

1904.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 56.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 28TH JULY, 1904.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Liddell rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "The defective ventilation of the Chamber."
Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than five Members having accordingly risen—
Mr. Liddell moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and negatived.
3. WATER CONSERVATION—MURRAY RIVER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—
 - (1) That, in the opinion of this House, the prosperity of Australia as a whole, and the development of the interior more especially, depends on the utilization of its waters.
 - (2) That this great question should receive the early attention of the Government of the Commonwealth.
 - (3) That it is desirable that a scheme of conserving and locking the waters of the River Murray, in the interests of irrigation and navigation, should be formulated and carried out by joint action on the part of the Commonwealth and the States of New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria, and that the Government should take such steps as it may deem necessary to bring about such joint action without delay.
 - (4) That the petition received by this House from certain residents in the Northern district of Victoria and the Riverina district of New South Wales on the 25th June, 1903, be taken into consideration in conjunction with this motion—
Debate resumed.
Mr. Willis 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 Thursday, 25th August next.
4. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of Order of the Day, General Business, No. 2 be postponed until Thursday next.
5. NEW HEBRIDES—CONTROL OF AND AUSTRALIAN SETTLEMENT IN.—Mr. Johnson moved, pursuant to notice, That in view of their strategical importance to the safety of British and Australian Commerce in the Pacific, consequent on the projected opening of a Canal through the Isthmus of Panama, the Commonwealth Government should afford every facility for Australian settlement in the New Hebrides Islands, and should represent to the British Government the importance of endeavouring to arrive at a more satisfactory agreement with the French Government respecting their control than that at present existing.
Debate ensued.
Mr. Crouch 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 Thursday, 25th August next.

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6. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.
Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. McDonald reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to ask, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.
Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.
7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Batchelor moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT—All Members were present except—Mr. Cameron, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Isaacs, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Salmon, Mr. Bruce Smith, and Sir George Turner.

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