

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

THURSDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1920.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, in the City of Melbourne, on Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of February, in the tenth year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Fifth, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty—

1. On which day, being the first day of the meeting of The Parliament for the despatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation (hereinafter set forth), Walter Augustus Gale, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Thomas Woollard, Clerk Assistant, and Francis Laurence Clapin, Serjeant-at-Arms, attending in the House according to their duty, the said Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk:—

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 Act 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: Now therefore I, Sir Ronald Craufurd Munro Ferguson, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Act, do by this my Proclamation appoint Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and twenty, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs: And all Senators and 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 the hour of 10.30 o'clock a.m. on the said Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and twenty.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid this eighteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty, in the tenth year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

(L.S.) LITTLETON E. GROOM,
for the Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

2. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY'S DEPUTIES BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod:—
The Deputies of His Excellency the Governor-General for the opening of Parliament request the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.
Accordingly the Members of the House of Representatives went to the Senate Chamber, where the Senior Deputy addressed the Members of both Houses as follows:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

His Excellency the Governor-General not thinking fit to be present in person at this time has been pleased to cause Letters Patent to issue under the great seal of the Commonwealth

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constituting us his Deputies to do in his name all that is necessary to be performed in declaring this Parliament open, as will more fully appear from the Letters Patent which will now be read.

The Commission was read, as follows :—

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 :

To the Honorable Adrian Knox, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia,
and

The Honorable Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Greeting :

WHEREAS by Letters Patent dated the twenty-ninth day of October, One thousand nine hundred, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting the Office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the said Commonwealth, Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon Her by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was pleased to authorize and empower the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, subject to any limitations expressed or directions given by Her, to appoint any person or persons, jointly or severally, to be his Deputy or Deputies within any part of the Commonwealth, and in that capacity to exercise, during his pleasure, such of his powers and functions as he might deem it necessary to assign to him or them : Provided always that the appointment of such Deputy or Deputies should not affect the exercise by the Governor-General himself of any power or function :

AND WHEREAS by Proclamation dated the eighteenth day of February, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the nineteenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and twenty, the twenty-sixth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and twenty, was appointed as the day for the Parliament of the Commonwealth to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs ; and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives were thereby 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 the hour of half-past Ten o'clock a.m. on the day and date aforesaid :

NOW KNOW YOU that in pursuance of the powers and authority vested in me by the Constitution and the said Letters Patent, I, Sir RONALD CRAUFURD MUNRO FERGUSON, the Governor-General aforesaid, do hereby appoint you to be my Deputies for the purpose of declaring open the said Parliament at the time and place aforesaid.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, at Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, this nineteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty, and in the tenth year of His Majesty's reign.

(L.S.) R. M. FERGUSON,

Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

LITTLETON E. GROOM.

The Senior Deputy then said :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

We have it in command from the Governor-General to let you know that, as soon as the Members of the House of Representatives shall have been sworn, the causes of His Excellency calling this Parliament will be declared by him in person at this place ; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be first chosen, you, Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, will retire to the place where you shall sit, and there proceed to the choice of some proper person to be your Speaker ; and thereafter you will present the person whom you shall so choose to His Excellency, at such time and place as he shall appoint.

His Honour Mr. Justice Isaacs will attend in the House of Representatives for the purpose of administering the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Members of that House.

And thereupon the Members of the House returned to their own Chamber, and, after an interval of some minutes—

3. COMMISSIONER TO ADMINISTER THE OATH TO MEMBERS.—The Honorable Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Justice of the High Court of Australia, having been ushered into the Chamber and conducted by the Serjeant-at-Arms to the Chair, handed to the Clerk at the Table a Commission, which was read and is as follows :—

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 :

To the Honorable Isaac Alfred Isaacs, Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Greeting :

WHEREAS by the forty-second section of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is enacted that every Senator and every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking

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his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution :

Now THEREFORE I, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these presents command and authorize you to attend at Parliament House, Melbourne, on Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and twenty, at half-past Ten o'clock a.m., there and then to administer the Oath or Affirmation to such Members of the House of Representatives as are present.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, at Melbourne, this nineteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty.

