

1914-15-16.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 120.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH NOVEMBER, 1916.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., according to the terms of the Resolution of 29th September last.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. FORMATION OF NEW MINISTRY.—Mr. Hughes informed the House that His Excellency the Governor-General, having accepted the resignation of the late Government, had commissioned him to form a new Administration, and that he had formed it as follows :—
 The Right Honorable William Morris Hughes, to be Prime Minister and Attorney-General ;
 Senator the Honorable George Foster Pearce, to be Minister of State for Defence ;
 The Honorable Jens August Jensen, to be Minister of State for the Navy ;
 The Honorable William Webster, to be Postmaster-General ;
 The Honorable Alexander Poynton, to be Treasurer ;
 The Honorable William Oliver Archibald, to be Minister of State for Trade and Customs ;
 The Honorable Frederick William Bamford, to be Minister of State for Home Affairs ;
 Senator the Honorable Patrick Joseph Lynch, to be Minister of State for Works and Railways ;
 The Honorable William Guthrie Spence, to be Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council.
 Senator the Honorable Edward John Russell and the Honorable William Henry Laird Smith, to be Assistant Ministers.
3. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

R. M. FERGUSON,

*Governor-General.**Message No. 173.*

The following Bills intituled :—

The *Solicitor-General Act* 1916,
 The *Estate Duty Assessment Act* 1916,
 The *Supply Act (Works and Buildings) (No. 2)* 1916-17,
 The *Income Tax Assessment Act* 1916,
 The *Invalid and Old-Age Pensions Act* 1916,
 The *Land Tax Assessment Act* 1916,

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Acts.

Government House,
 Melbourne, 30th September, 1916.

29th November, 1916.

4. PAPER [MINISTERIAL STATEMENT].—Mr. Hughes presented—

Statement by the Prime Minister of the Government policy—
and moved, That the Paper be printed.

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

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.

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

5. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—SUPPLY BILL (No. 3) 1916-17 AND SUPPLY (WORKS AND BUILDINGS) BILL (No. 3) 1916-17.—The following Messages from the Governor-General were presented, and the same were read by Mr. Speaker :—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 174.

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six 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 grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

Melbourne, 25th November, 1916.

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 175.

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six 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 grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and seventeen for the purposes of Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c.

Melbourne, 25th November, 1916.

Question proposed—That the foregoing Messages be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Mr. Tudor moved an amendment, That after the first word "That" the following words be inserted :—
"the Prime Minister (the Honorable W. M. Hughes) no longer possesses the confidence of this House, for the following reasons :—

1. That the Prime Minister secretly prepared regulations for the purpose of intimidating intending voters at the polling booths on the 28th of October (Referendum Day).

2. That though the said regulations were rejected at a duly constituted Executive Council Meeting held at Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 25th of October, and attended by Senator the Honorable Albert Gardiner (Vice-President of the Executive Council), the Honorable J. A. Jensen (Minister for the Navy), the Honorable W. G. Higgs (Treasurer), and Senator the Honorable E. J. Russell (Assistant Minister), the Prime Minister persisted in his reprehensible endeavour to tack on to the Referendum an unnecessary and irritating procedure designed to add penalties for military offences already provided for in the Commonwealth Defence Act.

3. That the Prime Minister succeeded in getting the objectionable regulations passed on Friday, the 27th of October, at an Executive Council Meeting, held at Sydney, and attended by His Excellency the Governor-General, the Honorable J. A. Jensen, and himself, although the said regulations had been rejected at an Executive Council Meeting held two days before.

4. That the Prime Minister then issued the said regulations, and ordered the Chief Electoral Officer (Mr. Oldham) to give effect to them.

5. That the regulations were withdrawn only after Senator Gardiner, Mr. Higgs, and Senator Russell resigned from the Ministry.

6. That though the Prime Minister issued the discreditable regulations above referred to on the morning of Friday, the 27th of October, he attempted to and did deceive a large section of the public of Australia by stating in the newspaper Press on Saturday, the 28th of October, that 'no such regulations had been issued.'

7. That the foregoing resolutions be communicated to His Excellency the Governor-General."

Mr. Jensen moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.

29th November, 1916.

The House divided—

Ayes, 46.

Noes, 21.

