

1905.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 15.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 10TH AUGUST, 1905.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—A Petition, praying that stringent prohibitory legislation, such as is in force in New Zealand, against the importation and use of opium for smoking, may be enacted, was presented as under:—
By Mr. Kennedy—
From certain citizens and residents of Euroa, Victoria.

Petition received.

3. PRINTING COMMITTEE—FIRST REPORT FROM.—Mr. Poynton, Acting Chairman, brought up the First 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 and Petitions laid on the Table of the House since the commencement of the Session.

Your Committee find that the following Papers have been printed by order of the Senate:—

British New Guinea—Annual Report for year ending 30th June, 1904.

Electoral Act 1902—Reports of the Commissioners appointed to distribute New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia into Electoral Divisions.

Defence Acts 1903–1904—Certain Statutory Rules of 1904 and 1905.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904—Statutory Rules No. 23 of 1905.

Governor-General—Residence of, in New South Wales—Papers relating to.

Your Committee recommend that, in addition, the following Papers be printed:—

House of Representatives—General Index to Votes and Proceedings and Presented Papers, 1901–1904.

Trade between Australia and South Africa—Report by Mr. H. J. Scott (of Brighton, South Australia).

Immigration Restriction Act 1901—Return of persons refused admission, &c.

Butter Industry—Royal Commission—Final Report.

Commonwealth Tariff—Royal Commission—Progress Report.

Navigation Bill—Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sugar Mills aided by Queensland Government—Return to an Order.

A. POYNTON,
Acting Chairman.

House of Representatives,
Committee Room, 9th August, 1905.

Mr. Poynton moved, by leave, That the Report be agreed to.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

4. PAPERS.—Mr. Deakin presented by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
German Cable—Correspondence *re* application to permit connexion of a German Cable with a port in Queensland.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. Groom presented, pursuant to the direction of an Act of Parliament—

Electoral Act 1902—Provisional Regulations *re* Sale of Rolls, &c.—Statutory Rules 1905, No. 47.

10th August, 1905.

5. COMMONWEALTH PRINTING—SELECT COMMITTEE.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—

- (1) That a Select Committee be appointed to investigate and report as to—
 - (a) The conditions governing the printing and publication of *Hansard*, the *Commonwealth Gazette*, and Parliamentary Papers generally, and Reports issued under Acts of Parliament.
 - (b) The practicability of curtailing the expenditure involved in the printing and issue of such publications and of giving wider publicity to the official report of proceedings in Parliament.
- (2) That such Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records, and to sit at any time.
- (3) That the Committee consist of Mr. Bamford, Mr. Groom, Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Kelly, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Skene, and the Mover; and that three be the quorum of such Committee—

Mr. Dugald Thomson moved, as amendments, That the words "a Select Committee be appointed" be omitted, with a view to the insertion of the words "the Printing Committee be requested" in place thereof, and that paragraphs 2 and 3 of the motion be omitted.

Mr. Carpenter 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 Thursday, 31st instant.

6. NEW HEBRIDES—CONTROL OF, AND SETTLEMENT IN.—Mr. Johnson moved, pursuant to notice—

- (1) That, in the opinion of this House, in view of the certainty of enormous trade development along the Pacific route to Australia, following upon the opening of a canal through the Isthmus of Panama, the question of the control of islands suitable for naval bases between Australia and Panama is of the highest importance to British and Australian commercial interests.
- (2) That the strategical position of the New Hebrides Group, with their exceptional harbor facilities, renders it imperative, in the interests of British and Australian commerce, that their control shall not pass into the hands of a foreign naval power.
- (3) That, for the foregoing reasons, it is desirable to provide every reasonable facility for the promotion of British and Australian settlement in the New Hebrides Group.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Dugald Thomson moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the first word "That" be omitted, and that the following words be inserted in place thereof, viz.:—

- "the representations already made by the Governments of the Commonwealth to the British Government in regard to the New Hebrides should, in the interests of the natives, the settlers, and Australia, be renewed and strengthened.
- (2) That the immediate establishment of the Joint Land Commission is imperative, and that the Commission should be so constituted that its decisions may be just, prompt, and effective.
 - (3) That the delay which has taken place in connexion with a settlement of New Hebrides questions is deeply regretted. That no settlement will be satisfactory to the Commonwealth which does not decide the possession of the Group, and that the only ownership which can be acceptable to Australia is that of Great Britain, which ownership is justified by the history of the discovery, development, and trade of the Islands, and by the wishes of the native population."

And the amendment having been agreed to—

Debate continued.