(L.S.) R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,
LITTLETON E. GROOM,
for Prime Minister.

4. RETURNS TO WRITS FOR GENERAL ELECTION.—The Clerk announced that he had received from the Official Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General returns to the 75 writs for the General Election of the House of Representatives held on 13th December, 1919.

By the said Returns it appeared that for the several Electoral Divisions of the States the following gentlemen had been elected, as shown hereunder :—

Division.	State.	Name.
Adelaide ..	South Australia ..	Reginald Pole Blundell.
Angas ..	South Australia ..	Joel Moses Gabb.
Balaclava ..	Victoria ..	William Alexander Watt.
Ballaarat ..	Victoria ..	Edwin Thomas John Kerby.
Barker ..	South Australia ..	John Livingston.
Barrier ..	New South Wales ..	Michael Patrick Considine.
Bass ..	Tasmania ..	David Sydney Jackson.
Batman ..	Victoria ..	Frank Brennan.
Bendigo ..	Victoria ..	William Morris Hughes.
Boothby ..	South Australia ..	William Harrison Story.
Bourke ..	Victoria ..	Frank Anstey.
Brisbane ..	Queensland ..	Donald Charles Cameron.
Calare ..	New South Wales ..	Thomas James Lavelle.
Capricornia ..	Queensland ..	William Guy Higgs.
Cook ..	New South Wales ..	James Howard Catts.
Corangamite ..	Victoria ..	William Gerrard Gibson.
Corio ..	Victoria ..	John Henry Lister.
Cowper ..	New South Wales ..	Earle Christmas Grafton Page.
Dalley ..	New South Wales ..	William George Mahony.
Dampier ..	Western Australia ..	Henry Gregory.
Darling ..	New South Wales ..	Arthur Blakeley.
Darling Downs ..	Queensland ..	Littleton Ernest Groom.
Darwin ..	Tasmania ..	George John Bell.
Denison ..	Tasmania ..	William Henry Laird Smith.
East Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	John Edward West.
Echuca ..	Victoria ..	William Caldwell Hill.
Eden-Monaro ..	New South Wales ..	Austin Chapman.
Fawkner ..	Victoria ..	George Arnot Maxwell.
Flinders ..	Victoria ..	Stanley Melbourne Bruce.
Franklin ..	Tasmania ..	William James McWilliams.
Fremantle ..	Western Australia ..	Reginald John Burchell.
Gippsland ..	Victoria ..	George Henry Wise.
Grampians ..	Victoria ..	Edmund Jowett.
Grey ..	South Australia ..	Alexander Poynton.
Gwydir ..	New South Wales ..	Lucien Lawrence Cunningham.
Henty ..	Victoria ..	Frederick Henry Francis.
Herbert ..	Queensland ..	Frederick William Bamford.
Hindmarsh ..	South Australia ..	Norman John Oswald Makin.
Hume ..	New South Wales ..	Parker John Moloney.
Hunter ..	New South Wales ..	Matthew Charlton.
Illawarra ..	New South Wales ..	Hector Lamond.
Indi ..	Victoria ..	Robert Cook.
Kalgoorlie ..	Western Australia ..	Hugh Mahon.
Kennedy ..	Queensland ..	Charles McDonald.
Kooyong ..	Victoria ..	Robert Wallace Best.
Lang ..	New South Wales ..	William Elliot Johnson.
Lilley ..	Queensland ..	George Hugh Mackay.
Macquarie ..	New South Wales ..	Samuel Robert Nicholls.

