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Property and Survey

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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# FEDERAL CAPITAL CITY.

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## REPORT OF BOARD APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS IN REGARD TO COMPETITIVE DESIGNS.

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## REPORT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL DESIGNS BOARD.

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151 Collins-street,  
Melbourne, 14th May, 1912.

SIR,

The Federal Capital Designs Board has the honour to report as follows :—

The Board, having been appointed by the Governor-General and gazetted 2nd March, 1912, has exercised its functions in accordance with your letter, dated 28th February last, and the conditions issued to competitors and appended to that letter.

The Board had submitted to it, by the Department of Home Affairs, in the Ball-room at Government House, one hundred and thirty-seven (137) distinct designs. Of these, eleven (11) were found to be informal, in that they disclosed the identity of the authors, &c., and they were rejected accordingly. The remainder, comprising some five hundred (500) separate drawings and illustrations, together with photographs, models, specifications, and descriptions have been minutely examined and have been judged.

After the formal preliminaries and the elision of the less meritorious plans, the balance were photographed and the photographs compared with the actual topographic and other conditions on the ground at Yass-Canberra.

The designs have since been considered at Melbourne in the light of the observations then made, they have been discussed in detail from every point of view known to the members, and the numbers have been reduced to six.

Further reduction has not been found practicable.

The Board remains divided in its judgment, thus : Messrs. Jas. Alex. Smith and J. Kirkpatrick are of the opinion that the designs most worthy to be selected stand thus in order of merit :—

*First*—The design known by the arbitrary number Twenty-nine (29).

*Second*—The design known by the arbitrary number Eighteen (18).

*Third*—The design known by the arbitrary number Four (4).

Mr. J. M. Coane is of the opinion that the order should be as follows :—

*First*—The design known by the arbitrary number Ten (10).

*Second*—The design known by the arbitrary number Forty-one (41).

*Third*—The design known by the arbitrary number Eighty-one (81).

No labour has been spared by the members of the Board in endeavouring to arrive at a unanimous decision, and it is regretted that this result has been found to be impracticable.

Majority and Minority Reports, Schedule "A," with photographs of selected designs, and Schedule "B," showing matters considered, are attached hereto.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

Chairman (Sgd.) J. M. COANE,

Licensed Surveyor ; F.V.I. Surveyors ;  
Mem. Council Vic. Inst. Engrs. ;  
Mem. American Soc. Civil  
Engineers ; Mem. N.S.W. Inst.  
Surveyors.

Engineer (Sgd.) JAS. ALEX. SMITH,

Past President Vict. Inst. Engineers.

Architect (Sgd.) JNO. KIRKPATRICK,

Architect.

The Honorable

The Minister for Home Affairs,  
Russell-street, Melbourne.



151 Collins-street,  
Melbourne, 14th May, 1912.

## ADDENDA TO THE REPORT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL DESIGNS BOARD, BY MESSRS. JAS. ALEX. SMITH AND JOHN KIRKPATRICK.

SIR,

Whilst we, individually, have naturally conducted our examinations and analyses along somewhat differing lines, we have yet found ourselves in perfect accord at each stage in those processes of systematic elimination which have led us finally, directly, and without the necessity for compromise, to our concurrent choice of numbers twenty-nine (29), eighteen (18), and four (4) as those designs which, in our opinion, preponderate in merit in the order stated.

The terms of competition and our commission require an opinion as to three designs only. But we would direct attention to numbers seven (7), and thirty-five (35), since, in our opinion, not only are they *per se*, meritorious but they also embody developments in harmony with the basic ideas of the above designs.

We have the honour to be, &c.,

(Sgd.) JAS. ALEX. SMITH,  
(Sgd.) JNO. KIRKPATRICK.

The Hon. the Minister for Home Affairs,  
Russell-street, Melbourne.

Department of Home Affairs,  
Collins-street, Melbourne,  
15th May, 1912.

### FEDERAL CAPITAL COMPETITION.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to express my regret that my colleagues and I have been unable to reach a unanimous conclusion as to which designs should be placed first, second, and third in the Federal Capital Competition.

