

1907.  
(2ND SESSION.)

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 95.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 1907.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment. —Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Mr. Speaker presented—  
Finance 1906-7—The Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during the year ended 30th June, 1907, accompanied by the report of the Auditor-General.  
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
3. FORGED SIGNATURES TO PETITION—CROWN SOLICITOR'S OPINION *re* PROSECUTION. — Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of a letter from the Attorney-General's Department, which was read, and is as follows :—

Commonwealth of Australia.  
Attorney-General's Department,  
Melbourne, 11th December, 1907.

SIR,

Referring to your letter of the 16th ultimo (No. 1907/246) forwarding an extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives relating to certain alleged forged signatures to a petition from electors of the Hume Division, and your further communication forwarding the petition and correspondence in connexion therewith, I have the honour to inform you that all the papers have been submitted to the Crown Solicitor, who advises that in his opinion a prosecution for forgery would be unsuccessful.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
GORDON H. CASTLE,  
Acting Secretary.

The Clerk,  
House of Representatives.

4. CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL (1907).—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration of the Report from the Committee of the whole House on this Bill—Sir William Lyne moved, That the Report be now adopted.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.  
Sir William Lyne moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a third time.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a third time.
5. EXCISE PROCEDURE BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—  
Debate resumed.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.  
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.  
Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair ; Mr. McDonald reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and had agreed to the same without amendment.  
On the motion of Mr. Groom the House adopted the Report.  
Mr. Groom moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a third time.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a third time.

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6. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Groom moved, by leave, That leave of absence be granted to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of the last sitting of the House in the year 1907 to the date of its first sitting in the year 1908.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
7. ADJOURNMENT FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Wednesday, 11th March next, at three o'clock p.m.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
8. PAPER.—Mr. Deakin presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Antarctic Expedition under Lieutenant Shackleton—Letter from Professor David, of the Sydney University, requesting the Commonwealth to give financial assistance to the Expedition.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.  
Mr. Deakin moved, That the Paper be printed.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
9. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—OFFICERS' COMPENSATION BILL (1907).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker:—  
NORTHCOTE,  
*Governor-General.* *Message No. 22.*  
In accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide for Compensation to be paid on Retirement or on Decease of certain Officers of the Commonwealth.  
Ordered—That the foregoing Message be considered in Committee of the whole House forthwith.
10. OFFICERS' COMPENSATION BILL.—The House thereupon resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General's Message No. 22—  
Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. McDonald reported that the Committee had agreed to a certain resolution.  
Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.  
And thereupon the said resolution was read, and is as follows:—  
*Resolved*—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide for Compensation to be paid on Retirement or on Decease of certain Officers of the Commonwealth.  
And the said resolution was adopted by the House.  
Ordered—That Sir William Lyne and Mr. Chapman do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing resolution.  
Sir William Lyne then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to provide for Compensation to be paid on Retirement or on Decease of certain Officers of the Commonwealth,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time.  
Ordered, by leave—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for this day, and that the Bill be passed through its remaining stages this day.  
Sir William Lyne moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.  
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.  
Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. McDonald reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and had agreed to the same without amendment.  
On the motion of Sir William Lyne the House adopted the Report.  
Sir William Lyne moved, That the Bill be now read a third time.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a third time.
11. PAPER.—Sir William Lyne presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Proposed Commonwealth Expenditure—Statement by Treasurer of certain expenditure for Works and Buildings, not provided for on the Estimates, but urgently required.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.  
Sir William Lyne moved, That the Paper be printed.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
12. PAPERS.—Mr. Deakin presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Secret Drugs, Cures, and Foods—Recommendations made by Messrs. Liddell, M.P., Maloney, M.P., Salmon, M.P., and Wilson, M.P., in reference to omitting certain portions of Report by Royal Commission, together with a reply by the Commissioner.  
Ordered to lie on the Table and to be printed.  
Mr. Deakin also presented an amended copy of the Report of the Royal Commissioner, certain paragraphs having been struck out.  
Ordered to lie on the Table, to be printed, and to be substituted for the Report presented on 8th August last.

13. PAPER.—Mr. Deakin presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
 New Protection—Explanatory Memorandum in regard to.  
 Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
14. PAPERS.—Mr. Deakin presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
 Naval Defence of Australia—Correspondence in reference thereto, between the Commonwealth Government and the Admiralty.  
 Naval Defence—Opinions with regard to Submarines.  
 Defence—Mr. C. Napier Hake's investigations in England—Extracts from his Report.  
 Severally ordered to lie on the Table.  
 Mr. Deakin moved, That the Papers be printed.  
 Debate ensued.  
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
 Debate ensued.  
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
- And then the House, at twenty-one minutes past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, 11th March next at three o'clock p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Fairbairn, Sir John Forrest, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Fuller, Sir Philip Fysh, Mr. Hall, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hans Irvine, Mr. Kelly\*, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Liddell, Mr. Reid, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Watkins.

\* On leave.

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C. GAVAN DUFFY,  
 Clerk of the House of Representatives.