

OBJECT:

The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interests of society as a whole.



COMPANION PARTIES

Socialist Party of Canada
Socialist Party of Great Britain
Socialist Party of New Zealand.
Workers' S.P. of U.S.A.

**SYDNEY BRANCH
BOX 2291, G.P.O., SYDNEY, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.**

MARCH 19th 1959

ANNUAL REPORT: DECEMBER 57 - DECEMBER 58

PROPAGANDA

The outdoor platform in the Sydney Domain has provided the Branch with a continual centre of propaganda since ex-Courades from the Socialist Party of Great Britain arrived in Sydney in 1955. No indoor meetings on a regularly organized basis have supplemented the outdoor propaganda since the termination of indoor lectures just prior to the Branch re-forming in April, 1957.

Independent of the Branch, however, the continuation of the Socialist Forum in 1958 provided the members with rewarding speaking opportunities, both in lecture and in discussion from the floor. The Labour, Trotskyite and ex-Communist elements who appeared numerically strong with the formation of the Forum have now all but severed connection with it. It has been generally felt in the Branch that this position has flowed directly from the Party's domination of the Forum discussion. With the singular exception of the Sydney Anarchist Group, all other elements are unwilling to participate in the organization of the Forum.

Engaging in lectures and debates with outside organizations, the Branch has made contact with representatives of The Henry George Union for Social Justice; The Sydney Anarchist Group (Forum auspices); The Communist Party (Rationalist Assoc. auspices) and independent Labour groups in the Como area. A fully detailed list of meetings is attached hereto.

A series of four indoor meetings was also held prior to the Federal Elections in November. Three of these dealt with the Parties contesting the Elections; the fourth with the Socialist alternative. Despite an enthusiastic advertising drive, these meetings failed to attract a large audience; the distribution of 1500 notices in the Domain had practically no effect.

The Branch also decided to enquire from the Secretary of the Melbourne Socialist Forum of the possibility of allowing Branch members to attend a Forum meeting in Melbourne. This was to be arranged through the Sydney Forum, and it was hoped that some Comrade could have been given the opportunity of addressing the Forum. However, no meetings were scheduled in Melbourne for December and the Branch decided to postpone such a trip until early in 1959.

DETAILS OF LECTURES, DEBATES, NEG. BY NEG. SS.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TITLE & PLACE</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
January-February	Thorburn	Debate held over two meetings with Henry George Union for Social Justice on "Socialism" (Followed by written statement of Party's case in H.G. Journal "The Standard".)	approx. 15 (twice)
March	Thorburn	Lecture on Dillas' "The New Class" (Socialist Forum)	approx 40
May	Bryant	Debate with member of Anarchist group: "The State and the Socialist Revolution" (Socialist Forum)	" "
August	Taylor	Debate with Communist Party representative W.J. Brown: "That Socialism exists in the Soviet Union and that Socialism, according to Aust. traditions and custom would be a good thing for the Aust. people" (Rationalist Assoc.)	" 200
September	Bryant	Lecture on "Socialism and The Socialist Party" to ALP members at Oyster Bay	14
October - November	Taylor Bryant Taylor Bryant	Series of four Election meetings: "The Dismal Record of the Menzies' Govt." "The Futility of Labourism" "The Communist Party" "The Socialist Alternative"	24 28 18 16
November	Bryant	Lecture to ALP members at Com on "Alienation".	12

Written Material:

Distribution of a May-Day leaflet was again effected, although the content of the sheet was unfortunately little different from that produced in 1957. A better result was felt from the distribution of a leaflet at a pre-Election rally of the Communist Party held in Trades Hall. This leaflet, entitled "UNITY - FOR WHAT?" was given to hundreds of people who attended the meeting. Remaining copies were distributed in the Domain and copies were also sent to the Companion Parties. The use of the journal "OUTLOOK" has also been debated, and two Comrades have used its columns for propagation of the Party's case. Favourable letters were also printed after the appearance of a short comment (450 wds) on an article written by Lloyd Churchward of Melbourne University.

What are the prospects for a locally produced paper? This question has been considered in view of other propaganda fields failing to produce better results. It is possible that an earnest attempt to organize the beginnings of a regularly produced journal will begin some time in the first half of 1959. The setting up of a Committee to discuss the questions involved may be the first step towards this.

Propaganda and Journals from Companion Parties:

Sales have been made continually in the Domain and at indoor meetings, but the total numbers sold have fallen in comparison with the previous twelve-months. Two factors have been mainly responsible: (i) the temporary break in outdoor meetings towards the end of the year.

(ii) absence of the regular

literature-seller in the Domain.

