

1929.
(SECOND SESSION.)

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1929.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday, the twentieth day of November, in the twentieth year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Fifth, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

1. On which day, being the first day of the meeting of the Parliament for the dispatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation (hereinafter set forth), Ernest William Parkes, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Frank Clifton Green, M.C., Clerk Assistant, Albert Allan Tregear, Second Clerk Assistant, and Sydney Friedrich Chubb, Serjeant-at-Arms, attending in the House according to their duty, the said Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk :—

PROCLAMATION.

Commonwealth of
Australia to wit.
STONEHAVEN
Governor-General.

By His Excellency the Right Honorable John Lawrence, Baron Stonehaven, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over 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 :

NOW THEREFORE I, John Lawrence, Baron Stonehaven, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Act, do by this my Proclamation appoint Wednesday, the twentieth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs. And all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock a.m., on the said Wednesday, the twentieth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid this thirty-first (L.S.) day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine, and in the twentieth year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,
J. H. SCULLIN.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

20th November, 1929.

2. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY'S DEPUTIES BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

The Deputies of His Excellency the Governor-General for the opening of Parliament request the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly the Members of the House of Representatives went to the Senate Chamber, where the Senior Deputy addressed the Members of both Houses as follows :—

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

His Excellency the Governor-General not thinking fit to be present in person at this time has been pleased to cause Letters Patent to issue under the Great Seal of the Commonwealth constituting us his Deputies to do in his name all that is necessary to be performed in declaring this Parliament open, as will more fully appear from the Letters Patent which will now be read.

The Commission was read as follows :—

His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN LAWRENCE, BARON STONEHAVEN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :

To The Right Honorable Sir Adrian Knox, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia ;

and

The Right Honorable Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

GREETING :

WHEREAS by Letters Patent, dated the twenty-ninth day of October, One thousand nine hundred passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting the Office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the said Commonwealth, Her Late Majesty, Queen Victoria, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon Her by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was pleased to authorize and empower the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, subject to any limitations expressed or directions given by Her, to appoint any person or persons, jointly or severally, to be his Deputy or Deputies within any part of the Commonwealth, and in that capacity to exercise, during his pleasure, such of his powers and functions as he might deem it necessary to assign to him or them : Provided always that the appointment of such Deputy or Deputies should not affect the exercise by the Governor-General himself of any power or function :

AND WHEREAS by Proclamation dated the thirty-first day of October, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the first day of November, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine, the twentieth day of November One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine was appointed as the day for the Parliament of the Commonwealth to assemble and be holden for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs ; and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives were thereby required to give their attendance accordingly in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at the hour of Ten-thirty o'clock a.m. on the day and date aforesaid :

Now KNOW YOU that in pursuance of the powers and authority vested in me by the Constitution and the said Letters Patent, I, JOHN LAWRENCE, BARON STONEHAVEN, the Governor-General aforesaid, do hereby appoint you to be my Deputies for the purpose of declaring open the said Parliament at the time and place aforesaid.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this
(L.S.) fifteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine, and in the twentieth year of His Majesty's reign.

STONEHAVEN,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. H. SCULLIN,
Prime Minister.

The Senior Deputy then said :—

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

We have it in command from the Governor-General to let you know that as soon as the Members of the House of Representatives shall have been sworn, the causes of His Excellency calling this Parliament will be declared by him in person at this place ; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be first chosen, you, Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, will retire to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the choice of some proper person to be your Speaker ; and thereafter you will present the person whom you shall so choose to His Excellency, at such time and place as he shall appoint.

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Sir Isaac Isaacs will attend in the House of Representatives for the purpose of administering the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to Honorable Members of that House.

And thereupon the Members of the House returned to their own Chamber, and, after an interval of some minutes—

3. COMMISSIONER TO ADMINISTER THE OATH TO MEMBERS.—The Right Honorable Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Justice of the High Court of Australia, having been ushered into the Chamber and conducted by the Serjeant-at-Arms to the Chair, handed to the Clerk at the Table a Commission, which was read and is as follows :—

His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN LAWRENCE, BARON STONEHAVEN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Governor-General and Commander-in Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :

To the Right Honorable Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Greeting :

WHEREAS by the forty-second section of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is enacted that every Senator and every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him; an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution :

NOW THEREFORE I, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these presents command and authorize you to attend at Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday, the twentieth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine, at the hour of Ten-thirty o'clock a.m., there and then to administer the Oath or Affirmation to such Members of the House of Representatives as are present.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this fifteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

(L.S.) STONEHAVEN,

Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. H. SCULLIN,
Prime Minister.

