

1923
(SECOND SESSION).

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Read 1° 20th August, 1923.

(Brought in by the Attorney-General, the Honorable L. E. Groom.)

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT

To provide for the Validation of certain Agreements and Documents made and executed by or on behalf of the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS certain agreements in writing, or documents pur- Preamble.
porting to be agreements, relating to the manufacture of
wool-tops, or the purchase or sale of wool for the manufacture of
wool-tops, were made or executed by or on behalf of the Common-
5 wealth during the late war :

And whereas such agreements or documents were acted upon by
the parties thereto as being valid and binding agreements :

And whereas doubts have arisen as to the validity of such agreements
or documents in the absence of express legislative authority :

10 . And whereas it is expedient to resolve such doubts and to declare
the validity of such agreements :

Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the
Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of
Australia, as follows :—

15 1. This Act may be cited as the *Agreements Validation Act 1923.* Short title.

2.—(1.) Every agreement in writing, or document purporting to Validation of
be an agreement, made or executed by or on behalf of the Common- agreements.
wealth, during the late war, relating to the manufacture of wool-tops,

or the purchase or sale of wool for the manufacture of wool-tops, shall be, and shall be deemed to have been from the time when it was made or executed, as valid and effectual for all purposes as if it had been authorized by the Parliament.

(2.) For the purposes of this section, an agreement, or a document purporting to be an agreement, shall be deemed to have been made or executed during the late war if it was made or executed on or after the fourth day of August, One thousand nine hundred and fourteen, and on or before the thirty-first day of August, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-one.

Exception from
Act of certain
agreements.

3. There shall be excepted from the operation of this Act the following contracts or agreements which were the subject-matter of litigation in the High Court of Australia in an action by the Commonwealth and the Central Wool Committee against the Colonial Combing, Spinning and Weaving Company Limited namely :—

- (a) The agreement of the first day of March, One thousand nine hundred and seventeen, between the Government of the Commonwealth and the Colonial Combing, Spinning and Weaving Company Limited ;
- (b) The agreement contained in or implied from two telegrams dated respectively the fifth and the nineteenth days of January, One thousand nine hundred and eighteen, from the Chairman of the Central Wool Committee to the Managing Director of the Colonial Combing, Spinning and Weaving Company Limited ; and
- (c) The agreement of the twenty-sixth day of September, One thousand nine hundred and eighteen, contained in a memorandum of that date of a Conference between the Acting Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and representatives of the Central Wool Committee and of the Colonial Combing, Spinning and Weaving Company Limited.