

1906.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 29.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 26TH JULY, 1906.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Mr. Ewing presented, pursuant to the direction of an Act of Parliament—
Public Service Act 1902.—Regulation Amended—No. 104.—Telephone Indoor Supervisors—
Statutory Rules, 1906, No. 51.
3. COMMONWEALTH TREASURY NOTES.—Mr. Culpin moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable—
 - (1) That Commonwealth Treasury Notes should be issued, on the lines of the Treasury Notes issued by the State of Queensland.
 - (2) That a reserve fund should be established for payment of the notes on demand.
 Mr. Chapman 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, 9th August next.
4. POSTPONEMENT OF MOTION—Ordered—That the consideration of Motion No. 2, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 16th August next.
5. FIRE INSURANCE BILL.—Mr. Frazer moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to Fire Insurance.
 Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
 Mr. Frazer then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to Fire Insurance,*" 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 Thursday, 9th August next.
6. ROYAL COMMISSIONS APPOINTED—PARTICULARS CONCERNING.—Mr. Lonsdale moved, pursuant to notice, *amended*, That there be laid upon the Table of the House a Return showing—
 - (1) The number of Royal Commissions appointed during this and the preceding Parliament.
 - (2) What are the names and subjects of such Commissions, and by which Administration they were appointed.
 - (3) What are the names of movers and seconders.
 - (4) What are the names of Members composing them, and which of the States do such Members represent.
 - (5) What is the total cost of each Commission, giving details as to fees, personal expenses, printing, and other matters.
 - (6) What is the total amount paid to, and what is the number of the attendances of, each Member.
 - (7) What is the aggregate cost of the whole.
 Mr. Thomas moved, as an amendment, That the following words be added to paragraph 6:—"and also the number of days each Member was absent from his home for which travelling expenses were received."
 Debate ensued.
 Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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Question—That there be laid upon the Table of the House a Return showing—

- (1) The number of Royal Commissions appointed during this and the preceding Parliament.
- (2) What are the names and subjects of such Commissions, and by which Administration they were appointed.
- (3) What are the names of movers and seconders.
- (4) What are the names of Members composing them, and which of the States do such Members represent.
- (5) What is the total cost of each Commission, giving details as to fees, personal expenses, printing, and other matters.
- (6) What is the total amount paid to, and what is the number of the attendances of, each Member, and also the number of days each Member was absent from his home for which travelling expenses were received.
- (7) What is the aggregate cost of the whole—

—put and resolved in the affirmative.

7. PAPUA—APPOINTMENT OF LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Wilkinson :—That, in the opinion of this House, the present administration of British New Guinea is unsatisfactory ; and, in the interests of good government and the effective development of the Territory, it is advisable that, on the issue of the Proclamation bringing the Papua Act into force, an Australian citizen, in close and recent touch with the aspirations of the Commonwealth and of the Territory, should be appointed Lieutenant-Governor.—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Hume Cook 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, 9th August next.

8. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the consideration of Order of the Day, No. 2, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 9th August next.

9. TELEPHONES : TOLL OR CALL SYSTEM.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Webster :—That, in the opinion of this House, it is necessary and advisable to adopt the Toll or Call system throughout the Telephone Service of the Commonwealth at the earliest possible date—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Hume Cook 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, 9th August next.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the consideration of Order of the Day No. 1, Government Business, be postponed until after the consideration of Order of the Day No. 2.

11. MAIL SERVICE TO EUROPE.—AGREEMENT WITH SIR JAMES LAING AND SONS, LTD.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion (*as amended*) of Mr. Chapman :—

That this House approves the Agreement made and entered into on the 7th day of July, 1906, between the Postmaster-General, in and for the Commonwealth, and Sir James Laing and Sons, Limited, for the carriage of mails between Adelaide and Brindisi, with the following modifications :—

Proviso to Clause 3—

Provided that, in the event of the Postmaster-General requiring the "period of transit" on the voyage from Brindisi to Adelaide to be reduced to six hundred and twelve hours, the period of six hundred and twelve hours shall thenceforth be deemed to be the "period of transit" for each voyage from Brindisi to Adelaide, and each such voyage shall be completed within that period.

Proviso to Clause 15—

After the words "with the consent of" *insert* "or subject to approval by", and after "Parliament" *insert* "by resolution".—

Mr. Wilks moved, as a further amendment, That the following proviso be added to the motion :—
"Provided that the proposed steam-ships shall be constructed or docked in Australia."

Debate ensued.

Mr. Hutchison moved, as an amendment on the proposed amendment, That the following words be added thereto :—"in a Commonwealth Government dockyard".

Debate continued.

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

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

Mr. Knox moved, as a further amendment, That the following words be added to the motion :—

"And subject to the following modifications in its provisions :—

- (1) That the contractors should be required (under clause 2) to call at the ports of Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, at a sum to be named in the contract.