4. RETURNS TO WRITS FOR GENERAL ELECTION.—The Clerk laid on the Table returns to the 75 Writs for the General Election of the House of Representatives held on 12th October, 1929, and the return to the Writ for the election of a Member for the Northern Territory, which he had received from the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General.

By the said Returns it appeared that for the several Electoral Divisions the following gentlemen had been elected, as shown hereunder :—

Division.	State.	Name.
Adelaide ..	South Australia ..	George Edwin Yates.
Angas ..	South Australia ..	Joel Moses Gabb.
Balaclava ..	Victoria ..	Thomas Walter White.
Ballaarat ..	Victoria ..	David Charles McGrath.
Barker ..	South Australia ..	Malcolm Duncan Cameron.
Barton ..	New South Wales ..	James Thomas Tully.
Bass ..	Tasmania ..	James Allan Guy.
Batman ..	Victoria ..	Frank Brennan.
Bendigo ..	Victoria ..	Richard Valentine Keane.
Boothby ..	South Australia ..	John Lloyd Price.
Bourke ..	Victoria ..	Frank Anstey.
Brisbane ..	Queensland ..	Donald Charles Cameron.
Calare ..	New South Wales ..	George Albert Gibbons.
Capricornia ..	Queensland ..	Francis Michael Forde.
Cook ..	New South Wales ..	Edward Charles Riley.
Corangamite ..	Victoria ..	Richard Armstrong Crouch.
Corio ..	Victoria ..	Arthur Lewis.
Cowper ..	New South Wales ..	Earle Christmas Grafton Page.
Dalley ..	New South Wales ..	Edward Granville Theodore.
Darling ..	New South Wales ..	Arthur Blakeley.
Darling Downs ..	Queensland ..	Arthur Clinton Morgan.
Darwin ..	Tasmania ..	George John Bell.
Denison ..	Tasmania ..	Charles Ernest Culley.
East Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	John Edward West.
Echuca ..	Victoria ..	William Caldwell Hill.
Eden-Monaro ..	New South Wales ..	John Joseph Cusack.
Fawkner ..	Victoria ..	George Arnot Maxwell.
Flinders ..	Victoria ..	Edward James Holloway.
Forrest ..	Western Australia ..	John Henry Prowse.
Franklin ..	Tasmania ..	William James McWilliams.
Fremantle ..	Western Australia ..	John Curtin.

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Division.	State.	Name.
Gippsland ..	Victoria ..	Thomas Paterson.
Grey ..	South Australia ..	Andrew William Lacey.
Gwydir ..	New South Wales ..	Lucien Lawrence Cunningham.
Henty ..	Victoria ..	Henry Somer Gullett.
Herbert ..	Queensland ..	George William Martens.
Hindmarsh ..	South Australia ..	Norman John Oswald Makin.
Hume ..	New South Wales ..	Parker John Moloney.
Hunter ..	New South Wales ..	Rowland James.
Indi ..	Victoria ..	Paul Jones.
Kalgoorlie ..	Western Australia ..	Albert Ernest Green.
Kennedy ..	Queensland ..	David Riordan.
Kooyong ..	Victoria ..	John Greig Latham.
Lang ..	New South Wales ..	William John Long.
Lilley ..	Queensland ..	George Hugh Mackay.
Macquarie ..	New South Wales ..	Joseph Benedict Chifley.
Maranoa ..	Queensland ..	James Aitchison Johnston Hunter.
Maribyrnong ..	Victoria ..	James Edward Fenton.
Martin ..	New South Wales ..	John Chambers Eldridge.
Melbourne ..	Victoria ..	William Robert Nuttall Maloney.
Melbourne Ports ..	Victoria ..	James Mathews.
Moreton ..	Queensland ..	Josiah Francis.
Newcastle ..	New South Wales ..	David Watkins.
New England ..	New South Wales ..	Victor Charles Thompson.
North Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	William Morris Hughes.
Northern Territory	—	Harold George Nelson.
Oxley ..	Queensland ..	James Garfield Bayley.
Parkes ..	New South Wales ..	Edward Aloysius McTiernan.
Parramatta ..	New South Wales ..	Albert Edward Rowe.
Perth ..	Western Australia ..	Walter Maxwell Nairn.
Reid ..	New South Wales ..	Percy Edmund Coleman.
Richmond ..	New South Wales ..	Roland Frederick Herbert Green.
Riverina ..	New South Wales ..	William Wilson Killen.
Robertson ..	New South Wales ..	Sydney Lane Gardner.
South Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	Edward Riley.
Swan ..	Western Australia ..	Henry Gregory.
Wakefield ..	South Australia ..	Charles Allan Seymour Hawker.
Wannon ..	Victoria ..	John McNeill.
Warringah ..	New South Wales ..	Robert Archdale Parkhill.
Wentworth ..	New South Wales ..	Walter Moffitt Marks.
Werriwa ..	New South Wales ..	Hubert Peter Lazzarini.
West Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	John Albert Beasley.
Wide Bay ..	Queensland ..	Bernard Henry Corser.
Wilmot ..	Tasmania ..	Joseph Aloysius Lyons.
Wimmera ..	Victoria ..	Percy Gerald Stewart.
Yarra ..	Victoria ..	James Henry Scullin.

5. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Members whose names are above set forth made and subscribed the Oath required by law, except Mr. McWilliams (deceased), Mr. Hughes, Mr. Killen and Mr. White (who were not then present), and Mr. Holloway and Mr. Lewis, who made and subscribed an Affirmation according to law.

The Commissioner retired.

6. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—Mr. Edward Riley, addressing himself to the Clerk (who, standing up, pointed to him, and then sat down), proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr. Norman John Oswald Makin, and moved, That he do take the Chair of the House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr. Curtin.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Makin submitted himself to the House.

The House then unanimously called Mr. Makin to the Chair, he was taken out of his place by Mr. Edward Riley and Mr. Curtin, and conducted to the Chair, where, standing on the upper step, he returned his humble acknowledgments to the House for the great honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon he sat down in the Chair.

Then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Then Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister), Mr. Latham and Mr. Earle Page congratulated Mr. Speaker, who expressed his thanks.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) stated that he had already ascertained that it would be His Excellency's pleasure to receive the Speaker in the Library of the Parliament that day at fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.

And the sitting of the House having been suspended until fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.—

Mr. Speaker, after resuming the Chair, went with the Members of the House to attend His Excellency; and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported that the House had proceeded to the Library of the Parliament, and that he had presented himself to His Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives, and that His Excellency had been kind enough to congratulate him upon his election.

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8. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

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—

9. COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following Commission :—

His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN LAWRENCE, BARON STONEHAVEN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :

To the Honorable Norman John Oswald Makin, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Greeting :

WHEREAS by the forty-second section of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution :

NOW THEREFORE I, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these presents command and authorize you from time to time in the Parliament House of the Commonwealth at Canberra, to administer the said Oath or Affirmation to such Members of the House of Representatives as have not already taken and subscribed the same since their election to the said House of Representatives.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia this twentieth day of November, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

(L.S.) STONEHAVEN,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. H. SCULLIN,
Prime Minister.

