

Bi-Weekly NO!!!

"Tis not in mortals to command success, but we'll do more, Sempronius, we'll deserve it."

Number 7

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INVASION OF STATE RIGHTS

THE "FAIR" ARGUMENT

Commonwealth Police to be Placed in Queensland GOVERNMENT'S NEW DEPARTURE.

Sydney.—In replying to a vote of thanks at the Millions Club luncheon on Tuesday, the Prime Minister said the Commonwealth, in view of the Warwick incident, had decided to appoint its own police, and had that day gazetted a regulation that made this possible, so that the warrant of the Commonwealth would run throughout the Commonwealth in loyal States and disloyal States. The Commissioner of

Police in Queensland was in an awkward situation in trying to justify what was unjustifiable, and to maintain his position in that State. Mr. Hughes added that before the end of the week the Commonwealth would place its own police in the town of Warwick. Later, he explained that the Commonwealth would appoint its police not in the States which were loyal, but only in the State which was disloyal.

[G. R. Baldwin, 368 Church-st., Richmond.]

The "British Economist" writes:—"If one man risks his life in military service, it is only fair that another should do the same."

Suppose A and B to be the two only sons in families as alike as circumstances can make them. If A enlists and B does not, both A and his parents denounce the "unfairness" of B's abstention, and say what is A's duty must also be B's. The only fairness that really matters is fairness or equality in the matter of freedom of conscience. When A enlists, he freely follows his conscience, and has his reward in the fulfilment of a moral obligation and in the satisfaction he derives from his own moral self-approval of others. B, in not enlist-

ing, follows with equal freedom, his conscience.

But suppose conscription introduced, and a legal obligation substituted for a moral one. At once there ceases to be any virtue in A's enlistment; his conscience is not concerned in it. The satisfaction of moral self-approbation and the approbation of others he no longer enjoys. The moral value of his service falls to the level of a horse impressed for service; it falls to zero. And whilst A's conscience thus becomes a dead letter, B's may be seriously violated by being compelled to service to which he conscientiously objects. The unfairness in this case would be for B to complain of.

[G. R. Baldwin, 368 Church-st., Richmond.]

What is Con-scription

"It is a menace to civil liberty, a ready and dangerous instrument in the hands of a despot or an unscrupulous politician to crush liberty and oppress the people. Conscription produces militarism; conscription produces a caste that drives men from production."

Who said this? Mr. William Morris Hughes!

"We have to conquer Germany, but if we emerge from this war with a conscript army, Germany will have conquered us, and thousands of gallant boys and men will have died for another Australia than the one they knew."

And who said this? Mr. William Morris Hughes!

May heaven preserve us from the printed word! It is the boomerang that comes back when we least desire it.

[T. Shortill, 284 Lonsdale-st., Melb.]

New Zealand and the Conscientious Objector

The New Zealand Government seems to be as unfortunate in their handling of conscientious objectors as the British, says the "Daily News" of September 20, if it is true that 14 of these men have been deported to England. It is difficult to imagine a more extraordinary waste of time, money, labour, and ships at a time when all are so valuable. Presumably the Imperial Government were consulted on this extraordinary policy before it was put into effect. But why did they agree? Have they not trouble enough of their own with this question that they must complicate it, at the public expense, by this useless proceeding?

[Thos. Shortill, 284 Lonsdale-st., Melb.]

In a speech delivered on Monday night, Mr. Catts, M.P., said: "On any political matter I would not take W. M. Hughes' dying oath. The little despot (Mr. Hughes) appears to be obsessed with a desire to prosecute everyone who is against him. One of his latest victims is Mr. Ryan, the Premier of Queensland, and I have it on good authority that when that gentleman had a subpoena served on the Minister of Defence, Senator Pearce got into a train and made off to Adelaide, leaving word that an understripper of the department could give the evidence or information for which the Minister had been subpoenaed? Now, what would happen to one of us if we ignored a summons of this character? There is no doubt in my mind that steps would be taken to compel our attendance."

