

1917-18.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 51.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 1918.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Brennan presented a Petition from Italians resident in the Commonwealth protesting against the policy of the Government in forcibly seizing and deporting Italians for compulsory military service beyond the seas, and praying that no such deportation take place.  
Petition received and read.
3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Inter-State Commission Act—Inter-State Commission—  
Prices Investigation Reports—  
No. 1.—Bread.  
No. 2.—Meat.  
No. 3.—Farm Products Group—Milk, Butter, Cheese, Condensed Milk, and Bacon.  
No. 4.—Meat—Further Report dealing with Meat in New South Wales and Queensland.  
No. 5.—Bread—Further Report dealing with Bread in New South Wales and Queensland.  
No. 6.—Groceries.  
British and Australian Trade in the South Pacific—Report.  
Severally ordered to be printed.
4. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE OF MOTION.—Ordered—That the Notice of Motion, Government Business, be postponed until the next day of sitting.
5. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING OF PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Joseph Cook, That the Paper "Ministerial Statement—Changes in Ministry, and Ministerial Programme," laid on the Table on the 10th April instant, be printed—and on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Tudor, viz.:—That the following words be added to the motion:—  
"but, in the opinion of this House, the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) and the Minister for the Navy (Mr. Cook) cannot represent Australian public opinion in London, for the following reasons, viz.:—(a) The speeches of the Prime Minister at and in relation to the Paris Conference; (b) The war policy of Ministers, which has been emphatically repudiated by two referendums of the Australian people; (c) The conduct of public affairs in Australia"—  
Debate resumed.  
Mr. West addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.  
Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow

25th April, 1918.

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6. ALTERATION OF HOUR OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Watt moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until two o'clock p.m. to-morrow.  
Question—put and passed.

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Watt moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-nine minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at two o'clock p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—  
Lieut.-Col. Abbott<sup>\*a</sup>, Mr. Anstey<sup>\*</sup>, Mr. Burchell<sup>\*a</sup>, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Joseph Cook, Mr. Fleming<sup>\*a</sup>,  
Mr. Groom, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Manifold<sup>\*</sup>, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Page, Mr. Rodgers,  
Brigadier-General Ryrie<sup>\*a</sup>, Mr. Bruce Smith, and Mr. Yates<sup>\*a</sup>.

<sup>\*</sup> On leave.

<sup>(a)</sup> Joined Australian Imperial Force.

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