

1946.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 5.

THURSDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 1946.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act—War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunals—Reports for year 1945–46.
Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Commonwealth Grants Commission—Thirteenth Report, 1946.
3. WHEAT INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE BILL 1946.—Mr. Pollard (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Wheat Industry Assistance Act 1938*.
Question—put and passed.
4. STATES GRANTS (DROUGHT RELIEF) BILL 1946.—Mr. Pollard (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for the purpose of making grants to certain States for the purpose of drought relief.
Question—put and passed.
5. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ESTIMATES 1946–47.—The following Messages from His Royal Highness the Governor-General were presented, and were read by Mr. Speaker :—

HENRY,

*Governor-General.**Message No. 1.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General transmits to the House of Representatives Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-seven, and recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.

Canberra, 14th November, 1946.

HENRY,

*Governor-General.**Message No. 2.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General transmits to the House of Representatives Estimates of Expenditure for Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., for the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-seven, and recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.

Canberra, 14th November, 1946.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and, together with the accompanying Estimates, to be printed and referred to the Committee of Supply forthwith.

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6. SUPPLY—BUDGET STATEMENT.—The Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—

Question—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair—put and passed.

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

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) delivered the Budget Speech and then moved, That the first item in the Estimates, under Division No. 1.—Senate—namely—

Salaries and allowances £8,870.

be agreed to.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

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

7. PAPER. - Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) presented, by command of His Royal Highness the Governor-General—
The Budget, 1946-47—Papers presented by the Right Honorable J. B. Chifley, M.P., for the information of honorable Members on the occasion of the Budget of 1946-47.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.

8. WAYS AND MEANS - SALES TAX.—The Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Ways and Means—

Question—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair—put and passed.

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

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved the following ten motions—

(1.) That, in respect of goods not covered by the Third Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act and on the sale value of which it is not provided by that Act that sales tax shall not be payable, in lieu of the rate of tax imposed by the *Sales Tax Act (No. 1) 1930-1943*, sales tax at the rate of Ten per centum be imposed upon the sale value of goods manufactured in Australia by a taxpayer and on or after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, sold by him or treated by him as stock for sale by retail or applied to his own use.

(2.) That, in respect of goods not covered by the Third Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act and on the sale value of which it is not provided by that Act that sales tax shall not be payable, in lieu of the rate of tax imposed by the *Sales Tax Act (No. 2) 1930-1943*, sales tax at the rate of Ten per centum be imposed upon the sale value of goods manufactured in Australia and sold on or after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, by a taxpayer who purchased them from the manufacturer.

(3.) That, in respect of goods not covered by the Third Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act and on the sale value of which it is not provided by that Act that sales tax shall not be payable, in lieu of the rate of tax imposed by the *Sales Tax Act (No. 3) 1930-1943*, sales tax at the rate of Ten per centum be imposed upon the sale value of goods manufactured in Australia and sold on or after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, by a taxpayer not being either the manufacturer of those goods or a purchaser of those goods from the manufacturer.

(4.) That, in respect of goods not covered by the Third Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act and on the sale value of which it is not provided by that Act that sales tax shall not be payable, in lieu of the rate of tax imposed by the *Sales Tax Act (No. 4) 1930-1943*, sales tax at the rate of Ten per centum be imposed upon the sale value of goods manufactured in Australia and sold to a taxpayer who has, on or after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, applied those goods to his own use.

(5.) That, in respect of goods not covered by the Third Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act and on the sale value of which it is not provided by that Act that sales tax shall not be payable, in lieu of the rate of tax imposed by the *Sales Tax Act (No. 5) 1930-1943*, sales tax at the rate of Ten per centum be imposed upon the sale value of goods imported into Australia by a taxpayer on or after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six.

(6.) That, in respect of goods not covered by the Third Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act and on the sale value of which it is not provided by that Act that sales tax shall not be payable, in lieu of the rate of tax imposed by the *Sales Tax Act (No. 6) 1930-1943*, sales tax at the rate of Ten per centum be imposed upon the sale value of goods imported into Australia by a taxpayer and, on or after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, sold by him or applied by him to his own use.

(7.) That, in respect of goods not covered by the Third Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act and on the sale value of which it is not provided by that Act that sales tax shall not be payable, in lieu of the rate of tax imposed by the *Sales Tax Act (No. 7) 1930-1943*, sales tax at the rate of Ten per centum be imposed upon the sale value of goods imported into Australia and sold on or after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, by a taxpayer not being the importer of the goods.

(8.) That, in respect of goods not covered by the Third Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act and on the sale value of which it is not provided by that Act that sales tax shall not be payable, in lieu of the rate of tax imposed by the *Sales Tax Act (No. 8) 1930-1943*,

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sales tax at the rate of Ten per centum be imposed upon the sale value of goods imported into Australia and sold to a taxpayer who has, on or after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, applied those goods to his own use.

