

1904.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 54.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, 26TH JULY, 1904.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time, *and on the amendment proposed thereto, viz.:*—“That all the words after the word ‘That’ be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—‘in the opinion of this House it is inexpedient that a selection of the site for the Federal Capital be proceeded with at the present time, and that, with a view to securing greater freedom of choice in the future, steps should be taken to alter the Constitution by striking out the words ‘and be distant not less than one hundred miles from Sydney’ in the 125th section of the Constitution, and to add the words ‘or Sydney’ after ‘Melbourne’ in the same section.’”

Debate resumed.

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

The House divided—

Ayes, 46.

Mr. Bamford,	Mr. Maloney,
Mr. Batchelor,	Mr. Mauger,
Sir Langdon	Mr. McCay,
Bonython,	Mr. McColl,
Mr. Brown,	Mr. McDonald,
Mr. Chapman,	Mr. McLean,
Mr. Hume Cook,	Mr. Page,
Mr. Joseph Cook,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Crouch,	Mr. Ronald,
Mr. Deakin,	Mr. Skene,
Mr. G. B. Edwards,	Mr. Spence,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Storrer,
Sir John Forrest,	Mr. David Thomson,
Mr. Fuller,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Sir Philip Fysh,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Groom,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Higgins,	Mr. Webster,
Mr. Johnson,	Mr. Wilkinson,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Kingston,	Mr. Willis.
Mr. Knox,	
Mr. Lee,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Liddell,	
Sir William Lyne,	Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Mahon,	Mr. Tudor.

Noes, 3.

Mr. Gibb.

*Tellers.*Mr. Robinson,
Mr. Wilson.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

26th July, 1904.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Batchelor moved, pursuant to notice—

(1) That this House do at its next sitting proceed to determine the opinion of Members as to the district in New South Wales in which the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth should be situated.

(2) That the selection be made from among the districts 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:—

An open exhaustive 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 place a cross opposite the name of the site for which they desire to vote, 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 votes, 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 votes, then the name of the site receiving the smallest number of votes shall be reported to the House and shall be struck out.
- (f) If any two of the sites should receive an equal number of votes, such number of votes being the smallest, then the House shall ascertain in the customary manner which of such sites should, in the opinion of honorable Members, be further balloted for, and the name of the other shall be struck out.
- (g) A further ballot shall then be taken on the names of the remaining sites, and the name of the site receiving the majority of votes shall be reported to the House by the Speaker, and such site shall be deemed to be the site preferred by honorable Members.
- (h) The total number of votes given for each site shall be reported to the House after each ballot.
- (i) The House shall thereupon resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on the Bill.

SCHEDULE.

Southern District.
South-Eastern District.
Western District.

Mr. McCay moved the following amendment, viz:—

Omit paragraph (b) and insert in lieu thereof—

- (b) Members shall number the sites in order of preference, numbering their first preference 1, their second preference 2, and so on.

Debate ensued.

Question—That paragraph (b) proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 33.

Mr. Bamford,	Mr. Reid,
Mr. Batchelor,	Mr. Robinson,
Mr. Brown,	Mr. Spence,
Mr. Carpenter,	Mr. Storrer,
Mr. Joseph Cook,	Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Culpin,	Mr. David Thomson,
Sir John Forrest,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Mr. Frazer,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Fuller,	Mr. Watson,
Sir Philip Fysh,	Mr. Webster,
Mr. Groom,	Mr. Wilkinson,
Mr. Johnson,	Mr. Willis,
Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Liddell,	
Mr. Mahon,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Maloney,	
Mr. McDonald,	Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. O'Malley,	Mr. Wilks.

Noes, 13.

Mr. Chapman,	Mr. Ronald,
Mr. G. B. Edwards,	Mr. Salmon,
Mr. Ewing,	Mr. Skene.
Mr. Kingston,	
Mr. Knox,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Lee,	
Sir William Lyne,	Mr. Hume Cook,
Mr. McLean,	Mr. McCay.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Webster moved, as an amendment, That in the Schedule after the words "Southern District," the following words be inserted, viz., "(comprising an area of land within a radius of 50 miles from Batlow)".

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be inserted be so inserted—put.

26th July, 1904.

The House divided—

Ayes, 26.		Noes, 20.	
Mr. Carpenter,	Mr. Salmon,	Mr. Bamford,	Mr. Robinson,
Mr. Hume Cook,	Mr. Skene,	Mr. Batchelor,	Mr. Sydney Smith,
Mr. Culpin,	Mr. Spence,	Mr. Brown,	Mr. Dugald Thomson,
Sir John Forrest,	Mr. Storrer,	Mr. G. B. Edwards,	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Frazer,	Mr. Thomas,	Mr. Fuller,	Mr. Willis,
Sir Philip Fysh,	Mr. David Thomson,	Mr. Gibb,	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Knox,	Mr. Tudor,	Mr. Higgins,	
Sir William Lyne,	Mr. Watkins,	Mr. Johnson,	
Mr. Maloney,	Mr. Webster.	Mr. Kelly,	<i>Tellers.</i>
Mr. Mauger,		Mr. Liddell,	
Mr. McDonald,		Mr. Mahon,	Mr. Joseph Cook,
Mr. McLean,	<i>Tellers.</i>	Mr. Reid,	Mr. Wilks.
Mr. O'Malley,			
Mr. Page,	Mr. Chapman,		
Mr. Ronald,	Mr. Groom.		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of Mr. Webster, the House agreed to the following further amendment in the Schedule, viz., after "South-Eastern District" insert "(comprising an area of land within a radius of 50 miles from Bombala)".

Mr. Webster moved, as a further amendment, That in the Schedule after the words "Western District" the following words be added, viz., "(comprising an area of land within a radius of 50 miles from Lyndhurst)".

Mr. Brown moved, That the proposed amendment be amended by omitting "Lyndhurst" and inserting "Orange" in place thereof.

Debate continued.

Question—That the word "Lyndhurst" proposed to be omitted, stand part of the proposed amendment—put and resolved in the affirmative.

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

Question—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to—put.

Mr. Watson 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 upon the procedure for ballot, and the consideration of the Bill in Committee, be made Orders of the Day for to-morrow.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House at twenty-seven 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—Mr. Cameron, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Conroy, Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Glynn, Mr. Harper, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Isaacs, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. McWilliams, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Poynton, Sir John Quick, Mr. Bruce Smith, and Sir George Turner.

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