

1929.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA



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PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC WORKS.

FOURTEENTH 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. House of Representatives.

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

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Alfred Charles Seabrook, Esq., M.P.

* Appointed 1st July, 1920.
† Resigned 30th June, 1920.

‡ Resigned 2nd March, 1927.
‡ Appointed 24th March, 1927.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Members of the Committee	2
Report	3
Record of Inquiries	18

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

FOURTEENTH GENERAL REPORT.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN LAWRENCE, BARON STONEHAVEN,
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, 1928:—

NUMBER OF MEETINGS.

1. During the year the Committee held 97 meetings and examined 66 witnesses in connexion with the proposed works submitted. In making its inquiries the Committee travelled 11,391 miles by rail and 60 miles by road, a total distance of 11,451 miles.

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

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

- Erection of Postal Workshops, South Melbourne;
- Construction of North-western Intercepting Sewer, Canberra.

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

- Erection of Australian War Memorial, Canberra;
- Erection of School of Public Health, Sydney;
- Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange, Cairns, Queensland;
- Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange, City West, Melbourne;
- Erection of Australian Institute of Anatomy, Canberra;
- Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange, Edgecliff, New South Wales;
- Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange, Caulfield East, Victoria.

COMPLETED INQUIRIES.

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

	Estimated Cost.
(i) Erection of Postal Workshops, South Melbourne	£ 60,000
(ii) Construction of North-western Intercepting Sewer, Canberra	57,000
(iii) Erection of Australian War Memorial, Canberra	412,990
(iv) Erection of School of Public Health, Sydney	30,000
(v) Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange, Cairns, Queensland	39,211
(vi) Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange, City West, Melbourne	619,783
	£1,218,984

SUMMARY OF COMPLETED INQUIRIES.

(i) Erection of Postal Workshops, South Melbourne.

5. The workshop accommodation of the Postmaster-General's Department was represented to be unsuitable, inadequate and inconvenient: the telephone workshops being in Spencer-street adjoining the General Post Office, and the telegraph workshops at Jolimont, over a mile away. It was claimed that this arrangement militated against efficiency and economy, and furthermore, the accommodation at Spencer-street was required for extension of the General Post Office, and the site at Jolimont situated on park lands, was made available by the State Government only as a temporary measure and on the understanding that it would be vacated at the earliest opportunity. The proposal was therefore submitted to erect, on certain Commonwealth land abutting on Sturt, Grant and Dodds streets, South Melbourne, a modern building of steel and concrete construction sufficient to accommodate the various sections of the telegraph and telephone workshops for a period of ten years.

The estimated cost of the proposal as submitted to the Committee was set down at:—

Building complete with sewerage, drainage, and electric light, but not including electric power	£ 54,000
Electric goods lift	2,500
Installation of fire sprinkler system	3,500
	£60,000

After a careful study of the facts placed before it the Committee recommended:—

- that in the interests of economy and efficiency steps should be taken to provide more suitable premises for telegraph and telephone workshops at the earliest possible opportunity;
- that the site was conveniently situated from the point of view of the Department and the employees, and, provided necessary precautions were taken in the matter of foundations, should prove suitable building land for a structure of the nature contemplated;
- that in place of a wholly electrical goods elevator estimated to cost £2,500, an elevator be installed to be hydraulically operated from a self-contained power plant within the building at an estimated cost of £700;
- that a fire sprinkler system be installed at an estimated cost of £2,250 instead of the system proposed at an estimated cost of £3,500.

Recommendations (c) and (d) would result in a saving on the proposal of £3,050.

(ii) Construction of North-western Intercepting Sewer, Canberra.

6. This was a proposal to extend the existing sewerage facilities at Canberra by the construction of a line of pipes starting from Garden-circuit, a little South of Civic-centre, just to the North of the Commonwealth-avenue Bridge, thence extending generally parallel to and west of Northbourne-avenue to a point on Inter-range-avenue about a quarter of a mile north of the transverse plantation. This sewerage system was designed to serve an area of approximately 1,300 acres extending roughly for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Northbourne-avenue, including all the proposed developments due west of the northern part of Canberra-avenue, as well as North-east Ainslie.

The total length of the sewer suggested was to be 10,000 feet, made up of 5,220 feet of 18-in. pipe and 4,780 feet of 15-in. pipe, and the estimated cost was set down at £87,000.

