

1914-15-16-17.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 139.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 2ND MARCH, 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. ADJOURNMENT.—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Finlayson 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 issue of a regulation under the War Precautions Act dealing with the sale or disposal of any live stock or meat".
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. Finlayson moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.

4. PRIVILEGE—ALLEGED ATTEMPTED BRIBERY.—Mr. Tudor directed the attention of the House to a matter directly concerning the privileges of the House, and concluded by moving—

That the statements which have been made in another place relating to attempted bribery and corruption, also the circumstances surrounding the resignation of Senator Ready, be referred to a Royal Commission, preferably Justices of the High Court of Australia.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 18.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Burns	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Page
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Riley
Mr. Hampson	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Hannan	
Mr. Higgs	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Mahon	Mr. Catts
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Watkins

Noes, 35.

Mr. Archibald	Mr. Manifold
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Orchard
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Palmer
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Patten
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Corser	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Dankel	Mr. Laird Smith
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Spence
Mr. Fowler	Mr. John Thomson
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Watt
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Webster
Mr. Groom	Mr. Wise
Mr. Hughes	
Sir William Irvine	
Mr. W. Elliot Johnson	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Lynch	Mr. Greene

And so it was negatived.

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5. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

The War—

Armenians—The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, 1915–16—Documents presented to Viscount Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by Viscount Bryce. (Paper presented to the British Parliament.)

Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Audit Act—Transfers of Amounts approved by the Governor-General in Council—Financial Year 1915–16—Dated 28th February, 1917.

Public Service Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 20, 21.

War Precautions Act—

Regulations (Passports) 1916.

Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 22.

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—

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 34.

Noes, 17.

Mr. Archibald	Mr. Lynch	Mr. Anstey	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Manifold	Mr. Burns	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Orchard	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Page
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Palmer	Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Riley
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Patten	Mr. Hampson	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Hannan	
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Higgs	
Mr. Corser	Mr. Sinclair	Mr. Mahon	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Dankel	Mr. Bruce Smith	Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Catts
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Laird Smith	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Spence		
Mr. Glynn	Mr. John Thomson		
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Watt		
Mr. Groom	Mr. Webster		
Mr. Hughes			
Sir William Irvine	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. W. Elliot Johnson	Mr. Burchell		
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Greene		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

7. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next, at three o'clock p.m.

Question—put and passed.

8. ADJOURNMENT—COUNT OUT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Mr. W. Maloney called the attention of Mr. Deputy-Speaker to the fact that a quorum of Members was not present.

The Bells having been rung, and a quorum not having been obtained within the prescribed time, Mr. Deputy-Speaker thereupon, at nineteen minutes to five o'clock p.m., adjourned the House until Tuesday 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. Carr, Mr. Fleming, Mr. R. W. Foster, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Mahony, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McGrath*, Mr. Ozanne*, Mr. Pigott, General Rylie*, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Stumm, Mr. West*, and Mr. Yates.

* On leave.

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