1930.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

REPORT

TOGETHER WITH

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

RELATING TO THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF

PUBLIC BATHS AT CANBERRA.

By Authority.

H. J. GREEN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CANBERRA.
MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

(Seventh Committee.)

ANDREW WILLIAM LACEY, ESQUIRE, M.P., CHAIRMAN.

Senate.

Senator John Braidwood Dooley.
Senator Matthew Reid
Senator Burford Sampson

House of Representatives.

Malcolm Duncan Cameron, Esq., M.P.
John Curtin, Esq., M.P.
Hon. Henry Gregory, M.P.
Edward James Holloway, Esq., M.P.
William John Long, Esq., M.P.

INDEX.

Report .... iii
Minutes of Evidence .... 1


5. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—CONSTRUCTION OF BATHS, CANBERRA.—Mr. Blakeley (Minister for Home Affairs) moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913–1921, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report:—The construction of Public Baths in Canberra.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

Bale, William Henry, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister .... 23
Christie, Archibald John, Chief Commissioner, Federal Capital Commission .... 1
Connell, Henry Gustavus, Chief Civil Engineer, Department of Works .... 6
Crapp, John Samuel, President, Canberra Citizens' League .... 9
Chimpton, Dr. John Howard Lidgett, Director-General of Health .... 12
Filshie, Harold John, Head Master, Intermediate High School, Telopea Park .... 26
Hughes, George Wall Bagot, General Secretary Y.M.C.A., Melbourne .... 19
Maloney, William, Secretary Fire Brigade Amateur Swimming Club, Canberra .... 5
Mills, John Hopping, Night-watchman, Federal Capital Commission .... 14
Mulrooney, John Leo, President Canberra Football League .... 16
Murdoch, John Smith, Second Commissioner, Federal Capital Commission .... 21
Nott, Dr. Lewis Windermere, Superintendent Canberra Hospital .... 11
Smith, Rupert Clarence, Head-master Ainslie Public School .... 27
Weatherston, Joseph Stewart, Hansard Reporter, Canberra .... 14, 28
REPORT.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works to which the House of Representatives referred for investigation and report the question of the construction of Public Baths at Canberra has the honour to report as follows:

PROPOSAL.

1. The proposal submitted for the consideration of the Committee aims at the provision of a first-class swimming bath designed to conform to the requirements laid down by the American Association for promoting hygiene in Public Baths, and suggested after consultation with Australian swimming and filtration experts.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BATHS PROPOSED.

2. It is suggested that the pool should be rectangular in shape, 164 feet (50 metres) long and 40 feet wide, and have a capacity of approximately 230,000 gallons. The minimum depth of water proposed is three feet, and the maximum nine feet. A combined scum gutter and hand-hold would extend completely round the bath, and the sides and bottom would be covered with white tiles. Steps are to be arranged at the ends of the pool outside the swimming area, and a spring board and slide-chute provided.

3. Around the pool it is proposed to have a concourse thirteen feet wide paved with concrete and finished with a bevelled surface and round edges. Provision is also included for circulating, filtering, and chlorinating the water which is to be obtained from the city mains. A system has been designed to give a complete turn-over of water once in eight hours, i.e., three times per 24 hours; and in addition 250 gallons of make-up water will be provided per day.

4. The dressing rooms proposed are provided with smooth concrete floors! inch to one foot slope, with rounded joints. The walls are to be smooth and impervious, and the lockers will be made vermin-proof. In the ladies’ dressing rooms cubicles will be provided for greater privacy.

5. Power and light points are proposed to be provided, and, in addition, it is proposed to illuminate the pool by a method of submarine lighting. It was also suggested that, as an adjunct to the baths a wading pool should be provided for the recreation of the smaller children.

ALTERNATIVE DESIGNS.

6. Two designs were submitted, one providing for an open pool; the second for roofed baths, with galleries for spectators, and the provision for heating the water, dressing rooms, and galleries.

In each case the buildings would be of brick and concrete. In the first case the baths would be surrounded by a low brick wall, and in the second, have a tiled roof.

ESTIMATED COST.

