

1903.  
NEW ZEALAND.

# STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

(REPORT OF THE).

*Brought up in the House of Representatives, Tuesday, 25th August, 1903, and ordered to be printed.*

## ORDER OF REFERENCE.

*Extract from the Journals of the House of Representatives.*

THURSDAY, THE 2ND DAY OF JULY, 1903.

*Ordered, "That a Standing Orders Committee, consisting of ten members, be appointed; three to be a quorum: the Committee to consist of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fisher, Mr. W. Fraser, Mr. Graham, Mr. Massey, Mr. Millar, Mr. McNab, Sir W. R. Russell, Hon. Sir W. J. Steward, and the Mover."—(Rt. Hon. R. J. SEDDON.)*

THE Standing Orders Committee recommend that the following alterations be made in the Standing Orders of the House:—

15A. New Standing Order: In case of an equality of votes in any division connected with the election of a Speaker, the Question shall be decided by the taking of a ballot or ballots.

26. To be amended as follows: Whenever the House shall be informed by the Clerk at the Table of the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees is to perform the duties and exercise the authority of Speaker in relation to all proceedings of the House, as Deputy Speaker, until the next meeting of the House, and so on from day to day, on the like information being given to the House, until the House shall otherwise order; provided that if the House shall adjourn for more than twenty-four hours the Deputy Speaker shall continue to perform the duties and exercise the authority of Speaker for twenty-four hours only after such adjournment. *The Chairman of Committees may at any time during the sitting of the House, at the request of Mr. Speaker, take the chair as Deputy Speaker without any formal communication to the House.*

53 and 54. Transfer to page 18, before Standing Order 78.

55. To be amended as follows: No Order of the Day or Notice of Motion shall be called on after Twelve o'clock at night. The Speaker or Chairman of Committees shall leave the chair at Twelve o'clock on Saturday night, and no sitting of the House shall take place between Twelve o'clock on Saturday night and ~~One Half-past Two~~ *One Half-past Two* o'clock on Monday ~~morning~~ *afternoon*.

56. To be amended as follows: The House can only be adjourned by its own Resolution, except in the cases mentioned in ~~the~~ *Standing Orders 45, 48, and 50, and 55, or where after the Question of the Adjournment of the House has been negatived and there is no further business that can be transacted under the Standing Orders, when Mr. Speaker adjourns the House without putting any Question.*

57 and 58. Transfer to Miscellaneous, page 80, after No. 432.

72A. New Standing Order: Notices of Motion placed by Government before Orders of the Day continue to be dealt with at 7.30 p.m. on Government days, provided that notice extending over two clear days has been given, specifying the hour when the Motion is to be made, and the intention to continue the debate at 7.30 p.m.

73. To be amended as follows: The Orders of the Day ~~are to~~ *shall* be disposed of in the order in which they stand upon the Paper, the right being reserved to Ministers of placing Government Orders or Government Motions at the head of the list, in the rotation in which they are to be taken, on the days (~~Tuesdays and Fridays~~) on which Government business has precedence; but such business, if not disposed of on those days, shall revert to that position on the Order Paper which it would have occupied if it had not been advanced as Government business.

74. To be amended as follows: Private Members' Motions and Bills shall take precedence of all Government Orders, and Orders in charge of Members of the Government, on Wednesdays throughout the session, *unless otherwise ordered by resolution of the House.*

75. To be amended as follows: For the first ~~six~~ *ten* weeks of the Session there shall be no Questions on the Order Paper for Thursday, and Local Bills shall have precedence on that day until they are disposed of, after which private Members' Public Bills shall be dealt with. At the expiration of ~~such six~~ *such ten* weeks Government business *shall* take precedence on Thursdays.

*(Amendment to 75 not to come into operation until next Session.)*

77. To be amended as follows: All dropped Orders of the Day ~~are to~~ *shall* be set down ~~in~~ *on* the Order-~~book~~ *Paper* after the Orders of the Day for the next day on which the House ~~shall~~ *sits*. Standing Orders 382 and 383 to be transferred to page 18, after No. 77.

