

Middlemen & Government - Burrows (Bureau)  
 By the men most concerned.

We are those who <sup>work</sup> at bed rock. The beginners, ~~the~~ at the pioneering work, & we are the most voiceless of all Australia's people. We begin at the bottom, just as the great pioneers began in all the States. We want what every British man wants - a home for ourselves our wives & kiddies & we, all of us who are able to work, settle here or there as best suits our wish & we build our little shacks, all helping & tailing with joy, for ~~we~~ we are making our own home. The wife plants the few seeds or cuttings, & makes a little fowl run, & fences the vegetable patch. The man does his part. We have fowls pigs, cows & vegetables & fruit in time & we work day in day out, & go to bed tired & hopeful, living on the simplest of foods, because the home is our joy & hope.

But this marketing business is in a fair way to make colers or swindlers of us. We try a few vines & they must be marketed in the Packing Houses, & we can't sell these ourselves, because the middleman has come between us. The wife makes her butter & that must go to the packing house, & 2<sup>nd</sup> a lb is added for our purchase of her butter when she gets it from the 'middle man'. If we don't know when he comes in or how

he's there to take his toll of our never ending toil.  
 We buy our fruit, back & our honey & our butter &  
 our vegetables - all of which must be marketed  
 first, & now we are asked to vote for more marketing  
 which means to us more & more twopennes to pay  
 on every lb we buy. We can't sell fair to each  
 other, as in the days of our parents - No, we must  
 "market" our produce. If we have a fishing  
 reach we have to market our catches, & all  
 kinds of taxes - sales taxes <sup>day</sup> are drawn from our  
 poor produce - The willing work of the whole family  
 is taxed for the middle men & the burrow  
 (bureau?) men. And we are asked to pay for more  
 burrows - for this marketing-or-marketing that  
 is to be, & each State will be cheated of its  
 products & not allowed to deal fairly & freely  
 with its sister States. <sup>+ we</sup> But must pay more  
 to all these new burrows for burrow men who  
 will know nothing of our daily lives & work &  
 struggles.

We are the men who do the ground work, the  
 bedrock work & we want a fair & free deal  
 within & without our State. There are burrows  
 burrows enough in every government to deal  
 with every kind of produce we send them.

if they will only deal with it fairly & either  
 knock out the middlemen or give them & us  
 an equally fair deal.

Our present deal is a gross one. This was  
 when each of us comes sell the products of our  
 work & our thrift, & know what we were  
 getting from the seller. Who comes see they  
 were getting a good fair deal from us also.  
 This new 'marketing' load to be put upon  
 us will make us either loafers or swindlers  
 loafers or doleers because we will give up the  
 never ending struggle of maintaining burrows  
 & burrows to handle & mishandle the goods  
 that take our strength from year end to year  
 end. In this new marketing business, that  
 I don't think even our labour members  
 quite understand, the cost of middlemen  
 & <sup>will</sup> bear most heavily upon us. The  
 grounders. Two pence a lb for this & that tax.  
 means nothing to the well paid members  
 & Government, but it means four happiness  
 & eight-farthings to every member, big & little  
 of our families & we know also that  
 we are not Communist.

must be glad to save those two pence & half  
 over my time. Every blessed thing we <sup>grow</sup> need is  
 taxed over & over. Our Mr. P's. Come along at the  
 bidding of their respective bosses, & also, because  
 we want to be fair & decent for the sake of our  
 own families, we give these Mr. P's as decent a  
 time as we can afford. & in our simple way  
 of life, we expect a "return". but the only  
 "return" we get is a nice soothing speech  
 from a well dressed man with a flower in  
 his button hole & a hat full of empty promises  
 which we have known to be empty promises  
 We are close to the ground, we work from day till  
 till dark, but we love our work because we  
 always hope that it will mean a home  
 & a beer for us. All we want is that  
 fair square deal between buyer & seller.  
 When we sell we know what we're selling &  
 when we buy or sell we want to do this fairly  
 & squarely. We don't shirk our work because we  
 have the home & the family always with us  
 cheering & helping.

far better to lessen the burrowing & keep all  
 the men in their own jobs. We don't  
 want to watch a job between a

as much as we need. First - last, a few of us  
 deal from those who appoint us to be  
 makers. Marketing will make swindlers,  
 because, if we must pay 2<sup>0</sup> a lb on 25 lbs  
 of the toil of our bodies, we will try some way  
 to get out of that four + two pence, by selling  
 produce - selling in smaller parcels -

Wise men among the burrowers should be  
 retained for our good - but, if the new  
 marketing means more & more oppression  
 of the burrowers - then God help  
 Australia - There is something in this  
 new referendum that increases our fears &  
 suspicions, & it may be that we shall be  
 Hitlered or Mussolinied in the end - & too  
 late for us to do more than we can.