

1910.

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 11.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 21ST JULY, 1910.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Mr. Tudor presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Sugar—Statistics 1901-2 to 1910-11 *re* White and Black Labour, Production, Duties, Bounties, &c.
Ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
3. CORONATION OATH—ADDRESS TO THE KING *re* AMENDING.—Mr. Mahon moved, pursuant to notice, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty as follows:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY—

We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the House of Representatives, in Parliament assembled, desire most earnestly in our own name and on behalf of the People of Australia, to express our unswerving loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's Person and Government, and to respectfully represent—

- (1) That since full freedom of religious belief and practice obtains throughout the Empire, the British Sovereign should not be called on to make any Declaration offensive to the religious convictions of any section of Your Majesty's subjects.
- (2) That the Act of Settlement, passed in the year 1689, requires the Sovereign, at the Coronation or on the first day of meeting of the first Parliament after Accession, to make the following Declaration:—

“I do solemnly and sincerely, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare that I do believe that in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there is not any transubstantiation of the elements of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever; and that the invocation or adoration of the Virgin Mary or any other saint, and the sacrifice of the Mass, as they are now used in the Church of Rome, are superstitious and idolatrous; and I do solemnly, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare that I do make this declaration, and each and every part thereof, in the plain and ordinary sense of the words read unto me as they are commonly understood by English Protestants, without any evasion, equivocation, or mental reservation whatsoever, and without any dispensation already granted me for this purpose by the Pope or any other authority or person whatsoever, and without any hope of such dispensation from any person or authority whatsoever, or without thinking that I am or can be acquitted before God or man, or absolved of this declaration or any part thereof, although the Pope or any other person or persons or power whatsoever should dispense with or annul the same, or declare that it was null and void from the beginning.”

- (3) That the foregoing Declaration is held to be objectionable by Your Majesty's Catholic subjects, because—
 - (a) It declares the central and most sacred truths of their religion to be false and idolatrous; and
 - (b) It implies that a dispensation for the taking of a false oath might be applied for by the Sovereign or granted to him.
- (4) This House is therefore of opinion that the Declaration required by the Act of Settlement should be amended by the elimination of all words reflecting on the religious belief professed by over twelve millions of Your Majesty's loyal and devoted subjects.

Debate ensued.

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Mr. Kelly moved an amendment, That the word "not" in paragraph (1), line 2, be omitted from the motion, and that the words "be called on to make only such Royal Declaration as shall insure the true intent of the enactments securing the Protestant succession and the maintenance of the same," be inserted in place thereof.

Debate continued.

Question—That the word "not" proposed to be omitted, stand part of the motion—put and passed. The word "Roman" having been inserted before the word "Catholic" in paragraph (3)—

On the motion of Sir John Quick the following further amendment was made in the motion—

Paragraph (4), omit all words after the word "amended", and insert in place thereof the words "in the manner indicated in the form of Oath embodied in the Bill submitted to the House of Commons by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on 30th June, 1910."

And then the original motion, as amended, was put and agreed to.

4. TASMANIA—SUBSIDY FOR CUSTOMS "LEAKAGE".—Mr. Jensen moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the State of Tasmania be granted a sum of Twenty-five thousand pounds yearly by the Commonwealth for a period of nine years to recoup the said State for the loss sustained in Customs leakage since the advent of Federation.
Mr. Jensen not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.
Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 4th August next.
5. SUPPLY ["GRIEVANCE DAY"].—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—
Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into the said Committee.
6. SURPLUS REVENUE BILL (1910).—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration of the Report from the Committee of the whole House on this Bill—Mr. Fisher moved, That the Report be now adopted.
Question—put and passed.
Ordered—That the third reading be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.
7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Fisher moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at fourteen minutes to eleven 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. Brown, Mr. Carr, Mr. Catts, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Frank J. Foster, Mr. R. W. Foster, Mr. Frazer, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hedges, Mr. W. J. Johnson, Mr. Knox, Mr. McDougall, Mr. Salmon, and Mr. Spence.

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