

1923-24.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS.

NINTH GENERAL REPORT.

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MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

Fourth Committee:

The Honorable HENRY GREGORY, M.P., Chairman.

Senate.

Senator John Barnes.*
Senator Hattil Spencer Foll.†
Senator Patrick Joseph Lynch.*
Senator John Newland.†
Senator William Plain.‡
Senator Matthew Reid.*

* Appointed 5th July, 1923.

† Resigned 28th June, 1923.

House of Representatives.

Arthur Blakeley, Esquire, M.P.
Robert Cook, Esquire, M.P.
David Sydney Jackson, Esquire, M.P.
George Hugh Mackay, Esquire, M.P.
James Mathews, Esquire, M.P.

‡ Ceased to be a member of the Senate, 20th June, 1923.

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PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

NINTH GENERAL REPORT.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable HENRY WILLIAM, BARON FORSTER OF LEPE, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

In accordance with the requirements of Section 11 of the Commonwealth *Public Works Committee Act 1913-1921*, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works has the honour to submit the following Report of its proceedings for the year ended 31st December, 1923 :—

CHANGES ON THE COMMITTEE.

2. On the 28th June, 1923, Senator H. S. Foll and Senator John Newland resigned their positions as Members of the Committee. Senator William Plain, having failed to secure his return as a Senator for Victoria, ceased to be a Member of the Committee on the 30th June, 1923.

On the 5th July, 1923, Senators John Barnes, Patrick Joseph Lynch, and Matthew Reid were, by resolution of the Senate, appointed Members of the Committee.

Before entering on the duties of their office, Senators Barnes, Lynch, and Reid made and subscribed the declaration required by Section 4 of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1921*.

During the year the Committee and Sectional Committees held 143 meetings and examined 139 witnesses in connexion with the proposed works submitted. In making its inquiries the Committee and Sectional Committees travelled a distance of 6,213 miles by road and rail, and 6,200 miles by water—a total of 12,413 miles.

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

3. When the Committee presented its last General Report, all the matters referred to the Committee had been dealt with.

4. Since then the following matters have been submitted to the Committee for inquiry and report, namely :—

- (a) Erection of Provisional Parliament House Buildings, Canberra.
- (b) Construction of Provisional Administrative Offices, with accessory engineering and other services, at Canberra.
- (c) Erection of Officers' Hostel, Canberra.
- (d) Provision of Telephone Workshops, with accessory services, at Spencer-street, Melbourne.
- (e) Establishment of Aircraft Depôt, with accessory services, at Laverton, Victoria.
- (f) (i) Wharfage Accommodation and Shipping Facilities, including sheds, railway and vehicle approaches, &c., Darwin.
(ii) Establishment of Oil Depôts, Darwin.
- (g) Canberra to Yass Railway—Construction within Federal Capital Territory.

COMPLETED INQUIRIES.

5. The Committee has dealt with several of these questions and has presented reports in connexion therewith, namely :—

	Estimated Cost.
(a) Erection of Provisional Parliament House, Canberra	.. .. £174,000
(b) Construction of Provisional Administrative Offices, with accessory engineering and other services, at Canberra	.. .. .. 135,500
(c) Erection of Officers' Hostel, Canberra	.. .. .. 39,000
(d) Provision of Telephone Workshops, with accessory services, at Spencer-street, Melbourne	.. .. .. .. .. 66,500

SUMMARY OF COMPLETED INQUIRIES.

(a) *Erection of Provisional Parliament House Buildings, Canberra.*

6. The Advisory Committee appointed by the Government to advise as to the works necessary to enable the Federal Parliament to meet and the Central Administration of the Commonwealth to be carried on as early as practicable at Canberra, reported that in its opinion the question of the erection of a permanent Parliament House might be deferred for many years.

The proposal, therefore, submitted to the Committee was for the erection of grouped buildings of light brick and concrete construction, in which the functions of legislation might be conducted until such time as it became policy to proceed with the erection of the permanent monumental Parliamentary buildings.

