

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT.

THURSDAY, 9TH MAY, 1901.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in the building known as the Exhibition Building, in the City of Melbourne, on Thursday, the ninth day of May, in the first year of the Reign of His Majesty King Edward the Seventh, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and one.

1. On which day, being the first day of the meeting of The Parliament for the despatch of business, pursuant to a Proclamation (hereinafter set forth), George Henry Jenkins, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Charles Broughton Boydell, Esquire, Clerk Assistant, Walter Augustus Gale, Esquire, Second Clerk Assistant, and Thomas Woollard, Esquire, Serjeant-at-Arms, attending in the House, and the other Clerks attending, according to their duty, the following Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk:—

PROCLAMATION

AUSTRALIA, TO WIT.

HOPETOUN.

(L.S.)

By His Excellency the Right Honorable the EARL OF HOPETOUN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council; Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order; Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by *The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act* it is amongst other things enacted that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of The Parliament as he thinks fit: And whereas by the said Act it is further enacted that The Parliament shall sit at Melbourne until it meet at the seat of Government: And whereas it is expedient now to appoint the time for holding the first Session of The Parliament of the Commonwealth: Now therefore I, JOHN ADRIAN LOUIS, EARL OF HOPETOUN, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Act, do by this my Proclamation appoint Thursday, the ninth day of May proximo, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs. And all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, and all Officers of the said Parliament, are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly at Melbourne, in the building known as the Exhibition Building, at the hour of Twelve o'clock noon, on the said Thursday, the ninth day of May, One thousand nine hundred and one.

Given at Melbourne this twenty-ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and one, and in the first year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

EDMUND BARTON.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

9th May, 1901.

2. WRITS.—The Clerk announced that he had received from the Secretary to the Prime Minister the following letter, which he read:—

Commonwealth of Australia,
Prime Minister,
Melbourne, 8th May, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour, by direction of the Right Honorable the Prime Minister, to forward, herewith, the Writs of Election of 75 Members to serve in the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ATLEE HUNT, Secretary.

The Clerk, House of Representatives, Melbourne.

By the returns indorsed on the several Writs it appeared that the following gentlemen were duly elected for the States and Divisions set opposite their respective names, viz.:—

Name.	State.	Division.
Bamford, Frederick William ...	Queensland ...	Herbert.
Barton, The Right Honorable Edmund, P.C., K.C.	New South Wales	Hunter.
Batchelor The Honorable Egerton Lee	South Australia.	
Bonython, Sir John Langdon ...	South Australia.	
Braddon, The Right Honorable Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry, P.C., K.C.M.G.	Tasmania.	
Brown, Thomas ...	New South Wales	Canobolas.
Cameron, Donald Norman ...	Tasmania.	
Chanter, John Moore ...	New South Wales	Riverina.
Chapman, Austin ...	New South Wales	Eden-Monaro.
Clarke, Francis ...	New South Wales	Cowper.
Conroy, Alfred Hugh ...	New South Wales	Werriwa.
Cook, James Newton Haxton Hume	Victoria ...	Bourke.
Cook, Joseph ...	New South Wales	Parramatta.
Cooke, The Honorable Samuel Winter	Victoria ...	Wannon.
Crouch, Richard Armstrong ...	Victoria ...	Corio.
Cruickshank, George Alexander ...	New South Wales	Gwydir.
Deakin, The Honorable Alfred ...	Victoria ...	Ballarat.
Edwards, George Bertrand ...	New South Wales	South Sydney.
Edwards, Richard ...	Queensland ...	Oxley.
Ewing, Thomas Thomson ...	New South Wales	Richmond.
Fisher, Andrew ...	Queensland ...	Wide Bay.
Forrest, The Right Honorable Sir John, P.C., G.C.M.G.	Western Australia	Swan.
Fowler, James Mackinnon ...	Western Australia	Perth.
Fuller, George Warburton ...	New South Wales	Illawarra.
Fysh, The Honorable Sir Philip Oakley, K.C.M.G.	Tasmania.	
Glynn, Patrick McMahon ...	South Australia.	
Groom, Arthur Champion ...	Victoria ...	Flinders.
Groom, William Henry ...	Queensland ...	Darling Downs.
Harper, Robert ...	Victoria ...	Mernda.
Higgins, Henry Bourne ...	Victoria ...	Northern Melbourne.
Holder, The Honorable Frederick William	South Australia.	
Hughes, William Morris ...	New South Wales	West Sydney.
Isaacs, The Honorable Isaac Alfred ...	Victoria ...	Indi.
Kennedy, Thomas ...	Victoria ...	Moira.
Kingston, The Right Honorable Charles Cameron, P.C.	South Australia.	
Kirwan, John Waters ...	Western Australia	Kalgoorlie.
Knox, The Honorable William ...	Victoria ...	Kooyong.
Lyne, The Honorable Sir William John, K.C.M.G.	New South Wales	Hume.
Macdonald-Paterson, The Honorable Thomas	Queensland ...	Brisbane.
Mahon, Hugh ...	Western Australia	Coolgardie.
Manifold, James Chester ...	Victoria ...	Corangamite.
Mauger, Samuel ...	Victoria ...	Melbourne Ports.
McCay, The Honorable James White-side	Victoria ...	Corinella.
McColl, The Honorable James Hiers	Victoria ...	Echuca.
McDonald, Charles ...	Queensland ...	Kennedy.
McEacharn, Sir Malcolm Donald ...	Victoria ...	Melbourne.
McLean, The Honorable Allan ...	Victoria ...	Gippsland.

