

1937-38.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 18.

TUESDAY, 24TH MAY, 1938.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable G. J. Bell) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Administrator—Agricultural Council—Statement dealing with the Seventh Meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council, held at Canberra, 12th-13th May, 1938, together with Resolutions agreed to.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.—1938—
No. 14—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
No. 15—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.
Commonwealth Public Service Act—
Appointment of H. B. W. Ridley, Department of the Treasury.
Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1938, No. 41.
Control of Naval Waters Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1938, No. 43.
Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1938, No. 45.
Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1938, No. 44.
Papua Act—Ordinance of 1938—No. 1—Mining.
3. DEFENCE (VISITING FORCES) BILL 1938.—Mr. Thorby (Minister for Defence) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to make provision, in relation to the Commonwealth or the Defence Force, with respect to the Naval, Military and Air Forces of other parts of His Majesty's Dominions and of Territories administered by His Majesty, and with respect to Members of those Forces, and for other purposes.
Question—put and passed.
4. NATIONAL HEALTH AND PENSIONS INSURANCE BILL 1938.—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 by Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition) who moved, as an amendment, That all the words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting in lieu thereof the following words:—
"this House is of opinion that in its present form the Bill is unacceptable because:—
(a) it seeks to place upon a contributory basis the payment of pensions for old-age, invalidity and widowhood, which should be provided as a matter of right without the exaction of individual contributions;
(b) it provides unequal benefits for men and women;
(c) it fails to provide medical benefit for the wives and children of contributors;
(d) by partially overlapping the field of Friendly Society activity it tends to discourage young men and women from joining these associations of self-help, thus threatening the continued strength of Friendly Societies without providing in full the services which they now render;
and therefore the Bill should be withdrawn and re-drafted and a more liberal Bill, freed from the defects now enumerated, should be introduced without delay."
Debate continued.
Mr. Baker addressing the House and not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—
Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.
Debate continued.
Mr. Beasley addressing the House and not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—
Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.

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Debate continued.

Mr. Francis 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.

5. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Casey (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-five minutes to eleven 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. Blain, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Makin, Mr. Maloney, Mr. Martens, Mr. Menzies, Sir Earle Page, and Mr. White.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.