The site for which the buildings were designed lies in front of that proposed in the approved city plan for the permanent Parliamentary building, so that the provisional building might enjoy in a considerable degree the same central relationship to the general development works of Canberra as they progress, as the originally contemplated monumental Parliament House would have done.

The estimated cost of the proposal as submitted to the Committee, including all relative engineering services, but exclusive of fittings and furnishings, was set down at £174,000, and the time fixed for completion about two and a-half years from the date of commencement.

The Committee took a large amount of evidence, and gave close consideration to the question of whether it would be in the best interests of the Commonwealth to adopt the suggestion of the Advisory Committee and proceed with the erection of a provisional building on the site mentioned, or to erect, on the site set apart for the permanent Parliament House, portion of a building which might form the nucleus of the monumental structure.

After giving the matter careful and prolonged attention, the Committee decided that as opinions of experts and laymen were so divided on the question, it would be well, after setting out all the facts, to leave the final decision to Parliament. It therefore submitted two alternatives, either of which would, in the opinion of the Committee, meet all needs for many years—

- (i) Erection of a nucleus of the permanent building on Camp Hill ;
- (ii) Erection of the provisional building on the site below Camp Hill, as recommended by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee.

In the event of the proposal (i) being adopted, it was stipulated that the first expenditure would not be more than £300,000, plus £50,000 to cover any necessary temporary additions ; the permanent portion to be first erected to be determined on this basis of expenditure by a Committee to be appointed by the Government.

It was also suggested that competitive designs be invited for the permanent Parliament House.

In addition, the Committee made the following recommendations :—

1. That the Chambers be made of a size sufficient to seat 112 Members in the House of Representatives and 56 in the Senate.
2. That the Presiding Officer in each Chamber be located in the centre of the longer side of the Chamber.
3. That seating in the Chambers be arranged on the semi-circular plan, Members to be provided with benches for two with a separate desk for each Member ; also that a passage way be arranged at the back of the rear row of seats.
4. That the rooms proposed on the south side of each Chamber be eliminated to provide for a Members' lounge, with direct access therefrom to the open air.
5. That provision be made for ventilation plant.
6. That *Hansard* be located in a separate portion of the Press Gallery slightly to the left of the Presiding Officer, and at a height not exceeding 9 ft. 6 in., with separate means of access.
7. That room be provided in each Chamber for three officials on a bench at the back of Ministers.
8. That the Press be located in a low gallery behind the Presiding Officer's chair, at a height not exceeding 9 ft. 6 in.
9. That the Public Gallery be located on the wall opposite the Presiding Officer's chair, extending back if necessary over the outside corridor.
10. That accommodation be provided on the Senate side for Senate Club Room approximately 1,440 square feet, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and his Secretary, and two Party Rooms.

11. That accommodation be provided on the House of Representatives' side for Librarian, a Ministerial Party Room approximately 1,125 square feet, Opposition Room approximately 800 square feet, and Third Party Room approximately 720 square feet.
12. That Billiard and Smoking Rooms be transferred to the eastern side of the refectory group.
13. That adequate lavatory and bath accommodation be provided for the staff, and three baths on each side of the building for the use of Members.
14. That the Clerks of the Senate and of the House of Representatives and small Record Rooms be located on the same floor as the Chambers, with remainder of staff on a separate floor.
15. That one large room on each side of the House be provided for Select Committees.
16. That Cataloguing Rooms be eliminated from the Library, and that Cataloguing Cabinets be placed against the walls.
17. That a responsible officer of the Library be located within the Library itself, in an alcove formed by book stacks, and that the general Library Staff be accommodated in one large common room.
18. That three large rooms be provided for Party typists, with cubicles for dictation purposes.
19. That one large room be provided for the use of Heads of Departments.
20. That the Public Works Committee be provided with a Committee-room approximately 30 feet by 24 feet, Secretary's Room, and ante-room, and that similar accommodation be provided for the Joint Committee of Public Accounts.
21. That provision be included for three strangers' rooms on each side of the main entrance.
22. That the lower walls of the Reception Hall be eliminated.
23. That the Post Office and Telegraph Office be combined, and located on the Senate side.
24. That no ceiling in any room be lower than 12 feet.
25. That further locker and retiring-room accommodation be provided for Messengers.
26. That provision be made for one Housekeeper's quarters only.
27. That provision be made for one Ladies' Reception-room, with lavatory attached.
28. That twelve small rooms, to accommodate four persons each, and one large common room, be provided for the press.
29. That a Press Dining-room be provided.

