

1903.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 71.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH OCTOBER, 1903.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Sir George Turner presented, pursuant to the direction of an Act of Parliament—
Audit Act 1901.—Transfers of Amounts approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, financial year 1902-3 (dated 5th October, 1903).
3. SEIZURE BY THE TASMANIAN AUTHORITIES OF THE SCHOONER "DORIS."—Mr. A. McLean moved, pursuant to notice, That there be laid on the Table of this House a copy of all the papers, correspondence, and minutes in the matter of the forcible seizure by the Tasmanian authorities of the registered Victorian-owned fishing schooner *Doris*.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
4. SELECTION OF SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion moved by Sir William Lyne in regard to the procedure to be adopted in connexion with the selection of the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth—
Debate resumed.

Paragraphs 1 and 2, as follows, were agreed to :—

(1) That, with a view of facilitating the performance of the obligation imposed on the Parliament by Section 125 of the Constitution, this House do on Thursday, 8th October, proceed to determine the opinion of Members as to the place in New South Wales at or near which the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth should be situated.

(2) That the selection be made from among the places mentioned in the Schedule hereto.

And paragraph 3 of the question having been amended was agreed to as follows :—

(3) That the House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the resolutions and to determine the method of selection, and that so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the House from adopting such method :—

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

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. Chanter reported that by concurrence of the Committee a question had been referred to the Speaker for decision. The honorable Member for Richmond intimated in the Committee that he desired to amend the Schedule of the Resolutions to determine the procedure in connexion with the selection of the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth by the addition of the word "district" to each of the names of the sites therein specified. He was proceeding to discuss and define what those districts were. The Chairman called the attention of the honorable Member to the fact that he was anticipating a discussion which would take place at a later stage, and that it was not competent for him to do so.

Mr. Speaker stated that early that afternoon the honorable and learned Member for Bendigo sought to define in some way the words "at or near which." He had prevented him from proceeding upon that occasion upon precisely the same ground as that upon which he thought the Chairman had rightly prevented the honorable Member for Richmond. The resolution No. 3, which had been agreed to, contained the following words :—"That the following be the method of selection," that was to say the method of selecting a name which was to be inserted in a blank in the Bill, "and that so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the House from adopting such methods." The only portion of the Standing Orders which had been suspended was so much as might hamper the House in carrying out the method of ballot to be determined. The Order of the Day No. 2 related to the consideration of the Seat of Government Bill in Committee. In Committee on the Bill it would be necessary to determine in some way what the words "at or near" in that Bill meant. Any discussion, therefore, at the present time, of the question of what

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“at or near” meant either in enlargement of those words or in definition of them, such as the honorable Member for Richmond proposed, would certainly be anticipating a debate which must take place at a later stage. He thought that the Chairman had acted entirely in accordance with the Standing Orders in ruling as he did. The Committee were now discussing merely the method by which a certain name should be selected to fill in a certain blank in the Bill. Whilst it would be in order to omit any of those names or to add others to them it was not in order to anticipate any discussion on the words “at or near” which appeared in the Bill.

The House again resolved itself into the Committee.

Mr. Speaker again resumed the Chair; Mr. Chanter reported that the Committee had agreed to the following resolution :—

Resolved—That an open exhaustive Ballot shall be taken without debate in the following manner :—

- (a) Ballot-papers shall be distributed to honorable Members containing the names of the sites mentioned in the Schedule hereto.
- (b) Members shall place a cross opposite the name of the site for which they desire to vote, and shall sign the paper.
- (c) The ballot-papers shall then be examined by the Clerk.
- (d) If, on the first examination, any site proves to have received an absolute majority of votes, the Speaker shall report the name of such site to the House, and such site shall be deemed to be the one preferred by honorable Members.
- (e) If no site receives an absolute majority of votes, then the name of the site receiving the smallest number of votes shall be reported to the House and shall be struck out.
- (f) If any two or more of the sites should receive an equal number of votes, such number of votes being the smallest, then the House shall ascertain in the customary manner which of such sites should, in the opinion of honorable Members, be further balloted for, and the name of the other, or others, shall be struck out.
- (g) Further ballots shall then be taken on the names of the remaining sites, and the name of the site receiving the smallest number of votes in each successive ballot shall be reported to the House and struck out in the manner aforesaid, until one of the sites receives an absolute majority of votes.
- (h) When one of the sites has received an absolute majority of votes, the name of such site shall be reported to the House by the Speaker, and such site shall be deemed to be the site preferred by honorable Members.
- (i) The total number of votes given for each site shall be reported to the House after each ballot.
- (j) The House shall thereupon resolve itself again into a Committee of the Whole on the Bill.

SCHEDULE.

Albury	Lake George
Armidale	Lyndhurst
Bathurst	Orange
Bombala	Tumut.
Dalgety	

And the said Resolution was adopted by the House.

5. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House having been read—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. Chanter reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to ask, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

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

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at twenty-five minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Bamford, Mr. Cruickshank, Sir John Forrest, Sir Philip Fysh, Mr. Glynn, Mr. A. C. Groom, Mr. Harper, Mr. McColl, Mr. F. E. McLean, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Poynton, Mr. Salmon, and Mr. V. L. Solomon.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.