

1912.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THIRD SESSION OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT.

WEDNESDAY, 19TH JUNE, 1912.

1. The House of Representatives met pursuant to Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor-General, bearing date the twenty-second day of May, 1912, which Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk, as follows :—

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Right Honorable Thomas, Baron Denman, Commonwealth of Australia to wit. a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, DENMAN, Governor-General. Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution 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, and also from time to time by Proclamation or otherwise prorogue the Parliament: AND WHEREAS on the nineteenth day of April, One thousand nine hundred and twelve, the Parliament was prorogued until the twenty-ninth day of May, One thousand nine hundred and twelve, and it is expedient to further prorogue the said Parliament: Now therefore I, Thomas, Baron Denman, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Constitution, do by this my Proclamation further prorogue the said Parliament until Wednesday, the nineteenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and twelve, and I do appoint the said Wednesday, the nineteenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and twelve, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of business. And all Members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives respectively 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 half-past two in the afternoon, on the said Wednesday, the nineteenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and twelve.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid, this twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twelve, and in the third year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

(L.S.)

ANDREW FISHER.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

19th June, 1912.

2. Mr. Speaker took the Chair and read Prayers.
3. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE SENATE.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Senate :—
- MR. SPEAKER,
- It is the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor-General that this honorable House do attend in the Senate Chamber forthwith.
- Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency :—And having returned—
4. RESIGNATION OF MEMBER (MR. HALL).—Mr. Speaker announced that during the recess he had received from Mr. David Robert Hall a letter resigning his seat as Member for the Electoral Division of Werriwa.
5. ISSUE AND RETURN OF WRIT (WERRIWA DIVISION).—Mr. Speaker announced to the House that, on the 6th May last, he had issued a Writ for the Election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Werriwa, in the State of New South Wales, in the place of Mr. David Robert Hall, resigned, and that he had received a Return to such Writ, and by the indorsement on the Writ it appeared that Benjamin Holland Bennett had been elected in pursuance thereof.
6. PAPER.—Mr. Speaker then laid on the Table the following Paper—
- Werriwa Election—Correspondence in connexion with date of.
- Ordered to lie on the Table.
7. MEMBER SWORN.—Benjamin Holland Bennett, Esquire, was introduced, and made and subscribed the Oath required by law.
8. THE LATE LORD NORTHCOTE.—Mr. Speaker announced to the House that, during the recess, he had received the following letters :—

Commonwealth of Australia.

Governor-General's Office,  
Melbourne, 17th January, 1912.

SIR,

At the instance of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter in which Lady Northcote conveys her thanks for the resolution of sympathy with her, in the death of Lord Northcote, which was passed by the House of Representatives.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
DENMAN,  
Governor-General.

The Honourable  
The Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
Melbourne.

No. 535.

Downing-street,  
13th December, 1912.

MY LORD,

With reference to your Excellency's despatches Nos. 180 and 182 of the 6th and 11th of October respectively, I have the honor to transmit to you for communication to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively, the enclosed letters in which Lady Northcote conveys her thanks for the resolutions of sympathy with her in the death of Lord Northcote passed by the two Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament.

I have the honor to be,  
My Lord,  
Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,  
L. HARCOURT.

Governor-General,  
His Excellency  
The Right Honorable Lord Denman,  
G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., &c., &c., &c.

Eastwell Park,  
Ashford, Kent,  
December 4th, 1911.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER,

May I ask you to convey to the House my heartfelt thanks for the message of condolence which has been transmitted to me on behalf of the Members.

I highly value the terms in which the Representatives of the Commonwealth have kindly placed on record their appreciation of my husband.

To many memories of goodwill shown to Lord Northcote and myself by the people of Australia I shall now add a grateful recollection of their sympathy with me in my time of sorrow.

I remain, dear Mr. Speaker,  
Yours faithfully,  
ALICE S. NORTHCOTE.

19th June, 1912.

9. TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.—The following Warrant, nominating Temporary Chairmen of Committees, pursuant to Standing Order No. 25, was laid upon the Table by Mr. Speaker :—

*The Parliament of the Commonwealth.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order numbered 25, I do hereby nominate—

The Honorable Frederick William Bamford,  
The Honorable John Moore Chanter,  
The Honorable James Mackinnon Fowler,  
William Elliot Johnson, Esquire, and  
William Maloney, Esquire,

to act as Temporary Chairmen of Committees when requested so to do by the Chairman of Committees.

Given under my hand this nineteenth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and twelve.

CHARLES McDONALD,  
Speaker.

10. PAPER.—Mr. Speaker presented—

Finance, 1910–11—The Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during the year ended 30th June, 1911, accompanied by the Report of the Auditor-General.  
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.

11. PETITION.—Mr. Higgs presented a Petition from adult white people, residents of, or who have an interest in Papua, praying that the Constitution of Papua may be amended so as to provide for Adult Suffrage, and for trial by Jury for all indictable charges, and that the Legislative Council should be composed of five official Members to look after native affairs and five non-official Members (to be paid a fixed salary) who should be elected by the white residents.  
Petition read and received.

12. DESIGNS BILL (1912).—Mr. Fisher moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Designs Act* 1906.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Fisher 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 to-morrow.

13. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had this 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 :

1. You have been called together to consider matters of great importance to the welfare of the people.

2. The prospects of the continuance of the prosperity of the Commonwealth have been greatly strengthened by the recent bounteous and widespread rains.

3. The revenue from Customs and Excise, Land Value Taxation, and Post and Telegraphs has exceeded the Budget estimate.

4. In accordance with a resolution of the last Imperial Conference a Royal Commission has been appointed to inquire into and report upon the natural resources and improvement of trade of the Empire. A representative for the Commonwealth has been appointed, and is now in London. The first meeting of the Commission has been held.

5. The Governor of the Commonwealth Bank has been appointed and is now actively engaged upon his duties.

6. The Australian Notes Act is working satisfactorily. The value of notes in circulation at the end of last month was £9,512,151, against which £4,305,215 was held in gold at the Treasury, the balance being invested in accordance with the Act.

7. Provision will be made on the Estimates for payment to the State of Tasmania, under Clause 96 of the Constitution, of the first instalment towards a grant of £500,000.

8. It is hoped that an early opportunity will present itself for settling the question of the consolidation of State Debts.

9. Although there has been a very marked increase in the volume of oversea immigration, to which the Land Tax and general policy of My Advisers has largely contributed, they are unable to regard the rate of natural increase of population in the Commonwealth with other than the deepest concern. The birth rate, for a young country, is too low; the death rate, though comparing most favorably with older countries, is too high. Last year nearly 9,000 children died under the age of one year—very many of these from preventable causes. My Advisers, considering its men and women to be the greatest asset of the nation, after most careful consideration, have decided to lay before you a proposal for a Maternity Grant to the mothers of children born in the Commonwealth.

19th June, 1912.

10. Royal Commissions to enquire into and report upon the conditions existing in the Sugar, Fruit, and Pearling Industries have been appointed, and are now engaged in pursuing their enquiries.

11. Proceedings under the Australian Industries Preservation Act were instituted against certain persons engaged in the production and shipping of coal, and, after protracted hearing, a decision was given in favour of the Government, and penalties imposed upon all the defendants. Notice of appeal has been given.

12. It is the intention of My Advisers again to ask you and the people to approve such alteration of the Constitution as will enable the Parliament to legislate effectively with regard to corporations, trusts, combinations, and monopolies, in relation to trade, manufacture, or production, and to extend its powers in regard to industrial matters and navigation. Measures to this end will be submitted to you.

13. The question of constituting the Inter-State Commission provided for by the Constitution is receiving the serious attention of My Advisers.

14. An excellent site has been obtained in London upon which it is proposed to erect offices for the Commonwealth.

15. Many problems connected with the development of the Northern Territory have engaged the attention of the Government. An Administrator and a Judge have been appointed; the heads of the various branches of the Government have been selected, and the work of preparation for the reception of settlers is being proceeded with.

16. It is intended to place before you proposals for a permanent survey preliminary to the extension of the existing railway to the Katherine River, and for the establishment of a fund from which Advances to Settlers may be made.

