

1912.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 105.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 1912.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.
2. ABSENCE OF MR. SPEAKER.—The Clerk at the Table having informed the House that Mr. Speaker was unavoidably absent, the Chairman of Committees took the Chair as Deputy-Speaker, and read Prayers.
3. PRINTING COMMITTEE—FIFTH REPORT FROM.—Sir John Quick, Chairman, brought up the Fifth Report from the Printing Committee (sitting in conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate).

The Report was read by the Clerk, and is as follows :—

REPORT.

The Printing Committee have the honour to report that they have met in conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee, having considered the undermentioned Petition and Papers presented to Parliament, make the following recommendations :—

Subject of Paper.	Recommendation of Committee.	Remarks.
Petition— † From residents of Western Australia praying that copy of Petition to His Majesty the King and Queen Mary <i>re</i> resources of Australia be laid on Table, together with Royal replies	No recommendation .	
Papers— Census and Statistics Act.—Regulation— Statutory Rules 1912, No. 227	„ „	Already in print and circulated to Members
Defence Act— Regulations—Statutory Rules 1912, Nos. 226, 228, 230, 231	„ „	„ „
Lands Acquisition Act— Land acquired under, at—Northampton, Port Augusta, Tolga, Victoria Park	„ „	Published in <i>Gazette</i>

† Presented to House of Representatives only.

20th December, 1912.

Subject of Paper.	Recommendation of Committee.	Remarks.
Papers— <i>continued.</i>		
*Mail Service, Melbourne and Tasmania—Tenders, &c.—Return	Pages 1-26 to be printed	
Maternity Allowance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 225	No recommendation	Already in print and circulated to Members
†Papua—Annual Report for year ended 30th June, 1912	To be printed‡	
*Public Service—Officers appointed since April, 1910, &c.—Return	To be printed	
Public Service Act—Recommendations, &c., in cases of Appointments, Promotions, &c., of C. H. Auty, W. G. Chapman, T. Gillin, Miss J. W. Thompson	No recommendation	
Regulations—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 232 ..	" "	Already in print and circulated to Members
†South African Union—Correspondence between Commonwealth and South African Governments ..	To be printed	
*State Loans—Letter from Minister for Defence to Commonwealth Statistician, and reply	" "	
Telegraphs and Telephones Special Works Account Act—Transfers dated 4th December, 1912	No recommendation	

* Presented to Senate only.

† Presented to House of Representatives only.

‡ Excepting parts relating to native vocabularies, which should be reserved for classification, consolidation, and printing subsequently.

Committee Room,
19th December, 1912.

JOHN QUICK,
Chairman.

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

4. INSURANCE BILL.—Mr. Hughes, pursuant to leave given on the 8th ultimo, brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to Insurance,*" 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 Monday next.
5. PAPERS.—Mr. Hughes presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Conciliation and Arbitration—Return showing Number of Awards made by the Court during the years 1906 to 1912 (up to 18th December) and Compulsory Conferences summoned by the President of the Court up to 18th December, 1912.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
Mr. Thomas presented, pursuant to Statute—
Papua.—Ordinances of 1912—
No. 13.—Appropriation (No. 2), 1912-13.
No. 14.—Supplementary Appropriation 1912-13.
6. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, after debate—That the consideration of Orders of the Day, Government Business, Nos. 1 to 3 inclusive be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 4.
7. NAVAL AND MILITARY DECORATIONS BILL.—SENATE'S REQUEST FOR RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration of the Message from the Senate requesting the resumption by the House of the consideration of this Bill, which was transmitted to the House for concurrence during last Session of the Parliament, and the proceedings on which were interrupted by the Prorogation of the Parliament—
Mr. Roberts moved, That the request of the Senate, contained in its Message No. 4, for the resumption by the House of the consideration of the Naval and Military Decorations Bill, be complied with, and that a Message be transmitted to the Senate acquainting it therewith.
Mr. Riley moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.
8. BOUNTIES BILL (1912)—SENATE'S AMENDMENT.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of the Amendment made by the Senate in this Bill—Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

20th December, 1912.

(In the Committee.)

