

1917-18.

 THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 119.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1918.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO SPIRITS BILL (1918).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 88.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to amend the 'Spirits Act 1906-1915'*," as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Government House,
Melbourne, 12th December, 1918.
3. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Norfolk Island—Report of the Administrator for the year ended 30th June, 1918.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
4. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Higgs rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "The failure on the part of the Prime Minister to keep the Government informed as to the position with regard to copper."
Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—
Mr. Higgs moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
5. CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BILL (1918).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Groom moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Mr. Tudor 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 a later hour this day.
6. SUPPLY [BUDGET DEBATE].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

 (*In the Committee.*)

 Question again proposed (*see p. 292 ante*), That the first item in the Estimates, under Division I.—
The Parliament—namely—

The President	£1,100
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be agreed to.

General debate resumed.

Mr. Chapman moved, That the first item of the Estimates be reduced by £1.

Debate continued.

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17th and 18th December, 1918.

And the Committee continuing to sit till after midnight—

WEDNESDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 1918.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amount proposed to be reduced be so reduced—put and negatived.

Debate on original question continued.

Original Question—put and passed.

Remainder of Vote—The PARLIAMENT—agreed to.

Ordered—That the remaining Estimates be proposed in Departments.

The PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT debated—

Mr. Sampson moved, That the Vote be reduced by £1.

Debate continued.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Charlton reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

7. DECLARATION OF ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATION BILL AS URGENT—LIMITATION OF DEBATE.—

Mr. Watt having declared—

- (a) That the Estimates of Expenditure 1918–19 were Urgent Estimates;
- (b) That the Resolutions preliminary to the introduction of the Appropriation Bill were Urgent Resolutions; and
- (c) That the Appropriation Bill was an Urgent Bill—

Question—

- (a) That the Estimates of Expenditure 1918–19 are Urgent Estimates;
- (b) That the Resolutions preliminary to the introduction of the Appropriation Bill are Urgent Resolutions; and
- (c) That the Appropriation Bill is an Urgent Bill—put—

The House divided—

Ayes, 29.

Lieut.-Col. Abbott	Mr. Orchard
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Pigott
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Corser	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Spence
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Watt
Mr. Greene	Mr. Webster
Mr. Groom	Mr. Wise
Mr. Jowett	
Mr. Lamond	
Mr. Lister	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Livingston	Mr. Story
Mr. Lynch	Mr. John Thomson

Noes, 17.

Mr. Brennan	Mr. Higgs
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Chapman	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Considine	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Corboy	
Mr. Falkiner	
Mr. Finlayson	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Fenton
Mr. Gregory	Mr. McGrath

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Watt then moved, That the time allotted for the consideration of the whole of the Estimates be until 10.30 p.m. to-day, and that the time allotted for all Resolutions and stages of the Appropriation Bill be until 11.30 p.m. to-day.

Debate ensued.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

8. SUPPLY [ESTIMATES 1918–19].—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Question again proposed, That the Vote—PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT—be reduced by £1.

Debate continued.

Question—That the Vote proposed to be reduced be so reduced—put.

17th and 18th December, 1918.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 13.		Noes, 24.	
Mr. Boyd	Mr. W. Maloney	Lieut.-Col. Abbott	Mr. Orchard
Mr. Chapman	Mr. McGrath	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Considine	Mr. Sampson	Mr. Bamford	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Fenton		Mr. Bayley	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Finlayson		Sir Robert Best	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Fowler	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Corser	Mr. Spence
Mr. Gregory	Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Glynn	Mr. Watt
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Greene	Mr. Webster
		Mr. Groom	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Jowett	
		Mr. Leckie	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Livingston	Mr. Story
		Mr. Lynch	Mr. John Thomson

And so it was negatived.

The PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, agreed to.

Progress to be reported and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

9. REMOVAL OF MR. JENSEN FROM OFFICE OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE AND CUSTOMS.—Mr. Jensen, by leave of the House, made a statement with reference to the Report of the Royal Commission on Navy and Defence Administration and his recent removal from the office of Minister for Trade and Customs.

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

And then the House, at thirteen minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Anstey*, Mr. Archibald, Mr. Blakeley, Mr. Burchell*(a), Sir Joseph Cook*, Mr. Fleming*(a), Mr. Heitmann*(a), Mr. Hughes*, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Mahony, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Riley, Brigadier-General Ryrie*(a), Mr. Wallace, Mr. Watkins, Mr. West, and Mr. Yates*(a).

* On leave.

(a) Joined Australian Imperial Force.

WALTER A. GALE,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.