

FORWARD!

THIS message is written as I contemplate the triumph that Labor and Mr. John Dedman achieved in the recent by-election for the Corio seat. The effort put forward by the Party in that campaign was a united effort. Senators and Ms.H.R. came from five States of the Commonwealth to work untiringly—united Labor under a united leadership!

Corio means more than a victory for a Labor candidate, more than a valuable addition to Labor's ranks in Parliament. It was a declaration by a large and representative group of Australians that they have chosen Labor and Labor's methods for the crises which confront us all.

But even more—it was an appeal to Australian Labor to redouble its efforts for Labor's victory. So much that is good and civilised in our life to-day depends on you, on us.

To save those things which must be saved, the unity and will to win, we had at Corio must be found all over this Commonwealth of ours.

That victory recalls to my mind, in 30 years' active participation in the Labor Movement, the triumphs of the past. The history of Labor in New South Wales over the past 50 years is studded with gems that adorn the diadem of Labor.

Men and women of Labor suffered much in those 50 years. They went without food; they suffered social eclipse; they were jailed, and they actually shed their blood—all in the cause of Labor and social emancipation.

This Souvenir will tell, in detail, of the struggles, the reverses, the sacrifices and the triumphs of the past. It would not be proper for me to dwell on any phase of that cavalcade of Labor lest, in mentioning one, I make an invidious distinction.

Suffice to say that I honor those great men and women of the past. I take from their great work my inspiration for the work that confronts us now, and will rear imposingly against us in the future.

What is to come can be met successfully, and Labor will go on to new triumphs if every Labor man and woman in this and all States unitedly serve our great cause in the interests of the Movement, to the exclusion of personal gain and advancement.

Labor is the only Movement that is not a class—it is the whole people. Labor triumphant! That is the ideal I give you.

Canberra, March 5, 1940.

JOHN CURTIN.



JOHN CURTIN
Federal Leader of the Australian Labor Party.



J. A. Cranwell, President of the N.S.W. Branch of the A.L.P.



W. Evans, General Secretary of the N.S.W. Branch of the A.L.P.



W. J. McKell, State Parliamentary Leader of the N.S.W. Branch of the A.L.P.