

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence

*The Brotherhood helps all in need and endeavours
to arouse thought and action on social questions.*

FITZROY

AUGUST, 1956.

No. 119

The Superior writes on . . . PUSHING STONES UP HILLS — SEEKING CAUSES — OUR FESTIVAL

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

When writing to you a few years ago on the question of slums, which has been our big question for nearly a quarter of a century, I said that I considered that we were then in the position of a man who for a long time had been pushing a big stone up a steep hill. Only a little more effort, a little more pushing, and the summit would be reached! For us the summit of the hill was farther off than I realised at the time, and more effort and more pushing were required than we, at the time, were able to provide.

Soon after I wrote the letter to which I refer, there seemed to be a real danger of the stone slipping back and crushing those who had been pushing it for so long. Such though was not the case; the stone, however, did seem to be bogged in the mud and there seemed little we could do about it. It was at this stage that Archdeacon (as he is now) Sambell joined in the pushing business. Later he was joined

by Mr. Scott and later again by a specially trained band of "pushers." Things began to happen. In other words a Government came into power who did, as we had urged for so long, see what should be done. The Government faced up to the problem of slums and began to do something more than saying how dreadful they were. In this sense the summit of the hill was reached, but we found, as is so often the

case with those who climb hills, that there were still further summits to be reached.

We are very grateful for what the present Government is doing in regard to the vital matter of housing, and in our co-operation with that authority during the last few months we have learned something of the many difficulties Governments have to face and endeavour to overcome. For us one summit has been reached—the Government is alert to the problem and is doing something about it. Our real objective, however, in this matter will not be reached until every slum house is swept away and every man, woman and child in the land is adequately housed. So we go forward with our hill climbing and our stone pushing.

Climbers are compelled to rest for a time to regain strength. In such pause it is well to look back on the peaks already reached, for thereby courage is gained for the journey that still lies ahead. Climbing may be an exhausting task but at the same time it can be a most exhilarating experience. Those who reached Mount Everest after weeks of hardship and suffering would no doubt say that they would not have missed it all for worlds. Such I believe is the sentiment of all who climb mountains worth climbing, for after all is not to climb the object of life, that which gives it its true meaning and which makes it a thrilling and exciting experience?



The new handcraft room and workshop built by the Melbourne Junior Chamber of Commerce for the Coolibah Club was handed over to Father Tucker by Mr. Denis Joy, President of the Melbourne "Jaycees."

St. LAURENCE DAY

The Festival of S. Laurence, the Patron Saint of the Brotherhood, will be celebrated at the Eucharist at Carrum Downs, 9 a.m. on

Sunday, 12th August

B.S.L. Friends are invited to the service and breakfast will be served afterwards.

SEEK OUT CAUSES.

Some who climb are content to remain on the higher peaks at the foot of the great mountain itself. To do this is the tendency of some who undertake social service work. To establish worthwhile clubs for those weird youngsters called bodgies and widgees would indeed be to reach a peak, but to make the work done of real and lasting value, while caring for their charges, those responsible should try to ascertain the cause for their being bodgies and widgees. It is good to establish homes for those who have become old before their time. But while doing this laudable work everything possible should be done to see that the state of society is such that people do not become old before their time.

It would be good for social workers to follow the example of scientific research workers. Many diseases are now horrors of the past, because in years gone by humble medical practitioners while tending their patients searched out and found the cause of the complaint which they were endeavouring to treat. Almost daily we hear of a further advance in medical science—further hills reached. Those who thus attained their objective were not content with merely handing out pain killing drugs.

Because there is so much suffering in the world, so many wrongs to be righted, so many problems to be solved, we are inclined to concentrate all our energies on the immediate situation and give little attention to ascertain the root cause

of the trouble. Unless this is done the trouble must continue to increase. I believe that no organisation that is endeavouring to alleviate suffering in any form is working effectively unless, while relieving suffering, it is making itself familiar with the conditions that bring about the suffering. We are all too prone to accept conditions as they are. Were such to be the attitude of the medical profession some of us who are alive and well today would have been in our graves long since.

