
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 31.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 12TH MAY, 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. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Papuan Oil Resources—Memorandum regarding the Co-operation of the British Admiralty with the Commonwealth Government for the Development of Oil Resources in Papua.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed in substitution for the Paper ordered by the House yesterday to be printed.
3. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL (1920)—[SENATE'S MESSAGE No. 11].—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of the Senate's Message No. 11—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

The Committee proceeded to consider the Amendment, which is as follows:—

SCHEDULE OF THE ALTERNATIVE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TO WHICH THE SENATE HAS DISAGREED.

Alternative Amendment to Amendment No. 30:—

“47A.—(1.) The Commission shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, have power to assist soldiers by way of loan to the extent of pound for pound contributed by them in cash or war bonds for the purpose of establishing industries on a co-operative basis, such industries to include the manufacture of boots, woollen goods, and clothing, tanning, wool-scouring, fellmongering (and kindred industries), sawmilling and other enterprises.

“(2.) The regulations may prescribe the conditions upon which any loan granted in pursuance of this section shall be repayable.”

Mr. Poynton moved, That the Alternative Amendment to Amendment No. 30, disagreed to by the Senate, be not insisted on, but that, in place thereof, the following clause be inserted in the Bill:—

“47A.—(1.) The Commission shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, have power to assist Australian soldiers by way of loan, to an extent not exceeding one pound for each pound contributed by them in Treasury Bonds issued under section thirteen of the *War Gratuity Act 1920*, or in cash, for the purpose of establishing co-operative businesses.

12th May, 1920.

"(2.) The amount of any loan granted in pursuance of this section shall not exceed One hundred and fifty pounds and shall bear interest at such rate as the Commission determines.

"(3.) The aggregate amount of loans granted in pursuance of this section shall not exceed Two hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

"(4.) An Australian soldier who has a share or interest in a business in respect of which a loan has been granted in pursuance of this section shall not transfer his share or interest—

(a) unless the transferee is an Australian soldier approved by the Commission, or

(b) where the transferee is not an Australian soldier, unless, in the opinion of the Commission, there are special circumstances which render the transfer desirable.

"(5.) No person shall, without the consent of the Commission, enter into a mortgage, or give any lien, over the property of a business in respect of which a loan has been granted in pursuance of this section, and any mortgage or lien entered into or given in contravention of this sub-section shall be void and of no effect.

"(6.) The Commission, or any person thereto authorized by the Commission, shall at all times have access to, and may inspect, the books and premises of any business in respect of which a loan has been granted in pursuance of this section and if, upon such inspection, the Commission considers that the business is being conducted in such a manner—

(a) as to depreciate the security of the Commission for the moneys lent by it; or

(b) as to prejudice the interests of the shareholders of the business,

the Commission may require such alteration in the control or conduct of the business as it thinks desirable.

"(7.) Notwithstanding anything in this section a loan shall not be granted for the establishment of a co-operative business—

(a) unless application for the loan is received by the Commission within twelve months after the commencement of this Act or the discharge of the applicants from the Forces, whichever last happens;

(b) unless the applicants satisfy the Commission that they are qualified to carry on that business;

(c) unless the agreement, deed or articles of association entered into by the applicants is approved by the Commission; and

(d) if, in the opinion of the Commission, the applicants have been satisfactorily established in civil life.

"(8.) For the purposes of this section 'co-operative business' means a business which, subject to the rights of the Commission in respect of any loans granted for establishing the business, is owned by persons engaged therein.

"(9.) The regulations may prescribe the conditions upon which loans may be granted in pursuance of this section and the conditions upon which such loans shall be repayable."

Debate ensued.

Mr. James Page moved, That progress be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

Question—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 20.

Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Makin
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Charlton	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Considine	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Gabb	Mr. West
Mr. Hill	
Mr. Lavelle	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. James Page
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Watkins

Noes, 31.

Mr. Bamford	Mr. Lamond
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Lister
Mr. Bell	Mr. Livingston
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Marks
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Marr
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Poynton
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Robert Cook	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Corser	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Wienholt
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Wise
Mr. Francis	
Mr. Gregory	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Higgs	
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Story

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued on original question.

Mr. Jowett moved, as an amendment, That the words "one pound for each pound contributed by them" (line 3 of sub-clause (1.)) be omitted from the motion, with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—"two pounds on the part of the Commission for each pound contributed by each Australian soldier".

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the motion—put.

12th May, 1920.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 28.		Noes, 26.	
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Kerby	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Mahony
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Lamond	Mr. Brennan	Mr. Makin
Mr. Bell	Mr. Lister	Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Livingston	Mr. Charlton	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Considine	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marks	Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Riley
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Marr	Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Corser	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Tudor
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Gabb	Mr. West
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Laird Smith	Mr. Gibson	Mr. Wienholt
Mr. Francis	Mr. Wise	Mr. Gregory	
Mr. Groom		Mr. Hill	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Higgs	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Jowett	Mr. James Page
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Burchell	Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Story		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Poynton moved, as an amendment, That the words "for each original shareholder engaged in the business in respect of which the loan is granted" be inserted in the motion after the word "pounds" (line 2 of sub-clause (2.)).

