

1904.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 25.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 26TH MAY, 1904.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—Mr. Batchelor presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Postmaster-General's Department.—Woolloongabba Post Office—Papers *re* proposed erection of new building for.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
Mr. Watson 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 1903-4 (dated 23rd May, 1904).
3. FLAG OF THE COMMONWEALTH.—Mr. Crouch moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, the Australian flag, as officially selected, should be flown upon all forts, vessels, saluting places, and public buildings of the Commonwealth upon all occasions when flags are used.
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 Thursday next.
4. LEGISLATION *re* COMMONWEALTH COINAGE AND CURRENCY.—Mr. G. B. Edwards moved, pursuant to notice, That, in the opinion of this House, the Attorney-General should introduce the necessary legislation to give effect to the recommendations contained in the report of a Select Committee on Commonwealth Coinage and Currency, adopted by the House on 19th June, 1903.
Mr. Batchelor 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 Thursday, 9th June next.
5. KING ISLAND MAIL SERVICE.—Mr. O'Malley moved, pursuant to notice, That, in view of the enormous increase of the population of King Island and the magnitude of its agricultural and commercial importance (the island lying midway between the States of Victoria and Tasmania), in the opinion of this House the Postmaster-General should make arrangements with the Union Steamship Company for its steamer plying between Melbourne and Strahan, Tasmania, to call at King Island, and to stay there long enough to deliver the mails at Currie Harbor or Sea Elephant Bay.
Debate ensued.
Sir William Lyne moved, That the question be amended as follows, viz. :—
Line 4, after "should" insert "endeavour to"; line 4, after "make" insert "better"; lines 4 to 6, omit "with the Union Steamship Company for its steamer plying between Melbourne and Strahan, Tasmania, to call at King Island, and to stay there long enough to deliver", and insert in place thereof "for the landing of".
Debate continued.
And the proposed amendments having been agreed to—
Question—That, in view of the enormous increase of the population of King Island and the magnitude of its agricultural and commercial importance (the island lying midway between the States of Victoria and Tasmania), in the opinion of this House the Postmaster-General should endeavour to make better arrangements for the landing of the mails at Currie Harbor or Sea Elephant Bay—put and resolved in the affirmative.

26th May, 1904.

6. GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING AND STATE COMMANDANTS—TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF.—Mr. Maloney moved, pursuant to notice, That a Return be laid upon the Table of the House, showing—

- (1) What sum per diem is drawn by Major-General Hutton as travelling allowance when he is absent from Melbourne.
- (2) How many days Major-General Hutton was absent on his recent visit to Tasmania.
- (3) What sum was paid to, or applied for by, Major-General Hutton as travelling expenses in respect of the visit in question to Tasmania.
- (4) How many days Major-General Hutton was absent from Melbourne on his Easter visit to New South Wales.
- (5) What sum was paid to, or applied for by, Major-General Hutton as travelling expenses in respect of the visit in question to New South Wales.
- (6) What was the total sum paid to, or applied for by, Major-General Hutton as travelling expenses in 1902.
- (7) The same information for 1903.
- (8) The same information for 1904.
- (9) The sums paid or applied for as travelling expenses of Major-General Hutton's aide-de-camp for each of the years 1902, 1903, and 1904.
- (10) The sum paid or applied for as travelling expenses for Major-General Hutton's private secretary for each of the years 1902, 1903, and 1904.
- (11) Whether Major-General Hutton travelled with an orderly.
- (12) If so, what was the sum annually paid for his travelling expenses.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Poynton moved, That the question be amended by the addition of the following paragraph, viz. :—

“(13) Similar information regarding the travelling expenses of each of the six State Commandants for 1902 and 1903.”

Debate continued.

Question—That the paragraph proposed to be added be so added—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the original question, as so amended, was put and resolved in the affirmative.

7. MEMBERS OF FIRST PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.—TITLE OF “HONORABLE.”—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 23rd March, 1904, regarding the use of the title of “Honorable” by Members of the First Parliament of the Commonwealth, be printed (on which motion the Ministerial Statement of the Government Policy was made)—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 23rd March, 1904, regarding the use of the title of “Honorable” by Members of the First Parliament of the Commonwealth, be printed—put and resolved in the affirmative.

8. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Watson moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Watson moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at eight minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until Tuesday next at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Joseph Cook, Mr. Kingston, Mr. McColl, and Sir George Turner.

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