

1917-18.

 THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 114.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1918.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2. *HANSARD*—OMISSION OF CERTAIN REMARKS DURING THE WAR.—Mr. Speaker made the following announcement to the House :—

I desire to inform the House that, on Friday afternoon last, I received from the Acting Solicitor-General a letter directing my attention to certain passages in the remarks of honorable Members on the 3rd and 4th instant, reported in the *Hansard* record of those dates, as calculated, in the opinion of the Crown Law officers, to prejudice His Majesty's relations with a foreign power. After consultation with the honorable Members concerned, I determined to direct the omission from the report of the passages to which my attention had been drawn, since it appeared to me most undesirable that any remarks of the nature indicated—however sincere might be the convictions of honorable Members on the subjects debated—should be published during the progress of the important negotiations now proceeding in Europe. I took this course with some reluctance, and in conscientious exercise of the discretion vested in me by the resolution of the House.

I take this opportunity to intimate to the officers of the Crown Law Department that it will not, in future cases of the kind, be practicable to give effect to the resolution of the House unless my attention is directed to suggested omissions before I take the Chair on the day following the sitting in the course of which the remarks were made. I do not propose, unless in very exceptional circumstances, to direct the omission of any remarks without first consulting the honorable Member making them, and it was quite by accident that those I desired to consult were available on Friday afternoon last.

3. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. West 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 officials at the Quarantine Station, North Head, Sydney, in refusing a priest permission to attend the sick and dying when they were crying out for spiritual succour."

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. West moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

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4. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[*Loan Bill* (1918) [£1,242,194]]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 81.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to authorize the Raising and Expending of the sum of One million two hundred and forty-two thousand one hundred and ninety-four pounds for certain purposes*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 10th December, 1918.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

[*Distillation Bill* (1918)]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 82.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Distillation Act 1901'*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 10th December, 1918.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

[*Spirits Bill* (1918)]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 83.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Spirits Act 1906-1915'*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 10th December, 1918.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

5. ALTERATION OF TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Watt moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until eleven o'clock a.m. to-morrow
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

6. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Proportional Representation—Memorandum on the working of, at the recent Danish Elections for the Folketing. (Paper presented to the British Parliament).
The War—(Papers presented to the British Parliament)—
Coal Conservation Committee—Final Report.
Company Law Amendment Committee—Report.
Luxury Duty—Report from the Select Committee.
Medical Education in England—Some Notes on—Memorandum by Sir George Newman, K.C.B., M.D., &c.
National Expenditure—Select Committee on—
Sixth Report.
Seventh Report—(Form of Public Accounts).
Eighth Report.
United Kingdom and Greece—Agreement between—Respecting the Liability to Military Service of British Subjects in Greece and Greek Subjects in Great Britain.
United Kingdom and United States of America—Convention between—Respecting the Liability to Military Service of British Subjects in the United States and of United States Citizens in Great Britain.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1918, Nos. 302, 304, 305, 309.

7. WAR PRECAUTIONS BILL (1918).—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—
Debate resumed.

Mr. Finlayson proposed to move, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "That" be omitted from the motion, with the view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof :—
"immediate action be taken to amend section 51 of the Constitution so as to allow the Commonwealth Parliament full power to legislate with respect to (a) Trade and Commerce; (b) Corporations; (c) Industrial Matters; and (d) other related matters."

Proposed amendment ruled out of order.

Debate continued.

Sir Robert Best 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 a later hour this day.

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8. **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.**—REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION ON NAVY AND DEFENCE ADMINISTRATION (IN 1916).—Mr. Watt, by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the—

Report of the Royal Commission on Navy and Defence Administration in regard to (1) the purchase of the Shaw Wireless Works, at Randwick, New South Wales, in August, 1916; (2) the purchase of the following vessels for the purposes of the Navy Department, viz., the *Emerald*, in June, 1916, and the *Phillip* (late *Togo*), in August, 1916,

and concluded by moving—That the Report and Statement be printed.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Tudor 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.

9. **WAR PRECAUTIONS BILL (1918).**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Chapman 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.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**—Mr. Groom moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at five 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—Lieut.-Col. Abbott, Mr. Anstey*, Mr. Archibald, Mr. Bayley, Mr. Burchell*(a), Sir Joseph Cook*, Mr. Falkiner, Mr. Fleming*(a), Mr. Heitmann*(a), Mr. Hughes*, Mr. Livingston, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Rodgers, Brigadier-General Ryrie*(a), Mr. Bruce Smith, and Mr. Yates*(a).

* On leave.

(a) Joined Australian Imperial Force.

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