

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 137.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 26TH MAY, 1921.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Acting-Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
  2. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—WAR SERVICE GRATUITIES.—Sir Joseph Cook, by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to War Service Gratuities.
  3. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Charlton 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 unsatisfactory administration of the Repatriation Department in regard to War Pensions and other allowances to returned soldiers and their dependants".  
Mr. Acting-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. Charlton moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Ordered That the time allowed for the debate be extended until a quarter-past five o'clock p.m.  
Debate continued.
- At a quarter-past five o'clock p.m., the time allotted having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the Business of the Day was called on.
4. WAYS AND MEANS [THE TARIFF].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

[See reprinted Tariff, which incorporates the proposed Resolutions of 24th March, 1920 (*vide* pages 36-88 *ante*), as amended by the proposed Resolutions of 16th September, 1920 (*vide* pages 321-6 *ante*).]

Item 106, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
106. (A) Buttons. n.e.i., for Bonnets, Hats, Shoes, and other attire, not being partly or wholly of gold or silver; Cotton Feather-stitch Braids; Piping; Tinsel Cloth; Tinsel Belting, having warp or weft composed wholly of tinsel or of continuous threads of tinsel and an alternate thread of textile; Tinsel Thread ad val.	Free	5 per cent.	15 per cent.
(B) Trimmings and Ornaments n.e.i. (except Buckles, Clasps, and Slides, of metal) for Bonnets, Hats, Shoes, and other attire, not being partly or wholly of gold or silver; Badges n.e.i.; Braids n.e.i.; Fringes n.e.i.; Frillings; Ruffings; Pleatings; Ruchings; Galoons n.e.i.; Ribbons n.e.i.; Tinselled Belting n.e.i.; Webbing n.e.i.; Belting for apparel not elsewhere specified and not being cut to length for belts ad val.	15 per cent.	20 per cent.	30 per cent.

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Mr. Greene moved, That the Item be amended by adding the following sub-item :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
“(c) Braids, Straw or Grass, for hat making— (1) Not bleached or dyed— On and after 27th May, 1921	Free	Free	Free
(2) Bleached or dyed— On and after 27th May, 1921 ad val.	5 per cent.	5 per cent.	10 per cent.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, temporarily withdrawn.

Mr. Gregory moved, That the Item be amended by adding the following to sub-item (A) :—

“ And on and after 27th May, 1921—Buttons for attire not being partly or wholly of gold or silver ; Cotton Featherstitch Braids ; Plain Braids of one colour ; Piping ; Bindings ; Ferretings ; Filletings ; Statute Galoon ; Edgings for Attire ; Webbing n.e.i. ; Tinsel Thread ; Boned Beltings ; Boot Laces other than Leather ; Stay Laces.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Amendment to add new sub-item (c), previously moved by Mr. Greene, but temporarily withdrawn, again moved, and agreed to.

Mr. Greene moved, That the Item be further amended by adding the following sub-item :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
“(D) Buttons, wholly of metal other than gold or silver, of the class used externally on uniforms and liveries— On and after 27th May, 1921 ad val.	30 per cent.	35 per cent.	40 per cent.”

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 28.

Mr. Bell	Mr. Lister
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Makin
Mr. Blundell	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Parker Moloney
Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Riley
Mr. Corser	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Foley	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Greene	Mr. Wise
Mr. Groom	
Mr. Hay	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Story

Noes, 10.

Mr. Bowden	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Wienholt
Mr. Gabb	
Mr. Gibson	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Gregory	Mr. R. W. Foster
Mr. Hill	Mr. James Page

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Item, as amended, agreed to.

Item 107 debated and agreed to.

Item 108 debated and agreed to.

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Item 109, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
109. (A) Artificial Flowers, n.e.i.; Artificial Plants, Fruits, Leaves, and Grain, of all kinds and materials .. .. . ad val.	30 per cent.	35 per cent.	40 per cent.
(B) Artificial Flowers in sprays and trails per dozen sprays or trails or ad val. whichever rate returns the higher duty	3s. 30 per cent.	3s. 3d. 35 per cent.	3s. 6d. 40 per cent.

Mr. Greene moved, That the Item be amended by adding the following :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
“ And on and after 27th May, 1921 109. Artificial Plants, Flowers, Fruits, Leaves, and Grains of all kinds and materials .. .. . ad val.	30 per cent.	35 per cent.	40 per cent.”

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Item, as amended, agreed to.

