

'I'll have you!'

Step by step instructions

- (i) Remind the students that a cartoonist is inspired to communicate an opinion on a recent event or an important event that might soon occur such as the start of a war where Australia is involved. Tell them cartoonists display great skill in stating their opinions through drawings.
- (ii) If the students have not studied the conscription campaigns of World War One take them through that information now using the following context points.
- (iii) If they have studied conscription **make and show the overhead photograph of Hughes on page 35 before you show the cartoon overheads.**



CONTEXT

- August 1914 war broke out between Britain and Germany.
- August 1914 Australia was at war with Germany as a result of foreign policy concerns and ties of loyalty and blood to 'Mother England'.
- In October 1915 William Morris Hughes of the Australian Labor Party became Prime Minister of Australia.
- **Show an overhead photograph of Hughes on page 35 before introducing the cartoon.**
- Australian soldiers were all volunteers but when enlistment numbers declined in 1916 Hughes, and other groups in Australian society (e.g. supporters of business, adherents of Church of England, the Liberal Opposition in the House of Representatives and Senate and British loyalists) determined to introduce conscription as a way of ensuring there were adequate numbers of soldiers fighting overseas. The newspaper the *Daily Worker* and many groups representing the working class opposed conscription.
- Conscription meant **requiring** young men to enlist for overseas service.
- In October 1916 a referendum on conscription was held but was lost.
- Enlistment numbers continued to decline and in late 1917 Hughes decided to hold another conscription referendum, which was held on 20 December 1917.

Teaching point of the cartoon: Conscription and Hughes: use of caricature to create a negative impression of a person.

Sheet 1: Origin of Cartoon

Teaching point: Context of events occurring around 13 December 1917

Ask students to think about what was happening in Australia around 13 December 1917. Some leading questions could be:

- Who would read the *Australian Worker*?
- In what overseas actions had Australians been involved since 1914?
- Who was the Prime Minister of Australia in 1917?
- What was the event in 1916 that had caused conflict amongst the people of Australia?
- What important event was due to be held on 20 December 1917?

Once they have agreed that Prime Minister Hughes' second conscription referendum was about to be held tell them that the *Australian Worker* was a publication that supported the views (was biased in favour) of Australian workers and would probably oppose the idea of conscription.

The Cartoonist: Claude Marquet was born in South Australia in 1870. He contributed to a number of illustrated papers including *Quiz*, *Sporting Life* and *Punch*. He was the chief cartoonist for the *Sydney Worker*. He died in 1920.

Sheet 2: Figure of Hughes

Teaching point: Cartoonist's depiction of Hughes or what message is the cartoonist trying to convey about this man?

- What impression of the man do you gain from the drawing? A good impression/feeling or a bad one?
- How has the cartoonist drawn this man so you will not have a good impression of him? (*Possible answers: angry face almost demon /ape like with large black mouth and claw-like hand reaching out of the drawing. He is a caricature. Man dressed in black like an undertaker.*)
- Who do you think this man is? (*Prime Minister Hughes*.)
- What message is the cartoonist conveying about this man?

Sheet 3: Chain

Teaching point: The chain is a visual symbol for something else (a loss of freedom.)

- Why does the cartoonist draw a chain in Hughes' hand?
- Guess what you think the chain represents. (*Some students may see the link between the chain and conscription: loss of freedom to decide if one will fight in the war.*)
- What is the message now?

Sheet 4: Conscription as a chain

Teaching point: The cartoonist emphasizing his opinion that conscription is like a threatening chain in the hands of Hughes.

- Why would the *Australian Worker* consider conscription to be a chain?
- What is the message now?

Sheet 5: Caption

Teaching point: Explanation of the cartoonist's use of a caption. A caption allows cartoonists to clarify, emphasize their message as well as show irony or sarcasm. Captions usually do a combination of these things.

