

1920.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 114.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 1920.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—INTERIM REPORT.—Mr. Fowler, Chairman of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, brought up the following Interim Report from the Committee:—
The Purchase of Saw-mills and Timber Areas in Queensland.

Ordered to be printed.

3. MOTION FOR SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, which time of meeting shall be notified by Mr. Speaker to each Member by telegram or letter.
Debate ensued.
Motion, by leave, withdrawn.
4. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—WAR PRECAUTIONS ACT REPEAL BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 77.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to repeal the 'War Precautions Act 1914-1918' and to provide for certain matters arising out of such repeal, and for other purposes,*" to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate records its protest against the inclusion in the Bill of provisions similar to those already included in a Bill passed by the Senate this Session and transmitted for the concurrence of the House of Representatives, and declares that the matter is not to be regarded as a precedent.

The Senate,

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

Melbourne, 26th November, 1920, a.m.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—INDUSTRIAL PEACE BILL (No. 2) (1920).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 78.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend Section Fourteen of the 'Industrial Peace Act 1920'*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

Melbourne, 26th November, 1920, a.m.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—RIVER MURRAY WATERS BILL (1920).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 79.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to ratify an Agreement for the Variation of the Agreement entered into between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and the Premiers of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, respecting the River Murray and Lake Victoria and other Waters, and to amend the 'River Murray Waters Act 1915'*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

The Senate,

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

Melbourne, 26th November, 1920, a.m.

26th November, 1920.

7. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Defence Act and Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1920, Nos. 222, 223.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—BASIC WAGE—ROYAL COMMISSION'S REPORT, ETC.—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPERS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Hughes, That the Papers [presented on the 23rd instant], viz. :—

Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage; also a Memorandum by Mr. Commissioner Piddington, and a Memorandum by Mr. Commissioner Keep and Mr. Commissioner Gilfillan in connexion with the matter—

be printed—and on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Tudor, viz. :—That the following words be added to the motion :—“and in accordance with the definite pledge given by the Prime Minister in his policy speech at Bendigo on the 30th October, 1919, the Government should give effect immediately to the finding of the Commission”—

Debate resumed.

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

The House divided—

Ayes, 18.		Noes, 36.	
Mr. Brennan	Mr. McGrath	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Jowett
Mr. J. H. Catts	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Bell	Mr. Lamond
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Riley	Mr. Blundell	Mr. Lister
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Ryan	Mr. Bowden	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Bruce	Mr. Marks
Mr. Lavelle	Mr. West	Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. Mahony		Mr. Chanter	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Makin	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Cunningham	Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Poynton
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Watkins	Mr. Corser	Mr. Prowse
		Mr. Fleming	Mr. Rodgers
		Mr. R. W. Foster	Sir Granville Ryrie
		Mr. Fowler	Mr. Laird Smith
		Mr. Francis	Mr. Stewart
		Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Groom	
		Mr. Higgs	<i>Tellers:</i>
		Mr. Hughes	Mr. Burchell
		Mr. Jackson	Mr. Story

And so it was negatived.

Sir Joseph Cook moved, as an amendment, That the following words be added to the motion :—

“and this House approves the statement made by the Prime Minister on Tuesday, 23rd November, regarding the Basic Wage to be paid to employees in the Commonwealth Public Service, and requests the Government forthwith to arrange for such amount to be paid as will be equitable and just, alike to employes and the general public, and within the practical capabilities of the Commonwealth to defray—Payment of such Basic Wage to be paid as from 1st November, 1920.”

Debate continued.

Distinguished Visitor.—On the suggestion of Mr. Speaker, Sir Matthew Nathan (Governor-Designate of Queensland) was provided with a seat on the floor of the House.

Debate (interrupted as above) continued.

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

The House divided—

Ayes, 26.		Noes, 14.	
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Hill	Mr. Brennan	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Bell	Mr. Hughes	Mr. Considine	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Lister	Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Gabb	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr	Mr. Jowett	
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Maxwell	Mr. Lavelle	<i>Tellers:</i>
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Poynton	Mr. McWilliams	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Corser	Mr. Prowse	Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. West
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Laird Smith		
Mr. Francis	Mr. Wise		
Mr. Greene			
Mr. Gregory	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Groom	Mr. Burchell		
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Story		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

26th November, 1920.

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

The House divided—

Ayes, 26.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Hill
Mr. Bell	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Lister
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Marr
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Maxwell
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Corser	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Francis	Mr. Wise
Mr. Greene	
Mr. Gregory	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Groom	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Story

Noes, 14.

Mr. Brennan	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Considine	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Jowett	
Mr. Lavelle	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. McWilliams	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. West

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered, by leave, after debate—That the intervening Business be postponed until after the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 17, General Business.

10. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—PERMISSION TO PRESENT INTERIM REPORT TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—Mr. Gregory moved, pursuant to notice, That the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works have leave to continue, during recess, its investigations into the matter of the shipbuilding contract of Messrs. Kidman and Mayoh referred to it on the 29th day of October, 1920, and to present an Interim Report thereon to the Governor-General.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

11. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

War Service Homes Act—Land acquired under, at—
Goulburn, New South Wales.
Greta, New South Wales.
Marrickville, New South Wales.
Tighes Hill, New South Wales.
Weston, New South Wales.

12. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, which time of meeting shall be notified by Mr. Speaker to each Member by telegram or letter.

Question—put and passed.

13. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.—Mr. Hughes moved, by leave, That leave of absence be given to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

14. MOTION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Mr. Considine moved, by leave, That the intervening Business be postponed until after the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 18, General Business.

Question—put and negatived.

15. ADJOURNMENT: RETIREMENT OF MR. WOOLLARD, CLERK ASSISTANT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that this was probably the last occasion on which Mr. Woollard, the Clerk Assistant, would officiate in the Chamber, as that officer proposed to retire from the service of the House in February next, when he would reach the retiring age. Mr. Speaker expressed his regret at the prospective loss of Mr. Woollard's services, and his high appreciation of the courteous and capable manner in which that officer, during a long official career, had always performed his duties. Several honorable Members spoke in similar terms.

Debate ensued on the motion, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-five minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, and to be notified by him to each Member by telegram or letter as determined by resolution of the House this day.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Anstey, Mr. Bamford, Mr. Blakeley, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hay, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Watt, and Mr. Wienholt.

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