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Name.	State.	Division.
McLean, Francis Edward ...	New South Wales	Lang.
McMillan, Sir William, K.C.M.G. ...	New South Wales	Wentworth.
O'Malley, King ...	Tasmania.	
Page, James ...	Queensland	Maranoa.
Paterson, Alexander ...	Queensland	Capricornia.
Phillips, The Honorable Pharez ...	Victoria	Wimmera.
Piesse, The Honorable Frederick William	Tasmania.	
Poynton, Alexander ...	South Australia.	
Quick, Sir John ...	Victoria	Bendigo.
Reid, The Right Honorable George Houston, P.C., K.C.	New South Wales	East Sydney.
Ronald, James Black ...	Victoria	Southern Melbourne.
Salmon, The Honorable Charles Carty	Victoria	Laanecoorie.
Sawers, William Bowie Stewart Campbell	New South Wales	New England.
Skene, Thomas ...	Victoria	Grampians.
Smith, Bruce ...	New South Wales	Parkes.
Smith, The Honorable Sydney	New South Wales	Macquarie.
Solomon, Elias ...	Western Australia	Fremantle.
Solomon, Vaiben Louis ...	South Australia.	
Spence, William Guthrie ...	New South Wales	Darling.
Thomas, Josiah ...	New South Wales	Barrier.
Thomson, Dugald ...	New South Wales	North Sydney.
Tudor, Frank Gwynne ...	Victoria	Yarra.
Turner, The Right Honorable Sir George, P.C., K.C.M.G.	Victoria	Balaclava.
Watkins, David ...	New South Wales	Newcastle.
Watson, John Christian ...	New South Wales	Bland.
Wilkinson, James ...	Queensland	Moreton.
Wilks, William Henry ...	New South Wales	Dalley.
Willis, Henry ...	New South Wales	Robertson.

3. VALIDATION OF ELECTIONS, NOTWITHSTANDING DELAY IN RETURN OF WRITS, ETC.—The Clerk read the following Proclamations which had been issued by His Excellency the Governor-General:—

PROCLAMATION

AUSTRALIA, TO WIT.

HOPETOUN.

(U.S.)

By His Excellency the Right Honorable the EARL OF HOPETOUN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council; Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order; Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by an Imperial Act intituled "An Act to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia" it is amongst other things enacted that until The Parliament otherwise provides, but subject to that Constitution, the laws in force in each State for the time being relating to elections for the more numerous House of the Parliament of the State shall, as nearly as practicable, apply to elections in the State of Members in the House of Representatives: And whereas by an Act of the Parliament of Tasmania, passed in the sixtieth year of Her late Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act to Consolidate and Amend the Law relating to the Election of Members of the Parliament of Tasmania," it is amongst other things enacted that no election should be void in consequence only of any delay in the return of the Writ, provided that such election shall, within thirty days from the day on which such election was held, be declared by the Governor-in-Council not to be invalid for any such cause as aforesaid: And whereas a Writ was issued for the election of Members to serve in the House of Representatives for the State of Tasmania, which Writ was made returnable on the eleventh day of April instant: And whereas the Returning Officer duly appointed for such State has certified, in accordance with the provisions of the last recited Act, that the Right Honorable Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon, the Honorable Sir Philip Oakley Fysh, Donald Norman Cameron, King O'Malley, and Frederick William Piesse, Esquires, were chosen by majorities of votes to be Members for that State to serve in the House of Representatives, but the said Writ was not returned within the period therein prescribed: Now therefore I, JOHN ADRIAN LOUIS, EARL OF HOPETOUN, as such Governor-General aforesaid, do by this my Proclamation, issued with the advice of the Executive Council, declare that the election of the said Right Honorable Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon, the Honorable Sir Philip Oakley Fysh, Donald Norman Cameron, King O'Malley, and Frederick William Piesse, Esquires, to serve in the said House of Representatives for the State of Tasmania, is valid, notwithstanding the delay in the return of the said Writ of Election.

