



Conscript or wheat? : vote no

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CONSCRIPT OR WHEAT?

Three months ago Mr. Hoover, the United States Food Commissioner, who is now practically America's Food Dictator, declared with appalling frankness that

"As far as America's food resources are concerned, the problem of feeding the Allied European Army is the Biblical problem of feeding the five thousand on five loaves without the miraculous element."

These are not the hysterical utterances of an excited politician, but of an eminently qualified food expert who has all possible sources of information at his disposal. In view of this imminent world famine, Mr. Hoover recommended that America should agree to release a bushel of American wheat from the New York elevators

For every Bushel of Australian Wheat which could be landed at San Francisco.

More than that, he publicly declared, was impossible in view of the actual shortage of grain, both in North and South America.

The American Government promptly agreed to this suggestion, but for some utterly inexplicable reason our Australian "Win-the-War" Government HAS NOT RISEN TO THE SITUATION. They do not seem to recognise that the world's food crisis means a desperate situation for the Allied armies, and that every hour wasted is an hour irretrievably lost in the matter of sending to the Front the one absolutely indispensable "reinforcement"—FOOD.

The following plain facts, which cannot possibly be either explained away or clouded by rhetoric, show clearly how the situation stands as far as Australia is concerned.

To equip a transport carrying troops from Australia to Europe means sacrificing five tons of dead weight cargo space for each man carried. This is the absolute minimum, consistent with any reasonable provision for health and sanitation, on board a transport which has to carry troops half round the world. As a matter of historical fact so far our own transport service has provided more space per man than the above minimum estimate.

A wheat ship could easily make two trips to San Francisco whilst a transport made one trip to Europe, therefore to send one additional conscript soldier to the Front we must sacrifice the chance of sending away TEN TONS OF WHEAT.

One pound of wheat ground into wheatmeal flour would mean a ration which would put an able-bodied man beyond the possibility of starvation for one day. With very little extra in the way of other things it would form an ample ration, as wheat in itself is a perfect food, and contains all the elements necessary to sustain human life in full vigor. Taking these figures as a basis, the sending of one conscript soldier from Australia means depriving the Allied armies of ONE DAY'S FOOD FOR 22,400 MEN, or, in round figures, A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF FOOD FOR SIXTY SOLDIERS.

Using a 10,000 ton ship, which could carry wheat to San Francisco, to carry conscripts to Europe, means depriving our allies of a year's supply of food for sixty thousand men.

If we use twenty 10,000 ton ships to send the additional 40,000 troops which, according to our politicians, could be obtained in Australia by conscription, we should be depriving the Allied armies and our own troops at the Front (who, according to Mr. Hoover, can only be saved from famine by Australian wheat) of a supply of food equal to one year's ration for one million two hundred thousand men.

AUSTRALIA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WHOLE WORLD WHICH HAS A SURPLUS OF WHEAT, and therefore the only country in the whole group of the Allies which can save the situation and defeat the greatest of all enemies—Hunger.

VOTE NO.

Authorised by P. C. Evans, Macdonell House, Pitt-street, Sydney, on behalf of the No-Conscription Council Campaign Committee.

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ONE CONSCRIPT EQUALS FIVE TONS OF WHEAT,

WHICH WILL WE SEND?

To equip a transport carrying troops from Australia to Europe means sacrificing five tons of dead-weight cargo-space for each man carried. This is the absolute minimum, consistent with health and sanitation, on board a transport which has to carry troops half round the world. And this only shows a space equal to a six-foot cube for all purposes. A wheat ship could easily make two trips to San Francisco whilst a transport made one trip to Europe. Therefore, to send one additional conscript soldier to the front, we must sacrifice the chance of sending **TEN TONS OF WHEAT.**