

1905.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 31.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 1905.

- 1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2. PETITION.—Mr. Joseph Cook presented a Petition from Bruce Purser and W. Bean Smith, styling themselves President and Honorary Secretary respectively of the Executive Committee of the Fruit-growers' Union of New South Wales, praying that the House will amend the Commerce Bill, which, in their opinion, will be most injurious in its effects, particularly in regard to the trade in tender and perishable goods such as fruit.  
Petition received.
- 3. SHIPPING SERVICE BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH AND UNITED KINGDOM—SELECT COMMITTEE.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Spence—

- (1) That a Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament be appointed to make full inquiry as to the advisability of the Federal Government owning and controlling a fleet of steamers for the carriage of mails, passengers, and cargo between Australia and the United Kingdom. The Committee, so far as the House of Representatives is concerned, to consist of Mr. Glynn, Mr. Mahon, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Webster, and the Mover, and to have power to send for persons, papers, and records. Four to be the quorum.
- (2) That the foregoing resolution be transmitted by Message to the Senate and their concurrence requested in the appointment of the Committee, and asking them to appoint Members to serve thereon—

*And on the amendments proposed thereto, viz. :—*Omit the words " of both Houses of Parliament " in line 1 ; omit the words " the advisability of the Federal Government owning and controlling a fleet of steamers for " in lines 2 and 3 ; omit the words " so far as the House of Representatives is concerned " in line 4 ; omit the words " Mr. Glynn," " Mr. McWilliams," " Mr. Robinson," " Mr. Webster " in lines 5 and 6, with a view to the insertion in place thereof of the words " Mr. Chanter," " Mr. Gibb," " Mr. Storrer," " Mr. Willis " ; and omit paragraph (2)—

Debate resumed.

And the proposed amendments having been agreed to—

Question—That a Select Committee be appointed to make full inquiry as to the carriage of mails, passengers, and cargo between Australia and the United Kingdom. The Committee to consist of Mr. Chanter, Mr. Gibb, Mr. Mahon, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Storrer, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Willis, and the Mover, and to have power to send for persons, papers, and records. Four to be the quorum—put and resolved in the affirmative.

- 4. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the consideration of Order of the Day, General Business, No. 2, be postponed until Thursday, 21st instant.
- 5. SEA-CARRIAGE OF GOODS ACT—EFFECT ON TRADE WITH THE EAST.—Mr. Deakin, for Mr. Cameron, moved, pursuant to notice, That a Return be laid on the Table of the House showing the amount of trade in perishable products between the Commonwealth and the East during the three years before the Sea-Carriage of Goods Act came into operation, the principal items to be specified, and to show for each month the quantity and value of each item ; also similar particulars since the Act came into operation.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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6. **POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.**—Ordered—That the consideration of Notice of Motion, General Business, No. 1 be postponed until after the consideration of Notice of Motion, General Business, No. 3; and that Notice of Motion, General Business, No. 2 be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 12th October next.

7. **MISREPRESENTATION AS TO COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION.**—Mr. Mahon moved, pursuant to notice,—

(1) That the persistent misrepresentation abroad of the legislative and administrative measures of the Commonwealth reflects unjustly on the character of the Australian people, and tends to operate prejudicially to the progress of Australia by checking immigration and impairing the credit of the States in the estimation of British and foreign investors.

(2) That, it being expedient to remove the erroneous and injurious impressions created by such misrepresentation, this House requests the Prime Minister, pending the appointment of a High Commissioner for the Commonwealth—

(a) To confer with the Agents-General of the States in devising a more effective method of periodically placing before the people of the United Kingdom exact and unbiassed particulars concerning the legislation, administration, and resources of Australia (or) (and)

(b) To invite the leading newspapers or press associations of the United Kingdom to jointly nominate three representatives to visit Australia; conveying with such invitation an assurance that every facility required would be afforded these gentlemen to conduct such investigation as they might deem fit into the position of Australia, and particularly into the charge that our legislative and administrative policy unduly impedes the incoming of reputable white immigrants suitable for the work of colonization.

And Mr. Mahon 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, 19th October next.

8. **NAVAL DEFENCE—THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE COMMONWEALTH.**—Mr. Kelly moved, pursuant to notice, That, whereas the command of the seas in time of war is essential to the security of the Empire's vast interests on, and beyond, the seas; and whereas this command cannot be assured by separate squadrons acting independently on behalf of each section of the Empire; and whereas the United Kingdom, which has hitherto borne practically unassisted the burden of Imperial naval defence, will sooner or later be unable to continue to make sufficient provision against the rapidly increasing naval armaments of foreign powers; this House is of opinion—

(1) That all naval expenditure by the Commonwealth of Australia should be towards an Imperial Navy, on the efficiency and adequacy of which in time of war will depend her security from serious danger; and

(2) That the Commonwealth of Australia's contribution to the Imperial Navy should be doubled.

Mr. McCay 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, 21st instant.

9. **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—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair—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.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House at twenty-four 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. Ewing, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Gibb, Mr. Glynn, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Kingston\*, Mr. McColl\*, Mr. McLean, Sir John Quick, Mr. Reid, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Skene, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Dugald Thomson, Sir George Turner, and Mr. Wilks.

\*On leave.

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