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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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No. 131.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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THURSDAY, 12TH MAY, 1921.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.
2. **ABSENCE OF MR. SPEAKER.**—The Clerk, at the Table, having informed the House that Mr. Speaker was unavoidably absent, the Chairman of Committees took the Chair as Deputy-Speaker, and read Prayers.
3. **PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.**—Mr. Gregory, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, brought up the following Report from the Committee—  

Report, together with Minutes of Evidence, relating to the proposed erection of an additional Telephone Trunk Line between Sydney and Melbourne.

Ordered—That the Paper be printed.
4. **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MAIL CONTRACT.**—Mr. Wise, by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the mail contract between the Commonwealth and the Orient Steam Navigation Company.
5. **PAPER.**—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  

Mail Service to Europe—Agreement, dated 27th April, 1921, between the Honorable G. H. Wise, Postmaster-General for the Commonwealth, and the Orient Steam Navigation Company Limited, for the Conveyance of Mails between Great Britain and Australia.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
6. **WAYS AND MEANS [“GRIEVANCE DAY”].**—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Ways and Means—  

Question proposed—That Mr. Deputy-Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, resolve itself into the said Committee.
7. **WESTRALIAN FARMERS AGREEMENT BILL (1921).**—Sir Joseph Cook moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to approve the Agreement made between the West Australian Grain Growers' Co-operative Elevators Limited and the Commonwealth of Australia varying and supplementing the Agreement contained in the Schedule to the *Westralian Farmers Agreement Act 1920*.  

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.
8. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That the remaining Orders of the Day be postponed until after the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 1, Government Business.

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9. NEW GENERAL POST OFFICE, PERTH—EXTENSION—APPROVAL OF CARRYING OUT OF WORK.—Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work:—Perth New General Post Office Building under Construction—Extension by Two Floors for the Accommodation of the Taxation and other Government Departments; which said work was referred to the Public Works Committee, and the Committee has duly reported to this House the result of its inquiries thereon.
- Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.
10. WAYS AND MEANS [THE TARIFF].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

*(In the Committee.)*

General debate resumed on the first Item of the Customs Tariff.

[See reprinted Tariff, which incorporates the proposed Resolutions of 24th March, 1920 (*vide* pages 36-88 *ante*), as amended by the proposed Resolutions of 16th September, 1920 (*vide* pages 321-6 *ante*).]

First Item agreed to.

Item 2—

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Atkinson reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at its next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

11. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS—RESIGNATION OF MEMBER.—Mr. Deputy-Speaker informed the House that he had received a letter from Mr. Atkinson resigning his position as a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.
12. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.
- Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Bowden, Mr. Bruce\*, Mr. Francis, Mr. Hay, Mr. Hughes, Sir Elliot Johnson, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Mahony, Mr. Marks, Mr. Marr, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. McDonald\*, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Poynton, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Tudor, Mr. Watt, and Mr. Wienholt.

\* On leave.

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