

1907-8

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 101.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1908.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PRINTING COMMITTEE: THIRTEENTH REPORT FROM.—Sir John Quick, Chairman, brought up the Thirteenth Report from the Printing Committee (sitting in Conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate).
- The Report was read by the Clerk, and is as follows:—

REPORT.

The Printing Committee have the honour to report that they have met in Conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee having considered the undermentioned Petition and Papers, make the following recommendations with respect to them, viz.:—

Subject of Paper.	Recommendation of Committee.	Remarks.
Petition— Australian Industries Preservation Bill—From Perth Chamber of Commerce, praying that Bill be laid aside	No recommendation	
Papers— Post and Telegraph Act—Amendment of Regulations—Statutory Rules 1908, Nos. 10 and 22.	„	Already in print and circulated to Members
Public Service Act—Amendment of Regulation—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 30	„	„
Defence Acts—Amendment of Regulation.—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 27	„	„
Promotion of Mr. E. A. Blakney—Further papers	„	
Papua— Annual Report for year ending 30th June, 1907	To be printed	
Ordinance to amend "The Land Ordinance of 1906" reserved for Governor-General's Assent—Correspondence <i>re</i>	No recommendation	
Appointment of Lieutenant-Governor—Letter from three unofficial members of Legislative Council	„	
Navigation Bill—Despatches of Secretary of State, dated 29th November and 18th December, 1907	To be printed	
Judgment of High Court of Australia—Joseph Vardon and James Vincent O'Loghlin on a reference by the Senate of the Commonwealth	No recommendation	
Postal Department—Return of number of Telegraphists in each State in 1902 and 1907	To be printed	

REPORT—continued.

Subject of Paper.	Recommendation of Committee.	Remarks.
<i>Papers—continued.</i>		
Contract Immigrants Act—Return showing Immigrants admitted, refused admission, &c., 1907	To be printed	
Immigration Restriction Acts—Return of persons admitted, refused admission, &c., 1907	„	
Letters and questions addressed to Presidents of Chambers of Commerce <i>re</i> Commercial representation of Commonwealth abroad	No recommendation	
Census and Statistics Act— Trade, Shipping, &c.—Bulletins Nos. 10, 11, and 12	„	
Transport and Communication—Summary, 1901–1906—Bulletin No. 1	„	
Production—Summary, 1901–1906—Bulletin No. 1	„	
Population and Vital Statistics—Bulletin No. 4	„	
Postal Department: Telegraph Messengers—Return <i>re</i> examinations, appointments, &c.	To be printed	
Papua—Return showing officials employed, duties, and salaries	„	
Public Service Act—Papers <i>re</i> promotion of Mr. W. H. Barkley	No recommendation	
Customs Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 31	„	Already in print and circulated to Members
Opium—Report of Comptroller-General of Customs	To be printed	

Committee Room,
19th March, 1908.

JOHN QUICK,
Chairman.

Sir John Quick moved, by leave, That the Report be adopted.
Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

3. PAPER.—Mr. Ewing presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Military Forces—Annual Report for the year 1907, by the Inspector-General.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
4. PAPUA.—INDENTED LABOURERS.—Mr. McWilliams moved, pursuant to notice, That a Return be laid on the Table of the House showing—
- (1) The number of native labourers indented in Papua when the Commonwealth assumed control of that Territory.
 - (2) The persons to whom such labourers were indented.
 - (3) The rates of wages paid and amounts deducted therefrom in fines and penalties, showing the nature of offence.
 - (4) The death-rate of such labourers in the different capacities and localities.
 - (5) The number of labourers indented each year since the Commonwealth assumed control of the Territory.
 - (6) The persons, showing occupation, to whom such labourers are indented.
 - (7) The rates of wages paid in the successive years and amounts deducted therefrom in fines and penalties, showing the nature of offence.
 - (8) The annual death-rate of such labourers in the different capacities and localities.
 - (9) Copies of the labour regulations issued by Sir Wm. McGregor whilst Administrator of Papua, and of those now in force, together with methods of engagement.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

5. SUPPLY.—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—
Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Mr. Fisher 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:—"whereas the electors have thrice returned a large majority of Members of the Commonwealth Parliament pledged to provide a Federal system of Old-Age Pensions, and whereas the State Parliaments of Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania have made no provision for the payment of Old-Age Pensions, this House is of opinion that the passing of a measure to give effect to the expressed will of the people is an urgent public duty."