ENDEAVOUR TO LEARN.

We of the Brotherhood make no claim to be in any way experts in our various spheres of activity, but we do endeavour to learn all we can about the causes which bring about the unhappy results which confront us daily. The more we learn the more we realise the need for still greater knowledge, and the greater the knowledge the greater is the incentive to make a really worthwhile contribution towards eliminating some of those conditions which are contrary to the will of Almighty God.

We are all glad to have Arch-deacon Sambell with us again after his four months overseas. The knowledge he has gained in America will be of immense value in all departments of our work. To learn of progress being made elsewhere does much to ward off that deadly feeling of self-satisfaction, that feeling which causes individuals and organisations to merely accept evils rather than fighting and overcoming them.

COLLINS COURT.

The next big event in the offing is the opening of the extensions to "Collins Court," which we hope will be in the early Spring. I have a feeling that this new building is going to be something quite unique. I must not, however, say too much about it in case you be disappointed. You must go to Carrum Downs and judge for yourselves. We will let you know in good time the date of the official opening.

FESTIVAL.

I hope that some of you will be able to join us in celebrating the festival of our Patron Saint. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 9 a.m. at Carrum Downs on Sunday, August 12th. The choir of S. Aidan's Noble Park, is to be with us to lead the singing. There will be breakfast provided for all after the service.

I am also looking forward to my annual visit to St. Laurence Church, South Yarra, for Evensong on the same Sunday. The Vicar of the parish has kindly extended a welcome to all B.S.L. Friends to attend the service and join in the social gathering afterwards.

Thank you good people for your continued sympathetic co-operation in all we do,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

Opening of TEEN-AGERS CLUB ROOM

Guest Speaker:

MR. PAT LOFTUS

of Victorian Association of
Youth Clubs

Subject:

**"A Home Away from Home
for Teen-agers"**

**THURSDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER
at 8 p.m.**

67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

- Exhibition of craft work by Youth Club Members
- Annual Meeting of Children's Centre Committee will be held in Club Rooms on Wednesday, 5th September, at 8 p.m.

All B.S.L. Friends are invited
to both functions

BROTHERHOOD YOUTH WORK WILL BE EXTENDED

A "teen-agers" sitting room will be opened at the Brotherhood's Youth Centre in Fitzroy at the end of August. The Centre already consists of the Children's Health Clinic, Children's Club and Youth Club.

Renovations to the new sitting room are being carried out by Youth Club members and voluntary Club leaders on a "self-help" basis. A wall has been demolished and the sitting room will be re-decorated and furnished by the young people.

Club members in the 15 to 19 age group will use the room for entertaining friends, for social evenings, supper parties, films and table tennis. It will provide a home from home for some of the many young people in the area who come from hopelessly overcrowded homes and who would otherwise be forced to spend leisure hours on the streets or in milk bars and cafes where trouble often starts.

Whilst appreciating the value of clubs which concentrate on providing physical activities the Brotherhood's Youth Work Director, Mr. Alex. Greig, believes there is a need for providing clubs with a more homely atmosphere as lack of home life is often young people's biggest problem.

The Youth Club for senior boys and girls already provides a varied programme of sewing, handcraft, carpentering activities, week end and day outings, films and supper nights.

The Club programme is built around the voluntary leaders who attend regularly and build up helpful, friendly relations with Club members.

ARCHDEACON SAMBELL REPORTS ON SOCIAL WORK IN THE UNITED STATES

Archdeacon Geoffrey Sambell, Director of the Brotherhood, had an interesting report to present to members of the staff on his recent return from a five months' study of Church and social work in the United States. Here are some highlights from his report.

Family Casework.

Social service agencies in the U.S. have tended to become counselling agencies catering mainly for middle class people who are prepared to make appointments to visit "down town" offices. Thus, casework has become executive desk work rather than field case work.

