

# FEDERAL CAPITAL MESS-UP

## SPOILING THE PLAN AND WASTING MONEY

### TAKE WARNING IN TIME

"A THIRD-RATE LUNA PARK."

By J. D. Fitzgerald

(Vice-President of the N.S.W. Town Planning Association).

The designing of the plan for the future capital of the Commonwealth was a matter of world-wide interest. Only once before in modern times has there been a plan made in advance for a great city—that was in the case of Washington, U.S.A. When the competition was set, therefore, the architects and town-planners of the world were profoundly interested, and leading professional men from all nations took part in it. The first premium (£1750) was won by "Mr. Walter Burley Griffin, architect and landscape architect, Steinway Hall, Chicago"; the second (£750) by Eliel Saarenin, of Helsingfors, Finland; and the third (£500) by D. A. Agache, of Paris. The international nature of the contest will be gathered from the above.

The design of Mr. Griffin was recognised as a very admirable one, containing most of the splendid features aimed at by the town-planners who have, like l'Enfant and the planners of the modern cities of Omdurman, Delhi, and Dalny, designed city plans on virgin sites; or those who, like the architectural surgeons of Paris, Rome, and Vienna, have carved out a plan from old and congested civic centres. Mr. Griffin's plan was not perfect, of course. No plan ever was—not probably ever will be. But the town-planning experts of the world acknowledged its merit, and there was little serious criticism.

A moment's digression may be allowed here. The advantage of having a city plan designed by the brain of one man, and carried out under his supervision, or upon the lines laid down by the designer's brain, are surely obvious. Australia has the chance of building the

### MUCH-TALKED-OF CITY BEAUTIFUL.

It has accepted a very fine plan. It is not given to every nation to watch the growth from design to execution, of a great city plan in which all the features—architecture, street shapes and directions, the contours of the earth, the decoration, the parks, the public and private housing, and the monumental buildings—shall conform to and be used to assist the artistic design of the planner, and all be harmoniously blended. It is a great opportunity. The perversion of the accepted plan would be a crime to this generation and to posterity. This was found to be so when l'Enfant's plan of Washington was perverted by vandals. It cost millions of dollars to restore that plan to the scheme of its designer, who died broken-hearted. It took the labors of a commission led by the famous Daniel Burnham (a townsman of Mr. Griffin) to redress the wrong that had been done by ignorant amateurs to l'Enfant's design.

### THE FEDERAL CAPITAL DIRECTOR.

When Mr. Griffin's design was accepted he was invited to Australia to confer with the Government. He came; and entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth Government. The terms of his agreement may be found in the Federal "Hansard" (Senate), No. 22, of November, 1913, at pp. 2696. His duties were, inter alia:—

(a) For the purposes of the creation and development of the Federal Capital City at Canberra, to prepare general designs, specifications, plans, and documents, and generally direct the details and execution of works necessary to give effect to them, and in particular, but without limiting the foregoing words:—

- Public ways and parks.
- Paving or roads and other ways.
- Street and park planting.
- City beautification.
- Services and equipment.
- Accessory structures.

(b) Advise upon the future development of the Federal Capital City, including the location of structures, their co-ordination, constructional materials, and relative scale and proportions.

(c) Advise upon and (if so requested by the Minister) prepare conditions of competitions for public buildings and works for the Federal Capital City and preliminary feature plans for the guidance of competitors.

(d) Not compete in any of the said competitions.

(e) Advise upon the allocation of "zones" for various purposes of occupation in connection with the Federal Capital City.

(f) Draft a code of regulations covering the general character of private improvements, as well as safety and sanitary requirements of all constructions.

(g) Perform any other work in connection with the Federal Capital City which is in keeping with the character of the position of Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction.

(h) Exercise all reasonable care and diligence in carrying out his duties under the agreement.

It will thus be seen that he became Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction (official title). Schedule 17 of the records of the Department of Home Affairs at page 70 shows that Mr. Griffin, after actual acquaintance with the site of Canberra (he and the other competitors had only seen a contour map and photos) issued an amended plan "showing the alterations in suburban treatment suggested by his closer knowledge of the locality."

In the meantime, a Departmental Board of three (of which we shall hear a good deal in the course of the discussion which this article will open) was appointed, consisting of eminent civil servants, who had not hitherto been heard of in connection with town planning. Their duties were "to investigate and report upon the suitability of the designs for adoption in connection with the lay-out of the city." These modest amateurs investigated and reported as follows, vide schedule No. 12, Home Affairs, 1913:—

"The Board was unable to recommend the adoption in its entirety of any one of the designs, and advised approval of a plan for the lay-out of the city, prepared by the Board."

The recommendation was probably unanimous, if Gilbertian. Of course, the Board could see merits in their own plan which they could not perceive in the other plans. What the outside world's experts thought of their hotch-potch plan we shall see later. They go on to indicate how they made theirs—on the pepper-and-salt principle:—

"The Board's design is based essentially upon the dominating conception presented in the first premiated design (Griffin's), and the remainder of the Board's design was evolved therefrom."

Mr. Griffin must have been highly complimented when he saw the result. To have his fine "dominating conception" cribbed and spoiled by the Departmental Board was doubtless soothing to his artistic feelings.

### WHAT THE PLANNERS THINK.

Now, let us see what the town-planners think of the "Design as projected by the Departmental board." I prefer to give the opinions of the "Town-Planning Review" rather than those of our Australian planners, or my own (which are rather too strong for publication in a Sunday paper). It must be prefaced that the "Review" voiced certain objections which were raised at the time of the competition, viz., that the professional architectural institutes had not been associated with either the terms of the competition or the judging. That will explain certain references in the criticism of the work of the Departmental Board. I quote from the "Town-Planning Review," vol. 3, January, 1913, No. 4:—

As we go to press we have received from the Official Secretary of the High Commissioner for Australia a design for the layout of the Federal Capital city as projected by the Departmental Board, together with a short explanation and an official intimation that this plan has been finally decided upon. It is explained that the Board, after having settled certain governing principles,

continued its deliberations at the site of the seat of Government, where the designs which won the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes and the design purchased by the Minister received consideration.

It appears that the Board, while unable to recommend the adoption of any one of the designs, "approves of the plan for the layout of the city as prepared by itself," which plan, it states, incorporates such features of the premiated and purchased designs as in its opinion are warranted. Nothing could prove more conclusively than this that those responsible for the competition thoroughly realise the failure resulting from its unfortunate promotion; and not only have the organisers of the competition ignored the advice of the leading professional institutes in the matter of assessorship, but, even worse, they now propose indulging in the unprofessional practice of themselves piecing together a design made up of shreds and morsels picked and pocketed from the more successful of the competitive plans.

We have all along objected to the conduct of this competition, and have severely criticised the selected design (Griffin's); but, disregarding what might have been, had the competition been more fortunately inaugurated, we have no doubt but that a qualified assessor would have discovered amongst the wealth of material submitted a man whose appreciation for essential requirements, whose grasp of the difficulties of this particular problem, and whose ability for composing architectural groupings would have justified the Board in commissioning him to prepare a final design. If these assessors considered that Mr. Griffin most nearly fulfilled these conditions, the least they could have done would have been to have placed him in this responsible position.

Turning to this so-called final plan which we reproduce, we see embodied all the errors of Mr. Griffin's plan exaggerated, without any of its many redeeming qualities. The new plan is evidently the product of a Department which personnel is utterly untrained in the elements of architectural composition, whose mind is a turmoil of confusion as regards the association of different buildings, and whose ideas on the simple logic of street composition, have resulted in a road scheme which is simply a reductio ad absurdum. Indeed, the whole layout is so entirely outside the pale of serious criticism that we feel that it cannot be put into execution. The perspective sketch which accompanies the plan, with its innumerable kiosks and its irregular distribution of everything that is architecturally undesirable, reminds us of a third rate Luna Park or the Christmas production of a toy factory. When compared with Mr. Griffin's plan, the defects of which are, after all, aesthetic rather than functional and technical, it is obvious at once that the "final plan" is the work of an amateur who has yet to learn the elementary principles of laying out a town. To compare Mr. Griffin's logical groupings with this haphazard confusion we append a schematic diagram of his layout.

The amusing caricature of an anonymous contributor which we publish in the chronicle notes is by no means too severe a censure on this improbable scheme.

In our Editorial we comment on the action of the Australian authorities in handing over the designing of the Federal Capital to a Departmental board, and we reproduce the plan which is described as being final. We are glad to note that one of the leading papers of the architectural press, "The Architect and Builders' Journal," agrees with us in condemning this plan. An anonymous correspondent has amused himself by making a tracing of the central part and labelling various errors as well as suggesting the use to be made of certain features which appear to him to require elucidation. We are reproducing this *jeu d'esprit* because in our opinion it shows up more clearly than the half-tone block the middle of the road plotting. We direct our reader's attention to the route which is necessary to be taken from the Avenue whose termination is down at the bottom of the block, to the capital. We hardly know any example of hazard "by-law" suburban planning which surpasses this.

### THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF EXPERTS.

The Departmental Board has since been dissolved, but judging from the attitude which the present Minister for Home Affairs is taking, doubtless without a true knowledge of the circumstances of the case—for he would hardly connive at the perversion of a fine plan if he knew—the Departmental Board's plans will be carried out, whether the Board be dead or not. Even though their plan be the laughing-stock of the town-planning experts of the world, their dead hand will be stronger than that of the living designer, whose "dominating conception" was cribbed and mangled; and Australia will suffer the consequences.

I hold no brief for Mr. Griffin, though I am an admirer of his plan. Doubtless his legal advisers will be able to reassure him that he has not been brought here to be made a freak or sport by decent Australians. If the Government believes his plan is not good enough, they should have a fresh com-

petition, and securing a better plan (if they can) instruct the designer to carry it out and send Mr. Griffin about his business, with a celerity not inconsistent with his contract with the Government. I insist that the designer should carry out the plan. THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE FUTURE CITY. Meanwhile the attitude of the Minister and the Department may

be gathered from this:—On October 15 of this year Mr. Archibald made this statement in the House:

"Mr. Griffin has been instructed by me to complete the amendments which I understand he wishes to make in his original design, and to let me have it as soon as it is finished."

Mr. Fisher made a similar statement this week. The fact is (as shown by schedule No. 17, already quoted) that Mr. Griffin's amended plan was handed in in February of this year, and was in Mr. Archibald's department and published (in color) in schedule 17. Now, who can have misled Mr. Archibald and Mr. Fisher as to this? For it can only be assumed that they were misled. I believe—and, in fact, I know—that Mr. Archibald is incapable of wilfully making so obviously disingenuous a statement. He (as a newcomer in office) must have had his information from the department. He should see to it that he develops a healthy distrust of that source of official information in future.

One word more; when the Burnham Commission was appointed by U.S.A. Congress to restore l'Enfant's splendid original plan it was found that huge buildings had been built on the site of l'Enfant's avenues. It will cost U.S.A. millions of dollars to redress this. Now read this extract from Federal "Hansard," No. 5, 1914, pp. 387:—

Mr. Austin Chapman: We have been told that the Bank Chamber at Canberra has been built on one of the main avenues of the city.

Mr. Rodgers: We are told that the Bank at Canberra is being erected on one of the avenues.

Mr. Archibald: It will be no serious matter if two or three temporary buildings on a street, or indeed street, disappear during the next five or six years. . . . I have heard something to the effect that the banking building encroaches some 5 or 6 ft. on the avenue, but whether that be so or not, there are, as I say, much more important matters to concern us.

It would be interesting to know what matters the Minister for Home Affairs thinks are more important than the spoiling of the plan of the Federal Capital City, and the erection of buildings in places from which they must some day be removed at a vast and unnecessary expenditure.

## THE G.P.O. CAUSTIC CRITICISM BY MR. WEBSTER.

### "A COLOSSAL BLUNDER."

The principal witness who gave evidence on the question of remodelling the G.P.O. at the inquiry by the Federal Public Works Committee yesterday at the Commonwealth Bank was Mr. William Webster, formerly Postmaster-General.

Mr. Webster said that when he took office in 1915 he found conditions such as would not be tolerated by any business management for five minutes. The sum of £60,000 had been spent on ill-designed additions and alterations, and even now there was, in case of fire, considerable risk to life, and the total destruction of the telephone service. After an inquiry in 1910 the department had been induced by some inexplicable means to adopt a minority report and transfer the mail branch to the Central Station. This had been a colossal and costly blunder. How anyone could design a building for mail purposes with a space of less than lift between floor and ceiling was incomprehensible. The main lifts outside the building were not an adornment, but were necessary, as no provision had been made for conveying the mails to the upper floors in the original designs, and partitions which were built on more than one floor had afterwards to be taken out. He had found the workshops located in a building which was ill-adapted for the purpose and totally inadequate.

Witness added he marvelled that no one had ascertained the possibilities of the G.P.O. site. He was convinced that the postal services should possess an expert architect especially to assess postal requirements, to standardise plans, and modernise its buildings. The absence of such an authority had involved the department in incalculable loss, and loaded it with badly adapted buildings.

Mr. Webster said he would hesitate to adopt any serious deviation from the Griffin design. The restoration of the mail branch other than the bulk parcel post was imperative. This would save some £12,000 directly, and much additional economy should result from a properly systematised and coordinated service.

*Mr Webster used Griffin for the remodelling of the Post Offices.*

Aug 1922

Nature and her bountiful endowments of beauty are mostly given small consideration by the modern builder of homes. Beauty cannot obtrude into business. A picturesque estate is too often subdivided so that all natural beauty is sacrificed to the avarice of the seller, and ugly "model" homes rise up in unsightly rows regardless of the surroundings. A plea for better recognition by architects and builders of the beautiful in nature was made by Mrs. W. B. Griffin in an interesting lecture on the close association between architecture and nature to members of the Victorian Artists' Society on Saturday night. The basis of all true design, Mrs. Griffin said, lay in the consideration of the beautiful in nature—a consideration that should amount even to reverence, for there was a marked analogy between architecture and religion. Natural beauty was the work of the Creator, the Master Architect, and it was in the work of construction that the analogy lay. The white races usually showed a sorry want of religion of this kind. When the ordinary man began to build, his first step was to destroy the beauty of his natural surroundings. Mrs. Griffin also spoke instructively on the building of garden cities, instancing the growth of one at Middle Harbor, Sydney, where the streets, instead of being built severely up and down, with all the "eminently practical" disadvantages of straight streets with summer winds and dust, will follow the contours of the harbor.

Table Talk Aug 31, 1922

#### VICTORIAN ARTISTS' SOCIETY.

A very interesting and instructive lecture was given by Mrs. W. B. Griffin on Saturday evening at the Victorian Artists' Society. The lecturer said that her first idea was to name her lecture "Architecture and Religion," but finally it was decided to call it "Architecture and Nature" (The Building of a Garden City—Illustrated). The lecturer started by saying she was going to scold the people, because wherever man came and started to build it was destroy, destroy, destroy. They immediately started spoiling the handiwork of the Creator, and created ugliness everywhere, instead of using the natural formation of the landscape, and by means of water color drawings on satin (distributed on the walls of the gallery) she was able to put very clearly before her audience the benefit to the community of utilising the natural formation of the land and landscape. By means of plans and map of Sydney she illustrated how in a garden city which they were building, they were following the natural formation of the harbor, the streets following round, ~~nothing to be straight or right angles.~~ Mrs. Griffin said that in the eight years that they had been here they had noticed how they were destroying some of the beauties of the Sydney Harbor by the buildings, building in front of other buildings, blocking out the view, and now only those built on the edge obtain a good view.

After the lecture, which was much enjoyed by those present, a very pleasing programme of song was carried out. Mr. Royston Oldfield, a young singer with great promise of being one of our leading tenors of the future, sang from "Cavalliera Rusticana." Miss Beckett, a pupil of Miss Annie Williams, sang "By the Water Minnetonka" and Waltz Song from Tom Jones. Miss Belle Gould and Mr. Royston Oldfield sang a duet from "Cavalliera Rusticana, which was well sung and much enjoyed.

