
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 136.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 1917.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.
2. ABSENCE OF MR. SPEAKER.—The Clerk at the Table having informed the House that Mr. Speaker was unavoidably absent, the Chairman of Committees took the Chair as Deputy-Speaker, and read Prayers.
3. CORRECTION OF ERROR IN DIVISION LIST.—Mr. Deputy-Speaker informed the House that in the Division taken yesterday the Tellers inadvertently made an error. The name of Mr. Livingston should have been included in the List of those Members who voted with the Ayes, instead of the name of Mr. Stumm. The error had been rectified in the official records.
4. PARLIAMENT—POSTPONEMENT OF FEDERAL ELECTIONS.—Mr. Hughes moved, pursuant to notice, Whereas, by reason of the existence of a state of war, and by reason of the immediate meeting of an Imperial Conference for the discussion of questions of paramount importance to the Commonwealth and to the British Empire, it is imperatively necessary that the forthcoming elections for both Houses of the Parliament of the Commonwealth should be postponed: And whereas, in the existing circumstances, this can only be effected by an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom: Now therefore this House resolves: That the Imperial Government be requested to provide by legislation for the extension of the duration of the present House of Representatives until the expiration of six months after the final declaration of peace, or until the 8th day of October, 1918, whichever is the shorter period, and for such provision in relation to the terms of Senators and the holding of Senate elections as will enable the next elections for the Senate to be held at the same time as the next general election for the House of Representatives, and consequential adjustments to be made regarding subsequent elections.
 Debate ensued.
 Mr. Higgs addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he 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 the next day of sitting.
5. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
 The War—
 Belgians—Correspondence between the Belgian Minister and Viscount Grey respecting the Deportation of Belgians to Germany and the forced labour imposed upon them by the German Authorities. (Paper presented to the British Parliament.)
 Ordered to lie on the Table.
 The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
 War Precautions Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 38.

23rd February, 1917.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at ten minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday next, at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—General Abbott*, Mr. Brennan*, Mr. Burchell, Mr. Carr, Mr. Chapman, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McGrath*, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Ozanne*, General Ryrie*, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Stumm, Mr. Watkins, Mr. West*, and Mr. Yates.

* On leave.

WALTER A. GALE,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.