

Summary of Policy Launch Speech: William Hughes, Prime Minister (NAT)

Chatswood, 24 October 1922

MR. HUGHES' SPEECH

Nationalist Party

PRINCIPAL POINTS

Mr. Hughes delivered his policy speech at Chatswood last night.

* * *

There is no doubt, he said, that Australia's declaration was a definite factor in inducing Kemal Pasha to accept that invitation to the conference which was successful in settling the dispute.

* * *

We walk to-day in slippery places. Out of some ill-considered act of domestic policy may come war.

* * *

We stand for Government free from the control of secret juntas or forces outside Parliament.

* * *

We have striven to hold the scales fairly, giving to each what is his due.

* * *

Everything we have done has been misrepresented by the extreme sections – Bolshe – visits on the one hand and reactionaries on the other.

* * *

The amount involved by the Government's reduction of taxation is estimated at £3,200,000. All our primary and secondary industries will benefit.

* * *

As a result of the Government's proposals, it is anticipated that further remission will become possible.

* * *

For the first time in the history of the Empire we are able to say that the question of migration is being treated as Imperial in policy.

* * *

Under the Nationalist Government's immigration policy £30,000,000 is made available on loan at the rate of £3,000,000 per State per annum.

* * *

The Government is prepared to co-operate with the States in the establishment of training farms for youths from overseas and our own young men.

* * *

The Government will assist the States in building light developmental railways and will pay one-third of the interest on cost of construction.

* * *

Legislation is to be introduced designed to assist the producers by defraying the cost of transportation and quarantine of stud stock.

* * *

The Government will appoint a Royal Commission to report upon the best means for co-ordinating the various health activities and improving the nation's health.

* * *

The Government is of opinion that industrial tribunals are to be preferred to Courts.

* * *

It accepted the proposals unanimously agreed to by the State Premiers last November, and will do its part to give effect to them.

* * *

The Government believes that State instrumentalities should be outside the Federal jurisdictions, which should be confined to disputes in industries Federal in their nature.

* * *

Soldiers have been settled on the land at an average cost of £678, involving an expenditure of £15,000,000; 19,356 homes have been provided.

* * *

During the first session of the new Parliament legislation for the election of a Constitutional convention will be submitted.

* * *

The Commonwealth Shipping Line showed a gross profit on June 30, 1901, of £7,157,131.

* * *

The Government does not intend to do more than complete the ships now partly built.

* * *

An agreement has been entered into with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the erection of refineries in Australia.

* * *

It is hoped that the work of standardizing the railway gauge will shortly be approved by the mainland States.

* * *

The Government has decided to guarantee a fixed price to cotton growers over a period of three years.

* * *

For the coming season the Government is guaranteeing up to 3/8 per bushel for wheat.

* * *

The authority under which the control of coal is exercised expires on December 31 next. Existing circumstances do not warrant its extension.

* * *

It is proposed to use the powers conferred by the Navigation Act to license additional vessels to cope with seasonal fluctuations of trade.

* * *

The Government has adopted a scheme providing for a three years' postal programme, involving an expenditure of £9,757,845.

* * *

It is intended to press on vigorously with the construction of the River Murray works, irrigating 1,400,000 acres.

Source: The Sydney Morning Herald 25 October 1922 Page 12