

1932.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 1932.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday, the seventeenth day of February, in the twenty-second year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Fifth, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two.

1. On which day, being the first day of the meeting of the Parliament for the dispatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation (hereinafter set forth), Ernest William Parkes, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Frank Clifton Green, M.C., Clerk Assistant, Albert Allan Tregear, Second Clerk Assistant, and Sydney Friedrich Chubb, Serjeant-at-Arms, attending in the House according to their duty, the said Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk :—

PROCLAMATION.

Commonwealth of
Australia to wit.
ISAAC A. ISAACS,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act it is amongst other things enacted that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit :

NOW THEREFORE I, Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Act, do by this my Proclamation appoint Wednesday, the seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs : and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock a.m., on the said seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two.

(L.S.) Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid, at Canberra, this fourteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, and in the twenty-second year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,
J. A. LYONS, Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

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2. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY'S DEPUTIES BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

GENTLEMEN,

The Deputies of His Excellency the Governor-General for the opening of Parliament request the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly the Members of the House of Representatives went to the Senate Chamber, where the Senior Deputy addressed the Members of both Houses as follows :—

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

His Excellency the Governor-General, not thinking fit to be present in person at this time, has been pleased to cause Letters Patent to issue under the Great Seal of the Commonwealth constituting us his Deputies to do in his name all that is necessary to be performed in declaring this Parliament open, as will more fully appear from the Letters Patent which will now be read.

The Commission was read as follows :—

His Excellency the Right Honourable SIR ISAAC ALFRED ISAACS, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :

To The Honourable Sir Frank Gavan Duffy, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia ;

and

The Honourable George Edward Rich, a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

GREETING :

WHEREAS by Letters Patent, dated the twenty-ninth day of October, One thousand nine hundred, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting the Office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the said Commonwealth, Her Late Majesty, Queen Victoria, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon Her by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was pleased to authorize and empower the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, subject to any limitations expressed or directions given by Her, to appoint any person or persons, jointly or severally, to be his Deputy or Deputies within any part of the Commonwealth, and in that capacity to exercise, during his pleasure, such of his powers and functions as he might deem it necessary to assign to him or them : Provided always that the appointment of such Deputy or Deputies should not affect the exercise by the Governor-General himself of any power or function :

AND WHEREAS by Proclamation dated the Fourteenth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the same date, Wednesday, the seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, was appointed as the day for the Parliament of the Commonwealth to assemble and be holden for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs : and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives were thereby required to give their attendance accordingly in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock a.m., on the day and date aforesaid :

NOW KNOW YOU that in pursuance of the powers and authority vested in me by the Constitution and the said Letters Patent, I, SIR ISAAC ALFRED ISAACS, the Governor-General aforesaid, do hereby appoint you to be my Deputies for the purpose of declaring open the said Parliament at the time and place aforesaid.

(L.S.) Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, at Canberra, this twenty-second day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, and in the twenty-second year of His Majesty's reign.

ISAAC A. ISAACS,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. A. LYONS,
Prime Minister.

The Senior Deputy then said :—

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

We have it in command from the Governor-General to let you know that as soon as the Members of the House of Representatives shall have been sworn, the causes of His Excellency calling this Parliament will be declared by him in person at this place ; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be first chosen, you, Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, will retire to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the choice of some proper person to be your Speaker ; and thereafter you will present the person whom you shall so choose to His Excellency, at such time and place as he shall appoint.

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Mr. Justice Rich will attend in the House of Representatives for the purpose of administering the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to Honorable Members of that House.

And thereupon the Members of the House returned to their own Chamber, and, after an interval of some minutes—

3. COMMISSIONER TO ADMINISTER THE OATH TO MEMBERS.—The Honourable George Edward Rich, a Justice of the High Court of Australia, having been ushered into the Chamber and conducted by the Serjeant at-Arms to the Chair, handed to the Clerk at the Table a Commission, which was read and is as follows :—

His Excellency the Right Honourable SIR ISAAC ALFRED ISAACS, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :

To the Honourable George Edward Rich, a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

GREETING :

WHEREAS by the forty-second Section of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is enacted that every Senator and every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution :

NOW THEREFORE I, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you to attend at Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday, the Seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock a.m., there and then to administer the Oath or Affirmation to such Members of the House of Representatives as are present.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, at Canberra, this Twenty-second day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, and in the twenty-second year of His Majesty's reign.

