

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 31.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER, 1954.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable A. G. Cameron) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Public Service Act—Appointment—Department of the Interior—B. H. Taylor.
3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That leave of absence for one week be given to the Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Casey) owing to his absence from Australia.
Question—put and passed.
4. PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, pursuant to notice, That Government Business shall take precedence over General Business to-morrow.
Question—put and passed.
5. FLAGS BILL 1954.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Flags Act* 1953.
Question—put and passed.
Sir Eric Harrison 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 Eric Harrison moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr. Evatt—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
6. PUBLIC SERVICE BILL 1954.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Public Service Act* 1922–1953.
Question—put and passed.
Sir Eric Harrison 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 Eric Harrison moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr. Evatt—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
7. DISTILLATION BILL 1954.—Sir Eric Harrison (Minister representing the Acting Minister for Trade and Customs) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Distillation Act* 1901–1952.
Question—put and passed.
Sir Eric Harrison 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 Eric Harrison moved, by leave, 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, after debate.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Adermann reported accordingly.

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

8. WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION BILL 1954.—Sir Philip McBride (Minister representing the Acting Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to the Stabilization of the Wheat Industry.
Question—put and passed.
Sir Philip McBride 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 Philip McBride moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr. Pollard), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

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9. WAYS AND MEANS—WHEAT EXPORT CHARGE.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Sir Philip McBride (Minister representing the Acting Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) moved—

Interpretation.

- 1.—(1.) That in this Resolution, unless the contrary intention appears—
 “prescribed” mean prescribed by regulations under the Act ;
 “season”, in relation to wheat, mean the period of twelve months, commencing on the first day of October, during which the wheat was harvested ;
 “the Act” mean the Act passed to give effect to this Resolution ;
 “the Board” mean the Australian Wheat Board proposed to be continued in existence by the *Wheat Industry Stabilization Bill 1954* ;
 “the guaranteed price” have the same meaning as that expression has in the *Wheat Industry Stabilization Bill 1954* ;
 “wheat products” mean a substance (other than bran or pollard) produced by the gristing, crushing, grinding, milling or other processing of wheat, and include—
 (a) semolina, sharps, wheatmeal, self-raising flour, rice substitutes made from wheat and breakfast foods made from wheat ;
 (b) any other commodity produced mainly from other wheat products or from wheat ; and
 (c) such commodities, containing a substantial proportion of other wheat products or of wheat, as are prescribed.
- (2.) That, for the purposes of the Act, wheat or wheat products entered for export, or exported without entry for export, by a person other than the Board in a year commencing on the first day of January be deemed to be, or to be manufactured from (as the case may be), wheat harvested in the season that commenced on the first day of October in the immediately preceding year.
- (3.) That, for the purposes of the Act—
 (a) the wheat equivalent of any wheat products be the wheat used in, or used in the production of the materials used in, the wheat products ; and
 (b) a certificate of the Board specifying the wheat equivalent of a particular quantity of a particular kind of wheat products or the wheat equivalent of particular wheat products be evidence of the facts stated in the certificate.

Charge on export of wheat and wheat products.

2. That, subject to this Resolution, a charge be imposed, and be levied and paid, on wheat and wheat products—
 (a) exported from the Commonwealth by the Board (whether before or after the commencement of the Act) ; or
 (b) exported from the Commonwealth after the commencement of the Act by a person other than the Board,
 being wheat, or products manufactured from wheat, harvested on or after the first day of October, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-three, and before the first day of October, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight.

Rate of the Charge.

- 3.—(1.) That the charge be not payable in respect of wheat of a particular season exported by the Board unless the average price per bushel, expressed in Australian currency, obtained by the Board for all wheat of that season exported by the Board exceeds the guaranteed price, and that the rate of the charge per bushel in respect of any such wheat be—
 (a) an amount equal to the excess of that average price over the guaranteed price ; or
 (b) One shilling and sixpence,
 whichever is the less.
- (2.) That, in ascertaining the average price for the purposes of the last preceding sub-paragraph, the price obtained in respect of a sale other than a sale of fair average quality bulk wheat free on rails at the port of export be deemed to be the price that would have been the corresponding price for the sale of the same quantity of fair average quality bulk wheat free on rails at the port of export.
- (3.) That the charge be not payable in respect of wheat of a particular season exported by a person other than the Board unless the prevailing export price per bushel, at the date of entry of the wheat for export (or, if the wheat is exported without being entered for export, at the date of export of the wheat) for fair average quality bulk wheat free on rails at the ports of export, as declared by the Board, exceeds the guaranteed price, and that the rate of the charge per bushel in respect of any such wheat be—
 (a) an amount equal to the excess of the price so declared over the guaranteed price ; or
 (b) One shilling and sixpence,
 whichever is the less.
- (4.) That a declaration by the Board for the purposes of the last preceding sub-paragraph be deemed to apply in respect of all dates from and including the date of the declaration to and including the date immediately preceding the date of the next subsequent declaration.
- (5.) That the amount of the charge payable on wheat products be the amount (if any) that would be payable if the export of the wheat products were the export of the wheat equivalent of the wheat products.

