



Notes for the Friends of The Brotherhood of S. Laurence

FITZROY, VIC.

OCTOBER, 1949.

No. 78

THE SUPERIOR'S LETTER

THE WAR BETWEEN THE "GOODIES" AND THE "BADDIES."

51 Royal Arcade
Melbourne, C.1.
October, 1949.

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

As I watch the everyday happenings in these critical times, I recall those well known words, "Those whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." All thinking people must realise by now that there is a war on in Australia. It might be called a Cold War or a Social War, but it is a war none the less, and it is a very dangerous war. Using words of the "Younger Fry," I will call it a war between the "Goodies" and the "Baddies." I am in a position to see something of what goes on in both camps. I do not enter those camps under false colours, for I never fail to let it be known where I stand in this Cold (call it what you may) War. It is when I move about in the camp of the "Goodies" that the words about the method employed by the gods come to my mind. The numbers in the camp of the "Goodies" far exceeds the numbers of their opponents. In this war it is numbers that count, but yet the "High-ups" in the "Goodies" seem to do little to retain the loyalty of a large section of the rank and file. Here I refer to those who for years have been seeking in vain for houses in which to live. The loyalty or otherwise of these people in the "show-down" which must come will make all the difference. By their promises of homes for all, the "Baddies" are gaining recruits in ever-increasing numbers. Whether these promises can be fulfilled is neither here nor there. To the homeless it is "Nothing could be worse than the present — let us see if the 'Baddies' (some call them 'Commos') can do any better."

It is true that many houses are being built, but the demand is far greater than the supply. If the "High-ups" were doing everything possible to provide houses the homeless would be content to wait, but it is obvious that everything possible is not being done. Luxury goods are being produced in large numbers, and many projects are being carried out which are not of vital importance. All this makes the homeless very angry and the promises of the "Baddies" very attractive.

HALF TRUTHS ARE DANGEROUS

There are other things, however, which make the homeless still more angry. One of those things is that the "High-ups" treat the homeless as if they lacked intelligence and try to keep them quiet by half-truths. Recently one of the "High-ups" called Mr. R. G. Menzies said that the cause of the lag in home building was due to the coal shortage. Accepting Mr. Menzies' statement about the coal, the obvious answer is "True, but surely all coal available should be used to provide for the fundamental needs of the people and none should be used for projects of secondary importance." If the "High-ups" amongst the "Goodies" took a little more trouble to look at matters from the point of view of the homeless, fewer would be passing from one camp to another.

RECRUITS FOR THE "BADDIES"

During a recent skirmish, called by some The Coal Strike, an important "High-up" made a statement which must have added considerably to the ranks of the "Baddies." When the whole Nation was keyed up with apprehension, fearful for the future, when many thousands of people were out of work, when industry of vital importance to the welfare of the country was held up, the gentleman concerned broadcast to the Nation his plans and those of his colleagues to spend ten million pounds in preparation for the playing of some games. Could there be anything more stupid than that? I venture to think, however, that if the "High-ups" to whom I refer should honour me by reading this article, they would say that I was the stupid one, and by my words prove myself to be amongst those "whom the gods would destroy." I wonder!! I suppose the decision of the Civic Fathers as to the kind of garb they wear is of little importance. If they wish to go to banquets in fancy dress, let them do so, but on the other hand, if they understood the feelings of the ordinary people they would not make such a song and dance about these trivial matters. There are no worse slums in the Southern Hemisphere than those in the City of Melbourne, but the matter is ignored

by those who should be in the forefront of reformers. Games, knee breeches and banquets seem to be of far greater importance than homes. The Lord Mayor, and such as he, cannot know what ordinary people are saying about their attitude towards the present National Crisis. They do not seem to realise that the ordinary people will in the long run decide the future of Australia. Numbers do count, and the numbers of "Baddies" are growing, and for this the "Baddies" can thank the "High-ups" amongst the "Goodies." I do not doubt the loyalty and integrity of those I criticise, but I think their policy is as stupid as it is dangerous.

WHO WON THE COAL STRIKE SKIRMISH?

