

1926-27-28.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

No. 161.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1928.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Sir Littleton Groom) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT CITY WEST, MELBOURNE, AND CONVERSION OF SOUTH MELBOURNE AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE.—Mr. Hill (Minister for Works and Railways) moved, by leave, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-21*, the following work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report, viz.:—Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at City West, Melbourne, and Conversion of South Melbourne Automatic Exchange to six-figure working.
Mr. Hill having laid on the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed work—
Question—put and passed.
3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER (MR. WATT).—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That leave of absence for one month be given to the honorable Member for Balaclava (Mr. Watt), on the ground of urgent private business.
Question—put and passed.
4. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—North Australia and Northern Territory—Report on the Administration of the Northern Territory for the period 1st July, 1926, to 28th February, 1927, and on the Administration of the Territory of North Australia from 1st March, 1927, to 30th June, 1927.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
5. 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.
Closure.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the question be now put.
Question—That the question be now put—put.
The House divided—

Ayes, 33.

Mr. Bayley	Mr. Killen
Mr. Bell	Mr. Latham
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Ley
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Lister
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Marks
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Parsons
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Gullett	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Hill	
Sir Neville Howse	
Mr. Hurry	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Hunter
Sir Elliot Johnson	Mr. Manning

Noes, 16.

Mr. Brennan	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Charlton	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Forde	Mr. Theodore
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Yates
Mr. Lacey	
Mr. Lazzarini	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Fenton
Mr. McGrath	Mr. Parker Moloney

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

29th March, 1928.

And the question—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair—was put accordingly and negatived.
Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, resolve itself into the said Committee.

6. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 2 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 3, Government Business.
7. **DRIED FRUITS BILL (1928).**—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—
Mr. Thomas Paterson (Minister for Markets) moved, That the Bill be now read a second time—
Mr. Scullin 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 the next sitting.
8. **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—EXCISE TARIFF BILL (1927).**—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

STONEHAVEN,

Governor-General.

Message No. 87.

In accordance with section 58 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General returns to the House of Representatives a proposed Law intituled “*An Act relating to Duties of Excise*,” which has been presented to him for the King’s Assent, and transmits herewith the following amendment which he recommends to be made in the said proposed Law.

AMENDMENT RECOMMENDED.

Page 1, Clause 1, lines 5-6, omit “, as amended by the *Excise Tariff 1927*,”.

Government House,

Melbourne, 28th March, 1928.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be considered 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.)

Mr. Latham (Attorney-General) moved, That the Amendment recommended by His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to.
Question—put and passed.
Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr Bayley reported accordingly.

The said Resolution was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Latham, was adopted by the House.

9. **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—DEFENCE EQUIPMENT BILL (1928).**—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

STONEHAVEN,

Governor-General.

Message No. 88.

In accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, 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 Three million two hundred and twenty thousand pounds for Naval Construction, for a Reserve for Defence and the Development of Civil Aviation.

Canberra, 22nd November, 1927.

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 representing the 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 Three million two hundred and twenty thousand pounds for Naval Construction, for a Reserve for Defence and the Development of Civil Aviation.
Debate ensued.
Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed ; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

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

10. **LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—RESIGNATION.**—Mr. Charlton, by leave, made a Statement announcing his resignation as Leader of the Opposition.
Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister), Mr. Scullin (Deputy-Leader of the Opposition) and Mr. Speaker addressed the House, expressing their regret at Mr. Charlton’s resignation and their appreciation of his services to the House.

29th March, 1928.

11. DEFENCE EQUIPMENT BILL (1928).—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration in Committee of the Whole House of His Excellency the Governor-General's Message No. 88—

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

(*In the Committee.*)

Debate resumed on the following motion of Sir Neville Howse (Minister representing the Minister for Defence):—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 Three million two hundred and twenty thousand pounds for Naval Construction, for a Reserve for Defence and the Development of Civil Aviation.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Duncan-Hughes reported accordingly.

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. Gibson 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, by leave, 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 into a Committee of the Whole.

(*In the Committee.*)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and, after debate, agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Duncan-Hughes reported accordingly.

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

12. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—RADIUM APPROPRIATION BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker:—

STONEHAVEN,
Governor-General.

Message No. 89.

In accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, 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 a sum for the purchase of Radium.

Government House,
Melbourne, 22nd March, 1928.

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 Health) 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 a sum for the purchase of Radium.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Duncan-Hughes 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. Hill 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.

29th March, 1928.

(In the Committee.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and, after debate, agreed to.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Duncan-Hughes reported accordingly.

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

13. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—PETROLEUM PROSPECTING BILL (1928).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

STONEHAVEN,

Governor-General.