I believe that social service agencies must be identified with areas where need is greatest and that home visiting is essential to know something of the family and its problems in its own home setting. I found no work being carried out on the lines of the Family Service Project of the Brotherhood where the whole family in its whole environment is dealt with.

Youth Work.

In Victoria we might consider the need for a Youth Consultation service, which operates in some U.S. cities. Young people should discuss their problems freely with their parents, but homes and parents are not always what they should be and such a service might be helpful to many perplexed and friendless young people.

The Aged.

A large American Store has recently appointed social workers to its staff to help prepare employees for retirement. Social workers know just how much employees can expect from superannuation funds, and can help plan the future and assess the older workers' capabilities and possibilities of continuing in full time or part-time activity. The approach is just that as apprentices are trained for their future working years so older people are prepared for the next stage of their lives.

In New Zealand pensioners are entitled to apply for an additional grant above the basic pension if they have to pay high rents or have other additional financial commitments. The principle is payment according to need, which could well be adopted here to remove some of the anomalies and hardships in our present pension system.

Hospitals.

In New York one way of relieving the hospital bed shortage is to discharge patients to their homes

but still retain them on the hospital roll. They are visited by doctors and other staff of the hospital and still receive meals from the hospital as required.

Alcoholism.

The Police Department of Los Angeles has a special division which controls a rehabilitation "prison" for alcoholics whom it is considered might respond to rehabilitation opportunities. Their minimum sentence is 120 days, and they are employed at farm work or trades. The capacity of the prison is 600 and their ages range from 18 to 71.

Housing.

New York Housing Authority is providing accommodation and facilities in its housing areas for organisations to use as a community centre which they equip and staff themselves. One community centre in a large housing estate has its own creche, kindergarten, clubs for every age group and is also involved in neighbourhood activity and reform. It is not merely a youth centre but a centre for the housing community.

Child Care.

Possibly the United States has gone to extremes in selling almost all its institutions and thinking an adoption service could entirely replace them, but I think there is tremendous value in the use of adoption and foster homes for the rehabilitation and care of neglected or delinquent children. Nothing surely can better the private home and the wisdom and life of ordinary parents in their normal setting. While we may always need some institutions, surely some concerted attempt can be made in Victoria to develop more widely a chain of private homes with parents who would wish to help in the most important job of the care and rehabilitation of children.

Religion.

Religion in the United States is enormously popular. The success of the Church is today part of the normal American success story.

I believe there is general interest in the philosophy of religion and the very existence of crowded churches is a wonderful opportunity, not only to teach people, but also



to challenge them concerning the practice of religion. A tremendous impact must be made if this widespread worship is related to practice, for religion if it is real is not comfortable. I do not know whether it is uncomfortable enough in the lives of many not only in the United States but also in Australia.

In Pittsburgh I attended a Church Economic Conference where economists, bankers, industrialists, Church leaders and labour leaders met together to discuss "our economy of abundance." To me the important thing was that such a conference could be held and that men in all these fields of life should come together as church men. I question whether we could do the same in Australia.

Community Chests.

Fund raising and planning of social work are carried out on a Community Chest basis in most American cities. Whilst it means that there can be more efficient planning and centralising of appeals, there are a number of major disadvantages. Giving can become de-personalised and those who support the Chest become remote from the social work which their giving makes possible. It can also discourage initiative and prevent social service agencies from pioneering new fields of service which might not yet be accepted by the central planning committee.

It can also mean agencies are discouraged or prevented from campaigning for social action and reform, which sometimes means attacking Governments, councils and perhaps vested interests in the community.