I was talking recently to one who is in a position to play a very important part in influencing the people of Australia. His remarks filled me with apprehension. He spoke of the setback recently received by the Communists in the recent Coal Strike. Their victory may not have been as decisive as was hoped, but they did what they set out to do, and that was to add to the social unrest and unhappiness. They held up vital industries and they added to the already serious conflict prevailing in the ranks of their opponents. All this was to their advantage. The man of influence to whom I refer seemed to think that the "Baddies" were "On the way out," because of what is being revealed by the enquiry into Communism. The enquiry, however, has done little more than give details as to methods, and it will take more than enquiries to finish the career of such a powerful organisation as Communism. To under-estimate the strength of the enemy is folly in the extreme. I think, however, not only of the enemy in our midst, but also of potential enemies beyond our shores. All who know the situation in the North tell of the dire peril in which this country is placed. Our one hope, we are told, lies in population, but yet, while bringing in thousands of people from overseas we are unable to house those already here. Population, of course, but an unhappy and discontented population is a source of danger. People, if not adequately housed, cannot be but unhappy and discontented.

A word in regard to what I see in the camp of the "Baddies." I see a small number of people who are almost frantically enthusiastic about their cause. Although composed of people of all classes, they are a united people, ready to forget minor differences in their endeavour to reach a common objective. Many in the camp of the "Baddies" are highly educated men and women, professional men and members of the University Teaching Staff, and students, too. Many of these people will tell you that they are not in full agreement with all the tenets and methods of those with whom they have thrown in their lot, but their policy is better than the policy of the "Goodies," who have had control for so long, and with such disastrous results. Such reasoning may be wrong, but yet it is a reasoning of many.

THERE IS ONLY ONE SURE WAY

As for myself, I could not be happy with either the "Goodies" or the "Baddies." I am convinced that there is only one way, and that is the Christian Way. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you." Let us put first things first, let us provide for the fundamental needs of the people, and other good things (but not quite so good) will be added unto us. The chief of all our present needs to-day is for all people of goodwill to study anew the Christian method. The trouble is that the majority, while admiring that method, fail to realise that it is eminently practical and the only method, when tried according to directions, has proved to be perfect in every respect. To sum up:—

A Country's chief duty is to provide for the fundamental needs of its people.

To fail to do this is not only wrong, but it is dangerous.

To be concerned with matters of secondary importance while the people's fundamental needs are lacking is as unkind as it is dangerous.

Our protest is against the policy which allows material and labour to be expended on matters of secondary importance, while a section of the community is either homeless or languishing in slums.

I am writing this letter on the eve of a Housing Meeting which I have called for 14th September. At the meeting I hope to launch the All Parties Housing League. If you would know more of the League, which I am convinced could do much to speed up housing and so overcome much of the present social unrest, I hope you will send for League Literature, or call for it at 51 Royal Arcade. I am relying upon you good people in this matter as I rely upon you for all matters which I think to be for the welfare of this dear land of ours. I hope I have not written in a bitter strain. I am not bitter, but I am very apprehensive, and I feel that the present time of crisis calls for plain speaking. Our Greetings to you all,

Yours very sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Superior B.S.L.

STOP PRESS: The meeting I referred to in my letter proved somewhat disappointing. It was not well attended, and degenerated into something little more than a political wrangle. It did, however, demonstrate the seriousness of the situation and the hopelessness of the present policy of making homeless people a football for the use of political parties.—G. K. T.

GENERAL NOTES

Carrum Downs Outing.