(b) Erection of Provisional Administrative Offices, Canberra.

7. This was a proposal for providing office accommodation for those Commonwealth Officials whose attendance will be required at Canberra by the time Parliament is opened there. The work projected was the erection of a group of single-story buildings for Departments, on a site north of that proposed for the Provisional Parliament House.

The group as planned consisted of twelve separate office buildings and a refectory and recreation building of light timber frame construction; also two buildings of brick or concrete construction to accommodate Departments and records whose preservation from fire is deemed specially important.

The estimated cost of the building, including relative engineering services, was set down at £135,500, and the time of completion two years from date of approval.

After careful consideration of all the evidence placed before it, the Committee was unanimously of opinion that in the interests of efficiency and economy, the Federal Capital Advisory Committee's recommendation for temporary offices in the position indicated should *not be accepted*. *It was felt that under no circumstances would it be justified in recommending that Government officials and important public documents be housed in wood and iron buildings.* It was ascertained that if brick structures of the same design and lay-out were provided, the cost would be approximately £155,825, but there would still remain many objectionable features. The Committee was, however, seized of the importance of having adequate office accommodation available as early as possible, and recommended that two units of two-story brick or concrete buildings be provided on the east and west of the two blocks to the north of the proposed Parliamentary buildings, to contain approximately 84,000 square feet of effective office accommodation, with additional necessary space for refectory purposes. It was added that the

buildings should be so designed as to admit of such extension as will provide for all office accommodation required in the first stage of the city. If this were done, the Committee considered that two units of permanent buildings would be available approximately 1,000 feet apart, and a similar distance from the permanent Parliament House site on Camp Hill, and in positions allocated for office purposes on the accepted plan. In these buildings, the Committee suggested that comfortable office accommodation, provided with central heating, electric light, &c., should be made available in large open spaces, in accordance with modern practice.

It was further recommended that the buildings be heated by hot water radiators, and that a dining-room be provided in one block, to be controlled by a committee of officials who would be responsible for the cost of food supply, service, and renewals.

(c) *Erection of Officers' Hostel, Canberra.*

8. In planning for the transfer to Canberra by the time Parliament opens of certain Departments, it is essential that living accommodation should be provided for the officials employed in those Departments.

This proposal was for the erection of a hostel for the purpose of accommodating some of the single officials and some of those married officials who either have no family or a small one. The plan submitted provided for a building capable of accommodating 80 guests, but permitting of extension to accommodate 120. In the construction as proposed, it was intended that the foundations should be of concrete and the walls of brick up to the level of the sills of the top floor windows. The upper portion of the central building was to be of weatherboard, and the roofs of red tiles.

The design of the building showed a central block two stories high, containing a dining-room, kitchen, &c.—with accommodation for the domestic staff above—and flanked on the north and south sides by lower two-storied pavilions containing the guests' bedrooms. These pavilions were to be 30 feet away from the main building, to which they would be connected by covered ways. They were to be of two stories—each story to contain twenty bedrooms. The single rooms were to be 13 feet by 10 feet, but on each floor of each wing would be two bedrooms 16 feet by 13 feet. The bedrooms were planned with recessed cupboards and wash-basins and on each floor of each pavilion there were to be four bathrooms.