They are in agreement, and are presenting to you a Majority Report, but after very careful consideration of all the designs from every point of view, I beg to say that, in my opinion, those numbered 10, 41, and 81 should be placed first, second, and third respectively.

I am,  
Yours obediently,

(Sgd.) J. M. COANE,  
Fellow Vic. Inst. Surveyors ; Member of Council Vic. Inst.  
Engineers ; Member American Soc. of Civil Engineers ;  
Member N.S.W. Inst. Surveyors ;  
Chairman, Federal Capital Board.

The Hon. the Minister for Home Affairs,  
Russell-street, Melbourne.

## SCHEDULE "A."

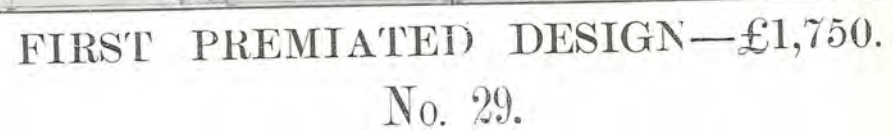
Photographs Nos. 29, 18, and 4 placed by Messrs. J. A. Smith and J. Kirkpatrick.

Photographs Nos. 10, 41, and 81 placed by Mr. J. M. Coane.

Also photographs of Nos. 7 and 35.

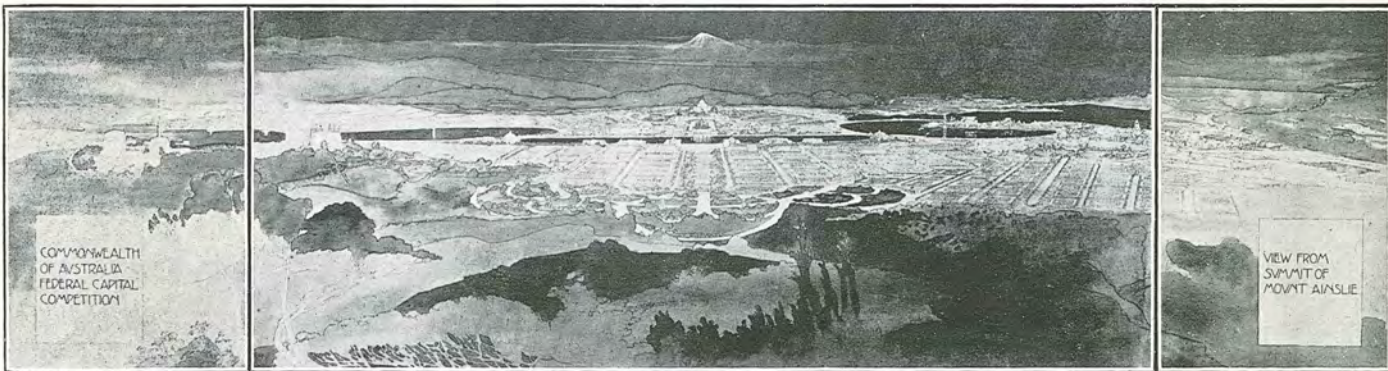
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3A



FIRST PREMIATED DESIGN—No. 29—  
*continued.*

6B

PROVISION FOR EXTENSION.



