

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 41.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 1923.

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., in accordance with Sessional Order (dated 3rd July, 1923).—Mr. Speaker (the Right Honorable W. A. Watt) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. POINT OF ORDER.—SPEAKER'S RULING.—Mr. Charlton having raised a Point of Order as to the correctness of the procedure in Mr. Speaker taking the Chair and reading the Prayers, in view of the fact that the motion for the Adjournment of the House last night had not been agreed to—
Mr. Speaker ruled that, this being a day fixed by Sessional Order for the meeting of the House, he had taken the Chair according to the terms of Standing Order No. 29, which provided that "The Chair shall be taken by the Speaker at the time appointed on every day fixed for the meeting of the House;" and that he had read the Prayers according to the provisions of Standing Order No. 29A.
3. MEMBER NAMED, SUSPENDED, AND REMOVED.—Mr. McGrath, addressing a question to the Prime Minister, which question, in the opinion of Mr. Speaker, was a reflection upon the Justices of the High Court, and Mr. McGrath, after being requested by Mr. Speaker so to do, having refused to withdraw the question, the honorable Member was named by Mr. Speaker for disregarding the authority of the Chair.
Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the honorable Member for Ballarat (Mr. McGrath) be suspended from the service of the House.
Question—put.
The House proceeded to divide, but there not being any Members on the side of the Noes willing to act as Tellers, Mr. Speaker declared the question resolved in the affirmative.
The honorable Member was, therefore, under Standing Order No. 59, suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting.
Mr. McGrath not withdrawing from the Chamber, Mr. Speaker directed the Serjeant-at-Arms to remove the honorable Member.
Mr. McGrath, escorted by the Serjeant-at-Arms, then withdrew from the Chamber.
4. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. W. Maloney 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 action of the Government in not bringing in a Bill to enact the Referendum Initiative and Recall".
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. W. Maloney moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put.

17th August, 1923.

The House resumed; Mr. Watkins reported accordingly.

Mr. Earle Page 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.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Earle Page, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Earle Page and Mr. Groom do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

Mr. Earle Page then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Earle Page moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Charlton moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "That" be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—"the expenditure as proposed in the Bill is excessive by at least one and a half million pounds until the Government has taken effective steps in the following directions:—

- (1) provision should first be made to absorb the unemployed in Australia;
- (2) action should be taken to make lands available in close proximity to railways and markets, which would afford a reasonable prospect of success to the settler; and
- (3) there should be proper supervision in Great Britain for the purpose of selecting the suitable class of immigrant."

Debate ensued—

10. DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that Baron D. Obata, a Member of the House of Peers of Japan, was within the precincts. Baron Obata thereupon, with the concurrence of honorable Members, was provided with a seat on the floor of the House.

11. LOAN BILL (1923).—The debate (interrupted as above) was resumed on the motion, That the Bill be now read a second time—and on the amendment moved thereto by Mr. Charlton, viz.:—That all the words after the word "That" be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—"the expenditure as proposed in the Bill is excessive by at least one and a half million pounds until the Government has taken effective steps in the following directions:—

- (1) provision should first be made to absorb the unemployed in Australia;
- (2) action should be taken to make lands available in close proximity to railways and markets, which would afford a reasonable prospect of success to the settler; and
- (3) there should be proper supervision in Great Britain for the purpose of selecting the suitable class of immigrant."

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

The House divided—

Ayes, 35.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Killen
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Lister
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Mann
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Manning
Mr. Austin Chapman	Mr. Marks
Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Corser	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Frederick Francis	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Seabrook
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Gibson	Mr. William Watson
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Whitsitt
Mr. Groom	
Mr. Hill	
Mr. Hunter	
Mr. Hurry	Mr. Marr
Sir Elliot Johnson	Mr. Prowse

Tellers :

Noes, 23.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Brennan	Mr. O'Keefe
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Coleman	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Forde	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Gabb	Mr. West
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Yates
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Makin	
Mr. W. Maloney	
Mr. Frederick McDonald	Mr. Blakeley
Mr. McNeill	Mr. Fenton

Tellers :

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—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.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and debated.

17th and 18th August, 1923.

And the Committee continuing to sit till after midnight—

SATURDAY, 18TH AUGUST, 1923.

Debate continued.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Watkins reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer), the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

12. WAYS AND MEANS [ESTIMATES, 1923-24].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

ESTIMATES, 1923-24.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer)—That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the services of the year 1923-24, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £14,776,521.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Watkins reported accordingly.

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

Mr. Earle Page 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.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Earle Page, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Earle Page and Mr. Groom do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

13. APPROPRIATION BILL 1923-24.—Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and twenty-four and to appropriate the Supplies granted by the Parliament for such year*," and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

Mr. Earle Page moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Watkins reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Earle Page, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

14. ALTERATION OF DAY OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Monday next, at three o'clock p.m.

Question—put and passed.

15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-five minutes to two o'clock in the morning, adjourned until Monday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Bamford*, Mr. Donald Cameron*, Mr. Roland Green, Sir Neville Howse*, Mr. Latham, and Mr. Thompson.

* On leave.

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