

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## SUGAR-WORKERS' FLIGHT.

Sir,—I am hoping you can find space in your paper for these problems. I would like you to publish these items, including working men's wages and earnings, and expenses, and sustenance.

During the crushing season my earnings amounted to £170 and when I went to the police station for my ration ticket, while I was waiting for three weeks for my sustenance, I was asked by the police officer, where I worked, and what I had earned. Of course I told him, and I was told that I earned enough not to apply for rations.

I think the way the cops talk to a chap out of work would turn men into criminals. I wonder if that same policeman would be able to live on £170 odd a year. If he happened to get put from his job, would he have to go to draw the rations. He would have every right to do so. Why then, do he seek to deprive a man of his rights?

I pay relief tax, and why shouldn't I be entitled to it, every man and woman should, it should not matter how much they earn. A working man can't be anything else but destitute on the wages he gets. The "allowance" to a married man with a wife and two children is £1.16.3 per week. Now could that policeman be able to live on the £170 for 6 months and then the rest of the 6 months live on £1.16.3, or could Mr. P. Smith.

I am sure they could not, nor could they give their wife and children what they should get out of life on the "huge" earnings I make in the season, £170 odd and the £1.16.3 per week sustenance, £1 per week; groceries, £1.13.10 per week; here are a few items: House week; meat, 4/6 per week; bread, 4/6; vegetables 2/-; fruit, 2/-; apples only; amusements, nil; insurance per week, 2/-; lights, 2/-; fuel, 15/-; (this wage is only for 8 months), wages £5; cost of living only £4.10.6.

So you see how much a working man has left to squander on clothes or shoes, and that has to be purchased out of the £170. He has nothing much to live for. Although still willing to work, there is no work to do. He has just rely on the big sum of £1.16.3 per week (sustenance), and when that is finished, he goes on relief work for a day a week or so, according to his dependents.

I am luckier than some. I get 5 or 6 months work in the year and you see the results of my earnings. I am not such a great deal better off, but my sympathy is with those who get less. It is a wonder they are living at all. It is a crying shame on humanity and our Labor Government and our Council, a man earning £170 a week, is the Labor Government going to allow this sort of thing to continue, if so they are heading for a big crash. Mr. Forgan Smith would spend 17/1 or a £1 in ten minutes, yet he allows this sort of thing to continue, a man to live on 17/1 a week.

Here is a case: A man lost his wife and was left with a child. He draws £1/1 for his child and himself, 17/1 for him, 3/1 for the child. The doctors say children are to have a pint of milk a day and two apples to check this dreaded disease of infantile paralysis. Well, how can a child get these "luxuries" on 3/1 a week. The politicians can well afford to spend 16/- a day on fruit and 5 or 6 quarts of milk a day, but we workers cannot afford it. All we can do is to see our poor little children want, but I try to do my best for mine. So I think our Labor Government should find a way to find full-time employment for those who are able and willing to work, not just a day or two days a week—a full week. The only way is a shorter working week, both in the Sugar Industry and throughout the whole of Queensland. Men are anxious for work, that is proved at the Labor Bureau, if there is a call for two men there are 200 turn up for it.

So I have explained as well as I can, and you can write it differently if you wish, but I would like it to read as near to this as you can put it. I am not a well educated person, but it is the best I can do, as I have stated, and thanking you.

Innisfail.

## A GOOD EXAMPLE.

Sir,—The stand taken by Tom Williams, when he refused to load tin clippings on the "Kilano Maru" registered in his disc being confiscated. It is learned that Williams first complained to Mr. Stokes, of Burns Philps stating he had a principle. Stokes reported that he (Williams) wasn't a

# North Queensland Guardian

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 2d. per copy; 2/- per quarter; 4/- per half year; 7/6 per year.

ADVERTISING RATES: 3/- per column inch. Special contract rates on application.

BUSINESS ADDRESS: C/o John G. Johnson, P.O. Box 31, Townsville. Phone 662.

EDITORIAL ADDRESS: Editorial Board, P.O. Box 1, Townsville. Phone 1467.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1938.

## STATE ELECTIONS

The State Elections take place three weeks from to-day. The Labor Party policy was announced less than a month before polling day. This left little time in which to mobilise the labor movement, and win the votes of all the useful people.

The Townsville Branch of the A.L.P. is anxiously searching for helpers. This branch was apparently taken unawares by the decision to hold an early election. No doubt other branches were caught in the same position.

