

1917-18.

 THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 103.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1918.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MEMBER SWORN.—Edwin Wilkie Corboy, Esquire, was introduced, and made and subscribed the oath required by law.
3. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Fowler 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 cabled reports of statements made in Great Britain by Mr. Hughes regarding the position of Australia in certain questions arising out of the War."
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. Fowler moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the debate was interrupted in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, and the Business of the Day was called on.
4. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Papua—Infirm and Destitute Natives Account—Statement of the Transactions of the Trustees, 1917-18.
5. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—ELECTORAL BILL (1918).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 74.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to Consolidate and Amend the Law relating to Parliamentary Elections and for other purposes*," to which it has agreed with the amendments indicated in the annexed Schedule, in which amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 20th November, 1918, a.m.

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.

F.6286.

20th November, 1918.

(In the Committee.)

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

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE.

No. 1.—Page 9, clause 39, lines 17–19, leave out paragraph (c).

No. 2.—Page 9, clause 39, after sub-clause (1.) insert the following new sub-clause :—

“(1A.) In addition to the persons specified in the last preceding sub-section, all persons who are or have been members of the Forces within the meaning of the *Commonwealth Electoral (War-Time) Act 1917* and who—

(a) have lived in Australia for six months continuously, and

(b) are natural-born or naturalized subjects of the King,

shall be entitled to enrolment subject to the provisions of Part VII. of this Act. This provision shall have effect only during the continuance of the present state of war and for a period of three years thereafter.”

No. 3.—Page 20, clause 82, lines 1 and 2, leave out “a greater number of candidates than are required to be elected are nominated”, insert “the number of candidates nominated is greater than the number required to be elected”.

No. 4.—Page 20, clause 85, line 20, leave out “fifteen”, insert “ten”.

No. 5.—Page 22, clause 90, line 35, leave out “issued”, insert “received”.

No. 6.—Page 23, clause 92, line 7, leave out “(in blank)”, insert “(unmarked)”.

No. 7.—Page 23, clause 92, leave out paragraphs (b) and (c).

No. 8.—Page 23, clause 92, after paragraph (e) insert the following new paragraph :—

“(ee) The elector shall then and there, in the presence of the authorized witness, but so that the authorized witness cannot see the vote, mark his vote on the ballot-paper in the prescribed manner, and shall fold the ballot-paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and hand it so folded to the authorized witness ;”

No. 9.—Page 23, clause 92, after paragraph (f) insert the following new paragraph :—

“(ff) If the elector's sight is so impaired that he cannot vote without assistance, the authorized witness, if so requested by the elector, shall mark the elector's vote on the ballot-paper in the presence of a witness and shall then and there fold the ballot-paper so that the vote cannot be seen, and deal with it in the manner provided in the last preceding paragraph ;”

No. 10.—Page 28, leave out clause 113.

No. 11.—Page 32, clause 124, leave out paragraph (a).

No. 12.—Page 32, clause 125, leave out paragraph (a).

No. 13.—Page 34, clause 134, line 2, leave out “regulations under section one hundred and thirteen or”.

No. 14.—Page 34, clause 136, line 4+, leave out “section one hundred and thirteen and of”.

No. 15.—Page 35, clause 136, line 28, leave out paragraph (b).

No. 16.—Page 36, clause 137, lines 2 and 3, leave out “section one hundred and thirteen and of”.

No. 17.—Page 36, clause 137, line 50, leave out paragraph (b).

Amendments Nos. 1 to 3 agreed to.

Amendment No. 4 debated.

Question—That the Amendment be agreed to—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 29.

Lieut.-Col. Abbott	Mr. Lynch
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Orchard
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Pigott
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Poynton
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Corser	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Spence
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Webster
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Wise
Mr. Greene	
Mr. Groom	
Mr. Jowett	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Leckie	Mr. Story
Mr. Lister	Mr. John Thomson

Noes, 14.

Mr. Charlton	Mr. Nicholls
Mr. Considine	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Corboy	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Fenton	Mr. West
Mr. Higgs	
Mr. Mahony	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Page
Mr. McGrath	Mr. Riley

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Amendments Nos. 5 and 6 agreed to.

Amendment No. 7 debated and agreed to.

Amendment No. 8 agreed to.

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Amendment No. 9 debated—

Mr. Charlton moved, That the Amendment be amended by the insertion of the words "chosen by the voter" after the words "of a witness".

Question—That the Amendment be so amended—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 15.		Noes, 33.	
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Riley	Lieut.-Col. Abbott	Mr. Lynch
Mr. Considine	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Corboy	Mr. Watkins	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Orchard
Mr. Fenton	Mr. West	Mr. Bamford	Mr. Pigott
Mr. Higgs		Mr. Bayley	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Mahony		Sir Robert Best	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. W. Maloney	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Chapman	Mr. Sampson
Mr. McGrath	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Corser	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Nicholls	Mr. Page	Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Bruce Smith
		Mr. Fowler	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Glynn	Mr. Spence
		Mr. Greene	Mr. Webster
		Mr. Gregory	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Groom	
		Mr. Jowett	
		Mr. Kelly	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Leckie	Mr. Story
		Mr. Lister	Mr. John Thomson

And so it was negatived.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment No. 10 debated and agreed to.

Amendments Nos. 11 to 17 agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Mr. Glynn moved, That the Report be now adopted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 35.		Noes, 13.	
Lieut.-Col. Abbott	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Charlton	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Orchard	Mr. Considine	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Palmer	Mr. Corboy	Mr. West
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Pigott	Mr. Fenton	
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Poynton	Mr. W. Maloney	
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Mathews	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Sampson	Mr. Nicholls	Mr. Mahony
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Sinclair	Mr. Riley	Mr. Page
Mr. Corser	Mr. Bruce Smith		
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Laird Smith		
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Spence		
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Watt		
Mr. Greene	Mr. Webster		
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Wise		
Mr. Groom			
Mr. Jowett			
Mr. Kelly	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Leckie	Mr. Story		
Mr. Lynch	Mr. John Thomson		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

6. LAND TAX BILL (1918).—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.

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 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3—

Mr. Poynton moved, as an amendment, That the words "and all subsequent years" be omitted from the clause.

Debate ensued.

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

20th November, 1918.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 2.
Tellers:
 Mr. Mathews
 Mr. West

Noes, 27.
 Lieut.-Col. Abbott Mr. Palmer
 Mr. Atkinson Mr. Pigott
 Mr. Bayley Mr. Poynton
 Mr. Bruce Mr. Rodgers
 Mr. Corser Mr. Sampson
 Mr. R. W. Foster Mr. Sinclair
 Mr. Glynn Mr. Laird Smith
 Mr. Greene Mr. Watt
 Mr. Groom Mr. Webster
 Mr. Jowett Mr. Wise
 Mr. Leckie
 Mr. Livingston
 Mr. Lynch
 Mr. Mackay
 Mr. Orchard

Tellers:
 Mr. Story
 Mr. John Thomson.

And so it was negatived.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Watt, the Standing Orders having previously been suspended (*see page 365. ante*) the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Watt moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at one minute to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—
 Mr. Anstey*, Mr. Blakeley, Mr. Burchell*(^a), Mr. J. H. Catts, Sir Joseph Cook*, Mr. Fleming*(^a),
 Mr. Heitmann*(^a), Mr. Hughes*, Mr. Jensen, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McWilliams, Brigadier-
 General Ryrie*(^a), Mr. Wallace(^a), and Mr. Yates*(^a).

* On leave.

(^a) Joined Australian Imperial Force.

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