

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 3.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1923.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—NO-CONFIDENCE AMENDMENT.—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—

and on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Anstey (Assistant Leader of the Opposition), viz.:—That the following words be added to the proposed Address :—

“but we regret that this House views with disapprobation the conduct of the Government in meeting Parliament with a Speech containing no evidence of any public policy. There is no mention of any intended policy upon the subject of international trade which the head of the Government has asserted to be fundamental to the progress and prosperity of Australia. There is no mention of a policy on the Sugar Agreement, which expires next June. There is no mention of a policy relating to the development of internal trade which is so vital to the employment of our people, but on the contrary the administrative methods pursued by the Government accentuate unemployment.

There is no mention of the attitude of the Government towards Arbitration, towards the Oil and Wireless Agreements, or towards Old-age and Invalid Pensions. The Speech makes no mention as to whether the Government intends to investigate the War Service Homes and other matters of maladministration exposed last Session by the Labour party.

In brief, this Government, which claims to be a Government of business men, gives no evidence of such qualification. There is not one subject in His Excellency's Speech upon which is given a definite, a concrete, or a composite opinion.

Under these circumstances, and in view of the peculiar methods under which this Government was formed, and in view of the fact that this Government discloses an unseemly haste to reach the haven of a recess of several months' duration, thus leaving in abeyance the discussion of these subjects vital to the welfare of our country, this House deems it necessary to protest and declare that this Government does not possess its confidence”—

Debate resumed.

Mr. W. Maloney addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that the honorable Member 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 the next sitting.

2nd March, 1923.

3. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (JOINT).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 1.

The Senate acquaints the House of Representatives that, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913*, the following Senators have been appointed Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, viz.:—Senator H. S. Foll, Senator J. Newland, and Senator W. Plain.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 1st March, 1923.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

4. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (JOINT).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 2.

The Senate acquaints the House of Representatives that, in accordance with the provisions of the *Committee of Public Accounts Act 1913*, the following Senators have been appointed Members of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, viz.:—Senator W. K. Bolton, Senator R. Buzacott, and Senator J. D. Millen.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 1st March, 1923.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER (MR. JOSIAH FRANCIS).—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That leave of absence for the remainder of the Session be given to the honorable Member for Moreton (Mr. Josiah Francis), on the ground of ill-health.

Question—put and passed.

6. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Contract Immigrants Act—Return for 1922.

Immigration Act—Return for 1922.

7. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Wednesday next at three o'clock p.m.

Question—put and passed.

8. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at two minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Josiah Francis*, Mr. Latham, and Sir Granville Ryrie.

* On leave.

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