Table Talk Aug 31, 1922

Mrs. W. B. Griffin aroused feelings of envy in many of her hearers on Saturday evening when she lectured to members of the Victorian Artists' Society on architecture, and its relation to nature. Her suggestions were only useful to those about to build, and with the necessary cash to pick and choose the site for their home; but everybody was interested in her views of a proper garden city. By means of water-color drawings on satin (distributed over the walls of the gallery) Mrs. Griffin was able to put clearly before her audience the benefit to the community of utilising the natural formation of the land and landscape. The suggestions outlined and the drawings made the listeners sigh to think that the unromantic and frankly commercial notions of the men responsible for the building of our city condemned them to live amid prosaic surroundings. The audience was regaled with a well-chosen programme of song before they donned overcoats for the homeward journey to their maligned suburbs.

*Dispatch*  
**Canberra.****A CITY IN THE MAKING.**

## VISIT TO FEDERAL TERRITORY.

One of the conditions of the agreement for the Federation of Australian States was that the capital site should be in the State of New South Wales and at least 100 miles from the city of Sydney. One advocated site was Bombala, afterwards Dalgety, and then later the Federal capital territory was selected nearer to Sydney city. On the 12th March, 1913, an official ceremony marked the initial operations in connection with the seat of Government, and the name Canberra was given to the site chosen for Australia's capital city. The name is an aboriginal one, and was originally applied to the locality of Mt. Ainslie and Mt. Black, within the territory, and signified its resemblance to a woman's breasts. The situation of Mt. Clarence and Mt. Melville is somewhat similar to the mountains at Canberra on a smaller scale. The area of the Federal territory is approximately 900 square miles in extent, and it is almost wholly enclosed within ranges of mountains, the highest point being Mt. Bimberi, which rises to a height of 6264 feet, while the lowest point in the territory is 1500 feet above sea level. It is situated in latitude 35, longitude 149, on the western side of the main Australian dividing range, is about 75 miles from the eastern coast, and is 204 miles from Sydney, 429 from Melbourne, 912 from Adelaide, 929 from Brisbane, and 2607 from Perth. The territory was acquired from the State of New South Wales by the Commonwealth, and the number of leases granted has been 360, which yield a revenue of £28,000 per annum. The stock on agissements number 314,000 sheep and 10,000 cattle, from which a revenue of £175 per week is obtained; and the total number of stock actually within the territory at last return was sheep, 205,000, cattle, 11,222, horses 514. Several small creeks and rivers traverse the territory, and four of considerable size, namely, the Murrumbidgee, the Cotter, the Molonglo and Paddy's River. The territory may be reached by leaving the main Southern line at Yass Junction and travelling some 65 miles by road and rail to the

*Albany*  
*no. 10*  
territory, or by going from Goulburn to Queanbeyan, and thence by vehicle some four miles to the territory or ten miles to the hostel that is now being constructed.

It might be just as well to recall the purpose of this capital city, and at the same time refer to the position of the Australian States. Each one of the States or colonies was governed by authority of the British Crown from the date when it was deemed advisable that they should in their own interests be endowed with self-government. As each developed, population increased and their individual interests were found to be clashing. For many years the necessity for a general form of government was recognised, and in 1885 Imperial legislation created a Federal Council of Australia, but it did not prove a success. Then negotiations for a better union were continued until 1899 when a referendum taken in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania approved of the scheme of federation arrived at by Premiers in Melbourne in 1898, and in 1900 the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act was passed, when Western Australia was included in the Federal Commonwealth of Australia. "This was a popular act; an expression of the free will of the people of every part of the States, and as, in some other respects, it differs in a striking manner from the federation of the United States, of Canada and of Germany."

For the purposes of government, then, it was deemed advisable and necessary to have a territory set aside particularly for Commonwealth use, in which administrative affairs could be considered apart from any State influence or prejudice, and as above stated Canberra was decided upon. In this decision no doubt very great tact and discretion were shown, as the territory is really an enclosed grazing area, where great tracts of timbered country have been cleared and rung for many years, but where no real town or large settlement exists. It was not bush country, either, and the undulating character of much of the land made it most suitable for city construction. Since its inception, designs have been agreed to for the laying out of the city, and work has been proceeded with since 1910, when £20,000 was spent there, in making

1922  
the city suitable as the seat of the nation. Some objection may be offered to the situation of Canberra as too far from the like of Albany, but it is much further from Wyndham, and were it taken to, say, Port Pirie, it would be further away from Thursday Island, also a part of the Commonwealth, than it is at present. No, these objections must be placed out of sight altogether.

According to an absolute freewill agreement the capital site is where it meets the conditions of that agreement, and it may be of interest to many readers to learn something regarding it, which by the courtesy of Mr. W. M. Hughes, the privilege of visiting it was availed of. The Prime Minister of Australia was for many years an active pressman and he knows the value of publicity, therefore, when he knew of the annual Provincial Press Conference he extended an invitation to 20 interstate country pressmen to visit Canberra, and three places were reserved for the West Australian delegates. Perhaps, then, the best way to convey an idea of the capital site will be to ask the reader to take the trip in imagination by rail and road by car and trail, and as the story will not weary in the writing let us hope that neither will it do so in the reading.

The order of procedure according to the programme was to leave the Sydney Central Station on the evening of November 3, at 8.30 by the train for Cooma. Just at that particular time the great station is a very busy place, as trains are leaving for the different States, as well as for the country lines and ordinary traffic. But there was every precaution taken that no inconvenience should occur, as the platform was mentioned and when it was reached, there were attendants waiting to show one to his berth and relieve him of all further anxiety. It had been a hard and trying day for most of the delegates, as from early morning till reaching the station it had been bustle and go. So it was not long after leaving the station till heads began to nod, and a sleeping car on the same plan as was in vogue on the Canadian Pacific Railway had not a wakeful person in it besides the conductor, nor was there anything to arouse the sleepers till 6.30 the next morning, when the breakfast bell caused a look to be taken from the windows to find the carriage shunted alongside a side platform at Queanbeyan railway station.

It was a lovely morning scene that greeted us. The sun was riding high over the distant mountain tops, the air was sharp and bracing and everything was bright and invigora-

1922  
ting. At 7.30 everyone was out of the carriage, at 7.45 everyone was being served with breakfast at the principal hotel; at 8.30 seven motor cars, each containing three pressmen and a chaffeur, passed down the main thoroughfare on the road to the Federal Territory. We were each fortunate in having an excellent guide, and with me was a delegate from Queensland and one from South Australia, while the guide was Mr. Goodwin, the works representative of the Federal Minister, whose early words to me were an enquiry about Andrew Muir, jnr., of Forrest Hill, and he mentioned to me of pleasant hours he had spent at Mt. Barker and had enjoyed its apples as well as the companionship of several of its people. He told us the history of the early settlement of Canberra, and that Mt. Ainslie was named after a servant of its first owner, who got it as a grant from the Government because it commandeered his barque to get provisions for the starving settlers at Sydney. Ainslie had been commissioned to choose the land granted, which he first saw from the side of the mountain named after him. At 9 o'clock the military college at Duntroon was reached, three or four miles within the Federal Territory. Duntroon had many well tilled paddocks of oats and wheat put in for the use of the military, but the admirable gardens at the old homestead and the beautiful flowers and shrubbery at the residences of officers and men, were like a fairyland scene transplanted from a city theatre stage. There were only 15 minutes allotted for an inspection of Duntroon, and as that meant just a glimpse could be obtained of the inside, our party favored a move on to the civic centre, where some active work might be seen. We soon came up to some cottages which had been erected, and although an offer was made to inspect the interior of one it was not accepted. What did interest us was this, that where each cottage stood as a part of a town settlement, no fences separated the one from the other. The garden city scheme was adopted. Between the roadway and the pavement ran garden plots, and between the edge of the inside of the footpath and the residence site were more plots, while a hedge would later be the dividing line between each plot.

Morning Herald Sydney  
May 23, 1923 New So. Wales

Morn. Herald Sydney  
New So. Wales  
June 9, 1923

## CANBERRA.

### PARLIAMENT HOUSE SITE.

MELBOURNE, Tuesday.

The Federal Public Works Committee held its last meeting this afternoon before leaving for Sydney, where members from Brisbane will be consulted concerning the Canberra proposals. The committee does not expect to be absent longer than a week. Mr. Walter B. Griffin, architect, who designed the plan definitely accepted for the Federal capital, was examined. In contrast to Mr. J. S. Murdoch, architect to the Department of Works and Railways, who was examined last Friday, Mr. Griffin said he was entirely opposed to shifting the site of the permanent Parliament House from Camp Hill to Kurrajong. Mr. Griffin pointed out that a temporary building would cost £200,000, and in the interests of both sentiment and economy it would be inadvisable ever to pull it down. The difference between the cost of a permanent and temporary building on the lines indicated would be merely a matter of 15 per cent. Therefore the proposed permanent building might be proceeded with. It should take one year to prepare, and two years after that would be occupied in building. Camp Hill, continued Mr. Griffin, was the inevitable site for Parliament House.

Angus Melb. Vict.  
May 23, 1923

## BUILDING CANBERRA.

### Designer Against Temporary Work.

The Federal Public Works Committee held its last meeting yesterday afternoon before leaving for Sydney, where members from Brisbane will be consulted concerning the Canberra proposals. The committee does not expect to be absent longer than a week.

Mr. Walter B. Griffin, architect, who designed the plan definitely accepted for the Federal Capital, was examined. In contrast to Mr. J. S. Murdoch, architect to the Department of Works and Railways, who was examined last Friday, Mr. Griffin said he was entirely opposed to shifting the site of the permanent Parliament House from Camp Hill to Kurrajong. Mr. Griffin pointed out that a temporary Parliament House building would cost £200,000, and in the interests both of sentiment and economy it would be inadvisable ever to pull it down. The difference between the cost of a permanent and temporary building (on the lines indicated) would be merely a matter of 15 per cent. Therefore the proposed permanent building might be proceeded with; it should take one year to prepare, and two years after that would be occupied in building. Camp Hill, continued Mr. Griffin, was the inevitable site for Parliament House. The hill provided an artistic ensemble, and merely required decorating; it might be considered as the "stage" and the city as the "auditorium." Mr. Griffin preferred not to answer questions concerning alternative schemes without first considering them carefully.

## AUSTRALIA'S CAPITAL.

### CANBERRA AND ITS ENVIRONS.

(BY ETHEL E. FALKNER.)

If there is a Land Delectable in Australia it is surely to be found beyond Goulburn, round about the undulating hills and pleasant valleys and meandering streams of the Federal capital and territory adjacent to Queanbeyan and Buongendore. At the present time all that stretch of country is in the throes of autumn, "yellow and black and pale and hectic red." There are brown fields and golden trees, russet hawthorn hedges, white roadways, where tower Lombardy poplars of pure gold and silver, poplars of shining gold, where, when the wind blows, Midas would seem to rain from the heavens golden snow-storms athwart azure skies. The weather has a wondrous perfection in these parts. Day follows day when only the gentlest zephyr blows, and the sun shines heavily down through always cool limpid air. Beautiful cloud effects are almost always present, ever changing in the unwearied way of nature. Sometimes from the sea—30 miles distant—black ominous vapourings blow up, shrouding all the hills and vales in rainbow mists of impenetrable density; then anon, in an hour or so, they have blown away, and once more the illimitable blue ether fills with its white fleecy denizens. A drought of great severity had prevailed over almost the whole of Australia, but its ravages would seem to be less apparent in those pastoral areas than anywhere else. Russet fields of ripened grass stretch down to streams of running water, where golden sand stretches over many a flat that before the big floods of last winter were grassy meads—for there are meads here—meads of rich English grasses, luscious and as verdant as any to be found in the old countries. Here sheep of the golden fleece browse serenely, and here on the rich valley flats carpeted in heavy grass and clover, patterned with giant tussocks, sleek and sleepy cattle graze contentedly.

### OLD AND NEW.

In this part of New South Wales, generally speaking, the station holdings are small, having been "cut up" of recent years. The homesteads are old, and of no architectural design, just dwellings which have been added to as the pioneers' families grew. Here and there where new blood has entered the district houses have been rebuilt, but the old-time gardens remain and the trees of long ago have now reached the beauty of their maturity. There is a station garden near Queanbeyan which has half a century to its age. Here the flowers and trees are tipped with all the vivid tints of autumn. All the last blossoms of summer-time are rioting to their death—golden dahlias are on their last joyous lap—golden zinnias are lothfully tarnishing under early frosts. Here and there a lingering gladiolus rears its spike of fiery red, and everywhere the last crop of delphiniums shows bluer than the sky. Sluggishly in the cooling air the last bees of summer toil from flower to flower—languishing and slow to go are all these remnants of summer, but rude winter is not to be withheld, and golden chrysanthemums are well ablow, whilst violets are purpling the borders and scenting the air. The dry season is driving flocks of wild bird life into the old-time garden—magpies warble in the pines, garrulous noisy jays, with raucous voices, blcker from dawn to dark for the supremacy of this birds' oasis. Twelve apostles, nay, eleven—Judas is always missing for some obscure reason—diligently delve in the moist flowerbeds seeking moister grubs, scattering the earth far over the gravelled paths, incidentally courting disaster and death from an irate gardener who prowls around with a gun betimes. Flocks of paradisaic parrots, with colours that would almost shame a rainbow, have found the rose hips palatable, and are pruning the bushes ruthlessly. Hunger has tamed the feathered world. The other day the writer watched a flock of lowries disport and bathe, flutter and preen, under the very rose spray the gardener was using—the tiniest birds are not to be outdone, robins and wrens, finches of fiery tails, gay little blue-bonnets with their drab little mates fit

over the violets and hop about the verandah chairs seeking the crumbs that are thrown there for their sustenance. It must have been into this grove of golden autumn where the birds whistle and the bees murmur all the live-long day that a dead boy poet glimpsed when he sang:

A mellow sunshine lies upon the grass,  
And peace and restfulness so deeply brood  
That you might think the place had been asleep  
Through all the years.

And it must have been at these sun-kissed fields, where cattle browse knee-deep in heady grass, and where, when the sun has sunk, leaving only an amber radiance, the same boy looked when he said the owners of these fair fields must traffic in golden merchandise.

### BEAUTIFUL FOR SITUATION.

Canberra itself has a wondrous situation. Pretoria, that lovely capital of South Africa, might well be the twin sister. Both lie inland, both have altitude, and both lie cradled in a great basin, surrounded by everlasting hills rising in gentle slopes. Here the Cotter River, fed by innumerable running streamlets, meanders through the valley, waiting but the hand of man to dam its waters, sufficient then to supply a city of any dimensions. Perhaps to-day the outstanding feature of this embryo capital is the afforestation. For the last 10 years zealous stewards of the public weal have been assiduously forming plantations and acclimatising thousands and thousands of the best English and European trees, always with an eye to the beautification of the city that is to be. Tree-planting is being fostered by the Government amongst the inhabitants of the territory, and anyone can have trees gratis for the afforestation of his estate.

The altitude of Canberra is some 2000ft, and its atmosphere has a rare and vitalising effect on the people who breathe its peculiar and almost super transparency. The quality of the air we breathe has surely much to do with our mental and physical activity—our general well-being, in short—and in this respect Canberra will score for all time, and when in the fulness of time our population has increased and the capital of the Southern Hemisphere has eventuated, a physical energy and buoyancy, together with a mental exultation, will, I think, be clearly visible and tangible, as it is in Johannesburg—that city of the Transvaal which stands high on the veldt plateau, some 5000ft above sea level.

### OUR PESSIMISTS.

Many are the croakers to-day about the building of the Federal capital—well we know them by their whinings and arguments contra, but they belong to that vast army whose battalions are quartered over the whole world. They are the grouchers in life, those who can only tear down and detract and never build up or suggest. Man must have something more than commercial utility; he has a soul, which, if it goes unfed, the best in him dwindles, and we get but his second best. Here in the territory is glorious nature—hill and dale, sky and limpid air—cooling streams and colour, all of which since time was have comprised the sustenance of the gods—nectar and ambrosia—in other words, the elixir of life.

Here the wizard of the year spreads a glory over wood and field in spring and autumn. Here all the year round the air is cool and liquid as it wafts from mountain heights or wanders inland from the Pacific Ocean. Here as one gazes one might expect to hear Pan piping down the valleys or to see the lost Atlanteans wandering over the yellow fields, and when towards evening Phoebus sinks over the horizon, leaving a nimbus of golden light reaching far up into the sky, silhouetting all the darkened hills, and a few lone curls call far down in the valley where the river winds, and the evening breeze rising rustles through the reedy tussocks, the words of a living poet come to the mind:

The dust of night is tangled in the boughs of yellowing elms and willows,  
And the pines grow blacker, and her star upon the brows

Of sleep is set in heaven for a sign.  
Earth's little weary peoples fall on peace  
And dream of breaking buds and blossoming  
And dewy airs, of days of large increase  
And all the coloured retinue of life.

