

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 37.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 27TH MAY, 1920.

1. The House met, at seven o'clock p.m., according to the terms of the Resolution of the 21st instant.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER *RE* MEETING OF HOUSE.—Mr. Speaker said :—"Prior to the adjournment of the House on Friday last it was agreed that the Address to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales should be presented by Mr. Speaker in the Library, no arrangement at that time having been made in another place for the adoption of an Address. A special meeting was, however, subsequently summoned for this evening for that purpose, and owing to the method of procedure proposed to be adopted there, it became advisable in the opinion of the Government to vary the programme regarding the place of presentation, which, in the altered circumstances, it was thought should be this Chamber—I therefore, at the request of the Prime Minister, summoned this special meeting for the purpose."
Mr. Speaker then informed the House of the procedure which it was proposed to adopt in the conduct of the business to be transacted at the sitting.
3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, by leave, That leave of absence be given to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.
Question—put and passed.
4. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, which time of meeting shall be notified by Mr. Speaker to each Member by telegram or letter.
Question—put and passed.
5. VISIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.—PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS.—Mr. Hughes announced the arrival of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at the Chamber entrance, whereupon all Members rose in their places and Mr. Speaker invited His Royal Highness to occupy a seat beside the Speaker's Chair, to which he was then conducted by the Prime Minister.
Mr. Speaker thereupon addressed His Royal Highness in the following terms :—
"On behalf of the House of Representatives which, elected as it is on the broadest basis of equal adult suffrage, truly reflects the will of the people of this Commonwealth, I extend to Your Royal Highness a sincere and cordial welcome to Australia.
"I have the honour to present to Your Royal Highness the following Address adopted by the unanimous vote of this House."
Mr. Speaker then read the Address of Welcome which was agreed to by the House on the 21st instant (*see pages 185-6 ante*), as follows :—

To His Royal Highness Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David, Prince of Wales, Earl of Chester in the Peerage of England, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, and Baron of Renfrew, in the Peerage of Scotland, Lord of the Isles and Great Steward of Scotland, K.G., P.C., G.M.M.G., G.M.B.E., M.C.

May it please Your Royal Highness :

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia in Parliament assembled, welcome Your Royal Highness with assurances of our devoted attachment to the person and Crown of our Most Gracious Sovereign.

We recall with pride the latest visit to Australia of His Majesty the King before his accession to the Throne, when he was graciously pleased to open in person the inaugural session of the Australian Parliament.

27th May, 1920.

The abiding memories of that epochal event have proved a potent factor in strengthening the ties of kinship and affection which hold together the free nations of the British Empire in a union which war and danger only help to consolidate.

We therefore rejoice at the presence of Your Royal Highness, and we offer you a warm and loyal welcome, not only as Heir Apparent to the Throne and as our future Sovereign, but also as one who was hailed by our gallant Australian soldiers as a comrade on the field on which so many brave men fought and died in the sacred cause of freedom.

We congratulate Your Royal Highness upon the spirit you displayed in the great war now happily ended, and we feel that we may indulge a becoming pride in the thought that the high sense of duty and responsibility by which Your Royal Highness was animated was shared to the full by Australia's sons and daughters, who by their valour and their sacrifices contributed a worthy part to the ultimate triumph of those principles which are the glory and the pride of the British name.

Your progress throughout the Commonwealth will afford Your Royal Highness an opportunity of observing the energy, enterprise and character of our people in the pursuit of the arts of peace.

We earnestly trust that your visit to our shores may be fraught with happiness and pleasure to Your Royal Highness, and that your mission to our people may be blessed with an abundant measure of success to the present and enduring advantage of Australia and the Empire.

Mr. Speaker then presented to His Royal Highness an illuminated bound copy of the Address.

His Royal Highness was graciously pleased to make the following reply:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

I deeply appreciate the cordial address of welcome which you have presented to me, and I shall be happy to assure my father, the King, of your devotion to his Throne. The Australian nation has passed through nineteen years of development since His Majesty inaugurated the first Australian Parliament; but the severest of all ordeals has come upon you in the last five years, and splendidly you stood the test. I congratulate you, and through you all the great people which you represent, on your gallant services to the cause of freedom and right during the long world-war. It is a pleasure to me to know that some of my old acquaintances in the field are now amongst you here.

I shall be grateful, gentlemen, if you will let me express through you to all the Commonwealth my keen pleasure at being here in Australia at last. I have long looked forward to this visit, and the magnificent welcome accorded me has made the happiest possible beginning for my tour. I hope that I may see many of you again during my travels through the Commonwealth.

EDWARD P.

Melbourne,

27th May, 1920.

6. ADJOURNMENT OF HOUSE—PRESENTATION OF MEMBERS TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

Honorable Members and the officers of the House then came forward at the request of Mr. Speaker, and were presented to His Royal Highness.

Mr. Speaker, with the Prime Minister, thereupon accompanied His Royal Highness to the door of the House.

And then the House, at twenty-four minutes past seven o'clock p.m., adjourned until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, and to be notified by him to each Member by telegram or letter as determined by resolution of the House this day.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Anstey, Mr. Bell, Mr. Blundell, Mr. J. H. Catts, Mr. Austin Chapman, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Considine, Mr. Gabb, Mr. Greene, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Mahony, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Earle Page, Mr. James Page, Mr. Prowse, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Watt, and Mr. Wienholt.

WALTER A. GALE,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.