

1914.
(SECOND SESSION.)

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 20.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1914.

1. The House met, at half-past three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.
2. ABSENCE OF MR. SPEAKER.—The Clerk at the Table having informed the House that Mr. Speaker was unavoidably absent, the Chairman of Committees took the Chair as Deputy-Speaker, and read Prayers.
3. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—WAR PENSIONS BILL.—The following Message from the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Deputy-Speaker:—

A. L. STANLEY,
Deputy of the Governor-General.

Message No. 23.

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide for the grant of Pensions upon the death or incapacity of Members of the Defence Force of the Commonwealth and Members of the Imperial Reserve Forces resident in Australia, whose death or incapacity results from their employment in connexion with warlike operations.

Melbourne, 5th December, 1914.

Ordered—That the consideration of the foregoing Message in Committee of the whole House be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

4. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO CUSTOMS BILL (1914).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Deputy-Speaker:—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 24.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to amend Section One hundred and twelve of the 'Customs Act 1901-1910'*," as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Government House,
Brisbane, 7th December, 1914.

5. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Prime Minister's Department—
The War—Documents respecting the Negotiations preceding the War, published by the Russian Government.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Department of Home Affairs—

Public Service Act—Promotion of S. R. Ephraim, as Clerk, 4th Class, Accounts Branch, New South Wales.

Department of Defence—

Defence Act—Regulations Amended (Provisional)—

Universal Training—Statutory Rules 1914, No. 167.

Military Forces—Financial and Allowance—Statutory Rules 1914, Nos. 166, 168.

10th December, 1914.

6. SUPPLY ["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 Supply—
Question—That Mr. Deputy-Speaker do now leave the Chair—put and negatived.
Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, resolve itself into the said Committee.
7. WAYS AND MEANS [BUDGET DEBATE].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Fisher moved the following motions, namely—

That, in lieu of the land tax imposed by the *Land Tax Act* 1910, there be imposed a land tax on the unimproved value of all lands within the Commonwealth which are owned by persons, at the rates set out in the following Schedules:—

"FIRST SCHEDULE.

RATE OF TAX WHEN AN OWNER IS NOT AN ABSENTEE.

For so much of the taxable value as does not exceed £75,000, the rate of tax per pound sterling shall be One penny and one fifteen thousandth of one penny where the taxable value is One pound sterling, and shall increase uniformly with each increase of One pound sterling of the taxable value by one fifteen thousandth of one penny.

For every pound sterling of taxable value in excess of £75,000 the rate of tax shall be Ninepence.

The rate of tax for so much of the taxable value as does not exceed £75,000 may be calculated from the following formula:—

R = rate of tax in pence per pound sterling.
V = taxable value in pounds sterling.

$$R = \left\{ 1 + \frac{V}{15,000} \right\} \text{ pence.}''$$

"SECOND SCHEDULE.

RATE OF TAX WHEN OWNER IS AN ABSENTEE.

For so much of the taxable value as does not exceed £5,000, the rate of tax per pound sterling shall be One penny. For so much of the taxable value as exceeds £5,000, but does not exceed £80,000, the rate of tax per pound sterling shall be Twopence and one fifteen thousandth of one penny where the excess is One pound sterling, and shall increase uniformly with each increase of One pound sterling in the taxable value by one fifteen thousandth of one penny.

For every pound sterling of taxable value in excess of £80,000 the rate of tax shall be Tenpence.

The rate of tax for so much of the taxable value as exceeds £5,000, and does not exceed £80,000, may be calculated by the following formula:—

R = rate of tax in pence per pound sterling.
E = excess of taxable value over £5,000 in pounds sterling.

$$R = \left\{ 2 + \frac{E}{15,000} \right\} \text{ pence.}''$$

That an estate duty be imposed upon the estates of deceased persons, at the rates set out in the following Schedule:—

"THE SCHEDULE.

Where the Total Value of the Estate, after Deducting all Debts—	Duty shall be Payable at the rate per cent. of—
Exceeds One thousand pounds and does not exceed Two thousand pounds	One pound
Exceeds Two thousand pounds	One pound, together with an additional percentage of one-fifth of a pound for every One thousand pounds or part of One thousand pounds in excess of the sum of Two thousand pounds, but so that the percentage shall not exceed Fifteen pounds."

General debate on the Budget resumed.

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

The House resumed; Mr. John Thomson reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

10th December, 1914.

8. SUPPLY [SUPPLY BILL].—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Fisher, after debate—That a sum not exceeding Ten million three hundred and sixteen thousand and five hundred pounds be granted to His Majesty for or towards defraying the services of the year ending 30th June, 1915.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. John Thomson reported accordingly.

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

9. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Fisher 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.

10. SUPPLY RESOLUTION.—The Resolution reported from the Committee of Supply was read and, on the motion of Mr. Fisher, was adopted by the House.

11. WAYS AND MEANS RESOLUTION.—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Fisher, after debate—That towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the services of the year ending 30th June, 1915, a sum not exceeding Ten million three hundred and sixteen thousand and five hundred pounds be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. John Thomson reported accordingly.

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

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

Ordered—That Mr. Fisher and Mr. Hughes do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

12. SUPPLY BILL (No. 4) 1914–15.—Mr. Fisher then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and fifteen,*” and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

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

Debate ensued.

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

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

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 to 5, inclusive, agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Wise reported accordingly.

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

13. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BILL (1914) (No. 2).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Deputy-Speaker :—

R. M. FERGUSON,

Governor-General.

Message No. 25.

A Bill intituled “*An Act to amend the ‘Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1911’ and the ‘Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1914’*,” as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

Government House,

Brisbane, 7th December, 1914.

10th December, 1914.

14. ALTERATION OF TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until eleven o'clock a.m. to-morrow.
Question—put and passed.
15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at thirty-two minutes past 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. Fowler, Mr. Jolley*, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Ozanne*, Colonel Ryrie, and Mr. Spence.

* On leave.

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