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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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No. 137.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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WEDNESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1917.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.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. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Wool Scheme—Notes outlining the broad principle of the.  
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed in substitution for the Paper ordered by the House to be printed on 20th December last.  
  
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Defence Act—Regulation Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 29.  
Public Service Act—Postmaster-General's Department—Promotions of—  
J. R. McDonald.  
P. Z. Whiting.  
War Precautions Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 32, 33, 34.
4. PARLIAMENT—POSTPONEMENT OF FEDERAL ELECTIONS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Hughes :—  
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 resumed.  
Mr. Archibald 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 to-morrow.

*28th February, 1917.*

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5. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-five minutes past ten 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) except—General Abbott\*, Mr. Brennan\*, Mr. Burchell, Mr. Carr, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Mahony, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McGrath\*, Mr. Ozanne\*, Mr. Pigott, General Ryrie\*, Mr. Salmon, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Stumm, Mr. West\*, and Mr. Yates.

\* On leave.

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