17. Efforts are being made to place the products of Australia more fully before the extensive markets of the Continent of Europe.

18. During the year the construction of the Torpedo Boat Destroyer *Warrego* at Sydney has been completed and the vessel is now in commission.

19. An agreement has been arrived at with the Government of New South Wales to surrender certain lands at Jervis Bay to be part of the Federal Territory. The construction of the buildings for the Naval College thereon has been commenced.

20. In order that Australian officers may be made available at the earliest opportunity it has been decided to obtain a lease of Osborne House, Geelong, and arrangements will be made to enter 24 cadets there in February, 1913.

21. As a result of negotiations an arrangement has been arrived at by which the second class cruiser *Encounter* of the Australian Squadron is to be loaned to the Commonwealth Government.

22. The Commonwealth Government has agreed to a request of the Admiralty that the Squadron might be reduced by the return of the *Challenger*, and two P class cruisers. Your approval of this reduction of the Squadron will be asked.

23. The scheme of Universal Military Training is being carried out, and this year some 20,000 senior cadets will pass into the Citizen Forces.

24. You will be asked to agree to certain amendments of the Defence Act.

25. The Small Arms Factory at Lithgow, New South Wales, has been taken over from the contractors, and is now at work. The Cordite, Clothing, and Harness Factories are in full working order, and giving satisfactory results.

26. It is proposed to proceed with and pass into law the Navigation Bill as a measure of the gravest urgency and importance.

27. My Advisers have taken steps to ensure that Government inspection and certificates under the Commerce Act may be looked upon with confidence abroad.

28. An officer has been engaged for some months on inspection of Lighthouses, and has reported that parts of our coast line are insufficiently lighted. Instructions have been issued to proceed immediately with the more urgent works. The kindred question of the completion of the survey of our coastal waters is also receiving special attention.

29. The Director of Quarantine was instructed to visit and report upon the quarantine systems of other countries. His report is now to hand, and is under consideration.

30. A Bill to amend the Bounties Act will be introduced.

31. My Advisers have accepted the recommendation of the Railway Conference, that the standard gauge of 4 feet 8½ inches should be adopted for the Commonwealth railways. They are deeply impressed with the importance, for commercial and defence purposes, of the establishment of a uniform gauge throughout Australia.

32. The statutory requirements have been complied with by the State of Western Australia for the construction of the Kalgoorlie to Port Augusta Railway, and it is hoped that the negotiations with the State of South Australia will soon be satisfactorily completed, when the construction of the line will be immediately proceeded with.

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33. Competitive designs for the planning of the Federal Capital City have been received and adjudicated on, and the adoption of a design is now receiving consideration. Steps are being taken to acquire the privately-owned lands. It is proposed to proceed with the initial works without delay.

34. Owing to the fluctuation of population, an electoral redistribution of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia has been found necessary. The requisite steps have been taken to give effect to the Representation Act.

35. Bills to amend the Old-age and Invalid Pensions Act, Royal Commissions Act, Public Service Act, Judiciary Act, Post and Telegraph Act, Trade Marks Act, Quarantine Act, and Customs Act will be submitted for your consideration.

36. You will be asked to consider Bills relating to Bankruptcy, Banking, Copyright, Parliamentary Witnesses, and Transferred Properties.

37. The development of an adequate Wireless Telegraph Scheme has received the close attention of My Advisers. Stations have been opened at Melbourne and Hobart, and a number of others are now in course of erection. Further Stations will be proceeded with immediately.

38. My Advisers, being anxious to cheapen cable communication with the Old World, are still urging the laying of a State-owned Atlantic Cable. They are also co-operating with the other parties to the Pacific Cable Agreement in introducing deferred and other cheaper forms of cablegrams.

39. I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties in the earnest hope that under Divine guidance your deliberations may further the welfare of the people of Australia.

14. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Fisher moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Bennett and Mr. Parker Moloney, be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament.

Question—put and passed.

Ordered—That the Committee do report this day.

15. PAPERS.—Mr. Fisher presented, pursuant to Statute—

Audit Act—Transfers of amounts approved by the Governor-General in Council—

Financial Year 1910–11, dated—

26th April, 1912.

