

1917.
(SECOND SESSION.)

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 35.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1917.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 225, 226, 230.
3. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES OF MOTION.—Ordered, That Notices of Motion, Government Business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
4. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL.—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 again read—

Clause debated and agreed to.

Clause 2 debated and agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4—

Mr. Groom moved, That the following definition be inserted before the definition of "State Board" :—

"'Child' means a son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, adopted son, or adopted daughter, and includes an ex-nuptial child."

Amendment debated and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, debated—

Mr. Groom moved, That sub-clause (2.) be omitted, and that the following sub-clause be inserted in place thereof :—

"(2.) For the purposes of this Act any person who—

- (a) is or has been, during the present war, a member of the Naval or Military Forces enlisted or appointed for or employed on active service outside Australia or employed on a ship of war; or
- (b) is or has been, during the present war, a member of the Army Medical Corps Nursing Service accepted or appointed by the Director-General of Medical Services for service outside Australia; or
- (c) is serving or has served during the present war in the Naval or Military Forces of any part of the King's Dominions, other than the Commonwealth, on proof to the satisfaction of the Commission, that he had, before his enlistment or appointment for service, resided in the Commonwealth; or
- (d) is or has been, during the present war, a member of the Army Medical Corps Nursing Service of any part of the King's Dominions, other than the Commonwealth, on proof to the satisfaction of the Commission, that she had, before her acceptance by or appointment to that service, resided in Australia,

shall be deemed to be an Australian soldier within the meaning of this Act."

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

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Clause 5 debated—

Mr. Lamond moved, That the following words be added to the clause :—“and with the supervision of the expenditure of all funds provided by the Commonwealth for the States for the purposes of the settlement of returned soldiers upon the land.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7—

Mr. Rodgers moved, That all the words in sub-clause (2.) after the word “shall” (line 13) be omitted, and that the following words be inserted in place thereof :—“appoint six other persons to be Commissioners, such persons to be first approved by the Commonwealth Parliament, and on the happening of any vacancy in the office of Commissioner the Governor-General shall appoint a person approved by the Commonwealth Parliament to the vacant office.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Considine moved, That the following words be inserted after the word “Commissioners” (line 14):—“three of whom shall be persons recommended by a *bonâ fide* organization, or organizations, of returned soldiers and sailors”.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 12.		Noes, 32.	
Mr. Anstey	Mr. Mahony	Mr. Archibald	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Bayley	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Chanter	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Considine		Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Fenton	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Corser	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Fowler	Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Fleming	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Lister	Mr. W. Maloney	Sir John Forrest	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Glynn	Mr. Spence
		Mr. Gregory	Mr. Story
		Mr. Groom	Mr. John Thomson
		Mr. Heitmann	Mr. Watt
		Mr. Jensen	Mr. Webster
		Mr. Kelly	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Lamond	
		Mr. Livingston	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Mackay	Mr. Greene
		Mr. Maxwell	Mr. Manifold

And so it was negatived.

Mr. McWilliams moved, That the words “two of whom shall be returned soldiers or sailors” be inserted after the word “Commissioners” (line 14).

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Fenton moved, That the following words be inserted after the words just inserted :—“from recommendations made by the recognised associations of returned soldiers and sailors”.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 13.		Noes, 31.	
Mr. Anstey	Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Archibald	Mr. Manifold
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Bayley	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Tudor	Sir Robert Best	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Considine		Mr. Boyd	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Finlayson		Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Fowler	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Corser	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Kelly	Mr. J. H. Catts	Sir John Forrest	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Glynn	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Gregory	Mr. Spence
		Mr. Groom	Mr. John Thomson
		Mr. Hughes	Mr. Watt
		Mr. Lamond	Mr. Webster
		Mr. Leckie	
		Mr. Lister	
		Mr. Livingston	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Lynch	Mr. Greene
		Mr. Mackay	Mr. Wise

And so it was negatived.

Clause, as amended, debated and agreed to.

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Clause 8 debated—
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 sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO DAYLIGHT SAVING REPEAL BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 49.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to repeal the 'Daylight Saving Act 1916'*," as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Melbourne, 25th September, 1917.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO DEFENCE BILL (1917).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 50.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Defence Act 1903-1915'*," as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Melbourne, 25th September, 1917.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SUPPLY BILL (No. 3) 1917-18.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 36.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*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 eighteen*," to which it has agreed without requests.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 26th September, 1917.

8. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
The War—Report on the Administration of the National Relief Fund up to 31st March, 1917—
(Paper presented to British Parliament).
Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

War Precautions Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, Nos. 229 and 243.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That Order of the Day No. 2, Government Business, be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 3.
10. INCOME TAX BILL (1917).—SENATE'S REQUESTS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of the Requests made by the Senate in regard to this Bill—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(*In the Committee.*)

The Committee proceeded to consider the Amendments requested by the Senate, which are as follow :—

SCHEDULE OF REQUESTS BY THE SENATE FOR AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE IN THE INCOME TAX BILL (1917).

No. 1.—Page 2, clause 6, sub-clause (2.), line 45, after "work" insert "and is in receipt of a gross income not exceeding One hundred and fifty pounds".

No. 2.—Page 2, clause 6, sub-clause (2.), at end of paragraph (d) add "or that he is over the age of sixty years and has a gross income less than One hundred pounds".

Sir John Forrest moved, That requested Amendment No. 1 be made.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

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The Committee divided—

Ayes, 34.		Noes, 11.	
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Lynch	Mr. Anstey	Mr. W. Maloney
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Tudor
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Manifold	Mr. Brennan	
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Maxwell	Mr. J. H. Catts	
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Palmer	Mr. Considine	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Mahony
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Sampson	Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Yates
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Sinclair		
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Bruce Smith		
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Laird Smith		
Mr. Groom	Mr. Spence		
Mr. Hughes	Mr. John Thomson		
Mr. Jensen	Mr. Watt		
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Webster		
Mr. Lamond			
Mr. Leckie	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Lister	Mr. Greene		
Mr. Livingston	Mr. Wise		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Sir John Forrest moved, That requested Amendment No. 2 be made.

Mr. Boyd moved, That the word "sixty" be omitted from the requested Amendment, and that the words "twenty-one" be inserted in place thereof.

Debate ensued.

Amendment ruled out of order.

Mr. Boyd moved, That the words "is over the age of sixty years and" be omitted from the requested Amendment.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 13.		Noes, 32.	
Mr. Anstey	Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Bayley	Mr. Manifold
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Yates	Sir Robert Best	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Brennan		Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Palmer
Mr. J. H. Catts		Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Considine	<i>Tellers:</i>	Sir John Forrest	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Glynn	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Lynch	Mr. Mahony	Mr. Gregory	Mr. Bruce Smith
		Mr. Groom	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Heitmann	Mr. Spence
		Mr. Hughes	Mr. John Thomson
		Mr. Jensen	Mr. Watt
		Mr. Kelly	Mr. Webster
		Mr. Lamond	
		Mr. Leckie	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Lister	Mr. Greene
		Mr. Livingston	Mr. Wise

And so it was negatived.

Question—That requested Amendment No. 2 be made—put and passed.
Resolutions to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

On the motion of Sir John Forrest, the House adopted the Report.

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

11. ESTATE DUTY ASSESSMENT BILL (1917).—Sir John Forrest moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Estate Duty Assessment Act 1914-1916*.
Question—put and passed.

12. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORKS—FLINDERS AND HENDERSON NAVAL BASES.—
Mr. Watt moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, the following works be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for their report thereon, viz. :—

Flinders Naval Base—Erection of Workshops, Hospital, Detention Barracks, Quarters for Married Officers and Warrant Officers ; Water, Sewerage, and Storm-water reticulations ; Electric Distribution System ; and accessory works for that establishment. *Henderson Naval Base*—Two Breakwaters, Excavations, Reclamations, Basins or Quaywalls, Floating Dock, Administrative Buildings, Permanent Railways.

26th September, 1917.

Mr. Watt having laid on the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed works—
Debate ensued.

Mr. Joseph Cook 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 this sitting at a later hour.

13. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That Order of the Day No. 4 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 5.

14. TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, by leave, That the honorable Member for Gippsland (Mr. Wise) be appointed a Temporary Chairman of Committees for the remainder of this sitting.

Question—put and passed.

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

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Jensen moved, That the Tariff proposals, as defined in the *Customs Validation Act 1917*, as amended by Resolution proposed by the Minister for Trade and Customs on the tenth day of August, One thousand nine hundred and seventeen, be further amended as hereunder set out, and that on and after the tenth day of August, One thousand nine hundred and seventeen, at four o'clock in the afternoon, Victorian time, duties of Customs be collected in pursuance of the Tariff proposals as so further amended.

SCHEDULE.

