



Edward Davis Millen (1860-1923)

Senator for New South Wales 1901-1923

Born in Kent, England, Edward Millen migrated in about 1880 to New South Wales, and settled in the north-west, where he worked as a journalist, newspaper proprietor and land agent. He was a member of both houses of the New South Wales colonial Parliament. Millen was a follower of George Reid, and varied between strong support and criticism of federation.

In 1901 Millen was elected as a Freetrader to represent New South Wales in the Senate at the first federal election. Millen was one of the longest serving members of the first Parliament and held a number of senior

positions, including Minister for Defence 1913-14 and Acting Prime Minister in 1919. In 1914 Millen supervised the recruitment and equipment of 20,000 troops for the Australian Imperial Force. In his role as Minister for Repatriation 1917-1923 he was responsible for 160,000 returned servicemen being absorbed into the workforce and reclaiming their civilian lives. In 1920 he attended the first meeting of the League of Nations in Geneva, visited war graves, and reorganised Australia House in London.

Millen died in 1923 while still in office.

The state of Western Australia was also represented in the first Senate by:

James Thomas Walker

Albert John Gould

Richard Edward O'Connor

John Cash Neild

Edward Pulsford