FIRST PREMIATED DESIGN—No. 29—  
*continued.*

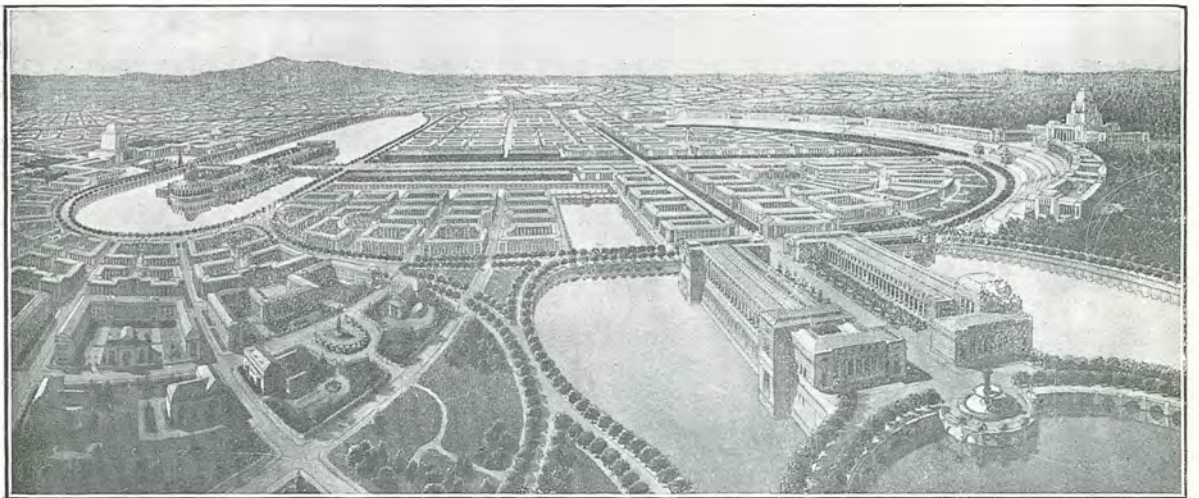




SECOND PREMIATED DESIGN—£750.

No. 18.





SECOND PREMIATED DESIGN—No. 18—  
*continued.*



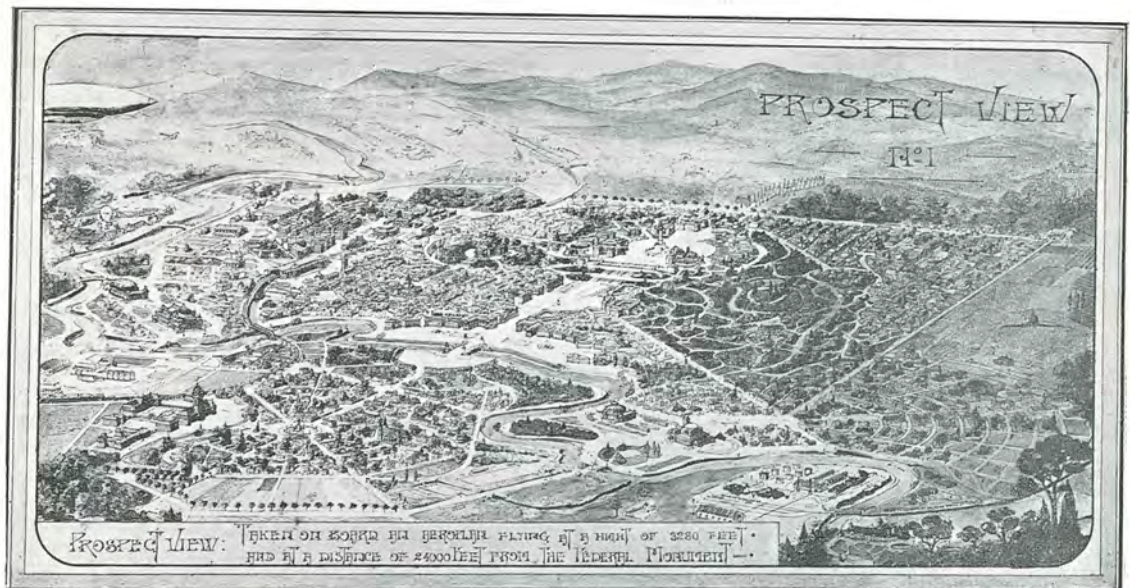


THIRD PREMIATED DESIGN—£500.

No. 4.