78. To be amended as follows : The House *shall* proceed each day with business in the following order : 1. Private business ; 2. Public Petitions ; 3. Giving Notices of Motion and Notices of Questions ; 4. ~~Presentation of Papers~~ *Unopposed Motions for Returns* ; 5. Motions for Leave of Absence ; 6. ~~Unopposed Motions for Returns~~ *Leave to introduce Bills* ; 7. ~~Leave to introduce Bills~~ *Presentation of Papers* ; 8. Reports of Select Committees and *resumption of debates on Reports on Bills by Select Committees interrupted by the adjournment of the House at half after five o'clock on the previous day* ; 9. Questions ; 10. Orders of the Day and Notices of Motion, in the order in which they are set down ~~in~~ on the Order Paper.

78A. New Standing Order : When the Government signifies that a Motion for a Return is unopposed; the Speaker shall put the Motion to the House, unless six Members stand up in their places to signify that it is opposed.

80. To be amended as follows : *Except on Thursdays, of the first ten weeks of the Session,* before the public business is entered upon, Questions are permitted to be put to Ministers of the Crown relating to public affairs, and to other Members relating to any Bill, Motion, or other public matter connected with the business of the House in which such Members may be concerned.

*(Amendment to 80 not to come into operation until next Session.)*

Standing Order 83 to be transferred to page 23, to precede No. 104.

83A. New Standing Order : Questions and Notices of Motion shall have priority on the Order Paper in order of date upon which the notice of such Question or Motion was given, and shall be answered and moved in such order ; and, as regards Questions, shall be answered by the Minister to whom they are addressed, as grouped.

*(Not to apply to notices already given.)*

84. To be amended as follows : Every Member, in giving Notice of Motion or Question, ~~is~~ shall, at the time fixed under Standing Order 78, ~~to~~ deliver at the Table a copy of such Notice, fairly written, together with his name, and the day proposed for bringing on ~~such~~ the Motion or Question, without reading it vivâ voce in the House, unless the consent of the Speaker has been previously obtained.

88. To be amended as follows : No Notice ~~may~~ shall be given for any day beyond the period which ~~shall include the four days next following on which Notices are entitled to precedence two weeks, due allowance being made for any intervening adjournment of the House, and the period being in that case so far extended as to include four Notice days falling during the sitting of the House.~~

103. To be amended as follows : No Member shall speak for more than half an hour at a time in any Debate in the House, except in the Debate on the Address in Reply, or on the Financial Statement, or in a Debate on a Motion of "No Confidence," or in moving the second reading of a Bill, or on the Debate on the Appropriation Bill, when a Member shall be at liberty to speak for one hour. In Committee of the House no Member shall speak for more than ~~ten~~ five minutes at any one time, or more than four times on any one Question before the Committee, *except in Committee of Supply, when a Member speaking to the first vote, or any amendment thereto, of the General, Public Works, or Supplementary Estimates shall be allowed four speeches of not more than ten minutes each* : Provided that this rule shall not apply in Committee to a Member in charge of a Bill, or to a Minister when delivering the Financial Statement in Committee of Supply, or, in regard to the number of his speeches, to a Minister in charge of a Class of the Estimates in Committee of Supply.

Standing Order 83 to be transferred from page 23 to precede 104.