Given under my Hand and Seal this twenty-ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and one, and in the first year of the reign of His Majesty King Edward the Seventh.

By His Excellency's Command,

EDMUND BARTON.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

9th May, 1901.

PROCLAMATION

AUSTRALIA, TO WIT.

HOPETOUN.

(L.S.)

By His Excellency the Right Honorable the EARL OF HOPETOUN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council; Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order; Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by an Imperial Act intituled "An Act to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia" it is amongst other things enacted that, until The Parliament otherwise provides, but subject to that Constitution, the laws in force in each State for the time being relating to elections for the more numerous House of the Parliament of the State shall, as nearly as practicable, apply to elections in the State of Members of the House of Representatives: And whereas by an Act of the Parliament of the State of New South Wales, passed in the fifty-sixth year of Her late Majesty's Reign, intituled "An Act for the redistribution of New South Wales into Electoral Districts, and for the subdivision of such districts; for remodelling the franchise and the law applicable to elections to the Legislative Assembly; for determining the number of Members to serve in the said Assembly; for the periodical adjustment of Electoral Districts; and for other purposes in furtherance of or consequent on the aforesaid objects," it is amongst other things enacted that no election should be void in consequence only of there having been no Returning Officer at the time of the issue of the Writ, or of any delay in the "return" of the Writ; and where accidental or unavoidable impediment, misfeasance, or omission should have happened the Governor might take all such measures as might be necessary for removing such impediment or rectifying such misfeasance or omission, or might by Proclamation declare any or all of the proceedings at or for any election valid as to and notwithstanding such impediment, misfeasance, or omission, and every such Proclamation should state specifically the nature of the impediment, misfeasance, or omission, and should be forthwith published in the *Gazette*: And whereas Writs were issued for the election of Members to serve in the House of Representatives for the Electoral Divisions of Gwydir and Riverina, in the State of New South Wales, which Writs were made returnable on the fifteenth day of April instant: And whereas the Returning Officers duly appointed for such Electoral Divisions have certified, in accordance with the provisions of the said last recited Act, that George Alexander Cruickshank, Esquire, and John Moore Chanter, Esquire, were chosen by majorities of votes to be Members for the Electoral Divisions of Gwydir and Riverina respectively to serve in the House of Representatives, but the said Writs were not returned within the period therein prescribed: Now therefore I, JOHN ADRIAN LOUIS, EARL OF HOPETOUN, as such Governor-General aforesaid, do by this my Proclamation, issued with the advice of the Executive Council, declare that the election of the said George Alexander Cruickshank, Esquire, and John Moore Chanter, Esquire, to serve in the said House of Representatives for the Electoral Divisions of Gwydir and Riverina respectively, is valid, notwithstanding the delay in the return of the said Writs of Election.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Melbourne, this twenty-ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and one, and in the first year of the Reign of His Majesty King Edward the Seventh.

By His Excellency's Command,

WILLIAM JOHN LYNE.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

PROCLAMATION

AUSTRALIA, TO WIT.

HOPETOUN.

(L.S.)

