

1926-27.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS.

TWELFTH GENERAL REPORT.

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MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

Fifth Committee :

GEORGE HUGH MACKAY, Esq., M.P., Chairman.

Senate.

Senator John Barnes
Senator Patrick Joseph Lynch†
Senator Herbert James Mockford Payne*
Senator Matthew Reid.

House of Representatives.

Robert Cook Esq., M.P.
The Hon. Henry Gregory, M.P.
Andrew William Lacey Esq., M.P.
David Charles McGrath, Esq., M.P.
Alfred Charles Seabrook, Esq., M.P.

† Resigned 30th June 1926.

* Appointed 1st July, 1926.

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THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

TWELFTH GENERAL REPORT.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN LAWRENCE, BARON STONEHAVEN, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, 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, 1926 :—

CHANGE IN THE COMMITTEE.

1. On 30th June, 1926, Senator Patrick Joseph Lynch and Senator Matthew Reid resigned their positions on the Committee.

On 1st July, 1926, Senator Herbert James Mockford Payne and Senator Matthew Reid were selected as members of the Committee.

2. Prior to entering upon their duties, Senator Payne and Senator Reid made and subscribed the declaration required by the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1921*.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS.

3. During the year, the Committee held 135 meetings and examined 120 witnesses in connexion with the proposed works submitted. In making its inquiries, the Committee travelled 9,649 miles by rail, 288 miles by road, and 5,556 miles by sea—a total distance of 15,493 miles.

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

4. When the Committee presented its last General Report, the following questions were under consideration, viz. :—

- (a) Provision of Wharfage Accommodation and Shipping Facilities, Darwin ;
- (b) Construction of Dam and Improvements on the Molonglo River, Federal Capital ;
- (c) Erection of Permanent Administrative Offices, Canberra.

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

- (d) Erection of Automatic Telephone Exchange, Hobart ;
- (e) Transfer of Postal Department's Telegraph Lines between Perth and Adelaide to Transcontinental Railway route ;
- (f) Extension of Trans-Australian Railway from Port Augusta to Red Hill, South Australia, and the laying of a third rail to provide a railway of 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge on the South Australian 5 ft. 3 in. gauge railway from Red Hill to the Central Railway Station, Adelaide.
- (g) Construction of new wharf at Garden Island Naval Establishment, New South Wales.
- (h) Erection of Cottages at Canberra.
- (i) Selection of site and construction of Wharf at Rabaul, New Guinea.
- (j) Erection of Postal Workshops, South Melbourne.
- (k) Erection of Commonwealth Offices, Sydney.
- (l) Installation of Mail-handling Appliances, General Post Office, Sydney.

COMPLETED INQUIRIES.

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

| | Estimated Cost. |
|---|-----------------|
| (i) Construction of Dam and Improvements on the Molonglo River, Federal Capital | £ 50,000 |
| (ii) Erection of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Hobart | 161,118 |
| (iii) Transfer of Postal Department's Telegraph Lines between Perth and Adelaide to Transcontinental Railway route | 119,342 |
| (iv) Extension of Trans-Australian Railway from Port Augusta to Red Hill, South Australia, and the laying of a third rail to provide a railway of 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge on the South Australian 5 ft. 3 in. gauge railway from Red Hill to the Central Railway Station, Adelaide | 1,219,173 |
| (v) Construction of New Wharf at Garden Island Naval Establishment, New South Wales | 150,000 |
| (vi) Erection of Permanent Administrative Offices at Canberra | 842,618 |
| (vii) Erection of Cottages at Canberra | 371,100 |
| Total | 2,913,351 |

SUMMARY OF COMPLETED RECOMMENDATIONS.

(i) *Construction of Dam and Improvements on the Molonglo River, Federal Capital.*

7. This was a proposal for the construction of a massed concrete dam or weir across the Molonglo River near Yarralumla, of a sufficient height to raise the waters of the river to a level of 1,798 feet above sea level. This would have the effect of throwing the water back for a distance of 5 or 6 miles and creating a water feature in the vicinity of the city, having a width of from 400 to 600 feet. The depth of water would be about 14 feet in the vicinity of Yarralumla, diminishing to about 3 or 4 feet under the Commonwealth-avenue bridge. It was suggested that this work would add to the beauty of the city, provide a healthy form of recreation and amusement for the people, and improve the flood discharge of the river.

