

1901.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 11.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 6TH JUNE, 1901.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Piesso presented a Petition from John Russell, styling himself Clerk of Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania, praying that the House would take steps towards suppressing the gambling institution known as "Tattersall's" in Tasmania, and also to ensure that the Post Office of the Commonwealth shall not be used for extending the practice of gambling. Ordered to lie on the Table.
3. MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—The following Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were presented by Sir William Lyne, and the same were read by Mr. Speaker :—

HOPETOUN,

*Governor-General.**Message No. 4.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill to regulate Parliamentary Elections.

Sydney, 27th May, 1901.

HOPETOUN,

*Governor-General.**Message No. 5.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill to constitute the Inter-State Commission, to invest it with certain powers of adjudication and administration, and to regulate trade and commerce with other countries, and among the States.

Sydney, 27th May, 1901.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table, to be printed, and taken into consideration in Committee of the whole House on Tuesday next.

4. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered, That the consideration of the following Orders of the Day be postponed until to-morrow :—

*Supply—To be considered in Committee.**Ways and Means—To be considered in Committee.*

6th June, 1901.

5. PUBLIC SERVICE BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of His Excellency the Governor-General's Message No. 1, having been read—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.
Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. Chanter reported that the Committee had come to a certain resolution, which was read, and is as follows:—
Resolved—That it is expedient that an appropriation be made from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purposes of a Bill for the regulation of the Public Service.
And the said resolution was adopted by the House.
6. JUDICIARY BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of His Excellency the Governor-General's Message No. 2, having been read—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.
Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. Chanter reported that the Committee had come to a certain resolution, which was read, and is as follows:—
Resolved—That it is expedient that an appropriation be made from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purposes of a Bill to make provision for the exercise of the Judicial Power of the Commonwealth.
And the said resolution was adopted by the House.
7. DEFENCE BILL.—The Order of the Day for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of His Excellency the Governor-General's Message No. 3, having been read—Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.
Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. Chanter reported that the Committee had come to a certain resolution, which was read, and is as follows:—
Resolved—That it is expedient that an appropriation be made from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purposes of a Bill to provide for the Defences of the Commonwealth.
And the said resolution was adopted by the House.
8. PAPER.—Mr. Barton presented—
Correspondence in reference to the Staple Products, Minerals, and Financial Position of the Northern Territory, South Australia.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
9. SERVICES OF THE AUSTRALIAN NAVAL CONTINGENTS IN CHINA.—Mr. Barton presented—
Letter to the Right Honorable the Prime Minister of Australia from Lieutenant-General Sir Alfred Gaselee, Commanding British Contingent, China Field Force, in reference to the services of the Australian Naval Contingents in China.
The same was read by the Clerk, as follows:—

Head-Quarters Staff Office,
British Contingent, China Field Force,
17th April, 1901.

To

The Prime Minister of the Australian Commonwealth, Sydney, N.S.W.

SIR,

I should be obliged if you would express to the Government of New South Wales and Victoria my deep sense of gratitude to them for placing their respective Contingents at my disposal. They arrived at a time when, owing to the withdrawal of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, the services of an efficient and disciplined body of British troops were invaluable to the China Field Force, and I cannot speak too strongly of the usefulness of the two Contingents.

The Victorians were the mainstay of the British garrison of Tientsin, and were practically the nucleus of the police force of the British Concession, in which the maintenance of good order was of the utmost importance. They also did good service in the field during the Paotingfu Expedition of October last.

The New South Wales Contingent has been more immediately under my eye at Peking, and it has been a source of great satisfaction to me to have had so efficient and reliable a force at Head-Quarters.

Both Contingents have also rendered great assistance by furnishing guards and other ratings for railway service. Indeed, but for that assistance it would have been difficult for us to have taken charge of the railway.

The services of the Commanding Officers have been already acknowledged by me in my despatch to the Secretary of State, and it only remains for me to say how excellent a political effect has been produced by the appearance on so remote a stage as North China of these fine Contingents from the Australian Commonwealth. They have been an object lesson, not only to foreigners, but also to our Indian fellow-subjects, of the patriotism which inspires all parts of the British Empire.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

ALFRED GASELEE,

Lieut.-General Commanding British Contingent, China Field Force.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

6th June, 1901.

10. PROVISIONAL STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Barton moved, pursuant to notice, *as amended*, That until this House shall have adopted Standing Orders on the Report of the Committee appointed to prepare them, the Draft Standing Orders laid on the Table of this House on the 21st ultimo be temporarily adopted, with the omission of the word "twelve" in No. 38, and the substitution thereof of the word "five"; the omission from No. 39 of all words after the words "fifteen minutes"; the omission of No. 62; the omission from No. 63 of the figures "£2 2s.," and the substitution thereof of the figures "£1 1s.;" the omission of No. 129; the omission from No. 211 of the words "fair printed and six copies," and lower down of the words "the Speaker and"; also the insertion in No. 217 of the words "each session" after the word "House" where it first occurs, and the omission therefrom of the words "he ceases to be a Member unless the House shall otherwise direct," and the substitution thereof of the words "his successor is appointed"; and the omission of No. 262.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

11. ACTS INTERPRETATION BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—Mr. Deakin moved, That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

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

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; Mr. Chanter reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that he was directed to move, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.

Resolved—That the House will, on Tuesday next, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

12. COINAGE.—Mr. G. B. Edwards moved, pursuant to notice, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the desirableness and expediency of the Commonwealth coining silver and copper coins, and adopting a decimal system of coinage; such Committee to consist of Mr. P. M. Glynn, Mr. W. H. Groom, Mr. S. Mauger, Mr. F. W. Piesse, Sir John Quick, Mr. D. Thomson, and the Mover, with power to send for persons, papers, and records, and to sit on days on which the House does not meet; five to be the quorum.

Debate ensued.

Mr. V. L. Solomon moved, That the question be amended by inserting after the word "coining," in the second line, the word "gold."

Question, That the word proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Question, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the desirableness and expediency of the Commonwealth coining gold, silver, and copper coins, and adopting a decimal system of coinage; such Committee to consist of Mr. P. M. Glynn, Mr. W. H. Groom, Mr. S. Mauger, Mr. F. W. Piesse, Sir John Quick, Mr. D. Thomson, and the Mover, with power to send for persons, papers, and records, and to sit on days on which the House does not meet; five to be the quorum—put and resolved in the affirmative.

13. CAPITAL CITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH.—Mr. Poynton moved, pursuant to notice, That there be laid before this House a Return showing—

1. The area of acres contained in each of the capital cities of the Commonwealth.
2. The total sum of money received by each of the States for the sale of the Crown lands on which the capital cities are built.
3. The approximate unimproved value of the land of the capital cities of the Commonwealth in December last.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

14. MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members present except—The Treasurer (The Right Honorable Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G.), and Messrs. Brown, Cameron, Clarke, Fisher, Macdonald-Paterson, F. E. McLean, Page, Reid, Savers, E. Solomon, Thomas, and Willis.

15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Barton moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

GEORGE H. JENKINS,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.