

1920-21.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 123.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 22ND APRIL, 1921.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Anglo-Japanese Alliance—The Anglo-Japanese Agreements of 1902, 1905, and 1911, and the Anglo-Japanese Declaration of 1920.  
Imperial Conference, London, June, 1921—Subjects to be discussed.  
Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.

3. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Brennan rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "The action of the Right Honorable the Prime Minister in accepting an honorarium other than a prescribed Parliamentary allowance for services rendered in his official capacity, and the fact of members of the Government having declined to supply information relating thereto to honorable Members".

Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—

*Point of Order—Speaker's Ruling.*—A point of Order was raised by Sir Joseph Cook that the matter proposed to be discussed was not of an urgent nature and should, in the circumstances, be ruled out of order.—Mr. Speaker ruled that as Standing Order No. 38 provided that before such a motion could be entertained the Speaker must satisfy himself that at least five members had risen in their places to signify their approval of the proposed discussion, it had been ruled by previous Speakers that the responsibility of determining the question of urgency or of public importance did not rest with the Speaker but with the House itself by the act of a certain proportion of its Members in indicating beforehand their approval of the discussion. That had been the practice hitherto. If the House did not approve, it had in its own hands the means of preventing the discussion.

Mr. Brennan moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Hughes, addressing the House, and not having, in compliance with Standing Order No. 39, concluded his speech within fifteen minutes, the honorable Member was, by leave of the House, allowed to continue his speech.

Debate continued.

It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the debate was interrupted in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, and the Orders of the Day were called on.

4. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT *RE* IMPERIAL CONFERENCE—MANDATE FOR GERMAN POSSESSIONS IN THE PACIFIC—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Hughes, That the Paper [*presented on the 7th instant*], viz. :—

League of Nations—Mandate for German possessions in the Pacific Ocean situated south of the Equator other than German Samoa and Nauru—

be printed—and on the Amendment moved there to by Mr. Ryan, viz. :—That after the word "printed" the following words be added :—"but, in the opinion of this House, the representative of Australia at the forthcoming Imperial Conference shall not be empowered to commit Australia to any agreement or understanding except on the condition that the same shall be subject to the approval and ratification of the people of Australia"—

Debate resumed.

*Limitation of Debate.* At a quarter to four o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker having called the attention of the House to the fact that the time allotted at the previous sitting for the debate had expired.—

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

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The House divided—

Ayes, 23.		Noes, 41.	
Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Nicholls	Mr. Bamford	Mr. Jowett
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Riley	Mr. Bayley	Mr. Lamond
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Ryan	Mr. Bell	Mr. Lister
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Stewart	Sir Robert Best	Mr. Livingston
Mr. Considine	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Blundell	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Watkins	Mr. Bowden	Mr. Marks
Mr. Gabb	Mr. West	Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. Lavelle		Mr. Chanter	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Lazzarini		Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Mahony	<i>Tellers:</i>	Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Poynton
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Corser	Mr. Prowse
Mr. McGrath	Mr. James Page	Mr. Foley	Mr. Rodgers
		Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie
		Mr. Fowler	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Francis	Mr. Wienholt
		Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Gregory	
		Mr. Groom	
		Mr. Hay	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Higgs	Mr. Burchell
		Mr. Hill	Mr. Story

And so it was negatived.

Question—That the Paper be printed—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 42.		Noes, 21.	
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Hughes	Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Jowett	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Nicholls
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Lamond	Mr. Brennan	Mr. Riley
Mr. Bell	Mr. Lister	Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Ryan
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Livingston	Mr. Charlton	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Blundell	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Considine	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Marks	Mr. Cunningham	Mr. West
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr	Mr. Gabb	
Mr. Chanter	Mr. McWilliams	Mr. Lavelle	
Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. Earle Page	Mr. Lazzarini	<i>Tellers:</i>
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Mahony	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Corser	Mr. Prowse	Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. James Page
Mr. Foley	Mr. Rodgers		
Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie		
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Laird Smith		
Mr. Francis	Mr. Stewart		
Mr. Greene	Mr. Wienholt		
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Wise		
Mr. Groom			
Mr. Hay	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Burchell		
Mr. Hill	Mr. Story		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

5. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—

Public Service Act—Promotion of F. Saleeba, Attorney-General's Department.

6. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at seventeen minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday next, at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Bruce, Mr. Robert Cook, Mr. Gibson, and Mr. McDonald.

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