

1909.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT.

WEDNESDAY, 26TH MAY, 1909.

1. The House of Representatives met pursuant to Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor-General, bearing date the seventh day of April, 1909, which Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk, as follows :—

PROCLAMATION

Commonwealth of  
Australia  
to wit.  
DUDLEY,  
Governor-General.

By His Excellency the Right Honorable WILLIAM HUMBLE, Earl of Dudley, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act it is amongst other things enacted that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit, and also from time to time, by Proclamation or otherwise, prorogue the Parliament: AND WHEREAS on the fifth day of March, One thousand nine hundred and nine, the Parliament was prorogued until the fourteenth day of April, One thousand nine hundred and nine, and it is expedient to further prorogue the said Parliament: Now therefore I, William Humble, Earl of Dudley, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Act, do by this my Proclamation further prorogue the said Parliament until Wednesday, the twenty-sixth day of May, One thousand nine hundred and nine, and I do appoint the said Wednesday, the twenty-sixth day of May, One thousand nine hundred and nine, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of business. And all Members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives respectively are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, situate in Spring-street, in the City of Melbourne, at half-past Two in the afternoon, on the said Wednesday, the twenty-sixth day of May, One thousand nine hundred and nine.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid, this seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and nine, and in the ninth year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

(L.S.)

HUGH MAHON.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

F.5877.

26th May, 1909.

2. Mr. Speaker took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE SENATE.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

His Excellency the Governor-General desires the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency :—And having returned—

4. LAND TAX ASSESSMENT BILL.—Mr. Fisher moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to the Imposition, Assessment, and Collection of a Progressive Land Tax upon Unimproved Values.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Fisher then brought up a Bill intituled “ *A Bill for an Act relating to the Imposition, Assessment, and Collection of a Progressive Land Tax upon Unimproved Values,*” and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

5. PAPERS.—

Mr. Fisher presented, pursuant to Statute—

Audit Acts—

London Account Regulations—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 131.

Treasury Regulations Amended—Clause 96 (*f*) (Provisional).—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 134.

Transfers of Amounts approved by the Governor-General in Council—Financial Year 1908-9—

Dated 19th December, 1908.

Dated 8th January, 1909.

Dated 9th February, 1909.

Dated 5th March, 1909.

Dated 1st April, 1909.

Dated 23rd April, 1909.

Mr. Batchelor presented, pursuant to Statute—

Contract Immigrants Act—Return for 1908 respecting Contract Immigrants admitted or refused admission into the Commonwealth, &c.

Immigration Restriction Acts—

Return showing, for 1908—

(*a*) Persons refused admission to the Commonwealth.

(*b*) Persons who passed the dictation test.

(*c*) Persons admitted without being asked to pass the dictation test.

(*d*) Departures of coloured persons from the Commonwealth.

Naturalization Act—Return of number of persons to whom certificates of naturalization were granted during 1908.

Papua—

Ordinances of 1908—

No. 12.—Supplementary Appropriation 1908-9, No. 3.

No. 13.—Marine Board.

No. 14.—Pearl and Bêche-de-mer.

No. 15.—Wild Birds.

No. 16.—Timber.

No. 17.—Supplementary Appropriation 1907-8.

No. 18.—Supplementary Appropriation 1908-9, No. 4.

Ordinances of 1909—

No. 1.—Supplementary Appropriation 1908-9, No. 5.

No. 2.—Supplementary Appropriation 1908-9, No. 6.

Sago.

Land.

Mr. Mahon presented, pursuant to Statute—

Meteorology Act—Provisional Regulations *re* Sale of Publications—Statutory Rules 1909 No. 5.

Lands Acquisition Act—

Land acquired under at—

Coff's Harbor, New South Wales—For Postal purposes.

Enoggera, Queensland—For Defence purposes.

Kyamba, New South Wales—For Commonwealth purposes.

Newcastle, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.

Singleton, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.

Wentworth Falls, New South Wales—For Postal purposes.

