

WANTED—An Australian Statesman. (Adela Pankhurst, April 27, 1914)

FOUND—Vida Goldstein, an Australian Stateswoman

(Cecilia John, same date a year later)

SENATE ELECTION MANIFESTO

OF

The People's Candidate,

MISS VIDA GOLDSTEIN

Fellow Citizens,—For the third time I ask you to return me as a member of the Senate. In these momentous times, when tradition, precedent, and custom are being thrown on the scrap-heap so much that the nation may receive the benefit of assistance from every section of the people, I hope our citizens will not hesitate to go as far in this direction as other countries have gone, and return a woman to the National Parliament.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST? NOT IN LEGISLATION.

Each year more and more questions directly affecting women and children need to be settled by Parliament, but they are either ignored altogether, or dealt with wholly from the masculine standpoint. It will be readily seen that if women alone legislated on matters affecting men, they would overlook aspects that men consider vital to their needs and interests.

Questions of national and international importance are now before the country on which women have strong, statesmanlike views, and those views should be expressed in Parliament.

OBJECTS OF CANDIDATURE.

I am nominated by the Women's Political Association, and by the Women's Peace Army, with the objects of—

1. Bringing forward in Parliament questions affecting women and children, which men have ignored because they do not understand them.
2. Voicing in Parliament the views of men and women who have made a study of Militarism and Imperialism, voicing their aspirations for a Constructive Peace, and Opposing the Terms that would only sow the Seed of Future Wars.

WAR IS OUT OF DATE.

War is out of date. Under modern conditions it cannot accomplish what those who support war want it to accomplish. Every deadly weapon is met by the invention of a still more deadly weapon. To-day, neither strategy, steel, nor chemical devices are the answer. Food is the final arbiter. The Prime Minister admitted this at Bendigo on March 27, when he said—

"The question of food supplies in this war is absolutely vital. Upon an ample supply of food all depends. Germany fails the war because she can no longer feed her people. Though her legions stand like a granite wall against the furious attacks of the Allies, yet their valor will avail nothing unless the 150,000,000 of people in the Central Powers can be fed. And what is true of Germany is not less true of Britain.

Unless her 44,000,000 are fed from overseas nothing can save her; though she pile munitions high, though the roar of her great guns bursts the heavens, though the fury of her attacks terrifies the ranks of the enemy, unless the 44,000,000 in Britain are fed, victory will slide from her nervous hand; the blockade of Germany by the British fleet; the submarine campaign by Germany; the dangers aimed at the very heart of Germany and Britain. Which shall strike first? That is the question. Upon the answer hang our destinies and the fate of the world. Australia's duty in this great crisis is obvious: we must make available in increasing quantities the products necessary to enable the Empire and its Allies to win the war."

TO HEAD THE POLL.

Claim on the Electors.

I claim that you should return me at the head of the poll:—

- (a) Because every just person believes in a fair deal, and it would be a fair deal to give the women of Australia one seat out of 11 in Parliament to defend the interests of women and children.
- (b) Because I am the only candidate who is showing the people the causes of war, and how they may learn to avoid it. The other candidates are dealing only with its effects—that is unsatisfactory. The people never declare that the people never want war, or that we have war!

Peace, Supremacy, Credit, Capitalism.

Down all the ages, throughout the world have held that might is the nation's only defence, and in the twentieth century this doctrine has been carried to such a point that not only are nations being armed, but the people it is so great in naval or military strength as to excite the fear and suspicion of other Great Powers. Militarism, Imperialism, and the arms race are the only means of securing peace, and the only means of protecting themselves, or of gaining credit, or of securing supremacy.

England was free to develop her manufactures and find markets and possessions overseas, to protect which an ever-increasing navy was needed.

We have become accordingly, such a far-flung, mighty Empire, that we have excited the fear and jealousy of other Great Powers, some of whom, with the aid of electricity and chemistry, have been endeavoring to catch up with us in production, and in turn, seek outlets for their surplus products, and profitable investments. International commercial rivalry has developed to such an extent that the peace of the world has trembled in the balance many times during the past century.

Desire for commercial supremacy, or fear of losing it, has kept all the nations armed to the teeth. This weight of armaments, upon which our capitalist system depends, and on whose maintenance the bulk of the national income must be expended, has kept the working classes (without whose labour no wealth could be created) in such an oppressive condition of wage slavery, that in every country they were busying up their immaterial and political organisations with the object of bringing about a complete change of the commercial system—so that production should be for use and not for profit. Sometimes, when conditions became more than usually oppressive, the double-edged weapon of the strike had to be resorted to.

Their teaching so, aroused the fear of the Great Powers of industry, whose enormous profits depend on the wages of the workers, that in every country certain of these financial magnates, backed up by their newspaper and naval and military tools, have done all in their power to bring the working men to their senses so as to have a system which would destroy the growing power of Trade Unionism, which was directly opposed to the established power of Capitalism.

We do not say that this war was promoted with the deliberate object of crushing the workers, but we do say that the wages of the workers, and the use of the press, of armament fairs, of secret diplomacy, of naval and military air-raid, to bolster up a social system, under which the great mass of the people live in social anxiety, wretchedness and ugliness, has made such a Clash of interests that a Clash of Arms between the nations is the only way for "Some more" some less, became inevitable when Circumstance and Opportunity sounded the tocsin of alarm.

