

**ANZAC DAY BILL
(COMMITTEE STAGE)
21 November 1923**

Edith Cowan supported an amendment to the ANZAC Day Act to ban race meetings and the opening of hotels on that day.

Mrs COWAN: I support the amendment. We cannot pay too high a tribute to our soldiers who have passed on, or too great a respect to their memory in every way. Many mothers and other women relatives have had their hearts wrung by what has occurred on Anzac Day. They do not take the view that people are wilfully disregarding it, but that they forget. The only way to make them remember is to put something upon our statute-book that will constitute an ideal for the future. I have always felt it to be a good thing if sometimes the statutes are a little ahead of the ideals for them to live up to. If they break the law it cannot be helped, but it is there for them to follow. Those who come after, when we have all passed away, will realise in a more definite way than they come otherwise do what this meant to the nation in our day, and to the fathers and mothers from whom our soldiers sprang. They will know that we did realise the extent of the sacrifice, and did our best to leave behind us something that would be a mark for all time to cause people to realise the wonderful work that was done by our soldiers for the whole world during the dreadful ordeal of war. That is why I support the amendment. I want this law made by law so sacred a day that the people will never forget it.