

1937.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SECOND SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

THURSDAY, 17TH JUNE, 1937.

1. The House of Representatives met pursuant to Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor-General, bearing date the twenty-seventh day of May, 1937, which Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk, as follows:—

PROCLAMATION

Commonwealth of Australia to wit.
GOWRIE
Governor-General.

By His Excellency Brigadier-General the Right Honourable Alexander Gore Arkwright, Baron Gowrie, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia 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: Now therefore I, Alexander Gore Arkwright, Baron Gowrie, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Constitution, do by this my Proclamation prorogue the said Parliament until Thursday the seventeenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, and I do appoint the said Thursday the seventeenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of business. 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, Canberra, at Three (3) o'clock p.m., on the said Thursday the seventeenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

(L.S.) Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth, at Canberra, this twenty-seventh day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, and in the first year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

T. PATERSON,

for Acting Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

2. Mr. Speaker (The Honorable G. J. Bell) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
3. 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—

17th June, 1937.

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

His Excellency Brigadier-General the Right Honourable ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia:

To Colonel The Honourable GEORGE JOHN BELL, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

GREETING:

WHEREAS by Section forty-two of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things 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, ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you from time to time in the Parliament House of the Commonwealth, at Canberra, 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, this fifteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, and in the first year of His Majesty's reign.

(L.S.)

GOWRIE,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

EARLE PAGE,
Acting Prime Minister.

5. RETURN TO WRIT (KENNEDY DIVISION).—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received a Return to the Writ which he had issued on the 5th November last, for the election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Kennedy, in the State of Queensland, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. David Riordan, and that by the endorsement on the Writ it appeared that William James Frederick Riordan had been elected in pursuance of the said Writ.
6. RETURN TO WRIT (DARLING DOWNS DIVISION).—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received a Return to the Writ which he had issued on the 18th November last, for the election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Darling Downs, in the State of Queensland, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Honorable Sir Littleton Ernest Groom, and that by the endorsement on the Writ it appeared that Arthur William Fadden had been elected in pursuance of the said Writ.
7. RESIGNATION OF MEMBER AND ISSUE OF AND RETURN TO WRIT (GWYDIR DIVISION).—Mr. Speaker announced that during the adjournment he had received from the Honorable C. L. A. Abbott a letter resigning, as from 28th March, 1937, his seat as Member for the Electoral Division of Gwydir, and informed the House that he had, on the 8th April last, issued a Writ for the Election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Gwydir, in the State of New South Wales, and that he had received a Return to such Writ, and by the endorsement thereon it appeared that William James Scully had been elected in pursuance of the said Writ.
8. MEMBERS SWORN.—William James Frederick Riordan, Esquire, Arthur William Fadden, Esquire, and William James Scully, Esquire, were introduced, and made and subscribed the Oath required by law.
9. ACCESSION OF KING GEORGE VI.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that, on the occasion of the Accession of His Majesty King George the Sixth to the Throne, the following Message was transmitted by Mr. President and himself on behalf of the Parliament:—

Message transmitted through His Excellency the Governor-General.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY:

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:

We, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, desire on behalf of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, to offer our congratulations to Your Majesty on Your Accession to the Throne.

The people of Australia generally and Members of our Parliament in particular entertain the happiest recollections of the visit to this country of Your Majesty and that of Her Majesty the Queen, when, on the historic occasion of 9th May, 1927, Your Majesty inaugurated the meeting of the Commonwealth Parliament at Canberra.

We desire to convey to Your Majesty the unwavering loyalty of the Members of our Parliament to the Crown and to the Person of Your Most Gracious Majesty, and we, with confidence, hope and pray that, under Divine Guidance, Your Majesty's reign may be a long and beneficent one, and that it will bring happiness and prosperity to Your Majesty's subjects and promote a lasting peace among the nations of the world.

P. J. LYNCH, President.
GEORGE BELL, Speaker.

Parliament House,
Canberra, 15th December, 1936.

