

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 4.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 1923.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—NO-CONFIDENCE AMENDMENT.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to by this House :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

and on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Anstey (Assistant Leader of the Opposition), viz.:—That the following words be added to the proposed Address :—

“but we regret that this House views with disapprobation the conduct of the Government in meeting Parliament with a Speech containing no evidence of any public policy. There is no mention of any intended policy upon the subject of international trade which the head of the Government has asserted to be fundamental to the progress and prosperity of Australia. There is no mention of a policy on the Sugar Agreement, which expires next June. There is no mention of a policy relating to the development of internal trade which is so vital to the employment of our people, but on the contrary the administrative methods pursued by the Government accentuate unemployment.

There is no mention of the attitude of the Government towards Arbitration, towards the Oil and Wireless Agreements, or towards Old-age and Invalid Pensions. The Speech makes no mention as to whether the Government intends to investigate the War Service Homes and other matters of maladministration exposed last Session by the Labour party.

In brief, this Government, which claims to be a Government of business men, gives no evidence of such qualification. There is not one subject in His Excellency's Speech upon which is given a definite, a concrete, or a composite opinion.

Under these circumstances, and in view of the peculiar methods under which this Government was formed, and in view of the fact that this Government discloses an unseemly haste to reach the haven of a recess of several months' duration, thus leaving in abeyance the discussion of these subjects vital to the welfare of our country, this House deems it necessary to protest and declare that this Government does not possess its confidence”—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Gardner 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.

*7th March, 1923.***3. PAPERS.**—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Audit Act—Transfers of Amounts approved by the Governor-General in Council—Financial Year 1922-23—Dated 28th February, 1923.

Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1923, No. 19.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1923, Nos. 16, 17.

Treasury Bills Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1923, No. 21.

War Precautions Act Repeal Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1923, No. 22.

**4. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.**—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

Question—put and passed.

**5. ADJOURNMENT.**—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

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

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**MEMBERS PRESENT.**—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Charlton, Mr. Josiah Francis\*, Mr. Manning, and Mr. Charles McDonald.

\* On leave.

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**WALTER A. GALE,**  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*