It was stated in evidence that the valley to be served by this sewer could carry a population of 24,000 people, and that the sewer as designed would cater for the needs of a population of 27,000. The sewage from 3,000 people would be sufficient to carry the solids along the sewer, but until the population of the district reached that figure it would be necessary to periodically flush the sewer.

The Committee ascertained that there was no population on the area proposed to be served by this sewer, and was informed in evidence that it was not the intention of the Federal Capital Commission to build any new cottages in the area. Under the scheme of development, however, it was intended to proceed with the erection of a number of buildings for the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, to be followed later by the first of the University buildings. There would probably be also a fire brigade building, and perhaps a trades hall, and it was under contemplation to make available at an early date further minor industrial blocks.

The Committee reported that, in its opinion, the North-western Intercepting Sewer would be necessary to provide for the progressive development of the Canberra city area to the west of Northbourne-avenue. As, however, the indications were that the main buildings proposed for the area to be served would be of such a character that they would take several years to erect, while the first section of the proposed sewer could be constructed in six months, the Committee unanimously recommended that the commencement of this sewerage work be deferred until, say, nine months before the completion of the first section of the building programme for the area.

(iii) Erection of Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

7. It was provided by the *Australian War Memorial Act 1925* that there should be a Commonwealth War Memorial of the Australians who died in the war, and a proposal was submitted for the erection on the lower slopes of Mount Ainslie, on the axial line from Capitol Hill passing through the centre of Parliament House to Mount Ainslie, of a building to house the war memorial collection, and perpetuate and honour the names of the fallen.

The design may be briefly described as a central sunlit court, having on each side a Roll of Honour, sheltered by arcaded Cloisters, which would lead to a domed Hall of Memory. Surrounding the Court of Honour would be grouped the lower flanking wings of the galleries containing the memorial collection. The building at its greatest dimensions would be approximately 400 feet long by 197 feet wide, and, from the terrace in front to the apex of the dome, 104 feet high.

The estimated cost of the building as submitted to the Committee was set down at £253,079, but in the course of the Committee's investigations it was ascertained that there had been omitted many items which would be necessary to complete the building and place it in a suitable and proper setting. The total liability involved in the project was stated to be:—

Chargeable to building	£369,971
To be provided by the Federal Capital Commission	43,019
Total	£412,990

In addition there would be an annual expenditure in respect of the following items:— Upkeep of grounds £2,000 for the first year and £1,200 per annum for the second and succeeding years; salaries of the staff, £2,380 per annum; contingencies, maintenance, &c., £650 per annum; flood-lighting of dome varying in accordance with the number of nights and duration of illumination.

After carefully considering all the evidence obtained in the matter the Committee submitted a series of recommendations as follow:—

- That the erection of the building on the site selected be proceeded with at the earliest practicable opportunity;
- That the system of lighting be restricted to the necessities of the office and cleaning staff;
- That provision be made for flood-lighting the dome as required;
- That the installation of a fire sprinkler system is unnecessary;
- That a central heating system and air-conditioning plant is unnecessary;
- That vacuum cleaning be carried out by portable machines;
- That the terrace at the 1,933 feet level be sloped to give an unobstructed view of the base of the building from Anzac-place;
- That the treatment of the area surrounding the memorial be carried out in collaboration with the architects;
- That telephone, telegraph and electric cables in the vicinity be kept underground;
- That provided suitable and convenient access to the Memorial be provided, the full programme of development of the streets and footpaths could be spread over some years;
- That expert advice be obtained in the matter of placing sculpture;
- That the provision of sculpture be deferred for a period of years;
- That all sculptural work on the building should be done by Australians;
- That sculptural casting be carried out in any of the allied countries where the material and workmanship would be of the best;

- (o) That the system of recording the names of the fallen as suggested by the War Memorial Board be adopted;
- (p) That the scope of the War Memorial Library be definitely defined to avoid any conflict with the work of any other libraries or institutions of the Commonwealth;
- (q) That steps be taken to provide adequate natural ventilation in the record room;
- (r) That the position of the reading room be altered to permit of better supervision;
- (s) That the building be faced with light-coloured axed granite;
- (t) That separate tenders be let for certain sections of the building;
- (u) That the preparation of quantities be entrusted to the qualified quantity surveyors of the Department of Works and Railways.

