

1912.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 45.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 1912.

1. The House met, at half-past four o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the consideration of Order of the Day No. 1, General Business, be postponed until Thursday next.
3. 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 ”—

Mr. Scullin moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 27.

Noes, 25.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Riley
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Catts	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Spence
Mr. Fisher	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Frank J. Foster	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Frazer	Mr. Webster
Mr. Jensen	Mr. Wise
Mr. W. J. Johnson	
Mr. W. Maloney	
Mr. Parker Moloney	
Mr. O'Malley	
Mr. Page	

*Tellers.*Mr. Higgs
Mr. Watkins

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Groom
Mr. Cann	Mr. Hedges
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Cook	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Deakin	Mr. Palmer
Mr. R. Edwards	Sir John Quick
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Ryrie
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Sampson
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Thomson
Mr. R. W. Foster	
Mr. Fowler	
Mr. Fuller	
Mr. Glynn	
Mr. Gordon	

*Tellers.*Mr. Bamford
Mr. W. Elliot Johnson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.

4. MURRAY RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES—FEDERAL CONTROL OF.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Sampson :—That, for the purpose of enabling the Parliament of the Commonwealth to effectively legislate in respect to water conservation and irrigation, the Constitution should be amended to place under Federal control the Murray River and its tributaries—

Debate resumed.

Mr. W. Elliot Johnson 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, 26th September.

5th September, 1912.

5. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That the consideration of Orders of the Day Nos. 4 and 5, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 26th September.
6. **MUNICIPAL RATES—PAYMENT OF, BY COMMONWEALTH.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Kelly:—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 resumed.
Mr. Higgs 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 next.
7. **NAVAL AGREEMENT BILL (1912).**—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—
Mr. Roberts moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Mr. Roberts rising to speak in reply, under Standing Order No. 261—
Mr. Speaker stated that, in his opinion, new Standing Order No. 257A abolished the right of reply.
And several Members having addressed themselves to the point of order—
Mr. Fisher moved, That Standing Order No. 257A shall not prevent the right of reply under Standing Order No. 261.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Roberts having replied—
Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—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.)

- Clause 1 debated and agreed to.
Clause 2 debated and agreed to.
Title agreed to.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Poynton reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr. Roberts, the House adopted the Report.
Ordered—That the third reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

8. **ADJOURNMENT.**—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at a quarter 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—Sir Robert Best, Mr. Brown, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Greene, Mr. Howe, Mr. Hans Irvine*, Mr. Livingston, Sir William Lyne*, Mr. Mahon, Mr. Ozanne, and Mr. West.

* On leave.

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