(L.S.) ISAAC A. ISAACS,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,
J. A. LYONS,
Prime Minister.

4. RETURNS TO WRITS FOR GENERAL ELECTION.—The Clerk laid on the Table returns to 75 of the Writs for the General Election of the House of Representatives held on 19th December, 1931, which he had received from the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General, and announced that the return to the Writ for the election of a Member for the Northern Territory had not yet been received by him.

By the said Returns it appeared that for the several Electoral Divisions the following gentlemen had been elected, as shown hereunder :—

Division.	State.	Name.
Adelaide	South Australia	Fred Hurtle Stacey.
Angas	South Australia	Joel Moses Gabb.
Balaclava	Victoria	Thomas Walter White.
Ballaarat	Victoria	David Charles McGrath.
Barker	South Australia	Malcolm Duncan Cameron.
Barton	New South Wales	Albert Lane.
Bass	Tasmania	James Allan Guy.
Batman	Victoria	Samuel Dennis.
Bendigo	Victoria	Eric Fairweather Harrison.
Boothby	South Australia	John Lloyd Price.
Bourke	Victoria	Frank Anstey.
Brisbane	Queensland	George Lawson.
Calare	New South Wales	Harold Victor Campbell Thorby.
Capricornia	Queensland	Francis Michael Forde.
Cook	New South Wales	Edward Charles Riley.
Corangamite	Victoria	William Gerrand Gibson.
Corio	Victoria	Richard Gardiner Casey.
Cowper	New South Wales	Earle Christmas Grafton Page.
Dalley	New South Wales	John Solomon Rosevear.
Darling	New South Wales	Arthur Blakeley.
Darling Downs	Queensland	Littleton Ernest Groom.
Darwin	Tasmania	George John Bell.
Denison	Tasmania	Arthur William Hutchin.
East Sydney	New South Wales	John Joseph Clasby.
Echuca	Victoria	William Caldwell Hill.
Eden-Monaro	New South Wales	John Arthur Perkins.
Fawkner	Victoria	George Arnot Maxwell.
Flinders	Victoria	Stanley Melbourne Bruce.
Forrest	Western Australia	John Henry Prowse.
Franklin	Tasmania	Archibald Clifford Blacklow.
Fremantle	Western Australia	William Watson.

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Division.	State.	Name.
Gippsland	.. Victoria Thomas Paterson.
Grey South Australia	.. Philip Albert Martin McBride.
Gwydir	.. .. New South Wales	.. Charles Lydiard Aubrey Abbott.
Henty	.. .. Victoria ..	.. Henry Somer Gullett.
Herbert	.. .. Queensland ..	.. George William Martens.
Hindmarsh	.. .. South Australia	.. Norman John Oswald Makin.
Hume	.. .. New South Wales	.. Thomas Joseph Collins.
Hunter	.. .. New South Wales	.. Rowland James.
Indi	.. .. Victoria ..	.. William Joseph Hutchinson.
Kalgoorlie	.. .. Western Australia	.. Albert Ernest Green.
Kennedy	.. .. Queensland ..	.. David Riordan.
Kooyong	.. .. Victoria ..	.. John Greig Latham.
Lang	.. .. New South Wales	.. Adam Kemball Dein.
Lilley	.. .. Queensland ..	.. George Hugh Mackay.
Macquarie	.. .. New South Wales	.. John Norman Lawson.
Maranoa	.. .. Queensland ..	.. James Aitchison Johnston Hunter.
Maribyrnong	.. .. Victoria ..	.. James Edward Fenton.
Martin	.. .. New South Wales	.. William Arthur Holman.
Melbourne	.. .. Victoria ..	.. William Robert Nuttall Maloney.
Melbourne Ports	.. .. Victoria ..	.. Edward James Holloway.
Moreton	.. .. Queensland ..	.. Josiah Francis.
Newcastle	.. .. New South Wales	.. David Watkins.
New England	.. .. New South Wales	.. Victor Charles Thompson.
North Sydney	.. .. New South Wales	.. William Morris Hughes.
Oxley	.. .. Queensland ..	.. Francis Matthew John Baker.
Parkes	.. .. New South Wales	.. Charles William Clanan Marr.
Parramatta	.. .. New South Wales	.. Frederick Harold Stewart.
Perth	.. .. Western Australia	.. Walter Maxwell Nairn.
Reid	.. .. New South Wales	.. Joseph Herbert Gander.
Richmond	.. .. New South Wales	.. Roland Frederick Herbert Green.
Riverina	.. .. New South Wales	.. Horace Keyworth Nock.
Robertson	.. .. New South Wales	.. Sydney Lane Gardner.
South Sydney	.. .. New South Wales	.. John Thomas Jennings.
Swan	.. .. Western Australia	.. Henry Gregory.
Wakefield	.. .. South Australia	.. Charles Allan Scymour Hawker.
Wannon	.. .. Victoria ..	.. Thomas Hallett Scholfield.
Warringah	.. .. New South Wales	.. Robert Archdale Parkhill.
Wentworth	.. .. New South Wales	.. Eric John Harrison.
Werriwa	.. .. New South Wales	.. Walter Ramsay McNicoll.
West Sydney	.. .. New South Wales	.. John Albert Beasley.
Wide Bay	.. .. Queensland ..	.. Bernard Henry Corser.
Wilmot	.. .. Tasmania ..	.. Joseph Aloysius Lyons.
Wimmera	.. .. Victoria ..	.. Hugh McClelland.
Yarra	.. .. Victoria ..	.. James Henry Scullin.

5. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Members whose names are above set forth made and subscribed the Oath required by law, except Mr. Clasby (deceased).

6. DEATH OF MEMBER AND ISSUE OF WRIT (EAST SYDNEY DIVISION).—The Clerk announced that he had received a communication from the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General informing him of the death, on the 15th January, 1932, of Mr. J. J. Clasby and of the issue of a further Writ for an election of a Member for the Electoral Division of East Sydney. A Return to the further Writ had been received and from the indorsement thereon it appeared that Edward John Ward had been elected.

7. MEMBER SWORN.—Edward John Ward, Esquire, was introduced, and made and subscribed the Oath required by law.

The Commissioner retired.

8. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—Mr. Malcolm Cameron, addressing himself to the Clerk (who, standing up, pointed to him, and then sat down), proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr. George Hugh Mackay, and moved, That he do take the Chair of the House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr. Nairn.

Mr. Mackay submitted himself to the House.

Debate ensued.

The House then unanimously calling Mr. Mackay to the Chair, he was taken out of his place by Mr. Malcolm Cameron and Mr. Nairn, and conducted to the Chair, where, standing on the upper step, he returned his humble acknowledgments to the House for the great honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon he sat down in the Chair.

Then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Then Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister), Mr. Scullin and other honorable Members congratulated Mr. Speaker, who expressed his thanks.

