

1946-47-48.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 113.

WEDNESDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1948.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Honorable Robert Semple, Minister of Works and of Railways and Minister in charge of State Hydro-Electric Department, Roads and Public Buildings in the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand, was within the precincts. The distinguished visitor thereupon, with the concurrence of honorable Members, was provided with a seat on the floor of the House.
3. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Lang 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, "The report of the Auditor-General for 1946-47, with particular reference to—
  - (a) The request that the Auditor-General be given access to assessment lists in the Taxation Department;
  - (b) The disclosure that £50,000,000 in assessed income tax had not been collected at the 30th June, last;
  - (c) The practice of diverting money from Consolidated Revenue to Reserve Funds, which are in excess of anticipated requirements;
  - (d) The disregard of economy in public spending;
  - (e) Misuse of official cars;
  - (f) Losses on Government contracts and market pools; and
  - (g) Financing of Glen-Davis National Oil Pty. Ltd."

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. Lang moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.

The debate having been continued for two hours, it was terminated in accordance with Standing Order No. 257B.

4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
  - Commonwealth Public Service Act—
  - Appointments—Department—
  - Attorney-General—W. M. Phillips.
  - Defence—A. E. Buchanan.
  - Labour and National Service—D. E. Graves.
  - List of Permanent Officers of the Commonwealth Service on 30th June, 1946.
  - Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act—
  - National Security (Prices) Regulations—Order—No. 3257.
  - Regulations—Statutory Rules 1948, No. 21.
  - Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1948, No. 20.
  - Stevedoring Industry Act—Orders—1948, Nos. 3-6.
  - Supply and Development Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1948, No. 19.

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5. WAYS AND MEANS—CUSTOMS TARIFF (CANADIAN PREFERENCE) AMENDMENT (NO. 1).—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

[See proposed Resolution for Customs Tariff (Canadian Preference) Amendment of the 14th November, 1947 (pages 394–6).]

Debate resumed on the motion of Mr. McEwen, That Item 157 be postponed.

Question—That Item 157 be postponed—put and negatived.

The motion previously moved by Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) was further debated and agreed to.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

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

Mr. Pollard 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 Mr. Pollard, was adopted by the House, after debate.

Ordered—That Mr. Pollard and Mr. Lemmon do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

6. CUSTOMS TARIFF (CANADIAN PREFERENCE) BILL 1948.—Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to amend the ‘Customs Tariff (Canadian Preference) 1934–1939’*”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Pollard 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. Clark reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Pollard, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

7. WAYS AND MEANS—CUSTOMS TARIFF (EXCHANGE ADJUSTMENT) AMENDMENT (NO. 1).—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

[See proposed Resolution for Customs Tariff (Exchange Adjustment) Amendment of the 14th November, 1947 (pages 382–5).]

The motion previously moved by Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) was agreed to, after debate.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

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

Mr. Pollard 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 Mr. Pollard, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Pollard and Mr. Lemmon do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

8. CUSTOMS TARIFF (EXCHANGE ADJUSTMENT) ACT REPEAL BILL 1948.—Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to repeal certain Acts relating to Adjustments in Duties of Customs*”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Pollard 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. Clark reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Pollard, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

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9. WAYS AND MEANS—CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT (No. 4).—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

[See proposed Resolution for Customs Tariff Amendment of the 18th February, 1948 (pages 457–50).] The motion previously moved by Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) was agreed to, after debate. Resolution to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

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

Mr. Pollard 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 Mr. Pollard, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Pollard and Mr. Lemmon do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

10. CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL (No. 4) 1948.—Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act relating to Duties of Customs*”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Pollard 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.)

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Pollard, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

11. WAYS AND MEANS—CUSTOMS TARIFF (CANADIAN PREFERENCE) AMENDMENT (No. 3).—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

[See proposed Resolution for Customs Tariff (Canadian Preference) Amendment of the 18th February, 1948 (page 461).]

The motion previously moved by Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) was agreed to.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

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

Mr. Pollard 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 Mr. Pollard, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Pollard and Mr. Lemmon do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

12. CUSTOMS TARIFF (CANADIAN PREFERENCE) BILL (No. 3) 1948.—Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to amend the ‘Customs Tariff (Canadian Preference) 1934–1939’, as amended by the ‘Customs Tariff (Canadian Preference) 1948’, and by the ‘Customs Tariff (Canadian Preference) (No. 2) 1948’*”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Pollard 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. Clark reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Pollard, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

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13. WAYS AND MEANS—EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT (No. 3).—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

[See proposed Resolution for Excise Tariff Amendment of the 18th February, 1948 (pages 461–4).]

The motion previously moved by Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) was agreed to, after debate.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

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

Mr. Pollard 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 Mr. Pollard, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Pollard and Mr. Lemmon do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

14. EXCISE TARIFF BILL (No. 3) 1948.—Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act relating to Duties of Excise*”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Pollard 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. Clark reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Pollard, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Defence) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at sixteen 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. Conelan, Mr. Duthie, Mr. Evatt, Mr. Gaha, Mr. Holt, Mr. James, Dame Enid Lyons, Sir Earle Page, Mr. Russell, Mr. Scullin\*, Mr. Spender and Mr. Ward.

\* On leave.

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