

1920.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 22.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 23RD APRIL, 1920.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (JOINT).—Mr. Hughes moved, by leave, That, in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act, the following Members be appointed Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, viz.:—Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Bamford, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Mathews, and Mr. Parker Moloney.
Question—put and passed.
3. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (JOINT).—Mr. Hughes moved, by leave, That, in accordance with the provisions of the Committee of Public Accounts Act, the following Members be appointed Members of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, viz.:—Mr. Bayley, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Prowse, and Mr. West.
Debate ensued.
Sir 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 a later hour this day.
4. "ANZAC" DAY.—In memory of the members of the Australian Imperial Force who fell in the great war, honorable Members rose and, for one minute, stood in silence.
5. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Wool Clips—Letter of Sir J. M. Higgins, Chairman of the Central Wool Committee, dated 10th March, 1920, respecting the cablegrams, &c., constituting the contract between the Imperial and the Commonwealth Governments regarding the purchase of Australian Wool Clips, and other matters connected therewith.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Customs Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1920, Nos. 50, 55.
6. 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 24—
Consideration resumed of the amendment moved by Mr. James Page, viz. :—That the words "and those appointed shall be returned soldiers" be added to sub-clause (1).
Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.
Clause agreed to.
Clause 25 agreed to.
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Clause 26—

Mr. Poynton moved, as an amendment, That the word " active " (line 8) be omitted from the clause. Amendment, by leave, temporarily withdrawn.

Clause debated.

Mr. Lamond moved, as an amendment, That the words " in fact resulted from an occurrence happening during the period he was " (lines 3 and 4) be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the words " resulted from his employment as ".

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause amended, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, by the omission of the word " active " (line 8).

Clause, as amended, debated and agreed to.

Clauses 27 and 28 agreed to.

Clause 29 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 30 and 31 agreed to.

Clause 32 amended, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, by the omission of the word " pensioner " (line 6) and the insertion of the words " member of the Forces " in place thereof; by the omission of the words " in the case of any member of the Forces " (lines 7 and 8); by the insertion of the words " to the member " after the word " Act " (line 8); and by the omission of the word " pensioner " (line 13) and the insertion of the word " member " in place thereof.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 33, 34, and 35 agreed to.

Clause 36 debated and agreed to.

Clause 37 amended, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, by the omission of the word " Commission " (line 19) and the insertion of the word " Board " in place thereof.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 38 to 44 agreed to.

Clause 45—

Debate ensued.

Mr. Blakeley moved, as an amendment, That the words " and any Australian who is serving or has served during the present war in the Naval or Military Forces of any part of the King's Dominions " be inserted after the word " service " (line 17).

Debate ensued.

Mr. Poynton moved, That the clause be postponed until the end of the Bill.

Question—put and passed.

Clause 46 amended, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, by the omission of the words " this Part " (line 24 of page 13) and the insertion of the words " Parts IV. and V." in place thereof; by the omission of the words " this Part " (line 28) and the insertion of the words " Parts IV. and V. of this Act " ; and by the omission of the words " this Part " (line 8 of page 14) and the insertion of the words " those Parts " in place thereof.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 47 amended, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, after debate, by the omission of the words " in the nature of " (line 11) and the insertion of the words " payments or allowances in the nature of, or supplementary to, " ; by the insertion after the word " mothers " (line 35) of the words " or step-mothers " ; by the omission of the words " widows and were, prior to the enlistment of those soldiers, dependent upon them " (lines 37-39); and the insertion of the words " either widowed, divorced or deserted " in place thereof; by the omission of the word " and " (line 45); by the omission of the words " or step-mothers, " (line 46); and by the insertion after sub-paragraph (v) of paragraph (d) of the following sub-paragraph:—

" and

(vi) any person who was, prior to the death of an Australian soldier, recognised as his wife although not legally married to him ".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 48 amended, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, as follows:—

Lines 1-2, omit " Minister may, on the recommendation of the Commission, " insert " Commission may ".