In this sequestered vale, where in the glory of the years to be a city will arise throbbing with life and action, one feels that the Federal Government has done well in choosing such a fertile and pleasant tract of country, so climatically favoured and so geographically safe for the capital of this great continent. Here is truly The Land Delectable.

Argus Melt. Vict.  
July 13, 1923

## PARLIAMENT AT CANBERRA

### ERECTION OF BUILDINGS.

#### PROVISIONAL OR PERMANENT?

##### Inquiry Committee Divided.

Divergence of opinion has arisen among members of the Federal Public Works Committee, as well as among experts and laymen, upon the respective merits of a provisional Parliament House at Canberra, and the nucleus of a permanent building. In view of the divided opinion, the committee has submitted the two proposals for the decision of Parliament, expressing the view that either of them would meet all needs for many years. The report of the committee was tabled in the House of Representatives yesterday by the chairman (Mr. Gregory), and immediately afterwards Mr. Blakeley (N.S.W.) submitted a minority report in which he set out his reasons for believing that the proposal for a provisional building should be adhered to.

##### Permanent Building Favoured.

A majority of the members of the committee, comprising the chairman, Senators Foll and Newlands, ex-Senator Plain, and Messrs. Jackson and Mackay, M.H.R.'s, favoured the erection of the nucleus of the permanent building on Camp Hill. In the accepted plan of Canberra the permanent Parliament House is designed to occupy Camp Hill at a level of approximately 1,922 feet, and the eminence of Kurrajong to the south is planned to carry, at a level of 2,000 feet, a monumental building known as the Capitol. Two members of the committee, Messrs. Cook and Blakeley, M.H.R.'s, favoured the erection of a provisional Parliament House on a site below Camp Hill, as recommended by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee. It had been estimated that a provisional Parliament House could be provided in approximately two and a half years from the date of the commencement of work, and part of the criticism against the proposal for the nucleus of a permanent building was that the transfer of the capital would be delayed. To call for a world-wide competition, which would be necessary for the construction of the nucleus of a permanent building, would, in the opinion of the committee, take just so much longer as would be involved in arranging the competition, and, if necessary, bringing out the successful architect, if the winner be not found in Australia. Taking all things into consideration, the committee considered that a provisional building could be constructed within three years from the time approval was given; while it would take approximately four to five years to provide the nucleus of a permanent building.

##### Cheap Structure Unsatisfactory.

A provisional Parliament House was considered by the advisory committee to be the best means of complying with the request. Consideration was given by the works committee to the proposal to house Parliament in a cheaply constructed temporary structure sufficiently durable to serve its purpose while the permanent building was being built, the provisional structure to consist of such materials as would have some residual value for removal directly the permanent Parliament House was ready. The opinion was expressed that the function of legislation was so complicated that, if Parliament were to sit for even one month in a temporary building, provision would be required in that building for necessary facilities for debate, for library reference, party and committee meetings, and for the essential services of the officials of Parliament.

The original estimate for the provisional building was £174,000. Figures obtained from the chief Commonwealth architect showed that a frame building, plastered and weatherboarded, with tiled roof, might be expected to cost about £148,000. If members were prepared to put up with some inconvenience for a period of years, it was estimated that the cost of the structure might be reduced to £94,000. The committee, however, was unanimously of the opinion that the lack of comfort and convenience, inseparably associated with a purely temporary building, would be uneconomical and most inadvisable. The idea had therefore been abandoned and attention concentrated on the alternative of a provisional building as proposed by the advisory committee, or the nucleus of a permanent building.

##### Life of Provisional Structure.

With regard to the provisional building, it was stated that this could serve as a Parliament House for 50 years or more, and after that it would be capable of use for other purposes for a further period of 30 or 40 years. Those who favoured the nucleus of the permanent building had argued, that in any expenditure in that direction the Commonwealth would be obtaining permanent value for its money, while money spent on the provisional building would be so much dead loss. It was claimed that a nucleus or shell would be the first incentive to the people to aim at the fulfilment of an architectural monument which would be the central feature of Canberra, and that it could be built in about three years at a cost of approximately £250,000. The opponents of the nucleus plan, on the other hand, felt that the public mind was prepared for the early establishment of the seat of Government at Canberra; that anything done at present to postpone the transfer would permit of the rallying of those interests which were opposed to the building of the capital. Believing delay to be dangerous, they advocated the building of Canberra immediately. Much consideration had been given to the question of competitive designs for the permanent Parliament House, and the committee decided, with Mr. Blakeley dissenting, that it would be desirable in order that the construction of the nucleus of the building might be proceeded with, to call for designs returnable at the earliest possible time, but not to exceed 12 months. It was suggested that when designs were invited there should be enumerated such portions as were to be contained within the nucleus of the building. The committee recommended that if the nucleus proposal be adopted, the first expenditure should not be more than £200,000 with £50,000 to cover any necessary additions.

##### Accommodation for Members.

With regard to the general provision in the Parliament House, the committee recommended that the chambers be made of a size sufficient to seat 112 members in the House of Representatives, of 56 in the Senate, and that the seating be arranged on a semi-circular plan, members to be provided with benches for two and a separate desk for each member. It was proposed to place the Hansard and press galleries at a low elevation behind the presiding officers' chairs.

### MINORITY REPORT.

#### Nucleus Would Cost £600,000.

Mr. Blakeley (the only New South Wales representative on the committee), in his minority report, stated that the erection of a provisional building would be less costly than the erection of a nucleus of a permanent building, in view of the fact that the latter would necessitate heavy expenditure in basement foundations, thicker walls, and internal finishings. He estimated the cost of a nucleus at £600,000, at least £200,000 of which would be wasted in the removal of temporary structures attached to the permanent nucleus. He considered that the removal of Parliament would be retarded until at least 1929 if the plan were adopted.

When Mr. Gregory presented the reports to the House, Mr. Blakeley (N.S.W.), a member of the committee, moved that his minority report in favour of building a provisional House of Parliament be printed.

1923  
Mr. Mahony (N.S.W.) seconded the motion.

The chairman of the committee (Mr. Gregory) opposed the motion on the ground that members of the committee who opposed the decision of the majority could set forth their views by resolutions that would appear in the main report.

Mr. Blakeley said that he had endeavoured to have his report recorded in the form of a resolution, but was ruled out of order by the chairman.

On the motion of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) the debate was adjourned until next Thursday, in order to permit of an agreement being reached.

### GENERAL ACCOMMODATION.

#### 300 Cottages as Beginning.

Reports were also presented by the Public Works Committee dealing with the erection of provisional administrative offices and for a hostel for Commonwealth officers. The suggestion of the advisory committee to erect temporary offices was not accepted, and it was recommended that two units of permanent office buildings be erected, office accommodation to be provided in large open spaces. With regard to the proposed hostel for officers, the committee considered that it should be a recognised principle that money expended at Canberra for the erection of hostels, residences, and similar structures should carry overhead charges, such as interest, amortisation, and water and sewerage rates. It was suggested that a hostel be provided to accommodate 80 officials at a cost not exceeding £25,000. The committee also expressed the opinion that as soon as approval was given for the erection of Parliament House, the Commonwealth should throw open areas of the city for leasing, and, in addition, inaugurate a system of credit foncier to enable persons to proceed with the erection of residences, subject to approval as to design and material, and that arrangements be made to invite competitive designs for the early erection of 300 cottages.

### TRANSFER TO NEW CAPITAL.

#### DECISION OF HOUSE.

##### Next Parliament at Canberra.

Resuming the debate in the House of Representatives yesterday on Mr. Mahony's motion that the tenth Parliament should be summoned to assemble for its first meeting at Canberra, the Attorney-General (Mr. Groom) said that the works at the new Federal Capital were being carried out as efficiently and economically as possible. The scheme contemplated a minimum of Government expenditure, and the throwing open of the capital to private enterprise as much as possible. He believed that Parliament would have its seat at Canberra within the time contemplated by the motion. Mr. Foster (S.A.) said that if Canberra were made ready for Parliament in the time desired excessive and unjustifiable cost would be involved. One of the greatest disadvantages was the dearth of skilled labour. Although he was one of those who desired to reach Canberra, he could not support the motion, because he was not prepared to advise the Ministry to waste public funds so that Parliament could assemble at an earlier date than could reasonably be expected.

Mr. McDonald (N.S.W.) said that if all the champions of Canberra were as fervent as Mr. Foster then the greatest curiosity at the opening of Australia's Capital would be the ancient veteran who remembered Federation. Mr. Hughes had referred to the insidious influences which had been brought to bear upon his Ministry to prevent the removal to Canberra.

Mr. Foster.—Well, no one brought them to bear on me.

Mr. McDonald.—That those sinister influences had been brought to bear was in itself a strong argument in favour of early removal to Canberra, where a Ministry would not be so subject to them.

Mr. Latham (V.) said that he returned the previous day from a visit to Canberra impressed by the beautiful setting of the

# AUSTRALIA'S SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

*The turning of the first sod on August 25 prior to the construction of the temporary Federal House of Parliament at Canberra will mark an important epoch in Australian history.*—By Laura Bogue Luffman.

capital. It had been decided that the capital should be built, and he accepted the decision. At the same time he did not agree with the talk of "a solemn compact in the Constitution." The fact was that at Federation New South Wales drove a hard bargain, to which the other States were forced to submit. That bargain must be carried out, but it imposed no positive obligation to build the capital, only a negative obligation not to set up the capital anywhere else than in New South Wales more than 100 miles from Sydney. Future Parliaments were left to choose the time when the work should be begun. It was in the fact that Parliament had accepted from New South Wales a gift of territory for the capital that the positive obligation lay. On that ground he agreed that it was the duty of the Parliament to proceed with the erection of the capital. From a purely Victorian viewpoint there was much to be said in favour of clearing the Federal Capital out of Melbourne with all speed. In many ways it was a distinct handicap to Victoria, and depreciated her State institutions. The effect of the resolution was that Parliament must meet at Canberra in two and a half years. He found on his visit that some roads were built, but many more would be required before Parliament could meet there. It would be a great mistake to construct a temporary capital, which would be an object, perhaps, of public derision. Let them build for the centuries. What difference did it make if Parliament met at Canberra in three years or ten years?

Mr. Marr (N.S.W.) said that the proposed commission should be instructed to have the capital ready by a certain date, and should be given not only the necessary powers, but the requisite money.

The Minister for Works and Railways (Mr. Stewart) said that in view of the definite pronouncement of the intention of the Ministry the motion was unnecessary. Last year £379,000 was voted for Canberra. This amount was subject to a curtailment to £334,000, and the amount actually expended was £332,693. The balance, together with £46,000 unexpended from this year's estimate, would soon be absorbed on works in progress. He believed that the capital could be transferred to Canberra within three years without excessive or unjustifiable cost.

Mr. Mahony's motion was agreed to on division, the voting being:—

Ayes (37).—Messrs. Atkinson, Blakely, Bowden, Bruce, Chapman, Charlton, Coleman, Corser, Cunningham, Forde, J. Francis, Gardiner, Gibson, A. Green, R. F. H. Green, Groom, Hughes, Hurry, Killen, Lacey, Lazarini, Mahony, Makin, W. Maloney, Manning, Marr, P. Moloney, O'Keefe, Page, Prowse, Riley, sen., Riley, jun., Sir Granville Ryrie, Scullin, Stewart, Thompson, and West.

Noes (12).—Messrs. Bamford, Cameron, Cook, Duncan-Hughes, Gregory, Hill, Latham, McGrath, McNeill, Paterson, Whitsitt, and Yates.

Pairs.—For the Motion—Messrs. Marks, Mann, F. McDonald, Watkins, Lambert, C. McDonald, D. Cameron, Bayley, Mathews, Sir Neville Howse, and Sir Elliott Johnson.

Against the Motion.—Messrs. F. Francis, Maxwell, Seabrook, Gabb, Lister, Jackson, Foster, Brennan, Fenton, Mackay, and Hunter.

EVER since the Seat of Government Act was passed on 14th December, 1908—ever since the Act was brought into force by proclamation in January, 1910—ever since the city was named Canberra by her Excellency Lady Denman on 12th March, 1913—we have been waiting to see the symbol of a united nation arise. There have been unaccountable delays, wilful hindrances, and secret opposition; but, thanks to the dogged persistence of certain citizens, the seat of government is becoming an established fact. The group gathered round the Minister (Mr. Stewart) as he turns the first sod will realise that the magnificent panorama is a fit setting for the greatness of the occasion. Never was a finer site

chosen on which to erect the stately walls of a House of Parliament. The broad expanse of country, resembling an English "weald," smiles a welcome with its amphitheatre of hills, its valleys, slopes, and watercourses, while the broad Commonwealth-avenue stretching towards Mount Ainslie affords a vision of space and freedom which cannot fail to be a source of inspiration to our Federal legislators.

ALTHOUGH the original idea of a "monumental" House of Parliament has been abandoned—at all events for a time—the provisional building will be a fine structure, built of brick and thoroughly in keeping with the general architectural plan. The administrative buildings will be grouped within its precincts, and, in the vicinity, will arise the Capitol, destined to embrace Australian treasures of Science and Art. The housing of civil servants will be undertaken, as well as the provision of Government offices. The scheme provides for sequence of design. The main expenditure of the Government will be on this centre, and it is believed that, once Parliament is actually sitting at Canberra, the demand for land will set in. The policy of the Government is to issue leases only, reappraisable at specific dates, and thus secure the increment in values, and eventually liquidate the cost of all the roads, sewerage, water, light, power, and other services, as well as the public buildings of

the city. We do not accept as an article of belief this estimate, which may remain in the region of pious hopes. It is well to bear in mind that Washington remains a charge on the Treasury to this hour.

A QUESTION sometimes asked is: "How will our legislators ever get to such an out-of-the-way place as Canberra?" The railway station to be erected in the civic centre will give access to Canberra from every channel of commercial intercourse within the Commonwealth. There will be a connection with Queanbeyan to Sydney and intermediate towns; another with Yass to secure direct communication with Melbourne and western cities; and a third

with the port of Jervis Bay to bring the capital into touch with the seaboard.