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Poynton moved, as a further amendment, That the words "Two hundred and fifty" (line 2 of sub-clause (3.)) be omitted from the motion, and that the words "Five hundred" be inserted in place thereof.

Further amendment agreed to.

Mr. Poynton moved, as a further amendment, That the words "satisfactorily established" (line 1 of paragraph (d) of sub-clause (7.)) be omitted from the motion, with a view to the insertion of the words "reasonably and satisfactorily assisted to re-establish themselves" in place thereof.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the motion—put and negatived.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 36.		Noes, 16.	
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Kerby	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Bell	Mr. Lamond	Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Riley
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Lister	Mr. Charlton	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Livingston	Mr. Considine	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Cunningham	Mr. West
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Marks	Mr. Gabb	
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Marr	Mr. Lazzarini	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Corser	Mr. Earle Page	Mr. Mahony	Mr. Fenton
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. James Page	Mr. Makin	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Poynton		
Mr. Francis	Mr. Prowse		
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Rodgers		
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Laird Smith		
Mr. Groom	Mr. Wienholt		
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Wise.		
Mr. Hill			
Mr. Hughes	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Burchell		
Mr. Jowett	Mr. Story		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Atkinson reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Poynton, the House adopted the Report.

4. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—ALIENS REGISTRATION BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 12.

The Senate has passed a Bill for "*An Act relating to the Registration of Aliens,*" and transmits the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,

Melbourne, 12th May, 1920.

Mr. Poynton moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message be now read a first time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

12th May, 1920.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS APPROPRIATION BILL (1920).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 13.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for Invalid and Old-age Pensions,*" to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 12th May, 1920.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—WAR PENSIONS APPROPRIATION BILL (1920).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 14.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for War Pensions,*" to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 12th May, 1920.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That Order of the Day No. 2 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 3.

8. AUDIT BILL (1920).—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 2—

Mr. Higgs moved, as an amendment, line 10, omit "July" and insert "January".

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause further debated and agreed to.

Clause 3 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 7 agreed to.

Clause 8—

Mr. Higgs moved, as an amendment, line 34, after "Commonwealth" insert "and of any person, firm, or company carrying on business in which the Government of the Commonwealth is pecuniarily interested, or from which the Government expect to derive a share of the profits arising out of the said business".

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 12.

Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Gabb	Mr. West
Mr. Higgs	
Mr. Mahony	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Makin	Mr. Fenton
Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. James Page

Noes, 25.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Lamond
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Lister
Mr. Bell	Mr. Marks
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Rodgers
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Wienholt
Mr. Corser	Mr. Wise.
Mr. R. W. Foster	
Mr. Groom	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Hughes	
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Kerby	Mr. Story

And so it was negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 9 and 10 agreed to.

New clauses—

On the motion of Mr. Higgs, after debate, the following new clauses were added to the Bill to follow Clause 2 :—

2A. The Audit Department of the Commonwealth shall be a separate Department and the Auditor-General shall be the permanent head of the Department.

12th May, 1920.

2b. Notwithstanding anything contained in any Act to the contrary, all appointments to the Audit Department shall be made by the Governor-General on the nomination or recommendation of the Auditor-General, provided that the Auditor-General shall nominate or recommend officers in the employ of or entitled to employment in the Public Service of the Commonwealth.

Provided further, that if at any time, in any special case, it appears expedient or desirable in the interests of the Commonwealth to appoint to the Audit Department some person who is not in the Public Service of the Commonwealth, the Auditor-General may nominate or recommend such person to the Governor-General for appointment.

See clause 31
of Public
Service Act.

2c. In all matters affecting the officers of the Audit Department not provided for under this Act, the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Service Act* 1902-1918 shall apply.

On the motion of Sir Joseph Cook, the following new clause was added to the Bill, to follow Clause 3:—

3a. Section twenty-nine of the Principal Act is repealed, and the following section inserted in its stead:—

“29. When any such money as last aforesaid shall have remained in such bank for three months, and thereafter for such period (if any) not exceeding three months as the Treasurer directs, such person shall pay the same and act in respect thereof and in regard thereto in like manner as accounting officers are required to pay and act with reference to moneys which shall come to their possession or control for or on account of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, or as near thereto as the circumstances of the case will permit; and such money shall be placed to the credit of the said Trust Fund under such separate heads as may be directed by the Treasurer.”

Payment to
public account
of private
moneys
collected by
public servants.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr. Watkins reported accordingly.

Sir Joseph Cook 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 Joseph Cook, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

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

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Blundell, Mr. Chanter*, Mr. Austin Chapman, Mr. Greene, Mr. Mahon, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Watt*.

* On leave.

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