WE WELCOME THESE NEW B.S.L. FRIENDS

Miss Scully, Nth. Fitzroy.
Miss Chapman, Nth. Carlton.
Miss Mackenzie, Hawthorn.
Miss Harbison, Heidelberg.
Mr. Haywood, Traralgon.
Mrs. Hooper, Hampton.
Mr. Bailey, Clifton Hill.
M/. Linossier, Rosanna.
Miss Aydon, Mt. Martha.
Miss Lindsay, Nth. Carlton.
Miss Munro, Hampton.
Miss Allen, Sth. Caulfield.
Mr. Till, Elsternwick.
Mrs. Kirby, Armadale.
Mrs. Niven, Caulfield.
Mrs. Griffin, Malvern.
Mrs. Methven, Belgrave.
Mrs. Lyons, Toorak.
Mrs. Linforth, Caulfield.
Miss Tyers, Mornington.
Mr. Cameron, Glen Waverly.
Mrs. Grouper, Boronia.
Mr. Neale, Burwood.
Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mont Albert.
Mrs. Laddingham, Fitzroy.
Mrs. Borthwick, Vaucluse, N.S.W.
Dr. & Mrs. K. Walden, Caulfield.
Mr. & Mrs. Bulstrate, Tecoma.
Miss Monso, Geelong.
Mr. Griffith, Surrey Hills.
Mrs. Till, Elsternwick.
Mrs. Fisher, McKinnon.
Mrs. Wavish, Ascot Vale.
Mrs. Blanchflower, Melbourne.
Mrs. Lupson, Canterbury.
Mr. & Mrs. Slattery, Toorak.
Mrs. Mills, Brian Hill.

Miss Duffy, Whittlesea.
Miss Heinbach, Mid. Brighton.
Mrs. Fisher, Five Ways.
Miss Carter, Melbourne.

GLEN IRIS GROUP.

Mrs. Witt, Camberwell.
Mrs. Smart, Glen Iris.
Mrs. Cook, Glen Iris.
Mrs. Cole, E. Malvern.
Mrs. McKenzie, Glen Iris.
Mrs. Gwillim, Glen Iris.
Mrs. Bertwistle, Glen Iris.
Mrs. Kerr, Glen Iris.
Mrs. Buchanan, Glen Iris.
Mrs. Spicer, Glen Iris.
Mrs. Robinson, Glen Iris.
Mrs. Smith, Burwood.
Mrs. Harris, Auburn.
Mrs. Heath, Chadstone.
Mrs. Davies, Glen Iris.
Mr. G. Hobbs, Springvale.

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BUS TRIPS TO CARRUM DOWNS

Saturday, 25th August
Saturday, 6th October, when
the Carrum Downs residents
will hold their market fair.
Tickets, 6/6 available at
51 Royal Arcade.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE,
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.1. Central 2721.

Please find my donation for £ : :

NAME

ADDRESS

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

CHANGE OF PLACE FOR ANNUAL FAIR

The Brotherhood's Annual Market Fair will be held in Scots Church Hall on the corner of Collins St. and Russell St. on Friday, November 9th.

The change from the Lower Town Hall had been caused by the closing of the Town Hall for re-decoration in November, and it was not possible to book the Town Hall for another day this year.

The next meeting of the Market Fair Committee will be held on Friday, August 24th, in the Victorian Housewives' Association rooms in Flinders Way. Friends who would like to help are invited to attend.

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FETE AT "MORVEN" ON 8th SEPTEMBER

The Peninsular Soroptimists who have for several years helped the B.S.L. Holiday Home at Mornington will hold their annual fete at "Morven" on September 8th. Transport by bus from the city will be arranged and tickets will be available at 51 Royal Arcade. This will be a good opportunity to see "Morven" and its beautiful grounds.

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GROUP NEWS

Hughesdale—Murrumbeena Group.

This Group held a very successful Jumble Sale and realised the sum of £33. Mrs. Curtis would like members to know that the next meeting will be held at her home on Tuesday, 7th August, at 2 p.m. Intending members will be very welcome. Mrs. Curtis' address is 5 Fellows Street, Hughesdale.

Cheltenham-Mordialloc Group.

We congratulate this Guild on its work for Carrum Downs. Recently a cheque for £100 was received to help furnish the dining room of Collins Court.

A most successful Film Evening was held on June 20th with the net result of £25.

A Street Stall at Mentone on 24th August has been arranged.

The Secretary, Mrs. Geer, of 30 Latrobe Street, Mentone, would like to hear of new members. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 7th August.

W. Rogers.