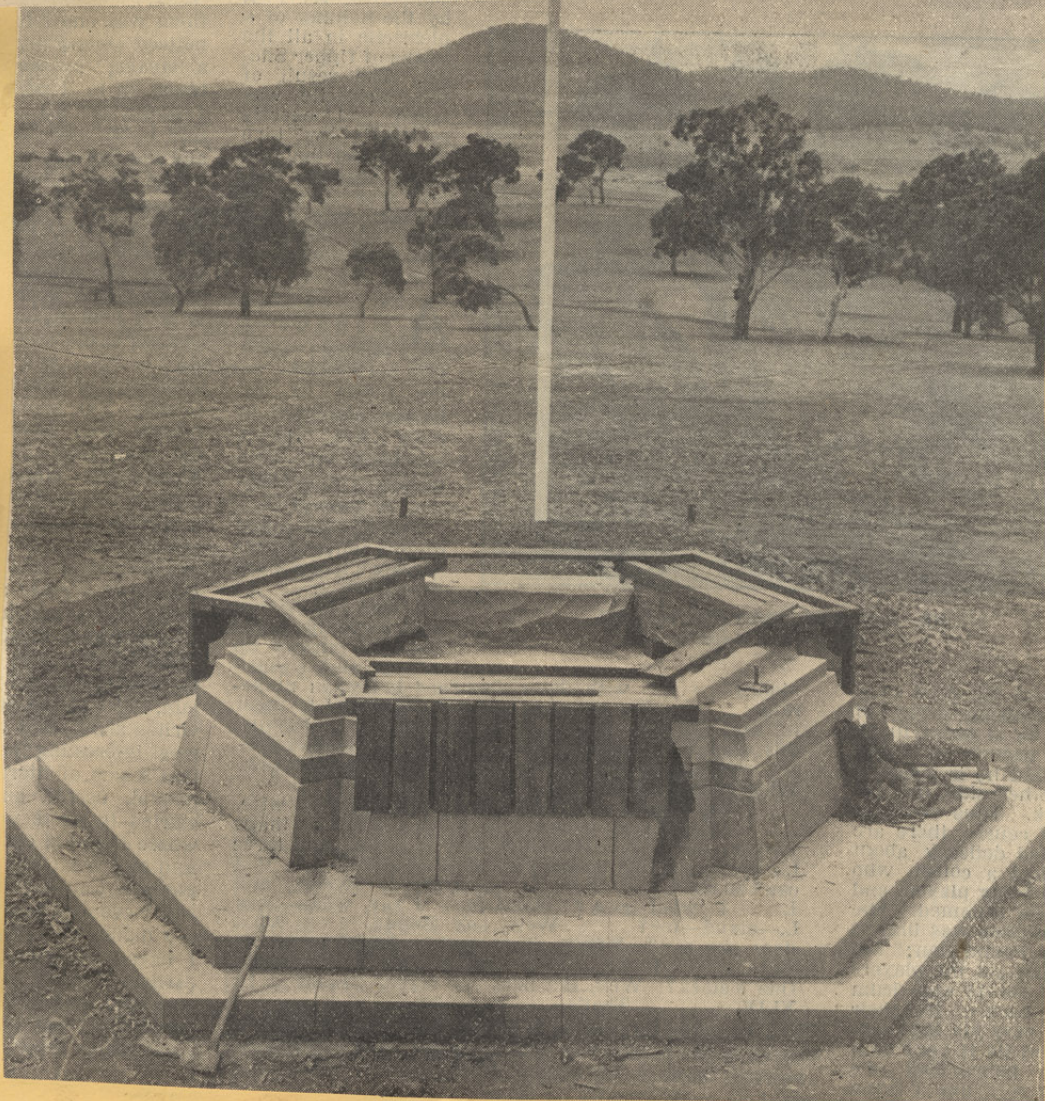
Lord Denman prophesied in 1913 that Canberra was to be a city of broad avenues, noble buildings, and sheltered gardens. The fulfilment is hardly yet apparent, but it must be borne in mind that the essentials—road-making, lighting, sewerage, and water supply—must come first. Water is derived from a catchment area of 165 square miles, and is impounded in a concrete dam. From this dam the water eventually gravitates to the reservoirs on Red Hill, which is 500ft above the city. The septic tank system has been introduced for the disposal of sewage. The main outfall sewer from the city to the treatment area has been constructed.

Light is abundantly supplied from a central power station, from which electric currents are transmitted to each of the centres of activity within the Federal territory.

**T**HE provision of these utilities must precede building activities, but we may assume that the turning of the first sod will be rapidly followed by the erection of private dwellings. Although bricks and mortar are not greatly in evidence the imagination easily fills in the details of the plan. Apropos of bricks: The Staffordshire continuance kiln of 20 chambers and the brick-making machines can turn out 20,000 bricks per day, and, the suitability of the shale for tile-making having been tested, a tile-making plant for roofing tiles is in operation. The bricks produced are declared to be better than the old Roman bricks. There is plenty of material ready to hand for the legislator of the future to

### THE CENTRE OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

*From the base of the column in the foreground an avenue will extend to the Houses of Parliament (which may be imagined as occupying the site of the clump of timber directly ahead) and continue for some distance farther. The University will be to the left of the Parliamentary buildings, and the Governor-General's residence still farther to the left. The picture shows Mt. Ainslie in the distance.*



build his own private house, should he not care to establish himself and his family in the delightful hostel already rising from the ground, which will ensure to its inmates, by means of covered ways, shrubberies, and sunk gardens, the privacy of a home. In either case, his lot is cast in pleasant places. He will find himself on arrival in a world of shaded gardens and leafy boulevards and wide vistas set in a framework of hills.

If Parliament is not sitting he may join friends in an evening drive to Mount Stromlo, crowned by the observatory, where on clear nights the stars shine as diamonds upon an inky black ground and the faintest branches of the Milky Way blaze with light. Should he defer his visit to the morning he will drink in the aromatic perfume of pines clothing the slopes of the winding road as his eyes survey the great sweep of undulating country at his feet. Should fishing be his hobby, he has three rivers to choose from; or he may while away a hot afternoon at the Cotter Dam, where his nerves will be soothed by the murmur of running water and his eyes satisfied by the peaceful landscape. Later, when paying his respects to the Governor-General at Yarralumla, he will find traces of early pioneer days as he revels in the beauty of the brilliant flowerbeds.

Canberra is full of interest to the seeing eye. Let us not forget the words of Lord Denman: "The making of its destiny lies in your hands. Let us hope that its traditions will be of justice, of peace, of honour, and of prosperity: that here will be reflected all that is finest and noblest in the national life of the country; that here a city may arise where those responsible for the govern-

ment of this country in the future may seek an inspiration: A city bearing some resemblance to the City Beautiful of our dreams."

#### Pioneers of Canberra

**M**R. W. DAVIS WRIGHT, aged 82, 6 and still rejoicing in his strength—to his own description of himself—has just published a most interesting booklet of some hundred pages on the subject of Canberra and the names asso-



with it. It is one of the most interesting little additions to our Australiana that could be imagined, and, now that the removal of the Federal capital to Canberra is a matter of early fulfilment, Mr. Davis Wright's book takes on an added and topical importance. The author tells us all about the families who have pioneered and settled the Canberra district; the Campbells and the Moores and the Lanyons and the Ryries, and of nearly all of them he has something of interest to tell or some reminiscence to record associated with them. He tells us of the bushrangers—of Ben Hall and his gang in particular—of the Lambing Flat riots, of the gold rushes, of droving exploits, and floods, and tempest, and drought; and even manages to drag in a whale, though, to be sure, his experiences with a beast so unusually found in Australian memoirs occurred at Wollongong, and not at Canberra. Great days they seem to have been, those early

days, if one may judge by Mr. Wright's recollections of them: days of men who were men, full of energy and fight and determination and pluck, and of women who were heroines, too. Here is a little incident which the author introduces into his account of Mr. Jas. Wright, his father, who, born in 1797, came to Sydney in 1832, and later settled at a spot about ten miles from where the Federal Parliament is shortly to be housed. He is speaking about two bushrangers named Green and Watson, who were ravaging that district in the forties. Two blacktrackers, Como and Jacky, who were after them, caught sight of the precious pair just as they were leaving the hut of one Mr. Wright's stockmen named Conlon. Waiting till they were a little way off, the trackers then crept stealthily up to Conlon's hut:—

After explanations they got the other gun and told Mrs. Conlon that when they called she was to bring quickly a knife and a supply of strong string. Creeping slowly between the trees. . . . the trackers got up behind Green and Watson, who were busy preparing their meal, and . . . were petrified by an imperative order to "surrender or be shot."

Everything fell out as arranged. Mrs. Conlon came with the string and knife. With the knife she cut through the waistbands of the men's trousers, thereby hobbling them so that they could not run, and then—protected by the natives' guns—she tied the bushrangers' hands behind them. Then she set out for Tugnagong to tell the boss to come with handcuffs—which I may say were kept at every homestead ready for such emergencies. A plucky woman. She caught an old horse, and having no saddle, she made a bridle of green hide, then clapped a sack on his back, and away she went for help.

A PLUCKY woman indeed, and Mr. Wright can tell us—and does—of many another: fit mates for the hardy pioneers

whom they had married. There is something heroic in this tiny volume, and our heart warms to the man who wrote it.

Sydney New So. Wales

THE SUN, TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1923.

## CANBERRA CEREMONY

### Starting to Build Parliament

#### SYMBOL OF NATIONAL UNITY

#### MOST BEAUTIFUL OF AUSTRALIAN CITIES

(By Our Special Representative)

CANBERRA, Tuesday.

"This building now being commenced may be regarded as a symbol of national unity. Let us earnestly hope that in its completion and in the establishment of the Commonwealth Parliament therein the highest aspirations of the founders of the Federal Constitution may be realised," said the Minister for Works (Mr. Stewart), in turning the first sod of the provisional Parliament House at Canberra this afternoon.

NATURE smiled as contentedly as a member of Parliament on Federal Works Minister (Mr. Stewart), when he achieved his long-awaited encounter this afternoon with the first sod of the provisional Parliament House excavation on Camp Hill.

An admiring crowd cheered on the steam shovel which turned the trick—and the sod.

The ceremony was performed in a high wind, which scattered clouds of red dust. Upwards of 1500 spectators and scores of cars lined the hill. A cheering crowd rushed the arena, and held up the proceedings for some time.

Nature was far from smiling at day-break, for black clouds banked the sky and rain pitched down in drops the size of liqueurs at a banquet. However, as the morning advanced the only noticeable effect of the storm was to clear the air and make more pungent the incense of the wattle.

Mr. Stewart's performance lacked the finish which Mr. King O'Malley would have given it, but somehow it seemed more convincing. Besides there was a reason. On Kurrajong Hill above stood a green reminder of the vanity of human wishes. The spectre at the festivities was the pre-tentious commencement column. As a souvenir of his share in well and truly laying that now pathetic-looking stone—pathetic for it is still unfinished, and where it is visible through the common deal boards which cover it like a shroud the illustrious name it bears is scratched—Mr. O'Malley has a gold trowel on his sideboard.

Canberra has so long been the plaything of politicians that conceivably another ceremony more or less might not matter. That would account, perhaps, for the cynical smiles on the faces of the workmen and staff. With the politicians present it was different. Though no elevation has been prepared yet of the garden-flanked building which is to stand on the spot—and they are still somewhat hazy as to the comfort of their future quarters—they knew, nevertheless, that this function marked the real birth of Canberra as the seat of Government—a new era in the history of Federation, the enthusiasts declare, for it will free the Legislature from the "pernicious influence of Melbourne commercial and political interests."

There is, of course, the big "perhaps" and "if" usually associated with Canberra, but Parliament has already passed a resolution requesting the Governor-General to call the next meeting of Parliament there three years hence. The estimated cost is £220,000.

In two months the excavation should be finished, and in six months the foundation erected by day labor. In the meanwhile, to save time, tenders will be called for the building itself, which, when completed, it is hoped will satisfy Parliamentarians for 50 years. It will be a substantial structure of brick—a steam tramline has been laid to convey the bricks—and capable of other uses for perhaps another half-century. By that time Alderman Brooks will be no more, and there may be a statue, too, on Camp Hill. Who knows?

## Next Parliament Meets There

In performing the official ceremony Mr. Stewart, the Minister for Works said:—

"Canberra is a business proposition, and the Government is determined it shall be administered on proper business lines. The nation has a wonderful asset in the Federal territory. Situated as it is, it can, if properly managed, be made the most beautiful of Australia's cities without costing the taxpayers one penny, and this Government is determined to do everything in its power to ensure the achievement of that object.

"It is also the policy of the present composite Government to foster a big Australian sentiment. Its determination to transfer the seat of Government to Canberra at the earliest practicable date arises from the belief that the first step towards national unity is to instal the national Parliament in its own territory, as provided for in the Commonwealth Constitution, where it can hold the balance evenly between the oft-times conflicting interests of the various States, and where, uninfluenced by the pressure of any one particular State, it can legislate impartially in the best interests of the whole of the Australian people.

"Numerous difficulties and delays have occurred in fulfilling the provisions for securing that independence for the Federal Legislature. The commencement of this building, which is, as it were, the keystone of the Federal capital arch, is an earnest fulfilment of what is regarded as a national obligation.

"Prior to the war, the Federal capital was popularly conceived as a city having massive and monumental public buildings, and works of an architectural character worthy to rank with those of older countries. Changed economic conditions brought about by the war have necessitated the revision of our ideas on these matters. No scheme which loads the present generation with an additional heavy financial burden is acceptable. If the monumental idea were insisted on it would probably involve postponing the city's effective occupation considerably. Happily there is a satisfactory

alternative, and the present scheme for the construction of Canberra contemplates a garden city, rather than a monumental one, in the present generation, at the same time leaving the way clear for development on the grander scale provided for in the accepted design, whenever the time may be opportune.

"The experience of several years occupation of the city will be invaluable in considering what should be the permanent form of the monumental building. An eminent authority on town-planning in America, has written commending this viewpoint, and as a result of experience in building American cities, strongly urges the Government to be in no hurry to settle in too permanent form, the details of the main buildings.

"It is proposed to bush ahead with all possible despatch with the foundations for Parliament House, and to invite competitive designs for the administrative offices at an early date. The task ahead is enormous. Printing offices, telephone exchange, libraries, and all other institutions, incidental to Parliamentary activities must be provided, before Parliament can assemble. Then again, there are the manifold requirements of a modern city.

"The present Government intends to do all in its power to carry out its obligations in this respect at the earliest possible date. It has in view the opening of the next Parliament at Canberra, and has entrusted to myself and my officers the responsibility of preparing the city for the reception of Parliament. It is no easy task, but I believe it can be accomplished, and if in my ministerial career, I accomplish nothing else, both the Government I speak for, and myself, will have justified our existence."

Mr. Stewart was supported by Mr. Chapman, who made a brief characteristic speech.

Other Federal members present included the Minister for Defence (Mr. Bowden), the Attorney-General (Mr. Groom), and Messrs. Mahony, Riley (senior and junior), and Marr, and Senators Grant and Cox.

## Australia's Dream City

Though great progress has been made with the works in the last two and three years, those who expected many buildings were doomed to disappointment, for the great efforts of recent years have for the most part been underground—in putting down the five miles of sewer main and the scores of miles of reticulation, and in laying on the water supply. Coming over from Queanbeyan the visitor sees first the old building of the military college on the right and the Molonglo workmen's camp of wooden huts housing 500 men—formerly a concentration camp. An unpretentious store, the only one in the territory, is near by. It is run by a co-operative society of workmen, and is said to have a turnover of £10,000 a year with its two branches in Queanbeyan and Bungendore.

Near the road the power station which controls the lighting and electricity for the sewer works and other works has a group of pretty red and white cottages around it, and the cement products factory. To the left is the nucleus of another suburb, Blandfordia, consisting so far only of a street of cottages, and the unfinished building, which will ultimately be a high school.

A mile or so on a hill further on is the capital site, beneath which the ceremony was staged, with seats set around for the numerous ladies among the visitors. A little below the provisional Parliament House site is the nearly completed hostel, which for the present is to consist only of the central block and five of the ten proposed residential pavilions. On a neighboring rise to the left is the administrative blocks and post office, and among the wattles round the cor-

ner of the wide, good road, which passes through the suburb of Acton, the bachelors' quarters, equipped with efficient restaurant, billiard rooms, tennis courts, &c. Opposite is the imposing red-roofed, two-story official residency, which hides in a dip behind it a sports ground, cycle track, and unformed links, and looks out towards the model civic centre near the northern extremity of the city, where a score of houses are set out in streets, gardens planted and hedged like those of Hollywood. Above it is the mountain, at the foot of which is the celebrated Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist, 85 years old, which is the show place of the territory—in a city the pattern of modernity, the one old world relic—screened in poplars and willows.

Through the picture winds the low Molonglo, willow-shaded, and here and there bridged for the red roads, which with their plantations are the capital's most striking feature.

Brickworks and sewerage sheds are hidden behind the hills, which are dotted with camps, while far out of sight at the junction of the Cotter and the Murrumbidgee are the dam and the big pumping plant housed in neat tiled buildings. The white dome of the observatory, nine miles from the residency, shines above the forest of a million pine trees, which covers the slopes of Mount Stromlo, 2600 feet above sea level.

The capital is set in a heaved-up lake bed, which is ringed by blue hills, of which Ainslie and Black Mountain guarding the northern approach, are believed to have been responsible for the native name Canberra, which some translate "Woman's breast."

### THE FIRST SIGHT



Photo shows Sir George Fuller when Minister for Home Affairs in the Federal Parliament taking the first sight at the survey of the Federal site at Canberra. Sir Joseph Cook is the second last person on the right of the group.

# NEW ERA OF FEDERAL UNITY BEGINS TODAY

*Herald Melbourne Vict.* AUGUST 28, 1923.