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Payment of the Charge.

4.—(1.) That moneys payable under the Act by a person other than the Board in respect of wheat or wheat products be required (without prejudice to sub-paragraph (5.) of this paragraph) to be paid, on or before the entry of the wheat or wheat products for export, to a prescribed officer in the State or Territory of the Commonwealth from which the export takes place.

(2.) That, subject to the next succeeding sub-paragraph, amounts of charge payable by the Board be required to be paid in quarterly instalments in respect of exports made during the periods of three months ending respectively on the first days of January, April, July and October in each year, and the payment in respect of each such period be required to be made within fourteen days after the end of the period.

(3.) That the payment of charge to be made by the Board within fourteen days after the first day of January, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-five, be in respect of all exports made by the Board up to and including that first day of January, being exports in respect of which charge is payable.

(4.) That, for the purpose of determining the rate at which charge is payable by the Board in respect of wheat or wheat products exported during a period, the wheat of a season exported by the Board up to the end of that period be deemed to be all the wheat of that season exported by the Board, and, when the Board has completed its export of wheat of that season, the necessary adjustment be required to be made.

(5.) That the charge in respect of any wheat or wheat products be a debt due to the Commonwealth by the person exporting the wheat or wheat products (whether that person is the Board or another person).

Sales by Board for export.

5. That, for the purposes of the Act, where wheat is sold by the Board for export or for manufacture into wheat products for export, or has been so sold before the commencement of the Act, and, whether before or after the commencement of the Act, the wheat is or has been, or the wheat products are or have been, exported, the Board be deemed to be or to have been the exporter of the wheat or wheat products.

Regulations.

6. That the Governor-General be empowered to make regulations, not inconsistent with the Act, prescribing all matters which by the Act are required or permitted to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to the Act.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Adermann reported accordingly.

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

On the motion of Sir Philip McBride, the Resolution reported from the Committee was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Sir Philip McBride and Sir Eric Harrison do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

10. WHEAT EXPORT CHARGE BILL 1954.—Sir Philip McBride (Minister representing the Acting Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to impose a Charge on Wheat and Wheat Products exported from the Commonwealth*", and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Sir Philip McBride moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr. Pollard), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

11. HIDE AND LEATHER INDUSTRIES ACT SUSPENSION BILL 1954.—Sir Philip McBride (Minister representing the Acting Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to suspend the operation of certain provisions of the *Hide and Leather Industries Act 1948-1953*.

Question—put and passed.

Sir Philip McBride 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 Philip McBride moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr. Pollard), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

12. COMMONWEALTH AID ROADS BILL 1954.—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.)

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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The House resumed ; Mr. Adermann reported accordingly.

On the motion of Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council), the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

13. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—A Message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment :—

20th October, 1954—*Message No. 12*—Papua and New Guinea 1954.

14. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FOREIGN AFFAIRS—JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Speaker reported the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 13.

The Senate, having considered Message No. 11 of the House of Representatives, has agreed to the following resolutions in connexion therewith :—

- (1) That the Senate concurs in the resolutions transmitted to the Senate by Message No. 11 of the House of Representatives relating to the appointment of a Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs.
- (2) That Senators Gorton, Maher, McCallum and Wordsworth be members of such Joint Committee.

A. M. McMULLIN,
President.

The Senate,
Canberra, 20th October, 1954.

15. FOREIGN AFFAIRS—JOINT COMMITTEE.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, by leave—

- (1) That Mr. Bostock, Mr. D. A. Cameron, Mr. Downer, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Robertson and Mr. Wentworth be members of the Joint Committee appointed to consider foreign affairs generally and, in particular, to inquire into matters referred to it by the Minister for External Affairs.

- (2) That the foregoing resolution be communicated to the Senate by Message.

Question—put and passed.

16. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—A Message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without requests :—

20th October, 1954—*Message No. 14*—Appropriation 1954-55.

17. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at ten minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., 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. Anthony, Mr. Beazley*, Mr. Bryson, Mr. Casey*, Mr. Clarey, Mr. Davies*, Mr. Drury, Sir Arthur Fadden, Mr. Fairhall, Mr. McEwen and Mr. Robertson*.

* On leave.

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