

## **Post-election speech: Alfred Deakin, Prime Minister (PROT)**

***December 17, 1903***

“I have, as you know, nothing definite to go upon, but from what I have seen of the results it looks as if we shall lose four seats and gain one – a Tasmanian seat.

I refer, of course, to direct Ministerialists.

The Opposition appears to lose four seats and gain two.

Of the remaining seats in doubt the Labor party may take two and two others may go almost any way.

The Labor party is, of course, divided on the fiscal issue, but from what I know it appears that we have increased our strength in regard to the chief issue of the campaign, viz., the maintenance of fiscal peace, as far as that party is concerned.

So far as I am acquainted, through the press, with the opinions of the new Labor members, they are all, or almost all, pledged to that policy.

It is too early to speak of the effect the results will have on the preferential trade policy.”

Source: Compiled from The Age, December 18<sup>th</sup> 1903, page 5 and original documents.