17th June, 1937.

Mr. Speaker also informed the House that the following Reply had been received from His Majesty :—

I am indeed gratified to receive the loyal assurances which you have tendered me on behalf of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia. Though nearly ten years have gone by since the Queen and I visited Australia we still retain the happiest recollections of our stay in the Commonwealth and of the cordial and friendly welcome which was universally accorded to us there. I therefore appreciate particularly the good wishes to which your message gives expression and would assure you in turn how earnestly the Queen and I hope the years to come may bring happiness and prosperity to your great country.

GEORGE R.I.

10. CORONATION OF KING GEORGE VI—ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION.—Mr. Earle Page (Acting Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That the following Address of Congratulation be presented to His Majesty the King :—

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY :

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN :

We, the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia in Parliament assembled, with humble duty offer our respectful congratulations on the occasion of the Coronation of Your Majesty and Your Gracious Consort.

We assure Your Majesty of our deep loyalty to the Throne and of our earnest hope that during Your Majesty's reign the British Commonwealth will continue to prosper and that the cause of peace and goodwill in the world will be greatly advanced and strengthened.

We trust that Your Majesty and Her Majesty the Queen may long be spared to us and that Your Majesties' lives may be blessed with much personal happiness.

And Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion—
Question—put and passed.

11. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—CHANGE IN MINISTRY AND DISTRIBUTION OF MINISTERIAL DUTIES.—Mr. Earle Page (Acting Prime Minister) made a Ministerial Statement announcing to the House that Sir Henry Gullett tendered his resignation as a member of the Government on 10th March, 1937.

Mr. Earle Page also informed the House of the following appointments made in connexion with the temporary absence abroad of the Prime Minister, the Minister for Defence, and the Treasurer :—

Mr. Earle Page, Minister for Commerce, to be Acting Prime Minister ;

Mr. Menzies, Attorney-General and Minister for Industry, to be Acting Treasurer ;

Mr. Thorby, Assistant Minister for Commerce, to be Acting Minister for Defence ;

Mr. Hunter, Minister in Charge of War Service Homes, and Assistant Minister, to assist in the administration of the Commerce Department.

The House was also informed that, during the absence of the Minister for Defence, the Attorney-General would represent the Postmaster-General in the House of Representatives.

12. OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE—CHANGES OF STAFF.—Mr. Speaker announced that, owing to the retirement of Mr. Parkes from the position of Clerk of the House, the following changes had been made in regard to the officers in attendance in the Chamber :—

Mr. Green to be Clerk of the House.

Mr. Tregear to be Clerk-Assistant.

Mr. Chubb to be Second Clerk-Assistant.

Mr. Dodd to be Serjeant-at-Arms.

Mr. Speaker made reference to the long and valuable service of Mr. Parkes.

Mr. Earle Page (Acting Prime Minister) and Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition) also addressed the House in similar terms.

13. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT ACCEPTANCE BILL (1937).—Mr. Earle Page (Acting Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to the Territory for the Seat of Government. Question—put and passed.
Mr. Earle Page 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 the next sitting.

Suspension of Sitting.—At thirteen minutes to four o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of Sitting.—At eight o'clock p.m. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

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 received a copy, which read as follows :—

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

You have been called together to deliberate upon matters of great importance to the well-being of the Commonwealth.

The wide-spread enthusiasm attending the recent Coronation of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen has once more indicated the reality of the affectionate sentiment which binds the British people to the Crown. My Ministers will submit to you for your approval a resolution of congratulation and loyalty.

17th June, 1937.

In order to visit all parts of the Commonwealth as early as possible during my term of office, to make personal contact with the people and, by first-hand knowledge, to understand their problems and points of view, I have made extensive tours of the States and the Northern Territory during the last twelve months, and have been gratified to find, in every portion of this great continent which I have visited, undoubted proofs of loyalty and of a splendid spirit of confidence in the future of Australia. On the advice of my Ministers, it is my intention during the next recess to take advantage of the cruise of His Majesty's Australian Squadron to the Pacific to visit Papua and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, so that, as the representative of the King, I may, in this Coronation Year, emphasize the fact that the welfare and progress of the people of these Territories are the direct concern of the Commonwealth of Australia.

