

# THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 35.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 1926.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Sir Littleton Groom) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Elections and Referendums—Statistical Returns in relation to the Senate Elections, 1925; the General Elections for the House of Representatives, 1925, together with Summaries of Elections and Referendums 1903-1925.  
Elections, 1925—  
Statistical Returns showing the Voting within each Subdivision in relation to the Senate Elections, 1925, and the General Elections for the House of Representatives, 1925, viz. :—  
New South Wales.  
Queensland.  
South Australia.  
Tasmania.  
Victoria.  
Western Australia.  
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.  
The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Papua Act—Ordinance of 1925—No. 17—Mineral Oil and Coal.
3. WAYS AND MEANS [CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

[See Customs Tariff Amendment, which incorporates the proposed Resolution of 3rd March, 1926 (pages 72 to 87).]

Postponed Item numbered 54, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
54. By omitting the whole item and inserting in its stead the following item :—			
“ 54. (1) Fruits and Vegetables, n.e.i., including Ginger, n.e.i. (preserved in liquid, or partly preserved, or pulped)—			
(A) Quarter-pints and smaller sizes per dozen	9d.	1s.	1s. 3d.
(B) Half-pints and over quarter-pints per dozen	1s. 3d.	1s. 9d.	2s.
(C) Pints and over half-pints per dozen	2s. 6d.	3s. 6d.	4s.
(D) Quarts and over pints per dozen	5s.	7s. 6d.	8s. 6d.
(E) Exceeding a quart per gallon	1s. 9d.	2s. 6d.	3s.
(F) When preserved in spirituous liquid, additional duty to be paid on the liquid per gallon	30s.	31s.	31s.
(G) Ginger in brine or syrup for the manufacture of Preserved Ginger, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws	Free	Free	Free
(2) Asparagus Tips - - - - - ad val.	25 per cent.	30 per cent.	35 per cent.
or the rates imposed by the following sub-items, whichever rate returns the higher duty, viz. :—			
(A) Quarter-pints and smaller sizes per dozen	9d.	1s.	1s. 3d.
(B) Half-pints and over quarter-pints per dozen	1s. 3d.	1s. 9d.	2s.
(C) Pints and over half-pints per dozen	2s. 6d.	3s. 6d.	4s.
(D) Quarts and over pints per dozen	5s.	7s. 6d.	8s. 6d.
(E) Exceeding a quart per gallon	1s. 9d.	2s. 6d.	3s.”

26th March, 1926.

Mr. Pratten (Minister for Trade and Customs) moved, That the Item be amended by the addition of the following :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
“ And on and after 27th March, 1926			
“ 54. (1) Fruits and Vegetables, n.e.i., including Ginger, n.e.i. (preserved in liquid, or partly preserved, or pulped)—			
(A) Quarter-pints and smaller sizes per dozen	9d.	1s.	1s. 3d.
(B) Half-pints and over quarter-pints per dozen	1s. 3d.	1s. 9d.	2s.
(C) Pints and over half-pints per dozen	2s. 6d.	3s. 6d.	4s.
(D) Quarts and over pints per dozen	5s.	7s. 6d.	8s. 6d.
(E) Exceeding a quart per gallon	1s. 9d.	2s. 6d.	3s.
(F) When preserved in spirituous liquid, additional duty to be paid on the liquid per gallon	30s.	31s.	31s.
(G) Ginger in brine or syrup for the manufacture of Preserved Ginger, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws	Free	Free	Free
(2) Asparagus Tips—			
(A) Quarter-pints and smaller sizes per dozen	9d.	1s.	1s. 3d.
(B) Half-pints and over quarter-pints per dozen	3s.	4s.	5s.
(C) Pints and over half-pints per dozen	4s.	6s.	7s. 6d.
(D) Quarts and over pints per dozen	5s.	7s. 6d.	8s. 6d.
(E) Exceeding a quart per gallon	1s. 9d.	2s. 6d.	3s.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Item, as amended, agreed to.

