

1914-15-16-17.

 THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 132.

 VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
 OF THE
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1917.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., according to the terms of the Resolution of 20th December last.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. CLERK OF THE HOUSE—TRANSFER OF MR. C. GAVAN DUFFY TO THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that on the 19th ultimo he had received the following letter from Mr. Charles Gavan Duffy, who had been Clerk of this House for the last fifteen years :—

Dear Mr. Speaker,

The President has been good enough to inform me that he will nominate me for appointment as Clerk of the Senate, which position is vacant through the regretted retirement of Mr. Boydell.

I much regret severing my connexion with the House of Representatives, of which I have been Clerk for more than fifteen years. I am anxious, however, before finishing my long official career, to fill the office of Clerk of the Senate. I therefore ask your approval to my transfer.

I desire to thank Honorable Members of the House generally for the uniform courtesy they have extended to me. I have served under all the Speakers of the House of Representatives, and I am most grateful for the consideration I have always received from them. For the consistent kindness and consideration I have received from you during your long term of office as Speaker I shall always have the most grateful recollection.

To my colleague, Mr. Gale, and other members of the staff I am much indebted for their loyal and efficient assistance.

I am, dear Mr. Speaker,

Faithfully yours,

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The Honorable CHARLES McDONALD,
 Speaker,
 House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker further stated that he had replied to the letter as follows :—

22nd January, 1917.

My dear Mr. Duffy,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, in which you inform me of your proposed appointment to the position of Clerk of the Senate.

Allow me to congratulate you, after your long and honorable parliamentary career in connexion with the Legislative Assembly in Victoria, and the Senate and the House of Representatives in the Commonwealth, upon your new appointment.

Let me also express to you my personal regret that the long official acquaintance between you and myself is closing. For more than nine years, first as Chairman of Committees and subsequently as Speaker of the House of Representatives, I have been officially connected with you. During this long period I have been indebted to you for your advice on many occasions, and I have had frequent opportunities of appreciating your invariable courtesy, and your energy and ability.

I am sure that Members of the House will agree with me in appreciation of your good qualities, both personal and official, and they will, I feel certain, join with me in wishing you every success in your new appointment.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES McDONALD,
 Speaker.

C. GAVAN DUFFY, Esq., C.M.G.,
 Clerk of the House of Representatives,
 Melbourne.

8th February, 1917.

3. OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE.—APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that, on his nomination, in consequence of the transfer of Mr. Charles Gavan Duffy from the position of Clerk of this House to that of Clerk of the Senate, the following appointments had been made in connexion with this Chamber:—

Walter Augustus Gale to be Clerk of the House.
 Thomas Woollard to be Clerk Assistant.
 Francis Laurence Clapin to be Serjeant-at-Arms.

4. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were presented by Mr. Speaker:—

[*Entertainments Tax Assessment Bill*]—

R. M. FERGUSON,
 Governor-General.

Message No. 179.

A Bill intituled "*An Act relating to the Imposition, Assessment and Collection of a Tax upon Payments for Admission to Entertainments,*" 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,
 22nd December, 1916.

[*Income Tax Bill (1916)*]—

R. M. FERGUSON,
 Governor-General.

Message No. 180.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to impose Taxes upon Incomes,*" 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,
 22nd December, 1916.

[*Entertainments Tax Bill*]—

R. M. FERGUSON,
 Governor-General.

Message No. 181.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to impose a Tax upon Payments for Admission to Entertainments,*" 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,
 22nd December, 1916.

[*Income Tax Assessment Bill (1916) (No. 2)*]—

R. M. FERGUSON,
 Governor-General.

Message No. 182.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Income Tax Assessment Acts 1915,' as amended by the 'Income Tax Assessment Act 1916,'*" 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,
 22nd December, 1916.

[*Daylight Saving Bill*]—

R. M. FERGUSON,
 Governor-General.

Message No. 183.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to promote the Earlier Use of Daylight in Certain Months yearly, and for other purposes,*" 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,
 22nd December, 1916.

[*Unlawful Associations Bill*]—

R. M. FERGUSON,
 Governor-General.

Message No. 184.

A Bill intituled "*An Act relating to Unlawful Associations and Members thereof and certain offences,*" 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,
 22nd December, 1916.

5th February, 1917.

5. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Norfolk Island—Report of the Administrator for the year ended 30th June, 1916.

The War—

Belgium—Slave raids conducted by the German authorities in—Statement issued from the British Foreign Office containing a declaration by His Majesty's Government in regard to the protest by the Belgian Government against.

