

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. 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. 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 ground survey is being proceeded with. Good progress has been made with the erection of the dam at the Cotter River, while a steel girder bridge, 300 feet long, has been erected over the Murrumbidgee River. The construction of the power house and buildings is approaching completion, and the hospital is now fully equipped and staffed. Considerable progress has been made with the nursery in connection with the afforestation scheme, and a preliminary brick-making plant has been established. The construction of the main outfall sewer is proceeding satisfactorily, and at the electric power station three engines have been installed. Owing to the European war, the architectural competition for the Federal Parliamentary buildings, which was recently announced, has been withdrawn until a more favourable opportunity.

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

Forming and finishing	79 miles
Gravelling and metalling	76 miles
Clearing out, repairing culverts, etc.	160 miles
General road repairs	151 miles
Cutting water tables, drains, etc.	119 miles

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. A large number of leases have been disposed of under conditions requiring the extermination of rabbits, and in a little time it is expected that a compact block of 133,000 acres will be free from this pest. Eight thousand sheep are on agistment on land that will be required for departmental use at a later date. Reference has already been made on page 275 to the area of alienated, acquired and leased land within the Territory. The permanent survey of the boundary of the Territory is now complete, with the exception of the southern boundary, which will shortly be determined. Action is being taken with a view to the preparation of an ordinance relative to the leasing of lands in the Territory.

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, has been passed by the New South Wales Legislature.

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 Railway Commissioner. The trial survey of the Canberra-Jervis Bay line has been completed, and plans will be ready at an early date. 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, 1913, when a total of 1952 was enumerated. It is estimated that 850 persons were absent from the Territory on the date in question. The live stock in the Territory, according to the latest returns, comprises:—horses, 1343; cattle, 6423; sheep, 141,184; and pigs, 393.

7. **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. Schools have been opened at the Cotter River works and at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. (See also paragraph 3, page 766.)

8. **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, 1914, was for 1910-11 £20,216, 1911-12 £68,026, 1912-13 £137,497, and 1913-14, £252,204, making a total of £477,943.

The following table shews the particulars of expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1914, and also the total expenditure on each item since 30th June, 1910:—

Item.	Expenditure, 1913-14.	Total Expenditure to 30th June, 1914.
	£	£
Buildings	30,610	65,920
Power Plant and Power House	22,550	34,506
Electric Supply	8,991	10,803
Roads and Transport	19,792	81,791
Water Supply	86,234	118,602
Sewerage	359	2,092
Materials and Stores	18,377	35,748
Running Expenses and Miscellaneous	3,885	13,793
Health, Administration, Education, etc.	27,478	60,079
Afforestation	1,400	3,955
Surveys	1,923	20,049
Queanbeyan-Canberra Railway	30,605	30,605
Total	252,204	477,943

The revenue of the Federal Territory for the year ended 30th June, 1914, was as follows:—

From lands	£12,707
„ rates	132
„ agistment	1,046
„ miscellaneous	69
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Total revenue	£13,954

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 940).

10. **Naval College at Jervis Bay.**—The building has been handed over to the Defence Department, and the fittings and furniture are nearing completion. In the meantime the work of the college is being carried on at Geelong, Victoria. For further reference see section of this book dealing with Defence, page 949.