The deplorable weaknesses in the Labor Party's Federal campaign seem likely to be repeated in the coming State elections. In the Federal elections the Labor Party lost support in every electorate except those in which the Communist Party played a strong campaign. The need for a well organised and carefully planned campaign can therefore be seen by all—who would see.

## Good Policy Better Than Snap Election

It is a pity that the "heads" decided on a snap election; even though the northern labor paper, the "Clarion," described it as the "Premier's trump card." It was a trump card that caught the A.L.P. branches on the jump. In each, it is known as going alone.

There should be no need for a Labor Party to put on a snap election. It is a very trick and labor should be able to win without resorting to such tricks. There is not the slightest doubt Labor could win elections without such "trump" cards, if the rank and file had more say in framing its policy; if the dictatorship of the Q.C.E. was removed.

## "Heads" Decision

It must be thoroughly understood that the decision for a snap election was made by the "heads." The labor movement had nothing to do with it. It should also be understood that the "heads" are not the labor movement, despite their assertions. Blame should not be attached to the Labor Party for the sins of the "heads." The "sinners" ought to be removed, and with them the sins which are doing such harm to the Labor Party. In New South Wales for example the labor movement has put the skids under the "great leaders" who made such a mess of the Labor Party in that State.

## A Real Trump Card

A snap election is not a trump card. It merely indicates that the heads are out of step with the labor movement. A real trump card would be a programme, which the useful people would acclaim, one which would materially improve their lives.

Such a programme should have been adopted at Convention, and placed before the people who earn their living by useful labor. It could have been popularised throughout Queensland, and plenty of time given the useful people to discuss it. A labor party policy should be such, that the more it is discussed the more support it gains.

## The Job Before Us

In the short time at our disposal all our energies must be devoted to keeping the Tories out. A vigorous campaign must be waged to return a Labor Government strengthened by Communist members. With Communist members in Parliament, the useful people can confidently expect a radical change in the labor heads policy. Remember how the Communists were abused years ago when they said Lang would smash the Labor Party. To-day in New South Wales those who led the fight against Lang are acclaimed saviours of the labor movement. Elect a Labor Government strengthened by Communist members.

## BROADCASTS AND BASHER GANGS.

The following notice appeared on the front page of "The Mail," published at Adelaide. The date was February 19.

Adelaide can listen in at 9.45 p.m. on Sunday. Herr Hitler's speech to the Reichstag will be relayed by the Australian Broadcasting Commission. It will be heard in Adelaide to-morrow from Station SAN at 9.45 p.m. on Sunday.

Not too bad! Herr Hitler's speech boosting fascism and war being relayed by the A.B.C. The mad dog of Europe, prize war-monger, who has been abusing every thing British for years; is kindly obliged with a relay by the A.B.C. Will the other fascist propagandist, von Luckner, who is now in New Zealand, be adequately catered for by the A.B.C.

## Hated By Democratic People.

Democratic people throughout the world are opposed to Hitler

# LEGAL COLUMN

## Answer: "Would Be Pensioner."

The Commonwealth Invalid and Old Age Pension Act has always provided for a reduction in the amount payable as a pension in cases where the applicant is possessed of property above a certain amount.

This amount has varied from time to time, and at present is as follows:— (1) Where the applicant is unmarried—the amount of property which he is permitted to own must not exceed £400 in value.

(2) Where the applicant is married—If the married man alone is drawing the pension he is permitted to own property up to a value of £800. If both the husband and the wife are drawing the pension, each is allowed to own up to a value of £400. That is the total value of the combined property of both husband and wife must not exceed £800 in value.

## PERMISSIBLE INCOME.

In addition to the above property qualifications, there is an income qualification known sometimes by the term "permissible income." At present the permissible income is 12.6 a week. Pensions are granted to applicants having a maximum of £50 in the bank.

## "WOMAN TODAY"

FEBRUARY—MARCH ISSUE

## Progressive Women's Viewpoint

The film stars of Hollywood are not all idle playboys who live a life apart from ordinary people. Many of them are courageous supporters of peace and democracy, and when Mussolini's son visited Hollywood recently, they showed their opposition to his ideals by representing in startling fashion. "Woman Today" describes how Joan Crawford, Dolores Del Rio, Sylvia Sydney, Franchot Tone, Robert Montgomery, Paul Robeson, Paul Muni, and many other famous stars, are actively opposing fascism in America. Read what your favorite star is doing when not on the set.