1. My Government records with regret the serious volcanic disturbance that took place at Rabaul, the capital of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, on the 29th May, and the following days. Statements regarding the action taken and to be taken will be made to Parliament.

2. My advisers are pleased to be able to record the marked financial and industrial recovery which has taken place in Australia. Recorded unemployment, which in 1932 had reached the previously unknown level of 30 per cent., has progressively fallen until to-day it stands at less than 10 per cent., a state of affairs which compares favourably with that existing before the depression. Side by side with a remarkable improvement in the state of the primary industries there has been such an increase in industrial production that factory employment is now greater than at any previous time in Australian history. The public credit in Australia has been maintained at a very high level, with corresponding advantages to interest rates generally, while the conversion of our overseas indebtedness to lower interest rates has been steadily carried on, as loans mature, with most satisfactory results. Business generally is once more vigorous and expanding, and the future may, therefore, be looked to with well-founded optimism.

My advisers desire to repeat that this recovery would not have been achieved as quickly as it has been without the patriotic co-operation of the people as a whole and the patient endurance of those who were the greatest sufferers from the depression.

3. My advisers have, through the Prime Minister and two other Ministers, been participating in the important deliberations of the Imperial Conference. These deliberations relate to matters of great significance, particularly defence and communications. After the Prime Minister's return to Australia, an early opportunity will be taken of submitting to you full reports upon these matters.

4. Provision for national defence, always an essential element of policy, has become of over-shadowing importance. The example of disarmament set to the world by the British Nations, and not least by Australia, has not been followed. On the contrary, international hostilities have become intensified, the authority of international agreements has been gravely weakened and warlike expenditures are everywhere reaching colossal proportions. Under these circumstances my advisers, while they will continue to advocate and do all in their power to achieve peace by collective means, have been compelled to recognize present realities by doing their utmost to put this country into a position to defend itself. The security of the British Empire is of the first importance, since it stands for those principles of individual freedom and peaceful living which are dear to all of us and are the vital elements in our nationhood. The defence appropriation for the current financial year represents the highest amount provided for defence in time of peace in the history of Australia. Pending a recovery of the world from its present tragic rivalries, there can be no avoidance of a development of our defence programmes. The lines along which this development should proceed must be considered in the light of the deliberations of the Imperial Conference, since it is by co-operation between members of the British Commonwealth, coupled with the fullest development of their individual resources, that the best results can be obtained. A review of those deliberations will be made as soon as practicable, when a comprehensive statement of defence policy will be submitted to you.

5. Last year my advisers, through the courtesy of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, secured the services of two highly-qualified experts for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the possibilities of establishing some sound system of national insurance in Australia. The report of one of these experts, Mr. G. H. Ince, has been received and has had consideration. It relates to the problem of unemployment insurance. It will to-day be laid on the Table of each House for your information and at the same time copies of it will be presented to the Government of each State. As you will see from the Report itself, it contains a mass of detail and the outline of alternative schemes. As the whole problem of unemployment insurance is affected by the unemployment relief policies of the various State Governments, and as its financial aspects must be considered in conjunction with those of existing State schemes, it is essential that a Conference should be held at as early a date as possible between the Commonwealth and State Governments with a view to determining how far agreement on general principles and on the allocation of Government costs can be reached. My advisers are initiating such a Conference.

A comprehensive report upon all other aspects of national insurance has been presented to my Ministers in London by Sir Walter Kinnear, the other expert engaged for the purpose, but its full text has not yet reached Australia. Having regard to the magnitude of the problems involved and their immense importance, a full consideration of this report by my advisers is not practicable until the return of those of my Ministers who are at present abroad. Upon their return the report will be at once examined and the policy of the Government in relation to the whole subject will then be announced.