Propaganda Committee:

- the Propaganda Committee include:
- (i) Literature stand for Domain.
 - (ii) Introductory leaflet outlining Party's position.
 - (iii) Business Cards.
 - (iv) Regular collection of newspaper cuttings.
 - (v) Canvassing particular areas with Party literature.
 - (vi) Propaganda excursions to Wollongong and Newcastle.
 - (vii) Writing letters to newspapers.

Notices advertising Party literature have been placed in newspapers in Wollongong, Newcastle and Broken Hill. Little response has been felt. The Propaganda Committee has apparently suffered from an inability of its three members to come to commonly acceptable terms regarding meetings. It is possible that propaganda aims and surveys could best be left in the hands of an individual and not a Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Total Membership at December 31st 1958 was 18. All members hold Dues Cards. Dues are fixed at four (4) shillings per calendar month. Three members were lapsed during the twelve months.

RELATIONS WITH COMPANION PARTIES: The Branch has made little contact with the overseas Parties, although we produced a tape recorded commentary and greeting for the 1958 WSP Conference in Boston. Individual Comrades have also engaged in correspondence, mainly with the WSP. This has been almost wholly sponsored by the inspiring letters received from the Secretary of the NAC in Boston. The regularity of minutes and correspondence from America is generally considered to be the best model possible of what inter-Party relationships should be. It has been also inspiring to have received pamphlets and occasional minutes from the Socialist Party of Canada. We have also taken receipt of the journal published by the Socialist Party of Ireland.

Unfortunately, our negotiations with the SPGB have only led to a mixture of confusion and anger on our part. Two orders for literature were made by the Branch on 31st July and 24th. October and made up a total order of 13 dozen pamphlets. Only one dozen copies of "MONEY MUST GO!" have arrived out of the combined two orders, despite the fact that a letter was sent to the Executive Committee early this year (1959) prompting a reminder. Further, no increase in our order of Socialist Standard's has been forthcoming, even though this was made to London in October.

INTERNAL DISCUSSION GROUP:

A resolution was carried in November calling for the formation of a discussion group "to examine aspects of the Party case". No group has yet been organized. The use of such a group in attracting sympathisers into the Branch is evident, and implementation of this resolution should not be delayed.

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31/12/58

<p>To</p> <p>Cash in hand 1/1/58 £52.17.1</p> <p>Bound Volumes SS 6. 7.6</p> <p>Lit. sold 39.13.11</p> <p>Donations 17. 2.1</p> <p>Collections 6. 7.4</p> <p>Subs. to WS & SS 6.12.0</p> <p>Payment from Melb.</p> <p>Branch for WS 11. 0.0</p> <p>Dues 12.14.0</p> <p>Donation (Storage of Platform) 4.10.0</p> <p>" (Screen) 1. 5.0</p>	<p>By</p> <p>Lit bought £24.19.11</p> <p>Bound Volumes 6. 7. 6</p> <p>Advertising 8. 5. 8</p> <p>x Hiring of Hall 13. 0. 0</p> <p>x Tea and Biscuits 1. 8. 0</p> <p>Rental GPO Box 6. 0. 0</p> <p>Stationery 15. 1. 5</p> <p>New roller & 2.15. 0</p> <p>screen for Gest'r. 1. 5. 0</p> <p>2 Recording Tapes 3.19.11</p> <p>Storage Platform 4.10. 0</p> <p>Postage 6. 0. 8</p> <p>Contribution to cost of Social 5. 0. 0</p> <p>Cash in Hand 31/12/5859.15.10</p>
<p>£158. 8.11</p>	<p>£158. 8.11</p>

x Pre-election Meetings.

Literature sold and Distributed during 1958:

237 Pamphlets; 50 Current Affairs B'tins.
699 "S.S" and 159 "W.S"

Unpaid Accounts. (as at 31/12/58):

SS Sept.	£E 1. 8. 0	648 copies WS since 1/1
SS Nov.	£E 1. 8. 0	@6s £ 38.88
SS Dec.	<u>£E 1. 8. 0</u>	
	<u>£E 4. 4. 0</u>	

Literature on order:***

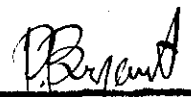
from SPGB (ordered July 58)

2 doz. Irish pamphlets xx
1 doz. Labour Govt.
½ doz. Federal Union.

from SPGB (ordered in Oct. 58)

2 doz Nationalization xx
2 doz Russia since 1917 xx
2 doz Questions of Day xx
2 doz Racial Problem xx
1 doz Money must go
½ doz Family Allowances

(*** None received yet except "Money Must Go!"
(18/3/59)
(xx Out of Stock


(P. BRYANT. SECRETARY)