

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 113.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 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. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER (MR. LACEY).—Mr. Anstey (Acting Leader of the Opposition) moved, by leave, That leave of absence for one month be given to the honorable Member for Grey (Mr. Lacey), on the ground of ill-health.
Question—put and passed.
3. SUPPLY [ESTIMATES, 1924-25].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Postponed Vote—"The Home and Territories Department, £622,370"—
Division No. 37—"Administrative, £33,683"—

Debate ensued.

Mr. Anstey moved, as an amendment, That the amount be reduced by £1.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amount proposed to be reduced be so reduced—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 21.		Noes, 29.	
Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Latham
Mr. Brennan	Mr. O'Keefe	Mr. Bowden	Mr. Lister
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Edward Riley	Mr. Bruce	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. E. C. Riley	Sir Austin Chapman	Mr. Mann
Mr. Forde	Mr. Scullin	Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Manning
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Watkins	Mr. Corser	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Lambert	Mr. West	Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Lazzarini		Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Mahony		Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Makin	<i>Tellers :</i>	Mr. Gardner	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Gregory	Mr. Whitsitt
Mr. McNeill	Mr. Frederick McDonald	Sir Neville Howse	
		Mr. Hughes	<i>Tellers :</i>
		Mr. Hurry	Mr. Hunter
		Mr. Jackson	Mr. Marr
		Sir Elliot Johnson	

And so it was negatived.

Division agreed to.

Division No. 38 debated and agreed to.

Division No. 39 agreed to.

Division No. 40 debated and agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 41 and 42 agreed to.

F.4713.

11th and 12th September, 1924.

Division No. 43 debated and agreed to.
 Division No. 44 debated and agreed to.
 Division No. 45 agreed to.
 Division No. 46 debated and agreed to.
 Divisions Nos. 47 and 48 agreed to.
 Vote—"The Department of Defence"—further postponed.
 Vote—"The Department of Works and Railways, £948,854"—
 Division No. 101 debated and agreed to.
 Division No. 102 debated and agreed to.
 Division No. 103 agreed to.
 Division No. 104—"Works and Buildings, £231,853"—
 Mr. Coleman moved, as an amendment, That the amount be reduced by £1.
 Debate ensued.
 Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.
 Division agreed to.
 Divisions Nos. 105 and 106 agreed to.
 Division No. 107 debated and agreed to.
 Divisions Nos. 108 to 110 agreed to.
 Vote—"The Postmaster-General's Department, £8,208,930"—
 Division No. 111—"Central Staff, £49,747"—debated.
 Mr. Frederick McDonald moved, as an amendment, That the amount be reduced by £1.
 Debate continued.
 Question—That the amount proposed to be reduced be so reduced—put.
 The Committee divided—

Ayes, 13.

Noes, 21.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Mann
Mr. Brennan	Mr. O'Keefe	Mr. Bowden	Mr. Manning
Mr. Forde	Mr. E. C. Riley	Mr. Bruce	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Albert Green		Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Lazzarini	<i>Tellers :</i>	Mr. Corser	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Mahony		Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Makin	Mr. Coleman	Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. William Watson
Mr. Frederick McDonald	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Josiah Francis	
		Mr. Hurry	<i>Tellers :</i>
		Mr. Jackson	Mr. Hunter
		Mr. Lister	Mr. Marr
		Mr. Mackay	

And so it was negatived.
 Debate continued.

And the Committee continuing to sit till after midnight—

FRIDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1924.

No Quorum in Committee.—The attention of the Temporary Chairman (Sir Neville Howse) having been called to the absence of a Quorum, and the bells having been rung, and there being no quorum present—

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Sir Neville Howse reported that a Quorum of Members was not present in the Committee.

Mr. Speaker thereupon counted the House, and declared a Quorum of Members to be present.

