

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 86.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER, 1915.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Joseph Cook presented a Petition from May R. Nott and other women of New South Wales, praying that the whole energies of our legislators be directed to bringing the War to a successful issue, and that any attempt to amend the Constitution be postponed till peace is established.
Petition received.
3. PAPER.—Mr. Speaker presented, pursuant to Statute—
 - Commonwealth Bank Act—Commonwealth Bank of Australia—Aggregate Balance-Sheet at 30th June, 1915, together with Auditor-General's Report thereon.
 Ordered to be printed.
4. ALTERATION OF TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until half-past ten o'clock a.m. to-morrow.
Question—put and passed.
5. RIVER MURRAY WATERS BILL.—Mr. Fisher moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to ratify and provide for carrying out an agreement entered into between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and the Premiers of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, respecting the River Murray and Lake Victoria and other Waters, and for other purposes.
Question—put and passed.
6. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 3—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, after debate, the following amendments were made:—

Pages 1 and 2, omit the definition of "Absentee" and insert the following new definition:—

" 'Absentee' means a person who does not reside in Australia, and includes a person who has been absent from Australia during more than half the calendar year in which the income the subject of the assessment was derived, unless he satisfies the Commissioner that he resides in Australia; but does not include a public officer of the Commonwealth or a State who is absent in the performance of his duty."

Page 2, after the definition of "Mortgage" insert the following new definition:—

" 'Partners' includes persons who are in receipt of income jointly."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

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1st September, 1915.

Clause 4—

Mr. Watt moved the following amendment:—

Lines 8 and 9, omit "subject to the control of the Minister".

Debate ensued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 5, 6 and 7 agreed to.

Clause 8—

On the motion of Mr. Watt, after debate, the following amendment was made:—

Line 40, omit "One hundred" and insert "Two hundred and fifty".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9—

Sir John Forrest moved the following amendment:—

Page 4, line 2, omit "thirty-first day of December" and insert "thirtieth day of June".

Debate ensued.

Clause postponed.

Clause 10—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, after debate, the following amendment was made:—

Line 11, after "State" insert "and not carried on for pecuniary profit".

Mr. W. Elliot Johnson moved the following further amendment:—

Line 13, after "religious," insert "temperance,".

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following further amendment was made:—

Line 17, omit "and".

Mr. Hughes moved the following further amendment:—

Line 17, after "1915;" insert—

"and

(f) the income of a provident, benefit, or superannuation fund established for the benefit of the employees in any business."

Debate ensued.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

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

7. WAR LOAN—RESULT OF ISSUE.—Mr. Fisher, by leave, made a statement to the House concerning the result of the issue of the first instalment of the War Loan.
8. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House again resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 10 further considered—

Debate resumed on the following further amendment, moved by Mr. Hughes:—

Line 17, after "1915;" insert—

"and

(f) the income of a provident, benefit, or superannuation fund established for the benefit of the employees in any business."

Amendment, by leave, temporarily withdrawn.

Mr. Stumm moved the following further amendment:—

Line 17, after "1915;" insert—

"and income arising or accruing from debentures, stock, or Treasury Bills issued by the Government of a State in the Commonwealth."

Debate ensued.

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

1st September, 1915.

The Committee divided—

Ayes, 22.

Mr. Atkinson	Mr. McWilliams
Mr. Boyd	Mr. O'Malley
Mr. Carr	Mr. Orchard
Mr. Chapman	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Patten
Mr. Fleming	Mr. Sampson
Sir John Forrest	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. R. W. Foster	Mr. Stumm
Mr. Fowler	
Mr. Groom	<i>Tellers:</i>
Sir William Irvine	Mr. Gregory
Mr. W. Elliot Johnson	Mr. Rodgers

Noes, 34.

Mr. Archibald	Mr. Mathews
Mr. Bamford	Mr. McGrath
Mr. Burns	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Page
Mr. Finlayson	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Fisher	Mr. Riley
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Sharpe
Mr. Greene	Mr. Laird Smith
Mr. Hampson	Mr. Spence
Mr. Hannan	Mr. Tudor
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Watt
Mr. Hughes	Mr. West
Mr. Jensen	Mr. Wise
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Yates
Mr. Lynch	
Mr. Mahony	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. W. Maloney	Mr. Burchell
Mr. Manifold	Mr. Watkins

And so it was negatived.

Mr. Hughes moved the further following amendment:—

Line 17, after "1915;" insert—

"(f) the income of a provident, benefit, or superannuation fund established for the benefit of the employees in any business; and"

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. W. Elliot Johnson moved the following further amendment:—

At end of the foregoing amendment add "(g) the income derived from interest from Savings Bank deposits."

Amendment negatived.

