

1920-21.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 190.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 1921.

1. The House met, at twelve o'clock noon, pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. HIGH COMMISSIONER—APPOINTMENT OF SIR JOSEPH COOK.—Mr. Hughes informed the House that Sir Joseph Cook had been appointed High Commissioner, in London, for Australia.
3. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Earle Page 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 Representation of Australia in Britain".  
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—  
Mr. Earle Page moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
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. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the Orders of the Day be temporarily postponed.
5. RESIGNATION OF MEMBER FOR PARRAMATTA (SIR JOSEPH COOK).—Mr. Speaker read to the House the following letter :—

The Parliament of the Commonwealth,  
House of Representatives,  
Melbourne, 11th November, 1921.

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Having accepted the office of High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia, it becomes my duty to tender to you the resignation of my seat as Member for Parramatta in the House of Representatives.

Need I say I do so with mingled feelings and much regret.

It is a great honour and privilege to have occupied continuously a seat in the House since the Federal Parliament was established. And nothing would now induce me willingly to leave it were it not that I have been designated for duties which make me its representative in a wider sense and a wider sphere.

To you, Mr. Speaker, and to all the officers under your control I am deeply indebted for unvarying courtesy and constant assistance.

I count it my extremely good fortune to be able to say that during twenty strenuous and formative years of service my personal relations with Members have been happy and cordial. And while the recollection of this makes severance painful, it will serve to hearten and help in the equally strenuous duties which I conceive to lie ahead.

With every sentiment of respect and esteem,

I am,  
Dear Mr. Speaker,  
Yours sincerely,  
JOSEPH COOK.

The Honorable the Speaker.

6. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Premiers' Conference, 1921—Decisions arrived at by the.  
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.

11th November, 1921.

7. SUPPLY—ESTIMATES—ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC., 1921-22.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(*In the Committee*).

Ordered—That the further consideration of the First Item of the General Estimates be postponed until after the further consideration of the Estimates for Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c.

ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC., 1921-22.

Vote—"The Postmaster-General's Department £823,506"—

Debate resumed.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

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

8. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker:—

FORSTER,

*Governor-General.*

*Message No. 66.*

A Bill intituled "*Supply Act (No. 4) 1921-22*", as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Melbourne, 11th November, 1921.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Groom moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at five minutes to four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Bell, Mr. Blakeley, Mr. Burchell, Mr. J. H. Catts, Sir Joseph Cook, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Hay, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Mahony, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Stewart, and \*Mr. Tudor.

\* On leave.

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