

1904.

 THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 95.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 1904.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Mr. Reid presented by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Transcontinental Railway.—Telegrams from the Premier of Western Australia to the Prime Minister notifying resolutions passed by both Houses of the Western Australian Parliament with regard to reservation of Crown lands along the proposed route of the railway between Kalgoorlie and the eastern boundary of the State.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
3. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—
 - (1) That Orders of the Day Nos. 1 and 2, General Business, be postponed until after the consideration of Order of the Day No. 3.
 - (2) That Order of the Day No. 3, General Business, be an Order of the Day for Thursday, 10th November next.
4. TOBACCO TRADE—ROYAL COMMISSION.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—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 resumed.
 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, 10th November next.
5. 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. Hutchison 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 next.
6. CUSTOMS TARIFF RE-ADJUSTMENT.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That, in the opinion of this House, the existing Customs Tariff is unscientific in its operation and mischievous in its effects; and that, with a special view to the promotion of the agricultural and manufacturing industries and the more settled employment of all classes of workers, a re-adjustment of its incidence on some of its leading lines is highly desirable—
 Debate resumed.
 Mr. Hutchison 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, 10th November next.

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7. TELEPHONE AT WARMATTA, NEW SOUTH WALES.—Mr. Hume Cook (for Mr. Chanter) moved, pursuant to notice, That copies of all letters, papers, and other documents relating to the claim made by the Postal Department upon certain persons in reference to the construction of a telephone at Warmatta, New South Wales, be laid upon the Table of the House.
Debate ensued.
Motion, by leave, withdrawn.
8. NATURALIZED CHINESE AND JAPANESE.—Mr. Bamford moved, pursuant to notice, That a Return be laid upon the Table of the House showing, as nearly as can be ascertained, the number of Chinese and Japanese respectively resident in the Commonwealth, who have become naturalized British subjects.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
9. "STRIPPER HARVESTERS."—Mr. Hume Cook (for Mr. Maloney) moved, pursuant to notice, That a Return be laid upon the Table of the House showing—
The number of "Stripper Harvesters" imported into the Commonwealth since the passing of the Tariff.
The country whence the "Stripper Harvesters" have been imported.
The names of the ports in the Commonwealth where the said "Stripper Harvesters" have been landed, giving the quantities at each.
The definition of classification in the Tariff of "Harvester" as distinguished from "Stripper Harvester" or "Stripper."
The invoice value of each "Stripper Harvester" upon which duty was assessed.
The rate of duty specified in the Tariff to be collected on "Stripper Harvesters."
The amount of duty actually collected on the importations of "Stripper Harvesters."
Debate ensued.
Mr. Brown moved, as an amendment, That the following words be added to the motion, viz. :—
"The number of 'Stripper Harvesters' exported from the Commonwealth since the passing of the Tariff.
"The country or countries to which such 'Stripper Harvesters' have been exported.
"The names of the ports of the Commonwealth from which exportations of 'Stripper Harvesters' have been made, giving the quantities at each.
"The value of the 'Stripper Harvesters' so exported."
Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And then the original question, as so amended, was put and resolved in the affirmative.
10. CHILDREN'S LIFE ASSURANCE BILL.—Mr. Hume Cook (for Mr. Groom) moved, pursuant to amended notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to Assurance on the Lives of Children by Life Assurance Companies or Societies.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
11. SUPPLY.—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—
Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Whereupon Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.
Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. Salmon reported that the Committee had made progress, 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.
12. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Reid moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
And then the House, at 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. Conroy, Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Liddell, Sir William Lyne, Mr. McColl, and Mr. Watkins.

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