## Promises at Canberra

### WORKS TO BE SPEEDED UP

## Mr. Stewart Turns First Sod

(From Our Special Federal Representative)

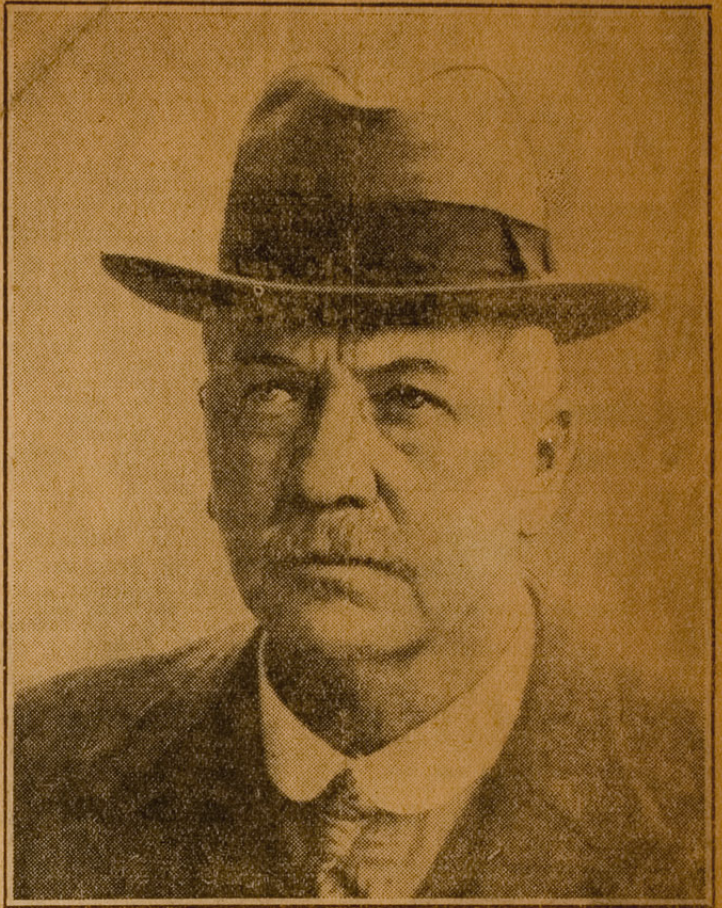
CANBERRA, Tuesday.

Today a new era in Australian history began.

When Mr Stewart, Minister for Works and Railways, turned the first sod of the provisional Parliament House excavation at Canberra, the Commonwealth definitely plunged into the great work of building the new Federal Capital.

Mr Stewart promised that the work would be speeded up and said that the Government had in view the opening of the next Federal Parliament at Canberra.

The most gratified man at the function was Mr Austin Chapman (Minister for Customs), the "father" of Canberra.



*Mr Austin Chapman, Minister of Customs, and known as the "father of Canberra." For many years he has been one of the most ardent supporters of the Federal Capital scheme.*

In his speech at the official ceremony, Mr Stewart said: —

"The commencement of the work of erecting the Federal Parliament House at Canberra marks a very important stage in the history of the city's construction, which has proceeded along lines quite different from those followed in building most of our cities. In the case of Canberra a definite plan has been adopted in advance of any settlement. The basic engineering works such as roads, water supply, sewerage and power have been developed, and are more or less advanced, and we have now reached the next stage—that of construction of the official buildings.

"It is part of the policy of the present composite Federal Government to do all in its power to create and foster a big Australian sentiment. Its determination to transfer the seat of government to Canberra at the earliest practicable date arises from the belief that the first step towards national unity is to instal the national Parliament in its own territory—as provided for in the Commonwealth Constitution—where it can hold the balance evenly between the oft-times conflicting interests of the various States, and where, uninfluenced by the presence of any one particular State, it can legislate impartially. The commencement of this building, which is, as it were, the keystone of the Federal capital arch, is an earnest fulfilment of a national obligation.

### ALTERED PLANS

#### A GARDEN CITY

"Prior to the war, the Federal capital was popularly conceived as a city having massive and monumental public buildings and works of an architectural character worthy to rank with those of older countries. The changed economic conditions have necessitated a revision of our ideas on these matters, and although

the building of Canberra presents a wonderful opportunity, no scheme which loads the present generation with an additional heavy financial burden is acceptable.

"Happily, there is a satisfactory alternative. The present scheme for the construction of Canberra contemplates a garden city, rather than a monumental one. The way will still be clear for development whenever the time may be opportune.

### Parliament House

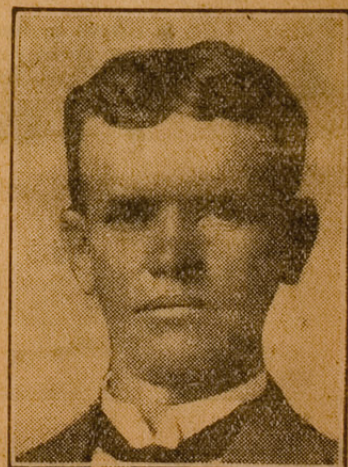
"The Parliament House now being commenced will, therefore, be a provisional building, but it will in no way be a mean structure. While its design is on simple and economic lines, it will be substantially constructed in brick, and will be of a commodious and comfortable character, presenting a good appearance architecturally. The plan provides for accommodation on two floors, the main floor containing the legislative chambers, providing for 56 Senators and 112 Representatives; library; reception hall; party rooms and principal offices; together with adequate recreation and retiring accommodation; provision for representatives of the press and adequate space for the public who desire to listen to debates.

"The design includes garden courts, and conforms to the general conception of Canberra in the first stage as a garden city. The present generation will thus enjoy the advantages of a complete building which will provide all requirements for carrying out legislative functions; whereas the monumental buildings, if undertaken, would present for many years an unfinished appearance architecturally, and would, in the meantime, be less comfortable.

### Symbol of Unity

"This building, which is now being commenced, may be regarded as a symbol of national unity. Let us earnestly hope that in its completion and

in the establishment of the Commonwealth Parliament therein, the highest aspirations of the founders of the Federal Constitution may be realised; and that the legislators, whose labors will be carried on within these walls, will ever maintain the high tradition of noble and disinterested public ser-



Mr STEWART, Minister for Works.

19-3  
vice, which has been a feature of this great Commonwealth, and of the greater Commonwealth of the British Empire.

"The Parliament House and the administrative buildings are two of the most urgent works. It is, therefore, proposed to push ahead with all possible despatch with the foundations for Parliament House, and to invite competitive designs for the administrative offices at an early date.

### Canberra Commission

"The present Government has in view the opening of the next Parliament at Canberra. The Government proposes to appoint a commission to administer all matters relating to the establishment of the Federal capital city. It was intended to introduce a bill for that purpose during the recent session, but owing to the extreme pressure of work in Parliament, the Government decided to postpone this measure until early in the next session.

"In the meantime, it is proposed, as far as possible, to co-ordinate the various departmental activities under one controlling Minister, who will have the guidance of the Federal Capital Advisory Board.

"Canberra is a business proposition and the Government is determined it shall be administered on proper business lines."

### LINK WITH PIONEERS

#### Church Built in 1848

To appreciate thoroughly the significance of the creation of a Federal Capital City, writes our special representative, it is necessary to live for a while in its atmosphere. The more one sees of this vale of promise the more one is impressed by its national charm, its cheery isolation and its quiet detachment from the hurly burly of the large capital cities.

"For here have we no continuing city, but seek one to come."

This is the prophetic inscription upon a tombstone in the cemetery adjoining the church of St. John the Baptist, one of the landmarks of Canberra, whose history dates back to 1848. This church with its imposing spire, standing among tall poplars, serves as a reminder of the sturdy pioneers from Britain, who penetrated the mountain fastnesses of this rugged, picturesque province.

The interior of the church, with its gallery for the servants of the master folk, its huge cedar beams, high church altar, and old-fashioned pipe-organ, leaves a lasting impression upon the visitor. The church is a little bit of old England planted in a new land. An atmosphere of piety and sentiment pervades it. Christians of all faiths find a last resting place in its little cemetery.

This old landmark is today being linked with another institution, the Parliament of a democracy. The old church symbolises the early struggles of colonisation. The new Parliament House, the construction of which commences today, opens another chapter of national evolution.

Mr J. S. Murdoch, Chief Commonwealth Architect, considers that the permanent Parliament House at Canberra might with advantage be placed on the summit of Kurrajong Hill — the site set aside for the Capitol—supported by large surrounding buildings at varying lower levels, to provide official accommodation for members of Parliament as at Washington, and for use as offices for those Government departments having close relationship with Parliament.

Mr Murdoch, in suggesting the location of the permanent Parliament House on Kurrajong Hill, claims that, without undue expense in earthworks, a more extensive group of buildings could be secured. A study of the city plan reveals that the system of

avenues and other arterial streets is focussed from all sides and from long distances on the summit of Kurrajong Hill, so that a House of Parliament erected there would be far more extensively visible, while far better views would be afforded from it than if it were placed on Camp Hill, as provided for in the layout plan of the city.

What is in Mr Murdoch's mind is that the Parliament House should constitute the Capitol. His scheme, which has already been considered by the Parliamentary Works Committee, is likely to be adopted.

### WORK AWAITS SKILLED

#### Houses Required

Two of the most notable of the prolific crop of foundation stones which strew the landscape are near the place where Mr Stewart turned the first sod. One of these interesting monuments is the commencement column, of which the foundation stone was placed by Lady Denman on March 12, 1913. Not far away is the foundation stone of the permanent Parliament House, placed by the Prince of Wales.

The temporary Parliament House will overlook the Duntroon Plains, with the Molonglo River winding along its borders. It will tower over the main power house and the fine new school just completed, built to accommodate 600 pupils. The hostel, at which about 60 men are engaged, is about five minutes away. The present Post Office, the Commonwealth Bank and the administrative offices are approximately ten minutes away.

The principal works now in hand at Canberra are at the sewerage mains, on which 400 men are engaged on tunnelling and shaft sinking, to complete the works to the outfall at Western Creek. At the present rate of progress a further 18 months will be required. Pipe-laying through the proposed city area for the water supply gives employment to a further 100 men. The erection of brick cottages at the various centres provides employment for large numbers of skilled men, but the scarcity of tradesmen prevents the Public Works Department from completing as many cottages as expected.

#### ROADS CONNECTED

The main bridge over the Murrumbidgee River, which was badly damaged by the last flood, has been completed, making the road connection of the Uriarra-Brindabella districts with the Federal Capital territory. The work of tree planting continues, and the hitherto barren hills are becoming covered luxuriantly with foliage. The slopes of Mount Stromlo today are covered with masses of golden wattle.

Although there was no function apart from the turning of the first sod, the people of Queanbeyan celebrated the event, and the business people declared the day a public holiday; the visiting Ministers and Members of Parliament (about 40) were invited to attend a conversazione in the Triumph Hall, as the guests of residents. The workmen at Canberra were allowed time off to attend the ceremony.

The country at Canberra is now in splendid condition. The fields are in their spring garb. So the politicians, or those who survive, are seeing their future home at its best.

### N.S.W. DISAPPOINTED

SYDNEY, Tuesday.

The New South Wales press is disappointed with the arrangements for the official ceremony at Canberra. It had hoped for something more than the mere turning of the first official sod by a big scoop. A great national rejoicing was expected.

# AUSTRALIA'S CAPITAL.

*Morning Herald - Aug 29 1923*

## Ceremony at Canberra.

*Sydney New So. Wales*

### PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

#### TURNING THE FIRST SOD.

The Federal Minister for Works (Mr. Stewart) late yesterday afternoon turned the first sod of the Provisional Parliament House of the Commonwealth.

The site, just below Camp Hill, has a commanding view on the main axis of the capital city, between Kurrajong and Mount Ainslie.

#### HISTORIC EVENT.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.)

CANBERRA, Tuesday.

The intention of the Government is to have the building finished in time for the sitting at the end of 1925 or 1926. By this simple function, for which there were no official invitations, and which was attended by members of Parliament, practically the whole of the populace of Queanbeyan and people in the surrounding country, Australia is to become the mistress in her own home, untrammelled by local influences and considerations. For once the provisional Parliament House is erected, and those charged with the responsible trust of government and legislation, are comfortably housed there, the whole machinery of the Federal Government must inevitably find its way to Canberra.

The members of the Federal Cabinet present were the Minister for Works and Railways (Mr. Stewart), the Minister for Trade and Customs (Mr. Chapman), the Attorney-General (Mr. Groom), and the Minister for Defence (Mr. Bowden). Federal members present included Senators Cox and Grant, Sir Elliot Johnson, and Messrs. Marr, Killen, Mahoney, E. Riley, senr., and Coleman. The organisation of the function left much to be desired, and the fact that a strong wind blew across the ground, carrying with it clouds of dust, did not add to the comfort of the several thousand people present. There were no facilities whatever for the Press reporters. Mr. Stewart, who was accompanied by Mrs. Stewart, was greeted with cheers. The space which had been set apart for the function became so crowded that it became a problem of keeping the ground clear for the chief actors in the piece. Finally a Press photographer took charge of the situation, although no one knew him as such. In commanding tones he told the crowd, conspicuous among whom were an army of children, that the proceedings could not commence until they moved back. This had the desired effect.

It was with a steam shovel attached to a machine that looked like a tractor that Mr. Stewart turned the historic first sod. The apparatus suggested an elephant waving its unwieldy trunk about in the air until finally it dug its great teeth into the ground, and deposited the first sod and then more earth into a lorry. Great cheers were raised as the shovel rooted up the earth, and the Union Jack and the Commonwealth flag, flying from towering poles, invested the occasion with the proper spirit.

Ringling cheers greeted Mr. Stewart on rising to speak. He apologised at the outset for the absence of Mr. John Sulman, chairman of the Canberra Advisory Site, through indisposition, and paid a tribute to the work of that gentleman, and the other members of the committee.

Much comment had, he said, been caused by the fact that no invitations were issued for the function, but the ceremony was not intended to be an elaborate one, but merely a simple function to mark an historic occasion. The function marked an important step in the history of Canberra. This building, the first sod of which had just been turned, was part of the present Government's policy. It was the future home of the Commonwealth Parliament, and as such, it represented the central idea and justification for the city's construction. It was part of the present Government's policy, and it should be part of any national Government's policy, using the term in its widest sense, to create and foster as far as possible a big Australian spirit in the hearts and the minds of the people of Australia. They believed that one of the most important steps to that end was to place the national Parliament in its own home, where it could legislate impartially in the interests of the whole of the people of the Commonwealth, and away from the influences of any one State. There, he hoped, they would see in the future a city that would bear most favourable comparison with any other city in Australia, and would compare not unfavourably with the finest cities in the world. Before the war it was intended that the erection of this building should be on a monumental scale; that it should be a building that would stand for centuries. But the war and other events had delayed the work, and they had decided that the building now to be erected should be a provisional one—not a cheap galvanised iron structure, but a building that would be suitable for the home of the Commonwealth Parliament for the next 50 or 60 years. When it was erected the people would be surprised at this so-called provisional building. It would be the most commodious and best-ventilated and most convenient House of Parliament in Australia. The object in not proceeding with the erection of the permanent structure at this juncture was twofold. Firstly, it was on the score of expense, and, secondly, and this was the most important reason, they considered that it would be a mistake at the present juncture to attempt to build a Parliament that would meet the needs of centuries to come. They could not visualise the type of house that would be required in the next eighty or one hundred years. The present Federal Parliament House in Melbourne was uncompleted to-day outside, and it was entirely out of date and ill-ventilated inside. He felt satisfied to leave it to the generations to come to say whether they were wise or justified in the action they had taken.

#### TRANSFERENCE IN THREE YEARS.

Mr. Stewart went on to say that upon this building hung the whole of the remaining activities of the capital. They could not move the Parliament to Canberra until this building was complete. That was the reason for the somewhat hasty move in endeavouring to start this building. He was afraid he had trodden upon the toes of the Senate in trying

to make this rather prompt move in connection with an undertaking that should have been carried out long ago. He had the task of preparing this building and this territory for the occupation of the Commonwealth Parliament within three years' time. (Applause.) A good deal remained to be done, but he thought it could be done. "At any rate," concluded Mr. Stewart, "we are going to try." (Applause.)

The Attorney-General (Mr. Groom), who was also warmly received, said they were establishing here a city so that the National Government and the National Parliament might truly function. One could not have the Parliament of Australia dominated by the large centres of population in any one State. This was not a New South Wales function, but an Australian function, and he, as a Queenslander, would be fighting as seriously to-day for this move if the Federal Parliament had been sitting in Sydney, and not in Melbourne, because he believed that the National Parliament should have its own home. (Applause.) At the same time, they owed something to the Victorian Government for the way in which it had treated them as a National Parliament. It went into a temporary Parliament House, and never charged the Federal Government a penny rent. It gave them Government House for the residence of the Governor-General, and for these 20 years or more the Federal Government had been able to carry on with the dignity befitting a great Commonwealth. (Applause.)

