

1904.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

No. 118.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 1904.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITIONS.—Mr. Wilks presented a Petition from certain persons styling themselves Ship-owners and Shipping Agents of the Port of Melbourne, engaged in the oversea carrying trade, against the responsibilities thrown upon them by the Sea-Carriage of Goods Bill, and praying that existing contracts, extending over the next two years, be respected to the full limit, and legislation delayed pending further investigation of the whole matter.
Petition received.
Mr. Kelly presented a Petition from certain persons styling themselves Merchants, Ship-owners, Shipping and Insurance Agents, carrying on business in Sydney and elsewhere in New South Wales, praying that the House will reject the Sea-Carriage of Goods Bill, and also praying that if the Bill is passed into law the House will amend it so as to secure the exemption of existing contracts, and, in addition, provide that the Petitioners may be allowed a reasonable time to make all necessary adjustments before the Bill comes into operation.
Petition received and read.
3. PREFERENTIAL TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM] AND THE COLONIES.—Mr. Deakin moved, pursuant to notice—

Inasmuch as every increase in trade between the Mother Country and the Colonies or any of them would be of mutual advantage commercially, while collectively, by multiplying their production, profitable employment, population, and exchanges, such increases must enhance the unity and power of the Empire, this House resolves that—

- (1) The encouragement of industry and commerce within the Empire is a high national aim of paramount importance to all its peoples.
- (2) The proposals of the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the Colonial Conference of 1902, as then approved and since tentatively defined in order to foster inter-Imperial trade, outline a patriotic and statesman-like policy of internal development and external influence, whose details should be discussed by a further Conference at the earliest opportunity.
- (3) The Prime Minister be requested to consider the existing openings for preferential trade relations between Australia and other colonies.
- (4) The Prime Minister be invited to obtain all data necessary for the preparation of a measure granting a preference to British imports into Australia which compete solely with imports from foreign countries.
- (5) The Prime Minister is hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Commonwealth to offer to the Government of the United Kingdom a preference upon its exports to Australia in return for a preference upon our exports to Great Britain and Ireland, such preferences to be reciprocally adjusted according to Schedules sanctioned by Parliament.

Two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the speech of the honorable Member was interrupted in accordance with Standing Order No. 119, but he was, by leave of the House, allowed to continue his speech.

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Mr. Reid moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

And after debate—

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And after debate—

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

4. APPROPRIATION BILL 1904-5.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading of this Bill—Mr. Reid moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

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. Salmon reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill and had agreed to the same without amendment.

On the motion of Mr. Reid, the House adopted the Report.

Mr. Reid moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Isaacs moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

And after debate—

Motion for the adjournment of the debate, by leave, withdrawn.

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

5. SEA-CARRIAGE OF GOODS BILL.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading of this Bill—Mr. Reid moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Joseph Cook 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 Tuesday next.

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

Question—put and resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House at twenty-one minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present except—Mr. Cameron, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Culpin, Sir Philip Fysh, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kingston, Mr. Page, Mr. Storrer, and Sir George Turner.

C. GAVAN DUFFY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.