

1917.

(SECOND SESSION.)

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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SECOND SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT.

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WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 1917.

1. The House of Representatives met pursuant to Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor-General, bearing date the second day of July, 1917, which Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk, as follows:—

PROCLAMATION

Commonwealth of  
Australia to wit.  
R. M. FERGUSON,  
Governor-General.

By His Excellency the Right Honorable SIR RONALD CRAUFURD MUNRO  
FERGUSON, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council,  
Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael  
and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and  
over the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution it is amongst other things enacted that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit, and also from time to time by Proclamation or otherwise prorogue the Parliament:

And whereas on the sixteenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and seventeen, the Parliament was prorogued until the eleventh day of July, One thousand nine hundred and seventeen:

Now therefore I, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Constitution, do by this my Proclamation appoint the said Wednesday, the eleventh day of July, One thousand nine hundred and seventeen, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of business. And all members of the Senate are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, situate in Spring-street, in the city of Melbourne, at Eleven o'clock a.m., on the said Wednesday, the eleventh day of July, One thousand nine hundred and seventeen. And all members of the House of Representatives are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, situate in Spring-street, in the city of Melbourne, at Three o'clock p.m., on the said Wednesday, the eleventh day of July, One thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid this second day of July, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and in the eighth year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

(L.S.)

JOHN FORREST,  
for the Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

(570 copies.)

11th July, 1917.

2. Mr. Speaker took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE SENATE.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Senate :—
- MR. SPEAKER,
- His Excellency the Governor-General desires the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.
- Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency :—And having returned—
4. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Honorable James Arthur Boyd and Edward Bernard Cresset Corser, Esquire, made and subscribed the oath required by law.
5. RETURN TO WRIT (DARWIN DIVISION).—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General a Return to the Writ which had been issued on the 6th June last, for the election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Darwin, in the State of Tasmania, and that by the Return it appeared that William Guthrie Spence had been elected in pursuance of the said Writ.
6. MEMBER SWORN.—The Honorable William Guthrie Spence was introduced, and made and subscribed the oath required by law.
7. AMENDMENTS INCORPORATION BILL (1917).—Mr. Hughes moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Amendments Incorporation Act 1905*.  
Question—put and passed.
8. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had this day attended His Excellency the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which read as follows :—

GENTLEMEN :

1. You have been called together, early in the financial year, to consider matters of urgent importance in relation to the successful prosecution of the War, and the best direction of the resources of the Commonwealth for that purpose.

2. The deliberate and inevitable entry of the United States of America into the War is welcomed by my Advisers as a splendid vindication of the great cause for which the Allies are fighting, and as a certain augury for the ultimate success of our arms, and the liberation of the world from the barbarous aggression of the Central European Powers.

3. The Commonwealth Naval and Military Forces have continued to maintain the great traditions gloriously won by our gallant sailors and soldiers in this War, and my Advisers feel confident that it is the determination of the whole people of Australia to maintain this splendid record until the War ends in victory for the Allied arms.

4. The people of Australia having declared by a small majority against compulsory service, my Advisers have given earnest consideration to the question of recruiting by voluntary enlistment for the purpose of maintaining the Australian Divisions in the field up to full strength. After careful consideration of all the facts at their disposal, they consider that this will require at least 7,000 (seven thousand) troops per month, and look to the whole-hearted co-operation of all sections of the community to secure this number.

5. A Federal Recruiting Committee, consisting of Members of both Parties in the Federal Parliament, has been appointed to assist the Director-General of Recruiting in organizing recruiting effort throughout the Commonwealth.

6. The question of Separation Allowances has been reviewed, and they have been extended to certain dependants of soldiers not hitherto provided for by the Commonwealth Government.

7. The question of protection for the wives and dependants of soldiers, in the absence of their breadwinners, is also being considered, and action in this direction will shortly be taken.

8. My Advisers consider that action should be taken to curtail sport meetings throughout the Commonwealth, in order to concentrate the minds of the people on the more serious aspect of the War, and steps are being taken towards this end.

9. My Advisers have given much consideration to the matter of the repatriation of returned soldiers. A scheme has been prepared, and it is proposed to appoint a Minister and create a Department of State for its administration. Measures to give effect to this scheme, and make the financial provisions required to carry it out, will be submitted to you at an early date.

10. It is intended to propose certain amendments in the Commonwealth Public Service Act which will facilitate the appointment and employment of returned soldiers in the Service.

11. My Advisers consider that present circumstances impose upon the community the duty of national economy, and have reduced expenditure upon matters not directly relating to the prosecution of the War to the lowest possible level. They believe that public and private economy, together with efficient administration and loyal and zealous co-operation of all classes in the community, are absolutely essential to enable Australia to put forth her whole strength in the War.

