

1903.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 70.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, 1903.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—DEFENCE BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 24.

The Senate has agreed to the Bill for "*An Act to provide for the Naval and Military Defence and Protection of the Commonwealth and of the several States,*" with the amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, to which it desires the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

The Senate,
Melbourne, 1st October, 1903.

R. C. BAKER,
President.

Ordered—That the consideration of the foregoing Message in Committee of the whole House be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

3. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—NATURALIZATION BILL.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 25.

The Senate has agreed to the amendments made by the House of Representatives in the Bill intituled "*A Bill for An Act relating to Naturalization.*"

The Senate,
Melbourne, 1st October, 1903.

R. C. BAKER,
President.

4. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill having been read—Sir William Lyne moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate ensued.
Mr. Sydney Smith moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
And after debate—
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and negatived.
Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.
Ordered—That the consideration of the Bill in Committee of the whole be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

6th October, 1903.

5. SELECTION OF SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.—Sir William Lyne moved, by leave, That the Standing Orders be suspended to enable certain Resolutions to be moved.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Sir William Lyne accordingly moved—

(1) That, with a view of facilitating the performance of the obligation imposed on the Parliament by Section 125 of the Constitution, this House do on Thursday, 8th October, proceed to determine the opinion of Members as to the place in New South Wales at or near which the seat of government of the Commonwealth should be situated.

(2) That the selection be made from among the places mentioned in the Schedule hereto.

(3) That the following be the method of selection, and that so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the House from adopting such method.

A Preferential Ballot shall be taken without debate in the following manner:—

- (a) Ballot-papers shall be distributed to honorable Members containing the names of the sites mentioned in the Schedule hereto.
- (b) Members shall mark each name with a figure showing the order of their preference for the respective sites, and shall sign the paper.
- (c) The ballot-papers shall then be examined by the Clerk.
- (d) If, on the first examination, any site proves to have received an absolute majority of first preferences, the Speaker shall report the name of such site to the House, and such site shall be deemed to be the one preferred by honorable Members.
- (e) If no site receives an absolute majority of first preferences, then the Clerk shall add together the figures opposite the name of each site respectively on all the ballot-papers, and the name of the site against which the largest total is placed shall be reported to the House and shall be struck out.
- (f) If any two or more of the sites should receive an equal total, such total being the largest sum placed opposite the name of any of the sites, then the Speaker shall ascertain by a show of hands which of such sites should, in the opinion of honorable Members, be further balloted for, and the name of the other, or others, shall be struck out.
- (g) Further ballots shall then be taken on the names of the remaining sites, and the name of the site receiving the largest total in each successive ballot shall be reported to the House and struck out in the manner aforesaid, until one of the sites receives an absolute majority of first preferences.
- (h) When one of the sites has received an absolute majority of the first preferences, the name of such site shall be reported to the House by the Speaker, and such site shall be deemed to be the site preferred by honorable Members.
- (i) The House shall thereupon resolve itself again into a Committee of the Whole on the Bill.

SCHEDULE.

Albury	Lake George
Armidale	Lyndhurst
Bathurst	Orange
Bombala	Tumut.
Dalgety	

Mr. Deakin 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.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at one minute past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow, at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Bamford, Mr. Batchelor, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Cruickshank, Sir Philip Fysh, Mr. Glynn, Mr. A. C. Groom, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kingston, Mr. McCay, Mr. F. E. McLean, Sir William McMillan, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Poynton, Mr. Reid, Mr. V. L. Solomon, and Mr. Watson.

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