

1920.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 113.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER, 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. STANDING ORDER No. 70—MOTION FOR SUSPENSION OF.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would preclude the taking of new Business after 11 o'clock p.m.
- Debate ensued.
Question—put.
The House divided—

Ayes, 33.

Mr. Blundell	Mr. W. Maloney
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Marks
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. McGrath
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Corser	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Greene	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Groom	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Hay	Mr. Wise
Mr. Higgs	
Mr. Jackson	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Lister	
Mr. Livingston	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Mackay	Mr. Story

Noes, 17.

Mr. Bell	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. James Page
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Riley
Mr. Considine	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Cunningham	
Mr. Gabb	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Lavelle	
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Makin	Mr. Watkins

There not being an absolute majority of the Members of the House voting in favour of the motion, Mr. Speaker declared that the Resolution was of no effect.

3. MEMBER NAMED.—Mr. James Page having used unparliamentary language to another honorable Member, and having refused to withdraw the expression; was named by Mr. Speaker for disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the honorable Member for Maranoa (Mr. James Page) be suspended from the service of the House.

Question—put.

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The House divided—

Ayes, 31.		Noes, 19.	
Mr. Bell	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Blundell	Mr. Marks	Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Maxwell	Mr. Charlton	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Bruce	Mr. McWilliams	Mr. Considine	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Earle Page	Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Fenton	Mr. West
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Prowse	Mr. Gabb	
Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Lavelle	
Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie	Mr. Makin	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Greene	Mr. Laird Smith	Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Mahony
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Stewart	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Riley
Mr. Groom	Mr. Wise		
Mr. Hay			
Mr. Higgs	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Jackson			
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Burchell		
Mr. Lister	Mr. Story		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The honorable Member, who had already withdrawn from the Chamber, was, therefore, under Standing Order No. 59, suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting.

4. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—APPROPRIATION BILL 1920-21.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 76.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and twenty-one and to appropriate the Supplies granted by the Parliament for such year,*" to which it has agreed without requests.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 25th November, 1920.

5. RIVER MURRAY WATERS BILL (1920).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Groom moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
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.)

Bill agreed to, and to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Fleming reported accordingly.

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

Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That the Standing Orders be suspended, to enable the remaining stage to be passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Mr. Groom, the Bill was read a third time.

6. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—ADDITIONAL TELEGRAPH LINE, PERTH TO EUCLA.—Mr. Wise moved, pursuant to notice, That in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, the following work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for its report, viz.:—Erection of an additional telegraph line from Perth to Eucla, *via* transcontinental railway route.

Question—put and passed.

7. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—PERTH (NEW) GENERAL POST OFFICE—EXTENSION.—Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, the following work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for its investigation and report thereon, viz.:—Perth new General Post Office building under construction—Extension by two floors for the accommodation of the Taxation and other Government Departments.

Mr. Groom having laid upon the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed work—

Question—put and passed.

8. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—SYDNEY GENERAL POST OFFICE—REMODELLING, ETC.—Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, the following work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for its investigation and report thereon, viz.:—Sydney—General Post Office—Remodelling and Additions.

Mr. Groom having laid upon the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed work—

Question—put and passed.

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9. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That Notice of Motion No. 4, Government Business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
10. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—SYDNEY—OFFICES FOR TAXATION AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS.—Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, the following work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for its investigation and report thereon, viz. :—Sydney—Offices for Taxation and other Commonwealth Departments.
Mr. Groom having laid upon the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed works—
Question—put and passed.
11. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That Notices of Motion Nos. 6 and 7, Government Business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
12. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, NORTH MELBOURNE.—Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, the following work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for its investigation and report thereon, viz. :—North Melbourne—Erection of automatic telephone exchange.
Mr. Groom having laid upon the Table a plan, &c., in connexion with the proposed work—
Question—put and passed.
13. INDUSTRIAL PEACE BILL (No. 2) (1920).—Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend Section Fourteen of the *Industrial Peace Act 1920*.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Groom brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
Ordered, by leave—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.
14. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That Orders of the Day Nos. 2 and 3 be postponed until after the consideration of Order of the Day No. 4, Government Business.
15. CARBIDE OF CALCIUM—RESTRICTION OF IMPORTATION, ETC.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Greene :—That the importation of carbide of calcium into the Commonwealth be prohibited except under licence by the Minister for Trade and Customs and subject to the following conditions :—
(1) That the price of Australian carbide of calcium f.o.b. Hobart shall not exceed £30 per ton except with the approval of the Minister ; and
(2) That the Minister is satisfied that the price charged for Australian carbide of calcium is not excessive—
Debate resumed.
Motion amended, on the motion of Mr. Groom, after debate, by the insertion of the words “ for twelve months from date ” after the word “ prohibited ” in line 3.
Motion, as amended, agreed to.
16. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Arbitration (Public Service) Act—
Awards and Orders made by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and other documents in the following cases :—
Australian Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Association. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Australian Letter Carriers' Association. (Dated 17th November, 1920) (two.)
Australian Postal Electricians' Union. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Australian Postal Linemen's Union. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Commonwealth General Division Officers' Union of the Trade and Customs Department of Australia. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Commonwealth General Division Telephone Officers' Association. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association—
(Dated 17th November, 1920.)
(Dated 19th November, 1920.)
(Dated 22nd November, 1920.)
Commonwealth Temporary Clerks' Association. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Federated Public Service Assistants' Association. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Line Inspectors' Association—Commonwealth of Australia. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Meat Inspectors' Association—Commonwealth Public Service. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Postal Sorters' Union of Australia. (Dated 17th November, 1920.)
Professional Officers' Association—Commonwealth Public Service. (Dated 18th November, 1920.)

