NAVAL DEFENCE.

**No. 45 of 1918.**

An Act to amend the *Naval Defence Act* 1910–1912.

[Assented to 25th December, 1918.]

BE it enacted by the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows:—

**Short title and citation.**

**1.**—(1.) This Act may be cited as the *Naval Defence Act* 1918.

(2.) The *Naval Defence Act* 1910–1912 is, in this Act, referred to as the Principal Act.

(3.) The Principal Act, as amended by this Act, may be cited as the *Naval Defence Act* 1910–1918.

**Definitions.**

**2.** Section three of the Principal Act is amended by inserting therein after the definition of “Active Service” the following definition:—

“‘Commission’ includes warrant.”.

**Application of Defence Act.**

**3.** Section five of the Principal Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following proviso:—

“Provided that, in the application of those Parts and sections in relation to the Naval Forces, any reference to the Minister shall be construed as a reference to the Minister administering this Act.”.

**Power to appoint officers.**

**4.** Section eight of the Principal Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following proviso:—

“Provided that subordinate officers and officers appointed provisionally or on probation shall not receive commissions.”.

**Officers not to be appointed or promoted except provisionally until they have passed prescribed examination.**

**5.** Section eleven of the Principal Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following sub-section:—

“(5.) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, an officer who, at the commencement of a time of war, holds a provisional appointment as an officer of a particular rank, or who is, during a time of war, appointed provisionally as an officer of a particular rank, may continue to hold office as an officer of that rank during the continuance of the time of war and for a period not exceeding eighteen months thereafter, even though he has not passed the prescribed examination for that rank.”.

**Appointment of noncommissioned and petty officers.**

**6.** Section fourteen of the Principal Act is amended by omitting therefrom the words “Warrant officers”.

**Discharge on expiration on period of service.**

**7.** Section twenty-eight of the Principal Act is amended—

(*a*) by inserting therein before the word “war” (second occurring) the words “time of”; and

(*b*) by adding at the end thereof the following sub-section:—

“(2.) When a seaman becomes entitled to be discharged he shall be discharged with all convenient speed, but until discharged he shall remain a member of the Naval Forces.”.