The Minister for Trade and Customs (Mr. Chapman), who was introduced as the "father of Canberra," and who was enthusiastically received, said this ceremony meant business. In less than three years they hoped to be meeting there as a Parliament. (Applause.) The attitude which Mr. Stewart had adopted towards the capital was greatly to be admired. He had been opposed to it, but he had changed his mind, and he had fought his election on that issue. (Applause.) He was to be admired for thus demonstrating the courage of his convictions. (Applause.) They had the money and the men, and the legislation. If they did not now go on with this work—well, blame Mr. Stewart. (Laughter.)

Cheers for almost everyone concerned with the capital, and for others as well, concluded the ceremony. There were cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, for Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, for the Prince of Wales for the laying of the

foundation-stones, for the advisory committee, and for the workmen, and also for the ladies. The singing of the National Anthem brought to a close an historic ceremony.

#### THE PROVISIONAL BUILDING.

The site for the Provisional Parliament House is below Camp Hill, at a lower level than the proposed permanent building. It commands a magnificent view, overlooking a vast sweep of plains and mountain ranges, and is about 1860ft above sea level. The cost of the building is estimated at £220,000, and, while the building has been designed on simple and economical lines, it will be a substantial structure in brick, and will, it is stated, present a good appearance architecturally. The plan provides for accommodation on two floors. The main or upper floor will contain the Legislative Chambers, providing for 56 senators and 112 members of the House of Representatives. The other appointments will include a library, a reception hall, and party rooms, as well as provision for representatives of the Press, and adequate space for the public who desire to listen to debates. The Provisional Parliament House will enjoy to a great extent the view that will in the years to come be commanded by the permanent building, which will be erected on Camp Hill. It is claimed for it also that generally it will give more complete accommodation than is afforded by any existing Parliament House in Australia.

Fifty years is put down as the possible life of the provisional Parliament. There are alternative sites for the permanent building—the one at Camp Hill and the other one on Capitol Hill, originally known as Kurrajong Hill, and commanding magnificent views of the surrounding country. No matter what site is selected eventually for the permanent building, however, the provisional building, it is explained, will still serve some useful function in the machinery of government. In regard to the question of constructing at the present time the nucleus of the permanent Parliament House instead of merely a provisional building, it is pointed out that the

incomplete appearance of a nucleus of the permanent building would always offer the motive to rush into the permanent Parliament, involving expenditure of a million or considerably more. The design of the provisional building will conform to the general plan of the capital in the first stage as a garden city.

The Australian Federal Capital League was represented by the general secretary (Mr. Fitzpatrick), who carried a message of cordial congratulations to the Federal Government from the president, Alderman William Brooks, M.L.C. The message stated that the league recognised that the Government was sincerely attempting to carry out obligations which were long overdue and were part of definite promises solemnly made at the time of Federation. Mr. Stewart, the present Minister for Works, was eulogised as being one who, prior to visiting Canberra, had been opposed to the scheme, but after personally ascertaining the facts in connection with the work had changed his attitude and had been broad enough to admit that he was wrong and was now leaving nothing undone to give effect to the wishes of the people.

The league contended that it might be beneficial if all politicians were compelled as part of their Parliamentary education to visit Canberra, for the most potent opposition to the scheme came from those who had never seen Canberra. The secretary stated that he had consulted Colonel Owen, Director-General of Works at Canberra, regarding the possibility of broadcasting speeches after Parliament assembled at the capital, so that electors in any part of the Commonwealth could, if they so desired, listen each night to the deliberations of their members in the national Parliament. The director-general, who did not see any insurmountable obstacles to such an idea if Parliament desired it, pointed out that already the department had provided estimates for a small wireless plant, which, no doubt, could be capable of expansion and addition.

AFTER MANY YEARS.

To-day, after many long years, and after the repudiation by successive Federal Governments and Parliaments of the obligations clearly laid upon them, one saw in this unpretentious ceremony the first tangible move towards making Canberra the seat of Government and the official centre of Australia—the first step towards the removal of those provincial influences which it is felt have done much to hinder Australia in the pursuit of its national aims. Viewing the ceremony to-day, one inevitably recalled the long and tedious process of trying to remove the seat of Government to its rightful place. The numerous ceremonies at Canberra had given rise to noble and inspiring words, but little else. Now, at last, one sees evidence of business. It is a long cry, for instance, back to the time when the people of Australia agreed to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, which was assented to in 1900, and which provided that the seat of Government under the new order of things should be in the State of New South Wales, the Federal Parliament in the meantime to sit in Melbourne. After the lapse of another eight years the district of Yass-Canberra was determined as the seat of Government. Then, after another long interval of five years, there was witnessed in 1913 the imposing ceremony performed by the then Governor-General (Lord Denman) of laying the foundation-stones of the column on the slope of Kurrajong Hill to mark the commencement of Australia's capital city. On that day also Lady Denman christened the future city Canberra, after a wordy battle no less memorable than the battle of sites. There were those who wanted it to be so christened that it would comprise some part of the name of every State capital.

Shakespeare was another of the score of names suggested, until finally the choice of the Government fell on the name Canberra. The long story of the history of the capital city inevitably came back to mind to-day. The capital city has been satirised as the "city of foundation-stones." The ceremony to-day, however, suggested itself as an outward and visible sign of the present Government's determination to remove this reproach. That the first meeting of the next Federal Parliament should be at Canberra has already gone forth as an instruction to the Ministry on a vote in the House of Representatives, which left no doubt as to the attitude towards the matter of the big majority of the members of that Chamber. In commemoration of the occasion the visiting legislators were entertained to-night at a conversazione in the Triumph Hall at Queanbeyan.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. Stewart received several deputations. Replying to representations from business men of Queanbeyan and Yass regarding the construction of the Yass-Canberra and Canberra-Jervis Bay railways, the Minister said he did not regard the Jervis Bay line as of present importance, and there was no immediate prospect of its consideration, but in regard to the Yass-Canberra connection he would do his best to facilitate an early inquiry by the Public Works Committee, and upon their report would depend his decision. He could not speak for his own Government, but it had been stated that the State Government was ready to proceed with its section of the line when called upon.

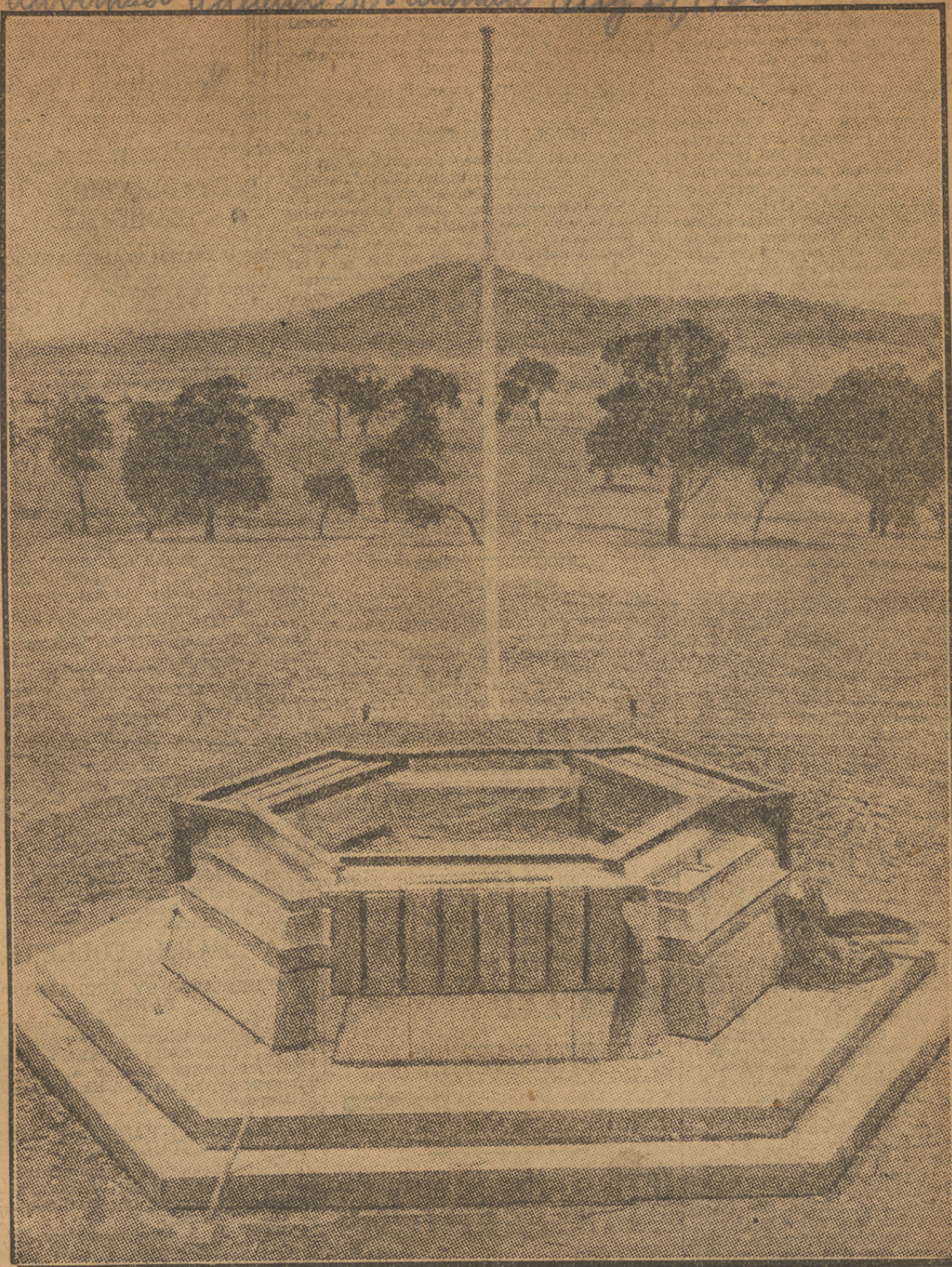
In answer to deputations of settlers, the Minister promised to have inquiries made regarding the construction of bridges at the angle over the Murrumbidgee, and over Woden Creek on Thirwa-road.

In the evening the public of Queanbeyan tendered the visiting members a conversazione, which was presided over by the Mayor (Alderman Harris). Messrs. Stewart, Groom, Mahony, and Senator Grant responded to the welcome.

Mr. Stewart said the policy of the present Government was to proceed with the building of the capital with every expedition, and to make all the preparations to house the next Parliament. It had been the intention of the Government to introduce a bill to provide for a board of commissioners to control the building of the city, but time was limited, and it was not actually essential. The commission bill would be one of the first measures introduced in the new session next year. The bill would provide that Canberra be run on business lines, and be handled as a business proposition, so that eventually, in his opinion, Canberra would not cost the taxpayers a single penny. Meantime he intended relying on assistance of an advisory board to carry out many of the works now under consideration.

# THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

*Advertiser Adelaide So. Australia Aug 29, 1923*



Yesterday at Canberra the Federal Minister of Works (Hon. P. G. Stewart) turned the first sod of the Federal capital. The pedestal marks the centre of the proposed city.

Argus Melb Vict.  
Sept. 18, 1923

## TO BUILD CANBERRA.

### Permanent Commission.

SYDNEY, Saturday. — It was stated to-day that the Federal Ministry proposes to appoint a board of five permanent paid commissioners, who will be responsible for the building of Canberra. A bill to make such provision will be introduced probably next session.

It is expected that the chairman of the board will be a business man, who will be assisted by a financial expert, a prominent architect, and two engineers. Headquarters of the commissioners will be at Canberra, and the commission will be empowered to raise moneys and spend them without reference to Parliament. Shortly before his death Sir Denison Miller (late governor of the Commonwealth Bank) had prepared a plan for financing the Capital. It is likely that his recommendations will be adopted.

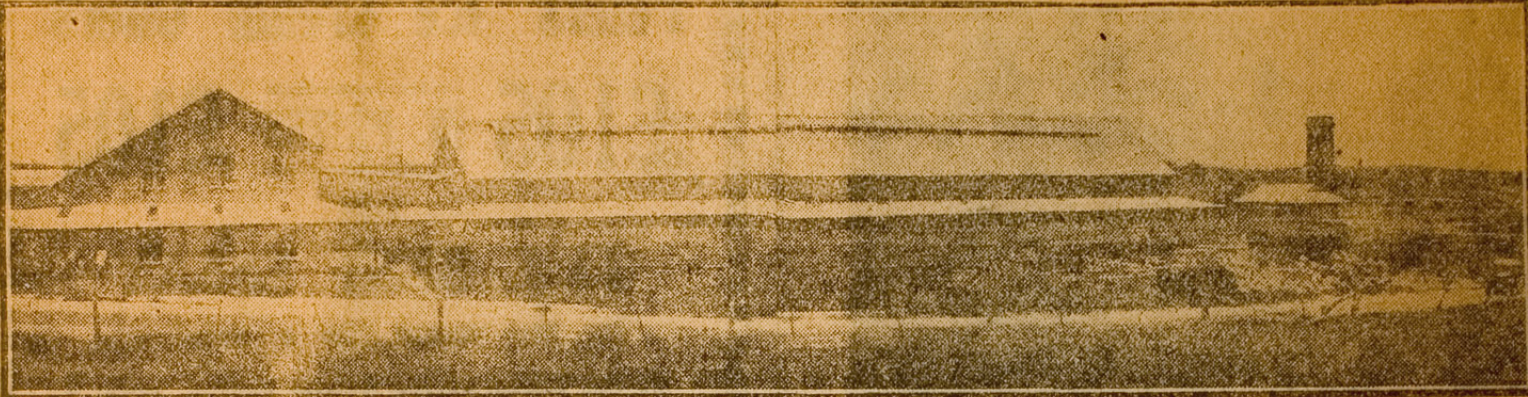
### Mr. Chapman's Triumph.

QUEANBEYAN (N.S.W.), Saturday.— To show their appreciation of the Minister for Customs (Mr. Austin Chapman), and of his political work during the last 23 years as their representative in the Federal Parliament, the residents of Queanbeyan and district assembled in large numbers at a conversazione in the Triumph Hall.

Numerous tributes were paid by the mayor (Alderman J. G. Harris) and other speakers, and Mr. Chapman was presented with an illuminated address, which spoke of his untiring work on behalf of Canberra, and recorded that it was owing to his persistent energies that the Capital was now nearing triumphant accomplishment.



# AN OPPORTUNITY THAT COMES ONCE IN CENTURIES



BRICKWORKS, CANBERRA, WHERE ABOUT 6,000,000 BRICKS ARE READY FOR USE.

## The Building of Canberra Marks the Commencement of the Realisation of Bright Dreams of the Centre of a National Paradise

## AMAZING PROSPECTS OF FEDERAL TERRITORY

### Where Australia's True National History Will be Concentrated

THE chronicler of the future will look back upon March 12, 1913, as the marking of an epoch in the affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia, second only to the historic occasion of the landing of Captain Cook. But 12 years had passed since the consummation of Federation, and there was the young nation laying the foundation stones of a monument to formally mark the commencement of the building of the great capital city of Australia. It went away from the beaten track of man; away from the powerful influences already growing up around the long-established and populous State cities. It went into territory that would be under its own control and neutral so far as the States were concerned, where the spirit of unity would have free and unfettered scope to grow and justify itself.

Such an opportunity as this, the Commonwealth selecting and actually preparing a site for its national city in almost virgin country, comes to few nations, and comes seldom in centuries.

#### No Wilderness to Conquer

There is no wilderness for the pioneer to conquer with years of weary toil, and none of the faults of the haphazard growth of a city to rectify. There was the broad expanse of country, clothed in pristine and rugged beauty so peculiar to this heaven-blessed continent, smiling its welcome with its hills and glorious valleys, slopes and babbling watercourses. Man has here a free hand to utilise its comely features and fashion them to the most modern ideas of city building. Canberra opened up a vista of a city's future greatness, and there it was resolved that the Capital should be. There it was arranged that

on March 12, 1913, the foundations of a column should be laid to denote the commencement of a task that would progress through generations—for the building of a city and its expansion never ends.

