

1926-27-28.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

No. 152.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 9TH MARCH, 1928.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Sir Littleton Groom) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Albert Green presented a Petition from 89 residents of Hall's Creek, East Kimberley, Western Australia, praying that the extension of the present Aerial Mail Service from Derby to Wyndham, *via* the Fitzroy Crossing and Hall's Creek, be authorized.
Petition received.
3. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—INCOME TAX EVASIONS BY THE ABRAHAMS BROTHERS.—Mr. Latham (Attorney-General), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the present position of the Taxation prosecutions before the High Court in respect of income tax evasions by the Abrahams brothers.
Mr. Scullin (Deputy-Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a Statement with reference to the matter.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Postmaster-General's Department—Seventeenth Annual Report, 1926-1927.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
Australian Forestry School, Canberra—Report for the year 1927.
Federal Capital Commission—Report for quarter ended 31st December, 1927.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Northern Australia Act—North Australia Commission—First Annual Report, for period ended 30th June, 1927.
5. WINE EXPORT BOUNTY BILL (1928).—Mr. Thomas Paterson (Minister for Markets) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend section five of the *Wine Export Bounty Act 1924-1927*.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Thomas Paterson then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
Mr. Thomas Paterson moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Mr. Scullin moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.
Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
6. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 1 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 2, Government Business.
7. ARBITRATION (PUBLIC SERVICE) BILL (1928).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Latham (Attorney-General) moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Mr. R. W. Foster moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and negatived.
Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

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(In the Committee.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.
 Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed : Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Latham, the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

8. FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—and on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Charlton, viz. :—That all the words after “ That ” be omitted with a view to inserting the following words :—“ the Bill, involving as it does an alteration of the Constitution, be postponed until Parliament has had an opportunity to discuss a comprehensive scheme of constitutional reform, including the evidence taken before the Royal Commission now sitting and its proposals when made—”

Debate resumed.

Mr. Fenton addressing the House and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—ARBITRATION (PUBLIC SERVICE) BILL (1928).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 115.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to amend the Arbitration (Public Service) Act 1920*,” and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
 President.

The Senate,

Canberra, 9th March, 1928.

10. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
 Audit Act—Auditor-General's Suggestions regarding Commonwealth Accounts—Consideration by the Governor-General—Order-in-Council.
 Egypt—Note delivered to the Egyptian Government on 4th March, 1928, by His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner (Lord Lloyd).
 Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
11. ALTERATION OF DAY OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Wednesday next at three o'clock p.m.
 Question—put and passed.
12. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at five minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—
 Mr. Anstey, Mr. Bell, Mr. Blakeley, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Roland Green, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Ley, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Pratten, Mr. Edward Riley, Mr. Seabrook, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Watt, and Mr. West.

E. W. PARKES,
 Clerk of the House of Representatives.