Madame Chiang Kai-Shek's message to the conference, the National Council of Women is repeated together with the speeches of prominent Australian women at this conference, which was notable for the firm stand taken by many speakers in support of peace and democracy. How women can have an enormous influence on the Japanese militarists by refusing to buy Japanese goods is explained in another article. Women from all parts of Australia will meet shortly at their first National Peace Congress, and the arrangements for this important event are outlined in "Women Today."

The Girls Who Make Our Clothes still work for the appalling low wages, and this article by a woman worker reveals conditions that will startle you. Almoners and the Dole. The wife of a man on the dole, tells "Woman Today" how "social service" workers at hospitals were used by the Stevens Government to deprive unemployed in sickness of the special food allowances necessary for their health.

International Woman's Day: The history of this day, which women of all nations celebrate for peace and freedom, and its growth in the different parts of Australia, is outlined in an interesting article.

Other features of this splendid issue of "Woman Today" include short stories by Australian and overseas authors, fashion notes, new ways to use letters from readers, news of women's activities in this and other lands, and another instalment of Katharine Sannah's Prichard's fine novel "Black Opal."

"Buy 'Woman Today,' to read what progressive women in Australia are doing! Price 3d.

## THAT TEST

## WHO GUESSED

## The "Catholic Worker"

Who would suspect the "Catholic Worker" of using such revolutionary language? Who would suspect it of copying the Communists? Why does it do this? Because they know the Communists are speaking the truth, and that the

# HOUSEWIVES' ASSOCIATION

## Wants Closer Unity To Establish Co-operative

The Mt. Isa Workers' Housewives' Association forwarded the following matter for publication. It is a copy of memorandum sent to the Mt. Isa Industrial Council which is sponsoring a Mt. Isa Co-operative Society.

We realize that the members of the unions at Mount Isa form the basis on which must be built a Co-operative Society, and failing the achievement of unity among the unions, any co-operative movement will have little or no chance of success.

## MAY DAY.

That the Council write to the May Day Sports Committee asking that the following be considered by the May Day Sports Committee. The Council should include in its rules, Rule 3 (f) to read as follows:—

The conduct and control of May Day Celebrations and procession by the Council; and each year in January the Council should call for a separate May Day Sports and Dance Committee consisting of one representative elected by each sports body and union on the field; and that a balance sheet of the May Day Sports and Dance shall be presented to the Council not later than July 31 of each year.

## A FEW REQUESTS.

In order to solve this situation, and other matters of disunity, we ask that your Council shall consider the following resolutions, and do your utmost to give effect to same:—

That the Rules of the Mt. Isa Industrial Council shall be distributed among members of Affiliated Unions and A.W.U.

That the local A.W.U. members shall have the right to elect from the floor of the local A.W.U. meeting three delegates to the Mt. Isa Industrial Council, in the same manner as other unions at Mt. Isa.

That the Branch Executive of the A.W.U. be written a letter by the Secretary of the Council pointing out the above resolution and asking them to agree to pay thirty shillings per year for A.W.U. delegates so elected to the Council.

Also that a request be made by the Mt. Isa Industrial Council to the A.W.U. Executive that the ban be removed from A.W.U. members being subject to fine or expulsion from the Union for acting as delegates to the Mount Isa Industrial Council. That the P.E.D. and P.A. Mt. Isa Sub-Branch be requested to again send delegates to the Council.

# OUR WOMEN SPEAK

## Dear Helpers,

We think a few words about prominent women leaders in the Communist Party in different parts of the world will be of interest. First we will take "Pastoraria" of Spain—Dolores Tharratt. The Spanish people call her "Pastoraria, the passionately devoted one."

She is a miner's daughter, born on December 9, 1895, at Galarate, in the Basque country, one of the national provinces oppressed by Spanish feudalism. As a young girl she learned to understand the revolutionary struggle of her people against the political oppression of the bourgeoisie and the landed gentry. Her childhood was passed in a little house close to the pit-head. From her earliest years she learned to understand the significance of the red flag and the triple signal given by her people before the explosion; together with other miners' families she learned to await its dreaded results with beating heart.

At home Dolores received her first lessons in class-consciousness. In her house was the room of the workers' club; known as the "Workers' Centre." And it was here that she learned from the lips of the organizers and from the men themselves, the story of the heroic struggle of the Basque workers. After leaving elementary school, Dolores spent two years in a dressmakers' workshop. Then, like most daughters of Spanish miners, she went into domestic service in a well-to-do household. That job, perhaps the most humiliating of pale occupations, finally developed the young girl's class-consciousness. Pastoraria knew how to

## BRISBANE WHARFIES

## DO NOT APPRECIATE

## Anthony's Antics

With the elections over in the Brisbane Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation, it is apparent that the rank and file are going to be more active in the affairs of the union.

