

1908.

29

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 11.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 2ND OCTOBER, 1908.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Mr. Deakin presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
President Roosevelt—Copy of invitation sent by Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, inviting President Roosevelt to visit Australia.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
3. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT—BALLOT PROCEDURE.—Mr. Groom moved, pursuant to notice—
 - (1) That this House do forthwith proceed to determine the opinion of Members as to the site for the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth.
 - (2) That the following be the method of selection of the site, and that so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the House from adopting such method :—
That the selection be made from sites nominated, without debate, by honorable Members—provided that no nomination shall be received unless it is supported by at least five Members, in addition to the Member nominating, rising in their places.
That the House do forthwith proceed to the nomination of sites, and that the Speaker do declare the time for nominations to be closed as soon as sufficient opportunity has, in his opinion, been given to receive nominations.
That an open exhaustive Ballot be taken on Wednesday, October 7th, without debate, in the following manner :—
 - (a) Ballot-papers shall be distributed to honorable Members containing the names of the sites nominated.
 - (b) Members shall place a cross opposite the name of the site for which they desire to vote, and shall sign the paper.
 - (c) The Ballot-papers shall then be examined by the Clerk.
 - (d) The total number of votes given for each site shall be reported to the House after each Ballot.
 - (e) If, on the first examination, any site proves to have received an absolute majority of votes, the Speaker shall report the name of such site to the House, and such site shall be deemed to be the one preferred by honorable Members.
 - (f) If no site receives an absolute majority of votes, then the name of the site receiving the smallest number of votes shall be reported to the House, and shall be struck out.
 - (g) If any two or more of the sites shall receive an equal number of votes, such number of votes being the smallest, then the House shall ascertain in the customary manner which of such sites should, in the opinion of honorable Members, be further balloted for, and the name of the other, or others, shall be struck out.

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- (h) Further Ballots shall then be taken on the names of the remaining sites, and the name of the site receiving the smallest number of votes in each successive Ballot shall be reported to the House and struck out in the manner aforesaid, until one of the sites receives an absolute majority of votes.
- (i) When one of the sites has received an absolute majority of votes, the name of such site shall be reported to the House by the Speaker, and such site shall be deemed to be the site preferred by honorable Members.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Willis moved, as an amendment, that the following words be added to paragraph (h):—"which shall then be voted upon against each site nominated."

Debate continued.

Amendment, by leave, temporarily withdrawn.

Mr. Glynn moved, as an amendment, that the word "exhaustive" before "Ballot" be omitted with a view to the insertion of the word "preferential" in place thereof.

Debate continued.

Amendment, by leave, temporarily withdrawn.

Mr. Mahon moved, as an amendment, that the words "do forthwith" in line 1 be omitted with a view to the insertion of the words "will this day six months" in place thereof.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words "do forthwith" proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

The following amendment of Mr. Glynn was then submitted for the decision of the House—and negatived:—That the word "exhaustive" before "Ballot" be omitted with a view to the insertion of the word "preferential" in place thereof.

On the motion of Mr. Hume Cook, the following amendment was, after debate, agreed to by the House:—Omit "Wednesday, October 7th" and insert "Thursday, 8th October, at three o'clock p.m."

The following amendment of Mr. Willis was then submitted for the decision of the House—At the end of paragraph (h) add "which shall then be voted upon against each site nominated."

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

The House divided—

Ayes, 24.

Noes, 27.

Mr. Archer	Mr. Mathews	Mr. Bamford	Sir William Lyne
Mr. Atkinson	Mr. McDonald	Mr. Chanter	Mr. Mahon
Mr. Batchelor	Mr. McWilliams	Mr. Hume Cook	Mr. Maloney
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Reid	Mr. Coon	Mr. Mauger
Mr. Tilley Brown	Mr. Sinclair	Mr. Deakin	Mr. McDougall
Mr. Thomas Brown	Mr. Dugald Thomson	Mr. Ewing	Mr. Poynton
Mr. Carr	Mr. Willis	Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Catts		Mr. Fisher	Mr. Salmon
Mr. Joseph Cook		Sir John Forrest	Mr. John Thomson
Mr. Foster	<i>Tellers.</i>	Mr. Fowler	Mr. Wise
Colonel Foxton	Mr. Johnson	Mr. Frazer	
Mr. Fuller	Mr. Wilks	Mr. Groom	
Mr. Glynn		Mr. Hedges	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Hall		Mr. Hutchison	Mr. Storrer
Mr. Kelly		Mr. Knox	Mr. Tudor

And so it passed in the negative.

Mr. Joseph Cook moved, as a further amendment, that all the words after the word "Speaker" in paragraph (i) be omitted.

Debate ensued.

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

Then the original motion, as amended (by the alteration of the date from Wednesday, October 7th, to Thursday, 8th October, at three o'clock p.m.), was agreed to by the House.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that, in compliance with the resolution just agreed to, he would receive nominations for Sites.

The bells being rung—The following Sites were then duly nominated, and announced to the House by Mr. Speaker:—

Dalgety, nominated by Mr. Hume Cook (for Mr. Chapman);
 Canberra, nominated by Mr. Willis;
 Lyndhurst, nominated by Mr. Carr;
 Albury, nominated by Mr. Chanter;
 Yass—Canberra, nominated by Mr. Johnson;
 Armidale, nominated by Mr. Foster;
 Tooma, nominated by Mr. Knox;
 Tumut, nominated by Sir William Lyne;
 Lake George, nominated by Mr. Fuller;
 Bombala, nominated by Mr. McDonald;
 Orange, nominated by Mr. Catts.

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4. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.

And Mr. Speaker having informed the House that the time for the nominations for Sites for the Seat of Government had closed—

Question—That the House do now adjourn—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at ten minutes to four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Chapman, Mr. Crouch, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Hans Irvine, Mr. Liddell, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Palmer, Sir John Quick, Mr. Sampson, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Watson, Mr. Webster, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Wynne.

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