Point of Order.—*Speaker's Ruling.*—Mr. Makin having raised a Point of Order, that as the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Sir Neville Howse) had reported to the House that a Quorum was not present in the Committee, and as the same number of Members was still present, there could be no Quorum in the House—

Mr. Speaker ruled that while Standing Order No. 216 provides that the Quorum in Committee shall consist of the same number of Members, exclusive of the Chairman, as shall be requisite to form a Quorum of the House, Section 39 of the Constitution enacts that a Quorum must consist of at least one-third of the whole number of the Members of the House of Representatives. There were twenty five Members present in the House, therefore the requirements of Section 39 of the Constitution were complied with. The Constitution must over-ride Standing Order No. 216.

Mr. Speaker thereupon left the Chair, and the House again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Division No. 111 further debated and agreed to.
 Division No. 112 debated and agreed to.
 Divisions Nos. 113 to 119 agreed to.
 Division 120—"Wireless, £47,200"—debated.

Point of Order.—Temporary Chairman's (Sir Neville Howse) Ruling.—Mr. Brennan having called the attention of the Temporary Chairman to the absence of a Quorum in the Committee, and the Temporary Chairman having declared that twenty-five Members were present, constituting a Quorum, and Mr. Brennan having risen to a Point of Order that for the purpose of determining a Quorum in Committee the honorable Member for the Northern Territory should be included in the total numbers of Members, and that therefore twenty-five Members were less than one-third of the total number—

The Temporary Chairman ruled that, as under sub-section (2.) of section five of the Northern Territory Representation Act, the Member for the Northern Territory cannot be included in the number of Members requisite to constitute a meeting of the House, such Member could not be included in the number of Members required for the purpose of determining a Quorum in Committee.

Debate on Division No. 120 continued.

Closure.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That Division No. 120 be agreed to—was accordingly put and passed.

Vote—"The Department of Health, £143,921"—debated and agreed to.

Vote—"Miscellaneous Services, £3,066,433"—

Division No. 128—"Under control of Prime Minister's Department, £180,957"—

Mr. Anstey moved, That Item No. 15, "Payment to Central Wool Committee in respect of wool supplied for local manufacture of wool tops, £137,697," be omitted.

Debate ensued.

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

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 21.		Noes, 10.	
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Mann	Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Manning	Mr. Brennan	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Earle Page	Mr. Forde	
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Thomas Paterson	Mr. Lazzarini	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Corser	Mr. Pratten	Mr. Makin	Mr. Coleman
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Seabrook	Mr. Frederick McDonald	Mr. Fenton
Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. William Watson		
Mr. Josiah Francis			
Mr. Hurry			
Mr. Jackson	<i>Tellers :</i>		
Mr. Lister	Mr. Hunter		
Mr. Mackay	Mr. Marr		

There not being the number of Ayes requisite in accordance with the Standing Order, the Temporary Chairman (Sir Neville Howse) announced that the motion for the closure had not been carried.

Debate continued.

Question—That Item No. 15 be omitted—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 10.		Noes, 21.	
Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Mann
Mr. Brennan	Mr. E. C. Riley	Mr. Bowden	Mr. Manning
Mr. Coleman		Mr. Bruce	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Forde	<i>Tellers :</i>	Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Makin	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Corser	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Frederick McDonald	Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Seabrook
		Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. William Watson
		Mr. Josiah Francis	
		Mr. Hurry	
		Mr. Jackson	<i>Tellers :</i>
		Mr. Lister	Mr. Hunter
		Mr. Mackay	Mr. Marr

And so it was negatived.

Division agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 129 to 133 agreed to.

Division No. 134—"Under control of Attorney-General's Department, £3,000"—

Mr. Lazzarini moved, That Item 1, "Tribunals under the Industrial Peace Act, £3,000," be reduced by £1.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

11th and 12th September, 1924.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 10.		Noes, 23.	
Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Brennan	Mr. E. C. Riley	Mr. Bowden	Mr. Mann
Mr. Coleman		Mr. Bruce	Mr. Manning
Mr. Forde	<i>Tellers :</i>	Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Makin	Mr. Frederick McDonald	Mr. Corser	Mr. Pratten
		Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Seabrook
		Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. William Watson
		Mr. Josiah Francis	
		Mr. Hurry	<i>Tellers :</i>
		Mr. Jackson	Mr. Hunter
		Mr. Latham	Mr. Marr
		Mr. Lister	

And so it was negatived.

