

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 21.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 22ND APRIL, 1920.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. **PRINTING COMMITTEE—FIRST REPORT FROM.**—Mr. Corser, for the Chairman, brought up the First Report from the Printing Committee (sitting in conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate).
The Report was read by the Clerk, as follows:—

REPORT.

The Printing Committee have the honour to report that they have met in Conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee, having considered the Petition and Papers presented to Parliament, recommend that the following be printed:—

Audit Act—Finance 1918-19—Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during year ended 30th June, 1919, together with Report of Auditor-General thereon.

Norfolk Island—Report of Administrator for year ended 30th June, 1919.

Commonwealth Bank Act—Aggregate Balance-sheet at 31st December, 1919, together with Auditor-General's Report thereon.

*Shipbuilding Agreements between the Commonwealth and (a) William Beardmore and Co. Ltd. and (b) Vickers Ltd. in connexion with construction of ships in Great Britain.

E. B. C. CORSER,
for Chairman.

* Presented to House of Representatives only.

Mr. Corser moved, That the Report be agreed to.
Question—put and passed.

3. **PAPERS.**—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Peace—Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and Germany, signed at Versailles, 28th June, 1919—Index. (Paper presented to the British Parliament.)
Wool Clips—Cablegrams, &c., constituting the contract between the Imperial and the Commonwealth Governments regarding the purchase of Australian Wool Clips.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

4. **JUDICIARY BILL (1920).**—Mr. Groom, pursuant to leave given on the 12th ultimo, brought up a Bill intitled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Judiciary Act 1903-1915'*" and for other purposes," and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

5. **INCOME TAX.—BASIS FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS.**—Mr. Mackay moved, pursuant to notice, That this House is of opinion that the fairest method of calculation for purposes of the Federal Income Tax as applied to primary producers would be upon a basis of five years' operations.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

The time for precedence to Notices of Motion (General Business) having terminated, the Order of the Day (General Business) was called on.

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6. CONSTITUTION—CONVENTION *RE* AMENDMENT.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Austin Chapman:—

- (1) That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that as early as practicable a Constitutional Convention should be summoned for the purpose of considering the need, substance, and form of any amendment of section 51 of the Constitution, and that such Convention shall—
- (a) consist of ten (10) representatives of each State, elected on the existing Federal franchise, according to the principle of proportional representation;
 - (b) hold meetings at such times and places as it may think fit;
 - (c) submit within twelve months to the Governor-General the draft of any amendments adopted by such Convention.
- (2) That any such amendments so adopted shall be a proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution, and shall be dealt with in accordance with section 128 of the Constitution for passage by Parliament and submission to the electors.
- (3) That an Enabling Bill to give effect to the foregoing should be introduced to Parliament as early as practicable—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Higgs addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.

The time for precedence to General Business having terminated, the Orders of the Day, Government Business, were called on. †

7. SUPPLY [“GRIEVANCE DAY”].—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—

Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Mr. Tudor moved, as an amendment, That the following words be inserted after the word “That” :—
“this House protests against the misleading answers given to the Member for Hindmarsh by the Defence Department in relation to the services in the A.I.F. of Mr. G. E. Yates (ex-Member for Adelaide)”.

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put and negatived.

Ordered—That the House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into the said Committee.

8. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL (1920).—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 22 further considered.

Mr. Parker Moloney moved, as an amendment, That the following words be inserted before the word “In” in the first line of the clause :—“This part of this Act shall be administered by the existing Pensions Department”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 23.		Noes, 24.	
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lister
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Riley	Mr. Bell	Mr. Mackay
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Blundell	Mr. Marks
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Ryan	Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Stewart	Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Francis	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Corser	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Gabb	Mr. West	Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Wienholt	Mr. Greene	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Hill		Mr. Groom	Mr. Wise
Mr. Lazzarini		Mr. Jackson	
Mr. Mahony	<i>Tellers :</i>	Mr. Jowett	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Makin	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Kerby	Mr. Burchell
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. James Page	Mr. Lamond	Mr. Story

And so it was negatived.

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Mr. Makin moved, as an amendment, That the following paragraph be inserted to follow paragraph (c) (lines 47 and 48) :—

“(d) or who has been engaged abroad in the manufacture of munitions”.

Question—That the paragraph proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 17.		Noes, 29.	
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lister
Mr. Blundell	Mr. Riley	Mr. Bell	Mr. Marks
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Ryan	Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Tudor	Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Fenton	Mr. West	Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Gabb		Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Lazzarini		Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Mahony	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Francis	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Makin	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Gibson	Mr. Stewart
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. James Page	Mr. Greene	Mr. Wienholt
		Mr. Groom	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Hill	
		Mr. Jackson	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Jowett	Mr. Burchell
		Mr. Kerby	Mr. Story
		Mr. Lamond	

And so it was negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 23 amended, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, by the omission of the words “ termination of the appointment or ” (page 9, lines 6 and 7), and agreed to as amended.

Clause 24—

Debate ensued.

Mr. James Page moved, as an amendment, That the words “ and those appointed shall be returned soldiers ” be added to sub-clause (1).

Debate ensued.

Mr. Mahony moved, That progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Question—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 15.		Noes, 28.	
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Ryan	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Kerby
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Stewart	Mr. Bell	Mr. Lister
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Blundell	Mr. Marks
Mr. Gabb	Mr. West	Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. Lazzarini		Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Mahony		Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Makin	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Mathews	Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Riley	Mr. James Page	Mr. Francis	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Gibson	Mr. Wienholt
		Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Groom	
		Mr. Hill	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Jackson	Mr. Burchell
		Mr. Jowett	Mr. Story

And so it was negatived.

Sir Joseph Cook moved, That progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Question—put and passed.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—WAR GRATUITY BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 3.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act relating to the Payment of the War Gratuity,* ” 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.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 22nd April, 1920.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

Ordered—That the consideration of the foregoing Message in Committee of the whole House be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

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10. **ADJOURNMENT.**—Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Austin Chapman, Mr. Charlton*, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Hay, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Earle Page, and Mr. Watt*.

* On leave.

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