

1926.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 55.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 24TH JUNE, 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. PRINTING COMMITTEE—SECOND REPORT FROM.—Mr. Edward Riley, for the Chairman, brought up the Second Report from the Printing Committee (sitting in conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate).

The Report was read by the Clerk, as follows :—

REPORT.

The Printing Committee have the honour to report that they have met in Conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee, having considered the Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, recommend that the following be printed :—

Elections and Referendums—Statistical Returns in relation to the Senate Elections 1925, and the General Elections for the House of Representatives 1925; together with Summaries of Elections and Referendums 1903–1925.

Elections 1925—Statistical Returns showing the Voting within each Subdivision in relation to the Senate Elections 1925, and the General Elections for the House of Representatives 1925, viz. :—

New South Wales ;
Victoria ;
Queensland ;
South Australia ;
Western Australia ;
Tasmania.

League of Nations—Special Session of the Assembly of the League, held 8th to 17th March, 1926—Report of the Australian Delegation.

Nauru—Report to the Council of the League of Nations on the Administration during the year 1925.

Export Guarantee Act—Return showing Reports, Recommendations, and Assistance granted, up to 31st March, 1926.

Senate Committee Room,
24th June, 1926.

EDWARD RILEY,
For the Chairman.

Mr. Edward Riley moved, That the Report be agreed to.
Question—put and passed.

3. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BILL (1926).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 31.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1921*," and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 24th June, 1926.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

4. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the consideration of Notices of Motion Nos. 1 and 2, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 8th July next.

F.17940.

24th June, 1926.

5. **NEW STATES—REFERENDUM.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Thompson:—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—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Aubrey Abbott moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "That" be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—"the question of the method of establishing New States should be considered in conjunction with other constitutional questions at the proposed Constitutional Session of this Parliament."

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the question of the method of establishing New States should be considered in conjunction with other constitutional questions at the proposed Constitutional Session of this Parliament—put and passed.

6. **RAILWAY THROUGH CENTRAL QUEENSLAND TO NORTH-SOUTH LINE.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Manning:—That it is essential for the proper development of Northern Australia that a railway be constructed from Bourke, New South Wales, through Central Queensland towards Cloncurry and thence across the Barkly Tablelands to a point on the North-South Railway in the Northern Territory—the carrying of this resolution to be taken as an instruction from this House to the Government to approach the State Governments of New South Wales and Queensland with a view of apportioning the expense of constructing this line between the Commonwealth and the States mentioned—*And on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Gregory, viz.:*—Omit all the words after "constructed from" up to and inclusive of the words "Northern Territory" and insert in place thereof, "Broome or Derby starting in an easterly direction up to its junction with the North-South railway at or about Newcastle Waters, thence south of east to Camooweal"—

Debate resumed.

Mr. R. W. Foster 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, 8th July next.

7. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That Orders of the Day Nos. 3 and 4, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 8th July next.
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. **PAPERS.**—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
- Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator—
Nos. 13 and 14 of 1926—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
- Treaty of Peace (Germany) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1926, No. 78.

10. **MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—DEFENCE EQUIPMENT BILL (1926).**—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General's Deputy was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker:—

W. H. IRVINE,
Deputy of the Governor-General.

Message No. 30.

In accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Deputy of the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of One million two hundred and fifty thousand pounds for Naval Construction and for a Reserve for Defence.

Melbourne, 17th June, 1926.

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

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

(*In the Committee.*)

Sir Neville Howse (Minister for Defence) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of One million two hundred and fifty thousand pounds for Naval Construction and for a Reserve for Defence.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

24th June, 1926.

The House resumed; Mr. Mann reported accordingly.

Sir Neville Howse 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 Sir Neville Howse, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Sir Neville Howse and Mr. Earle Page do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

Sir Neville Howse 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.

Sir Neville Howse moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

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

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 debated and agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

On the motion of Sir Neville Howse, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at five 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. Josiah Francis, Mr. Roland Green, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Killen*, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Latham, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Marks, Mr. Nelson, Sir Granville Ryrie, and Mr. Stewart.

* On leave.

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