6. Consequent upon a report by the National Health and Medical Research Council, my advisers will take steps to enable the Council to function effectively in the co-ordination of research into the causes of and cure for diseases which levy heavy toll upon the community. They will also continue their co-operation with the Governments of the States in relation to national health problems.

17th June, 1937.

7. My advisers propose to submit to you a Bill for the appointment of an Interstate Commission. The establishment of such a body is provided for by the Constitution, and the Government believes that it will serve a valuable purpose in dealing with large questions affecting the relations between the Commonwealth and the States and between the States themselves.

8. Negotiations between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Australia concerning the Empire Air Mail scheme have been brought to a stage where the main principles have been agreed upon and minor matters of detail are being settled. At the earliest opportunity a full statement will be made to you on these matters, and any necessary ratifying legislation will be introduced. It is anticipated that the service will commence operation between the United Kingdom and Australia early next year.

9. During the Imperial Conference there have been detailed discussions concerning the difficulties confronting British shipping on certain important trade routes in the Pacific Ocean. Those Governments of the British Commonwealth which are concerned with these problems have agreed on the necessity of protecting British shipping against unfair forms of competition.

My advisers expect that the current discussions will result in the adoption of common policies on all the problems, and in the formulation of the practical steps to give effect to those policies. A plan of collaboration in regard to the maintenance of the British steamship service between Australia and Vancouver, via New Zealand and Fiji, has already been worked out.

As the details of the plans devised to cope with the several problems are dealt with, my advisers will bring before Parliament any legislation necessary to give effect to them.

10. Those of my Ministers who are at present in London have also been engaged in the work of the International Sugar Conference. My advisers have satisfaction in directing your attention to the success which has attended the work of that Conference. The resulting agreement provides for a five-year plan which is to commence on the 1st September, 1937, to establish and to maintain an orderly relationship between supply and demand for sugar intended for sale in what is referred to in the agreement as the world's "free market". Twenty-one sugar producing countries have subscribed to the agreement, under the terms of which Australia may export annually 400,000 long tons of sugar. Copies of the agreement will be made available to you.

An indirect benefit arising out of this Agreement is that relating to the Tariff Preferences accorded by the United Kingdom, the Government of which has agreed to recommend to the Parliament of the United Kingdom the extension of the existing Tariff Preferences on Australian sugar for the whole term of five years.

11. Because of the importance of oil to both defence and national development, my advisers have carried out exhaustive investigations into the possibilities of the production in Australia of flow oil, coal oil and shale oil. It is regretted that up to the present investigations into the possibilities of discovering commercial quantities of flow oil, though pursued with vigour, have not yielded favorable results. Reports so far obtained show that at present the production of oil from high grade shale offers more favorable possibilities than the production of oil from coal. My advisers have, therefore, in conjunction with the Government of New South Wales, concluded an arrangement for the development of the shale oil industry in the Newnes Capertee district of New South Wales. An agreement embodying this arrangement will be submitted to you for your approval.

12. My advisers have authorized the Australian Government delegate to the International Labour Conference at Geneva to vote for the adoption of proposed draft Conventions applying the principle of a 40-hour week to certain industries, provided that, after explaining the Constitutional position of the Commonwealth and the States in relation to the fixing of hours of work, he indicates that the Commonwealth Government makes it a condition of its adherence to such Conventions that the principal countries engaged in the industries concerned should also have adhered to them. The delegate will further make it clear that while my advisers welcome international action for the improvement of working conditions, they strongly affirm the well-established policy by which industrial problems in Australia are dealt with on their merits and after adequate inquiry by independent industrial tribunals with compulsory powers.