Mr. Archibald	Mr. Manifold
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Orchard
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Patten
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Pigott
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Corser	Mr. Salmon
Mr. Dankel	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Sinclair
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Spence
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Stumm
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Groom	Mr. John Thomson
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Watt
Sir William Irvine	Mr. Webster
Mr. Jensen	Mr. Wise
Mr. W. Elliot Johnson	
Mr. Kelly	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Livingston	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Lynch	Mr. Greene

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Burns	Mr. O'Malley
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Riley
Mr. Fenton,	Mr. Sharpe
Mr. Finlayson,	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Hampson	Mr. West
Mr. Hannan	
Mr. Higgs	
Mr. Mahon	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Page
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Watkins

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

6. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:—

Ireland—Headings of a settlement as to the Government of.—(Paper presented to the British Parliament.)

Railway Workshops at Port Augusta or Quorn—Establishment of—Reports by the Engineer-in-Chief and the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Commonwealth Railways, with reference to the Reports by Mr. A. E. Smith and Mr. A. Combes.

The War—

British Transit Mail to Russia—Correspondence with the Swedish Minister on the subject of the Detention by the Swedish Government of the—as a Reprisal for the Search of Parcels Mail by His Majesty's Government.—(Paper presented to the British Parliament.)

Greek Government—Collective Note addressed to the—by the French, British, and Russian Ministers, and the Reply of the Greek Government.—(Paper presented to the British Parliament.)

Poland and Serbia—Importation of Foodstuffs into—Further correspondence with the United States Embassy regarding proposals for the.

Prisoners of War—Correspondence with His Majesty's Minister at Berne respecting the Question of Reprisals against.—(Paper presented to the British Parliament.)

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—

(1) Copy of an Order dated the 28th day of September, 1916, further varying the Award dated the 8th day of April, 1915, as varied by the Order of the Court dated the 25th day of October, 1915, which has been made by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on a plaint submitted by the Australian Letter Carriers' Association.

(2) Statement of the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth with which, in the opinion of the Deputy President of the Court, the Order is not or may not be in accord.

(3) Remarks of the Deputy President on making the Order varying the Award.

Audit Act—

Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 233.

Customs Act—

Proclamation prohibiting the Exportation (except under certain conditions) of Cinematograph Films to Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

Regulation Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 266.

Defence Act—

Proclamation calling up persons liable for service in Citizen Forces.

Regulations Amended, &c.—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 235, 238, 246, 249, 251, 258, 268.

Defence Act and War Precautions Act—War Service Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 240, 253, 269, 285.

29th November, 1916.

PAPERS—*continued*.

Electoral Act and Referendum (Constitution Alteration) Act—

Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 227.

Excise Act—Regulation Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 259.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at—

Dubbo, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.

Enoggera (2), Queensland—For Defence purposes.

Fremantle, Western Australia—For Defence purposes.

Launceston, Tasmania—For Defence purposes.

Waverley, New South Wales—For Postal purposes.

Lighthouses Act—Regulation Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 277.

Military Service Referendum Act—Regulations Amended, &c.—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 239, 260, 261, 262.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 223.

Papua—

Ordinances of 1916—

No. 5.—Supplementary Appropriation, 1915–1916, No. 3.

No. 17.—Appropriation, 1916–1917.

Post and Telegraph Act—

Regulations Amended, &c.—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 211, 228, 229, 230, 231, 244, 245, 274, 275, 276.

Public Service Act—

Appointments, Promotions, &c.—

Department of the Treasury—

G. A. W. Cox.

Department of Trade and Customs—

C. H. Green.

W. H. Lovegrove.

J. McMurray.

Prime Minister's Department—

S. P. Semmens.

Postmaster-General's Department—

H. J. Brown.

J. T. Byrnes.

S. Coulton.

J. Horsley.

E. A. Jones.

R. S. Lamont.

J. McCaul.

A. N. Muir.

E. A. Rinaldi, and G. W. Brown.

Regulations Amended, &c.—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 210, 241, 242, 264, 265, 287, 297.

War Precautions Act—Regulations Amended, &c.—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 232, 234, 236, 237, 247, 248, 256, 257, 280, 281, 282, 286, 290.

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—General Abbott*, Mr. Catts, Mr. McGrath*, Mr. Ozanne*, General Ryrie*, and Mr. Yates.

* On leave.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.