#### Mighty Port for the East

Canberra will be the means of the opening of another mighty port for the East Coast of Australia—Jervis Bay—a magnificent harbor, which will be of immense value, not only from a strategic, but also from a trade and commerce point of view. Statesmen, men of big minds, have repeatedly said that the Federal Capital will vie in wealth and population with Sydney or Melbourne. The capital of the United States of America is but the fourteenth city in point of population in the Union (in 1910 it was sixteenth). The capital of Canada is the fifth city of the Dominion. At Washington and Ottawa stand in need of no apology, and if there be any such need in the case of Canberra, the fault will be with ourselves and with those who come after us.

#### A Distinctive Capital

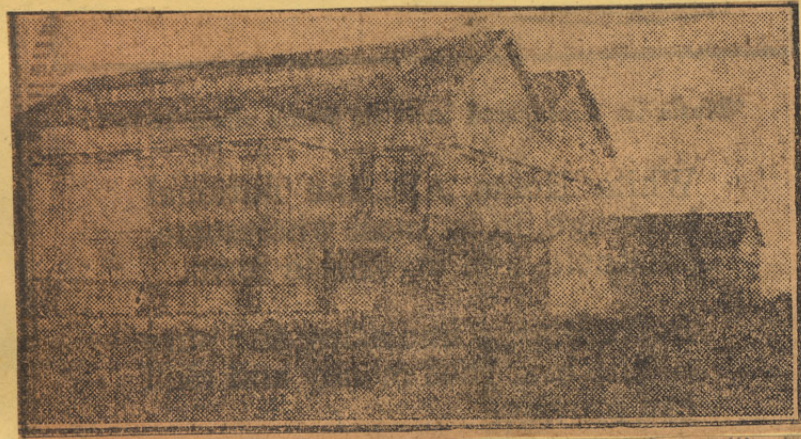
The case of a Federal Capital is different from that of the capital of a Union or of a country with a highly centralised form of Government, and it certainly seems desirable that the capital city of a federation should be untrammelled and unfettered by local influences and local considerations. It should reflect truly the aims of the community as a whole as against the interests of any particular part, and it will be no disadvantage that in this young country the capital should grow up and expand simultaneously with the growth of the nation.

#### If We All Believe.

The bulk of the formation of capital lies before us, but if we all believe in the great future of Australia, and if we recognise the courage, grit, and determination with which Australia has already carried through more difficult enterprises than this, we need have no doubts nor misgivings as to the success of the undertaking.

There are no points of the compass on the chart of true patriotism." The time for doubt, misgiving, and criticism is past. It is always easy to sneer and criticise; but now that a start has been made, it is unquestionably the duty of patriotic Australians to do all that lies in their power to make Canberra a capital worthy of the Empire. The city that is gradually looming up into formation has a magnificent destiny before it, and the making of the destiny lies in our hands, the hands of our children, and of those who come after them, and so on. The traditions of the city will be the traditions of Australia. It is in our hands to make the traditions of freedom, peace, honor, and particularly of prosperity. Here will be reflected all that is finest and noblest in the national life of the country. Here a great city is rising, a city where those responsible for the Government of this country in the future may seek and find inspiration in its noble buildings, its broad avenues, its shaded parks, and sheltered gardens—a city bearing all the resemblances to the city beautiful of our thoughts.

PART OF MONARO-STREET, QUEANBEYAN,



Canberra selected by 39 votes as against 33 for Dalgety. The choice was ratified by the Senate, and in 1909, the Seat of Government Acceptance Act passed, which set out the boundaries of the capital territory and the regulations for its control.

Then came the question of building the city, and in 1911, the Government invited plans by advertisements in Europe, America, and Australia, and offered premiums of £1750, £750, and £500. There was a great deal of dissatisfaction over the management of this business. Anyhow, 149 designs were received, and the prizes awarded; the first going to Walter B. Griffin, of Chicago; the second to Eliel Saarinen, of Finland; and the third to D. A. Agache, of Paris. The actual plan decided upon for building operations is a combination of Mr. Griffin's, with some features from other plans. One advantage of

THE POWER-HOUSE, CANBERRA.

### A Magnetic Centre.

All subsequent Australian political history will concentrate its searchlight on this place. A magnetic centre of attractions to the eyes of countless generations still unborn, and forever a visible evidence of Australia's national destiny. Living in what is only the infancy of this mighty Commonwealth we realise that through all the successive ages numberless billions of human beings must appear on this horizon to enjoy the dispensations that belong to humanity. It requires no prophetic mind to peer into the vista of future centuries to behold stupendous events occurring there. How can we contemplate the discovery of Australia without recognising the meaning of the supreme adventure for our own welfare? It must have been an interesting and pathetic scene when the great sailor who discovered this continent stood on the deck of his little wooden barque, rocked on the billows of an uncharted sea, straining his eager, anxious eyes till finally came the reward—a glimpse of unknown world. Nearer to the present period, more closely associated with its progress, with modern economic thought is the colonisation

foundation, pushed on with vigor and determination, rising high in sublime solidity and unadorned splendor, will endure forever emblematic of the purpose for which it was created.

Canberra will never be the headquarters of an intriguing tyranny of a modern despotism and, therefore, consecrated to the spirit of human freedom and national unity.

### Beginnings of a Great Scheme

The importance with which the matter was regarded was seen in the long-drawn-out discussion over the name, and was in keeping with the delay in connection with the choice of a site. The Commonwealth Constitution decreed that the seat of government should be in New South Wales; but not less than 100 miles from Sydney. The Governor-General's speech at the opening of the first Federal Parliament on May 10, 1901, mentioned the selection of the capital territory as one of the first matters to be dealt with. A Royal Commission in 1899 had decided in favor of Monaro. Various bodies

of legislators visited Monaro and other sites which had been suggested, and another Royal Commission was appointed in 1903, which presented an elaborate report in favor of Albury. In October of the same year, the House of Representatives discussed the matter, and held a series of ballots on the nine sites mentioned in the Commissions. The ballots resulted in the selection of Tumut. The Senate struck out Tumut and substituted Bombala. The Representatives declined to accept the amendment, and the Bill was dropped.

In 1904, the Watson Ministry introduced a new Bill, and offered the House three areas to choose from. Dalgety, in the same district as Bombala, was eventually selected and passed by both Houses. But this choice did not meet with the approval of the N.S.W. Government, who claimed a right to a voice in the matter, as their State would have to give up 900 square miles of territory.

### The 1908 Ballot

Nothing further was done till 1908, when a ballot was again taken in the House of Representatives, and Yass-

the scheme adopted is that the city can be begun on a small scale, and expanded as required without destroying its symmetry. Many suburbs will doubtless soon spring up around it, and smaller satellite cities as development proceeds.

Australia, of most democratic tendencies and bold, radical government, may be expected to look upon her Federal capital with characteristic big vision.

In the beginning of the American Federation, hardly anyone—perhaps none but George Washington himself—was capable of anticipating the promise of greatness that lay before the string of young autonomous States similarly stretching along the south-eastern coastal slopes of a vast undeveloped continent, comprising only something over four million souls, though these were the offspring of the dominant, liberty-loving British race.

Washington's idea of the scale and scope of the new city that was to begin at the bottom and grow up with the nation was the joke of more common

patriots, on whom, however, the joke has turned in history.

Compared with Washington's comprehensive vision, that of our time would be short indeed if it did not look far ahead of present conditions. We have had the object lessons of a hundred years of progress and change in the factors not merely unprecedented, but compassing vastly more than the total of thousands of years preceding.

### Our Advantage

Australia is in a proportionately better position than America to forecast unlimited scope to prospective material development.

The large area of the capital district and surroundings not only renders it available and appropriate as a National Park, but makes possible a water supply, protected in its watershed sufficient for 250,000 population, to be brought down to the city and distributed by gravity. On the drier side of the coastal divide, the town is well watered, yet sunny more than 300 days of the year. Its rainfall is 28 inches.

At an average altitude of 2000 feet, Canberra is higher than most modern

FOR LARGE AND SMALL INVESTORS.  
£1 Per Month Pays for a Lot.  
CANBERRA FREEHOLDS ESTATE.  
HALLORAN & CO.,  
82 Pitt Street, Sydney.

of the Commonwealth by people from the Motherland, America and other countries. Australian natives should always cherish the memory of those sterling pioneer ancestors, revere their patience and resolution, admire their pluck and daring enterprise, and make the schools throughout the nation teach the children to venerate their deeds. This capital city, based on a sure

capital sites, with the exception of Madrid. Few cities nowadays, since communication and transport advantages for trade have been the dynamic determinants, can have the opportunities Canberra will have to develop. It might be reasonable to take advantage of the maximum possibilities in such a site as Canberra, by bold, free strokes to produce such monumental and inspiring garden and building grouping, massing and impressive approach as could be nearest approximation only in the small but splendid rocky cities.

With present-day mechanical resources it would, at least, be no less economical of execution than the crowded skyscrapers on the plains, and were the street railways as free to users as are the elevators in the tall buildings, how much sunnier, healthier, safer, and more beautiful office space might be made available on the site of this official city of Canberra.

Here are some of the advantages of the Federal Capital site—learned after years of patient and scientific investigation. The primary essentials of the territory, as used officially by the Government, are (a) it includes a site possessing the necessary topographical characteristic for the Federal Capital; (b) it includes the catchment area of the water supply for the capital; such water is of sufficient magnitude to place the question of volume at all seasons, and purity, beyond doubt; (c) the site provides for a perfect system of sanitation, not only so far as the city itself is concerned, but generally.

Provision has been made in the capital design for a railway station in a central position. From this point will ultimately radiate the steel roads which will give connection, directly or otherwise, with every city and town and settlement within the Commonwealth, and with ocean-going vessels in many ports. Several of the lines are already completed, but the desirability of the connection of Jervis Bay and Canberra was seen immediately the establishment of the city took a definite turn. The Commonwealth has the right to take this line of railway over or under any State railway, and to connect with and run trains over any portion of a State railway. The requirements of the State are similarly protected, inasmuch as the Commonwealth has granted to the State, on certain terms, the right to take roads or railways over or under the Canberra-Jervis Bay railway, or to connect with, or run trains over, this railway.

### Remarkable Progress

Remarkable progress has so far been made with the layout of the territory. The construction of main avenues and roads according to the approved plan has gone on apace; many miles have been formed and a considerable portion metalled and gravelled. Certain portions of the residential areas for initial settlement have been developed, and engineering services, such as roads, sewerage, drainage and water supply from the Cotter River have been provided. The water supply and sewerage have

### DUNTRON ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, CANBERRA.

been so arranged as to connect up with the main city service when completed. The construction of the main outfall sewer is nearing completion. A large intercepting channel has been constructed along the foot of Mount Ainslie to protect the civic centre from storm-water; an electric lighting and power service has been extended to serve the residential area for the various construction works. Many miles of transmission lines have been erected.

Fire services have also been provided. Parliament has approved of schemes for water supply mains to the city area, and for the construction of the first section of the main intercepting sewer within the city, and these works are well on the way to completion.

Parliament has decided that the very next Parliament is to sit at Canberra. The money has been voted for Parliament House, the foundations are completed, and the work is proceeding rapidly with a view to its completion next year. The enthusiasm and energy of the present Government in pushing along with the work at Canberra is undoubted.

### Lands Under Lease

As a considerable portion of the Commonwealth lands within the territory is not required in connection with the

establishment of the city, such areas have been made available for leasing under certain conditions. A large number of leases have been disposed of under conditions requiring certain improvements to be made. A magnificent flock of sheep, and herds of fine stock, are on agistment on land that will be required for departmental use at a later date.

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. The whole of the required lands in the territory are being classified, and the roads re-graded, in order that leases of a permanent character may be granted. In the city, leases of building and business

#### CANBERRA FREEHOLDS ESTATE.

A Most Excellent Investment.  
HENRY F. HALLORAN & CO.,  
82 Pitt Street, Sydney.

sites are to be offered at auction on October 1 next, for business premises, residence, &c., when private enterprise will be given an opportunity of assisting in the great work of city building. The policy of leasehold throughout the territory, which has been adopted by the Federal Government, should have the effect of causing much settlement on the closest freehold lands just outside the Territory, as the Australian is noted for his desire to be the real owner of his piece of building land,

and the progress of Canberra will naturally be reflected in the progress of the nearby towns, such as Queanbeyan, Yass, &c.

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 connection with the Federal Capital, have been granted by the N.S.W. Government and accepted by the Commonwealth. The Royal Australian Naval College is in this area, on a site known as Captain Point.

### Working Railways

The railway line from Queanbeyan to Canberra was opened for traffic in 1914, and is being worked by the N.S.W. Commissioners. This line has been extended to the power house, and also a further two and a half miles across the Molonglo River, to the civic centre, towards Yass. These extensions are now carrying passengers every day. The total length is about eight miles. A trial survey of the Canberra and Jervis Bay line has been completed, and plans have been prepared sufficiently to enable an approximate estimate of the cost of the line to be arrived at, and it cannot be long before this is proceeded with to give what will soon become an essential connection between Canberra and its port. The permanent survey from Canberra to the boundary of the Federal territory towards Yass, a distance of 11 miles, has been completed, and the N.S.W. Government has also completed the permanent survey from Yass to the territory boundary—about 32 miles. The Public Works Committee is enquiring into this line, and will submit its report to Parliament at an early date.

## THE CANBERRA FREEHOLDS ESTATE

WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT

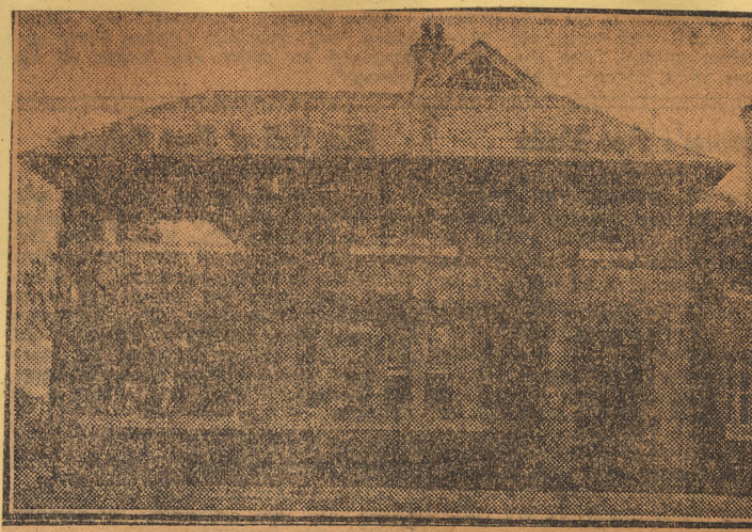
Most Sensational Offer of Freehold Land in History

Opportunity knocks once at every man's door. The man who has the eyes to see it, the mind to realise it, and the courage to grasp it is the man who will make money. He alone shall one day count his gold in thousands.

Glance around you and recall the men in Australia who are eminently wealthy. A few may have been blessed by wealth



Canberra Federal Capital Site, showing country near and similar to many parts of the Canberra Freeholds Estate, now offered for sale by Henry F. Malloran and Co., 82 Pitt-street, Sydney.