13. The Commonwealth Government after conferring with the State Governments has agreed to make a grant of £200,000 for the financial year 1937-38 to assist the State Governments to provide vocational training for those boys and young men now between the ages of 18 and 25 who lost their opportunity of training during the depression. The State Governments have agreed to carry out a survey to ascertain the degree of unemployment in each State in this age group, and will submit their various proposals to the Commonwealth Government for approval. Before the end of that financial year the matter will be again considered in the light of the experience gained.

14. After lengthy negotiations with producers' organizations and exporters' and shipowners' representatives, my advisers have succeeded in obtaining a satisfactory agreement on the important question of overseas freight reductions. This agreement will bring about a reduction in the freight rates on wool, chilled beef and fresh apples and pears, over a period of at least three years, amounting in the aggregate to approximately £500,000 per annum. With a view to reducing the costs to shipping, the Commonwealth Government proposes to reduce Light Dues from 9d. to 6d. per ton on all overseas shipping visiting Australian ports. The State Governments have been asked to co-operate with a view to reductions in harbour charges.

15. My advisers are investigating proposals to extend the scope of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research so as to cover research into secondary industries.

16. The existing Federal Aid Roads Agreement expires at the end of the present financial year. The terms of a new agreement are now being settled, and will be submitted to you for your approval.

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17. An amendment of the Seamen's Compensation Act, designed to bring the provisions of that legislation into line with modern conditions, will be introduced.

18. A comprehensive measure consolidating and amending the law relating to Patents has been prepared with the assistance of an expert committee, and will be submitted for your consideration.

19. A Bill to provide for the adoption by the Commonwealth of the relevant portions of the Statute of Westminster will be reintroduced.

20. The estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year commencing on the 1st July next will be duly submitted for your consideration.

In the earnest hope that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations and further the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties.

15. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Earle Page (Acting Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Holt, Mr. Fadden, 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. PAPERS.—Mr. Speaker presented, pursuant to Statute—

Commonwealth Bank Act—Balance-sheets of Commonwealth Bank and Commonwealth Savings Bank and Statement of the Liabilities and Assets of the Note Issue Department, as at 31st December, 1936 ; together with Auditor-General's Reports thereon.

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

Electoral—Referendums—Statistical Returns in relation to the submission to the Electors of Proposed Laws for the alteration of the Constitution, entitled, (1) " Constitution Alteration (Aviation) 1936 " ; (2) " Constitution Alteration (Marketing) 1936 " ; together with Summaries of Referendums, 1906-1937.

Imperial Shipping Committee—Thirty-fifth Report—Possibilities of a British Passenger and Cargo Service between Western Canada and Australia-New Zealand.

Papua—Annual Report for 1935-36.

Sugar—International Agreement, with Protocol annexed, regarding the regulation of Production and Marketing of Sugar, signed at London, 6th May, 1937.

Unemployment Insurance in Australia—Report by Mr. Godfrey H. Ince, Chief Insurance Officer, Ministry of Labour, London.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Air Force Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 21.

Air Navigation Act—Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1936, No. 161.

Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 41, 58.

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.—

1936—Nos. 18 and 19—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia ; and Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

1937—

No. 1—Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association.

No. 2—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

No. 3—Fourth Division Officers' Association of the Trade and Customs Department.

No. 4—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

No. 5—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association ; and Fourth Division Officers' Association of the Trade and Customs Department.

No. 6—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia and Others.

No. 7—Common Rule *re* Sick Leave.

No. 8—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

No. 9—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

Audit Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 39.

Australian Broadcasting Commission Act—Fourth Annual Report and Balance-sheet of the Australian Broadcasting Commission for year 1935-36.

Canned Fruits Export Control Act—Regulations Amended, &c.—

Statutory Rules 1936, No. 165.

Statutory Rules 1937, No. 47.

Commonwealth Bank Act—

Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 27.

Treasurer's Statement of combined accounts of Commonwealth Bank and Commonwealth Savings Bank, at 31st December, 1936 ; together with certificate of the Auditor-General.

Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1936, No. 160.

Contract Immigrants Act—Return for 1936.