The Committee proceeded to consider the amendment, which is as follows:—

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE.

Page 2, after Clause 3, insert the following New Clause:—

(3A.) A return setting forth—

- (a) the names of all persons to whom bounties were paid during the preceding financial year ; Return to be laid before Parliament
 (b) the amounts of all such bounties ;
 (c) the goods in respect of which the bounties were paid ;
 (d) the names of the places and States in which the goods were manufactured ;
 (e) the number of persons employed in each of the works, wages paid, and hours observed in the production of the goods,

shall be prepared in the month of July in each year, and shall be laid before both Houses of the Parliament within thirty days after its preparation if the Parliament is then sitting, and if not, then within thirty days after the next meeting thereof.

On the motion of Mr. Tudor the amendment was agreed to, after debate, with the following amendment:—After “(3A.)” insert “After section eight of the *Bounties Act* 1907, the following section is inserted—8A”.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. W. Maloney reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Tudor the House adopted the Report.

9. OFFICERS COMPENSATION BILL (1912).—Mr. Fisher moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to provide for Compensation to be paid on Retirement or on Decease of certain Officers of the Commonwealth.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Fisher 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, by leave—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Orders of the Day, Government Business, Nos. 2 and 3 be postponed to a later hour this day.

11. NORTHERN TERRITORY—CROWN LANDS ORDINANCE (1912).—MOTION TO DISALLOW.—Mr. Fuller moved, pursuant to notice, That the Ordinance No. 8 of 1912 (an Ordinance relating to Crown Lands, entitled *Crown Lands Ordinance* 1912), made in pursuance of the power conferred by the *Northern Territory Acceptance Act* 1910 and the *Northern Territory (Administration) Act* 1910, be disallowed.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

12. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—OFFICERS' COMPENSATION BILL (1912).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Deputy Speaker:—

DENMAN,

Governor-General.

Message No. 36.

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 provide for Compensation to be paid on Retirement or on Decease of certain Officers of the Commonwealth.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be considered forthwith in Committee of the whole House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Fisher—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide for Compensation to be paid on Retirement or on Decease of certain Officers of the Commonwealth.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. W. Maloney reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.

And the said Resolution was adopted by the House.

20th December, 1912.

13. POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH OFFICERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SELECT COMMITTEE RE CLAIMS.—Mr. Gordon moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, a Select Committee should be appointed to inquire and report concerning the claims of postal and telegraph officers in South Australia for the preservation of their existing and accruing rights at the transfer of the Department to the Commonwealth.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 15.

Mr. Archibald	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Livingston
Mr. Cook	Mr. Ryrie
Mr. Frank J. Foster	Mr. Webster
Mr. Fuller	
Mr. Glynn	
Mr. Greene	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Howe	Mr. Gordon
Mr. W. Elliot Johnson	Mr. McWilliams

Noes, 25.

Mr. Bennett	Mr. Ozanne
Mr. Brown	Mr. Riley
Mr. Cann	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Spence
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Fisher	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Frazer	Mr. West
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Wise
Mr. W. J. Johnson	
Mr. W. Maloney	
Mr. Mathews	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. McDougall	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. O'Malley	Mr. Watkins

And so it was negatived.

14. NAVAL OFFICERS—LENGTH OF SERVICE.—Mr. Kelly moved, pursuant to notice, That a Return be laid upon the Table of the House showing the length of service at sea, in either the British or Australian Naval Forces, of the officers now serving in the Australian Naval Forces.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.
15. MILITARY NATIONAL UNIFORMS.—Mr. Livingston moved, pursuant to notice, *amended*, That, in the opinion of this House, it is undesirable that the distinctive national uniform of certain regiments should be abolished in connexion with the Military Forces of Australia.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.
16. CO-OPERATIVE VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS.—Mr. Frank J. Foster moved, pursuant to notice, That, in order to absorb and train the unemployed, and with a view to a better settlement of citizens on the land, it is desirable to establish co-operative village settlements in the Northern Territory, Papua, the Federal Capital area, and, with the co-operation of the States Governments, in the States of the Commonwealth.
Question—put and negatived.
17. OODNADATTA TO PINE CREEK RAILWAY.—Mr. Frank J. Foster moved, pursuant to notice given by Mr. Poynton (Mr. Poynton being in the Chair, as Deputy Speaker), That this House is of the opinion that the Oodnadatta to Pine Creek railway should be started from Oodnadatta without delay.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
18. POSTPONEMENT OF GENERAL BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the remaining General Business be postponed to a later hour this day.
19. OFFICERS COMPENSATION BILL (1912).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Roberts moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.
Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.
Preamble agreed to.
Title agreed to.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. W. Maloney reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr. Roberts, the House adopted the Report, and (the Standing Orders having been suspended, p. 289) the Bill was read a third time.