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- (2) That the consequences of a breach of the contract should be mutual, instead of being limited on the side of the contractors to £25,000 (as in article 10), and unlimited on the side of the Commonwealth.
- (3) That the right of the contractors (under article 15) to determine the contract or to be paid for actual or prospective diminished earnings or increased expenses, arising from Commonwealth legislation, should be limited to legislation which deals directly with shipping, and not apply to all legislation which merely 'relates to shipping'.
- (4) That in the event of war being declared or entered upon by Great Britain against any first-class naval power (as provided by article 16), the contractors should not have the right to terminate the contract, but only to suspend its operation until a reasonable time after the termination of hostilities, or that, in such an event as is contemplated under article 16, the right to terminate the contract should be mutual and not possessed by one party only."

Debate ensued.

And the question having, by request, been divided—

Question—That paragraph (1) of the proposed amendment be agreed to—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 13.

Mr. Cameron,	Mr. O'Malley,
Mr. Culpin,	Mr. David
Mr. R. Edwards,	Thomson,
Mr. Fisher,	Mr. Wilkinson.
Mr. Frazer,	
Mr. Fuller,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. McDonald,	Mr. Fowler,
Mr. McWilliams,	Mr. Storrer.

Noes, 30.

Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Phillips,
Mr. Crouch,	Mr. Poynton,
Mr. Deakin,	Sir John Quick,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Robinson,
Sir John Forrest,	Mr. Ronald,
Mr. Glynn,	Mr. Salmon,
Mr. Hutchison,	Mr. Skene,
Mr. Isaacs,	Mr. Spence,
Mr. Johnson,	Mr. Dugald
Mr. Kelly,	Thomson,
Mr. Kennedy,	Mr. Webster,
Mr. Liddell,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Mahon,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. McCay,	Mr. Hume Cook,
Mr. McColl,	Mr. Thomas.

And so it passed in the negative.

Question—That paragraph (2) of the proposed amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Question—That paragraph (3) of the proposed amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Question—That paragraph (4) of the proposed amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Mr. Webster moved, as a further amendment, That the following words be added to the motion:—

"And this House is of the opinion that the steamers should be acquired by the Government in the event of the company joining or becoming a part of any shipping ring or combine, or otherwise constituting itself a monopoly, detrimental to the trade and commerce of the Commonwealth."

Mr. Thomas moved, as an amendment on the proposed amendment—That the words "or otherwise" and all the words after the word "monopoly" be omitted.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the proposed amendment—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 27.

Mr. Cameron,	Mr. Phillips,
Mr. Carpenter,	Sir John Quick,
Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Salmon,
Mr. Joseph Cook,	Mr. Storrer,
Mr. Deakin,	Mr. Dugald
Mr. Ewing,	Thomson,
Sir John Forrest,	Mr. Webster,
Mr. Fuller,	Mr. Wilkinson,
Mr. Isaacs,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Kennedy,	
Mr. Liddell,	
Mr. Lonsdale,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. McCay,	
Mr. McColl,	Mr. Hume Cook,
Mr. McWilliams,	Mr. Johnson.

Noes, 11.

Mr. Bamford,	Mr. Spence,
Mr. Culpin,	Mr. David
Mr. Fisher,	Thomson.
Mr. Fowler,	
Mr. Frazer,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Mahon,	Mr. Hutchison,
Mr. McDonald,	Mr. Thomas.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

Question—That the following words be added to the motion:—"And this House is of the opinion that the steamers should be acquired by the Government in the event of the company joining or becoming a part of any shipping ring or combine, or otherwise constituting itself a monopoly, detrimental to the trade and commerce of the Commonwealth."—put.

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The House divided—

Ayes, 10.		Noes, 23.	
Mr. Carpenter,	Mr. Wilkinson.	Mr. Chapman,	Mr. McColl,
Mr. Culpin,		Mr. Joseph Cook,	Mr. McWilliams,
Mr. Frazer,	<i>Tellers.</i>	Mr. Deakin,	Mr. Phillips,
Mr. Hutchison,	Mr. Spence,	Mr. Ewing,	Sir John Quick,
Mr. McDonald,	Mr. Webster.	Sir John Forrest,	Mr. Salmon,
Mr. Thomas,		Mr. Fuller,	Mr. Storrer,
Mr. David		Mr. Isaacs,	Mr. Dugald
Thomson,		Mr. Johnson,	Thomson,
		Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Wilson.
		Mr. Kennedy,	
		Mr. Liddell,	<i>Tellers.</i>
		Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Hume Cook,
		Mr. McCay,	Mr. Wilks.

And so it passed in the negative.

Mr. Joseph Cook moved, as a further amendment, That the following words be added to the motion,
“And with the following further modifications:—

In the second line of clause 16 substitute the Minister of State for Defence for the Postmaster-General.

In No. 36 of the General Conditions of Tender, substitute the Minister of State for Defence for the Postmaster-General, and after the word ‘Contract’ in the second line, insert the words ‘if he shall consider it necessary for defence purposes so to do’.”

Debate ensued.

Mr. McCay moved, as an amendment on the proposed amendment, That the words “defence purposes” be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—“the public interest”.

