

Victory Speech: Edmund Barton, Prime Minister (PROT)

Empire Hotel, March 29th 1901

“So far as the returns from all Australia have been reported, they satisfy me that the Federal Government will have a strong working majority, and that the policy of bounce and brag will be at a discount. The returns of the voting for the Senate in New South Wales scarcely total beyond what some of the candidates will poll in one of the electorates of Sydney; probably not one-twentieth of the total Senate vote is known yet. The leading men returned for the Senate in New South Wales must poll over 100,000 votes. Consequently the result of the Senate election for New South Wales is still entirely an open question. Judging generally from what returns are to hand for the House of Representatives it is probable that there will be a slight opposition majority in New South Wales, an overwhelming Government majority in Victoria, and a Government majority in Tasmania. In Queensland and South Australia the vote will not be taken until Saturday. The results in Western Australia will, probably, not be known for some time, as a law exists there which renders it doubtful whether the state of the poll can be disclosed until the complete returns are in”.

Source: Compiled from The Sydney Morning Herald, March 30th 1901, Page 9 and The Age.