20th December, 1912.

20. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—IMMIGRATION BILL (1912).—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 52.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Immigration Restriction Act 1901-1910'*," to which it has agreed with the amendments indicated in the annexed Schedule, in which amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1912.

H. TURLEY,
President.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration forthwith.

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE.

No. 1.—Page 2, clause 3, line 28, leave out "terms" and insert "term."

No. 2.—Page 5, after clause 5, insert the following new clause :—

"5A. Section six of the Principal Act is amended by omitting from paragraph (b) the words 'in the form of the Schedule,' and inserting in their stead the words 'as prescribed'."

No. 3.—Page 5, clause 7, line 18, after "nine" insert "A."

No. 4.—Page 5, clause 7, line 19, after "end" insert "of sub-section (1)."

On the motion of Mr. Thomas, the House agreed to the amendments.

21. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—JUDICIARY BILL (1912).—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 53.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Judiciary Act 1903-1910'*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1912.

H. TURLEY,
President.

22. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—POST AND TELEGRAPH BILL (1912).—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 54.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Post and Telegraph Act 1901-1910'*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1912.

H. TURLEY,
President.

23. PAPERS.—Mr. Fisher presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Department of the Treasury — Accountant's and Correspondence Branches. — Explanatory Memorandum *re* Salaries, &c.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.

Mr. Fisher presented, pursuant to Statute—

Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Act.—Dealings and transactions during the year ended 30th June, 1912.

Ordered to be printed.

24. NEWSPAPER MISREPRESENTATIONS OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.—Mr. Bamford moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, immediate action should be taken to protect Members of this Parliament from the aspersions and misrepresentations of the newspaper press by making an order that, when any article or paragraph appears in a newspaper reflecting upon the good conduct or integrity of a Member which, in the opinion of the said Member, is calculated to prejudice him in the eyes of the community, and the Member affected, by personal explanation or otherwise, declares that the statements so made in regard to himself are erroneous, misleading, and injurious, and the House in good faith accepts such statement, no representative or representatives of the newspaper implicated be allowed within the precincts of Parliament House unless, or until, the explanation or contradiction made by the aggrieved Member be given in the aforesaid newspaper prominence equal to that given to the offending article or paragraph.

Question—put and passed.

25. STATE DEBTS CONVERSION AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE.—Mr. W. Maloney moved, pursuant to notice—

(1) That, as Australia's contribution to the Homeland, the Government should be invited to appoint a Commission to visit England with a view of converting the State public debts of Australia into Commonwealth Stock.

(2) That the Commission should consist of twelve members, five appointed by Commonwealth Parliament (including the High Commissioner), and six representing and appointed by the States, and a president to be appointed by the Governments of the Commonwealth and States (to have only one vote).

20th December, 1912.

- (3) That the Commission should have plenipotentiary authority to enter into underwriting arrangements with the leading financial houses.
- (4) That, concurrently with the issue of the future Commonwealth Stock authorized under such arrangements, the holders of the State public debts should be invited to consent to the acceptance of equivalent Commonwealth Stock.
- (5) That, dependent upon such conversion, the Imperial Government should be assured by the State Governments, through the Commonwealth Government, that the saving of capital and the annual interest during the next ten years so caused by such conversion shall be devoted to the building of an Imperial Dreadnought Fleet in Great Britain for protecting the trades routes of the Empire, thus assuring the food supply of the United Kingdom and also the safety of the exported produce of our Australian farmers.

