

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 13.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1920.

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—SUGAR.—Mr. Hughes, by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to Sugar.
3. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Tudor 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 price of sugar to the consumer".  
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. Tudor moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the debate was interrupted in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, and the Business of the Day was called on.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Beer Excise Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1920, No. 40.  
Distillation Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1920, No. 41.  
Excise Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1920, No. 39.  
Public Service Act—Promotion of H. McHugh, Home and Territories Department.
5. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES OF MOTION.—Ordered, That Notice of Motion No. 1 be postponed until Thursday, 8th April, and that Notice of Motion No. 2 be postponed until Thursday, 6th May.
6. REFERENDUM AND INITIATIVE.—Mr. W. Maloney moved, pursuant to notice—  
(1) That, in the opinion of this House, the Referendum and Initiative should be embedded into the Commonwealth Constitution, and that such question should be placed before the electors at the earliest opportunity for acceptance or rejection.  
(2) That contingent upon the passing of such motion, it be an instruction to the Government of the day to bring in a Bill to carry it into effect.  
(3) That the Government arrange at an early date to grant a day for the consideration of such motion.  
Question—put and passed.
7. SEA-CARRIAGE—SELECT COMMITTEE.—Mr. McWilliams moved, pursuant to notice, That a Select Committee, consisting of seven Members of this House, be appointed to inquire into and report upon the conditions of the Australian Overseas and Inter-State Sea Carriage.  
Debate ensued.  
Mr. Atkinson moved, That the debate be now adjourned.  
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.

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The House divided—

Ayes, 27.		Noes, 33.	
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Jackson	Mr. Bell	Mr. Makin
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Kerby	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. W. Maloney
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Lamond	Mr. Brennan	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Blundell	Mr. Mackay	Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Marks	Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr	Mr. Considine	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Riley
Sir Joseph Cook	Sir Granville Ryrie	Mr. Corser	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Laird Smith	Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Stewart
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Wise	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Fowler		Mr. Gabb	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Francis		Mr. Higgs	Mr. West
Mr. Greene	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Hill	Mr. Wienholt
Mr. Groom	Mr. Burchell	Mr. Jowett	
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Story	Mr. Lavelle	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Mathews
		Mr. Lister	Mr. James Page
		Mr. Mahony	

And so it was negatived.

Debate on main question continued.

The time allotted for General Business having expired, Government Business was called on.

8. WAR GRATUITY 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.

Mr. J. H. Catts moved, as an amendment, That, after the word "That", the following words be inserted:—

"in the opinion of this House there should be incorporated in the Bill the following election pledges made by the Prime Minister but not now provided for—

(a) Payment of the War Gratuity in cash to—

- (i) soldiers who have lost an eye;
- (ii) soldiers who have lost an arm or leg;
- (iii) unemployed soldiers;

(iv) Commonwealth employees who are returned soldiers.

(b) The undertaking made with the Prime Minister by the State Governments of Queensland, Victoria, and New South Wales for the payment of cash in exchange for the Gratuity Bonds of their returned soldier employees.

(c) The undertaking made with the Prime Minister by certain banks, insurance companies and other employers for the payment of cash in exchange for the Gratuity Bonds of their returned soldier employees.

(d) The issue of Gratuity Bonds generally, negotiable at the banks."

Debate ensued.

*Speaker's Ruling.*—Mr. Speaker ruled that the amendment in its present form was out of order, as it transgressed the established rule that the anticipation of amendments which could be moved in Committee could not be embodied in an amendment to a motion for the second reading of a Bill.

Mr. J. H. Catts moved, That the ruling of Mr. Speaker be dissented from.

The debate thereon was forthwith adjourned until the next sitting day.

Debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—continued.

Mr. Marks 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.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty 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. Charlton\*, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hay, Mr. Livingston\*, Mr. Mahon, Mr. Nicholls, and Mr. Watt.

\* On leave.

WALTER A. GALE,  
Clerk of the House of Representatives