

1908.

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

No. 34.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER, 1908.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.—The following Warrant, nominating a Temporary Chairman of Committees to act in the place of Mr. Batchelor, who, consequent on his assumption of Ministerial office, had requested to be relieved of the position, was laid upon the Table by Mr. Speaker pursuant to Standing Order No. 25 :—

The Parliament of the Commonwealth.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order numbered 25, I do hereby nominate—

The Honorable Alexander Poynton

to act in the place of the Honorable Egerton Lee Batchelor as a Temporary Chairman of Committees when requested so to do by the Chairman of Committees.

Given under my hand this twenty-fifth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and eight.

F. W. HOLDER,
Speaker.

3. PAPERS.—Mr. Mahon presented, pursuant to Statute—
Public Service Act—Regulations Nos. 97 and 147 repealed, and Nos. 5, 24, 27, &c., amended—
Statutory Rules 1908, No. 116.
Mr. Tudor presented, pursuant to Statute—
Customs Act—Regulation No. 101 Amended (Provisional)—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 115.
Mr. Hutchison presented, pursuant to Statute—
Defence Acts—Military Forces—Regulations Amended (Provisional)—
No. 134—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 113.
No. 225—Statutory Rules 1908, No. 114.
The following Papers were laid upon the Table by the Clerk :—
Papua—Indentured Labourers—Return to an Order of the House dated 19th March, 1908.
Premises Leased by the Government—Return to an Order of the House dated 4th November, 1908.
4. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS—PRECEDENCE TO.—[MINISTERIAL STATEMENT].—Mr. Fisher moved, by leave, That on each sitting day, until otherwise ordered, Government Business shall take precedence of General Business—and in connexion therewith made a Ministerial statement.
Mr. Joseph 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 to-morrow, and that it have precedence on that day.

25th November, 1908.

5. COMMONWEALTH OFFICES IN LONDON.—Mr. Batchelor moved, by leave, That this House approves the purchase of land and buildings thereon situate at corner of Northumberland-avenue and Charing Cross, London, for the purposes of the Commonwealth, for the sum of £198,000.

Debate ensued.

Mr. O'Malley moved as an amendment, That all the words after the word "That" be omitted from the motion, with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—"further consideration of the offer of a site in London be deferred to allow of such additional information being furnished as will enable this Parliament to form an opinion of the value of the offer as a business proposition."

Debate continued.

Mr. Fisher 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.

6. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Tilley Brown, Mr. Chapman*, Mr. Crouch, Mr. Reid, Mr. Watson, and Mr. Wynne.

* On leave.

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