

1923.
(SECOND SESSION.)

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 11.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 3RD JULY, 1923.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker:—

FORSTER,
Governor-General.

Message No. 7.

Bills intituled—

“*Supply Act (No. 1) 1923-24,*”

“*Main Roads Development Act 1923,*”

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Acts.

Government House,
Melbourne, 2nd July, 1923.

3. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—FOUNDERING OF S.S. “SUMATRA”.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the evidence as to the sea-worthiness of the s.s. *Sumatra*, the foundering of which vessel had been reported
4. NAVIGATION BILL (1923).—Mr. Austin Chapman (Minister for Trade and Customs), pursuant to leave given on the 27th ultimo, brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to amend the Navigation Act 1912-1920*”, 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 the next sitting.
5. DAYS OF BUSINESS.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That, unless otherwise ordered, this House shall meet for the despatch of business at three o'clock on each Tuesday afternoon, at half-past two o'clock on each Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, and at eleven o'clock on each Friday morning.
Question—put and passed.
6. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Parker Moloney 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 desirability of granting a guarantee of 4s. per bushel on next season's wheat”.
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. Parker Moloney moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued—
It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the debate was interrupted in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, and the Business of the Day was called on.
7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—LEAGUE OF NATIONS.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the Australian Delegation at the forthcoming meeting of the League of Nations.
8. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Audit Act—Cancellation (dated 20th June, 1923) of the Transfer of an Amount approved by the Governor-General in Council on the 10th May, 1923.

9. NATIONAL DEBT SINKING FUND 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 and 2 agreed to.
Clause 3 debated and agreed to.
Clauses 4 and 5 agreed to.
Clause 6—

Mr. Charlton moved, as an amendment, That the words "The Chief Justice of the High Court" (line 17) be omitted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.
The Committee divided—

Ayes, 31.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Hurry
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Jackson
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Killen
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Mann
Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. Manning
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Marks
Mr. Corser	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Frederick Francis	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Roland Green	
Mr. Gregory	
Mr. Groom	
Mr. Hill	
Mr. Hunter	

Tellers :

Mr. Marr
Mr. Prowse

Noes, 22.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. McNeill
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Charlton	Mr. O'Keefe
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Forde	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Gabb	Mr. William Watson
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. West
Mr. Latham	
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Mahony	
Mr. Frederick McDonald	

Tellers :

Mr. Fenton
Mr. Edward Riley

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Mann moved, as an amendment, That the words "Solicitor-General" (line 19) be omitted.
Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 7 debated and agreed to.

Clause 8 debated and agreed to.

Clause 9 debated and agreed to.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Bamford reported accordingly.

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

10. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—COMMONWEALTH SHIPPING LINE BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

FORSTER,

Governor-General.

Message No. 8.

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 provide for the Establishment of the Commonwealth Shipping Line and for other purposes.

Melbourne, 3rd July, 1923.

Ordered—That the consideration of the foregoing Message, in Committee of the whole House, be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

11. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at fifteen minutes to 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. Donald Cameron, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Lacey, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Lister, Mr. Charles McDonald, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Pratten, Sir Granville Ryrie, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Whitsitt, and Mr. Yates.

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