

1903.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 2.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 1903.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Thomson presented a Petition from the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited, of Sydney, under its common seal, praying that the House will forthwith direct an inquiry to be made into the statements contained in the Petition as to unjust discrimination by the Customs Department in levying excise duty on the petitioners' stocks of sugar on 8th October, 1901, in Queensland, and not on stocks then held by others in that State, and that such inquiry may be held before a tribunal to be appointed by the House and having power to compel the attendance of witnesses and to take evidence on oath.  
Petition received and read.
3. PAPERS.—Sir Edmund Barton presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Conference of State Premiers held in Sydney on 15th April, 1903, and following days—  
Resolutions agreed to at.  
Immigration Restriction Act 1901—  
Admission of certain Boilermakers, under contract, into Western Australia—Papers relating to.  
Admission of certain Maoris into the State of New South Wales—Papers relating to.  
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
4. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General, 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 Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—  
having been read—  
Debate resumed.  
Mr. V. L. Solomon 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.

27th May, 1903.

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5. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Edmund 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.

Sir Edmund Barton moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Bamford, Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Ewing, Sir Philip Fysh, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Knox, Mr. Macdonald-Paterson, Sir Malcolm McEacharn, Sir William McMillan, Mr. Sawers, and Mr. Bruce Smith.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*