

1926.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 20.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1926.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Sir Littleton Groom) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER (MR. LAZZARINI).—Mr. Fenton moved, by leave, That leave of absence for one month be given to the honorable Member for Werriwa (Mr. Lazzarini), on the ground of urgent business.
Question—put and passed.

3. WAR PENSIONS—DISABILITIES OF EX-SOLDIERS FROM PRE-WAR CAUSES.—Mr. W. Maloney moved, pursuant to notice :—

In view of the facts—

- (1) That, when the Australian men offered their lives to fight for their country, the Defence Department had the choice of the greatest surgeons and physicians to examine such men ;
- (2) That they had the advantage of the Health Department and the Health Scientific Department to assist them in deciding whether the men volunteering were in a state of health or not ;
- (3) That hardships of war make more acute and observable latent and obscure weaknesses ;
- (4) That soldiers who are refused pensions are not permitted to see their files and are thus deprived of the opportunity where injustice is done to disprove the evidence upon which pensions, &c., have been refused ;

and, in view of the many and generous promises continually reiterated from the multitude of enlistment platforms, it is the opinion of this House that no soldier who was accepted after passing such examinations and who actually went to the front and satisfactorily performed his allotted duties should be refused any rights under the War Pensions Act for himself or his dependants through certain present medical experts giving as their opinion the causes arose from pre-war causes.

It is also the opinion of this House that all men who offered their lives, and passed the above scientific examination, should be considered perfectly healthy men from that date ; and that discretionary power be vested in the Repatriation Commissioners to grant pensions and other benefits where sufficient incapacity exists which did not appear at the time of enlistment—such discretionary power to be executed in the light of the character of the service rendered by the soldier.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Hughes 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 18th proximo.

It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the Orders of the Day (General Business) were called on, in accordance with Standing Order No. 119.

4. NATIONALITY—LOSS OF, BY MARRIAGE WITH ALIEN.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Duncan-Hughes :—That, in the opinion of this House, a British woman should not lose, or be deemed to lose, her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it should be open to her to make a declaration of alienage—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

F.17940.

25th February, 1926.

5. RAILWAY THROUGH CENTRAL QUEENSLAND TO NORTH-SOUTH LINE.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Manning :—That it is essential for the proper development of Northern Australia that a railway be constructed from Bourke, New South Wales, through Central Queensland towards Cloncurry and thence across the Barkly Tablelands to a point on the North-South Railway in the Northern Territory—the carrying of this resolution to be taken as an instruction from this House to the Government to approach the State Governments of New South Wales and Queensland with a view of apportioning the expense of constructing this line between the Commonwealth and the States mentioned—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Gregory moved, as an amendment, That all the words after “constructed from” up to and inclusive of the words “Northern Territory” be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof :—“Broome or Derby starting in an easterly direction up to its junction with the North-South railway at or about Newcastle Waters thence south of east to Camooweal”.

Mr. Gibson (Postmaster-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, the 18th proximo.

6. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 3, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, the 18th proximo.

7. NATIONALIZATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES.—Mr. W. Maloney moved, pursuant to notice—

(1) That, in the opinion of this House, the nationalization of health should be made law in order to lessen the terrible ravages of disease by scientifically organized prevention, and to enable all citizens who are in ill-health to obtain the assistance of the highest scientific skill in surgery, in dentistry, and in medicine.

(2) That contingent upon this motion being carried, it be an instruction to the Government of the day to bring in a Bill to carry the resolution into effect.

Mr. W. Maloney 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, the 18th proximo.

8. ELECTORAL ACT—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Thompson moved, pursuant to notice, *amended*—

(1) That a Joint Committee be appointed to inquire into the law and procedure in relation to—

(a) enrolment on the Commonwealth Electoral Rolls ;

(b) postal voting at Commonwealth Elections ;

(c) signed articles ;

(d) polling facilities ;

(e) donations or gifts by Members or candidates ;

and to report on any additional safeguards necessary to prevent impersonation and duplicate voting.

(2) That four Members of the House of Representatives be appointed to serve on such Committee.

(3) That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records, to move from place to place, and to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament.

(4) That a Message be sent to the Senate requesting its concurrence, and asking that four Members of the Senate be appointed to serve upon the said Committee.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

The time allotted for precedence to General Business having expired, Government Business was called on.

9. 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.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

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

10. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT (BONUS SHARES) BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 2 debated.

Mr. Brennan moved, That the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question—put and negatived.

Clause 2 further debated and agreed to.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

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

25th February, 1926.

11. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two 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. Anstey*, Mr. Blakeley, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Josiah Francis,
Mr. Gardner, Mr. Albert Green, Mr. Roland Green, Mr. Killen, Mr. Lazzarini*, Mr. Ley,
Mr. Mahony, Mr. Parker Moloney, Mr. Edward Riley, Mr. E. C. Riley, Sir Granville Ryrie,
Mr. Watkins, and Mr. West.

* On leave.

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