

1937.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

TUESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 1937.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, Canberra, on Tuesday, the thirtieth day of November, in the first year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Sixth, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

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), Frank Clifton Green, M.C., Clerk of the House of Representatives, Albert Allan Tregear, Clerk Assistant, Sydney Friedrich Chubb, Second Clerk Assistant, and Henry Albert Dodd, 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.
GOWRIE,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency Brigadier-General the Right Honorable Alexander Gore Arkwright, Baron Gowrie, 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 Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, the 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, Alexander Gore Arkwright, Baron Gowrie, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Act, do by this my Proclamation appoint Tuesday, the thirtieth day of November, One Thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch 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 thirtieth day of November, One Thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

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

By His Excellency's Command,

J. A. LYONS,

Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

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 :—

GENTLEMEN,

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.

30th November, 1937.

The Commission was read as follows :—

His Excellency Brigadier-General the Right Honourable ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :

To the Right Honourable Sir John Greig Latham, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia,

and

The Right Honourable Sir George Edward Rich, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable 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 tenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the eleventh day of November, Tuesday, the thirtieth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, was appointed as the day for the Parliament of the Commonwealth to assemble and be holden for the despatch 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 10.30 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, ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, 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.

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

GOWRIE,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. A. LYONS,
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.

Sir George Rich 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 Honourable Sir George Edward Rich, 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 Brigadier-General the Right Honourable ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :

30th November, 1937.

To the Right Honourable Sir George Edward Rich, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable 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 Section forty-two of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things 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, ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you to attend at Parliament House, Canberra, on Tuesday, the thirtieth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock a.m., there and then to administer the said Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to such Members of the House of Representatives as are present.

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

GOWRIE,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. A. LYONS,

Prime Minister.

4. RETURNS TO WRITS FOR GENERAL ELECTION.—The Clerk laid on the Table returns to the 74 Writs for the General Election of the House of Representatives held on 23rd October, 1937, which he had received from the Military and Official Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General, and announced that the return to the Writ for the election of a Member for the Northern Territory had not yet been received by him.

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	Fred Hurtle Stacey.
Balaclava ..	Victoria ..	Thomas Walter White.
Ballaarat ..	Victoria ..	Reginald Thomas Pollard.
Barker ..	South Australia	Archie Galbraith Cameron.
Barton ..	New South Wales	Albert Lane.
Bass ..	Tasmania ..	Herbert Claude Barnard.
Batman ..	Victoria ..	Frank Brennan.
Bendigo ..	Victoria ..	George James Rankin.
Boothby ..	South Australia	John Lloyd Price.
Bourke ..	Victoria ..	Maurice McCrae Blackburn.
Brisbane ..	Queensland ..	George Lawson.
Calare ..	New South Wales	Harold Victor Campbell Thorby.
Capricornia ..	Queensland ..	Francis Michael Forde.
Cook ..	New South Wales	Thomas Sheehan.
Corangamite ..	Victoria ..	Geoffrey Austin Street.
Corio ..	Victoria ..	Richard Gardiner Casey.
Cowper ..	New South Wales	Earle Christmas Grafton Page.
Dalley ..	New South Wales	John Solomon Rosevear.
Darling ..	New South Wales	Joseph James Clark.
Darling Downs ..	Queensland ..	Arthur William Fadden.
Darwin ..	Tasmania ..	George John Bell.
Deakin ..	Victoria ..	William Joseph Hutchinson.
Denison ..	Tasmania ..	Gerald William Mahoney.
East Sydney ..	New South Wales	Edward John Ward.
Eden-Monaro ..	New South Wales	John Arthur Perkins.
Fawkner ..	Victoria ..	Harold Edward Holt.
Flinders ..	Victoria ..	James Valentine Fairbairn.
Forrest ..	Western Australia	John Henry Prowse.
Franklin ..	Tasmania ..	Charles William Frost.
Fremantle ..	Western Australia	John Curtin.
Gippsland ..	Victoria ..	Thomas Paterson.
Grey ..	South Australia	Albert Oliver Badman.
Griffith ..	Queensland ..	Francis Matthew John Baker.
Gwydir ..	New South Wales	William James Scully.
Henty ..	Victoria ..	Henry Somer Gullett.
Herbert ..	Queensland ..	George William Martens.
Hindmarsh ..	South Australia	Norman John Oswald Makin.
Hume ..	New South Wales	Thomas Joseph Collins.
Hunter ..	New South Wales	Rowland James.
Indi ..	Victoria ..	John McEwen.
Kalgoorlie ..	Western Australia	Albert Ernest Green.
Kennedy ..	Queensland ..	William James Frederick Riordan.
Kooyong ..	Victoria ..	Robert Gordon Menzies.

