

1914-15-16-17.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

No. 133.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1917.

- The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES AND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR WORKS AND BUILDINGS, 1914-15.—The following Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were presented, and the same were read by Mr. Deputy-Speaker :—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 186.

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

Government House,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1916.

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 187.

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 Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., for the year ended the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and fifteen, and recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.

Government House,
Melbourne, 20th December, 1916.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and, together with the accompanying Estimates, to be printed and referred to the Committee of Supply.

- AUSTRALIAN ARMY RESERVE.—Mr. Laird Smith, by leave, read to the House a statement with reference to the proposed Australian Army Reserve.
- PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented by command of His Excellency the Governor-General :—
Postmaster-General's Department—Sixth Annual Report, 1915-16.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.

Elections and Referendums—Statistical Returns in relation to the submission to the Electors of the Question prescribed by the Military Service Referendum Act; and Summaries of Elections and Referendums, 1903-1916.

Military Service Referendum Act—Statistical Returns showing the Voting within each Subdivision in relation to the Submission to the Electors of the Question as prescribed, viz. :—

New South Wales.
Queensland.
South Australia.
Tasmania.
Victoria.
Western Australia.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

14th February, 1917.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 15.

Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 14, 16, 18, 26.

Naturalization Act—Return of number of persons to whom Naturalization Certificates were granted during 1916.

Papua—

Infirm and Destitute Natives Account—Statement of the Transactions of the Trustees, 1915-16.

Ordinances of 1916—

No. 6—Port Dues Revision.

No. 7—Foreign Marriage Notice.

No. 8—Roads.

No. 9—Trading with the Enemy.

No. 10—War Precautions.

No. 12—Liquor.

No. 13—Excise Tariff.

No. 14—Customs Tariff.

No. 15—Samarai Disused Burial Ground.

No. 18—Native Labour.

Public Service Act—Department of Trade and Customs—Promotions &c. of—

C. F. W. Flint and W. L. Brennan.

J. Higgins.

P. J. Tipping.

War Precautions Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1916, Nos. 312, 314.

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER (MR. WEST).—Mr. Tudor moved, by leave, That leave of absence for two months be given to the honorable Member for East Sydney (Mr. West).

Question—put and passed.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SUPPLY BILL (No. 4) 1916-17.—Mr. Deputy-Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 149.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the 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,*" to which it has agreed without requests.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,

Melbourne, 14th February, 1917.

7. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Higgs rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "Appraisements by the Wool Board."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—

Mr. Higgs moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the debate was interrupted in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, and the Business of the Day was called on.

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

Debate ensued.

Mr. Palmer called the attention of Mr. Deputy-Speaker to the fact that a quorum of Members was not present.

The Bells having been rung, and a quorum not having been obtained within the prescribed time,

Mr. Deputy-Speaker thereupon, at ten minutes to eight o'clock p.m., adjourned the House until half-past two o'clock p.m. to-morrow.

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*, Mr. West*, and Mr. Yates.

* On leave.

WALTER A. GALE.

Clerk of the House of Representatives.