

1904.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 21.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 19TH MAY, 1904.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—Mr. Watson presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Transcontinental Railway (Kalgoorlie to Port Augusta)—Copies of Telegrams between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and the Premier of South Australia with reference to.
Ordered to lie on the Table and to be printed.
Mr. Batchelor presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Federal Capital Proposed Sites—Observations and interim Report by Percy T. Owen, Inspector-General of Works, and Reports by Surveyors Scrivener and Chesterman, on the proposed Sites in the Southern Monaro and Tumut Districts.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
Mr. Mahon presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
English Mail Service—Papers relating to.
Ordered to lie on the Table and to be printed.
Mr. Mahon presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Postmaster-General's Department—Abstract of Papers *re* Official Recognition of Associations of Officers of the Postmaster-General's Department in Victoria (subsequent to 13th April, 1904—the date of questions by Mr. Tudor, in the House of Representatives).
Ordered to lie on the Table.
3. ELECTIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES—CONDUCT OF, AND MECHANICAL CONTRIVANCES IN USE AT.—
Mr. G. B. Edwards moved, pursuant to notice, That the experience of the recent general election suggests the desirableness of the Government obtaining the fullest information (by commission or otherwise) of the conduct of elections in other countries, including the operation of mechanical contrivances for registering and counting votes, with a view to the introduction of such machines to the Commonwealth.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
4. ELECTORAL ACT ADMINISTRATION.—Mr. Brown moved, pursuant to notice, *amended*—
(1) That, in view of the unsatisfactory manner in which the last general elections were conducted throughout the Commonwealth, a Select Committee be appointed to investigate and report upon the administration of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, and to report results of such investigation to this House.
(2) That such Select Committee consist of Mr. Batchelor, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Groom, Mr. Maloney, Mr. Mauger, Mr. McCay, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Poynton, Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Storrer, Mr. Dugald Thomson, and the Mover.
(3) That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records; and that four be the quorum of such Committee.
Mr. Maloney moved, as an amendment, That the name of Mr. Maloney be omitted from the proposed Committee, and the name of Sir William Lyne be inserted in place thereof.
Debate ensued.
It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, in accordance with Standing Order No. 119 the debate was interrupted, and the Order of the Day, General Business, was called on, and was adjourned until Thursday, 2nd June next.
Debate resumed.

19th May, 1904.

The amendment moved by Mr. Maloney was, by leave, withdrawn.

Debate continued.

Mr. Cameron moved, as an amendment, That the words "with power to suggest amendments in the existing Electoral Act" be added to paragraph (1).

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put and negatived.

Mr. Joseph Cook moved, as an amendment, That the names of Mr. Maloney, Mr. Poynton, and Mr. Dugald Thomson be omitted from the proposed Committee, and that the following names be inserted in place thereof, viz. :—Mr. Cameron, Mr. Kelly, Sir William Lyne, and Mr. McLean.

Debate continued.

And the names of the proposed Committee having been so amended, except that the omission of the name of Mr. Poynton was not agreed to—

Question—

(1) That, in view of the unsatisfactory manner in which the last general elections were conducted throughout the Commonwealth, a Select Committee be appointed to investigate and report upon the administration of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, and to report results of such investigation to this House;

(2) That such Select Committee consist of Mr. Batchelor, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Groom, Mr. Kelly, Sir William Lyne, Mr. Mauger, Mr. McCay, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McLean, Mr. Poynton, Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Storrer, and the Mover;

(3) That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records; and that four be the quorum of such Committee—

—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the Committee do report by Thursday, 16th June next.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—GOVERNMENT MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF TOBACCO, ETC.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 3.

The Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives in the following Resolution, which was agreed to by the Senate this day, viz. :—

That, in the opinion of this Senate, in order to provide the necessary money for the payment of old-age pensions and for other purposes, the Commonwealth Government should undertake the manufacture and sale of tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes.

R. C. BAKER,
President.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 19th May, 1904.

Ordered—That the consideration of the foregoing Message in Committee of the whole House be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 16th June next.

6. MEMBERS OF FIRST PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH—TITLE OF "HONORABLE."—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 23rd March, 1904, regarding the use of the title of "Honorable" by Members of the First Parliament of the Commonwealth, be printed (on which motion the Ministerial Statement of the Government Policy was made)—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Sydney Smith 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 to-morrow.

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

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at thirty-three minutes past nine o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Ewing and Mr. Kingston.

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