

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 survey of the main axial lines has been completed, and the marking on the ground, grading, and construction of portion of the roads are proceeding. 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 works.

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 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. 13,300 sheep and 220 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 304 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.

4. **Lands at Jervis Bay.**—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 granted by the New South Wales Government and accepted by the Commonwealth.

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 Commissioners. The construction of a tramway for the carriage of material from the depot yards and power house into the city area is proceeding. 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, 1917, when a total of 1801 was enumerated. It is estimated that 284 persons were absent from the Territory on the date in question. The live stock in the Territory, according to the latest returns, comprises:—horses, 1300; cattle, 6500; sheep, 150,000; and pigs, 200.

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. A school has been opened at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. (See also page 844.)

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, 1918, 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, making a total of £988,670. A detailed statement of the various items of expenditure was received too late to be incorporated herewith and is therefore given in the Appendix.

The revenue of the Federal Territory for the year ended 30th June, 1918, was £31,221, including £754 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 1017).

10. **Naval College at Jervis Bay.**—See section of this book dealing with Defence, page 1026.