And the House continuing to sit till after midnight—

FRIDAY, 27TH JULY, 1906.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the proposed amendment—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the following words be added to the motion:—“And with the following further modifications:—

In the second line of clause 16 substitute the Minister of State for Defence for the Postmaster-General.

In No. 36 of the General Conditions of Tender, substitute the Minister of State for Defence for the Postmaster-General, and after the word ‘Contract’ in the second line, insert the words ‘if he shall consider it necessary for defence purposes so to do’.”—

—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 12.		Noes, 21.	
Mr. Joseph Cook,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,	Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Phillips,
Mr. Fuller,	Mr. Wilks,	Mr. Culpin,	Mr. Ronald,
Mr. Liddell,	Mr. Wilson.	Mr. Deakin,	Mr. Spence,
Mr. Lonsdale,		Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Storrer,
Mr. McCay,	<i>Tellers.</i>	Mr. Fisher,	Mr. Thomas,
Mr. McColl,	Mr. Johnson,	Sir John Forrest,	Mr. David
Mr. McWilliams,	Mr. Kelly.	Mr. Frazer,	Thomson,
		Mr. Hutchison,	Mr. Webster.
		Mr. Isaacs,	
		Mr. Kennedy,	<i>Tellers.</i>
		Mr. Mahon,	Mr. Hume Cook,
		Mr. McDonald,	Mr. Salmon.

And so it passed in the negative.

Mr. McWilliams moved, as a further amendment, That the following words be added to the motion:—
“That it be a condition of the contract that the mail steamers shall call at Hobart at least fortnightly during the months of February, March, and April”.

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

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The House divided—

Ayes, 8.		Noes, 24.	
Mr. Joseph Cook,	Mr. Webster.	Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Phillips,
Mr. Culpin,		Mr. Deakin,	Mr. Ronald,
Mr. Fisher,	<i>Tellers.</i>	Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Salmon,
Mr. Fuller,	Mr. McWilliams,	Sir John Forrest,	Mr. Spence,
Mr. David	Mr. Storrer.	Mr. Frazer,	Mr. Thomas,
Thomson,		Mr. Isaacs,	Mr. Dugald
		Mr. Kelly,	Thomson,
		Mr. Kennedy,	Mr. Wilks,
		Mr. Liddell,	Mr. Wilson.
		Mr. Lonsdale,	
		Mr. Mahon,	
		Mr. McCay,	<i>Tellers.</i>
		Mr. McColl,	Mr. Hume Cook
		Mr. McDonald,	Mr. Hutchison.

And so it passed in the negative.

On the motion of Mr. Ewing the House agreed to the following further amendment to the motion :—

That the following proviso be added to Clause 15—In line 5, after “legislation” insert “directly”.

Question—

That this House approves the Agreement made and entered into on the 7th day of July, 1906, between the Postmaster-General, in and for the Commonwealth, and Sir James Laing and Sons, Limited, for the carriage of mails between Adelaide and Brindisi, with the following modifications :—

Proviso to Clause 3—

Provided that, in the event of the Postmaster-General requiring the “period of transit” on the voyage from Brindisi to Adelaide to be reduced to six hundred and twelve hours, the period of six hundred and twelve hours shall thenceforth be deemed to be the “period of transit” for each voyage from Brindisi to Adelaide, and each such voyage shall be completed within that period.

Proviso to Clause 15—

After the word “legislation” insert “directly”; after the words “with the consent of” insert “or subject to approval by”, and after “Parliament” insert “by resolution”.—

—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 28.		Noes, 3.	
Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Phillips,	Mr. McWilliams.	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Joseph Cook,	Mr. Ronald,		Mr. Frazer,
Mr. Culpin,	Mr. Salmon,		Mr. David
Mr. Deakin,	Mr. Spence,		Thomson.
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Storrer,		
Mr. Fisher,	Mr. Thomas,		
Sir John Forrest,	Mr. Dugald		
Mr. Hutchison,	Thomson,		
Mr. Isaacs,	Mr. Webster,		
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Wilks,		
Mr. Liddell,	Mr. Wilson.		
Mr. Lonsdale,			
Mr. Mahon,	<i>Tellers.</i>		
Mr. McCay,	Mr. Hume Cook,		
Mr. McColl,	Mr. Kennedy.		
Mr. McDonald,			

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

12. PAPERS.—Mr. Ewing presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Military Forces.—Annual Report, for the year 1905, by the Inspector-General, Major-General H. Finn.

Naval Defence—Report by the Director of the Naval Forces, for the year 1905.

Military Board—Report for the year 1905.

Bursting of M.L.E. Rifles—Report on, presented by C. Napier Hake, F.I.C., and Thomas R. Lyle, M.A., D.Sc.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

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

Debate ensued.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

14. ALTERATION OF TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until half-past eleven o'clock a.m., this day.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at three minutes past one o'clock in the morning, adjourned until this day at half-past eleven o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Brown, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Conroy, Mr. G. B. Edwards*, Mr. Groom, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Page, Mr. Reid*, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Sydney Smith, and Mr. Willis.

* On leave.

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