12. In aid of the extraordinary revenue required for purposes connected with the War and repatriation, certain financial proposals will be submitted for your consideration, including a Bill for the taxation of War-time profits and a Bill to increase the rate of the income tax.

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13. My Advisers propose to pursue the policy of raising in Australia the loans required for carrying on the War. In this connexion they recognise the importance of facilitating contribution to the War loans by persons of small means, with a view of spreading this mode of investment over as large a proportion of the population as possible. To this end they have provided for the issue of War Saving Certificates; and arrangements have been made to enable these certificates to be taken up by groups of people making periodical small payments.

14. Among the financial measures to be submitted to you are Bills for the raising and appropriation of War Loans; a States Loan Bill; an Old-age Pensions Appropriation Bill.

15. It is proposed by my Advisers to take steps for the purpose of insuring the continuity of industrial operations, and the prevention of strikes or lock-outs which would affect the efficient prosecution of the War. Amongst these will be a measure proposing certain amendments in the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

16. My Advisers recognise that increased production is necessary to enable the Commonwealth to fulfil with vigour its part in the prosecution of the War. With this object in view, the Government provisionally appointed, some time ago, an Advisory Council of scientific experts, which has done useful preparatory work. It is proposed to establish this on a more permanent footing, so as to make available, for the industrial activities required by the War, the best and latest results of investigation and research.

Meanwhile, it is proposed to proceed immediately, on lines which have been laid down, with investigations into the cattle-tick pest, the sheep blow-fly, worm nodules in beef, and the prickly-pear, with a view to the control and eradication of these pests. The production of cotton, industrial alcohol, and tannin; and improved processes in our secondary industries, are also now receiving careful attention.

17. Modern methods of organization being an essential factor in industrial enterprises, my Advisers propose to give active encouragement to the improvement and perfection of industrial organization.

18. Measures are contemplated to provide additional facilities for the oversea transport of the produce of the Commonwealth, and increased storage accommodation for what cannot be immediately exported.

19. To maintain and increase the supply of shipping tonnage, in view of the huge wastage of the War and the urgent requirements of the Empire, is at once an urgent national necessity, and vital to the industrial welfare of the Commonwealth. My Advisers have in preparation an extensive programme of ship-building in Australia, in which they are seeking the co-operation of organized labour with a view to beginning work immediately.

20. A measure will be introduced to make fundamental changes in the law relating to Nationality and Aliens.

21. A Railways Bill will be submitted to you, and Bills to make certain amendments in the Defence Act, the Post and Telegraph Act, and the Trade Marks Act.

22. The necessity for the utmost possible economy and efficiency in the administration of the Public Service is recognised as being of the first importance, and is receiving careful attention. In this regard, a Commission has been appointed to inquire into and advise upon the business administration of the Departments of Defence and of the Navy.

23. I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties, in the confident hope that, under Divine guidance, your deliberations will promote the welfare and safety of Australia and of the British Dominions, and the firm and lasting establishment of those principles of liberty and justice for which, in common with the great Nations with whom we are allied, we have pledged our national honour, our public and private fortunes, and our very lives.

9. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Hughes moved, That a Committee consisting of Mr. Lamond, Mr. Leckie, and the Mover be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament, and that the Committee do report this day.

Question—put and passed.

10. 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:—

[Supply Bill (No. 6) 1916-17 and (No. 1) 1917-18]—

R. M. FERGUSON,  
Governor-General.

Message No. 1.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to grant and apply sums out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the years ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and seventeen and the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and eighteen respectively,*" 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, 15th June, 1917.

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[Supply (Works and Buildings) Bill (No. 5) 1916-17]—

R. M. FERGUSON,  
Governor-General.

Message No. 2.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and seventeen 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, 15th June, 1917.

11. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ESTIMATES, 1916-17; AND SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 1917-18.—The following Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were presented, and the same were read by Mr. Speaker:—

R. M. FERGUSON,  
Governor-General.

Message No. 3.

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purposes of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and seventeen, which were transmitted to the House of Representatives on the 14th June last.

Government House,  
Melbourne, 9th July, 1917.

R. M. FERGUSON,  
Governor-General.

Message No. 4.

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purposes of the Estimates of Expenditure for Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., for the year ended the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and seventeen, which were transmitted to the House of Representatives on the 14th June last.

Government House,  
Melbourne, 9th July, 1917.

R. M. FERGUSON,  
Governor-General.

Message No. 5.

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 grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and eighteen.

Melbourne, 10th July, 1917.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and to be referred to the Committee of Supply, when appointed.

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

Agricultural Policy Sub-Committee of Re-construction Committee (Imperial)—Appointed August, 1916—Report—Part I. (Paper presented to the British Parliament).

The War—Koggrund Passage—Correspondence with the Swedish Government respecting the Mining of (Paper presented to the British Parliament).

