

1925.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

No. 22.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 20TH AUGUST, 1925.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Right Honorable W. A. Watt) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2. NORFOLK ISLAND AND COMMONWEALTH CONTROL—ROYAL COMMISSION.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Thompson :—
That, in the opinion of this House, a Royal Commission should be appointed without undue delay to visit Norfolk Island and inquire into the position of the Island and its inhabitants in relation to Commonwealth control—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Marr 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 Thursday, 10th September next.

3. ELECTIVE MINISTRIES.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Stewart :—

(1) That in the opinion of this House a system of Elective Ministries should be substituted for the existing system of Party Government in the Commonwealth Parliament.

(2) That the passage of the foregoing resolution shall be an instruction to the Government to forthwith appoint a Committee representative of all Parties in the House, with power to call for persons and papers, to draft definite proposals for the purpose of carrying out the above elective executive principle on lines likely to prove most suitable to Commonwealth conditions.

(3) That the Committee so appointed shall submit their report and recommendations to this House during the present Session for the purpose of enabling Parliament to discuss and take such action as it may decide in the light of the report and recommendations so submitted—

Debate resumed.

Question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 13.

Mr. Robert Cook	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Gabb	Mr. William Watson
Mr. Roland Green	Mr. Whitsitt
Mr. Hunter	
Mr. Jackson	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Killen	Mr. W. Maloney
Mr. Thomas Paterson	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Stewart	

Noes, 45.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Mann
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Manning
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Marks
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Marr
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Charles McDonald
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Frederick McDonald
Mr. Bruce	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Donald Cameron	Mr. McNeill
Sir Austin Chapman	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Charlton	Mr. O'Keefe
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Corser	Mr. Pratten
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Edward Riley
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. E. C. Riley
Mr. Gardner	Sir Granville Ryrie
Mr. Gibson	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Seabrook
Sir Littleton Groom	Mr. West
Mr. Hill	Mr. Yates
Sir Neville Howse	
Mr. Hughes	<i>Tellers :</i>
Mr. Lister	Mr. Fenton
Mr. Mackay	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Makin	

And so it was negatived.

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4. **PROPERTY VALUATIONS AND WAR DEBT—DOMESDAY BOOK.**—Mr. W. Maloney moved, pursuant to notice, That, in order to eliminate the burden of eternal interest forced upon Australia by the late war, and thus to prevent the innocent unborn millions of Australians being saddled therewith, it is the opinion of this House that a Domesday Book be made, showing the full present value of all immovable property, with the names of the owners thereof, based where possible upon the present Federal or State Land Tax valuation, or both of them, and that any increase of value from the unearned increment during the next ten years be used for the extinction of the War Debt.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Fenton 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 Thursday, 17th September next.

5. **WAR SERVICE HOMES COMMISSIONER (COLONEL WALKER)—DISMISSAL OF—ROYAL COMMISSION.**—Mr. Bamford moved, pursuant to notice, That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that a Royal Commission be appointed to take into consideration all the circumstances in connexion with the dismissal of Colonel James Walker from the position of War Service Homes Commissioner; and that the said Commission have power to call for persons and papers in connexion with this matter and shall issue its Report before the expiration of the present Session.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

The time allotted for precedence to General Business having expired, Government Business was called on.

6. **WAYS AND MEANS [“GRIEVANCE DAY”].**—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Ways and Means—

Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

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

7. **CUSTOMS BILL (1925).**—Mr. Pratten (Minister for Trade and Customs), pursuant to leave given on the 26th June last, brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to amend the ‘Customs Act 1901-1923’*,” 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.

8. **DISTILLATION BILL (1925).**—Mr. Pratten (Minister for Trade and Customs), pursuant to leave given on the 26th June last, brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to amend section forty of the ‘Distillation Act 1901-1923’*,” 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.

9. **COMMONWEALTH BANK (RURAL CREDITS) BILL.**—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee, of the whole House of Message No. 16 from His Excellency the Governor-General’s Deputy—

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Earle Page (Treasurer) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Bank Act 1911-1924*, by the provision of a Rural Credits Department.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Robert Cook 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.

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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. Bruce 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, 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 the next sitting.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at three minutes to eleven 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. Malcolm Cameron, Mr. Lambert, and Mr. Mahony.

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