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1904.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND PARLIAMENT.

WEDNESDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1904.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, in the City of Melbourne, on Wednesday, the second day of March, in the fourth year of the Reign of His Majesty King Edward the Seventh, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and four.

1. On which day, being the first day of the meeting of The Parliament for the despatch of business, pursuant to a Proclamation (hereinafter set forth), Charles Gavan Duffy, Esquire, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Walter Augustus Gale, Esquire, Clerk Assistant, and Thomas Woollard, Esquire, Serjeant-at-Arms, attending in the House, and the other Clerks attending, according to their duty, the following Proclamation was read at the table by the Clerk :—

PROCLAMATION.

Australia to wit.
(Sgd.) NORTHCOTE,
Governor-General.
(L.S.)

By His Excellency the Right Honorable HENRY STAFFORD, BARON NORTHCOTE, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act it is amongst other things enacted that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit, and also by Proclamation or otherwise may dissolve the House of Representatives : And whereas on the twenty-third day of November, One thousand nine hundred and three, the House of Representatives was dissolved, and the Honorable the Senators were discharged from attendance as from the twenty-fourth day of November of that year : Now, therefore, I, HENRY STAFFORD, BARON NORTHCOTE, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Act, do by this my Proclamation appoint Wednesday, the second day of March proximo, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs. And all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the Building known as the Houses of Parliament, situate in Spring-street, in the City of Melbourne, at the hour of 2.30 o'clock, on the said Wednesday, the second day of March, One thousand nine hundred and four.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid, this eighteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and four, in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

ALFRED DEAKIN.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

2nd March, 1904.

2. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMISSIONER BY THE USHER OF THE SENATE.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Senate :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

The Commissioner appointed by His Excellency the Governor-General requests the immediate attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber to hear his Commission read.

Accordingly the Members of the House of Representatives went to the Senate Chamber, when the Right Honorable Sir Samuel Griffith, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, said :—

“ GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE, GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

His Excellency the Governor-General, not thinking fit to be present in person at this time, has been pleased to cause Letters Patent to issue, under the great Seal of the Commonwealth, constituting his Commissioner, to do in his name all that is necessary to be performed in this Parliament. This will more fully appear from the Letters Patent, which will now be read.”

Then the said Letters Patent were read, and are as follow :—

His Excellency the Right Honorable HENRY STAFFORD, BARON NORTHCOTE, Knight Grand-Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

To the Right Honorable Sir SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Greeting :

WHEREAS by Letters Patent dated the twenty-ninth day of October, One thousand nine hundred, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting the Office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the said Commonwealth, Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon her by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was pleased to authorize and empower the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, subject to any limitations expressed or directions given by her, to appoint any person or persons, jointly or severally, to be his Deputy or Deputies within any part of the Commonwealth, and in that capacity to exercise, during his pleasure, such of his powers and functions as he might deem it necessary to assign to him or them : Provided always that the appointment of such a Deputy or Deputies should not affect the exercise by the Governor-General himself of any power or function :

And whereas by Proclamation dated the eighteenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and four, Wednesday, the second day of March, One thousand nine hundred and four, was appointed as the day for the Parliament of the Commonwealth to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs ; and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives were thereby required to give their attendance accordingly in the Building known as the Houses of Parliament, situate in Spring-street, in the City of Melbourne, at the hour of half-past Two o'clock, on the day and date aforesaid.

Now know you that, in pursuance of the powers and authority vested in me by the Constitution and the said Letters Patent, I, HENRY STAFFORD, BARON NORTHCOTE, the Governor-General aforesaid, do hereby appoint you to be my Deputy for the purpose of declaring open the said Parliament at the time and place aforesaid.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, at Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, this first day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and four, in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign.

NORTHCOTE.

(L.S.)

By His Excellency's Command,

ALFRED DEAKIN.

