

1923.
(SECOND SESSION.)

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 17.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 12TH JULY, 1923.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. **PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS—REPORTS.**—Mr. Gregory, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, brought up the following Reports from the Committee :—
 - Report, together with Minutes of Evidence and Plans, relating to the Construction of Provisional Administrative Offices at Canberra.
 - Report, together with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices and Plans, relating to the proposed Erection of Provisional Parliament House, Canberra.
 - Report, together with Minutes of Evidence, relating to the Erection of Officers' Hostel, Canberra.

Mr. Gregory moved, That the Reports be printed.

Mr. Blakeley moved, as an amendment, That the following words be added to the motion :—“and that the Minority Report (as regards the Provisional Parliament House) signed by Arthur Blakeley, member of the Public Works Committee, be also printed.”

Debate ensued.

Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) 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.
3. **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE OF MOTION**—Ordered—That the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 1, General Business, be postponed until Thursday next.
4. **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 10s. 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. Groom (Attorney-General) 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, 26th instant.
5. **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE OF MOTION.**—Ordered—That the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 3, General Business, be postponed until Thursday next.
6. **NAVIGATION ACT—EFFECT ON TRADE.—SELECT COMMITTEE.**—Mr. Prowse moved, pursuant to notice, *amended*, That, in the opinion of this House, a Select Committee should be appointed to inquire into and report upon the effect of the operation of the Navigation Act upon Australian trade, industry, and development in the various States and Mandated Territories of the Commonwealth. Mr. Prowse not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that the honorable Member 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 Thursday next.

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7. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 1, General Business, be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 2.

8. **EX-GUNNER YATES.—SELECT COMMITTEE.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Charlton :—That a Select Committee be appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the statements made by the late Minister for Defence, Senator Pearce, and the ex-Prime Minister, the Right Honorable W. M. Hughes, reflecting on the character of ex-Gunner Yates, with power to recommend compensation if deemed necessary—

Mr. Groom (Attorney-General) moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "That" be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof :—

"(1) In view of the finding of the Special Committee appointed to inquire into the reply furnished by the Assistant Minister for Defence in this House on 14th April, 1920, regarding the War Service of ex-Gunner Yates, a Select Committee of this House be appointed to inquire into and report upon the question whether under the circumstances ex-Gunner Yates is entitled to any compensation, and, if so, what should be the amount of compensation.

(2) Such Committee consist of the following Members :—Mr. Charlton, Mr. Hurry, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Makin, and Mr. Thomas Paterson, three to form a quorum, with power to send for persons, papers, and records, and to adjourn from place to place, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken, and such Committee do report not later than one month from the date of the passing of this motion."

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and negatived.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put and passed.

Question—That—

(1) In view of the finding of the Special Committee appointed to inquire into the reply furnished by the Assistant Minister for Defence in this House on 14th April, 1920, regarding the War Service of ex-Gunner Yates, a Select Committee of this House be appointed to inquire into and report upon the question whether under the circumstances ex-Gunner Yates is entitled to any compensation, and, if so, what should be the amount of compensation.

(2) Such Committee consist of the following Members :—Mr. Charlton, Mr. Hurry, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Makin and Mr. Thomas Paterson, three to form a quorum, with power to send for persons, papers, and records, and to adjourn from place to place, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken, and such Committee do report not later than one month from the date of the passing of this motion—

put and passed.

9. **MEETING OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT AT CANBERRA.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Mahony :—That His Excellency the Governor-General be respectfully requested to summon the first meeting of the Tenth Parliament at the Federal Capital, Canberra—

Debate resumed.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 37.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Mahony
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Makin
Mr. Bruce	Mr. W. Maloney
Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. Manning
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Coleman	Mr. O'Keefe
Mr. Corser	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Forde	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Josiah Francis	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Roland Green	Mr. West
Mr. Groom	
Mr. Hughes	
Mr. Hurry	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Killen	Mr. Marr
Mr. Lacey	Mr. Prowse

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Mr. Bamford	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Whitsitt
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Yates
Mr. Hill	
Mr. Latham	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. McGrath	Mr. Robert Cook
Mr. McNeill	Mr. Duncan-Hughes

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

10. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 3, General Business, be postponed until Thursday next.

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11. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
British Phosphate Commission—Report and Accounts for year ended 30th June, 1922.
Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—

Public Service Act—Promotion of T. H. Cameron, Postmaster-General's Department.

12. SUPPLY [“GRIEVANCE DAY”].—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.

Mr. E. C. Riley moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word “That” be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof :—“this House is of the opinion that the unsympathetic administration of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, as reflected by the decrease in the total payment of War Pensions last year to the extent of £278,000, has caused considerable hardship and misery to returned soldiers and their dependants; further that the Government be instructed to place an adequate sum on the 1923-24 estimates to permit of a just and sympathetic administration of the Act.”

Debate ensued.

Mr. Edward Riley moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.

Resolved—That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into the said Committee.

13. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.—Nos. 6 and 7 of 1923—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

14. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Groom (Attorney-General) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at eight 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. Bayley, Mr. Donald Cameron, Sir Neville Howse, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Lister, Mr. Mann, Mr. Charles McDonald, Mr. Pratten, Mr. Seabrook, and Mr. Watkins.

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