

1923-24.

# THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## No. 122.

# VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 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. PETITION.—Mr. Thomas Paterson (for Mr. Killen) presented a Petition from Chas. W. Milthorpe, President, and George Jones, Secretary, of the Urangeline Branch of the Farmers and Settlers Association, stating that certain taxes and restrictions have proved a most serious handicap to them in carrying on their respective occupations, and praying that relief may be afforded them from such taxes and restrictions.  
Petition received and read.
3. PRINTING COMMITTEE—FOURTH REPORT FROM.—Mr. Corser, Chairman, brought up the Fourth Report from the Printing Committee (sitting in conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate). The Report was read by the Clerk, as follows:—

### REPORT.

The Printing Committee have the honour to report that they have met in conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate.

- (1) The Joint Committee, having reconsidered the Report on the Sir Edward Pellew Group of Islands, with special reference to Biology and Physical Features, by W. E. J. Paradise, M.B., Ch.M., Surgeon Lieutenant, R.A.N., presented to Parliament on the 21st August, 1924, recommend that the same be printed.
- (2) The Joint Committee, having considered the Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, recommend that the following be printed:—
  - \*Australian Dairy Produce on British Markets—Report, dated 9th July, 1924, by the Commonwealth Dairy Expert (Mr. M. A. O'Callaghan).
  - Central Australia—Report by Dr. V. Stefansson.
  - International Labour Organization of the League of Nations—Sixth Conference, held at Geneva, June–July, 1924—Reports by Australian Delegates.
  - Railways Act—Report on Commonwealth Railway operations for year ended 30th June, 1924.

\* Presented to House of Representatives only.

E. B. C. CORSER,  
Chairman.

Senate Committee Room,  
26th September, 1924.

Mr. Corser moved, That the Report be agreed to.  
Question—put and passed.

4. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—PREFERENTIAL TARIFF.—Mr. Pratten (Minister for Trade and Customs), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the British Preferential duties under the Customs Tariff.

F.4713.

30th September, 1924.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General's Deputy was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

STRADBROKE,

*Deputy of the Governor-General.**Message No. 72.*

Bills intituled :—

- “ Papua Act 1924 ”
- “ Service and Execution of Process Act 1924 ”
- “ Tasmania Grant Act 1924 ”
- “ Excise Tariff 1924 ”
- “ Tariff Board Act 1924 ”
- “ Quarantine Act 1924 ”
- “ Boy Scouts' Association Act 1924 ”,

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Deputy of the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Acts.

Melbourne, 26th September, 1924.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—DAIRY PRODUCE EXPORT CONTROL BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 86.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act relating to the Export of Dairy Produce,* ” 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, 26th September, 1924.

JOHN NEWLAND,

Deputy President.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration, in Committee of the whole House, at a later hour this day.

7. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—Commonwealth Board of Trade—Report on the subject of Trade with India, China, and the East, together with an addendum containing particulars of certain developments which have occurred in connexion with the subject since the Report was prepared.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

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

No. 53 of 1924—Line Inspectors' Association.

No. 54 of 1924—Meat Inspectors' Association.

Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1924, No. 138.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1924, No. 137.

Northern Territory Acceptance Act and Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinance of 1924—No. 20—Registration.

Public Service Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1924, Nos. 141, 142, 143.

Treaties of Peace (Austria and Bulgaria) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1924, Nos. 135, 136.

Treaty of Peace (Germany) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1924, No. 133.

Treaty of Peace (Hungary) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1924, No. 134.

8. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT (LIVE STOCK) BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

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.)*

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 debated and agreed to.

Clause 3—

On the motion of Mr. Gregory, the following amendment was made :—Line 14, omit “ three ” insert “ four ”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4 debated and agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Bamford reported accordingly.

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

9. MEAT INDUSTRY ENCOURAGEMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—  
— Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Mr. Anstey 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 the next sitting.
10. AUDIT BILL (1924).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) 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; Sir Neville Howse reported accordingly.  
On the motion of Mr. Bruce, the House adopted the Report, and (the Standing Orders having previously been suspended, see page 430 *ante*) the Bill was read a third time.

11. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That Order of the Day, No. 4, be postponed until after Order of the Day, No. 5, Government Business.
12. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (1924).—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 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.)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.  
Clause 3 debated.

Mr. Mann moved, as an amendment, That the following new sub-paragraph be added to paragraph (b) (page 2) :—

“(b) cash or shares received from a company by a prospector or leaseholder as consideration for the assignment or transfer of any claim, lease, licence, or other title held under the Mining Act of any State.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 4—

On the motion of Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer), the following amendments were made :—

Page 2, after line 21, after paragraph (b) insert the following paragraph :—

“(ba) by inserting in sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (a) thereof, before the words ‘ The cost price in relation ’, the words ‘ which shall be exercised by notice in writing signed by him and delivered by him at the office of the Commissioner on or before the prescribed date.’ ”

Page 2, line 29, omit “ article ” insert “ live stock ”.

Page 2, line 32, after “ irrevocable ” insert “ and shall, if the person, in the notice of his option, so requires, apply to the assessment of his income tax for the financial year beginning on the first day of July One thousand nine hundred and twenty-three ”.

Page 3, lines 1–12, omit paragraph (f).