His Honour the Chief Justice then said :—

“ GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE, GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

I have it in command from the Governor-General to let you know that, as soon as the Members of the Senate recently elected and the Members of the House of Representatives shall have been sworn, the causes of His Excellency's calling this Parliament will be declared to you by him in person in this place ; and it being necessary a President of the Senate and a Speaker of the House of Representatives should be first chosen, you, Gentlemen of the Senate, will proceed to choose some proper person to be your President, and you, Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, will repair to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the choice of some proper person to be your Speaker ; and that thereafter you respectively present such persons, whom you shall so choose, to His Excellency, at such time and place as he shall appoint. I will attend shortly in the House of Representatives for the purpose of taking the oaths and affirmations of honorable Members of that House.”

2nd March, 1904.

And the Members of the House having returned—

3. COMMISSIONER TO ADMINISTER THE OATH TO MEMBERS.—The Right Honorable Sir Samuel Griffith, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, having entered the Chamber and been conducted by the Serjeant-at-Arms to the Chair, handed to the Clerk at the Table a Commission, which was read and is as follows:—

By His Excellency the Right Honorable HENRY STAFFORD, BARON NORTHCOTE, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

To the Right Honorable Sir SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Greeting :

WHEREAS by the forty-second section of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, it is enacted that every Senator and every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution.

Now therefore I, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these presents command and authorize you to attend at Parliament House, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 2nd March, 1904, at 2.30 p.m., there and then to administer the Oath or Affirmation to such Senators as are present and have not already taken and subscribed the same since their election to the Senate, and to Members of the House of Representatives then present.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, at Melbourne, this first day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and four.

NORTHCOTE,
Governor-General.

(L.S.)

By His Excellency's Command,

ALFRED DEAKIN.

4. RETURNS TO WRITS FOR GENERAL ELECTION AND ISSUE OF NEW WRIT FOR WILMOT DIVISION.—The Clerk announced that he had received from the Secretary to the Department of Home Affairs the following letter, which read as follows:—

Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of Home Affairs,
Melbourne, 1st March, 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour, by direction, to forward herewith the 75 Writs for the General Election of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, held on 16th December, 1903.

I have further to inform you that a certificate has been received of the death of Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon, the successful candidate for the Division of Wilmot, in the State of Tasmania, which took place on the 2nd February, at Leith, Tasmania.

A Writ was issued accordingly on 10th February, the date of Nomination was 18th February; and the date of Polling 26th of the same month. The Writ has not yet been returned.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID MILLER,
Secretary.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives, Parliament House, Melbourne.

2nd March, 1904.

By the returns indorsed on the several Writs it appeared that for the several Electoral Divisions of the States the following gentlemen had been elected, as shown hereunder :—