Tony Ogden, State representative on the Federal Committee of Management, when here charged a member of the union with breaking rule 23 B, in that he gave information to an outside body, namely the Communist Party Waterfront Unit.

The member was charged and judged through the old executive, in which the rank and file had no confidence. With the result that he was fined £2, despite the fact that the Communists to whom he was alleged to have given the information were all financial members of the union.

The fine was immediately collected by non-Communist union members, and paid.

At a meeting held later with the newly elected executive in control, Ogden's action was condemned, the fine rescinded, and the money refunded.

## TWO HOUR PICK-UP.

The Industrial Magistrate, Mr. Hickey, P.M., recently paid an unexpected visit to the pick-up shed to observe conditions. One question he asked concerned the meal time for men selected at 11.45 p.m. to commence work at noon. Another was about the meal time of men who, coming in for the pick-up at 8 a.m. were yet not selected till just prior to noon, when they began to work and went on working till 5 p.m.

## BRISBANE MINISTER

## INDICTS RELIEF SYSTEM

## Condition Of Relief Families

A committee of Wynnum relief workers, and the Rev. Roland P. Smith, of Wynnum, are trying to arrange an interview with the Premier (Mr. Forgan Smith), to bring under his notice the condition of relief workers in the district.

Speaking at a meeting in the Progress Hall, Manly, last week, the Rev. P. Smith said he had noticed that the relief workers and their families were under-nourished, and the children compared unfavorably with other children at the State schools.

Yesterday Mr. Smith said that on Saturday the wife of a relief worker came to him in sad circumstances. She was not asking for money. She had been to a doctor, who had told her that the only thing wrong with her was under-nourishment. The unemployed seemed to gravitate and Wymnum and Manly, Mr. Smith added, and as he moved among them he observed their mental and physical suffering. Many of them did not get enough through relief work to feed and clothe their families properly.

## RECIPES.

Eggs are both scarce and expensive at present, so a cake recipe without eggs will be appreciated:—

Eggless Chocolate Cake.—11 cups brown sugar, 2 cups flour, 1 cup cocoa, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1 cup hot water, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 cup butter, 1 cup buttermilk or sour milk. Cream butter and sugar, add cocoa, then soda, water, and flour, baking powder and salt. Lastly beat in the sour milk and vanilla. Bake in layers 50 minutes in a moderate oven.

Cake Without Eggs.—2 cups dates, currants or raisins, and candied peel, 11 cups sugar, 1 cup cold water, 1 tablespoon desiccated coconut, 1 lb. butter or dripping (if latter, add teaspoon vinegar or lemon juice), few drops flavoring essence. Boil ingredients together 5 minutes and when lukewarm, sift and stir into mixture 21 cups plain flour and 1 teaspoon baking soda. A little salt improves flavor. Pour into greased tin and bake 1 hour in moderate oven. This cake keeps for weeks and is not so nice and moist when eaten at once, as when kept for a time.

Ginger Cake Without Eggs.—1 teaspoon carbonate of soda, 1 teaspoon rice, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1 tablespoon ground ginger, mix together then add 1 cup sugar, 1 cup golden syrup, 1 cup dripping or after mixing well pour on 1 cup boiling water. Mix again and

# READERS

Before Leaving Home To Buy Remember that Car Service Men, Radio Service Men, Drapers, Jewellers, Cafe Owners, Grocers, Tailors, and others advertise in

## YOUR "GUARDIAN"

Give them a chance to lend the goods first. It may be a little more trouble even, but by waiting their first you help us. We thank you for your ANTICIPATED LOYALTY.

MENTION THE "GUARDIAN"

## NEIL LORD & CO.

Tailors. All work done on premises opp Blue Bird Cafe. INNISFAIR, SILKWOOD Phone 592. Phone 61.

## AL STORES

Second to none for Groceries, Crockery and Enamel Ware. Try us out. BOWEN and BABINIA.

## F. WIELAND and SON

Butchers HERBERTON

## KASSAMBOS & CO.

Vienna Bakery. Best Bread, Cakes, Buns, and Sultana Loaves. EDITH ST., INNISFAIR. P.O. Box 449. Phone 318.

