

1912.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 37.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 22ND AUGUST, 1912.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Spence presented a Petition from certain voters of Australia praying that a Commission may be appointed to revise the Constitution with a view to making the Federal Parliament supreme in all matters except those delegated to the States by the Commonwealth, and that the revised Constitution be submitted to a Referendum at the next elections.
Petition received and read.
3. PAPER.—Mr. Thomas, for Mr. Frazer, presented, pursuant to Statute—
Public Service Act—Postmaster-General's Department—Appointment of J. C. Radcliffe as Draughtsman, Class E, Electrical Engineer's Branch, New South Wales.
4. PENSIONS FOR DEFENCE FORCES.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Mathews :—That, in the opinion of this House, legislation should be introduced to provide a system of pensions to the members of the Defence Forces, and that the resolution be communicated to the Senate, with a request for its concurrence—
And on the following Amendment moved thereto by Mr. W. Maloney :—That the following words be added to the motion—"and shall not come into force until the people who pay shall vote Yea or Nay by the Referendum"—
Debate resumed.
Mr. West addressing the House, and 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, 5th September.
5. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the remaining Orders of the Day, General Business, be postponed as follows :—
No. 2 to Thursday, 19th September.
No. 3 to Thursday, 5th September.
6. MUNICIPAL RATES—PAYMENT OF, BY COMMONWEALTH.—Mr. Kelly moved, pursuant to notice, That this House, following the practice of the House of Commons, is of opinion, in view of the unequal distribution of Federal properties in the various municipalities of Australia, that the Commonwealth should grant yearly to each municipality as an act of grace an amount equal to the municipal rates and taxes which it would have to pay were it not exempt from taxation under the Constitution.
Debate ensued.
The time allowed for precedence of General Business having terminated, Government Business was called on.

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7. SUPPLY [BUDGET DEBATE].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Consideration resumed of the motion of Mr. Fisher (*see p. 76 ante*), That the first item in the Estimates, under Division I.—The Parliament—namely—

The President £1,100
be agreed to.

General debate continued.

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.

8. PAPERS.—Mr. O'Malley presented, pursuant to Statute—
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at Queanbeyan, Federal Capital Territory—
For Commonwealth purposes.
Mr. Roberts presented, pursuant to Statute—
Defence Act—Regulation Amended (Provisional)— Universal Training (No. 28)—Statutory Rules
1912, No. 166.
9. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day, No. 2, Government
Business, be postponed until to-morrow.
10. PINE CREEK TO KATHERINE RIVER RAILWAY SURVEY BILL.—The Order of the Day having been
read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of His Excellency the Governor-
General's Message No. 3—
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Thomas, after debate—That it is expedient that an appro-
priation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to authorize the Survey of a
route for a line of Railway in the Northern Territory from Pine Creek to the Katherine River.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Poynton reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.

And the said Resolution was adopted by the House.

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

Mr. Thomas 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.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at seven minutes to eleven 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. Charlton,
Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Frazer, Mr. Greene, Mr. Howe, Mr. Hans Irvine*, Sir William Lyne*,
Mr. Mahon, Mr. Sinclair, and Mr. Laird Smith.

* On leave.

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