Division.	State.	Name.
Adelaide ..	South Australia ..	The Right Honorable Charles Cameron Kingston, of Marino, King's Counsel and solicitor.
Angas ..	South Australia ..	Patrick McMahon Glynn, of Molesworth-street, North Adelaide, Barrister-at-Law.
Balaclava ..	Victoria ..	George Turner, of "Bovey," Carlisle-street, Saint Kilda, solicitor.
Ballaarat ..	Victoria ..	Alfred Deakin, barrister, Melbourne.
Barker ..	South Australia ..	John Langdon Bonython, newspaper proprietor, Adelaide, S.A.
Barrier ..	New South Wales	Josiah Thomas, miner, Magill, South Australia.
Bass ..	Tasmania ..	David Storrer, furniture warehouseman, St. John-street, Launceston.
Bendigo ..	Victoria ..	John Quick, K.B., LL.D., barrister and solicitor, Hamlet-street, Bendigo.
Bland ..	New South Wales	John Christian Watson, compositor, of Paddington, Sydney.
Boothby ..	South Australia ..	Egerton Lee Batchelor, of Keswick, engine fitter.
Bourke ..	Victoria ..	James Newton Haxton Hume Cook.
Brisbane ..	Queensland ..	Millice Culpin, 276 Wickham-street, Brisbane, surgeon.
Canobolas ..	New South Wales	Thomas Brown, Cluster Farm, Bedgerebong, farmer.
Capricornia ..	Queensland ..	David Alexander Thomson.
Coolgardie ..	Western Australia	Hugh Mahon, journalist, of Coolgardie.
Corangamite ..	Victoria ..	John Gratton Wilson, Koroit-street, Warrnambool, Bachelor of Medicine.
Corinella ..	Victoria ..	James Whiteside McCay, of Campbell-street, Castlemaine, barrister and solicitor.
Corio ..	Victoria ..	Richard Armstrong Crouch.
Cowper ..	New South Wales	Henry William Lee.
Dalley ..	New South Wales	William Henry Wilks.
Darling ..	New South Wales	William Guthrie Spence.
Darling Downs ..	Queensland ..	Littleton Ernest Groom, of "Millbrook," Phillip-street, Toowoomba, Queensland, barrister.
Darwin ..	Tasmania ..	King O'Malley, of Queenstown, in Tasmania, gentleman.
Denison ..	Tasmania ..	Philip Oakley Fysh, Postmaster-General, Hobart.
East Sydney ..	New South Wales	George Houstoun Reid.
Echuca ..	Victoria ..	James Hiers McColl, of Quarry Hill, Bendigo, legal manager.
Eden-Monaro ..	New South Wales	Austin Chapman.
Flinders ..	Victoria ..	James Gibb, farmer, Berwick.
Franklin ..	Tasmania ..	William James McWilliams, of Hobart, in Tasmania, journalist.
Fremantle ..	Western Australia	William Henry Carpenter.
Gippsland ..	Victoria ..	Allan McLean, of "Duart," Beaconsfield-parade, Albert Park.
Grampians ..	Victoria ..	Thomas Skene.
Grey ..	South Australia ..	Alexander Poynton, of Winham-street, Ovingham, S.A., agent.
Gwydir ..	New South Wales	William Webster, of Marrickville, quarryman.
Herbert ..	Queensland ..	Frederick William Bamford, of 28 Ebley-street, Waverley, New South Wales, journalist.
Hindmarsh ..	South Australia ..	James Hutchison, of 105 Beulah-road, Norward, South Australia, journalist.
Hume ..	New South Wales	William John Lyne.
Hunter ..	New South Wales	Frank Liddell, of West Maitland, surgeon.
Illawarra ..	New South Wales	George Warburton Fuller, of Avoca, Dulwich Hill, barrister-at-law.
Indi ..	Victoria ..	Isaac Alfred Isaacs, barrister and solicitor, Melbourne.

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Division.	State.	Name.
Kalgoorlie ..	Western Australia	.. Charles Edward Frazer.
Kennedy ..	Queensland	.. Charles McDonald.
Kooyong ..	Victoria ..	.. William Knox.
Laanecoorie ..	Victoria ..	.. Charles Carty Salmon, of Maryborough, surgeon.
Lang ..	New South Wales	.. William Elliot Johnson, artist, Marrickville.
Macquarie ..	New South Wales	.. Sydney Smith.
Maranoa ..	Queensland	.. James Page, selector, Barcaldine, Queensland.
Melbourne ..	Victoria ..	.. Malcolm Donald McEacharn.
Melbourne Ports ..	Victoria ..	.. Samuel Mauger.
Mernda ..	Victoria ..	.. Robert Harper, merchant, of Melbourne.
Moira ..	Victoria ..	.. Thomas Kennedy, of Cobram, farmer and grazier.
Moreton ..	Queensland	.. James Wilkinson, of Ipswich, journalist.
Newcastle ..	New South Wales	.. David Watkins.
New England ..	New South Wales	.. Edmund Lonsdale.
Northern Melbourne	Victoria ..	.. Henry Bournes Higgins, barrister, "Doona," Malvern.
North Sydney ..	New South Wales	.. Dugald Thomson, merchant, 40 Carrabella-street, North Sydney.
Oxley ..	Queensland	.. Richard Edwards, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane, gentleman.
Parkes ..	New South Wales	.. Bruce Smith, barrister-at-law, 149 Phillip-street, Sydney.
Parramatta ..	New South Wales	.. Joseph Cook, journalist, Marrickville.
Perth ..	Western Australia	.. James MacKinnon Fowler, accountant, of Subiaco, W.A.
Richmond ..	New South Wales	.. Thomas Thomson Ewing, surveyor, Mosman, Sydney.
Riverina ..	New South Wales	.. Robert Officer Blackwood, Heartwood, Deniliquin.
Robertson ..	New South Wales	.. Henry Willis, Mosman, Sydney.
Southern Melbourne	Victoria ..	.. James Black Ronald.
South Sydney ..	New South Wales	.. George Bertrand Edwards.
Swan ..	Western Australia	.. Sir John Forrest.
Wakefield ..	South Australia	.. Frederick William Holder, of Kent Town, journalist.
Wannon ..	Victoria ..	.. Arthur Robinson.
Wentworth ..	New South Wales	.. William Henry Kelly.
Werriwa ..	New South Wales	.. Alfred Hugh Beresford Conroy.
West Sydney ..	New South Wales	.. William Morris Hughes.
Wide Bay ..	Queensland	.. Andrew Fisher, of Maori Lane, Red Hill, Gympie, engine driver.
Wilmot ..	Tasmania	.. Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon, of Leith, in Tasmania, land-owner.
Wimmera ..	Victoria ..	.. Pharez Phillips, of Warracknabeal, farmer.
Yarra ..	Victoria ..	.. Frank Gwynne Tudor, of 44 Stanley-street, Richmond.

5. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Right Honorable C. C. Kingston, P.C.; P. M. Glynn, Esq.; the Right Honorable Sir George Turner, P.C.; the Honorable A. Deakin; Sir J. Langdon Bonython; J. Thomas, Esq.; D. Storrer, Esq.; Sir John Quick; J. C. Watson, Esq.; E. L. Batchelor, Esq.; J. Hume Cook, Esq.; M. Culpin, Esq.; T. Brown, Esq.; David A. Thomson, Esq.; H. Mahon, Esq.; J. Gratton Wilson, Esq.; the Honorable J. W. McCay; R. A. Crouch, Esq.; H. W. Lee, Esq.; W. H. Wilks, Esq.; W. G. Spence, Esq.; L. E. Groom, Esq.; K. O'Malley, Esq.; the Honorable Sir Philip Fysh; the Right Honorable G. H. Reid, P.C.; the Honorable J. H. McColl; the Honorable Austin Chapman; J. Gibb, Esq.; W. J. McWilliams, Esq.; W. H. Carpenter, Esq.; the Honorable A. McLean; T. Skene, Esq.; A. Poynton, Esq.; W. Webster, Esq.; F. W. Bamford, Esq.; J. Hutchison, Esq.; the Honorable Sir William Lyne; F. Liddell, Esq.; G. W. Fuller, Esq.; the Honorable I. A. Isaacs; C. E. Frazer, Esq.; C. McDonald, Esq.; W. Knox, Esq.; the Honorable C. C. Salmon; W. E. Johnson, Esq.; the Honorable Sydney Smith; J. Page, Esq.; Sir Malcolm McEacharn; S. Mauger, Esq.; R. Harper, Esq.; T. Kennedy, Esq.; J. Wilkinson, Esq.; D. Watkins, Esq.; H. B. Higgins, Esq.; Dugald Thomson, Esq.; R. Edwards, Esq.; Joseph Cook, Esq.; J. M. Fowler, Esq.; T. T. Ewing, Esq.; R. O. Blackwood, Esq.; H. Willis, Esq.; J. B. Ronald, Esq.; G. B. Edwards, Esq.; the Right Honorable Sir John Forrest, P.C.; the Honorable Sir Frederick Holder; A. Robinson, Esq.; W. H. Kelly, Esq.; A. H. B. Conroy, Esq.; A. Fisher, Esq.; the Honorable P. Phillips; and F. G. Tudor, Esq., made and subscribed the Oath required by law.

The Commissioner retired.

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6. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—Mr. Deakin, addressing himself to the Clerk (who, standing up, pointed to him, and then sat down), proposed to the House for its Speaker the Honorable Sir Frederick William Holder, K.C.M.G., and moved, That Sir Frederick Holder do take the Chair of the House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by the Right Honorable G. H. Reid, P.C., and supported by Mr. Watson. And Mr. Mahon having referred to a constitutional question in regard to the seat of the gentleman proposed as Speaker—

The House having called Sir Frederick Holder to the Chair, he stood up in his place, and submitted himself to the House.

