

1905.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 39.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1905.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Sir William Lyne presented, pursuant to the direction of an Act of Parliament—Beer Excise Act 1901.—Regulations (Statutory Rules 1905, No. 55).
3. MINISTRY : PROPOSED ELECTION BY PARLIAMENT.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Fowler:—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—  
Debate resumed.  
Mr. G. B. Edwards, 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.
4. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the consideration of Orders of the Day, General Business, Nos. 2 and 3 be postponed until Thursday, 5th October next.
5. STATES' DEBTS.—SELECT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Knox moved, pursuant to notice—
  - (1) That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report what is the best mode of dealing with the States' debts in the interests of the taxpayers of the Commonwealth, and what (if any) constitutional changes are necessary to give effect to its recommendations.
  - (2) That such Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records, and have leave to report the minutes of evidence from time to time.
  - (3) That the Committee consist of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fisher, Sir John Forrest, Sir Philip Fysh, Mr. Harper, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Dugald Thomson, Sir George Turner, Mr. Watson, and the Mover. Five Members to be a quorum.
 Debate ensued.  
Mr. Deakin 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.
6. COMMERCE BILL (No. 2).—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. Salmon 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.

21st September, 1905.

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

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Cameron, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Frazer, Mr. Harper, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Mahon, Mr. McColl, Mr. Page, Sir John Quick\*, Mr. Reid, Mr. Skene, Mr. Bruce Smith, Sir George Turner, Mr. Watson, and Mr. Willis.

\* On leave.

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