

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 26.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 24TH AUGUST, 1922.

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, pursuant to Statute—

War Service Homes Act—Land acquired under, in New South Wales, at Waratah.

3. WAR INDEMNITY BY GERMANY—PAYMENT IN GOODS.—Mr. W. Maloney moved, pursuant to notice, That, in view of the following facts, viz. :—

- (1) That the undue massing of gold in any single country with its immediate corollary of great disturbances of exchange rates is not proved by experience to benefit such country.
- (2) That the present exchange rates of the United States of America place a handicap on production equal to a 25 per cent. export duty on that country's exports.
- (3) That the share of the indemnity allotted to Australia is approximately £50,000,000 in gold.
- (4) That on the 30th June, 1921, the total Commonwealth Debt was £401,720,024, including War Debt, £359,606,000. On the 30th June, 1921, the total State Debts amounted to £458,408,898, making a total debt of £860,128,922.
- (5) That German exchange on the 31st October, 1921, was in the ratio of 710 marks for the pound as compared with the pre-war exchange of 20 marks. This equals 35 times multiplied by 50 millions, equalling £1,750,000,000 value in goods. (Note.—On 26th June, 1922, the ratio of exchange in Berlin was 1,525 marks to the pound)—

it is the opinion of this House that instead of Australia insisting upon its share of the German Indemnity, viz., about 50 millions sterling, being paid in gold, it would be better to accept it in goods (that are not manufactured in Australia, in order to preserve our manufactures and safeguard our Protective Tariff), which at the present rates of exchange would wipe out our War Debt and also the debts of Australia, and at the same time provide payable freight from Europe for our nationally-owned ships for many years.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Burchell 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 Thursday next.

4. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the consideration of Notices of Motion Nos. 2 and 3, General Business, be postponed until Thursday next.

5. DESTITUTE ALLOWANCE.—Mr. W. Maloney moved, pursuant to notice—

- (1) That this House is of opinion that the Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act should be amended in order to provide for a destitute allowance to be made to all inhabitants who are destitute, so that any person making a statutory declaration (to a postmaster, Customs Officer, or other appointed Commonwealth official, a schoolmaster, a union secretary, a magistrate, or other appointed individual) that he or she is insufficiently fed, clothed, or sheltered, shall be paid as soon as possible the sum of 15s. per week, and for each child 7s. 6d. per week, until relieved.
- (2) That the passing of the foregoing resolution be an instruction to the Government of the Commonwealth to bring in the necessary amending Act.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Bell addressing the House—

Closure.—Mr. McGrath moved, That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

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The House divided—

Ayes, 15.		Noes, 30.	
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Bayley	Mr. Hunter
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Scullin	Mr. Bell	Mr. Jackson
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Watkins	Sir Robert Best	Mr. Lamond
Mr. Mahony	Mr. West	Mr. Blundell	Mr. Lister
Mr. Makin		Mr. Bruce	Mr. Mackay
Mr. W. Maloney		Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marks
Mr. Mathews	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Chanter	Mr. Poynton
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Prowse
Mr. McGrath	Mr. Riley	Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers
		Mr. Foley	Sir Granville Ryrie
		Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Groom	
		Mr. Hay	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Higgs	Mr. Burchell
		Mr. Hughes	Mr. Marr

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued.

Mr. Foley addressing the House—

The time allowed for precedence to Notices of Motion, General Business, having expired, the debate was interrupted and the Orders of the Day, General Business, were called on.

6. POSTAL CHARGES—REDUCTION OF.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Bowden :—That, in the opinion of this House, the time has arrived to reduce the postal charges within the Commonwealth—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Burchell 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 Thursday next.

7. MEETING OF PARLIAMENT AT CANBERRA IN 1924.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Austin Chapman :—That, in the opinion of this House, His Majesty's Ministers of State for the Commonwealth should, after the Prorogation of the Session of Parliament in 1923, advise His Excellency the Governor-General to summon the Session to be held in 1924 at Canberra, the Federal Capital—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Wise 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 Thursday next.

8. OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS—INCREASE OF.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Austin Chapman :—That, in the opinion of this House, old-age and invalid pensions should be increased to One pound per week—

Mr. Marr moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 32.		Noes, 12.	
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Hunter	Mr. Gabb	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Jackson	Mr. Makin	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Bell	Mr. Jowett	Mr. Mathews	Mr. West
Mr. Blundell	Mr. Lamond	Mr. McDonald	
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Lister	Mr. McWilliams	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Fenton
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Marks	Mr. Riley	Mr. Mahony
Mr. Corser	Mr. Poynton		
Mr. Foley	Mr. Prowse		
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Rodgers		
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Laird Smith		
Mr. Greene	Mr. Wienholt		
Mr. Groom	Mr. Wise		
Mr. Hay			
Mr. Higgs	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Hill	Mr. Burchell		
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Marr		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 1 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 4, Government Business.

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10. MEAT EXPORT BOUNTIES BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of His Excellency the Deputy of the Governor-General's Message No. 4—

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Rodgers, after debate—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide for the payment of Bounties on the Export of Beef and Cattle from the Commonwealth.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.

The said Resolution was read and, on the motion of Mr. Rodgers, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Greene do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

Mr. Rodgers then 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 the next sitting.

11. SUPPLY—ESTIMATES—ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC., 1922-23.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC., 1922-23.

Vote—"Prime Minister's Department, £160," agreed to.

Vote—"The Home and Territories Department, £17,500," agreed to.

Vote—"The Department of Defence, £516,617," debated and agreed to.

Vote—"The Department of Trade and Customs, £5,013," agreed to.

Vote—"The Postmaster-General's Department, £250,000," debated and agreed to.

Vote—"The Department of Health, £40,740," agreed to.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Bruce—That the following Resolution be reported to the House:—

That there be granted to His Majesty to the service of the year 1922-23, for the purposes of Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., a sum not exceeding £830,030.

Leave to be asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Watkins reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

12. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Bruce 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.

13. SUPPLY RESOLUTION.—The Resolution reported from the Committee of Supply was read and, on the motion of Mr. Bruce, was adopted by the House.

14. WAYS AND MEANS RESOLUTION—ESTIMATES—ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC., 1922-23.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC., 1922-23.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Bruce—That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., for the year 1922-23, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £830,030.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Watkins reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee. The Resolution reported from the Committee was read and, on the motion of Mr. Bruce, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Bruce and Mr. R. W. Foster do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

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15. APPROPRIATION (WORKS AND BUILDINGS) BILL, 1922-23.—Mr. Bruce then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and twenty-three for the purposes of Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., and to appropriate such sum,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.

Mr. Bruce 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. Chanter reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Bruce, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

16. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Greene moved, That the House do now adjourn

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at five minutes past ten 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. Bowden, Mr. Austin Chapman, Mr. Considine, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Francis, Mr. Gregory*, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Earle Page, Mr. Pratten, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Story.

* On leave.

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