Civilians interned in the British and German Empires—Further correspondence (dated 3rd May, 1916), respecting the proposed release of (Paper presented to the British Parliament).

Wolframite, Scheelite, and Molybdenite—Report by Mr. J. M. Higgins in connexion with the agreement between the Commonwealth Government and Dalgety and Company Limited.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—

Awards further varied—

- (1) Copy of Order further 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 (or Deputy-President) of the Court, the Order is not or may not be in accord.
- (3) Copy of the "reasons for judgment" of the President (or Deputy-President).
- (4) Memorandum by the Acting Public Service Commissioner in connexion with the Order.
- (5) Opinion of the Attorney-General.

On plaint submitted by—

Australian Letter Carriers' Association—Order dated 21st December, 1916, further varying Award dated 8th April, 1915.

Australian Postal Electricians' Union—Order dated 20th December, 1916, further varying Award dated 23rd April, 1913.

Audit Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 302.

Commonwealth Bank Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 10.

Customs Act—

Export of Goods—Lists of Persons to whom Goods may be exported (with Minister's permission) in—

China (not including Hong Kong) and Siam—Additional names (dated 11th January, 1917).

Liberia—Corrections (dated 16th January, 1917).

Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 313, 315.

Statutory Rules 1917, No. 9.

Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 318, 319, 320.

Entertainments Tax Assessment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1916, No. 329.

Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act—Statement for 1915–16.

Lands Acquisition Act—

Land acquired under, at—

Blackwood, South Australia—For Postal purposes.

Cockburn Sound, Western Australia—For Defence purposes.

Hamilton, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.

Launceston, Tasmania—For Defence purposes.

Miidura, Victoria—For Defence purposes.

Pialligo and Gorooyaroo, New South Wales—For Federal Capital purposes

Port Augusta, South Australia—For Railway purposes.

Sydney, New South Wales—For Postal purposes.

Northern Territory—Ordinances of 1917—

No. 1.—Crown Lands.

No. 2.—Darwin Town Council.

Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 291, 310, 330, 331, 332.

Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 1, 4.

Public Service Act—

Promotions of—

E. P. Geraghty, Department of Trade and Customs.

J. L. Mullen, Postmaster-General's Department.

J. V. O'Donnell, Postmaster-General's Department.

H. H. Quick, Postmaster-General's Department.

Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 306, 307, 308, 309.

Statutory Rules 1917, No. 8.

Seat of Government Acceptance Act—

Careless Use of Fire Ordinance 1916—Regulations.

War Precautions Act—Regulations Amended—

Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 300, 311, 321–6.

Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13.

8th February, 1917.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—SUPPLY BILL (No. 4) 1916-17.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Deputy-Speaker :—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 185.

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 seventeen.

Melbourne, 8th February, 1917.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be referred to the Committee of Supply.

7. SUPPLY [SUPPLY BILL].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

SUPPLY BILL (No. 4) 1916-17.

Resolved, after debate, on the motion of Mr. Poynton—That there be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending the 30th day of June, One thousand nine hundred and seventeen, a sum not exceeding £1,211,012.

Resolution to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed ; Mr. Charlton reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at its next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

8. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Poynton moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That the Standing Orders be suspended to enable the remaining stages to be passed without delay.
Question—put and passed.
9. SUPPLY RESOLUTION.—The Resolution reported from the Committee of Supply was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, was adopted by the House.
10. WAYS AND MEANS—RESOLUTION.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

SUPPLY BILL (No. 4) 1916-17.

Resolved, after debate, on the motion of Mr. Poynton—That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending 30th June, 1917, a sum not exceeding One million two hundred and eleven thousand and twelve pounds be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Resolution to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed ; Mr. Atkinson reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at its next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Poynton and Mr. Webster do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

11. SUPPLY BILL (No. 4) 1916-17.—Mr. Poynton 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 seventeen,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
Mr. Poynton moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.
Mr. Deputy-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. Atkinson reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Poynton, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

8th February, 1917.

12. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—The following Order of the Day was read and, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, discharged :—

War-time Profits Tax Assessment Bill—Second reading—Resumption of Debate.

Ordered—That the said Bill be withdrawn.

13. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—The following Order of the Day was read and, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, discharged :—

War-time Profits Tax Bill—Consideration, in Committee, of the Governor-General's Message No. 135.

14. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Jensen moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Wednesday next.

Question—put and passed.

15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Jensen moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at thirty-three minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday next at three o'clock p.m.

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

* On leave.

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