Item 110, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
110. Apparel, articles of, viz. :—			
(A) (1) Blouses and Skirts, of cotton, linen, or other material n.e.i. .. .. . each	1s.	1s. 6d.	2s.
(2) Blouses and Skirts of wool or silk, or containing wool or silk .. .. . each	2s.	3s.	4s.
(3) Coats, Girls' .. .. . each	1s. 6d.	2s.	2s. 6d.
(4) Coats, Women's .. .. . each	3s. 6d.	5s.	6s. 6d.
(5) Costumes, of cotton, linen, or other material n.e.i. .. .. . each	3s.	4s. 6d.	6s.
(6) Costumes of wool, or containing wool (except the costumes enumerated in sub-item (A) (7)) .. .. . each	5s.	7s. 6d.	10s.
(7) Costumes, of silk or containing silk .. .. . each	7s. 6d.	11s.	15s.
and in addition to the rates specified in sub-items (1) to (7) .. .. . ad val. or the rates imposed by sub-item (B) if higher	25 per cent.	30 per cent.	40 per cent.
(B) Apparel, n.e.i., for the human body, partly or wholly made up, including materials cut into shape therefor; also material defined by pattern or design for manufacture into Apparel; Second-hand Apparel not imported for sale or trade and not exceeding a total value of £5 .. .. . ad val.	40 per cent.	50 per cent.	55 per cent.

Sub-item (A) agreed to.

Sub-item (B) debated and agreed to.

Mr. James Page moved, That the Item be amended by adding the following sub-item :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
“ (c) Corsets— On and after 27th May, 1921 .. .. . ad val.	15 per cent.	20 per cent.	30 per cent.”

Debate ensued.

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Question—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 11.		Noes, 25.	
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Prowse	Sir Robert Best	Mr. Lamond
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Wienholt	Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Lister
Mr. Foley		Mr. Blundell	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Gibson		Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. Makin
Mr. Gregory		Mr. Charlton	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Jowett	Mr. Bell	Sir Joseph Cook	Mr. Riley
Mr. James Page	Mr. Hill	Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Rodgers
		Mr. Corser	Mr. Watkins
		Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Wise
		Mr. Gabb	
		Mr. Greene	
		Mr. Groom	
		Mr. Hay	
		Mr. Higgs	
			Mr. Burchell
			Mr. Story

And so it was negatived.

Items 111 and 112 agreed to.

Item 113 debated and agreed to.

Item 114, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
114: Hats, Caps, and Bonnets—			
(A) Firemen's Helmets and Miners' Hats ad val.	Free	Free	10 per cent.
(B) Wool Felt Hats, in any stage of manufacture per dozen or ad val. whichever rate returns the higher duty	15s. 35 per cent.	20s. 40 per cent.	25s. 45 per cent.
(C) Fur Felt Hats, in any stage of manufacture per dozen or ad val. whichever rate returns the higher duty	24s. 35 per cent.	30s. 40 per cent.	36s. 45 per cent.
(D) Caps and Sewn Hats, n.e.i. . . per dozen or ad val. whichever rate returns the higher duty	8s. 35 per cent.	10s. 40 per cent.	12s. 45 per cent.
(E) Hats and Bonnets of all descriptions and materials, n.e.i., including Forms, Pull- over Hoods weighing not more than 1½ ounces each, Shapes, and Frames, n.e.i. . . . . ad val.	30 per cent.	40 per cent.	45 per cent.

Mr. Greene moved, That the Item be amended by inserting the following in sub-item (E) after "30 per cent." (British Preferential Tariff column) :—“; and on and after 27th May, 1921, 35 per cent.”

Amendment, by leave, temporarily withdrawn.

Mr. James Page moved, That the Item be amended by adding the following to sub-item (C) :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
“ And on and after 27th May, 1921 per dozen or ad val. whichever rate returns the higher duty ”	24s. 35 per cent.	60s. 60 per cent.	80s. 80 per cent.

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Amendment to sub-item (E), previously moved by Mr. Greene, but temporarily withdrawn, again moved, and agreed to.

Item, as amended, agreed to.

26th May, 1921.

Item 115, viz. :—

	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
115. Socks and Stockings for human attire, viz. :—			
(A) Cotton . . . . . ad val.	30 per cent.	40 per cent.	45 per cent.
(B) Woollen or containing wool . . . . . ad val.	35 per cent.	45 per cent.	50 per cent.
(C) Silk or containing silk, but not containing wool, and n.e.i. . . . . ad val.	30 per cent.	40 per cent.	45 per cent.

Mr. Foley moved, That the Item be amended by inserting the following in sub-item (A) after "30 per cent." (British Preferential Tariff column) :—" ; and on and after 27th May, 1921, 10 per cent."

Debate ensued.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Atkinson reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at its next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two minutes 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. Bruce\*, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jackson, Sir Elliot Johnson, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Mahony, Mr. W. Maloney, Mr. Marks, Mr. Marr, Mr. Maxwell\*, Mr. McDonald\*, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Poynton, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Tudor, Mr. Watt, and Mr. West.

\* On leave.

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