

1926.

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 THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
 

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No. 1.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
 

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 FIRST SESSION OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT.
 

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 WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 1926.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, in the City of Melbourne, on Wednesday, the thirteenth day of January, in the sixteenth year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Fifth, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six—

1. On which day, being the first day of the meeting of The Parliament for the dispatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation (hereinafter set forth), Walter Augustus Gale, C.M.G., Clerk of the House of Representatives, Francis Laurence Clapin, Clerk Assistant, John Robert McGregor, Second Clerk Assistant, and Ernest William Parkes, Serjeant-at-Arms, attending in the House according to their duty, the said Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk :—

## PROCLAMATION

 Commonwealth of  
Australia to wit.  
STONEHAVEN,  
Governor-General.

By His Excellency the Right Honorable John Lawrence, Baron Stonehaven, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

**W**HEREAS by the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act it is amongst other things enacted that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit; Now therefore I, John Lawrence, Baron Stonehaven, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Act, do by this my Proclamation appoint Wednesday the thirteenth day of January One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs. And all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, situate in Spring-street, in the City of Melbourne, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock a.m. on the said thirteenth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid this eighteenth (L.S.) day of December, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-five, in the sixteenth year of His Majesty's reign.

 By His Excellency's Command,  
S. M. BRUCE.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

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2. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY'S DEPUTIES BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

The Deputies of His Excellency the Governor-General for the opening of Parliament request the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly the Members of the House of Representatives went to the Senate Chamber, where the Senior Deputy addressed the Members of both Houses as follows :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

His Excellency the Governor-General not thinking fit to be present in person at this time has been pleased to cause Letters Patent to issue under the great seal of the Commonwealth constituting us his Deputies to do in his name all that is necessary to be performed in declaring this Parliament open, as will more fully appear from the Letters Patent which will now be read.

The Commission was read, as follows :—

*His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN LAWRENCE, BARON STONEHAVEN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :*

To the Right Honorable Sir Adrian Knox, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia,

and

The Right Honorable Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Greeting :

WHEREAS by Letters Patent dated the twenty-ninth day of October, One thousand nine hundred, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting the Office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the said Commonwealth, Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon Her by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was pleased to authorize and empower the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, subject to any limitations expressed or directions given by Her, to appoint any person or persons, jointly or severally, to be his Deputy or Deputies within any part of the Commonwealth, and in that capacity to exercise, during his pleasure, such of his powers and functions as he might deem it necessary to assign to him or them : Provided always that the appointment of such Deputy or Deputies should not affect the exercise by the Governor-General himself of any power or function :

AND WHEREAS by Proclamation dated the eighteenth day of December, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the twenty-first day of December, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-five, the thirteenth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six, was appointed as the day for the Parliament of the Commonwealth to assemble and be holden for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs ; and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives were thereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, situate in Spring-street, in the City of Melbourne, at the hour of half-past Ten o'clock in the forenoon on the day and date aforesaid :

NOW KNOW YOU that in pursuance of the powers and authority vested in me by the Constitution and the said Letters Patent, I, JOHN LAWRENCE, BARON STONEHAVEN, the Governor-General aforesaid, do hereby appoint you to be my Deputies for the purpose of declaring open the said Parliament at the time and place aforesaid.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, at Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, this ninth day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six, and in the sixteenth year of His Majesty's reign.

(L.S.) STONEHAVEN,  
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,  
S. M. BRUCE,  
Prime Minister.

The Senior Deputy then said :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

We have it in command from the Governor-General to let you know that, as soon as the Members of the House of Representatives shall have been sworn, the causes of His Excellency calling this Parliament will be declared by him in person at this place ; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be first chosen, you, Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, will retire to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the choice of some proper person to be your Speaker ; and thereafter you will present the person whom you shall so choose to His Excellency, at such time and place as he shall appoint.

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Mr. Justice Isaacs will attend in the House of Representatives for the purpose of administering the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to honorable Members of that House.