The House then again unanimously calling Sir Frederick Holder to the Chair, he was taken out of his place by Mr. Deakin and Mr. Reid, and conducted to the Chair, where he returned his humble acknowledgments to the House for the great honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by unanimously choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon he sat down in the Chair; and then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Then Mr. Deakin, Mr. Reid, and Mr. Watson congratulated Mr. Speaker.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Deakin stated that he had already ascertained that it would be His Excellency's pleasure to receive the Speaker in the Library of the Parliament, this day, at half-past four o'clock.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency; and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported that the House this day proceeded to the Library of the Parliament, and that he presented himself to His Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives, and that His Excellency was pleased to congratulate him upon his election.

8. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE SENATE.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

His Excellency the Governor-General desires the attendance of the House of Representatives in the Chamber of the Senate forthwith.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency:—And having returned—

9. COMMONWEALTH CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BILL.—Mr. Deakin moved, by leave, That leave be given to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to Conciliation and Arbitration for the Prevention and Settlement of Industrial Disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Deakin then brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to Conciliation and Arbitration for the Prevention and Settlement of Industrial Disputes extending beyond the Limits of any one State,*" and moved, That it be now read a first time.

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

And, after debate—

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

10. THE LATE SIR EDWARD BRADDON—VOTE OF CONDOLENCE.—Mr. Deakin moved, by leave,—

That this House desires to record its profound regret at the loss which the Commonwealth suffers in the death of the Right Honorable Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon, P.C., K.C.M.G., Member of the House of Representatives, and expresses its sincere condolence with his widow and the members of his family in their bereavement.

That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey the foregoing resolution to Lady Braddon.

Mr. Reid and Mr. Watson having addressed the House in support of the motion,

Question, put and resolved in the affirmative.

11. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had this day attended His Excellency the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which read as follows:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. It affords me extreme gratification, on this my first meeting with the Parliament of the Commonwealth, to congratulate you upon the passing of the severe drought which has occasioned grievous losses to all classes of the community.

2. You will have learned, with regret, that a state of war has arisen between the Empire of Russia and the Empire of Japan. The neutrality of Great Britain has been proclaimed, and will, it is hoped, be maintained.

3. My Advisers have had under consideration the provisions of the Constitution for taking over the Public Debts of the States and the compensation to be made for transferred properties. A discussion by a Conference of State Treasurers, under the presidency of the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, has produced a much better understanding of the difficulties surrounding these subjects, and a further meeting is proposed, when it is hoped that some mutually satisfactory arrangement will be attained.

4. The re-adjustment of Federal and State Finances contemplated in such an arrangement will, it is hoped, present an opportunity for the adoption of an uniform system of Old-age Pensions throughout the Commonwealth.

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5. The reaping of bountiful harvests over the greater part of the Commonwealth revives the problem of insuring to the agriculturist a return which will repay his labours, and encourage increased efforts. The Preferential Trade proposals now engaging the attention of the people of Great Britain will, if approved, secure to us an immense and reliable market. My Advisers are pleased to note the cordiality with which these are generally regarded in this country, and are confident that the feeling will be strengthened when the statesman who is their author is able to visit us.

6. With a view to giving assistance wherever possible to those engaged in the cultivation of the soil, and as a preliminary to the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, you will be invited to consider the best means of assisting the farmer, by bounties and otherwise, to grow new crops and find new markets. Speedier and cheaper transportation to the large centres of population of meat, butter, and fruit, under improved conditions, is much to be desired.

7. In view of the vast undeveloped resources of this Continent, and the small increase in our numbers from oversea, My Advisers consider it a matter of urgency to attract the population needed to enable the Commonwealth to maintain her great and responsible position in these seas. The State Governments, as represented at the Treasurers' Conference, have been addressed upon this subject in the hope that united and effective means may be devised for securing desirable European immigrants.

8. The interests of the Commonwealth in London have hitherto been temporarily in the charge of the Agents-General of the States. You will be invited to make provision for the appointment of a High Commissioner, whose supervision of all matters of Australian concern will include the duty of directing public attention to the resources of the States, and their advantages as fields for settlement.

9. You will be asked to deal with the Bill, introduced last Session and partly discussed, having for its object the establishment of Courts of Conciliation and Arbitration for the settlement of disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State.

10. A Bill relating to Navigation and Shipping will be submitted to you specially providing for the regulation of our coasting trade.

