

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 147.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 16TH 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. PAPERS.—Mr. Deputy-Speaker presented—
 Audit Act—
 Finance 1915-16—The Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during the year ended 30th June, 1916, accompanied by the Report of the Auditor-General.
 Ordered to be printed.
 The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
 Customs Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 61.
 Defence Act—War Financial Regulations—Australian Imperial Force—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 49.
4. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.—Mr. Finlayson, on behalf of the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, brought up the following Report from the Committee—
 Report relating to the Proposed Erection of Power House at Flinders Naval Base.
 Ordered to be printed.
5. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—EXCISE TARIFF VALIDATION BILL.—Mr. Deputy-Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—
 MR. SPEAKER, *Message No. 155.*
 The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to provide for the Validation of Collections of Duties of Excise under Tariff proposals*", to which it has agreed without requests.
 The Senate, THOS. GIVENS,
 Melbourne, 16th March, 1917. President.
6. SUSPENSION OF SITTING.—At twenty-five minutes past ten o'clock p.m. Mr. Deputy-Speaker informed the House that he would resume the Chair at eleven o'clock to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1917.

7. RESUMPTION OF SITTING.—At eleven o'clock a.m. the sitting was resumed.
 F.12571.

16th and 17th March, 1917.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—ELECTORAL (WAR-TIME) BILL.—Mr. Deputy-Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 156.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to make certain further provision, for the duration of the War and six months thereafter, in relation to Parliamentary Elections*", to which it has agreed with the amendment indicated in the annexed Schedule, in which Amendment the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 17th March, 1917, a.m.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration forthwith.
The House proceeded to consider the Amendment made by the Senate, which is as follows :—

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE.

Page 2, clause 5, line 5, after "munition" insert "or other".

Mr. Groom moved, That the Amendment be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

9. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General :—

The War—Peace Note from the United States of America—Reply of the Allied Governments.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.

10. MESSAGE FROM MR. SPEAKER.—Mr. Deputy-Speaker stated that he had been requested by Mr. Speaker, who, owing to illness, was unable to be present, to convey to the House the following message :—

HONORABLE MEMBERS :

I regret to say that owing to my recent illness I have not been able to be at the House during the closing days of the Session, but I desire to thank honorable Members for the courtesy and kindness extended to me by them during my term of office as Speaker.

At times I have found the position very trying, but I have always found honorable Members ready and willing to assist me in maintaining the dignity and the high reputation of the House.

I desire to specially thank Mr. Deputy-Speaker Chanter for his kindness in relieving me during my illness, and also Mr. Gale and the staff generally who have so ably assisted me in carrying out the high and responsible duties devolving upon the Speaker's position. I am also indebted to the staff of the Library, who materially assisted in lightening the work connected with my position as Chairman of the Library Committee.

CHARLES McDONALD.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-eight minutes past eleven o'clock a.m. on Saturday, 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. Burns, Mr. Catts, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Dankel, Mr. Fleming, Mr. R. W. Foster, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Mahon, Mr. Mahony, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McGrath*, Mr. Ozanne, Mr. Pigott, Mr. Riley, General Ryrie*, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Spence, Mr. Watkins, Mr. West*, and Mr. Yates.

* On leave.

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

1914-15-16-17.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

The following Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were received after the adjournment of the House on the 17th March, 1917 :—

[*Customs Tariff Validation Bill*]—

R. M. FERGUSON,

Governor-General.

Message No. 195,

A Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the Validation of Collections of Duties of Customs under Tariff proposals and for other purposes,*" as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Government House,

Melbourne, 19th March, 1917.

[*Excise Tariff Validation Bill*]—

R. M. FERGUSON,

Governor-General.

Message No. 196.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for the Validation of Collections of Duties of Excise under Tariff proposals,*" as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Government House,

Melbourne, 19th March, 1917.

[*Electoral (War-time) Bill*]—

R. M. FERGUSON,

Governor-General.

Message No. 197.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to make certain further provision, for the duration of the War and six months thereafter, in relation to Parliamentary Elections,*" as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Government House,

Melbourne, 19th March, 1917.