

1914-15-16.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 119.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Finlayson rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "The Circulation of Political Leaflets printed in the German Language".
Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—
Mr. Finlayson moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
3. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SUPPLY (WORKS AND BUILDINGS) BILL (No. 2) 1916-17.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

<p>MR. SPEAKER,</p> <p>The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "<i>An Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and seventeen for the purposes of Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c.</i>," to which it has agreed without amendment.</p> <p>The Senate, Melbourne, 29th September, 1916.</p>	<p><i>Message No. 134.</i></p> <p>THOS. GIVENS, President.</p>
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4. INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS BILL (1916).—Mr. Higgs moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend Sections Twenty-four and Twenty-six of the *Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908-1912* and to provide for Pensions to Inmates of Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Higgs 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.
Mr. Higgs moved, by leave, That the Standing Orders be suspended to enable the remaining stages to be passed without delay.
Question—put and passed.
Ordered, after debate—That the second reading be taken after Order of the Day, Government Business, No 3.

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5. ESTATE DUTY ASSESSMENT BILL (1916).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Higgs moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
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.)

Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.
Title agreed to.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr. Higgs, the House adopted the Report.
Mr. Higgs moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That the Standing Orders be suspended, to enable the remaining stage to be passed without delay.
Question—put and passed.
On the motion of Mr. Higgs, the Bill was read a third time.

6. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (1916).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Higgs moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
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.)

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to, after debate.
Title agreed to.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr. Higgs, the House adopted the Report.
On the motion of Mr. Higgs, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

7. LAND TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (1916).—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of His Excellency the Governor-General's Message No. 168—
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Higgs—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide for the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner of Land Tax.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.
Mr. Higgs moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That the Standing Orders be suspended, to enable the remaining stages to be passed without delay.
Question—put and passed.
The said Resolution was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Higgs, was adopted by the House.
Ordered—That Mr. Higgs and Mr. Hughes do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.
Mr. Higgs then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it now be read a first time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
Mr. Higgs moved, 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 agreed to, and to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr. Higgs, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

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8. INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS BILL (1916).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Higgs moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

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.)

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to, after debate.

Clause 5 omitted, after debate, and the following new clause, on the motion of Mr. Higgs, inserted in place thereof :—

“5. Section thirty-one of the *Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908–1912* is amended by omitting sub-section (2.) therefrom, and inserting in its stead the following sub-section :—

Amendment of s. 31.

“(2.) If it appears to the magistrate that the claimant, although otherwise qualified for, is unfit to be intrusted with, a pension, a pension at the rate of Two shillings per week may be granted to the claimant, and payment of the pension may be suspended until the claimant has become an inmate of a benevolent asylum.”

On the motion of Mr. Higgs, the following new clause was added to the Bill :—

“6. After section forty of the *Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908–1912* the following section is inserted :—

“40A. Money payable to a pensioner while he is an inmate of a benevolent asylum or hospital may be paid to the asylum or hospital for the benefit of the pensioner, without production of the pension certificate.”

Payment of pension where pensioner in benevolent asylum or hospital.

On the motion of Mr. W. Elliot Johnson, the following new clause was added to the Bill :—

“7. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act persons in receipt of pensions shall be entitled to supplement their income by earnings up to Fifty-two pounds per annum without being subject to any deductions in the pension paid.”

Mr. W. Maloney moved, That the following new clause be added to the Bill :—

“8. Notwithstanding anything contained in any Act all hospitals, &c., that shelter an old-age pensioner or an invalid pensioner shall be paid the difference between the pocket-money, Two shillings, paid to such pensioners and the amount of pension paid.”

Proposed new clause, after debate, negatived.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Mr. Higgs moved, by leave, That the Bill be now recommitted to a Committee of the whole House for the re-consideration of new clause 7.

Question—put and passed.

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

(In the Committee.)

New clause 7, on the motion of Mr. Higgs, after debate, omitted.

Bill to be reported with a further amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Mr. Higgs moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That the Standing Orders be suspended, to enable the remaining stages to be passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Mr. Higgs, the House adopted the Reports, and the third reading was made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—LAND TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (1916).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 137.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to provide for the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner of Land Tax,*” to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 29th September, 1916.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

29th September, 1916.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—ESTATE DUTY ASSESSMENT BILL (1916).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 135.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the Estate Duty Assessment Act 1914 by making provision for the Appointment of an Assistant Commissioner of Taxation*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 29th September, 1916.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

11. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (1916).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 136.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the Income Tax Assessment Acts 1915 by making provision for the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner of Taxation*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 29th September, 1916.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

12. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS BILL (1916).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 172.

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to amend Sections Twenty-four and Twenty-six of the *Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908-1912* and to provide for Pensions to Inmates of Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals.

Melbourne, 29th September, 1916.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration forthwith 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.)

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Higgs—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to amend Sections Twenty-four and Twenty-six of the *Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908-1912* and to provide for Pensions to inmates of Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.

The said Resolution was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Higgs, was adopted by the House.

13. INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS BILL (1916).—The Order of the Day having been read for the third reading—Mr. Higgs moved, That the Bill be now read a third time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a third time.

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

(In the Committee.)

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

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

15. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Higgs moved, by leave, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until three p.m. on a date to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, which day of meeting shall be notified by Mr. Speaker to each Member by telegram or letter.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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16. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.—Mr. Higgs moved, by leave, That leave of absence be granted to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.
Question—put and passed.

17. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS BILL (1916).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 138.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend Sections Twenty-four and Twenty-six of the 'Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908-1912' and to provide for Pensions to Inmates of Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals,*" to which it has agreed without amendment.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 29th September, 1916.

18. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Prime Minister's Department—

The War—Relief of Allied Territories in the Occupation of the Enemy—Correspondence with the United States Ambassador (Paper presented to the British Parliament).

Department of Defence—

Small Arms Factory—Report for year ended 30th June, 1915.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

19. WAYS AND MEANS [ENTERTAINMENTS TAX RESOLUTION].—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Higgs moved, That a tax be imposed upon payments for admission to entertainments, at the rates set out in the following Schedule:—

Where the payment for admission to any entertainment excluding the amount of the Tax—							
does not exceed 3d.	...	...	...	...	...	...	½d.
exceeds 3d. but does not exceed 6d.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1d.
exceeds 6d. but does not exceed 9d.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1½d.
exceeds 9d. but does not exceed 1s.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2d.
exceeds 1s.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2d. for the first 1s., and 1d. for every 6d. or part of 6d. by which the payment exceeds 1s.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at its next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

20. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at thirty-seven minutes past five o'clock p.m., adjourned until three o'clock p.m., on a day to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, and to be notified by him to each Member by telegram or letter.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Lieut.-Colonel Abbott*, Mr. Burchell, Mr. Burns, Mr. Catts, Sir John Forrest, Mr. Glynn, Mr. Hampson, Mr. Mahony, Mr. McGrath*, Mr. Orchard, Mr. Ozanne*, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Riley, General Ryrie*, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Watkins.

* On leave.

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