

1914-15-16.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 127.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 1916.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Death and Invalidity in the Commonwealth—Committee concerning Causes of—Report on Venereal Diseases.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
3. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.—Mr. Riley, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, brought up the following Reports from the Committee—
Reports, together with Minutes of Evidence and Diagrams, relating to the questions of—
Canberra—Proposed City Railway at.
Canberra—Proposed Dams for Ornamental Waters at.
Severally ordered to be printed.
4. PRINTING COMMITTEE—SEVENTH REPORT FROM.—Mr. McWilliams, Chairman, brought up the following (Seventh) Report from the Printing Committee (sitting in conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate)—

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 Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament, make the following recommendations:—

Subject of Paper.	Recommendation of Committee.	Remarks.
Petitions—		
† Compulsory Military Service—From Plymouth Brethren, praying for exemption	No recommendation	
Federal Wheat Scheme—From certain farmers, praying that existing scheme be amended ..		” ”
† War-time Profits Tax Bill—From employees in gold mines of Bendigo, Ballarat, and elsewhere, praying that provisions of Bill may not be applied to gold mining industry		” ”

† Presented to House of Representatives only.

14th December, 1916.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.—REPORT—*continued.*

Subject of Paper.	Recommendation of Committee.	Remarks.		
Papers—				
Arbitration (Public Service) Act— Awards, &c., of Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, together with Statements, Reasons, &c.— On plaints filed by— Australian Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Officers' Association ..	No recommenda- tion " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Already in print and cir- culated to Members . " " " " " "		
Federated Public Service Assistants' Association ..				
Australian Letter Carriers' Association ..				
Order further varying Award on plaint submitted by the Australian Letter Carriers' Association ..				
Opinion of Attorney-General in connexion with variation of award in case of Australian Letter Carriers v. the Public Service Commissioner and another ..				
Order varying Award on plaint submitted by— Australian Postal Electricians' Union ..				
Australian Telegraph and Telephone Construction and Maintenance Union ..				
Audit Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 233 ..				
Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Fund Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 288 ..				
Bounties Act—Return of Particulars relating to Bounties paid during Financial Year 1915-16 ..			" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Already in print and cir- culated to Members Published in <i>Gazette</i> " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "
Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 292 ..				
* <i>Commonwealth Gazette</i> No. 178, Notification of repeal of War Service Regulations of 1916 ..				
Compulsory Military Service— * Return showing cost of Referendum, Proclamation, &c. ..				
* Return, in detail, showing cost of calling up men ..				
* Currie, Private G. T.—Papers in connexion with discharge from Australian Imperial Force ..				
Customs Act— Proclamation prohibiting the Exportation of— Cinematograph Films to Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony ..				
Wire Ropes and High Speed Tool Steel ..				
Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 266, 304 ..				
Defence— * Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers who have attended an Officers' Training School at Duntroon, Previous Military Training, Results of Examination, &c. ..	To be printed No recommenda- tion " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Already in print and cir- culated to Members Published in <i>Gazette</i> " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "		
Small Arms Factory—Report for year ended 30th June, 1915 ..				
* Officers ineligible for Commissions in Australian Imperial Force, &c. ..				
Defence Act— Proclamation calling up persons liable for service in Citizen Forces ..				
Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 224, 225, 235, 238, 246, 249, 251, 258, 268, 294, 295 ..				
Defence Act and War Precautions Act— Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 240, 253, 269, 285, 296 ..				

* Presented to Senate only.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.—REPORT—*continued.*

Subject of Paper.	Recommendation of Committee.	Remarks.
Papers—<i>continued.</i>		
* Dredges, Bridges, Sugar Mills, and Locomotives; Importations of Material during past ten years, &c. (<i>Postponed Paper</i>)	No recommenda- tion	
* Further Return	" "	
Electoral Act and Referendum (Constitution Alteration) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 227	" "	Already in print and circulated to Members
Excise Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 259	" "	" "
* Federal Capital—Return showing Cost, &c., of Royal Commission of Inquiry	" "	
Ireland—Headings of Settlement as to Government of	" "	
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at—Bulimba, Cairns, Congwarra, Dubbo, Enoggera (2), Fremantle, Launceston, Waverley	" "	Published in <i>Gazette</i>
Lighthouses Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 277	" "	Already in print and circulated to Members
Military Service Referendum Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 239, 260, 261, 262	" "	" "
Ministerial Statement of Government Policy, 29th November, 1916	" "	
Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 223	" "	Already in print and circulated to Members
Northern Territory—Crown Lands Ordinance—Timber Regulations Report of Royal Commission on charges against Administrator and other Officers	" "	
	Consideration further postponed	
Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 211, 228, 229, 230, 231, 244, 245, 274, 275, 276	No recommenda- tion	Already in print and circulated to Members
Public Service Act—Appointments, Promotions, &c., in cases of—G. W. Brown, H. J. Brown, J. T. Byrnes, S. Coulton, G. A. W. Cox, W. H. Gibson, C. H. Green, J. Horsley, E. A. Jones, R. S. Lamont, W. H. Lovegrove, J. McCaul, A. N. Muir, J. R. McManus, J. McMurray, E. A. Rinaldi, S. P. Semmens	" "	
Temporary Employees—Return for year 1915–16 Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 210, 241, 242, 264, 265, 287, 297	" "	Already in print and circulated to Members
Railway Workshops at Port Augusta or Quorn—Establishment of—Reports by Engineer-in-Chief and Chief Mechanical Engineer, Commonwealth Railways, with reference to Reports by Mr. A. E. Smith and Mr. A. Combes	To be printed	
War, The—		
Allied Territories in Occupation of Enemy—Relief of—Correspondence respecting	No recommenda- tion	
Correspondence with United States Ambassador	" "	
British Transit Mail to Russia—Correspondence with Swedish Minister on subject of Detention by Swedish Government of the— as a Reprisal for Search of Parcels Mail by His Majesty's Government	" "	

* Presented to Senate only.

