

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

No. 19 of 1913.

An Act to provide for a Joint Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts.

[Assented to 19th December, 1913.]

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.

1. This Act may be cited as the *Committee of Public Accounts Act 1913*.

Joint
Committee
of Public
Accounts.

2.—(1.) As soon as conveniently practicable after the commencement of this Act, and thereafter at the commencement of the first session of every Parliament, a joint committee of nine members of the Parliament, to be called the Joint Committee of Public Accounts (in this Act referred to as the Committee), shall be appointed according to the practice of the Parliament with reference to the appointment of members to serve on Joint Select Committees of both Houses of the Parliament.

(2.) Three members of the Committee shall be members of, and appointed by, the Senate, and six members of the Committee shall be members of, and appointed by, the House of Representatives.

Duties of
Committee.

3. The duties of the Committee shall be—

- (a) to examine the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Commonwealth, and to report to both Houses of the Parliament any items in those accounts or any circumstance connected with them to which they think that attention should be directed ;
- (b) to report to both Houses of the Parliament any alteration which the Committee think desirable in the form of the public accounts or the method of keeping them, or in the mode of receipt control issue or payment of the public money ;
- (c) to inquire into and report upon any questions in connexion with the public accounts which are referred to them by either House of the Parliament ;
- (d) any other duties assigned to the Committee by Joint Standing Orders approved by both Houses of the Parliament.

4. Where any matter is inquired into by the Committee and the Committee has lapsed or ceased to have legal existence before reporting on the matter the evidence taken before the Committee may be considered by the succeeding Committee as if the evidence had been given before the succeeding Committee.

Continuance of evidence.

5. The Committee may take evidence on oath or affirmation, and the Chairman of the Committee or the member acting as the Chairman may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before the Committee.

Power to take evidence on oath.

6. Any person who wilfully gives false evidence on oath or affirmation before the Committee shall be guilty of an indictable offence.

False evidence.

Penalty : Five years' imprisonment.

7. Every Committee of Public Accounts appointed under this Act shall hold office as such Committee and may exercise all powers conferred upon it for the term of the Parliament during which it is appointed.

Duration and powers of Committee.

COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

No. 20 of 1913.

An Act to provide for the establishment of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and for other purposes.

[Assented to 19th December, 1913.]

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

PART I.—PRELIMINARY.

1. This Act may be cited as the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913*.

Short title.

2. This Act is divided into Parts as follows :—

Parts.

Part I.—Preliminary.

Part II.—Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

Part III.—Powers of the Committee.

Part IV.—Sectional Committees.

Part V.—Remuneration of Committee.