Division agreed to.

Division No. 135 debated and agreed to.

Remainder of Vote—"Miscellaneous Services"—agreed to.

Vote—"War Services payable out of Revenue, £1,343,867"—

Divisions Nos. 139 and 140 agreed to.

Division No. 141 debated and agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 142 to 144 agreed to.

Division No. 145 debated and agreed to.

Division No. 146 agreed to.

Division No. 147 debated and agreed to.

Postponed Vote—"The Department of Defence, £3,425,829"—

Division No. 49 agreed to.

Division No. 50 debated and agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 51 to 53 agreed to.

Division No. 54 debated and agreed to.

Division No. 55 debated and agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 56 and 57 agreed to.

Division No. 58 debated and agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 59 and 60 agreed to.

Division No. 61 debated and agreed to.

Division No. 62 agreed to.

Division No. 63 debated and agreed to.

Division No. 64 agreed to.

Division No. 65 debated and agreed to.

Division No. 66 debated and agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 67 to 69 agreed to.

Division No. 70 debated and agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 71 to 74 agreed to.

Division No. 75 debated and agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 76 and 77 agreed to.

Division No. 78 debated and agreed to.

Divisions Nos. 79 to 82 agreed to.

Division No. 83—"Special Defence provision to cover first year of developmental programme, £1,000,000"—

Mr. Mahony moved, as an amendment, That the amount be reduced by £1.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amount proposed to be reduced be so reduced—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 17.		Noes, 25.	
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Edward Riley	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Forde	Mr. E. C. Riley	Mr. Bowden	Mr. Mann
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Scullin	Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Manning
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Watkins	Sir Austin Chapman	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. West	Mr. Corser	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Mahony		Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Makin		Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Mathews	<i>Tellers :</i>	Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Frederick McDonald	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Gregory	Mr. William Watson
Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. O'Keefe	Sir Neville Howse	
		Mr. Hurry	
		Mr. Jackson	<i>Tellers :</i>
		Sir Elliot Johnson	Mr. Hunter
		Mr. Latham	Mr. Marr

And so it was negatived.

Division agreed to.

11th and 12th September, 1924.

Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) moved, That the following Resolution be reported to the House :—

That, including the several sums already voted for such services, there be granted to His Majesty to defray the charges for the year 1924-25, for the several services hereunder specified, a sum not exceeding £20,643,568.

	Payable out of Revenue.	Payable out of Trust Fund and other Funds.	Total.
	£	£	£
The Parliament	59,470	...	59,470
The Prime Minister's Department	300,311	...	300,311
The Department of the Treasury	594,356	...	...
Australian Note, Bond, and Stamp Printing Office ... ..	...	6,707	...
New Guinea Branch ... ..	...	2,450	...
	594,356	9,157	603,513
The Attorney-General's Department	115,331	...	115,331
The Home and Territories Department	614,078	...	...
Lands and Surveys—Part Salaries ... ..	...	8,292	...
	614,078	8,292	622,370
The Department of Defence	3,425,829	...	3,425,829
Special Defence Provision to cover First Year of Developmental Programme	1,000,000	...	1,000,000
The Department of Trade and Customs	804,739	...	804,739
The Department of Works and Railways			
Federal Capital Territory—	936,618	...	...
Public Works Staff—Part Salaries ... ..	...	5,381	...
Accounts Branch—Salaries ... ..	...	6,855	...
	936,618	12,236	948,854
The Postmaster-General's Department	8,208,930	...	8,208,930
The Department of Health	124,480	...	...
Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine—Salaries ... ..	...	6,809	...
Serum Laboratories—Salaries ... ..	...	12,632	...
	124,480	19,441	143,921
Miscellaneous Services	766,433	...	...
Refunds of Revenue	800,000	...	...
Advance to the Treasurer	1,500,000	...	...
	3,066,433	...	3,066,433
War Services Payable out of Revenue	1,145,572	...	...
Repatriation Commission—Salaries ... ..	...	198,295	...
	1,145,572	198,295	1,343,867
Total	20,396,147	247,421	20,643,568

Question—put and passed.
Leave to be asked to sit again.