After hearing the evidence tendered in the matter, the Committee reported that in its opinion the construction of the Molonglo Dam was not immediately necessary, and should be postponed for the present.

(ii) *Erection of Automatic Telephone Exchange, at Hobart.*

8. This was a proposal to erect a building on a site already acquired by the Commonwealth at the corner of Harrington and Davey streets, Hobart, and to instal therein an Automatic Telephone Switching System having an initial equipment for 4,100 subscribers' lines and an ultimate capacity of approximately 7,000 subscribers' lines. It was proposed that the initial equipment should be capable of extension to the ultimate capacity named, thereby affording sufficient accommodation for the anticipated development in the Hobart automatic telephone exchange area for a period of about twenty years. The estimated cost was set down at £161,118.

After considering all the evidence obtained, the Committee recommended :—

- (a) That the Automatic Telephone Exchange be installed as early as possible.
- (b) That the elevation of the building be of brick with freestone facing in lieu of plaster.
- (c) That the height of the building be reduced by about 6 feet.
- (d) That the space allotted for storage and test-room purposes on the ground floor be more profitably utilized.
- (e) That an effort be made to accommodate in the new building some of those Commonwealth activities at present housed in rented premises in Hobart.
- (f) That the de-humidifying plant be not installed until future observation shows it to be necessary.

(iii) *Transfer of Postal Department's Telegraph Lines between Perth and Adelaide to Transcontinental Railway Route.*

9. Telegraphic communication between Adelaide and Perth was maintained by three lines as follow :—

- (a) Adelaide-Fowler's Bay-Eucla-Albany-Perth. This was a galvanized iron wire, 400 lbs. to the mile, and of a length of 1,870 miles.

- (b) Adelaide-Fowler's Bay-Eucla-Kalgoorlie-Perth (connected for through service at Kalgoorlie). From Adelaide to Fowler's Bay, 586 miles, this line was of 300-lb. copper; from Fowler's Bay to Coolgardie, 825 miles, it was of 400-lb. galvanized iron wire; from Coolgardie to Kalgoorlie, 24 miles, and from Kalgoorlie to Perth, 365 miles, it was of 200-lb. copper.
- (c) Adelaide-Fowler's Bay-Eucla-Coolgardie-Perth. From Adelaide to Fowler's Bay, 586 miles, this line was of 400-lb. copper; from Fowler's Bay to Eucla, 240 miles, it was of 265-lb. copper; and from Eucla to Perth, 926 miles, of 200-lb. copper.

The proposal submitted to the Committee was:—

- (a) Port Augusta to Kalgoorlie: Run two new 300-lb. copper wires on railway poles for use in lieu of three existing wires via Eucla.
- (b) Adelaide to Perth: Utilize one existing 300-lb. copper wire Adelaide to Port Augusta; thence one existing 300-lb. copper wire taken in exchange from the Commonwealth Railways Department, Port Augusta to Kalgoorlie; thence run one new 200-lb. copper wire on existing postal poles Kalgoorlie to Perth; all to make up a through circuit Adelaide to Perth for the use of the Eastern Extension Cable Company.
- (c) Dismantle certain portions of the existing coastal route which will be no longer required for interstate or local services.

The estimated cost of the project was £119,342.

After giving the evidence full consideration, the Committee recommended that the proposal as submitted be given effect to as early as possible.

- (iv) *Extension of the Trans-Australian Railway from Port Augusta to Red Hill, South Australia, and the laying of a third rail to provide a railway of 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge on the South Australian 5 ft. 3 in. gauge railway from Red Hill to the Central Railway Station, Adelaide.*

10. Railway communication between Port Augusta (the eastern terminus of the Trans-Australian Railway) and Adelaide is at present maintained by a 3 ft. 6 in. gauge line, which is carried over the Flinders Range through Quorn to Terowie, where it junctions with the 5 ft. 3 in. gauge line which runs to Adelaide. The length of this line is approximately 260 miles, and it rises at places to nearly 2,000 feet above sea level.

