

1926.

# THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 40.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 1926.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Sir Littleton Groom) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
 Tariff Board Act—Tariff Board Report—Request for Bounty on Cotton Yarn.  
 Ordered to be printed.  
 Northern Territory Acceptance Act and Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinance of 1926—No. 8—Workmen's Compensation.
3. NEW STATES—REFERENDUM.—Mr. Thompson moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, a referendum throughout Australia should be taken during the life of the present Parliament, on the question of amending the Federal Constitution so as to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to establish New States on such terms and conditions as it may think fit within the boundaries of existing States, with or without the consent of State Parliaments.  
 Mr. Roland Green, addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.  
 Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 17th June next.
4. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the consideration of Notices of Motion Nos. 2 and 3, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 17th June next.
5. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—NORTHERN AUSTRALIA BILL (1926).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 24.*

The Senate has agreed to the Amendments made by the House of Representatives in the Bill for "*An Act to make further provision for the Development and Government of the Northern Territory of Australia and for other purposes*".

The Senate,  
 Melbourne, 27th May, 1926.

JOHN NEWLANDS,  
 Deputy-President.

6. WAR SERVICE HOMES COMMISSION AND H. DEAN AND SONS—SELECT COMMITTEE.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Watkins:—
  - (1) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the claim of H. Dean and Sons, of Mayfield, Newcastle, New South Wales, against the War Service Homes Department.
  - (2) That such Committee consist of Sir Elliot Johnson, Mr. E. C. Riley, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Thompson, Mr. William Watson, and the Mover, five to form a quorum, with power to send for persons and papers and records and examine judgments in connexion therewith, to adjourn from place to place; and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken; and that such Committee do report this day three months—

Debate resumed.

Question—put.

F.17940.

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The House divided—

Ayes, 25.		Noes, 34.	
Mr. Aubrey Abbott	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Latham
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Edward Riley	Mr. Bayley	Mr. Ley
Mr. Brennan	Mr. E. C. Riley	Mr. Bell	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Scullin	Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Mann
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Thompson	Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. Forde	Mr. Watkins	Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Nott
Mr. Gardner	Mr. William Watson	Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Parsons
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. West	Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Yates	Mr. Grosvenor Francis	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Mahony		Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Makin	<i>Tellers :</i>	Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Prowse
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Coleman	Mr. Gibson	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Roland Green	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Maxwell		Mr. Gregory	Mr. Stewart
		Mr. Gullett	
		Mr. Hill	<i>Tellers :</i>
		Sir Neville Howse	Mr. Hunter
		Mr. Jackson	Mr. Lister

And so it was negatived.

7. WAR PENSIONS—DISABILITIES OF EX-SOLDIERS FROM PRE-WAR CAUSES.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. W. Maloney:—  
In view of the facts—

- (1) That, when the Australian men offered their lives to fight for their country, the Defence Department had the choice of the greatest surgeons and physicians to examine such men ;
- (2) That they had the advantage of the Health Department and the Health Scientific Department to assist them in deciding whether the men volunteering were in a state of health or not ;
- (3) That hardships of war make more acute and observable latent and obscure weaknesses ;
- (4) That soldiers who are refused pensions are not permitted to see their files and are thus deprived of the opportunity where injustice is done to disprove the evidence upon which pensions, &c., have been refused ;

and, in view of the many and generous promises continually reiterated from the multitude of enlistment platforms, it is the opinion of this House that no soldier who was accepted after passing such examinations and who actually went to the front and satisfactorily performed his allotted duties should be refused any rights under the War Pensions Act for himself or his dependants through certain present medical experts giving as their opinion the causes arose from pre-war causes.

It is also the opinion of this House that all men who offered their lives, and passed the above scientific examination, should be considered perfectly healthy men from that date ; and that discretionary power be vested in the Repatriation Commissioners to grant pensions and other benefits where sufficient incapacity exists which did not appear at the time of enlistment—such discretionary power to be executed in the light of the character of the service rendered by the soldier—

Debate resumed.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 18.		Noes, 40.	
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Edward Riley	Mr. Aubrey Abbott	Mr. Ley
Mr. Charlton	Mr. E. C. Riley	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lister
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Scullin	Mr. Bayley	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Forde	Mr. Watkins	Mr. Bell	Mr. Mann
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. West	Mr. Bruce	Mr. Marr
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Yates	Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. W. Maloney		Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Nott
Mr. Mathews	<i>Tellers :</i>	Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Coleman	Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Parsons
Mr. Prowse	Mr. Makin	Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Thomas Paterson
		Mr. Grosvenor Francis	Mr. Perkins
		Mr. Gardner	Mr. Pratten
		Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Rodgers
		Mr. Gibson	Mr. Seabrook
		Mr. Roland Green	Mr. Stewart
		Mr. Gregory	Mr. Thompson
		Mr. Gullett	Mr. William Watson
		Mr. Hill	
		Sir Neville Howse	<i>Tellers :</i>
		Mr. Jackson	Mr. Josiah Francis
		Mr. Latham	Mr. Hunter

And so it was negatived.

The time allotted for precedence to General Business having expired, Government Business was called on.

27th May, 1926.

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8. SUPPLY ["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 Supply—  
Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and negatived.  
Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, resolve itself into the said Committee.
9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Gibson (Postmaster-General) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at sixteen 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. Anstey, Mr. Corser, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Hurry, Mr. Killen, Mr. Manning, and Sir Granville Ryrie.

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