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Division.	State.	Name.
Lang	New South Wales	Daniel Mulcahy.
Lilley	Queensland ..	William Alfred Jolly.
Macquarie ..	New South Wales	John Norman Lawson.
Maranoa	Queensland ..	James Aitchison Johnston Hunter.
Maribyrnong ..	Victoria ..	Arthur Samuel Drakeford.
Martin	New South Wales	William Victor McCall.
Melbourne ..	Victoria ..	William Robert Nuttall Maloney.
Melbourne Ports ..	Victoria ..	Edward James Holloway.
Moreton	Queensland ..	Josiah Francis.
Newcastle ..	New South Wales	David Oliver Watkins.
New England ..	New South Wales	Victor Charles Thompson.
North Sydney ..	New South Wales	William Morris Hughes.
Parkes	New South Wales	Charles William Clanan Marr.
Parramatta ..	New South Wales	Frederick Harold Stewart.
Perth	Western Australia	Walter Maxwell Nairn.
Reid	New South Wales	Joseph Herbert Gander.
Richmond ..	New South Wales	Hubert Lawrence Anthony.
Riverina	New South Wales	Horace Keyworth Nock.
Robertson ..	New South Wales	Sydney Lane Gardner.
Swan	Western Australia	Henry Gregory.
Wakefield ..	South Australia	Charles Allan Seymour Hawker.
Wannon	Victoria ..	Thomas Hallett Scholfield.
Warringah ..	New South Wales	Percy Claude Spender.
Watson	New South Wales	John Thomas Jennings.
Wentworth ..	New South Wales	Eric John Harrison.
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 ..	Alex Wilson.
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. Francis, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Paterson (who were not then present), and Mr. Cameron, who made and subscribed an Affirmation according to law.

The Commissioner retired.

6. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—Mr. Hawker, addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr. George John Bell, and moved, That he do take the Chair of this House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr. Hutchinson.

Mr. Bell informed the House that he accepted nomination.

There being no further proposal, Mr. Bell was declared elected as Speaker, and Mr. Hawker and Mr. Hutchinson conducted him to the Chair.

Mr. Bell returned his acknowledgments to the House for the honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon sat down in the Chair.

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

Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister), and Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition) congratulated Mr. Speaker, who expressed his thanks.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Lyons (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.

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 Brigadier-General the Right Honourable ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knig't Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia:

30th November, 1937.

To Colonel The Honourable George John Bell, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

GREETING :

WHEREAS by Section forty-two of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things 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, ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, 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 of Allegiance 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.

(L.S.) Given under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this thirtieth day of November, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, and in the first year of His Majesty's reign.

GOWRIE,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. A. LYONS,
Prime Minister.

10. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—CHANGES IN MINISTRY.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) announced that certain changes had been made in the Ministry and that the Ministry was now constituted as follows :—

Prime Minister	The Right Honorable J. A. Lyons, C.H., M.P.
Minister for Commerce and Minister for Health	The Right Honorable E. C. G. Page, M.P.
Attorney-General and Minister for Industry ..	The Right Honorable R. G. Menzies, K.C., M.P.
Minister for External Affairs, Minister in charge of Territories and Vice-President of the Executive Council	The Right Honorable W. M. Hughes, K.C., M.P.
Postmaster-General	Senator the Honorable A. J. McLachlan
Minister for Trade and Customs	Lieutenant-Colonel the Honorable T. W. White, D.F.C., V.D., M.P.
Treasurer and Minister in charge of Develop- ment and Scientific and Industrial Research	The Honorable R. G. Casey, D.S.O., M.C., M.P.
Minister for Defence	The Honorable H. V. C. Thorby, M.P.
Minister for the Interior	The Honorable J. McEwen, M.P.
Minister for Repatriation and Minister in charge of War Service Homes	Senator the Honorable H. S. Foll
Minister without Portfolio assisting the Minister for Trade and Customs, and Minister repre- senting the Postmaster-General in the House of Representatives	The Honorable J. A. Perkins, M.P.
Minister without Portfolio assisting the Minister for Commerce	Senator the Honorable Allan N. MacDonald
Minister without Portfolio assisting the Treas- urer and Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation in the House of Representa- tives	The Honorable V. C. Thompson, M.P.
Minister without Portfolio assisting the Minister for Commerce	The Honorable A. G. Cameron, M.P.

11. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Curtin informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Opposition, and that Mr. Forde had been appointed Deputy Leader.

12. LEADER OF THE COUNTRY PARTY.—Mr. Earle Page informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Country Party, and that Mr. Thorby had been appointed Deputy Leader.

13. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE BILL 1937.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to the Territory for the Seat of Government.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Lyons 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.

14. DEATH OF THE HONORABLE SIR GRANVILLE RYRIE.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) referred to the death on the 2nd October last of Sir Granville Ryrie and moved, by leave, That this House expresses its deep regret at the death of Major-General the Honorable Sir Granville de Laune Ryrie, K.C.M.G., C.B., V.D., a former Member of the New South Wales and Commonwealth Parliaments, Assistant Commonwealth Minister, and High Commissioner for Australia in London, places on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service, and tenders its profound sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement.

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And Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and all Members present having risen, in silence—

Question—passed.

Resolved—That Mr. Speaker be requested to transmit to Lady Ryrrie the foregoing Resolution, together with a copy of the speeches delivered thereon.

15. **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—ABSENCE OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL.**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) informed the House that His Excellency the Governor-General would proceed to England on six months' leave next year, and that, during his absence from Australia, His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Lord Huntingfield, would administer the Government of the Commonwealth.
16. **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 received a copy, which read as follows:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

You have been called together to deliberate upon matters of importance to the well-being of the Commonwealth.

The principal aim of the foreign policy of my Government continues to be the preservation of peace and the promotion and maintenance of friendly relations with all countries. My Ministers consider that peace can best be assured by a respect on the part of all nations for the terms of international agreements and by a universal acceptance of the view that international differences should be settled by methods of conciliation and consultation. It was for these reasons that my Government associated Australia with the action taken by other States Members of the League of Nations in the present Sino-Japanese dispute and that Australia, as a signatory of the Nine Power Treaty of February 1922, is represented at the Brussels Conference convened to seek a peaceful solution of the dispute.

My Advisers would welcome a cordial understanding between the British Empire and the United States of America. In consultation with other Empire countries they will examine the difficult questions involved and will be prepared on behalf of Australia to play their part in the conclusion of a satisfactory understanding, provided they can be sure that the best interests of Australian industries and of Australia as a whole are adequately safeguarded. Full opportunity will be given to the representatives of Australian primary and secondary industries to express their views with regard both to the revision of the Ottawa Agreement and to any proposed trade treaty with the United States of America. My Ministers feel that by co-operating in the American negotiations they will assist to stimulate world trade and by so doing will improve the prospects of increased trade with foreign countries. They will continue to carry out their policy of encouraging Australian industries and of making, wherever possible, further trade treaties with other countries.

As a result of negotiations with His Majesty's Government in Canada added protection was given to certain Australian manufacturing industries, while reduction of the Canadian duties was arranged on a number of Australian export commodities including meats, fruit products and wines, which will materially benefit Australian producers and exporters.