[T. Shortill, 284 Lonsdale-st., Melb.]

Hughes and His Pledges

Mr. W. M. Hughes, as Prime Minister, has given, and, doubtless, will continue to give, "PLEDGES" regarding HIS Government's carrying on the business of Australia, but let the VOTER PAUSE AND REFLECT ON THE EMPTINESS AND UNRELIABILITY OF POLITICIANS' PLEDGES, AMPLE EVIDENCE OF WHICH HAS BEEN SUPPLIED DURING THE PAST YEAR.

But, ASSUMING that the utmost reliance could be reposed in Mr. Hughes' promises, FOR HOW LONG WOULD THEY HOLD GOOD? ONLY SO LONG AS HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT CONTINUED IN OFFICE. So that, should Sir Wm. Irvine, for example, become Prime Minister, HUGHES' PLEDGES WOULD BECOME WORTHLESS, while the "POWER" they helped to establish WOULD REMAIN, TO BE USED, OR ABUSED, BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY.

Now, many of those who contemplate voting "Yes" on the 20th December are lulled (or "gulled") into believing that CONSCRIPTION is desired, asked for, and will be operative, only during the continuance of the WAR. Let all such OVER-CREDULOUS PEOPLE AWAKEN AND REALISE BEFORE—IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO DO SO AFTER—the 20th December that LEGISLATIVE POWER, the securing of which has entailed such STRENUOUS FIGHTING, will NOT BE YIELDED READILY.

"POWER" IS WEALTH, in a special degree TO A GOVERNMENT, consequently extension in THAT DIRECTION is always being sought. IF "CONSCRIPTION" IS ONCE ESTABLISHED—HOWEVER MILDLY—IT WILL STAY. Its DEVELOPMENT WILL BE AT THE MERCY OF FUTURE GOVERNMENTS. FIX THOSE TWO FACTS FIRMLY IN YOUR MIND. The following will ILLUSTRATE the foregoing:—

INCOME TAX.—When the Turner Government mooted legislation in the direction of an "Income Tax," it was met with TREMENDOUS OPPOSITION, and it was only after EMPHATIC ASSURANCES ("POLITICIANS' PLEDGES") that it was asked for, and intended ONLY AS A "TEMPORARY MEASURE," whereby the State Ledger could be balanced, and after considerable MODIFICATION of the BILL, that opposition to it yielded. HAS IT EVER BEEN RESCINDED? NO. HAS IT EVER BEEN EVEN FURTHER MODIFIED? NO. IS IT EVER LIKELY TO BE EITHER RESCINDED OR MODIFIED, THINK YOU? NO. IT IS ON THE STATUTE BOOK, to be removed only by an Act of Parliament. Only in the light of INCREASING its productiveness will it be viewed. SO WILL IT BE WITH "CONSCRIPTION." IF ITS "WEDGE" IS ONCE ALLOWED TO BE INSERTED, IT WILL NEVER BE WITHDRAWN.

"FREEDOM"—OUR DEAREST HERITAGE—IS IN JEOPARDY. PRESERVE IT FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AUSTRALIA.

IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE. VOTE "NO."

[J. F. Toohy, 284 Lonsdale-st., Melb.]

Speaking at Bathurst on Monday night in advocacy of the preservation of the voluntary system, Senator McDougall said he had never engaged in personalities in such campaigns, but he took the opportunity of throwing back in the face of the Prime Minister the lie that many of the supporters of the caucus party were loafers, and were using the movement for ulterior purposes. He warned business people that if the whole of the Australian population were sent to the front they would not make a scrap of difference to the issue. He spoke from the experience he had gained in England and at the front. If the war was going to last for years, there was only one thing to do—keep our men here for our own defence and the development of our industries.

Rev. A. Rivett addressed a large audience at the Protestant Hall on Monday night. He said he was a Christian minister, and that was why he was in this campaign. (Applause.) The stupidity of the Prime Minister's proposals was obvious. It was stupid to think that this dreadful holocaust in Europe could be stopped by sending a few lads from Australia. (Applause.) Mr. Hughes should consult a nerve specialist. He was seeing things and doing things which were causing his friends concern. A resolution was carried that those present would refuse to be bound by a "Yes" vote.