Postponed Item numbered 114, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
114. By omitting the whole of sub-item (D) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item :—			
“ (D) Caps and Sewn Hats, n.e.i. - - - - - per doz. or ad val. whichever rate returns the higher duty.”	10s. 35 per cent.	12s. 40 per cent.	14s. 45 per cent.

Mr. Pratten moved, That the Item be amended by adding the following :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
“ And on and after 27th March, 1926			
(D) Caps and Sewn Hats, n.e.i. - - - - - per doz. or ad val. whichever rate returns the higher duty.”			
	12s. 35 per cent.	14s. 40 per cent.	16s. 45 per cent.

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Item, as amended, agreed to.

Postponed Item numbered 174, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
174. By omitting the whole item and inserting in its stead the following item :—			
“ 174. (A) Machines, Machine Tools and Appliances for use in connexion therewith, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws - - - - - ad val.	Free	5 per cent.	10 per cent.
(B) Machines, Machine Tools and Appliances and Articles of a class or kind not commercially manufactured in Australia or the United Kingdom imported for use in the development of an Australian Primary or Secondary Industry or for use in Hospitals and Public Educational Institutions, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws -	Free	Free	Free
(C) Other Appliances and Articles not admissible under Items 174 (A) or (B), 219 or 404, and not commercially manufactured in Australia, for use in the development of Australian Primary and Secondary Industries, and for use in Public Hospitals or Public Educational Institutions, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws - ad val.	Free	5 per cent.	10 per cent.”

26th March, 1926.

Mr. Pratten moved, That the Item be amended by adding the following :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
174. Machines, Machine Tools, and Appliances for use in connexion therewith, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws - ad val.	Free	5 per cent.	10 per cent."

Amendment agreed to.

Item, as amended, agreed to.

Postponed sub-item (D) of Item numbered 176, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
(D) Cement making Machines, n.e.i.; Road making Machines; Stone crushing Machines with jaws up to and including 30 inches by 12 inches in size; Aerial Ropeways exclusive of cable; Hand operated, Travelling and Portable Cranes; Coal Conveyors and Ash Handling Plants exclusive of motive power equipment - ad val.	35 per cent.	45 per cent.	50 per cent.

Amendment previously moved by Mr. Pratten (see page 120) withdrawn, by leave.

Debate on sub-item continued.

Mr. Gregory moved, That the sub-item be amended by inserting after the word "size" the following :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
" And on and after 27th March, 1926 ad val.	30 per cent.	35 per cent.	40 per cent."

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 18.

Mr. Aubrey Abbott	Mr. Parsons
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Roland Green	Mr. William Watson
Mr. Gregory	
Sir Elliot Johnson	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Killen	Mr. Albert Green
Mr. Mann	Mr. Gullett

Noes, 37.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Marks
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Marr
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Bruce	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Nott
Mr. Forde	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Pratten
Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Gibson	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Hill	Mr. Rodgers
Sir Neville Howse	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Hurry	Mr. Watt
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Yates
Mr. Lacey	
Mr. Lister	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Fenton
Mr. Makin	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Manning	

And so it was negatived.

Mr. Rodgers moved, That the sub-item be amended by omitting the words " Road making Machines ; Stone crushing machines with jaws up to and including 30 inches by 12 inches in size " with a view to the insertion of the following new sub-item (G) :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
"(G) Road making Machines ; Stone crushing machines with jaws up to and including 30 inches by 12 inches in size - ad val.	30 per cent.	45 per cent.	50 per cent."

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the sub-item—put.

26th March, 1926.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 35.

