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Senator Plaine

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1921.

G. H. Monahan

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Clerk of the Senate.
15-7-21



PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS.

REPORT

. TOGETHER WITH

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

RELATING TO THE

ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR THE PROPOSED ANZAC
MEMORIAL SQUARE, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND.

MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

Third Committee.

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

Senate.

Senator Hattil Spencer Foll.*
 Senator George Henderson.†
 Senator John Newland, Vice-Chairman.††
 Senator Edward Needham.§
 Senator William Plain.*

House of Representatives.

Llewelyn Atkinson, Esquire, M.P. ||
 The Honorable Frederick William Bamford, M.P.
 David Sidney Jackson, Esquire, M.P.¶
 George Hugh Mackay, Esquire, M.P.
 James Mathews, Esquire, M.P.
 Parker John Moloney, Esquire, M.P.

* Appointed 28th July, 1920.

† Resigned 22nd July, 1920,
 30th June, 1920.

‡ Re-appointed 28th July, 1920.
 § Resigned 15th May, 1921.

¶ Appointed 10th May, 1921.
 ¶ Ceased to be a Member of the Senate.

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LIST OF WITNESSES.

Barton, Edward Gustavus Campbell, Electrical Engineer, Brisbane
Brady, Alfred Barton, Under-Secretary for Public Works and Government Architect, Queensland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cannan, Brigadier-General, James Harold, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Executive Member of the National Anzac Memorial Committee, Brisbane .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diddams, Harry John Charles, Alderman of the City of Brisbane .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goodwin, John Thomas Hill, Commonwealth Surveyor-General, Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Huxham, William Henry, A.M.I.C.E., Town Engineer, Municipality of Toowong, Brisbane .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
King, William Myers, President, Chamber of Commerce, Brisbane .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lloyd, Frederick Robert, ex-President of the Chamber of Commerce, Brisbane .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maxwell, James Francis, Mayor of the City of Brisbane .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Murdoch, James Smith, Chief Architect, Department of Works and Railways, Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Raymond, Alfred John, Alderman of the City of Brisbane .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Templeton, Henry Barkley, Deputy Postmaster-General, Brisbane .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilson, Alexander Brown, A.R.I.B.A., President of the Queensland Institute of Architects, Brisbane .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilson, Ronald Martin, Architectural Engineer, Brisbane .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

EXTRACT FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

No. 111 of 22ND NOVEMBER, 1920.

10. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE AS TO LANDS FOR COMMONWEALTH REQUIREMENTS IN BRISBANE—ANZAC MEMORIAL SQUARE, BRISBANE. Mr. GROOM moved, pursuant to notice, That, having in view existing and probable future building requirements for the Commonwealth Government in Brisbane, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works be requested to inquire into and report generally upon the lands, if any, which it may be advisable to acquire for that purpose, more particularly the advisableness, or otherwise, of acquiring certain land in Adelaide-street, Brisbane, and co-operating with the Queensland Government in a scheme for creating an Anzac memorial square.

Mr. GROOM having laid upon the Table a plan in connexion with such lands—

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

ANZAC MEMORIAL SQUARE, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND.

R E P O R T.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, to which the House of Representatives has referred for investigation and report the acquisition of lands for the proposed Anzac Memorial Square, Brisbane, Queensland, has the honour to report as follows:—

INTRODUCTORY.

1. A movement has been initiated for the erection of an Anzac Memorial in a central and ornamental area, to be known as Anzac Square. This square would comprise a section of land immediately opposite the railway station, and bounded by Ann, Edward, Adelaide, and Creek streets, which contains an area of 4 acres 2 roods 1 perch, of which 2 acres 2 roods 33 perches is the property of the State, 3 roods 24 perches belong to the Commonwealth, and the Presbyterian Church holds 3 roods 24 perches under deed of grant. The last-mentioned portion is under lease for a period of 21 years from the 1st July, 1912, to J. T. Isles, James Love, and F. A. Isles.

2. In 1916, Messrs. Isles, Love, and Company placed the lease and buildings thereon under offer to the Commonwealth for £25,000, which, however, was declined.

3. The land held by the Commonwealth in Brisbane having frontages to Adelaide and Ann streets, and which was taken over from the State at a valuation of £20,000, plus £2,188 for buildings, is now valued at £25,000.

PROPOSALS.

4. (a) In July, 1916, the Queensland State Government made a proposal which, when summarized and read in the light of the evidence tendered before the Committee, at Brisbane, by the State Under-Secretary for Public Works, indicated that the State Government would surrender 160 feet of their Adelaide-street frontage conditionally upon the Commonwealth surrendering 40 feet of their frontage to Adelaide-street, so as to provide an area with a full frontage of 200 feet to Adelaide-street by a depth extending back to Ann-street.