11. The Royal Commission appointed to consider the advisability of encouraging the establishment of iron and steel works has furnished its report, which will be laid before you, and you will be invited to give it effect.

12. No acceptable tender for the carriage of mails and perishable produce upon vessels manned with white seamen having been received, the whole question of subsidies for these purposes, and of the postal and other services rendered, is now under review.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

13. The revenue derived from Customs and Excise has been equal to anticipations. As the incidence of duties under the Tariff contemplates the substitution of Australian for imported goods, no considerable expansion of such receipts, under normal conditions, is to be expected.

14. The estimates of expenditure will be framed with economy, having due regard to the magnitude and importance of the interests under your control.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

15. My Advisers readily associated themselves with the Government of New Zealand in communicating a friendly warning, based upon Australian experience, to the Transvaal Government, on the subject of a proposed ordinance authorizing the introduction of Chinese to work in the mines of that colony. This, together with the reply, will be laid before you.

16. The selection of a Site for the Federal Capital was considerably advanced by the discussion and votes of the last Parliament. A contour survey has been ordered, and is in progress in the Tumut and Bombala districts. An early and final settlement of this question is very necessary.

17. The Defence Act has been proclaimed, and Regulations under it approved. The forces of the Commonwealth are now subject to but one Act, and one code of Regulations, insuring their effective organization.

18. The operation of the Sugar Bounty Act has fostered the employment of white labour, so that the number of growers taking advantage of it is steadily increasing.

19. A Conference of representatives of the Governments interested in the Pacific Cable will shortly be held in London for the purpose of considering its financial management, and the provisional agreement entered into between the Government of the Commonwealth and the Eastern Extension Telegraphic Company.

20. The removal of vexatious restrictions upon commercial intercourse between the States of the Commonwealth has received attention. It is hoped that Inter-States certificates upon the transfer of goods between New South Wales and Victoria will soon be dispensed with, or at least greatly modified.

21. The consent of the Parliament of Western Australia has been given, and that of the Government of South Australia sought, for the construction of a railway to connect Western Australia with the Eastern States, and you will be asked to make provision by Bill for a survey of the line.

22. A Bill will be submitted creating an Inter-State Commission to carry out the provisions of the Constitution relating to trade and commerce.

23. It is intended to introduce a short Bill enabling the Executive of the Commonwealth to assume direct control of the administration of New Guinea. A comprehensive measure will be framed, when inquiries, now being locally made, are completed.

24. The improved steam-ship service to the New Hebrides and the Gilbert and Ellice groups of Islands has resulted in some increase of settlement by British subjects, but, in order to keep pace with trade developments in the Western Pacific, a considerable addition to present means of communication is required, and an adequate scheme will be laid before you.

