

1926.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 37.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 20TH MAY, 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. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
 - League of Nations—
 - Correspondence between the Commonwealth Government and the League of Nations relative to the composition of the Council.
 - Special Assembly (8th–17th March, 1926)—Report of the Australian Delegation.
 Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
3. CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE) BILL.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for a Proposed Law to alter the provisions of the Constitution in relation to Industry and Commerce.
 - Question—put and passed.
 - Mr. Bruce then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
 - Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
 - Mr. Bruce moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
 - Mr. Charlton 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.
4. CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (ESSENTIAL SERVICES) BILL.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for a Proposed Law to alter the provisions of the Constitution in relation to Essential Services.
 - Question—put and passed.
 - Mr. Bruce then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
 - Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
 - Mr. Bruce moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
 - Mr. Charlton 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.
5. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES OF MOTION.—Ordered—That the consideration of Notices of Motion Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6, be postponed until after the Orders of the Day, Government Business.
6. NORTHERN AUSTRALIA BILL (1926).—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 16—

On the motion of Mr. Marr (Minister representing the Minister for Home and Territories), the following amendment was made, after debate :—

Line 17, after "railways" insert "subject to the terms of any arrangement made between the Minister and the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner".

Mr. West moved, as an amendment, That paragraph (c) be omitted.

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Nelson moved, as an amendment, That after the word "harbours" (line 21) the word ", mining" be inserted.

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Nelson moved, as an amendment, That the following paragraph be inserted after paragraph (e) :—

"(ee) mining and mining development in accordance with Commonwealth Ordinances ;".

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

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On the motion of Mr. Marr, the following further amendment was made, after debate :—

Lines 41-42, omit " Commonwealth Public Service ", insert " Public, Railway or other Service of the Commonwealth, ".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 17 and 18 agreed to.

Clause 19—

Mr. Nelson moved, as an amendment, That the words " take effect from the date of notification " (line 35) be omitted with a view to the insertion of the words " to take effect from a date one month after date of publication " in place thereof.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 19.

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Charlton	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Forde	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Lacey	Mr. West
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Mahony	
Mr. Makin	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Coleman
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Fenton

Noes, 36.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lister
Mr. Bell	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Mann
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marks
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Marr
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Nott
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Parsons
Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Roland Green	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Hill	Sir Granville Ryrie
Sir Neville Howse	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Hurry	
Mr. Jackson	<i>Tellers :</i>
Sir Elliot Johnson	Mr. Hunter
Mr. Latham	Mr. Manning

And so it was negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 20 debated and agreed to.

Clause 21 agreed to.

Clause 22 debated and postponed till after consideration of Clause 23.

Clause 23—

Mr. Mackay moved, as an amendment, That the word " not " (line 21) be omitted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 32.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Marks
Mr. Bell	Mr. Marr
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Nott
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Parsons
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Pratten
Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Gullett	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Hill	Mr. Thompson
Sir Neville Howse	Mr. William Watson
Mr. Hurry	
Mr. Latham	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Lister	Mr. Hunter
Mr. Mann	Mr. Manning

Noes, 21.

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Charlton	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Forde	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Jackson	Mr. West
Mr. Lacey	Mr. Yates
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Mahony	
Mr. Makin	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Fenton
Mr. McGrath	Mr. Mackay

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Clause agreed to.

Postponed clause 22 agreed to.

Clauses 24 to 28 agreed to.

Clause 29—

On the motion of Mr. Marr, the following amendment was made, after debate :—

Page 11, line 33, after " borrowed by " insert " or on behalf of ".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 30 agreed to.

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Clause 31—

On the motion of Mr. Marr, the following amendments were made, after debate :—

After sub-clause (1.) insert the following sub-clauses :—

(1A.) The Commission may, from time to time, in lieu of exercising the power conferred on it by the last preceding sub-section, request the Treasurer to borrow moneys on its behalf, and the Treasurer may thereupon, under the provisions of the *Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Act 1911-1918* or under the provisions of any Act authorizing the issue of Treasury Bills, borrow, on behalf of the Commission, moneys not exceeding the amounts authorized, by any Act or in pursuance of any resolution passed by both Houses of the Parliament, to be borrowed for the purpose of the exercise of any of the powers of the Commission.

(1B.) The indebtedness of the Commission to the Commonwealth in respect of moneys borrowed by the Treasurer on its behalf shall include such amounts as the Treasurer certifies are necessary to cover all costs and charges (including exchange) incurred in connexion with the relative loans and all discounts on the flotation of such loans.

(1C.) Interest shall be payable by the Commission to the Commonwealth, on such dates as the Treasurer determines, on the indebtedness of the Commission as determined in the last preceding sub-section at a rate sufficient to recoup the Commonwealth the interest paid by it in respect of that indebtedness and the terms and conditions of the repayment of the indebtedness of the Commission to the Commonwealth shall be as determined by the Treasurer.