Financial Year 1911–12, dated—

14th February, 1912.

20th March, 1912.

27th March, 1912.

3rd April, 1912.

18th April, 1912.

26th April, 1912.

26th April, 1912.

8th May, 1912.

15th May, 1912.

Public Service Act—

Appointments, Promotions, &c.—

Department of Prime Minister—

M. L. Shepherd—appointment to new office of Secretary, 1st Class.

J. H. Starling—promotion to new office of Clerk, 3rd Class.

Department of Treasury—

J. Byrne—promotion as Clerk, 4th Class, Pensions Branch, Victoria.

J. B. Cook—Stamp printer, promotion to 2nd Class.

G. H. Legge—appointment as Valuer Land Tax Branch, New South Wales.

Telegraphs and Telephones Special Works Account Act—

Transfer of Moneys (dated 13th March, 1912).

Mr. Thomas presented, pursuant to Statute—

Contract Immigrants Act—Return for 1911 respecting Contract Immigrants admitted or refused admission into the Commonwealth, &c.

Immigration Restriction Act—

Return showing, for 1911—

(a) Persons refused admission to the Commonwealth.

(b) Persons who passed the dictation test.

(c) Persons admitted without being asked to pass the dictation test.

(d) Departures of coloured persons from the Commonwealth.

Naturalization Act—

Return of number of persons to whom certificates of naturalization were granted, 1911.

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Papers—*continued*.

## Northern Territory—

## Ordinances of 1911—

- No. 14—Lands Acquisition.
- No. 15—Interpretation, No. 2.
- No. 16—Aboriginals.

## Ordinances of 1912—

- No. 1—Native Birds Protection.
- No. 2—District Council Assessment.
- No. 3—Crown Lands.
- No. 4—Supreme Court.

## Papua—

## Ordinances of 1911—

- No. 20—Liquor.
- No. 22—Supplementary Appropriation, 1910-11, No. 7.
- No. 28—Plants' Diseases.
- No. 29—Liquor, No. 2.
- No. 30—Supplementary Appropriation, 1911-12, No. 1.

## Land.

## Native Labour.

## Pearl, Pearl-shell, and Bêche-de-mer.

## Ordinances of 1912—

## Cemeteries.

## Mining.

## Mr. O'Malley presented, pursuant to Statute—

## Census and Statistics Act—

## Regulations (Provisional)—

- Labour and Industrial Statistics—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 12.
- Return of Trade Union Statistics—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 31.
- Returns of retail prices by shopkeepers—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 38.

## Bulletins—

## Population and Vital Statistics—

- No. 27.—Quarter ended 30th June, 1911.

## Trade, Shipping, Migration, and Finance—

- No. 56.—August, 1911.
- No. 57.—September, 1911.
- No. 58.—October, 1911.

## Shipping and Oversea Migration, 1910.

## Trade and Customs and Excise Revenue, 1910.

## Electoral Act—

- Reports, with maps, by the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of distributing into Electoral Divisions the States of—
- Victoria.
- Western Australia.

## Electoral Act and Referendum Constitution Alteration Act—

## Regulations (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 68.

## Electoral Act and Tasmanian Electoral Act—

## Regulations (Provisional) relating to joint Electoral Rolls.—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 67.

## Lands Acquisition Act—

## Land acquired under at—

- Bittern (Morradoo), Victoria—For Commonwealth purposes.
- Bittern (Morradoo, &c.), Victoria—For Commonwealth purposes.
- Caulfield, Victoria—For Commonwealth purposes.
- Delungra, New South Wales—As a site for a post-office.
- Fort Largs, South Australia—For Defence purposes.
- Guildford, Western Australia—For Defence purposes.
- Haymarket, New South Wales—For Commonwealth purposes.
- Hamilton, Victoria—For Defence purposes.
- Jervis Bay, New South Wales—For Commonwealth purposes.
- Kilkivan, Queensland—For Commonwealth purposes.
- Kyogle, New South Wales—For Commonwealth purposes.
- North Botany, New South Wales—For Commonwealth purposes.
- Penguin, Tasmania—For Defence purposes.
- Pialligo, New South Wales—For Commonwealth purposes.
- Rylstone, New South Wales—For Commonwealth purposes.
- Selwyn, Queensland—For Commonwealth purposes.
- Stockton, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.
- West Terrace, South Australia—For Postal purposes.
- Yarraville, Victoria—For Postal purposes.
- Yatala (Hundred of), South Australia—
- As a site for a Post Office.
- As a site for a Wireless Telegraph Station.