Message No. 90.

In accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, 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 relating to the Encouragement of Prospecting for Petroleum Oil.

Canberra, 22nd November, 1927.

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 Home and Territories) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act relating to the Encouragement of Prospecting for Petroleum Oil.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Duncan-Hughes 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. Hill 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.

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.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Duncan-Hughes reported accordingly.

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

14. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES BILL (1927).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

STONEHAVEN,

Governor-General.

Message No. 91.

In accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, 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 amend sections four and five of the *Parliamentary Allowances Act 1920*.

Canberra, 15th December, 1927.

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.)

Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to amend sections four and five of the *Parliamentary Allowances Act 1920*.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

The said Resolution was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Bruce, was adopted by the House.

29th March, 1928:

15. PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES BILL (1927).—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 38.

Noes, 6.

Mr. Bayley

Mr. Bell

Mr. Brennan

Mr. Bruce

Mr. Malcolm Cameron

Mr. Charlton

Mr. Coleman

Mr. Fenton

Mr. Forde

Mr. Josiah Francis

Mr. Gibson

Mr. Albert Green

Mr. Roland Green

Mr. Hill

Sir Neville Howse

Mr. Hurry

Sir Elliot Johnson

Mr. Killen

Mr. Lacey

Mr. Lazzarini

Mr. Lister

Mr. Mackay

Mr. W. Maloney

Mr. McGrath

Mr. Parker Moloney

Mr. Earle Page

Mr. Thomas Paterson

Mr. Prowse

Mr. Edward Riley

Mr. E. C. Riley

Mr. Rodgers

Mr. Scullin

Mr. Seabrook

Mr. Theodore

Mr. Thompson

Mr. Yates

Tellers:

Mr. Hunter

Mr. Manning

Mr. Donald Cameron *Tellers:*

Sir John Gellibrand

Mr. Jackson

Mr. Parsons

Mr. Duncan-Hughes

Mr. Gullett

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.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

16. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That leave of absence be given to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

17. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, which time of meeting shall be notified by Mr. Speaker to each Member by telegram or letter.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

18. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—North Australia—Initial Report of the North Australia Commission on the Scheme for the Development of North Australia.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.—

No. 6 of 1928—Federated Public Service Assistants' Association.

No. 7 of 1928—Postal Overseers' Union of Australia.

Suspension of Sitting.—At twenty minutes past four o'clock p.m. Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of Sitting.—At twelve minutes past five o'clock p.m. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

19. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate:—

[*Financial Agreement Bill*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 121.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "An Act to approve an agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia of the First Part and the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania of the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Parts respectively and for other purposes," and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
President.

The Senate,
Canberra, 29th March, 1928.

29th March, 1928.

[*Customs Tariff Bill (1927)*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 122.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act relating to Duties of Customs*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the modifications made by the House in connexion with Requested Amendments Nos. 5 and 7 of the Senate.

The Senate has agreed to the Bill returned herewith, as amended by the House of Representatives at the request of the Senate.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
President.

The Senate,
Canberra, 29th March, 1928.

[*Excise Tariff Bill (1927)*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 123.

The Senate acquaints the House of Representatives that it has agreed to the amendment recommended by His Excellency the Governor-General in the Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to Duties of Excise*", which was transmitted by the House of Representatives for concurrence.

The copy of the said Bill, which was forwarded by the House of Representatives, is returned herewith.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
President.

The Senate,
Canberra, 29th March, 1928.

[*Defence Equipment Bill (1928)*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 124.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of Three million two hundred and twenty thousand pounds for Naval Construction, a Reserve for Defence and the Development of Civil Aviation*," and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
President.

The Senate,
Canberra, 29th March, 1928.

[*Radium Appropriation Bill*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 125.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for the Purchase of Radium*," and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
President.

The Senate,
Canberra, 29th March, 1928.

[*Petroleum Prospecting Bill (1928)*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 126.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act relating to the Encouragement of Prospecting for Petroleum Oil*," and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
President.

The Senate,
Canberra, 29th March, 1928.

[*Parliamentary Allowances Bill (1927)*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 127.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend sections four and five of the 'Parliamentary Allowances Act 1920'*," and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
President.

The Senate,
Canberra, 29th March, 1928.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty minutes past five o'clock p.m., adjourned until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, and to be notified by him to each Member by telegram or letter as determined by resolution of the House at this sitting.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Aubrey Abbott, Mr. Anstey, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Blakeley, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Corser, Mr. Grosvenor Francis, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Makin, Mr. Mann, Mr. Marr, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Nott, Mr. Parkhill, Mr. Pratten, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Watt*, and Mr. West.

*On leave.

E. W. PARKES,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.