

1917-18-19.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 134.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 24TH JULY, 1919.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—SHIPBUILDING.—Mr. Poynton, by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to shipbuilding for the Commonwealth in and out of Australia.
3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Norfolk Island—Ordinances of 1919—
No. 1.—Appeal.
No. 2.—Affidavits.
4. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—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 agreed to.

Clause 3—

Mr. Tudor moved, as an amendment, That the word "twenty" (line 43 of page 3) be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the word "thirty" in place thereof.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 30.

Noes, 13.

Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Burchell	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Corser	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Spence
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Webster
Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise
Mr. Groom	
Mr. Leckie	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Lister	Mr. Lamond
Mr. Lynch	Mr. John Thomson

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Corboy	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. West
Mr. Higgs	
Mr. Mahony	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Mathews	
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Fenton
Mr. Riley	Mr. Page

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Fenton moved, as an amendment, That the word "twenty" (line 46 of page 3) be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the word "thirty" in place thereof.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.

F.6286.

24th July, 1919.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 31.		Noes, 15.	
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Anstey	Mr. Riley
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Maxwell	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Palmer	Mr. Brennan	Mr. West
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Corboy	Mr. Yates
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Fenton	
Mr. Burchell	Mr. Sampson	Mr. Finlayson	
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Sinclair	Mr. Higgs	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Corser	Mr. Bruce Smith	Mr. Mahony	Mr. Mathews
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Spence	Mr. McDonald	Mr. Page
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Story		
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Webster		
Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise		
Mr. Groom			
Mr. Lamond			
Mr. Leckie	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Lister	Mr. Fleming		
Mr. Lynch	Mr. John Thomson		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Higgs moved, as an amendment, That the word "twenty" (line 3 of page 4) be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the word "thirty" in place thereof.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 31.		Noes, 14.	
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Leckie	Mr. Anstey	Mr. Riley
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lynch	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Considine	Mr. West
Sir Robert Best	Mr. McWilliams	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Yates
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Palmer	Mr. Finlayson	
Mr. Burchell	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Higgs	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Mahony	Mr. Page
Mr. Corser	Mr. Sampson	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Sinclair		
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Spence		
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Webster		
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Wise		
Mr. Greene			
Mr. Gregory	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Groom	Mr. Story		
Mr. Jowett	Mr. John Thomson		
Mr. Lamond			

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Blakeley moved, as an amendment, That the word "twenty" (line 6 of page 4) be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the word "thirty" in place thereof.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 30.		Noes, 13.	
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Leckie	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lynch	Mr. Considine	Mr. West
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Yates.
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Palmer	Mr. Finlayson	
Mr. Burchell	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Higgs	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Mahony	Mr. Page
Mr. Corser	Mr. Sampson	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Sinclair	Mr. Riley	
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Bruce Smith		
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Spence		
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Webster		
Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise		
Mr. Gregory			
Mr. Groom	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Jowett	Mr. Story		
Mr. Lamond	Mr. John Thomson		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Clause agreed to.

24th July, 1919.

Clause 4 debated and agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6—

Mr. Higgs moved, as an amendment, That the following sub-clause be added to the clause :—

“(4) Notwithstanding anything appearing to the contrary in any Act or regulation or agreement, all books, vouchers and documents in the possession or under the control of the Colonial Combing, Spinning, and Weaving Company Limited, and Whiddon Brothers Limited, and relating to the purchase, manufacture, and/or sale of the sheep skins, wool and wool tops referred to in any agreement made or to be made with the said companies by or on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, shall be produced to the Auditor-General of the Commonwealth, who shall inspect, audit and examine such books, vouchers and documents; and shall from time to time prepare and sign a report for submission through the Treasurer to both Houses of the Parliament. And the said companies shall facilitate in every way the checking by the said Auditor-General by a continuous audit of all calculations made by the said companies in ascertaining the net earnings of the companies for the purposes of any agreement. It shall be the duty of the Auditor-General to decide what amounts should be credited and debited in order to ascertain the net earnings of the companies, and his decision shall be final and binding on both parties. The Auditor-General may disallow any items and such items shall be omitted from the accounts. The Auditor-General may by writing under his hand appoint any person to exercise such powers and perform such duties of the Auditor-General under this Act as he thinks fit.”

Debate ensued.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Atkinson reported accordingly.

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

5. ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Groom moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two minutes to 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. Bruce, Mr. J. H. Catts, Mr. Charlton, Sir Joseph Cook, Mr. Falkiner, Mr. Heitmann^(a), Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Nicholls*, Mr. Pigott, Major-General Ryrie^(a), Mr. Wallace, and Mr. Watt.

* On leave.

(a) Absent with Australian Imperial Force.

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