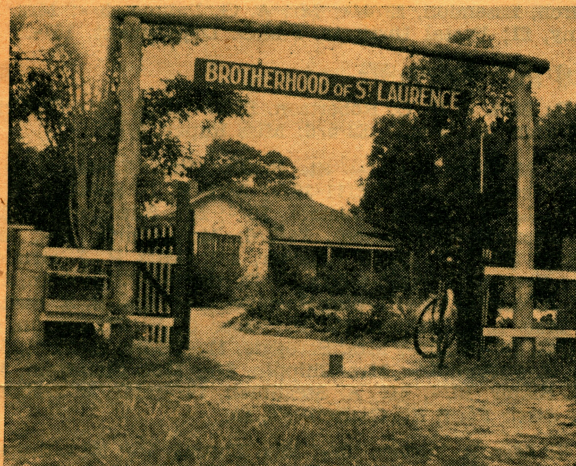
This will be on Saturday, 8th October. The Guest of Honour will be Mrs. Maurice Blackburn, M.H.R. Opportunity will be given to those who attend to see the Lodge recently built for the Superior's use, and for the entertainment of visitors who take part in the monthly outings to the Settlement and for others who desire to see the Superior when in residence. Cars, which leave Batman Avenue, on 8th October, at 2 p.m. It is very important that tickets for the cars should be secured as soon as possible. The return fare will be 5/-. Tickets may be procured at 51 Royal Arcade. Those who go by Car should stop at the entrance near the store, and not go up the road which traverses the Settlement.

Commemoration of the Departed.

In the early days of the Brotherhood we kept a list of Departed Benefactors and remembered them at the Altar on the anniversary of their death. With the passing of the years the numbers have grown to such proportions that this has become impossible. We propose, however, to have a special Service of Commemoration on the Settlement on All Souls Day (2nd November) at 10.30 a.m. The Service will be that of Holy Communion, which will be celebrated at an open air Altar. Will all who wish their dear ones to be remembered please let the Superior have their names before 2nd November. Cars will leave Batman Avenue at 9.30 a.m., and will stop at the Malvern Town Hall at 9.45. Will intending visitors please get tickets for the cars as early as possible (51 Royal Arcade). Although we do not wish to prevent those who specially so desire from receiving their Communion, the service will be one of praise and thanksgiving rather than one at which all present will communicate.

B.S.L. "Groupers."

This is something new, and is the result of meetings of Friends in the postal districts of Malvern-Armadale, Brighton, South Yarra and Caulfield. The majority of those at the meetings undertook to attend another meeting which is to be held in the Djin Djin Tea Rooms, 82 Elizabeth Street, on Thursday, 13th October. Each will bring a friend, who will be asked to donate the sum of five shillings, and to bring a friend to another meeting at a date to be arranged. This snowball process will be continued by a series of meetings. After a grouper brings another grouper nothing further will be asked of her except perhaps to attend an annual meeting. We hope to have meetings of friends such as those already held. It will be a long time, however, before we can have gatherings in all postal districts. When friends receive invitations to such meetings will they please note that attendance does not mean that they will be urged to do anything more than they are doing already.



Car Drivers Stop Here on 8th October.

Dates to be Noted:

- Saturday, 8th October, Carrum Downs Garden Party.
- Thursday, 13th October, Group Meeting at Djin Djin Tea Rooms.
- Wednesday, 19th October, Market Fair in Lower Town Hall.
- Wednesday, 2nd November, Service of Commemoration at Carrum Downs.
- Thursday, 8th November, Garden Party at Fitzroy.

Please:

Has anyone living near the train or tram in the district between South Yarra and Caulfield, some land on which the Superior's caravan could rest? It would be necessary that electric power, water, etc., should be available, and that there should be easy access for car and caravan. The Superior visualises the corner of some garden where, while being of no trouble to anyone, he could sojourn on those days when it is necessary for him to be near the city. If any have suggestions, please ring — Central 2721.

Market Fair.

We would once again remind B.S.L. Friends of the Market Fair to be opened by Lady Murdoch on Wednesday, 19th October, at 11 o'clock. Gifts for the stalls would be much appreciated. These may be left at 51 Royal Arcade, or at the following addresses.