Control of Naval Waters Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 12.

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- Customs Act—Regulations Amended—
 Statutory Rules 1936, Nos. 162, 163, 166.
 Statutory Rules 1937, No. 2.
- Customs Act and Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 4, 7, 57.
- Dairy Produce Export Control Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 26.
- Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 1, 15, 22, 29, 42, 45, 46, 62.
- Designs Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 53.
- Dried Fruits Export Charges Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 17.
- Electoral Act—Report, with Maps, by the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of redistributing the State of Western Australia into Electoral Divisions.
- Financial Relief Acts—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 24.
- Immigration Act—Return for 1936.
- Judiciary Act—Rules of Court—
 Dated 4th December, 1936.
 Dated 21st April, 1937.
- Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired at—
 Albany, Western Australia—For Defence purposes.
 Campbellfield, Victoria (2)—For Quarantine purposes.
 Evans Head, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.
 Loudon and Loudon Extension, South Australia—For Railway purposes.
 Mascot, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.
 Port Kembla, New South Wales—For Customs purposes.
 Rockdale, New South Wales—For postal, telegraphic, telephonic and other like services.
 South Perth, Western Australia—For Postal purposes.
 Swanbourne, Western Australia—For Defence purposes.
 Sydney, New South Wales—For Postal purposes.
 Windsor, Victoria—For Postal purposes.
- Loans Securities Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 28.
- Meat Export Control Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 38, 44.
- Nationality Act—Return for 1936.
- Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 5, 6, 9, 16, 51, 52, 59, 63.
- Navigation Act—
 Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 10, 40.
 Report of cases in which the Governor-General, during 1936, has exercised his power under Section 422A.
- Norfolk Island Act—
 Ordinances of 1937—
 No. 1—Fencing.
 No. 2—Bean Seed Export Control.
 No. 3—Registration of Bulls.
 No. 4—Surveys.
 Crown Lands Ordinance—Compulsory Acquisition Regulations.
- Northern Territory Acceptance Act and Northern Territory (Administration) Act—
 Ordinance of 1936—No. 18—Mining.
 Ordinance of 1937—No. 1—Pearling.
- Papua—
 Ordinances of 1936—
 No. 16—Probate and Administration.
 No. 17—Native Taxes.
 No. 18—Shipping (No. 3).
 Ordinance of 1937—
 No. 1—Customs (Export) Tariff.
- Patents Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 19, 50.
- Peace Officers Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 55.
- Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 13, 14, 35, 36, 37, 48.
- Prune Bounty Acts—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 8.
- Public Service Act—
 Appointments—Department—
 Commerce—C. C. Good, T. H. J. Harrison, R. C. Hottes, H. I. Phillips, J. W. A. Riley.
 External Affairs—N. St. C. Deschamps, J. E. Oldham, A. S. Watt.
 Health—E. Ford, D. E. Gowenlock.
 Interior—D. F. Limburg, L. H. Rudd, F. Wade.
 Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 11, 25, 54, 60.
- Quarantine Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 30, 49.
- Railways Act—By-law, No. 73.
- Sales Tax Assessment Acts (Nos. 1 to 9)—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1936, No. 164.
- Science and Industry Research Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 3.
- Trade Marks Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 18.
- War Service Homes Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 34.
- Wine Overseas Marketing Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1937, Nos. 23, 32.
- Wool Publicity and Research Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1937, No. 31.

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17. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Holt 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, desire 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. Holt moved, That the Address be agreed to.

Mr. Fadden seconded the motion.

Mr. Fadden not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—

Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.

Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition) 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 the next sitting.

18. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Earle Page (Acting Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

Question—put and passed.

19. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Earle Page (Acting Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn. Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at fourteen minutes past ten 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—Mr. Barnard, Mr. Blain, Mr. Casey, Mr. Fiskin, Mr. Roland Green, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Makin, Mr. W. Maloney, Sir Archdale Parkhill, Mr. Scholfield, and Mr. D. O. Watkins.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.