

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 125.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY, 1919.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2. MEMBER SWORN.—Reginald John Burchell, Esquire, made and subscribed the Oath required by law.

3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Peace Treaty—Cablegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 28th June, 1919, notifying that the Peace Treaty with Germany had been signed.
War Debts—The Administration, Conversion, and Extinction of the War Debts of the British Empire—Proposals submitted for the consideration of the Governments of the British Empire by the Government of the Commonwealth.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.

Germany—Further Reports by British (Army) Officers on the Economic Conditions prevailing in—April, 1919. (Paper presented to the British Parliament.)

Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Inter-State Commission Act—Inter-State Commission—
Fifth Annual Report.

Prices Investigation Reports—
No. 10.—Fruit and Vegetables.
No. 11.—Clothing.
No. 12.—Rents.

Public Works Committee Act—Fourth General Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

Severally ordered to be printed.

Audit Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1919, Nos. 145, 159, 160.

Entertainments Tax Assessment Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1919, No. 130.

Public Service Act—
Promotion of A. Stuart, Department of Trade and Customs.
Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1919, No. 161.

4. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES BILL.—Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to certain Commercial Activities carried on by the Commonwealth in time of War.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Groom brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

5. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That Notices of Motion Nos. 2 and 3, Government Business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

2nd July, 1919.

6. WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MINISTERIAL PROGRAMME—
The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr. Watt :—That the Statement be printed—

Mr. Higgs moved, as an amendment, That after the word "That" there be inserted the words "the Government does not possess the confidence of this House".

Debate ensued.

Mr. Charlton 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 to-morrow.

7. ADJOURNMENT—DAY OF THANKSGIVING AND PEACE CELEBRATIONS.—Mr. Watt moved, That the House do now adjourn, and in so doing read a cablegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies containing a Proclamation by His Majesty the King with reference to the conclusion of the War and appointing a day for General Thanksgiving.

A further cablegram was read notifying the date upon which the Peace Celebrations would be held in the United Kingdom.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Lieut.-Col. Abbott, Mr. Bruce, Mr. J. H. Catts, Sir Joseph Cook, Mr. Falkiner, Mr. Heitmann*^(a), Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Orchard, Brigadier-General Ryrie*^(a), Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Tudor, and Mr. Webster.

* On leave.

(a) Absent with Australian Imperial Force.

WALTER A. GALE,

Clerk of the House of Representatives