

1906.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 58.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 1905.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Sir John Forrest presented, pursuant to the direction of an Act of Parliament—  
Audit Act 1901—Transfers of Amounts approved by the Governor-General in Council—  
Financial Year 1904-5 (dated 21st October, 1905).
3. TELEGRAPH SERVICE, AUSTRALIA AND ENGLAND, *via* CANADA—STATE PURCHASE OF.—Mr. Thomas moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, the Federal Government should approach the Imperial and the Canadian Governments with the view of purchasing, on behalf of the three Governments, the telegraphic land line of Canada and an Atlantic cable, so that the whole length of line from Australia to England be State owned.  
Debate ensued.  
Mr. O'Malley 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, 9th November next.
4. TELEPHONE LINE BETWEEN MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY—ESTIMATE OF COST AND REVENUE.—Mr. Page moved, pursuant to notice, That an estimate, in detail, of the cost of erecting and working the proposed trunk telephone line from Melbourne to Sydney, with appliances, be laid upon the Table of this House; such estimate to show the sum to be set aside annually for depreciation and renewals, and the loss likely to ensue through a diminution in telegraphic and postal receipts, together with full particulars as to the anticipated revenue, and the figures on which such estimated revenue is based.  
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
5. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES OF MOTION.—Ordered—That Notice of Motion, General Business, No. 3 be postponed until Thursday next; and that Notice of Motion, No. 4 be postponed until Thursday, 9th November next.
6. DISCHARGE OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—COMMONWEALTH PRINTING—SELECT COMMITTEE.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on this question was, on the motion of Mr. Hume Cook (for Mr. Mahon), read and discharged.
7. DEFENCE REGULATIONS—SELECT COMMITTEE.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Crouch :—That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report upon the advisability of amending the Regulations issued under the Defence Acts; the Committee to consist of Mr. Batchelor, Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Maloney, Mr. Mauger, Mr. Page, Mr. Wilks, and the Mover, with power to send for persons, papers, and records, and to sit at any time, *and on the amendment proposed thereto by Mr. Hutchison*, viz. :—That the name of Mr. Wilks be omitted from the proposed Committee, and that the name of Mr. Lee be inserted in place thereof—  
The proposed amendment was, by leave, temporarily withdrawn.

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Mr. Johnson moved, as an amendment, That after the first word "That" the following words be inserted :—"in the opinion of this House the Government should furnish a comprehensive report to Parliament dealing with—

- (1) Coastal and Harbor Defence.
- (2) Land Forces.
- (3) Citizen Soldiery.
- (4) Cadet System, including Senior Cadets.
- (5) Regulations.
- (6) The various charges made by the honorable Member for Corio in his speech of 14th September, 1905."

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put and negatived.

The amendment to omit the name of Mr. Wilks and insert the name of Mr. Lee in place thereof was again moved, and agreed to.

Debate continued.

Mr. Speaker being about to put the motion, and more than six Members having risen and required that the Committee be appointed by Ballot—

The motion was divided.

Question—That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report upon the advisability of amending the Regulations issued under the Defence Acts—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 10.

Mr. Crouch,	Mr. Ronald,
Mr. Mahon,	Mr. Tudor.
Mr. Maloney,	
Mr. McDonald,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. O'Malley,	Mr. Brown,
Mr. Poynton,	Mr. Hutchison.

Noes, 24.

Mr. Cameron,	Mr. Lee,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Chapman,	Mr. McCay,
Mr. Conroy,	Mr. Robinson,
Mr. Deakin,	Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Watson,
Sir John Forrest,	Mr. Wilkinson,
Mr. Gibb,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Glynn,	Mr. Willis.
Mr. Groom,	
Mr. Harper,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Isaacs,	Mr. Hume Cook,
Mr. Knox,	Mr. Kelly.

And so it passed in the negative.

8. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the consideration of Order of the Day, General Business, No. 3 be postponed until Thursday, 9th November next.

9. NAVAL DEFENCE—THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE COMMONWEALTH.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Kelly :—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—

And on the amendment proposed thereto by Mr. Carpenter, viz. :—

After the first word "That" insert the following words :—

"in the opinion of this House it is desirable to encourage and promote a national and self-reliant spirit among the Australian people ; to create and maintain a deeper interest in the development of our sea-power and in the naval defence of the Commonwealth.

That, while regarding the existing naval agreement with Great Britain as a recognition of present obligations to the Empire, it is essential that provision be made in the near future for an Australian Navy for defence purposes.

That an advisory report be obtained from the Naval Director showing the number and class of war-vessels necessary under existing circumstances, and the approximate cost of providing and maintaining the same"—

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 Thursday, 16th November next.

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10. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That the remaining Orders of the Day, General Business, be postponed as follows, viz. :—Order of the Day No. 5 until Thursday, 23rd November next; Order of the Day No. 6 until Thursday next; Order of the Day No. 7 until Thursday, 16th November next; and Order of the Day No. 8 until to-morrow.
11. **SUPPLY.**—The House, according to Order, 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. Deakin moved, That the House do now adjourn. Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House at six minutes past 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. Culpin, Mr. G. B. Edwards, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Liddell, Sir William Lyne, Mr. McColl, Mr. McLean, Sir John Quick, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Spence, Mr. Dugald Thomson, Sir George Turner\*, and Mr. Wilson.

\* On leave.

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