

Today in History

4 6 December >



1935 First Labour government takes office

The first Labour government assumed office as a result of its landslide victory in November's general election. Led initially by the charismatic Michael Joseph Savage, this government is best remembered for its landmark social welfare reforms.

One of the most significant aspects of this welfare policy was the 1938 Social Security Act, which some described as 'the greatest political achievement in the country's history'. The Act combined the introduction of a free-at-the-point-of-use health system with a comprehensive array of welfare benefits. It was financed by a tax surcharge of one shilling in the pound or 5%. The family benefit was extended to all mothers irrespective of the family's income, which increased the number of allowances overnight from 42,600 to 230,000. This policy, which was often described as looking after New Zealanders from the 'cradle to the grave', was a key factor in keeping Labou in power until 1949.

Image: Michael Joseph Savage in 1935

Internal links

The first state house - state housing in New Zealand Joseph Savage

Michael Joseph Savage

Michael

External links

Liberal to Labour (Te Ara) encyclopaedia) Labour (DNZB)

Fe Ara) — Social Security: scope of 1938 legislation (1966 Labour Party (1966 encyclopaedia) — Michael Joseph Say

)

Michael Joseph Savage biography

This Week in History



28 February 1945 Kiwi soldier faces Nazi firing

squad



1 March 1901 Skippers Bridge opened



2 March 1865 Missionary Carl Volkner killed at Opotiki



3 March 1960 Barry Crump's novel A good keen man published 500 Forming Reputs.
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4 March 1855 Legendary sheep rustler James Mackenzie caught



5 March 1830 Outbreak of the Girls' War at Kororareka

6 March 1947
Debut
performance of
NZ Symphony
Orchestra

Timeline Sec

Month Calendar

Today in Histor

What happ

See historic e day of the yea date below. WI birthday?

DD/I

Visit the

Kiwi of the



Sidney Holland

Holland became PM in 1949. A year later he abolished the Legislative Council, and in 1951, after winning the Waterfront Dispute, he increased his majority in a snap election.

more

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