

THE
S

ENTIMENTAL

BLOKE

C.J. DENNIS.



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HAL GYE

WITH the original jacket and fine illustrations by Hal Gye, this edition of *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* is as far as possible a replica of the first edition of 1915, which within eighteen months of publication had sold 66,000 copies.

C. J. Dennis's fame as the Laureate of the Larrikin has never waned; robustly vernacular, salty in humour and heart-warming in sentiment, the *Bloke* is firmly established in the affections of the Australian people.

Foreword

MY young friend Dennis has honoured me with a request to write a preface to his book. I think a man can best write a preface to his own book, provided he knows it is good. Also if he knows it is bad.

The Sentimental Bloke, while running through the *Bulletin*, brightened up many dark days for me. He is more perfect than any alleged "larrikin" or Bottle-O character I have ever attempted to sketch, not even excepting my own beloved Benno. Take the first poem for instance, where the Sentimental Bloke gets the hump. How many men, in how many different parts of the world—and of how many different languages—have had the same feeling—the longing for something better—to *be* something better?

The exquisite humour of *The Sentimental Bloke* speaks for itself; but there's a danger that its brilliance may obscure the rest, especially for minds, of all stations, that, apart from sport and racing, are totally devoted to boiling

"The cabbitch storks or somethink"

in this social "pickle found-ery" of ours.

Doreen stands for all good women, whether down in the smothering alleys or up in the frozen heights.

And so, having introduced the little woman (they all seem "little" women), I "dips me lid"—and stand aside.

HENRY LAWSON

SYDNEY, 1st September, 1915.

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