

1917-18.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 80.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1918.

1. The House met, at half-past seven o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
 - Irish Republican Brotherhood Internees—Report on cases, by Mr. Justice Harvey.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
 - Pastoralists—Statement showing number who have died during the last two years, Net Value of their Estates, and Commonwealth Duty payable thereon.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
3. ADJOURNMENT.—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. McGrath 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 action of the Military authorities in giving to the daily press the names and sentences imposed on privates and N.C.O.'s of the A.I.F. for desertion; also, the severity of the sentences imposed by the Military officials in France and England."
Mr. 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. McGrath moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Mr. Watt, addressing the House, and not having, in compliance with Standing Order No. 39, concluded his speech within fifteen minutes, the honorable Member was, by leave of the House, allowed to continue his speech.
Debate continued.
Lieut.-Colonel Abbott, addressing the House, and not having, in compliance with Standing Order No. 39, concluded his speech within fifteen minutes, the honorable Member was, by leave of the House, allowed to continue his speech.
Debate continued.
Question—put and negatived.
4. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the intervening Business be postponed until after the consideration of Notices of Motion Nos. 2, 4, and 5 (Government Business).
5. EXCISE BILL (1918).—Mr. Jensen moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Excise Act* 1901.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Jensen brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.
6. DISTILLATION BILL (1918).—Mr. Jensen moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Distillation Act* 1901.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Jensen brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

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7. SPIRITS BILL (1918).—Mr. Jensen moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Spirits Act* 1906-1915.
 Question—put and passed.
 Mr. Jensen brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
 Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
 Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.
8. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That Orders of the Day Nos. 1 and 2 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 3 (Government Business).
9. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Watt:—That the Paper "Ministerial Statement," laid on the Table on the 19th instant, be printed—
 Debate resumed.
 Mr. Finlayson, 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 to-morrow.
10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Watt moved, That the House do now adjourn.
 Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at eighteen minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—
 Mr. Anstey*, Mr. Bayley, Mr. Burchell^a, Mr. J. H. Catts, Mr. Chapman, Sir Joseph Cook, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Fleming^a, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Heitmann^a, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Manifold*, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Pigott, Brigadier-General Ryrie^a, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Spence, Mr. Wallace^a, and Mr. Yates^a.

* On leave.
 (a) Joined Australian Imperial Force.

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