After negotiations extending over a considerable period, an agreement was entered into between the Commonwealth and the State of South Australia under which the Commonwealth was to build a 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge railway from Port Augusta to Red Hill, the State to lay at the expense of the Commonwealth a third rail on the existing 5 ft. 3 in. gauge State railway from Red Hill to the Central Railway Station, Adelaide, so as to permit of the Trans-Australian trains arriving at and departing from Adelaide. In addition, the Commonwealth undertook to lay at the expense of the State of South Australia a third rail on the Commonwealth's 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge track between Red Hill and a point near Port Pirie, to permit of the running of the South Australian 5 ft. 3 in. gauge trains from Adelaide to Port Pirie. This agreement was subsequently submitted to and ratified by the Commonwealth Parliament and the Parliament of South Australia.

The estimated cost to the Commonwealth of the proposal as submitted to the Committee was set down at £1,219,173, and the estimated cost to South Australia of the third rail which would be laid by the Commonwealth on its track between Red Hill and Port Pirie was set down at £37,000.

| | | | |
|---|----|--------|---------------|
| The annual revenue to be derived from the line was estimated at | .. | .. | £100,755 |
| the annual interest charge at | .. | .. | £77,743 |
| and the estimated working expenses from Port Augusta to Adelaide at | .. | 63,879 | |
| | | | <hr/> 141,622 |
| leaving an estimated annual loss of | .. | .. | £40,867 |

It was stated, however, that the construction of this line was expected to increase the revenue of the Port Augusta-Kalgoorlie line to the extent of £35,000 per annum, so that the net loss, including interest, should not exceed £5,867 per annum from the commencement of traffic on the proposed line; and it was claimed that this small loss should in the near future be converted into a profit.

After considering the matter in all its aspects, the Committee agreed to recommend that the proposal be approved.

Owing to a disparity in the estimates prepared by the Commonwealth and State Railway Departments, for the laying of the third rail on the section, Red Hill-Adelaide, the Committee recommended that on completion of the work a detailed statement of costs should be supplied by the Commonwealth Railways Department to this Committee for its information.

(v) *Construction of New Wharf at Garden Island Naval Establishment, New South Wales.*

11. This proposal aimed at the construction on the south-westerly side of Garden Island of a timber pile wharf 960 feet long and of a maximum width of 133 feet, for the purpose of accommodating the new cruisers being built for Australia. It was also suggested that there should be an extension on the southern side of the wharf of 52 feet to accommodate small craft. The wharf was designed to carry a load of 500 lbs. to the square foot, and to be fitted with an electrical travelling crane with a working load of 20 tons at a radius of 60 feet and capable of lifting 8 tons at a 90-foot radius. On the wharf were to be provided three electrically-driven capstans and the necessary bollards for mooring vessels.

The estimated cost of the proposal was set down at £150,000.

In the structure as designed, it was stipulated that the piles should be of turpentine and the decking of brush box, and the remainder of the timber of ironbark. While agreeing that the turpentine piles were the most suitable, the Committee considered that the supply of the remainder of the timber required should not be restricted to New South Wales if equally suitable timber at the same price could be obtained elsewhere. It was, therefore, recommended that, with the exception of the piles, tenders be invited in all States for the timber required in the wharf.

With this exception, the Committee, after careful consideration of all the evidence received, agreed to recommend that the work be put in hand as proposed.

(vi) *Erection of Permanent Administrative Offices, Canberra.*

12. This was a proposal to provide office accommodation for the whole of the officials of the various Commonwealth Departments to be transferred to Canberra. The building suggested was to be 430 feet long and 54 feet high, comprising five floors, and capable of accommodating eight departments of State, with office space sufficient for about 1,100 officials.

The estimated cost of the proposal as first submitted to the Committee was set down at £451,572, but during the course of the Committee's investigations it was found that other charges which should have been included would bring the total cost to the Commonwealth of this building to £842,618.