STALL HOLDERS:

- Cakes and Sweets:** Mrs. Hines, 16 Elmie Street, Hawthorn. WA 4046.
- Cards:** Mrs. Downie, 25 Kingston Street, East Malvern. U 4346.
- Fancy Goods:** The Misses McWhinney, 2 Cole Street, Hawthorn. WA 2382.
- Flowers:**
 - Mrs. Homes, 29 Oswin Street, East Kew. WL 1815.
 - Mrs. Macaulay, 12 Station Street, East Kew. WL 1626.
- General:** Mrs. McKay, 222 Kooyong Road, Toorak. U 2345.
- Lucky Dip:**
 - Miss Briggs, 21 Gordon Street, Toorak. BJ 2868.
 - Miss Showers, 27 Wanda Road, Caulfield. U 4420.
- Produce:** Mrs. Healey, 12 Hamer Street, East Brunswick. FW 2872.
- Refreshments:** Mrs. Vaughan, 20 Charles Street, Kew. Haw. 6236.
- White Elephant:**
 - Mrs. Lindsay, 107 Powlett Street, East Melbourne. JA 4361.
 - Miss Rutter, 3 Nott Street, East Malvern. UL 4237.

"SHOCKING" CONDITIONS IN SYDNEY SLUMS

SYDNEY, Tuesday: A quarter of a million people in Sydney were living in intolerable conditions, Mr. Cahill, Minister for Works, said today.

Several surveys of the city's slum areas had revealed shocking living conditions.

"If the cost of Sydney's slums in the form of ill-health and premature deaths, and in the vice and crime they have bred, was realised by the public, their clearance would not have been subordinated to less important works," he said.

"A survey of one slum area in 1947 revealed that 45% of the houses had sagging ceilings, 33% had rotten floors, 26% broken windows, 46% had no running water in the kitchens, and 48% had no separate bathrooms.

"The only access to many groups of dilapidated cottages is through lanes impassable to motor vehicles. Many back yards were found to be no longer than 6ft, and washing had to be hung out in near by lanes.

"Damage is increased enormously in these slum areas, where the streets are virtually the only places in which children can play.

"Factories have intruded into all these areas, and noise, smoke, dust, and fumes add to the general squalor, and deprive the dingy dwellings of sunlight and air.

"Due largely to poor housing and lack of playing space, infantile mortality and child delinquency are higher than elsewhere, and crime is more prevalent."

What applies to Sydney applies also to Melbourne.
—(From Melbourne Herald)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

From 1st July to 31st August, 1949.

A: Mr. A. Allen, £5; Mrs. Anderson, 5/-; Sydney Arnold & Co., £1/1/-; Digger Anderson, 5/-; Miss C. Austin, 10/-; Mrs. G. Appleby, 5/-; Mrs. E. Turner Anderson, 2/6; Miss Ashton, 7/-; Mr. J. Alexander, £2/10/-; J. Anderski, 10/-; A Friend, £1; Alcoholics Anonymous, £1; Anonymous, £6/15/-.

B: Mrs. Broadbent, 5/-; Mrs. Black, 10/-; Mrs. R. Black, £1; Mr. H. A. Browne, £1; Mrs. J. H. Bowman, 4/-; Miss Alice Balcombe, 5/-; Mrs. E. Bennett, 10/-; Mrs. A. Batchelor, £1; Mr. Brent, 10/-; Mrs. Barnes, 5/6; Mrs. A. H. Baxter, 5/-; Miss L. Brown, 5/-; Mr. R. J. Burton, 5/-; Mrs. Baird, £1; Mrs. Bradley, £5; Mrs. Billingham, 5/-; Mr. R. Buckley, £1; Mrs. Berriman, 5/-; Miss Burdett, 5/-; Miss A. Bartlett, 10/-; Mr. D. Baines, 5/-; Mrs. Bowen, 5/-; C. W. A. Brand, £1/0/6.

C: Mrs. C. Cairns, £1/10/-; Mrs. R. G. Caddell, £1; City of Northcote, £1; City of Caulfield, £10; Mrs. E. Clark, 10/-; Mrs. Campbell, 10/-; Miss F. Coetz, £7/10/-; Mrs. A. Conn, 5/-; Miss M. Craven, £10; Mrs. Cribbs, 5/-; Mrs. C. E. Campbell, 10/-; City of Hawthorn, £5.

