

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 9.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1920.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—SUGAR AND WOOLTOPS.—Mr. Hughes, by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to agreements for the supply of Sugar and the manufacture of Wooltops.
3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
  - Sugar—Memorandum of Conference between Representatives of the Queensland Sugar Industry, the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments, Sydney, March, 1920.
  - Wooltops—Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Colonial Combing, Spinning, and Weaving Co. Ltd., dated the 12th March, 1920.
  - Rainfall Stimulation Experiments—Report by J. G. Balsillie.
 Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
  - Mr. Speaker presented, pursuant to Statute—
    - Commonwealth Bank Act—Commonwealth Bank of Australia—Aggregate Balance-sheet at 31st December, 1919; together with Auditor-General's Report thereon.
  - The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
    - Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at—
      - Bruce Rock, Western Australia—For Postal purposes.
      - Kuridala, Queensland—For Postal purposes.
      - Waikerie, South Australia—For Postal purposes.
    - Public Service Act—Appointments—Department of Trade and Customs—
      - R. E. J. Cromwell.
      - J. K. Davis.
4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER (MR. CHARLTON).—Mr. Tudor moved, by leave, That leave of absence for two months be given to the honorable Member for Hunter. (Mr. Charlton) on the ground of ill-health.
 

Question—put and passed.
5. ADDRESS-IN-REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to by this House:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Robert Cook 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.

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6. THE LATE SIR EDMUND BARTON.—The following letter from Lady Barton was read to the House by Mr. Speaker:—

Sydney, 15th March.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER,

I have this morning received the beautifully bound copies of the Resolution passed by the Members of the House of Representatives conveying to me and my family their sympathy to us in our great loss.

These copies will be highly treasured by each one of us. Will you convey to the Members our heartfelt thanks for their kind sympathy and thoughtfulness, which has done so much to soften our great grief.

Yours very sincerely,  
JEANIE BARTON.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—WAR GRATUITY BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker:—

R. M. FERGUSON,  
*Governor-General.*

*Message No. 2.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue and moneys be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act relating to the payment of the War Gratuity.

Sydney, 16th March, 1920.

Ordered—That the consideration of the foregoing Message in Committee of the whole House be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

8. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at half-past ten 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. Blakeley, Mr. Bowden, Mr. J. H. Catts, Mr. Austin Chapman, Mr. Charlton\*, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Lamond, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Mahony, Mr. Makin, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Parker Moloney, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Watt, Mr. West, and Mr. Wise.

\* On leave.

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