104. To be amended as follows : The Adjournment of the House may be moved at any time after the Questions are disposed of, *whether by reply or by postponement*, but the Debate on such Motion must be confined strictly to the Question of Adjournment, unless Seven Members rise in support thereof, and then any ~~specific questions alluded to in replies of Ministers to Questions on that day~~ subject may be discussed, *except the provisions of any Bill or Motion on the Order Paper. When the Adjournment of the House is moved upon a Question before the House, the Debate on the Adjournment must be confined to that Question or to reasons for or against the Adjournment.*

106. To be amended as follows : No second Motion for the Adjournment of the House shall be made on the same day, save by a Minister of the Crown, or by a Member supported by at least Nine other Members rising in their places in support of the Motion, *and then the Debate shall be confined solely to the Question of Adjournment.*

111A. New Standing Order : After a Question has been proposed, either in the House or in Committee, a Member may move, without debate, "That the vote be now taken," and if ten or more Members (including the Mover) rise in support of such Motion, and Mr. Speaker or the Chairman of the whole House considers that the Motion is reasonable, it shall thereupon be put from the Chair, and if it is affirmed by two-thirds of the Members present, then the vote on the original Question shall be forthwith taken.

150A. New Standing Order : Mr. Speaker or the Chairman of Committees may order a Member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of that day's sitting, and the Serjeant-at-Arms shall act on such orders as he may receive from the Chair in pursuance of this Standing Order.

152. To be amended as follows : If a Motion for the Adjournment of the Debate ~~be~~ is negatived, it ~~can~~ may be moved again by another Member, at a later stage of the same Debate, ~~provided some other motion shall have intervened~~; *by another Member supported by at least nine other Members, who signify their support by rising in their places ; but cannot it shall not be moved, or seconded, a second time by the same a Members who has previously proposed or seconded the Motion for Adjournment it.*

158. To be amended as follows : When an Amendment is moved, the Debate must be confined to the Amendment, unless it be of such a nature as to involve the consideration or decision of the Main Question (~~of which Mr. Speaker is the judge~~), in which case both the Main Question and the Amendment are open for discussion. ~~but by such Members only as have not spoken to the Main Question.~~

159. To be amended as follows: No Member who has spoken to any Amendment *which involves the consideration or decision of the Main Question* ~~can~~ shall subsequently speak to the Main Question, either as originally proposed or as amended.

162. To be amended as follows: A Member who has spoken to the Main Question, or to any Motion which involves the Main Question, ~~may~~ shall not move or second an Amendment (except in Committee), the Adjournment of the House, the Adjournment of the Debate, the Previous Question, or a Motion to proceed to the Orders of the Day, ~~or a particular Order~~. He may speak to any such Motion (except the previous Question) when made by another Member, but must confine his remarks thereto, and may not debate the Main Question thereupon.

189. Omit the following Standing Order: When such a Resolution has been agreed to, or an Order of the Day read for the House to resolve itself into Committee, Mr. Speaker puts a Question, "That I do now leave the Chair," which being agreed to, he leaves the Chair accordingly.

193A. New Standing Order: As soon as may be convenient after the commencement of every Session, the House shall appoint a Panel of not more than three Members to act as temporary Chairmen of Committees, when requested by the Chairman of Committees.

205A. New Standing Order: A Member in charge of a Bill may, at any time after the Bill has been gone through in Committee, move that the Bill be reported, and such Bill shall be reported if the Motion is carried by a majority of three-fifths of those voting, provided that such Motion shall not be again made until some other Motion shall have intervened.

271. Omit the following Standing Order as no longer acted on: It is the sole duty of the Managers of the one House to read and deliver to the Managers of the other House the Resolutions of the other House on Bills, with reasons for insisting upon Amendments or disagreements to Amendments, or otherwise.

272. To be amended as follows: After one or more Messages on any subject, a ~~Free~~ Conference thereon may be held, at which the difference between the two Houses may be discussed. Further ~~Free~~ Conferences may be held on the same subject, if desired by either House.

273. To be amended as follows: If a ~~Free~~ Conference is held, and no agreement come to, the Bill or Resolution which was the subject of such Conference shall be in possession of the House objecting to the Amendments, so that it may, if it think fit, accept the Bill or Resolution.

274. To be amended as follows: After a ~~Free~~ Conference the Managers shall bring up a Report, which shall, on Motion without notice, be taken into consideration by the House either immediately or on a future day to be appointed for considering the same.