On the motion of Mr. Watt, the following further amendment was made:—

Line 18, after Governor-General, add "and the salaries of the Governors of the States."

Mr. Carr moved the following further amendment:—

At end of clause add "(h 1) Where it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the tax if imposed according to schedule will reduce returns from investments to less than 4½ per cent. per annum the tax shall cease to operate at that point."

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Carr moved the following further amendment:—

At end of clause add "(h 2) The income from any form of investment which does not exceed 3½ per cent."

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12 debated—

Mr. Wise moved the following amendment:—

Line 28, omit "from personal exertion."

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 13—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, after debate, the following amendments were made:—

Page 4, omit "taxable" wherever occurring.

Mr. Sinclair moved the following further amendment:—

Page 4, line 35, omit "live-stock,".

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, after debate, the following further amendment was made:—

Page 4, omit paragraph (b), and insert the following new paragraph:—

"(b) dividends, interest, profits, or bonus credited or paid to any member, shareholder, or debenture-holder of a company, but not including a reversionary bonus issued on a policy of life insurance;

Provided that where a company distributes to its members or shareholders any undistributed income accumulated prior to the commencement of this Act the sum so received by the member or shareholder shall not be included as part of his income."

Sir John Forrest moved the following further amendment:—

Page 5, omit paragraph (e).

Debate ensued.

1st September, 1915.

Amendment negatived.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following further amendments were made :—

Page 5, line 14, omit “ and”.

Page 5, after paragraph (g) insert the following new paragraph :—

“ and

(h) a cash prize in a lottery.”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, after debate, the following amendment was made :—

Omit the clause and insert the following new clause in place thereof :—

“ 15.—(1.) For the purpose of ascertaining the taxable income of a company ^{Taxation of companies.} there shall be deducted from the total income, in addition to any other deductions allowed by this Act, so much of the income as is distributed to the members, shareholders, or debenture-holders of the company :

Provided that in the case of a life insurance company there shall also be deducted so much of the income as consists of premiums paid upon the policies issued by the company :

Provided also that a company, notwithstanding any contract, agreement, or arrangement entered into by it, may, with the approval of the Commissioner, charge *pro rata* the amount of the tax actually paid by it against those beneficially interested in the income of the company.

(2.) Where, in the opinion of the Commissioner, a company has not in any year distributed to its members or shareholders a reasonable proportion of its income, there shall be included in the income of each member or shareholder, without in any way diminishing the liability of the company, so much of the income of the company which is not distributed in that year as bears to that income the proportion which the interest of the member or shareholder in the paid-up capital of the company bears to the paid-up capital of the company :

Provided that where a company dealing with exported butter distributes within twelve months after the export of any consignment any funds held in reserve for the purpose of insuring regularity of price on that consignment tax shall not be levied on those funds in the hands of the company.

(3.) The Commissioner shall furnish to the Treasurer annually, for presentation to Parliament, a report of all cases in which action has been taken under the provisions of sub-section

(2.) of this section with a statement of the reasons therefor.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 16—

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

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

9. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER No. 70.—Mr. Fisher moved, by leave, That Standing Order No. 70 be suspended.

Question—put and passed.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day, Government Business, No. 2, be postponed until a later hour this day.

11. SUGAR PURCHASE BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Fisher 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 to 5 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Atkinson reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, the House adopted the Report.

Mr. Fisher moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That the Standing Orders be suspended, to enable the remaining stage to be passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, the Bill was read a third time.

12. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day, Government Business No. 4 be postponed until a later hour this day, and that Order of the Day, No. 5, be postponed until Wednesday next.

13. PUBLIC SERVICE BILL (1915).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—

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

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.

1st and 2nd September, 1915.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.
 Clause 4 debated and agreed to.
 Clauses 5 to 9 agreed to.
 Clause 10 debated and agreed to.
 Clauses 11 and 12 agreed to.
 Clause 13—

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, after debate, the following amendment was made :—

Line 18, omit "is at the commencement of this Act" and insert "was on the fourth day of August One thousand nine hundred and fourteen".

And the Committee continuing to sit till after twelve o'clock midnight—

THURSDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1915.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.
 Title agreed to.
 Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

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.

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

14. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Orders of the Day, Government Business, Nos. 7 and 8, be postponed until a later hour this day.

15. WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY BILL (1915)—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Spence moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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—

On the motion of Mr. Fisher, after debate, the following amendment was made :—

Line 11, omit "Navy", and insert "time being administering the Act".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Mr. Spence 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.