By the adoption of these resolutions the Committee considers that the estimated immediate cost of the work can be set down at £300,079, plus £89,892, made up of amounts not strictly chargeable to the building and other items of expenditure which can be spread over a period of years.

The net saving as the result of the Committee's investigations is claimed to be £17,360, plus £384 per annum.

(iv) *Erection of School of Public Health, Sydney.*

8. Following upon the report issued by the Royal Commission on Health in 1925, and a subsequent Conference of Ministers of Health of the Commonwealth and of the various States, it was recommended that the Commonwealth should take steps to establish a school of preventive medicine and tropical hygiene with a view to the teaching of preventive medicine on an improved basis to all medical students and other public health personnel.

The Sydney University offered to place at the disposal of the Commonwealth about three rods of its area adjacent to the School of Physics, and this Committee was thereupon asked to investigate a proposal to erect upon this site a building to be utilized for the purpose of a School of Public Health. The estimated cost of the proposal as submitted to the Committee was set down at £30,000.

After carefully considering all the evidence received, the Committee unanimously recommended that the proposal be agreed to.

(v) *Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Cairns, Queensland.*

9. This was a proposal to erect upon portion of the postal property at the corner of Abbot and Spence streets, Cairns, a modern building, and install therein an automatic telephone switching system having an initial equipment of 1,000 subscribers' lines, and an estimated capacity of 3,100 subscribers' lines. It was proposed that the initial equipment should be capable of extension to the ultimate capacity named, and thus enable requirements to be met in the proposed automatic telephone exchange area for a period of twenty years after the proposed date of opening.

The estimated cost of the work was set down at £39,211. After hearing the evidence adduced, the Committee approved of the exchange being established as proposed, but recommended that the building be erected flush with the north-western and north-eastern boundaries of the site instead of at a distance of 6 feet from them as proposed, and that the projecting eaves provided in the original plan be superseded by a parapet wall.

(vi) *Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at City West, Melbourne.*

10. This was a proposal to erect, on an area of Commonwealth property at the rear of the existing central manual telephone exchange in Lonsdale street, Melbourne, a modern fire-resisting building, and to install therein an automatic telephone switching system having an initial equipment for 10,000 subscribers' lines, and capable of extension in the proposed building to 18,000 lines; thus enabling requirements in the proposed automatic telephone exchange area to be met for approximately twelve years after the suggested date of opening.

This proposal involved also the conversion of the existing South Melbourne automatic exchange to six figure working, as it necessitated the alteration of South Melbourne to a "Branch" exchange working into City West as a "Main" exchange. With the establishment of City West, therefore, it would be necessary to provide more space and install additional equipment at South Melbourne.

The estimated immediate cost of the work as submitted to the Committee was set down at: City West, £584,540; South Melbourne, £35,243; Total, £619,783.

After hearing all the evidence in the matter and ascertaining that the proposal, in addition to providing greater facilities for the public, would show a substantial return over and above the total annual charges, the Committee unanimously recommended that the work be put in hand as early as possible. It was suggested, however, that a modification be made in the type of air conditioning plant proposed, which would result in a saving of probably £3,000 installation cost and approximately £300 per annum.

INQUIRIES INCOMPLETE.

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

- (a) Erection of Australian Institute of Anatomy, Canberra.
- (b) Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange, Edgecliff, N.S.W.
- (c) Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange, Caulfield East, Victoria.

RECORD OF INQUIRIES.

12. Appended hereto is a return containing a record of the inquiries of the Committee from the date of its appointment to 31st December, 1928.