In the middle of the central block it was proposed to have a dining-room 58 feet by 44 feet, capable of seating 120 people, with kitchen and offices immediately off the dining-room to the rear. In the front of the building there would be a common room 38 feet by 28 feet, a reading-room 21 ft. 6 in. by 15 feet, and a smoking-room 21 ft. 6 in. by 15 feet, as well as cloak-rooms, toilet-rooms, &c.

In addition, on each floor at the end of each wing it was proposed to have a sitting-room 18 feet by 13 feet and two balconies.

The estimated cost of the building was set down at £39,000, including relative engineering services, and the time fixed for completion nine months from date of commencement. It was stated that the furnishing would cost an additional £5,400, excluding dining-room equipment.

After carefully reviewing all the evidence received, the Committee submitted the following recommendations :—

- (i) 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, amortization, and water and sewerage rates.
- (ii) That a hostel be provided to accommodate 80 officials, but that the amount to be expended thereon be restricted to £25,000.
- (iii) That single bedrooms be reduced in size to 12 feet by 9 feet in the clear.
- (iv) That the building to be erected be a compact two-storied structure under one roof.
- (v) That the staff be housed in a self-contained building quite apart from the hostel.
- (vi) That as soon as approval is given for the erection of Parliament House, the Commonwealth throw open certain areas of the city for leasing and, in addition inaugurate a system of Crédit Foncier to enable persons to proceed with the erection of residences, subject to approval as to design and materials.
- (vii) That arrangements be made to invite competitive designs for the early erection of 300 cottages.

(d) *Provision of Telephone Workshops, with accessory services, at Spencer-street, Melbourne.*

9. This was a proposal to erect, as an extension of the General Post Office, a building of seven stories, having a frontage of about 53 feet to Spencer-street by a depth of about 134 feet, in which would be accommodated for some years the various sections of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Workshops.

The estimated cost of the proposal was set down at £66,500, including engineering services, and the time fixed for completion about two years from receipt of approval.

From investigations made, the Committee satisfied itself that further workshop accommodation was urgently needed. It also ascertained that the Postal business was expanding at such a rate that certain space in the proposed building would, at no distant date, be required for Postal purposes. Attention was, therefore, paid to the necessity of designing the proposed building so that it would be adaptable for Postal purposes when required.

After a careful perusal of all the evidence received, the Committee recommended—

- (i) That the General Post Office be extended by the erection of an additional section as proposed.
- (ii) That the plan submitted be remodelled with a view to the provision of a suitable roadway connecting the Bourke-street lane with Little Bourke-street.
- (iii) That the fifth floor be set aside for office or other purposes, and that the roof be utilized for locker and luncheon-room purposes by the extension of the building in harmony with the existing General Post Office structure.
- (iv) That the workshops be only temporarily located in the proposed building, their permanent location to be determined later.
- (v) That a complete plan for the future utilization of the whole of the Commonwealth property in this block be prepared before any future extension is proposed.
- (vi) That the planning of this and future extensions be carried out with the idea that on the remodelling of the Spencer-street Railway Station access thereto from the General Post Office be provided by means of a sub-way.
- (vii) That early consideration be given to the question of the mechanical handling of mails in accordance with modern postal practice.
- (viii) That a lift be provided on the northern wall approximately in the centre of the building.
- (ix) That the proposal to provide a footway on the north of the proposed building from Spencer-street to the light area and yard be not agreed to.

INQUIRIES INCOMPLETE.

10. The inquiries in regard to the undermentioned works have not yet been completed:—

- (i) Establishment of Aircraft Depôt, with accessory services, at Laverton, Victoria.
- (ii) (a) Wharfage Accommodation and Shipping Facilities, Darwin.
(b) Establishment of Oil Depôts, Darwin.
- (iii) Canberra to Yass Railway—Construction within the Federal Capital Territory.