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9. **PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) stated that he had already ascertained that it would be His Excellency's pleasure to receive the Speaker in the Library of the Parliament that day at fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.
And the sitting of the House having been suspended until fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.—
Mr. Speaker, after resuming the Chair, went with the Members of the House to attend His Excellency; and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported that the House had proceeded to the Library of the Parliament, and that he had presented himself to His Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives, and that His Excellency had been kind enough to congratulate him upon his election.
10. **MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.**—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—
Mr. Speaker,
His Excellency the Governor-General desires the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.
Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency :—And having returned—
11. **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—FORMATION OF NEW MINISTRY.**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) announced to the House that, consequent on the resignation of the Right Honorable James Henry Scullin, as Prime Minister, His Excellency the Governor-General had commissioned him (Mr. Lyons) to form a Ministry. The Ministry, which was sworn in on the 6th January, 1932, is as follows :—
The Honorable Joseph Aloysius Lyons, M.P., to be Prime Minister and Treasurer.
The Honorable John Greig Latham, C.M.G., K.C., M.P., to be Attorney-General, Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Industry.
The Right Honorable Stanley Melbourne Bruce, C.H., P.C., M.C., M.P., to be Assistant Treasurer.
Senator the Right Honorable Sir George Foster Pearce, P.C., K.C.V.O., to be Minister of State for Defence, and Leader of the Government in the Senate.
The Honorable James Edward Fenton, M.P., to be Postmaster-General.
The Honorable Henry Somer Gullett, M.P., to be Minister of State for Trade and Customs.
Senator the Honorable Alexander John McLachlan to be Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council, and Minister administering the Development Branch and the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of the Prime Minister.
The Honorable Robert Archdale Parkhill, M.P., to be Minister of State for Home Affairs and Minister of State for Transport.
The Honorable Charles Allan Seymour Hawker, M.P., to be Minister of State for Markets and Minister of State for Repatriation.
The Honorable Charles William Clanan Marr, D.S.O., M.C., V.D., M.P., to be Minister of State for Health and Minister of State for Works and Railways.
Senator the Honorable Walter Massy Greene to be Minister assisting the Leader of the Government in the Senate.
The Honorable Josiah Francis, M.P., to be Assistant Minister for Defence, and Minister administering War Service Homes.
The Honorable John Arthur Perkins, M.P., to be Assistant Minister for Trade and Customs.
12. **LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.**—Mr. Scullin informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Opposition, and that Mr. Forde had been appointed Deputy Leader.
13. **LEADER OF THE COUNTRY PARTY.**—Mr. Thomas Paterson informed the House that Mr. Earle Page had been appointed Leader of the Country Party, and that he (Mr. Thomas Paterson) had been appointed Deputy Leader.
14. **LEADER OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES LABOR PARTY.**—Mr. Beasley informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the New South Wales Labor Party.
15. **LANDS ACQUISITION BILL (1932).**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend section sixty-two A of the *Lands Acquisition Act 1906–1916*.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Lyons then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
16. **DEATH OF SENATOR THE HONORABLE J. E. OGDEN.**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) having announced, with deep regret, the death, on the 5th instant, of Senator the Honorable James Ernest Ogden, moved, by leave, That the Members of the House of Representatives record their sincere regret at the death of Senator the Honorable James Ernest Ogden, who was a representative of Tasmania in the Senate since 1922, and performed valuable service as a Member of State and Commonwealth Governments, and tender their deep sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement.
And Mr. Scullin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and other honorable Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen in silence—
Question—passed.
17. **DEATH OF THE HONORABLE R. W. FOSTER.**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That the sympathy of this House be extended to the widow and family of the late Honorable Richard Witty Foster, who was a Member of the House of Representatives for Wakefield, South Australia, from 1909 to 1928, and rendered conspicuous service to Australia as a Member of the State and Federal Legislatures, and as a Minister of the Crown.

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- And Mr. Scullin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and other honorable Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen in silence—
Question—passed.
18. DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JOHN EARLE.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That this House records with regret the death of the Honorable John Earle, a former Member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly and the Senate of the Commonwealth Parliament, expresses appreciation of the public service rendered by him as a Member of the Legislature and as a State and Federal Minister, and tenders its deep sympathy to his widow in her bereavement.
And Mr. Scullin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and other honorable Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen in silence—
Question—passed.
19. DEATH OF MEMBER (MR. J. J. CLASBY).—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That this House places on record its deep regret at the death of Mr. John Joseph Clasby, who was elected as Member for the Division of East Sydney at the General Elections held on the 19th December, 1931, but did not take his seat in this Chamber; and tenders its profound sympathy to his mother and members of his family in their bereavement.
And Mr. Scullin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and other honorable Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen in silence—
Question—passed.
20. TRANSMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS TO RELATIVES OF DECEASED.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That Mr. Speaker be requested to transmit to the relatives of the deceased the foregoing Resolutions, together with a copy of the speeches delivered thereon.
Question—put and passed.
21. SUBMARINE M2 DISASTER.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That this House expresses its deep regret at the sinking of British Submarine M2, and tenders its heartfelt sympathy to the relatives of those who so tragically lost their lives, and to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom in the loss the country has sustained.
And Mr. Scullin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and all Members present having risen in silence—
Question—passed.
22. SUSPENSION OF SITTING AS MARK OF RESPECT.—As a mark of respect to the memory of the late honorable gentlemen, the sitting was thereupon suspended until five o'clock p.m.
23. RESUMPTION OF SITTING.—At five o'clock p.m. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.
24. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement announcing that the Attorney-General (the Honorable J. G. Latham) would represent Australia at the forthcoming Disarmament Conference at Geneva.
25. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—OTTAWA CONFERENCE AND MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION IN LONDON.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement announcing that the Assistant Treasurer (the Right Honorable S. M. Bruce) and the Minister for Trade and Customs (the Honorable H. S. Gullett) would represent Australia at the forthcoming Economic Conference at Ottawa, and that the Assistant Treasurer would afterwards proceed to London as Minister representing the Commonwealth.
26. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had that day attended His Excellency the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which read as follows:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

You are called together to deliberate upon matters of urgent importance to the well-being of the Commonwealth.

