

1946-47-48.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 130.

WEDNESDAY, 28TH APRIL, 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. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

W. J. MCKELL,
Governor-General.

Message No. 69.

Proposed Laws intituled :—

- " *Customs Tariff 1948* "
- " *Customs Tariff (Southern Rhodesian Preference) 1948* "
- " *Excise Tariff 1948* "
- " *Excise Tariff (No. 2) 1948* "
- " *Customs Tariff (No. 2) 1948* "
- " *Customs Tariff (New Zealand Preference) 1948* "
- " *Customs Tariff (Canadian Preference) 1948* "
- " *Customs Tariff (Exchange Adjustment) Act Repeal Act 1948* "
- " *Customs Tariff (No. 3) 1948* "
- " *Customs Tariff (New Zealand Preference) (No. 2) 1948* "
- " *Customs Tariff (Canadian Preference) (No. 2) 1948* "
- " *Customs Tariff (No. 4) 1948* "
- " *Customs Tariff (Canadian Preference) (No. 3) 1948* "
- " *Excise Tariff (No. 3) 1948* "

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Laws.

Government House,
Canberra, 27th April, 1948.

3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
 - Bankruptcy Act—Nineteenth Annual Report by Attorney-General, for year ended 31st July, 1947.
 - Commonwealth Public Service Act—
 - Appointments—Department of—
 - Labour and National Service—I. Anderson, G. W. Kesson.
 - Postmaster-General—M. Knight.
 - Regulations—Statutory Rules 1948, No. 49.
 - Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1948, No. 50.
 - Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act—National Security (Industrial Property) Regulations—
 - Orders—Inventions and designs (48).
 - Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Postal purposes—Yalgoo, Western Australia.

28th April, 1948.

4. REPRESENTATION BILL 1948.—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.

Sir Earle Page moved, as an amendment, That all the words after " That " be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:—" the consideration of the Bill be postponed to permit the submission to the people by referendum of constitutional alteration—

- (1) to section 24 of the Constitution eliminating the necessity of any relationship between the numbers of the Members of the Senate and the Members of the House of Representatives ;
- (2) to provide for a double dissolution of the Senate and House of Representatives when any general increase or decrease of numbers of Senators is to be made ; and
- (3) to enable the minimum representation of any original State to be increased if Parliament so desires in proportion to any general increase of membership of the House of Representatives "

Debate continued.

Mr. Conelan moved, That Mr. Beazley be granted an extension of time.

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Mr. Evatt (Attorney-General) 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. Evatt (Attorney-General) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, 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. Beale, Mr. Blain, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Fadden, Mr. Gaha, Mr. Langtry, Mr. Scullin, Mr. Spender and Mr. Watkins*.

* On leave.

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