

1904.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 98.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 1904.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS NOS. 108 AND 235.—Sir George Turner desiring to move, by leave, for the resumption of the Committee of Supply which lapsed at the last sitting, and leave not being granted, he moved without notice, That Standing Orders Nos. 108 and 235 be suspended in order to allow a motion to be made for the resumption of the Committee of Supply.  
Debate ensued.  
Motion, by leave, withdrawn.
3. PAPERS.—Sir George Turner presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Council of Finance for the Commonwealth—Proposal to establish.—Memorandum by Mr. William Knox, M.P.  
Mr. McCay presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Defence Forces—Memorandum by the Minister for Defence on the Administration and Control of.  
Defence Forces—Memorandum by the General Officer Commanding on the result of the deliberations of a Committee held upon the Command and Administration of the Military and Naval Forces of the Commonwealth.  
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
4. LIBRARY COMMITTEE (JOINT)—REPORT FROM.—Mr. Speaker, Chairman, presented a Report from the Joint Library Committee.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.
5. COUNCIL OF FINANCE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH.—Mr. Knox moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House it is desirable—
  - (1) To establish by Act of Parliament a Council of Finance of the Commonwealth of Australia composed of representatives to be appointed by the Commonwealth and by the States.
  - (2) That such Council of Finance shall be constituted for the purposes following :—
    - (a) To manage the Public Debts of the States and the Commonwealth.
    - (b) To effect the consolidation, conversion, or renewal of the existing public debts of the States of the Commonwealth.
    - (c) To undertake the flotation of new loans authorized by the Parliaments of the Commonwealth or the States of the Commonwealth.
    - (d) To undertake other work being incidental or cognate to the foregoing purposes.
  - (3) That the Treasurer invite the approval and co-operation of the States with the view of obtaining through the Parliaments of the Commonwealth and the States the necessary constitutional and statutory authorities to give effect to the foregoing.
 Mr. Knox not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.  
Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.  
It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, the Orders of the Day were called on.

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6. AGRICULTURE—PROPOSED FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That, in the opinion of this House, in order to promote the primary industries of Australia, a Federal Department of Agriculture ought to be established at an early date—  
Debate resumed.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That Order of the Day No. 2, General Business, be an Order of the Day for Thursday, the 17th instant.
8. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Order of the Day No. 3, General Business, was read and discharged.
9. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—  
(1) That Order of the Day No. 4, General Business, be an Order of the Day for Thursday, the 17th instant, and that Order of the Day No. 5, General Business, be an Order of the Day for Thursday next.  
(2) That Orders of the Day Nos. 1 and 2, Government Business, be postponed until after the consideration of Order of the Day No. 3.
10. PAPUA (BRITISH NEW GUINEA) BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.  
Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. Salmon 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, on Tuesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.
11. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Reid moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Batchelor, Sir Langdon Bonython, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Culpin, Mr. G. B. Edwards, Mr. Ewing, Mr. Glynn, Mr. Groom, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kingston, Mr. McColl, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Spence, and Mr. Willis.

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