

1917-18.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 42.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 1918.

1. The House met at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Tudor:—That the House protests against—

- (a) the repudiation of the pledges of the Prime Minister and other Ministers ;
 (b) the political persecution of public men and other citizens and the press under the War Precautions Regulations during the recent Referendum campaign ;
 (c) the deprivation of statutory electoral rights of Australian-born citizens by regulation behind the back of Parliament ;
 (d) the general administration of public affairs,

and wishes to inform His Excellency the Governor-General that the Government does not possess the confidence of the people of Australia—

Debate resumed.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 19.

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Nicholls
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Riley
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Considine	Mr. Wallace
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. West
Mr. Higgs	
Mr. Mahony	
Mr. W. Maloney	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Anstey
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Charlton

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Mr. Archibald	Mr. Livingston
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lynch
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Manifold
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Pigott
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Sampson
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Groom	Mr. Spence
Mr. Heitmann	Mr. Story
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Watt
Sir William Irvine	Mr. Webster
Mr. Jensen	Mr. Wise
Mr. Jowett	
Mr. Kelly	
Mr. Lamond	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Leckie	Mr. Greene
Mr. Lister	Mr. John Thomson

And so it was negatived.

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18th and 19th January, 1918.

3. SUPPLY RESOLUTION [SUPPLY BILL].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

SUPPLY BILL (No. 5) 1917-18.

Sir John Forrest moved, That there be granted to His Majesty for or towards defraying the services of the year 1917-18 a sum not exceeding £2,284,037.

Debate ensued.

And the Committee continuing to sit till after twelve o'clock, midnight—

SATURDAY, 19th JANUARY, 1918.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Atkinson reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at its next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

4. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That the Standing Orders be suspended to enable the remaining stages to be passed without delay.
Question—put and passed.
5. SUPPLY RESOLUTION.—The Resolution reported from the Committee of Supply was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Groom, was adopted by the House.
6. WAYS AND MEANS RESOLUTION.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

SUPPLY BILL (No. 5) 1917-18.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Groom—That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the services of the year 1917-18, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £2,284,037.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at its next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

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

Ordered—That Mr. Groom and Mr. Joseph Cook do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

7. SUPPLY BILL (No. 5) 1917-18.—Mr. Groom then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and eighteen,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
Mr. Groom moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
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.)

Bill agreed to, and to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Groom, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

8. PAPERS.—Mr. Speaker presented—

Audit Act—

Finance 1916-17—The Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during the year ended 30th June, 1917, accompanied by the Report of the Auditor-General.

Ordered to be printed.

18th, and 19th, and 25th January, 1918.

PAPERS—continued.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—

Awards varied or further varied—

- (1) Order varying or further varying Award made by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.
- (2) Statement of laws and regulations with which, in the opinion of the Deputy-President, the Order is not or may not be in accord.
- (3) "Reasons for judgment."
- (4) Opinion of Attorney-General—

On plaint submitted by—

Australian Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Officers' Association—

Order dated 18th October, 1917, further varying Award dated 19th September, 1916, as varied 27th October, 1916.

Order dated 18th October, 1917, further varying Award dated 19th September, 1916, as varied 27th October, 1916.

Order dated 18th October, 1917, varying Award dated 1st November, 1915.

Australian Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association—

Order dated 18th October, 1917, varying Award dated 4th May, 1916.

Australian Letter Carriers' Association—

Order dated 18th October, 1917, further varying Award dated 19th September, 1916, as varied 27th October 1916.

Commonwealth Postmasters' Association—

Order dated 18th October, 1917, varying Award dated 1st November, 1915.

Federated Public Service Assistants' Association of Australia—

Order dated 18th October, 1917, further varying Award dated 19th September, 1916, as varied 27th October, 1916.

Order dated 18th October, 1917, further varying Award dated 19th September, 1916, as varied 27th October, 1916.

Award further varied—

- (1) Order dated 18th October, 1917, further varying Award dated 15th June, 1915, made by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, as varied 13th October, 1915.
- (2) "Reasons for judgment."
- (3) Opinion of Attorney-General—

On plaint submitted by—

Postal Sorters' Union of Australia.