IMPORT DUTIES.

Tariff Item.	Tariff on Goods the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom.	General Tariff.
58. By omitting sub-item (D) and inserting in its stead the following sub-items :—		
58 (D) Semolina	Free	Free
(E) N.E.I., including Phosphorized Wheat .. per lb.	½d.	½d.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

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

16. MINISTERS OF STATE BILL (1917).—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. 34—

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

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Groom moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to increase the maximum number of Ministers of State from eight to nine and to increase the amount appropriated for their salaries from Thirteen thousand six hundred and fifty pounds to Fifteen thousand three hundred pounds.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 33.

Mr. Archibald	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Corser	Mr. Sampson
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Groom	Mr. Spence
Mr. Heitmann	Mr. Story
Mr. Jensen	Mr. John Thomson
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Leckie	Mr. Watt
Mr. Lister	Mr. Webster
Mr. Livingston	
Mr. Lynch	
Mr. Mackay	Tellers :
Mr. Manifold	Mr. Greene
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Wise

Noes, 6.

Mr. Blakeley
Mr. Brennan
Mr. Considine
Mr. Fenton

Tellers:

Mr. J. H. Catts
Mr. Mahony

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Resolution to be reported.

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The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Mr. Groom 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. Groom, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Groom and Mr. Joseph Cook do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

Mr. Groom 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. Groom moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 34.

Mr. Archibald	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Corser	Mr. Sinclair
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Spence
Mr. Groom	Mr. Story
Mr. Heitmann	Mr. John Thomson
Mr. Jensen	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Watt
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Webster
Mr. Leckie	Mr. Wise
Mr. Lister	
Mr. Livingston	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Lynch	Mr. Greene
Mr. Mackay	Mr. Manifold

Noes, 7.

Mr. Blakeley
Mr. J. H. Catts
Mr. Considine
Mr. Finlayson
Mr. Mahony

Tellers :

Mr. Brennan
Mr. Fenton

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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. Groom, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

And the House continuing to sit till after midnight—

THURSDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 1917.

17. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—FIRST GENERAL REPORT.—Mr. John Thomson, Chairman, brought up the First General Report of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, and moved, That it be printed.

Question—put and passed.

18. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL.—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 again resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 8 *(continued)*—

Mr. Rodgers moved, That all the words after the word "Commissioner" (line 33) be omitted, and that the following words be inserted in place thereof:—"shall be bound by and shall carry out the provisions of the repatriation scheme set forth in the Schedule to this Act and may while Parliament is not in session make recommendations to the Governor-General, but during the session of Commonwealth Parliament may make recommendations to the Parliament for the enactment of such regulations as the Commission may deem necessary for the effectual carrying out of the purposes of this Act and may advise the said Parliament or when not in session the Governor-General upon such matters as may be necessary and expedient for the purpose of giving effect to this Act."

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Groom moved, That the words "to Australian soldiers upon their discharge from service and to the children of deceased or incapacitated soldiers" be omitted, and that the following words be inserted in place thereof:—

"—(a) to Australian soldiers upon their discharge from service ;
 (b) to the children, under the age of eighteen years, of deceased or incapacitated soldiers ; and
 (c) where by reason of special circumstances the Commission considers that assistance and benefits should be granted, to the widows of deceased Australian soldiers."

Amendment agreed to

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Mr. J. H. Catts moved, That the following sub-clause be added to the clause:--

"(2.) The Commission shall, amongst other things, provide in such regulations for the recognition of the following principles:--

- (a) The housing free for life of totally disabled soldiers, widows of soldiers, and dependent children of deceased soldiers until they reach the age of eighteen years.
- (b) The maintenance of returned wounded or otherwise incapacitated soldiers, until, in the opinion of the Commission, means of earning a livelihood have been provided.
- (c) The registration and fulfilment by Public Authorities, private employers and other persons of promises or inducements to men upon enlistment of—
 - (i) making up the difference of military and civilian pay;
 - (ii) payment of insurance premiums;
 - (iii) keeping open of positions upon return of the persons to whom such promise was made;
 - (iv) any other promise or inducement to men upon enlistment.
- (d) the establishment in civil life of all returned soldiers, and where financial assistance is necessary, to provide that the amount necessary to enable them to support a family shall not be subject to the payment of interest or repayment of principal."

