

1926-27.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

No. 118.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 1927.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Sir Littleton Groom) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Right Honorable L. C. M. S. Amery, M.P., Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, was within the precincts. Mr. Amery thereupon, with the concurrence of honorable Members, was provided with a seat on the floor of the House.
3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
 - Northern Australia Act—
 - Central Australia—Ordinances of 1927—
 - No. 9—Encouragement of Primary Production.
 - No. 10—Stock Diseases.
 - North Australia—Ordinances of 1927—
 - No. 9—Encouragement of Primary Production.
 - No. 10—Stock Diseases.
4. BLIND PERSONS—PENSIONS, IRRESPECTIVE OF EARNINGS.—Mr. Yates moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, section 24 of the *Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908-26* should be amended to provide pensions for blind persons, irrespective of earnings.
Debate ensued.
Question—put.
The House divided—

Ayes, 24.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parsons
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Brennan	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Seullin
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Theodore
Mr. Forde	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Lacey	Mr. West
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Yates
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Mathews	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Maxwell	Mr. Fenton
Mr. McGrath	Mr. Makin

Noes, 33.

Mr. Aubrey Abbott	Mr. Killen
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Latham
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Lister
Mr. Bell	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Marks
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Marr
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Parkhill
Mr. Corser	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Pratten
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Gibson	
Mr. Gullett	
Sir Neville Howse	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Hurry	Mr. Hunter
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Manning

And so it was negatived.

3rd November, 1927.

It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the Orders of the Day (General Business) were called on, in accordance with Standing Order No. 119.

5. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That Orders of the Day Nos. 1 and 2, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, the 24th instant.
6. **RAILWAY THROUGH CENTRAL QUEENSLAND TO NORTH-SOUTH LINE.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Manning :—That it is essential for the proper development of Northern Australia that a railway be constructed from Bourke, New South Wales, through Central Queensland towards Cloncurry and thence across the Barkly Tablelands to a point on the North-South Railway in the Northern Territory—the carrying of this resolution to be taken as an instruction from this House to the Government to approach the State Governments of New South Wales and Queensland with a view of apportioning the expense of constructing this line between the Commonwealth and the States mentioned—*And on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Gregory, viz. :—*Omit all the words after “constructed from” up to and inclusive of the words “Northern Territory” and insert in place thereof, “Broome or Derby starting in an easterly direction up to its junction with the North-South railway at or about Newcastle Waters, thence south of east to Camooweal”—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Thomas Paterson 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 Thursday, the 24th instant.

7. **ABORIGINES OF AUSTRALIA—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Jackson :—
- (1) That, in view of the fast increasing death rate among the aboriginal tribes in Australia, and the urgent need for their protection against disease and other effects brought about by the populating of areas which for centuries have been their hunting grounds, a Joint Select Committee be appointed to inquire into—
 - (a) the segregation in large areas in the Northern Territory of its present aboriginal population ;
 - (b) co-operation with States in matters affecting the welfare of aboriginal tribes ;
 - (c) the half-caste problem ;
 - (d) allocation of assistance to Aboriginal Mission Stations ;
 - (e) any other matters which will assist the welfare of aboriginals and half-castes.
 - (2) That three Members of the House of Representatives be appointed to serve on such Committee, and that such Members shall be Mr. Aubrey Abbott, Mr. Forde, and the Mover.
 - (3) That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records, to move from place to place, and to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament.
 - (4) That a Message be sent to the Senate requesting its concurrence, and asking that two Members of the Senate be appointed to serve upon such Committee—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Parsons 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 Thursday, the 24th instant.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at sixteen minutes to six o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Donald Cameron, Sir John Gellibrand, Mr. Albert Green, Mr. Roland Green, Mr. Hill, Sir Elliot Johnson, Mr. Ley, Mr. W. Maloney, Mr. Mann, Mr. Parker Moloney, and Mr. Watt.

E. W. PARKES,
Clerk-Assistant, House of Representatives.