

1908.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 8.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1908.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Fisher presented a Petition from W. H. Romanis, A. H. Romanis, and S. H. Romanis, of Dallarnil, near Maryborough, Queensland, stating that they are natural-born British subjects, born in Australia, and their parents are Cingalese, that owing to recent Federal legislation they find the greatest difficulty, on account of their colour, in getting employment on the sugar-cane fields, and praying for the amendment of the Sugar Bounty Acts 1903 and 1905.
Petition received and read.
3. PAPER.—Mr. Deakin presented, pursuant to Statute—
Papua—Ordinance of 1908—Arms Restriction.
4. NON-BRITISH STEAM-SHIPS—PAYMENTS TO, FOR SERVICES.—Mr. Crouch moved, pursuant to notice, That a Return be laid on the Table of the House showing the payment for Postal and all other services made by the Commonwealth, and (as far as same are ascertainable) by the States, to all non-British steam-ship lines for the years 1905, 1906, and 1907.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
5. DEFENCE BILL (1908).—Mr. Ewing, pursuant to leave given on 24th September instant, brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to Naval and Military Defence*," and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time.
Ordered, by leave—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for this day.
Mr. Ewing moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Mr. Reid moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered, after debate—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.
6. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT BILL (1908).—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—
Debate resumed.
Mr. Bruce Smith moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "That" be omitted from the motion, with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof :—"in view of the wide difference of opinion in regard to the most suitable site for an Australian Federal Capital, the final choice be postponed until the year 1921, and that the Government shall forthwith prepare and introduce into Parliament a Bill providing for an alteration of the Constitution by which the city of Melbourne shall remain as the Seat of Government until the end of the year 1910, and that from the beginning of 1911 until the end of 1920 the Seat of Government shall be fixed in the city of Sydney, pending the final and permanent selection of a site for the Commonwealth Capital and Seat of Government, in accordance with the terms of the Constitution."
Debate continued.
Mr. Fuller 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 to-morrow.

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7. ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—TIME FOR PRESENTATION.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that His Excellency the Governor-General would to-morrow, at a quarter to three o'clock, in this building, receive the Address-in-Reply agreed to by this House.

8. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir William Lyne moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at twenty-five minutes past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Harper, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Dugald Thomson, Mr. Watson, and Mr. Willis.

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