My Advisers propose to press on with the further strengthening of the defence of Australia along lines already laid down. Their plans provide for full co-operation with other parts of the Empire in measures for common defence against aggression, and for the full development of Australia's resources to provide for its own security.

Negotiations between His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom and Australia for the inauguration of an Empire air mail scheme have now substantially been concluded on a satisfactory basis, although minor details are still receiving attention. The scheme provides for a thrice weekly service between England and Australia. Bills dealing with the ratification of the agreement will be submitted to Parliament.

Negotiations are proceeding between the Governments of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand in regard to the conditions under which an air mail service may be established between Australia and New Zealand to form a further link in the Empire service.

My Ministers will immediately proceed to frame appropriate legislation and to set up a suitable administration for National Health and Pensions Insurance. In this task the Government will have the best expert advice available. In the formulation of the necessary details full opportunity will be taken of consultation with the Friendly Societies, the medical profession and other interested bodies or persons.

Officers of the Commonwealth and State Governments have made an exhaustive examination of various financial and administrative aspects of Unemployment Insurance. Having received a report on the results of this examination, my Advisers will again approach the State Governments with a view to arriving at a satisfactory solution of this problem.

Commonwealth and State loans to the extent of approximately £70,000,000 will mature in December, 1938. My Advisers, through the Australian Loan Council, will in due course take such steps as are necessary to carry out the conversion of the maturing obligations.

It is proposed to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment of an Inter-State Commission. Meanwhile the term of appointment of the members of the Commonwealth Grants Commission has been extended to 30th June, 1938.

My Advisers have examined the recent report of the Royal Commission on the Monetary and Banking Systems in Australia, and will submit legislation to Parliament. In the first instance, a Bill to establish a Mortgage Bank Department of the Commonwealth Bank will be placed before Parliament.

The Committee recently appointed to consider the problem of small loans to men in work is expected to complete its investigations and furnish its report at an early date.

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With a view to providing relief to persons out of employment at Christmas time, my Ministers propose to ask Parliament to appropriate a sum of £100,000. It is intended that this money shall be used to enable the Commonwealth to undertake a number of minor works of such a nature as will provide employment for the greatest possible number of workers.

Consequent upon the volcanic disturbance in May last at Rabaul, the capital of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, my Advisers caused an investigation to be made by experts as to the possibility of future volcanic disturbances at Rabaul, with a view to arriving at a decision on the advisability of retaining Rabaul as the administrative capital of the Territory. A report on the matter has now been received by my Advisers who have given consideration to it and have decided that, in view of the terms of the report, the administrative head-quarters must be removed from Rabaul. The report will be laid before both Houses of the Parliament.

My Advisers propose to introduce a Bill to regulate life and fire insurance throughout Australia in an endeavour to render uniform the legislative control which is at present exercised by the various States.

A Bill will be submitted to provide for the liberalization of the law relating to maternity allowances.

My Advisers will submit proposals for the appointment of a Select Committee, representing both Houses of Parliament, to investigate and report upon the method of electing the Senate.

My Ministers have had under notice the condition of the aborigines of Australia. It is proposed to invite the Premiers of the States to confer with the Commonwealth with a view to the adoption of measures for the promotion of the well-being of the aborigines.

My Ministers propose to deal with the question of migration. Assistance will be given to British people nominated by their friends or relatives in Australia, and child migration under organized schemes of representative bodies will be encouraged.

The fall in the birth rate and the loss in recent years by emigration of persons of British stock present a very serious problem which is receiving the earnest consideration of my Advisers.

A Bill to provide for the adoption by the Commonwealth of the relevant portions of the Statute of Westminster will be introduced.

A Bill to provide for the consolidation and amendment of the law relating to Patents will be introduced. A small committee is at present investigating the law relating to Trade Marks with a view to consolidating and amending legislation on that matter.

A Bill to amend the Conciliation and Arbitration Act will be submitted to Parliament.