By His Excellency the Right Honorable the EARL OF HOPETOUN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council; Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order; Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS it is enacted by *The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act* that, until The Parliament of the said Commonwealth otherwise provides, the Parliament of any State may make laws for determining the Divisions in each State for which Members of the House of Representatives may be chosen, and further that, until The Parliament of the said Commonwealth otherwise provides, but subject to the Constitution established by the said Act, the laws in force in each State for the time being relating to elections for the more numerous House of the Parliament for the said State shall, as nearly as practicable, apply to elections in the said State of Members of the House of Representatives: And whereas by an Act of the Parliament of the State of Queensland intituled *The Parliament of the Commonwealth Elections Act and the Elections Act 1885 to 1898 Amendment Act of 1900* it was enacted that the said State should, for the purposes of the election of Members of the House of Representatives be divided into nine Electoral Divisions, comprising, amongst others, the Electoral Divisions of Herbert, Kennedy, Maranoa, and Oxley, and that each of the said nine Divisions should return one such Member: And whereas I, the Governor-General of the said Commonwealth, by and with the advice of the Executive Council thereof, in pursuance of *The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act* and the Acts of the Parliament of the said State intituled *The Elections Acts 1885 to 1898* did, by Order in Council,

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dated the eighteenth day of February, 1901, appoint certain persons to be Returning Officers for the said several Electoral Divisions, and appoint amongst other places the following places to be polling places for the respective Electoral Divisions following, that is to say:—Ebagoolah, Mein Telegraph Station, Musgrave, and Walsh Telegraph Station, for the said Electoral Division of Herbert; Camooweal, Conodie, Floraville, Gregory Downs, Lawn Hill Silver Mines, Moreston Downs, and Talawanta for the said Electoral Division of Kennedy; and Bedourie, Camoola Park, Urandangie, and Wyandra for the said Electoral Division of Maranoa: And whereas I, the Governor-General aforesaid, did on the said eighteenth day of February, in pursuance of *The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act*, cause Writs to be issued and directed to the said Returning Officers for the Election of Members for the House of Representatives for the said several Electoral Divisions; and did in the said Writ, directed to the Returning Officer for the Electoral Division of Oxley aforesaid, appoint South Brisbane to be the place, and Wednesday, the twentieth day of March, 1901, to be the date of nomination of candidates for the said Election, and the said Writ, directed to the Returning Officer for the Electoral Division of Herbert aforesaid, did appoint Saturday, the twentieth day of April, 1901, to be the day on or before which the said Writ should be returned to me, the Governor-General aforesaid, duly indorsed by the said Returning Officer, and did in all the said Writs so issued appoint the same day, to wit, Saturday, the thirtieth day of March, 1901, to be the day on which the poll should be taken in the said several Electoral Divisions: And whereas it is by *The Elections Acts 1885 to 1898* aforesaid enacted that if the number of persons who are duly nominated as candidates exceeds the number of Members to be elected, then the Returning Officer shall at noon on the day and at the place named in the Writ for the delivery of the nomination papers publicly announce the names of the persons who have been duly nominated as candidates, and that a poll will be taken: And whereas it is by the said last-mentioned Acts further enacted that no election shall be liable to be questioned by reason of any formal error or defect in any publication made under the said Acts or intended to be so made, nor by reason of any such publication being out of time, and further that no election shall be void in consequence solely of any delay in holding the election at the time appointed, or in taking the poll, or in the return of the Writ, or in consequence of any impediment of a merely formal nature, and that the Governor in Council may adopt such measures as may be necessary for removing any obstacle of a merely formal nature by which the due course of any election might be impeded, provided that the validity of the election and the measures so taken shall be forthwith declared by the Governor in Council by Proclamation: And whereas two persons were duly nominated as candidates for the Electoral Division of Oxley aforesaid, but owing to the inclemency of the weather and other sufficient causes the Returning Officer of the said Electoral Division was prevented from attending at South Brisbane aforesaid, at noon precisely, on the said twentieth day of March, to publicly announce the names of the said candidates, and that a poll would be taken, but shortly afterwards, to wit, at the hour of two o'clock, or thereabouts, on the afternoon of the said day, did there attend and duly make the public announcement aforesaid: And whereas by reason of floods and other sufficient causes the poll appointed to be taken in and for the Electoral Division of Herbert aforesaid at the several polling places hereinbefore mentioned, to wit—Ebagoolah, Mein Telegraph Station, Musgrave, and Walsh Telegraph Station, was prevented from being taken on the said thirtieth day of March, and the said poll was directed to be taken at the said several polling places on the sixth day of April, 1901, and was so taken accordingly: And whereas the Returning Officer for the said Electoral Division has duly certified that Frederick William Bamford has been duly elected a Member of the House of Representatives for the said Electoral Division, but the Writ issued by me as Governor-General aforesaid, and directed to the said Returning Officer, was by reason of tempestuous weather not returned to me within the period prescribed in the said Writ, but was received by me on the third day of May, 1901: And whereas by reason of floods and other sufficient causes the poll appointed to be taken in and for the Electoral Division of Kennedy aforesaid at the several polling places hereinbefore mentioned, to wit—Camooweal, Conodie, Floraville, Gregory Downs, Lawn Hill Silver Mines, Moreston Downs, and Talawanta, was prevented from being taken on the said thirtieth day of March, and the said poll was directed to be taken at the said several polling places on the tenth day of April, 1901, and was so taken accordingly: And whereas by reason of floods and other sufficient causes the poll appointed to be taken in and for the Electoral Division of Maranoa aforesaid at the several polling places hereinbefore mentioned, to wit—Bedourie, Camoola Park, and Urandangie, was prevented from being taken on the said thirtieth day of March, and the said poll was directed to be taken at the said polling places on the respective days following, namely:—At Bedourie on the fifteenth day of April, 1901; at Camoola Park on the twenty-fourth day of April, 1901; and at Urandangie on the nineteenth day of April, 1901, and was so taken at the said places on the said days accordingly: And further the poll appointed to be taken in and for the said Electoral Division at Wyandra aforesaid on the said thirtieth day of March was delayed owing to the absence of sufficient materials until the first day of April, 1901, on which day the said poll was taken: Now therefore I, JOHN ADRIAN LOUIS, EARL OF HOPETOUN, the Governor-General aforesaid, by and with the advice of the Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Australia do, by this my Proclamation, declare that the elections of—

