

SECTION XXXI.

THE COMMONWEALTH SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

1. **Introductory.**—In each of the two previous issues of the Year Book (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. Operations at the Cotter Dam and Redhill reservoir are in active progress, and the temporary bridge over the Murrumbidgee River is approaching completion. Numerous contracts have been let, and over 500 men are now engaged on roads and engineering works and on the building works at Acton and Duntroon.

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 is not intended, at first, to grant leases for long periods, but to restrict them to terms of a few years, under conditions which will ensure the control and eventual extermination of rabbits and other pests. Reference has already been made on page 329 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.**—The Government of New South Wales has agreed to submit to the State Parliament a Bill to amend the Seat of Government Surrender Act 1909, to provide for a transfer to the Commonwealth of about 18,000 acres of land at Jervis Bay, to be used for the Naval College and other purposes, and when such action shall have been effected a consequential Acceptance Bill will be submitted to the Commonwealth Parliament.

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.

The trial location survey of the line between Jervis Bay and the Federal Capital City is in progress.

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 Federal Capital Territory (including that from rates, which amounts to £2682) is estimated at £5000. The expenditure up to date on works and other matters relating to the Federal capital, amounts to approximately £255,000, inclusive of the Naval and Military Colleges, and of expenditure incidental to the selection of a site for the seat of government.

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 1060).

9. **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.