The recommendations of the Committee in regard to the project were:—

- (a) That the building should be erected on the site east or west of the main axis which investigation shows to be the more economical for foundations ;
- (b) That the skeleton structure should be erected in reinforced concrete ;
- (c) That the whole of the top story should be included ;
- (d) That the outer extremity of the building should be constructed with an apsidal end ;
- (e) That no provision be made for a dome ;
- (f) That the ground floor level of the building be fixed at 1,860 feet :
- (g) That when investigations being conducted at Fairy Meadow are sufficiently advanced, the matter be again referred to the Committee for a decision as to the class of facing to be used in the building ;
- (h) That the interior of the building be proceeded with in such a way as to permit of occupation before work commenced on facing ;
- (i) That representative Australian woods be included in the joinery work ;
- (j) That walls of vestibules, essential corridors, and staircases be lined with marble, to a height of $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet to 5 feet ;
- (k) That floors of vestibules, corridors, staircases, and lavatories be paved with marble, and that floors of general offices be of Australian hardwood ;
- (l) That Australian marbles from various States be introduced in the marble work ;
- (m) That a cheaper class of fireproof door be used for strong-rooms except in special cases ;
- (n) That the heating system be similar to that installed in Parliament House, with wall radiators ;
- (o) That vacuum cleaning be carried out with portable cleaners ;
- (p) That a supply of hot water to lavatory basins be provided ;
- (q) That a clock fire alarm be installed with a system of watching, coupled with portable chemical fire extinguishers inside the building and the usual fire hydrants outside ;

- (r) That the preparation of quantities be carried out in the Department of Works and Railways ;
- (s) That tenders be called for the erection of the building, the Federal Capital Commission being at the same time invited to submit a tender for carrying out the work by day labour.

In connexion with this matter, it was pointed out that the adoption of the Committee's recommendations would result in the saving of a sum of £52,300, while if later investigations should show that Fairy Meadow limestone could be successfully used to face the building, the saving would be substantially increased.

(vii) *Erection of Cottages at Canberra.*

13. To meet the necessity for the provision of residences for Commonwealth officials to be transferred to Canberra, the Federal Capital Commission in March, 1926, invited tenders for the construction of brick or concrete cottages in any number from one to 500, and on the 20th May, 1926, notified the acceptance of certain tenders for this work.

On 21st May, 1926, the Committee drew the attention of the Minister for Home and Territories to the fact that in its opinion this work should have first been referred to the Committee, and on 21st July, 1926, by a resolution of the House of Representatives, the matter was referred to the Committee for investigation and report.

It was ascertained upon inquiry that two contracts for 100 cottages each and a third contract for certain cottages " not exceeding 100 " had been entered into ; but until it had been determined how many cottages of each type were to be erected the amount of each contract could not be stated. The average contract price for the whole of the brick types worked out at £1,243 each, and the average cost of the concrete types at £1,225 each, so that it was estimated that in the event of 300 cottages being erected, the expenditure would approximate £371,100.

After carefully examining the whole question, the Committee made the following recommendations :—

- (a) Encourage the building of cottages in numbers up to five by small contractors ;
- (b) Bring construction costs within 5 per cent. or $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of Sydney prices ;
- (c) Reduce valuation placed on residential blocks of public servants ;
- (d) Reduce cost of fencing ;
- (e) Extend period of rental purchase to 45 years ;
- (f) Arrange for Federal Capital Commission to carry its own fire insurance ;
- (g) Eliminate at option of purchaser £125 charge for extras, leaving occupier to provide them under supervision ;
- (h) Reduce overhead and supervision charges to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
- (i) Provide for officials receiving salary of £400 and under brick cottages of the standard of the War Service Homes Commission ;
- (j) Allow officials in receipt of £400 and under to select timber dwellings, provided that not more than 5 per cent. of such dwellings are allowed in any brick group ;
- (k) Reduce cost of the smaller types of concrete houses to at least 15 per cent. below the cost of similar brick houses.

INQUIRIES INCOMPLETE.

14. Inquiries in respect of the undermentioned public works are incomplete :—

- (a) Provision of Wharfage Accommodation and Shipping Facilities, Darwin ;
- (b) Installation of Mail-handling Appliances, General Post Office, Sydney ;
- (c) Selection of site and construction of Wharf at Rabaul, Territory of New Guinea ;
- (d) Erection of Postal Workshops, South Melbourne ;
- (e) Erection of Commonwealth Offices, Sydney.

RECORD OF INQUIRIES.