And thereupon the Members of the House returned to their own Chamber, and, after an interval of some minutes—

3. COMMISSIONER TO ADMINISTER THE OATH TO MEMBERS.—The Right Honorable Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Justice of the High Court of Australia, having been ushered into the Chamber and conducted by the Serjeant-at-Arms to the Chair, handed to the Clerk at the Table a Commission, which was read and is as follows :—

*His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN LAWRENCE, BARON STONEHAVEN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :*

To the Right Honorable Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Greeting :

WHEREAS by the forty-second section of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is enacted that every Senator and every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution :

NOW THEREFORE I, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these presents command and authorize you to attend at Parliament House, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the thirteenth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six, at half-past Ten o'clock in the forenoon, there and then to administer the Oath or Affirmation to such Members of the House of Representatives as are present.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, at Melbourne, this ninth day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six.

(L.S.) STONEHAVEN,  
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,  
S. M. BRUCE,  
Prime Minister.

4. RETURNS TO WRITS FOR GENERAL ELECTION.—The Clerk laid on the Table returns to the 75 Writs for the General Election of the House of Representatives held on 14th November, 1925, which he had received from the Official Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General.

By the said Returns it appeared that for the several Electoral Divisions of the States the following gentlemen had been elected, as shown hereunder :—

Division.	State.	Name.
Adelaide	.. South Australia	.. George Edwin Yates.
Angas ..	.. South Australia	.. Walter Langdon Parsons.
Balaclava	.. Victoria ..	.. William Alexander Watt.
Ballaarat..	.. Victoria ..	.. David Charles McGrath.
Barker ..	.. South Australia	.. Malcolm Duncan Cameron.
Barton ..	.. New South Wales	.. Thomas John Ley.
Bass ..	.. Tasmania ..	.. David Sydney Jackson.
Batman ..	.. Victoria ..	.. Frank Brennan.
Bendigo ..	.. Victoria ..	.. Geoffry Hurry.
Boothby ..	.. South Australia	.. John Grant Duncan-Hughes.
Bourke ..	.. Victoria ..	.. Frank Anstey.
Brisbane	.. Queensland ..	.. Donald Charles Cameron.
Calare ..	.. New South Wales	.. Neville Reginald Howse.
Capricornia	.. Queensland ..	.. Francis Michael Forde.
Cook ..	.. New South Wales	.. Edward Charles Riley.
Corangamite	.. Victoria ..	.. William Gerrard Gibson.
Corio ..	.. Victoria ..	.. John Henry Lister.
Cowper ..	.. New South Wales	.. Earle Christmas Grafton Page.
Dalley ..	.. New South Wales	.. William George Mahony.
Darling ..	.. New South Wales	.. Arthur Blakeley.
Darling Downs	.. Queensland ..	.. Littleton Ernest Groom.
Darwin ..	.. Tasmania ..	.. George John Bell.
Denison ..	.. Tasmania ..	.. John Gellibrand.
East Sydney	.. New South Wales	.. John Edward West.
Echuca ..	.. Victoria ..	.. William Caldwell Hill.
Eden-Monaro	.. New South Wales	.. Austin Chapman.
Fawkner	.. Victoria ..	.. George Arnot Maxwell.
Flinders ..	.. Victoria ..	.. Stanley Melbourne Bruce.
Forrest	.. Western Australia	.. John Henry Prowse.