INFRINGEMENT OF ACT.

11. In connexion with the proposal to erect at Canberra, on a site facing Commonwealth-avenue and opposite the proposed Governmental Group, a hostel on garden pavilion lines capable of affording first-class accommodation for about 200 visitors, the Committee, in submitting its report to Parliament, stated:—

14. “It appears to the Committee that the need for accommodation at Canberra of the class proposed is at present purely a matter of conjecture, and there is no guarantee that a Hostel capable of taking 200 guests will, in the initial stages, be reasonably filled. It was ascertained in evidence that if the accommodation to be provided were restricted to 100 guests, an immediate reduction of £36,750 in capital cost would be effected. Under these circumstances the Committee recommends that, for the present, the construction be limited to the Central Administrative block and one-half of the number of pavilions proposed.”

On 26th July, 1922, the Minister for Works and Railways (Mr. R. W. Foster) moved, pursuant to notice—

That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-14*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work:—

The construction of a Hostel at Canberra, with necessary engineering and other accessory services,

which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, and on which the Committee has duly reported to this House the result of its investigations.

Debate ensued, and on a division the motion was resolved in the affirmative by 26 votes to 16.

In explaining the motion to the House of Representatives, Mr. Foster (*Hansard*, Vol. XCIX., p. 800) said :—

“ It was proposed at first to submit for approval the construction of a complete Hostel at a cost of £98,750. The Government were anxious that more moderate provision should at first be made, and the Advisory Committee fell in with that idea, and have recommended that only half of the complete Hostel should be undertaken at present. . . . As I have said it is now proposed to make provision for only half of the Hostel originally suggested, and no doubt when Parliament meets at Canberra and people are gathering there, the other half will be proceeded with. I do not think Honorable Members will say that this is a ruinous venture.”

During a recent visit to Canberra the Committee learned that the erection of the whole hostel is now being proceeded with. In view of the definite recommendation of the Committee, and the explicit statement of the Minister in the House, it is desired that attention be drawn to this matter, and a strong protest entered against the ignoring of the Committee’s recommendation and the infringement of the Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act.

RECORD OF INQUIRIES.

12. Appended hereto is a return containing a record of the inquiries of the Committee from the date of its opening to 31st December, 1923.

H. GREGORY,
Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,
Federal Parliament House, Melbourne,
1st February, 1924.

Transmitted to the Prime Minister.

FORSTER.

4th April, 1924.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

RECORD OF INQUIRIES.

The following is a list of proposed public works inquired into by the Committee from the date of its appointment to 31st December, 1923, with the result of its inquiries:—

