

1920.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 50.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 29TH JULY, 1920.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.
2. **ABSENCE OF MR. SPEAKER.**—The Clerk, at the Table, having informed the House that Mr. Speaker was unavoidably absent, the Chairman of Committees took the Chair as Deputy-Speaker, and read Prayers.
3. **DEATH OF WIFE OF MR. SPEAKER.**—Mr. Deputy-Speaker announced to the House, with profound regret, the death of Lady Johnson, the wife of Mr. Speaker. Mr. Hughes, Mr. Tudor, and Mr. McWilliams also expressed their deep sympathy with Mr. Speaker in his sad loss.
4. **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 1920-21.**—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Deputy-Speaker:—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 22.

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and twenty-one.

Government House,
Melbourne, July, 1920.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be referred to the Committee of Supply.

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

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 31.

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.:—Senators H. S. Foll, J. Newland, and W. Plain.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 28th July, 1920.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

29th July, 1920.

6. **NOTICE OF MOTION WITHDRAWN.**—Mr. Marr's Notice of Motion, No. 7, General Business (for a Select Committee on Wireless Telegraphy), was withdrawn.

7. **GENERAL ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS—TIME FOR HOLDING.**—Mr. Jowett moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, the Commonwealth Constitution should be amended to meet the convenience and necessities of electors in the country districts by insuring that no Commonwealth general election nor any Commonwealth Referendum shall take place between the middle of any November and the middle of the following March.

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, 16th September next.

8. **DEPUTY-SPEAKER—TEMPORARY RELIEF OF.**—Sir Joseph Cook moved, by leave, That during the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, the Deputy-Speaker be authorized to call upon any of the Temporary Chairmen of Committees to temporarily relieve him in the Chair.

Question—put and passed.

The time allowed for precedence to Notices of Motion having expired, the Orders of the Day, General Business, were called on.

9. **DESTITUTE ALLOWANCE.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. W. Maloney :—

- (1) That this House is of opinion that the Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act should be amended in order to provide for a destitute allowance to be made to all inhabitants who are destitute, so that any person making a statutory declaration (to a postmaster, Customs officer, or other appointed Commonwealth official, a schoolmaster, a union secretary, a magistrate, or other appointed individual) that he or she is insufficiently fed, clothed, or sheltered, shall be paid as soon as possible the sum of 15s. per week, and for each child 7s. 6d. per week, until relieved.
- (2) That the passing of the foregoing resolution be an instruction to the Government of the Commonwealth to bring in the necessary amending Act—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Fleming moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "the" (line 1) be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof—"destitute poor of the country could best be relieved by a carefully thought out scheme of State insurance"—

Mr. Burchell rising to address the House—

Closure.—Mr. W. Maloney moved, That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 11.		Noes, 28.	
Mr. Bamford	Mr. W. Maloney	Sir Robert Best	Mr. Mahony
Mr. Bell	Mr. Ryan	Mr. Blundell	Mr. Marks
Mr. Bowden		Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. Considine	<i>Tellers:</i>	Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Cunningham		Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Gabb	Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Lister	Mr. McGrath	Mr. Fleming	Mr. Rodgers
		Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie
		Mr. Francis	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Gibson	Mr. Watkins
		Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Hill	
		Mr. Hughes	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Jackson	Mr. Burchell
		Mr. Jowett	Mr. Story

And so it was negatived.

Mr. Fleming's amendment was duly seconded.

Debate continued.

The time allowed for precedence to General Business having expired—

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

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 32.

The Senate acquaints the House of Representatives that, in accordance with the provisions of the *Committee of Public Accounts Act 1913-1919*, the following Senators have been appointed Members of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, viz.:—Senator W. K. Bolton, Senator R. Buzacott, and Senator J. D. Millen.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 29th July, 1920.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

11. INDUSTRIAL PEACE BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—
Mr. Hughes moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
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 Wednesday next.
12. INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the third reading—Mr. Greene moved, That the Bill be now read a third time.
Debate ensued.
Question put.
The House divided—

Ayes, 28.

Mr. Bamford	Mr. Lister
Mr. Bell	Mr. Marr
Mr. Bowden	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Poynton
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Riley
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Greene	Mr. West
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Wise
Mr. Hill	
Mr. Hughes	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Jowett	Mr. Story

Noes, 14.

Mr. Blundell	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Nicholls
Mr. Considine	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Gabb	
Mr. Lazzarini	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Mahony	Mr. Charlton
Mr. Makin	Mr. Fenton

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a third time.

13. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered, after debate—That the intervening Business be postponed until after the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 2, Government Business.
14. BUTTER AGREEMENT BILL.—Mr. Greene moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to the Exportation of Butter from the Commonwealth.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Greene brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it 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 Wednesday next.
15. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the intervening Business be postponed until after Orders of the Day Nos. 12 and 4, Supply and Ways and Means.
16. SUPPLY RESOLUTION [SUPPLY BILL].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 1920-21.

Sir Joseph Cook moved, That there be granted to His Majesty for or towards defraying the services of the year 1920-21 a sum not exceeding £2,367,826.

Debate ensued.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Watkins reported accordingly.

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

17. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at half-past ten 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. Atkinson, Mr. Bayley, Mr. Blakeley, Mr. Austin Chapman, Mr. Corser, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Groom, Mr. Hay, Sir Elliot Johnson, Mr. Lamond, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Mahon, Mr. Mathews, Mr. Maxwell*, Mr. Parker Moloney, Mr. James Page*, Mr. Watt* and Mr. Wienholt.

* On leave.

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