

Concession Speech: James Scullin, Prime Minister (ALP)

Melbourne: December 20, 1931

“Defeat is the fate of a Government that has the responsibility of governing during a financial crisis, and particularly during a period of genuine and acute distress.

The swing of the political pendulum has gone strongly against the Labor party on this occasion, but there will be unquestionably a strong reaction in public opinion before many months have passed.

The last two years have imposed a very heavy strain and responsibility upon the Government.

My personal regrets are for the loss of good and earnest colleagues, and for the disappointment of staunch supporters who maintained their allegiance to the Government despite misrepresentations and criticism.

However, the people have spoken, and theirs is the deciding voice.”

Source: Compiled from original documents and Sydney Morning Herald, 21/12/1931, page 9.