

Brought up by
Senator Stewart.
C. R. Boydell

Clerk of the Senate
13-9-16.

1914-15-16-17

the Senate.



THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

R E P O R T

Number 2.

from the

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

upon the

STATIONERY, PRINTING, AND ADVERTISING ACCOUNTS
OF COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENTS.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENATARY JOINT
COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

FIRST COMMITTEE

Matthew Charlton, Esquire M.P. Chairman
John Thomson, Esquire M.P. Vice-Chairman

SENATE

Senator Thomas Jerome Kingston Bakhop
Senator Albert Edward Howarth Blackey
Senator the Honorable James Charles Stewart

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Llewelyn Atkins, Esquire M.P.
Reginald John Burchell, Esquire M.P.
The Honorable James Mackinnon Fowler M.P.
Dr. William Maloney, M.P.

C O N T E N T S.

Proceedings of the Committee	Page 4.
Report and Recommendations	5.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Further evidence in the Inquiry into the Stationery, Printing and advertising Accounts of Commonwealth Departments was taken, and the following witnesses were examined:-

Dunlop, William Philip, Messrs Edwards Dunlop Ltd. Sydney

Eagle, Ritchie, Controller of Stores, G.P.O. Sydney

Gullick, William Applegate, Government Printer (N.S.W.)

McLaren, John Gilbert, Commonwealth Electoral Officer (N.S.W.)

Smith, Alexander Alfred, Messrs Smith & Lane. Sydney.

NUMBER 2. REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS UNDER THE "COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACT 1913", UPON THE "STATIONERY, PRINTING AND ADVERTISING ACCOUNTS OF COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENTS".

The recommendations in the first report of the Committee on this subject deal only with the re-organisation of the system as affecting Commonwealth headquarters in Melbourne.

Subsequently the Committee found opportunity to extend its investigations to embrace the States generally, and have now the honour to submit further recommendations covering the whole scope of the Commonwealth in this connection.

STATIONERY

We have already recommended in our first report that the Central Board should standardize all stationery, and Office Requisites for the use of Departments throughout the Commonwealth.

This Board should then acquaint the Heads of all Departments with the result of its decisions.

It would be the duty of the Head of each Department to advise his deputies of the decisions of the Board.

These Officers should prepare a Schedule of their annual requirements, and forward same to the Commonwealth Local Boards in the respective States, proposed in the Committee's report dealing with "Stores & Supplies for Commonwealth Requirements"; the said Board consisting of Officers controlling the Departments of the Post Master-General, Home Affairs, and the Public Service Inspector.

The method of obtaining Stationery stores other than those required for the State of Victoria which comes within the recommendations of the former report shall be that provided for in the Committee's report upon "Stores and Supplies for Commonwealth Requirements".

A R I H T I H G.

In regard to the matter of printing, the Committee find that there are a number of publications of a somewhat expensive and elaborate character published at intervals ostensibly under the direction of a Minister.

Many of these publications embody information that has been repeated in previous issues, and details are given with a minuteness that appears wholly unnecessary, but which entails much work and expense in their collection, tabulation and publishing.

Instances of this are to be found in the Meteorological and Statistical publications of the Commonwealth.

That records of these minute details should be kept is not questioned, but their repeated publication in such an exhaustive manner seems totally unnecessary.

It would appear to meet all requirements if it were made known that these Branches could supply upon application any of the details summarised in the reports.

There is a responsibility upon all concerned to keep expenditure of this kind within reasonable limits.

The tendency of Officials, to unduly enlarge the scope of their activities with the best possible motives should be guarded against.

It is probable that only formal supervision has been exercised over these publications, and the necessary authority given as a matter of course.

M. O. Heron

CH. LKAL II.

11th.
September 1916.