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 8.		Noes, 29.	
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Bayley	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Considine		Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Fenton	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Glynn	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Gregory	Mr. Sinclair
		Mr. Groom	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Heitmann	Mr. Spence
		Mr. Jensen	Mr. Story
		Mr. Kelly	Mr. Watt
		Mr. Lamond	Mr. Webster
		Mr. Leckie	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Lister	
		Mr. Livingston	
		Mr. Lynch	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Mackay	Mr. Greene
		Mr. Manifold	Mr. John Thomson

And so it was negatived.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9 debated and agreed to.

Clause 10—

Mr. Groom moved, That after the word "persons" (line 2) the following words be inserted:—"two of whom shall be returned soldiers or sailors".

Amendment debated and agreed to.

Mr. Considine moved, That the following words be added to the previous amendment:—"from recommendations of Returned Soldiers' and Sailors' Associations or such associations of that State."

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 12.		Noes, 25.	
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Bayley	Mr. Palmer
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Story	Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Considine	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Corser	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Finlayson		Mr. Glynn	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Kelly	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Gregory	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Lynch	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Groom	Mr. Spence
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Heitmann	Mr. John Thomson
		Mr. Jensen	Mr. Watt
		Mr. Lamond	Mr. Webster
		Mr. Leckie	
		Mr. Lister	
		Mr. Livingston	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Mackay	Mr. Greene
		Mr. Maxwell	Mr. Manifold

And so it was negatived.

Clause, as amended, debated—

Mr. Sinclair moved, in line 11, sub-clause 4, after the word "office" insert "for a period of three years or".

Amendment debated and negatived.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

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Clauses 11 to 14 agreed to.

Clause 15 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 16, 17, 18 agreed to.

Clause 19—

On the motion of Mr. Groom, in line 20 the word "Any" was omitted and the words "Claims in respect of" inserted.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 20 and 21 agreed to.

Clause 22—

On the motion of Mr. Groom, in lines 44-5 the words "to Australian soldiers upon their discharge from service and to the children of deceased, or incapacitated soldiers," were omitted and the following words were inserted :—

"(a) to Australian soldiers upon their discharge from service;

(b) to the children, under the age of eighteen years, of deceased and incapacitated Australian soldiers; and

(c) where by reason of special circumstances the Commission considers that assistance and benefits should be granted, to the widows of deceased Australian soldiers".

Clause, as amended, debated and agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Mr. Groom 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. Groom, the House adopted the Report.

Mr. Groom moved, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

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

19. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORKS—FLINDERS AND HENDERSON NAVAL BASES.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate upon the following motion of Mr. Watt :—

That in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914* the following works be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for their report thereon, namely :—*Flinders Naval Base*—Erection of Workshops, Hospital, Detention Barracks, Quarters for Married Officers and Warrant Officers; Water, Sewerage, and Storm-water reticulations; Electric Distribution System; and accessory works for that establishment. *Henderson Naval Base*—Two Breakwaters, Excavations, Reclamations, Basins or Quay-walls, Floating Dock, Administrative Buildings, Permanent Railways.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

20. SUSPENSION OF SITTING.—At nine minutes past seven o'clock in the morning the sitting was suspended until four o'clock in the afternoon.
21. RESUMPTION OF SITTING.—At twenty-four minutes past four o'clock in the afternoon the sitting was resumed.
22. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—INCOME TAX BILL (1917).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 37.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to impose Taxes upon Incomes,*" and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill as amended by the House at the request of the Senate.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 27th September, 1917.

23. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—MINISTERS OF STATE BILL (1917).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 38.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to increase the maximum number of Ministers of State from eight to nine and to increase the amount appropriated for their Salaries from Thirteen thousand six hundred and fifty pounds to Fifteen thousand three hundred pounds,*" to which it has agreed without amendment.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 27th September, 1917.

24. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 39.

The Senate has agreed to the amendments made by the House of Representatives in the Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to make provision for the Repatriation of Australian Soldiers.*"

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 27th September, 1917.

25. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, 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.

Question—put and passed.

26. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.—Mr. Hughes 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.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-three 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 as fixed by resolution of the House this day.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Lieut.-Col. Abbott*^a, Mr Atkinson, Mr. Burchell*^a, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Falkiner, Mr. R. W. Foster, Mr. McDonald*, Mr. McGrath*^a, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Page, Mr. Pigott, Mr. Riley, Brigadier-General Ryrie*^a, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. West.

* On leave.
(^a) Joined Australian Imperial Expeditionary Forces.

WALTER A. GALE,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.