

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THIRD SESSION OF THE SECOND PARLIAMENT.

THURSDAY, 7TH JUNE, 1906.

1. The House of Representatives met pursuant to Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor General, bearing date the fourth day of May, 1906, which Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk, as follows :—

PROCLAMATION

Commonwealth of
Australia to wit.

NORTHCOTE,
Governor-General.
(L.S.)

By His Excellency the Right Honorable Henry Stafford, Baron Northcote, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act it is, amongst other things, enacted that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit, and also from time to time by Proclamation or otherwise prorogue the Parliament: And whereas on the twenty-ninth day of March, One thousand nine hundred and six, the Parliament was further prorogued until Saturday, the fifth day of May, One thousand nine hundred and six, and it is expedient to further prorogue the said Parliament: Now, therefore, I, Henry Stafford, Baron Northcote, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Act, do, by this my Proclamation, further prorogue the said Parliament until Thursday, the seventh day of June proximo, and I do appoint the said Thursday, the seventh day of June proximo, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of business. And all Members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives respectively are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, situate in Spring-street, in the City of Melbourne, at half-past Two in the afternoon, on the said Thursday, the seventh day of June, One thousand nine hundred and six.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid, this fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and six, in the sixth year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

ALFRED DEAKIN.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

2. Mr. Speaker read Prayers.
3. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE SENATE.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

His Excellency the Governor-General desires the attendance of the House of Representatives in the Chamber of the Senate forthwith.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency:—And having returned—

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4. AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES PRESERVATION BILL.—Sir William Lyne moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act for the Preservation of Australian Industries, and for the Repression of Destructive Monopolies.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Sir William Lyne then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act for the Preservation of Australian Industries, and for the Repression of Destructive Monopolies,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

5. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had this day attended His Excellency the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which read as follows :—

GENTLEMEN :

1. I have called you together, I rejoice to say, in a season of general prosperity throughout the Commonwealth, production having increased, prices being favorable, while both trade and finance afford most encouraging evidence of the soundness of business.

2. Pursuant to the arrangement expressed in the Anglo-French Agreement of 1904, a Conference was held in London between representatives of the British and French Governments for the purpose of drawing up a scheme for the control of the New Hebrides, which, without altering the international *status quo*, should provide for the personal security of European residents and for the settlement of disputes. A copy of the draft convention adopted at that Conference has been forwarded to Ministers, who have had the advantage of consulting the Prime Minister of New Zealand with respect to its terms. A communication, expressing their views concerning the protection of the natives and the preservation of Australasian interests in the group, is now being forwarded to the Colonial Office.

3. The future of Papua has engaged earnest attention during the recess, and proposals for a new administration will be laid before you. Meanwhile the issue of the Proclamation bringing the Papua Act into force and creating British New Guinea a territory of the Commonwealth has been deferred until new ordinances are ready for enactment. These measures, while effectively preserving the rights and interests of the natives, are liberal in their terms, and are expected to induce considerable settlement.

4. The South Australian Government forwarded to Ministers resolutions from its Legislative Assembly, offering the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth upon certain terms. Correspondence is now proceeding which, it is anticipated, will lead to a formal offer being made. All papers in the matter will be laid before you.

5. The reports of the Royal Commission relating to Old-age Pensions and the alleged Tobacco Monopoly have been presented, and will be tabled.

6. Subject to the passage by Parliament of the necessary Act, my Advisers have expressed their willingness to accept from the Imperial Government the control of Norfolk Island, now a Crown Colony, administered by the Governor of New South Wales.

7. The Royal Commission appointed to examine the Bill relating to Navigation and Shipping has presented an interim report, dealing with the main principles of such a measure. The Bill originally introduced is being revised in the light of the report and the evidence preparatory to a Conference upon the question which is to be held in London.

8. For over twenty years Australia has enjoyed the assistance of a number of Imperial Officers for the purpose of training those in command of our local Forces, in addition to which many of the latter have been sent to England and India for instruction. Hereafter preference in appointments will be given to Australian officers and non-commissioned officers. The policy of sending men of promise to England, India, and elsewhere for training will be continued; and arrangements have been made for the periodical exchange of our own officers with those of the Imperial Army, both in England and India, and also with the Canadian Forces. The advice and assistance of officers in the Navy and Army of the mother country possessed of special qualifications for judging our progress will be sought from time to time.

9. The International Postal Congress, at which the Commonwealth was represented by the Postmaster-General, conceded another representative to Australasia, and accomplished some useful work facilitating International postal communication.

10. With the concurrence of the States, a Conference of Commonwealth and State Electoral Officers was recently held for the purpose of securing uniformity of Electoral administration, from which greater economy and efficiency are anticipated.

11. A Commonwealth Statistician has been appointed under the *Census and Statistics Act* 1905, and will shortly enter upon his duties.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

12. The Estimates of Expenditure originating from you will be framed with economy, having due regard to the magnitude of the area and interests under control.

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13. Plans for the Redistribution of your Electorates throughout the Commonwealth have been prepared by Commissioners appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act, and resolutions for the purpose of giving effect to the Commissioners' recommendations will be promptly submitted to Parliament for ratification.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

14. You will be asked to give immediate attention to a Bill for the Preservation of Australian Industries, and the Repression of Destructive Monopolies.