Noes, 20.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Marks
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Marr
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Charlton	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Nott
Mr. Forde	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Hill	Mr. E. C. Riley
Sir Neville Howse	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Hurry	Mr. Watt
Mr. Lacey	Mr. Yates
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Mackay	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Mahony	
Mr. Makin	Mr. Jackson
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Lister

Mr. Aubrey Abbott	Mr. Parsons
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie
Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Roland Green	
Mr. Gregory	<i>Tellers :</i>
Sir Elliot Johnson	Mr. Gullett
Mr. Killen	Mr. Mann

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.  
 Sub-item agreed to.  
 Postponed Item numbered 242, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
242. By omitting the whole of sub-item (A) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item :— “ (A) Glass for photographic plates, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws	Free	Free	Free.”
By omitting the whole of sub-item (B) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item :— “ (B) Sheet, viz. :—Plain Clear - - - per 100 square feet And on and after 1st July, 1926 - - - - - per lb. or ad val. - - - - - whichever rate returns the higher duty.”	2s. 1½d. 45 per cent.	3s. 1¾d. 55 per cent.	4s. 2d. 60 per cent.

Mr. Seabrook moved, That the Item be amended by omitting—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
	1½d. 45 per cent.	1¾d. 55 per cent.	2d. 60 per cent.

and inserting—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
	½d. 30 per cent.	1½d. 50 per cent.	2d. 60 per cent.

Amendment negatived.  
 Item agreed to.  
 Postponed Item numbered 262 debated and agreed to.  
 Postponed Item numbered 359, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
359. By omitting the whole of sub-item (D) (4) (twice occurring) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item :— “ (D) (4) Chassis, but not including Rubber Tyres— (a) Unassembled - - - - - ad val. (b) Assembled - - - - - ad val.”	Free 5 per cent.	7½ per cent. 12¼ per cent.	12½ per cent. 17½ per cent.”

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Mr. Scullin moved, That the Item be amended by adding the following :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
“ And on and after 27th March, 1926			
(D) (4) Chassis, but not including rubber tyres and batteries :—			
(a) Unassembled, in respect of which the importer furnishes to the Collector of Customs for the State in which the goods are entered for home consumption security that the chassis will be equipped with Australian made tyres and Australian made batteries - - - ad val.	Free	5 per cent.	7½ per cent.
(b) Unassembled n.e.i. - - - - -	5 per cent.	10 per cent.	12½ per cent.
(c) Assembled, imported without tyres and batteries and to be fitted with Australian made tyres and Australian made batteries under security as prescribed by Departmental By-laws - - -	5 per cent.	10 per cent.	15 per cent.
(d) Assembled n.e.i. - - - - -	7½ per cent.	12½ per cent.	17½ per cent.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Item agreed to.

Preliminary paragraphs to Customs Tariff agreed to.

*Excise Tariff* (see page 88)—

Preliminary paragraph agreed to.

Item numbered 2 agreed to.

*Customs Tariff (South African Preference)*—

Mr. Pratten moved, That on and after the first day of July One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six at nine o'clock in the forenoon, Victorian time, in lieu of the duties of Customs imposed by the *Customs Tariff (South African Preference) 1906* and the Tariff Proposals proposed in the House of Representatives on the following dates, namely :—

3rd December, 1914 (relating to the Tariff on goods imported from, and the produce or manufacture of, the Union of South Africa); and

25th September, 1918 (relating to the Tariff on goods imported from, and the produce or manufacture of, the Union of South Africa),

upon goods to which that Act or either of those Proposals applies, there be collected on those goods the duties of Customs imposed by the *Customs Tariff 1921-1924*, or, where the duties imposed by that Act are amended by the amendment to which this resolution applies, the duties of Customs imposed by that Act as so amended.

This resolution applies to the first amendment to the *Customs Tariff 1921-1924* passed after the date of this resolution.

For the purposes of this resolution, duties of Customs collected in pursuance of the Tariff Proposals proposed in the House of Representatives on the 3rd March, 1926, or of any amendments to those Proposals, shall be deemed to be duties of Customs imposed by an amendment of the *Customs Tariff 1921-1924*.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

Mr. Pratten moved, That the Resolution with respect to duties of Customs be now recommitted to the Committee of Ways and Means for the purpose of including a proposed New Item numbered 415A, and for further amending Sub-item numbered 419 (E).

Question—put and passed.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

26th March, 1926.