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in Excess of that proposed.	Amount in Reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
1915. 25th Jan. to 24th Feb.	Construction of a main sewer for the city of Canberra	£ 75,000	£ 75,000	£ ..	£ ..	Recommended as proposed
28th Jan. to 25th Feb.	Storage and regulating reservoir, Upper Queanbeyan River	100,000	..	..	100,000	Committee decided that there is no present necessity or urgency for this work
11th Mar. to 4th May	Erection of buildings at Flinders Naval Base	111,032	111,032	..	..	Recommended as proposed
19th Mar. to 5th May	Sewerage scheme for Flinders Naval Base	9,500	7,500	..	2,000	
6th May to 24th June	Lithgow Small Arms Factory Extension	66,600 (including power plant)	92,100	25,500	..	In lieu of making additions to the existing factory at Lithgow, the Committee recommended the erection of a factory at Canberra twice the size of the existing factory, the installation of new machinery therein, and the removal thereto of the existing machinery at a convenient date
6th May to 27th May	Increase of output, Small Arms Factory, Lithgow	..	..	..	..	Committee recommended establishment of a second shift
6th May to 17th June	Increase of plant, Small Arms Factory, Lithgow	38,727	38,727	..	..	Recommended as proposed
27th July to 26th Aug.	Small Arms Factory—location at Canberra	..	..	..	..	Site recommended
18th Sept. to 15th Oct.	Automatic Telephone Exchange, Sydney	93,008	..	..	..	Committee favorable to proposal subject to provision of additional means of ingress and egress
21st Sept. to 22nd Sept.	Barracks, quarters, gun park, &c., for R.A.F.A., Enoggera, Queensland	26,000	28,225	2,225	..	Recommended subject to improved lighting, water, and fire services
23rd Sept. to 24th Nov.	Cement Works for Commonwealth purposes	100,000	100,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
28th Sept. to 6th Oct.	Alterations and additions to the Customs House, Sydney	37,500	29,500	..	..	Recommended, but stipulation made that occupants be removed to temporary accommodation during alterations
12th Oct. to 15th Oct.	Automatic Telephone Exchange, Malvern, Victoria	46,933	46,933	..	..	Recommended as proposed
12th Oct. to 15th Oct.	Automatic Telephone Exchange, Collingwood, Victoria	49,752	49,752	..	..	Recommended as proposed
25th Oct. to 26th Oct.	Additional Office accommodation, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne	35,000	35,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
1916. 14th Feb. to 1st Mar.	Selection of site for arsenal within the Federal Territory	..	..	..	..	Confidential report issued to Prime Minister
24th May to 31st May	Alterations and additions to the Customs House, Sydney (further report)	51,481	41,000	..	10,481	
25th Feb., 1915, to 21st Aug., 1916	Water Supply scheme for Flinders Naval Base	61,000 and 9d. per 1,000 gallons for water consumed	Capital cost nil; ls. per 1,000 gallons with minimum annual payment of £4,000 for first three years, £3,500 for second three years, £3,000 thereafter	..	61,000	The interest on the capital cost of £61,000 as originally proposed, plus the cost of water consumed at 9d. per 1,000 gallons, more than counterbalances the annual payment under the scheme recommended

Record of Inquiries—List of proposed public works inquired into—continued.

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in Excess of that proposed.	Amount in Reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
1916. 10th Nov., 1915, to 30th Aug., 1916	Extension of Pine Creek-Katherine River Railway to Bitter (Mataranka) Springs	£ 320,000	£ 320,000	£ ..	£ ..	Recommended as proposed
13th July, 1915, to 24th Nov., 1916	City Railway, Canberra	378,972	280,000	..	98,972	The Committee recommended that requirements for some years be met by temporary surface lines at estimated cost of about £37,000
14th July, 1915, to 28th Nov., 1916	Dams for Ornamental Waters, Canberra	912,421	472,421	..	440,000	Most of the expenditure recommended, however, will be deferred for a period of years
1917. 16th Jan. to 20th Feb.	Extension of Postal Stores, Harbour-street, Sydney	68,532	68,532	..	..	Recommended as proposed
31st Jan. to 16th Mar.	Power House, Flinders Naval Base	15,000	9,500	..	5,500	
27th Sept. to 8th Mar., 1918	Flinders Naval Base—Erection of workshops, hospital, detention barracks, quarters for married officers and warrant officers; water, sewerage, and storm-water reticulations; electric distribution system; and accessory works for that establishment	168,845	142,641	..	26,204	
27th Sept. to 1st May, 1918	Henderson Naval Base—Two breakwaters, excavations, reclamations, basins or quaywalls, floating docks, administrative buildings, and permanent railways	4,529,109	2,908,859	..	19,250	The Committee recommended that work of the estimated cost of £1,601,000 be made the subject of further inquiry at a later date. A saving of £19,250 was effected in connexion with the transport of material from Wongong
1918. 18th June to 1st Aug.	Housing of Commonwealth workmen at Lithgow, New South Wales	73,762	..	..	..	The Committee recommended the erection of 150 houses instead of 100 as proposed, but at a lower average cost
20th Sept. to 29th Oct.	Arsenal Railway	..	62,614	62,614	..	
23rd Dec., 1918, to 26th June, 1919	Ordnance Store, Leichhardt, N.S.W.	69,283	..	..	6,300	The Committee recommended the addition of another story to the building proposed, but saved the cost of same by concentration of Ordnance business at Leichhardt. A further saving of £6,300 was effected by the relocation of the railway siding
1919. 10th June to 7th Oct.	Commonwealth Printing Offices Note	47,800	46,800	..	1,000	The Committee recommended a variation in the floor finish proposed which would result in a saving of £1,000
1920. 4th May to 9th June	Erection of mobilization and vehicle stores, Seymour, Victoria	78,672	80,472	1,800	..	Increase resulted from the recommendation of the Committee that fire sprinklers be installed in the Equipment Building
11th June to 19th July	Alterations and Additions to the General Post Office, Adelaide, S.A.	76,014	76,014	..	..	Recommended as proposed
13th July to 24th Aug.	Mobilization and vehicle stores, Midland Junction, Western Australia	36,570	..	..	..	The Committee recommended acquisition of additional seven acres and cottage thereon, but estimated that would be practically balanced by elimination of erection of caretaker's cottage proposed
3rd Nov., 1920, to 22nd Mar., 1921	Kidman and Mayoh's Wooden Ship-building Contract	135,200	Nil	..	135,200	The Committee recommended that under no circumstances would the Commonwealth be justified in taking over the ships
22nd Dec., 1920, to 12th April, 1921	Extension by two floors of building under construction for General Post Office, Perth, W.A.	50,000	50,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed

