

ensure a future enduring peace utmost efforts of Empire and Allies are required for long time yet. I hope strong drafts for your divisions will be dispatched and their strength maintained."

General Joffre's Message.

GENERAL JOFFRE (Generalissimo of the French Armies) made the following reply to an Australian press representative visiting the West front when asked for a statement on Oct. 24th.—

"Say that we are in the decisive phase of the War. This phase will continue for some time, and its duration can be shortened only by bringing into full motion the whole of the resources of the Allied Nations.

"We have fought for more than two years. May I then say that these magnificent soldiers of Anzac can become an important factor in the final victory, and in hastening its arrival, if Australia, whence they spring, works without delay to ensure the keeping up of their effectives and the increase of their units. France has borne from the outset a great part of the weight of the common war. She has willingly endured great sacrifices, but she has resolved to consecrate to the very end her living and material forces to the great task. I am convinced, for my part, that your fellow-countrymen will follow her example without hesitation, that they will not like to leave to others the task and the glory of avenging their dead, and that they will be eager to take every part that belongs to them in the final triumph."

On Saturday, October 21st, the Mayor of Kalgoorlie, in response to a request, received a message from General Birdwood, Commander of the Australian army in France, as follows:—

"The Anzacs feel sure that Australia will see that the sacrifices already made are not in vain, which may be the case unless we are well assured that men will be forthcoming to keep effective and maintain at full strength the magnificent battalions, batteries, and companies which have made history, and have established tradition."

The Churches and Conscription.

All the various denominational churches of Australia made an appeal to the electors. The Anglican General Synod of the Church of England, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, Archbishop Clune of the Roman Catholic Church, the Annual Session of the Conference of the Congregational Union of the Congregational Church, the Baptist Union of the Baptist Church, all passed resolutions strongly supporting conscription. The Methodist Church read from their pulpits a circular letter endorsing conscription.

The Final Appeal.

On the last day of the campaign, October 27th the following special appeals were made by Mr. Hughes, the Premier, and by Mr. Joseph Cook, Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Hughes' message was:—

"I want to warn the electors of Australia against the methods of the anti-conscriptionist party. They will resort to every device to delude and confuse the electors who are going to vote 'Yes.' The most outrageous statements and the grossest misrepresentations will be made to influence the electors. I appeal to the electors to treat those statements with the contempt they deserve. Let them do their duty to the country. Vote 'Yes,' and fear not."

Mr. Cook's message was:—

"After a very hard month's campaigning I am leaving for home. My firm opinion is that Australia will vote 'Yes.' She will swing into line with Great Britain on this matter. We shall feel once more the thrill of those lines of Burns:

"Be Briton still to Britain true,
Among ourselves united,
For never but by British hands
Must British wrongs be righted."

Another final message was handed out by Mr. Hughes late Friday night, October 27th, as follows:—

"Australia expects that every man and women this day will do their duty and vote 'YES.'"

The Resignation of Three Ministers.

One of the sensations of the campaign was the resignation of three of Mr. Hughes' Ministers on the day before the polling was to take place. Those who resigned were: Mr. W. G. Higgs, Treasurer, Mr. Albert Gardiner, Vice-President of the Executive Council and Assistant Minister for Defence, and Senator E. J. Russell, Assistant Minister.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Hughes, was the Leader of a Ministry which included five anti-conscriptionists and three besides himself who supported his policy for a referendum on conscription.

The reason for the resignation of these Ministers was an action of the Prime Minister's in issuing just before polling day regulations under the War Precautions Act providing that military questions should be put to voters in the polling booth.

The Vote.

The vote was taken and the final recording was as follows:—