

1914-15-16.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 121.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 1916.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS—RESIGNATION OF MEMBER.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received a letter from Mr. Laird Smith resigning his position as a Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.
3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
 - Arbitration (Public Service) Act—
 - Opinion of the Attorney-General in connexion with the variation of an Award of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the case of the Australian Letter Carriers v. the Public Service Commissioner and another.
 - Awards varied—
 - (1) Copy of Order varying Award which has been made by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.
 - (2) Statement of the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth with which, in the opinion of the President of the Court, the Order is not or may not be in accord.
 - (3) Copy of the "reasons for judgment" of the President.
 - (4) Memorandum by the Acting Public Service Commissioner in connexion with the Order.
 - (5) Opinion of Attorney-General—
 - On plaint submitted by—
 - Australian Postal Electricians' Union—Order dated 29th September, 1916, further varying Award dated 23rd April, 1913.
 - Australian Telegraph and Telephone Construction and Maintenance Union—Order dated 29th September, 1916, varying Award dated 1st May, 1914.
 - War Precautions Act—
 - Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 289, 298, 300, 301.
4. REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGES RECOMMENDING SUPPLY BILLS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following Question :—That the Governor-General's Messages Nos. 174 and 175 be referred to the Committee of Supply, *and on the Amendment moved by Mr. Tudor*, That the following words be inserted after the word "That" :—
 - "the Prime Minister (the Honorable W. M. Hughes) no longer possesses the confidence of this House, for the following reasons :—
 - (1) That the Prime Minister secretly prepared regulations for the purpose of intimidating intending voters at the polling booths on the 28th of October (Referendum Day).
 - (2) That though the said regulations were rejected at a duly constituted Executive Council meeting held at Melbourne on Wednesday, the 25th of October, and attended by Senator the Honorable Albert Gardiner (Vice-President of the Executive Council), the Honorable J. A. Jensen (Minister for the Navy), the Honorable W. G. Higgs (Treasurer), and Senator the Honorable E. J. Russell (Assistant Minister), the Prime Minister persisted in his reprehensible endeavour to tack on to the Referendum an unnecessary and irritating procedure designed to add penalties for military offences already provided for in the Commonwealth Defence Act.

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- (3) That the Prime Minister succeeded in getting the objectionable regulations passed on Friday, the 27th of October, at an Executive Council meeting held at Sydney, and attended by His Excellency the Governor-General, the Honorable J. A. Jensen, and himself, although the said regulations had been rejected at an Executive Council meeting held two days before.
- (4) That the Prime Minister then issued the said regulations, and ordered the Chief Electoral Officer (Mr. Oldham) to give effect to them.
- (5) That the regulations were withdrawn only after Senator Gardiner, Mr. Higgs, and Senator Russell resigned from the Ministry.
- (6) That though the Prime Minister issued the discreditable regulations above referred to on the morning of Friday, the 27th of October, he attempted to and did deceive a large section of the public of Australia by stating in the newspaper press on Saturday, the 28th of October, that 'no such regulations had been issued'.
- (7) That the foregoing resolutions be communicated to His Excellency the Governor-General"—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Hampson 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.

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

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—General Abbott*, Mr. Catts, Mr. McGrath*, Mr. Ozanne*, General Ryrie*, and Mr. Yates.

* On leave.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.