An amendment of the Seamen's Compensation Act designed to bring the provisions of that legislation into line with modern conditions will be introduced.

My Advisers will submit for your consideration a measure amending the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act to provide that a wife married or a child born to an incapacitated soldier since 1st October, 1931, and on or before 30th June, 1938, shall be eligible for consideration for a grant of war pension.

My Ministers propose to proceed with their programme of works for the extension of postal, telegraphic and telephonic services in the Commonwealth.

Plans are in preparation for the improvement and expansion of the National Broadcasting Service.

My Ministers have under consideration proposals for affording to the licensees of B class broadcasting stations a greater measure of security of tenure. Legislation on this matter will be submitted to Parliament.

An inquiry into the conditions of employment in allowance post offices is proceeding.

The estimates of expenditure for the present financial year will be submitted for your consideration forthwith.

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.

17. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Jolly, Mr. Rankin 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.

18. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Rabaul—Report on Vulcanological and Seismological Investigations at Rabaul by Dr. Ch. E. Stehn, Director of the Netherlands Indies Vulcanological Survey, and W. G. Woolnough, D.Sc., Geological Adviser to the Commonwealth Government.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determination by the Arbitrator, &c.—No. 16 of 1937—
Postal Overseers' Union of Australia.

Canned Fruits Export Control Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 98, 105.
Commonwealth Bank Act—Treasurer's Statement of combined accounts of Commonwealth Bank and Commonwealth Savings Bank, at 30th June, 1937, together with certificate of the Auditor-General.

Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 99.

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- Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired at—
 Bankstown, New South Wales—For Postal purposes.
 Burwood, Victoria—For Postal purposes.
 Chowder Bay, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.
 Coffs Harbour, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.
 Concord, New South Wales—For Postal purposes.
 Cooktown, Queensland—For Defence purposes.
 Essendon, Victoria—For Defence purposes.
 Oodnadatta, South Australia—For Defence purposes.
- Meat Export Charges Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 97.
- Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 106.
- Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 104.
- New Guinea Act—Ordinances of 1937—
 No. 25—Appropriation (No. 3) 1936–1937.
 No. 26—Administration and Probate (No. 2).
 No. 27—Administrator's Powers.
 No. 28—Motor Traffic (No. 2).
 No. 29—Criminal Code Amendment.
 No. 30—Forestry.
 No. 31—District Courts.
 No. 32—Appropriation 1937–1938.
- Northern Territory Acceptance Act and Northern Territory (Administration) Act—
 Ordinances of 1937—
 No. 6—Licensed Surveyors.
 No. 7—Aboriginals (No. 2).
 No. 8—Alice Springs Administration.
- Patents Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 101.
- Public Service Act—
 Appointments—Department—
 Attorney-General—G. P. Falls.
 Health—H. M. Franklands, K. R. Gay, C. S. Graham, J. J. M. Kenny.
 Interior—P. T. Dale, L. J. Dwyer, H. J. Gates, A. E. Maguire, J. N. McRae, H. F.
 Newell, N. J. Reynolds, J. W. Rodan, F. G. G. Rose, E. M. Shackell.
 Parliamentary Reporting Staff—J. R. Odgers.
 Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 100, 103.
- Seat of Government Acceptance Act and Seat of Government (Administration) Act—
 Ordinances of 1937—
 No. 15—Canberra Community Hospital Board (No. 2).
 No. 16—Canberra Community Hospital Board (No. 3).
 No. 17—Advisory Council.
 Regulations Amended under—Public Health Ordinance—
 Boarding Houses.
 Infectious Diseases (3).
- Wireless Telegraphy Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 102.

19. CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.—Mr. Nock moved, That the honorable Member for Forrest (Mr. Prowse) be appointed Chairman of Committees of this House, which motion was seconded by Mr. Gregory.
 Question—put and passed.
 Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) and Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition) congratulated Mr. Prowse, who made his acknowledgments to the House.
20. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.
 Question—put and passed.
21. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
 Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-three 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. Francis, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Paterson.

F. C. GREEN,
 Clerk of the House of Representatives.