Yass, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.

Land at Shark's Bay, Western Australia, leased to State Government.

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## Public Service Act—

List of Permanent Officers of the Commonwealth Public Service, 1st January, 1909.

Recommendations in cases of Appointments, in the Department of Home Affairs, of—

J. H. R. King, as Inspector of Rifle Ranges, T. Oxenham and R. S. Orr, as Clerks of Works—Public Works Branch.

D. W. Crawford, Draughtsman, Public Works Branch.

G. Lightfoot, Computer, Statistician's Office.

## Regulations Amended (Provisional)—

Nos. 138, 262, 145, 146—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 125.

No. 41—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 6.

Nos. 156, 257-61—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 44.

Nos. 209, 213—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 45.

## Regulations Amended—

Nos. 138, 262, 145, 146—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 26.

No. 41—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 50.

## Mr. Tudor presented, pursuant to Statute—

Bounties Act—Regulations Nos. 20-28 Amended (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 49.

Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulation 6 (2) (a) Amended (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 127.

## Customs Act—

Regulation No. 130 Amended (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 126.

Regulation No. 101 Amended—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 14.

Excise Act—Sugar Regulation No. 21 Amended (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 27.

## Manufactures Encouragement Act—Iron Bounty—

Provisional Regulations—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 15.

Provisional Regulation, No. 15.—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 48.

## Patents Acts—

Provisional Regulations—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 2.

Provisional Regulations Amended, Nos. 1, 32, &amp;c.—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 19.

## Public Service Act—

Recommendations in cases of Appointments, in the Department of Trade and Customs, of—

A. S. Higgs, as Assistant Examiner, Patents Branch.

P. C. Barnes, H. C. O. Willgerodt, C. E. McKenzie, B. T. Paton, H. R. Jupp, Analyst's Branch.

Sugar Bounty Act—Regulation No. 12A (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 43.

## Mr. Thomas presented, pursuant to Statute—

Public Service Act—Postmaster-General's Department—Recommendations in cases of—

Appointment of—

Durant, J. H., to Electrical Engineer's Branch, Victoria.

Promotion of—

Brent, T. G., as Senior Inspector, 1st Class, Melbourne.

Huffer, H. J., as Senior Inspector, 1st Class, Melbourne.

Howe, P., as Senior Clerk, 2nd Class, Central Staff.

Kayser, J. A. S., as Clerk, 3rd Class, Central Staff.

Vardon, J. C. T., as Chief Clerk, Central Staff.

Williams, F. C., as Accountant, 2nd Class, Brisbane.

Woodland, C., as Inspector, 3rd Class, Queensland.

## Post and Telegraph Act—

Regulations Amended, &amp;c.—

Postal—Packets ; Parcels Post—as to Posting ; Telephone—Nos. 55, 58—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 117.

Telegraphic—Shipping Intelligence ; General Postal—No. 17 ; Parcels Post—Redirection ; Telephone—No. 28—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 24.

Telephone—

No. 80—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 37.

No. 23—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 38.

Postal—Registration ; General Postal—Miscellaneous—Statutory Rules, 1909, No. 42.

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Mr. Hutchison presented, pursuant to Statute—

Defence Acts—

Provisional Regulations—

Landing of Sailors and Soldiers from Foreign Men-of-War, &amp;c.—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 31.

Military Cadet Corps—Regulations Amended, Nos. R. 1—R. 14—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 34.

Military Forces—

Regulations Amended—

Nos. 516, 526—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 128.

No. 11—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 129.

Nos. 6, 57, 165, 609-614—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 7.

No. 185—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 8.

Nos. 564, 567, 569, 575—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 9.

No. 33—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 16.

No. 141—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 17.

Nos. 2, 3, 4—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 22.

No. 68—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 23.

Nos. 179, 180, 191—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 25.

No. 110A—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 40.

Substitution of "Chief of the General Staff" and "Quartermaster-General"—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 4.

Regulation 110A Added, and Financial and Allowance Regulation No. 98 Amended—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 35.

