



Conscription and woman's loyalty : vote no!!!

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Conscription

and Woman's Loyalty.

By ELEANOR M. MOORE.

I AM A WOMAN. I can only be loyal in a woman's way. I cannot give to the State what is not mine. Giving away other people's money is not generosity; it is theft. Voting away other people's liberty is not patriotism; it is persecution. Forcing other people to risk their lives for me is not courage; it is cowardice.

I AM A WOMAN. I was given a vote that I might impress my womanly feeling and point of view on public life. If I use that vote to strengthen men's faith in violence and revenge as against intelligence and moral force, my influence is worse than wasted.

I AM A WOMAN. I deny the right of any man or State to force me to produce life against my will. On the same principle, I recognise that I have no right to force any man to take life against his will.

I AM A WOMAN. Australia has given me the rights of citizenship. In return I must do my part to save Australia from becoming a prey to the militarism which has brought Europe to ruin. I see that, but for conscription, the present war would have been impossible. I must keep Australia free from that curse while yet there is time.

I AM A WOMAN. I have an obligation to the men at the Front, but I know I cannot relieve them by swelling the number of sufferers. I believe the glory of man is not in his brute strength and violence, but in his powers of intellect and spirit. For the relief of the agonised youth of all nations, our own included, I demand that he use these powers to bring the present war to an end.

I AM A WOMAN. I know that the idea that lasting peace can be gained by war is nonsense. I know that no war, however victorious, has ever produced lasting peace. I know that a just and honourable peace, such as the people of all belligerent nations are thirsting for and ready for, has a far greater chance of being permanent if arranged by negotiation than if brought about in any other way. I know that, however long the fight continues, in the end it MUST be settled by negotiation.

I AM A WOMAN. I know that everywhere and always, when men make war on men, the sufferings of such as myself are indescribably horrible. I know that as long as war continues such suffering cannot be prevented or mitigated. For this reason I will not sanction the war system by forcing any man to be a soldier.

I AM A WOMAN. For the honour of womanhood, for the glory of Australia, and for the encouragement of men to be true to the highest in them, I mean to record a vote of WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN WAR, and

Vote NO !!!



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SPALF

THE AUSTRALIAN PEACE ALLIANCE.

OBJECTS.

1. To bind together all the forces in Australia that are sympathetic to the establishment and maintenance of Peace by means of international organisation, arbitration, and such other methods as may be favored.
2. To create where practicable State Councils representing all persons and organisations within the separate States in sympathy with the objects of the Alliance.
3. To co-operate wherever possible with similar organisations in other parts of the world.
4. To advocate the abolition of all forms of conscription.
5. To uphold the principle of freedom of speech, and to co-operate with all organisations fighting for liberty of expression.
6. To advocate the following platform:—

PLATFORM.

- (a) The establishment of an effective and permanent international arbitration court elected on a democratic basis, including women delegates.
- (b) The setting up of adequate machinery (including enfranchisement of women) for ensuring democratic control of foreign policy.
- (c) The general reduction of armaments and the nationalisation of their manufacture.
- (d) The organisation of the trades unions and workers' associations with a definite view of ending war.
- (e) The education of children in the principles of peace and arbitration.
- (f) The appointment of a Minister for Peace and the appropriation of a considerable sum of public money for the dissemination of peace ideas.
- (g) The termination of the present war at the earliest possible moment.

If you are in accord with the principles and policy of the Alliance you are invited to subscribe for the purpose of propagating the ideal of Peace. Funds are urgently needed.

The Alliance has issued a timely pamphlet entitled "Australia and the Coming Peace," written by J. B. Howie, a careful reading of which will give sound reasons why, in the interests of humanity, peace should be declared. Price, 3d.; posted, 4d.

Further information about the Peace movement can be had from:

ALBERT F. GORMAN, Sec. Queensland Alliance, "Pall Mall," Queen Street, Brisbane.

Miss GLENNIE, Sec. South Australian Alliance, A.W.U. Hall, Flinders Street, Adelaide.

STANLEY F. ALLEN, Sec. Australian Union of Democratic Control (affiliated with the Alliance), Kent Street, Epping, N.S.W.

T. J. MILLER, General Secretary, "Bide-a-wee," Lees Street, Bentleigh, Victoria.

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