

1913.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 16.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1913.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—Mr. Kelly presented, pursuant to Statute—
  - Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at—
    - Abbotsford, Victoria—For Defence purposes.
    - Port Augusta, South Australia—For Railway purposes.
    - Victoria Park, Western Australia—For Defence purposes.
  - Public Service Act—Promotion of D. P. Israel as Clerk, 4th Class, Accounts Branch, Central Staff, Department of Home Affairs, Federal Capital Territory.
3. ADDRESS IN REPLY AND STATEMENT OF MINISTERIAL POLICY.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the proposed Address in Reply, and on the Statement of Ministerial Policy—
  - Debate resumed on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to by this House :—

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—

*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr. Fisher, viz.:*—That the following words be added to the proposed Address :—

“ But regret your advisers—

- (1) propose to destroy the beneficial character of our social and industrial laws ;
- (2) indicate no intention of taking such steps as will reduce the high cost of living ; and
- (3) fail to realise the urgent necessity of an immediate revision of the Tariff ”.

Question—That the words proposed to be added to the Address in Reply be so added—put.

4th September, 1913.

The House divided—

Ayes, 32.		Noes, 32.	
Mr. Archibald	Mr. McDonald	Mr. Abbott	Mr. Kendell
Mr. Arthur	Mr. McGrath	Mr. Ahern	Mr. Livingston
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Manifold
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Riley	Mr. James Bennett	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Burns	Mr. Roberts	Sir Robert Best	Mr. Orchard
Mr. Catts	Mr. Sharpe	Mr. Boyd	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Laird Smith	Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Patten
Mr. Dankel	Mr. Spence	Mr. Falkiner	Mr. Pigott
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Thomas	Mr. Fleming	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Frazer	Mr. Tudor	Sir John Forrest	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Hamman	Mr. Watkins	Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Webster	Mr. Fowler	Mr. Stumm
Mr. Howe	Mr. West	Mr. Glynn	Mr. Wynne
Mr. Hughes		Mr. Gregory	
Mr. Jensen	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Hans Irvine	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Anstey	Mr. W. H. Irvine	Mr. Greene
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Page	Mr. Kelly	Mr. John Thomson

MR. SPEAKER, addressing the House, said—There being an equality of votes, as shown by the division lists, it becomes necessary for me to give the casting vote. I take this opportunity of saying that, notwithstanding anything that has appeared in the press or elsewhere about the Speaker's casting vote, I have not been approached in any way—either by members of the House or the press outside or anybody else—in regard to how my vote is to go, with the exception of one occasion when it was done on the floor of the House. In giving my casting vote on the amendment to the Address in Reply moved by the Leader of the Opposition, the Right Honorable Member for Wide Bay, without offering any opinion or comment upon the debate just concluded, I desire to point out certain facts. This is a Parliament met for the first time fresh from a general election. As the result of the election the Government in office at the time, finding itself in a minority in the House of Representatives and unable to carry on the business of the country, resigned. A new Government was formed which, on presenting a memorandum of its policy to the House, was met with a no-confidence amendment to the Address in Reply. The new Government has so far not been afforded an opportunity to submit any of its proposed legislative measures for the consideration and judgment of the House, whilst several honorable Members opposed to the Government have expressed the view that some of the proposed measures should be proceeded with. Guided by these and other public considerations, and supported by abundant authority, I give my vote with the Noes, and declare the amendment resolved in the negative.

Question—That the proposed Address in Reply be agreed to by this House—put and passed.

Mr. Joseph Cook informed the House that Members would be notified when His Excellency the Governor-General had fixed the time for receiving the Address.

4. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered, That the intervening Business be postponed until after the consideration of Government Business, Notice of Motion No. 1.

5. AUDIT BILL (1913).—Sir John Forrest moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Audit Act* 1901–1912.

Question—put and passed.

Sir John Forrest 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.

ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at five minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Carr, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Finlayson, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Groom, Colonel Ryrie, and Mr. Sinclair.

C. GAVAN DUFFY

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*