

1914.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 24.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 4TH JUNE, 1914.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MEAT EXPORT TRADE COMMISSION BILL.—Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to facilitate the proceedings of the Commissioner appointed to hold an Inquiry respecting the operations of any person, combination, or trust tending to create any restraint of trade or monopoly in connexion with the export of meat from Australia.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Groom 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. Groom moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Mr. Fisher 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 to-morrow.
3. COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL (1914).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Sir John Forrest moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Mr. Fisher 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 to-morrow.
4. POSTAL VOTING RESTORATION BILL.—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.
Question—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—

Mr. McGrath moved the following amendment :—

Line 5 omit " 3 " and insert " 4 ".

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2—

Mr. Charlton offered a new clause to be substituted for Clause 2.

The Chairman ruled that Clause 2 must be negatived before the new clause could be proposed.

Mr. McDonald having handed in, in writing, an objection to the Ruling, moved, That the Ruling be dissented from.

Debate ensued.

Motion of objection to Ruling, by leave, withdrawn.

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Mr. Charlton moved the following amendment :—At end of clause add—

“ Provided nothing in those sections shall be inconsistent with the following provisions :—

(1) (a) An elector who, owing to serious illness or infirmity, has reason to believe that he will not be able to record his vote at any polling place during the hours of polling on the day of election, may, at any time after the issue of the writ, and up to within seven days preceding the day of election, make application to the Returning Officer of the Division in which he is enrolled that he be allowed to record his vote.

(b) The Returning Officer on a day previous to the election, and after the time for receiving applications has expired, shall instruct a Presiding Officer who shall, prior to or on the day of election, call at the address of the person who claims a vote, and if satisfied that the applicant is entitled to vote under the provisions of this section shall supply the applicant with a ballot-paper which the voter will mark in the prescribed manner in the presence of the officer, and if the voter so desires, of a relative or other person, but so that the officer cannot see the manner in which the ballot-paper is marked, and shall then fold the ballot-paper so as to hide the vote, and then in the presence of the officer deposit the ballot-paper in a sealed ballot-box which shall be provided and remain in the custody of the officer until it is given into the charge of the Divisional Returning Officer. The ballot-paper shall be opened by and counted by the Returning Officer at the scrutiny after the closing of the Ballot.

(c) Provided that in the case of any elector who resides more than five miles from a polling place, and who owing to serious illness or infirmity has reason to believe that he will not be able to record his vote at any polling place during the hours of polling on the day of election may, at any time after the issue of the writ and up to within seven days preceding the day of election, make application to the Returning Officer of the Division in which he is enrolled that he be allowed to record his vote. The Returning Officer may, if the elector makes application to record his vote, appoint any of the following persons to wait upon the elector, viz. :—Postmasters or Postmistresses or persons in charge of post offices ; Head Teachers in the employment of a State Education Department ; officers of the Department of Trade and Customs ; members of the Police Force of the Commonwealth or of a State ; and such persons so appointed shall and may exercise all the powers of the Presiding Officer as set forth in (b) of this clause.

(2) Any elector who has reason to believe—

(a) That he will not on polling day, during the hours of polling, be within five miles of any polling place ; or

(b) That he will on polling day be in quarantine within the Commonwealth ; may after the issue of the writ, upon making a declaration in the prescribed form before a postmaster, vote under the provisions of section 139 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1902-1911* or as an absent voter.

Provided that—

(1) The declaration shall be made and the vote shall be recorded only at the post office of which such postmaster is in charge ; and

(2) The declaration shall not be valid unless such postmaster stamps the declaration with post office letter stamp of the date upon which the declaration is made.”

Debate ensued.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Fowler reported accordingly.

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

5. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at three 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. Abbott and Mr. Chapman.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.