

1903.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 34.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH JULY, 1903.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITIONS.—Mr. V. L. Solomon presented three Petitions from certain residents of the town of Kadina and surrounding districts in South Australia, praying that the House will place upon the Estimates a sum sufficient for a new Post and Telegraph Office at Kadina.
Petitions severally received.
Mr. Ewing presented a Petition from certain members of the Christadelphian body, praying that, in the event of any Bill being introduced into the House having for its object the compulsory enlistment of adult males within the Commonwealth as a military force, the religious convictions of all persons opposed to war shall be taken cognisance of, and that such persons be exempted from the provisions of any such Bill.
Petition received and read.
3. EASTERN EXTENSION TELEGRAPH COMPANY—AGREEMENT WITH.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question—
 - (1) That this House ratifies an agreement entered into between the Government of the Commonwealth and the Eastern Extension Company, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 2nd July.
 - (2) That this resolution be communicated to the Senate, with a request for its concurrence therein.

And on the following amendment viz.:—That all the words after the word "House" in line 1 be omitted, and that the following words be inserted in place thereof, viz.:—"is of opinion that the Conference proposed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies between representatives of the various partners in the Pacific Cable should be held before any agreement is arrived at between the Government of the Commonwealth and the Eastern Extension Company"—

having been read—

Debate resumed.

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

Question—

 - (1) That this House ratifies an agreement entered into between the Government of the Commonwealth and the Eastern Extension Company, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 2nd July.
 - (2) That this resolution be communicated to the Senate, with a request for its concurrence therein—

put and resolved in the affirmative.
4. PAPERS.—Sir Edmund Barton presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Mail Contracts—Further correspondence relating to contracts for the Carriage of Mails between Australia and Great Britain *via* Suez.
Sir John Forrest presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Military Forces of the Commonwealth—Scheme of Organization of, into a Field Force (for Inter-State or Commonwealth Defence) and into Garrison Troops (for Local or State Defence).
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

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5. NAVAL AGREEMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the third reading of this Bill having been read—Sir Edmund Barton moved, That the Bill be now read a third time.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative—Bill read a third time.
6. PAPUA (BRITISH NEW GUINEA) BILL.—The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time, having been read—
Debate resumed.
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 ask, That the Committee may have leave to sit again.
Resolved—That the House will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.
7. PAPER.—Sir William Lyne presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Proposed Transcontinental Railway from Kalgoorlie to Port Augusta—Final Report of Engineers-in-Chief with reference to.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
8. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—SUPPLY BILL (No. 2).—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—
- MR. SPEAKER, Message No. 13.
- The Senate has agreed to the Bill returned herewith, intituled "*A 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 four,*" without requests.
- R. C. BAKER,
President.
- The Senate,
Melbourne, 29th July, 1903.
9. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Edmund Barton moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at thirty-eight 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 except—Sir Edward Braddon, Mr. Cameron, Mr. A. C. Groom, Mr. Harper, Mr. Macdonald-Paterson, Mr. McColl, Mr. F. E. McLean, and Mr. Bruce Smith.

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