The Prime Minister is so busy now striving to enforce Federal laws and regulations in the State of Queensland that he cannot have much time to attend to matters nearer the present seat of government. This will probably account for the fact that several unsigned articles on matters connected with the Referendum appear in Tuesday's issue of one of the Melbourne conscientious dailies. Why is not the Federal law enforced in that case?

[T. Shortill, 284 Lonsdale-st., Melb.]

How to Vote

REINFORCEMENTS REFERENDUM.

"Are you in favour of the Government proposals for reinforcing the Australian Imperial Forces overseas?"

YES
 NO

YES
NO

The Autocracy of Mr. Hughes Referendum Notes

Facts the Electors Should Consider

Federal Regulations Issued

Regulations under the War Precautions Act issued on Tuesday by the Federal Executive enlarge the powers of the Commonwealth to supersede all State laws where the States have refused or failed to carry out the laws of the Commonwealth. Provision is also made for the establishment, if necessary, of a Commonwealth police force.

Under the regulation, the Attorney-General may, by order published in the "Cazette," direct all such measures to be taken as are necessary for the enforcement of the Commonwealth laws in any State in which he declares that the State authorities have refused

or failed to enforce them, and any such order shall be valid and effectual for all purposes whatever.

The regulation includes the power to establish a Commonwealth police force where, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, it is necessary, and all members of any police force, as established, shall have all the powers and functions of police constables and officers of the peace.

Mr. Hughes is Attorney-General, in his hand is unlimited power over the States of Australia. Do the people realise what this means?

[Gerald R. Baldwin, 368 Church-st., Richmond.]

In the bulletins which are being sent, bearing the name of R. Ainge Johnson, to the country press, the following gems will be found:—"An appeal has been made, signed by Senator Grant and P. J. Minahan, for funds in order to educate the people, by public speaking, literature, etc., on the Referendum." This is what the sapient writer calls appealing for German gold! What about the war regulation that falsehoods must not be printed, when such a manifest crammer is allowed to pass?

grimaces at this—as we have seen here over the cavilling at a £5 bachelor tax from people whose incomes are several thousands a year—the British Chancellor of the Exchequer says that the tax 'has been borne with a cheerfulness, resignation, and loyalty by the persons who have been subjected to it.' Here in the Commonwealth we have scarcely been touched by the war tax as yet.

In another paragraph, headed "Duty Made Easy," the writer sneers at the returned soldiers who are opposing conscription. What claim has this writer, who is safely ensconced in the Equitable Buildings, to sneer at the men who have served the Empire because they cannot see eye to eye on the Referendum question with his employers?

Ambrose Pratt occupies nearly two columns of the "Age" with an imaginary dialogue, in which he puts idiotic remarks into the mouth of the anti-conscriptionist. The statements so made are manifest falsehoods, framed to mislead the electors, but there will be no prosecution of the "Age" for publishing false statements.

Speaking on conscription on Monday night, Sir Joseph Carruthers said personally he believed that food as well as men was needed to help the Allies and their armies, but we were asked to vote to send men, and that was, at any rate, one good step to take, even for those who thought that more should be done.

The "Manchester Guardian," writing on conscription in Canada, says: "Now that the United States is offering millions of men for the common cause, it can hardly be said that Canada's additional 100,000 men would make the difference to the Allies between victory and defeat. Besides, conscription will not give a net 100,000. For our part, we have no hesitation in saying that, from the Imperial point of view, it is not worth while—that it would represent net loss rather than gain to the British Commonwealth."

In reply to a question at a Scots' rally at Albert Park on Monday night, Mr. Maxwell, M.P., is reported to have said: "The same Christ who said blessed are the peacemakers also said He came not to send peace, but the sword." According to the report, the remark was received with loud cheers. What sort of an opinion must the speaker have of Christianity when his remark would be more applicable to Odin than the God of Peace?

