KICK US ABOUT!

To many people living outside Australia, we must seem fortunate in our choice of governments. Those who regard Labor Parties as advantages for workers must envy our plethora of Labor Governments. Yet, the only reason offered by many Labor supporters for boosting Labor candidates is: “They are the best of two evils.” Tired-in-the-wool laborites and their “Communist” jockeys invariably patronize the only issue they can think of to withstand the attacks of the “all evil” does not strike our opponents as being the least bit illogical.

RECENT ELECTIONS.

Since the conclusion of the war, the Labor parties have been steadily losing ground and while not sufficient in all cases to put them out of office, there has been a marked trend against Labor governments in Western Australia, the poll (following closely on attacks made by the Labor Government on the local workers in the industrial field) resulted in the Labor Government being pushed out in favour of avowed capitalist candidates.

In South Australia, the one State where Labor has been in power, two successive elections were defeated by the workers, the Trade Unions, the “Communist” Parties and certain sections of the Capitalist class were harnessed for the struggles ahead. In some Queensland Seats, “Communist” Candidates stood down to facilitate Labor Party chances of winning seats.

WHAT WAS OFFERED?

The programs of the contending parties were little different from each other: each seemed bent on stealing as much of the other’s policy as it could at the same time continuing their opponents’ cuts for the sake of a policy. Each party promised houses by the thousand “for the people”; new deals in education, health and prosperity; an end to depression; in short we were promised all the usual capitalist panaceas for the future. But N.S.W. Labor Premier McGinnis set his masters at ease from the outset when he said:

“I regard the preservation of our Social Structure as a Sacred Trust, and I state emphatically that no party and no individual will be allowed to undermine that structure.”

(Standard Weekly, A.L.P., Sydney, 18/4/47.)

While he prated about “Labor standing for Peaceful, rational, arbitration” in Western Australia, the poll (following closely on attacks made by the Labor Government on the local workers in the industrial field) resulted in the Labor Government being pushed out in favour of avowed capitalist candidates.

The Labor and Country Party candidates tried to out-promise the Country Labor candidates, thus making the going hard for “Communist” candidates who had to “find new promises” for their followers. The capitalist press pointed out that there was little or no difference between Labor and Liberal policies. It practically ignored the slim platitude of the Communist Party, whose N.S.W. and Australian “Leader” J. B. Miles, in an endeavour to catch the Country vote dug up this tit-bits:

“The Communist Party calls for a new deal for farmers and rural workers by increased prices for butter, milk and eggs. THESE COMMUNITY PROVISIONS COULD BE GREATER IN PRICE WITHOUT AFFECTING THE WAGE EARNER BECAUSE THEY CARRY INTO ACCOUNT THE CALCULATIONS OF PRICE FLUCTUATIONS FOR FIXING THE BASIC WAGE.” (Tribune, 22/4/47.)

Of such stuff are Commissars made; yet there are thousands of people who take Mr. Miles seriously! The explanation for the many worshippers may be found in the following which appeared in the “Tribune” (A.C.P. Official Organ) a few weeks ago:

“By understanding the ‘headache’ of the union leader, the Working Man is going to stop the Party. Only those who have lived under a Queensland Labor Government can appreciate the full significance of such a remark. After 22 years of Labor rule he was STILL PROMISING, on behalf of his Party, those things which his predecessors promised years ago. On May Day, he was emphasizing the old, old story about the strike weapon being obsolete but never a word about abolishing the system which makes strikes inevitable.

UPS AND DOWNS

In New South Wales, the Labor Party lost some seats and also many votes in seats they won. The Country Party gained a few and the seats seemed to be under the long Labor Party which just managed to retain their two seats on preferences. The Communist Party figures as the “fair weather” party of its supporters, both in Queensland and New South Wales. The comparatively large vote in the latter State is the result of the Party’s attitude toward the war when it sided in on patriotism and muddled in on Red Army popularity. But now that...
OBJECTIVE

In May 1911, the first issue of this paper appeared. Under the direction of ALP National Council, subscribers were asked to subscribe to the paper, which was to be called "Socialist Comment." The first issue was published on August 1, 1911, with a circulation of 1,000 copies.

The paper was published weekly until the end of 1911, and then monthly until the end of 1912. It was then published bi-monthly until the end of 1913, and then quarterly until the end of 1914. After 1914, the paper was published irregularly.

The paper was edited by various ALP members, including H. J. O'Sullivan, J. R. Gough, and J. R. Gough. The paper was published by the ALP National Council.

The paper was succeeded by the "Australian Social Democrat" in 1915.

