
Special Appeal by Women to Women

MANIFESTO

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S PEACE ARMY.

CONSCRIPTION.

VOTE NO.

WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA! On October 26th we shall have had our greatest national victory in the great struggle for peace. It is the victory of the purely ideal over the forces of Right.

THE A. B. C. OF THE CASE.

Down all the ages, the rulers of the world have held that Right is a nation's only defence, and in this war the same belief has been carried to such a point that no nation can claim to be a 'Great Power' unless it is so great in naval or military strength as to be the fear and suspicion of other "Great Powers."

The "Great Powers" of Parrow, which have been the blight on us or our Fronts, have in deadly fear of each other, accepted the principle of being so great as to be a menace to their neighbours. But England, with her seaport rights, considered a national army as a necessary security against the attacks of her enemies. Her people, deposing the supposed necessity for conscription in Europe, gloried in the fact that no other nation need be a fighting man against his will.

It has been universally recognized that conscription and freedom are mutually destructive, and in conscript countries the aim of the masses, in conditions to the classes, has always been their own at the cost of the crushing price of conscription and militarism... 

While European countries were engaged in protecting themselves, or fighting against each other, the United States was free to develop her manufactures and find markets and possessing overseas, to protect which an ever-increasing navy was necessary.

We have become, accordingly, such a far-flung, mighty Empire, that we have excited the fear and jealousy of other "Great Powers," some of which, with the aid of electricity and chemistry, have been endeavoured to be the world with us in production, and, in turn, seek outlets for their surplus products, and profitable investments. International commercial rivalry has developed to such an extent that the peace of the world has trembled in the balance many times during the past decade.

Desire for commercial supremacy, or fear of losing it, has kept all the nations armed to the teeth, and each is determined to hold the bulk of the national income must be expanded. Has kept the working classes (without whose labor no wealth could be created) in such an oppressive condition that Peace in the world, which might have brought a great and lasting peace, is more easily to be obtained than in the hands of those who hold the power to destroy.

Women of Australia, we appeal to you to place your country at the head of the world in the cause of Peace. We appeal to you to show the world, and to your children as a model, by your example what the power of Peace can do for your country and for the world.

As the Mothers of the Race, it is your right to preserve life, love, and beauty, all of which are destroyed by war. Without them, the world is a dead end.

You, who give life, cannot, if you think deeply of it, of bias, to vote for the conscription reform as against your other mother's son.

You may, if you choose, send your own son, but you are not entitled to make him serve against your will. It is upon you, the women, the real mothers, the women of Australia, to decide the fate of your sons, and, therefore, upon you, the women, the real mothers, the women of Australia, to decide the fate of your sons.

THOU SHALT KILL

We ask you to tell us what MORAL RIGHT you have to do this thing?

A sorrowing mother, who lost a brave son at Gallipoli:
"It was not the thought of his being killed that was the worst of it. The worse thing was the thought of his being killed against the will of the woman he loved him as passionately as I loved mine."

Which is the nobler spirit? That woman's, or that of the soldiers'?

YOU SHALL GO and KILL, KILL, KILL, all her heart-breaking thing about THE DAY when Germany is actually crushed, and every German mother has every son as a soldier in her own army?

Which Australian woman, do you think will stand the more courageously before her Maker?

...Man-made laws that defy the eternal laws of God, of love, and of Peace, cannot produce good. We cannot gather grapes of thorns, nor figs of thistles.

And if you are true to your womanhood and, with your vote, bring to the State the same gifts that you bring to your homes, the women, the world, a nation of love, of beauty, of freedom, and by your example bring a Vision of Peace wonderfully inspired and endearing, I know the Motherland and the Workers, and the Workers, are the chief sufferers from War and Militarism.

I feel impelled to make an appeal to you because I know the depth of feeling that is being expressed on the Continent of Australia, and, by the gradual but steady growth of the great Bulwarks of Liberty, a Free Man, a free woman, a free Citizen, a free voter... CAN BE BALANCED BY THE RANK AND FILE OF PARLIAMENT ASSURANCE OF THEIR CONSERVATISM IN THE COMING ELECTION, AND IN THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES BEING EMPLOYED OF CONSCRIPTION POWERS OVER CITIZENS, IN AUSTRALIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

First, let me assure you, who have only the daily papers to go by, that we, who have always been in the forefront of the fighters, are always prepared to do our duty, and to destroy as long as we stand. But we are now in the world of the heavens and the gods, that is, the commercial and industrial world.

Undoubtedly we are in the world of the heavens and the gods, and to do the work of the heavens and the gods, we must have the support of the world of the heavens and the gods.

Under these circumstances, do you wonder that free Australian men have come to see that the war is not being fought for the great ideals of freedom and peace that they have before them and that we are fighting for?

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THEY SAY.

Therefore, they say: "We, the Women of Australia, are not to be talked to in the same way, and more and more feverishly.

AND YOU?

And you, Women of Australia, are asked to say the same thing, and more; for as women you know the men who are to be conscripted are not a better class than those who are already in the field.

SPEAK OUT.

SPEAK UP.

SPEAK FREE.

VOTE NO.

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The Venerable Disease, Bill in State Parliament.

The Venerable Disease Bill, which is much on the same lines as the New Zealand Bill providing for compulsory treatment of venereal diseases, was introduced in the Assembly on 14th ult., by the Chief Secretary, Mr. McLeod.

The Minister argued that the public welfare demanded the passing of such a measure. He spoke of the terrible ravages of the disease; of the 70 per cent. of cases in the lunatic asylums, in which post-mortem examinations clearly reveal that they have been victims of venereal diseases. He went on to say that the army and navy; of theosophical and gynecological treatment at the Eye and Ear and Children's Hospitals.

Mr. McLeod's lurid pictures, we shall admit, for the Committee, the Vie President, Mr. T. J. Edie, will not doubt the end in view—the securing of the treatment of the Government desires. We think, also, that a Committee is desirable in the case of venereal diseases, whether acquired in the army, navy, or as the result of other causes, as long as the cases are allowed to flourish unchecked.

We endeavored to urge the use of the so-called preventive measures that were used in the American army and navy, and that would create a clean monopoly in the medical profession. There would be difficulty in getting people to seek treatment under a Bill of this nature, as long as the venereal disease. Sufferers are always ashamed, and so they do not report officially, and are kept as they are, for an hour or two, perhaps for several days, before they must endure enough courage to go in for advice or treatment.

Mr. Farringt said that doctors have stated that the White Australia policy has done more than any other single measure, to bring back the disease with a vengeance. He has been fewer importations of the disease since the policy was enacted.

As chemists are prohibited under the Bill from selling medicines for the treatment of venereal diseases, it has been suggested that at the case of a sailor coming from another port, the sailor, here only a few days, and wanting a certain medicine, may be passed over without a regulation for an hour or two, perhaps for several days, before they must endure enough courage to go in for advice or treatment.

Mr. McLeod then made the following remarks:

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