

1903.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 78.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 22ND OCTOBER, 1903.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. APPROACHING DEPARTURE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had that day waited upon His Excellency the Governor-General, and had presented to him the Address agreed to by the House yesterday relative to His Excellency's approaching departure from the Commonwealth, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:—

Commonwealth of Australia.

*Governor-General.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have been profoundly touched by the signal honour you have done me in handing me the Address from each of your two Houses, authoritatively representing as they do the warm-hearted people of Australia. That you have been kind enough to give such generous expression to your feeling that I have done my duty by my Sovereign, the Empire, and Australia during my term of office as Governor-General will be to me an ever grateful remembrance, and I shall value this Address as one of the highest honours I could possibly receive.

I wish to thank my Ministers and the Members of the first Commonwealth Parliament of Australia for their unvarying kindness and courtesy to me and mine; and Lady Tennyson, who has throughout been closely associated with me in the performance of my duties, and, may I add, richly merits your encomium, desires me to convey to you her heartfelt gratitude for your kind words and wishes. She and I have spent five truly happy years among you, and the people of Australia will always be very near our hearts, while you may rest assured that, wherever I am, I shall continue to advocate their interests to the best of my ability.

It is true that I came into office at a time when many grave difficulties had to be encountered, but by your "common-sense" patience and perseverance these especial difficulties have been overcome. I shall ever remember with pride that I was His Majesty's chief representative in Australia when the Constitution of the Commonwealth was being established on a firm basis—that as such I assented to the four great Acts which are the four cornerstones of the Constitution, and helped to place the coping stone on the edifice by the creation of your strong Federal High Court.

In my journeys through Australia I have been enabled to see for myself how wonderful the resources—how rich the products of your country are, and how splendidly loyal are the people.

I have full belief that United Australia will take a high and worthy rank among the nations of the world, and add her contribution to the welfare and the glories of the British race, and aid the Mother country to fulfil her great Imperial mission.

TENNYSON.

22nd October, 1903.

3. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—A Message was delivered by the Usher of the Senate—

MR. SPEAKER,

The Governor-General desires this Honorable House to attend His Excellency immediately in the Senate chamber.

22nd October, 1903.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker, with Members of the House, went to attend the Governor-General, when His Excellency was pleased to notify the Royal Assent to the following Bills, viz. :—

*“An Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and four and to appropriate the supplies granted for such year in this Session of the Parliament.”*

*“An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a further sum for the service of the year ended the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and two, and a further sum for the service of the year ended the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and three.”*

*“An Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and four for the purposes of Additions, New Works, and Buildings.”*

*“An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Additions, New Works, and Buildings, a further sum for the service of the year ended the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and two and a further sum for the service of the year ended the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and three.”*

*“An Act relating to Extradition.”*

*“An Act to amend the ‘High Court Procedure Act 1903.’”*

*“An Act for the Publication of Statutory Rules.”*

*“An Act to amend the ‘Commonwealth Public Service Act 1902.’”*

*“An Act to provide for the Naval and Military Defence and Protection of the Commonwealth and of the several States.”*

*“An Act relating to Patents of Inventions.”*

After which His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament as follows :—

GENTLEMEN :

I am happy to release you from arduous labours, almost continuous since your election, and relieved by only one recess. The work accomplished has been highly exceptional both in amount and importance. The duty cast upon the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of putting into actual operation the intricate provisions of the Constitution has been discharged with ability, patience, and patriotism. A complete record of your achievements touches most of the great problems that confront the people of Australia. You have faced their solution zealously, boldly, and with marked success.

During the present Session the Constitutional machinery of Federal Government has been brought very near to completion.

The High Court of Australia has been established ; its procedure has been defined, and Judges whose ability and character deserve the greatest confidence have been appointed.

A uniform system of Defence for the Commonwealth has been established, which, it is confidently hoped, will perfect the organization of our forces, while avoiding all unnecessary expenditure.

A measure has been passed which will enable inventors, with the minimum of expense and trouble, to secure complete protection for their inventions throughout the whole Commonwealth.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

The unanimity with which you have consented to forego six months of the normal term for which you were chosen, for no other reason than to save the expense of a second election over the whole Commonwealth, will be remembered to your honour.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

I thank you in the name of His Majesty for liberal supplies.

An agreement with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, providing efficiently and economically for the Naval Defence of Australia, has received ratification.

Measures have also been sanctioned providing facilities for the naturalization of desirable aliens ; and securing a more equitable distribution of the outlay required for the grant of bounties on sugar grown by white labour.

Several measures of the first importance have been introduced, but not finally dealt with, whose further consideration will be materially assisted by the discussions that have taken place.

Conferences between the Governments interested in the Pacific Cable and between the Commonwealth and State Treasurers in respect to State debts are being arranged, from which many beneficial results are anticipated.

The partial isolation of Western Australia from the rest of the Commonwealth has not ceased to engage the attention of my Advisers. The final report of the Engineers-in-Chief has furnished much essential information, together with reliable estimates. Any authorization of railway communication must be preceded by the consent of two States. One has already agreed, and the assent of the second has been asked.

22nd October, 1903.

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It is deeply regretted that no final agreement has been attained with respect to the locality in which the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth is to be placed, but at least substantial progress has been achieved towards the making of a choice from which great national consequences will ensue.

I now declare this Parliament prorogued until Saturday, 14th November next.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT.**—All Members were present except—Mr. Bamford, Mr. Batchelor, Sir Edward Braddon, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Cruickshank, Mr. Ewing, Sir John Forrest, Mr. A. C. Groom, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hartnoll, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Manifold, Mr. McColl, Sir Malcolm McEacharn, Mr. A. McLean, Mr. F. E. McLean, Sir William McMillan, Mr. Page, Mr. Phillips, Sir John Quick, Mr. Reid, Mr. Ronald, Mr. Salmon, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. Wilks.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*