14th December, 1916.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.—REPORT—*continued.*

Subject of Paper.	Recommendation of Committee.	Remarks.
<i>Papers—continued.</i>		
<i>War, The—continued.</i>		
Greek Government—Collective Note addressed to—by French, British, and Russian Ministers, and Reply of Greek Government	No recommenda- tion	
Internment Camps—Reports of Visits of Inspection made by Officials of United States Embassy to various Internment Camps in United Kingdom	" "	
National Relief Fund—Report on Administration of	" "	
Parcels and Letter Mails—Note to United States Ambassador <i>re</i> Examination of	" "	
Poland and Serbia—Importation of Foodstuffs into—Further correspondence with United States Embassy	" "	
Prisoners of War—Correspondence with His Majesty's Minister at Berne <i>re</i> Question of Reprisals against	" "	
Rebellion in Ireland—Royal Commission—Minutes of Evidence and Appendix of Documents	" "	
Submarines—Memorandum <i>re</i> Treatment of Belligerent Submarines in Neutral Waters communicated by Allied Governments to Governments of certain Neutral Maritime States	" "	
*War Census—Progress Return, showing number and unimproved value of Freehold Estates in Commonwealth, 30th June, 1915.	To be printed when Return completed	
War Precautions Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 97, 112, 122, 128, 129, 135, 137, 161, 163, 169, 189, 215, 216, 217, 219, 226, 232, 234, 236, 237, 247, 248, 250, 252, 254, 255, 256, 257, 263, 272, *273, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 286, 289, 290, 298, 299, 300, 301	No recommenda- tion	Already in print and cir- culated to Members

* Presented to Senate only.

Committee Room,
14th December, 1916.W. J. McWILLIAMS,
Chairman.

Mr. McWilliams moved, by leave, That the Report be adopted.

Question—put and passed.

5. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Rodgers rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "The Repatriation of our Returned Australian Soldiers and Sailors."

Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—

Mr. Rodgers moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the debate was interrupted in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, and Business of the Day was called on.

14th December, 1916.

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

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—

Awards varied—

- (1) Copy of Order varying Award which has been made by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.
- (2) Statement of the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth with which, in the opinion of the President (or Deputy-President) of the Court, the Order is not or may not be in accord.
- (3) Copy of the "reasons for judgment" of the President (or Deputy-President).
- (4) Opinion of Attorney-General—

On plaint submitted by—

Australian Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Officers' Association—Order dated 27th October, 1916, varying Award dated 19th September, 1916.

Australian Letter Carriers' Association—Order dated 27th October, 1916, varying Award dated 19th September, 1916.

Australian Telegraph and Telephone Construction and Maintenance Union—Order dated 22nd November, 1916, further varying Award dated 1st May, 1914.

Federated Public Service Assistants' Association—Order dated 27th October, 1916, varying Award dated 19th September, 1916.

Award further varied—

- (1) Copy of Order dated 21st November, 1916, further varying Award dated 23rd April, 1913, made by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

- (2) Opinion of Attorney-General—

On plaint submitted by—

Australian Postal Electricians' Union.

Customs Act—

Exportation of Goods—

Lists of Persons to whom Goods may be exported (with Minister's permission) in—
China (not including Hong Kong) and Siam (dated 30th November, 1916).
Liberia (dated 22nd November, 1916).

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at—

Bherwerre, New South Wales—For Establishment of a Port in connexion with the Seat of Government, and for Defence purposes.

Broken Hill, New South Wales—For Postal purposes.

Public Service Act—Promotions of—

S. W. Gibbs, Department of Trade and Customs.

D. R. McLean, Postmaster-General's Department.

W. Reid, Postmaster-General's Department.

War Precautions Act—Regulations Amended— Statutory Rules 1916, No. 293.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That Notice of Motion, Government Business, No. 1, be postponed until a later hour this day.

8. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORKS—POSTAL STORES, ETC., BUILDING, SYDNEY.—

Mr. Spence moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-14*, the following work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for their report thereon, viz. :—

Extension of Postal Stores building, Harbour-street, Sydney, New South Wales, for store purposes and for Telephone and Telegraph Workshops.

Mr. Spence having laid on the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed works—

Question—put and passed.

9. WAYS AND MEANS [“GRIEVANCE DAY” AND ENTERTAINMENTS TAX].—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Ways and Means—

Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

14th December, 1916.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Poynton moved—That a tax be imposed upon payments for admission to entertainments, at the following rates, namely:—

Payment for Admission (excluding the amount of tax).	Rate of Tax.
Not less than fivepence and not exceeding sixpence	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Exceeding sixpence and not exceeding one shilling	1d.
Exceeding one shilling	1d. for the first shilling, and one half-penny for every sixpence or part of sixpence by which the payment exceeds one shilling.

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.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at seven minutes past eleven 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—General Abbott*, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Catts, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Mahon, Mr. McGrath*, Mr. Ozanne*, General Ryrie*, Mr. West, and Mr. Yates.

* On leave.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.