The question of conscription is really before the people of Canada just now, as the issue on which the fate of the Borden Government depends will be decided a few days before our Referendum. If the Borden Government suffers a defeat, it may be safely said the law on conscription in Canada will become a dead letter.

Mr. John C. Brady, hon. treasurer of the Anti-Compulsory Service League, who has conducted an organising campaign throughout the whole of the Western District, reports most hopefully from the various centres he has touched. He has received splendid hearings at all the meetings he has addressed, and good financial assistance. The objects of the league have been placed before the westerners, and branches have been established in many centres, with real live men and women managing them. The following places have been addressed by Mr. J. C. Brady:—Warrnambool (twice), Cororooke, Colac, Camperdown, Illowa, Crossley, Koroit, Corunna. If meetings can be organised further west, from Hamilton up toeparit, Mr. Brady will be pleased to address same. All particulars as to organisation, etc., may be had from Mr. J. F. Toobey, 284 Lonsdale-st., Melbourne. Western District must book engagements within the next three days for a speaker. All returns should reach the secretary or treasurer at least once a week. Be up and doing. We want your active help. We want money.
T. Shortill, 284 Lonsdale St., Melb.

Sir William Irvine says: "If conscription will be defeated, other measures may be taken." This is strange language to use to a democracy, even in war-time.

Many Thanks, Australia First Gentlemen!

BUT YOUR APPEAL COMES TOO LATE.

The Use of Town Halls.

To the Editor of the "Age." Sir—The great issue now before the Australian people was bound to provoke not merely a keen, but a bitter struggle. But that it should have been submitted to the people at all was an affirmation by the Government that it was one for discussion and for the formation of opinion through public meetings, the press, and other means. The declaration by the Prime Minister that the only limitations imposed by the censorship are upon statements relating to naval or military matters calculated to benefit the enemy or imperil the safety of Australia, and upon statements which reflect prejudicially on our Allies, should clear up any misapprehensions, however arising. It should, in our opinion, be accepted by municipalities and other bodies having charge of public buildings as an indication that the refusal of the use of such buildings to either side—the discrimination against one side or the other—mitigates against the purpose of the Referendum, i.e., the fullest public discussion.—Yours, etc.,
W. HARRISON MOORE.
D. K. PICKEN.
T. H. LABY.

3rd December.

The declaration of the Prime Minister referred to in this letter has the same weight as any other declaration. It is not convincing until it is put into effect.

Mr. Hughes (loq.): "Work! work! while there is yet time. Let your watchword be: For Australia! For Empire! For Liberty!" Australia first and Liberty a bad last! Is this Mr. Hughes the Imperialist, or a Hughes of the same brand as that with which he stigmatises his opponents?

No, Mr. Hughes! Australia and Liberty first, if you please, and "No" is the watchword of Freedom.
[G. R. Baldwin, 368 Church-st., Richmond.]

JUSTICE LIES DEAD

SOLDIERS TO VOTE.

No Age Limit.

An addition to the War Precautions (Military Service Referendum) Regulations issued on Tuesday by the Federal Executive permits members of the Australian Forces serving abroad and those who have returned from active service to vote, irrespective of age.

The soldier under 21 may vote. The boy of 20 whom they desire to conscript has no vote.

But the time for asking, "Is this just?" is past, for Justice lies dead to-day.

[G. R. Baldwin, 268 Church-st., Richmond.]

The following, from the "Age" of Tuesday last, is interesting, as it supports our contention that the well-to-do people of Australia are not giving their share of war taxation:—"Twelve months ago Great Britain had spent on the war £45 per head of her people. The Commonwealth had spent only £12 per head. Before the war in Britain an income of £500 paid a tax of £13; now it pays £51. An income of £1000 before the war paid £38; now it pays £139. A £5000 income before the war paid £292; now it pays £1502. A £100,000 income before the war paid £12,458; now it pays £47,129. So far from wealth making

VOTE NO!

AND

KEEP AUSTRALIA FREE