

1926.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 51.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH JUNE, 1926.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Sir Littleton Groom) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. HOUSE COMMITTEE (JOINT)—REPORT.—Mr. Speaker presented—
Joint House Committee—Report, dated 3rd June, 1926, on Accommodation for Members of Parliament at Canberra.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER (MR. KILLEN).—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That leave of absence for one month be given to the honorable Member for Riverina (Mr. Killen), on the ground of urgent business.
Question—put and passed.
4. REFERENDUM (CONSTITUTION ALTERATION) BILL (1926).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Marr (Minister representing the Minister for Home and Territories) moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put.
The House divided—

Ayes, 36.

Mr. Aubrey Abbott	Mr. Lister
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Marr
Mr. Bell	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Nott
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Parsons
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Grosvenor Francis	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Rodgers
Sir John Gellibrand	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Roland Green	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Hill	
Sir Neville Howse	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Hurry	Mr. Hunter
Mr. Latham	Mr. Manning

Noes, 18.

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Forde	Mr. West
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Yates
Mr. Lacey	
Mr. Lazzarini	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Coleman
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Makin

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

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(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2—

On the motion of Mr. Marr, the following amendment was made, after debate :—

Page 1, line 10, after " amended " insert—

“(a) by inserting in sub-section (1.), after the words ‘ one hundred and forty-one ’ the words ‘ and section one hundred and ninety-four A ’ ; and

“(b) ”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3—

Mr. Marr moved, as an amendment, That all the words after “ amended ” (lines 16–23) be omitted, and the following inserted in lieu thereof :—

“(a) by omitting from sub-section (1.) the words ‘ nine weeks ’ and inserting in their stead the words ‘ fourteen days ’ ; and

(b) by omitting from that sub-section the words ‘ within two months after the expiry of those nine weeks, and not later than two weeks after the issue of the writ ’ and inserting in their stead the words ‘ not less than fourteen days before the day fixed for the taking of the votes of the electors for the purposes of the referendum ’ ”.

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

On the motion of Mr. Rodgers, the following amendment was made, after debate :—

Page 1, lines 16–23, omit all words after “ Act ”, insert “ shall not apply in relation to any Referendum held upon the proposed law intituled *Constitution Alteration (Industry and Commerce) 1926*, or upon the proposed law intituled *Constitution Alteration (Essential Services) 1926* ”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 7 agreed to.

New clauses—

On the motion of Mr. Marr, the following new clauses were added to the Bill, after debate :—

5A. Section nineteen of the Principal Act is amended by omitting from paragraph (e) the words “ an Assistant Returning Officer ” and inserting in their stead the words “ an Assistant Presiding Officer ”. Conduct of scrutiny.

6A. After section twenty of the Principal Act the following section is inserted :—

“ 20A.—(1.) If a scrutineer objects to a ballot-paper as being informal, the officer conducting the scrutiny shall mark the ballot-paper ‘ admitted ’ or ‘ rejected ’ according to his decision to admit or reject the ballot-paper. Action on objection to ballot-papers.

“(2.) Nothing in this section shall prevent the officer conducting the scrutiny from rejecting any ballot-paper as being informal although it is not objected to.”.

8. Section thirty-three of the Principal Act is amended— Immaterial errors not to vitiate referendum.

(a) by omitting the words “ or on account of the absence or error of any officer which is not proved to have affected the result of the referendum ” and inserting in their stead the words “ or on account of the absence or error of or omission by any officer which did not affect the result of the referendum ” ; and

(b) by adding at the end thereof the following proviso :—

“ Provided that where any elector was, on account of the absence or error of or omission by any officer, prevented from voting on a referendum, the Court shall not, for the purpose of determining whether the absence or error of or omission by the officer did or did not affect the result of the referendum, admit any evidence of the way in which the elector intended to vote.”.

9. The Principal Act is amended by omitting the words and figures “ *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918–1919* ” (wherever occurring) and inserting in their stead the words and figures “ *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918–1925* ”. Minor amendments of Principal Act.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed ; Mr. Mann reported accordingly.

Mr. Marr 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.

On the motion of Mr. Marr, after debate, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—EXCISE TARIFF BILL (1926).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

Message No. 27.

MR. SPEAKER,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act relating to Duties of Excise*,” and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without requests.

The Senate,

Melbourne, 16th June, 1926.

THOS. GIVENS,

President.

16th June, 1926.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY RESEARCH BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 28.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Institute of Science and Industry Act 1920'*," and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 16th June, 1926.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY ENDOWMENT BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 29.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to constitute a Fund to be utilized for the purposes of Scientific and Industrial Research*," and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 16th June, 1926.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

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

Audit Act—Transfers of amounts approved by the Governor-General in Council—Financial Year 1925-26—Dated 9th June, 1926.

Seat of Government Acceptance Act and Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinance of 1926—No. 5—City Area Leases.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at half-past nine 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. Anstey, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Corser*, Mr. Killen*, Mr. Ley, Mr. Marks, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Edward Riley.

* On leave.

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