25th November, 1920.

17. PINE CREEK-KATHERINE RAILWAY TO MATARANKA—APPROVAL OF CARRYING OUT OF WORK.—
Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work :—Extension of the Pine Creek-Katherine Railway southward as far as Mataranka (Bitter Springs).
Mr. Groom having laid upon the Table plans, book of reference, &c., in connexion with the proposed work—
Question—put and passed.
18. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—MATARANKA TO DALY WATERS RAILWAY.—Mr. Groom moved, by leave, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, the following work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for its investigation and report thereon, viz. :—
Northern Territory Railway—Extension from Mataranka to Daly Waters.
Mr. Groom having laid upon the Table a plan, &c., in connexion with the proposed work—
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.
19. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—RAILWAY—ODDNADATTA TO ALICE SPRINGS.—
Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, the following work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for its report, viz. :—Extension of the Port Augusta-Oodnadatta Railway from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs.
Mr. Groom having laid upon the Table a plan, &c., in connexion with the proposed work—
Question—put and passed.
20. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That all the intervening Business be postponed until after the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 18, General Business.
21. VOIDED ELECTION (BALLAARAT)—COMPENSATION TO MR. McGRATH.—Mr. Tudor moved, pursuant to notice, In view of the fact that the settlement of the questions in connexion with the disputed Ballaarat election was delayed for many months, and that the Ballaarat election of December, 1919, was declared null and void through official errors, this House is of opinion that some compensation should be made to David Charles McGrath, who by reason of such official errors was compelled to contest two elections, and, as a result of such official errors and of an additional election, was involved in much unnecessary but unavoidable expenditure for which the Government should make allowance.
Question—put and passed.
By leave Sir Joseph Cook, Mr. Ryan, and Mr. W. Maloney made statements in connexion with the foregoing matter.
22. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That all the intervening Business be postponed until after the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 16, General Business.
23. PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES BILL (No. 2) (1920).—Mr. Prowse moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Parliamentary Allowances Act 1920*.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Prowse brought up the Bill accordingly, 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.
24. PAPER.—Mr. Speaker presented—
Audit Act—Finance 1919-20—The Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during the year ended 30th June, 1920, accompanied by the Report of the Auditor-General.
Ordered, after debate, to be printed.
25. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—BASIC WAGE—ROYAL COMMISSION'S REPORT, ETC.—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPERS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Hughes, That the Papers [presented on the 23rd instant], viz. :—
Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage ; also a Memorandum by Mr. Commissioner Piddington, and a Memorandum by Mr. Commissioner Keep and Mr. Commissioner Gilfillan in connexion with the matter—
be printed—
Mr. Tudor moved, as an amendment, That the following words be added to the motion :—“ and in accordance with the definite pledge given by the Prime Minister in his policy speech at Bendigo on the 30th October, 1919, the Government should give effect immediately to the finding of the Commission.”
Mr. McWilliams moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.

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The House divided—

Ayes, 35.		Noes, 18.	
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lamond	Mr. Brennan	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Lister	Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Riley
Mr. Bell	Mr. Livingston	Mr. Charlton	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Blundell	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Considine	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Marks	Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Maxwell	Mr. Fenton	Mr. West
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. McWilliams	Mr. Gabb	
Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Lavelle	<i>Tellers:</i>
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Prowse	Mr. Makin	Mr. Mahony
Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. McGrath	Mr. Mathews
Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie		
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Laird Smith		
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Stewart		
Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise		
Mr. Gregory			
Mr. Groom	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Burchell		
Mr. Hill	Mr. Story		
Mr. Jackson			

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

26. INDUSTRIAL PEACE BILL (No. 2) (1920).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Groom moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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.)

Bill agreed to, and to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Charlton reported accordingly.

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

Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That the Standing Orders be suspended, to enable the remaining stage to be passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Mr. Groom, the Bill was read a third time.

27. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at thirteen minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow, at eleven o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Anstey, Mr. Bamford, Mr. Robert Cook, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Marr, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Watt, and Mr. Wienholt.

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