- Who is saying 'I'LL HAVE YOU'? (*Hughes, as the words in inverted commas show it is speech.*)

Questions for students to answer in writing

Candidates' responses to some of the following questions will vary according to their understanding of the symbols and captions of the cartoon. **Teachers should reward valid explanations where students can logically explain and justify their interpretations with details from the cartoon.**

Level of difficulty of questions:

LO= Low Order of difficulty MO=Middle order of difficulty HO= High order of difficulty

Question: What is the message of the cartoon? **MO**

Example Answer:

- *The message is that conscription is a chain that shackles (enslaves) men and that Prime Minister Hughes is demon-like in grabbing men for service in World War One.*
- *The conscription chain could also be considered as a whip to be used to punish those who would not enlist voluntarily to fight in World War One.*

Question: How does the cartoonist portray Prime Minister Hughes in an unfavourable light? **LO**

Example Answer:

- *The cartoonist has distorted some features of Prime Minister Hughes. His open mouth is large suggesting he is roaring out his words. The large hand is claw-like as it reaches to grab 'you'. His body is bent forward also suggesting he is ready to grab and then chain or whip the person he has caught.*
- *In 1917 many people would have viewed Hughes as trying to make slaves of free men.*
- *The overall impression conveyed of Hughes is that he is an evil man or like a monster.*

Question: For what purpose did Marquet (cartoonist) draw and have this cartoon published? **MO**

Example Answer:

- *Marquet was trying to influence or persuade the Australian public to vote against conscription in the second conscription referendum held in late December 1917.*
- *He is creating a visual image to depict conscription as a tool of oppression.*

Question: To what extent does this cartoon present a biased perspective about Prime Minister Hughes? **MO**

Example Answer:

- *This cartoon presents an extremely negatively biased perspective about Prime Minister Hughes. It presents him as a sweating, roaring monster that is out to whip or put chains on anyone he can grab.*
- *Hughes is being demonized in this cartoon.*

Question: Who would have supported this view of Hughes? **LO**

Example Answer:

- *People who were against the introduction of conscription for overseas service in World War One would have supported this view of Hughes. This would encompass a large section of the Labor Party, the Unions and many of their workers, Irish Catholics and Quakers.*

Question: Who would have opposed this depiction of Hughes? **LO**

Example Answer:

- *People who would have opposed this depiction of Hughes would have been members of the Australian public who supported conscription for overseas service in World War One. These would have been members of the Nationalist Party, supporters of business, adherents of the Church of England and British loyalists.*

Note: After the Labor Party split in 1916 over conscription Hughes led the Nationalist Party, a coalition of Labor and Liberal supporters of conscription.