7. The estimated cost of the two proposals as submitted to the Committee were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s.</th>
<th>d.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1).—Earthworks—4,800 cubic yards at 8s.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete in pool, including manholes for submarine lighting—287 cubic yards at £5 10s.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete paving of concourse, swimming pool—780 square yards, three inches thick at 9s.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wading pool 123½ square yards, 3 inches thick at 9s.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiling of pool—1,600 square yards at 30s.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curved tiles for angles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete floor to dressing rooms, &amp;c., 400 square yards at 12s. 6d.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wading pool—40 cubic yards, concrete, at £5 10s.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scour drains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming pool</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wading pool</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage—Concourse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant—Filters, pumps, &amp;c.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carried forward</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,275</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Estimated Cost—continued.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fittings (Works Department estimate)</td>
<td>8,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Supply</td>
<td>715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric light and power</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superstructure and enclosure to pool and wading pool</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations for wall around wading pool</td>
<td>10,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access road and parking area</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The upkeep figures are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendants—One full time, four months</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water—Two removals of water per year—sewers, showers, and make up water—600,000 gallons at 1s. 3d. per 1,000</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wading pool—six renewals—60,000 gallons at 1s. 3d. per 1,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric light and power</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation—buildings—1½ per cent on £10,600</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance—Concrete work—1 per cent. on £5,484</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant—5 per cent. on £3,000</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical fittings—14 per cent. on £900</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadway</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest—5½ per cent. on total cost</td>
<td>1,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,086</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It will be noticed that interest accounts for more than half the total.

(2.)—An enclosed pool, roofed over, water heated and heated in the dressing rooms, offices and spectators’ gallery, would cost £30,300, made up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimate previously given</td>
<td>23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for spectators over entrance block</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glazing, and roof over pools</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With these additions the pool will be available during both summer and winter as well as for night swimming.

The annual charges for upkeep would be as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendants—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One full time</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One full time three months and half time nine months</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, four renewals; sewer, showers, and make-up water, 1,200,000 gallons at 1s. 3d. per 1,000</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric light and power</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation—Maintenance—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings, 1½ per cent. on £14,900</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete work—1 per cent. on £6,485</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery and fittings—5 per cent on £5,500</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric fittings—14 per cent. on £900</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadway</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest 5½ per cent. on total cost</td>
<td>1,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SITE.

8. Several sites were mentioned as having received consideration, but the Federal Capital Commission recommended the location of the baths on an area in front of old Acton House.

COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATIONS.

9. The Committee carefully examined the plans submitted, inspected the site recommended and several other possible sites around the city; took evidence from the Chief Commissioner, Federal Capital Commission, the Chief Civil Engineer, Department of Works, the Director-General of Health, the Superintendent, Canberra Hospital, and from representative bodies and citizens in Canberra. In addition, visits were paid, and information obtained in respect of open baths recently constructed at Brunswick, Camberwell, Footscray and Malvern, Victoria, and enclosed, heated pools at Brunswick, the Y.M.C.A. buildings, Melbourne, and the Athenaeum Club, Melbourne.

NEED FOR BATHS.

10. All the evidence taken by the Committee indicated the unanimous desire on the part of the residents that public swimming baths should be provided, and stressed the fact that, most of them coming from near the coast, felt the loss of such recreation. A private effort had been made to construct a swimming pool in the Molonglo, near the Power House, and a swimming club was formed and some sports held, but, owing to the muddy state of the river after heavy rain, and the impurity of the water when the river was low, the scheme was abandoned.

11. The Committee ascertained in evidence that there are numbers of school children in Canberra of whom but a small proportion have any knowledge of swimming, and it was urged that these children should have the same facilities afforded to learn swimming as exists in the cities and larger country towns.

12. After giving the matter careful consideration, and having in mind particularly the children, the Committee is unanimously of opinion that, when practicable, swimming baths should be made available.

SITE.

