

1904.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 122.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 1904.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. LAPSED BILLS—PROPOSED STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Reid moved, pursuant to notice, That, until permanent Standing Orders are adopted, the following be temporary Standing Orders of this House :—

LAPSED BILLS.

214A. If in any session the proceedings on any Bill shall have been interrupted by the prorogation of Parliament, the House may, in the next succeeding session, by resolution, order such proceedings to be resumed at the stage to which the Bill had been advanced in the previous session, provided a periodical election for the House has not taken place between such two sessions.

Resumption of proceedings on lapsed Bills.

214B. Any such Bill may be sent to the Senate as if it had been introduced and passed by the House in the second session.

Bill may be again sent to Senate.

Debate ensued.

Mr. O'Malley moved, as an amendment, That the words "or motion" be inserted after the word "Bill," in line 1, of proposed Standing Order 214A.

Debate continued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original motion put and resolved in the affirmative.

3. PAPUA (BRITISH NEW GUINEA) BILL—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of the amendments made by the Senate in this Bill—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, 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.

4. PAPER.—Mr. Reid presented by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Silver Coinage.—Copies of Communications that have passed between the Commonwealth and Imperial Governments on the question of the Coinage of Silver for the Commonwealth.
Ordered to lie on the Table.

5. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—A Message was delivered by the Usher of the Senate—

MR. SPEAKER,

The Governor-General desires this Honorable House to attend His Excellency immediately in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker, with Members of the House, went to attend the Governor-General, when His Excellency was pleased to notify the Royal Assent to the following Bills, viz. :—

"An Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and five and to appropriate the supplies granted for such year in this session of the Parliament."

"An Act relating to Conciliation and Arbitration for the Prevention and Settlement of Industrial Disputes extending beyond the Limits of any one State."

"An Act relating to the Sea-Carriage of Goods."

15th December, 1904.

After which His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament as follows :—

GENTLEMEN :

I am sure you will regard with satisfaction the fact that I am now able to release you from further attendance upon your Parliamentary duties.

The extreme length of the Session, and the small number of measures passed, are both, no doubt, largely owing to the changes of Ministry which have taken place.

You will be pleased to learn that a Conference is to take place in Hobart in February next, between the Government of the Commonwealth and the Governments of the several States. Friendly co-operation between the State and Federal Governments in matters of mutual concern is of vital importance to the Australian people.

I trust that the Conference will bring about a wise and amicable settlement of existing differences, and furnish a solution for some, at least, of the difficulties which prevent the Commonwealth from reaping in full measure the promised benefits of Federation.

It is the intention of My Advisers to bring prominently before the Conference the urgent necessity for a better representation of the Commonwealth and of the Australian States in the Mother Country, and for the diffusion of useful knowledge throughout the world concerning the resources of Australia, and the openings which exist for desirable streams of immigration.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

My Advisers are of opinion that the adoption of Standing Orders which, whilst recognising the right of every honorable Member to the fullest expression of his views, will offer no opportunity for the obstruction of public business, is a matter of grave urgency.

My Advisers intend during the recess to take the steps authorized by law in order to submit early next Session proposals for the re-arrangement of the electorates. The Members of your Honorable House from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia still represent constituencies temporarily delimited before Federation by the State Parliaments, and the difference in the numbers of the electors in many of these electorates is so great that the provisions of the law are being seriously violated.

My Advisers will also devote special attention to the improvement of the electoral machinery.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

I thank you in the name of His Majesty for the supplies which you have granted.

The Conciliation and Arbitration Bill which you have passed represents protracted legislative labour, and has revealed strong differences of opinion upon one or two important matters. I trust that the Court now to be established will secure, upon a basis just to all the great interests concerned, the peaceful settlement of any industrial disputes that may unhappily arise, and extend beyond the limits of a State.

The Bill passed this Session for the selection of a Capital Site in New South Wales is now being considered by the Parliament of that State. I feel sure that the matters not yet settled will be dealt with in a conciliatory spirit on both sides.

The position of shippers of Australian produce has made it necessary to pass as an urgent measure a Bill restraining ship-owners from contracting themselves out of their lawful obligations to take due care of goods in transit between the different States or to other countries.

The amendment of the law relating to Defence, of which you have approved, enables My Advisers to place this important Department upon a basis which should secure more thorough consideration of the problems of Military and Naval Defence, and more satisfactory methods of inspection and administration.

A Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the Customs Tariff, and its effect upon Australian industries, has been appointed. We may confidently hope that the labours of this Commission will be of value to Parliament and the Commonwealth.

I now declare this Parliament prorogued until Saturday, the twenty-first day of January next.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Batchelor, Sir Langdon Bonython, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Culpin, Mr. G. B. Edwards, Sir John Forrest, Sir Philip Fysh, Mr. Groom, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Liddell, Sir William Lyne, Mr. Mauger, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Page, Sir John Quick, Mr. Ronald, Mr. Storrer, Sir George Turner, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Wilkinson, and Mr. Willis.

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