

1911.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 19.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 5TH OCTOBER, 1911.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—Mr. Batchelor presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
 - High Commissioner of the Commonwealth—First Annual Report.
 - Papua—Petitions to the Minister for External Affairs from residents of the Eastern Division asking for more representation of the public in the Legislative Council and an elected advisory representative to be stationed in Melbourne during Sessions; the establishment of a Wireless Telegraph Station at Samarai; and the exclusion of Asiatic labourers.
 - Mr. Thomas presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
 - Postal Service—Return showing the number of employes within each section of the Postal Service, and the wages cost of each section as on 30th June, 1901, 1909, and 1911.
 - Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
 - Mr. O'Malley presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
 - Railways—The Gauges of Australia and their Unification—Report of the Consulting Railway Engineer (H. Deane)—20th September, 1911.
 - Kalgoorlie to Port Augusta Railway—Report of the Consulting Railway Engineer (H. Deane)—20th September, 1911.
 - Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
 - Mr. Batchelor presented, pursuant to Statute—
 - Northern Territory—Fisheries Ordinance—No. 13 of 1911.
3. CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BILL (1911).—Mr. Fisher, pursuant to leave given on the 20th ultimo, brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1901-1910,'*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.
 - Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
 - Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

5th October, 1911.

4. NATIONALIZATION OF DISTRIBUTION.—Mr. Frank J. Foster moved, pursuant to notice—

(1) That, in the opinion of this House, in order

- To effectively and economically organize distribution of products in Australian markets, and Australian products in foreign markets,
 - To abolish the waste of the unnecessary middlemen,
 - To secure fair and reasonable prices to Australian producers,
 - To secure imported and Australian products to Australian consumers at reasonable prices,
 - To extend the consumption of Australian products in Australian and in foreign markets,
 - To abolish adulteration,
 - To safeguard foods and clothing, &c., against infection or contamination,
 - To improve the quality of Australian products,
 - To abolish trusts, combines, and monopolies in Australia, and their influence on Australian commerce,
 - To decentralize Australia through commercial channels, with a view to its more effective occupation and defence,
 - To be prepared with organized food and other supplies in time of war,
 - To lay by sufficient stores to carry the Australian people through times of drought and scarcity,
 - To establish an honest currency, based on goods and services,
 - To effectively secure the new protection,
- it is desirable to nationalize distribution.

(2) That necessary power to carry out the provisions of the foregoing resolution be sought through a referendum of the people at the next general election of the Federal Parliament.

Mr. Frank J. Foster not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.

5. DEFENCE—ARMED FOREIGN MERCHANT SHIPS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Kelly:—

- (1) That this House is of opinion that action should be taken to discourage trading in Australian waters by such foreign merchant ships as are capable of immediate conversion into commerce destroyers upon the outbreak of war.
- (2) That the above resolution be sent to the Senate for its concurrence.

Debate resumed.

Mr. Higgs 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 Thursday next.

6. BANKING COMPANIES RESERVE LIABILITIES BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 2 further considered.

Debate resumed on the amendment moved by Mr. Fenton, viz.:—Line 6, omit "and 'Company'".

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 read.

Mr. Greene moved the following amendment:—

Line 1, omit all the words after the word "profits", with a view to inserting—

"shall not include—

- (a) any sums arising from the realization of assets which are properly applicable to the replacement of capital;
- (b) any sum arising from the conversion of any portion of other reserves; or
- (c) any sums which under the circumstances ought to be set aside to meet liabilities direct or contingent."

Debate ensued.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Poynton reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, on Thursday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Orders of the Day Nos. 3 and 4, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 19th instant.

5th October, 1911.

8. KALGOORLIE TO PORT AUGUSTA RAILWAY BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 3 further considered.

Debate resumed on the amendment moved by Mr. Bruce Smith, viz. :—

At end of clause add—

“(3) In order to partially recoup the Commonwealth for the capital expenditure involved in the construction of the railway, it shall be a further condition precedent to the work being entered upon that the States of Western Australia and South Australia respectively shall reserve from sale and vest in trustees to the use of the Commonwealth, with power of sale or lease, all the Crown lands extending for twenty-five miles on both sides of the line, as ultimately adopted, (inclusive of the reservations required under the previous sub-section) along its whole length throughout the territories of the respective States.”

The proposed amendment having been amended to read as follows :—

At end of clause add—

“(3) In order to partially recoup the Commonwealth for the capital expenditure involved in the construction of the railway it shall be a further condition precedent to the work being entered upon that the States of Western Australia and South Australia respectively shall reserve from sale and vest in the Commonwealth alternate blocks of fifteen miles square of Crown lands on both sides of the line (inclusive of the reservations required under the previous sub-section) throughout the whole length of the territories of the respective States, up to a point ten miles distant from the Kalgoorlie railway station at the western extremity of the line, and up to a point ten miles distant from the Port Augusta railway station at the eastern extremity of the railway.”

Debate continued.

Question—That the new sub-clause proposed to be added to clause 3 be so added—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 9.

Noes, 33.

Mr. Chanter	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Fenton	
Mr. Hans Irvine	
Mr. Mathews	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Ryrie	Mr. W. Elliot Johnson
Mr. Salmon	Mr. Wise

Mr. Archibald	Mr. O'Malley
Mr. Batchelor	Mr. Ozanne
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Page
Mr. Cann	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Catts	Mr. Riley
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Cook	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Laird Smith
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Frank J. Foster	Mr. Thomson
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Frazer	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Webster
Mr. Groom	
Mr. Hedges	
Mr. Howe	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. W. J. Johnson	Mr. R. W. Foster
Mr. McWilliams	Mr. Roberts

And so it was negatived.

Mr. Chanter moved the following amendment :—

At end of clause add—

“(3) In order to partially recoup the Commonwealth for the capital expenditure involved in the construction of the railway it shall be a further condition precedent to the work being entered upon that the States of Western Australia and South Australia respectively shall reserve from sale and vest in the Commonwealth all the Crown lands in alternate sections of ten miles square on both sides of the line as ultimately adopted (inclusive of the reservations required under the previous sub-section) along its whole length throughout the territories of the respective States. Provided also that no land shall be so granted within ten miles of the terminal points of the line.”

Debate ensued.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Poynton reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

9. PURCHASE TELEPHONE LINES BILL.—Mr. Thomas, pursuant to leave given on the 20th ultimo, brought up a Bill intituled “A Bill for an Act to provide for the Acquisition of Purchase Telephone Lines,” and moved. That it be now read a first time.

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

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

5th October, 1911.

10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Thomas moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at thirty-eight minutes past ten o'clock p.m., 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. Atkinson, Mr. Brown, Mr. Carr, Mr. Chapman, Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Livingston, Sir William Lyne, Mr. Mahon, Mr. W. Maloney, Sir John Quick, Mr. Sampson, and Mr. Spence.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.