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VICTORY OR DEFEAT

The Metal Trades Dispute

Since the end of the war, the number of less desirable jobs has been increasing, and the pressure on the ALP to consider the question of the Metal Trades Dispute has been mounting. In the present dispute, the ALP has been criticized for not taking action to resolve the dispute.

The dispute between the manufacturers and the workers has been going on for some time, and it is now time for the ALP to take a stand on the issue.

The dispute is not just about wages, but also about working conditions, safety, and the future of the industry. The ALP has a responsibility to support the workers in this dispute, and to work towards a fair and just settlement.

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ON THE FARM

Mr. Pimbert is the only Australian who has been able to understand the nature of the displacement of the workers in the Australian Agricultural Workers' Union. His book, "The Australian Agricultural Workers' Union," has been praised for its accurate portrayal of the workers' experiences.

Mr. Pimbert has also been criticized for his support of the workers, and for his criticism of the ALP's handling of the dispute. However, his book provides a valuable insight into the lives of the workers.

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TWO BOOKS

"Two Books" is a collection of essays by various authors, including H. J. O'Sullivan, J. R. Gough, and J. R. Gough. The essays cover a range of topics, including politics, economics, and social issues.

The book was published by the ALP National Council in 1914.

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THE ART MINISTER (Mr. Noel Baker)

"The Art Minister (Mr. Noel Baker)" is a collection of essays by Mr. Noel Baker, the Minister for the Arts, on various topics related to the arts. The essays cover a range of topics, including the role of the arts in society, and the importance of supporting the arts.

The book was published by the ALP National Council in 1914.
ther from a standpoint of the right or the left, that the party represents a sectional or a narrow interest, or in aim (for practical purposes) from that of politicians grouped on the opposite bench to the houses of parliament." (p. 2, our emphasis)

"Commonwealth political history is successful by means of machinery, of constituent parties and their rival policies. But actually very little in it shows any abrupt or remarkable departure from the methods, principles, or policy, on occasion of the defeat of one party administration and its replacement by an administration of another colour." (p. 207, our emphasis)

In short, Mr. Fitzpatrick shows very well the "similarity of outlook of all the parliametary parties" which co-operated to build federal Australia on a "secure capitalist" foundation." (p. 209)

The book is well written and makes fascinating reading, though, owing to its division in three parts (one giving a general survey, the second dealing with economic history and the third bringing the two together) there is a certain loss of momentum.

To sum up: Well worth buying. "You, Me and the Endgame," by Frank Casey (172 pp. 1/-). Left Book Club of Victoria.

Deals with the set-up of the Australian organs of government, how the parties formed and how they function. Includes extracts from the United Nations Charter, which should be closely studied by anyone who wishes to learn how best to string together meaningless abstractions which appear to make sense.

The book is a reference to Democracy as being the "will of the people" and the author adopts the conventional division of parties into "left" and "right". Such terms are so vague and confusing that it would be better to drop them.

To sum up: Contains enough factual information to make it useful.

P.S.—It looks as if Mr. Casey’s information as to the payment of Interest on the War Debt will be out of date as they intend to increase their salaries by 50 per cent—to £1,500 a year. If the Labour Government introduce legislation for the millionaire, at least, they’re making a start in introducing it for M.P.’s—from the top to the "Golden Age" must be at hand. —H.H.

"PRESS FUND.


CORRECTION.

The ACTU conference takes place every 2 years, not every 2 years as stated in our May issue.—Ed. Comm.

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COMPANION PARTIES.

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TWO "SOCIALISM OR CHAOS"

The Socialist Parties of Australia and New Zealand hold:
1. That society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., land, factories, commerce) by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent enslavement of the working class, by whom both the products of labour and the results of research are appropriated.
2. That society, therefore, is an antagonism of interests, manifestly false in form, as well as in fact, to those who possess but do not produce, and those who produce but do not possess.
3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the socialisation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.
4. That the consequence of socialisation is an equipoised distribution of wealth and the general satisfaction of the material necessities of the whole community, without distinction of race or sex.
5. That this common ownership must be the work of the working class itself.
6. That the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the State, exists only to conserve the monopoly of the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must organise economically and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, national and local, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of privilege, arbitrary and paternalistic.
7. That as all political parties are but the expression of class feeling, as the interests of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interests of all sections of the master class, the party seeking the working class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.
8. THE SOCIALIST PARTIES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND therefore demand that the political parties be converted into a federation of socialist sections determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged to be "radical" or "progressive" or "democratic," and that the members of the working class seek the leadership of the country to master their homes to the end that a spoil and slavery to freedom.

The printing of the above principles and this leaflet is the property of the Socialist Political Association. The contents may be quoted as far as the carriage interest will permit, with a reference to the "Press Service" PO Box 1440-M., Melbourne.