Question—

- (1) That the representations already made by the Governments of the Commonwealth to the British Government in regard to the New Hebrides should, in the interests of the natives, the settlers, and Australia, be renewed and strengthened.
- (2) That the immediate establishment of the Joint Land Commission is imperative, and that the Commission should be so constituted that its decisions may be just, prompt, and effective.
- (3) That the delay which has taken place in connexion with a settlement of New Hebrides questions is deeply regretted. That no settlement will be satisfactory to the Commonwealth which does not decide the possession of the Group, and that the only ownership which can be acceptable to Australia is that of Great Britain, which ownership is justified by the history of the discovery, development, and trade of the Islands, and by the wishes of the native population—

put and resolved in the affirmative.

10th August, 1905.

7. SHIPPING SERVICE BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH AND UNITED KINGDOM—SELECT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Spence, for Mr. Thomas, moved, pursuant to notice—

- (1) That a Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament be appointed to make full inquiry as to the advisability of the Federal Government owning and controlling a fleet of steamers, for the carriage of mails, passengers, and cargo between Australia and the United Kingdom. The Committee, so far as the House of Representatives is concerned, to consist of Mr. Glynn, Mr. Mahon, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Spence, Mr. Webster, and the Mover, and to have power to send for persons, papers, and records; four to be the quorum.
- (2) That the foregoing resolution be transmitted by Message to the Senate and their concurrence requested in the appointment of the Committee, and asking them to appoint members to serve thereon.

Mr. Deakin moved, That the motion be amended as follows:—Line 1, omit the words “ of both Houses of Parliament ”; lines 2 and 3, omit the words “ the advisability of the Federal Government owning and controlling a fleet of steamers for ”; line 4, omit the words “ so far as the House of Representatives is concerned ”; omit paragraph (2); and Mr. Robinson having moved to omit his own name from the Committee—

Debate continued.

Mr. Hutchison 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 Thursday, 24th instant.

8. HIGH COURT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXPENSES.—Mr. Hume Cook, for Mr. Higgins, moved, pursuant to notice, That a copy of the correspondence and documents relating to the arrangements and expenses of the Justices and Officers of the High Court be laid on the Table of the House.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

9. MINISTRY—CABINET RESPONSIBILITY: PROPOSED ABOLITION OF.—Mr. G. B. Edwards moved, pursuant to notice—

- (1) That the practical work of the Commonwealth Legislature has been, and will continue to be, impeded and restricted by the operation of the political practice known as the Cabinet System, by which the King's Ministers of State in the Commonwealth become collectively responsible for the character and scope of measures proposed to Parliament, and for the separate administrative acts of each member of their body; and that a system under which each Minister, appointed by the Governor-General to administer a Department of State, shall remain in office (if otherwise constitutionally qualified) so long as he retains the confidence of this House, would lead to a less tardy and more effectual carrying out of the will of the people by their representatives, with more direct constitutional responsibility.
- (2) That the office of Prime Minister is not known to the Constitution, nor necessary to the operation of any part of that instrument.
- (3) That under a system of Party Government the powers inherent, or acquired by stress of party organization, with which the leader of a successful party is invested are such as demand the check and restraint of selection by, and responsibility to, the electors of the whole political area, and should not be exercisable by one chosen by, and responsible to, a single State or a single constituency of that State.
- (4) That Party Government is inevitably a waste of some of the best administrative ability of the representatives chosen by the people, since such ability is necessarily only available if possessed by the party temporarily dominant.
- (5) That political ethics under the party system tend to a considerable departure from the rules commonly accepted as binding in private affairs, and in conventions for scientific, social, or philosophical purposes, in the suppression of individual judgment and opinion, out of loyalty to party, or in the interest of party success; and while any method of selecting or appointing the Executive will still leave the Legislature capable of forming, and probably just as prone to form, into sections for the promotion of definite principles, the above defects are everywhere commensurate with the extent to which the principle of yielding the spoils of office to political victors has been adopted.

And Mr. G. B. Edwards 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.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the consideration of Notice of Motion, General Business, No. 8 be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next, and that the consideration of Notices of Motion, General Business, Nos. 9 and 11 be made Orders of the Day for Thursday, 14th September next.

11. MAIL TENDERS—ORIENT SHIPPING CO. AND SCOTT, FELL, AND CO.—Mr. Chanter moved, pursuant to notice, That a copy of all correspondence in connexion with the acceptance of a tender for the conveyance of mails by the Orient Shipping Co. and the refusal of the tender of Scott, Fell, and Co. for a similar service at a smaller sum, be laid on the Table of the House.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

10th August, 1905.

12. MANUFACTURES ENCOURAGEMENT BILL (No. 2).—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading of this Bill—Sir William Lyne moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Mr. Lonsdale 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 Tuesday next.
13. PAPER.—Mr. Groom presented, pursuant to the direction of an Act of Parliament—
Property for Public Purposes Acquisition Act 1901—Land acquired under, at Bodangora,
New South Wales, as a site for a Post-office.
14. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir William Lyne moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Brown, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Harper, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Mahon, Mr. McCoil, Mr. McLean, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Page, Mr. Phillips, Sir John Quick, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. David Thomson, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Wilks.

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