

1912.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 20.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH JULY, 1912.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Mr. Roberts presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Woollen Factory Sites—Report by Mr. James Smail, Manager.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
3. ROYAL COMMISSIONS BILL (1912).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—
Mr. Hughes moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Mr. Cook moved 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—"while prepared to further endow Royal Commissions according to the needs of each inquiry with full authority to investigate all matters of public importance, this House protests against the excessive and unprecedented powers proposed to be conferred upon the President or Chairman of a Commission, against the absence of adequate protection to witnesses, and against improper attempts to stifle fair verbal or written comment.
Debate ensued.
Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.
The House divided—

Ayes, 26.		Noes, 18.	
Mr. Archibald	Mr. Poynton	Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Bamford	Mr. Riley	Mr. Cook	Mr. Ryrie
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Roberts	Mr. Deakin	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Cann	Mr. Scullin	Sir John Forrest	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Charlton	Mr. Spence	Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Bruce Smith
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Thomas	Mr. Glynn	Mr. Thomson
Mr. Fisher	Mr. Tudor	Mr. Greene	
Mr. Frank J. Foster	Mr. Webster	Mr. Groom	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Frazer	Mr. West	Mr. Kelly	Mr. W. Elliot Johnson
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Wise	Mr. Livingston	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Mahon			
Mr. Mathews	<i>Tellers.</i>		
Mr. Parker Moloney	Mr. Catts		
Mr. O'Malley	Mr. Watkins		

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.)

Clause 1 read.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Poynton reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

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4. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—PANAMA CANAL DUES—REBATE TO AMERICAN SHIPPING.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 6.

The Senate, having taken into consideration Message No. 4 of the House of Representatives, dated 18th July, 1912, concurs with the House of Representatives in the following Resolution :—

“That, in the opinion of this House, any system of bonus or rebate of canal dues to American shipping using the Panama Canal would be detrimental to the interests of Australia.”

H. TURLEY,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 24th July, 1912.

5. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twelve minutes past 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. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Hedges*, Mr. Hans Irvine, Sir William Lyne*, and Sir John Quick.

* On leave.

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