

Your story, our history

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SECRETARY

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Subject PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE - AUSTRALIA

RT. HON. F.M. FORDE

1944/

9 FEB 1954

ARGUS

Forde bids for seat

Brisbane, Monday

Mr. F. M. Forde, a former Army Minister, said today he would stand for Labor pre-selection for the Federal seat of Wide Bay.

His announcement immediately followed his official appointment as State organiser for the Queensland Labor Party.

Wide Bay is held now by Mr. Bernard Corser, Country Party, who has said he will retire because of ill health.

Mr. Forde returned to Australia in July last year, after six years as Australian High Commissioner in Canada.

He was Acting Prime Minister several times between 1941 and 1946, and Prime Minister from July 6 to July 12, 1946.

He was Australia's Army Minister from 1941 to 1946, and an Australian delegate to the San Francisco conference of the United Nations in 1945.

12th Nov. 1953

Dear Mr. Forde,

See official file

In your letter of 5th October, you asked whether there was any reserve training scheme for University students in Australia, similar to the Officer training scheme in Canada.

From enquiries made of the Services it appears that there is no such scheme in Australia. The only arrangement in Australia which in any way resembles the Canadian scheme is that for selected Science and Engineering students who may receive appointments in the Permanent Forces during their final University year, and who then receive Service pay and have their fees paid during that year. Pamphlets setting out the Navy and Air Force schemes are attached, and a broadly similar scheme applies in the Army.

I hope that this information will prove useful to your son. Further details could be obtained from the Combined Services' Recruiting Depot (Beach Road, Rushcutters Bay, Sydney).

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) F.G. Shedden

(F.G. Shedden)

The Rt. Honorable F.M. Forde,
121 Annie Street,
Torwood,
BRISBANE. QLD.

Mr. Forde Returns: No Decision on Politics Yet

The former Australian High Commissioner in Canada (Mr. F. M. Forde), who returned yesterday in the Strathaird, has not yet decided whether he will re-enter politics.

Mr. Forde, Minister for the Army during World War II, spent six years and a half in Canada.

Before taking up the Canadian appointment, Mr. Forde had been a Labor member in the Federal Parliament since 1922.

A staunch advocate for the expansion of Australian-Canadian relations, in all fields, Mr. Forde said he had tried ceaselessly, while in Canada, to "sell Australia and Australians to Canada."

Now he was home, Mr. Forde said, he would reverse the procedure and acting as an "unofficial ambassador" would press for closer relations between the two countries.

"Generally, I found Canadians intensely interested in Australia and when dollar restrictions are eased there is an excellent market for our wines and dried fruits," Mr. Forde said.

He described Australia

and Canada as "two important middle power nations" and "the main dominion pivots of the British Commonwealth of Nations."

"I believe," Mr. Forde said, "that the future of the Commonwealth depends, to a large measure, upon the wisdom and statesmanship of the two nations (Australia and Canada), in both domestic and international policies."

AGE

15 JUL 1953

Mr. Forde Back from Canada

PERTH, Tuesday. — Canada was never so interested in Australia as now, the retiring Australian High Commissioner to Canada (Mr. F. Forde) said today on his arrival in Fremantle in the Strathaird.

Mr. Forde said Canada was on the threshold of great development of her natural resources.

He spoke highly of Canadian assistance to visiting Australian Ministers and officials, particularly when the South Australian director of mines had visited Canada's uranium fields.

Canada had the culture of the old world, and the vigor of the new, he declared.

"Our two countries are the main pivots on which rest British family nations," he added, "and while we stand wholeheartedly for closer integration we

strongly support the United States.

A former Minister for the Army and Deputy Prime Minister in the Curtin and Chifley Governments, Mr. Forde was Dean of the Diplomatic Corps for the past year.

He said he had not decided future plans.

AGE

17 MAR 1953

Mr. Forde May Get Eire Post

CANBERRA, Monday.—The early appointment of Mr. Francis Forde, retiring Australian High Commissioner to Canada, as Ambassador or High Commissioner to Eire, is expected to be announced by Cabinet shortly.

