

1926.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 16.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 1926.

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

2. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

STONEHAVEN,  
Governor-General.

Message No. 9.

Bills intituled :—

“*Railways (South Australia) Agreement Act 1926*”

“*Oodnadatta to Alice Springs Railway Act 1926*”,

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Acts.

Government House,  
Melbourne, 15th February, 1926.

3. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—RESERVATION OF BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

STONEHAVEN,  
Governor-General.

Message No. 10.

A Bill intituled “*Navigation Act 1926*”, as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has reserved the said Bill for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

Government House,  
Melbourne, 15th February, 1926.

4. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

STONEHAVEN,  
Governor-General.

Message No. 11.

Bills intituled :—

“*Precious Metals Prospecting Act 1926*”

“*Petroleum Prospecting Act 1926*”

“*Customs Tariff (Papua and New Guinea Preference) 1926*”

“*Papua and New Guinea Bounties Act 1926*”,

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Acts.

Government House,  
Melbourne, 15th February, 1926.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE KING—CONDOLENCE WITH FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN BUSH-FIRES.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) announced to the House that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following cablegram from His Majesty the King :—

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, MELBOURNE.

It is with the deepest concern that I have heard of the devastating bush fires which have occurred in Victoria and Southern Australia, resulting in a serious loss of human life, extensive damage to forests, and much destruction of live stock. I truly sympathise with you, your Government, and the people of Australia in this calamity. I would ask you to convey my sincere condolences with the families of those who have lost their lives and, at the same time, express my admiration at the heroism displayed in combating the danger.

GEORGE R. I.

17th February, 1926.

Mr. Bruce also announced that His Excellency the Governor-General had forwarded the following reply for transmission to His Majesty the King :—

I beg leave to express the loyal and dutiful thanks of the people of Australia to Your Majesty for your Message of sympathy. The prompt and warm reaction to the sufferings of our citizens has evoked universal appreciation and gratitude.

Mr. Bruce and Mr. Charlton (Leader of the Opposition) then expressed their deep regret at the appalling disaster which had occurred, and extended their sincere sympathy to the unfortunate sufferers.

6. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Papuan Oilfields—Report for December, 1925, by the Commonwealth Representative.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

7. CRIMES BILL (1926).—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—and on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Charlton, viz.:—That all the words after the word "That" be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—"this House is of opinion that the Bill should be withdrawn with a view to re-drafting so as to eliminate the obnoxious clauses referring to industrial disputes as such clauses associated with the Crimes Act are an unwarranted affront to the great bodies of organized labour"—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 38.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Killen
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Latham
Mr. Bell	Mr. Ley
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Lister
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Mann
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. Corser	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Nott
Mr. Grosvenor Francis	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Parsons
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Gregory	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Gullett	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Hill	Mr. William Watson
Sir Neville Howse	
Mr. Hurry	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Hunter
Sir Elliot Johnson	Mr. Manning

Noes, 18.

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Brennan	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Forde	Mr. West
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Yates
Mr. Lambert	
Mr. Makin	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Fenton
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Parker Moloney

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 38.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Killen
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Latham
Mr. Bell	Mr. Ley
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Lister
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Mann
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. Corser	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Nott
Mr. Grosvenor Francis	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Parsons
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And so it was resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

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

17th February, 1926.

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*(In the Committee.)*

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2—

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

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

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at seven minutes past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—  
Mr. Anstey, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Robert Cook, Mr. Duncan-Hughes, Mr. Roland Green,  
Mr. Lacey, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Mahony, Mr. Marks, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Seabrook,  
Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Watt.

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