

1934-35-36.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 147.

FRIDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 1936.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable G. J. Bell) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. **ABDICATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII.**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) informed the House of the Abdication of His Majesty King Edward VIII., and read the following Message from His Majesty :—

“ After long and anxious consideration I have determined to renounce the Throne to which I succeeded on the death of My father, and am now communicating this, My final and irrevocable decision. Realizing as I do the gravity of this step, I can only hope that I shall have the understanding of My peoples in the decision I have taken and the reasons which have led Me to take it. I will not enter now into My private feelings, but I would beg that it should be remembered that the burden which constantly rests upon the shoulders of a Sovereign is so heavy that it can only be borne in circumstances different from those in which I now find Myself. I conceive that I am not overlooking the duties that rest on Me to place in the forefront the public interests when I declare that I am conscious that I can no longer discharge this heavy task with efficiency or with satisfaction to Myself.

I have accordingly this morning executed an Instrument of Abdication in the terms following :—

‘ I, Edward the Eighth, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Emperor of India, do hereby declare My irrevocable determination to renounce the Throne for Myself and for My descendants, and My desire that effect should be given to this Instrument of Abdication immediately.

In token whereof I have hereunto set My hand this tenth day of December, nineteen hundred and thirty-six, in the presence of the witnesses whose signatures are subscribed.

Signed EDWARD R.I.’

My execution of this Instrument has been witnessed by My three brothers, Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York, the Duke of Gloucester, and the Duke of Kent.

I deeply appreciate the spirit which has actuated the appeals which have been made to Me to take a different decision and I have, before reaching My final determination, most fully pondered over them. But My mind is made up. Moreover, further delay cannot but be most injurious to the peoples whom I have tried to serve as Prince of Wales and as King, and whose future happiness and prosperity are the constant wish of My heart. I take My leave of them in the confident hope that the course which I have thought it right to follow is that which is best for the stability of the Throne and the Empire and the happiness of My peoples. I am deeply sensible of the consideration which they have always extended to Me both before and after My accession to the Throne and which I know they will extend in full measure to My successor.

I am most anxious that there should be no delay of any kind in giving effect to the Instrument which I have executed and that all necessary steps should be taken immediately to secure that My lawful successor, My brother His Royal Highness the Duke of York, should ascend the Throne.

EDWARD R.I.”

3. **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—LEAVE TO MAKE NOT GRANTED.**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) asked leave to make a Ministerial Statement.
Objection being raised, leave not granted.
4. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, That the Standing Orders be suspended to enable him to make a Ministerial Statement to the House in regard to the Abdication of His Majesty the King, and also to move, without notice, a Motion in connexion therewith.
Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority of the Members of the House.
5. **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—ABDICATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII.**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) made a Ministerial Statement informing the House of the events preceding the Abdication of His Majesty the King, and particularly the part taken in the discussions by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.
6. **ABDICATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII.—ASSENT TO ALTERATION IN LAW RELATING TO SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE.**—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, That—

WHEREAS His Majesty King Edward the Eighth by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, has, by an Instrument of Abdication executed on the tenth day of December, One thousand

11th December, 1936.

nine hundred and thirty-six, been pleased to declare that He is irrevocably determined to renounce the Throne for Himself and His descendants, and has for that purpose executed an instrument of abdication and has signified His desire that effect thereto should be given immediately:

AND WHEREAS a Bill intituled An Act to give effect to His Majesty's Declaration of Abdication and for purposes connected therewith has been introduced into the Parliament of the United Kingdom :

AND WHEREAS it is proposed to be enacted by that Bill that immediately upon the Royal assent being signified thereto the Instrument of Abdication so executed shall have effect, and thereupon His Majesty shall cease to be King, and there shall be a demise of the Crown, and accordingly the member of the Royal Family next in succession to the Throne shall succeed thereto and to all the rights, privileges and dignities thereunto belonging, and His Majesty, His issue (if any) and descendants of that issue shall not, after His Majesty's abdication, have any right, title or interest in or to the succession to the Throne, and section one of the Act of Settlement shall be construed accordingly, and the Royal Marriages Act 1772 shall not apply to His Majesty after His abdication, nor to the issue (if any) of His Majesty or descendants of that issue :

AND WHEREAS it is by the Preamble to the Act of the United Kingdom known as the Statute of Westminster, 1931, among other things provided that it is meet and proper to set out by way of preamble to that Statute that, inasmuch as the Crown is the symbol of the free association of the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and as they are united by a common allegiance to the Crown, it would be in accord with the established constitutional position of all the members of the Commonwealth in relation to one another that any alteration in the law touching the Succession to the Throne should thereafter require the assent as well of the Parliaments of all the Dominions as of the Parliament of the United Kingdom :

AND WHEREAS the Bill intituled An Act to give effect to His Majesty's Declaration of Abdication and for purposes connected therewith will, upon the Royal assent being signified thereto, involve an alteration in the law touching the Succession to the Throne and it is desirable that the Parliament of the Commonwealth should assent to such alteration :

this House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth hereby assents to such alteration.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.—1936—

No. 16—Arms, Explosives and Munition Workers' Federation of Australia.

No. 17—Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association.

Commonwealth Bank Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1936, No. 157.

Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1936, No. 158.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Defence purposes at—

Georgetown, Tasmania.

Goulburn, New South Wales.

Holbrook, New South Wales.

Mascot, New South Wales.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1936, No. 159.

Public Service Act—Appointment of W. H. Harral, Department of the Interior.

Seat of Government Acceptance Act and Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances of 1936—

No. 46—Auctioneers.

No. 47—Juries.

No. 48—Dogs Registration.

8. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Lyons (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.

Question—put and passed.

9. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.—Mr. Lyons (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.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at sixteen minutes to four 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. Forde, Mr. Josiah Francis, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Hawker, Mr. G. W. Mahoney, Mr. W. Maloney, Sir Charles Marr, Mr. McClelland, and Mr. Scullin.

E. W. PARKES,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

EXTRACT FROM THE *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, No. 26, DATED 27th MAY, 1937.

PROCLAMATION.

Commonwealth of Australia to wit.
 GOWRIE
 Governor-General.

By His Excellency Brigadier-General the Right Honorable Alexander Gore Arkwright, Baron Gowrie, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia 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, and also from time to time, by Proclamation or otherwise, prorogue the Parliament :

NOW THEREFORE I, Alexander Gore Arkwright, Baron Gowrie, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Constitution, do by this my Proclamation prorogue the said Parliament until Thursday the seventeenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, and I do appoint the said Thursday the seventeenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of business. 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 Three (3) o'clock p.m., on the said Thursday the seventeenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

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

By His Excellency's Command,

T. PATERSON,

for Acting Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE KING !