15. Appended hereto is a return containing a record of the inquiries of the Committee from the date of its appointment to 31st December, 1926.

G. H. MACKAY,

Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,
Federal Parliament House, Melbourne,
14th February, 1927.

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, 1926, 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; 1s. 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 | 4,520,109 | 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 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 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. | | | | | | |
| 19th June to 7th Oct. | Commonwealth Note Printing Offices | 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. |
|--|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1920. 22nd Dec., 1920, to 13th April, 1921 | Erection of an additional telegraph line from Perth to Eucla <i>via</i> Transcontinental Railway 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 |
| 8th 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. to 31st May | Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at South Brisbane, Queensland | 121,086 | 121,086 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 23th Jan. to 31st May | 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. |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1922. | | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| 24th Feb. to 14th March | Office Accommodation for Federal Taxation Department in Melbourne | 209,650 | 125,000 | .. | 84,650 | |
| 23rd Feb. to 7th April | Office Accommodation in Adelaide for various Commonwealth Departments | 115,000 | 115,000 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 15th March to 19th June | Automatic Telephone Exchanges and Equipment at Brighton, Glenelg, and Prospect, S.A. | 161,610 | 161,610 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 4th May, to 12th Oct. | 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 to 14th Sept. | Automatic Telephone Exchanges and Equipment at East Sydney, Randwick, Waverley, and Gordon, N.S.W. | 497,452 | 497,452 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 10th Aug. to 29th Aug. | Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at South Melbourne, Victoria | 111,738 | 111,738 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 10th Aug. to 20th Sept. | Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Canterbury, Victoria | 113,622 | 113,622 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 12th Aug. to 3rd Oct. | 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. to 10th Oct. | Provision of Additional Quarters at Point Cook, Vic., for Staff of Royal Australian Air Force | 31,500 | 31,500 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 7th Oct. to 28th Oct. | Erection of Commonwealth Offices, Brisbane | 127,000 | 115,000 | .. | 12,000 | Committee recommended erection of building in concrete |
| 1923. | | | | | | |
| 21st March to 18th June | 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 to 21st June | 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 to 26th June | 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 to 16th Aug. | Erection of Telephone Workshops, Spencer-street, Melbourne | 66,500 | 66,500 | .. | .. | |
| 13th Aug., 1923, to 10th May, 1924 | Establishment of Oil Dépôts, Darwin | 12,000 | .. | .. | .. | No definite recommendation made, but suggested that proposal receive favorable consideration of the Government |
| 13th Aug., 1923, to 13th May, 1924 | Provision of Wharfage Accommodation and Shipping Facilities, Darwin | 120,050 | Nil | .. | 120,050 | Proposal not recommended |
| 24th Aug., 1923, to 27th May, 1924 | Establishment of Aircraft Dépôt at Laverton, Victoria | 296,836 | 296,836 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 1924. | | | | | | |
| 5th March to 25th March | Erection of Additional Block of Seamen's Barracks, Flinders Naval Dépôt | 33,000 | 33,000 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 7th Feb. to 6th May | Construction of Railway to connect Canberra with Yass | 432,000 | 131,000 | .. | *302,000 | Recommended that for the present the line be terminated at the 205½-mile point |

* This recommendation, if adopted, will also preclude the necessity of spending an amount of £310,725 by or on behalf of the State of New South Wales for the construction of its section.