13. The Committee, in considering the question of site, felt itself at considerable disadvantage from the fact that no information could be given it as to the definite sites allocated for important permanent activities; and the Committee is unaware of the proposed sequence of the Commission's future building programme. It was pointed out in evidence that the location of certain activities such as permanent baths, as conceived by the designer of Canberra, is dependent to some extent on the knowledge as to where certain other activities are to be permanently located, and it was suggested that much difficulty in fixing sites for various important public functions might be avoided if early action were taken to design the Civic Centre and allocate the sites of such buildings as are to be associated therewith. It was represented to the Committee that the proper location for a permanent monumental first-class baths in keeping with the rest of the city, and designed to serve the whole of the people of Canberra, should be located somewhere near the Civic Centre, but, as the Civic Centre has not yet been designed, that is obviously impracticable at the present time. The Committee consequently turned its attention to the location of less pretentious baths which might be considered to meet the needs of the greater proportion of the citizens for a period of years.

14. Various sites were visited, and evidence taken which emphasised their advantages or disadvantages. The Committee endeavoured to keep in view that any site selected should not conflict with the accepted design of Canberra; that it should be on an area that allowed of construction at a reasonable cost; that it should be conveniently located in regard to water, sewerage, and lighting services, and be on or within reasonable distance of a bus route. Finally, that it should be in such a position as to be readily accessible to the main body of the school children.

It was stated in evidence that there are about 280 pupils at the school of Ainslie, and approximately 560 at the Telopea Park school, in addition to which there are about 70 children at the Grammar School, 100 at St. Gabriel's, and 250 at the Convent School, a total of approximately 1,000 on the southern side of the city.

15. After much consideration, therefore, it was decided to recommend that the baths be located on a convenient site in an area between New South Wales-crescent and Fitzroy-street, a little to the south-west of Telopea Park School area.
The decision arrived at by the Committee in connexion with this matter is shown by the
following extract from the minutes of proceedings:—

Senator Dooley moved that the baths to be provided be located in an area between New South Wales-crescent
and Fitzroy-street, a little to the south-west of Telopea Park School.
Seconded by Mr. Curtin.
The Committee divided on the motion—

Ayes, 7.
Senator Dooley.
Senator Reid.
Senator Sampson.
Mr. Cameron.
Mr. Curtin.
Mr. Lacey.
Mr. Long.

and so it was resolved in the affirmative.

16. It was realized that this position will not be convenient to the residents on the northern
side of the city, but the Committee is less concerned about the adult residents, to whom the
journey involved will not be a serious inconvenience, than with the children in that area. It
is hoped, however, that reasonable transport arrangements can be made on those days when the
children in school classes will visit the baths.

At a later date, when the growth of population warrants it, and funds are available, and
before the monumental baths are established, it may be possible to provide a small swimming
pool at the northern end of the city to meet the convenience of residents in the northern areas.

TYPE OF BATHS SUGGESTED.

17. The estimated cost of the proposal originally put forward by the Federal Capital
Commission was quite at variance with the Committee's idea of what is warranted at the present
time, and an effort was made to reduce the cost to a figure which would provide reasonable
recreational facilities while avoiding anything in the nature of extravagance.

18. Considerable difference of opinion existed amongst the residents as to the advisability
of providing an open pool or enclosed baths with heated water. It was represented that, in
a climate like that of Canberra, it is unlikely that an open pool would be used for more than three
or four months in the year, while an enclosed and heated pool would be patronized day and night
during the whole of the year. It was also urged that the water of an enclosed pool could be
kept cleaner on account of the exclusion of dust, and, by its greater use, would be likely to bring
in larger revenue. As against this, many contended that swimming is essentially an open-air
pastime, and most swimmers preferred the sunshine and fresh air, and that in cold weather it
would be a menace to health to have to brave the keen air of winter after swimming in heated
water.

19. While appreciating the various arguments advanced, the Committee is mainly concerned
at this juncture with giving swimming facilities principally for the children at as low a capital
cost as possible, and consequently is unanimously of opinion that an open pool only should be
provided, and that no attempt be made to heat the water.

SIZE OF BATHS.

20. The length of the baths was suggested by the Federal Capital Commission to be 164
feet (50 metres) so as to offer a convenient distance for swimming races, but, after an inspection
of several pools of this size, the Committee formed the opinion that such a length is unnecessary
at Canberra, and an estimate was asked for of approximately half that length. The estimate
furnished as a result of this request was set down at £21,010, which was still regarded by the
Committee as too ambitious, and further efforts were made by the Committee to obtain swimming
facilities at a lower cost.

