

NO 8-PAGER YET

We regret that "The Guardian" does not appear this week in the 8-page form promised in our last issue. Reason is that although we have a licence to use newsprint, there is as yet no reply to our application to the newsprint pool for paper to print a larger issue.

The GUARDIAN

With which is incorporated "The Workers' Voice."

Official organ Victorian State Committee Communist Party of Australia.

UNITY GROWS

The Czechoslovakian Socialist Democrats (Official Labor) and the Czechoslovakian Communist Party have joined for the first time in an agreed programme, and have issued a joint anti-fascist manifesto to the Czechoslovak people.

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MELBOURNE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1943.

No. 96.

BIG INCREASE IN COMMUNIST VOTE

LABOR VOTE EXCEEDS V.C.P.-U.A.P. TOTAL

Workers' Unity Still Key To Defeat Of Reaction

Three things stand out sharply from the State election results:

- (1) The greatly increased vote for the Communist Party.
- (2) The wide gap between party votes and seats gained. This indicates that the need for redistribution of seats is likely to play a vital part in future State politics.
- (3) A united front of the Labor movement is needed to win the leadership of the people. This is clear from the strong support given to Independents.

The Communist vote (on present figures) of more than 36,000, has increased approximately four times since the last elections. It would have been bigger if workers in the Armed Forces and the C.C.C. had been able to record their full vote.

The combined Labor-Communist-Socialist vote—353,198—is greater by several thousand than the total Country Party-U.A.P. vote—318,862. And yet the V.C.P.-U.A.P. will have 41 seats to Labor's 22. The same glaring disparity exists between U.A.P. and Country Party.

Communist leader J. B. Chiffley records more than 1000 in Port Melbourne was gained despite his absence because of illness from the campaign and a number of personal rumours against him.

Miss Bertha Laidler's vote at Richmond is a striking indication of the confidence of the workers in the Communist Party's attention to those local issues which crop up from day to day. The incomplete figures for Richmond—Miss Laidler, 6,183; Cotter, 13,358, are very satisfactory, and together with Ralph Gibson's vote at Collingwood, are a promise of good support at the forthcoming Federal elections.

The present figures for Collingwood are: Tunnecliffe, A.L.P., 8,345; Baker, Ind. Labor, 4,508; Gibson, Communist, 3,797; Kings, Independent, 1,819. The distribution of preferences here will create an interesting position. It seems, however, that Gibson's preferences will be a decisive factor if Tunnecliffe is returned.

A BITTER PILL

Mr. Mullens (Labor) at Footscray will have a bitter pill to swallow in the knowledge that it is the preferences from Cecil Sharpley that keeps him in Parliament. This, in spite of the fact that Mullens, from the platform, advised his supporters to vote Sharpley last. Indications are that Sharpley's vote at Footscray will probably be more than seven thousand before the completion of the count, as the result of the allocation of preferences.

The increased vote of Dr. O'Day at Carlton, from 1,547 in 1940, to 3,789 in 1943, shows an appreciable increase.

ANSWER TO RED-BAITER

Ken Miller's vote of 3,874 at Clifton Hill as against Creamean's 11,259, is a splendid answer to Creamean's red-baiting which has been a feature of his election campaign. Had Comrade Miller been able to obtain leave from the Armed Forces, his vote, no doubt, would have been bigger still. The Communist campaign in Clifton-Hill was conducted by Mrs. Miller, owing to her husband's absence at a northern battlefront.

Support in Ballarat for E. Rowe, Communist candidate, is very pleasing considering the composition of the electorate. The bitter red-baiting of the Labor candidate, Cainin, no doubt, helped T. Hollway, the U.A.P. candidate. Cainin gave his second preference to the U.A.P. Figures as they stand at the moment—Hollway, 9,255; Cainin, 4,339; Rowe, 1,872—indicate a reduction of Hollway's vote, a reduction that could have been much greater had there been co-operation between the Labor Party and the Communist Party, as the Communists wished to have.

The support for George Brown at Upper Yarra may not be quite enough to enable him to save his deposit. Nevertheless, this being the first election for sixteen years shows an interesting alignment of forces. With greater attention, Upper Yarra could be won for the Labor movement.

RESULT OF UNITY.

The clear victory of Merrifield (Labor) at Essendon, is an indication of the results that



J. D. BLAKE, Communist candidate in Port Melbourne (left), and MISS BERTHA LAIDLER, Communist candidate in Richmond (right), who gained record Communist votes in the State election.

CHURCHILL FORESHADOWS GREAT NEW OFFENSIVE

(By L. Sharkey.)

Mr. Churchill's statement that we are on the eve of a great new offensive of an "ambitious" character is the most direct intimation we have yet had to expect an early invasion of Europe.

It is an indication that the recent consultations with President Roosevelt were concerned with the final arrangements for the opening of the second front.

Our generation has seen many world-shaking events, world wars, the fall of empires, the development of the great October Socialist Revolution on the territories of the former Tsarist Empire, and many other important occurrences.

