

1914.

(SECOND SESSION.)

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 22.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 1914

1. The House met, at eleven o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. THE NEWSPAPER REPORTERS—CONDUCT OF, IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE.—Mr. Chapman complained, as a matter of privilege, that a question handed in by him in regard to alleged restrictions imposed on the reporters in attendance in Parliament House, had not been placed on the Notice Paper. Mr. Speaker stated that portion of the question was couched in language that was out of order. To part of the question there was no objection, and if a reply was pressed for, it would be given. In his opinion, however, it was undesirable that the matter should be brought forward. Mr. Chapman expressed the wish that it should be explained as far as possible. Mr. Speaker thereupon stated the whole circumstances in regard to the case, and by his direction the Clerk read the correspondence that had taken place in connexion therewith.
3. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day, Government Business No. 1, be postponed until a later hour this day.
4. TREASURY BILLS BILL.—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. 27—Mr. Deputy-Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Fisher, after debate—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to authorize the issue of Treasury Bills.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. John Thomson reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.

The said Resolution 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.

Mr. Fisher 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. INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS APPROPRIATION BILL (1914).—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. 28—

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

(*In the Committee.*)

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Fisher—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for Invalid and Old-age Pensions.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. John Thomson reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.

The said Resolution 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.

Mr. Fisher 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. 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.

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 and 2 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. John Thomson reported accordingly.

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

6. WAR LOAN BILL.—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. 29—

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

(*In the Committee.*)

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Fisher—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to authorize the borrowing of money from or through the Government of the United Kingdom.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. John Thomson reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.

The said Resolution 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.

Mr. Fisher 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 the next sitting.

7. WAYS AND MEANS [RESOLUTIONS RE LAND TAX AND ESTATE DUTY AND AMENDMENT OF TARIFF SCHEDULE].—The House according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

12th December, 1914.

(In the Committee.)

Debate resumed on Mr. Fisher's motion [see page 116 ante] :—

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.

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

Mr. Joseph Cook moved an amendment, That the following words be inserted after “That” in line 1 of the motion :—

“in and for each financial year beginning on the first day of July, 1914, and each financial year thereafter until that next following the financial year in which the Governor-General issue a proclamation that the present state of war has ceased”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 22.

Mr. Abbott	Mr. Manifold
Sir Robert Best	Mr. Patten
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Pigott
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Rodgers
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Sinclair
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Stumm
Mr. R. W. Foster	
Mr. Glynn	
Mr. Groom	
Sir William Irvine	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Atkinson
Mr. Livingston	Mr. Greene

Noes, 30.

Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Bamford	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Burns	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Carr	Mr. Sharpe
Mr. Dankel	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Spence
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Fisher	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Hannan	Mr. Webster
Mr. Higgs	Mr. West
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Yates
Mr. Jensen	
Mr. Lynch	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Mahon	Mr. Burchell
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Page

And so it was negatived.

Original motion—put and agreed to

12th December, 1914.

Debate resumed on Mr. Fisher's motion [*see page 116 ante*]:—

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."

Mr. Joseph Cook moved an amendment, That the following words be inserted after "That" in line 1 of the motion:—

"in and for each financial year beginning on the first day of July, 1914, and each financial year thereafter until that next following the financial year in which the Governor-General issue a proclamation that the present state of war has ceased".

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 22.

Mr. Abbott	Mr. Livingston
Mr. Boyd	Mr. Manifold
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Patten
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Pigott
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Rodgers
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Sampson
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Stumm
Mr. Groom	
Sir William Irvine	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. W. Elliot Johnson	Mr. Atkinson
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Greene

Noes, 30.

Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Bamford	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Burchell	Mr. O'Malley
Mr. Burns	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Carr	Mr. Sharpe
Mr. Dankel	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Spence
Mr. Fisher	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Hannan	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Higgs	Mr. West
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Yates
Mr. Jensen	
Mr. Lynch	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Mahon	Mr. Finlayson
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Page

And so it was negatived.

Original motion—put and agreed to.

Mr. Tudor moved—

That the Schedule to the Customs Tariff 1914 [*see page 63 ante*] be amended as hereunder set out, and that on and after the Twelfth day of December One thousand nine hundred and fourteen at Twelve o'clock noon, Victorian time, Duties of Customs be collected in pursuance of the Customs Tariff as so amended.

SCHEDULE.

IMPORT DUTIES.

Tariff Items.	Tariff on Goods the Produce or Manufacture of the United Kingdom.	General Tariff.
57. By omitting the whole item and inserting in its stead the following item:—		
57. Grain and Pulse, not prepared or manufactured, viz.:—		
(A) Wheat	Free	Free
(B) Barley	2s.	2s.
(C) N.E.I.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.

Debate ensued.

Resolutions in regard to the land tax and the estate duty to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Atkinson reported accordingly.

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

8. 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.
 9. WAYS AND MEANS RESOLUTIONS.—The Resolutions reported from the Committee of Ways and Means were read and, on the motion of Mr. Fisher, were adopted by the House.
Ordered—That Mr. Fisher and Mr. Hughes do prepare and bring in Bills to carry out the foregoing Resolutions.
 10. LAND TAX BILL (1914).—Mr. Fisher then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Land Tax Act 1910'*," 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.
Mr. Groom 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 Monday next.
 11. ADDITIONAL DAY OF MEETING, AND PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Monday next, at eleven o'clock a.m., and that Government Business have precedence on that day.
Question—put and passed.
 12. ESTATE DUTY BILL.—Mr. Fisher also brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to impose Duties upon the Estates of Deceased Persons*," 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 Monday next.
 13. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and passed.
- And then the House, at eight minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until Monday next, at eleven o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Anstey, Mr. Catts, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Jolley*, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Ozanne*, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Riley, Colonel Ryrie, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. Wise.

* On leave.

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