

31 March 1891

My dear Ted,

I duly received your letter to me of the 25th not having previously received the telegram from you and Evans. I have also received a letter from Evans and am pleased to hear that election matters are proceeding as satisfactorily as stated by him and you. I cannot understand why the Trades and Labour Council should have any difficulty in selecting Miles and myself as their candidates although we ran separately. It might happen at any time that four or five candidates of exactly the same political principles would be running for two seats and any organisation such as the Trades and Labour Council could select any two of them and make a ticket of them although the whole four or five were running quite separately from one another. I would like you to make a special point of seeing Bob Taylor and disabusing his mind of any impression that I ever wished to run with Dobson in preference to Miles. Bob is an old friend of mine and he worked vigorously for me at the last general election and I feel grieved to think that he could believe that I ever wavered in my adherence to the democratic party or desired to ally myself with a plutocrat who believes in the division of society into the "upper", "middle" and "lower" classes on the basis of property and money. My only object in running separately is to avoid unnecessarily alienating electors who are prepared to vote for Dobson and myself or Giblin [sic] and myself and also to avoid creating any impression that I or the Ministry have made any compact with Miles to help him and Reynolds in the matter of their contract for the construction of the Mount Zeehan Railway. I was also placed in a delicate position by Dobson coming voluntarily to me and telling me that he intended to go into parliament to sit behind me and to support my colleagues and myself. In the face of a voluntary announcement of that character from him I felt that I was bound so far as my public, the same day that I sent my last telegram to you I wrote to Evans and told him that I was astonished to learn that he confirmed Miles' statement about my consent to hold joint meetings and I reminded him that I distinctly told Miles and Cuthbert at my house that as a Minister I would be compelled to open the campaign at the Town Hall without association with any other candidate and defend the conduct of the ministry during the last four years and give an indication of our intentions in the future. I am not at all sure that Miles would defend all our legislation and all our ministerial acts, and it would be ridiculous to have a candidate on the platform with me condemning some of the actions of myself and my colleagues. I will leave you to do whatever you think best for me, but I would like to run alone so far as public announcements are concerned.

I am

Yours Faithfully

A. Inglis Clark

26 October 1901

My dear Chief Justice,

I have postponed the writing of this reply to your last letter to me until I had a copy of my book to send to you. The publication of it was delayed by various causes for a period of three months beyond the date at which I expected it to appear. But I am pleased to be able to say that the wearisome [sic] work of correcting proof sheets and compiling index etc has come to an end, and I am sending a copy of the book to you with this letter.

The Federal Judiciary Bill has not yet been introduced into the Federal Parliament. On that I have nothing to report to you about the Federal Bench. There are abundant indications of work for the High Court as soon as the Judges are appointed.

The people of Australia were all greatly horrified [sic] to hear of the assassination of President McKinley and they hope that the American people will take effective steps to put down the propaganda of anarchism.

I suppose that you had a good time in England. I often wish that Australia was as near to California as Massachusetts is to England. I should then see Boston every three or four years, and would probably be preparing now for a journey there early next year. But I must bow to the geographical configuration of the earth and all its consequences and must wait in patience until my time to cross the Pacific Ocean again arrives. My wife sends her kindest remembrances to Mrs Holmes and yourself.

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Ever Sincerely Yours

A. Inglis Clark