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Division.	State.	Name.
Maranoa ..	Queensland ..	James Page.
Maribyrnong ..	Victoria ..	James Edward Fenton.
Melbourne ..	Victoria ..	William Robert Nuttall Maloney.
Melbourne Ports ..	Victoria ..	James Mathews.
Moreton ..	Queensland ..	Arnold Wienholt.
Nepean ..	New South Wales ..	Eric Kendall Bowden.
Newcastle ..	New South Wales ..	David Watkins.
New England ..	New South Wales ..	Alexander Hay.
North Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	Granville de L'une Ryrie.
Oxley ..	Queensland ..	James Garfield Bayley.
Parkes ..	New South Wales ..	Charles William Clanan Marr.
Parramatta ..	New South Wales ..	Joseph Cook.
Perth ..	Western Australia ..	James Mackinnon Fowler.
Richmond ..	New South Wales ..	Walter Massy Greene.
Riverina ..	New South Wales ..	John Moore Chanter.
Robertson ..	New South Wales ..	William Montgomerie Fleming.
South Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	Edward Riley.
Swan ..	Western Australia ..	John Henry Prowse.
Wakefield ..	South Australia ..	Richard Witty Foster.
Wannon ..	Victoria ..	Arthur Stanislaus Rodgers.
Wentworth ..	New South Wales ..	Walter Moffit Marks.
Werriva ..	New South Wales ..	Hubert Peter Lazzarini.
West Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	Thomas Joseph Ryan.
Wide Bay ..	Queensland ..	Edward Bernard Cresset Corser.
Wilmot ..	Tasmania ..	Llewelyn Atkinson.
Wimmera ..	Victoria ..	Percy Gerald Stewart.
Yarra ..	Victoria ..	Frank Gwynne Tudor.

5. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Members whose names are above set forth made and subscribed the Oath required by law, except Mr. Charlton, Mr. Considine, Mr. Fowler, and Mr. McDonald (who were not then present).

The Commissioner retired.

6. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—Mr. Lamond, addressing himself to the Clerk (who, standing up, pointed to him, and then sat down); proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr. W. Elliot Johnson, and moved, That he do take the Chair of the House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr. Corser.

Debate ensued.

Then Mr. Brennan, addressing himself in like manner to the Clerk, proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr. William George Mahony, and moved, That he do take the Chair of the House as Speaker; which motion was seconded by Mr. Nicholls.

Debate continued.

Mr. W. Elliot Johnson submitted himself to the House.

Mr. William George Mahony submitted himself to the House.

The Question—That Mr. W. Elliot Johnson do take the Chair of the House as Speaker—was put by the Clerk.

The House divided—

Ayes, 46.

Noes, 21.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Jackson
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Jowett
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Kerby
Mr. Bell	Mr. Lamond
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Lister
Mr. Blundell	Mr. Livingston
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Marks
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Charles Marr
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. McWilliams
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Corser	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Fleming	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Francis	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Watt
Mr. Greene	Mr. Wienholt
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Wise.
Mr. Groom	
Mr. Hay	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Hill	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Story

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. James Page
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Riley
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Lavelle	Mr. West.
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Hugh Mahon	<i>Tellers;</i>
Mr. Makin	
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Brennan
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Nicholls.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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The Honorable William Elliot Johnson was then taken out of his place by Mr. Lamond and Mr. Corser and conducted to the Chair, where, standing on the upper step, he returned his humble acknowledgments to the House for the great honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon he sat down in the Chair.

Then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Then Mr. Hughes, Mr. Tudor, Mr. McWilliams, and Mr. Anstey congratulated Mr. Speaker, who expressed his thanks.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Hughes stated that he had already ascertained that it would be His Excellency's pleasure to receive the Speaker in the Library of the Parliament that day at fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.

And the sitting of the House having been suspended until seventeen minutes to three o'clock p.m.—Mr. Speaker, after resuming the Chair, went with the Members of the House to attend His Excellency; and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported that the House had proceeded to the Library of the Parliament, and that he had presented himself to His Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives, and that His Excellency had been kind enough to congratulate him upon his election.

8. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod:—

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—

9. COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following Commission:—

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:

To the Honorable William Elliot Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Greeting:

WHEREAS by the forty-second section of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution:

NOW THEREFORE I, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you from time to time in the Parliament House of the Commonwealth in the City of Melbourne to administer the said Oath or Affirmation to such Members of the House of Representatives as have not already taken and subscribed the same since their election to the said House of Representatives.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, at Melbourne, this twenty-sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty.

(L.S.) R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,
W. M. HUGHES.

10. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—CHANGES IN MINISTRY.—Mr. Hughes announced to the House that consequent on the resignations of Mr. Glynn as Minister for Home and Territories and Mr. Webster as Postmaster-General, Mr. Poynton had been appointed as Minister for Home and Territories, and Mr. Wise as Postmaster-General; Sir Granville Ryrie and Mr. Laird Smith had been appointed as honorary Ministers.

11. DEATH OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR EDMUND BARTON, P.C., G.C.M.G.—Mr. Hughes moved, by leave, That this House places on record its profound regret at the loss the Commonwealth has sustained in the death of the late Right Honorable Sir Edmund Barton, P.C., G.C.M.G., and its sincere appreciation of the eminent public services rendered by him as a Minister of the Crown for the State of New South Wales, as a Member of the Federal Convention, as first Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, and as a Judge of the High Court of Australia.

This House tenders its deepest sympathy to Lady Barton and the members of her family in their bereavement.

And Mr. Tudor having seconded the motion, and other honorable Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen in silence—

Question—passed.

Resolved—That Mr. Speaker be requested to transmit to Lady Barton the foregoing Resolution, and a copy of the speeches delivered thereon.

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12. **KALGOORLIE TO PORT AUGUSTA RAILWAY LANDS BILL (1920).**—Mr. Hughes moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the "*Kalgoorlie to Port Augusta Railway Lands Act 1918.*"

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Hughes then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

13. **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.

14. **HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.**—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had that 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 :

You have been summoned to deal with matters of urgency and importance to the people of Australia.

The state of war with Germany was happily brought to an end on 10th January by the final ratification of the Treaty of Peace.

Simultaneously with the ratification the League of Nations was created. The establishment of the League heralds a new era in international relations, and symbolizes a new spirit in the treatment of international questions. It creates machinery whereby peace and justice may become more widely effective, and military force and military ambition be restrained.

The early decision of the United States of America to share in the responsibilities of the League is earnestly hoped for.

The Mandate to the Commonwealth to administer the territories in the Pacific, south of the equator, captured by Australian naval and military forces, has been delayed by the postponement of the ratification of the treaty with Germany, but its early issue is expected, and my Ministers will introduce legislation providing for the adoption and operation of the Mandate.

It is a matter for great gratification to the Government, a sentiment which I am sure is general throughout the community, that arrangements have been made for H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to visit the Commonwealth in May next.

In the name of the people of Australia, I give His Royal Highness the assurance of a joyous and loyal welcome.

The revenue of the current financial year is satisfactory, and the expenditure of the Public Services is proceeding with due regard to economy.

Despite the inevitable dislocation of transport and commerce caused by the war, and the unhappy influence of the drought, production and enterprise within the Commonwealth are vigorous.

Though fighting has ceased, much money is still needed to meet obligations arising out of the war. The loan moneys in hand suffice for immediate requirements, but the Government will be obliged to give early consideration to the question of raising additional loan funds.

Conditions following upon the war make it desirable that the usefulness of the Commonwealth Bank shall be extended, and proposals to effect this will be submitted for your approval.

The great increase in the price of silver bullion and other post-war circumstances render it necessary to reduce the fineness of our silver coinage and to issue notes of smaller denomination. The requisite authority for these changes will be embodied in measures which will be brought before you.

It is the intention of my Advisers to appoint at an early date a Royal Commission to consider the whole incidence of Commonwealth taxation.

My Ministers have devoted much attention to a revision of the existing Customs and Excise Tariffs, and measures calculated to stabilize and extend the industries of Australia will be laid before you.

Problems for the future defence of Australia are receiving the earnest consideration of my Advisers, and proposals suggested by the experience of war and by the new international situation will, in due course, be submitted for your consideration.

