

1923-24.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 84.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH JULY, 1924.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Right Honorable W. A. Watt) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. DEATH OF MR. W. H. STORY.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) having announced, with deep regret, the death, on the 13th instant, of Mr. W. H. Story, moved, by leave, That this House expresses its sincere regret at the death of William Harrison Story, for many years a Member of the Commonwealth Parliament, and places upon record its appreciation of his meritorious public services, and extends its profound sympathy to his family in their sad bereavement.
And Mr. Anstey (Acting Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and all Members present having risen in silence—
Question—passed.
3. PETITION.—Mr. Mann presented a Petition from Flora Bell, President, Housewives' Association, H. C. Terry, Labour Women's Organization, Amelia Macdonald, Women's Service Guild, and others, in the State of Western Australia, in favour of reducing the Cost of Living, and praying that relief from the heavy burdens which afflict them may be afforded during the current session by the abolition of the Customs duties on food, clothing, machinery used in primary and secondary industries, and building materials.
Petition received and read.
4. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Migration—British Oversea Settlement Delegation to Australia—Report, May 1924, to the President of the Oversea Settlement Committee from the Delegation appointed to inquire into Conditions affecting British Settlers in Australia. (Paper presented to British Parliament.)
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1924, Nos. 92, 93.
Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1924, No. 94.
Northern Territory Acceptance Act and Northern Territory Crown Lands Act 1890 (South Australia)—
Proclamation (dated 11th June, 1924) resuming portion of the Alice Springs Telegraph Reserve, &c., Northern Territory, together with Reasons for resumption.
Public Service Act—Appointment of C. C. King, Department of Works and Railways.
5. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT (ADMINISTRATION) BILL (1924).—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of the Amendments made by the Senate in this Bill—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

The Committee proceeded to consider the Amendments, which are as follow :—

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE.

No. 1.—Page 3, clause 7, at end of clause add "The total amount of remuneration paid by fees shall not exceed the sum of Four thousand pounds per annum."

No. 2.—Page 3, clause 10, line 41, leave out "only".

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No. 3.—Page 4, clause 12, leave out this clause, insert the following new clause :—

“12.—(1.) The Commissioners shall not, in respect of their services as Commissioners, be subject to the *Commonwealth Public Service Act 1922*. Commissioners
not subject to
*Commonwealth
Public Service
Act 1922*.

“(2.) If an officer of the Public Service of the Commonwealth is appointed Chairman of the Commission, his service as Commissioner shall, for the purpose of determining his existing and accruing rights, be taken into account as if it were service in the Public Service of the Commonwealth, and if an officer of the Public Service of a State is appointed Chairman, his service as Commissioner shall, for the purpose of determining his existing and accruing rights, be taken into account as if it were service in the Public Service of the Commonwealth and as if he had been an officer of a department transferred to the Commonwealth and were retained in the service of the Commonwealth.”

No. 4.—Page 4, clause 13, line 33, after “all” insert “permanent”.

No. 5.—Page 4, clause 13, at end of clause add the following sub-clause :—

“(2.) The Chairman of the Commission shall have all the powers of a Permanent Head under the *Commonwealth Public Service Act 1922* in relation to permanent officers employed for the purposes of this Act.”

No. 6.—Page 5, clause 14, after paragraph (f) insert the following new paragraph :—

“(fa) forestry and afforestation, and the preservation of fauna and flora.”

No. 7.—Page 8, clause 20, line 1, leave out “Subject to Parliamentary authority and”.

No. 8.—Page 8, clause 20, line 3, after “may” insert “in pursuance of a resolution passed by both Houses of the Parliament.”

No. 9.—Page 9, clause 26, at end of clause add the following new sub-clause :—

“(3.) For the purposes of this section ‘the War’ means the War which commenced on the fourth day of August One thousand nine hundred and fourteen.”

On the motion of Mr. Stewart (Minister for Works and Railways)—

Amendment No. 1 agreed to.

Amendment No. 2 agreed to, after debate.

Amendments Nos. 3 and 4 agreed to.

Amendment No. 5 agreed to, after debate.

Amendments Nos. 6 and 7 agreed to.

Amendment No. 8 agreed to, after debate.

Amendment No. 9 agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Bamford reported accordingly.

Mr. Stewart moved, That the Report be adopted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

6. DEFENCE EQUIPMENT 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 by Mr. Anstey, who moved, as an amendment, That after the word “That” the following words be inserted :—“as efforts are being made by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain to convene another Conference to deal with the question of further disarmament, and in view of the early sitting of the League of Nations, it is the opinion of this House that expenditure on naval construction should be deferred for the present.”

Debate continued.

Mr. West addressing the House, and 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 the next sitting.

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Bowden (Minister for Defence) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at half-past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Bayley, Sir Austin Chapman*, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Gibson*, Mr. Gregory, Sir Littleton Groom, Mr. Hughes*, Mr. Killen*, Mr. Latham*, Mr. Makin, Mr. Marks*, Mr. Charles McDonald*, Mr. Seabrook*, and Mr. Thompson.

* On leave.

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