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Papers—*continued*.

## Meteorology Act—

## Regulations Amended (Provisional)—

## Meteorological Publications—

Statutory Rules 1912, No. 13.

Statutory Rules 1912, No. 84.

## Public Service Act—

## Appointments, Promotions, &amp;c.—

## Department of Home Affairs—

W. J. Clemens and H. McTaggart—promotion as Secretary, 1st Class, and Registrar, 2nd Class, respectively, Public Service Commissioner's office.

E. W. Nettle—appointment as Draughtsman, Class E, Professional Division, Public Works Branch, Victoria.

W. N. Rowse and J. Brophy—promotion as Clerks, 4th Class, Clerical Division, Accounts Branch, New South Wales; A. Ferguson—appointment as supervisor of Rifle Ranges, Class D, Professional Division, Public Works Branch, New South Wales.

## Regulations Amended—

No. 228—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 1.

No. 104—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 32.

Nos. 114–116A—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 33.

No. 48 (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 51.

No. 158A—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 52.

No. 163A (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 54.

No. 157 (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 55.

No. 168 (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 56.

Nos. 40, 89, 105–108A, 144–5, 257–61 (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 57.

Nos. 60–65 (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 62.

No. 57—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 63.

No. 168 (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 80.

No. 157—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 101.

Nos. 40, 89, 105–108A, 144–5, 257–61—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 102.

No. 163A—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 106.

## Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

## Ordinance of 1911—

No. 3—Rates (No. 2).

## Ordinances of 1912—

No. 1—Traffic.

No. 2—Rates.

Mr. Roberts presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Defence—Australian Army Medical Corps—Annual Report of the Director-General for the year ending 30th June, 1911.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. Roberts presented, pursuant to Statute—

Defence Act—Regulations, Amended, &amp;c. (Provisional)—

Factories—Government—Conduct and Management, &amp;c., under Section 63—Statutory Rules 1912, Nos. 87, 90.

Military College—Statutory Rules, 1912, No. 86.

Universal Training—Statutory Rules 1911, No. 212; 1912, Nos. 7, 10, 16, 20, 42, 47, 72, 88, 89, 100.

## Military Forces—

Regulations—Statutory Rules, 1911, No. 213; 1912, Nos. 6, 19, 23, 28, 30, 37, 43, 48, 61, 82, 91.

Financial and Allowance Regulations—Statutory Rules 1911, No. 211; 1912, Nos. 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 29, 36, 39, 40, 41, 44, 49, 50, 58, 59, 73, 74, 77, 81, 98, 99, 103, 104.

Naval Defence Act—Naval Forces—Financial and Allowance Regulations, Amended, &amp;c. (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1911, No. 210; 1912, Nos. 2, 3, 18, 34, 83.

16. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Bennett brought up the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, prepared by the Committee appointed this day, and the same was read by the Clerk, as follows:—

## 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.

Mr. Bennett moved, That the Address be agreed to by the House.

Mr. Parker Moloney seconded the motion.

Mr. Deakin 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 to-morrow.

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17. **DAYS OF BUSINESS.**—Mr. Fisher moved, by leave, That, until otherwise ordered, this House shall meet for the despatch of business at Three o'clock on each Tuesday afternoon, and at half-past Two o'clock on each Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, and at half-past Ten o'clock on each Friday morning.

Question—put and passed.

18. **ADJOURNMENT.**—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-six minutes past four 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. Bamford, Mr. Carr, Mr. Catts, Sir John Forrest, Mr. Hedges, Mr. Hans Irvine, Mr. W. H. Irvine, Mr. Livingston, Sir William Lyne, Mr. Mahon, Mr. McDougall, and Mr. Spence.

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C. GAVAN DUFFY,

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*