

Copy

Unemployed Ratepayers' and Citizens' Association, Bendigo

22nd March, 1934

Dr. C. Shields, M.L.A.,
Minister of Sustenance

Dear Sir,

At a specially called meeting of this Association held in the Town Hall this evening to consider your decisions relative to cessations of work on sustenance work and generally, I have to advise that the Association, which speaks for its 580 odd members, is in accord with your decisions with the exception to the suggestion that in the event of the men having any grievance that a provision will be made for them to appoint 2 delegates, who with leave of the foreman, may place their complaint before the Central Unemployment Council for consideration.

My organisation and its affiliated branches at Wedderburn, Inglewood, Charlton and Nandaly has advised its members over the past year to on no account cease work, but to appoint two men to bring their trouble to us whilst the other men work.

We have been able to work this plan very nicely and with good results. It is not our desire to have any transactions with the C.U.C. or any Trades Hall organisations. We feel we have been doing our job diplomatically and well, and we know that any interference from the Trades Hall will not be conducive to the best interests of any of the men.

It is the desire of my Association to continue the duties of our Disputes Committee in so far that any troubles may be placed before it for consideration before any other step is even contemplated. We even go so far as to say that as we have done the job for the last three years that we be allowed to carry on.

As you no doubt know, there is a certain section here who are more or less opposed to everything and we have been able to check all the suggested actions and we know that if there is a complaint and they handle the matter, we will have here a repetition of the Melbourne disturbance.

We do not want this trouble and we feel confident that if we handle the disputes, that only those which we, in our wisdom born of actual experience consider serious will be referred to the proper authorities.

The City Engineer here (Mr. O. Flight) will substantiate my statements that we are very reasonable and fair and have helped rather than hindered the work. Your own department will know from our correspondence over the last few years that we have been with you and have done our best to assist not only our members but the Sustenance Department as well. I am asked to state that we have from the inception supported the work for sustenance scheme and to also state that we are totally opposed to direct action. In effect, our desire is that our Disputes Committee (Messrs. Silk, Lynch, Ennor, Hester and Sweeney) be allowed to hear the disputes of the men and that we be allowed to use our common-sense in deciding as to whether they be referred to any other authority. If the matters are serious, we will adhere to our practice of first consulting the City Engineer to seek a way out, and as a final appeal to the local Public Assistance Committee or Mr. Frawley or to yourself as Minister.

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Yours faithfully,

(SGD.) F.C. SWEENEY
General Secretary

Unemployed Ratepayers' and Citizens' Association

28th. March, 1934.

The Officer in Charge,
Department of Labour,
Sustenance Branch,
MELBOURNE. C.2.

Dear Sir/

I am in receipt of your letter of the 23rd. inst.
in regard to communication forwarded to the Secretary of the
Unemployed Ratepayers' & Citizens' Association, Bendigo.

As there are several factors relating to the
question of investigation of alleged grievances in Bendigo
and the matter will require very careful consideration, I
should be obliged if you would let me have a copy of the
letter forwarded to you by Mr. Sweeney on behalf of the
Association so that the Public Assistance Committee may have
a complete grasp of the situation.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

TOWN CLERK.

See
22/3/34
letter.

Telephone F 2131.

Switch Nos. $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 503. \\ 577. \\ 558. \\ 563. \end{array} \right.$



DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR,
SUSTENANCE BRANCH,
GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM BUILDINGS,
GISBORNE STREET,
MELBOURNE, C. 2.

IN REPLY PLEASE

QUOTE C.102

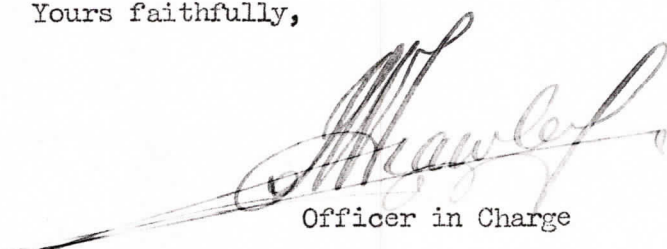
29th March, 1934

The Secretary,
Public Assistance Committee,
Town Hall,
Bendigo.

Dear Sir,

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the
28th inst. and in compliance with your request I am enclosing herewith copy of
communication received from Mr. Sweeney, Secretary of the Unemployed Ratepayers'
and Citizens Association, Bendigo.

Yours faithfully,


Officer in Charge