8A



THIRD PREMIATED DESIGN—No. 4—  
*continued.*



## ArchivesACT Research Guide





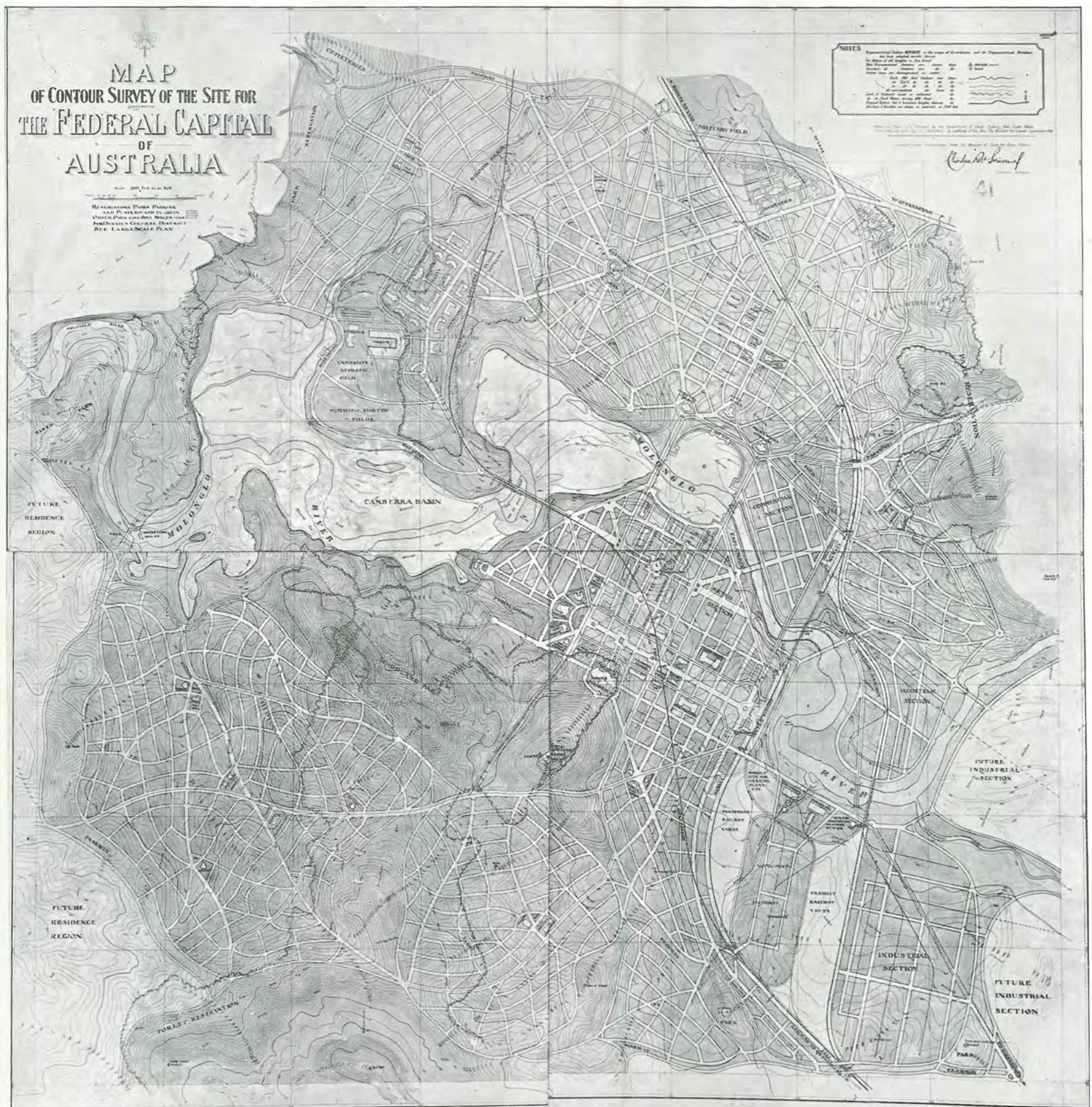


Approximate General View of City and Surroundings from the South.

DESIGN No. 10—  
*continued.*



## 10







DESIGN No. 81.



