

He was sure, said Mr. Vickers, that South Africa, which struck him as a pioneering country, would also pioneer the way to a new world.