(1D.) The Commission shall in each year during which interest is payable to the Commonwealth pay to the Treasurer such amounts as the Treasurer certifies are necessary to cover the cost of exchange on interest payments, commission for paying interest, stamp duty on loan transfers and charges (other than those referred to in sub-section (1B.) of this section) payable by the Commonwealth in respect of the relative loans.

(1E.) In addition to any interest payable by the Commission on its indebtedness to the Commonwealth, the Commission shall, in each year during which interest is payable, and on the dates on which interest is payable, pay to the Treasurer a sinking fund contribution at the rate of Ten shillings per annum for every One hundred pounds or portion of One hundred pounds of its indebtedness until those moneys are repaid to the Commonwealth.

(1F.) Each contribution received by the Treasurer under the last preceding sub-section shall be paid into the National Debt Sinking Fund established under the *National Debt Sinking Fund Act 1923-1925*.

(1G.) There may be issued and applied out of the proceeds of any loan raised by the Treasurer under the authority of any Act, including this Act, any sum not exceeding the amounts authorized by the Act to be borrowed for the purpose of the exercise of any of the powers of the Commission and for the expenses of borrowing.

Lines 21-22, omit "legally available for the purpose".

Line 25, after "by" insert "or on behalf of".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 32 to 35 agreed to.

Clause 36 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 37 to 39 agreed to.

Clause 40—

Mr. Nelson moved, as an amendment, That the following paragraph be added to the clause :—

(d) There shall be appointed a Circuit Judge who shall visit the Seat of Administration of Central Australia for the purpose of hearing appeals from the lower courts.

Debate ensued.

Clause postponed.

Clauses 41 and 42 agreed to.

Clause 43—

Mr. Nelson moved, as an amendment, That all words after "Ordinances" (line 18 to the end of line 21) be omitted.

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 44 agreed to.

Clause 45—

Mr. Nelson moved, as an amendment, That the following sub-clause be added to the clause :—

(5.) It shall be competent for any two members of the Advisory Council to request the Government Resident, in writing, to convene a meeting of the Council for the purpose of discussing matters of urgent public importance; on the receipt of such request the Government Resident shall cause to be issued notices notifying members of the time and place such meeting is to be held.

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 46-48 agreed to.

Clause 49—

Mr. Nelson moved, as an amendment, That the following words be inserted before the word "There" (page 17, line 37) :—

For the purpose of this Act there shall be a Central Australian Commission, charged with the general administration of this part of the Act, appointed under similar conditions as the North

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Australia Commission. The Commission shall consist of three members, one of which shall be the Government Resident, who shall act as Chairman, one to be appointed by the Governor-General and one elected by the people of Central Australia.

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

On the motion of Mr. Marr, the following amendment was made :—

Page 18, line 3, omit " three ", insert " two ".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 50 to 57 agreed to.

Clause 58—

On the motion of Mr. Marr, the following amendment was made, after debate :—

Line 15, after " Australia " insert " (other than the revenue of the Commission)".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 59 and 60 agreed to.

Postponed clause 5 debated and agreed to.

Postponed clause 40—

Amendment moved by Mr. Nelson (*see page 143*) further debated and, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed ; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

Mr. Marr moved, That the Bill be now recommitted to a Committee of the whole House for the reconsideration of Clause 14.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House again resolved itself into a Committee of the whole.

(*In the Committee.*)

On recommitment—

Clause 14—

On the motion of Mr. Marr, the following further amendments were made :—

Page 5, line 30, after " Public " insert " , Railway or other".

Page 5, line 33, omit " Commonwealth Public Service ", insert " Public, Railway or other Service of the Commonwealth ".

Page 5, lines 34–35, omit " Commonwealth Public Service ", insert " Public, Railway or other Service of the Commonwealth ".

Page 5, lines 41–42, omit " Commonwealth Public Service ", insert " Public, Railway or other Service of the Commonwealth ".

Page 5, lines 45–46, omit " Public Service Board, or, in the case of an officer from the Public Service of the Territory, as the Minister ", insert " authority having power to make appointments to the Public, Railway or other Service of the Commonwealth, or Public Service of the Territory, as the case may be ".

Page 6, lines 2–3, omit " Public Service Board or the Minister, as the case may be", insert " authority".

Clause, as further amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with further amendments.

The House resumed ; Mr. Bayley reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Marr, the House, by leave, adopted the Reports, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

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

Entertainments Tax Assessment Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1926, No. 58.

Northern Territory Acceptance Act and Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances of 1926—

No. 9—Meat Industry Encouragement (No. 2).

No. 10—Birds Protection.

Public Service Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1926, Nos. 53, 60.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at ten minutes to eleven 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. Corser, Mr. Grosvenor Francis, Mr. Killen, Mr. Lambert, and Mr. Stewart.

WALTER A. GALE,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.