I record with pleasure the visit to Australia of General Sir William Birdwood, Bart., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., who commanded the Australian Forces with such distinction throughout the war.

My Ministers will invite Parliament to express the thanks of the people of the Commonwealth to the Navy and Army for their splendid services in the Great War.

In order to encourage aviation, the Government offered a prize of £10,000 for a flight, in a machine manned by Australians, from Great Britain to Australia in 30 days.

The people of Australia hail with admiration and pride the magnificent achievement of Captain Sir Ross Smith and his gallant comrades. They have added fresh lustre to the name of Australia, and have written an indelible page not only in our history, but in that of the Empire and of civilization.

My Ministers are deeply impressed with the necessity of substantially increasing the population of the Commonwealth by the encouragement of suitable schemes of immigration, and your sanction of the proposals of the Government will be sought.

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My Advisers deeply regret the defeat of the Referendum proposals recently before the people. They intend to introduce legislation to authorize the summoning of a Convention, representing the people and the Parliaments of the Commonwealth and the States, for the revision of the National Constitution.

A Bill for the payment of a War Gratuity to members of the Australian Expeditionary Force will be submitted for your early consideration.

It is also proposed to seek your acquiescence to a Bill to amend the Repatriation Act with a view to facilitating its administration by the co-ordination of departmental activities for the restoration of our soldiers and sailors to civil life.

Financial and business disorganization continues as a result of war, and the task of restoring normal conditions is great. There is a dearth of world products and shipping, with consequent dislocation of commerce and industry.

The Government policy is at the earliest moment to divest itself of the present pools and controls and thus permit the trade of the Commonwealth to revert to non-Governmental channels, while affording the primary producers every possible assistance in extending the co-operative organization of their important interests.

My Ministers are giving careful consideration to proposals for worthily commemorating the illustrious deeds of the Australian Forces in the Great War by the erection of National Memorials in Australia and in those lands where their efforts contributed so much to crown the Allied Arms with victory.

My Ministers will introduce a measure to amend the law relating to the prevention and for the settlement of those industrial disputes which come within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, and to give effect to the principle of a basic wage.

With the object of stimulating the steady development of the resources of the Commonwealth, the Government will seek authority for the prosecution of a Public Works policy compatible with the financial position of the country.

My Advisers propose to invite the representatives of the States who are parties to the River Murray Waters Agreement to confer with the Government of the Commonwealth with a view to expediting that great national work.

Now that the war is over, steps will be taken to further the plan for the establishment of the Federal Capital.

It is proposed to appoint a Commission to report on the stages to be followed, and the methods to be employed to develop the resources of the Federal Territory and reduce the financial burden upon the Commonwealth.

A Bill will be introduced providing for the better regulation and control of the Public Service.

Ministers propose to proceed with the Bill to constitute an Institute of Science and Industry.

Proposals for the co-ordination and further development of the ship-building industry will be laid before you.

It is proposed to introduce Bills dealing with the following matters :—

Finance.
The Inter-State Commission.
The Bureau of Commerce and Industry.
The Commonwealth Shipping Line.
War Indemnity.
Territorial Representation.
Aviation.
Naturalization.
Health, and Maternity Allowance.
Customs.
Crimes.

Commending your deliberations to the guidance of Divine Providence, I now leave you to the discharge of your high and honorable duties.

15. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Hughes moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Kerby and Mr. Donald Cameron 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.

16. ELECTION PETITION.—The Clerk laid upon the Table a copy of an Election Petition which he had received from the Principal Registrar of the High Court, at Melbourne, under section 202 of the Electoral Act, viz. :—Petition of John Kean against the return of Edwin Thomas John Kerby as Member for the Electoral Division of Ballarat, in the State of Victoria.

17. PAPERS.—Mr. Speaker presented—

Audit Act—Finance 1918–19—The Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during the year ended 30th June, 1919, accompanied by the Report of the Auditor-General.

