

1937-38.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 64.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 1938.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable G. J. Bell) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MUNICH AGREEMENT—CORRESPONDENCE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to a request from the honorable Member for Capricornia (Mr. Forde) that all communications which passed between the Commonwealth Government and other Governments in regard to the Munich Agreement should be laid on the Table of the House.
3. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Northern Australia Survey Act—Aerial, Geological and Geophysical Survey of Northern Australia—Report of Committee, for period ended 31st December, 1937.
Ordered to be printed.
4. PRINTING COMMITTEE—FOURTH REPORT.—Mr. Stacey, Chairman, brought up the Fourth 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 Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, together with other Papers not then dealt with, recommend that the following be printed:—

New Guinea—Report of Committee appointed to investigate new site for Administrative Headquarters of Territory of New Guinea.

Science and Industry Endowment Act—Reports by the Auditor-General on the accounts of the Science and Industry Endowment Fund for years 1936-37 and 1937-38.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Australian Capital Territory for year 1937-38.

F. H. STACEY,
Chairman.

House of Representatives Committee Room,
23rd November, 1938.

Mr. Stacey moved, by leave, That the Report be agreed to.
Question—put and passed.

5. THE LATE LORD STANLEY.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received from Lady Stanley a letter thanking the House for its Resolution of sympathy.
6. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Forde rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "Unemployment".
Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—
Mr. Forde moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Closure.—Mr. Gardner moved, That the question be now put.
Question—That the question be now put—put.

23rd November, 1938.

The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Bell, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 36.		Noes, 26.	
Mr. Anthony	Mr. Menzies	Mr. Baker	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Badman	Mr. Nairn	Mr. Barnard	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Cameron	Sir Earle Page	Mr. Beasley	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Casey	Mr. Perkins	Mr. Brennan	Mr. Rosevear
Mr. Corser	Mr. Price	Mr. Clark	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Fadden	Mr. Prowse	Mr. Collins	Mr. Scully
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Rankin	Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Scholfield	Mr. Forde	Mr. Ward
Sir Henry Gullett	Mr. Spender	Mr. Frost	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Stacey	Mr. Green	
Mr. Holt	Sir Frederick Stewart	Mr. Holloway	
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Street	Mr. James	
Mr. Hunter	Mr. Thompson	Mr. Lazzarini	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Thorby	Mr. Mahoney	Mr. Gander
Mr. Jennings	Mr. White	Mr. Martens	Mr. George Lawson.
Mr. Jolly			
Mr. Lane	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. John Lawson	Mr. Gardner		
Mr. McEwen	Mr. Nock		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—being accordingly put—

The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Bell, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 26.		Noes, 37.	
Mr. Baker	Mr. Martens	Mr. Anthony	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Mulcahy	Mr. Badman	Mr. Nairn
Mr. Beasley	Mr. Pollard	Mr. Cameron	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Riordan	Mr. Casey	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Clark	Mr. Rosevear	Mr. Corser	Mr. Price
Mr. Collins	Mr. Scullin	Mr. Fadden	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Scully	Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Forde	Mr. Sheehan	Mr. Gregory	Mr. Scholfield
Mr. Frost	Mr. Ward	Sir Henry Gullett	Mr. Spender
Mr. Green	Mr. Wilson	Mr. Harrison	Mr. Stacey
Mr. Holloway		Mr. Holt	Sir Frederick Stewart
Mr. James	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Hughes	Mr. Street
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Gander	Mr. Hunter	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Mahoney	Mr. George Lawson	Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Thorby
		Mr. Jennings	Mr. White
		Mr. Jolly	
		Mr. Lane	
		Mr. John Lawson	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. McCall	Mr. Gardner
		Mr. McEwen	Mr. Nock

And so it was negatived.

7. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT 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.

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.

Clause 4 debated and agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 16 agreed to.

Clause 17 debated—

On the motion of Mr. Nairn, the following amendment was made :—Page 6, at the end of sub-clause

(1.) add the following proviso :—

“ Provided that the amendments effected by section five of this Act, insofar as they require dividends to be paid out of an amount ascertained as specified therein in lieu of out of income as specified in sub-section (2.) of section forty-four of the Principal Act, shall not apply to dividends paid prior to the commencement of this Act.”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Price reported accordingly.

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

23rd and 24th November, 1938.

8. SUPPLY [BUDGET DEBATE].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

General debate resumed on the question, That the first item in the Estimates, under Division I.—The Senate—namely—

Salaries and allowances £8,210

be agreed to.

Mr. Green addressing the Committee 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.

The Committee continuing to sit until after midnight—

THURSDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 1938.

Debate continued.

Mr. Ward addressing the Committee and not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—

Mr. James moved, That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.

Question—put.

The Committee divided (The Chairman, Mr. Prowse, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 14.

Noes, 23.

Mr. Baker	Mr. Rosevear
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Scully
Mr. Forde	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. Frost	Mr. Ward
Mr. Green	
Mr. James	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Pollard	Mr. Gander
Mr. Riordan	Mr. George Lawson

Mr. Anthony	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Cameron	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Collins	Mr. Scholfield
Mr. Corser	Mr. Spender
Mr. Fadden	Sir Frederick Stewart
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Street
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Holt	Mr. Thorby
Mr. Hutchinson	
Mr. Jolly	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. McEwen	Mr. Gardner
Mr. Menzies	Mr. Nock
Sir Earle Page	

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued.

