

1909.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

No. 83.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 1909.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and the same was read by Mr. Speaker :—

DUDLEY,

*Governor-General.**Message No. 20.*

A Bill intituled "*An Act relating to Marine Insurance*", as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Act.

11th November, 1909.

3. PRIVILEGE—CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (FINANCE) BILL.—Mr. Hall, as a matter of privilege, called attention to the record in the *Votes and Proceedings* of the last day of sitting. He stated that Mr. Deakin did not move the third reading of the Constitution Alteration (Finance) Bill, as recorded, but that the question was put from the Chair upon the initiative of Mr. Speaker. Mr. Hall also contended that the provisions of the Constitution had not been complied with in an important point, as no question had been put after the third reading, "That the Bill do now pass".

And certain honorable Members having addressed the House on the subject—

Mr. Speaker ruled—That, as regards the first point, it was the practice in this House, and in the House of Commons, to take such formal motions as being moved by the Minister in charge on his rising in his place when the Order of the Day is called on, to show that he desired the motion to be taken. He thought, however, it might be well in future to submit such motions in a more formal manner.

As regards the fact that no motion was put "That the Bill do now pass", he pointed out that our Standing Order 186 provides that after the third reading no further question shall be put, and the Bill shall be deemed to have passed the House. The third reading of the Bill was thus made the passing of the Bill. The practice of the House of Commons was similar, and that procedure had always been followed in the House of Representatives.

4. NORTHERN TERRITORY ACCEPTANCE BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. McDonald reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and had agreed to the same without amendment.

On the motion of Mr. Groom, the House adopted the Report.

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

16th November, 1909.

5. NORTHERN TERRITORY ACCEPTANCE BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of His Excellency the Governor-General's Message No. 10.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. McDonald reported that the Committee had agreed to a certain resolution.

Ordered—That the Report be considered at once.

And thereupon the said resolution was read, and is as follows:—

Resolved—That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to provide for the Acceptance of the Northern Territory as a Territory under the Authority of the Commonwealth and for the carrying out of the Agreement for the Surrender and Acceptance.

And the said resolution was adopted by the House.

6. PAPERS.—Mr. Groom presented, pursuant to Statute—

Customs Act—Regulations under (Consolidated)—Statutory Rules 1909, No. 126.

Mr. Fuller presented, pursuant to Statute—

Census and Statistics Act—

Official Bulletins—

Population and Vital Statistics—No. 16—Quarter ended 30th June, 1909.

Trade, Shipping, Oversea Migration, and Finance—No. 32—August, 1909.

Shipping and Oversea Migration, 1908.

Trade and Customs and Excise Revenue, 1908.

7. ELECTORAL BILL (1909) (No. 2).—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. McDonald reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to ask, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

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

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Archer, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Chapman, Sir Thomas Ewing, Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Hughes, Sir William Lyne, Mr. McWilliams, Sir George Reid, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Spence, Mr. Storrer, Mr. Watson, and Mr. Webster.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.