My Ministers are deeply conscious of the fact that transcending in importance all other matters of public business at the present time is the necessity for maintaining the soundness of national finance and for hastening, so far as is within their power, the conditions that will bring employment to the workless. It is to the solution of these two fundamental problems that you will be asked to direct your energies largely during the coming months.

While my Advisers believe that the New Year has opened with a healthier and brighter feeling in the community, they stress the importance of realizing that, in the final result, a return of prosperous conditions in the Commonwealth must depend, in large measure, upon the recovery of world prices of commodities. So far, they point out, there are no indications of such a general upward trend of price levels as would justify anticipations of an immediate recovery from the prevailing economic depression. The upward trend in export prices noted recently has arisen mainly from depreciation of sterling, and there has been little, if any, improvement in gold prices.

A policy of merely waiting for an improvement in world prices would involve very grave risks to the nation as a whole. Expenditure, both public and private, must be adjusted to available means.

In the circumstances, therefore, my Ministers believe that it is their paramount duty to ensure that all the Governments of Australia should faithfully and steadfastly pursue a common objective in adjusting their Budgetary expenditure to meet the altered position of the nation as a whole. Strict adherence to this principle is of vital importance in the rehabilitation both of our

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national credit and of Australian industry. With this purpose in view, my Ministers recently called into Conference representatives of the Governments of the States. The exceptional circumstances of the States of Western Australia and Tasmania have necessitated special financial consideration being extended to them. My Advisers, however, are satisfied that there is a general determination to adhere to the plan of financial and economic rehabilitation which has already produced a favourable effect upon the position of Australia.

My Ministers find it necessary to qualify this statement by reference to the position of the State of New South Wales. They deem it their duty to emphasize that the deficit in the accounts of the Government of that State gravely affects the whole budgetary position of Australia. Unless definite action is taken the whole Commonwealth may be involved in a financial collapse, the avoidance of which has been the main objective of the self-sacrificing measures adopted by all the other Governments. My Ministers also view with the utmost concern the failure of the Government of the State of New South Wales to meet its public obligations. The effect of this default has been most serious. While unhesitatingly condemning the policy that has led to public default by the Government of the State of New South Wales, my Advisers have felt impelled, in the interests of the credit of the nation as a whole, to honour the obligations of that Government. My Ministers will take steps to compel the repayment of these moneys to the Commonwealth by the Government of the State.

It is impossible, at the present time, to proceed with large programmes of public works. The great majority of wage-earners must necessarily be dependent upon private industry, whether primary or secondary, for their livelihood. My Advisers, therefore, regard it as of cardinal importance that all possible steps should be taken to stimulate private industry, and all proposed legislation should be viewed in the light of this consideration.

My Ministers consider that the Disarmament Conference is one of the most vitally important international conferences that have yet been held. A real reduction and limitation of armaments would make a great contribution to the peace and welfare of humanity. The problems of disarmament are closely allied to those of reparations and of war debts. All of these problems have a fundamentally important bearing on the well-being and progress of our Commonwealth. My Ministers have, therefore, made provision for representation of the Commonwealth at this Conference.

My Ministers believe that the present year affords an unprecedented opportunity for making a definite advance in the direction of Empire Trade Reciprocity. Owing to world-wide depression, the volume of world trade has declined, and the struggle for markets is becoming still more intense. My Advisers are convinced that these new circumstances must be met with a new policy and that that policy should be one of reciprocal Empire trade. My Ministers will, therefore, take steps to ensure that the Commonwealth of Australia is adequately represented at the forthcoming Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa. The decisions of the Conference will be of great importance in relation to the future prosperity of our country. The representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia will take their part in the discussions not in a spirit of selfish bargaining but with a determination to formulate policies that will prove to be of lasting benefit to the British peoples as a whole.

My Ministers recognize the special importance of the tariff at the present time, and its intimate relation to the welfare of both primary and secondary industries. It is considered that, with industry generally in its present depressed condition, changes in duties should be made with caution and only after full inquiry and consideration. In preparing proposals for tariff revision my Ministers will give close attention to recommendations made by the Tariff Board. Subject to certain alterations which will be proposed, steps will be taken to ensure the continuance of the tariff schedules now in force, pending inquiry by the Tariff Board into a number of important items in the Schedules. My Ministers will, in dealing with all phases of the tariff, bear closely in mind the importance of preserving a satisfactory balance of trade, but, subject to that consideration, will review the existing special schedules of surcharges and prohibitions of imports.

