

1926-27.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 101.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FIRST MEETING AT CANBERRA.

MONDAY, 9TH MAY, 1927.

1. The House met, at half-past eleven o'clock a.m., at Parliament House, Canberra, according to the terms of the Resolution of the 24th March last.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Sir Littleton Groom) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Invitation was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

MR. SPEAKER,

The President of the Senate invites the Members of this Honorable House to attend forthwith in the Senate Chamber for the purpose of hearing a Message from His Majesty the King, which His Royal Highness the Duke of York has been commissioned to deliver to the Parliament.

Suspension of Sitting.—Mr. Speaker thereupon left the Chair, and, with Members of the House, went to the Senate Chamber, where the following Commission was read :—

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India : To Our right trusty and well-beloved Counsellor, John Lawrence, Baron Stonehaven, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Major, late Territorial Force Reserve, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over Our Commonwealth of Australia, and to Our trusty and well-beloved the Senators, Representatives, and People of Our Commonwealth of Australia,

Greeting :

WHEREAS, by the Constitution of Our Commonwealth of Australia, it is provided that the seat of Government of Our said Commonwealth shall be determined by the Parliament thereof, and that the said Parliament shall sit at Melbourne until it meet at the seat of Government : And whereas the said Parliament has enacted the Seat of Government Acceptance Act, 1909, and the Seat of Government (Administration) Act, 1924-1926, and has thereby declared and determined that the seat of Government of Our said Commonwealth shall be the Territory described in the Second Schedule to the said Seat of Government Acceptance Act, 1909 : And whereas it is intended that, due preparation being made in that behalf, Our said Parliament shall meet at Canberra in the said Territory on the Ninth Day of May, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven, in the House of Parliament at Canberra aforesaid, and from that time forth shall be there holden : And whereas We are desirous of marking the importance of the first meeting of Our said Parliament at the seat of Government aforesaid, and forasmuch as for certain causes We cannot conveniently be present in Our Royal Person at the first meeting of Our said Parliament at Canberra : Now KNOW YE that We, trusting in the discretion, fidelity and care of Our most dear and entirely beloved Son and most faithful Counsellor Albert Frederick Arthur George, Duke of York, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight of Our Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order, Captain in Our Navy, Group Captain in Our Air Force, One of Our Personal Aides-de-Camp, Do give and grant by the tenor of these presents unto the said Albert Frederick Arthur George Duke of York full power in Our Name to proclaim the inauguration of the meetings of Our said Parliament at Canberra aforesaid, and to open the first meeting of Our said Parliament at Canberra aforesaid, and to do everything which for Us and by Us shall be therein to be done : Willing that Our said dear Son shall hereby carry to Our said Parliament and People Our Royal Message of Goodwill and Our assurance of Our earnest prayer for the blessing of Almighty God on Canberra, the capital city of Our Commonwealth of Australia, and for the continued prosperity and happiness of all Our Loyal Subjects in Our said Commonwealth.

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And We do further direct and enjoin that these Our Letters Patent shall be read and proclaimed at such place or places as Our said Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief shall think fit within Our Commonwealth of Australia.

In witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourself at Westminster, the Twenty-eighth day of December, in the Seventeenth Year of Our Reign.

BY THE KING HIMSELF,

SIGNED WITH HIS OWN HAND,

GEORGE R.I.

Schuster.

Resumption of Sitting.—At five minutes past five o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

3. HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S MESSAGE.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had that day attended His Royal Highness the Duke of York in the Senate Chamber, when His Royal Highness was pleased to deliver the following Message from His Majesty the King to both Houses of the Parliament :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

HIS MAJESTY THE KING, my dear father, desiring to mark the importance of the Opening of this, the first meeting of the Federal Parliament in the new Capital City of the Commonwealth of Australia, and to show his keen interest in all that concerns the welfare and advancement of his loyal subjects in Australia, has granted me the special Commission which has just been read. Unable himself to be present in person, His Majesty has by that Commission charged me as his representative to perform to-day's ceremony, which inaugurates the new Capital of Australia.

I am commanded by The King to say that his thoughts are with you in this hour. To-day's historic occasion brings back vivid memories of that other 9th of May, Twenty-six years ago, when as Duke of Cornwall and York, His Majesty opened the first Parliament of the Commonwealth. Both he and the Queen retain the happiest recollections of that great event and of their visit to Australia, of which it formed so memorable a part. They will never forget the manifestations of loyalty and affection with which they were everywhere received. The Duchess and I are proud to be following in their footsteps, and we thank you with full hearts for the welcome we have received and the kindnesses that have been showered on us in every part of Australia which we have visited.

