

1913.

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 18.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1913.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—RETAINING FEE FROM MARCONI COMPANY.—Mr. Frazer moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, Ministers of the Crown should not violate the code of rules of positive obligation laid down by the British Prime Minister (Mr. Asquith), which rules read—

Firstly—That Ministers ought not to enter into any transaction whereby their private pecuniary interest may even conceivably come into conflict with their public duty ;
 Secondly—That no Minister ought to accept any kind of favour from persons who are in negotiation with or seeking to enter into contractual or pecuniary relations with the Government ;

and that the action of the Attorney-General (the Honorable W. H. Irvine) in determining to hold a retaining fee from the Marconi Company, now in litigation with the Commonwealth Government, has violated the rules of conduct here laid down, and is detrimental to the best interests of the Commonwealth.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 31.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Archibald	Mr. O'Malley
Mr. Arthur	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Riley
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Burns	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Catts	Mr. Spence
Mr. Dankel	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Frazer	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Hannan	Mr. Webster
Mr. Howe	Mr. West
Mr. Hughes	
Mr. Jensen	
Mr. W. Maloney	
Mr. Mathews	
Mr. McDonald	

Tellers.

Mr. Charlton
Mr. Page

Noes, 32.

Mr. Abbott	Mr. Manifold
Mr. Ahern	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. James Bennett	Mr. Orchard
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Patten
Mr. Falkiner	Mr. Pigott
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Rodgers
Sir John Forrest	Colonel Rytic
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Stumm
Mr. Gregory	Mr. John Thomson
Mr. Hans Irvine	Mr. Wynne
Mr. W. H. Irvine	
Mr. Kelly	
Mr. Kendell	
Mr. Livingston	

Tellers.

Mr. Atkinson
Mr. Greene

And so it was negatived.

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3. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Burchell, Mr. Carr, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Finlayson, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Groom, Mr. Sharpe, and Mr. Sinclair.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.