Financial and Allowance Regulations Amended—

No. 143—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 10.

No. 143—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 12.

No. 64—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 33.

Substitution of "Chief of the General Staff"—Statutory Rules 1909 No. 3.

Naval Cadet Corps—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 28.

Naval Forces—

Regulations Amended—

Nos. 55, 64—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 13.

No. 148—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 46.

Financial and Allowance Regulations Amended—

No. 51—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 130.

No. 49—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 39.

The following Paper was laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—

Papuan Lands Privately Held—Return to an Order of the House, dated 11th December, 1908

6. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had this day attended His Excellency the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which read as follows :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

1. I have called you together after a recess of somewhat shorter duration than usual to resume your legislative duties, in order to facilitate the passage of the many important and urgent measures which will be submitted for your consideration.

2. As it seemed desirable, both to myself and to My Advisers, that I should, especially during the early part of my term of office, have an opportunity of acquiring as much knowledge as possible of each State of the Commonwealth, arrangements were made, with the generous co-operation of the South Australian Government, which enabled Lady Dudley and myself to reside for two months in that State. Facilities have been afforded me of paying a similar visit to Queensland in the near future, and I hope that opportunities may arise which will enable me to reside for a time in Tasmania and Western Australia also.

3. The news of an earthquake in Calabria and Sicily, which caused an appalling loss of human life, injury, and distress, awakened the sympathies of the human race throughout the world. My Advisers expressed to the Government and people of Italy the profound sympathy of the Government and people of the Commonwealth with them in their distress, and also sent a contribution to the Fund for the relief of the sufferers. Both were gratefully acknowledged by the Italian Government.

4. The revenue received from duties of Customs and Excise has been less during the year than was anticipated when the Budget was delivered on 14th October last. The estimated revenue from Post and Telegraphs is not likely to be fully realized.

5. Notwithstanding these decreases in revenue, by careful economy in administration, a larger sum than the amount estimated has been placed to the Trust Fund to pay Old-age Pensions. Arrangements have been made to pay these pensions from 1st July this year.

6. The large financial obligations which must necessarily be incurred in the near future demand most careful attention.

7. You will be invited to consider the financial relations of the Commonwealth and the States, with the view of equitably adjusting them.