How much has happened in the quarter of a century since the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament! What changes in the world! What revolution in human life and thought! What marvellous progress in the means of communication and locomotion! For Australia and the whole Empire it has been a period of extraordinary evolution and development. It has been a testing time when, under the stress of the greatest war of our history, the Empire has found new meaning and new strength. Quickened by all these influences, without and within, the British Empire has advanced to a new conception of autonomy and freedom, to the idea of a system of British Nations, each freely ordering its own individual life, but bound together in unity by allegiance to one Crown and co-operating with one another in all that concerns the common weal.

It is the King's earnest prayer, in which I fervently join, that under Divine Providence the future years may see the same advance in the development and prosperity of the Empire and all its parts, the same spirit of mutual understanding and sympathy, and the same determination to support one another to the uttermost, should the need come.

It is perhaps peculiarly fitting that we should celebrate the birth of this new capital city just after the close of an Imperial Conference, which represents the beginning of another chapter in our Empire story. May this day's ceremony mark the rededication of this Commonwealth to those great ideals of liberty, fair dealing, justice and devotion to the cause of peace, for which the Empire and all its members stand. We turn to-day a new page of history. May it be a page glorious for Australia and the whole Empire.

Mr. Speaker also reported that His Royal Highness delivered the following further Message :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

It affords me much pleasure to convey this Message from His Majesty, which arrived yesterday :—

Our thoughts are more than ever with you on this day of happy memories to me and to the Queen. On this occasion of signal importance in the history of Australia I ask you to assure the people of the Commonwealth of my heartfelt wishes for their continued happiness and progress. I share their pride in the new Capital City, and join in their prayers for its successful future.

4. ADDRESS TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the following Message be transmitted to His Majesty the King :—

In assuring Your Majesty of the loyalty and devotion of the people of Australia to your Person and to the Throne, the House of Representatives desires to thank Your Majesty for your most gracious message on the occasion of the establishment of the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth at Canberra. It recalls with pride and affection the important part Your Majesty took when the Federal Parliament was opened in Melbourne 26 years ago to-day, and expresses its deep gratitude for the active and continued interest which Your Majesty has been pleased to take in all that affects

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the common weal of the people of this Dominion. It will be long treasured as a mark of your special favour that Your Majesty should have honoured Australia by commissioning your beloved son, His Royal Highness the Duke of York, to perform the official act for the establishment of the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth in its own Territory.

Question—put and passed.

5. GIFT FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that, on Tuesday, 26th April 1927, at Federal Parliament House, Melbourne, His Royal Highness the Duke of York, on behalf of His Majesty the King, was graciously pleased to deliver to him on behalf of the Members of the House of Representatives a personal gift from His Majesty the King. The present took the form of two handsome despatch boxes, replicas of the historic boxes which are placed on the Table of the House of Commons. Mr. Speaker said that, on behalf of honorable Members, he accepted the gift, feeling sure that they would regard it as a signal manifestation of His Majesty's deep personal interest in this House, and would be glad to treasure it as being a further connecting link between the House of Commons and this House.

6. GIFT FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING—RESOLUTION OF THANKS.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That this House desires to express its sincere gratitude to His Majesty the King for his historic gift to this Parliament which will be jealously preserved not only as an expression of His Majesty's deep personal interest in this House, but as a further connecting link with the Mother of Parliaments.

Question—put and passed.

7. ADDRESS TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF YORK.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the following Address be presented to His Royal Highness the Duke of York:—

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF YORK, KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER, KNIGHT OF THE MOST ANCIENT AND MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE THISTLE, KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT GEORGE, KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER.

May it please Your Royal Highness:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, express to Your Royal Highness our duty and loyalty to the Crown and Person of our Most Gracious Sovereign.

We offer to you and Her Royal Highness on behalf of the people of Australia a warm welcome. We feel sure that your visit will serve to strengthen still further the ties of kinship and affection which bind this country with Britain and the Empire. Our citizens deeply appreciate the further opportunity of personal contact with the members of Your Royal House which your presence amongst us affords.

We recall with pride the 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. We remember with feelings of deep gratification the later visit by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. We rejoice that on the occasion of the establishment of the permanent Seat of Government of the Commonwealth at Canberra it has been your gracious pleasure to open the new Parliamentary buildings.

This ceremony which is the object of your long and arduous mission to these shores is one of great significance to the people of Australia. It is the culmination of a series of important events in the history of our Commonwealth, marking the progress of our country, the unity of our people, and their loyalty to the Throne.