The appointment will be made after months of discussion with prominent Irish and Roman Catholic Church leaders in the Australian community who have been pressing for the representation of Australia on an ambassadorial level in Dublin.

The position was allowed to lapse after Australia's only representative (Mr. W. J. Dignam) retired as Australian High Commissioner to Eire about three years ago.

Mr. Dignam was appointed to the post in 1946 and when he returned in 1950 the Menzies Government did not fill the post, leaving the Australian representation in Eire to a charge d'affaires.

Mr. Forde was appointed to Canada in 1946 after he was defeated, while holding the portfolio of Minister for the Army, in the general elections of that year.

The Menzies Government did not interfere with the appointment until early this year, when

Sir Douglas Copland was appointed to succeed Mr. Forde.

Sir Douglas Copland will take over next month, and Mr. Forde is certain to return to Australia before he takes up his new appointment.

The present representative for Eire in Australia (Dr. Kiernan) holds the rank of ambassador.

12th November 1946.

PERSONAL

Dear Frank,

Thank you very much for your letter of 9th November regarding my service as Secretary to the War Cabinet and Secretary of the Department over the past five years, during which you were a Minister.

2. Your kind remarks are greatly appreciated, and I have very happy personal recollections of our association and the kindness and consideration that was always extended to me. I have forwarded to Messrs. Wilson, Coleman and Farrands, an extract containing your thanks for their services.

3. My wife and I also thank Mrs. Forde and yourself for your good wishes which are warmly reciprocated. We trust that both of you and the members of your family will enjoy health and happiness in your new sphere.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) F. G. SHEDDEN

The Rt. Hon. F.M. Forde,
79 Redmyre Road,
STRATHFIELD. NSW.

PERSONAL

ASSISTANT SECRETARIES
(COLONEL WILSON)
(MAJOR COLEMAN)
(MR. FARRANDS)

The following extract from a letter from the Rt. Hon. F.M. Forde, former Minister for Defence, is forwarded for your information :-

"I have come in contact from time to time with the leading officers of your Department, and I should be glad if you would express my personal thanks to Messrs. Wilson, Coleman and Farrands for their able assistance and loyal co-operation."

2. Mr. Forde has been informed that his reference to your services has been communicated to you.

(Sgd.) F. G. SHEDDEN

S e c r e t a r y.

12th November, 1946.

Personal.

RECEIVED

79 REDMYRE ROAD
STRATHFIELD

9th November 1946.

Dear Fred,

Now that I have handed over to my successor and departed from Canberra I wish to place upon record my appreciation of the outstanding service you rendered to the Nation, to the Government and to myself as a Minister during the past five critical years. Your devotion to duty and your very able advice and assistance won for you the admiration, respect and friendship of all ministers with whom you were associated as Secretary of the War Cabinet and as Secretary of the Defence Department.

Having been intimately associated with the War Cabinet during the last five years, I feel that I can form some true appreciation of your outstanding work for the Nation. I have come in contact from time to time with the leading officers of your Department and I should be glad if you would express my personal thanks to Messrs. Wilson, Coleman and Farrands for their able assistance and loyal co-operation.

As I intend to embark from Sydney on the SS "Rabaul" about the 6th or 7th December for Vancouver, I probably will not have an opportunity of seeing you personally before I leave but my wife now joins me in thanking you personally for all you have done for me in the past and in wishing yourself and Lady Shedden every success and happiness in the future.

I am,

Your sincere friend,

F.M. Forde

Sir Frederick Shedden, K.C.M.G.,
Secretary,
Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE. VIC.



Actg PRIME MINISTER,
CANBERRA.

3. 4. 44.

Dear Sir Frederick,

On the eve of your departure overseas I desire to wish you a very pleasant trip and a safe return to Australia. I have implicit confidence in your ability to render most valuable assistance to the Prime Minister in his important mission abroad, and I have to thank you sincerely for your generous help to myself at all times, since my elevation to Cabinet rank.

Yours sincerely

Sir Frederick Shedden, KCMG
Secretary, Defence Dept Melbourne

F. M. Forde.