Record of Inquiries—List of proposed public works inquired into—*continued.*

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in Excess of that proposed.	Amount in Reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
22nd Dec., 1920, to 13th April, 1921	Erection of an additional telegraph line from Perth to Eucla <i>via</i> Transcontinental Rail-way route	£ 42,030	£ 42,030	£ ..	£ ..	Recommended as proposed
23rd Nov., 1920, to 20th April, 1921	Erection of additional telephone line between Sydney and Melbourne	37,000	37,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
3rd March, 1921, to 6th May, 1921	Erection of Ordnance and other Defence buildings at Kelvin Grove, Brisbane, Queensland	53,041	52,131	..	910	The Committee recommended utilization of building to be acquired in lieu of erecting luncheon-rooms
23rd Nov., 1920, to 9th May, 1921	Erection of telephone trunk line between Brisbane and Sydney	35,200	31,514	..	..	The price of copper fell after preparation of estimate
1921.						
1st Feb., 1921, to 9th May, 1921	Establishment of automatic telephone exchanges at Albion and Newmarket, Queensland	89,779	89,779	..	..	Recommended as proposed
17th May, 1921, to 28th June, 1921	Establishment of automatic telephone exchanges at Ascot Vale and North Melbourne, Victoria	183,092	183,092	..	..	Recommended as proposed
1st March, 1921, to 7th July, 1921	Acquisition of lands for the proposed Anzac Memorial Square, Brisbane, Queensland	..	..	..	..	The Committee recommended— (a) That Commonwealth lands be transferred to State in exchange for suitable area for Commonwealth purposes in an approved locality, or alternatively (b) that Commonwealth area be sold to Brisbane City Council at valuation, or, failing acceptance of (a) or (b), that the Commonwealth agree to relinquish a strip 40 feet wide if the State relinquish an adjoining strip 160 feet wide for the purpose of forming a Memorial Square
30th March, 1921, to 3rd Aug., 1921	Erection of offices for Taxation and other Commonwealth Departments in Sydney	145,000	145,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
23rd Feb., 1921, to 9th Nov., 1921	Re-modelling and additions, General Post Office, Sydney	268,807	289,000 plus cost of land	21,000 plus cost of land	..	The Committee's recommendation provided an additional 24,000 feet of floor space to enable the building to be reduced by two stories, and allow some margin for expansion when necessary
28th January, 1921, to 5th October, 1922	Extension of the Port Augusta-Oodnadatta Railway from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs	4,109,446	1,558,600	..	2,550,846	
28th January, 1921, to 5th October, 1922	Northern Territory Railway—Extension from Mataranka to Daly Waters	1,159,298	925,386	..	233,912	
14th Dec., 1921, to 6th April, 1922	Sewerage, Federal Capital—Construction of Main Intercepting Sewer from centre of City to connect with Main Outfall Sewer	66,000	66,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
15th Dec., 1921, to 10th April, 1922	Water Supply, Federal Capital—Distributary Works within the City Area, Canberra	48,200	48,200	..	..	Recommended as proposed
19th Dec., 1921, to 11th April, 1922	Construction of Hostel at Canberra, with necessary engineering and other services	98,750	62,000	..	36,750	Committee recommended that construction be limited to central block and half the number of pavilions proposed
1922.						
25th Jan., 1922, to 31st May, 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at South Brisbane, Queensland	121,086	121,086	..	..	Recommended as proposed
20th Jan., 1922, to 31st May, 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at Cottesloe, W.A.	44,576	44,576	..	..	Recommended as proposed