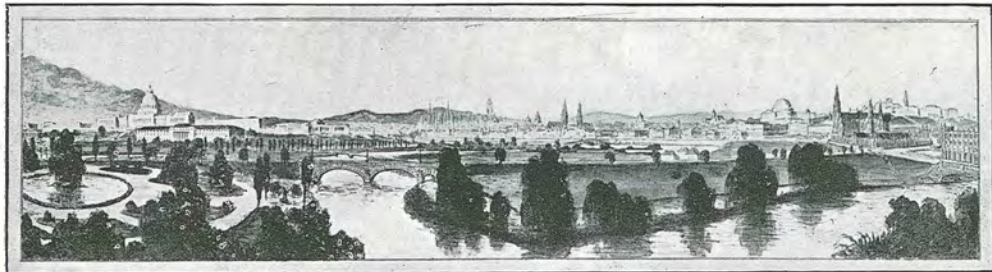
11A



A View of the Houses of Parliament from  
Commercial Street.



A View of Railway Square from Central Station.



A View of the Federal Capital from the Governor-General Palace.

DESIGN No. 81—  
*continued.*



## SCHEDULE "B."

Matters, *inter alia*, in regard to which each design has been specially examined by each member of the Board.

### 1. GENERAL CONVENIENCE—

- A. Roads—widths, grades, allocation, lengths in regard to area served.
- B. City blocks—area and general relation of.
- C. Railways.
- D. Tramways.
- E. Occupied area in relation to prospective population.
- F. Firebreaks.
- G. Allocation of districts for specific purposes.

### 2. HYGIENE—

- A. Stormwater disposal.
- A1. Sunlight and air facilities.
- B. Sewerage.
- D. Prevailing winds.
- E. Aspect.

### 3. ARCHITECTURAL AND GENERAL EFFECT—

- A. Prospect.
- B. Architectural possibilities.
- C. Ornamental waters.
- D. Parks.
- E. Allocation of public buildings.

### 4. EXPANSION—

Provision for.

### 5. ECONOMY—

Reasonable provision for.

### 6. MISCELLANEOUS—

- A. Places of amusement.
- B. Provision for sports areas.
- C. Arboreal treatment.
- D. Factory buildings.

(In'd.)

J. M. C.

15.5.12.



## DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS.

After careful consideration of the Report of the Board appointed to investigate the Designs submitted to them by me, to report to me which Designs in their opinion should be placed first, second, and third in order of merit, in accordance with the information, conditions, and particulars issued for guidance in the preparation of these Designs, I decide that—

- (1) The Design known by the arbitrary number twenty-nine (29) is first in order of merit;
- (2) The Design known by the arbitrary number eighteen (18) is second in order of merit;
- (3) The Design known by the arbitrary number four (4) is third in order of merit;

and I adjudicate accordingly.

(Sgd.) KING O'MALLEY,  
Minister of State for Home Affairs,  
23rd May, 1912.

The names and addresses contained in the sealed envelopes attached to the Designs referred to in the Reports of the Board were—

## MAJORITY RECOMMENDATIONS.

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Design. |  |
| 29      | Walter Burley Griffin,<br>Architect and Landscape Architect,<br>1200 Steinway Hall,<br>Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.   |
| 18      | Eliel Saarinen,<br>Architect,<br>Helsingfors, Finland.   |
| 4       | D. Alf. Agache,<br>Architecte Diplome par le Gouvernement Francais; Professeur<br>au college libre des Sciences Sociales,<br>11 Rue Eugene Flachet, Paris. |

## MINORITY RECOMMENDATIONS.

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 10 | W. Scott Griffiths,<br>Robert Charles Gibbon Coulter,<br>Chas. Henry Caswell,<br>32 Royal Chambers, 3 Castlereagh-street,<br>Sydney. |
| 41 | Arthur C. Comey,<br>Landscape Architect,<br>Harvard Square, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.   |
| 81 | Nils Gellerstedt,<br>Civil Engineer,<br>2 Kungsboplan, Stockholm, Sweden   |
|    | } Collaborators—<br>Ivan Lindgren,<br>Hugo du Rietz.   |

## ALSO MENTIONED IN MAJORITY REPORT.

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 7  | Harold Van Buren Magonigle,<br>Architect,<br>7 West 38th Street,<br>New York, U.S.A. |
| 35 | Schanfelberg, Rees, and Gummer,<br>31 Great James-street,<br>London, W.C.            |