

most highly organized military power.

"The men of Australia, having from the commencement of the War realized its menacing possibilities, will, I feel confident, support their Government, and continue to display that 'Imperial unity' which hitherto has proved so beneficial to us and our allies and by which alone final, complete victory can be made secure."

From MR. JOHN HODGE, British M.P., ex-Chairman of the Parliamentary party, as follows:—

"I have been reading with great interest of the campaign in Australia. I have no desire to interfere in Australian politics, but it seems to me great misapprehension prevails in respect to the application of conscription in this country. Speaking as secretary of an organization of 40,000 men, we have had none of the troubles which have been suggested, and the great volume of opinion has been that it is the only fair method to adopt, as there was no sense in the willing going to make sacrifices for those who were unwilling to do anything for the maintenance of freedom and liberty. There can be no doubt that more men are needed, not only to keep up the strength of the Australian divisions but throughout the army, and the chances are that we shall have to extend the age to 45.

From MR. GEORGE N. BARNES, of Blackfriars, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, as follows:—

"There need be no misunderstanding as to the working of compulsion in this country. There has been practically no effort to foist industrial conscription on us, and as long as trades unionism does its duty as protector of labor there can be none.

"Do not believe for one moment that conscription will be continued after the War; and its enforcement during the War for the saving of the nation has not contributed to make it permanent. Unionism has had no reason to regret it."

On October 23rd, the Premier, Mr. Hughes received from MR. BONAR LAW, Secretary of State for the Colonies, the following cable:—

"I gather that statements have been made in Australia to the effect that arrangements are in contemplation here for the introduction of colored or cheap labor into Australia to take the place of men sent to the front. If so, I request that your Government will issue an immediate and categorical denial. It is absolutely untrue that any such intention or desire exists on the part of His Majesty's Government, the Government of India, or the Governments of any British possessions."

Statesmen from France send Messages urging Conscription

On October 22nd, the Prime Minister, Mr.

Hughes, received a cable from M. ARISTIDE BRIAND, Prime Minister of France, the following message:—

"The whole French nation is watching with intense sympathy your efforts to maintain the strength of the Australian forces in the fighting on our front. We here not only feel deeply grateful to those gallant comrades in arms who have come from such distant parts to fight side by side with us in defence of our invaded territory; but we also feel the liveliest admiration for such magnificent soldiers, who are fully equal to the greatest of the present and all time. I have seen them at the front, and I shall never forget the impression they made on me. The warm popular feeling towards them in France is enough to show that my impression is shared by the whole nation.

"We French people attribute so much importance to the invaluable help of the Commonwealth of Australia, we admire so much what she has done for our great common cause, that we cannot do otherwise than wish to see her fully prepared to go with us to the end."

Publicity was also given to a declaration made by M. THOMAS, French Minister for Munitions. The declaration was as follows:—

"There must be no confusion about the serious question of compulsory service. Its opponents in Australia cannot invoke any opposition to compulsory military service on the part of French Socialists. What French Socialists discussed with other parties was especially the duration of the period of service in barracks; they discussed the number and the length of periods of training which citizens should undergo, but as regards the question itself there can be no doubt whatever that so long as nations are relied upon to defend themselves, so long as they need an army, there can be no other conception than that of compulsory service. In France the idea of compulsory service is closely bound up with the democratic movement; it is a consequence of the idea of equality between all citizens."

Commanding Officers of the European Armies urged Conscription upon the Electorate.

On Saturday, October 21st, the Prime Minister, Mr. Hughes, received the following message from GENERAL SIR DOUGLAS HAIG, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces on the Western front:—

"Australian divisions in France are far below strength, and drafts are not arriving in sufficient numbers. The divisions have fought splendidly, and their heroic efforts will live in history, but they cannot continue to achieve results unless their strength is kept up. Successes of past few months justify absolute confidence in power to win final victory. But it is not yet won. To complete our work and