

Francis Gwynne TUDOR

Leader of the Opposition 17 February 1917 to 10 January 1922

- Frank Tudor became the 6th Leader of the Opposition when the Labor Party became the official Opposition in the Commonwealth Parliament following the Labor split over Conscription. Tudor had been elected as Labor leader in November 1916 but it was not until February that Labor was established as the Opposition party.
- Member of the Australian Labor Party 1901–22.
- Member of the House of Representatives for Yarra (VIC) 1901–22.
- Tudor's tenure as Leader of the Opposition ended on 10 January 1922 when he died of heart disease. He was succeeded by Matthew Charlton.



As Opposition Leader

- Strongly opposed the Hughes government's efforts to introduce conscription and was one of the leaders of the campaign for a 'no' vote at the conscription referendum of 1917.

Political life

- Elected to the Federal Division of Yarra 1901 and was re-elected five times. Served as an MP until his death.
- Labor Whip and Assistant Secretary 1901–04. Labor Party Secretary 1904–08.
- Minister for Trade and Customs 1908–09, 1910–13, 1914–16.

Personal life

- Born 29 January 1866 at Williamstown, Victoria. Died 10 January 1922 at Richmond, Victoria.
- Son of John Llewellyn Tudor, a Welsh-born ballastman (someone who loaded ballast into the empty holds of ships), and Ellen Charlotte Tudor, nee Burt.
- Educated at Richmond Central State School.
- After leaving school worked in a sawmill and a boot factory before becoming an apprentice hatmaker.
- Worked as a hatmaker in England and became Vice President of the London branch of the Felt Hatters Union. Upon his return to Australia he became President of the Victorian Felt Hatters Union. He later took a seat on the Trades Hall Council and was President by 1900.
- Married Alice Smale in 1894. Alice died less than a year later.
- Married Fanny Jane Mead 6 January 1897, at Richmond, Victoria.
- A deacon of the Congregational Church.



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Character

His high principles tempered by genuine liberalism, Tudor was very much in the mould of respectable artisan radicalism. A deeply kind man and a deacon of the Congregational Church, he deplored sectarianism...Despite the demands of a large family, his home was open to his constituents and their manifold vexations. A keen patron of local sport, whenever he was invited, he went. His street meetings (held by lamplight) to which people were summoned by an auctioneer's bell, remained part of Richmond's oral lore for over sixty years.

Janet McCalman, *Tudor, Francis Gwynne (Frank)*, Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 12, Melbourne University Press, 1990.

Did you know?

- Tudor remained a committed hat maker until his death. He preferred talking about hats to talking about politics. His dream was to manage the finest hat factory in the world.
- Tudor was a supporter of Home Rule for Ireland, despite opposition from many other Protestants.
- A lifelong non-drinker, Tudor nevertheless enjoyed attending picnics hosted by the Liquor Trade unions.

Sources

Makin, Norman, *Federal Labor Leaders*, Union Printing, Sydney, 1961.

Janet McCalman, 'Tudor, Francis Gwynne (Frank) (1866-1922)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 12, Melbourne University Press, 1990, pp 281-282.

Further reading

Faulkner, John and Macintyre, S. (eds), *True Believers: the story of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party*, Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2001.

McMullin, Ross, *The light on the hill: the Australian Labor Party, 1891-1991*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1991.



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