10. MEMBER SWORN.—The Right Honorable William Morris Hughes made and subscribed the Oath required by law.
11. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—FORMATION OF NEW MINISTRY.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) announced to the House that, consequent on the resignation of the Right Honorable Stanley Melbourne Bruce, C.H., M.C., as Prime Minister, His Excellency the Governor-General, had commissioned him (Mr. Scullin) to form a Ministry. The Ministry, which was sworn in on the 22nd October, 1929, is as follows :—
- The Honorable James Henry Scullin, M.P., to be Prime Minister, Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Industry.
- The Honorable Edward Granville Theodore, M.P., to be Treasurer.
- Senator the Honorable John Joseph Daley, to be Vice-President of the Executive Council.
- The Honorable Frank Brennan, M.P., to be Attorney-General.
- The Honorable Joseph Aloysius Lyons, M.P., to be Postmaster-General and Minister of State for Works and Railways.
- The Honorable James Edward Fenton, M.P., to be Minister of State for Trade and Customs.
- The Honorable Arthur Blakeley, M.P., to be Minister of State for Home Affairs.
- The Honorable Frank Anstey, M.P., to be Minister of State for Health and Minister of State for Repatriation.
- The Honorable Albert Ernest Green, M.P., to be Minister of State for Defence.
- The Honorable Parker John Moloney, M.P., to be Minister of State for Markets and Transport.
- Senator the Honorable John Barnes, to be Honorary Minister.
- The Honorable Francis Michael Forde, M.P., to be Honorary Minister.
- The Honorable John Albert Beasley, M.P., to be Honorary Minister.
12. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Latham informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Opposition, and that Mr. Gullett had been appointed Deputy Leader.
13. LEADER OF THE COUNTRY PARTY.—Mr. Earle Page informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Country Party, and that Mr. Thomas Paterson had been appointed Deputy Leader.
14. ACTS INTERPRETATION BILL (No. 2) (1929).—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1918*.
- Question—put and passed.
- Mr. Scullin then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
- Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
- Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

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15. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had that 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 :

You are called together to deliberate upon matters of urgent importance to the well-being of the Commonwealth.

My Advisers, in the knowledge that they have received at the recent General Election for the House of Representatives a mandate from the people to maintain the Federal principle in industrial legislation, will submit to you early next year a Measure designed to improve the working of the Federal Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

Impressed with the desirability of seeking the opinion of those who have had practical experience in the working of industrial legislation, my Advisers have extended invitations to representatives of employers and employees in industry to meet in conference for the purpose of exchanging views, and of suggesting improvements whereby more cordial relations among the parties to industry may be facilitated.

My Ministers have been greatly concerned over the long-drawn out dispute in the coal-mining industry on the northern field of New South Wales. Deeply conscious of the suffering that has followed on the closing of the mines over so long a period, they have devoted themselves most earnestly to the problem of bringing the parties together again in order that the hardships and distress of the miners and their dependants may be ended as soon as possible, and that the Commonwealth may no longer have to bear the economic loss consequent upon a protracted stoppage of work in one of the nation's most important industries. My Ministers, therefore, arranged for the summoning of a compulsory conference of the parties under the provisions of the Industrial Peace Act of 1920. As the Conference has not met with the success that was hoped for, every avenue will be explored, and my Advisers' most earnest efforts will be continued, in an endeavour to bring the trouble to a satisfactory and early solution.

A communication has been forwarded to His Majesty's Government in Great Britain setting out the facts regarding the serious state of unemployment in the Commonwealth and suggesting the suspension of the assisted passage clauses of the £34,000,000 Migration Agreement between His Majesty's Government in Great Britain and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia. Upon receipt of a reply setting out fully the views of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain my Ministers propose to consult with the Governments of the States on the whole question of assisted migration.

The industrial conditions have impelled my Ministers to further restrict the admission of foreign immigrants to the Commonwealth.

My Ministers propose to co-ordinate the functions of the Development and Migration Commission, which was established in accordance with the Development and Migration Act of 1926, with those of the Commonwealth Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; and this work will be brought under the direct control of the Department of the Prime Minister.

My Ministers do not contemplate the creation of a Bureau of Economic Research as provided for in the Economic Research Act, to which I gave my assent on 22nd March last. In view of the present financial position, it is the desire of my Ministers to avoid, as far as possible, the creation of new Departments of a semi-governmental character. By curtailing expenditure of this kind, more money will be available for developmental work.

It has been the usual practice for a newly-elected Ministry to meet Parliament and ask for an adjournment in order that its legislative programme may be prepared. On this occasion, however, my Ministers are faced with the necessity of bringing before you immediately revised Estimates for the financial year and certain urgent Measures for the purpose of meeting the Commonwealth's financial obligations. A Loan Bill will be submitted to you giving authority for the raising and spending of loan moneys for the carrying out of public works. A measure to amend the rates of taxation imposed on incomes in the Commonwealth will also be placed before you at an early date.

A Bill to make better provision for the control of gold reserves in the Commonwealth will be submitted to you.

A Bill authorizing special grants to the States of South Australia and Tasmania will be submitted for your consideration.