324. To be amended as follows: Private Bills shall be understood to be Bills which are promoted for the private interest of individuals, ~~or~~ companies *or their trustees*, or of *ecclesiastical or other bodies, corporate or unincorporate*, and which, by their provisions, ~~directly~~ interfere with the private property of individuals, *companies or their trustees, or of ecclesiastical or other bodies, corporate or unincorporate*. ~~and the Private Bills Committee should give a liberal interpretation to the Standing Orders in favour of Bills of a public nature.~~

Amendment to 324 not to come into operation until the close of the present session.

327. To be amended as follows: A Bill ~~is~~ shall be presented by the Member, or one of the Members, ordered to prepare and bring in the same. ~~and such Member is desired by Mr. Speaker to bring it up.~~

329A. New Standing Order: At the commencement of every Session a Lands Committee, consisting of ten members, shall be appointed, to whom shall stand referred after their first reading all Bills affecting or in any way relating to the lands of the Crown, Educational or other public reserves; the Committee shall have power to make such amendments therein as they think proper, and to report generally when necessary upon the principles and provisions of the Bill.

330. To be amended as follows: ~~A Bill With the exception of the Bills referred to in Standing Orders 329a and 391, a Bill having been when read a first time is shall be~~ ordered to be read a second time on a future day.

336. To be amended as follows: When it is intended to refer a Bill to a Select Committee the second reading may be moved *pro formâ*, and in such case there shall be *no speech by the mover* and no Debate ~~other than the speech of the Mover~~, *provided that notice of intention to move pro formâ must be given either at the time of fixing the date for second reading or not less than two clear sitting-days before the date fixed for second reading, the same to be notified on the Order Paper.*

354. To be amended as follows: On a *new clause being offered moved* in Committee, ~~or on the consideration of Report, Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman is to desire the Member to bring up the same, whereupon it is to shall be read a first time without Question put. but no clause is to be offered on consideration of Report without notice.~~

354A. New Standing Order: Except in the case of new clauses moved by the Member in charge of the Bill, those appearing on the Order Paper shall have precedence over others.

356A. New Standing Order: A Bill may, on the motion of the Member in charge, and without debate, be committed "*pro formâ*" for the purpose of incorporating amendments. Thereupon the amendments shall be made without debate, and the Bill shall be reported and ordered to be reprinted in the amended form and recommitted for a future day.

382. To be amended as follows: On days on which Private Members' business has precedence, Private Members' Bills standing for third reading shall take precedence of Bills for Report, and Bills for Report of Bills for Committee, ~~or~~ *and Bills for Committee of Bills, for second reading.*

Standing Order 382 to be transferred to page 18, after No. 77.

383. To be amended as follows: When Private Members' Public Bills become dropped Orders they ~~are to~~ shall be set down upon the Order Paper after the Orders set down for the next day, and shall be arranged as follows, viz.: (1) *Second readings of Bills pro formâ*; (2) *Bills standing for report or third reading*; (3) *Bills for Committee or for further consideration in Committee*; (4) *Second readings.*

Standing Order 383 to be transferred to page 18, after No. 77.

384. To be amended as follows: Local Bills are those which, not being Private Bills, affect a particular localities *locality* only.

385. To be amended as follows: No Local Bill shall be read a second time unless notice ~~shall~~ *have* been given of the said Bill in the locality to which ~~the Bill it refers~~; such notice shall state explicitly the object which ~~such the~~ Bill is intended to effect, and shall have been published once at least in each of three successive weeks, *on the same day in each week*, before the second reading, in a newspaper circulating in such locality.