Debate ensued.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

26. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Orders of the Day, General Business, Nos. 1 to 5 inclusive, be postponed to a later hour this day.
27. QUEENSLAND—FORMATION OF TWO NEW STATES.—Mr. Higgs moved, pursuant to Order—
 - (1) That this House, with the consent of the Parliament of Queensland, and in accordance with Chapter VI. of the Commonwealth Constitution, is prepared to form two new States out of the territory now known as Northern and Central Queensland.
 - (2) That this Resolution be forwarded to the Senate, with a request for its concurrence therein.
 Question—put and passed.
28. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, ETC., TO BE SIGNED.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. W. Maloney—That this House is of the opinion that the definition in the Post and Telegraph Act of all newspapers must carry with it the necessity of all leading and special articles, commentary paragraphs, reports, and letters, being signed by the writers thereof.
Question—put and passed.
29. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—On the motion of Mr. Greene, the Order of the Day, for the resumption of the debate on the following motion, viz.:—That, in the opinion of this House, the regulation limiting the moisture contents of export butter to 15 per cent. is detrimental to the best interests of the dairying industry in the Commonwealth—was read and discharged.
30. BANKING COMPANIES RESERVE LIABILITIES BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 3 further considered—

Debate resumed on the amendment moved by Mr. Greene, viz. :—

Line 1, omit all the words after the word "means" with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof "profits which may lawfully be distributed as dividends".

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Fenton moved the following further amendment :—At end of clause, as amended, add "after a Government Inspector has certified to the accounts being correct".

Further amendment negatived.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4—

On the motion of Mr. Roberts, the following amendment was made, after debate :—At end of clause add—

"Provided that when a reserve fund has been created by any company in pursuance of this section, the amount to be carried to such reserve fund out of the net profits made in any half-year shall (until such reserve fund is equal in amount to the uncalled capital of the company) be at least two and a half per centum on such net profits, but shall not be more than ten per centum on such net profits."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 12 inclusive agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr. W. Maloney reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Greene (the Standing Orders having been suspended, p. 289), the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

20th and 21st December, 1912.

31. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—REFERENDUM (CONSTITUTION ALTERATION) BILL (1912) (No. 2).—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 55.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Referendum (Constitution Alteration) Act 1906-1910'*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1912.

H. TURLEY,
President.

32. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day, General Business, No. 10 be postponed till after Order of the Day No. 11.

33. MUNICIPAL RATES—PAYMENT OF, BY COMMONWEALTH.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Kelly:—That this House, following the practice of the House of Commons, is of opinion, in view of the unequal distribution of Federal properties in the various municipalities of Australia, that the Commonwealth should grant yearly to each municipality as an act of grace an amount equal to the municipal rates and taxes which it would have to pay were it not exempt from taxation under the Constitution—

On the motion of Mr. Higgs, the following amendment was made, viz.:—Line 4, after "grace" insert "only to municipalities who pay their aldermen and councillors, and also whose aldermen and councillors are elected".

Main question, as amended—put and negatived.

34. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—On the motion of Mr. Roberts, the Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Mathews, viz.:—

That, in the opinion of this House, legislation should be introduced to provide a system of pensions to the members of the Defence Forces, and that the resolution be communicated to the Senate, with a request for its concurrence—

And upon the following Amendment moved thereto by Mr. W. Maloney:—Add to the motion the following words:—"and shall not come into force until the people who pay shall vote Yea or Nay by the Referendum"—

was read and discharged.

35. SUSPENSION OF SITTING.—At forty-four minutes past five o'clock p.m. Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

SATURDAY, 21ST DECEMBER, 1912.

36. RESUMPTION OF SITTING.—Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

37. PAPERS.—Mr. Deputy Speaker presented—

Finance 1911-12—The Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during the year ended 30th June, 1912, accompanied by the report of the Auditor-General

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. Fisher moved, That the Paper be printed.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Frazer presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Postmaster-General's Department—Second Annual Report, 1911-12.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. Frazer moved, That the Paper be printed.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

38. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—INTER-STATE COMMISSION BILL.—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 56.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act relating to the Inter-State Commission*," to which it has agreed with the amendment indicated in the annexed Schedule, in which amendment the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1912.