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Division.	State.	Name.
Franklin ..	Tasmania ..	Alfred Charles Seabrook.
Fremantle ..	Western Australia ..	William Watson.
Gippsland ..	Victoria ..	Thomas Paterson.
Grey ..	South Australia ..	Andrew William Lacey.
Gwydir ..	New South Wales ..	Charles Lydiard Aubrey Abbott.
Henty ..	Victoria ..	Henry Somer Gullett.
Herbert ..	Queensland ..	Lewis Windermere Nott.
Hindmarsh ..	South Australia ..	Norman John Oswald Makin.
Hume ..	New South Wales ..	Parker John Moloney.
Hunter ..	New South Wales ..	Matthew Charlton.
Indi ..	Victoria ..	Robert Cook.
Kalgoorlie ..	Western Australia ..	Albert Ernest Green.
Kennedy ..	Queensland ..	Grosvenor Arundell Francis.
Kooyong ..	Victoria ..	John Greig Latham.
Lang ..	New South Wales ..	William Elliot Johnson.
Lilley ..	Queensland ..	George Hugh Mackay.
Macquarie ..	New South Wales ..	Arthur Gibson Manning.
Maranoa ..	Queensland ..	James Aitchieson Johnston Hunter.
Maribyrnong ..	Victoria ..	James Edward Fenton.
Martin ..	New South Wales ..	Herbert Edward Pratten.
Melbourne ..	Victoria ..	William Robert Nuttall Maloney.
Melbourne Ports ..	Victoria ..	James Mathews.
Moreton ..	Queensland ..	Josiah Francis.
Newcastle ..	New South Wales ..	David Watkins.
New England ..	New South Wales ..	Victor Charles Thompson.
North Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	William Morris Hughes.
Oxley ..	Queensland ..	James Garfield Bayley.
Parkes ..	New South Wales ..	Charles William Clanan Marr.
Parramatta ..	New South Wales ..	Eric Kendall Bowden.
Perth ..	Western Australia ..	Edward Alexander Mann.
Reid ..	New South Wales ..	Percy Edmund Coleman.
Richmond ..	New South Wales ..	Roland Frederick Herbert Green.
Riverina ..	New South Wales ..	William Wilson Killen.
Robertson ..	New South Wales ..	Sydney Lane Gardner.
South Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	Edward Riley.
Swan ..	Western Australia ..	Henry Gregory.
Wakefield ..	South Australia ..	Richard Witty Foster.
Wannon ..	Victoria ..	Arthur Stanislaus Rodgers.
Warringah ..	New South Wales ..	Granville de Laune Ryrie.
Wentworth ..	New South Wales ..	Walter Moffitt Marks.
Werriwa ..	New South Wales ..	Hubert Peter Lazzarini.
West Sydney ..	New South Wales ..	William Henry Lambert.
Wide Bay ..	Queensland ..	Edward Bernard Cresset Corser.
Wilmot ..	Tasmania ..	Llewelyn Atkinson.
Wimmera ..	Victoria ..	Percy Gerald Stewart.
Yarra ..	Victoria ..	James Henry Scullin.

5. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Members whose names are above set forth made and subscribed the Oath required by law, except Sir Austin Chapman (deceased), Mr. Gregory and Mr. Ley (who were not then present).  
The Commissioner retired.

6. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—Sir Granville Ryrie, addressing himself to the Clerk (who, standing up, pointed to him, and then sat down), proposed to the House for its Speaker, the Honorable Sir Littleton Ernest Groom, and moved, That he do take the Chair of the House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas Paterson.

Debate ensued.

Sir Littleton Groom submitted himself to the House.

Debate continued.

The House then unanimously calling Sir Littleton Groom to the Chair, he was taken out of his place by Sir Granville Ryrie and Mr. Thomas Paterson and conducted to the Chair, where, standing on the upper step, he returned his humble acknowledgments to the House for the great honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon he sat down in the Chair.

Then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Then Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) and Mr. Charlton (Leader of the Opposition) congratulated Mr. Speaker, who expressed his thanks.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) stated that he had already ascertained that it would be His Excellency's pleasure to receive the Speaker in the Library of the Parliament that day at fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.

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And the sitting of the House having been suspended until fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.—

Mr. Speaker, after resuming the Chair, went with the Members of the House to attend His Excellency; and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported that the House had proceeded to the Library of the Parliament, and that he had presented himself to His Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives, and that His Excellency had been kind enough to congratulate him upon his election.

8. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

MR. SPEAKER,

His Excellency the Governor-General desires the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency :—And having returned—

9. COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following Commission :—

*His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN LAWRENCE, BARON STONEHAVEN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :*

To the Honorable Sir Littleton Ernest Groom, K.C.M.G., K.C., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Greeting :

WHEREAS by the forty-second section of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution :

NOW THEREFORE I, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these presents command and authorize you from time to time in the Parliament House of the Commonwealth in the City of Melbourne to administer the said Oath or Affirmation to such Members of the House of Representatives as have not already taken and subscribed the same since their election to the said House of Representatives.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, at Melbourne, this thirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six.

(L.S.) STONEHAVEN,  
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,  
S. M. BRUCE,  
Prime Minister.

10. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Honorable Henry Gregory and Thomas John Ley, Esquire, made and subscribed the Oath required by law.
11. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—CHANGE IN MINISTRY.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) announced to the House that Mr. Latham had been appointed Attorney-General, in the place of Sir Littleton Groom, resigned.
12. LEADER OF OPPOSITION.—Mr. Charlton informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Opposition, and that Mr. Anstey had been appointed Assistant-Leader.
13. PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS BILL (1926).—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend Section Three of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*.  
Question—put and passed.  
Mr. Bruce then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.  
Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

14. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had that day attended His Excellency the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which read as follows :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

You have been called together to consider matters of importance to the well-being of the Nation.

The death of Her Majesty the Queen Alexandra evoked a widespread expression of national grief throughout Australia and the Empire. The loss of one whose life was devoted to good deeds will long be felt by the whole of her people.

My Ministers welcome the conclusion of the Treaty of Mutual Guarantee between the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium and Italy, which they believe will have the effect of promoting peace in Europe; strengthening the League of Nations, and rendering possible a reduction of armaments. They are giving their most earnest consideration to the manner in which the Treaty affects the Empire as a whole.

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On the conclusion of the first twenty-five years of Federation, it is my pleasing duty to congratulate the Parliament and people of the Commonwealth on the remarkable progress made. I feel that you can contemplate the past with satisfaction, and face the future with confidence. During this period, Australia and the Empire have passed successfully through the ordeal of the Great War, and have withstood the social and economic difficulties which followed. It is a source of extreme gratification that this young country has so well discharged the responsibilities of Nationhood.

The prosperous conditions which the country has enjoyed in recent years are being maintained. The financial position of the Commonwealth is sound, and reflects the general prosperity of the community. The successful flotation of the recent War Loan conversion of £67,000,000 without the assistance of oversea money is a clear indication of financial strength.

My Advisers realize the vital importance of providing the greatest measure of defence compatible with the man power and financial resources of the Nation, and are accordingly proceeding with their programme of Naval, Military, and Air Defence.

The Election has shown that the people of Australia are determined to maintain law and order, and to protect the Commonwealth against the sinister activities of persons who pursue a policy of disturbance and unrest in order to promote revolutionary objects. To give effect to this mandate, and to ensure the safety of the Commonwealth, my Government will submit to you proposals forbidding the establishment of associations having for their object the forcible disturbance or overthrow of constitutional government, and providing for the punishment of persons promoting the objects of such associations. To prevent the dislocation of trade and commerce, which inflicts loss and suffering on the whole community, legislation will be submitted dealing with unjustifiable interference with the transport of goods and passengers.

My Advisers recognize the importance to the whole community of promoting industrial peace. To secure the settlement of industrial disputes by methods of reason, and not by methods of force, the Government will introduce legislation designed to adapt the system of industrial arbitration to the requirements of the present day. A Measure will be submitted to invest the court with judicial power, to diminish the conflicts between Federal and State awards, to give members of organizations registered under the Act control of their own affairs and of their officers, and generally to increase the efficiency of the machinery for the speedy and effective settlement of inter-state industrial disputes.

Steps will be taken to give effect to the policy of the Government to have competent inquiry made into the important subjects of uniform conditions throughout Australia as to hours of work and child endowment.

