

1903.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 11.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1903.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PRINTING COMMITTEE—SECOND REPORT FROM.—Mr. Ewing (for Sir John Quick, Chairman), brought up the Second Report from the Printing Committee. The Report was read by the Clerk, and is as follows :—

## REPORT.

The Printing Committee have the honour to report that they have dealt with all the Papers laid on the Table of the House since the last sitting of the Committee, and beg to recommend that the following be printed :—

Presented Paper.—Rebate of Excise Duty allowed on Australian Sugar grown by White Labour—Memorandum by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth regarding the payment of.

JOHN QUICK,  
Chairman.

House of Representatives,  
Committee Room, 11th June, 1903.

Mr. Ewing moved, by leave, That the Report be taken into consideration forthwith, and agreed to. Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

3. DUTCH AND GERMAN NEW GUINEA—BRITISH ACQUISITION OF.—Mr. Kirwan moved, pursuant to notice, That, as the Commonwealth is undertaking the control of territory in New Guinea, with an exposed frontier of about 900 miles to German and Dutch territory, the Government should, in the opinion of this House, intimate to the Imperial authorities that it would be gratifying to the people of the Commonwealth if the Imperial Government availed themselves of any opportunity that might arise to secure, by exchange of territory or other peaceful means, Dutch and German New Guinea, or either, so as to lessen the danger to the peace of Australia through foreign powers controlling countries adjoining Commonwealth territory.

Debate ensued.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

4. COINAGE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.—Mr. G. B. Edwards moved, pursuant to notice, That the Report of the Select Committee on Commonwealth Coinage brought up, and ordered by this House to be printed, on 4th April, 1902, be now adopted.

Debate ensued.

Sir George Turner moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "That" be omitted, and that the following words be inserted in place thereof, viz. :—

"in the opinion of this House any change to decimal coinage by Australia should, in order to confer in any great measure the benefits expected from it, be preceded by its adoption in the United Kingdom, and, if possible, be accompanied by the metric system of weights and measures.

"That in view of the fact that the time has not, in the judgment of the Government of the United Kingdom, arrived for the substitution of the decimal system for the existing coinage, it would not at present be advisable to initiate the system in the Commonwealth."

Mr. Thomson moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Friday next.

12th June, 1903.

5. CUSTOMS PROSECUTIONS.—Mr. G. B. Edwards moved, pursuant to notice, *amended*, That a Return be laid upon the Table of the House giving, in tabulated form, the undermentioned particulars of all prosecutions under the Customs Act from the coming into force of the said statute to 30th May last—

- (a) Name and address of defendant.
- (b) Date of hearing.
- (c) The offence charged.
- (d) The amount of duty (if any) involved.
- (e) The penalty (if any) imposed, or the manner in which the case was disposed of.
- (f) The costs (if any) awarded.
- (g) The legal costs (if any) incurred by the Department in such prosecution.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

6. TELEPHONES RELINQUISHED IN TASMANIA.—Mr. Hartnoll moved, pursuant to notice, That a Return be laid upon the Table of the House, showing the number of private telephones in each municipal or police district in Tasmania (only excepting the cities of Hobart and Launceston) which have been relinquished since the regulations issued by the Postmaster-General came into force.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at thirty-six minutes past three o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Batchelor, Mr. Brown, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Winter Cooke, Mr. Cruickshank, Mr. R. Edwards\*, Sir John Forrest, Mr. Harper, Mr. Knox\*, Sir William Lyne, Mr. Macdonald-Paterson\*, Mr. McCay, Mr. McColl, Sir Malcolm McEacharn, Mr. A. McLean, Mr. F. E. McLean, Sir William McMillan, Mr. Poynton, Mr. Reid, Mr. Sawers, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. V. L. Solomon, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Watkins.

\* On leave.

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