

1926-27-28.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

No. 203.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1928.

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. AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND—APPROVAL OF WORK.—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*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work, 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 investigations:—
Establishment of an Automatic Telephone Exchange at Cairns, Queensland.
Question—put and passed.
3. AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT CITY WEST, MELBOURNE, AND CONVERSION OF SOUTH MELBOURNE AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE TO SIX-FIGURE WORKING—APPROVAL OF WORK.—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*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work, 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 investigations:—
Establishment of an Automatic Telephone Exchange at City West, Melbourne, and the conversion of the South Melbourne Automatic Exchange to six-figure working.
Question—put and passed.
4. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT (ADMINISTRATION) BILL (1928).—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.
The House divided—

Ayes, 31.

Mr. Aubrey Abbott	Mr. Hurry
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Killen
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Latham
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Lister
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Bernard Corser	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Parkhill
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Parsons
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Perkins
Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Graham Pratten
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Roland Green	
Mr. Gregory	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Gullett	
Mr. Hill	Mr. Hunter
Sir Neville Howse	Mr. Manning

Noes, 14.

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Coleman	Mr. West
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Yates
Mr. W. Maloney	
Mr. McGrath	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Edward Riley	Mr. Fenton
Mr. E. C. Riley	Mr. Makin

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

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

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(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4—

Mr. Blakeley moved, as an amendment, That paragraphs (d) and (e) of sub-section (1.), and sub-section (2.), of proposed section 6AA (pages 3-4), be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the following in place thereof :—

“(d) The persons qualified to vote at elections for the Third Commissioner shall be persons who, if they lived in a Commonwealth Electoral Division for the period for which they had lived in the Territory for the Seat of Government would be entitled to enrolment and to vote at Elections for the House of Representatives”.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 14.		Noes, 30.	
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Scullin	Mr. Aubrey Abbott	Mr. Hurry
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Watkins	Mr. Bowden	Mr. Killen
Mr. Coleman	Mr. West	Mr. Bruce	Mr. Latham
Mr. Makin	Mr. Yates	Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Lister
Mr. W. Maloney		Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Marr
Mr. McGrath	<i>Tellers :</i>	Mr. Bernard Corser	Mr. Nott
Mr. Edward Riley	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. E. C. Riley	Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Parkhill
		Mr. Gardner	Mr. Parsons
		Sir John Gellibrand	Mr. Perkins
		Mr. Gibson	Mr. Graham Pratten
		Mr. Roland Green	Mr. Thompson
		Mr. Gregory	<i>Tellers :</i>
		Mr. Gullett	
		Mr. Hill	Mr. Hunter
		Sir Neville Howse	Mr. Manning

And so it was negatived.

On the motion of Sir Neville Howse (Minister for Home and Territories), the following amendments were made :—

Page 3, lines 29-30, omit—

“(i) who are ratepaying lessees of the Commission, as defined in sub-section (2.) of this section ; and ”, insert—

“(i) who are at least twenty-one years of age, and are natural born or naturalized subjects of the King ;

(i.a) who are owners or occupiers as defined in section three of this Act ; and ”.

Page 3, line 31, omit “ roll of ratepaying lessees ”, insert “ electors' roll ”.

Page 3, lines 34-35, omit “ ratepaying lessee who is enrolled on the ratepaying lessees' ”, insert “ person who is enrolled on the electors' ”.

Pages 3-4, omit sub-section (2.) of proposed section 6AA.

Page 4, line 9, omit “ ratepaying lessees ”, insert “ owners and occupiers ”.

Page 4, line 11, after “ section ” insert “ (in this Act referred to as the electors' roll) ”.

Page 4, at end of sub-section (3.) of proposed section 6AA add the following provisos :—

“ Provided that, where any property is in the occupation of an occupier other than the owner, the occupier shall be entitled to be enrolled in respect of that property instead of the owner thereof :

Provided further than no person shall be entitled to be enrolled more than once in respect of each election :

Provided also that, subject to the two preceding provisos, where the owner or occupier is a body corporate or body of trustees it may nominate one person in writing as the elector in respect of all the property in respect of which it is either owner or occupier.”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6—

On the motion of Sir Neville Howse, the following amendment was made :—

Page 5, lines 4-5, omit “ in respect of each year of his term of office ”, insert “ per annum ”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7—

On the motion of Sir Neville Howse, the following amendments were made :—

Page 5, line 10, omit “ or a Second Commissioner ”.

