

1901.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 23.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 1901.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ELECTIONS IN THE STATE OF TASMANIA FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT.—Mr. Chanter, for Mr. McCay, moved, pursuant to notice, That there be laid before this House a detailed Return giving all available information relating to the votes recorded at the recent elections for the Commonwealth Parliament in the State of Tasmania, including the position at each count of the candidates for the Senate and the House of Representatives respectively.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
3. MINIMUM RATE OF WAGE AND MAXIMUM HOURS OF LABOUR IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question—That, in the opinion of this House, it is the duty of the Government to make provision in all its contracts for the payment of a minimum rate of wage, and for the fixing of a maximum number of hours of labour—having been read—
Debate resumed.
Mr. Barton moved, That the question be amended by omitting the words “it is the duty of the Government to make.”
Debate continued.
Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and negatived.
Mr. Barton moved, That the question be further amended by inserting after the word “provision” the words “should be made.”
Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Mr. Barton moved, That the question be further amended by omitting the word “its” and inserting instead thereof the word “Government.”
Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and negatived.
Question—That the word proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Mr. Mahon moved, That the question be further amended by inserting after the word “wage” the words “such rate to be in accord with the ruling rate of wage in the district in which the work is to be carried out.”
Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Question—That, in the opinion of this House, provision should be made in all Government contracts for the payment of a minimum rate of wage, such rate to be in accord with the ruling rate of wage in the district in which the work is to be carried out, and for the fixing of a maximum number of hours of labour—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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4. LAWS FOR AUSTRALIA AS TO WAGES, AND HOURS AND CONDITIONS OF LABOUR.—Mr. Higgins moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient for The Parliament of the Commonwealth to acquire (if the State Parliaments see fit to grant it, under section 51, sub-section 37, of the Constitution Act) full power to make laws for Australia as to wages, and hours and conditions of labour.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Barton moved, That the question be amended by omitting the word "acquire" and inserting instead thereof the word "accept."

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and negatived.

Question—That the word proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

Question—That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient for The Parliament of the Commonwealth to accept (if the State Parliaments see fit to grant it, under section 51, sub-section 37, of the Constitution Act) full power to make laws for Australia as to wages, and hours and conditions of labour—put and resolved in the affirmative.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—ACTS INTERPRETATION BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

The Senate has agreed to the Bill intituled "*An Act for the Interpretation of Acts of Parliament and for Shortening their Language*," with the amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, to which it desires the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

R. C. BAKER,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 28th June, 1901.

Schedule of the amendments made by the Senate:—

No. 1. In page 2, leave out clause No. 6.

No. 2. In page 5, in clause No. 19, leave out sub-clause (c).

No. 3. In page 9, in clause No. 39, leave out in sub-clause (2), in line 1, "Imperial," and in same line, after "Parliament" insert "of the United Kingdom."

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration forthwith in Committee of the whole House.

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

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. Chanter reported that the Committee had agreed to the amendments made by the Senate.

On the motion of Mr. Deakin the House adopted the Report.

6. NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRIES.—Sir John Quick moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, a National Department of Agriculture and Productive Industries, on the same lines as that of the United States of America, ought to be organized and maintained in connexion with the Government of the Commonwealth.

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

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned until Friday, 12th July next.

7. MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members present except—The Honorable Sir Philip Fysh, K.C.M.G., Sir Edward Braddon, and Messrs. Brown, Cameron, Chapman, Conroy, Joseph Cook, Cruickshank, G. B. Edwards, R. Edwards, Glynn, A. C. Groom, W. H. Groom, Harper, Hughes, Kennedy, Knox, Macdonald-Paterson, McColl, McDonald, F. E. McLean, Paterson, Phillips, Reid, Skene, Bruce Smith, Spence, Thomas, Thomson, Watkins, Watson, Wilks, and Willis.

8. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Barton moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at fifteen minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at half-past two o'clock p.m.

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.