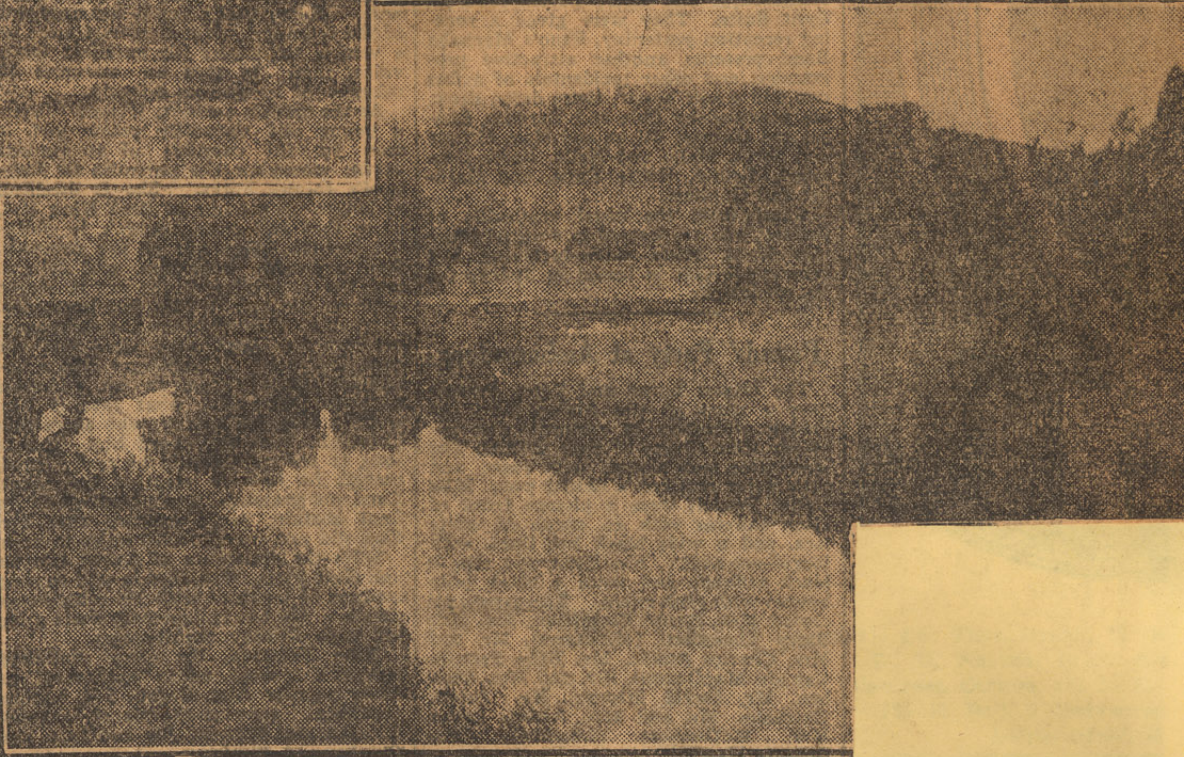


"ACTON," CANBERRA.

at birth. But the remainder, the middle-class people, how did they make their money? Ask them.  
"We were hard up like you one day," they will tell you. "Then one day opportunity came along and we had the sense to grasp it. To some of us it came in the form of a purchase of land. We realised while others gazed at an unoccupied patch of open land that that site might one day bear some magnificent building. We pictured roads in the vicinity, a dense population, and sensing the natural and economic advantages of the land, we bought every foot we could lay our hands on. 'Fools,' some said, 'to take such a risk. Leave your money in the bank, where you will at least be assured of a steady interest.' But opportunity continued to beckon, and fearing that it might not pass our way again, we grasped it with both hands. You see the result. Our children have reaped the benefit. We sit in luxury while our 'sensible' friends bewail the day that they missed their chance."

**Opportunity is Here**

Opportunity now knocks at the door. The most remarkable offer of land in Australian history is now taking place; delay on your part will not only mean disappointment, it may also spell failure. Absolutely the nearest freehold estate to Canberra, including the nearest to this great new capital city that can ever be bought, is now being offered and rapidly sold.



THE MOLONGLO RIVER, CANBERRA, ALONG THE COURSE OF WHICH THE BEAUTIFUL LAKES ARE TO BE FORMED WHICH ARE SUCH A FEATURE OF MR. GRIFFIN'S DESIGN.

Only a few years ago, which seems but yesterday, Canberra was but the name of a parish consisting of a church, a post-office, and but one or two houses of any size; a beautiful, but lonely, sheep station. But in a few short years, it will seem only to-morrow, it will transcend in importance and individuality the several State cities, and already it has grown much and is growing faster every day.  
The Canberra Freeholds Estate is divided from the Federal Territory only

by the railway line, and is not only the nearest possible freehold to Canberra, being only about 10 minutes' car drive from the actual city, but it comprises well-drained, undulating land from many parts of which far-reaching and beautiful views over the city are unfolded, and its extensive area has been carefully planned into many liberal building allotments by one of the best-known town planners, so that it may fulfil its destiny in becoming the superior residential and local business area outside Canberra city.  
The first subdivision is already exhausted, but the second and third sub-

divisions are now available, and at present many lots may be bought at well under one pound per foot, and any lot up to £50 in value may be paid for, including 5 per cent. interest by simple, regular, and uniform payments of £1 per month (only 8d per day), so that the small investor is provided for as well as the larger one and the capitalist, who may make larger purchases on very favorable terms and conditions.

At the time of its commencement, no other city in Australia had the same wonderful prospects as Canberra, and the progress had necessarily to be slow. But at Canberra the Commonwealth is spending millions of pounds in the definite establishment of a new city. And that not an ordinary city, because this one is to be the capital of the whole great continent of Australia, where its laws will be made and the whole machinery of its government controlled.

The facts are established that in the best positions in some of the State capitals values have risen to over £1000 per foot, with proportionately high figures for the adjacent business and residential areas.

There can be no element of risk about an investment in land in Canberra Freeholds, which occupies the key position of any freehold lands with regard to Canberra, and also practically adjoins the important and well-established town of Queanbeyan. It is well known that in the Federal area only leaseholds, with periodical re-appraisements of rent, are to be granted, which gives a much-increased importance to Canberra Freeholds.

### The Source of the Water Supply

The Canberra Freeholds Estate is likely soon to be connected with the Federal water supply, the source of which is the Cotter River. Mr. De Burgh's report on the water supply stated: "From investigations on the suitability of the Cotter River as a source of water supply for the Capital, we find that the average daily flow over 13 years was 70,000,000 gallons per day, or sufficient for the supply of 700,000 persons at 100 gallons per head per day; while the flow as regulated by the existing reservoir will suffice for the supply over the most critical period of 7,000,000 gallons per day, or sufficient for 70,000 persons at 100 gallons per head per day basis."

It will be seen by the foregoing that the district is exceedingly well served in regard to water supply.

The man who wishes to make money should invest in these lands. One hundred pounds now invested may double, treble, quadruple itself in short time. This has happened on thousands of occasions in the past, and is happening at the present time. Several purchasers in the first subdivision have already made a profit. There is no doubt that Canberra is the city of the future. When Parliament opens there, and it has been decided that the very next Parliament is to meet there, the influx of population will be very great. Values will increase many fold, and persons who seized the opportunity when it was thrust upon them will never look back. It is one chance in a million, and the public should grasp it before it is too late.

### Sales in England

Last year the managing firm of Henry F. Halloran and Co. opened a branch office in Australia House, London, and offered some of this land to the people of England. So greatly did it appeal to them, that there was a big demand, and the English proportion of the first division of the estate was soon sold. The land could have been sold over and over again, but, sticking to his policy of not selling more than one-third of any estate outside of Australia, Mr. Halloran had to disappoint many applicants. The second and third sub-



View of Cotter River and Dam, Canberra Water Supply Works. This is where the water supply will come from to serve the many buildings shortly to be erected on the Canberra Freeholds Estate, now being developed by Henry F. Halloran and Co.

divisions are now being rapidly taken up both in England and in Australia.

Plans and Price Lists will be forwarded on application, and lots may be applied for by letter, the purchaser having the right, should he so desire, of changing for any unsold lot at any time within three months. Apply early, so as not to be disappointed, as each application for lots is dealt with strictly in the order in which it is received. The title is Torrens.

The Vendors, having purchased the Canberra Freehold Estate a good many years ago, at a very favorable price, are now able to sell at low prices, but once the estates are all sold—as they soon will be at these low prices—values will trend upwards.

The offer is open now, but will not last long. Plans, Price Lists, and Full Particulars from Henry F. Halloran and Co., Managing Agents for Canberra Freeholds Estate, 82 Pitt-street, Sydney.

*Melb Vict.*

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1924.

## CANBERRA IN SIGHT

SEEMING that a contract is a contract among all peoples whose boast it is that they keep their obligations, the Federal capital is fixed at Canberra. The Federal Parliament passed a resolution some time ago by which it was decided that the Parliament of the Commonwealth should assemble at Canberra in 1926, and preparations are being made accordingly to house all those whose official duties will take them to the capital. The public are naturally anxious that this great change of venue shall be made with as little expenditure of public money as is consistent with the provision of reasonable comfort for the members and officials who carry on the national business of Australia.

There is no question that shifting the seat of Government from Melbourne to Canberra will entail a considerable amount of inconvenience upon members of the Government and Parliament of the Commonwealth, and also upon the personnel of the departments, and upon all those people who spend their working days in performing the varied functions associated with the great machine which has been evolved for carrying on government through democratic, political institutions. It is to the interest of the Australian public that the work of legislation and administration shall be carried on with the least possible waste of energy by friction, and that Ministers, members, and officials shall be provided with suitable accommodation, resources, and means of acquiring information for the due performance of their work, and recreation for the maintenance of health.

Why, therefore, should it be made a reproach against those who are administering the preparatory work at Canberra that they are constructing a Commonwealth hostel to accommodate 200 guests, and that they are laying out a golf course, tennis courts, and a bowling green to provide members with necessary exercise and recreation. Was it expected that honorable members of the Commonwealth Parliament should roost in the gum trees with the kookaburras or find their sole recreation, when the House was not sitting, in fishing in the Molonglo?

Several critics discuss in a hostile spirit the Federal Government's expenditure on mattresses and pillows, and on electroplate and cutlery for the use of the legislators of the Commonwealth. Do they think that an elected representative of the people of Australia ought to sleep on a bed of bracken, rest his head on a stone like Jacob at Bethel, drink out of his hat, and eat his food with his fingers? There is a sad lack of perspective in those who inveigh against the "luxuries" that are being sent to Canberra because tenders have been let for the supply of glass and china ware, linen and bedroom furniture, to the Commonwealth Hostel. "Carpets and rugs" are held up to execration under the head of luxuries, and "table napkins" are waved in the faces of the taxpayers as superfluities that are the last word in ostentatious extravagance. A single breath of saving commonsense is sufficient to blow away all such arguments against the transfer of the seat of government to the site which was agreed upon by Parliament years ago, and to which Australia stands definitely committed.

The only way by which life can be made tolerable at Canberra for those who are to carry on the public business of the Commonwealth there is to give them as many as possible of the comforts to which they are accustomed. The bill for radiators and firewood will be a considerable item, for the high elevation of Canberra on a great plateau surrounded by mountains gives it a winter temperature that is distinctly bracing. If the present Federal Parliament should reach its natural termination in December, 1925, according to plan, its successor should open at Canberra in the following April or May. That will be the beginning of winter, and if the long-sighted administrators who are buying carpets and laying out a golf course and tennis courts do not follow up the good work by installing an efficient central heating system at the Commonwealth Hostel, the new Parliament is likely to be severely handicapped by chilblains. Of course, all these comforts will cost money, but unless the money is spent there will be no "punch" in the first Canberra Parliament.

*age, Melb Vict  
July 31, 1924*

Plans of land areas about to be thrown open for residential and business leaseholds at Canberra are now being prepared, in anticipation of the first public auction at Canberra on 31st October. A tenure of 99 years, with reappraisal after 20 years and at the end of each ten years thereafter, will be granted, and the annual rent will be five per cent. of the unimproved value. Dwellings or business premises must be erected within a reasonable time, and it is hoped by this provision to exclude the land speculator. Land leases for church purposes may be granted in perpetuity, tax and rent free, the maximum area being five acres. The Home and Territories department will distribute plans and conditions of sale as widely as possible, so that everybody interested might have an opportunity of acquiring a lease at the bush capital.

The one day's sale brought accepted bids totalling £60,000 for blocks. The Canberra enterprise, therefore, may be now regarded as a revenue producer to the extent of £3000 per annum. This is a small item, having regard to the £10,000 or so in process of expenditure on the embryo city. But it is a start and there are some thousands of acres yet to be offered.

One fact that intending lessees have to bear in mind is that ground rental does not cover the cost of street-making, etc., which is to be made up from local municipal funds of some sort.

## CANBERRA LEASES

*Herald Melb Vict*

### £60,000 Bid at Auction

*Dec 17 1924*

Not many speculators went from Melbourne or Sydney to attend the first sale of Canberra leases last Friday. Practically all the buyers were Queanbeyan business people, but they competed keenly for the shop sites in particular, and supported by the representatives of two leading banks, established a value for these sites 100 to 200 per cent. above the upset prices. The accepted bids form the basis of computing the leasehold rent of the lots, which will be 5 per cent. on the amount bid. For example, lot 1 in the business section, offered at an upset price of £650, was finally knocked down to J. B. Young and Co., of Queanbeyan, for £2050. Five per cent. on this amount is £102/10/-, which is the annual rental the lessee will pay for the first twenty years. Thereafter the rent will be reappraised every ten years in accordance with the progress of the city. The full term of the lease is 99 years. The next blocks offered were sold at £950, £1050, £1050, £1100 and £1050, all to Queanbeyan tradespeople at practically double the upset prices.

#### UPSET PRICES DOUBLED

Again with the first residential site offered the highest bidder doubled the upset price, bidding £400 for a block with an upset of £220. Other residential sites went at a little above the upset of £200. On these the annual rental will be about £10 apiece for the first 10 years, and more thereafter according to the judgment of the assessors. On these rentals the lots should not be difficult to hold by persons of moderate means, but it must be remembered that within the first two years each lot holder must erect a house costing at least £1200.

Special building difficulties may, of course, present themselves in building in this remote place, but it is understood that the Minister will treat leniently any lessee prevented by adverse circumstances from completing his structure within the stipulated time. A scheme has also been mooted whereby the Government will finance civil servants at Canberra building homes on leasehold lots. It is expected also that the Government will be strongly urged to make the same provision for private persons not in the service.

INDUSTRIAL AUSTRALIAN  
and Mining Standard.

Subscription, post free in  
Australia, 30s. per annum.

*The paper that is absolutely indispensable to manufacturers  
and to everybody interested in the economic and industrial  
development of Australia.*

Tel. 5195 Cent.

Established 1904. Registered.  
Press Cuttings supplied from Australasian, British and

## AUSTRALIAN PRESS CUTTINGS

Stalbridge Chambers,

443 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

European Newspapers.

No industry can afford to be without the services of the  
Press Cutting Agency.

Cut from the..... *sun* .....

Published at..... *SYDNEY* .....

Date..... *Aug 28 1923 NEW SOUTH WALES* .....

(Attach

Established 1888.

## THE INDUSTRIAL AUSTRALIAN and Mining Standard.

Tel. 9630 (3 Lines).

It is generally acknowledged that the Industrial work being  
carried on by this journal is of the greatest service and value  
to the commercial community.

The following works are published from this office:—

Australian Municipal Journal (Published monthly) .. (post free) per annum	£1/1/-
Australasian Joint Stock Companies Year Book.. (post free) (R. L. Nash, Financial Ed., Sydney Daily Telegraph)	15/3
Manual of Emergency (War) Legislation .. (post free) (Issued by Authority of the Commonwealth Govt.)	7/8
Manual of Emergency (War) Legislation— (First Supplement) .. (post free)	5/2
Manual of Emergency (War) Legislation— (Second Supplement) .. (post free)	7/8
Australian Mining and Metallurgy (Donald Clark) (post free) .. .. .	£1/1/-
Coalfields and Collieries of Australia (Danvers Power) ..	O/P
High Explosives (W. R. Quinan) .. .. .	O/P
Metallurgy of Tin (P. J. Thibault) .. .. .	O/P
Power for Victorian Industries .. (post free)	5/9
The Electrification of the Metropolitan Railway System of Melbourne .. .. . (post free)	5/9
Harnessing Australia's Greatest River .. .. .	O/P
Redemption Tables .. .. . (post free)	£2/4/-

### In Course of Preparation—

Nature Studies (Dr. Leach).

Subscription to "The Industrial Australian and Mining Standard":  
30s. per annum, post free.

Published Weekly. 376 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

INDUSTRIAL AUSTRALIAN  
and Mining Standard.

Subscription, post free in  
Australia, 30s. per annum.

*The paper that is absolutely indispensable to manufacturers  
and to everybody interested in the economic and industrial  
development of Australia.*

Tel. 5195 Cent.

Established 1904. Registered.

## AUSTRALIAN PRESS CUTTINGS

Stalbridge Chambers,

443 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Press Cuttings supplied from Australasian, British and  
European Newspapers.

No industry can afford to be without the services of the  
Press Cutting Agency.

Cut from the..... *Herald* .....

Published at..... *Melb.* .....

Date..... *Aug 25 1923* .....

(Attach cutting here.)