

1910.

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## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 31.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 25TH AUGUST, 1910.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. RETURN TO WRIT (KOORYONG DIVISION).—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received a Return to the Writ which he had issued on the 2nd August instant, for the election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Kooyong, in the State of Victoria, and that by the indorsement on the Writ it appeared that Robert Wallace Best had been elected in pursuance of the said Writ.
3. PAPER.—The following Paper was laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—  
Telephone Exchange, Ulmarra—Particulars *re*—Return to an Order of the House, dated 29th July, 1910.
4. SUGAR INDUSTRY—ROYAL COMMISSION.—Mr. Higgs moved, pursuant to notice, *amended*, That a Royal Commission, Parliamentary or otherwise, be appointed to inquire into the Sugar Industry of Australia, such Commission to consist, if practicable, of at least one representative of each of the following interests :—1, The General Public ; 2, the Wage-earners ; 3, the Growers ; 4, the Millers ; 5, the Refiners.  
Debate ensued.  
Mr. Greene moved an amendment, That the words “such Commission to consist, if practicable, of at least one representative of each of the following interests” be omitted, and that in place thereof the following words be inserted, viz. :—“and that such inquiry shall cover the interests of”, and that at the end of the motion the following words be added, viz. :—“and to report prior to 1st July, 1911”.  
Debate continued.  
And another honorable Member desiring to amend some of the words proposed to be omitted—  
Question proposed—That the words “such Commission to consist”, proposed to be omitted, stand part of the motion.  
Debate continued.  
Mr. Sinclair 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 Thursday, 8th September next.
5. TIME OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, AND PRECEDENCE OF GENERAL BUSINESS.—  
Mr. Fisher moved, pursuant to notice, That, unless otherwise ordered, the House shall meet on each Wednesday and Thursday at 10.30 o'clock a.m., and that General Business shall, on the latter day, have precedence until 3.30 o'clock p.m.  
Debate ensued.  
Mr. Cook moved an amendment, That the words “provided that the House shall not sit later than ten o'clock p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays” be added to the question.  
Debate continued.  
Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put and negatived.  
Debate on original motion continued.  
Question—That, unless otherwise ordered, the House shall meet on each Wednesday and Thursday at 10.30 o'clock a.m., and that General Business shall, on the latter day, have precedence until 3.30 o'clock p.m.—put.

25th August, 1910.

The House divided—

Ayes, 32.		Noes, 16.	
Mr. Anstey	Sir William Lyne	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Groom
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Cook	Mr. Harper
Mr. Batchelor	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Deakin	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Beard	Mr. Ozanne	Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Brown	Mr. Poynton	Sir John Forrest	Mr. Thomson
Mr. Carr	Mr. Riley	Mr. R. W. Foster	
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Laird Smith	Mr. Fowler	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. G. B. Edwards	Mr. Spence	Mr. Glynn	Mr. Fuller
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Thomas	Mr. Greene	Mr. W. Elliot Johnson
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Tudor		
Mr. Fisher	Mr. West		
Mr. Frazer	Mr. Wise		
Mr. Hall	Mr. Wynne		
Mr. Higgs			
Mr. Hughes	<i>Tellers.</i>		
Mr. Jensen	Mr. McDougall		
Mr. W. J. Johnson	Mr. Watkins		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

6. CUSTOMS (INTER-STATE ACCOUNTS) BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the third reading—Mr. Tudor moved, That the Bill be now read a third time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a third time.
7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That Order of the Day No. 2 be postponed until to-morrow.
8. BANK NOTES TAX BILL.—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 read.

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, the following amendment was made in the clause:—

Omit “ ‘Bank note’ means a promissory note issued by a bank and payable on demand; ”  
and insert “ ‘Bank note’ means a bill or note for the payment of money issued by a bank and payable to bearer on demand and intended for circulation; ”

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 7 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Poynton reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, the House adopted the Report, by leave, and the third reading was made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

9. WAYS AND MEANS RESOLUTION—LAND TAX.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

*(In the Committee.)*

Mr. Fisher moved—

That a Land Tax be imposed on the unimproved value of all lands within the Commonwealth which are owned by persons, at the rates set out in the following Schedules:—

## SCHEDULES.

## FIRST SCHEDULE.

*Rate of Tax when owner is not an Absentee.*

For so much of the taxable value as does not exceed £75,001, the rate of tax per pound sterling shall be One penny where the taxable value is One pound sterling, and shall increase uniformly with each increase of One pound sterling in the taxable value, in such manner that—

the increment of tax between a taxable value of £15,000 and a taxable value of £15,001 shall be Twopence;

the increment of tax between a taxable value of £30,000 and a taxable value of £30,001 shall be Threepence;

the increment of tax between a taxable value of £45,000 and a taxable value of £45,001 shall be Fourpence ;  
the increment of tax between a taxable value of £60,000 and a taxable value of £60,001 shall be Fivepence ; and  
the increment of tax between a taxable value of £75,000 and a taxable value of £75,001 shall be Sixpence.

For every pound sterling of taxable value in excess of £75,000 the rate of tax shall be Sixpence.

The rate of tax for so much of the taxable value as does not exceed £75,000 may be calculated from the following formula :—

$R$  = rate of tax in pence per pound sterling.  
 $V$  = taxable value in pounds sterling.

$$R = \left\{ 1 + \frac{V}{30,000} \right\} \text{ pence.}$$

SECOND SCHEDULE.

*Rate of Tax when Owner is an Absentee.*

For so much of the taxable value as does not exceed £5,000, the rate of tax per pound sterling shall be One penny.

For so much of the taxable value as exceeds £5,000, but does not exceed £80,001, the rate of tax per pound sterling shall be Twopence where the excess is One pound sterling, and shall increase uniformly with each increase of One pound sterling in the taxable value in such manner that—

the increment of tax between a taxable value of £20,000 and a taxable value of £20,001 shall be Threepence ;  
the increment of tax between a taxable value of £35,000 and a taxable value of £35,001 shall be Fourpence ;  
the increment of tax between a taxable value of £50,000 and a taxable value of £50,001 shall be Fivepence ;  
the increment of tax between a taxable value of £65,000 and a taxable value of £65,001 shall be sixpence ; and  
the increment of tax between a taxable value of £80,000 and a taxable value of £80,001 shall be Sevenpence.

For every pound sterling of taxable value in excess of £80,000 the rate of tax shall be Sevenpence.

The rate of tax for so much of the taxable value as exceeds £5,000, and does not exceed £80,000, may be calculated from the following formula :—

$R$  = rate of tax in pence per pound sterling.  
 $E$  = excess of taxable value over £5,000, in pounds sterling.

$$R = \left\{ 2 + \frac{E}{30,000} \right\} \text{ pence.}$$

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Poynton reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

Ordered—That the consideration of the Resolution reported from the Committee be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at nineteen minutes past ten 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—Sir Robert Best, Mr. Chapman, Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Frank J. Foster, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Salmon, Mr. Scullin, and Mr. Webster.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*