

1913.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 69.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 1913.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
 - Defence Department—
 - Defence Act—Military Forces—
 - Regulations Amended (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1913, No. 303.
 - Financial and Allowance Regulations Amended (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1913, Nos. 302, 304.
 - Naval Defence Act—Regulations (Provisional)—Entry, Training and Pay of Officers of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve (Sea-going)—Statutory Rules 1913, No. 305.
3. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Orders of the Day, Government Business, Nos. 1 and 2, be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 3.
4. INSCRIBED STOCK BILL (1913).—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of His Excellency the Governor-General's Message No. 23—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, on the motion of Sir John Forrest, after debate—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Act 1911-1912*.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Fowler reported accordingly.
 Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.
 And, on the motion of Sir John Forrest, the said Resolution was adopted by the House.
 Ordered—That Sir John Forrest and Mr. W. H. Irvine do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.
 Sir John Forrest 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.
 Ordered, by leave—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.

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5. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day, Government Business, No. 1, be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 2.
6. TASMANIA GRANT BILL (1913).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—
Sir John Forrest moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
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.

Schedule—

Mr. Tudor moved the following amendment—

In the last column omit “£5,000” and insert “£35,000.”

The Chairman having ruled that the amendment was out of order—

Mr. McDonald handed in an objection in writing, and moved, That the ruling be dissented from.

Debate ensued.

The motion to dissent to the ruling, having been, by leave, withdrawn, and the Chairman's ruling having also been withdrawn, the proposed amendment was also withdrawn.

Schedule further debated and agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Fowler reported accordingly.

On the motion of Sir John Forrest, the House adopted the Report.

Sir John Forrest moved, pursuant to contingent notice by Mr. Joseph Cook, That the Standing

Orders be suspended, to enable the remaining stage to be passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Sir John Forrest, the Bill was read a third time.

7. THE LATE HONORABLE E. A. ROBERTS.—Mr. Speaker announced to the House that he had received the following letter :—

Prospect Road, South Australia,
8th December, 1913.

TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER AND REPRESENTATIVES,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the kind expressions of sympathy passed by your honorable House to my mother and sisters for the loss we have sustained by the death of our dear father and husband.

Such action as yours will help us to bear up against that loss, and will ever be remembered with keen appreciation.

Respectfully yours,
E. A. ROBERTS.

The Honorable the Speaker and Representatives,
Federal Parliament House, Melbourne.

8. POST AND TELEGRAPH BILL (1913).—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.)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 omitted.

Clauses 3 and 4 debated and agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Fowler reported accordingly.

Mr. Wynne moved, pursuant to contingent notice by Mr. Joseph Cook, That the Standing Orders be suspended, to enable the remaining stages to be passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

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

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9. INSCRIBED STOCK BILL (1913).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—
 Sir John Forrest moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate ensued.
 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.)

Clause 1 debated and agreed to.
 Clause 2 agreed to.
 Title agreed to.
 Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Fowler reported accordingly.
 On the motion of Sir John Forrest, the House adopted the Report.
 Sir John Forrest moved, pursuant to contingent notice by Mr. Joseph Cook, That the Standing Orders be suspended, to enable the remaining stage to be passed without delay.
 Question—put and passed.
 On the motion of Sir John Forrest, the Bill was read a third time.

10. POSTAL VOTING RESTORATION BILL.—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of the Amendments made by the Senate in this Bill—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

The Committee proceeded to consider the Amendments, which are as follow :—

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE.

- No. 1.—Title, leave out " restore ", insert " amend ".
 No. 2.—Title, leave out " Post ", insert " absent sick or infirm voters ".
 No. 3.—Clause 1, line 4, leave out " *Postal Voting Restoration* ", insert " *Electoral Act Amendment* ".
 No. 4.—Clause 2, leave out this Clause and insert in lieu thereof the following New Clause :—

" 2. An elector who, owing to serious illness or infirmity, has reason to believe that he will not be able to record his vote at any polling place during the hours of polling on the day of election may at any time after the issue of the writ and up to within seven days preceding the day of election make application to the Returning Officer of the Division in which he is enrolled that he be allowed to record his vote.