The House resumed ; Mr. Bamford reported accordingly.
Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

11th and 12th September, 1924.

4. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) 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.
5. SUPPLY RESOLUTION.—The Resolution reported from the Committee of Supply was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer), was adopted by the House.
6. WAYS AND MEANS [ESTIMATES, 1924-25].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

ESTIMATES, 1924-25.

Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) moved, That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the services of the year 1924-25, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £13,588,818.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Bamford reported accordingly.

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

Ordered—That Mr. Earle Page and Mr. Bruce do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

7. APPROPRIATION BILL 1924-25.—Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and twenty-five and to appropriate the Supplies granted by the Parliament for such year,*” and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Earle Page 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, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Bamford reported accordingly.

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

8. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—WINE EXPORT BOUNTY BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 76.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to provide for the Payment of Bounty on the Export of Fortified Wine,*” and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill as amended by the House at the request of the Senate.

The Senate,

Melbourne, 11th September, 1924.

JOHN NEWLAND,

Deputy-President.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—TARIFF BOARD BILL (1924).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 77.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Tariff Board Act 1921-1923’*,” and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the Amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

The Senate,

Melbourne, 11th September, 1924.

JOHN NEWLAND,

Deputy-President.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration in Committee of the whole House, at the next sitting.

11th and 12th September, 1924.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—PAPUA BILL (1924).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 78.

The Senate has passed a Bill for " *An Act to amend the ' Papua Act 1905-1920'*," and transmits the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

The Senate,

Melbourne, 12th September, 1924.

JOHN NEWLAND,
Deputy-President.

Mr. Atkinson (Minister representing the Minister for Home and Territories) moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message 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. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—WIRELESS AGREEMENT BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 79.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for " *An Act to approve the Agreement made between His Majesty's Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited,*" and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,

Melbourne, 12th September, 1924.

JOHN NEWLAND,
Deputy-President.

12. VOTES OF MEMBERS [PECUNIARY INTEREST].—Mr. Parker Moloney raised a Point of Order as to the votes of certain honorable Members in connexion with the Division taken on the question that Item No. 15, " Payment to Central Wool Committee in respect of wool supplied for local manufacture of wool tops," be omitted, such honorable Members being shareholders in British Australian Wool Realisation Association.

Mr. Speaker's Ruling.—Mr. Speaker said that while it was in accordance with Parliamentary Practice for the Speaker to guide the House regarding cases of personal interest, it was not the privilege or within the power of the Speaker to rule on such a matter, but that it was a question for the House to determine on a matter of Privilege on a substantive motion on notice.

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

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.

No. 36 of 1924—Australian Postal Electricians' Union.

No. 37 of 1924—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

No. 38 of 1924—Australian Postal Assistants' Union.

No. 39 of 1924—Commonwealth Telephone Officers' Association.

No. 40 of 1924—General Division Officers' Union of the Trade and Customs Department.

No. 41 of 1924—Federated Public Service Assistants' Association.

No. 42 of 1924—Professional Officers' Association.

No. 43 of 1924—Australian Postal Linemen's Union.

No. 44 of 1924—Australian Telegraphists' Union.

No. 45 of 1924—Commonwealth Postmasters' Association and Australian Postal Assistants' Union.

Nos. 46 and 47 of 1924—Australian Letter Carriers' Association.

14. ALTERATION OF DAY OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

Question—put and passed.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-eight minutes past three o'clock p.m. (Friday), adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—
Mr. Bayley*, Mr. Blakeley*, Mr. Malcolm Cameron, Mr. Charlton*, Mr. R. W. Foster, Mr. Gabb, Mr. Gibson*, Mr. Roland Green, Sir Littleton Groom*, Mr. Hill*, Mr. Killen*, Mr. Lacey*, Mr. W. Maloney*, Mr. Marks*, Mr. Charles McDonald*, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Prowse*, Sir Granville Ryrice*, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Yates*.

* On leave.

FRANK L. CLAPIN,
Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives.