
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 122.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 1916.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair and read Prayers.
2. REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGES RECOMMENDING SUPPLY BILLS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following Question :—That the Governor-General's Messages Nos. 174 and 175 be referred to the Committee of Supply, *and on the Amendment moved by Mr. Tudor*, That the following words be inserted after the word "That" :—

" the Prime Minister (the Honorable W. M. Hughes) no longer possesses the confidence of this House, for the following reasons :—

 - (1) That the Prime Minister secretly prepared regulations for the purpose of intimidating intending voters at the polling booths on the 28th of October (Referendum Day).
 - (2) That though the said regulations were rejected at a duly constituted Executive Council meeting held at Melbourne on Wednesday, the 25th of October, and attended by Senator the Honorable Albert Gardiner (Vice-President of the Executive Council), the Honorable J. A. Jensen (Minister for the Navy), the Honorable W. G. Higgs (Treasurer), and Senator the Honorable E. J. Russell (Assistant Minister), the Prime Minister persisted in his reprehensible endeavour to tack on to the Referendum an unnecessary and irritating procedure designed to add penalties for military offences already provided for in the Commonwealth Defence Act.
 - (3) That the Prime Minister succeeded in getting the objectionable regulations passed on Friday, the 27th of October, at an Executive Council meeting held at Sydney, and attended by His Excellency the Governor-General, the Honorable J. A. Jensen, and himself, although the said regulations had been rejected at an Executive Council meeting held two days before.
 - (4) That the Prime Minister then issued the said regulations, and ordered the Chief Electoral Officer (Mr. Oldham) to give effect to them.
 - (5) That the regulations were withdrawn only after Senator Gardiner, Mr. Higgs, and Senator Russell resigned from the Ministry.
 - (6) That though the Prime Minister issued the discreditable regulations above referred to on the morning of Friday, the 27th of October, he attempted to and did deceive a large section of the public of Australia by stating in the newspaper press on Saturday, the 28th of October, that 'no such regulations had been issued'.
 - (7) That the foregoing resolutions be communicated to His Excellency the Governor-General"—

Debate resumed.

1st December, 1916.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted, be so inserted—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 19.		Noes, 43.	
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Archibald	Mr. Manifold
Mr. Burns	Mr. O'Malley	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Riley	Mr. Bamford	Mr. Orchard
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Sharpe	Sir Robert Best	Mr. Patten
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Burchell	Mr. Pigott
Mr. Hampson	Mr. West	Mr. Chanter	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Hannan		Mr. Chapman	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Higgs		Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Salmon
Mr. Mahon	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Corser	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Dankel	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Page	Mr. Fleming	Mr. Bruce Smith
		Sir John Forrest	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Spence
		Mr. Fowler	Mr. Stumm
		Mr. Glynn	Mr. Thomas
		Mr. Gregory	Mr. Watt
		Mr. Groom	Mr. Webster
		Mr. Hughes	Mr. Wise
		Sir William Irvine	
		Mr. Jensen	
		Mr. Kelly	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Livingston	Mr. Greene
		Mr. Lynch	Mr. John Thomson

And so it was negatived.

Question—That the Governor-General's Messages Nos. 174 and 175 be referred to the Committee of Supply—put and passed.

3. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—

Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Fund Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 288.

4. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday next, at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—General Abbott*, Mr. Carr, Mr. Catts, Mr. McGrath*, Mr. Ozanne*, General Ryrie*, and Mr. Yates.

* On leave.

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