

1920.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 87.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 8TH OCTOBER, 1920.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. WAR SERVICE HOMES BILL (1920)—[SENATE'S MESSAGE No. 54].—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of the Senate's Message No. 54—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, which are as follow :—

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO WHICH THE SENATE HAS AGREED WITH AMENDMENTS.

Amendment of the House of Representatives, viz. :—

After Clause 14 add the following new clause :—

16.—(1.) The Commissioner shall as soon as possible after the close of the Annual Report financial year submit to the Minister an annual report, showing for each State, the number of applications received and dealt with, homes erected and average costs, a *résumé* of operations, and a balance-sheet showing cash and stocks on hand, and an account of moneys received and expended during that year, also a balance-sheet showing trading operations in connexion with timber mills and a profit and loss account of each timber mill.

(2.) The annual report shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within fourteen days after its receipt by the Minister if the Parliament is then sitting, or if the Parliament is not then sitting, within fourteen days after the next meeting of Parliament.

Amendment agreed to by the Senate with the following amendments, viz. :—

No. (1) Before the words "(1.) The Commissioner" in proposed new clause 16 insert "After section 50A of the Principal Act the following section is inserted :—
50B."

No. (2) Omit from sub-clause (1.) of proposed new clause 16 all the words from and including the words "the financial year", and insert in their stead the words "each financial year furnish to the Minister for presentation to the Parliament—

(a) a report on the administration and operation of this Act showing particularly, in respect of each State—

(i) the number of applications for homes and advances received and dealt with ;

(ii) the number of homes erected ; and

(iii) the average cost of each home erected ;

(b) a balance-sheet showing cash and stocks on hand and an account of moneys received and expended during that year ; and

(c) a balance-sheet showing trading operations in connexion with all industrial or manufacturing concerns acquired by the Commissioner, and a profit and loss account in respect of each such concern".

Mr. Rodgers moved, That the amendments of the Senate, in new clause 16 added to the Bill by the House of Representatives, be agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Rodgers, the House adopted the Report.

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3. JUDICIARY BILL (1920).—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.

Mr. Tudor moved, as an amendment, That all the words after "That" be omitted, with a view to inserting the following in place thereof:—"in consequence of the exploitation of the people of Australia by profiteering and of the urgent necessity of dealing therewith, the Bill be now withdrawn for the purpose of introducing at the earliest possible moment more comprehensive measures which will confer all necessary jurisdiction and powers of investigation on the High Court of Australia and other existing Courts for the enforcement thereof, and which for the purposes of exercising the powers contained in the Constitution will provide *inter alia* for—

- (a) requiring statistics of the cost of production of all goods manufactured in Australia and of the landed cost of all goods imported into Australia;
- (b) requiring statistics of the profits accruing to trading corporations or derived from Inter-State shipping, and of the rate of profit on the capital actually employed therein respectively;
- (c) penalties of fine and imprisonment for refusal to furnish such statistics, or for wilfully making false returns;
- (d) all purposes incidental to the above;
- (e) the extension of the Moratorium for the protection of primary producers and others requiring same."

Mr. Hughes 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. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—COAL.—Mr. Hughes, by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to coal.

Mr. Tudor, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

5. JUDICIARY BILL (1920).—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—and on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Tudor (see entry No. 3 ante)—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Makin, 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 the next sitting.

6. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Groom moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at fourteen minutes to four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Anstey, Mr. Bayley, Mr. Blakeley, Mr. Bowden*, Mr. Donald Cameron, Mr. J. H. Catts, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Considine, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Gabb, Mr. Hay, Mr. Hill, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Mahony, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Parker Moloney, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Earle Page, Mr. Riley, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Watt, and Mr. Wienholt.

* On leave.

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