

1901.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 3.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 21ST MAY, 1901.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair.
2. COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following Commission :—

By His Excellency The Right Honorable JOHN ADRIAN LOUIS, 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.

TO The Honorable FREDERICK WILLIAM HOLDER, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia—

Greeting :

WHEREAS by the forty-second section of *The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act*, 63 & 64 Vic. c. 12, it is enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Act :

Now therefore I, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you from time to time in the Parliament House of the Commonwealth in the City of Melbourne to administer the said Oath to such Members of the House of Representatives as have not already taken and subscribed the same since their election to the said House of Representatives.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Melbourne, this thirteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and one.

(L.S.) HOPETOUN,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,
EDMUND BARTON.

Entered on Record by me, in Register of Patents, No. 1, page 143, this thirteenth day of May, One thousand nine hundred and one.

ATLEE HUNT.

3. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Right Honorable George Houstoun Reid, P.C., K.C., and Hugh Mahon, Esq., took and subscribed the oath required by law.
4. PETITION.—Mr. Thomson presented a Petition from James Cameron, D.D., and James S. Laing, D.D., styling themselves Moderator and Clerk respectively of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, praying that the proposal to open the sittings of the House with prayer be adopted.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
5. REVISED DRAFT STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Barton laid upon the Table (*in substitution for those laid upon the Table on the 9th May instant*)—Revised Draft Standing Orders relating to Public Business, for provisional use.
Ordered to lie on the Table and to be printed.

21st May, 1901.

6. ACCOMMODATION FOR HONORABLE MEMBERS.—Mr. Speaker said:—Before the Order of the Day is called on I have to announce to honorable Members that I have made a careful examination of the part of this building that is at the disposal of the House of Representatives. I may mention at once that, in my opinion, the accommodation for the Members, Officers, and the Press is extremely limited.

I have decided to place the large room on the second floor at the disposal of the Ministerial supporters. The next room on the same floor I have allotted to honorable Members of this House who are identified with the Labour Party. The large room on the first floor I have set aside for honorable Members belonging to the Opposition. After to-morrow honorable Members using the rooms I have mentioned will find their correspondence placed therein. Some further conveniences are to be arranged.

Doorkeepers will be on duty from nine o'clock in the morning till the rising of the House to specially see that all requirements of honorable Members are properly complied with.

Honorable Members may rest assured that I will do all in my power to study their convenience and comfort in every possible way, and I am sure that the Right Honorable the Prime Minister will assist me in the same direction.

I shall be glad if all honorable Members will, as soon as possible, hand to the Clerk of the House their Melbourne addresses to facilitate the distribution of Parliamentary Papers, &c.

7. ELECTION PETITION—ADCOCK v. ELIAS SOLOMON, MEMBER FOR FREMANTLE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Mr. Speaker made the following statement to the House:—With reference to a Petition which has been lodged against the return of an honorable Member, I have to say that having carefully considered the Petition, I have formed an opinion concerning it, but, in the absence of Standing Orders relating thereto, have felt bound to reserve the Petition for the consideration of the Committee which will have to be appointed to deal with such matters.

8. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.—Mr. Barton read to the House a copy of a telegram from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Victoria, British Columbia, as follows:—

14th May, 1901.

“Members Legislative Assembly, Province British Columbia, extend Speaker, Members Parliament Commonwealth Australia now assembled, heartiest felicitations successful inauguration Federal form Government, South Hemisphere. Express confident hope labours Commonwealth Parliament result not only great good people Australia but whole Empire.”

To this telegram Mr. Barton informed the House he had replied as shown in the following letter to Mr. Speaker:—

Commonwealth of Australia
Prime Minister,
Melbourne, 16th May, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you that on Wednesday, the 15th instant, I received a telegram, copy of which is hereto annexed, from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Province of British Columbia.

As I considered it desirable to reply to that telegram without delay, and as the House was not sitting, I forwarded the following response, namely:—

“Commonwealth Parliament being under adjournment until Tuesday, I venture to express to you and Members your Legislature cordial thanks of President and Members of Senate and Speaker and Members House of Representatives for felicitations your telegram expresses in such handsome terms. We are encouraged in our own hopes by confidence with which you all expect that our labours will result in great benefits to our people and to the Empire. The Commonwealth wishes all prosperity to British Columbia and the Dominion.”

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

EDMUND BARTON.

The Honorable the Speaker,
House of Representatives, Melbourne.

9. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—The Order of the Day for the consideration of the proposed Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor-General's Speech having been read—Mr. W. H. Groom moved, That the following Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech to both Houses of Parliament be agreed to by this House:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the House of Representatives of The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Debate ensued.

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 debate be adjourned until to-morrow.

Ordered—That the debate take precedence of all other business.

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10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Barton moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

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