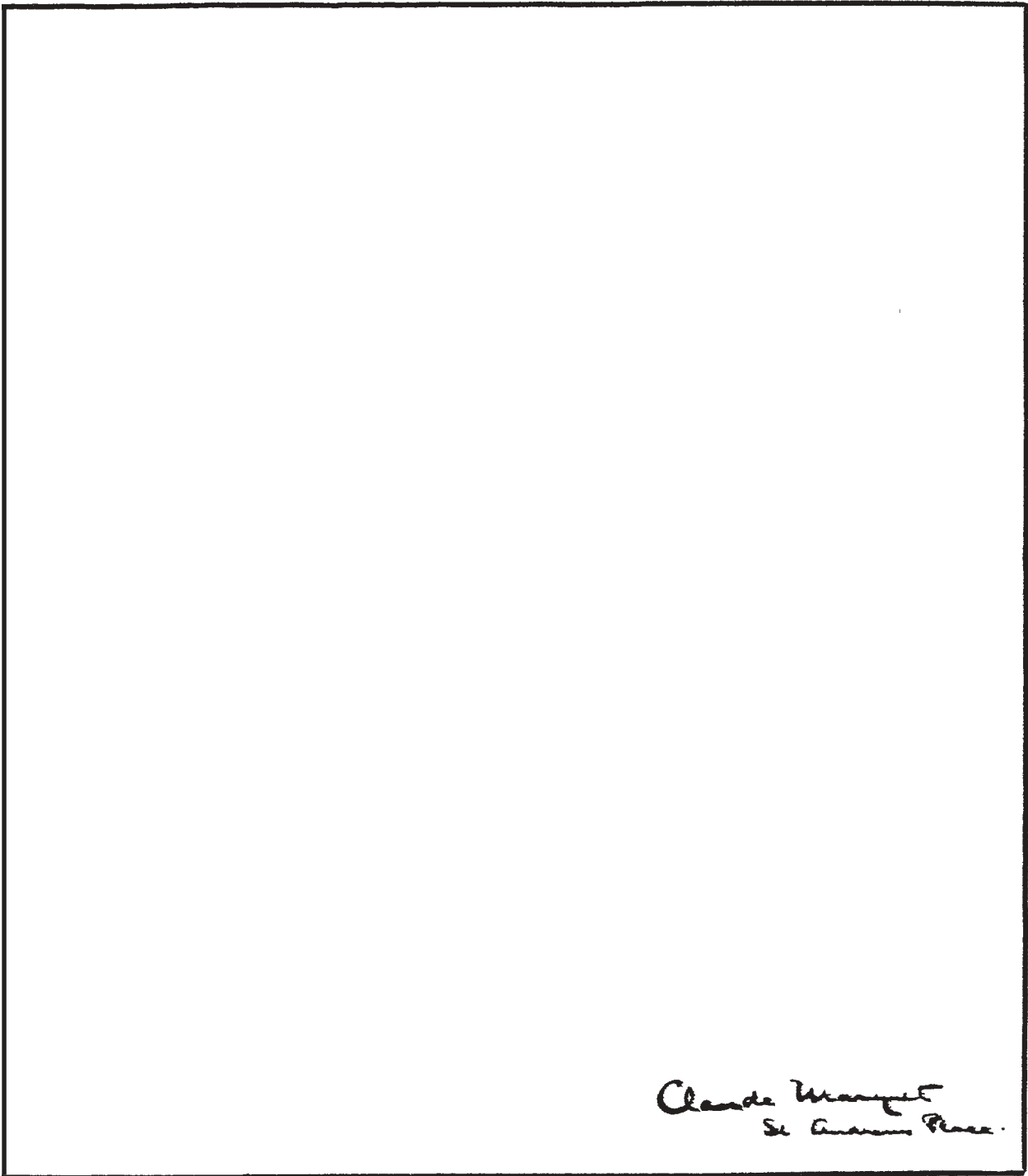
Extension Questions

- Frank Anstey, a Labor politician, said 'Conscription is the organized extermination of the working class'. What did he mean by this? Do you agree or disagree with this idea?
- How effective is the cartoon in conveying an unfavourable (biased) message about the conscription referendum?
- To what extent is this cartoon useful in gauging (evaluating) the amount of public discontent about the conscription referendum?
- Is this cartoon reliably depicting wide spread public discontent with Hughes as Prime Minister?
- In what ways is this cartoon useful to an historian?

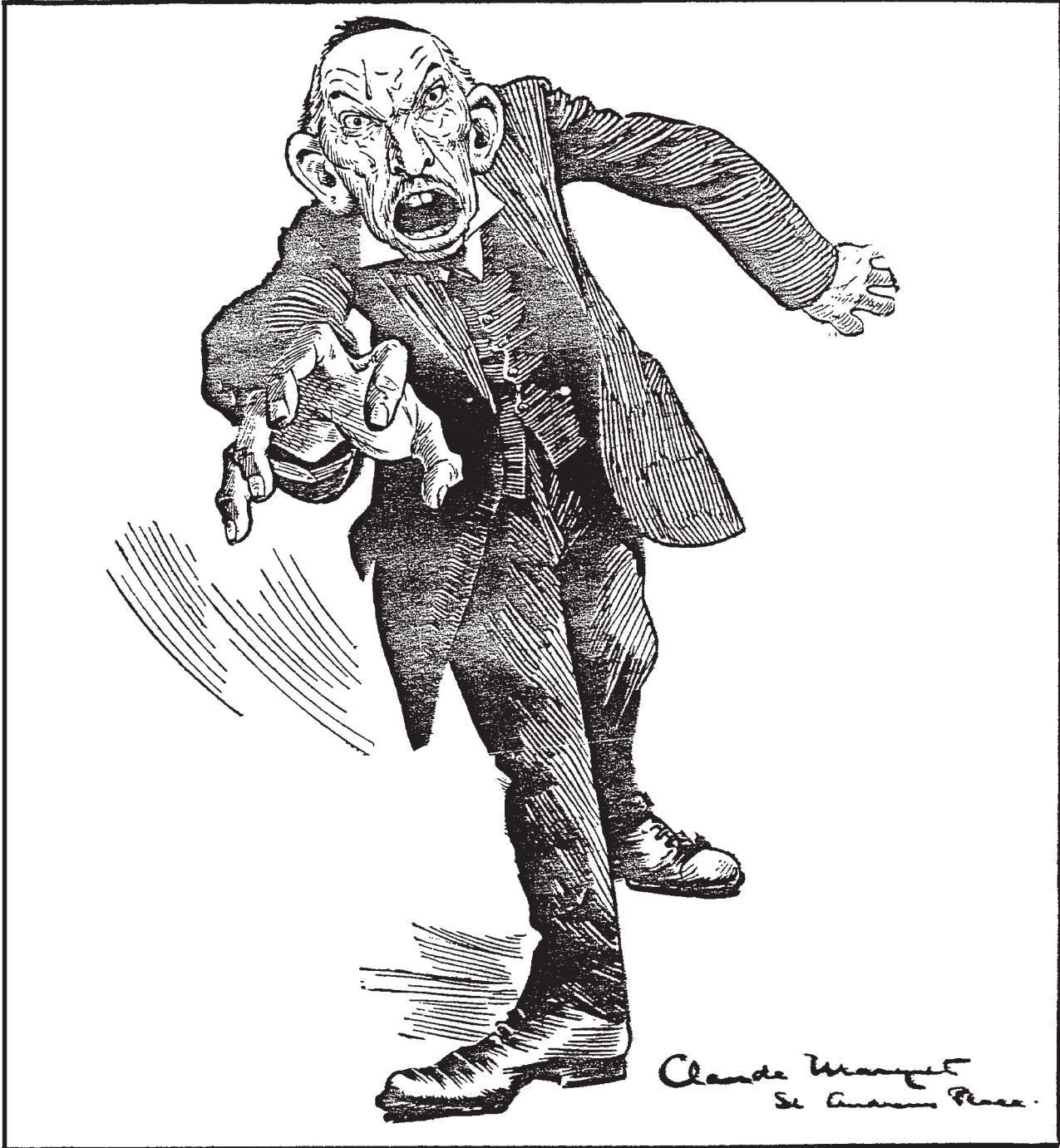
William Morris Hughes,
Prime Minister of Australia 1915-1922