A measure will be introduced for the purpose of providing that Companies and others carrying on the business of insurance in the Commonwealth shall make deposits with the Commonwealth in order to safeguard the interests of policy-holders upon a uniform basis throughout Australia.

A measure to amend the law with respect to unlawful associations will be submitted.

Consideration has been given by my Ministers to important aspects of wireless broadcasting in the Commonwealth, and, in particular, to the future control of the technical and programme activities of broadcasting. A Bill to provide for the appointment of a Commission to control broadcasting programmes on the national service will be submitted for your consideration.

The railway services constitute the chief problem confronting the Governments of Australia in their efforts to re-organize their public finances. My Ministers attach great importance to effective measures for the co-ordination of the various transport services in Australia. Every activity in the Commonwealth is affected by transport, and the ability of primary producers, manufacturers and merchants successfully to carry on their businesses and to provide employment depends, in no inconsiderable measure, upon the provision of reasonably cheap transport facilities. The Governments of the Commonwealth and the States have agreed that the whole question of the effective co-ordination of the various transport services should be considered by a Conference of experts, under an independent chairman.

In order to reduce parliamentary expenditure, it is proposed to introduce legislation to suspend the operation of the Committee of Public Accounts Act and the Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act. If it should be thought desirable to have a parliamentary inquiry into any matters, it would be possible to constitute a select committee for that purpose.

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A Bill embodying amendments to the War Service Homes Act will be submitted to you.

It is proposed in the present session to deal with the immediate and pressing problems to which reference has been made. There are other questions of great importance, such as those of constitutional alteration, which require consideration, but the time available since the election has not been sufficient to make it possible to formulate a detailed policy on these matters.

In the earnest hope that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations and further the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties.

27. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. John Lawson, Mr. Hutchinson, and the Mover, be appointed to prepare an Address-in-Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament and that the Committee do report at the next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

28. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Air Force Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1932, No. 9.

Air Navigation Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1932, No. 8.

Appropriation (Unemployment Relief Works) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1932, No. 3.

Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1931, No. 143.

Debt Conversion Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1931, No. 152.

Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1932, Nos. 6, 7.

Excise Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1932, No. 13.

Financial Emergency Acts—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1931, No. 154.

Inscribed Stock Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1931, No. 151.

Judiciary Act—Rule of Court—Dated 2nd December, 1931.

Nationality Act—Return for 1931.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended, &c.—Statutory Rules 1931, Nos. 146, 150.

Navigation Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1931, No. 142.

Norfolk Island Act—

Ordinances of 1931—

No. 11—Married Women's Property.

No. 12—Infants' Maintenance and Protection.

Education Ordinance—Regulations.

Northern Territory Acceptance Act and Northern Territory (Administration) Act—

Ordinances of 1931—

No. 10—Firearms Registration (No. 2).

No. 11—Licensing.

No. 12—Employees' Accommodation.

No. 13—Public Service.

Brands Ordinance—Regulations Amended.

Mortgagors' Interest Reduction Ordinance—Regulations.

Public Service Ordinance—Regulations Amended.

Papua Act—

Ordinances of 1931—

No. 9—Native Labour.

No. 10—Natives (Non-Indentured Service).

No. 11—Mining.

No. 12—Superannuation.

No. 13—Land.

Patents Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1931, No. 147.

Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1931, Nos. 135, 136, 137.

Public Service Act—Regulations (Parliamentary Officers)—Statutory Rules 1931, No. 153.

Seat of Government Acceptance Act and Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Ordinances of 1931—

No. 23—National Memorials.

No. 24—Crimes.

No. 25—Companies.

Ordinance of 1932—No. 2—Auctioneers.

Apiaries Ordinance—Regulations.

Companies Ordinance—Regulations.

Mining Ordinance—Regulations.

Transport Workers Act—Regulations Amended, &c.—

Statutory Rules 1931, Nos. 144, 145.

Statutory Rules 1932, Nos. 1, 2, 10.

War Service Homes Act—Report of the War Service Homes Commission for year ended 30th June, 1931, together with Statements and Balance-sheet.

17th February, 1932.

29. CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.—Mr. White moved, That the honorable Member for Darwin (Mr. Bell) be appointed Chairman of Committees of this House, which motion was seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Question—put and passed.

Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister), Mr. Scullin (Leader of the Opposition), and other honorable Members congratulated Mr. Bell, who made his acknowledgments to the House.

30. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Lyons (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.

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

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting).

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