

1908.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 18.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 1908.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPER.—Mr. Hume Cook presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Lands Acquisition Act—Premises at Balla Balla, Western Australia, leased to Mr. H. R. Sleeman.
3. FIRE INSURANCE BILL.—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.  
Question—put.  
The House divided—

Ayes, 16.

Mr. Bamford	Mr. O'Malley
Mr. Batchelor	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Thomas Brown	Mr. Spence
Mr. Carr	Mr. Storrer
Mr. Crouch	Mr. Wilks
Mr. Frazer	
Mr. Hall	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Maloney	Mr. Mathews
Mr. McDougall	Mr. Thomas

Noes, 25.

Mr. Bowden	Mr. Hedges
Mr. Tilley Brown	Mr. Liddell
Mr. Chanter	Mr. Mauger
Mr. Hume Cook	Mr. Palmer
Mr. Joseph Cook	Mr. Reid
Mr. Deakin	Mr. Salmon
Mr. Edwards	Mr. Sinclair
Mr. Ewing	Mr. John Thomson
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Wynne
Sir John Forrest	
Mr. Fowler	<i>Tellers.</i>
Sir Philip Fysh	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Glynn	Mr. Wise
Mr. Groom	

And so it passed in the negative.

4. SENATE ELECTIONS—DIVISION OF EACH STATE INTO THREE ELECTORATES.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Sir John Forrest:—

That, with the object of securing to a much greater extent than at present a representation in the Senate of members personally known to and identified with the electors they represent, and in order to terminate at once a system which must be found more inequitable and impracticable, especially in the larger States, as population increases, the time has arrived when, under the powers given to the Parliament by section 7 of the Constitution, the system hitherto in force of having one electorate for the whole of each State, for the election of Senators, should cease and that the following be substituted:—

That for the elections for Senators, each State be divided into three electorates, each electorate returning two Senators, in the case of a general election in which the whole six Senators are to be elected, and one Senator each, in the case of the periodical elections for the Senate.

Debate resumed.

Mr. Storrer moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "force" in line 6, be omitted from the motion with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—  
"should be abolished and the Hare system of election adopted."

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Debate on main question continued.

Mr. Hume Cook 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 next.

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5. DEFENCE FORCES—PROMOTION IN.—Mr. Salmon moved, pursuant to notice, That, in order to obtain the full realization of the benefits of the Citizen Defence System, this House is of opinion that the Defence Acts and Regulations framed thereunder should provide opportunity for the promotion of any member of the Commonwealth Defence Forces to any position which, by reason of adequate qualifications, he is competent to fill.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Ewing moved, as an amendment, That the following words be added to the motion :—"In all future appointments merit and adequate qualifications shall be specially considered."

Debate continued.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Debate on main question continued.

The original motion was then put and resolved in the affirmative.

6. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered, that the consideration of Notice of Motion, No. 2, be postponed until Thursday, 29th instant.

7. REPRESENTATION BILL (1908).—Colonel Foxton moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Representation Act* 1905.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Colonel Foxton then brought up a Bill intitled "A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Representation Act 1905,'" and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 12th November next.

8. TELEPHONE CONNEXIONS, ETC., DELAYED IN NEW SOUTH WALES.—Mr. Johnson moved, pursuant to notice given by Mr. Bowden, *amended*, That a Return be prepared and laid on the Table of the House showing—

(1) The telephone connexions and extensions in New South Wales that have been approved by the Department of the Postmaster-General, and are delayed.

(2) The reasons of such delays.

(3) The amount of money required to complete such connexions and extensions.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

9. DEFENCE 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—and on the amendment moved thereto by Mr. W. H. Irvine, *viz.* :—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 the opinion of this House, the defence of Australia depending primarily upon control of the sea, it would be unwise to commit the country to any scheme of compulsory universal military service until Parliament is in a position to determine the naval policy of the Commonwealth"—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Kelly 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.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 1908-9.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 3.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June One thousand nine hundred and nine," to which it has agreed without requests.

A. J. GOULD,  
President.

The Senate,  
Melbourne, 15th October, 1908.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION.—Mr. Reid, by leave, gave notice of a motion he proposed to move on Tuesday next.

12. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House at a quarter past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Catts, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Foster, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hans Irvine, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Page, Sir John Quick, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Dugald Thomson, Mr. Watson, Mr. Willis, and Mr. Wilson.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.