
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 138.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1917.

1. The House met, at half-past two 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. JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.—Mr. Charlton, the Chairman of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, brought up the following Report from the Committee—
The Manner of Submitting the Estimates, the Budget, and the Treasurer's Financial Statement.
Ordered to be printed.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
The War—Peace Proposals—
German Note, communicated by the United States Ambassador, 12th December, 1916.
(Paper presented to the British Parliament.)
United States Note, respecting the prospects of peace, communicated 20th December, 1916.
(Paper presented to the British Parliament.)
Reply of the Allies to German Note, communicated 30th December, 1916.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 27, 28, 39.
5. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Palmer rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "The importation of benzine and kindred products into the Commonwealth by enemy and alien companies, and the injurious effect to our primary producers and also to labour by the importation of such in tank steamers."
Mr. Deputy-Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—
Mr. Palmer moved, That the House do now adjourn, and not having, in compliance with Standing Order No. 39, concluded his speech within half-an-hour, the honorable Member was, by leave of the House, allowed to continue his speech.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.

1st March, 1917.

6. 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. Fenton 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.

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at two minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.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 Ryrice*, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Stumm, Mr. West*, and Mr. Yates.

* On leave.

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