Page 5, line 11, after “ years ” insert “ and each appointment of a Second Commissioner shall be for a term of one year ”.

Page 5, line 16, omit “ three years ”, insert “ one year ”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 14 agreed to.

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New clauses—

On the motion of Sir Neville Howse, the following new clauses were added to the Bill, after debate :—

2A. Section three of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after the definition of “ Commissioner ” the following definitions :—

“ ‘ Occupier ’ means a person who, for at least one month immediately preceding the date of the advertisement referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (1.) of section six AA of this Act, has been in occupation as a tenant or sub-tenant, or as one of several tenants or sub-tenants holding in joint tenancy or tenancy-in-common, of the whole or any portion of any house, warehouse, office, shop, or other building under a tenancy, the rent under which is at the rate of not less than Fifteen pounds a year for the tenant or sub-tenant (or, as the case may be, for each of the several tenants or sub-tenants) :

Provided that where any tenant or sub-tenant sublets the whole or any portion of his premises the rent payable by him shall, for the purposes of this definition, be deemed to be reduced by the rent payable to him by his sub-tenant :

“ ‘ Owner ’, in relation to property, means the person, other than the Commission, for the time being entitled to receive the rack-rent thereof, or who would be so entitled if the property were let to a tenant at a rack-rent, and where, on the date of the advertisement referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (1.) of section six AA of this Act, the Commission has granted a lease of land for a period of not less than one month or a person is entitled to be granted by the Commission a lease of land for such a period, means the lessee or the person so entitled, as the case may be.”

15.—(1.) After section twenty-eight of the Principal Act the following section is inserted :—

“ 28A. Section twelve of the *Seat of Government (Administration) Act* 1910 is amended by omitting the words ‘ Until the Parliament makes other provision for the government of the Territory.’ ”

Amendment of Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1910, s.12.

(2.) This section shall be deemed to have commenced on the date of the passing of the *Seat of Government (Administration) Act* 1924.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed ; Mr. Hurry reported accordingly.

On the motion of Sir Neville Howse, the House, by leave, adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

5. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[*Referendum (Constitution Alteration) Bill* (1928)]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 161.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to amend the ‘ Referendum (Constitution Alteration) Act* 1906–1926 ’ and for other purposes,” and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
President.

The Senate,
Canberra, 19th September, 1928.

[*Tasmania Sinking Fund Agreement Bill*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 162.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to approve an Agreement made between His Majesty’s Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and His Majesty’s Government of the State of Tasmania,* ” and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
President.

The Senate,
Canberra, 19th September, 1928.

6. SUPPLY [BUDGET DEBATE].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

General debate resumed on the question (see page 628), That the first item in the Estimates, under Division I.—The Parliament—namely—

The President £1,300

be agreed to.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Hurry reported accordingly.

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

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7. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (1928).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

Message No. 163.

MR. SPEAKER,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the Income Tax Assessment Act 1922-1927 and for other purposes*," 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.

JOHN NEWLANDS,
President.The Senate,
Canberra, 19th September, 1928.

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

8. ALTERATION OF HOUR OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until eleven o'clock a.m. to-morrow.

Question—put and passed.

9. JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—REPORT.—Mr. E. C. Riley, for the Chairman of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, brought up the following Report from the Committee :—

Housing and Building Costs generally in the Federal Capital Territory.

Ordered to be printed.

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

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator—

No. 25 of 1928—Fourth Division Postmasters, Postal Clerks and Telegraphists' Union.

No. 26 of 1928—Fourth Division Postmasters, Postal Clerks and Telegraphists' Union.

No. 27 of 1928—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia.

No. 28 of 1928—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

No. 29 of 1928—Commonwealth Storemen and Packers' Union and Commonwealth Naval Storehousemen's Association.

No. 30 of 1928—Federated Public Service Assistants' Association.

No. 31 of 1928—Fourth Division Officers' Association of the Trade and Customs Department.

No. 32 of 1928—Commonwealth Temporary Clerks' Association.

Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act—Statement for 1927-28.

Seat of Government Acceptance Act and Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinance of 1928—No. 20—Education.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at four minutes past 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. Bell, Mr. Malcolm Cameron, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Forde, Mr. R. W. Foster, Mr. Grosvenor Francis, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jackson, Sir Elliot Johnson, Mr. Lacey, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Ley, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Mann, Mr. Marks, Mr. Parker Moloney, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Thomas Paterson, Mr. Prowse, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Theodore, and Mr. Watt.

E. W. PARKES,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.