Page 3, line 23, after “ company ” insert “, derived subsequent to the first day of July One thousand nine hundred and fourteen,”.

Page 3, line 24, before “ sale ” insert “ revaluation or ”.

Page 3, line 26, after “ paid ” insert “ or is liable to pay ”.

Page 3, line 37, after “ pay ” insert “ (or if so required has paid or pays) ”.

Page 3, after lines 40–42, omit—

“(4.) standing to the credit of profit and loss account or any similar account on the first day of July One thousand nine hundred and fourteen : ”, insert—

“(4.) not subject to income tax ”.

Mr. Seabrook moved, as a further amendment, That paragraph (n) (page 4) be omitted.

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5 debated and agreed to.

30th September, 1924.

Clause 6—

Mr. Earle Page moved, as an amendment, That the clause be omitted, and the following clause inserted in place thereof :—

“ 6. Section twenty-one of the Principal Act is amended by omitting sub-section (2.) thereof and inserting in its stead the following sub-sections :—

Taxation of company where distribution not reasonable.

‘ (2.) The Commissioner shall assess the tax and the additional tax, if any, which would have been payable by the shareholders if the sum or further sum determined by the Commissioner in accordance with sub-section (1.) of this section had been distributed to them in proportion to their interests in the paid-up capital of the company :

Provided that, where any person (other than a company, trustee or partnership) who is not a shareholder of the company would (if there had been successive distributions of the relevant parts of the sum or further sum determined by the Commissioner to and by each company, trustee and partnership interposed between that person and the company in respect of which the determination is made) have received a part of that sum or further sum, the Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, also assess the tax and the additional tax, if any, which would have been payable by that person if those distributions had been made.

‘ (2A.) The company shall pay to the Commissioner the amount of the tax and additional tax assessed under the last preceding sub-section ’.”

Debate ensued.

Mr. Latham moved, as an amendment upon the amendment, That the words “ who is not ” be omitted with a view to the insertion of the words “ otherwise than as ” in place thereof.

Amendment upon amendment agreed to.

Original amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7—

On the motion of Mr Earle Page, the following amendment was made :—

Page 7, line 46, after “ excess ” insert “, to the extent of the total sum of the amounts allowed by the Commissioner in any previous assessments in respect of the depreciation of the machine, implement, utensil, rolling-stock or article.”

Sir Neville Howse moved, as a further amendment, That the following paragraph be added to the clause (page 8) :—

“ (f) by inserting after sub-section (1.) thereof the following sub-section :—

‘ (1A.) Notwithstanding anything contained in paragraph (a) of the last preceding sub-section, any person who is liable to render a return of income for the purposes of this Act, and who proves to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that—

- (a) he is carrying on agricultural or pastoral pursuits in a district which is subject to the ravages of animal pests ; and
- (b) that he has expended money for, or entered into a contract or undertaking with the Government, or an authority of, a State for, the purchase of wire netting for use in the construction of a wire-netting fence to prevent animal pests entering upon the land used by him in the production of assessable income,

shall be entitled to a deduction—

- (c) in the assessment of the income derived by him in the year in which he places the wire netting in position on the fence, of such sum as the Commissioner is satisfied has been expended by the person in the purchase of the wire netting so placed and in placing it in position on the fence ; or
- (d) in the case of a person who purchased the wire netting under a contract or undertaking with the Government or an authority, of a State—of the amount paid by him, in respect of that wire netting, in the year in which the income is derived, as purchase money or interest thereon and the amount (if any) expended by him in that year in placing the wire netting in position on the fence.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Debate on clause continued.

Mr. Earle Page moved, as a further amendment, That the following paragraph be added to the clause (page 8) :—

“ (g) by inserting after paragraph (n) of sub-section (1.) thereof the following paragraph :—

- (o) such part of the assessable income of a taxpayer whose taxable income does not exceed six hundred pounds—
- (i) as is paid by him to any legally qualified medical practitioner, public or private hospital, nurse or chemist in respect of any illness of, or operation upon the taxpayer or his wife or any of his children under the age of twenty-one years : and
- (ii) not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of Twenty pounds as is paid by him to any undertaker for funeral and burial expenses arising out of the death of the wife of the taxpayer or of any of his children under the age of twenty-one years.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

30th September, 1924.

Sir Neville Howse moved, as a further amendment, That the following paragraph be added to the clause (page 8) :—

“(h) by inserting the following new paragraph :—

‘(p) so much of the assessable income as the Commissioner is satisfied has been donated by the taxpayer for research into the causes, prevention or cure of disease in human beings, animals or plants, to any authority which the Commissioner is satisfied is a public authority engaged in such research.’”

Amendment agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 10 agreed to.

Clause 11 debated and agreed to.

Clause 12 debated and agreed to.

Clause 13 agreed to.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Robert Cook reported accordingly.

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

13. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at five minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—  
Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Bayley\*, Mr. Blakeley\*, Sir Austin Chapman, Mr. Charlton\*, Sir Littleton Groom\*, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Killen\*, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Makin, Mr. W. Maloney\*, Mr. Marks\*, Mr. Charles McDonald\*, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Nelson, Mr. O'Keefe, Sir Granville Ryrie\*, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Whitsitt.

\* On leave.

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