We now live on the eve of one of the greatest events of our eventful period—the crushing of the greatest of all men-

dedicated by Stalin for the final defeat of the fascists.

This opening of the second front will coincide with renewed offensives by the Red Army, which, fully equipped and reinforced by giant newly trained reserve armies, is impatiently awaiting the landing of the Allies on European soil.

That will be the signal for the springing to life of the 2,000 miles of the vast Eastern Front.

A stupendous battle will take place, for the Allied landing will constitute a tremendous military, air, and naval effort.

The Russian battles will be of a final, decisive character, aiming at the rout of the Hitlerite forces.

The collapse of the Germans in Tunisia may be an important pointer to what is about to take place. Here the Germans surrendered as readily as the Italians. They surrendered in hundreds of thousands, whereas at Stalingrad the majority fought until exterminated.

With the opening of the second front and renewed blows from the Red Army, the surrender could be in terms of millions.

The autocratic, bureaucratic Prussian "discipline" prepared the way for such a collapse. You can drive even fascist automatons only to a certain point. The fact that the German soldier is fighting a brutal plunderer's war and has no ideals makes itself felt in the end.

After Europe—Japan. And the final liquidation of fascist militarism at an early date. Such is the perspective opening before us—a world without fascism, the downfall of the empires based on obscurantism, hatred, blood, and plunder.

Treasurer Thanks Communist Party

Appreciation of the part played by members of the Communist Party throughout Australia in the successful drive to fill the Third Liberty Loan has been expressed by the Federal Treasurer (Mr. J. B. Chiffley). In a letter to the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (Mr. L. L. Sharkey) he writes:—

Commonwealth Treasurer,
Canberra, A.C.T.,
11th May, 1943.

Dear Mr. Sharkey,
I have now been able to announce the final result of the Third Liberty Loan. This has resulted in a satisfactory over-subscription and I do not want the occasion to pass without expressing to you, and through you to the members of your Party, my personal appreciation of the splendid assistance which you and the members of your Party have given to the campaign.

The co-operation and assistance which the Government received from the Communist Party throughout Australia was of great assistance to us, and the final result of the loan. Please accept my thanks for the assistance which you have given, my appreciation and thanks to the members of your Party.

Yours sincerely,
J. B. CHIFFLEY,
Treasurer.

CARPENTERS FOR UNITY

Annual conference of the Carpenters and Joiners Union carried a strong resolution in favor of working class unity. It also urged the opening of a Second Front in Europe and the granting of self-government to India. Terms of the resolution were:—

"That this Conference stresses the absolute urgency of uniting the forces of the working class against the forces of re-action and we request the Federal Executive of the Australian Labor Party and the Communist Party of Australia to submit immediately a programme of joint action for victory over fascism and for post-war reconstruction. It urges members to join the A.L.P. and wherever possible to use propaganda to overcome difficulties preventing the unity of working class organisations."

"Further, we demand that the Federal Government immediately request the British Government to open a Second Front in Europe and that the A.L.P. and Communist Party urge the Prime Minister to stress the urgent need for the British Government to grant self-government to the Indian people so that the full force of Indian manpower can be utilized in the anti-fascist struggle."

TRIBUTE TO SOVIET

To mark the completion of two years' courageous and determined resistance to Nazi aggression by the Soviet people, the Australian-Soviet Friendship League is holding an Anniversary Demonstration in the Princess Theatre, next Sunday, June 20, at 3 p.m.

The demonstration will include a colorful pageant, with orchestral music and Soviet

Congratulations

From Socialist

Mr. J. Coull, president of the Liquor Trades Union, who stood as a Socialist in Albert Park and polled the magnificent vote of 9,855 against 12,761 of his U.A.P. opponent, addressed the following message to the Communist Party's meeting in the Princess Theatre on Sunday, which he was unable to attend:—

"Congratulations to the Communist Party on their increased vote. Many thanks for Party support during my campaign. Our majority vote in Albert Park most heartening. My many years in conjunction with your party propagating the Socialist cause in this district and the results of this election should stimulate our movement for even greater efforts."

aces to progress, the destruction of the fascist empire, united in the unholy Axis alliance.

The second front, namely, the bringing to bear of the full weight of the enormous power of England and America, as well

Miles Cables Dimitroff

The political committee of the Communist Party of Australia has decided to endorse the proposals for the dissolution of the Communist International and to recommend acceptance by all Party organisations.

In view of the great difficulties which would be involved in recovering the recently held National Congress, it was also decided that all Party Branch and Committees discuss and vote on the C.I. proposals at their next meeting.

The basis for discussion will be the statement of the Communist Executive published in the last issue of "The Guardian." The general secretary of the Communist Party of Australia (Mr. J. B. Miles) has sent the following cable to the general secretary of the Communist Party of Australia:—

Dimitroff, Secretary Communist Party, Moscow.

Political Committee Australian Party endorses proposals dissolve Communist Party organisation directed through and vote on recommendations. We believe decision will result strengthening Australian anti-fascist front. ACPA.