

1929-30.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 36.

THURSDAY, 8TH MAY, 1930.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Norman J. O. Makin) took the Chair, and offered Prayers.
  2. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—PREFERENCE TO RETURNED SAILORS AND SOLDIERS.—Mr. McGrath, by leave, made a Statement with reference to Preference to Returned Sailors and Soldiers. Mr. White, by leave, also made a Statement with reference to the matter. Mr. Latham (Leader of the Opposition) asked leave to make a Statement with reference to the matter. Objection being raised, leave not granted.
  3. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) moved, That the Standing Orders be suspended to enable him to make a Ministerial Statement to the House. Question put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority of the Members of the House.
  4. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBERY IN REGARD TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE INQUIRY.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) read to the House a letter which he had received from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and a report of certain proceedings of the Committee forwarded therewith, disclosing that allegations of bribery and attempted bribery of certain members of the Committee had been made in connexion with the claim for compensation by various Broadcasting Companies. Mr. Scullin informed the House that an inquiry would be instituted to investigate the allegations. Mr. Latham (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a Statement with reference to the matter.
  5. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—Munitions Supply Board—Report, from 1st July, 1927, to 30th June, 1929; together with extracts from the Report of the Commonwealth Government Clothing Factory. Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed. The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—Customs Act and Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1930, No. 23. Dried Fruits Export Charges Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1930, No. 24. Passports Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1930, No. 32. Public Service Act—Appointment of R. T. Hinckley, Postmaster-General's Department. Seat of Government Acceptance Act and Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinance of 1930—No. 5—Seat of Government (Administration). Transport Workers Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1930, No. 38.
  6. TRADE WITHIN THE EMPIRE—RECIPROCAL PREFERENCE.—Mr. Earle Page moved, pursuant to notice, That this Parliament strongly advocates the encouragement of increased intra-Empire trade and the development of the ideal of Empire economic unity and considers that the most effective means which can immediately be employed towards that end is the adoption of a comprehensive system of reciprocal preference calculated to preserve and expand the particular and essential industries of each section of the Empire, upon which the prosperity of all depends. Mr. Thomas Paterson 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 a later hour this day.
- 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.

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7. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That Orders of the Day Nos. 1 and 2, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, the 29th instant.
8. **TRADE WITHIN THE EMPIRE—RECIPROCAL PREFERENCE.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Earle Page :—That this Parliament strongly advocates the encouragement of increased intra-Empire trade and the development of the ideal of Empire economic unity and considers that the most effective means which can immediately be employed towards that end is the adoption of a comprehensive system of reciprocal preference calculated to preserve and expand the particular and essential industries of each section of the Empire, upon which the prosperity of all depends—  
 Debate resumed.  
 Mr. Price 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 19th June next.
9. **NEW STATES—PROPOSED REFERENDUM.**—Mr. Thompson moved, pursuant to notice, That in the opinion of this House a referendum should be held on a proposal to give the Federal Parliament power to establish new States, on the lines suggested by the majority of the Royal Commission appointed to investigate the working of the Federal Constitution.  
 Debate ensued.  
 Mr. McTiernan 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 29th instant.
10. **PENSIONS FOR EX-SOLDIERS SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS.**—Mr. Yates moved, pursuant to notice, That all ex-members of the Australian Imperial Force who served overseas and have since developed tuberculosis shall be deemed to be suffering from a war disability and be eligible for pensions under the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act.  
 Debate ensued.  
 Mr. Roland Green moved, as an amendment, That after "overseas" the words "in a forward area." be inserted.  
 Debate continued.  
 Mr. E. C. Riley 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 29th instant.
- The time allotted for precedence to General Business having expired, Government Business was called on.
11. **SUPPLY ["GRIEVANCE DAY"].**—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—  
 Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.  
 Debate ensued.  
 Mr. Theodore (Treasurer) moved, That the debate be now adjourned.  
 Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.  
 Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, resolve itself into the said Committee.
12. **PAPER.**—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—  
 Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired in the Hundreds of Bagot and Strangways, North Australia—  
 For Railway and Road purposes.
13. **ADJOURNMENT.**—Mr. Theodore (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
 Question—put and passed.
- And then the House, at half-past ten 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. Bayley, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Eldridge, Mr. Fenton\*, Mr. Gardner, Mr. W. Maloney, Mr. Mathews, and Mr. Watkins.

\* On leave.

E. W. PARKES,  
 Clerk of the House of Representatives.