(9.) That, in respect of goods not covered by the Third Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act and on the sale value of which it is not provided by that Act that sales tax shall not be payable, in lieu of the rate of tax imposed by the *Sales Tax Act (No. 9) 1930-1943*, sales tax at the rate of Ten per centum be imposed upon the sale value of goods in Australia, including goods which have gone into use or consumption in Australia, leased by a taxpayer to a lessee on or after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six.

(10.) That, for the purposes of the foregoing resolutions, "the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act" mean the *Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act 1935-1946* as proposed to be amended by the *Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Bill (No. 2) 1946*.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

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

9. SALES TAX (EXEMPTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS) BILL (NO. 2) 1946.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act 1935-1946*.

Question—put and passed.

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

Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) 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. WAYS AND MEANS—CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT (NO. 1), EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT (NO. 1), AND CUSTOMS TARIFF (SOUTHERN RHODESIAN PREFERENCE) AMENDMENT (NO. 1).—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) moved—

CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT (NO. 1).

That the Schedule to the *Customs Tariff 1933-1939* be amended as hereinafter set out, and that, on and after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, reckoned according to standard time in the Australian Capital Territory, Duties of Customs be collected in pursuance of the *Customs Tariff 1933-1939* as so amended.

IMPORT DUTIES.

Tariff Items.	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
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DIVISION I.—ALE, SPIRITS, AND BEVERAGES.

3. By omitting the whole of sub-item (F) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item:—

"(F) Spirit of strength not less than 65 per cent. over proof, denatured or to be denatured prior to delivery subject to compliance with the conditions and restrictions applying to methylated spirit-prescribed in the *Spirits Act 1906-1935* and in the Regulations issued thereunder, viz.:—

- (1) The produce of Papua or of any island or territory belonging to or administered under mandate by the Commonwealth, may, subject to conditions as prescribed by Departmental By-laws, be delivered for use as motor fuel on payment of duty at 1d. per gallon.
- (2) N.E.I., as prescribed by Departmental By-laws per gallon

1s.

1s.

1s."

DIVISION II.—TOBACCO AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF.

19. By omitting the whole item and inserting in its stead the following item:—

"19. (A) Tobacco, unmanufactured, entered to be locally manufactured into tobacco other than fine cut tobacco suitable for the manufacture of cigarettes—to be paid at the time of removal to the factory—

- (1) Unstemmed - - - - - per lb.
- (2) Stemmed, or partly stemmed, or in strips - - - - - per lb.

6s. 6d.

6s. 6d.

6s. 6d.

7s.

7s.

7s.

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IMPORT DUTIES—*continued.*

Tariff Item ^s .	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
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Division II.—Tobacco and Manufactures thereof—*continued.*19—*continued.*" 19 (A) Tobacco—*continued.*

(3) For the manufacture of tobacco containing not less than such proportion by weight of stemmed Australian-grown tobacco leaf (or its equivalent in terms of unstemmed tobacco leaf) to the total stemmed tobacco leaf (or its equivalent in terms of unstemmed tobacco leaf) used, as the Minister may from time to time determine having regard to the available supply of suitable Australian-grown tobacco leaf, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws—			
(a) Unstemmed - - - per lb.	5s.	5s.	5s.
(b) Stemmed, or partly stemmed, or in strips - - - per lb.	5s. 6d.	5s. 6d.	5s. 6d.
(B) Tobacco, unmanufactured, entered to be locally manufactured into cigarettes or into fine cut tobacco suitable for the manufacture of cigarettes—to be paid at the time of removal to the factory—			
(1) Unstemmed - - - per lb.	8s. 7d.	8s. 7d.	8s. 7d.
(2) Stemmed, or partly stemmed, or in strips - - - per lb.	9s. 1d.	9s. 1d.	9s. 1d.
(3) For the manufacture of cigarettes containing not less than such proportion by weight of stemmed Australian-grown tobacco leaf (or its equivalent in terms of unstemmed tobacco leaf) to the total stemmed tobacco leaf (or its equivalent in terms of unstemmed tobacco leaf) used, as the Minister may from time to time determine having regard to the available supply of suitable Australian-grown tobacco leaf, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws—			
(a) Unstemmed - - - per lb.	7s. 2d.	7s. 2d.	7s. 2d.
(b) Stemmed, or partly stemmed, or in strips - - - per lb.	7s. 8d.	7s. 8d.	7s. 8d."

DIVISION VI.—METALS AND MACHINERY.

180. By omitting the whole of sub-item (i) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item :—			
" (i) Dry Batteries and Dry Cells of all descriptions whether imported separately or incorporated in any article or appliance - - - per lb.	2d.	5d.	5½d.
or ad val.	25 per cent.	42½ per cent.	48¾ per cent.
whichever rate returns the higher duty.			
And in respect of sub-item (I)—			
For each £1 by which the equivalent in Australian currency of £100 sterling is less than £125 at the date of exportation—			
An additional duty of - - - per lb.	.02d.	.02d.	.02d.
or ad val.	.4 per cent.	.5 per cent.	.5 per cent.
whichever is applicable."			