15. The Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the working of the Customs Tariff, and its effect upon Australian industries, has already furnished three reports, which will be submitted. You will be asked to consider them, and any others with which it will be reasonably possible to deal.

16. The negotiations initiated by my Advisers for preferential trade with South Africa, with New Zealand, and other parts of the Empire have now been as far advanced tentatively as is desirable in view of the present position of the Tariff Commission Inquiry. It is hoped that a Bill will be introduced during the Session providing for an expansion of our commercial relations under the Flag, by means of which we may reciprocally share their advantages with other peoples of British birth to whom we desire to be more closely united.

17. At a Conference held in Sydney last month the State Premiers considered, and generally approved, a plan submitted to them by my Advisers providing for unity of effort in London in the promotion of Immigration to the States of the Commonwealth. Your consent to this forward step in a great movement will be invited.

18. No agreement was attained at this Conference upon the fundamental questions which were discussed affecting the finances of the Commonwealth, and the transfer of the debts of the States. Although the sole constitutional responsibility for dealing with them rests with this Parliament, any suggestions from the Conference that could have been agreed to by my Ministers would have been most welcome. The recent visit of the Treasurer to London enabled him to acquire valuable information upon these matters. The views of my Advisers will be submitted in due course.

19. My Advisers have prepared a scheme for giving assistance to those engaged in the cultivation of the soil, and for the encouragement of new industries. These objects will, it is hoped, be materially assisted by means of a series of bounties which you will be asked to approve.

20. The pressure of appeal business upon the High Court precludes attention to its original jurisdiction, and prevents the discharge of the additional duties cast upon the Justice who is President of the Arbitration Court. A measure to relieve the strain upon the Court and provide for the full exercise of its functions by increasing the number of its members will be laid before you.

21. Tenders for a new mail service with Great Britain have been received, and are now in course of examination prior to their recommendation to you.

22. The Pacific Cable Board are about to adopt more active methods of increasing their traffic receipts by extending the opportunities for using this line of communication.

23. The necessity for a systematic and continuous policy of Defence, based on our probable requirements in the event of Australia being attacked, is apparent. Its adoption and maintenance would save unwise expenditure and increase public confidence. The question of Coastal and Fixed Defences has been referred for the advice of the Imperial Defence Committee, the services of the Chief of the Intelligence Department having been placed at its disposal. Upon his return a modification of the present "Scheme of Organization" of our land forces will be undertaken now that the criticisms of the Colonial Defence Committee have been received.

24. In order that the latest information regarding Naval Development may be in the hands of the Government, the Director of Naval Forces was commissioned to proceed to England, and his reports will receive due consideration in connexion with the Scheme of Defence now being prepared by the Imperial Defence Committee. Developments of the Naval Cadet movement will be carefully fostered.

25. The Commonwealth has been placed on a more satisfactory footing with regard to ordering, obtaining, and paying for certain warlike and other stores, which it is necessary to procure in England, by temporarily placing the Secretary for Defence in charge of an office in London. It is anticipated that, as a result, much inconvenience and expense will be saved.

26. Field guns of the latest type have been obtained, and a large number of new rifles ordered; the supply of cordite and ammunition has been largely increased. The strength of the Citizen Forces has been well maintained, and the number of Rifle Club members shows a noteworthy increase during the past year.

27. Our Cadet Corps have now been organized upon one definite and uniform principle throughout the Commonwealth. Provision has been made for Senior Cadet Corps of boys who have left school. The scheme will admit of further extensions, which will be undertaken as required.

28. A Bill has been prepared for the protection of Australian policy-holders in foreign Life Insurance Companies carrying on business in the Commonwealth.

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29. A Bill relating to Industrial Designs will be introduced. This will complete the legislation on the related subjects of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs, and is necessary to enable the Commonwealth to join in the International Convention for the protection of Industrial Property.

30. The proposal to more definitely determine the territory for the purpose of the Seat of Government will be submitted to Parliament for final consideration.

31. A measure to authorize a survey of a route for the Trans-Australian Railway will be renewed, and it is hoped will meet with your assent.

32. In accordance with recommendations of the Navigation Commission, a Quarantine Bill will be introduced as soon as possible, with a view to its subsequent incorporation with the Navigation Act.

33. You will be invited to consider a Bill establishing a Meteorological Department, and authorizing agreements with the States for work of this character hitherto undertaken by them.

34. Measures for the appointment of a High Commissioner, relating to Light-houses, Weights and Measures, the occupation of Government House, Sydney, and an amendment of the law relating to the acquisition of Property will be brought forward.

35. Your consent will be sought to preliminary proposals in regard to the best methods of furthering the progress of industries associated with the soil.

36. In committing these many grave and serious matters to your best judgment I feel assured that under the blessing of Providence your fruitful labours will promote the growth and prosperity of Australia.

6. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Deakin moved, That a Committee, consisting of Sir Langdon Bonython, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Storer be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered.—That the Committee do report this day.