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

Papers presented to the British Parliament—

Afghanistan, 1919—Papers regarding hostilities with.

Dardanelles Commission—Final Report—Part II.—Conduct of Operations, &c. ; with Appendix of Documents and Maps.

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Papers—*continued.*Papers presented to the British Parliament—*continued.*

Income Tax—Royal Commission [Imperial]—

Minutes of Evidence with Appendices—

Second Instalment.

Third Instalment.

Fourth Instalment.

Fifth Instalment.

National Relief Fund—Report on the Administration up to 30th June, 1919.

Out-of-Work Donation—Scheme of—Final Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

Peace—

Austria—Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and Austria together with the Protocol and Declarations Annexed thereto, signed at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 10th September, 1919.

Austro-Hungary—Agreement between the Allied and Associated Powers with regard to the Contributions to the Cost of Liberation of the Territories of the Former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, signed at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 10th September, 1919.

Czecho-Slovakia—Treaty between the Principal Allied and Associated Powers and Czecho-Slovakia, signed at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 10th September, 1919.

Italian Reparation Payments—Agreement between the Allied and Associated Powers with regard to, signed at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 10th September, 1919.

Peace Proposals made by His Holiness the Pope to the Belligerent Powers on 1st August, 1917, and Correspondence relative thereto.

Serb-Croat-Slovene State—Treaty between the Principal Allied and Associated Powers and the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, signed at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 10th September, 1919.

Norfolk Island—Report of the Administrator for the year ended 30th June, 1919.

Wool—Central Wool Committee—Statistical Bulletin, No. 2—Wool Season 1918-19—

Analysis of Quantities of Wool Appraised during Seasons 1917-18 and 1918-19.

Supplement.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Arbitration (Public Service Act)—

Awards and Orders made by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and other documents in the following cases :—

Australian Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association—

Dated 19th December, 1919 (two).

Dated 24th December, 1919.

Dated 19th December, 1919—

Australian Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Association and the Commonwealth Postmasters Association.

Australian Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Officers' Association (two).

Australian Letter Carriers' Association (two).

Australian Postal Linesmen's Union.

Commonwealth General Division Telephone Officers' Association.

Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association.

Federated Public Service Assistants' Association of Australia (four).

General Division Officers' Union of the Trade and Customs Department of Australia (two).

Postal Electricians Union.

Postal Sorters' Union of Australia.

Audit Act—

Transfers of Amounts approved by the Governor-General in Council—

Financial year 1918-19—

Dated 12th November, 1919.

Dated 14th January, 1920.

Contracts Immigrants Act—Return for 1919.

Customs Act—

Proclamations Prohibiting the Exportation (except under certain conditions) of—

Birds of Paradise and their Plumage (dated 21st January, 1920).

British and Australian Silver Coin (dated 20th December, 1919).

Cinematograph Films (dated 20th December, 1919).

Dried Fruits (dated 28th October, 1919).

Goods to Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria (dated 14th January, 1920).

Trade Spirits and Distilled Beverages containing essential oils, &c., to certain parts of Africa (dated 21st January, 1920).

Woollen Fabrics and Yarns (dated 6th December, 1919).

Proclamation Prohibiting the Importation (except under certain conditions) of Absolute Alcohol and certain other goods (dated 1st November, 1919).

Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1919, No. 243.

26th February, 1920.

Papers—continued.

Defence Act—

Royal Military College—Report for 1918-19.

Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1919, Nos. 252-255, 266-273, 282, 283.

Statutory Rules 1920, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 14, 26.

Electoral Act—Regulation Amended—Statutory Rules 1919, No. 262.

Electoral Act and Referendum (Constitution Alteration) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1919, Nos. 229, 260, 276.

Electoral (War-time) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1919, Nos. 259, 285, 287.

Immigration Act—Return for 1919.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at—

Alpha, Queensland—For Postal purposes.

Brighton, Victoria—For War Service Homes purposes.

Hobart, Tasmania—For Repatriation purposes.

Rupanyup, Victoria—For Postal purposes.

