

Victory speech: Stanley Bruce, Prime Minister (Nationalist)

Melbourne: November 18, 1928

“It is gratifying that the Government has again been returned to power by the people with a substantial majority, but I regret that in a few constituencies loyal supporters of the Government appear to be in danger of defeat.

It is inevitable, however, that some seats should be lost, in view of the fact that at the 1925 election the Government was returned with the largest majority that had ever been obtained in the Federal Parliament.

This was brought about by the capture of certain seats which had always been regarded as Labor strongholds.

With the swing of the pendulum which political history showed always occurs when a Government retains power over a long period, it was only to be anticipated that some of these seats would revert to their previous allegiances.

On the figures at present available results appear to be working out very much as had been expected, but until final figures are available I do not desire to make any further comment.

The results so far recorded in connection with the Senate would appear to indicate that the Government’s position will be strengthened, and the voting on the referendum proposals, which have received overwhelming support throughout Australia, are alike gratifying.”

Source: Compiled from The Age, 19/11/1928, page 9 and the Sydney Morning Herald.