Debate ensued.

19th March, 1908.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and negatived. And the question being proposed, That the words proposed to be inserted in place of the words omitted, be so inserted, and Mr. Wilks having moved as a further amendment that the following words be added to the words proposed to be inserted, viz. :—“and further, this House is of opinion that the Government should give effect to such expressed will of the people during this session.”

Mr. McDonald moved as an amendment on the further amendment that after the word “that” the following words be inserted, viz. :—“in the event of sufficient funds not being available from Customs taxation, the necessary funds shall be raised by direct taxation on the unimproved value of land and”

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted, in Mr. Wilks' further amendment, be so inserted—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 19.

Mr. Bamford	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Carr	Mr. McDougall
Mr. Chanter	Mr. O'Malley
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Page
Mr. Hume Cook	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Coon	Mr. Wilks
Mr. Fisher	
Mr. Frazer	
Mr. Maloney	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Mathews	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Mauger	Mr. Watkins

Noes, 22.

Mr. Archer	Mr. Knox
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Deakin	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Ewing	Mr. Storrer
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Dugald Thomson
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Wilson
Colonel Foxton	Mr. Wise
Mr. Fuller	
Mr. Groom	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Hedges	Mr. Bowden
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Crouch

And so it passed in the negative.

Mr. Watkins moved as an amendment on the further amendment—That the word “give” be omitted with a view to insert in place thereof “take steps towards giving”.

Question—That the word proposed to be omitted stand part of the proposed further amendment—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 9.

Mr. Bamford	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Crouch	
Mr. Maloney	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. McWilliams	
Mr. O'Malley	Mr. Frazer
Mr. Page	Mr. Wilks

Noes, 33.

Mr. Archer	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Knox
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Carr	Mr. Mauger
Mr. Chanter	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Chapman	Mr. McDougall
Mr. Hume Cook	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Salmon
Mr. Coon	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Deakin	Mr. Dugald Thomson
Mr. Ewing	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Fisher	Mr. Wise
Sir John Forrest	
Colonel Foxton	
Mr. Fuller	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Groom	Mr. Storrer
Mr. Hedges	Mr. Webster

And so it passed in the negative.

And the words “take steps towards giving” proposed to be inserted having been so inserted, Mr. Wilks' amendment, as so amended, was agreed to.

And Mr. Fisher's amendment, as so amended, having been inserted in place of the words omitted from the original motion—

Question—That, whereas the electors have thrice returned a large majority of Members of the Commonwealth Parliament pledged to provide a Federal system of Old-Age Pensions, and whereas the State Parliaments of Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania have made no provision for the payment of Old-Age Pensions, this House is of opinion that the passing of a measure to give effect to the expressed will of the people is an urgent public duty; and further, this House is of opinion that the Government should take steps towards giving effect to such expressed will of the people during this session—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into the Committee of Supply.

6. PAPER.—Mr. Chapman presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Opium—Report by the Comptroller-General of Customs on the working of the prohibition against the importation of opium.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

19th March, 1908.

And then the House, at twelve minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Tilley Brown, Mr. Thomas Brown, Mr. Catts, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Foster, Mr. Fowler, Sir Philip Fysh, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Hans Irvine, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Liddell, Mr. Livingston, Sir William Lyne, Mr. Reid, Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Spence, Mr. John Thomson, and Mr. Willis.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.