

# POLITICAL POINTS



A statesman has been defined as a man who lives **FOR** his country; a politician as a man who lives **ON** his country.

\* \* \*

The cry is now for arms; after the war it will be for alms.

\* \* \*

G. H. Perris says that Russia is to-day the one absolute monarchy left in the Western world, and the one country in which famine and revolution are chronic.

\* \* \*

It is important to remember the difference between **WHY** conscription is wanted and why the anti-conscriptions **SAY** they want it.

\* \* \*

Labor and anti-conscriptionists generally need keep their eye on Senator Pearce, or, before they know where they are, they'll be weltering in the curse of compulsion. . . . Pearce, like Hughes, is quite willing to prove renegade to Labor or any democratic principles which in the past he has espoused. If Labor does not rid itself of these Tories it deserves to go into the wilderness for the next forty years.—"Federal Independent."

\* \* \*

Local patriots are savagely denunciatory of German militarism, yet some of the most startling of recent military developments are of purely British origin. The Boys' Brigade, the Boy Scouts, and

The Boys' Brigade, the Boy Scouts, and the Child Conscription of Australia, are cases in point. Germany has never yet conscripted her babies.

\* \* \*

The war is developing a flamboyant, pinchbeck kind of patriotism, altogether out of keeping with the genius of democracy, and in quarters where it ought never to be found. Mr. Hughes' offer to raise an additional 50,000 men for the war is a case in point. He admits that the Imperial authorities gave no hint that there was any need for this additional supply. Yet he makes it, and on his own behalf. It is nothing less than a gratuitous impertinence, which no true Labor democrat should make. Organised Labor is not behind this kind of thing. The breach between political leaders of labor and the industrial workers is becoming greater every day.—"Federal Independent."

\* \* \*

"We have no use," says the "West Australian," "for those who at this critical juncture strike for more pay and shorter hours." Of course not, comments the "Australian Worker"; at this critical juncture the toiler must tighten his belt and remain content to see every shilling of his weekly earnings reduced in paying power to about 7d. He must cheerfully sell his only saleable commodity at pre-war prices. If he doesn't, he is a traitor or an undesirable. But the employer may bump up the prices of all he sells without limitation, and still remain a patriot and a most respectable citizen! Curious that Labor should refuse to see a thing so plain and palpable.

\* \* \*

A "Federal Independent" suggestion for economy—in view of the diminishing sup-

plies of paper—which will neither make people laugh with humor nor shriek with contempt: Suspend the publication of "Hansard" in the Federal and six State Parliaments. This would mean a saving of tons of paper per month, lessen the consumption of gas, and spare char-

of cost of paper per month, lessen the consumption of gas, and spare charwomen the periodic necessity of clearing out of offices piles of unopened copies of "Parliamentary Records."

\* \* \*

Commenting on the amalgamation of the Liberal and Progressive forces of New South Wales, in order that "together

---

they may present a UNITED FRONT to the Labor Government at the forthcoming elections," the "Federal Independent" says: "... So far as any positive or constructive programme is concerned, Liberalism in the Ma State is about as barren as is the Sahara of vegetation. Whether the Progressive wing of this newly-effected union is going to galvanise atrophied toryism into anything like action remains to be seen. The chances are, however, that Labor has nothing to

fear from this political negative combine. Its peril is rather from within. If Labor were true to its ideals nothing could stand before it. Its danger lies not in its platform, but in a number of men who have joined its ranks to exploit it for personal ends. To these Labor is not a principle, a policy, or a genius; it is an expediency, a means by which to get into the political running. These men are Labor's weakness, for in times of stress and strain, with no principle to support, they wobble and injure the party by compromise. Labor, i.e., official Labor, is

---

becoming too respectable to be aggressive; the distinctive note is disappearing as the line of least resistance is pursued. If Labor goes out into the wilderness it will not be from any assault from the Liberal trenches, but because, through opportunism, it has become as colorless as Liberalism itself." Quite so!

\* \* \*

"Prussianism has completely collared Sydney," says a Harbour City exchange. "The pulpit is dumb, the press is

... and no halls are available for anti-conscription meetings " The same applies in this State.

Just imagine the meeting of Billy Hughes and King George—two "big" men, indeed. And then imagine Billy walking backwards, bowing the while, when taking leave of His Majesty.