Public Service Act—Promotions—

Postmaster-General's Department—

J. E. Fidler.

G. A. Gunning.

J. James.

Railways Act—By-law No. 1.

War Precautions Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1917, No. 289.

9. **PRINTING OF PAPERS.**—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the Report of the River Murray Commission, laid upon the Table of the House on the 9th instant, be printed.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the Commonwealth Bank Balance Sheet of 30th June, 1917, presented to the House on the 24th September last, be printed.

Question—put and passed.

10. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.**—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, by leave, That leave of absence be granted to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

11. **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.**—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until three p.m. on a date to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, which day of meeting shall be notified by Mr. Speaker to each Member by telegram or letter.

Question—put and passed.

12. **SUSPENSION OF SITTING.**—Mr. Speaker, at nine minutes past three o'clock in the morning, stated that he would now vacate the Chair, and would again take the Chair on Friday next at three o'clock p.m., as he understood that such was the desire of the House.

Mr. Speaker thereupon vacated the Chair.

FRIDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 1918.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair at 3 o'clock p.m.

13. **PAPERS.**—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Military Hospital—Reports of the Advisory Committee for Military Hospitals and Convalescent Homes, New South Wales, upon the Administration of No. 4, Australian General Hospital, Randwick, New South Wales.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

18th, 19th, and 25th January, 1918.

PAPERS—continued.

The following Papers were presented pursuant to Statute—

Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Fund Act.—Report by the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Fund and of the various State War Councils.

Ordered to be printed.

Customs Act—

Proclamation prohibiting the Importation and Exportation (except under certain conditions) of Copra.

Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1918, Nos. 10, 11.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at South Head, Sydney—For Defence purposes.

Public Service Act—Promotions of C. H. Conn, and J. A. Cronin, Prime Minister's Department.

14. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SUPPLY BILL (No. 5) 1917-18.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

.Message No. 41.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and eighteen*," to which it has agreed without requests.

THOS. GIVEN, President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 25th January, 1918, a.m.

15. "HANSARD" AND ALTERATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS.—Mr. Speaker read to the House the following Memorandum:—

HANSARD "PROOF" REVISIONS.

With reference to alterations made by honorable Members in the "proofs" of their speeches supplied to them for revision, I desire to inform the House that while honorable Members generally exercise the privilege of revision only to the extent of correcting errors, and some Members not at all, others do so with a considerable amount of freedom, not only in the direction of amplification and qualification, but also in altering the phraseology of their speeches.

Where this has been done within reasonable limits and without altering the sense of their utterances or introducing new matter, although in some cases it has caused inconvenience and delay in checking and re-setting, such emendations have been allowed to pass.

It not unfrequently happens that the effort to crowd a number of subjects and arguments into a time-limited speech, especially when the train of thought is disturbed by interjections or other distracting influences, betrays some honorable Members into expressing themselves in terms which when read in printed type either obscure their meaning or convey an erroneous impression, and I am not prepared to say that in such circumstances honorable Members are not entitled to make corrections necessary to convey the meaning they intended when speaking.

In a publication which circulates so largely among Public Libraries in various countries, in Literary Institutes, in Universities for the use of students of Constitutional History, and in Shorthand Schools for the purposes of dictation, alterations involving improvement in literary composition, greater elegance of diction, or lucidity of expression should perhaps be encouraged rather than otherwise, but if the general trustworthiness of *Hansard* is likely in consequence of emendations to be seriously affected, its value as a reliable record of the debates in the House will be greatly impaired, and it may be necessary in future, unless the House otherwise decides, to confine emendations strictly to the correction of obvious errors.

16. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two minutes past six o'clock p.m., adjourned until three o'clock p.m., on a day to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, and to be notified by him to each Member by telegram or letter.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Lieut.-Colonel Abbott^a, Mr. Burchell^a, Mr. Falkiner, Mr. Fleming^a, Mr. McGrath^a, Brigadier-General Ryrrie^a, and Mr. Yates^a.

* On leave.

(a) Joined Australian Imperial Expeditionary Forces.

WALTER A. GALE,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.