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25. It is intended to examine the experience gained in the recent elections with a view to an amendment of the Electoral Act.
26. Bills to regulate Copyright; relating to Trade Marks and to Merchandise Marks—all three complementary to the Patents Act passed last year; and Bills dealing with Rings and Trusts, with the Federal Control of Quarantine, and of Light-houses, Beacons, and Buoys, will be placed before you.
27. Under Divine guidance, I trust that the discharge of your high and honorable duties may promote the welfare of the people of Australia.
12. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Deakin moved, That a Committee, consisting of Sir Langdon Bonython, Mr. Mauger, Sir Malcolm McEacharn, and Mr. Storrer, be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Ordered—That the Committee do report this day.
13. PAPERS.—Sir William Lyne presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Bonuses for Manufactures Bill—Report of the Royal Commission; together with the Proceedings, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendices.
Sir John Forrest presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
General Election, 16th December, 1903—Commonwealth of Australia—Statistics relating to.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
Sir George Turner presented, pursuant to the direction of an Act of Parliament—
Audit Act 1901.—Transfers of Amounts approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council—
Financial year 1902-3.
Financial year 1903-4.
Sir William Lyne presented, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament—
Excise Act 1901.—Regulations for the Conduct of Inquiries.
Patents Act 1903.—Provisional Regulations.
Mr. Chapman presented, pursuant to the direction of an Act of Parliament—
Defence Act 1903—
Military Forces—
Regulations and Orders.
Financial and Allowance Regulations.
Naval Forces—
Regulations.
Financial and Allowance Regulations.
Sir John Forrest presented, pursuant to the direction of an Act of Parliament—
Public Service Act 1902.—Amendment of Regulations—
No. 199—Repeal of, and substitution of New Regulation—Applicants for Telegraph Messengerships. (Dated 22nd October, 1903.)
No. 188 (b)—Repeal of, and substitution of New Regulations—Contributions to Superannuation Account. (Dated 10th November, 1903.)
No. 86—Repeal of, and substitution of New Regulations—Extra and Accumulated Leave. (Dated 28th November, 1903.)
No. 121—Amendment of—Temporary Employment. (Dated 28th November, 1903.)
No. 128—Repeal of, and substitution of New Regulation—Temporary Employment. (Dated 28th November, 1903.)
No. 22—Amendment of—Officers under Suspension. (Dated 3rd December, 1903.)
No. 154—Amendment of—General Allowances. (Dated 3rd December, 1903.)
No. 155.—Further Amendment of—Allowances to certain Officers. (Dated 17th December, 1903.)
No. 66—Repeal of, and substitution of New Regulations—Payment for Sunday Work. (Dated 22nd December, 1903.)
No. 149—Repeal of, and substitution of New Regulation—Travelling Allowances. (Dated 22nd December, 1903.)
Nos. 227 and 228—Amendment of—Registration and Appointment.
14. ELECTION PETITIONS.—The Clerk laid upon the Table copies of Election Petitions against the return of certain Members, which he had received from the High Court, under section 202 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, viz. :—

Name of Petitioner.	Electoral Division and Stato.	Name of Member returned.	Date when gazetted in Commonwealth Gazette.
John Moore Chanter ..	Riverina, New South Wales	Robert Officer Blackwood	6th February, 1904
William Maloney ..	Melbourne, Victoria ..	Sir Malcolm Donald McEacharn	13th February, 1904
Maximilian Hirsch ..	Wimmera, Victoria ..	Pharez Phillips ..	13th February, 1904

2nd March, 1904.

15. ORDER OF GENERAL BUSINESS.—Mr. Deakin moved, by leave, That on Friday in each week, until otherwise ordered, General Business shall be called on in the following order, viz. :—
- On one Friday—
Notices of Motion.
Orders of the Day.
- On the alternate Friday—
Orders of the Day.
Notices of Motion.
- Debate ensued.
Mr. Watkins 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.
16. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Mr. Deakin moved, by leave, That Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Kingston, Mr. McCay, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McLean, and Mr. Reid be Members of the Standing Orders Committee; three to form a quorum.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
17. LIBRARY COMMITTEE.—Mr. Deakin moved, by leave, That Mr. Speaker, Sir Langdon Bonython, Mr. Glynn, Mr. Groom, Mr. Isaacs, Mr. Bruce Smith, and Mr. Spence be Members of the Library Committee; three to form a quorum.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
18. HOUSE COMMITTEE.—Mr. Deakin moved, by leave, That Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Knox, Sir Malcolm McEacharn, Mr. Page, Mr. Dugald Thomson, and Mr. Salmon be Members of the House Committee; three to form a quorum.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
19. PRINTING COMMITTEE.—Mr. Deakin moved, by leave, That Mr. Ewing, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Harper, Mr. Mahon, Mr. Poynton, Sir John Quick, and Mr. Watkins be Members of the Printing Committee; three to form a quorum.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
20. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Mauger brought up the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech prepared by the Committee appointed this day, and the same was read by the Clerk, as follows :—
- MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—
- We, the House of Representatives of The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.
- Mr. Mauger moved, That the Address be agreed to by the House.
Mr. Storrer seconded the motion.
Mr. Reid 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.
21. PAPER.—Mr. Deakin, for Sir George Turner, presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Treasurers' Conference, 5th February to 12th February, 1904.—States' Debts, Transferred Properties, Immigration, &c.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
22. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Deakin moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow, at half-past two o'clock p.m.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
Mr. Deakin moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.
- And then the House, at twenty minutes past six o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow, at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Hughes, Mr. Lonsdale, and Mr. Bruce Smith.

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