

1926.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 63.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 8TH JULY, 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. PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR PORTION OF SITTING.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the Sessional Order governing the order of Business be suspended for this day, and that Government Business be given precedence over General Business for this sitting until after the delivery of the Budget Statement, and that General Business be proceeded with this evening for an additional time equivalent to that occupied by the delivery of the Budget Statement.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.
3. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 1, Government Business, be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 2.
4. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ESTIMATES, 1926-27.—The following Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were presented, and the same were read by Mr. Speaker :—  
STONEHAVEN,  
*Governor-General.* *Message No. 36.*  
In accordance with the requirements of Section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General transmits to the House of Representatives Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven, and recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.  
Sydney, 3rd July, 1926.  
STONEHAVEN,  
*Governor-General.* *Message No. 37.*  
In accordance with the requirements of Section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General transmits to the House of Representatives Estimates of Expenditure for Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., for the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven, and recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.  
Sydney, 3rd July, 1926.  
Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and, together with the accompanying Estimates, to be printed and referred to the Committee of Supply forthwith.
5. SUPPLY [BUDGET STATEMENT].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

*(In the Committee.)*

Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) delivered the Budget Speech, and then moved, That the first item in the Estimates, under Division I.—The Parliament—namely—

The President .. .. .	£1,300
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be agreed to.

Question—proposed.

F.17940.

8th July, 1926.

Ordered, on the motion of Mr. Earle Page—That the consideration of the General Estimates be postponed until after the consideration of Estimates for Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c. Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Makin reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

6. PAPER.—Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—The Budget, 1926–27—Papers (Preliminary Issue) presented by the Honorable Earle Page, M.P., for the information of honorable Members on the occasion of opening the Budget of 1926–27.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.

7. WAYS AND MEANS [CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT (No. 2)].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Pratten (Minister for Trade and Customs) moved—

That the Schedule to the *Customs Tariff* 1921–1926 be amended as hereunder set out, and that on and after the Ninth day of July, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six, at Nine o'clock in the forenoon, Victorian time, Duties of Customs be collected in pursuance of the Customs Tariff as so amended.

That, excepting by mutual agreement or until after six months' notice has been given to the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand, nothing in this Resolution shall affect any goods entering the Commonwealth of Australia from the Dominion of New Zealand.

#### IMPORT DUTIES.

Tariff Items.	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
DIVISION VII.—OILS, PAINTS, AND VARNISHES.			
229. By omitting the whole of sub-item (c) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item :— “(c) Petroleum and Shale, viz. :—Naphtha, Benzine, Benzoline, Gasoline, Pentane, Petrol, Turpentine Substitutes, and other Petroleum or Shale Spirit - per gallon	2½d.	3d.	3d.”
DIVISION XII.—HIDES, LEATHER, AND RUBBER.			
333. By omitting the whole Item and inserting in its stead the following Item :— “333. (A) Pneumatic Rubber Tyres, and Tubes therefor, valved or unvalved— (1) Covers weighing each 2½ lb. or less; Tubes weighing each 1 lb. or less - ad val. (2) Covers weighing each over 2½ lb.; Tubes weighing each over 1 lb. - per lb. or ad val. whichever rate returns the higher duty. (B) Rubber Tyres other than pneumatic, including compositions made up in form and size suitable for use with pneumatic tyre covers as a substitute for the inner tube - ad val.	40 per cent.  2s. 40 per cent.	50 per cent.  2s. 6d. 50 per cent.	55 per cent.  3s. 55 per cent.”
DIVISION XIV.—VEHICLES.			
359. By omitting the whole of sub-item (D) (4) (twice occurring) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item :— “(D) (4) Chassis, but not including Rubber Tyres or Storage Batteries— (a) Unassembled - ad val. (b) Assembled - ad val.	2½ per cent. 7½ per cent.	10 per cent. 15 per cent.	15 per cent. 20 per cent.”

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Makin reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General's Deputy was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

SOMERS,

Deputy of the Governor-General.

Message No. 38.

A Bill intituled “*Customs Tariff* 1926,” as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Deputy of the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Melbourne, 8th July, 1926.

8th July, 1926.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—ELECTORAL ACT—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

*Message No. 41.*

MR. SPEAKER,

The Senate transmits to the House of Representatives the following Resolution, which was this day agreed to by the Senate :—

That Senators Sampson and Thompson be appointed to the Joint Committee on Electoral Law and Procedure, in place of Senators Payne and Plain, discharged from attendance.

JOHN NEWLANDS,  
President.

The Senate,  
Melbourne, 8th July, 1926.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the remaining Government Business be postponed until after General Business.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

11. PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA—REFRESHMENT BAR.—Sir Elliot Johnson moved, pursuant to notice, That this House disagrees with that portion of the Report of the Joint House Committee which advocates the retention of the refreshment bar for Federal Parliament House, at Canberra, and considers that it should be subject to the same conditions as to the sale of intoxicants which apply to the Federal Territory generally.

Debate ensued.

Mr. McGrath addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, asked leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

- The time allotted for precedence to Notices of Motion, General Business, having terminated, Orders of the Day, General Business, were called on.

12. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—REFERENDUMS.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister), by leave, informed the House that the dates to be fixed in connexion with the submission to the electors of the proposed laws for the alteration of the Constitution in relation to Industry and Commerce, and Essential Services, would be as follow :—

Date of Issue of Writs—Monday, 26th July, 1926.

Date of Polling—Saturday, 4th September, 1926.

Return of Writs—On or before Tuesday, 12th October, 1926.

13. 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. Lister moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question - That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 29th instant.

14. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Canberra—Proposal by the Commonwealth to acquire the Melbourne Homes of certain Officers about to be transferred to Canberra.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Gibson (Postmaster-General) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-nine minutes past ten 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. Aubrey Abbott, Mr. Anstey\*, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Bayley, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Corser, Mr. Grosvenor Francis, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Killen\*, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Ley, Mr. Mann, Mr. Manning, Mr. Edward Riley, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Watkins.

\* On leave.

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