(b) That the Federal Government purchase the adjacent Presbyterian Church Assembly property and make a deed of gift of same to the Brisbane City Council, together with the land now adjoining acquired by the Commonwealth from the State.

(c) That the Federal Government hand over to the Brisbane City Council the whole of the land now held by it within this area, conditionally upon the Brisbane City Council purchasing the portion held by the Presbyterian Church Assembly and surrendering to the Commonwealth Government a strip having a frontage of 66 feet to Ann-street and Adelaide-street by the full length of the Creek-street frontage.

(d) That the Federal and State Governments should surrender the whole of their land, leaving the Brisbane City Council to negotiate for the purchase of the Presbyterian Church Assembly property.

(e) That the Federal Government purchase the Presbyterian Church Assembly property and surrender 165 feet of its Adelaide-street frontage by a depth of 171 feet for the purpose of forming part of an ornamental square.

COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATIONS.

5. The Committee visited Brisbane, inspected the site, and took evidence from the Chief Commonwealth Architect, the Under-Secretary for Public Works, and Government Architect, Queensland, Mayor and Councillors of the City of Brisbane, Executive Member of the National Anzac Memorial Committee, and other public men.

6. The Committee gave careful consideration to the several proposals submitted, which, if approved, would undoubtedly create a precedent that might result in the making of similar claims for financial assistance from other parts of the Commonwealth.

7. The request contained in proposal (b) was, in the opinion of the Committee, quite unreasonable, and one that the Commonwealth Government would not be justified in acceding to.

8. In regard to proposal (c), the Committee held the opinion that this suggestion should not be entertained, in view of the fact that the Creek-street frontage would not be available for building purposes until the expiration of the present leases in twelve years' time. A further objection to this proposal was found in the disparity in the levels along the Creek street frontage, which would render difficult the construction of buildings suitable for Commonwealth purposes.

9. Proposal (a) commended itself to the Committee. The grant of 40 feet to the Brisbane City Council and the creation of a Memorial Square 200 feet wide would insure air and light along the whole of the Commonwealth land from Ann to Adelaide-streets, and the right to a pathway would create a frontage along the whole depth of the land in question. Under these circumstances the Committee, being assured that the creation of the square would enhance the value of the remaining Commonwealth property, felt justified in recommending the transfer of this portion of the land.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

10. The decision arrived at by the Committee is shown in the following extract from the Minutes of Proceedings:—

Mr. Bamford moved—That the whole of the land owned by the Commonwealth and having a frontage of 132 feet to Adelaide-street by a depth extending to Ann street of about 295 feet be transferred to the State conditionally that a suitable area in an approved position be placed at the disposal of the Commonwealth by the Queensland Government or by the Brisbane Municipal Council for the erection of Commonwealth Offices, or alternatively that the land be sold to the State or Brisbane Municipal Council on such terms as may be considered fair and reasonable in regard to the value originally placed upon the said area and taking into consideration the increased value, if any, of the land in question.

Seconded by Mr. Mackay.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Moloney moved—That, failing the acceptance of the preceding resolution, the Commonwealth Government surrender to the Brisbane Municipal Council for an Anzac Memorial Square their portion of the block bounded by Adelaide, Ann, Edward, and Creek streets, conditionally upon the Municipal Council acquiring from the Presbyterian Church Assembly the private lands at the Creek street end of the square and handing over to the Commonwealth free of encumbrances a 66-ft. strip along Creek-street.

Seconded by Mr. Gregory.

The Committee divided on the motion—

Ayes (2).
Mr. Gregory.
Mr. Moloney.

Noes (4).
Mr. Bamford,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Mathews,
Senator Plain.

And so it passed in the negative.

Mr. Bamford moved—That failing the acceptance of the terms embodied in the original motion, the Commonwealth Government surrender to the Brisbane Municipal Council 40 feet of the land now in its possession on the southern side of the said area for the purpose of enabling the formation of an Anzac Memorial Square as referred to in the Committee's Report, subject to full rights of light, air, and pathway on the southern or Edward street side of the remaining land and subject also to the State Government surrendering 160 feet of their adjoining land for a similar purpose.

Seconded by Senator Plain.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Mathews moved—That the Commonwealth Government surrender to the Brisbane Municipal Council of their portion of the block bounded by Adelaide, Ann, Edward, and Creek streets a sufficient area to enable Ann and Adelaide streets to be widened to the extent of 14 feet.

Seconded by Senator Plain.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Mackay moved—That the evidence adduced before the Committee disclosed the necessity for the erection of Government offices to house the various Commonwealth activities in Brisbane, and the Committee is of opinion that in the near future, consideration should be given to the erection of premises sufficient to contain the Federal Departments—the Commonwealth land fronting Ann and Adelaide streets being considered suitable for this purpose.

Seconded by Mr. Bamford.

Carried unanimously.

(Signed)

H. Gregory
H. GREGORY,
Chairman.