

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 5th Day of August, 1903.

Hon. Mr. Rigg to move, That the following rules for the election of Speaker and Chairman of Committees as reported from the Standing Orders Committee on the 30th July, 1903, be agreed to and made Standing Orders of the Council:—

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

3A. Whenever it becomes necessary for the Council to elect one of its members to be Speaker, the Council shall by resolution appoint a day whereon a call of the Council shall be made, and such call shall be the first Order of the Day for that day. So soon as such call has been made, the Council shall at once proceed to the election of a Speaker without any question put.

3B. Such election shall be held in the following manner:—

(a.) The Speaker shall leave the Chair, and the Clerk shall declare that the time has now come for the Council to elect a Speaker. Thereupon strangers shall withdraw, the division-bell shall be rung, and after two minutes the doors shall be locked, and shall be kept locked until after the election.

(b.) The Clerk of the Council shall preside at the election.

(c.) The election shall be by ballot.

(d.) The ballot-paper shall be a printed list (in single column) of the names of the Members of the Council. For each ballot one such paper shall be supplied to each Member present, and on it he shall indicate by a cross and a connecting-line the Member for whom he votes. He shall then hand his list to the Clerk at the Table.

(e.) No Member shall vote at any ballot for more than one Member.

(f.) All ballot-papers not in accordance with these rules shall be rejected as informal.

(g.) After each ballot the Clerk and the Clerk-Assistant shall examine and count the votes, and the number of votes received by each Member shall be declared by the Clerk.

(h.) If at any ballot any Member receives a majority of the votes of the Members present and voting, he shall be declared by the Clerk to be the elected Speaker.

(i.) If no Member receives such majority, another ballot shall be taken, at which the Members who received no votes and the Member who received the least number of votes at the preceding ballot shall not be voted for; and this process of balloting shall be repeated until some Member receives a majority of the votes of the Members present and voting, whereupon that Member shall be declared by the Clerk to be the elected Speaker.

(j.) If at any ballot only two Members receive votes and the votes are equal, another ballot shall be held to decide between those two Members, and, if again the votes

are equal, the Clerk and the Clerk-Assistant shall determine by lot which one of such Members shall be deemed to have received a majority of votes, and that Member shall be declared by the Clerk to be the elected Speaker.

(k.) If, owing to an equality of votes, a question arises as to which Member shall be barred from receiving votes at a second or subsequent ballot, such question shall be determined by a ballot for the purpose, at which ballot those Members only shall be voted for who received at the preceding ballot an equal number of votes; and, if again the votes are equal, the Clerk and the Clerk-Assistant shall determine by lot which Member shall be deemed to have received the least number of votes, and such Member shall be barred as aforesaid.

3c. So soon as a Member shall have been declared to be the elected Speaker he shall take the Chair of the Council.

3d. Written notice of his election shall be forthwith given by the Speaker to His Excellency the Governor.

3e. On a day to be appointed the Speaker shall be introduced to His Excellency the Governor by the whole Council.

3f. The Clerk shall enclose in a sealed packet all the ballot-papers used in the election of Speaker, and shall burn them forthwith after the rising of the Council.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

3g. (a.) A Chairman of Committees of the whole Council shall be elected every Session on the second Wednesday after the meeting of the General Assembly, and such election shall be the first Order of the Day for that day.

(b.) Such election shall be held in the manner hereinbefore appointed for electing a Speaker, except that it shall not be necessary to make a call of the Council, and also that the Speaker shall remain in the Chair during such election, and shall preside thereat, and shall declare the result thereof.

(c.) If from any cause the office of Chairman of Committees becomes vacant in the course of the Session, another Chairman shall be elected as speedily as possible. The election of such Chairman shall be held in manner aforesaid, and the day for holding the same shall be appointed by the Speaker.

(d.) The Standing Order relating to the election of the Chairman of Committees, passed on the 1st day of October, 1901, is hereby repealed.