

1917-18.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 99.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 1918.

1. The House met at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. RETURN TO WRIT (SWAN DIVISION).—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received a Return to the Writ which he issued on the 18th September last, for the Election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Swan, in the State of Western Australia, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Right Honorable Lord Forrest, and that by the indorsement on the Writ it appeared that Edwin Wilkie Corboy had been elected in pursuance of the said Writ.
3. CORANGAMITE BY-ELECTION.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had yesterday issued the Writ in connexion with the By-Election for the Corangamite Division. The dates fixed were those announced to the House on Wednesday last.
4. THE WAR—ADDRESS TO AND MESSAGE FROM THE KING RE SURRENDER OF GERMANY.—Mr. Watt, by leave, moved, That the following Address be forwarded to His Majesty :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY :

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, in Parliament assembled, desire in our name and on behalf of the people whom we represent, to express our unswerving loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's person and Government.

At this stirring and eventful period in the life of our nation, we desire to render thanks to God for the triumph of Righteousness over the forces of Evil.

We rejoice with Your Majesty upon the signing of the Armistice, involving, as it does, the surrender of Germany.

We congratulate Your Majesty upon the great sagacity and steadfast resolution of the statesmen of Great Britain and the Allied and Associated Powers, whose labours established and perfected the all-powerful alliance of free nations which has now effected the capitulation of an arrogant foe.

We tender to the British and Allied Forces on land, sea, and air, the profound and grateful thanks of a united people for their stupendous efforts and patriotic sacrifices extending over four years of unparalleled carnage. Especially do we glory in the fact that the soldiers and sailors of Australia have by their dauntless heroism and endurance conspicuously assisted in re-establishing freedom and justice.

In this hour of our greatest triumph we earnestly desire, above all else, to associate ourselves with Your Majesty in the sacred duty of paying homage to the memory of our dead heroes, who laid down their lives in the cause of humanity.

We devoutly trust that Your Majesty's future reign may be crowned by order and good government throughout the British Empire, and that the nations of the world may ere long enter into the enjoyment of an honorable and lasting Peace.

Mr. Watt then read to the House a cablegram received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 11th November, 1918, conveying the following Message from His Majesty the King :—

"At the moment when the armistice is signed, bringing, I trust, a final end to the hostilities which have convulsed the whole world for more than four years, I desire to send a message of greeting and heartfelt gratitude to our overseas peoples, whose wonderful efforts and sacrifices have contributed so greatly to secure the victory which now is won. Together we have borne this tremendous burden in the fight for justice and liberty; together we can now rejoice at the realization of those great aims for which we entered the struggle. The whole Empire pledged its word not to sheathe the sword until our end was achieved. That pledge is now redeemed.

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The outbreak of war found the whole Empire one. I rejoice to think that the end of the struggle finds the Empire still more closely united by the common resolve, held firm through all vicissitudes, by the community of suffering and sacrifice, by the dangers and triumphs shared together. The hour is one of solemn thanksgiving and of gratitude to God, whose Divine Providence has preserved us through all perils and crowned our arms with victory. Let us bear our triumph in the same spirit of fortitude and self-control with which we have borne our dangers.

GEORGE, R.I."

Mr. Tudor seconded the motion and also addressed the House.

And all Members present having risen—

Question—passed.

The National Anthem was then sung, and cheers were given.

5. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Watt moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at half-past three 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—
Mr. Anstey*, Mr. Blakeley, Mr. Burchell^(a), Mr. J. H. Catts, Mr. Charlton, Sir Joseph Cook*, Mr. Falkiner, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Fleming^(a), Mr. Heitmann^(a), Mr. Hughes*, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Mahony, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Riley, Mr. Rodgers, Brigadier-General Ryrie^(a), Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Wallace^(a), Mr. Watkins, Mr. West, and Mr. Yates^(a).

* On leave.

(a) Joined Australian Imperial Force.

WALTER A. GALE,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.