

1903.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 15.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, 19TH JUNE, 1903.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. COINAGE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Report of the Select Committee on Commonwealth Coinage brought up, and ordered by this House to be printed, on 4th April, 1902, be now adopted, *and on the amendment* that all the words after "That" be omitted, and the following words inserted in place thereof, viz. :—

"in the opinion of this House any change to decimal coinage by Australia should, in order to confer in any great measure the benefits expected from it, be preceded by its adoption in the United Kingdom, and, if possible, be accompanied by the metric system of weights and measures.

"That in view of the fact that the time has not, in the judgment of the Government of the United Kingdom, arrived for the substitution of the decimal system for the existing coinage, it would not at present be advisable to initiate the system in the Commonwealth"—

having been read—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 19.

Mr. Bamford,	Mr. O'Malley,
Sir Edward	Mr. Paterson,
Braddon,	Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Clarke,	Mr. Spence,
Mr. Conroy,	Mr. Thomson,
Mr. G. B. Edwards,	Mr. Tudor,
Mr. Glynn,	Mr. Wilks.
Mr. Hughes,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Kirwan,	
Mr. Mahon,	Mr. Hume Cook,
Mr. Mauger,	Mr. Fisher.

Noes, 18.

Sir Edmund Barton,	Sir Malcolm
Sir Langdon	McEacharn,
Bonython,	Mr. A. McLean,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Page,
Mr. Cruickshank,	Sir George Turner,
Mr. Deakin,	Mr. Watson,
Sir John Forrest,	Mr. Wilkinson.
Sir Philip Fysh,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Kennedy,	
Mr. Kingston,	Mr. Chapman,
Sir William Lyne,	Mr. L. E. Groom.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

19th June, 1903.

Question—That the Report of the Select Committee on Commonwealth Coinage brought up and ordered by this House to be printed on 4th April, 1902, be now adopted—put.
The House divided—

Ayes, 21.

Mr. Bamford,	Mr. Paterson,
Sir Edward Braddon,	Mr. Poynton,
Mr. Clarke,	Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Conroy,	Mr. Spence,
Mr. Crouch,	Mr. Thomson,
Mr. G. B. Edwards,	Mr. Tudor,
Mr. Glynn,	Mr. Wilks.
Mr. Hughes,	
Mr. Kirwan,	
Mr. Mahon,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Manger,	Mr. Hume Cook,
Mr. O'Malley,	Mr. Fisher.

Noes, 18.

Sir Edmund Barton,	Sir Malcolm
Sir Langdon	McEacharn,
Bonython,	Mr. A. McLean,
Mr. Chanter,	Mr. Page,
Mr. Cruickshank,	Sir George Turner,
Mr. Deakin,	Mr. Watson,
Sir John Forrest,	Mr. Wilkinson.
Sir Philip Fysh,	
Mr. Kennedy,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Kingston,	Mr. Chapman,
Sir William Lyne,	Mr. L. E. Groom.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

3. METRIC SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—Mr. G. B. Edwards moved, pursuant to notice, *amended.*

- (1) That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the metric system of weights and measures should be adopted with the least possible delay for use within the Empire.
- (2) That the most convenient method of attaining the object stated in resolution (1) is the passage of a law by the Imperial Parliament rendering the use of the metric system compulsory for the United Kingdom, and for all other parts of the Empire whose Legislatures have expressed, or may thereafter express, their willingness to adopt that system.
- (3) That these resolutions be communicated by address to His Excellency the Governor-General for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
- (4) That the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the Senate, by Message, with a request for its concurrence therein.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

4. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Edmund Barton moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at thirty-four minutes past two o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Joseph Cook, Mr. Winter Cooke, Mr. R. Edwards*, Mr. Ewing, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Harper, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Knox*, Mr. Macdonald-Paterson*, Mr. Manifold, Mr. McColl, Mr. F. E. McLean, Sir William McMillan, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Reid, Mr. Ronald, Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. E. Solomon, Mr. V. L. Solomon, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. Willis.

* On Leave.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.