

## SECTION XXXI.

## THE COMMONWEALTH SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

1. **Introductory.**—In Year Books Nos. 4 and 5 information was given in this section as to the events leading to the selection of the Federal Capital Territory, and as to the necessary legislation and the progress of operations in connection with the establishment of the capital city. The physiography of the Territory was dealt with *in extenso*, and topographical and contour maps accompanied the letterpress, as well as reproductions of the premiated designs for the laying out of the city. Considerations of space, however, preclude the repetition of this information.

2. **Progress of Work.**—The design for the laying out of the capital city having been approved, the ground survey is being proceeded with. The work of laying the water supply pipes from the service reservoir at Mt. Stromlo is in active progress. The clearing operations at the Cotter River for the dam site are nearly completed, while the excavation for the service reservoir, at Red Hill, is practically complete.

The construction of the power house and buildings is approaching completion.

A preliminary brick-making plant has been established, and the construction, metalling and gravelling of 16 miles of road from the City to the junction of the Cotter and Murrumbidgee Rivers have been completed.

The following figures indicate the actual work done in road development during the last two years :—

Forming and finishing ...	...	...	...	...	60 miles
Gravelling and metalling ...	...	...	...	...	58 miles
Clearing out, repairing culverts, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	160 miles
General road repairs ...	...	...	...	...	147 miles
Cutting water tables, drains, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	111 miles
Cotter-road formation ...	...	...	...	...	6 miles

Considerable headway has been made in the construction of the Hospital, while the Railway Timber Store is completed and ready for use.

3. **Lands in the Territory.**—As a considerable portion of the Commonwealth lands within the Territory is not required in connection with the establishment of the city, such areas are being made available for leasing under certain conditions. Leases of a purely temporary character will be granted for certain business and residential allotments on the site of the capital city. A scheme is under consideration for subdividing and leasing land outside the City area. It has been decided to lease such lands as are not at present affected by the City development for longer periods than the yearly leases previously authorised, and accordingly alternative tenders are being invited in such cases for two or five-year leases, tenants for the longer period being required to exterminate rabbits, boundary netting being provided by the Commonwealth Government. Reference has already been made on page 274 to the area of alienated, acquired and leased land within the Territory. In this connection it may be added that the precise area of the Territory cannot be accurately determined at present, pending the completion of the survey of the boundary between the Territory and New South Wales.

4. **Lands at Jervis Bay.**—A Bill to provide for the transfer to the Commonwealth of sovereign rights over certain lands, comprising about 18,000 acres, and water, at Jervis Bay, to be used for the Naval College and other Federal purposes, failed to secure the assent of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, and the carrying out of the agreement in this regard between the Governments of Commonwealth and State is consequently delayed for the time being.

The actual area now held at Jervis Bay is 8839 acres, comprising :—

(1) Area acquired under the Seat of Government Acceptance Act	...	3,488	acres
(2) Area compulsorily acquired with consent of Government of New South Wales	... ..	5,100	acres
(3) Area acquired from private owners	... ..	251	acres

Contour, road and boundary surveys have been completed and plans are in course of preparation giving full topographical information over a considerable area.

5. **Railways.**—The permanent survey of the proposed railway from Queanbeyan to the city site having been completed, the line is now under construction. The work on the New South Wales side of the boundary between Territory and State is being carried out by the Railway Commissioner of that State, that within the Territory being carried out by the New South Wales Railways Construction Branch on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. The latter has agreed to repay the outlay to the New South Wales Government with 5 per cent. added. Up to the present 27 miles of line have been surveyed, from the Capital to Bungendore, and also 60 miles from Jervis Bay to a point near the Shoalhaven River.

6. **Educational Facilities.**—As the result of a conference between the Administrator of the Territory and the New South Wales Education Department, it is proposed that the latter shall, for the time being, continue the administration of education in the Territory, the expenditure involved to be refunded annually by the Commonwealth to the State.

7. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—The present revenue from properties within the Territory (including that derivable from rates, which amounts to £2975) is estimated at £5000. The expenditure in the Federal Territory subsequent to the passing of the "Seat of Government Acceptance Act 1909," and up to the 30th June, 1913, was for 1910-11 £20,216, 1911-12 £68,026, and 1912-13 £137,497, making a total of £225,739.

This amount was distributed as follows :—

Buildings	... ..	£35,310
Power Plant and Power House	... ..	11,956
Electric Supply	... ..	1,812
Roads and Transport	... ..	61,999
Water Supply	... ..	32,368
Sewerage	... ..	1,733
Materials and Stores	... ..	17,371
Running Expenses and Miscellaneous	... ..	9,908
Health, Administration, Education, etc.	... ..	32,601
Afforestation	... ..	2,555
Surveys	... ..	18,126

8. **Military College.**—In June 1911, a Military College was opened at Duntroon for occupation by the cadets and staff. Particulars regarding the establishment of this College may be found in Year Book No. 4 (p. 1159). Previous reference has been made to it in the section of this book dealing with Defence (see page 942).

9. **Naval College at Jervis Bay.**—The Naval College at Jervis Bay is now in course of erection. Pending its completion, the work of the college is being carried on at Geelong, Victoria. For further reference see section of this book dealing with Defence.

10. **Inauguration of the Capital City.**—On the 12th March, 1913, the official ceremony to mark the initiation of operations in connection with the establishment of the Seat of Government was carried out. Foundation stones were laid by the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, and the Minister for Home Affairs. At this ceremony the selection of "Canberra" as the name of the capital city was announced by Lady Denman, the wife of the Governor-General.