

1914-15.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 46.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 26TH MAY, 1915.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were presented, and the same were read by Mr. Speaker:—

[*Supplementary Appropriation (Works and Buildings) Bill 1913-14*]—R. M. FERGUSON,  
*Governor-General.**Message No. 59.*

A Bill intituled "*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 fourteen for the purposes of Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c.*", 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, 24th May, 1915.[*Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1913-14*]—R. M. FERGUSON,  
*Governor-General.**Message No. 60.*

A Bill intituled "*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 fourteen*", 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, 24th May, 1915.[*Enemy Contracts Annulment Bill*]—R. M. FERGUSON,  
*Governor-General.**Message No. 61.*

A Bill intituled "*An Act relating to Contracts*", 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, 24th May, 1915.

26th May, 1915.

## 3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Department of Trade and Customs—

Inter-State Commission Act—

Inter-State Commission—Tariff Investigation—Appendices to Reports: Statistical and other information, and Evidence—

Apparel: Women's and Men's Outer Garments, and Piece Goods.

Fruits, Dried.

Glucose.

Hats and Caps.

Horseshoe Nails.

Olive Oil.

Pickles, Sauces, and Spices.

Rubber Goods.

Type—Printers' Metal.

Severally ordered to be printed.

## 4. THE WAR.—Mr. Fisher announced that it was officially reported that Italy had declared war upon Austria-Hungary, and Germany had declared war upon Italy.

## 5. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.—Mr. Riley, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, brought up the following Report from the Committee—

Report, together with Minutes of Evidence, relating to the proposed Sewerage Scheme for Flinders Naval Base—

and moved, That it be printed.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Catts, 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 to-morrow.

## 6. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Prime Minister's Department—

The War—

Correspondence between His Majesty's Government and the United States Ambassador respecting the Release of Interned Civilians; and the Exchange of Diplomatic and Consular Officers, and of certain classes of Naval and Military Officers, Prisoners of War; in the United Kingdom and Germany respectively.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Department of External Affairs—

Netherlands East Indies—Report on—The Fiscal Policy, Local Government, Civil Service, Native Government, and Economic Development—By the Hon. Staniforth Smith, Director of Agriculture, &amp;c., Territory of Papua.

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

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Department of the Treasury—

Land Tax Assessment Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1915, No. 54.

Department of Home Affairs—

Electoral Act—

Joint Electoral Rolls in Tasmania—Provisional Regulations—Statutory Rules 1915, No. 76.

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

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*(In the Committee.)*

ESTIMATES, 1914-15.

Debate resumed on Division No. 42, Subdivision No. 1, and on the amendment moved thereto by

Mr. McGrath, viz. :—That the amount of the Subdivision, £44,468, be reduced by the sum of £1.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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

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The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

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

## 8. THE WAR—DEATH OF GENERAL SIR WILLIAM BRIDGES, K.C.B.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received from Lady Bridges a letter requesting him to express to the House her gratitude for the resolution of sympathy which it passed.

26th May, 1915.

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9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at thirty-five minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Abbott, Mr. Bamford, Mr. Carr, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Fleming, Mr. R. W. Foster, Mr. Greene, Mr. Groom, Sir William Irvine, Mr. W. Elliot Johnson, Mr. Orchard, Colonel Ryrie\*, Mr. Sharpe, and Mr. Stumm.

\* On leave.

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