

1904.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 91.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 20TH OCTOBER, 1904.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. TOBACCO TRADE—ROYAL COMMISSION.—Mr. Batchelor moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, a Royal Commission should be at once appointed to inquire into and report upon—
 - (1) The present position of the Tobacco Trade in relation to the production, manufacture, and distribution of tobacco.
 - (2) The extent to which it is controlled by a monopolistic combination.
 - (3) The best method of regulating that trade, whether by nationalization or by anti-trust legislation, or otherwise.

Debate ensued.
Mr. McLean, addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.
Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.
3. TELEPHONE FACILITIES.—Mr. Johnson moved, pursuant to notice, That it is desirable to re-model the Telephone regulations with a view to providing improved facilities for communication between city, suburban, and rural districts.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
4. OLD-AGE PENSIONS—SELECT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Chapman moved, pursuant to notice,—
 - (1) That a Select Committee be appointed to investigate and report upon—
 - (a) The working of the Old-age Pensions Acts of New South Wales and Victoria ;
 - (b) The probable cost of, and the best means to be adopted for, establishing old-age pensions for the Commonwealth.
 - (2) That such Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records ; to move from place to place ; and to sit at any time.
 - (3) That the Committee consist of Sir Langdon Bonython, Mr. Frazer, Mr. Lee, Mr. O'Malley, Mr. Page, Sir John Quick, Mr. Skene, Mr. Sydney Smith, and the Mover ; and that four be the quorum of such Committee.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, the Orders of the Day were called on.
5. AGRICULTURE—PROPOSED FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That, in the opinion of this House, in order to promote the primary industries of Australia, a Federal Department of Agriculture ought to be established at an early date—
Debate resumed.
Mr. Hume Cook 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, 3rd November next.
6. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That Orders of the Day, Nos. 2, 3, and 4, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 3rd November next.

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7. NEW HEBRIDES—CONTROL OF AND AUSTRALIAN SETTLEMENT IN.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, 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 resumed.

Mr. Joseph Cook, addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday next.

8. MANUFACTURES ENCOURAGEMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Hume Cook, addressing the House, and not having concluded his speech, the House ordered that he have leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. McCay moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at half-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. Bamford, Mr. Brown, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Culpin, Mr. G. B. Edwards, Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Glynn, Mr. Harper, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Lee, Mr. McColl, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Page, Mr. Phillips, Sir John Quick, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Storrer, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Willis, and Mr. Wilson.

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