*(In the Committee.)**On re-committal—*

Mr. Pratten moved, That the following new Item be included to follow Item numbered 410 :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
415A. By adding after the Item 415 a new Item as follows :— “ 415A. On and after 27th March, 1926—Manufactures imported for use in the development of an Australian industry or of the natural resources of Australia, or for use in Public Hospitals or Public Educational Institutions, or for use by public utilities established under Commonwealth or State law and not conducted for private gain, — — — (1) Being of a class or kind not commercially manufactured in Australia or the United Kingdom, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws — — — — — (2) Being of a class or kind not commercially manufactured in Australia and not being admissible under Item 174, 219, 404 or 415A (1), as prescribed by Departmental By-laws — — — — — ad val.	Free	Free	Free
	Free	5 per cent.	10 per cent.”

Question—put and passed.

Sub-item numbered 419 (E) (*as amended*), viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
“(E) X-Ray Transformer Apparatus other than Transformer Apparatus designed exclusively for Deep Therapy - - ad val. And on and after 25th March, 1926 (E) X-Ray Transformer Apparatus other than Transformer Apparatus designed exclusively for Deep Therapy—On and after 1st July, 1926 - - - - - ad val.	27½ per cent.	35 per cent.	40 per cent.
	27½ per cent.	35 per cent.	40 per cent.

Mr. Pratten moved, That the Item be amended by adding the following to sub-item (E) :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
“(E) X-Ray Transformer Apparatus other than Transformer Apparatus designed exclusively for Deep Therapy - - ad val. And on and after 1st July, 1926 ad val.	Free	10 per cent.	20 per cent.
	27½ per cent.	35 per cent.	40 per cent.”

Amendment agreed to.

Sub-item, as amended, agreed to.

Resolution 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.

Mr. Pratten 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.

The Resolutions, reported from the Committee, were read, and, on the motion of Mr. Pratten, were adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Pratten and Mr. Bruce do prepare and bring in Bills to carry out the foregoing Resolutions.

4. CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL (1926).—Mr. Pratten (Minister for Trade and Customs) then brought up a Bill intituled “ *A Bill for an Act relating to Duties of Customs,* ” and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Pratten 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. Bayley reported accordingly.

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

26th March, 1926.

5. **EXCISE TARIFF BILL.**—Mr. Pratten (Minister for Trade and Customs) also brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to Duties of Excise*," and moved, That it be now read a first time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.  
Mr. Pratten 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. Bayley reported accordingly.

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

6. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.**—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That leave of absence be given to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.  
Question—put and passed.
7. **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.**—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, which time of meeting shall be notified by Mr. Speaker to each Member by telegram or letter.  
Question—put and passed.
8. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That the remaining Orders of the Day, Government Business, be postponed until after Notices of Motion, Government Business.
9. **TELEGRAPH LINES BETWEEN PERTH AND ADELAIDE.**—Mr. Gibson (Postmaster-General) moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-21*, it is expedient to carry out the following work:—Transfer of Postal Department's telegraph lines between Perth and Adelaide to Transcontinental railway route, which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, and on which the Committee has duly reported to this House the result of its investigation.  
Question—put and passed.
10. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—POSTAL WORKSHOPS AT SOUTH MELBOURNE.**—Mr. Hill (Minister for Works and Railways) moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-21*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report, viz.:—South Melbourne (Victoria)—Erection of Postal Workshops.  
Mr. Hill having laid on the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed work—  
Question—put and passed.
11. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT HOBART.**—Mr. Hill (Minister for Works and Railways) moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-21*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report, viz.:—Hobart (Tasmania)—Erection of an Automatic Telephone Exchange.  
Mr. Hill having laid on the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed work—  
Question—put and passed.
12. **ADJOURNMENT.**—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty minutes to five o'clock p.m., adjourned until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, and to be notified by him to each Member by telegram or letter as determined by resolution of the House at this sitting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT.**—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Anstey, Mr. Bell, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Donald Cameron, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Ley, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. West.

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