

SELF-HELP

A CHALLENGE TO COUNTRY TOWNS

By "Verb Sap."

Since commencing this series of articles the writer has renewed his visits to several country towns to get a "nearer" view of much that is to follow. This is as it should be, of course, though goodness knows he needn't have worried, because there are not many improvements to cause the least change in the original plans; in fact, in some towns there is a retrograde movement. Am I about to moan? No, but get ready for some of the straightest talk yet published on behalf of better country town life.

"Self-help" is my text, so let what I have to say, although it has particular regard to country town conditions, stir primary producers to action also, and they need a lot of self-help by the same token.

Self-help does not mean self-pity, because that is degrading; it does mean to first of all undertake some measure of self-examination. The more we all admit our apathy, our cowardice, and our thoroughly grooved cowardice and drift, the quicker will our forward movement be set on

ers to curse politics, to curse this, that, and the other; it would be approaching common-sense fast were we all to learn what self-help means and get to it. So long as country town business men ride willing horses to a standstill, and wait most expectantly for salvation from politics, our towns are going to drift as they drift now, while primary producers are, meantime, being ground down by those centralisationists who do adopt self-help with a vengeance.

At the police court this morning, W. Mitchell, A. M. Tober, and J. Ashton, were each fined 10/- and 8/- court costs, in default 7 days, for allowing stock to stray on Federal Territory lands.

Dainty range of Metal Photo Frames, now on sale at Fallick and Sons.

The railway unions have served an ultimatum upon members of loyalist organisations established during the 1917 strike. It states that unless the loyalists join the union the Government will be asked to have them dismissed from the service.

The State Cabinet yesterday completed the draft bill to permit of the appointment of women to the Legislative Council. Mrs. Kate Dwyer, who was defeated at the last elections, is regarded as certain of appointment.