

1948.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 31.

TUESDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 1948.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Clark) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ALTERATION OF HOUR OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.
Question—put and passed.
3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That leave of absence for one month be given to the Speaker (Mr. Rosevear), the Attorney-General and Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Evatt), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Menzies), and the honorable Members for Fawkner (Mr. Holt), Calare (Mr. Howse), Lang (Mr. Mulcahy) and Boothby (Mr. Sheehy) owing to their absence from Australia, and to the honorable Member for Hunter (Mr. James) and the Right Honorable Member for Yarra (Mr. Scullin) on the ground of ill-health.
Question—put and passed.
4. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and was read by Mr. Deputy Speaker :—

W. J. MCKELL,
Governor-General.

Message No. 11.

A Proposed Law intituled "*Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1948*" 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 Law.

Government House,
Canberra, 22nd October, 1948.
5. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Commonwealth Electoral Act—Reports, with Maps, by the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of redistributing into Electoral Divisions the States of—
New South Wales.
Queensland.

Ordered—That the Reports be printed.

Australian Broadcasting Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1948, No. 134.
Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1948, No. 131.
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research purposes—Kojonup, Western Australia.
Department of Civil Aviation purposes—
Hamilton, Victoria.
Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.
Western Junction, Tasmania.
Postal purposes—
Bellerive, Tasmania.
Mornington, Victoria.
Parkes, New South Wales.
Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1948, No. 132.
Quarantine Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1948, No. 133.

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6. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 1 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 2, Government Business.
7. WAYS AND MEANS—WHEAT EXPORT CHARGE.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Pollard (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) moved—

1. That, in lieu of the charge imposed by the *Wheat Export Charge Acts 1946*, a charge be imposed—
- (a) on all wheat of the 1947–48 season or of any subsequent season which is exported from the Commonwealth, after the commencement of the Act passed to give effect to this Resolution, whether by the Board or by any other person; and
 - (b) on all wheat products manufactured from wheat of the 1947–48 season or of any subsequent season which are exported from the Commonwealth, after the commencement of the Act passed to give effect to this Resolution, whether by the Board or by any other person.
2. That, subject to a lower rate being prescribed in respect of wheat of the relevant season, the rate of the charge per bushel of wheat of any season exported by any person other than the Board be fifty per centum of the amount by which the price per bushel, at the date of entry for export (or, if the wheat is exported without being entered for export, the date of export) for export of fair average quality bulk wheat free on rail at the ports of export, as declared by the Board, or such lower price as is prescribed in respect of wheat of that season, exceeds the guaranteed price.
3. That a declaration by the Board for the purposes of the provision made to give effect to the last preceding paragraph be deemed to apply in respect of all dates from and including the date of the declaration to and including the date immediately preceding the date of the next subsequent declaration.
4. That, subject to a lower rate being prescribed, the rate of the charge per bushel of wheat of any season exported by the Board be fifty per centum of the amount by which the average price per bushel of all the wheat of that season exported by the Board, or such lower price as is prescribed, exceeds the guaranteed price.
5. That, in ascertaining the average price for the purposes of the provision made to give effect to the last preceding paragraph, the price obtained in respect of a sale other than a sale of fair average quality bulk wheat free on rail at the port of export be deemed to be the price which would have been the corresponding price for the sale of the same quantity of fair average quality bulk wheat free on rail at the port of export.
6. That, notwithstanding anything contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Resolution, where the rate of the charge in respect of any wheat exported by the Board would, but for this paragraph, exceed Two shillings and two pence per bushel, the rate of the charge in respect of that wheat be Two shillings and two pence per bushel.
7. That the amount of the charge on wheat products be the amount which would be payable if the export of the wheat products were the export of the wheat equivalent of the wheat products.
8. That all moneys payable under the Act passed to give effect to this Resolution by any person, other than the Board, in respect of any wheat or wheat products (without prejudice to paragraph 11 of this resolution) be paid, on or before the entry of the wheat or wheat products for export, to such officers in the respective States, or in the Northern Territory, as are prescribed.
9. That the amount of the charge payable by the Board be paid in quarterly instalments in respect of exports made during the periods of three months ending respectively on the first days of January, April, July and October in each year, and the payment in respect of each such period be made within fourteen days after the end of the period.
10. That, for the purpose of determining the rate at which an instalment of charge shall be payable by the Board in respect of wheat or wheat products exported during any period, the wheat of a season exported by the Board up to the end of that period be deemed to be all the wheat of that season exported by the Board, and that when the Board has completed its export of wheat of that season, the necessary adjustment be made.
11. That the charge in respect of any wheat or wheat products be payable as a debt due to the Commonwealth by the person exporting the wheat or wheat products (whether that person is the Board or some other person).
12. That, for the purposes of the Act passed to give effect to this Resolution, where wheat is sold by the Board for export or for manufacture into wheat products for export, and the wheat is, or the wheat products are, subsequently exported, the Board be deemed to be the exporter of the wheat or wheat products.
13. That, for the purposes of this Resolution—
- “season”, in relation to wheat, mean the period of twelve months, commencing on the first day of October, during which the wheat was harvested;
- “the Board” mean the Australian Wheat Board constituted under the National Security (Wheat Acquisition) Regulations, and, in relation to anything done or required or permitted to be done on or after the date fixed under sub-section (1.) of section fourteen of the *Wheat Industry Stabilization Act 1948*, mean the Australian Wheat Board constituted under that Act;

