

1910.

 THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 32.

 VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
 OF THE
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 1910.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MEMBER SWORN.—The Honorable Sir Robert Wallace Best was introduced, and made and subscribed the Oath required by law.
3. PETITIONS.—Petitions from Telephone Subscribers praying that the House will see fit to suspend the operation of Telephone Regulation 7A, which places all telephones, except proprietary lines, on the Toll system from 1st September next, until the whole matter of the condition of the telephone service has been further considered, and particularly until the recommendations of the Postal Commission on the subject have been placed before Parliament, were presented as under—

By Mr. McDougall—From—
 Coleraine.
 Heywood.
 Peshurst.
 Port Fairy.

Petitions severally received.

4. WAYS AND MEANS RESOLUTION—LAND TAX BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration of a certain Resolution reported from the Committee of Ways and Means—the said Resolution was read and is as follows :—

Resolved—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.

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

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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.

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

Mr. Fisher moved, That the said Resolution be adopted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

5. LAND TAX BILL.—Mr. Fisher then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to impose a Progressive Land Tax upon Unimproved Values*", and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SURPLUS REVENUE BILL (1910).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 11.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act relating to the Financial Relations between the Commonwealth and the several States*," and requests the House to amend the Bill as set forth in the annexed schedule.

H. TURLEY,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 26th August, 1910.

Ordered, after debate—That the consideration of the foregoing Message in Committee of the whole House be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

7. SUGAR BOUNTY BILL (1910) (No. 2).—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.

Mr. Higgs 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 Tuesday next.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—SURPLUS REVENUE BILL (1910).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

DUDLEY,
Governor-General.

Message No. 15.

In accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue and moneys be made for the purposes of the amendment which the Senate has requested the House of Representatives to make to clause 5 of a Bill for "*An Act relating to the Financial Relations between the Commonwealth and the several States*."

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Ordered—That the foregoing Message be considered forthwith in Committee of the whole House.

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

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(In the Committee.)

Resolved, after debate, on the motion of Mr. Fisher—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue and moneys be made for the purposes of the amendment which the Senate has requested the House of Representatives to make to clause 5 of a Bill for “*an Act relating to the Financial Relations between the Commonwealth and the several States.*”

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Poynton reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.

And the said Resolution was adopted by the House.

9. SURPLUS REVENUE BILL (1910).—The House, no Member dissenting, ordered that the consideration of the Senate's Message, No. 11, which had been made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next, be nevertheless proceeded with forthwith.

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

(In the Committee.)

The Committee proceeded to consider the requested amendment, which is as follows :—

SCHEDULE OF A REQUEST BY THE SENATE FOR AN AMENDMENT TO BE MADE IN THE SURPLUS REVENUE BILL (1910).

Page 2, clause 5, line 22, after “ ten ” insert “ and thereafter, until Parliament otherwise provides ”.

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, the Committee agreed to make the requested amendment.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Poynton reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, the House adopted the Report.

Ordered—That the Bill be returned to the Senate, amended accordingly.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 3 be postponed until Tuesday next.

11. AUSTRALIAN NOTES BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration of the Report from the Committee of the whole House on this Bill—

Mr. Fisher moved, That the Bill be now recommitted to a Committee of the whole House for the reconsideration of clauses 4, 8, 13, 18, and 30.

Question—put and passed.

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

(In the Committee.)

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, the following further amendments were, after debate, made in the Bill :—

Clause 4—

At the end of the clause insert a new sub-clause as follows :—

“(3.) Proceedings for an offence against this section shall only be instituted by the Attorney-General or by a person acting under his authority.”

Clause 8—

Omit the clause.

Insert, in place of clause 8, a new clause as follows :—

“8. (1.) The moneys derived from the issue of Australian Notes and any interest thereon shall be placed to the credit of an account called the Australian Notes Account which shall be a Trust Account within the meaning of the *Audit Acts* 1901–1906. Disposal of proceeds of issue of notes.

(2.) Part of the moneys standing to the credit of the Australian Notes Account shall be held by the Treasurer in gold coin for the purposes of the reserve provided for in section nine of this Act, and the Treasurer may invest the remainder or any part thereof—

(a) on deposit in any bank, or

(b) in securities of the United Kingdom, or of the Commonwealth, or of a State.

(3.) The Treasurer may sell or dispose of any securities in which any moneys to the credit of the Australian Notes Account are invested.

(4.) The moneys standing to the credit of the Australian Notes Account may be expended—

(a) in the redemption of Australian Notes, and

(b) in the payment of the expenses of the administration of this Act.”

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Clause 13—

At the end of the clause insert new sub-clause as follows:—

“(2.) This section shall not come into force until the day on which the *Bank Notes Tax Act* 1910 commences.”

Clause 18—

Omit the words “under the provisions of this Act”.

Clause 30—

Omit the clause.

Bill to be reported with further amendments.

The House resumed; Mr. Poynton reported accordingly.

Mr. Deakin moved, That the Bill be again recommitted to a Committee of the whole House for the reconsideration of clause 9, paragraph (a).

Question—put and passed.

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

(In the Committee.)

Clause 9, paragraph (a) read—

Mr. Deakin moved, That the word “fourth” be omitted, and that the word “third” be inserted in place thereof.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 28.

Mr. Bamford	Mr. Mahon
Mr. Batchelor	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Beard	Mr. McDougall
Mr. Carr	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Charlton	Mr. O'Malley
Mr. G. B. Edwards	Mr. Riley
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Fisher	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Frazer	Mr. Webster
Mr. Hall	Mr. West
Mr. Higgs	
Mr. Hughes	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Jensen	Mr. Brown
Mr. W. J. Johnson	Mr. W. Maloney

Noes, 13.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Cook	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Deakin	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Fairbairn	
Sir John Forrest	
Mr. Fuller	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. McWilliams	Mr. Greene
Mr. Salmon	Mr. W. Elliot Johnson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Bill to be reported without further amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Fowler reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, by leave, the Reports were adopted by the House, and the Bill was read a third time.

12. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SURPLUS REVENUE BILL (1910).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 12.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act relating to the Financial Relations between the Commonwealth and the several States*,” and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill as amended by the House at the request of the Senate.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 26th August, 1910.

H. TURLEY,
President.

13. PAPERS.—Mr. Fisher presented, pursuant to Statute—

Audit Act—Treasury Regulation 96 (d) Amended—Statutory Rules 1910, No. 72.

Invalid and Old-age Pensions—Statement in accordance with section 54 of the *Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act* 1908.

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14. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Cann, Mr. Catts, Mr. Chapman, Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Frank J. Foster, Mr. Howe, Mr. W. H. Irvine, Sir John Quick, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Scullin.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.