

RULES

FOR THE GUIDANCE OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENTS OF THE HOUSE :

RESOLVED,—That this House do meet at ten o'clock, A. M. and if, at that hour, there is not a quorum, the Speaker may take the chair and adjourn.

II.—That, when the House adjourns, the members shall keep their seats until the Speaker leaves the chair.

III.—That whenever an adjournment takes place for want of a quorum, the hour at which such adjournment is made, and the names of the members present, shall be inserted in the Journals.

QUORUM :

IV.—That twenty-three members, including the Speaker, shall form a quorum.

MINUTES :

V.—That every day, immediately after the Speaker shall have taken the chair, the minutes of the preceding day shall be read by the Clerk, to the end that any mistake therein may be corrected by the House.

VI.—That, during the reading of the minutes, the doors shall be closed.

SPEAKER :

VII.—That the Speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the house.

VIII.—That the Speaker shall take the chair when Black Rod is at the door.

IX.—That the Speaker shall not take part in any debate, or vote, unless the house shall be equally divided, in which case, he may give his reasons for so voting, standing uncovered.

X.—That when the Speaker is called upon to decide a point of order or practice, he shall state the rule applicable to the case.

MEMBERS :

XI.—That every member, previous to his speaking to any question or motion, shall rise from his seat, uncovered, and address himself to the Speaker.

XII.—That when two or more members rise at once, the Speaker shall name the member who is first to speak, subject to appeal to the house.

XIII.—That every member who shall be present when a question is put, shall vote thereon, unless the house shall excuse him, or unless he be personally interested in the question; provided such interest is resolvable into a personal pecuniary profit, or such as is peculiar to the member, and not in common with the interest of the subject at large, in which case he shall not vote.

XIV.—When the Speaker is putting a question, no member shall walk out of, or across the house, nor when a member is speaking shall any other members hold discourse which may interrupt him, nor pass between him and the chair.

XV.—That a member called to order shall sit down, unless permitted to explain, and all debate on the question of order shall take place before the decision of the Speaker.

XVI.—That no member shall speak beside the question in debate.

XVII.—That any member may of right require the question, or motion in discussion, to be read for his information, at any time during the debate, but not so as to interrupt a member speaking.

XVIII.—That no member, other than the one proposing a question or motion, (who shall be permitted a reply) shall speak more than once on the same, without leave of the house, except in explanation of a material part of his speech, which may have been misconceived, but then he is not to introduce new matter.

XIX.—That any member may, at any time, desire the house to be cleared of strangers, and the Speaker shall immediately give directions to the Serjeant at Arms to do so, without debate.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

XX.—That the Master in Chancery, attending the Legislative Council, be received as their messenger, at the Clerk's table, where he shall deliver such message as he is charged with.

XXI.—That all messages from this house to the Legislative Council be sent by two members, to be named by the Speaker, accompanied by the Serjeant at Arms.

XXII.—That when the house shall judge it necessary to request a conference with the Legislative Council, the reasons to be given by this house upon the subject of the conference shall be prepared and agreed to by the house, before the messengers shall be appointed to make the said request.

COMMITTEE.

XXIII.—That the rules of the house shall be observed in committee of the whole so far as they may be applicable, except the rules limiting the times of speaking.

XXIV.—That in forming a committee of the whole house, before leaving the chair, the Speaker shall appoint a chairman to preside, who shall immediately take the chair, without argument or comment.

XXV.—That every member who shall introduce a bill, petition, or motion upon any subject which may be referred to a committee, shall be one of the committee without being named by the house, except in cases of controverted elections.

XXVI.—That of the number of members appointed to compose a Committee, such number thereof as shall be equal to a majority of the whole number chosen, shall be a quorum, competent to proceed to business, (except in election committees,) where the number, to form such quorum, shall not be specially fixed by the house.

XXVII.—That, in a Committee of the whole house, a motion that the chairman leave the chair shall always be in order and take precedence of every other motion, and that when the motion is made on account of any question of order or privilege arising, the Speaker shall resume the chair without discussion or vote of the committee.

XXVIII.—That, in a committee of the whole house, all motions relating to the matter under consideration shall be put in the order in which they are proposed.

XXIX.—That the mode of appointing a special committee, consisting of more than five members, shall be, first, to determine the number of which it shall consist, then, each member shall write on a slip of paper the names of as many members as are to form such committee, and deliver the same to the Clerk, who shall thereupon examine the said lists, and report to the Speaker, for the information of the house, who have most voices in their favor; and if any difficulty should arise by two or more having an equal number of voices, the sense of the house shall be taken as to the preference.

YEAS AND NAYS.

XXX.—That the Yeas and Nays shall be taken and entered on the minutes at the request of any one member.