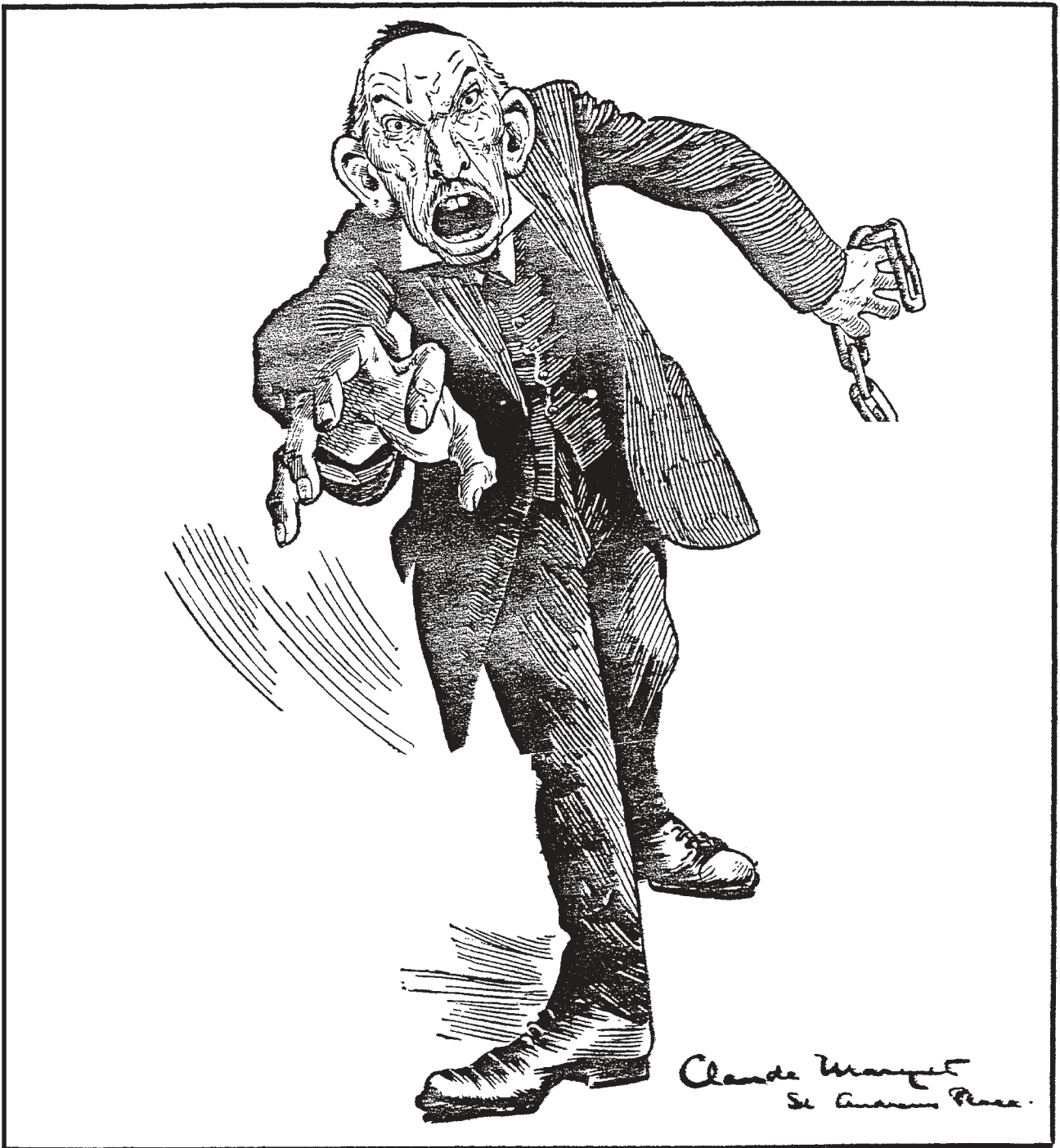
Prime Minister William Hughes. JCPML00036/7