H. TURLEY,
President.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration forthwith.

20th and 21st December, 1912.

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE.

Page 15, clause 69, at end of clause add the following sub-clause :—

“(3) Where the expenses allowable to a witness summoned under this Act, for travelling from the place where the summons is served to the place at which he is summoned to attend, exceed Five shillings, the amount of such expenses shall be tendered to him before the journey.”

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the House agreed to the amendment.

39. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—LAND TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (1912).—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

Message No. 57.

MR. SPEAKER,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the Land Tax Assessment Act 1910-1911*,” to which it has agreed without amendment.

H. TURLEY,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1912.

40. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—INSCRIBED STOCK BILL (1912).—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 58.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to Amend the Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Act 1911*,” to which it has agreed without amendment.

H. TURLEY,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1912.

41. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—LANDS ACQUISITION BILL (1912).—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

Message No. 59.

MR. SPEAKER,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to validate certain notifications of the Acquisition of Land by the Commonwealth*,” to which it has agreed without amendment.

H. TURLEY,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1912.

42. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—BOUNTIES BILL (1912).—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 60.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the Bounties Act 1907*,” and acquaints the House of Representatives that the Senate has agreed to the amendment of the House of Representatives upon the amendment of the Senate.

H. TURLEY,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1912.

43. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—OFFICERS' COMPENSATION BILL 1912.—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 61.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to provide for Compensation to be paid on Retirement or on Decease of certain Officers of the Commonwealth*” to which it has agreed without amendment.

H. TURLEY,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1912.

44. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—APPROPRIATION BILL 1912-13.—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 62.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*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 thirteen and to appropriate the Supplies granted for such year in this session of the Parliament*,” to which it has agreed without requests.

H. TURLEY,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 21st December, 1912, a.m.

20th and 21st December, 1912.

45. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL 1910-11.—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 63.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to appropriate a further sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ended the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and eleven*", to which it has agreed without requests.

H. TURLEY,
President.

The Senate,

Melbourne, 21st December, 1912, a.m.

46. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (WORKS AND BUILDINGS) BILL 1910-11.—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 64.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to appropriate a further sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ended the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and eleven for the purposes of Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c.*" to which it has agreed without amendment.

H. TURLEY,
President.

The Senate,

Melbourne, 21st December, 1912, a.m.

47. MESSAGE FROM MR. SPEAKER.—Mr. Deputy Speaker stated that he had been requested by Mr. Speaker, who, owing to illness, was unable to be present to-day, to convey to the House the following message :—

"I regret very much that illness has prevented me from attending the House to-day and personally addressing a few words to honorable Members at the closing of the last Session of the present Parliament. I take this opportunity, however, of making some remarks through my honorable friend, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I think the House is to be congratulated on having satisfactorily completed the labours of a Session which has proved to be one of the longest and most trying that have been held since the inauguration of the Commonwealth,

Measures of very far-reaching importance have been dealt with and passed into law, and some, of perhaps even greater moment, now await the decision of the people of the Commonwealth. The work has entailed a large number of sittings and very long hours. Our duties in this Parliament make demands upon the time and energies of honorable Members to an extent they could never have anticipated, and for which, in some quarters at least, Members do not get the credit they deserve. We feel naturally glad and relieved when the Session terminates.

I would like to say, and I feel sure that the House will heartily agree with me, that we are all extremely pleased to see Mr. Duffy once more among us after his recent severe illness, and we trust that the recess will enable him to gain that perfect vigour of body which we all wish him to enjoy. I desire to express my personal obligation to him for the great zeal and ability with which he always assists me in the performance of my duties.

I would likewise express my warm appreciation of the very efficient services rendered to the House by Mr. Gale, who discharged so worthily the duties of Acting Clerk.

I desire also to thank the other officers of the House, especially for the way in which they worked during Mr. Duffy's absence. During times of great strain and stress all the members of the staff—the clerks at the Table, in the offices, and messengers and cleaners alike—have worked right loyally and well, and their services have contributed in no small degree to make my path an easy one so far as the Department is concerned.