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- “the guaranteed price” have the same meaning as that expression has in the *Wheat Industry Stabilization Act 1948* ;
- “wheat” mean wheat harvested before the first day of October, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-three ;
- “wheat products” mean any substance (other than bran and pollard) produced by the gristing, crushing, grinding, milling or other processing of wheat, and include—
- (a) semolina, sharps, wheatmeal, self-raising flour, rice substitutes made from wheat and breakfast foods made from wheat ;
 - (b) any other commodity produced mainly from other wheat products or from wheat ; and
 - (c) such commodities, containing a substantial proportion of other wheat products or of wheat, as are prescribed, but do not include bread or cake.

14. That, for the purposes of this Resolution, wheat or wheat products entered for export, or exported without entry for export, by a person other than the Board in any calendar year be deemed to be, or to be manufactured from (as the case may be), wheat harvested in the season which commenced on the first day of October in the immediately preceding year.

15. That, for the purposes of the Act passed to give effect to this Resolution—

- (a) the wheat equivalent of any wheat products mean the wheat used in, or used in the production of the materials used in, the wheat products ; and
- (b) a certificate of the Board specifying the wheat equivalent of any kind of wheat products or of any particular wheat products be *prima facie* evidence of the correctness of the facts stated in the certificate.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Burke reported accordingly.

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

8. SUPPLY—ESTIMATES—ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, ETC., 1948-49. —The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Vote—“Part I.—Departments and Services—other than Business Undertakings and Territories of the Commonwealth, £27,594,000”—further debated and agreed to.

Vote—“Part II.—Business Undertakings, £10,760,000”—agreed to.

Vote—“Part III.—Territories of the Commonwealth, £2,993,000”—agreed to.

Mr. Lemmon (Minister for Works and Housing) moved, That, including the sum already voted for such services, there be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year 1948-49, for the purposes of Additions, New Works, and other Services involving Capital Expenditure, a sum not exceeding £41,347,000.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Sheehan reported accordingly.

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

Mr. Lemmon 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. Lemmon, was adopted by the House.

9. WAYS AND MEANS—ESTIMATES—ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, ETC., 1948-49. —The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Lemmon (Minister for Works and Housing) moved, That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for Additions, New Works, and other Services involving Capital Expenditure for the year 1948-49, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £31,550,000.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Sheehan reported accordingly.

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

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

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

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10. APPROPRIATION (WORKS AND SERVICES) BILL 1948-49.—Mr. Lemmon (Minister for Works and Housing) then brought up a Bill intituled “ *A Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine, for the purposes of Additions, New Works and other Services involving Capital Expenditure and to appropriate the Supplies granted by the Parliament for that year* ”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
 Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
 Mr. Lemmon moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.
 Mr. Deputy 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.

The House resumed ; Mr. Sheehan reported accordingly.
 On the motion of Mr. Lemmon, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

11. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL 1948.—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. Fadden who moved, as an amendment, That all words after “ That ” be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof :—“ the Bill be withdrawn and referred to an independent committee of experts for recommendation for a more equitable system of taxation in relation to private companies ”.
 Debate continued.
 Mr. White 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. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two 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. Evatt*, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Holt*, Mr. Howse*, Mr. James*, Mr. McBride, Mr. Menzies*, Mr. Mulcahy*, Sir Earle Page, Mr. Rosevear*, Mr. Scullin*, Mr. Sheehy* and Mr. Thompson.

* On leave.

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