

1917-18.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 65.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH MAY, 1918

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Tudor presented a Petition from certain persons resident in Australia opposed to the deportation of Italians and others, in reference to the deportation of Italians resident in Australia, for military service overseas, and praying that no such deportations may take place, but that such persons may be allowed to naturalize themselves if they so desire, and to continue as good citizens of our country.
Petition received and read.
3. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE—STANDING ORDER NO. 29A (PRAYERS).—Mr. Watt (for Mr. Speaker, Chairman) brought up a Report from the Standing Orders Committee, recommending an amendment of Standing Order No. 29A (Prayers).
The Report was read by the Clerk, as follows :—

REPORT.

The Standing Committee on Standing Orders has the honour to report to your honorable House as follows :—

- I. The Committee recommends to the House of Representatives that the initial Prayer read at the opening of the House be amended so as to read as follows :—

Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this Parliament. Direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory, and the true welfare of the people of Australia.

- II. The Committee further recommends that, during the continuance of the War, the following additional Prayer be read before the Lord's Prayer :—

Strengthen, O Lord, the sailors and soldiers of our Commonwealth, our Empire, and our Allies; protect them from all dangers; give them speedy victory over their enemies; and grant that an honorable and a lasting peace may result from their valour and their sacrifices.

W. ELLIOT JOHNSON,
Chairman.

Ordered, by leave—That the Report be considered forthwith.

Mr. Watt moved, That the Report be adopted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

[*Lands Acquisition (Defence) Bill*].—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 66.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to enable the Commonwealth to acquire certain Lands for Defence 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,
28th May, 1918.