

WHO IS THE REAL AUSTRALIAN?



A Typical Australian.



The Hon. R. G. CASEY

spaces. Ross Campbell, Australian Rhodes Scholar, writing in "The A.B.C. Weekly," debunked the tall, bronzed bushman story:

"The myth that Mr. Australia 1940 is a man from Snowy River, who 'sees the vision splendid of sunlit plains extended,' has been quashed between the austere pages of the Commonwealth Year Book.

"The 1933 census revealed that 63 per cent. of the national population lived in towns. One-third of the nation is crowded into two cities, Sydney and Melbourne. In New South Wales the proportion of town to country dwellers is two to one. In personnel, Australia has less claim to be called an agricultural nation than France, where town and country populations are roughly equal.

"Musing on his old days in the saddle, Gordon's sick stock-rider remembered:

All the yarns Jack Hall could spin, the songs Jem Roper sang.

But where are now Jem Roper and Jack Hall?

"As a Sunday editor once put it: 'Jim Roper to-day works in a Collingwood boot factory; Jack Hall is a plumber's mate at Marrickville.'

The sober truth which parasites who live on the blood of toil of others do not like to face is that Australia is a land created by workers and populated by workers—two-thirds of them in towns and one-third of them on the land.

Australia has the highest percentage of Trade Unionists in the world for any country where Unionism in voluntary—

In spite of the magnificent pictures of our beach life - savers and athletes, the average Australian is no longer the "splendid young giant" John Masefield talked about.

According to Dr. Roland Wilson, the Commonwealth Statistician, the height of the Australian male averages a little over 5 feet 7 inches. Britishers are regarded as shorter than Australians, but according to official figures, the average height of an Englishman is 5 feet 7 1/4 inches; the average Scotsman's 5 feet 8 1/2 inches.

Many have not the money to buy adequate food and clothing, let alone the private aeroplane and dividend-paying shares of "typical Australians" like Mr. R. G. Casey. The Commonwealth Year Book shows that 85 per cent. of the nation's bread-winners have an income of less than £5 a week.

All Becoming Workers.

Deteriorating standards not only affect the worker, but the farmer and the middle-class also suffer heavily. The farmer, once a rugged individualist who could afford a car, an annual holiday for his family and a comfortable home, has become just a wage-worker for the banks, pastoral companies and stock and station agents. The majority of Australian farmers are hopelessly mortgaged; they live on their farms only by grace of dividend-glutted directors in Melbourne and Sydney.

In the cities and country towns the "small man," the independent trader, is being rapidly liquidated by monopolies, trusts and chain stores—he is doomed by social evolution. As prophesied, he has been pushed, against his will, among the working class. Often he is hopelessly lost in this new proletarian environment and his plight becomes tragic.

The experience of small traders and farmers under Fascism in Germany shows that they have nothing to gain, and that they lose what little they have, by handing power to the enemies of Labor.

The intermediary classes between Capital and Labor must join the ranks of the Typical Australians—the working men and women who are striving for economic justice, for a high standard of culture, for peace, security and the safeguarding of human dignity.

By

"BILL SMITH"

the average male adult you meet in the street is much more likely to be a Unionist than not. Have you ever seen a newspaper cartoonist depict a Trade Unionist as our true national type?

Determined to Fight.

And if you want evidence that the typical Australian is not the gutless petit-bourgeois freak of the daily and weekly press, read the history of the Australian Labor Movement.

Begin with the popular demonstrations for democracy and against the convict system; the early formation of the Trade Unions by men who had been hounded from England, Ireland and Scotland because they had battled for freedom there; and then go on to the Eureka Stockade, the bitter shearers' and transport strikes and the rise of Labor to political power.

Does it give you an Australian interested in little but the weather and races, or an Australian determined to stick up for himself, even when the odds are heavily against him?

The fall in Australian living standards is having its effect on Australia physique.

RICHARD CASEY, the dapper politician with the 18 suits, the private aeroplane de luxe, the parcels of shares in heavy industries and banks and the nice houses and properties distributed over the Commonwealth, is being billed in Washington as a typical Australian. He swore himself that he was a typical Australian.

The world has been given such a confused picture of the typical Australian that perhaps Mr. Casey imagines that in Washington, where he has taken his job as Australian Minister, he can get away with it.

But I doubt it. Americans are intelligent people and they know that the typical Australian is a man who earns his living by honest toil; that instead of buzzing about in a private aeroplane he is more concerned with finding the money to pay for his own and his family's clothes, the rent, the baker and the gas company.

Australian newspapers try to add to the confusion about the Australian type—and to cover the fact that he is really a man who grimes his brow with sweat, who toils over a factory bench or in a coal mine for eight hours a day and a not-too-substantial wage.

Facts Explode Myths.

The cartoonists make their John Citizen a middle-class business man or salaried white-collar worker—the kind of man who talks of nothing but the weather, the races and taxation. The newspapers would have the world believe that the typical Australian is a moron, without spine as well as without brain.

The romanticists picture the typical Australian as a sunburnt giant of the open