

1905.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 19.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 1905.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Sir William Lyne presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Tariff, Uniform—Return showing effect of, on Trade and Manufacture (compiled by the Collectors of Customs of the various States of the Commonwealth).

Ordered to lie on the Table.

3. MINISTRY—PROPOSED ELECTION BY PARLIAMENT.—Mr. Fowler moved, pursuant to notice, That the present methods of constituting Ministerial Cabinets, together with the powers exercised by these bodies, amount in many respects to the usurpation of the rights and duties of Parliament as a whole, tend to foment unnecessary party strife, impede the work of legislation, and precipitate artificial crises; and, therefore, in the opinion of this House, such legislation as may be necessary should be introduced to provide for the election of Ministers by Parliament.

Two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the debate was interrupted in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, and Mr. G. B. Edwards, who was addressing the House, 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.

4. HOME RULE FOR IRELAND.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty as follows:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY:

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Members of the House of Representatives, in Parliament assembled, desire most earnestly in our name and on behalf of the people whom we represent, to express our unswerving loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's person and Government.

We have observed with feelings of profound satisfaction the evidence afforded by recent legislation and recent debates in the Houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom, of a sincere desire now to deal justly with Ireland; and in particular we congratulate the people of the United Kingdom on the remarkable Act directed towards the settlement of the land question, and on the concession to the people of Ireland of a measure of Local Government for municipal purposes. But the sad history of Ireland since the Act of Union shows that no British Parliament can understand or effectively deal with the economic and social conditions of Ireland.

Enjoying and appreciating as we do the blessings of Home Rule here, we would humbly express the hope that a just measure of Home Rule may be granted to the people of Ireland. They ask for it through their representatives—never has request more clear, consistent, and continuous been made by any nation. As subjects of Your Majesty we are interested in the peace and contentment of all parts of the Empire, and we desire to see this long-standing grievance at the very heart of the Empire removed. It is our desire for the solidarity and permanence of the Empire, as a Power making for peace and civilization, that must be our excuse for submitting to Your Majesty this respectful petition.

Debate resumed.

Mr. Wilks, 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, 31st instant.

17th August, 1905.

5. POINT OF ORDER.—MINISTRY—CABINET RESPONSIBILITY: PROPOSED ABOLITION.—With regard to the Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate upon the following motion of Mr. G. B. Edwards, viz. :—

- “(1) That the practical work of the Commonwealth Legislature has been, and will continue to be, impeded and restricted by the operation of the political practice known as the Cabinet System, by which the King’s Ministers of State in the Commonwealth become collectively responsible for the character and scope of measures proposed to Parliament, and for the separate administrative acts of each member of their body; and that a system under which each Minister, appointed by the Governor-General to administer a Department of State, shall remain in office (if otherwise constitutionally qualified) so long as he retains the confidence of this House, would lead to a less tardy and more effectual carrying out of the will of the people by their representatives, with more direct constitutional responsibility.
- (2) That the office of Prime Minister is not known to the Constitution, nor necessary to the operation of any part of that instrument.
- (3) That under a system of Party Government the powers inherent, or acquired by stress of party organization, with which the leader of a successful party is invested are such as demand the check and restraint of selection by, and responsibility to, the electors of the whole political area, and should not be exercisable by one chosen by, and responsible to, a single State or a single constituency of that State.
- (4) That Party Government is inevitably a waste of some of the best administrative ability of the representatives chosen by the people, since such ability is necessarily only available if possessed by the party temporarily dominant.
- (5) That political ethics under the party system tend to a considerable departure from the rules commonly accepted as binding in private affairs, and in conventions for scientific, social, or philosophical purposes, in the suppression of individual judgment and opinion, out of loyalty to party, or in the interest of party success; and while any method of selecting or appointing the Executive will still leave the Legislature capable of forming, and probably just as prone to form, into sections for the promotion of definite principles, the above defects are everywhere commensurate with the extent to which the principle of yielding the spoils of office to political victors has been adopted—”

Mr. Speaker ruled that this Order of the Day could not be further proceeded with, as it had come to his knowledge that it covered the same ground as that embraced by the first motion moved this day, notice of which was given prior to the motion contained in the Order of the Day.

6. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the consideration of Order of the Day, General Business, No. 3, be postponed until Thursday next.
7. 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 negatived.  
Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into the said Committee.
8. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at 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. Brown, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Kingston\*, Mr. Mahon, Mr. McColl\*, Mr. McLean, Sir John Quick, Mr. Reid, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Willis, and Mr. Wilson.

\* On leave.

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