M. D. CAMERON,
Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,
Parliament House, Canberra.
22nd February, 1928.

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, 1928, 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.
1916.		£	£	£	£	
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 was 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
10th 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	60,500 (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.A., Enoggera, Queensland	26,000	28,225	2,225	..	Recommended subject to improved lighting, water, and fire services
23rd Sept. to 24th Nov.	Commonwealth 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	20,500	..	..	Recommended, but stipulation made that occupants be removed to temporary accommodation during alterations
12th Oct. to 15th Oct.	Automatic Telephone Exchange, Malvern, Victoria	48,933	48,933	..	..	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	36,000	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., 1916, 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. to 30th Aug., 1916	Extension of Pine Creek-Katherine River Railway to Bitter (Mataranka) Springs	320,000	320,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
13th July, 1916, 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 29th Feb.	Extension of Postal Stores, Harbour-street, Sydney	68,532	68,532	..	..	Recommended as proposed
31st Jan. to 10th 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	108,845	142,641	..	26,204	
27th Sept. to 1st May, 1918	Henderson Naval Base—Two breakwaters, excavations, reclamations, basins or quays, floating docks, administrative buildings, and permanent railways	4,529,109	2,908,859	..	1,920,250	The Committee recommended that work of the estimated cost of £1,001,000 be made the subject of further inquiry at a later date. A saving of £19,550 was effected in connexion with the transport of material from Wungong
1918.						
18th June to 1st Aug.	Housing of Commonwealth workmen at Lithgow, New South Wales	73,792	..	..	..	The Committee recommended the erection of 160 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 28th 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 £5,300 was effected by the relocation of the railway siding
1919.						
19th June to 7th Oct.	Commonwealth Note Printing Office	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 mobilisation 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.	78,014	78,014	..	..	Recommended as proposed
13th July to 24th Aug.	Mobilisation and vehicle stores, Midland Junction, Western Australia	38,570	..	..	..	The Committee recommended acquisition of additional seven acres and cottage thereon, but estimated that would be practically balanced by elimination of erection of caretakers' 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 circumstance would the Commonwealth be justified in taking over the ships

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 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
22nd Dec., 1920, to 12th April, 1921	Erection of an additional telegraph line from Perth to Eucla via 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	53,040	52,131	..	910	The Committee recommended utilization of building to be acquired in lieu of erecting luncheon-rooms
2nd 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
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, on falling acceptance of (a) or (b), that the Commonwealth agree to relinquish a strip 40 feet wide if the State relinquish an adjoining strip 100 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	280,000 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	4,100,446	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 Intersecting Sewer from centre of City to connect with Main Outfall Sewer	65,000	65,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
16th Dec., 1921, to 10th April, 1922	Water Supply, Federal Capital—Distributary Works within the City Area, Canberra	48,200	48,200	..	..	Recommended as proposed
18th Dec., 1921, to 11th April, 1922	Construction of Hotel at Canberra, with necessary engineering and other services	98,750	92,000	..	38,750	Committee recommended that construction be limited to central block and half the number of pavilions 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. 25th Jan. to 31st May	Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at South Brisbane, Queensland	£ 121,080	£ 121,080	£ ..	£ ..	Recommended as proposed
26th Jan. to 31st May	Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at Ootooloo, W. A.	44,576	44,070	..	..	Recommended as proposed
24th Feb. to 14th March	Office Accommodation for Federal Taxation Department in Melbourne	209,950	125,000	..	84,950	
23rd Feb. to 7th April	Office Accommodation in Adelaide for various Commonwealth Departments	115,000	115,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
15th March to 10th June	Automatic Telephone Exchange 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 Exchange 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	116,000	..	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	30,000	25,000	..	14,000	Committee recommended that in lieu of a hostel on garden pavilion line there be provided a compact two-storied structure under one roof
18th July to 18th Aug.	Erection of Telephone Workshop, Spencer-street, Melbourne	66,500	66,500	..	..	
13th Aug., 1923, to 10th May, 1924	Establishment of Oil Depots, 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 Wharfrage Accommodation and Shipping Facilities, Darwin	120,850	Nil	..	120,850	Proposal not recommended
23rd Aug., 1923, to 27th May, 1924	Establishment of Aircraft Depot at Laverton, Victoria	296,836	296,836	..	..	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.
1924.		£	£	£	£	
5th March to 26th March	Erection of Additional Bldg. of Seamen's Barracks, Flinders Naval Depot	33,000	33,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
7th Feb. to 5th May	Construction of Railway to connect Canberra with Yass	433,000	131,000	..	*302,000	Recommended that for the present the line be terminated at the 205½-mile point
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 30th 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 Intersecting 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 Sept., 1924, to 18th Mar., 1925	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Toowoomba, 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	461,670	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.						
10th April to 28th May	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Manly, N.S.W.	71,801	71,801	..	..	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.	25,606	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 Sept.	Erection of a building at Canberra to accommodate the National Library and for other purposes	80,000	80,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
2nd Sept. to 22nd Sept.	Construction of Boys' Naval Training Establishment at Geelong, Victoria	88,700	88,700	..	..	Recommended as proposed

