

# PUBLIC OPINION

## Letters To The Editor

### IN PRAISE OF LABOR GOVERNMENT

Sir,—I venture Mr. A. R. Blenkhorn nor anybody else will live to see the day when I will endeavor, as he says, to "tell what I have done to help create and raise the country to its present status." I'll leave other people to do that, and I think it would be more gentlemanly if Mr. Blenkhorn were to let someone else tell about the wages he has paid over the years. I suppose the men who worked for him also did something towards progress.

But now he has asked, I will tell him about one thing I was able to do. I have before me one of several letters written to me at one time by a man who has paid several hundred pounds a year in wages, asking me to use my influence with the then Minister for Transport to have the products of the wages carried over the railways at a concession that would prove beneficial to the proprietor and the purchasers. This I succeeded in doing, without fee or favor.

In answer to Mr. Blenkhorn's pertinent question, "How do Mr. Jack Crowe's past years compare with mine as regards being worth hundreds of pounds in wages to the workers direct," my answer is that I did not give the wages to them for nothing; he had their sweat and toil. What I have been able to do for the workers (in my humble capacity) I did for nothing, and I think that my funeral will be as big as that of Mr. Blenkhorn.

However, the question at issue is the merits or demerits of Labor. I am not going to let Mr. Blenkhorn drag a red herring across the trail by bringing personalities into the argument as to his or my life. He mentions the "John Curtin Line." There was a John Curtin line, and it was the grandest line in the history of Australia; a line that saved us from the barbarians, when John Curtin took the line of appealing to America to send General MacArthur and his forces to stay the advance of the Japs. When Messrs. Menzies and Fadden were in power they could not agree on many simple questions

and Fadden were in power they could not agree on many simple questions. When Messrs. Curtin, Chifley, Dr. Evatt and Co. took charge things began to happen.

As to the housing shortage, thousands of workmen had to man the munitions works. The time to have built houses was in the depression, when the Liberals or the U.A.P. were in power. There were plenty of manpower and material available then.

Mr. E. J. Nicholls has put the whole position in a nutshell; farmers were never better off than under the present controlled prices. There is more money in circulation, good money (not inflationary) than ever before, even in the days of the gold diggings. People are not likely to want to go back to the "stone age," as Mr. Blenkhorn puts it, when he saved a few pence. If he were making another start he would be able to save a few pounds instead of pence and pay out thousands of pounds a year in wages.—JACK CROWE (Upper Burnie).

Sir,—Though I have been writing to the press for at least three times the number of years mentioned by "The Wild Irishman," it has not been for any thought of personal reward. Instead of using every means to get endorsement, as some Labor candidates have done, I have had scores of requests to stand for Parliament, and have even had money offered for my expenses. If "The Wild Irishman" is satisfied with the results of Labor rule, I see nothing as the result of it but the unrooting of ties which made civil life and liberties all that meant decency among civilised nations. These things have been made the object of mockery, and a state bordering on civil war is the outcome. No doubt by the expenditure of well over a thousand millions Labor has done its best to buy the same popularity which seems so dear to the soul of "The Wild Irishman." But if I may prophesy once more, I think it will not be the much-abused "fat man" who will suffer in the end but the ranks of those of whom "The Wild Irishman" professes

OUT THE THINGS OF THOSE OF WHOM "The Wild Irishman" professes to be the champion.

If he could only look back to the time which I remember in England, when Labor was represented by honest men, not the Communist-ridden crowd who now pose as Laborites and do the bidding of their masters; if he could look behind the scenes in Australia and see the anarchy which is rampant as the result of the National Government going cap in hand to beg of those who hold the reins for the right to get sufficient coal and food to feed and warm the people, he would perhaps admit that my prophesies are not always so wide of the mark.

I still believe that, unless God has forsaken them and the gods

of the fleshpots have so intoxicated their brains in their wish to destroy them, the people of Australia will rise in revolt at the elections and show they are not content to see their country plunged into industrial anarchy. If things continue in this way the worker's home will be bare of every comfort through the actions of a few hotheads that the Labor Governments are placing in responsible positions instead of behind iron bars, and for the same reason thousands of war workers who are willing to do their part are walking about in idleness. If my surmise proves in this instance to be a fallacy, I shall have to reconcile my political views and take up the "humanitarian" cause, which evidently gains better dividends than the independent attitude which hitherto I have followed.—B. HORTON (Devonport).

#### UNIONISTS' POLITICS

Sir, — It is, and has been said, that those people who "squeal" longest and loudest are heard most, and how some people can squeal, especially when they back the wrong horse. L. Avlett states in his letter (July 27) that the endorsement of C. H. Burnell for Wilmot will not help Labor. He accuses Mr. Burnell of having told Mr. Gifford that if he (Mr. Gifford) would ask Mr. Murray White to refrain from attacking the Communists, the Devonport Trades Hall would assist with the building of the Boys' Club. This is entirely incorrect. All that was said concerning Communism was that the unionists in Tasmania

that the unionists in Tasmania would consist of approximately 5 p.c. Communism, 35 p.c. Socialist, 45 p.c. Labor, and 15 p.c. National sympathisers, and I will definitely say that Mr. Burnell is not among the 5 p.c. sympathisers. It appears to me, and I guess to a great many more of the electors, that the only bait that can be used when having a shot at the various candidates is the old Red herring.—J. BOWE (Devonport).

#### GUMBOOT MYSTERY

Sir, — During the war gumboots were scarce, but obtainable if one had patience. The reason for scarcity was easily understood, and nobody grumbled. The same reason suggested that after the war gumboots would become more plentiful and of improved quality. But they became scarcer and scarcer, and now have disappeared from the market.

Once upon a time there were waterproof leather boots in Australia, which could serve the same purpose, but all that is left of waterproofing is legend. And Tasmanian people (I don't mean townpeople) are condemned in the worst winter on record to go about barefooted, or in gumboots full of holes.

Why have gumboots disappeared from the market? Has the monopolistic rubber combine cornered the Australian nation? Even gumboot mending material has been withdrawn. But the mystery begins when we ask why the Government allows it. Wartime laws are still in force, and the Government can order the manufacture of boots. If manufacturers cannot do it under the present fixed prices, it is only fair to increase the prices. Yet the Government does absolutely nothing. That is the mystery I cannot solve.—S. SUTCHKOFF (Edith Cree).

#### CARTOON OBJECTED TO

Sir, — The Liberal Party's cartoon advertisement published in "The Advocate" in which the "wife-basher" is lashing his wife is a low type of politics. No decent type, whether Liberal or Labor, would stoop to this. I feel sure Dame Euid Lyons and those whose names are at the bottom don't feel brave about it, and I am certain would not consent with that way of winning votes. I'd be disgusted if Labor were to publish such demoralising stuff.—JACK CROWE (Upper Burnie).

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