Mr. George Lawson addressing the Committee 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.

Suspension of Sitting.—At twenty-three minutes past seven o'clock a.m., the Chairman left the Chair.

Resumption of Sitting.—At twelve o'clock noon, the Chairman resumed the Chair.

Debate continued.

Sir Earle Page (Minister for Commerce) moved, That the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question—put.

The Committee divided (The Chairman, Mr. Prowse, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 35.

Noes, 26.

Mr. Badman	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Cameron	Mr. Nairn
Mr. Casey	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Collins	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Corser	Mr. Price
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Scholfield
Sir Henry Gullett	Mr. Spender
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Stacey
Mr. Holt	Sir Frederick Stewart
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Street
Mr. Hunter	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Thorby
Mr. Jennings	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Jolly	
Mr. Lane	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Lyons	Mr. Gardner
Mr. McCall	Mr. Nock
Mr. McEwen	

Mr. Baker	Mr. Mahoney
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Martens
Mr. Beasley	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Blackburn	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Clark	Mr. Rosevear
Mr. Curtin	Mr. Scully
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. Forde	Mr. Ward
Mr. Frost	Mr. White
Mr. Green	
Mr. Holloway	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. James	Mr. Gander
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. George Lawson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The House resumed; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

23rd and 24th November, 1938.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—WHEAT INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE BILL 1938.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

GOWRIE,

Governor-General.

Message No. 51.

In accordance with the requirements of Section Fifty-six 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 provide for Financial Assistance to the States in the provision of Assistance to the Wheat Industry, and for other purposes.

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Sir Earle Page (Minister for Commerce) moved, That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration, in Committee of the whole House, forthwith.

Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment, That the word "forthwith" be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof :—"at the conclusion of the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure".

Debate ensued.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and passed.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and passed.

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

(In the Committee.)

Sir Earle Page moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide for Financial Assistance to the States in the provision of Assistance to the Wheat Industry, and for other purposes.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed : Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

Sir Earle Page moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Sir Earle Page, was adopted by the House.

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

Sir Earle Page 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 Earle Page moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Green 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.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—MINISTERS OF STATE BILL 1938.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 50.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "An Act to amend the 'Ministers of State Act 1935-1938'", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 24th November, 1938.

J. B. HAYES,
President.

11. WAYS AND MEANS—FLOUR TAX AND WHEAT TAX.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Casey (Treasurer) moved the following motions :—

(1) (a) That a tax shall be imposed upon all flour manufactured in Australia by any person and, on or after the fifth day of December, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight, sold by him or used by him in the manufacture of goods other than flour.

(b) That the rate of tax, not in any case exceeding Seven pounds ten shillings per ton of flour, shall be such rate per ton of flour as the Minister, from time to time, and in accordance with a recommendation by the Wheat Stabilization Advisory Committee constituted under the *Wheat Industry Assistance Act 1938*, declares, by notice published in the *Gazette*, to be the amount by which the price per ton of flour based upon the price of wheat per bushel free on rails at Williamstown in the State of Victoria, at the time of the recommendation by the Committee, is less than what, in the opinion of the Committee, the price of flour would be if the price of wheat per bushel free on rails at Williamstown were Five shillings and twopence.

(2) (a) That a tax shall be imposed upon all flour in excess of one thousand pounds in weight held in stock on the fifth day of December, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight, by any person, not being the manufacturer of that flour.

(b) That the rate of tax, not in any case exceeding Seven pounds ten shillings per ton of flour, shall be such rate per ton of flour as the Minister, in accordance with a recommendation by the Wheat Stabilization Advisory Committee constituted under the *Wheat Industry Assistance Act*

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1938, declares, by notice published in the *Gazette*, to be the amount by which the price per ton of flour based upon the price of wheat per bushel free on rails at Williamstown in the State of Victoria, at the time of the recommendation by the Committee, is less than what, in the opinion of the Committee, the price of flour would be if the price of wheat per bushel free on rails at Williamstown were Five shillings and twopence.

(3) (a) That a tax shall be imposed upon all flour, biscuits, buckwheat flour, cakes, cremalt, macaroni, molestella, Passover bread, spaghetti and vermicelli, imported into Australia and, on or after the fifth day of December, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight, entered for home consumption under the law relating to Customs.

(b) That the rate of tax in respect of flour so imported or used in the manufacture of the other goods specified in the last preceding paragraph, not in any case exceeding Seven pounds ten shillings per ton of flour, shall be such rate per ton of flour as the Minister, from time to time, and in accordance with a recommendation by the Wheat Stabilization Advisory Committee constituted under the *Wheat Industry Assistance Act 1938*, declares, by notice published in the *Gazette*, to be the amount by which the price per ton of flour based upon the price of wheat per bushel free on rails at Williamstown in the State of Victoria, at the time of the recommendation by the Committee, is less than what, in the opinion of the Committee, the price of flour would be if the price of wheat per bushel free on rails at Williamstown were Five shillings and twopence.

