

1929.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
CANBERRA.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday, the sixth day of February, in the nineteenth year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Fifth, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

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), Ernest William Parkes, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Frank Clifton Green, M.C., Clerk Assistant, Albert Allan Tregear, Second Clerk Assistant, and Sydney Friedrich Chubb, 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, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS 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 sixth day of February One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine 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, Canberra, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock a.m., on the said sixth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

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

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

GOD SAVE THE KING!

†

6th February, 1929.

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, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, 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 Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, 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 ninth day of January, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the tenth day of January One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine, the sixth day of February One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine 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, Canberra, at the hour of Ten-thirty o'clock a.m. 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 Canberra, this fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine and in the nineteenth 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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Sir Isaac 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 Sir 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, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia:

To the Right Honorable Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, 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, Canberra, on Wednesday, the sixth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine, 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 Canberra, this fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

(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 17th November, 1928, which he had received from the Acting Clerk 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 | .. James Thomas Tully. |
| Bass | .. Tasmania | .. David Sydney Jackson. |
| Batman | .. Victoria | .. Frank Brennan. |
| Bendigo | .. Victoria | .. Geoffry Hurry. |
| Boothby | .. South Australia | .. John Lloyd Price. |
| 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 Gerrand Gibson. |
| Corio | .. Victoria | .. John Henry Lister. |
| Cowper | .. New South Wales | .. Earle Christmas Grafton Page. |
| Dalley | .. New South Wales | .. Edward Granville Theodore. |
| Darling | .. New South Wales | .. Arthur Blakeley. |
| Darling Downs | .. Queensland | .. Littleton Ernest Groom. |
| Darwin | .. Tasmania | .. George John Bell. |
| Denison | .. Tasmania | .. Charles Ernest Culley. |
| East Sydney | .. New South Wales | .. John Edward West. |
| Echuca | .. Victoria | .. William Caldwell Hill. |
| Eden-Monaro | .. New South Wales | .. John Arthur Perkins. |
| 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 .. | William James McWilliams. |
| Fremantle .. | Western Australia .. | John Curtin. |
| 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 .. | George William Martens. |
| Hindmarsh .. | South Australia .. | Norman John Oswald Makin. |
| Hume .. | New South Wales .. | Parker John Moloney. |
| Hunter .. | New South Wales .. | Rowland James. |
| Indi .. | Victoria .. | Paul Jones. |
| Kalgoorlie .. | Western Australia .. | Albert Ernest Green. |
| Kennedy .. | Queensland .. | Grosvenor Arundell Francis. |
| Kooyong .. | Victoria .. | John Greig Latham. |
| Lang .. | New South Wales .. | William John Long. |
| Lilley .. | Queensland .. | George Hugh Mackay. |
| Macquarie .. | New South Wales .. | Joseph Benedict Chifley. |
| Maranoa .. | Queensland .. | James Aitchison Johnston Hunter. |
| Maribyrnong .. | Victoria .. | James Edward Fenton. |
| Martin .. | New South Wales .. | Frederick Graham Pratten, Junior. |
| 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 .. | Maurice Collins. |
| Wannon .. | Victoria .. | Arthur Stanislaus Rodgers. |
| Warringah .. | New South Wales .. | Robert Archdale Parkhill. |
| Wentworth .. | New South Wales .. | Walter Moffitt Marks. |
| Werriwa .. | New South Wales .. | Hubert Peter Lazzarini. |
| West Sydney .. | New South Wales .. | John Albert Beasley. |
| Wide Bay .. | Queensland .. | Bernard Henry 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 Mr. Martens (who was not then present).

The Commissioner retired.

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

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 Mr. Bowden and Mr. Prowse, 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. Scullin (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.

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.

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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, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, 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 at Canberra, 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 Canberra, this sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

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

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

10. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—CHANGES IN MINISTRY.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) announced to the House that consequent on the resignation of himself as Minister for Trade and Customs, Sir Neville Howse as Minister for Home and Territories, Mr. Hill as Minister for Works and Railways, and Senator Crawford as Honorary Minister, together with the abolition of the portfolios of Home and Territories and Markets and the creation of the portfolios of Home Affairs, Industry, Markets and Transport, the following new appointments had been made :—

Mr. Latham (Attorney-General) to be also Minister for Industry.

Mr. Gibson (Postmaster-General) to be also Minister for Works and Railways.

Mr. Thomas Paterson to be Minister for Markets and Transport.

Mr. Gullett to be Minister for Trade and Customs.

Mr. Aubrey Abbott to be Minister for Home Affairs.

Senator Ogden to be Honorary Minister.

11. LEADER OF OPPOSITION.—Mr. Scullin informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Opposition, and that Mr. Theodore had been appointed Deputy Leader.

