

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 15TH APRIL, 1920.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. SEA CARRIAGE—SELECT COMMITTEE.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. McWilliams:—That a Select Committee, consisting of seven Members of this House, be appointed to inquire into and report upon the conditions of the Australian Overseas and Inter-State Sea Carriage—
Mr. Corser moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "upon" be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—
 - "(1) The organization and control of Inter-State shipping;
 - (2) Oversea shipping in relation to Australian products for oversea markets and imports generally;
 - (3) Methods to improve mail cargo and passenger service with oversea countries."
 Amendment agreed to, after debate.
 Motion, as amended, agreed to.
 Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the following Members constitute the Select Committee: Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Burchell, Mr. Corser, Mr. R. W. Foster, Mr. Mahony, Mr. Watkins, and the Mover of the original motion (Mr. McWilliams): three to form a quorum.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.
 Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records, and have leave to adjourn from place to place, and do report this day three months.
 Question—put and passed.
3. PRODUCE—INTER-STATE—COMMONWEALTH CONTROL.—Mr. Atkinson moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should forthwith give effect to the motion passed by this House in a previous Parliament that the Commonwealth should take over the inspection and effective control of produce passing from State to State.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.
4. CONSTITUTION—CONVENTION *RE* AMENDMENT.—Mr. Austin Chapman moved, pursuant to notice—
 - (1) That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that as early as practicable a Constitutional Convention should be summoned for the purpose of considering the need, substance, and form of any amendment of section 51 of the Constitution, and that such Convention shall—
 - (a) consist of ten (10) representatives of each State, elected on the existing Federal franchise, according to the principle of proportional representation;
 - (b) hold meetings at such times and places as it may think fit;
 - (c) submit within twelve months to the Governor-General the draft of any amendments adopted by such Convention.
 - (2) That any such amendments so adopted shall be a proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution, and shall be dealt with in accordance with section 128 of the Constitution for passage by Parliament and submission to the electors.
 - (3) That an Enabling Bill to give effect to the foregoing should be introduced to Parliament as early as practicable.
 Debate ensued.

The time for precedence to General Business having expired, Government Business was called on.

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5. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL (1920).—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.)

Clauses 1 to 6 agreed to.
Clause 7—
Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Chanter reported accordingly.
Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

6. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Papua Act—Infirm and Destitute Natives Account—Statement of the Transactions of the Trustees, 1918-19.
7. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Joseph Cook moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-five minutes past ten 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. Charlton*, Mr. Considine, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Lavelle, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. James Page, Mr. Ryan, and Mr. Watt*.

* On leave.

WALTER A. GALE,
Clerk of the House of Representatives