After sub-clause (4.), insert the following sub-clauses:—

" (4A.) The Commission shall appoint, for each Local Committee, an executive consisting of seven members of the Committee."

" (4B.) Five members of the executive of each Local Committee shall be nominated by the Committee, and two members shall be selected by the Commission."

Lines 16-17, omit " shall hold office during the pleasure of the Minister ", insert " and of the executive of a Local Committee shall hold office during the pleasure of the Commission ".

Lines 19-20, omit " shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, " insert " and the executive of any such Local Committee shall ".

Lines 21-22, omit " may exercise such of the powers of the Committee as are prescribed ", insert " shall have and may exercise—

(a) such of the powers of the Committee as are prescribed, and

(b) such other powers as are prescribed:

Provided that, in the exercise of any powers conferred in pursuance of paragraph (b) of this sub-section, the executive shall be responsible only to the Commission."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

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Clauses 49 to 52 agreed to.

Clause 53—

Mr. West moved, as an amendment, That the words " as prescribed " (line 9) be omitted, and that the words " by the Auditor-General " be inserted in place thereof.

Question—That the proposed amendment be agreed to—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 15.		Noes, 31.	
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Riley	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lamond
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Ryan	Mr. Bell	Mr. Lister
Mr. Considine	Mr. Tudor	Sir Robert Best	Mr. Livingston
Mr. Fenton	Mr. West	Mr. Blundell	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Gabb		Mr. Bruce	Mr. Marr
Mr. Lazzarini		Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Mahony	<i>Tellers :</i>	Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Prowse
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Brennan	Mr. Robert Cook	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. James Page	Mr. Corser	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Fleming	Mr. Stewart
		Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Wienholt
		Mr. Francis	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Greene	
		Mr. Gregory	<i>Tellers :</i>
		Mr. Groom	Mr. Burchell
		Mr. Hill	Mr. Story
		Mr. Hughes	

And so it was negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 54, 55, and 56 agreed to.

Clause 57 amended, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, as follows :—

Page 17, line 28, after " mothers ", insert " or step-mothers ".

Page 17, lines 30-32, omit " widows and were, prior to the enlistment of those soldiers, dependent upon them ", insert " either widowed, divorced or deserted ".

Page 17, line 39, omit " and ".

Page 17, line 40, omit " or step-mothers ".

Page 17, after sub-paragraph (v) of paragraph (d), insert the following sub-paragraph :—

" and

(vi) any person who was, prior to the death of an Australian soldier, recognised as his wife although not legally married to him ".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Postponed clause 45—

Amendment previously moved by Mr. Blakeley, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Groom moved, as an amendment, That the words after the word " this " (line 16) up to and inclusive of the word " Act " (line 20) be omitted, and that the following words be inserted in place thereof :—

" Part shall extend to—

(a) any soldier of the Imperial Reserve Forces called up for active service during the present war ; and

(b) any person who 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 active service outside that Dominion,

on proof to the satisfaction of the Commission that he was, immediately before being called up or before his enlistment, as the case may be, domiciled in the Commonwealth ".

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

New Clauses—

On the motion of Mr. Groom, the following new clauses were inserted after clause 56—

" 56A. The Commission shall furnish to the Minister annually, for presentation to the Parliament, a report of the administration and operation of this Act." Report.

" 56B. Where prior to the passing of this Act a local fund for the repatriation of Australian soldiers has been raised in any district, the control of that fund shall, subject to the regulations, be vested in the trustees for the time being of the fund." Funds used prior to Act.

Mr. Hill moved, That the following new clause be inserted in the Bill, to follow clause 47 :—

" 47A. The Commission shall have power to assist soldiers in establishing industries on a co-operative basis, such industries to include the manufacture of boots, woollen goods, and clothing, tanning, wool-scouring, fellmongering (and kindred industries), saw-milling, and other enterprises " Establishment of Industries.