We earnestly trust that your sojourn among us has given happiness and pleasure to Your Royal Highnesses. Your association with our citizens on this historic occasion will be a source of inspiration to our people in the achievement of their destiny within the British Empire.

And Mr. Charlton (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion—

Question—put and passed.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker:—

STONEHAVEN,

Governor-General.

Message No. 71.

Bills intituled:—

“ Defence Act 1927 ”

“ Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Act 1927 ”

“ Bankruptcy Act 1927 ”

“ States Grant Act 1927 ”

“ Supply Act (No. 1) 1927-28 ”

“ Dried Fruits Export Charges Act 1927 ”

“ Loan Act (No. 1) 1927 ”

“ Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1927 ”

“ Judiciary Act 1927 ”

“ Wine Export Bounty Act 1927 ”

“ Invalid and Old-age Pensions Appropriation Act 1927 ”

“ States Loan Act 1927 ”

“ Pearl-shell Overseas Marketing Act 1927 ”

- “ *Pearl-shell Export Charges Act 1927* ”
 “ *Wire and Wire-netting Act 1927* ”
 “ *Petroleum Prospecting Act 1927* ”
 “ *War Service Homes Act 1927* ”
 “ *Supplementary Appropriation Act 1924-25* ”
 “ *Supplementary Appropriation (Works and Buildings) Act 1924-25* ”
 “ *Supplementary Appropriation Act 1925-26* ”
 “ *Supplementary Appropriation (Works and Buildings) Act 1925-26* ”
 “ *Fresh Fruits Overseas Marketing Act 1927* ”
 “ *Fresh Fruits Export Charges Act 1927* ”
 “ *Victorian Parliament House Memorial Act 1927* ”

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Acts.

Government House,
Melbourne,
8th April, 1927.

9. RESIGNATION OF MEMBER AND ISSUE OF WRIT (WARRINGAH DIVISION).—Mr. Speaker announced that, during the adjournment, he had received from the Honorable Sir Granville Ryrie a letter, dated 13th April, 1927, resigning his seat as Member for the Electoral Division of Warringah, and informed the House that, on the 26th April last, he had issued a Writ for the Election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Warringah, in the State of New South Wales, and that the dates in connexion with the Election had been fixed as follows:—

Date of Issue of Writ	..	..	Tuesday, 26th April, 1927.
Date of Nomination	..	..	Wednesday, 11th May, 1927.
Date of Polling	..	..	Saturday, 21st May, 1927.
Date for Return of Writ	..	..	On or before Friday, 3rd June, 1927.

10. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) 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.

11. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) 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.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed:

12. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:—

High Commissioner of the Commonwealth in the United Kingdom—Report for 1926.
 Transport in Australia—Report (Volume II.) by Sir George Buchanan on Transport in Australia, with special reference to Port and Harbour Facilities.

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

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.—

No. 2 of 1927—Association of Draughtsmen, Public Service.

Nos. 4 and 5 of 1927—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia.

Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 9 of 1927—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia.

No. 10 of 1927—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia.

No. 11 of 1927—Arms, Explosives and Muniton Workers' Federation of Australia.

Audit Act—Transfers of Amounts approved by the Governor-General in Council—Financial Year 1926-27—Dated 12th April, 1927.

Australian War Memorial Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1927, No. 29.

Commonwealth Bank Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1927, No. 27.

Customs Act—Proclamation, dated 17th February, 1927, prohibiting the exportation, except under certain conditions, of Wine.

New Guinea—Ordinances of 1927—

No. 9—Customs Tariff.

No. 10—Extradition.

No. 11—Fugitive Offenders (Jurisdiction).

No. 12—Appropriation (No. 2) 1926-27.

No. 13—Fisheries.

No. 14—Laws Repeal and Adopting.

No. 15—Police Offences.

Northern Australia Act—Advisory Councils Election Regulations—Statutory Rules 1927 No. 36.

Public Service Act—Appointments—Department of Works and Railways—

H. E. V. James.

A. C. Smith.

W. C. Bruce.

J. Crust.

C. V. Howard.

Science and Industry Research Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1927, No. 38.

Seat of Government Acceptance Act and Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinance of 1927—No. 4—Interpretation.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Federal Capital Commission (Fees) Regulations—Statutory Rules 1927, No. 25.

Spirits Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1927, No. 28.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at seventeen minutes to six 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 at this sitting.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—
Mr. Anstey, Mr. Albert Green, Sir Neville Howse, Mr. Mathews, and Mr. Watt.

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