Record of Inquiries.—List of proposed public works inquired into—continued.

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in Excess of that proposed.	Amount in Reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
24th Feb., 1922, to 14th March, 1922	Office Accommodation for Federal Taxation Department in Melbourne	£ 209,650	£ 125,000	£ ..	£ 84,650	
23rd Feb., 1922, to 7th April, 1922	Office Accommodation in Adelaide for various Commonwealth Departments	115,000	115,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
15th March, 1922, to 19th June, 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchanges and Equipment at Brighton, Glenelg, and Prospect, S.A.	161,610	161,610	..	..	Recommended as proposed
4th May, 1922, to 12th Oct., 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at City South, Sydney	404,242	419,342	15,100	..	In view of value of site, the Committee recommended a six-story building in lieu of three stories proposed
8th May, 1922, to 14th Sept., 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchanges and Equipment at East Sydney, Randwick, Waverley, and Gordon, N.S.W.	497,452	497,452	..	..	Recommended as proposed
10th Aug., 1922, to 29th Aug., 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at South Melbourne, Victoria	111,738	111,738	..	..	Recommended as proposed
10th Aug., 1922, to 20th Sept., 1922	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Canterbury, Victoria	113,622	113,622	..	..	Recommended as proposed
12th Aug., 1922, to 3rd Oct., 1922	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Box Hill, Victoria	44,841	2,720	..	42,121	Committee recommended that existing manual exchange could be kept in operation without detriment to service until 1929
26th Aug., 1922, to 10th Oct., 1922	Provision of Additional Quarters at Point Cook, Vic., for Staff of Royal Australian Air Force	31,500	31,500	..	..	Recommended as proposed
7th Oct., 1922, to 28th Oct., 1922	Erection of Commonwealth Offices, Brisbane	127,000	115,000	..	12,000	Committee recommended erection of building in concrete
1923.						
21st March, 1923, to 18th June, 1923	Erection of Provisional Parliament House, Canberra	174,000	..	..	..	The Committee recommended the erection of the nucleus of the permanent Parliament House, or alternatively, the erection of a provisional building on the site proposed below Camp Hill
9th April, 1923, to 21st June, 1923	Construction of Provisional Administrative Offices at Canberra	135,500	..	..	..	Committee recommended that two units of two-storied brick or concrete buildings be provided
14th March, 1923, to 26th June, 1923	Erection of Officers' Hostel, Canberra	39,000	25,000	..	14,000	Committee recommended that in lieu of a hostel on garden pavilion lines there be provided a compact two-storied structure under one roof
18th July, 1923, to 16th Aug., 1923	Erection of Telephone Workshops, Spencer-street, Melbourne	66,500	66,500	..	..