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

16. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL.—The Order of the day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House.—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House again resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 16—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendment was made :—

Omit the clause and insert the following new clause in place thereof :—

"16. In connexion with income derived from mining operations (other than Taxation of a mining company. coal mining) carried on in Australia the following provisions shall apply :—

- (a) the return required by this Act to be made by the person deriving the income in the first place shall show the total income so derived during the calendar year in respect of which the return is compiled ;
- (b) the capital expended by the person carrying on the mining operations in necessary plant and development of a mining property from which income has been received (less the distributed and undistributed income derived prior to the year One thousand nine hundred and fourteen by that person) shall be divided by the estimated number of years during which payable mining operations may be expected to continue under normal conditions, and the quotient thus obtained shall, in addition to any other deductions allowed by this Act, be deducted from the income ;
- (c) where separate and distinct mining operations are carried on by the same person either alone or in association with any other person and a profit is made on some and a loss is made on others, that person shall be entitled to deduct the sum of the losses from the sum of the profits, and the balance of profits (if any) shall be included in the income of that person."

1st and 2nd September, 1915.

Clause 17—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendments were made :—

Page 6, omit “ taxable ” wherever occurring after line 22.

Line 38, after “ wife ” insert “ or children ”.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following further amendments were made, after debate—

Page 7, omit “ taxable ” wherever occurring.

Page 7, lines 12 and 13, omit “ no further deduction shall be allowed under this paragraph ”, insert “ the Commissioner shall take into consideration the sum allowed under that paragraph in determining the sum to be allowed under this paragraph ”.

Page 7, line 41, omit “ and ”.

Page 7, at end of clause, add the following new paragraph :—

“ and

- (j) sums set aside or paid by an employer of labour as or to a fund to provide individual personal benefits, pensions, or retiring allowances to employees :

Provided that the deduction shall not be allowed unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the fund has been established or the payment made in such a manner that the rights of the employees to receive the benefits, pensions, or retiring allowances have been fully secured.”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 18 agreed to.

Clause 19—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendments were made :—

Page 8, line 37, before “ insurance ” insert “ of ”.

Page 8, omit “ taxable ” wherever occurring.

Page 9, omit “ taxable ” wherever occurring.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 20 debated and agreed to.

Clause 21—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendment was made :—

Line 8, omit “ to a final destination ”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 22 and 23 agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, after debate, the following new clauses were inserted to follow clause 23 :—

“ 23A.—(1.) Partners shall be assessed and liable in respect of the income Partners. derived by them as partners as if it had been derived by a single person, without regard to the respective interests therein or to any deductions to which any of them may be entitled under this Act, and without taking into account any income derived by any one of them separately or as partner with any other person.

(2.) Each partner shall in addition be separately assessed and liable in respect of—

(a) his individual interest in the income, together with

(b) any other income derived by him separately, and

(c) his individual interests in the income derived by any other partnership.

(3.) Partners shall in no case be deemed in respect of their joint assessment to be absentees ; but any of the partners who is an absentee shall be separately assessed and liable under this section as an absentee.”

“ 23B.—(1.) Any person who derives income as a trustee shall be assessed Trustees. and liable in respect of income tax as if he were beneficially entitled to the income :

Provided that where he derives income in respect of different trust estates for different beneficial owners who are not for any reason liable to be jointly assessed, the tax payable by him shall be separately assessed in respect of each of these estates.

Provided also that where a trustee also derives income beneficially, he shall be separately assessed for that income, and for the income of which he is trustee, unless for any reason he is liable to be jointly assessed independently of this section.

(2.) A trustee shall in no case be deemed to be an absentee ; but any of the beneficiaries who are absentees shall be separately assessed and liable as absentees.”

Clause 24—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendment was made :—

Line 34, after “ person ” insert “ (other than a company) ”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 25—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendments were made, after debate :—

Line 4, omit “ calendar year One thousand nine hundred and fourteen ” and insert “ year beginning first of July One thousand nine hundred and fourteen and ending thirtieth of June One thousand nine hundred and fifteen ”.

Line 5, omit “ calendar ” and after “ year ” insert “ beginning first of July ”.

Line 19, omit “ calendar ”.

Clause, as amended, debated and agreed to.

Clauses 26 to 33 agreed to.

1st and 2nd September, 1915.

Clause 34 debated—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendment was made :—

Omit sub-clauses (4.) (5.) and (6.) and insert the following new sub-clauses :—

(4.) A taxpayer who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Commissioner, may, within thirty days after the service by post of notice of the decision of the Commissioner, ask the Commissioner to treat his objection as an appeal, and forward it either to the High Court, the Supreme Court, or a County or District Court of a State, or such other Court as is specified in that behalf by proclamation, as required by the taxpayer.

(5.) When the appeal is to the High Court or a Supreme Court, it shall be heard by a single Justice of the Court.

(6.) An inferior Court of a State shall not have jurisdiction under this section unless it is constituted or presided over by a Judge authorized in that behalf by the Governor-General.