386. To be amended as follows: At the time of the first publication of such notice a copy of the Bill shall be deposited in the Magistrate's Court of the district, and shall be open to public inspection *for a period of three complete weeks*; and ~~such Bill~~ shall, at the expiration of ~~the prescribed~~ *such period for advertising*, be forwarded to the Clerk of the House in which the Bill is to be introduced, ~~indorsed~~ with a certificate ~~from written on the face of the Bill by the Stipendiary Magistrate, or Clerk of the Magistrate's Court, that such Bill was so deposited and remained open for public inspection for the prescribed time.~~ *Each page of the Bill so deposited shall also be stamped with the Court seal and initialled by the Magistrate, or Clerk of the Court.*

388. To omit the following Standing Order: When it is intended in such Bill to take power to deal with any lands, plans or surveys of such lands, on a scale of not less than two inches to a mile, and certified by an authorised surveyor, shall be deposited with the Bill.

388A. New Standing Order: When it is intended in such Bill to take power to deal with any lands, the copy deposited as aforesaid shall be accompanied by plans or surveys of such lands drawn on the following scales, viz: Scale of not less than one inch to five chains if the lands to be dealt with are town or suburban lands; not less than two inches to a mile if the lands to be dealt with are other than town or suburban and do not exceed an area of ten square miles; and not less than one inch to a mile if the lands to be dealt with exceed an area of ten square miles. Such plans and surveys shall be certified by an authorised surveyor.

392. To be amended as follows: The Committee on Local Bills shall have power to confer with any Committee appointed for a similar object by the other branch of the Legislature, *or to sit with any such Committee as a Joint Committee.*

393. To be amended as follows: Local Bills reported on by the Local Bills Committee or Joint Local Bills Committee shall be set down for second reading on the following Thursday, on which day Orders relating to Private Members' Local Bills take precedence of all other business till disposed of. (*See also Standing Order 75.*)

394. To be amended as follows: In the event of a Local Bill introduced in any Session, and in regard to which the Local Bills Committee or Joint Local Bills Committee shall have reported that the Standing Orders have been complied with, failing to be finally dealt with during such Session, then such Bill may be reintroduced during the next succeeding Session, and the notices, advertisements, and deposits issued, published, and made in compliance with the Standing Orders relating to local Bills prior to or during the first-mentioned Session shall be *as good and effectual* in respect of such Bill as if they had been issued, published, and made immediately before or during such succeeding Session: Provided, however, that if it be intended to reintroduce such Bill during the next succeeding Session, a notice of such intention shall be advertised in not less than two issues of some newspaper published in the district within which such Bill is to have operation, or, if there be no such newspaper, then in some newspaper circulating therein.

(*The amendments in Standing Orders relative to Local Bills not to come into operation until the close of the present Session.*)

399. To omit the following Standing Order: Accounts and other papers which are required to be laid before this House by any Act of Parliament, or by any Order of the House, may be deposited in the office of the Clerk of this House, and the same will be laid on the Table, and a list of such accounts and papers read by the Clerk.

403. To be amended as follows: Speeches addressed to the House by His Excellency the Governor, and Bills or clauses of Bills introduced into the House specially affecting the Maoris, ~~are~~ shall be translated and printed in the Maori tongue for the information of ~~Her~~ His Majesty's subjects of that race.

422. To be amended as follows: ~~Where~~ *When* it has been proposed to omit or reduce items in a Vote, the Question shall be afterwards put upon the original Vote, or upon the reduced Vote, as the case may be. ~~without Amendment.~~

432. To be amended as follows: Strangers may at any time, even during debate, be ordered to withdraw from the body of the House and ~~the whole of all~~ the galleries, on a motion without notice to that effect being put and carried; but no Amendment or Debate shall be allowed on that Question; and in his own discretion Mr. Speaker or the Chairman of Committees may at any time order strangers to withdraw.

Transfer 57 and 58 from page 14, to follow No. 432.

#### *Private Bills.*

2. To be amended as follows: Private Bills shall be understood to be Bills which are promoted for the private interest of individuals, or companies or their trustees, or of ecclesiastical or other bodies, corporate or unincorporate, and which, by their provisions, ~~directly~~ interfere with the private property of individuals, companies or their trustees, or of ecclesiastical or other bodies, corporate or unincorporate.

(*Amendment not to come into operation until close of present session.*)

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