

# VOICE THUS:

Saturday, October 28, 1916

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## QUESTION

Are you in favour of the Government having, in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens as regard to requiring their military service, for the term of the war, outside the Commonwealth, as it now has in regard to military service within the Commonwealth?"

## How to Vote Against Conscription

Put a **X** in square opposite **NO**. Thus—

NO COLLECTION OF MONEY AND ONLY AVOID IT

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO

J. Ashon, Printer, Labor Call, 22 Patrick St., Melb.

Authorized by Arch. Stewart, Trades Hall, Melbourne

**NOTE.**—For reliable reports re Referendum Campaign read the Ballarat "Evening Echo," Melbourne "Labor Call," and Australian "Worker." These papers may be purchased from all news agents or direct from the publishers at the following addresses:—"Evening Echo," Camp Street, Ballarat; "Labor Call," Patrick Street, Melbourne, and "The Worker," St. Andrew's Place, Sydney.

League of Women's Suffrage Council of Victoria  
Central Executive

# Anti-Conscription Manifesto

Fellow Citizens

Two years ago Australia was set by the War Work Council, headed by the loved and loved one, to a path of tyranny. In those two years our country has seen that Civil Liberties for which she fought, and for her own sake. In those two years our country has seen that military tyranny against which she fought, animated by her own people. She has no longer her own people, she has no longer her own people, public meetings, open public houses, have been invaded by police and armed soldiers executing military orders.

The work of debasing Australia to the level of Germany has already gone too far. It is proposed to complete this work by Conscription.

From the earliest times it has been the duty of Englishmen to bear arms for the defence of their homes against the invader. This duty has been inherited by Australians. Before Federation the statutes of several colonies imposed this duty, and it is now embodied in our Defence Act.

### HOW THE ACT STANDS.

Our Act provides that men between 18 and 50, with certain exemptions, may be called upon to enter in time of war. "War" in this Act means—"Invasion or apprehended invasion, or attack or apprehended attack, on the Commonwealth or any territory under the control of the Commonwealth by an enemy or armed force." The men of Australia can be called out only against an invader of Australia. To call them out, with a view to sending them overseas, is a fraud upon the Defence Act.

There is no enemy at Australia's gates against whom these men are wanted. They are called up for use at the other end of the world.

Having in camp all single men between 21 and 25, the Government, on October 28, will ask the people to say "Yes" to the following question:

"Are you in favour of the Government having, in this grave emergency the same compulsory powers over citizens as regard to requiring their military service for the term of the war outside of the Commonwealth, as it now has in regard to military service within the Commonwealth?"

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



exempted by the Act, between 18 and 60, single and married, with dependents or without dependents.

### POWERS OF GOVERNMENT.

The Government will have power to send all these men to the other end of 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 Seamen's Union. The Government can compel enlisted men to take the places of dissatisfied unionists, as this very Government did in the case of the "Barambah."

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 5066).

You can trust to no promises of exemptions which are not contained in the Defence Act. Politicians, 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 combatant service only.

### EXAMINE THE FIGURES.

But those who examine the figures given by Mr. Hughes to the House must see that the single men whom he proposes to call out, will be exhausted before January. There are 152,910 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 more than 50 per cent. This leaves 76,455 men; of these, 32,500 are wanted this month. That leaves 43,955, which, at the rate of 16,500 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 conscripts will be released as soon as the war is over. Under the Defence Act and the War Precautions Act, they can be kept until the Government proclaims the end of the state of war. The cessation 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 reposit this blind trust in the Government? Why is she to pour her sons to fight at immense distances from their homes, which France and Germany have never done? The colonial armies of France and Germany are volunteers. The German troops in China and Spain were volunteers. Lincoln's conscripts fought on their own soil.

### IN THE DARK.

Why accept this responsibility at the bidding of the Government which keeps you in the dark. The Government knows the facts. The Government will take no responsibility for Conscription. The people do not know the facts. The people are to take responsibility for Conscription. Are you prepared for that responsibility?

We demand for soldiers' wives increased separation allowances; for soldiers' widows and dependents increased pensions. But those who have made such great sacrifices shall be satisfied with a living wage. For that we fight and will continue to fight. But what chance is there of getting even this measure of justice to the soldiers and their dependents if we pour thousands of men and millions of money into the bottomless pit of the European hell? Nay, more. 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 Labor won by the Trade Unions. Remember, that Conscription is destroying trade unionism in France.

You prize a conscience blameless for the deaths of others. Remember, that next year the casualty lists will show the names of the men whom your votes sent to their death.

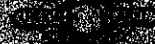
Parents! Will your anguish be soothed by the knowledge that your votes have made other men and women children?

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

Australians, All! In the name of **LABOR**, of **LIBERTY**, of **CONSCIENCE**, and of our **COMMON HUMANITY**, we urge you to answer

# NO

Authorised by **Labour Party, Ltd.**, P.L.C.,  
Trade Union Organisations



Labour Party  
10, Abchurch Lane,  
London, E.C. 4, ENGLAND.