## RICHARDSON & TIMMINS

LIMITED GROCERS. Visit our Cash and Carry. Deliveries All Suburbs. PHONE 1831. Flinders St., Townsville.

## P. BENEDETTO

for Supreme Value in CYCLES. and Accessories. Expert Repairs and Oxy-Welding. Edith-st., INNISFAIR, Phone 435.

## FOR A COOL DRINK

Call at CENTRAL HOTEL (R. Garozzo, Proprietor.) SILKWOOD, PHONE 52.

## ROBINSON BROS.

BUTCHERS Best Meats at Lowest Prices. CITY SHOP, opp. Roy Theatre. MAIN SHOP, opp. Overhead Edge. Flinders St., East Townsville.

## DUNLOP'S HOTEL

C.T.A. House For the Best and Coolest Drinks in town, visit E. McVARRA, Proprietress. Phone 32. P.O. Box 21.

## MAREEBA

NEW STAR CAFE BEST 3-COURSE MEALS. Cakes, Pastry, Ice Creams, etc. TRY OUR 6d. SUNDAY. INNISFAIR.

## PERCY LEE SYE

For the Best of Fruit and Vegetables. Confectionery, Tobacco, Soft Drinks. Phone 322. GORDONVALE.

## THOMAS & GREY

Relief Orders Accepted at City Cash Prices. Phone 594. ALLEN ST., SOUTH TIVILLE.

## GREEN & RAWKINS

# LABOR RESEARCH

## Reveals Interesting Facts

On British Investment Abroad The monthly circular of the Labor Research Department, contains some interesting information. That on British investment abroad is of particular interest to Australians. North Queensland sends large quantities of meat, wool, butter, and sugar to England, while many North Queenslanders do not get sufficient of these commodities to enable them to live in decency and comfort.

It may be news to some to learn that approximately 80 per cent of British investments in Australia are in Government municipal, railway and public utilities. These are investments of the most reliable character. The whole resources of the country are mobilized to make them profitable. We send the best of our goods overseas to be sold at half the prices we pay for inferior goods. And the "bond and debenture" holders grow fat on their "silt edged securities."

In the Economic Journal for December, 1937, Sir Robert Kindersley, of the Bank of England, has contributed his annual survey of British overseas investments. According to Sir Robert, British investments abroad in 1936 totalled £274 million. These holdings brought in to British bondholders no less than £184 million in 1936, an increase of £12.4 million over 1935. The income of 1937 is expected to reach a still higher figure. A special importance attaches to his survey this year because a geographical analysis of these investments has been included.

The effect on the Australian of the Empire of all these investments is indicated by the author. It is also worth noting that the income of 1937 is expected to reach a still higher figure. A special importance attaches to his survey this year because a geographical analysis of these investments has been included.

DOMINIONS (1000,000)				
Govt. and Municipal	Public Utilities	Private	Miners	Manufacturers
Australia	427	2	7	20
India and Ceylon	256	84	7	12
Canada and Newfoundland	118	216	26	4
Rhodesia	103	21	6	72
New Zealand	131	—	—	1
British Malaya	6	—	4	7
Other British Territories	59	4	6	25
Total	1100	327	56	141

FOREIGN COUNTRIES				
Europe	120	23	21	9
South America	139	362	49	7
U.S.A., Mexico, Central America	1	78	20	6
China and Japan	70	—	9	1
Other Foreign Territories	11	36	4	5
Total	341	499	103	28

THE WORLD				
Total	1441	826	159	169

## CAPITAL AND THE EMPIRE.

Where is British capital held? Owing to the difficulty (1) of tracing certain unquoted investments and (2) of allowing for important British companies whose assets are widely spread over the world, Sir Robert Kindersley is not able to show the geographical distribution of the total holdings abroad, but the survey covers £230 million out of the £274 million of British investments abroad in 1936. Here are the figures:—

DOMINIONS.		FOREIGN COUNTRIES.	
	Millions.		Millions.
Australia	£505	Europe	£236
India and Ceylon	438	Argentina	372
Canada and Newfoundland	443	Brazil	180
South Africa and Rhodesia	248	Chile	50
New Zealand	146	Rest of South America	85
British Malaya	84	Mexico and Central America	92
British East Africa	31	United States	81
British West Africa	37	Cuba	27
Other British Territories	49	Japan	53
Total	£1981	China	41
		Rest of World	£102
		Total	£1259

## WARNING TO WORKERS

The views expressed in the foregoing paragraph of his article are quoting:— "Nevertheless, from the point of