

1940-41-42-43.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 134.

TUESDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1943.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable W. M. Nairn) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. 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. 100.*

Proposed Laws intituled :—

“ *Income Tax Assessment Act 1943* ”“ *Income Tax Act 1943* ”“ *National Welfare Fund Act 1943* ”“ *Commonwealth Bank Act 1943* ”

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, 20th March, 1943.

3. RETURN OF THE NINTH DIVISION, A.I.F.—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement announcing the arrival in Australia of the Ninth Division of the Australian Imperial Force from service in the Middle East, and extended to the officer commanding, Lieutenant-General Sir Leslie Morshead, and the officers and men a warm welcome on their return.
Mr. Fadden (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, made a Statement and associated the Opposition with the welcome and the tribute paid to the service given by the Division.
4. ALLIED WORKS COUNCIL—ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ADMINISTRATION—REPORT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) laid upon the Table, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, the following Paper :—
Allied Works Council—Report by Sir Harry Brown upon certain allegations concerning the administration of the Allied Works Council.
Mr. Rosevear moved, That the Paper be printed.
Mr. Cameron 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. AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT, 1941-42—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to a £2,000,000 service depot referred to by the Auditor-General in his report on the receipts and expenditure for the year 1941-42, as an instance of extraordinary expenditure.
6. PRINTING COMMITTEE—FIFTH REPORT.—Mr. Conelan, Chairman, brought up the Fifth Report from the Printing Committee (sitting in conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate).
The Report was read by the Clerk, as follows :—

REPORT.

The Printing Committee have the honour to report that they have met in Conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee, having considered the Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, recommend that the following be printed :—

Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act, Maternity Allowance Act, Child Endowment Act, Widows' Pensions Act—First Report by Director-General of Social Services, for year 1941-42.

23rd March, 1943.

- Lend-Lease and Reciprocal Lend-Lease Arrangements between the Governments of the Commonwealth of Australia and the United States of America.
Lend-Lease—Report on Administration to the 31st December, 1942.
Taxation—Twenty-third Report of Commissioner, dated 1st November, 1942, together with Statistical Appendices.

W. P. CONELAN,
Chairman.

19th March, 1943.

Mr. Conelan moved, by leave, That the Report be agreed to.
Question—put and passed.

7. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Commonwealth purposes—
Adelaide River, Northern Territory.
Lidcombe, New South Wales.
Manton Gap, near Darwin, Northern Territory.
Newport, Victoria.
Sandy Bay, Tasmania.
Tunstall, Victoria.
National Security Act—
National Security (Civil Defence Workers' Compensation) Regulations—Order—Eligible persons (Western Australia).
National Security (General) Regulations—Orders—
Control of—
Drag saws.
Essential materials.
Grapes.
Peaches.
Manufacture of baby carriages.
Prohibited place.
Taking possession of land, &c. (162).
Use of land (2).
Regulations—Statutory Rules 1943, Nos. 58, 59, 60, 61.
Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1943, No. 57.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS APPROPRIATION BILL 1943.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

GOWRIE,

*Governor-General.**Message No. 101.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for Invalid and Old-age Pensions.

Canberra, 18th February, 1943.

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

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

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for Invalid and Old-age Pensions.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

Mr. Chifley moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Chifley, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Chifley and Mr. Lazzarini do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

Mr. Chifley 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. Chifley moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

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.

23rd March, 1943.

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

9. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—PRIMARY PRODUCERS RELIEF (SUPERPHOSPHATE) BILL 1943.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

GOWRIE,

Governor-General.

Message No. 102.

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide Relief to Primary Producers by stabilizing the Price of Superphosphate and for other purposes.

Canberra, 16th March, 1943.

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

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

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Beasley (Minister for Supply and Shipping) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide Relief to Primary Producers by stabilizing the Price of Superphosphate and for other purposes.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

Mr. Beasley moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Beasley, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Beasley and Mr. Chifley do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

Mr. Beasley 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. Beasley moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Marwick 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. COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES' FURLOUGH BILL 1943.—Mr. Lazzarini (Minister assisting the Treasurer), pursuant to leave given on the 10th March, brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to make provision for the granting of long-service leave to Commonwealth Employees*", and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

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

Sir Frederick Stewart 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. WAR-TIME (COMPANY) TAX ASSESSMENT BILL 1943.—Mr. Lazzarini (Minister assisting the Treasurer), pursuant to leave given on the 10th March, brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'War-time (Company) Tax Assessment Act 1940-1942'*", and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

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

Debate ensued.

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

Mr. Martens 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. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

12. INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS BILL 1943.—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.

23rd and 24th March, 1943.

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

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4—

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

“and (d) by omitting from sub-section (2.) the words ‘or if the degree of his capacity for work does not exceed Fifteen per centum’ and inserting in their stead the words ‘in any remunerative occupation in which he can reasonably be expected to obtain regular employment’”.

Debate ensued.

Amendment withdrawn, by leave.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 5 debated and agreed to.

Clause 6 debated—

On the motion of Mr. Holloway (Minister for Social Services), the following amendment was made, after debate :—

Page 3, after proposed new section 23f add the following new section :—

“23g. For the purposes of this Part, ‘invalid pensioner’ includes an Interpretation. old-age pensioner who is permanently incapacitated for work.”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 13 agreed to.

Clause 14—

Mr. Blackburn moved, as an amendment, That the following be added to the clause :—“and (b) by adding the following proviso :—

‘Provided that the Minister may direct that an amount, not exceeding the amount of the suspended pension, may be applied, on such conditions and for such period as the Minister directs, towards the cost of maintenance of the pensioner while he is an inmate of an asylum for the insane.’”.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 15 to 17 agreed to.

Clause 18 debated and agreed to.

Clause 19 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

13. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until after midnight—

WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1943.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-three minutes past twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until this day at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Abbott, Mr. Badman, Sir George Bell, Mr. Blain*, Mr. Corser, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Guy, Mr. James, Mr. Jolly, Mr. McCall, Mr. Scullin*, Mr. Scully, Mr. Spender, Mr. Watkins, Mr. White*, and Mr. Wilson.

* On leave.

F. C. GREEN,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.