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PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

P A P E R S

to be laid on the Table of the

S E N A T E.

R E P O R T

relating to the question of

ADDITIONAL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION at VICTORIA BARRACKS, MELBOURNE.

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

R E P O R T

relating to the proposed

ADDITIONAL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION at VICTORIA BARRACKS, MELBOURNE.

**Members
of the
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.**

First Committee

Edward Riley, Esquire, M.P., Chairman,

Senate

**Senator the Honorable
John Henry Keating,
Senator Patrick Joseph Lynch,
Vice-Chairman,
Senator William Harrison Story**

House of Representatives

**James Edward Fenton, Esquire, M.P.
William Fyfe Finlayson, Esquire, M.P.
The Honorable Henry Gregory, M.P.
Sydney Sampson, Esquire, M.P.
William Henry Laird Smith, Esquire, M.P.**

LIST of WITNESSES.

**Mackennal, Herace John, Works Director for
Victoria, Department of Home Affairs,**

**Murdoch, Captain Thomas, Director of Works,
Department of Defence,**

**Extract from the
Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives.**

No. 90 of 10th September, 1915.

- 12. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - REFERENCE OF WORKS - CUSTOMS HOUSE, SYDNEY.**
MRG. - Mr Archibald moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914, the following works be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for their report thereon, viz:-

....
Additional office accommodation at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

....
....

Mr Archibald having laid on the Table plans, etc. in connexion with the proposed works -

Question - put and passed.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

Additional Office Accommodation at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

R E P O R T

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, to which the House of Representatives referred for consideration and report the question of additional office accommodation at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, has the honor to report as follows:-

Introductory.

1. The building fronting St Kilda Road, Melbourne, and generally known as the Victoria Barracks, while originally erected as quarters for officers, has for many years been used as offices for administration purposes. Owing to increase of staff necessitated by the growing needs of the Defence Department accommodation in this building, never originally designed for office purposes, has become more and more congested and administration increasingly difficult. It was therefore decided, in 1913, that advantage should be taken of an area to the north of the existing building to erect additional accommodation.

2. The Committee ascertained that at the
time

time the extension of the Victoria Barracks was decided on the following premises were rented to accommodate portion of the staff:-

Navy Office, Lonsdale Street, 9,700 square feet of floor space at £640 per annum:

Portion of Normanby Chambers, 3,750 square feet of floor space at £705 per annum:

At 360 Collins Street, about 500 square feet of floor space at £90 per annum.

At the present time there are no buildings rented for the Central Administration of the Defence Department, the Navy now being a separate Department; but the following are in use:-

At 360 Collins Street, about 1,000 square feet of floor space - rental free:

Drill Hall, Victoria Barracks, 7,900 square feet of floor space:

and in addition a temporary wooden building providing 7,776 square feet of floor space will be taken into use in about a week.

Present Proposal.

3. The present proposal is to erect a building 5 stories high as a northern wing to the existing building fronting St Kilda Road. The structure will be built of what is termed "blue stone sheddy", a class of coarse rubble work in blue stone with fine dressings for window facings, door openings, cornices, and prominent features, and will be in keeping with the original

original building.

4. The floors of the existing building being of wood, the floors of the additions will be of similar material. The internal structure is to be carried on steel, and the floors will be borne on wooden joists. The building will be 133 feet long from St Kilda Road to the Barrack yard by a width of 50 feet overall and will afford a total floor space, not including corridors, of 23,862 square feet, made up as follows:

Basement	4,973	square feet
Ground Floor	4,973	do
First Floor	5,032	do
Second Floor	5,032	do
Third Floor	3,852	do.

The partitions will be of concrete slabs about $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick, and altogether about 44 rooms will be provided, most of them of a size approximating 25 feet by 20 feet. Lavatory accommodation is arranged for on each floor, an electric lift is to be provided, and electric light and steam heating apparatus will be installed. The basement is to be used as a room for the heating apparatus and to provide for the storage of documents. The other floors will be all used for office accommodation.

Estimated Cost

5. The estimated cost of the work, which is being carried out by the Department of Home Affairs,

is set down at £35,000, and the time for completion 21 months from date of commencement.

Committee's Investigation

6. The Committee inspected the building, which is in course of construction, and is satisfied that the addition will be in harmony with the existing building. It was ascertained in evidence that the building as originally projected was intended to also provide office accommodation for the Navy Department, but since the beginning of the war the requirements of the Military Department have grown so rapidly that it is doubtful whether the whole of the new building will be sufficient for its needs at the present time and even on the conclusion of hostilities it is anticipated that the natural growth of the Department will be such as to preclude the possibility of the Navy Department being provided with any accommodation in this building.

7. The Committee learned that there has been close co-operation between the officers of the Department of Home Affairs and the officers of the Department of Defence in connection with the preparation of the designs of this building and that the structure entirely meets the wishes of the Department of Defence.

8. The

8. The Committee is satisfied from its investigations that additional accommodation is urgently required for Defence purposes and recommends that the work in connection with this building be pushed on as rapidly as possible.

Decision

9. The decision arrived at by the Committee is shown in the following extract from its Minutes of Proceedings, viz:-

Mr Finlayson moved - That the proposals laid before the Committee in regard to additional office accommodation at the Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, be approved. Seconded by Senator Keating.

Carried unanimously.

Edward Riley

C h a i r m a n.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,

120 King Street,

MELBOURNE, 28th October, 1915.