

# GOING AFTER ALIENS WAS GREATEST WORK

## Australian Premier's Successful Fight For the Elimination of the Hun in That Country.

Seven stone in weight! As he stands on the lawn of his London house it seems that the wind might blow the Prime Minister of Australia away. It blows a newspaper away; three men race for the paper (one of them half his age), but Mr. Hughes gets there first. In big things and little things he has been getting there first all his life, says a writer in the London Daily Mail. He got on the alien enemy in Australia before our own leaders began even to contemplate such a startling move. Frail in fact as well as aspect, he fights that toughest of all fights, the war of a great brain and spirit with an enemy constitution. He works seven days a week and all hours until midnight. Sometimes he takes London walks at four to five miles an hour. He knows London like a London cab-driver, and is concerned about the future of its leagues of stucco and basemented houses. "Who will consent to live in them in the New World?" he asks. "Take Pimlico, for instance—miles and miles of streets so alike that you cannot tell one from another. Life in Pimlico would be enough to drive any man to drink."

The quietest of talkers and very deaf, he might be talking to himself, not troubling whether you are listen-

ing to him, until he warms to it (usually about the alien enemy), and then epigrams and metaphors come ripping out as they do in his public speeches. He recounts stories of the proved deadliness of the un-interned Hun, and the quiet voice suddenly becomes deep and vibrant as he cries, "What you need here is a man to go through the country like the wrath of the Lord."

### His Greatest Work.

Mr. Hughes was born in Wales, and is 54. He came to London, was pupil teacher in Westminster, went to Australia in 1884; was handyman on a sheep station, plumber, gas-fitter, blacksmith, and law student. He entered the New South Wales Parliament in 1894, and when the States were federated, was elected to the Federal Parliament. In 1904 he became Minister for External Affairs in Australia's first Labor Ministry; in 1903 he was called to the Bar; he was Federal Attorney-General, and has been Prime Minister since 1915.

His greatest work has been the elimination of the Hun in Australia. His Enemy Shareholders Regulations made no distinction between naturalized and unnaturalized persons of enemy extraction. His Trading with the Enemy Act enabled the Australian Government to deal with enemy companies wherever registered. "Every rat hole has been stopped up," he says of it.