12. ACTS INTERPRETATION BILL (1929).—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1918*.

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.

13. 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 are called together to deliberate upon matters of importance to the welfare of the Commonwealth.

The illness of His Majesty the King aroused the deepest anxiety throughout Australia, and evoked a universal expression of those sentiments of enduring loyalty and affection which unite our people to the Crown. The intelligence concerning His Majesty's prospective restoration to health has been received with feelings of profound relief and thankfulness.

My Advisers welcomed the opportunity afforded to Australia to become one of the original signatories to the Treaty for the Renunciation of War. They earnestly hope that this agreement will diminish the obstacles which have hitherto prevented further limitation of armaments.

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Owing to unfavorable seasonal conditions, and other temporary factors, there has been a period of diminished activity in the commercial and industrial life of certain parts of the Commonwealth. Notwithstanding these adverse circumstances, which have necessarily affected public revenues, the financial position of the Commonwealth is sound. Conditions have already improved, and there are encouraging indications that the coming year will witness a return to normal prosperity.

My Advisers are watching with sympathetic interest the conference which is taking place between the representatives of those engaged in industry, and sincerely hope that as the result of the conference an agreement for co-operation may be reached which will help to solve the industrial and economic problems which confront the community.

My Ministers have received the report of the Economic Mission which, at their request, was nominated by His Majesty's Government in Britain. This report has been discussed with representatives of the States, together with the members of the Mission. The people of Australia fully recognize that the members of the Mission undertook their task at the cost of considerable personal sacrifice, and with the desire to assist in the development of Australia, and to promote inter-Empire trade. It is confidently anticipated that great benefits will accrue from the conferences that took place between the Mission and representatives of industry, commerce and finance.

The Economic Mission, in their report, have dealt exhaustively with the £34,000,000 Migration Agreement, and they have made suggestions for modifications in the Agreement which are now receiving the careful consideration of my Advisers.

The special circumstances of the war and of post-war reconstruction resulted in meetings of the Commonwealth Parliament being held at irregular intervals. The removal of the Seat of Government, and the establishment of the Parliament at Canberra, necessitated a continuance of this practice. It is proposed by my Advisers that Parliament should now resume a system of regular sessions. This, it is considered, will facilitate the conduct of public business.

The proposals submitted by way of Referendum for the alteration of the Constitution, giving the Commonwealth power to make agreements with the States in respect of their public debts, were approved by large majorities of the electors in every State. The amendment of the Constitution will enable the Commonwealth Parliament to validate any agreement already made. The Financial Agreement, which was made between the Commonwealth and the States on the 12th December, 1927, has been ratified by the Parliaments of the Commonwealth and the States. It cannot, however, become fully operative until validated under the Constitution as amended. Legislation will be introduced in this Session to give the Agreement permanent effect, and thus retain to the Commonwealth and States the advantages which result from a co-ordinated system of consolidation, management and redemption of the public debt.

The question of special financial assistance to certain of the States is receiving consideration.

My Advisers will continue their policy of making provision for the defence of Australia. The cruisers and submarines constituting the new naval unit have arrived in the Commonwealth, and the seaplane carrier *Albatross* has been commissioned—thus completing the Five Years' Naval Programme approved by Parliament. In framing the financial proposals for the coming year, consideration will be given to the recommendations contained in the report of Air Chief Marshal Sir John Salmond on air defence.

There are many departments of Commonwealth activity the work of which would be greatly facilitated if an Economic Research Service were available. For this purpose, and to provide fuller information for the public upon many subjects of importance, it is proposed to establish a Commonwealth Bureau of Economic Research, and to extend the scope of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

A careful investigation of the work and functions of the Tariff Board has been made. Proposals will be submitted to you to bring about a more expeditious and effective working of the Board, so that Parliament may be fully and accurately informed as to the operation of existing Customs duties and bounties, and may also be in a position to consider the probable effect of new proposals for the encouragement of primary and secondary industries.

My Ministers propose that the Coastal Clauses of the Navigation Act should be repealed, and that in lieu thereof protection should be given through Tariff provisions to vessels complying with Australian standards of wages and living conditions. The question of the method and measure of protection to be afforded has been referred to the Tariff Board for report.

In view of the importance to Australia of sea transport, my Advisers have convened a Conference representing oversea shipping companies and Australian interests directly concerned in oversea trade, for the purpose of considering matters which affect oversea transport to and from Australia, with the object of ensuring the provision of the most economic and efficient service.

My Advisers, in accordance with a promise made to the electors, will submit a Measure embodying the substance of the regulations already made under the Transport Workers Act.

You will also be asked to approve of proposals for the establishment of a War Pensions Appeal Board.