(7.) If the assessment has been reduced by the Commissioner after considering the objection, the reduced assessment shall be the assessment appealed from."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 35 to 39 agreed to.

Clause 40 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 41 and 42 agreed to.

Clause 43 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 44 and 45 agreed to.

Clause 46 debated and agreed to.

Clause 47 agreed to.

Clauses 48 and 49 debated and agreed to.

Clause 50—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendment was made :—

Line 23, omit "is" and insert "has".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following new clause was inserted to follow Clause 50 :—

"50A. A covenant or stipulation in a mortgage of land, which has or purports to have the purpose or effect of imposing on the mortgagor the obligation of paying income tax on the interest to be paid under the mortgage— Covenant by mortgagor to pay tax.

(a) if the mortgage was entered into before the commencement of this Act—shall not be valid to impose on the mortgagor the obligation of paying income tax to any greater amount than the amount (if any) which would have been payable by the mortgagor if his taxable income consisted solely of a sum equivalent to the amount of interest to be paid under the mortgage without taking into account any income tax payable on that interest; and

(b) if the mortgage was entered into after the commencement of this Act— shall be absolutely void."

Clauses 51 to 54 agreed to.

Clause 55—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendments were made :—

Line 30, after "Commissioner" insert "or fails to include any assessable income in any return"

Line 43, after "section" insert "or by the next succeeding section".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 56 to 61 agreed to.

Postponed clause 9—

Amendment proposed by Sir John Forrest (see page 354 *ante*), viz.—

Page 4, line 2, omit "thirty first day of December" and insert "thirtieth day of June"—

Again put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Mr. Hughes moved, by leave, That the Bill be now recommitted to a Committee of the whole House for the reconsideration of clauses 3, 4, 12, 17, and the consideration of proposed new clause 3A.

Question—put and passed.

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

(In the Committee.)

Clause 3—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendment was made :—

In the substituted definition of "Absentee" omit "calendar" and insert "financial."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendment was made :—

Lines 8 and 9, omit "subject to the control of the Minister".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

1st and 2nd September, 1915.

Clause 12—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendment was made :—

Line 27, after "Dominions" insert "or of an ally of Great Britain".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17—

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following amendment was made :—

Page 7, line 37, omit "Australia" and insert "any part of the King's Dominions or in any country in alliance with Great Britain".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the following new clause was added to the Bill :—

"3A. This Act shall extend to the Territory of Papua."

Act to extend
to Papua.

Bill to be reported with further amendments.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Mr. Hughes 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.

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

17. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO OFFICERS' COMPENSATION BILL (1915).—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

R. M. FERGUSON,
Governor-General.

Message No. 92.

A Bill intituled "*An Act to provide for Compensation to be paid on Retirement or on Decease of certain Officers of the Commonwealth*," 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,
Melbourne, 25th August, 1915.

18. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 1915-16.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 78.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the 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 sixteen*," to which it has agreed without requests.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 1st September, 1915.

19. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—WAR CENSUS [POSTAL MATTER] BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 79.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to Provide for the free transmission of Postal Matter relating to the War Census*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 1st September, 1915.

20. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SUGAR PURCHASE BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 80.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to authorize the borrowing of money from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia*," to which it has agreed without amendment.

THOS. GIVENS,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 1st September, 1915.

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

(In the Committee.)

The following motion of Mr. Hughes, moved at a previous sitting, viz.:—That an Income Tax be imposed on incomes derived directly or indirectly from sources within Australia, at the rates set out in the following Schedules :—(See pages 332-3 ante)—was agreed to.

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

1st and 2nd September, 1915.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

Resolved - That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

Ordered—That the Resolution reported from the Committee be considered at once.

Mr. Hughes 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.

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

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

22. INCOME TAX BILL.—Mr. Hughes then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to impose a Progressive Tax upon Incomes*," and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

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

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 to 5 agreed to.

Schedules, after debate, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, the House adopted the Report.

Ordered—That the third reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

23. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Department of Home Affairs—

Lands Acquisition Act—

Right of Carriage-Way over Land acquired at Guildford, Western Australia—For Defence purposes.

Land acquired under, at—

Broadmeadows, Victoria—For Defence purposes.

Kalgoorlie, Western Australia—For Postal purposes.

24. REFERENDUM (CONSTITUTION ALTERATION) BILL (1915).—Mr. Hughes moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the "*Referendum (Constitution Alteration) Act 1906-1912*."

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Hughes 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 day of sitting.

25. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hughes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at eight minutes to three o'clock in the morning, adjourned until this day at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Lieut.-Colonel Abbott*, Mr. Catts, Mr. Mahon, Mr. Ozanne, General Ryrie*, and Mr. John Thomson.

* On leave.

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