

1909.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Read 1° 6 August, 1909.

*(Brought in by the Minister of External Affairs, the Honorable
L. E. Groom.)*

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT

To provide for the Office of High Commissioner
of the Commonwealth in the United Kingdom.**B**E it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate,
and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of
Australia, as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the *High Commissioner Act 1909*. Short title.
- 5 2. The Governor-General may appoint some person to be the
High Commissioner of the Commonwealth in the United Kingdom. High
Commissioner.
See Can. 49 Vic.
c. 16, s. 1.
Vict. No. 1061,
s. 3.
- 3.—(1.) The High Commissioner shall be appointed to hold office,
subject to this Act, for a period not exceeding five years from the
date of appointment, and shall be eligible for re-appointment. Term of office.
Vict. ib. s. 5.
- 10 (2.) The High Commissioner may at any time be removed from
office by the Governor-General for misbehaviour or incapacity, or
upon a joint address of both Houses of the Parliament.
4. The High Commissioner shall—
- 15 (a) act as representative and resident agent of the Commonwealth
in the United Kingdom, and in that capacity exercise such
powers and perform such duties as are conferred upon and
assigned to him by the Governor-General; Duties of the
High
Commissioner.
See Can.
ib. s. 2.
- 20 (b) carry out such instructions as he receives from the Minister
respecting the commercial, financial, and general interests
of the Commonwealth and the States in the United
Kingdom and elsewhere.

High Commissioner if requested by State Governments to act for States.

5. Subject to the provisions of the last preceding section, the High Commissioner, for the purpose of more economically and effectively advancing the material interests and welfare of every part of Australia, shall also, at the request of the Governments of the several States, perform for the States functions and duties similar to those hereinbefore described and similar to those now discharged by the Agents-General of the States, and shall perform the same without discrimination or preference, or to the advantage or disadvantage of any State as regards another State. 5

Salary and allowances of High Commissioner. Vict. No. 1061, s. 7.

6.—(1.) The salary of the High Commissioner shall be Three thousand pounds a year, and shall be paid to him monthly out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which is hereby appropriated for that purpose accordingly. 10

Travelling expenses.

(2.) The High Commissioner shall be paid, out of moneys to be provided by the Parliament, the expenses, not exceeding Two thousand pounds a year, of an official residence, and such sums for travelling expenses as the Minister allows. 15

High Commissioner not to hold office in company except as prescribed. W.A., 59 Vic. No. 7, s. 6.

7. A person appointed to be the High Commissioner shall not during his tenure of office, except as prescribed or allowed by the Minister, be or act as director or agent of or hold any office in any company or syndicate whether incorporated or unincorporated or hold any other office or employment, whether within or without the Commonwealth. 20

The Governor-General may appoint officers.

8.—(1.) The Governor-General may, subject to the *Commonwealth Public Service Act* 1902, appoint officers for the performance of any duties required in the execution of this Act. 25

(2.) The Governor-General may except any such officer from any or all of the provisions of the *Public Service Act*.

High Commissioner may appoint officers.

9.—(1.) The High Commissioner may appoint officers for the performance of any duties required in the execution of this Act. 30

Cf. Vict. ib. ss. 13, 20.

(2.) Such appointments shall be made in accordance with such instructions in that behalf as he receives from the Minister.

(3.) Every such appointment shall cease to have effect at the expiration of six months from the date of appointment, unless the Governor-General in the meantime confirms the appointment. 35

(4.) The salaries of such officers shall be paid out of moneys to be provided by the Parliament.

(5.) Officers so appointed shall not be subject to the *Commonwealth Public Service Act* 1902.

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(6.) No officer so appointed shall be entitled to any compensation by reason of the loss of his office or the diminution of his emoluments.

10. The Governor-General may make regulations, not inconsistent ^{Regulations.} with this Act, prescribing all matters which by this Act are required or permitted to be prescribed or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for giving effect to this Act.

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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*(Brought in by the Minister of External Affairs, the Honorable
L. E. Groom.)**(As reported from Committee of the Whole, 17th September,
1909, a.m.)*

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- 15 (a) act as representative and resident agent of the Commonwealth in the United Kingdom, and in that capacity exercise such powers and perform such duties as are conferred upon and assigned to him by the Governor-General; Duties of the High Commissioner. See Can. ib. s. 2.
- 20 (b) carry out such instructions as he receives from the Minister respecting the commercial, financial, and general interests of the Commonwealth and the States in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

High Commissioner if requested by State Governments to act for States.

5. Subject to the consent of the Governor-General, the High Commissioner, for the purpose of more economically and effectively advancing the material interests and welfare of every part of Australia, shall also, at the request of the Governments of the several States, perform for the States functions and duties similar to those hereinbefore described and similar to those now discharged by the Agents-General of the States, and shall perform the same without discrimination or preference, or to the advantage or disadvantage of any State as regards another State. 5

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5 with this Act, prescribing all matters which by this Act are required
or permitted to be prescribed or which are necessary or convenient
to be prescribed for giving effect to this Act. Regulations.

THIS Bill originated in the House of Representatives ; and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the Senate for its concurrence.

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

House of Representatives,
Melbourne, 21st September, 1909.

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

HIGH COMMISSIONER BILL.

(Amendments to be proposed in Committee.)

By Mr. Hughes—

Clause 2—

Omit the words “The Governor-General may appoint some person to be” in line 5 and insert in place thereof:—“*[Blank]* is hereby appointed”.

By Mr. Chanter—

Clause 3—

After the word “appointed” in line 7 omit the word “to” and insert the words “by Parliament and shall” in place thereof.

7th September, 1909.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

HIGH COMMISSIONER BILL 1909.

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(*Schedule of Amendments made by the Senate.*)
—————

- No. 1.—Page 2, clause 5, line 1, leave out “Subject to the consent of the Governor-General”.
- No. 2.—Page 2, clause 5, lines 4 and 5, leave out “at the request of the Governments of the several States”, insert “if the Governor-General so directs”.
- No. 3.—Page 2, clause 5, lines 7–9, leave out “and shall perform the same without discrimination or preference, or to the advantage or disadvantage of any State as regards another State.”
- No. 4.—Page 2, clause 7, lines 19 and 20, leave out “except as prescribed or allowed by the Minister”.
- No. 5.—Page 2, clause 7, line 22, after “hold” insert “or exercise”.
- No. 6.—Page 2, clause 7, line 22, leave out “office or”.

GEO. UPWARD,
Clerk-Assistant, for Clerk of the Senate.

15th October, 1909.