RICHARD EDWARDS,
 FREDERICK WILLIAM BAMFORD,
 CHARLES McDONALD, and
 JAMES PAGE,

who have severally been duly certified to be elected as Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia for the respective Electoral Divisions of Oxley, Herbert, Kennedy, and Maranoa aforesaid, are and each of them is valid notwithstanding any delay in any

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announcement or publication, or in the return of any Writ, or in the taking of the poll at the several polling places aforesaid, and that the measures taken as hereinbefore set out in consequence of the obstacles hereinbefore mentioned were and each of them was duly taken and are and each of them is validated.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Melbourne, this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and one, and in the first year of His Majesty's Reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

WILLIAM JOHN LYNE.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

PROCLAMATION

AUSTRALIA, TO WIT.

HOPETOUN.

(L.S.)

By His Excellency the Right Honorable the EARL OF HOPETOUN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council; Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order; Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by an Imperial Act intituled "An Act to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia" it is amongst other things enacted that until The Parliament provides otherwise, but subject to that Constitution, the laws in force in each State for the time being relating to elections for the more numerous House of the Parliament of the State shall, as nearly as practicable, apply to elections in the State of Members in the House of Representatives: And whereas by an Act of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia, passed in the sixty-second year of Her late Majesty's Reign, intituled "The Electoral Act of 1899," it is amongst other things enacted that "any delay, error, or omission in the return of any Roll, Writ, . . . may be remedied, removed, rectified, and supplied by Proclamation, specifying the matter dealt with, and providing for the course to be followed, and such course shall be valid and suffice": And whereas Writs were issued for the election of Members for the Electoral Divisions of Swan, Perth, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, and Fremantle, in the State of Western Australia, which Writs were made returnable on the ninth day of April, One thousand nine hundred and one: And whereas the Returning Officers duly appointed for such Electoral Divisions have certified, in accordance with the provisions of the said last recited Act, that

The Right Honorable Sir JOHN FORREST, P.C., G.C.M.G.; and
 JAMES MACKINNON FOWLER,
 HUGH MAHON,
 JOHN WATERS KIRWAN, and
 ELIAS SOLOMON, Esquires,

were chosen by majorities of votes to be Members for the said Electoral Divisions of Swan, Perth, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, and Fremantle respectively, to serve in the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, but the said Writs were not returned within the period therein prescribed: Now therefore I, JOHN ADRIAN LOUIS, EARL OF HOPETOUN, as such Governor-General aforesaid, do by this my Proclamation, issued with the advice of the Executive Council, declare that the election of the said Right Honorable Sir John Forrest, P.C., G.C.M.G., and James Mackinnon Fowler, Hugh Mahon, John Waters Kirwan, and Elias Solomon, Esquires, to serve in the said House of Representatives for the Electoral Divisions of Swan, Perth, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, and Fremantle respectively, is valid, notwithstanding the delay in the return of the said Writs of Election.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Melbourne, this fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and one, and in the first year of the reign of His Majesty King Edward the Seventh.