D: Mrs. Dawson, 10/-; S. E. Dickins Pty. Ltd., £6; Mr. Dimwall, £5; Dr. Arthur Day, £10; Mrs. P. Duncan, 5/-; Mrs. Daniell, 5/-; Miss B. Dunstan, 5/-; Mrs. Dyason, 10/-; Miss E. Downton, 5/-; Mrs. J. Dailey, £2/2/-; Mrs. Dittmer, 2/-; Mrs. Davies, 15/-.

E: Mrs. Edwards, 2/-; Mrs. M. Evans, £5; Mrs. H. E. Ellson, 7/6; E.O., 10/-; Employees, Austin Shoe Co., 10/-.

F: Mrs. F. E. Fraiser, 5/-; Mr. C. Fallon, £1/10/-; Miss G. Foster, £2; Mrs. E. Fellowes, £1; Footscray All Aboard Club, 10/-; Miss Foster, 5/-.

G: Mrs. E. de Q. Goodison, 10/-; J. McGlasham, 5/-; Miss G. Gibbs, 10/-; Eric Gamon, 5/-; Mrs. Gay, £2; Geelong Grammar School, £10; Gardenvale, £2; Good Fairy Pebbles, 5/-; Mrs. C. R. Gardiner, 5/-; Mrs. Gibson, £1; Mrs. Gardiner, 5/-.

H: Mrs. J. Howat, 5/-; L. Hayman, 10/-; Miss L. L. Hearle, 5/-; "H.L." 2/6; Mrs. Hughes, £1/1/-; Miss S. Harris, 10/-; Miss F. Hohmuth, 10/-; Mrs. Heddle, 5/-; Mrs. J. Howarth, 5/-; Mrs. E. M. Hartwick, £1; Mrs. G. E. Hemp-hill, £1; Mrs. B. Harrison, 10/-; Miss Horne, £1; Mrs. Horwood, 10/-; Mrs. Halligan, 2/-; Mrs. Hearn, £1; Mr. and Mrs. Hotham, 10/-; Mrs. Harrison, 5/-.

I: Ivanhoe Golf Club, £10; Mr. W. D. Iliffe, 7/6; Mrs. M. Iddles, £1; In Memory of Tommy Dench, 5/-; In Memory of John, £2/2/6; In Memory of Elizabeth Dorothy Dunn, £3/3/-; In Memory of Mother, £1; In Memory of Mrs. Seedy, 5/-; In Memoriam, £5; In Memory of E. H. Mawbery, £6.

J: Mr. R. V. Janson, 10/-; Mrs. B. Joseph, 10/-; Mrs. M. Judge, 2/6.

K: Mrs. L. Knyvett, 5/-; Miss M. Knyvett, 10/-; Mrs. L. Kelly, 5/-; Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Kimpton, £3/3/-; Miss Pauline Knowles, £1; Mr. J. G. Kidney, £1/1/-; Mrs. A. Kent, 10/-; Mrs. E. Kincaid, £3; Mrs. M. Kenny, 5/-; Miss H. King, 5/-.

L: Miss Mary Lazarus, 5/-; Mr. L. Lomas, 10/-; Mrs. Linton, £1; Mrs. Long, 5/-; Mrs. R. Lincoln, £2/2/6; Mrs. E. E. Lane, 5/-; Mr. Leake, £5; Mrs. A. Lardner, 10/-; Mr. A. H. Lowry, £10; Mr. Richard Lakeman, 5/-; Mr. John Langford, 5/-; Mrs. J. Lee, 4/-; Mrs. Liddell, £1; Miss K. Luckas, 5/6.

M: Mrs. M. Matthews, 17/-; Mrs. R. McGilp, 5/-; Miss Mather, £1/1/-; D. Morgan, 5/-; Mrs. Milligan, £1; Mrs. M. Moran, 10/-; Mrs. M. J. Miller, 5/-; Mrs. D. Murray, 10/-; Mrs. C. Morison, 10/-; Miss J. Mackintosh, 5/-; Miss

Macintyre, 5/-; Mrs. A. P. McFarlane, £1; Miss H. E. Morrison, 10/6; Mrs. M. M. Morris, 10/-; Sister Minchin, 10/-; Mrs. D. S. McLachlan, 5/-; Mrs. A. Muir, 10/-; Melbourne City Council, per Lord Mayor's Fund, £25; Mrs. D. Murray, 5/-; Mrs. W. McDonald, 10/-; Miss M. G. Murdoch, 5/-; Miss Macintyre, 5/-; Mr. C. N. McKay, £250; Mrs. C. Monighetti, £2/2/-; Mrs. A. Morrison, 5/-; Mrs. McLeod, £1/1/-; Miss McGrath, 5/-.