DIVISION VII.—OILS, PAINTS, AND VARNISHES.

229. By omitting the whole of sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (4) of sub-item (B) and inserting in its stead the following sub-paragraph :—			
" (b) Having a recoverable petrol content* exceeding 70 per cent. - - - per gallon	10d.	10d.	10d."
By omitting the whole of paragraph (5) of sub-item (B) and inserting in its stead the following paragraph :—			
" (5) Once-run distillate from crude petroleum n.e.i. - - - per gallon	10d.	10d.	10d."
By omitting the whole of sub-item (c) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item :—			
" (c) Petroleum and shale products, viz. :—			
Naphtha, benzine, benzoline, gasoline, pentane, petrol and any other petroleum or shale spirit - - - per gallon	10d.	10d.	10d."
By omitting the whole of paragraph (2) of sub-item (D) and inserting in its stead the following paragraph :—			
" (2) N.E.T. - - - per gallon	10d.	10d.	10d."

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CUSTOMS TARIFF (SOUTHERN RHODESIAN PREFERENCE) AMENDMENT (NO. 1).

That the Schedule to the *Customs Tariff (Southern Rhodesian Preference) 1941* be amended as hereinafter set out, and that, on and after the fifteenth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, reckoned according to standard time in the Australian Capital Territory, Duties of Customs be collected in pursuance of the *Customs Tariff (Southern Rhodesian Preference) 1941* as so amended.

Tariff Item.	Rate of Duty.
DIVISION II.—TOBACCO AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF.	
19. By omitting the whole item and inserting in its stead the following item:—	
“ 19 (A) Tobacco, unmanufactured, entered to be locally manufactured into tobacco other than fine cut tobacco suitable for the manufacture of cigarettes—to be paid at the time of removal to the factory—	
(1) Unstemmed	per lb.
(2) Stemmed, or partly stemmed, or in strips	per lb.
(3) For the manufacture of tobacco containing not less than such proportion by weight of stemmed Australian-grown tobacco leaf (or its equivalent in terms of unstemmed tobacco leaf) to the total stemmed tobacco leaf (or its equivalent in terms of unstemmed tobacco leaf) used, as the Minister may from time to time determine having regard to the available supply of suitable Australian-grown tobacco leaf, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws—	
(a) Unstemmed	per lb.
(b) Stemmed, or partly stemmed, or in strips	per lb.
19 (B) Tobacco, unmanufactured, entered to be locally manufactured into cigarettes or into fine cut tobacco suitable for the manufacture of cigarettes—to be paid at the time of removal to the factory—	
(1) Unstemmed	per lb.
(2) Stemmed, or partly stemmed, or in strips	per lb.
(3) For the manufacture of cigarettes containing not less than such proportion by weight of stemmed Australian-grown tobacco leaf (or its equivalent in terms of unstemmed tobacco leaf) to the total stemmed tobacco leaf (or its equivalent in terms of unstemmed tobacco leaf) used, as the Minister may from time to time determine having regard to the available supply of suitable Australian-grown tobacco leaf, as prescribed by Departmental By-laws—	
(a) Unstemmed	per lb.
(b) Stemmed, or partly stemmed, or in strips	per lb.
	} British Preferential Tariff less 9d. per lb. ”

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

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

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

11. CUSTOMS TARIFF (SPECIAL WAR DUTY) VALIDATION BILL 1946.—Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Tariff (Special War Duty) Validation Act (No. 2) 1943*.

Question—put and passed.

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

Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) 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.

12. EXCISE TARIFF VALIDATION BILL (NO. 2) 1946.—Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Excise Tariff Validation Act (No. 2) 1943*.

Question—put and passed.

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

Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) 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.

13. WHEAT INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE BILL 1946.—Mr. Pollard (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture), pursuant to leave given this day, brought up a Bill intitled “ *A Bill for an Act to amend the ‘Wheat Industry Assistance Act 1938’* ”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

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

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.

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14. FOREIGN AFFAIRS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Evatt (Minister for External Affairs), That the Paper [*presented on the 8th November, 1946*], viz. :—

Foreign Affairs—Ministerial Statement, 8th November, 1946—

be printed—

Debate resumed.

Ordered—That Mr. Cameron be granted an extension of time.

Ordered—That Sir Earle Page be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Ordered—That Mr. Abbott be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mr. Evatt 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.

15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Evatt (Minister for External Affairs) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Blain, Mr. Conelan, Mr. Lawson*, Mr. Lazzarini, Dame Enid Lyons, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Ward.

* On leave.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.