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. |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1924. | | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| 14th May to 27th May | Provision of Telegraph Cable between Sydney and Newcastle and Newcastle and West Maitland | 442,000 | 442,000 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 5th July to 30th July | Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Elsternwick, Victoria | 168,075 | 168,075 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 5th July to 5th Aug. | Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Northcote, Victoria | 101,123 | 101,123 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 3rd July to 8th Aug. | Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchanges at Unley and Norwood, S.A. | 263,471 | 263,471 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 12th Aug. to 21st Aug. | Construction of Southern Intercepting Sewer, Canberra | 47,000 | 47,000 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 10th June to 10th Sept. | Erection of a Secretariat Building at Canberra, including Post Office and Automatic Telephone Exchange | 96,140 | 96,140 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 6th Nov., 1924, to 14th Mar., 1925 | Construction of Sewage Treatment Works, Federal Capital | 60,000 | 60,000 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 10th Nov., 1924, to 17th Mar., 1925 | Construction of Northern Main Sewer, Canberra | 82,000 | 82,000 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 23rd Sep., 1924, to 18th Mar., 1925 | Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Toowong, Queensland | 57,739 | 57,739 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 16th Sep., 1924, to 21st Mar., 1925 | Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Brisbane, Central | 447,670 | 451,670 | 4,000 | .. | Committee recommended that air treatment plant be extended to deal with air contents of upper floors of the building |
| 2nd Oct., 1924, to 30th Mar., 1925 | Establishment of Royal Australian Air Force Station (No. 2), at Richmond, N.S.W. | 177,400 | 186,650 | 9,250 | .. | Committee recommended brick buildings in lieu of timber |
| 1925. | | | | | | |
| 16th April to 28th May | Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Manly, N.S.W. | 71,861 | 71,861 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 17th April to 28th May | Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at West Adelaide, S.A. | 60,415 | 60,011 | .. | 404 | Committee recommended galvanized iron roof in lieu of slates and reinforced concrete |
| 16th April to 29th May | Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Lakemba, N.S.W. | 25,806 | 25,606 | .. | 200 | Committee recommended that, except over the frame room, the roof should be of timber and iron with a corrugated iron ceiling in lieu of reinforced concrete |
| 3rd June to 17th Aug. | Erection of Hotel (No. 4) at Canberra | 55,000 | 55,000 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 3rd June to 21st Sep. | Erection of a building at Canberra to accommodate the National Library and for other purposes | 80,000 | 80,000 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 2nd Sep. to 22nd Sep. | Construction of Boys' Naval Training Establishment at Geelong, Victoria | 88,700 | 88,700 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 26th Aug., 1924, to 24th Sep., 1925 | Erection of a building in Brisbane for the accommodation of Commonwealth departments | .. | .. | .. | .. | Committee recommended no departure from its report on the same subject of 28th October, 1922 |
| 4th June, 1925, to 2nd July, 1926 | Construction of Dam and improvements on Molonglo River Federal Capital | 50,000 | .. | .. | 50,000 | In the opinion of the Committee, the construction of the Molonglo Dam was not considered immediately necessary, and it was recommended that it be postponed for the present |

Record of Inquiries—List of proposed 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. |
|---|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| 1926. 30th April to 22nd May | Erection of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Hobart, Tasmania | 161,118 | 158,118 | .. | 3,000 | Committee recommended that the dehumidifying plant be not installed unless future observation shows it to be necessary |
| 8th Feb. to 26th Feb. | Transfer of Postal Department's telegraph lines between Perth and Adelaide to Transcontinental Railway route | 119,342 | 119,342 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 3rd Feb. to 24th April | Extension of Trans-Australian Railway from Port Augusta to Red Hill, South Australia, and the laying of a third rail to provide a railway of 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge on the South Australian 5 ft. 3 in. gauge railway from Red Hill to the Central Railway Station, Adelaide | 1,219,173 | 1,219,173 | .. | .. | Recommended as proposed |
| 21st April to 29th June | Construction of New Wharf at Garden Island Naval Establishment, New South Wales | 150,000 | 150,000 | .. | .. | Approved. The Committee recommended that tenders be called in all States for timber required other than piles |
| 29th May, 1925, to 15th June, 1926 | Permanent Administrative Offices, Canberra | 842,618 | 790,318 | .. | 52,300 | Committee recommended restriction of burglar-proof doors to essential strong-rooms; alteration of fire alarm system; elimination of quantity surveyor's fees and expenses, and occupation of building before facing completed. It also recommended that when investigations being conducted at Fairy Meadow are sufficiently advanced, the matter be again referred to the Committee for a decision as to the class of external facing to be used |
| 1926. 12th July to 11th Aug. | Erection of Cottages at Canberra | 408,600 | 323,969 | .. | 84,631 | Committee recommended (a) Reduction of costs to within 5 per cent. or 7½ per cent. of Sydney prices; (b) Elimination of charge for extras, leaving occupier to provide same under supervision; (c) That costs of smaller types of concrete houses should be reduced to at least 15 per cent. below cost of similar brick houses |