By His Excellency's Command,

EDMUND BARTON.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

4. MESSAGE FROM HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CORNWALL AND YORK BY THE USHER OF THE SENATE.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Senate:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

His Royal Highness, authorized by virtue of His Majesty's Commission, desires the immediate attendance of this honorable House to hear the Commission read.

Accordingly the Members of the House of Representatives went to the place where the Members of the Senate were assembled.

Prayers were read by His Excellency the Governor-General.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York then said:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

His Majesty King Edward the Seventh has thought fit by Letters Patent under the Royal Sign Manual to give to me full power, in His Majesty's name, to do or cause to be done all things necessary to the holding of this Parliament as by Letters Patent will more fully appear, which must now be read.

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Then the said Letters Patent were read, and are as follow :—

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Commission empowering His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.V.O., to open the First Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Dated EDWARD THE SEVENTH, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of
 23rd February, Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India :
 1901. To Our right trusty and right well beloved Cousin and Councillor JOHN ADRIAN
 LOUIS, EARL OF HOPETOUN, Knight of Our Most Ancient and Most Noble Order
 of the Thistle; Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint
 Michael and Saint George; Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order;
 Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over Our Commonwealth of
 Australia, and to Our trusty and well beloved the Senators, Representatives,
 and People of Our Commonwealth of Australia.

Greeting :—

WHEREAS in pursuance of the Act passed in the sixty-fourth year of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia," The Parliament of the said Commonwealth has been summoned to meet for certain arduous and urgent affairs concerning Us, the State, and defence of Our said Commonwealth at the City of Melbourne :

And whereas We are desirous of marking the importance of the opening of the first Parliament of the said Commonwealth of Australia, and of showing Our special interest in the welfare of Our Loyal Subjects therein, and forasmuch as for certain causes We cannot conveniently be present in Our Royal person in Our said Parliament at Melbourne : Now know ye that We, trusting in the discretion, fidelity, and care of Our most dear Son and faithful Councillor GEORGE FREDERICK ERNEST ALBERT, DUKE OF CORNWALL AND YORK, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter; Knight of Our Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle; Knight of Our Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick; Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order, by the advice of Our Council, do give and grant by the tenor of these presents unto the said GEORGE FREDERICK ERNEST ALBERT, DUKE OF CORNWALL AND YORK, full power in Our name to begin and hold the first Parliament of Our said Commonwealth of Australia, and to open and declare and cause to be opened and declared the causes of holding the same, and to do everything which for Us and by Us shall be therein to be done : Willing that Our said Son shall hereby carry to Our said Parliament and People Our Royal Message of Goodwill and assurance of Our earnest prayer for the blessing of Almighty God on the Union of Our Dominions in Australia in one Federal Commonwealth under the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland : Commanding also by the tenor of these presents, with the assent of Our said Council, as well all and every the said Governor-General, Senators, and Representatives of Our Commonwealth of Australia as all others whom it concerns to meet in Our said Parliament that to the same GEORGE FREDERICK ERNEST ALBERT, DUKE OF CORNWALL AND YORK, they diligently intend in the premises in the form aforesaid :

And we do further direct and enjoin that these Our Letters Patent shall be read and proclaimed at such place or places as Our said Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief shall think fit within Our said Commonwealth of Australia.

In witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made patent.

Witness Ourselves at Westminster, the twenty-third day of February, in the first year of Our Reign.

By the King himself, signed with his own hand.

EDWARD R. & I.

MUIR MACKENZIE.

And then His Royal Highness said :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

My beloved and deeply-lamented Grandmother, Queen Victoria, had desired to mark the importance of the opening of this the First Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, and to manifest Her special interest in all that concerns the welfare of Her loyal subjects in Australia, by granting to me a Special Commission to open the First Session.

That Commission had been duly signed before the sad event which has plunged the whole Empire into mourning, and the King, my dear Father, fully sharing Her late Majesty's wishes, decided to give effect to them, although His Majesty stated, on the occasion of His opening His First Parliament, that a separation from His Son at such a time could not be otherwise than deeply painful to Him.