7. PAPERS.—Mr. Groom presented, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament—

Electoral Acts 1902-5—

New South Wales—Report, with Maps (2), by the Commissioner (Judge Murray) appointed for the purpose of distributing the State of New South Wales into Electoral Divisions.

Queensland—Report, with Map, by the Commissioner (Mr. R. H. Lawson) appointed for the purpose of distributing the State of Queensland into Electoral Divisions.

Victoria—Report, with Map, by the Commissioner (Mr. C. A. Topp) appointed for the purpose of distributing the State of Victoria into Electoral Divisions.

Western Australia—Report, with Map, by the Commissioner (Mr. M. A. C. Fraser) appointed for the purpose of distributing the State of Western Australia into Electoral Divisions.

Severally ordered to be printed.

Mr. Deakin presented, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament—

Immigration Restriction Acts 1901-5—

Return of—

(a) Persons refused admission to the Commonwealth during the year 1905.

(b) Persons who passed the prescribed test during the year 1905.

(c) Persons admitted without being asked to pass the Education test during the year 1905.

(d) Departures of coloured persons from the Commonwealth during 1905.

Naturalization Act 1903—

Return of the number of persons to whom certificates of naturalization were granted during the year 1905.

Sir William Lyne presented, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament—

Customs Act 1901—

Regulations Amended—Nos. 103 and 104—Australian goods, &c., exported—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 1.

Drawback Regulations Amended—No. 132, Jams, &c.—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 32.

Distillation Act 1901—Regulation—Spirits for Export—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 9.

Excise Act 1901—

Regulations—Tobacco—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 5.

Drawback Regulations Amended—No. 50, Jams, &c.—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 33.

Public Service Act 1902—Recommendations and approval in cases of Messrs. O. S. Maddocks and H. D. Brown, promotion as Inspectors, Department of Trade and Customs, Sydney.

Mr. Ewing presented, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament—

Defence Acts 1903-1904—

Regulations governing Landing of Foreign Troops, &c.—Statutory Rules 1905, No. 80.

Cadet Corps—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 31.

Military Forces—

Regulations Amended, &c.—

Para. 57—Lieutenants—Statutory Rules 1905, No. 79.

Para. 216—Addition of figures "214"—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 3.

Para. 130—Alteration—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 4.

Para. 2A—Promotion Board—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 29.

Para. 128—Age for Retirement—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 30.

Financial and Allowance Regulations—Statutory Rules 1905, No. 77.

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Naval Forces—

Regulations and Standing Orders—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 20.

Financial and Allowance Regulations—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 21.

Mr. Groom presented, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament—

Property for Public Purposes Acquisition Act 1901—Land acquired under, at—
Armidaale, New South Wales—As a site for a Drill Hall.

Bodangora, New South Wales—As a site for a Post-office (in place of notice previously gazetted).

Gilgandra, New South Wales—As a site for a Post-office.

Gwalia, Western Australia—As a site for a Post-office.

Kadina, South Australia—As a site for a Post-office.

Kurri Kurri, New South Wales—As a site for a Post-office—

Dated 1st March, 1906.

Dated 27th April, 1906 (in place of notice previously gazetted).

Mount Nelson, Hobart, Tasmania—For Defence purposes.

Randwick, New South Wales—For Defence purposes (in place of notice previously gazetted).

Ryde, New South Wales—As a site for a Post-office.

Sandy Bay, Tasmania—For Rifle Range purposes.

Singleton, New South Wales—For Defence purposes.

Public Service Act 1902—

List of Permanent Officers of the Commonwealth Public Service, 1st January, 1906.

Recommendation and approval in case of Mr. E. F. Eberbach—Appointment as Draftsman in Public Works Branch, Department of Home Affairs.

Regulations Amended—

No. 104—Grading of General Division—

Statutory Rules 1906, No. 2.

Statutory Rules 1906, No. 14.

No. 64—Overtime, General Division—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 13.

Nos. 163A, 164—Special Allowances—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 15.

Nos. 48, 141 (b), 168, 196, 197, 258—Chief Officers, &c.—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 16.

Nos. 48, 141 (b), 168, 196, 197, 258—Chief Officers, &c. ; also Nos. 104, 163A, 164—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 28.

Nos. 153, 155—Allowances—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 37.

No. 199—Telegraph Messengers—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 38.

No. 168—Allowances—Statutory Rules 1906, No. 39.

Representation Act 1905—Certificate of the Chief Electoral Officer in regard to the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth and the several States.

8. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Sir Langdon Bonython brought up the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech prepared by the Committee appointed this day, and the same was read by the Clerk, as follows :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the House of Representatives of The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Sir Langdon Bonython moved, That the Address be agreed to by the House.

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion.

Mr. Reid 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.

9. DAYS OF BUSINESS.—Mr. Deakin moved, by leave, That, until otherwise ordered, this House shall meet for the despatch of business at half-past Two o'clock on each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoon, and at half-past Ten o'clock on each Friday morning.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Bamford, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Conroy, Mr. G. B. Edwards, Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Glynn, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. McColl, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Dugald Thomson, and Mr. Wilson.

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