

1913.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 43.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 1913.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. DECIMAL SYSTEM.—Mr. Dankel moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should take into consideration the advisableness of establishing the decimal system in respect to coinage and weights and measures.  
Debate ensued.  
Mr. Groom 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, 20th November next.
3. PENSIONERS, OLD-AGE AND INVALID—INCREASE OF PAYMENTS TO.—Mr. Chapman moved, pursuant to Order, That, owing to the increased cost of living, an increase should be made in the payments to old-age and invalid pensioners.  
Debate ensued.  
Sir John Forrest 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, 20th November next.
4. ELECTIONS—ROYAL COMMISSION.—Mr. Sinclair moved, pursuant to Order, That a Royal Commission consisting of five Members of this House should be appointed to inquire into and report upon—
  - (a) the conduct of the Federal Elections, 1913 ;
  - (b) a better method of purifying the electoral rolls ;
  - (c) the prevention of plural voting or personation at elections ;
  - (d) a more perfect system of conducting elections.
 Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.
5. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the remaining Orders of the Day, General Business, be postponed as follows, viz. :—Nos. 3 and 4 until Thursday, 20th November next ; Nos. 5 and 6 until Thursday, 6th November next ; and No. 7 until Thursday, 20th November next.
6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—EXCISE TARIFF [SUGAR] BILL (1913).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 4.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "An Act to impose a Duty of Excise upon certain Sugar," to which it has agreed without requests.

The Senate,  
Melbourne, 23rd October, 1913.

THOS. GIVENS,  
President.

23rd October, 1913.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SUGAR BOUNTY BILL (1913).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 5.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to provide for a Bounty to Growers of Sugar Cane and Beet*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

THOS. GIVENS,  
President.

The Senate,  
Melbourne, 23rd October, 1913.

8. APPROPRIATION (WORKS AND BUILDINGS) BILL 1913-14.—The Order of the Day having been read for the third reading—Sir John Forrest moved, That the Bill be now read a third time.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a third time.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—PENSIONS TO WIDOWS WITH CHILDREN.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 6.*

The Senate transmits to the House of Representatives the following Resolution which has been agreed to by the Senate, and requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives therein, viz.:—

"That, in the opinion of the Senate, section 51 of the Constitution Act should be amended to give the Parliament of the Commonwealth power to grant pensions to widows with young children dependent on them; and that the necessary referendum of the electors of the Commonwealth be taken at the next general election."

The Senate,  
Melbourne, 23rd October, 1912.

THOS. GIVENS,  
President.

Ordered—That the consideration of the foregoing Message be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.

10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-four minutes past eleven o'clock p.m. adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Burchell, Mr. Catts, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Livingston, Mr. McWilliams, and Mr. Pigott.

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