Returned Soldiers' No-Conscription League
OF AUSTRALIA—VICTORIA BRANCH

Head Office, Trades Hall, Melbourne.

MANIFESTO

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Australia is to be again plunged into a state of chaos and dismemberment by the Government submitting a Referendum, and asking you to cast an affirmative vote for Conscription.

It is alleged by the Conscientists that the Voluntary System has had a fair trial and failed; no effort is to be spared by the Conspiration Party to have a pernicious system of Militarism forced upon you.

We returned soldiers, having proved our loyalty and patriotism to our country by risking our lives daily in the trenches, many having come back crippled for life, have decided on taking an active part in this campaign, and are going to do our utmost to preserve our people's freedom, and resist anything in the shape of Peaceful Militarism.

The Conspiration Party, in their frantic efforts to prejudice the minds of this country, and place the yoke of Militarism around the necks of the people, do not hesitate to make use of statements which are an utter disgrace to any individual claiming the right to Australian citizenship.

They slander the fair name of Australia by asserting that we are not doing our share with other British Dominions, and tell us that we are regarded as disloyal members of the Empire.

They have not the slightest regard for the fact that the great name of ANZAC was not created by them, by any Politician, or set up by force, but by the lives and blood of many of our comrades—by sons and fathers of the great majority of the men who are called "Cattlemen" by some un sportive and the sons and brothers of our womenfolk, who conscientiously and with that love of freedom which inspires all true Australians have refused to be a party to any form of coercion or compulsion.

Nor do they recognise the fact that it has been that spirit of independence and freedom which inspired Australian troops to accomplish the heroic feats which stand to their credit.

The resurrection of the conscription cry has been brought about by an organisation in Sydney, the committee of which consists of individuals who have not seen active service in this war, and if conscription were carried would be exempt.

The gentlemen who advocate conscription of human life are, for the most part, men who are rolling in wealth, and it is significant that their patriotism did not lead them to suggest to the Government that much more might be done for the Empire by the Conscription of Wealth.

These great patriots, who lend their money to the Government provided they get 4½ per cent. interest, and that such interest derived from their "Patriotic" investment be free from taxation, have become galvanised with the cry of conscription that many of them are suggesting that there be conscription not only of man power for military service, but conscription for industrial purposes as well.

These alleged patriots are the very class who are exploiting the people of this country through high prices for foodstuffs and other goods. The Government permit them to do this, and say that all profits exceeding 10 per cent. shall be divided equally between the Government and the Exporter.

The returned soldiers, who imagined they had a country represented by a democratic Government, this position is not sustainable.

In Tory England the Government expropriate at least 60 per cent. of excess war profits, and we say that, as democratic Australians, we should insist on all excess war profits over 10 per cent. being taken by the Government. Surely 10 per cent. is a fair return on capital.

Through the greed of the alleged patriots of England, men of the class who are crying for conscription in this country, the cost of living has reached...
Such a policy that thousands of women, many of them mothers, are suffering under the weight of taxation and are forced to sell their goods and others. The country needs thousands of women to work in the factories, and the Government is withholding this opportunity from them.

In the interests of the women, the Government and their members of Parliament are willing to risk our lives and the future of the country at risk.

Let the Government give a guarantee that the soldiers' pay shall be set at all times to the standard of a living wage, in order that the wife and family and dependents of a soldier shall not suffer the hardships and privations while he is offering his very life in the defence of the country. If he come back crippled, he will receive a wage that will enable him to live on a basis compatible with the sacrifices he has made.

The no returned soldier shall be discharged from the forces, in accordance with employment at a living wage.

The people who have made sacrifices, during the war, shall be maintained on their return, that the dependents can be maintained with justice, and their interests protected.

While opposing the introduction of conscription, we are not averse to creating a strong citizen army, because Australia is a White Australia.

If consumption is carried, we see clearly that our policy, consistent with the ideal policy going to the winds.

The army that has shown lack of military, government, and the countries, and, the constant press that the leaders of the non-soldier's country is free men fight best.

We repudiate the last dastardly assertions so constantly made by Conscription leaders that the soldiers at the Front who voted against Conscription previously and the citizens who voted for the continuance of a Free Australia, are pro-Germans, shirkers, disloyalists, and traitors, and point out that anti-Conscriptionist States and communities are those which have must unnecessarily responded to the call of duty and sacrifice.

WE WANT AUSTRALIA FOR THE WHITE RACE.
WE WANT OUR PEOPLE FREE.
We do not want a military caste created, and our people enslaved in the yoke of Militarism.

Such an event would be a calamity to Australia, for we are not wholesale deportations of our manhood.

AS FREE AUSTRALIANS WE FOUGHT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD AS FREE AUSTRALIANS WE WILL STILL FIGHT FOR THE POLITICAL FIELD WITH THE SAME OBJECT IN VIEW, TO PRESERVE OUR PEOPLES FREEDOM AND LIBERTY, AND MAINTAIN AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

WE SHOULD BE TRUSTERS TO OUR COMRADES FIGHTING IN THE TRENCHES IF WE FAILED TO OUR DUTY TO FIGHT AGAINST CONSRIPTION, KNOWING AS IT IS THAT THE LAST VOTE WAS TAKEN A GREAT MAJORITY OF OUR COMRADES WERE AGAINST IT.

IT IS THE LAST VOTE AND THE LAST SHILLING THAT IS WORTH THE ASSIST US FINANCIALLY TO DEFEAT THE BATTLEFIELD. LET THE BATTLE CRY FOR ALL BE "NO CONSRIPTION" AND MAY GOD SAVE AUSTRALIA AND PRESERVE TO BE OUR FREEDOM.

(Signed) R. A. CROUCH, President 2nd Edition.
A. G. BOTT, Secretary 2nd Edition.

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