

1923-24.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 64.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 29TH MAY, 1924.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Right Honorable W. A. Watt) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Yates rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "The appointment of Major Bell to the position of Deputy Commissioner of Old-age Pensions and Maternity Allowances in South Australia".
Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—
Mr. Yates moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
3. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Audit Act—Transfers of Amounts approved by the Governor-General in Council—Financial year 1923-24—Dated 21st May, 1924.
4. "HANSARD"—AUTHORIZATION OF PUBLICATION.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Sir Elliot Johnson:—That, in the opinion of this House, with a view to removing the uncertainty which exists at the present time as to the authority for the publication of the Parliamentary *Hansard*, section 3 of the Parliamentary Papers Act should be amended to include *Hansard* among the documents authorized by Parliament to be printed and published—
Debate resumed.
Mr. Marr 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, 12th June next.
5. DESTITUTE ALLOWANCE.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. W. Maloney:—
(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 resumed.
Mr. Marr moved, as an amendment, That after the first word "That" the following words be inserted:—"in the opinion of this House the question of amending the Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act, to provide for the payment of a destitute allowance, be referred to the Royal Commission that is inquiring into National Insurance for report."
Debate continued.
The time allowed for precedence of General Business, Orders of the Day, having terminated, General Business, Notices of Motion, were called on.

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6. ARCHITECTURAL PLANS, ETC., FOR GOVERNMENT AND COMMONWEALTH BANK WORKS—PUBLIC COMPETITION.—Mr. W. Maloney moved, pursuant to notice, That, in view of the pronounced favoritism of those who possess the gift of distribution of public works—

- (1) This House declares that all architectural plans, designs, specifications, &c., of all works for the Commonwealth Government and the Commonwealth Bank, the estimated cost of which amounts to £3,000 and upwards, shall be thrown open to the public competition of the architects of Australia.
- (2) Contingent upon this motion being carried, it be an instruction to the Government of the day to bring in amending legislation so as to control the policy of the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank in allotting architectural work and the like to one firm consisting of his relations and others.

Mr. Stewart (Minister for Works and Railways) 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, 19th June next.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE OF MOTION.—Ordered—That the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 2, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 19th June next.

8. NORTH-SOUTH RAILWAY—CONSTRUCTION OF OODNADATTA-ALICE SPRINGS SECTION.—Mr. Jackson moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should immediately commence the construction of that section of railway line Oodnadatta-Alice Springs, as part of the North-South Railway, and as recommended by the Public Works Committee.

Debate ensued.

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

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 32.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Latham
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Lister
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Manning
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marks
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Corser	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Roland Green	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Gregory	Mr. William Watson
Sir Littleton Groom	Mr. Whitsitt
Mr. Hill	
Mr. Hurry	<i>Tellers :</i>
Sir Elliot Johnson	Mr. Marr
Mr. Killen	Mr. Prowse

Noes, 28.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Frederick McDonald
Mr. Brennan	Mr. McNeill
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Charlton	Mr. O'Keefe
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Forde	Mr. West
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Yates
Mr. Jackson	
Mr. Lazzarini	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Mahony
Mr. Mann	Mr. Makin

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 12th June next.

9. WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF MOTION.—Mr. Roland Green withdrew the Notice of Motion standing in his name with reference to the appointment of a Select Committee for the purpose of inquiring into the dismissal of Mr. Charles Ellis, late Supply Officer, New South Wales, in the War Service Homes Department.

The time allowed for General Business having expired, Government Business was called on.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the intervening business be postponed until after the consideration of Notices of Motion, Government Business.

11. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—COMMONWEALTH BUILDING, BRISBANE.—Mr. Stewart (Minister for Works and Railways) moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1921*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for their investigation and report thereon:—Erection of building in Brisbane for accommodation of Commonwealth Departments (in lieu of the offices, the erection of which was reported on by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, on 28th October, 1922), upon a site embracing portion of the site referred to in the report of the Committee dated 28th October, 1922, and land adjacent thereto.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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12. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—SECRETARIAT BUILDING, CANBERRA.—Mr. Stewart (Minister for Works and Railways) moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1921*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report, viz. :—The erection of a building at Canberra for Departmental Secretariats, including provision for an Automatic Telephone Exchange and Post Office.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

13. NORTHERN TERRITORY CROWN LANDS BILL.—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.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 31.

Noes, 22.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Killen	Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Lister	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. O'Keefe
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Brennan	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Mann	Mr. Coleman	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Manning	Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. Marks	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Earle Page	Mr. Forde	Mr. West
Mr. Corser	Mr. Thomas Paterson	Mr. Gabb	Mr. Yates
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Pratten	Mr. Albert Green	
Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. Seabrook	Mr. Lazzarini	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Stewart	Mr. Frederick McDonald	Mr. Mahony
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Whitsitt	Mr. McNeill	Mr. Makin
Mr. Roland Green			
Mr. Gregory	<i>Tellers :</i>		
Sir Littleton Groom	Mr. Marr		
Mr. Hill	Mr. Prowse		
Mr. Jackson			

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

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

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 to 6 agreed to.

Schedule (put by clauses)—

Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.

Clause 6 debated and agreed to.

Clause 7—

Mr. Nelson moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "members" (line 43) to the end of sub-clause (1) be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof :—

"one of whom shall be a pastoralist elected by the pastoral lessees in the Northern Territory, two to be appointed by the Minister."

Debate ensued.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Bamford reported accordingly.

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

14. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at thirty-seven 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. Bayley, Mr. Gibson*, Mr. Hughes*, Mr. Hunter*, Mr. Lacey, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Charles McDonald*, Mr. McGrath, Sir Granville Ryrie, and Mr. Thompson.

* On leave.

FRANK I. CLAPIN,
Clerk Assistant, for Clerk of the House of Representatives.