

1923-24.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 88.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 24TH JULY, 1924.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Right Honorable W. A. Watt) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—LEAVE TO MAKE NOT GRANTED.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) asked leave to make a Ministerial Statement with reference to Long Distance Wireless. Objection being raised, leave not granted.
3. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Orders of the Day Nos. 1 and 2, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 14th August next.
4. CANBERRA—RAILWAY CONNEXION WITH SOUTHERN LINE.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Manning:—
  - (1) That, in the opinion of this House, it is essential that Canberra be connected by rail with the Southern railway line in New South Wales.
  - (2) That the passing of this resolution be taken as an instruction to the Minister for Works and Railways to move to refer this matter to the Public Works Committee to report on the most favorable route—

*and on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Mahony, viz.:*—That paragraph (2) be omitted—  
Debate resumed.

*Distinguished Visitors.*—Mr. Speaker informed the House that Sir John Luke, M.P., the Honorable A. F. Hawk, M.L.C., Mr. James Horn, M.P., and Mr. E. J. Howard, M.P., Members of the Parliament of the Dominion of New Zealand, and Delegates to South Africa in connexion with the Empire Parliamentary Association, were within the precincts. These distinguished visitors thereupon, with the concurrence of honorable Members, were provided with seats on the floor of the House.

Debate (interrupted as above) continued.

Question—That paragraph (2) proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and negatived.

Question—That, in the opinion of this House, it is essential that Canberra be connected by rail with the Southern railway line in New South Wales—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 36.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Mahony
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Makin
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Mann
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Manning
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Corser	Mr. O'Keefe
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Forde	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Roland Green	Mr. West
Sir Neville Howse	Mr. Yates
Sir Elliot Johnson	
Mr. Lacey	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Marr
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Prowse

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Mr. Bayley	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. William Watson
Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. Whitsitt
Mr. Gabb	
Mr. Gregory	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Lister	Mr. Robert Cook
Mr. Mackay	Mr. Jackson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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5. "HANSARD"—AUTHORIZATION OF PUBLICATION.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Sir Elliot Johnson:—That, in the opinion of this House, with a view to removing the uncertainty which exists at the present time as to the authority for the publication of the Parliamentary *Hansard*, section 3 of the Parliamentary Papers Act should be amended to include *Hansard* among the documents authorized by Parliament to be printed and published—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

6. NORTH-SOUTH RAILWAY—CONSTRUCTION OF OODNADATTA—ALICE SPRINGS SECTION.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Jackson:—That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should immediately commence the construction of that section of railway line Oodnadatta-Alice Springs, as part of the North-South Railway, and as recommended by the Public Works Committee—

Debate resumed by Mr. Bamford, who moved, as an amendment, That the words "immediately commence the construction of" be omitted with a view to the insertion of the word "construct" in place thereof.

Mr. Mahony 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 Thursday, 14th August next.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 6, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 14th August next.

8. ELECTORAL [COMPULSORY VOTING] BILL (1924).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Mann moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Makin reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Mann, the House adopted the Report and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

9. NEW STATES—PROPOSED REFERENDUM.—Mr. Thompson moved, pursuant to notice, That in the opinion of this House, the Government should, at the earliest opportunity, introduce a Bill providing for a referendum of the electors of Australia at the next general election upon a proposal to amend Chapter VI. (New States) of the Commonwealth Constitution, so as to empower the Federal Parliament to create New States within the existing States, with or without the consent of the State Parliaments; such power only to be used on the petition of a fixed number of electors in any area, and only after the State Parliament has failed to take action.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Roland Green 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 Thursday, 14th August next.

The time allotted for precedence to General Business having expired, Government Business was called on.

10. SUPPLY—["GRIEVANCE DAY"].—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—

Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, resolve itself into the said Committee.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at eight 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—Sir Austin Chapman, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Gibson\*, Sir Littleton Groom, Mr. Hughes\*, Mr. Killen\*, Mr. Latham\*, Mr. Marks\*, Mr. Charles McDonald\*, Mr. Frederick McDonald, Mr. McGrath, Mr. McNeill, Mr. E. C. Riley, Sir Granville Ryrie, and Mr. Seabrook\*.

\* On leave.

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