

1917-18.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 117.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 1918.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. WAR-TIME PROFITS TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (1918).—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 agreed to.

Clause 2—

Mr. Watt moved, as an amendment, That the word "Co-operative" (line 11) be omitted from the clause.

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Watt moved, as an amendment, That the word "thirteen" (line 17) be omitted and that the word "twelve" be inserted in place thereof.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Watt moved, as an amendment, That the words "and by omitting the definition of 'Co-operative Company'" be added at the end of the clause.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3—

Mr. Leckie moved, as an amendment, That the following paragraph be inserted (after line 1)—

“(a) by inserting in paragraph (b) of sub-section (1.), after the words ‘poultry raising’, the following words:—‘the raising and sale by the breeder of stud stock bred by him’.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause debated.

Mr. Watt moved, as an amendment, That the word "and" (second occurring, line 13) be omitted from the clause.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Boyd moved, as an amendment, That the words "(not being an agency carried on by any person who carries on any other business)" be omitted from the clause.

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Watt moved, as an amendment, That the words "or sales" (line 20) be omitted, and that the words "sales, leases, loans, insurances, or collections of money" be inserted.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Watt moved, as an amendment, That the following paragraph be added to the clause:—

“(c) by inserting after sub-section (1.) the following sub-section:—

“(1A.) For the purposes of this section ‘Co-operative Company’ means a company in which not less than two-thirds of the shares are held by members who are *bona fide* primary producers or suppliers to the Company.”

Amendment agreed to.

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Mr. Corser moved, as an amendment, That the following paragraphs be added to the clause :—

- “(d) by inserting in sub-section (3.) thereof after the words ‘business to which this Act applies’ the words ‘or is a shareholder of a company the number of shareholders of which does not exceed twenty, and which carries on a business to which this Act applies.’;
- (e) by inserting in that sub-section after the words ‘management of the business’ the words ‘or, in the case of a company as aforesaid, was wholly employed in the service of the company.’; and
- (f) by adding at the end of that sub-section the following paragraph :—

‘and

- (c) when a shareholder in a company as aforesaid be entitled to a refund of the part of the tax payable by the company which bears the same proportion to the tax payable by the company as the dividends received by him bear to the total dividends distributed by the company.’”

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 postponed.

Clause 6—

Mr. Page moved, as an amendment, That the following words be added to the clause “and by inserting after sub-section (1.) the following sub-section :—

‘(1A.) Where an application is made to the Commissioner under this section for an increase of the statutory percentage as respects a pastoral business carried on in a district which is proved to the Commissioner to be liable to severe drought and in which the capital of the business is liable to be seriously decreased or wholly lost through drought, the Commissioner shall consider such application and may increase the statutory percentage in respect of such business to any percentage not exceeding twenty per centum.’”

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 7—

Mr. Watt moved, as an amendment, That paragraphs (e) and (f) be omitted, and that the following be inserted in place thereof :—

“(e) by adding at the end of sub-section (5.) thereof the following proviso :—

‘Provided that in calculating the income tax under this sub-section no deduction shall be made from the profits on account of the war-time profits tax payable in respect of those profits.’”

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Pigott moved, as an amendment, That the following paragraph be inserted after paragraph (g) :—

“(gg) By inserting after sub-section (13.) the following sub-section :—

‘Notwithstanding anything contained in the last preceding sub-section, where in the case of a pastoral business war-time profits tax has been paid; and in any subsequent accounting period during the continuance of this Act the net result of the business shows a loss, the owner of the business shall be entitled to a refund of the amount of the loss: Provided that the amount to be refunded to any person in pursuance of this sub-section shall not exceed the amount of war-time tax paid by him.’”

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Watt moved, as an amendment, That all the words (lines 33 to 39 of page 5) from and inclusive of the words “is distributed” up to and inclusive of the words “from the deduction” be omitted, and that the words “arises from business carried on with members of the company or society” be inserted in place thereof.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, debated and agreed to.

Clauses 8 and 9 agreed to.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Atkinson reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, on Monday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Northern Territory—Ordinances of 1918—

No. 14.—Crown Lands.

No. 15.—Closing of Roads.

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4. ADJOURNMENT: MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: ALSO *HANSARD*—OMISSION OF REMARKS.—Mr. Watt moved, That the House do now adjourn, and in so doing announced to the House that Mr. Jensen had that day been removed from the office of Minister of State for Trade and Customs.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that, his attention having been drawn by the Crown Law authorities to certain references made in Committee by an honorable Member yesterday, he (Mr. Speaker), after consultation with that Member, had directed the elimination of certain words from the *Hansard* proof.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at fifteen minutes past five o'clock p.m., adjourned until Monday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Anstey*, Mr. Archibald, Mr. Burchell*(a), Sir Joseph Cook*, Mr. Falkiner, Mr. Fleming*(a), Mr. Heitmann*(a), Mr. Hughes*, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Mathews, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. McGrath, Brigadier-General Ryrie*(a), Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. Yates*(a).

* On leave.

(a) Joined Australian Imperial Force.

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