Like the officers of the House, the members of the *Hansard* staff, under Mr. Friend, have had their powers of endurance tested to the utmost. Incidents (notably cases of illness among the staff) have occurred, during this and previous Sessions, which have demonstrated the absolute necessity of increasing the numerical strength of the reporting staff, and the President and myself intend to request the Treasurer to provide the necessary funds for that purpose. I take this opportunity of acknowledging our indebtedness to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales for his kindness in placing at our disposal the services of two reporters from the *Hansard* staff of that State to meet the exigencies of our work.

In regard to the Library, I have much pleasure in testifying to the excellent manner in which the Committee have performed their duties. The staff, too, have done their work well.

The Library is now being steadily built upon the foundation originally laid for it—namely, that of a national, rather than of a merely Parliamentary, institution. It is becoming wider and wider in its scope, and consequently its utility is daily increasing. The labour involved in managing it is necessarily greater also. In the Australian section we are laying deep and broad the foundations of a truly Australian National Library, which will, I trust, greatly redound to the credit of the Commonwealth. The chief difficulty standing in the way of the satisfactory development of our Library is the ever-growing want of accommodation, not only in respect of the storage of books, but also in regard to their accessibility.

In conclusion, I desire to thank honorable Members for the many kindnesses which I have personally received at their hands, and for their assistance in satisfactorily conducting the business of a Session which has been so full of strenuous work for us all.

To every honorable Member and to every officer I sincerely wish a very "Happy Christmas and a Most Prosperous New Year."

20th and 21st December, 1912.

48. PAPERS.—Mr. Fisher presented, pursuant to Statute—

Audit Act—

Treasury Regulations Amended (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1912, Nos. 248, 249.

Transfers of amounts approved by the Governor-General in Council—Financial year 1911–12, dated 20th December, 1912.

Public Service Act—Appointments, Promotions, &c.—Department of Treasury—

R. M. Cantwell—Promotion as Clerk, 4th Class, Central Staff.

M. J. Hillary—Promotion as Clerk, 4th Class, Pensions Branch, South Australia.

Mr O'Malley presented, pursuant to Statute—

Public Service Act—Department of Home Affairs—Promotion of G. E. Healy, as Clerk, 3rd Class, Accounts Branch, Central Staff.

Mr. Frazer presented, pursuant to Statute—

Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations Amended, &c.—Statutory Rules 1912, Nos. 193, 198, 213, 214, 215, 222.

Public Service Act—Postmaster-General's Department—Promotion of E. G. Terrill, as Accountant, 2nd Class, South Australia.

Wireless Telegraphy Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 212.

Mr. Roberts presented, pursuant to Statute—

Defence Act—Regulations Amended, &c. (Provisional)—

Universal Training—Statutory Rules 1912, Nos. 229, 238.

Military Forces—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 237.

Naval Defence Act—Naval Forces—Financial and Allowance Regulations Amended (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1912, Nos. 239, 240.

Mr. Tudor presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Lighting of the Western Coast of Australia (King George Sound to Cambridge Gulf)—Report, with Recommendations as to Existing Lights and Additional Lights, by Commander Brewis, R.N.—November, 1912.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. Tudor moved, That the Paper be printed.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Thomas presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Australian Butter Market in England—Reports from the High Commissioner.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. Thomas moved, That the Paper be printed.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

49. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Fisher, by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the finances of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Cook, by leave, also made a statement in regard to the matter.

And speeches having been made by other honorable Members with reference to the close of the Session—

50. PAPER.—Mr. Fisher presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Appointments made at salaries exceeding £300 per annum for years 1903–4 to 1911–12—

(a) by the Government ;

(b) on the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

51. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Wednesday, 15th January next.

Question—put and passed.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at seven minutes past one o'clock p.m. on Saturday, adjourned until Wednesday 15th January next, at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—
Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Brennan, Mr. R. Edwards*, Sir John Forrest, Mr. R. W. Foster, Mr. Groom, Mr. Hedges, Mr. Hans Irvine*, Mr. Jensen, Sir William Lyne, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Page, and Mr. Sinclair.

* On leave.

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