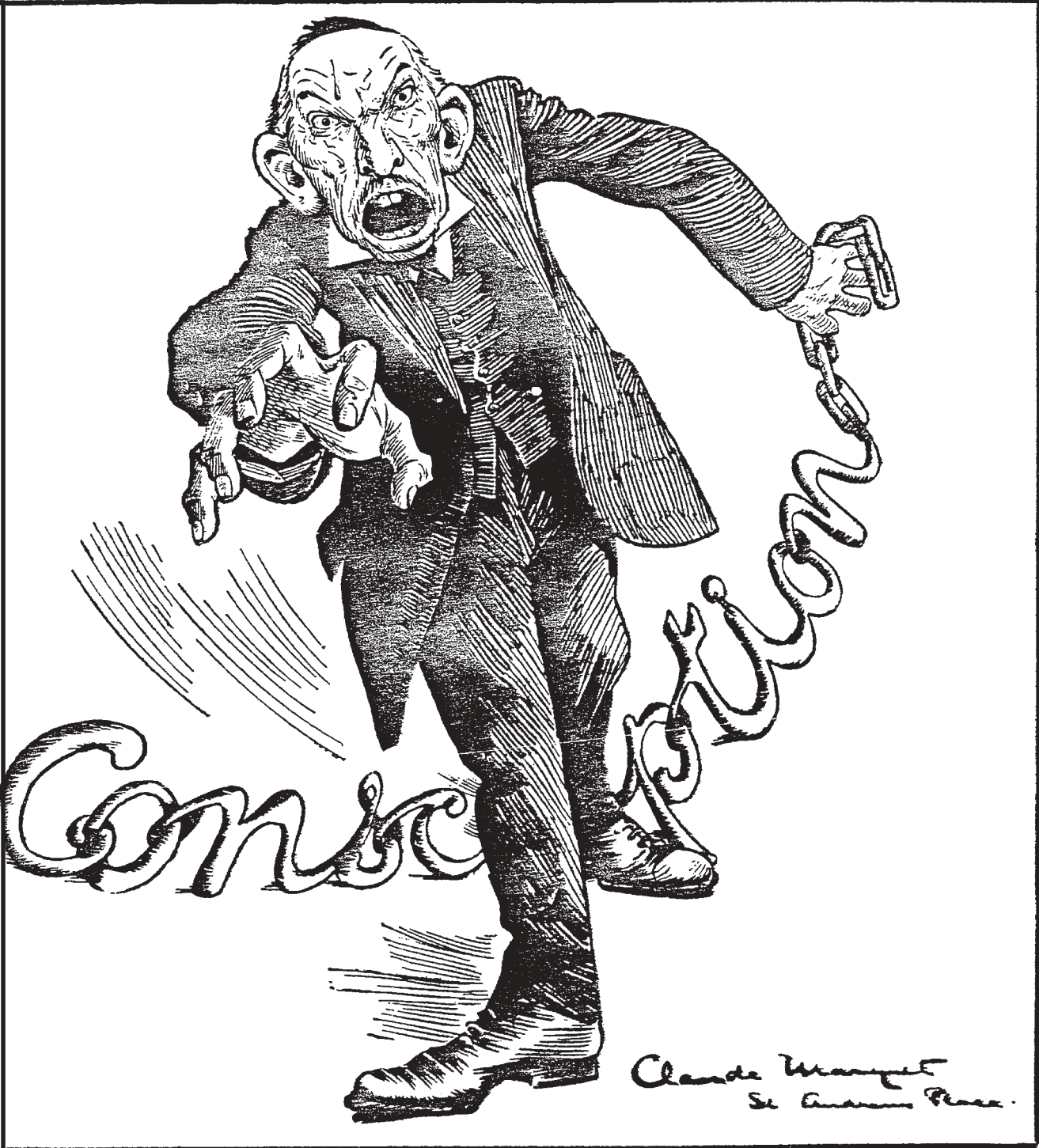
Published in the *Australian Worker*, 13 December 1917