N: No Flowers by request, 5/-; Mrs. E. Neath, 10/-; Mrs. Nicholson, 10/-.

O: Mrs. Arthur Oldham, £3/3/-; Mrs. O'Shea, 5/-; Mrs. P. Oldham, 5/-; Mrs. H. O'Shaughnessy, £1; Miss F. Owen, 5/-; Miss D. Osborne, £5; Mrs. Ogilvie, £5.

P: Parishioner (St. Stephen's, Warrandyte), £2/10/-; E. R. Peters, 10/-; Miss Percival, 10/-; Mr. A. Percival, £1; Pandit Ahhar Singh, £1; Pharmacy Club, £3/3/-; Parish of Terang, 5/-; Dr. John Poolman, £100; Nancy Porter, 5/-; Presbyterian Church, Richmond, £2/2/-; Presbyterian Church, Essendon, £3/4/-; Mr. A. G. Palmer, 5/-; Mrs. W. Penny, £1; Postal Institute, P.M.G. Department, 15/-.

Q: Mrs. Quarry, 5/-.

R: Mrs. J. D. C. Robertson, £2/2/-; R.R., 2/-; Retiring Collection (Oakleigh), £2/5/6; Miss Rapey, 5/-.

S: Mrs. Sweet, 5/-; St. Paul's (East Kew), £3/4/11; "Sun News-Pictorial," £11/18/-; Mrs. E. L. Scott, 5/-; St. Luke's Ladies' Guild (Dookie), 10/-; Mr. Sherbourne, 10/-; Sunshine Club (Ivanhoe), £4/7/6; Mrs. Smith, 5/-; Miss Savage, 6/-; Mr. C. R. Spencer, 2/6; Miss P. J. Sanders, 10/-; Sympathiser, 5/-; Mrs. H. Surry, £3; P. Sullivan, 5/-; Mrs. A. Smith, 10/-; Lesley Spencer, 5/-; Miss R. E. Sexton, £2; Miss L. P. Sexton, £1; Professor C. W. N. Sexton, £1; Mrs. G. Salter, 5/-; Mrs. Scroggie, 11/-; Mrs. Sargent, 5/-; Mrs. S. Sutton, 5/-; Mrs. Shippin, 5/-; Miss Stripstein, 5/-; Mrs. Slater, 10/-; Mr. A. Steadman, 10/-; Mr. E. Solomon, 4/-; Sixth Form St. Catherine's, £5.

T: Mrs. B. Turvey, 10/-; Mrs. Thorne, 5/-; Mrs. Tregear, 5/-; Mrs. Talbot, £3; Mrs. Turner, £1; Miss H. Taylor, 5/-; Taxation Department (Accounts Branch), £1/4/-.

V: Mrs. A. K. Vial, £3/3/-; Mrs. J. Vivash, 10/-.

W: Miss J. Waterson, £1; R. Wilson, 10/6; Mrs. E. Williams, 5/-; Mrs. Walker, 5/-; Sister M. Wilson, 5/-; Mrs. Milton Wettenhall, £1; Mrs. E. E. Wilson, 5/-; Wellwisher, £1; Mrs. C. Wright, £1/10/-; Dr. John Wunderley, 10/-; Miss A. Williams, 5/-; Mrs. D. Wilson, £1; Mrs. B. A. Wood, 5/-; Mrs. White, 5/-; Mrs. E. L. Wilson, 5/-.

Y: Y.Y. Drama Group, £5.

DONATION SLIP

TO THE SUPERIOR, B.S.L.,
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.I.

Please find my donation for £ : :

Name.....

Address.....