On the motion of Mr. Poynton, after debate, the proposed clause was amended by the insertion of the words " subject to the approval of the Minister " after the word " shall " in the first line.

Proposed clause, as amended, debated and inserted in the Bill.

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Schedules—

First Schedule amended, on the motion of Mr. Groom, by the insertion after the words "*pensions payable*" of the words "subject to the provisions of the Third Schedule".

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Second Schedule amended, on the motion of Mr. Lamond, after debate, by the insertion, after the first paragraph, of the following new paragraph :—

"The Commission may grant a pension, not exceeding the Special Rate of Pension, to any member of the Forces who is suffering from tuberculosis, and who has been for at least six months an inmate of an establishment for persons so suffering, and has been discharged from that establishment.

Provided that this paragraph shall not authorize the grant of a pension to such member of the Forces, unless upon his discharge from the establishment the medical officer in charge of that establishment has certified that such discharge is not a menace to public health."

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Third Schedule amended, on the motion of Mr. Groom, by the insertion after the item "Widowed mother of an unmarried member" of the following item :—

"Widowed or unmarried mother of an un- married member who was born out of wed- lock and who was brought up by her	The rate specified in column two of the First Schedule, provided that, in the case of a widow, she became a widow, either prior to, or within three years after, the death of the member."
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Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Fourth Schedule amended, on the motion of Mr. Poynton, by the omission of all the words after the word "disability" (second occurring) and the insertion of the following in place thereof :—

Description of Disability.	Rate of Permanent Pension payable. Percentage of rate in column 4 in First Schedule opposite Member's Rate of Pay.
	Per centum
Loss of two or more limbs	100
Loss of both eyes	100
Loss of one eye, together with loss of leg, foot, hand or arm	100
Loss of both arms	100
Loss of both legs	100
Loss of both feet	100
Loss of both hands	100
Loss of hand and foot	100
Loss of all fingers and thumbs	100
Lunacy	100
Wounds, injuries, or disease, involving total permanent disabling effects	100
Very severe facial disfigurement	100
Amputation of leg at hip, or of right arm at shoulder joint (if right handed); or of left arm at shoulder joint (if left handed)	} 100 for first six months 80 thereafter
Severe facial disfigurement	80
Total loss of speech	80
Loss of leg or foot	} 100 for first 6 months 75 thereafter
Loss of arm or hand	} 100 for first six months 75 thereafter
Total deafness	70
Loss of vision in one eye	50

For the purposes of this Schedule a leg, foot, hand, arm or eye is deemed to be lost if it is rendered permanently and wholly useless.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Mr. Parker Moloney moved, That the Bill be now recommitted to a Committee of the whole House with a view to amending clause 22 by inserting before the word "In" (line 4) the following words:—

"This Part of this Act shall be administered by the existing Pensions Department".

Debate ensued.

Question put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 23.

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Prowse
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Considine	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Hill	Mr. West
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Wienholt
Mr. Mahony	
Mr. Makin	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. James Page
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Riley
Mr. McDonald	

Noes, 32:

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Higgs
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Bell	Mr. Lamond
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Lister
Mr. Blundell	Mr. Livingston
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marks
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Marr
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Fleming	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Wise
Mr. Francis	
Mr. Greene	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Groom	Mr. Story

And so it was negatived.

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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, and, after debate, the Bill was read a third time.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE CANTEENS FUNDS BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 4.

The Senate has passed a Bill for "*An Act to make provision for the administration and disposal of the Funds of Australian Imperial Force Canteens, and for other purposes,*" and transmits the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 23rd April, 1920.

Sir Granville Ryrie moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message 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 the next day of sitting.

8. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Northern Territory—Ordinance of 1920—No. 1—Tin Dredging.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Groom moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at thirteen minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday next, at three o'clock p.m.

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

* On leave.

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