

1920.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 24.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 29TH APRIL, 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. **ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.**—Mr. Marr 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 Dismissal of Returned Soldiers at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, whilst civilians and girls are still employed".
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. Marr moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
3. **PAPER.**—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Wool—Return showing the estimated number of bales and descriptions of wool remaining in Australia on 26th April, 1920.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
4. **CONSTITUTION—CONVENTION RE AMENDMENT.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Austin Chapman:—
 - (1) That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that as early as practicable a Constitutional Convention should be summoned for the purpose of considering the need, substance, and form of any amendment of section 51 of the Constitution, and that such Convention shall—
 - (a) consist of ten (10) representatives of each State, elected on the existing Federal franchise, according to the principle of proportional representation;
 - (b) hold meetings at such times and places as it may think fit;
 - (c) submit within twelve months to the Governor-General the draft of any amendments adopted by such Convention.
 - (2) That any such amendments so adopted shall be a proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution, and shall be dealt with in accordance with section 128 of the Constitution for passage by Parliament and submission to the electors.
 - (3) That an Enabling Bill to give effect to the foregoing should be introduced to Parliament as early as practicable—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Kerby addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.

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5. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES OF MOTION.—Ordered—That Notice of Motion No. 1 (General Business) be postponed until Thursday, 1st July next, and that Notice of Motion No. 2 (General Business) be postponed until Thursday, 24th June next.

6. BROKEN HILL MINING INDUSTRY—ROYAL COMMISSION.—Mr. Considine moved, pursuant to notice—

(1) That a Royal Commission be appointed to investigate and report upon the conditions in connexion with the mining industry at Broken Hill, and more particularly with regard to (a) cost of production of output; (b) wages of employees; (c) hours and other conditions of labour; (d) health of those engaged in the industry, and the causes of the undermining thereof; (e) selling prices and conditions of or in connexion with the sale of metals and other output; (f) profits arising from the industry and its method of distribution.

(2) That such Royal Commission shall have power to summon witnesses and examine them on oath, and to order the production of such papers as the Commission may consider necessary for the purposes of the investigation, and shall have all such other powers as the Royal Commission may consider necessary for effectively performing their functions.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Tudor addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 13th May next.

The time allotted for precedence of General Business having terminated, Government Business was called on.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (JOINT).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 5.

The Senate acquaints the House of Representatives that, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913–1917*, the following Senators have been appointed Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, viz. :—Senator G. Henderson, Senator E. Needham, and Senator J. Newland.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 29th April, 1920.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (JOINT).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 6.

The Senate acquaints the House of Representatives that, in accordance with the provisions of the *Committee of Public Accounts Act 1913–1917*, the following Senators have been appointed Members of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, viz. :—Senator T. W. Crawford, Senator the Honorable J. Earle, and Senator A. McDougall.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 29th April, 1920.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

9. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS REPATRIATION BILL (1920).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 7.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to make provision for the Repatriation of Australian Soldiers and for other purposes*,” and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the amendments made by the House of Representatives, with the exception of Nos. 4 and 30, to which it has disagreed for the reasons set forth in the annexed Schedule.

The Senate desires the reconsideration of the Bill in respect to the amendments disagreed to.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 29th April, 1920.

THOS GIVENS,
President.

Ordered—That the consideration of the foregoing Message in Committee of the Whole House be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 1 (Government Business) be postponed until to-morrow.

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11. AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE CANTEENS FUNDS 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.)

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Clause 5—

Mr. Blakeley moved, as an amendment, That the word "three" be inserted before the word "persons" (line 6).

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 6 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 10 agreed to.

New Clause—

Sir Granville Ryrie moved, That the following new clause be added to the Bill, to follow Clause 6 :—

"6A.—(1.) For the purposes of this Act there shall be for each State an Advisory Committee of not less than three members, one of whom shall be a woman. Advisory
Committees.

(2.) Each Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the Trustees.

(3.) The Trustees shall nominate one member of each Advisory Committee, and the member so nominated shall be the chairman of that Committee.

(4.) An Advisory Committee shall advise the Trustees on matters referred to it by the Trustees, and shall carry out such duties in relation to the granting of assistance and benefits under this Act as the Trustees direct."

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Fleming reported accordingly.

Sir Granville Ryrie 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.

On the motion of Sir Granville Ryrie, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

12. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY (JUDICIARY BILL 1920).—Mr. Groom moved, That Order of the Day No. 3 be postponed until to-morrow.
Debate ensued.
Mr. Considine addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.
Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.
13. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at ten 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. Bamford, Mr. J. H. Catts, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Austin Chapman, Mr. Charlton*, Mr. Greene, Mr. Hay, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Nicholls, and Mr. Watt*.

* On leave.

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