

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 connexion 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. On the 12th March, 1913, the official ceremony to mark the initiation of operations in connexion with the establishment of the Seat of Government was carried out. At this ceremony the selection of "Canberra" as the name of the capital city was announced.

2. **Progress of Work.**—The design for the laying out of the capital city having been approved, the survey of the main axial lines has been completed, and an area of about 800 acres has been subdivided into sections. A certain amount of road formation has also been effected, but the work is now in abeyance. Considerable progress has been made with the nursery in connection with the afforestation scheme, and the horticultural work undertaken includes cultivating plants for the Continental Arboretum, red park plantation for Narrabundah, pink park plantation for Mount Ainslie, yellow park plantation for Mount Black, and white forest on Mugga-Mugga, for the extensive redwood, pinetum, cedar, and cork oak economic forests. In addition, the previous pine, wattle, and eucalypt plantations have been maintained, and the propagation of native trees in quantities for parkway embellishment undertaken. The power plant is supplying current to all the important points. Active progress with construction has been restricted for the present, and operations are practically being confined to maintenance work.

The following figures indicate the actual work done in road development since the roads were taken over:—

Forming and finishing	..	..	..	..	93½ miles
Gravelling and metalling	..	..	..	..	95½ miles
Clearing out, repairing culverts, etc.	..	..	..	..	162½ miles
General road repairs	..	..	..	..	178½ miles
Cutting water tables, drains, etc.	..	..	..	..	146½ miles

3. **Lands in the Territory.**—As a considerable portion of the Commonwealth lands within the Territory is not required in connexion with the establishment of the city, such areas are being made available for leasing under certain conditions. A large number of leases has been disposed of under conditions requiring the extermination of rabbits, noxious animals and weeds. 18,000 sheep and 600 head of large stock are on agistment on land that will be required for departmental use at a later date. Reference has already been made on page 316 to the area of alienated, acquired and leased land within the Territory. All areas are classified into three classes of agricultural and three classes of grazing lands, and about 24,000 acres of these lands are at present leased to returned soldiers for periods varying from five to twenty-five years.

4. **Lands at Jervis Bay.**—Sovereign rights over a certain area comprising about 28 square miles of land and water at Jervis Bay, to be used as a Port in connexion with the Federal Capital, have been granted by the New South Wales Government, and accepted by the Commonwealth. The Royal Australian Naval College has been established in this area on a site known as Captain's Point.

5. **Railways.**—The line from Queanbeyan to Canberra, 4 miles 75 chains long, was opened for goods traffic on 25th May, 1914, and is being worked by the New South Wales Railways Commissioners. This line has been extended on to the Power House, and is at present only used for Departmental purposes; the total length is approximately 5½ miles. A trial survey of the Canberra-Jervis Bay line has been completed, and plans have been prepared sufficient to enable an approximate estimate of the cost of the line to be arrived at. The trial survey from Canberra to the boundary of the Federal Territory (towards Yass), a distance of 11 miles, has been completed, as well as the survey of the line by the New South Wales Government from Yass to the Territory boundary, 32 miles.

6. **Population and Live Stock.**—A complete count of the population was taken on 31st December, 1919, when a total of 1,605 was enumerated. It is estimated that 227 usual residents of the Territory were absent on the date in question. The live stock in the Territory, according to the latest returns, comprises:—Horses, 1,312; cattle, 9,039; sheep, 151,666; pigs, 103; and goats, 20.

7. **Educational Facilities.**—Arrangements have been made for the New South Wales Education Department to continue, for the time being, the administration of education in the Territory, the expenditure involved to be refunded annually by the Commonwealth to the State.

8. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—The expenditure in the Federal Territory subsequent to the passing of the "Seat of Government Acceptance Act 1909," and up to the 30th June, 1919, was for 1910–11 £20,319, 1911–12 £64,772, 1912–13 £135,270, 1913–14 £251,669, 1914–15 £212,506, 1915–16 £166,052, 1916–17 £105,971, 1917–18 £32,111, 1918–19 £931, making a total of £989,601. A detailed statement of the various items of expenditure since 1910 is given in the following table:—

**COMMONWEALTH SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.—ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS,
EXPENDITURE TO 30th JUNE, 1919.**

Item.	Total Expenditure to 30th June, 1918.	Expenditure (or Credit), 1918-19.		Total Expenditure to 30th June, 1919.
		Dr.	Cr.	
	£	£	£	£
Afforestation	15,848	..	..	15,848
Bridges, Roads, and Culverts	82,759	..	16	82,743
Buildings, Repairs, etc.	124,139	..	..	124,139
Brickworks	45,802	..	5	45,797
Cement and Quarrying	5,111	..	..	5,111
Electric Lighting (Mains and Plant only)	75,335	215	..	75,550
Fire Brigade	1,268	..	1	1,267
Fencing	3,637	..	..	3,637
General Expenditure (including Ad- ministrative Charges)	152,032	1,116	..	153,148
Manufacturing Accounts	Cr. 4,840	..	314	Cr. 5,154
Maintenance Accounts	1,880	..	2	1,878
Motor Cars and Upkeep	9,214	..	..	9,214
Medical Services	11,842	..	..	11,842
New South Wales Government (Services Rendered)	15,039	..	..	15,039
Plant, Instruments, etc.	19,773	62	..	19,835
Railways	65,906	..	..	65,906
Rabbit Destruction	20,104	..	..	20,104
Stock (Material)	43,985	..	433	43,552
Sewerage, Mains, etc.	38,429	..	15	38,414
Water Supply	254,545	324	..	254,869
Wire Netting Lessees	6,862	..	..	6,862
Total	988,670	1,717	786	989,601

The revenue of the Federal Territory for the year ended 30th June, 1919, was £35,838, including £404 from rates.

9. **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 1000).

10. **Naval College at Jervis Bay.**—See section of this book dealing with Defence, page 1006.