Stanthorpe, Queensland—For Defence purposes.

Sunshine, Victoria—For War Service Homes purposes.

Tamworth, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.

Naturalization Act—

Return of Number of Persons to whom Naturalization Certificates were granted during 1919.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1919, Nos. 248, 284, 297, 298.

Northern Territory—

Ordinances of 1919—

No. 11—Deputy Administrator (No. 2).

No. 12—Justices' Appeals (No. 2).

Papua—

Ordinances of 1919—

No. 5—Appropriation 1919-1920.

No. 9—Native Labour.

Patents Act—Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1919, No. 239.

Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1919, Nos. 247, 249, 257, 279, 280, 281, 291, 292.

Statutory Rules 1920, Nos. 1, 6, 15, 24.

Public Service Act—

List of Permanent Officers of the Commonwealth Public Service, as on 30th June, 1919.

Appointments, Promotions, &c., of—

G. L. Berric, Postmaster-General's Department.

A. M. Cameron, J. R. McDonald, Postmaster-General's Department.

J. H. B. Cuthbertson, C. P. McKinnon, A. E. Hayes, Department of the Treasury.

C. S. Daley, Department of Works and Railways.

E. F. Hamilton, Department of the Treasury.

M. J. Holmes, Department of Trade and Customs.

H. B. Jackson, Department of the Treasury.

A. H. Moseley, Postmaster-General's Department.

J. Mundy, Prime Minister's Department.

E. L. Piesse, Prime Minister's Department.

M. M. Stewart, Attorney-General's Department.

G. A. Whitlam, Prime Minister's Department.

Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1919, Nos. 246, 256, 258, 264, 275, 286.

Statutory Rules 1920, Nos. 9, 10, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23.

Railways Act—By-laws No. 12, 13.

Seat of Government—

Ordinances of 1919—

No. 6—Rabbit Destruction.

No. 7—Leases.

War Service Homes Act—Land acquired under, at—

Adamstown, New South Wales.

Belmore, New South Wales.

Bulimba, Queensland.

Coburg West, Victoria.

Concord, New South Wales (2).

Drummoyne, New South Wales.

Kelvin Grove, Queensland.

Malvern, Victoria.

Moonah, Tasmania.

Newcastle, New South Wales.

Yeerongpilly, Queensland.

War Precautions Act—Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1919, No. 250.

War Precautions Act and Moratorium Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1919, Nos. 251, 261.

26th February, 1920.

18. ADDRESS-IN-REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Kerby 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. Kerby moved, That the Address be agreed to by the House.

Mr. Donald Cameron 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.

19. THE LATE RIGHT HONORABLE GENERAL BOTHA, P.C.—Mr. Speaker announced to the House that he had received the following communications from Mrs. Botha and the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa:—

“On behalf of my family and myself I desire to thank you most sincerely for your sympathy with us in our sorrow.

Pretoria, 27th October, 1919.”

ANNIE BOTHA.

“Union of South Africa.

Prime Minister's Office,

Pretoria, 26th November, 1919.

GENTLEMEN—

It is with deep gratitude that I have received your letter of the 18th September last forwarding a bound copy of the Resolutions of sympathy passed by the Senate and House of Representatives on the occasion of the death of General Botha, and of the speeches which were delivered in both Houses. These resolutions and speeches go to show the high esteem in which the late General Botha was held, and I ask you to convey to the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives my grateful thanks for their expressions of sympathy on the death of my friend and colleague.

The copies of the documents for Mrs. Botha have been handed to her.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

J. C. SMUTS,
Prime Minister.

The Honorable the President of the
Senate, and

The Honorable the Speaker of the
House of Representatives,

Parliament House, Melbourne.”

20. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ESTIMATES, 1919-20.—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. 1.

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 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and twenty, and recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.

Melbourne, 26th February, 1920.

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

21. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—
Mr. Charlton, Mr. Considine, Mr. Fowler, and Mr. McDonald.

WALTER A. GALE,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.