

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 21.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 25TH JULY, 1912.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Mr. Fisher presented, pursuant to Statute—
Commonwealth Bank Act—Savings Bank Department—Provisional Regulations—Statutory Rules 1912, No. 140.
3. TROPICAL PORTIONS OF AUSTRALIA—ROYAL COMMISSION.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. McWilliams :—That a Royal Commission, consisting of Members of this House, be appointed to inquire into and report upon the most prompt and effective methods of developing the natural resources of the tropical portions of Australia, and of establishing therein a permanent population—
Debate resumed.
Question—put and negatived.
4. PENSIONS FOR DEFENCE FORCES.—Mr. Mathews moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, legislation should be introduced to provide a system of pensions to the members of the Defence Forces, and that the resolution be communicated to the Senate, with a request for its concurrence.
Debate ensued.
Mr. W. Maloney moved an amendment, That the following words be added to the motion "and shall not come into force until the people who pay shall vote Yea or Nay by the referendum."
Debate continued.
Mr. Roberts moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.
The House divided—

Ayes, 30.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. W. Maloney
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Cann	Mr. Ozanne
Mr. Carr	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Catts	Mr. Riley
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Fisher	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Frazer	Mr. Webster
Mr. Howe	Mr. West
Mr. Hughes	
Mr. Jensen	
Mr. W. J. Johnson	Mr. Frank J. Foster
Mr. Mahon	Mr. Watkins

Tellers.

Noes, 17.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Kelly
Sir Robert Best	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Cook	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Deakin	Mr. Bruce Smith
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Thomson
Mr. R. W. Foster	
Mr. Fuller	
Mr. Glynn	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Groom	Mr. Greene
Mr. Harper	Mr. W. Elliot Johnson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 22nd August next.

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5. TOBACCO TRUST—ROYAL COMMISSION.—Mr. Greene moved, pursuant to notice, That a Royal Commission be appointed forthwith to inquire into the operations of the Tobacco Trust in the Commonwealth. Mr. Greene not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.
Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 15th August next.
6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—DEFENCE BILL (1912).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—
- MR. SPEAKER, Message No. 7.
The Senate has passed a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Defence Act 1903-1911,'*" and transmits the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.
- H. TURLEY,
President.
- The Senate,
Melbourne, 25th July, 1912.
7. DEFENCE BILL (1912).—Mr. Tudor, for Mr. Roberts, moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message 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 to-morrow.
8. PAPERS.—Mr. Thomas presented, pursuant to Statute—
Papua Act—Financial Regulation No. 77 amended—Statutory Rules 1912, Nos. 60 and 131.
9. ERROR IN DIVISION LIST.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Tellers for the "Noes" had stated that in the Division in the House on Tuesday last, on the motion referring back to the Commissioners the report on the Electoral Divisions of Queensland, they had accidentally recorded the name of the honorable Member for Cowper (Mr. Thomson) instead of the name of the honorable Member for Mernda (Mr. Harper), and that he would direct the Clerk to correct the record of the Division accordingly.
10. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered, That the consideration of the remaining General Business be postponed until after the consideration of Order of the Day Government Business No. 1.
11. ROYAL COMMISSIONS BILL (1912).—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 further considered and agreed to.

Clauses 2, 3 and 4 debated and agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6 read—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes the following amendments were made, after debate—

Page 2, line 32, omit "continue in attendance" and insert "appear and report himself".

Page 3. After section 6D, insert the following section :—

"6DD. A statement or disclosure made by any witness in answer to any question put to him by a Royal Commission or any of the Commissioners shall not (except in proceedings for an offence against this Act) be admissible in evidence against him in any civil or criminal proceedings in any Commonwealth or State Court or any Court of any Territory of the Commonwealth."

Statements made
by witness not
admissible in
evidence against
him.

Page 3, line 14 (Section 6E) :—

After "convicted" insert "on information by the Attorney-General".

Mr. Cook moved the following amendment :—

Line 17, omit "Five hundred pounds and not more than One thousand pounds".

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Cook moved the following amendment :—

Line 18, omit "three" and insert "two."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

On the motion of Mr. Sinclair the following amendment was made :—

Line 22, after "copies of" insert "such matter as is relevant to the inquiry".

Mr. Cook moved the following amendment :—

Line 24, omit "appearing" and insert "summoned to appear".

Debate ensued.

By leave, the proposed amendment was amended to read as follows :—

Line 24, after "witness" insert "summoned to appear or".

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put.

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The Committee divided—

Ayes, 12.		Noes, 24.	
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Sampson	Mr. Brennan	Mr. Ozanne
Mr. Cook	Mr. Sinclair	Mr. Cann	Mr. Page
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Thomson	Mr. Catts	Mr. Riley
Mr. Glynn		Mr. Charlton	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Kelly	<i>Tellers.</i>	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Scullin
Mr. McWilliams	Mr. Greene	Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Palmer	Mr. W. Elliot Johnson	Mr. Fisher	Mr. Thomas
		Mr. Frank J. Foster	Mr. Tudor
		Mr. Frazer	Mr. West
		Mr. Hughes	
		Mr. W. J. Johnson	<i>Tellers.</i>
		Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Watkins
		Mr. Mathews	Mr. Webster

And so it was negatived.
Progress 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.

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

And then the House, at twenty minutes past 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. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Hedges*, Mr. Hans Irvine, Mr. W. H. Irvine, and Sir William Lyne*.

* On leave.

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