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8. Proposals will be submitted to you for a Commonwealth silver and paper currency.
9. The important question of the Defence of the Commonwealth as an integral part of the British Empire has received close attention.
10. Recent events have shown the necessity for the Empire to develop new centres of strength, and with this end in view My Advisers some time ago cabled to the British Government suggesting the advisability of a Conference of the self-governing Dominions of the Empire with the Government of the United Kingdom on the question of Naval Defence. A similar suggestion having been made by the Dominion of Canada, the British Government has now convened an Imperial Naval and Military Defence Conference, and has invited the Commonwealth to send representatives. The invitation has been accepted, and the Minister of Defence has been appointed as the representative of the Commonwealth. He will be accompanied by naval and military experts.
11. The scheme for the establishment of an Imperial General Staff for the Empire has been approved, subject to effective local control being retained, and military representatives to that staff have been appointed.
12. As a contribution towards Imperial Naval Defence, and for the more effective Coastal Defence of Australia, engagements have been entered into for the building of three modern torpedo boat destroyers, and you will be asked to approve of a policy of naval construction for the building in Australia of similar vessels, as well as for training of crews to man them.
13. It is hoped that by the establishment of the nucleus of an Australian Navy, acting in conjunction with the ships of the Imperial Squadron, the Australian people may be encouraged to develop those maritime instincts which will be the best guarantee of effective assistance in maintaining the sea-power of the Empire and the safety of the Commonwealth.
14. In relation to the general question of naval and military defence, a measure providing for an effective Citizens' Defence Force will be introduced at an early stage.
15. My Advisers recognise that the effective defence of Australia requires a vast increase of the population, and that a comprehensive policy of immigration is urgently called for; but that this is impossible without increasing the facilities for the settlement of a large population on the land. Deeming this matter to be one of extreme urgency, it is proposed to bring forward at the earliest possible date a measure providing for the progressive taxation of unimproved land values, which, while providing revenue, will, it is anticipated, lead to the subdivision of large estates and cause extensive areas to be thrown open to settlement, and so offer to immigrants those inducements which are necessary to attract them in large numbers.
16. In this connexion the development of the Northern Territory is considered to be of the first importance, and the Agreement will be submitted to Parliament, with a view to an early settlement.
17. Proposals will be submitted to you for the amendment of the Constitution to enable Parliament to protect the interests of the consumer and insure a fair and reasonable wage to every worker in the Commonwealth. In protected and unprotected industries this will be secured through such extension of the industrial powers of the Parliament as may be necessary. It is proposed also to extend the jurisdiction of Parliament with regard to trusts and combinations in restraint of trade, and to provide for the nationalization of monopolies.
18. Following upon the Seat of Government Act passed last Session, and the selection of the Yass-Canberra District as the site of the Federal Capital, surveys and negotiations are proceeding, and it is confidently expected that final arrangements for the acquisition of the Federal Territory will shortly be completed.
19. A measure providing for the appointment of a High Commissioner, urgent on many grounds, will be submitted for your consideration.
20. The survey of a route for the proposed railway from Port Augusta to Kalgoorlie is rapidly approaching completion. The field work, both in South Australia and in Western Australia, having been finished, the final report, with plans and estimates, will shortly be ready for submission to Parliament.
21. Consideration of the Navigation Bill and the Seamen's Compensation Bill will be resumed at the stages which they had reached last Session.
22. It is also proposed to take up the Bills relating to Bills of Exchange and Marine Insurance which were before you last Session.
23. The Quarantine Act passed in 1908 has been proclaimed, and an appointment of a Director of Quarantine made.
24. The telephone rates have been recast and placed on an equitable and business-like basis.
25. The mail service from Australia to Vancouver has been renewed for one year on the existing terms and conditions.
26. During the recess the Minister for External Affairs visited Papua. The work of developing the valuable resources of the Territory is proceeding satisfactorily. Owing to the uncertainty of the exact location of the boundary between Papua and German New Guinea, it has become necessary for the frontier to be definitely determined, and a joint Commission is now at work on that task.
27. Consideration is being given to improving our trade relations with Canada and other self-governing parts of the Empire. A Bill to modify certain Customs Duties in favour of Papua will be placed before you.
28. The question of the encouragement of white labour in the Pearl-Fishing Industry is receiving attention.
29. The Royal Commissions of Inquiry into the Postal Service, the Harvester Industry, and Insurance, are continuing their investigations, and their reports are expected at an early date.

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30. At the instance of My Advisers, the Imperial Government has been requested to convene a Customs Convention for the purpose of international co-operation with a view to the protection of Customs Revenue.

31. Measures will be introduced dealing with Norfolk Island; to amend the Old-age Pensions Act, the Electoral Act, the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act, Immigration Restriction Act, and the Public Service Act.

32. I leave you now to your important duties, and earnestly hope that, under Divine guidance, your deliberations may promote the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

7. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Fisher moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Roberts, Mr. Hall, Mr. Catts, and Mr. Frazer be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Committee do report this day.

Mr. Roberts then brought up the Address in Reply prepared by the Committee, and the same was read as follows:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Mr. Roberts moved, That the Address be agreed to by the House.

Mr. Hall seconded the motion.

Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

8. DAYS OF BUSINESS.—Mr. Fisher moved, by leave, That, until otherwise ordered, this House shall meet for the despatch of business at Three o'clock on each Tuesday afternoon, and at half-past Two o'clock on each Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, and at half-past Ten o'clock on each Friday morning.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at twenty-eight minutes past five o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Chapman, Sir Philip Fysh, Mr. Knox, Mr. Dugald Thomson, and Mr. Watson.

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