

## 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, survey of the main points is being pushed forward. Good progress has been made with the erection of the dam at the Cotter River, and the pipehead reservoir at Mt. Stromlo has been completed. The power plant is running continuously and satisfactorily, and is supplying current to all the important points. The hospital is now fully equipped and staffed. Considerable progress has been made with the nursery in connection with the afforestation scheme, and the small experimental orchard is looking most promising. A brick-making plant has been completed, while the construction of the main outfall sewer is proceeding satisfactorily.

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

Forming and finishing ...	...	...	...	90½ miles
Gravelling and metalling ...	...	...	...	87½ miles
Clearing out, repairing culverts, etc.	...	...	...	161 miles
General road repairs ...	...	...	...	154 miles
Cutting water tables, drains, etc.	...	...	...	121 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 the lessees are proceeding with the erection of rabbit-proof fencing in a satisfactory manner. Two thousand six hundred sheep and 130 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 279 to the area of alienated, acquired and leased land within the Territory. The valuation of lands within the Territory is being proceeded with. All areas valued are classified into three classes of agricultural and three classes of grazing lands.

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 have been prepared sufficient to enable an 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, 1915, when a total of 1829 was enumerated. It is estimated that 613 persons were absent from the Territory on the date in question. The live stock in the Territory, according to the latest returns, comprises:—horses, 1606; cattle, 4961; sheep, 134,679; and pigs, 226.

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 802.)

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, 1915, was for 1910-11 £20,216, 1911-12 £68,026, 1912-13 £137,497, 1913-14 £252,204, and 1914-15 £213,258, making a total of £691,201.

The following table shows the particulars of expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1915, and also the total expenditure on each item since 30th June, 1910:—

Item.	Expenditure, 1914-15.	Total Expenditure to 30th June, 1915.
	£	£
Buildings ... ..	7,637	73,557
Power Plant and Power House ... ..	31,530	66,036
Electric Supply ... ..	11,357	22,160
Roads and Transport ... ..	12,839	94,630
Water Supply ... ..	78,012	196,614
Sewerage ... ..	11,646	13,738
Materials and Stores ... ..	6,156	41,904
Running Expenses and Miscellaneous ... ..	6,444	20,237
Health, Administration, Education, etc. ... ..	18,061	78,140
Afforestation ... ..	5,941	9,896
Surveys ... ..	9,453	29,502
Queanbeyan-Canberra Railway ... ..	4,465	35,070
Brickworks ... ..	9,717	9,717
Total ... ..	213,258	691,201

The revenue of the Federal Territory for the year ended 30th June, 1915, was as follows:—

From lands in process of alienation ... ..	£963
„ Crown lands held under State laws (leases) ...	404
„ leases of acquired lands ... ..	8,600
„ agistment ... ..	932
„ rates ... ..	1,057
„ leases of acquired lands north of the Molonglo ...	5,025
Total revenue ...	£16,981

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 981).

10. **Naval College at Jervis Bay.**—See section of this book dealing with Defence, page 989.