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—

Awards or variations of Awards made by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration; Statements of Laws and Regulations with which the Awards are not or may not be in accord; Reasons for judgment; Opinions of Attorney-General; Memoranda by the Acting Public Service Commissioner—in the following cases:—

Australian Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Officers' Association—Award dated 26th June, 1917.

Commonwealth General Division Telephone Officers' Association—Award dated 26th June, 1917.

Australian Telegraph and Telephone Construction and Maintenance Union—Order dated 4th April, 1917, further varying Award dated 1st May, 1914; and Award dated 1st May, 1914, as amended by orders dated 29th September and 22nd November, 1916, and 4th April, 1917.

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PAPERS—*continued.*

- Audit Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 130, 137.  
 Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 129, 131, 133, 139, 144.  
 Inscribed Stock Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 122.  
 Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at—  
     Chatswood, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.  
     Cockburn Sound, Western Australia—For Defence purposes.  
 Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 135.  
 Papua—Ordinances of 1917—  
     No. 1—Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1), 1916–17.  
     No. 2—Land.  
     No. 3—Arms, Liquor and Opium Prohibition.  
 Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 126, 134, 140.  
 Public Service Act—  
     Appointments, Promotions of—  
         G. H. Boundy, Postmaster-General's Department.  
         K. O'D. J. Carrucan, Prime Minister's Department.  
         F. S. Dooner, Postmaster-General's Department.  
         J. Groves, Postmaster-General's Department.  
         J. P. Hannan, Department of the Treasury.  
         H. J. Sheehan, Department of the Treasury.  
         N. W. Strange, Postmaster-General's Department.  
         H. H. Trebilco, Department of the Treasury.  
         A. W. White, Department of the Treasury.  
     Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 141–3.  
 War Precautions Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 77, 123, 124, 125, 127, 138.  
 Wireless Telegraphy Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 136.

13. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER (MR. McDONALD).—Mr. Tudor moved, by leave, that leave of absence for six months on the ground of ill-health be given to the honorable Member for Kennedy (Mr. McDonald).  
 Question—put and passed.
14. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Hughes brought up the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, prepared by the Committee appointed this day, and the same was read by the Clerk, as follows:—  
 MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—  
 We, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.  
 Mr. Lamond moved, That the Address be agreed to by the House.  
 Mr. Leckie seconded the motion.  
 Mr. Tudor 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 to-morrow.
15. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—SUPPLY.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the Standing Orders be suspended in order to enable the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means to be appointed before the Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor-General's Opening Speech has been agreed to by the House, and to enable all other steps to be at once taken to obtain Supply, and to pass a Supply Bill through all stages without delay.  
 Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority of the Members of the House.
16. SUPPLY.—Sir John Forrest moved, That the House do now resolve itself into a Committee to consider the Supply to be granted to His Majesty.  
 Question—put and passed.
17. SUPPLY RESOLUTION [SUPPLY BILL].—The House then resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

## SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 1917-18.

*Resolved*, on the motion of Sir John Forrest, after debate—That there be granted to His Majesty for or towards defraying the services of the year 1917–18 a sum not exceeding Four million three hundred and fifty-six thousand one hundred and eighty-six pounds.

Resolution 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.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read and, on the motion of Sir John Forrest, was adopted by the House.

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18. **WAYS AND MEANS.**—Sir John Forrest moved, That the House do now resolve itself into a Committee to consider the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to His Majesty.  
Question—put and passed.
19. **WAYS AND MEANS RESOLUTION.**—The House then resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 1917-18.

*Resolved*, on the motion of Sir John Forrest—That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the services of the year 1917-18, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding Four million three hundred and fifty-six thousand one hundred and eighty-six pounds.

Resolution 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.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read and, on the motion of Sir John Forrest, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Sir John Forrest and Mr. Hughes do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

20. **SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 1917-18.**—Sir John Forrest then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and eighteen,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.

Sir John Forrest moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

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

(In the Committee.)

Bill agreed to, and to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

On the motion of Sir John Forrest, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

21. **DAYS OF BUSINESS.**—Mr. Hughes moved, by leave, That, unless otherwise ordered, this House shall meet for the despatch of business at three o'clock on each Wednesday afternoon, at half-past two o'clock on each Thursday afternoon, and at eleven o'clock on each Friday morning.  
Question—put and passed.

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

Finance—Further Summary of Commonwealth Finances, 30th June, 1917.

Science and Industry—Report of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Advisory Council of, from 14th April, 1916, to 30th June, 1917.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT.**—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—General Abbott, Mr. Anstey, Mr. Bayley, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Burchell, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Heitmann, Mr. W. Maloney, Mr. McDonald\*, Mr. McGrath, General Ryrie, Mr. John Thomson, and Mr. Yates.

\* On leave.

WALTER A. GALE,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.