Proposals arising out of the investigation by the Royal Commission into Social Insurance will be submitted to you for your consideration.

Legislation will be introduced providing the necessary machinery to enable the Commonwealth Bank to make advances on extended terms to people of limited means desirous of purchasing their own homes.

My Advisers consider that the health of the individual citizen is of primary and fundamental significance in all aspects of national defence and of national progress. The Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon Public Health and the operation of the laws of the Commonwealth and the States in regard thereto has presented its report. The proposals of the Royal Commission are now being considered, and an early conference with the Governments of the States will be held to decide upon the best means of securing the health of the community.

My Advisers have given further consideration to the question of the establishment of the seat of government at Canberra, and have decided that, in the interest of economy and efficiency, the Departments removed from Melbourne should be established at the outset on a permanent basis with a nucleus staff. After consultation with the Federal Capital Commission, arrangements have been made according to which the transfer of the seat of government will be effected in the early part of 1927.

The estimates for the current financial year, and the Tariff resolutions submitted to the last Parliament, will be placed before you for consideration.

Recognizing the importance of the postal, telegraphic, and telephonic services in the advancement and development of the Commonwealth, the Government intends vigorously to pursue the improvement and extension of the activities controlled by the Postal Department. A sum of £6,000,000 has been made available provisionally for this purpose. The extension of services carried out during the past year constitutes a record. Wireless stations have been established at Wave Hill and Camooweal, and considerable benefits have thus been conferred on the settlers in those remote areas.

In view of the problems arising out of the relations between the Commonwealth and the States, my Ministers propose to invite the States to meet the Commonwealth in conference to consider these matters. A Royal Commission has already considered the position of Western Australia, and an investigation will be made into the circumstances of Tasmania. For the present year you will be asked to grant a subsidy of £450,000 to the State of Western Australia.

Special consideration has been given to the effect of the Navigation Act upon the State of Tasmania, and a Bill will be introduced to deal with disabilities affecting the passenger traffic between the mainland and that State.

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The States of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia have made agreements with the Commonwealth in pursuance of the Migration Agreement entered into between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Australia. It is hoped that the other States will also take advantage of the benefit of the generous interest concessions on money raised for public works calculated to promote development and settlement and to increase the absorption power of Australia. The general adoption of the Agreement, which has a currency of ten years, would have a profound effect upon the future prosperity of the Commonwealth.

In continuance of the Government's policy of more efficient and orderly marketing, Measures will be introduced to extend to other industries the system of control in respect of oversea marketing which has had such beneficial results in connexion with dairy produce and dried fruits. By this means, and the expansion of the system of finance provided by the Rural Credits Branch of the Commonwealth Bank, progressive advancement of oversea trade and a steady improvement in the position of producers will be assured.

Measures providing for the government and development of North Australia will be submitted for your consideration.

A uniform gauge for the railways of Australia is a pressing national necessity. Each year of delay is adding to the ultimate cost of a scheme which is inevitable. The first instalment of this policy is being realized in the South Brisbane-Kyogle Railway now in course of construction, and proposals will be placed before you for a line connecting Port Augusta and Adelaide on the uniform gauge. The complete solution of this problem is, however, impossible without the active co-operation of all the States on the mainland, and this co-operation has unfortunately not yet been secured.

A Bill will be submitted at an early date to ratify the Agreement made between the Governments of the Commonwealth and the State of South Australia to carry out the obligation of the Commonwealth to build a railway northward to the vicinity of Alice Springs. The Government has obtained the necessary information to determine the route, and will submit definite proposals for the construction of this line. Tenders have been called for the construction of a line in the Northern Territory between the Katherine River and Daly Waters.

Modern means of transport have revolutionized road standards and methods of road construction, and have made good roads a matter of national importance. For the purpose of establishing a national policy of road construction and maintenance, a conference has been called of representatives of the Commonwealth and States. Measures will accordingly be submitted to you providing for a contribution by the Commonwealth of an amount not exceeding £20,000,000 over a period of ten years.