The Returning Officer on a day previous to the election, and after the time for receiving applications has expired, shall appoint an Assistant Returning Officer, who shall prior to or on the day of election call at the address of the person who claims a vote, and if satisfied that the applicant is entitled to vote under the provisions of this section, shall supply the applicant with a ballot-paper which the voter will mark in the prescribed manner in the presence of the officer, and if the voter so desires of a relative or other person, but so that the officer cannot see the manner in which the ballot-paper is marked, and shall then fold the ballot-paper so as to hide the vote, and then in the presence of the officer deposit the ballot-paper in a sealed ballot-box which shall be provided and remain in the custody of the officer until it is given into the charge of the Divisional Returning Officer. The ballot-paper shall be opened by and counted by the Returning Officer at the scrutiny after the closing of the ballot.

Any elector who has reason to believe—

- (a) That he will not on polling day during the hours of polling be within five miles of any polling place, or
 (b) That he will on polling day be in quarantine within the Commonwealth, or
 (c) That—being a female elector—she will not on polling day during the hours of polling, on account of ill-health or infirmity, be able to attend at any polling place ;

may, after the issue of the writ, upon making a declaration in the prescribed form before a postmaster, vote under the provisions of section one hundred and thirty-nine of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* 1902-1911, or as an absent voter.

Provided that—

- (1) The declaration shall be made and the vote shall be recorded only at the post-office of which such postmaster is in charge, and
 (2) The declaration shall not be valid unless such postmaster stamps the declaration with post-office letter stamp of the date upon which the declaration is made."

Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the Amendments be disagreed to.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put.

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The Committee divided—

Ayes, 26.		Noes, 23.	
Mr. Abbott	Mr. Kendell	Mr. Anstey	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Manifold	Mr. Archibald	Mr. Riley
Mr. James Bennett	Mr. Orchard	Mr. Arthur	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Conroy	Mr. Palmer	Mr. Brennan	Mr. Spence
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Patten	Mr. Charlton	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Falkiner	Mr. Pigott	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Webster
Sir John Forrest	Colonel Ryrie	Mr. Fisher	Mr. West
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Stumm	Mr. Hannan	
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Wynne	Mr. Howe	
Mr. Gregory		Mr. W. Maloney	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Groom	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. McDonald	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Hans Irvine	Mr. Greene	Mr. O'Malley	Mr. Page
Mr. W. H. Irvine	Mr. John Thomson		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.
Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Fowler reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Joseph Cook the House adopted the Report.

Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That Mr. W. H. Irvine, Sir John Forrest, and the Mover be appointed a Committee to draw up Reasons for the House of Representatives disagreeing to the Amendments. Question—put and passed.

Mr. Joseph Cook, on behalf of the Committee, brought up such Reasons which were read and are as follow:—

Reasons of the House of Representatives for Disagreeing to the Amendments of the Senate.

That the provisions thereof are crude, impracticable, and fraught with danger to the purity of elections and would afford no relief to the majority of those for whose benefit the Postal Vote is intended.

Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the Committee's Reasons be adopted.

Mr. Fisher moved an amendment, That all the words after the word "That" be omitted.

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

The House divided—

Ayes, 28.		Noes, 23.	
Mr. Abbott	Mr. Kendell	Mr. Archibald	Mr. O'Malley
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. Manifold	Mr. Arthur	Mr. Poynton
Mr. James Bennett	Mr. Orchard	Mr. Bamford	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Conroy	Mr. Palmer	Mr. Brennan	Mr. Spence
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Patten	Mr. Charlton	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Falkiner	Mr. Pigott	Mr. Fenton	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Rodgers	Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Webster
Sir John Forrest	Colonel Ryrie	Mr. Fisher	Mr. West
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Sampson	Mr. Hannan	
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Stumm	Mr. Howe	
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Wynne	Mr. W. Maloney	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Gregory		Mr. Mathews	Mr. Page
Mr. Groom	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. McDonald	Mr. Riley
Mr. Hans Irvine	Mr. Greene		
Mr. W. H. Irvine	Mr. John Thomson		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Committee's Reasons be adopted—put and passed.

11. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the remaining Orders of the Day, Government Business, be postponed until after Notice of Motion No. 1.

12. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE BILL.—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and for other purposes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Joseph Cook 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.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

13. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at a quarter 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. Ahern, Mr. Burchell, Mr. Burns, Mr. Carr, Mr. Catts, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Livingston, Mr. McGrath (under suspension), and Mr. Sinclair.

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