* This recommendation, if adopted, will also provide 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.
1925.		£	£	£	£	
26th Aug., 1924, to 24th Sept., 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
1926.						
30th April, to 22nd May	Erection of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Hobart, Tasmania	161,118	168,118	..	3,000	Committee recommended that the dehumidifying plant be not installed unless future observation shows it to be necessary
9th Feb. to 28th Feb.	Transfer of Postal Department's telegraph line 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
20th May, 1925, to 16th 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
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 16 per cent. below cost of similar brick houses
38th Sept. to 25th Oct.	Installation of Mail-handling Appliances, General Post Office, Sydney	41,400	41,400	..	..	Recommended as proposed
7th July, 1926, to 19th Feb., 1927	Selection of site and erection of wharf at Rabaul, New Guinea	42,000	..	..	..	Recommended that alternative tenders be invited for— (a) timber wharf with piles cased in reinforced concrete; (b) a wholly reinforced concrete structure; and (c) timber wharf with reinforced concrete piles; and if tenders received are considered excessive the work to be carried out departmentally by the Administration

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.
1927.		£	£	£	£	
15th Feb. to 10th March	Erection of Commonwealth Office, Sydney	108,817	108,817	..	..	Recommended as proposed
18th Feb. to 17th March	Construction of buildings and formation of reserves at Canberra for the National Museum of Australian Zoology	87,080	81,080	..	6,000	Committee recommended that the front of the Lecture Hall only be faced with Fairy Meadow limestone and that the remainder of the building be constructed of brick with base mouldings and other architectural embellishments of Fairy Meadow limestone.
16th March to 13th May, 1927	Provision of wharfage, facilities, Darwin	223,934	Nil	..	223,934	Committee reported that existing or immediately prospective trade did not warrant any additional wharfage construction at the present time.
16th March to 23rd May	Erection of Commonwealth Office, Brisbane	170,464	170,464	..	..	Recommended as proposed
31st Aug. to 5th Oct.	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Oakleigh, Victoria	40,180	40,180	..	..	Recommended as proposed
17th Sept. to 12th Oct.	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Box Hill, Victoria	46,985	46,985	..	..	Recommended as proposed
6th Sept. to 13th Oct.	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Cottesloe, Western Australia	49,101	46,690	..	2,492	Committee recommended provision of tiled roof with concrete cornices in lieu of galvanized iron roof; also that installation of complete air-conditioning plant be left in abeyance pending further investigation.
17th Oct. to 10th Nov.	Erection of Postal Workshops at Sydenham, New South Wales	45,000	43,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
9th Nov. to 18th Nov.	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Maroubra, New South Wales	52,349	52,349	..	..	Recommended as proposed
26th Oct. to 24th Nov.	Extension of installation of Mail-handling Appliances, General Post Office, Sydney	71,000	71,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
22nd Nov., 1927, to 21st Mar., 1928	Erection of Postal Workshops, South Melbourne	60,000	59,950	..	3,050	Committee recommended modification of the elevator and of the fire fighting facilities proposed.
7th Dec., 1927, to 24th Feb., 1928	Construction of North-western Intercepting Sower, Canberra	57,000	..	..	..	Committee recommended that the commencement of the work be deferred until say nine months before the completion of the first section of the building programme for the area.
1928.						
22nd March to 25th May	Australian War Memorial	369,971	282,719	..	87,252	Committee recommended modifications which would result in a direct saving of £17,360; and that expenditure of certain items totalling £99,699 be deferred, or not charged to the building.
4th April to 6th June	Erection of School of Public Health, Sydney	30,000	30,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
9th Aug. to 1st Sept.	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange, Cairns, Queensland	39,211	39,211	..	..	Recommended; but the Committee stipulated the building should be located flush with the N.W. and N.E. boundaries and that parapet walls be substituted for over-hanging eaves.
28th Aug. to 12th Sept.	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange, City West, Melbourne	618,783	616,783	..	3,000 and 300 per annum	Committee recommended modification of the air-conditioning system proposed.



Message No. 5

MR. PRESIDENT,

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "A Bill for an Act to validate an Agreement made the twelfth day of December One thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven between the Commonwealth of Australia of the first part and the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania of the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh parts respectively,"

with which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

William E. Brown

SPEAKER.

House of Representatives,

Canberra,

8th March, 1929.