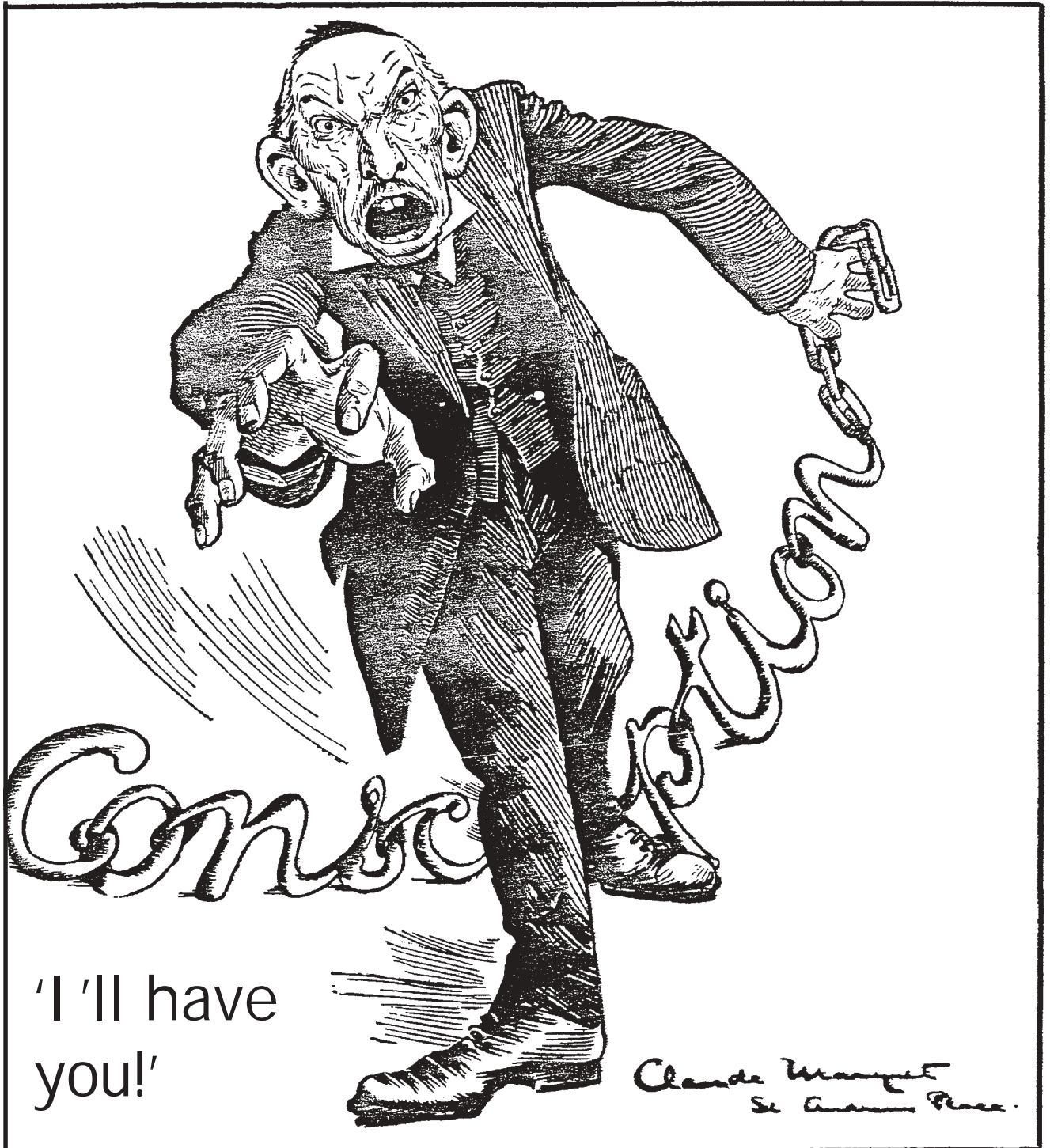
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