

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## No. 23.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 24TH JULY, 1923.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Right Honorable W. A. Watt) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—NORTHERN TERRITORY RAILWAY EXTENSION BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker:—

FORSTER,

*Governor-General.**Message No. 10.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue and moneys be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide for the Extension of the Railway in the Northern Territory by the construction of a Railway to Daly Waters.

Sydney, 16th July, 1923.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be considered in Committee of the whole House, at a later hour this day.

3. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Charlton 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 unsatisfactory administration of the Trade Commissioner's office in the East".

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. Charlton moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Customs Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1923, No. 90.

Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1923, No. 95.

Papua Act—Ordinance of 1923—No. 3—Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1), 1922–23.

Public Service Act 1902–1918—Appointments of Dr. N. B. Charlton and Dr. R. E. Richards, Department of Health.

5. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the Orders of the Day be postponed until after the consideration of a motion with reference to the Printing of certain Papers.

6. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—IMPERIAL AND ECONOMIC CONFERENCES, 1923—SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION—PRINTING OF PAPERS.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the Subjects for discussion at the Imperial and Economic Conferences to be held in London this year, and, in conclusion, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Papers—

Imperial Conference, 1923—Subjects listed for discussion ;

Economic Conference, 1923—Subjects listed for discussion—

and moved, That the Papers be printed.

Mr. Bruce not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257A, the Right Honorable Member was given leave to continue his speech.

Mr. Charlton moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

24th July, 1923.

7. NORTHERN TERRITORY RAILWAY—EXTENSION FROM MATARANKA TO DALY WATERS—APPROVAL OF WORK.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Groom (Attorney-General):—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913–1921*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work:—Northern Territory Railway—Extension from Mataranka to Daly Waters, which said work was referred to the Public Works Committee and upon which the Committee has duly reported to this House the result of its enquiries—*and on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Gabb, viz.:*—That all words after the word “That” be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—“all matters in connexion with the North-South Railway be referred back to the Public Works Committee, with a view of the construction of the line from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs taking place, prior to the extension of the line from Mataranka to Daly Waters”—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the motion—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 28.

Mr. Atkinson	Sir Elliot Johnson
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Lister
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Mann
Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. Manning
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Marks
Mr. Corser	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Josiah Francis	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Gibson	
Mr. Groom	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Hill	Mr. Marr
Mr. Hurry	Mr. Prowse

Noes, 10.

Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Albert Green	
Mr. Lacey	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Makin	Mr. Fenton
Mr. McGrath	Mr. Yates

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the original motion be agreed to—put and passed.

8. NORTHERN TERRITORY RAILWAY EXTENSION BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of His Excellency the Governor-General's Message No. 10—

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

*(In the Committee.)*

*Resolved*, on the motion of Mr. Stewart (Minister for Works and Railways)—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue and moneys be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide for the Extension of the Railway in the Northern Territory by the construction of a Railway to Daly Waters

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

Mr. Stewart moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That the Standing Orders be suspended, to enable the remaining stages to be passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Stewart, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Stewart and Mr. Groom do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

Mr. Stewart 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 the next sitting.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Donald Cameron, Mr. Cunningham, Sir Neville Howse, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Killen, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Frederick McDonald, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Pratten, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Whitsitt.

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