His Majesty has been pleased to consent to this separation, moved by His sense of the loyalty and devotion which prompted the generous aid afforded by all the Colonies in the South African War, both in its earlier and more recent stages, and of the splendid bravery of the Colonial Troops. It is also His Majesty's wish to acknowledge the readiness with which the ships of the special Australasian Squadron were placed at His disposal for service in China, and the valuable assistance rendered there by the Naval Contingents of the several Colonies.

His Majesty further desired in this way to testify to His heartfelt gratitude for the warm sympathy extended by every part of His dominions to Himself and His Family in the irreparable loss they have sustained by the death of His beloved Mother.

9th May, 1901.

His Majesty has watched with the deepest interest the social and material progress made by His people in Australia, and has seen with thankfulness and heartfelt satisfaction the completion of that political union of which this Parliament is the embodiment.

The King is satisfied that the wisdom and patriotism which have characterized the exercise of the wide powers of self-government hitherto enjoyed by the Colonies will continue to be displayed in the exercise of the still wider powers with which the United Commonwealth has been endowed. His Majesty feels assured that the enjoyment of these powers will, if possible, enhance that loyalty and devotion to His Throne and Empire of which the people of Australia have already given such signal proofs.

It is His Majesty's earnest prayer that this union so happily achieved may, under God's blessing, prove an instrument for still further promoting the welfare and advancement of His subjects in Australia, and for the strengthening and consolidation of His Empire.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

It affords me much pleasure to convey to you this message from His Majesty. I now, in His name, and on His behalf, declare this Parliament open.

His Royal Highness then announced that he had received the following cablegram from His Majesty:—

“My thoughts are with you in to-day's important ceremony. Most fervently do I wish Australia prosperity and happiness.”

And then His Excellency the Governor-General said:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE, GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

I am desired by His Royal Highness to acquaint you that so soon as the Members of your Houses shall be sworn, and a President of the Senate and a Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be chosen, I will declare to you the causes of this Parliament being called. The Members of the Senate and the Members of the House of Representatives will therefore now make and subscribe before me, the Governor-General, the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance, as by the Constitution Act provided, which will be administered by me.

5. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Right Honorable Edmund Barton, P.C., K.C.; the Honorable Alfred Deakin; the Honorable Sir William John Lyne, K.C.M.G.; the Right Honorable Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G.; the Right Honorable Charles Cameron Kingston, P.C.; the Right Honorable Sir John Forrest, P.C., G.C.M.G.; and the Honorable Sir Philip Oakley Fysh, K.C.M.G. (His Majesty's Ministers of State for the Commonwealth); F. W. Bamford, Esq.; the Honorable E. L. Batchelor; Sir J. Langdon Bonython; the Right Honorable Sir Edward Braddon, P.C., K.C.M.G.; T. Brown, Esq.; D. N. Cameron, Esq.; J. M. Chanter, Esq.; A. Chapman, Esq.; F. Clarke, Esq.; A. H. Conroy, Esq.; J. Hume Cook, Esq.; J. Cook, Esq.; the Honorable S. Winter Cooke; R. A. Crouch, Esq.; G. A. Cruickshank, Esq.; G. B. Edwards, Esq.; R. Edwards, Esq.; T. T. Ewing, Esq.; A. Fisher, Esq.; J. M. Fowler, Esq.; G. W. Fuller, Esq.; P. M. Glynn, Esq.; A. C. Groom, Esq.; W. H. Groom, Esq.; R. Harper, Esq.; H. B. Higgins, Esq.; the Honorable F. W. Holder; W. M. Hughes, Esq.; the Honorable I. A. Isaacs; T. Kennedy, Esq.; J. W. Kirwan, Esq.; the Honorable W. Knox; the Honorable T. Macdonald-Paterson; J. C. Manifold, Esq.; S. Mauger, Esq.; the Honorable J. W. McCay; the Honorable J. H. McColl; C. McDonald, Esq.; Sir Malcolm McEacharn; the Honorable A. McLean; F. E. McLean, Esq.; Sir William McMillan, K.C.M.G.; K. O'Malley, Esq.; J. Page, Esq.; A. Paterson, Esq.; the Honorable P. Phillips; the Honorable F. W. Piesse; A. Poynton, Esq.; Sir John Quick; J. B. Ronald, Esq.; the Honorable C. C. Salmon; W. B. S. C. Sawers, Esq.; T. Skene, Esq.; Bruce Smith, Esq.; the Honorable Sydney Smith; E. Solomon, Esq.; V. L. Solomon, Esq.; W. G. Spence, Esq.; J. Thomas, Esq.; D. Thomson, Esq.; F. G. Tudor, Esq.; D. Watkins, Esq.; J. C. Watson, Esq.; J. Wilkinson, Esq.; W. H. Wilks, Esq.; and H. Willis, Esq., took and subscribed the Oath required by law, before His Excellency the Governor-General.

6. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL REQUESTS THAT A PRESIDENT AND A SPEAKER BE CHOSEN.—His Excellency the Governor-General addressed both Houses, as follows:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE, GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

It being necessary that a President of the Senate and a Speaker of the House of Representatives should be first chosen, you will repair to the places where you are to sit, where you, Gentlemen of the Senate, will proceed to choose some proper person to be your President, and you, Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, will proceed to choose some proper person to be your Speaker, and thereafter you respectively will present such persons for my approval at such time and place as I shall hereafter appoint.

The Members of the House of Representatives then retired, and being re-assembled in the Legislative Assembly Chamber at Parliament House at half-past Two o'clock p.m.—

7. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—Mr. Macdonald-Paterson, addressing himself to the Clerk (who, standing up, pointed to him, and then sat down), proposed to the House for its Speaker the Honorable Frederick William Holder, and moved, That the Honorable Frederick William Holder do take the Chair of the House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Sir Edward Braddon.

The House then calling the Honorable Frederick William Holder to the Chair, he stood up in his place, and expressed the sense he had of the honour proposed to be conferred upon him, and submitted himself to the House.

9th May, 1901.

The House then again unanimously calling the Honorable Frederick William Holder to the Chair, he was taken out of his place by Mr. Macdonald-Paterson and Sir Edward Braddon, and conducted to the Chair, where, standing on the upper step, he returned his humble acknowledgments to the House for the great honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by unanimously choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon he sat down in the Chair; and then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Then Mr. Barton, Sir William McMillan, and Mr. Watson congratulated Mr. Speaker.

8. PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Barton stated that he had already ascertained that it would be His Excellency's pleasure to receive the Speaker at the Government Offices, this day, at Four o'clock.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went to attend His Excellency; and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported that the House this day proceeded to the Government Offices, and that he presented himself to His Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives, and that His Excellency was pleased to address him in the following terms:—

MR. SPEAKER,

It is with much pleasure that I learn of the choice made by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth Parliament, on your appointment to the high and honorable position of Speaker of that Chamber, and I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner.

HOPETOUN,
Governor-General.

Commonwealth of Australia, 9th May, 1901.

9. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.—Mr. Speaker announced to the House the following messages of congratulation on the opening of The Parliament:—

TELEGRAM FROM SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, AND COMMUNICATED BY HIM TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

“9th May, 1901.

“His Majesty's Government welcomes the new Parliament that to-day takes its place among the great legislative bodies of the British Empire. They feel confident that it will be a faithful interpreter of the aspiration of a free and loyal people, and they trust that its deliberations will promote the happiness, prosperity, and unity of the whole Continent of Australia.”

TELEGRAM FROM THE MODERATOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SESSION AT BRISBANE TO THE SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT.

“9th May, 1901.

“Presbyterian General Assembly now in session have united in special prayer for and now offer congratulations to First Parliament of Australian Commonwealth.

ALEXANDER HAY, D.D.,
Moderator.”

Mr. Barton read to the House a copy of a telegram from the Premier of Western Australia, as follows:—

“9th May, 1901.

“On behalf of Western Australia I desire to express the ardent hope that the meeting of the Commonwealth Parliament, inaugurated to-day and so auspiciously presided over by His Royal Highness, may be the precursor of a new era of prosperity for United Australia, and earn for The Parliament of the Commonwealth the honour and respect of the Empire. Western Australia will watch your proceedings with the deepest interest.”

To this telegram Mr. Barton informed the House he had sent the following reply:—

“9th May, 1901.

“Your graceful congratulations are most acceptable to the Federal Ministry and Parliament. The hopes of Western Australia for the prosperity of the Commonwealth are most welcome, and are fully shared by a Parliament whose ideal will be to sustain the honour and deserve the respect of Australia and the Empire.”

10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Barton moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow, at ten minutes to eleven o'clock a.m.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Barton moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.