

1940.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 21.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH MAY, 1940.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable G. J. Bell) took the Chair, and read *Prayers*.
2. EMPIRE AIR TRAINING SCHEME—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Fairbairn (Minister for Air), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement informing the House of the progress of the Empire Air Training Scheme.
3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act—Eighteenth General Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.
Superannuation Act—Seventeenth Annual Report of the Superannuation Board, for year 1938–39.
4. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL 1940.—Mr. Street (Minister for Repatriation) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920–1938* for the purpose of providing for the grant of pensions upon the death or incapacity of Members of the Defence Force of the Commonwealth whose death or incapacity arises in connexion with the war which commenced on the third day of September, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine, and for other purposes.
Question—put and passed.
5. POST AND TELEGRAPH RATES BILL 1940.—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 to 4 agreed to.

Clause 5—

Mr. Beasley moved, as an amendment, That the word "fourteen" (Part I.) be omitted with a view to inserting the word "sixteen" in place thereof.

Debate ensued.

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

The Committee divided (The Chairman, Mr. Prowse, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 34.

Mr. Anthony	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Badman	Mr. Nairn
Mr. Cameron	Mr. Nock
Mr. Fadden	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Paterson
Mr. Francis	Mr. Price
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Rankin
Sir Henry Gullett	Mr. Scholfield
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Spender
Mr. Holt	Mr. Stacey
Mr. Hughes	Sir Frederick Stewart
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Street
Mr. Jennings	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Jolly	Mr. Thorby
Mr. Lane	
Mr. John Lawson	<i>Tellers:</i>
Sir Charles Marr	Mr. Corser
Mr. McEwen	Mr. Gardner

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Mr. Beasley	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Blackburn	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Collins	Mr. Rosevear
Mr. Curtin	Mr. Scully
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. Forde	Mr. Spurr
Mr. Green	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Holloway	
Mr. James	
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Mahoney	
Mr. Makin	

Tellers:

Mr. Gander
Mr. George Lawson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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Mr. Sheehan moved, as an amendment, That the following paragraph be added to Part I. :—

“(b) the name of a State in the text of a telegram shall be charged for as one word.”.

Chairman's Ruling.—The Chairman (Mr. Prowse) ruled the amendment out of order as it was not relevant to the clause.

Clause agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Thorby (Postmaster-General), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

6. POST AND TELEGRAPH RATES (DEFENCE FORCES) BILL 1940.—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 to 5 agreed to.

New clause—

On the motion of Mr. Thorby (Postmaster-General), the following new clause was inserted in the Bill :—

“1A. This Act shall come into operation on the day on which it receives the Commencement Royal Assent.”.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Orders of the Day Nos. 3 and 4 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 5, Government Business.

8. MOTOR VEHICLES AGREEMENT BILL 1940.—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 by Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition), who moved, as an amendment, That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof :—

“the opportunity to manufacture motor-car chassis, including the engine, be afforded to more than one Australian company whose capital, structure and control are in accordance with section 6, sub-section (1.), paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Motor Vehicle Engine Bounty Act 1939, and that immediate steps be taken to amend the proposed agreement between the Commonwealth and Australian Consolidated Industries Limited to give effect to the foregoing ; and, furthermore, that in the event of more than one Australian company being established for the said purpose, the number of engines and the total amount of bounty payment be reviewed”.

Debate continued.

Mr. Dedman addressing the House and not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—

Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.

Debate continued.

Mr. John Lawson addressing the House and not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—

Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.

Debate continued.

Mr. Hutchinson addressing the House and not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—

Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.

Mr. Prowse 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 a later hour this day.

9. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL 1940.—Mr. Street (Minister for Repatriation), pursuant to leave given this day, brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to amend the ‘Australian Soldiers’ Repatriation Act 1920-1938’ for the purpose of providing for the grant of pensions upon the death or incapacity of Members of the Defence Force of the Commonwealth whose death or incapacity arises in connexion with the war which commenced on the third day of September, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine, and for other purposes*”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Street moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Forde 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. MOTOR VEHICLES AGREEMENT BILL 1940.—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—*And on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Curtin, viz. :—*That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof :—“the opportunity to manufacture motor car chassis, including

the engine, be afforded to more than one Australian company whose capital, structure and control is in accordance with section 6, sub-section (1.), paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Motor Vehicle Engine Bounty Act 1939, and that immediate steps be taken to amend the proposed agreement between the Commonwealth and Australian Consolidated Industries Limited to give effect to the foregoing; and furthermore, that in the event of more than one Australian company being established for the said purpose, the number of engines and the total amount of bounty payment to be reviewed"—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Spender (Treasurer) 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.

11. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

GOWRIE,

Governor-General.

Message No. 8.

Proposed Laws intituled :—

" *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1940* "

" *Northern Territory (Administration) Act 1940* "

" *Sugar Agreement Act 1940* "

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

Government House,

Canberra, 29th May, 1940.

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

[*Petroleum Oil Search Bill 1940*].—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 17.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Petroleum Oil Search Acts 1936'*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

J. B. HAYES,
President.

The Senate,

Canberra, 29th May, 1940.

[*Post and Telegraph Rates Bill 1940*].—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 18.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902-1931'*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

J. B. HAYES,
President.

The Senate,

Canberra, 29th May, 1940.

[*Post and Telegraph Rates (Defence Forces) Bill 1940*].—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 19.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Postal Rates (Defence Forces) Act 1939'*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

J. B. HAYES,
President.

The Senate,

Canberra, 29th May, 1940.

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

Commonwealth Public Service Act—Appointments of R. L. Harry, L. R. McIntyre, L. M. Murchison, J. P. Quinn, Department of External Affairs.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired—

For Defence purposes—Puckapunyal, Victoria.

For Meteorological purposes—Broome, Western Australia.

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

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Conelan, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Maloney, Mr. McCall, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. White*.

* On leave.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.