

1907.
(2ND SESSION.)

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 75.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1907.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Mr. Deakin presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Colonial Office—Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reference to a re-arrangement of the Colonial Office in respect to the conduct of Business of Self-Governing Colonies.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
3. PRINTING COMMITTEE—ELEVENTH REPORT FROM—[FORGED SIGNATURES TO PETITION].—Sir John Quick, Chairman, brought up the Eleventh Report from the Printing Committee.
The Report was read by the Clerk, and is as follows:—

REPORT.

The Printing Committee, to which was referred a Petition from certain electors of Hume, presented to the House on the 18th September last, for immediate investigation as to its accuracy and the alleged forgery of certain attached signatures, have the honour to report as follows:—

Your Committee have examined the Petition and signatures, or what purports to be the signatures, attached thereto. Of these there are sixty-eight.

Letters have been written to Messrs. Heath and Mitchelmore, the solicitors who prepared the Petition on the instructions of Mr. James Beveridge, of Gundagai, to Mr. Beveridge, and to Messrs. Edmondson and Co., of Wagga Wagga, to whose premises, according to Mr. Beveridge, the Petition had been sent for signatures to be obtained, and replies have been received giving the information requested so far as available.

Your Committee are of opinion that the following names attached to the Petition purporting to be signatures are not genuine signatures, but are, in fact, forgeries, viz:—

“ Alfred Deakin, Melbourne ”
“ Harry Foran, Dom., Sydney ”
“ May Francis, Crown St., Sydney ”
“ Beattie Booth, Reservoir St., Sydney ”
“ H. C. Walker, Custom House, Sydney ”.

Your Committee find that at the bottom of page 2 of the Petition there has been written in ink what purports to be “ W. J. Lyne, Sydney ”. An attempt has been made to cover this writing with ink, notwithstanding which the name and address are still visible in outline. Your Committee are of opinion that this also is a forgery.

The information received in reply to the letters above referred to, in the opinion of your Committee, points to a certain individual as the perpetrator of the forgeries. It is recommended that the Crown Law authorities should be requested to take action with a view to a criminal prosecution of the offender, and that the correspondence in the possession of the Committee be placed at their disposal for that purpose.

House of Representatives,
Committee Room, 14th November, 1907.

JOHN QUICK,
Chairman.

Sir John Quick moved, by leave, That the Report be adopted.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

15th November, 1907.

4. **WAYS AND MEANS.**—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. McDonald reported that the Committee had made progress, and that he was directed to ask, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the House will, on Tuesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

5. **MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILL.**—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

NORTHCOTE,

Governor-General.

Message No. 18.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and eight,*" 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 Act.

Government House,

Melbourne, 14th November, 1907.

6. **PAPERS.**—Mr. Deakin presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Mail Service to Europe—

Agreement dated 15th November, 1907, between the Commonwealth of Australia, the Orient Steam Navigation Company Limited, and the Law Guarantee and Trust Society Limited, for the conveyance of Australian mails, commencing February, 1910.

Agreement dated 15th November, 1907, between the Commonwealth of Australia, the Orient Steam Navigation Company Limited, and the Law Guarantee and Trust Society Limited, for the interim carriage of Australian mails until 31st January, 1910.

Mr. Deakin moved, That the above Papers be printed.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at thirty-three minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Tilley Brown, Mr. Thomas Brown, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Joseph Cook, Sir John Forrest, Mr. Glynn, Mr. Hans Irvine, Mr. Kelly*, Mr. Kingston*, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Page, Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. Wilson.

* On leave.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.