

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 197.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 1921.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Wireless Service—Draft Agreement between the Commonwealth and Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited with reference to the establishment of a Wireless Service between Australia and the United Kingdom, and in Australia, &c.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.
3. CASE OF MR. J. T. CALDWELL STATEMENT BY MR. FOWLER *RE* CORRESPONDENCE. Mr. Fowler, Chairman of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, made, by leave, a Statement in reference to certain correspondence in connexion with the case of Mr. J. T. Caldwell, who had given evidence before the Committee in regard to the War Service Homes Commission, and, in conclusion, the honorable Member laid on the Table the said Correspondence.  
Ordered—That the Correspondence lie on the Table.
1. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—CUSTOMS TARIFF (1921).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 97.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to Duties of Customs*," and acquaints the House of Representatives that the Senate has considered Message No. 91 of that House, dated 16th November, 1921, in reference to such Bill.

The Senate does not again request the House of Representatives to make the amendments indicated in Requests Nos. 13, 18, 22, 23, 30, 39, 42, 44 (as to part), 47, 48, 49, 52, 72, 75 (as to part), 80, and 86.

The Senate has agreed to the modifications made by the House of Representatives in Requests for amendments Nos. 10, 21, 25, 35, 36, 37, 38, 44 (as to part), 46 (as to part), 53, 57, 65, 73, 74, 75 (as to part), 83, 87, and 92.

The Senate has resolved to press its Requests for amendments Nos. 11, 31, 32, 33, 34, 56, and 85, and again requests the House of Representatives to make such amendments, as shown in the annexed Schedule (No. 1).

Requests for amendments Nos. 26, 41, 43, 82, and 91, which were not made or were modified by the House of Representatives, have been dealt with by the Senate as shown in the annexed Schedule (No. 2), and the Senate requests the House of Representatives to further amend the Bill as now indicated in such Requests.

The Senate,

Melbourne, 24th November, 1921.

THOS. GIVENS,

President.

Statement by Mr. Speaker—Privileges of The House—Mr. Speaker said :

In reference to this Message, I desire to direct the attention of the House to the constitutional question it raises.

On receipt of a Message from the Senate the formal question usually proposed from the Chair is "That the consideration, in Committee, of the Message be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow", or some other day, but as the matter is one of great importance affecting the constitutional rights of this House, I will not propose that question until a motion has been moved on the floor of the House, as I am of the opinion that the Senate, in pressing certain Requests for Amendments in the Customs Tariff, has exceeded the rights conferred on the Senate by Section 53 of the Constitution.

The right of the Senate to press Requests for amendments in connexion with the Tariff has never been admitted by the House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives, "having regard to the fact that the public welfare demands the early enactment of the Tariff," on two previous occasions "refrained from the determination of its constitutional rights or obligations," as stated in its Message to the Senate dated 4th September, 1902, and again in its Message dated 28th May, 1908.

Mr. Greene moved, That the consideration in Committee of the whole House, of the Message, be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

Mr. Watkins 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 to-morrow.

24th November, 1921.

5. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
 Customs Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1921, No. 212.  
 Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at Corio, Victoria—For Defence purposes.  
 War Service Homes Act—Land acquired under, in New South Wales, at—  
 Auburn, Kogarah, Lewisham, and Merewether.
6. SUPPLY [“GRIEVANCE DAY” AND ESTIMATES].—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.  
 Question—put and passed.  
 Whereupon Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

*(In the Committee.)*

ESTIMATES, 1921-22.

The Question was again proposed (*see p. 702 ante*), That the first item in the Estimates, under Division No. 1.—The Senate—namely—

The President ... .. £1,100

be agreed to—and was passed.

Mr. Earle Page moved, That the remainder of the Division be postponed.

Question—put and negatived.

Debate ensued on remainder of Division.

Remainder of Division agreed to.

Remainder of Vote—“The Parliament” (Divisions Nos. 2 to 13)—agreed to.

Vote—“The Prime Minister’s Department £416,798”—

Mr. Earle Page moved, That the Vote be postponed.

Debate ensued.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Division No. 14—“Administrative £100,407”—

Mr. Earle Page moved, That the amount be reduced by £1.

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Debate on Division continued.

Division agreed to.

Division No. 15 agreed to.

Division No. 16 debated and agreed to.

Division No. 17 debated and agreed to.

Division No. 18 agreed to.

Division No. 19—“High Commissioner’s Office £63,588”—

Mr. Earle Page moved, That the amount be reduced by £10,000.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

Division agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 20, 21, and 22 agreed to.

Division No. 23 debated and agreed to.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Bamford reported accordingly.

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

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twelve 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. Burchell, Mr. J. H. Catts, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Makin, Mr. Mathews, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Nicholls, and Mr. Tudor.

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