The Grafton-South Brisbane Railway Act of 1924 appropriated £3,500,000 to carry out the agreement for the construction of the Railway. In an amending Act of 1926, this amount was increased to £4,000,000. Owing to altered industrial conditions, and other unforeseen expenditure, a further sum of £350,000 will be required to complete this work. A Bill authorizing the additional expenditure that is necessary will be submitted.

The revised schedule of Customs and Excise duties, which was laid on the table of the House of Representatives on August 22nd of this year, will expire automatically on December 20th next. You will shortly be asked to consider a further revision of the tariff schedule.

Owing to reduction in the price of wool, the prospects of an unfavorable wheat harvest and other causes, the Commonwealth is faced with a difficult period. These causes, important as they are in our economic life, are, however, seasonal in character. There is no reason to believe that a continuance of these conditions is likely, and there should be a return to normal prosperity in the coming year. In the meantime, the public revenues of the Commonwealth are being adversely affected.

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In accordance with the statement of policy enunciated to the people at the recent elections, my Ministers decided to suspend compulsory military training. A general review of the present provisions for the defence of the Commonwealth has become necessary and consultations between my Ministers and officers of the Naval, Military and Air Forces, comprising the Council of Defence, have taken place.

The Council of Defence unanimously agreed to the maintenance of the same army organization as has existed hitherto as a nucleus. The number of men necessary will be raised by voluntary enlistment, such a system being already provided for under the Defence Act. The question of maintaining a separate organization for the Air Force, having been brought under the notice of my Ministers by Officers of the Defence Department, the Defence Committee was instructed to investigate and report to the Council of Defence. No decision was arrived at by the Council, the matter being postponed pending a comprehensive review of the position of the Air Force. My Ministers have, however, asked for a report on the possibilities of co-ordinating the work of the Air Force with that of Civil Aviation.

My Advisers, having warmly supported previous movements to bring about limitation of armaments as a step towards international peace, welcome the invitation to be represented at the Five Power Naval Conference to be opened in London in January. They will appoint a representative to attend on behalf of Australia, in the fervent hope that the further efforts that will be made to remove some of the obstacles that now impede limitation of armaments, will meet with success.

My Ministers look forward to the Imperial and Economic Conferences to be held next year with the sincere hope that they will be able to co-operate with His Majesty's Government in Britain to the lasting benefit of the Commonwealth of Australia and of the other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Shortly after the Christmas recess, which necessarily will impose a break in the work of the Parliamentary session, you will be called together again. A more detailed statement of the legislative programme of my Advisers will then be made to you.

In the earnest hope that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations and further the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties.

16. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Holloway, Mr. Eldridge, and the Mover, be appointed to prepare an Address-in-Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament and that the Committee do report at the next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

17. CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.—Mr. Coleman moved, That the honorable Member for Ballarat (Mr. McGrath) be appointed Chairman of Committees of this House, which motion was seconded by Mr. Yates.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister), Mr. Latham (Leader of the Opposition), and Mr. Earle Page congratulated Mr. McGrath, who made his acknowledgments to the House.

18. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

19. DEATH OF MEMBER (MR. W. J. MCWILLIAMS).—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) having announced, with regret, the death, on the 22nd October, of the honorable Member for Franklin (William James McWilliams) moved, by leave, That this House expresses its deep regret at the death of Mr. William James McWilliams, Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Franklin, and places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service, and tenders its profound sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement.

And Mr. Latham (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr. Earle Page having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen in silence—

Question—passed.

Resolved—That Mr. Speaker be requested to transmit to Mrs. McWilliams the foregoing Resolution, and a copy of the speeches delivered thereon.

20. FRANKLIN ELECTORAL DIVISION—ISSUE OF WRIT.—Mr. Speaker announced to the House that he proposed to issue a Writ, on Monday, the 25th instant, for the Election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Franklin, in the State of Tasmania, in the place of William James McWilliams, deceased. The dates in connexion with the Election would be fixed as follows:—

Date of Issue of Writ	Monday, 25th November, 1929.
Date of Nomination	Friday, 6th December, 1929.
Date of Polling	Saturday, 14th December, 1929.
Date for Return of Writ	On or before Saturday, 4th January, 1930.

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21. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) then moved, as a mark of respect, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at eleven minutes to four 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 Mr. Killen and Mr. White.

E. W. PARKES,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.