(4) (a) That a tax shall be imposed upon all wheat exported from Australia on or after a date to be fixed by Proclamation, not being wheat upon which tax is imposed in accordance with the fifth resolution of these resolutions.

(b) That the rate of tax, not in any case exceeding One shilling per bushel of wheat, shall be such rate per bushel of wheat as the Minister, from time to time, and in accordance with a recommendation by the Wheat Stabilization Advisory Committee constituted under the *Wheat Industry Assistance Act 1938*, declares, by notice published in the *Gazette*, to be the amount which bears the same proportion to the excess of the price of a bushel of wheat free on rails at Williamstown in the State of Victoria, at the time of the recommendation by the Committee, over Five shillings and twopence as the quantity of wheat which, in the opinion of the Committee, will be consumed in Australia (whether as wheat or as products derived from wheat) during the twelve months following the preceding first day of October bears to the total crop which, in the opinion of the Committee, will be harvested during that period.

(5) (a) That a tax shall be imposed upon wheat grown in Australia and, on or after a day to be proclaimed, sold to a wheat merchant.

(b) That the rate of tax, not in any case exceeding One shilling per bushel of wheat, shall be such rate per bushel of wheat as the Minister, from time to time, and in accordance with a recommendation by the Wheat Stabilization Advisory Committee constituted under the *Wheat Industry Assistance Act 1938*, declares, by notice published in the *Gazette*, to be the amount which bears the same proportion to the excess of the price of a bushel of wheat free on rails at Williamstown in the State of Victoria, at the time of the recommendation by the Committee, over Five shillings and twopence as the quantity of wheat which, in the opinion of the Committee, will be consumed in Australia (whether as wheat or as products derived from wheat) during the twelve months following the preceding first day of October bears to the total crop which, in the opinion of the Committee, will be harvested during that period.

Question—That the motions be agreed to—put and passed.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Nairn reported accordingly.

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

Mr. Casey moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

The Resolutions reported from the Committee were read, and, on the motion of Mr. Casey, were adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Casey and Mr. Cameron do prepare and bring in Bills to carry out the foregoing Resolutions.

12. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS TO ENABLE THE BILLS TO BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER.—Mr. Casey (Treasurer) moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the questions in regard to the first and second readings, Committee's report stage, and third readings being put in one motion covering several or all of the Bills, and the consideration of several or all of the Bills together in a Committee of the Whole.

Question—put and passed.

13. FLOUR TAX BILL 1938.—Mr. Casey (Treasurer) then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to impose a Tax upon Flour manufactured in Australia by any Person and sold by him or used by him in the Manufacture of Goods other than Flour*", and moved, That the Bill be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Casey moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Green 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.

14. FLOUR TAX (STOCKS) BILL 1938.—Mr. Casey (Treasurer) also brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to impose a Tax upon Flour held in Stock on the Fifth day of December, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight, by any Person, not being the Manufacturer of that Flour*", and moved, That the Bill be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Casey moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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Mr. Green 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.

15. FLOUR TAX (IMPORTS AND EXPORTS) BILL, 1938.—Mr. Casey (Treasurer) also brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to impose a Tax upon Flour and certain Goods imported into Australia and upon Wheat exported from Australia*”, and moved, That the Bill be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Casey moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Green 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.

16. WHEAT TAX BILL 1938.—Mr. Casey (Treasurer) also brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to impose a Tax upon Wheat grown in Australia and sold to a Wheat Merchant*”, and moved, That the Bill be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Casey moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Green 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.

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

[*Land Tax Bill 1938*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 51.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Land Tax Act 1910–1927’ , to repeal section four of the ‘Financial Relief Act 1932–1935’ and for other purposes*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without requests.

J. B. HAYES,
President.

The Senate,

Canberra, 24th November, 1938.

[*Income Tax Assessment Bill 1938*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 52.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Income Tax Assessment Act 1936–1937’*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

J. B. HAYES,
President.

The Senate,

Canberra, 24th November, 1938.

18. SUPPLY [BUDGET DEBATE].—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(*In the Committee.*)

General debate resumed on the question, That the first item in the Estimates, under Division I.—

The Senate—namely—

Salaries and allowances £8,210

be agreed to.

Point of Order.—Mr. James raised a Point of Order regarding the call from the Chair.

Temporary Chairman’s Ruling.—The Temporary Chairman (Mr. Nairn) ruled that under Standing Order No. 255 the call was at the discretion of the Chair.

Dissent from Temporary Chairman’s Ruling.—Mr. James having handed in, in writing, an objection to the Ruling of the Temporary Chairman, moved, That the Ruling be dissented from.

Debate ensued.

Motion withdrawn, by leave.

Debate continued.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

19. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Menzies (Attorney-General) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at three minutes to twelve o’clock midnight, adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o’clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Francis, Mr. Makin, Mr. Maloney, Sir Charles Marr, Mr. Paterson, and Mr. Watkins.

F. C. GREEN,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.