

1914-15.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 29.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 15TH APRIL, 1915.

1. The House met, at half-past three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES, 1914-15.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker:—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 48.

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General transmits to the House of Representatives Additional Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and fifteen, and recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.

Melbourne, 14th April, 1915.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and, together with the accompanying Estimates, to be printed and referred to the Committee of Supply.

3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
 - Prime Minister's Department—
 - The War—Diplomatic Correspondence published by the French Government.
 - Department of Defence—
 - Small Arms Factory—Report for period ended 30th June, 1913.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

 - Department of Home Affairs—
 - Lands Acquisition Act—
 - Land acquired under, at—
 - Fairy Meadow, New South Wales—For obtaining material for use in connexion with buildings in the Federal Territory and other places.
 - Hamilton, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.
4. HOME RULE FOR POLAND.—Mr. W. Maloney moved, pursuant to notice, That we, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia—direct and active allies of Russia in the present war—enjoying and appreciating as we do the blessings of Home Rule in Australia, convey our congratulations to His Imperial Majesty the Czar on his great promise to grant Home Rule to Poland, and we respectfully express the hope that a generous measure of Home Rule may be so granted to the people of Poland. The loyalty of the self-governing countries of the British Empire to the United Kingdom in this time of stress has proved to the world that the nations that stand are those that within themselves rule by love and trust, and not by fear; and this Parliament of Australia conveys its fraternal greetings to the people of Poland in the hope of the early realization of their ideals of a united nation.

Debate ensued.

15th April, 1915.

And the motion having, by leave, been amended to read as follows—

That we, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia—direct and active allies of Russia in the present war—enjoying and appreciating as we do the blessings of Home Rule in Australia, convey our congratulations to His Imperial Majesty the Czar on his great promise to grant Home Rule to Poland, and we respectfully express the hope that a triumphant issue of the war will guarantee a generous measure of Home Rule to the peoples of Poland as a whole. The loyalty of the self-governing countries of the British Empire to the United Kingdom in this time of stress has proved to the world that the nations that stand are those that within themselves rule by love and trust, and this Parliament of Australia conveys its fraternal greetings to the peoples of Poland in the hope of the early realization of their ideals of a united nation.

Question, That the motion, as amended, be agreed to—put and passed.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION.—Notices of Motion Nos. 2 and 3 postponed until Thursday, 13th May, No. 4 withdrawn, Nos. 5 and 6 postponed until 29th instant.

6. DEFENCE—COMPULSORY RIFLE SHOOTING.—Mr. Sampson moved, pursuant to notice, That in order to increase the shooting efficiency of members of our trained Citizen Forces, after having passed through their period of compulsory training, that shooting for certain periods of the year be made compulsory in connexion with our Rifle Club system; and that the Defence Department be instructed by this House to give effect to this policy, and to provide the necessary rifle ranges and shooting facilities for the purpose.

Debate ensued.

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

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

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 22nd July next.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION.—Notice of Motion No. 8 postponed until Thursday, 10th June, Nos. 9 and 10 until Thursday, 29th instant, No. 11 withdrawn, No. 12 postponed until Thursday, 29th instant.

8. EXPORT OF PERISHABLE PRODUCTS—ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD.—Mr. Greene moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, for the better regulation of our export trade in perishable products, the Government should take steps to establish a Board, drawn from the primary producers interested in those lines of production, to assist the Minister in charge of the Commerce Act in framing regulations and other matters in connexion with the conduct of such export trade.

Mr. Greene not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION.—Notices of Motion Nos. 14 and 15 postponed until Thursday, 29th instant, and No. 16 until Thursday, 6th May next.

10. PRODUCE—INTER-STATE—INSPECTION AND CONTROL OF.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. McGrath:—That, in the opinion of this House, the Commonwealth should forthwith take over the inspection and effective control of produce passing from State to State—

Question—put and passed.

11. SENATORS—METHOD OF ELECTION.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Glynn:—That, with a view to securing as far as possible representation of parties in proportion to their strengths at the polls, the method of election by quota and transferable vote be adopted as the method of choosing Senators—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Laird Smith addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 6th May next.

12. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the consideration of Order of the Day, General Business, No. 3 be postponed until Thursday, 6th May next.

13. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Fisher:—That the Paper, "Statement by the Prime Minister on resumption of Session, 14th April, 1915," laid on the Table on the 14th instant, be printed—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

14. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the intervening Orders of the Day, Government Business, be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 9.

15th April, 1915.

15. SUPPLY [ESTIMATES 1914-15].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(*In the Committee.*)

Question proposed—That the first item in the Estimates, under Division I.—The Parliament—namely—

The President £1,100

be agreed to.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at one minute to nine o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Abbott, Mr. Bamford, Sir Robert Best, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Groom, Sir William Irvine, Mr. W. Elliot Johnson, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Ozanne, Colonel Ryrie*, Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Stumm, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Wise.

* On leave.

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