THE CENSORSHIP (PRESS AND POSTAL) ACT

[18th August, 1914.]

1. This Act may be cited as the Censorship (Press and Postal) Act.

2. In this Act "Press Censor" means the person or persons for the time being appointed by the Governor-General to perform the duties of Press Censor under this Act.

3. The Governor-General may at any time which he shall deem to be a time of emergency forbid by proclamation the publication of all information with respect to troops, ships, aircraft, or war material, or to the plans of the naval or military authorities or to any measures taken for or connected with the defence of the Commonwealth or any part thereof and also any statement, comment or suggestion calculated directly or indirectly to convey any such information.

4. From and after the publication of any such proclamation and while such proclamation remains in force—

(a) any owner, publisher, printer or editor of any newspaper, magazine, book, pamphlet or other publication who without the consent in writing of the Press Censor first had and obtained, knowingly publishes any information, statement, comment or suggestion forbidden by the said proclamation; and

(b) any person who without the consent in writing of the Press Censor first had and obtained sells
or delivers or is concerned in the sale or delivery of any newspaper, magazine, book, pamphlet, or other publication knowing it to contain, or who is otherwise knowingly responsible for the publication of, any information, statement, comment or suggestion forbidden by such proclamation, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act and shall be liable on summary conviction before a Resident Magistrate to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars and in default of payment of such fine to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding six months; or in the case of a second or subsequent offence either to such fine with such imprisonment in default or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding twelve months.

5. In any proceedings under section 4 the accused shall be deemed, unless the contrary is proved, to have had the knowledge referred to in the said section.

6. Any proclamation under this Act shall be deemed to be in force until revoked by order of the Governor-General.

7. Any letter, book, packet or parcel in course of transmission by post or any Island telegram may at any time, whether any proclamation as in this Act mentioned has been published, or is in force or not, be opened, detained or delayed by an officer of the Post Office in obedience to an express warrant in writing under the hand of the Governor-General.

8. A prosecution for an offence under this Act shall not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions:

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Provided that a person charged with such an offence may be arrested, or a warrant for his arrest may be issued and executed, and any such person may be remanded in custody or on bail, notwithstanding that the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions to the institution of a prosecution for the offence has not been obtained, but no further or other proceedings shall be taken until that consent has been obtained.