VOTE THUS:
Saturday, October 21, 1916
POLITICAL LEAVERS, 6 x 6 S.F. No. 116

QUESTION

Are you in favor of the Government
having, in this grave emergency, the
same compulsory powers over civilians
that it has over soldiers, and the
right to require the military
service for the term of three years
for the men of the age group of 22
years in the Commonwealth, as a new
law, in regard to military service
within the Commonwealth?

How to Vote Against Conscription

Place X in square opposite NO. Thus—

YES

X

NO

Authorised by Arch. Stewart,
Public Hall, Melbourne

Note: For fuller reports to Referendum Campaign, read the
Belling, "Evening Echo," Melbourne "Labor Call," and
Australian "Worker." These papers may be purchased
from all news agents or direct from the publisher.

Printed at 3, 8, and 12, 300, 600, 900, and 1200.

HOW THE ACT STANDS

Our Act provides that men, between 18 and 45, with certain exceptions,
may be called upon to bear arms in time of war. "War" in the Act means:
"Hostilities or invasion of an enemy or armistice, or attack on, or apprehended
attack on, the Commonwealth or any portion thereof by the control of the
Commonwealth by an enemy or armed force of a foreign power. The ship
of Australia can be called out upon against an invader or attack. To call
them out, with a view to sending them overseas, is a breach upon the Defence
Act.

There is no enemy at Australia's gates against whom these men
are wanted. They are called up not of the Defence Act.

Having in camp all the single men of 21 and 22, this meas-
urement, on October 1st, will unto

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Before you vote "YES," remember that if there be a majority for
"Yes," the Government will have power to call upon all men, not
POWERS OF GOVERNMENT.

The Government will have power to send all these men to the other land, or to the world. The Government will have power to make them work in factories, farms and mines under military law, for military pay, on conditions prescribed by the military authorities. Such things have been done in the country of our democratic ally, France. The Government can keep workers quiet by such threats of court-martial, as this very Government made to the Belgian Union. The Government can compel enlisted men to take the places of dissatisfied unionists, as this very Government did in the case of the "Boraram." The Government may promise, or suggest, exemptions of boys under 21, of married men, of men with dependents, of this, that or the other class of people. Before you are duped by this, remember that the man who now promises, or hints at these exemptions made a solemn promise last year, which he has broken. He said:—"In no circumstances would I agree to send men out of this country to fight against their will." ("Hansard," July 16, 1915, page 3066).

You can trust to no promises of exemptions which are not contained in the Defence Act. Psychiatrists, Clergymen, Judges and Magistrates, Prison Officials, Lighthouse Keepers, and men physically unfit, are the only persons absolutely exempt. Hospital Doctors, Nurses, Religious Objectors, and men of non-European race, are exempt from service only.

EXAMINE THE FIGURES.

But those who examine the figures given by Mr. Hughes to the House must see that the single men, of whom he proposes to call out, will be exhausted before January. There are 251,910 single men, he says, between 18 and 44. Half of these, it is estimated, are under 21, or will, for other reasons, be rejected. The rejections are now much larger than ever before. This leaves 75,435 men of these, 42,560 are wanted this month. That leaves 32,875, which 4,000 a month, will not last the year out. Before January the classes to which Mr. Hughes now hints exemptions will be called upon.

The authority which the Government have asked of the people, they may abuse as they have abused the authority which Parliament, by the War Precautions Act, gave them. There is no guarantee that the convicts will be released, as soon as the war is over. Under the Po1itical Police Act and the War Precautions Act, they can be kept until the end of the war, if the Government proclaims the end of the war, and the period of hostilities between Germany and Great Britain will probably be followed by such great distress and trouble as followed the Battle of Waterloo in England.

And why is Australia to repose the utmost trust in the Government? Why place her sons at such an immense distance from their homes, lives and property? Why have you chosen the colonial form of Government, Dominion and Empire, to be the mode in which you would have your food, your clothing, your shelter, your health and your happiness for the future? Why should Australia become more remote, more useless for the purpose of being governed by England in the future than she is now?

IN THE DARK.

Why accept this responsibility at the bidding of the Government which keeps you in the dark? Why accept this responsibility without seeing the facts? The Government will accept responsibility for Conscription. The people do not know the facts. The people are to take responsibility for Conscription. You are prepared for that responsibility?

We demand for soldiers, wives and dependents, increased wages and better conditions of work. We have made such great sacrifices shall be rewarded. We shall fight on, you shall continue to fight, and finally there is a chance of getting even, even, by the measure of justice to the soldier, his wife and dependents if we pour thousands of men into the bottomless pit of the European hell? No, Sir! What chance is there of the fulfilment of even the present promises to soldiers?

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND LIBERTY.

You prize freedom of conscience. Conscription is the enemy of freedom of conscience.

You prize civil liberty. Remember that Conscription is the enemy of civil liberty. It has destroyed civil liberty in Germany and is destroying it in England.

You prize the conditions of Labour by the Trade Unions. Remember that Conscription is destroying those conditions in France.

You prize a conscience, as a basis for the actions of others. Remember that Conscription will use the names of the men that your votes sent to their death.

Parents! Will your anguish be softened by the knowledge that your votes have made other men widows and orphans?

Widowers! Will your sorrow be less if your votes have widowed other women, have orphaned other children?

Australians! All, in the name of LABOUR, LIBERTY, of CONSCIENCE, and of our COMMON HUMANITY, you are to answer