My Advisers propose to introduce a Bill establishing a Wine Export Board for the purpose of assisting the marketing organization of the industry.

The progressive policy of the Post Office will be continued, and its facilities will be extended to enable telephonic communication to be established with Tasmania and Western Australia. The Wireless Broadcasting Advisory Board has been established, and arrangements are well in hand to give effect to the policy of my Ministers for improving broadcasting facilities.

In pursuance of the policy of the development of North Australia by improved transport, my Advisers have accepted a contract for an aerial service between North Australia and other parts of the Commonwealth, and have proceeded with the construction of the Oodnadatta to Alice Springs Railway, which will give communication between Central and South Australia in June, 1929.

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My Ministers, in pursuance of the policy of extending air communications, have made arrangements for new services between Adelaide and Perth; Brisbane and Charleville; and Camooweal and Daly Waters. At an early date the service from Perth to Derby will be extended to Wyndham.

My Advisers propose, on the adjournment of Parliament, to invite representatives of the Governments of the States to confer with them upon questions closely affecting the development and progress of Australia which can best be dealt with by co-operation between the Commonwealth and the States.

Included in the subjects which the Commonwealth proposes to submit for consideration are Transport, Social Legislation, Unemployment, National Health, and Development of our Power Resources. At this Conference my Ministers will again submit for consideration the question of the unification of the gauge of our railway systems.

A Bill was submitted to the last Parliament providing a comprehensive scheme of National Insurance against sickness, invalidity and death. Parliament was not asked to proceed with the Measure at that time. This course was adopted so that the fullest details of the scheme might be available to the general public, the employers, the employees, the Friendly and Insurance Societies and the medical profession, from whom suggestions and criticisms were invited. This course was also desirable in order to secure the co-operation of the States with the object of removing duplication and unnecessary costs, where the social legislation of the States overlapped the benefits provided by the National Insurance Scheme. This question will also be submitted to the proposed Conference between the Commonwealth and the States.

Any necessary legislation arising out of the deliberations of the Conference will be submitted to you for your consideration in a later Session.

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.

14. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Grosvenor Francis, Mr. Bernard Corser, 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.

15. 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.

16. ILLNESS OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the following Resolution be agreed to:—

We, the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, avail ourselves of this earliest opportunity to express our deep sympathy with His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Queen, and the Members of the Royal Family in the illness of His Majesty.

We are much gratified by the improvement which has already taken place in His Majesty's state of health, and fervently hope that a complete recovery may speedily be effected.

Question—put and passed.

Resolved—That the foregoing Resolution be transmitted to His Majesty the King.

Mr. Speaker informed the House of the following cablegram, despatched on 7th December, 1928, by Mr. President and himself on behalf of the Parliament, through His Excellency the Governor-General, to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs:—

“On behalf of Commonwealth Parliament, we desire to express deep sympathy with Her Majesty the Queen and Members of the Royal Family in their anxiety, and to convey earnest wishes for the recovery of His Majesty the King.”

and of the following reply received thereto:

“13th December. Your telegram of 7th December containing terms of a message from the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives has been laid before His Majesty the King. I am requested to convey to the President and Members of the Senate and to the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives an expression of grateful appreciation from Their Majesties the King and Queen for their kind message of sympathy.”

17. DEATH OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE ANDREW FISHER, P.C.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That this House expresses its profound regret at the death of the Right Honorable Andrew Fisher, P.C., and places on record its appreciation of the distinguished service rendered to Australia by him as Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and subsequently as High Commissioner for the Commonwealth in Great Britain, and tenders its deep sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement.

And Mr. Scullin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and other honorable Members 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 Mrs. Fisher the foregoing Resolution.

18. DEATH OF THE HONORABLE HENRY BOURNES HIGGINS.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That this House places on record its profound regret at the death of the Honorable Henry Bournes Higgins, late Justice of the High Court of Australia, and places on record its appreciation of the notable services rendered by him, and tenders its deep sympathy to his widow in her bereavement.

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- And Mr. Scullin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and other honorable Members 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 Mrs. Higgins the foregoing Resolution, and a copy of the speeches delivered thereon.
19. MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE—LEAVE TO MOVE NOT GRANTED.—Mr. Anstey asked leave of the House to move a Motion, without notice.
Objection being raised, leave not granted.
20. DEATH OF SENATOR ANDREW.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That this House expresses its sincere regret at the death of the late Senator David Andrew, and places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service, and tenders its profound sympathy to his son and daughters in their bereavement.
And Mr. Scullin (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 the family of the late Senator Andrew the foregoing Resolution, and a copy of the speeches delivered thereon.
21. 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 twenty-nine minutes to five 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. Martens.

E. W. PARKES,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.