It is not we, but the Britishers who believe that might is the guardian angel of Right, are driven to justify all their cherished ideas of freedom and democracy in the frantic effort to get enough men to do enough killing to wipe out the enemy.

When British men believed that they were going out to protect a "Little Nation" from a ruthless "Big Nation," and to do their part in the War to end War, and Prussian Militarism, they came forth in their thousands as Free Men. But as time went on, they found that the Little Nation was not what they thought it was, and on whose maintenance the "rights of "Little Ireland," "Little Finland," and "Little Greece," seemed to be set aside by other "Big Nations."

They found that, while they were destroying a European menace, they were setting up what they believed was an even more menacing danger to us, and to the world, in the shape of Prussian militarism being created, instead of Prussian militarism being destroyed. They found that instead of being the saviour of the British Empire, they were being misled of England being the cause of the world's disaster.

Land was raised for the first time. A man may speak the thing he feels. She had become the hand of military and industrial slavery, of shackled spirit and shackled conscience. They found that instead of this being the war to end war, all nations, neutral as well as belligerent, are preparing for future wars, and arming more and more fearfully.

No one can deny the truth of my statements, and I ask you what can you expect from politicians who are satisfied to deal only with the effects of war, and say not a word about its causes, and what they propose to do to remove them?

We must learn to regard every nation as a potential friend, rather than as a potential enemy. We must aim at changing our social and industrial system so as to produce for use and not for profit. Above all, we must learn that we can individualise anything that is worth keeping, as we must oppose war because it is based on fear and hate and lies. Love and Force and Justice alone can exist, individually and collectively.

SPLITTING THE TICKET.

Conscription Issues.

You may say, "Yes, that is all true, but if we split the ticket, we shall split the vote, and so we shall be defeated." I say, "No, that is not true. If we split the ticket, we shall split the vote, and so we shall be defeated."

away by this specious argument. Face facts squarely. Both the Labour and National Parties are in favour of Conscription. Both vie with each other in claiming credit for the Defence Act, with its odious Boy Conscription, and Conscription for Home Defence. As long as the Labour Party stands for these two measures, it can never lead the people of Australia to freedom and prosperity.

The Referendum defeated Conscription for overseas, but in a few years' time, under the Defence Act, every man in Australia will be a conscript.

In my opinion there is no essential difference in Conscription for home defence and Conscription for overseas—the one will inevitably lead to the other when the military authorities and vested interests decide, unless the people are united against the whole principle of compulsion in connection with defence.

I shall split the Labour Ticket, but I shall also split the National Ticket, for many a Liberal will vote for me because they disapprove of the Fusion Government, and they know my policy is a sound one.

Do not worship the "Ticket." Vote for principles. Examine thoughtfully my platform. You may not be able to accept every plank in it, but whether Labour or Liberal, you must admit that it has more to offer the people than has the platform of either of the opposing parties.

THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS V. THE DIVINE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE.

Far more than Conscription is at stake in this contest. You electors have to decide whether you will allow Australia to become a military nation like the nations of the old world. In this far-away country, we have a unique opportunity of striking out on new lines, of establishing a real democracy. Instead, we are rapidly adopting all the worst features of European militarism, which, for centuries, was used to bolster up the Divine Right of Kings. Now militarism is used to bolster up the Divine Right of Capital. If we fail at abolishing militarism as speedily as possible, it has more to offer the way to establishing the Divine Right of the People to Equal Opportunity, to attain and enjoy the best and most beneficial life has to offer. If this is your aim, whether Liberal or Labour, you will vote for me.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME.

My lengthy programme may be summarised as follows:—

- For Women and Children.
- For the People.
- For Internationalism.
- For a New Australia.
- For Constructive Peace by Negotiation.
- Against Militarism and Imperialism.

Yours truly,

VIDA GOLDSTEIN.

March 29, 1917.

MISS JEANETTE RANKIN

A Woman in Parliament.

These women who have gathered from many parts of the country on dry lands farms, themselves, who heartedly and energetically took up suffrage activities during the Montana campaign; and then, during the time that Miss Rankin was running for Congress, they worked as eagerly for her, those who did not know her just as enthusiastically as those who did. A man once brought his wife up to meet the "Lady from Montana" at a rally, and told her that he could never take his wife out for a ride without stopping at every mail box to drop in some of the literature concerning the platform of the first woman to run for Congress. The women he found, were eager to see another woman go ahead, and seemed glad to do anything they could to help, and many men agreed with them, stating definitely their conviction that they should help, even during the Montana campaign. A few men had said that the women would vote for another woman to occupy such a position; but they were mistaken, for women do, as the primary and election figures of the State of Montana show clearly.

And so now this woman who is to sit in the new Congress, as soon as it is called, and modestly, that is just paying the women and other women to secure the same thing, they wish, and making them realise the hours of Congress should not be closed to them.

—Christina Young, M.P.

ONLY ONE FOR THE WOMAN CANDIDATE.