For the purpose of stimulating production, my Ministers will bring down proposals to make advances to the States to an amount not exceeding £3,000,000, to enable assistance to be given by them to landholders for the provision on easy terms of wire netting and vermin-proof fencing.

Proposals, based upon the recommendations of various experts, will be submitted to you to increase the usefulness of the Institute of Science and Industry, and to extend the scope of scientific research in relation to the primary and secondary industries.

It is proposed to terminate the present system of assisting the cotton industry by a guaranteed price, and in lieu thereof to stimulate the production of cotton by a bounty. The matter has been submitted to the Tariff Board for inquiry and report with a view to legislation being introduced.

Among other matters with respect to which you will be asked to legislate are Bills relating to Lands Acquisition; Bounty on Power Alcohol; Prospecting for Petroleum and Precious Metals; and Encouragement to Tropical Agriculture in the Territories. A number of Bills amending existing legislation will be introduced.

I desire, on this my first opportunity of meeting the Parliament, to express my thanks for the cordiality with which I have been received by the people of Australia. I keenly appreciate the honour of representing His Majesty in so great a Dominion and at so important a stage of its development. I feel that Australia is on the eve of vast expansion. Its loyalty and value to the Throne and Empire are being more fully and more practically appreciated. The fast-awakening recognition of mutual interests must still further strengthen the ties which unite the Commonwealth and the Mother Country, and increase the happiness and prosperity of all our peoples. Whatever I may be able to contribute to the common task will be gladly undertaken, not merely as a duty, but as a great and lasting honour.

In the earnest hope that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations and further the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties.

15. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Gullett, Mr. Aubrey Abbott, and the Mover, be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament and that the Committee do report at the next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

16. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

Question—put and passed.

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17. ADDRESS OF CONDOLENCE TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That the following Address to His Majesty the King be agreed to:—

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY :  
MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN—

We, the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, have received with heartfelt sorrow the news of the death of Your August Mother, Her Majesty Queen Alexandra.

We are confident that we give expression to the deep sympathy which Your subjects throughout this Commonwealth feel for Your Majesty in the great loss which has befallen you, and we assure you that our words accord with the loyal affection for Your Majesty which animates the people of Australia.

And Mr. Charlton (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and all Members present having risen in silence—

Question—passed.

18. DEATH OF THE HONORABLE CHARLES McDONALD.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That this House records its sincere regret at the death of the Honorable Charles McDonald, who was a Member of the House from the inauguration of the Parliament until the recent Dissolution, and who for many years held the office of Speaker, and this House expresses its appreciation of the energy and ability with which he devoted himself to his public duties, and tenders its profound sympathy to his bereaved wife and daughter in their great sorrow.

And Mr. Charlton (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and all Members present having risen in silence—

Question—passed.

Resolved—That Mr. Speaker be requested to transmit to Mrs. McDonald the foregoing Resolution, and a copy of the speeches delivered thereon.

19. DEATH OF MEMBER (THE HONORABLE SIR AUSTIN CHAPMAN).—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) having announced, with deep regret, the death, on the 12th instant, of the honorable Member for Eden-Monaro (the Honorable Sir Austin Chapman), moved, by leave, That this House records its sincere regret at the death of the Honorable Sir Austin Chapman, a Member of the House of Representatives since the inauguration of the Commonwealth, and who, for many years, held office as a Minister of the Crown, and this House expresses its appreciation of the energy and ability with which he devoted himself to his public duties, and tenders its profound sympathy to his wife and family in their great bereavement.

And Mr. Charlton (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr. Mahony having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen in silence—

Question—passed.

Resolved—That Mr. Speaker be requested to transmit to Lady Chapman the foregoing Resolution, and a copy of the speeches delivered thereon.

20. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) then moved, as a mark of respect, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at one minute to four 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).

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