21. On the 10th March, 1930, the second Commissioner, Mr. Murdoch, submitted a
design of an open pool 82 feet by 40 feet which he estimated could be provided for approximately
£9,000.

22. On examining the plans of this bath, the Committee was of opinion that an insufficient
area of shallow water would be available for non-swimmers, and was not prepared to agree that
the interior of the pool should be of painted cement only. Mr. Murdoch was accordingly asked for
an amended estimate of a pool 100 feet long by 40 feet wide, so graded as to give a greater area
with depth up to 3 ft. 6 in. and with tiled bottom and sides. He estimated that such a pool
could be constructed for approximately £10,000, which the Committee unanimously agreed should
be approved.
VII

SURROUNDING WALL.

23. Consideration was given to the style of enclosure for the baths, and it was eventually agreed that there should be a brick wall about 10 feet high, as recommended by the Federal Capital Commission.

The decision arrived at by the Committee in connexion with this matter is shown by the following extract from its minutes of proceedings, namely:—

Mr. Curtin moved that the pool be surrounded by a brick wall as indicated on the plan.
Seconded by Senator Sampson.

Mr. Gregory moved, as an amendment, that three sides be enclosed by a wall, and that the side towards the hill on the north-west be laid out in a lawn, with a surround of wire fencing and shrubbery.
Seconded by Senator Dooley.

The Committee divided on the amendment—

Ayes, 2.
Senator Dooley.
Mr. Gregory.

Noes, 6.
Senator Reid.
Senator Sampson.
Mr. Cameron.
Mr. Curtin.
Mr. Lacey.
Mr. Long.

and so it passed in the negative.

Mr. Cameron moved as a further amendment, that the pool be surrounded by lawns and shrubbery and an inexpensive fence on the model of the baths at Malvern, Victoria.
Seconded by Mr. Gregory.

The Committee divided on the amendment—

Ayes, 2.
Mr. Cameron.
Mr. Gregory.

Noes, 6.
Senator Dooley.
Senator Reid.
Senator Sampson.
Mr. Curtin.
Mr. Lacey.
Mr. Long.

and so it passed in the negative.

The original motion was then put and carried unanimously.

LIGHTING.

24. After due consideration, the Committee agreed to recommend that electric lighting be provided to enable swimming to take place at night, but that the expense of providing submarine lighting was not warranted.

STEPS, ETC.

25. It is recommended that the steps leading into the baths be recessed into the sides of the baths and that arrangements be made to provide plants and shrubbery around the outside of the baths to mask the encircling wall.

WADING POOL.

26. The Committee is unanimously of opinion that no wading pool for very small children should be provided in association with the baths.

DESCRIPTION OF BATHS RECOMMENDED.

27. The baths which the Committee recommend would have a pool 100 feet long by 40 feet wide, with white tiles on sides and bottom and swimming lanes indicated on the bottom with black tiles. The water would vary in depth from 3 feet to 9 feet, the slope in the shallow portion being so graded as to give a maximum area of water up to 3 ft. 6 in. in depth. Provision would be made, as in the original scheme, for the filtration and chlorination of water, but no provision would be made for heating or roofing the baths.

There would be a platform 10 feet wide on each side of the pool and 14 feet wide at the ends. Dressing accommodation would be provided for 88 men and cubicles for 41 women, with provision for lavatories, footbaths, and a small stall at which could be sold sweets, soft drinks, &c. The whole structure would be surrounded by a brick wall, masked on the outside with plants and shrubbery.
PROSPECTIVE REVENUE.

28. All the information obtained by the Committee indicated that there is little likelihood in the early stages that the revenue received will cover interest and maintenance charges, but, with the growth of population and the increased patronage of the baths, this matter may be expected to gradually adjust itself.

SAVING EFFECTED BY THE COMMITTEE.

29. The recommendation of the Committee will result in a saving on the original proposal of an amount of £20,300.

A. W. LACEY
Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,
Parliament House, Canberra.

3rd April, 1930.
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE  

(Taken at Canberra.)

WEDNESDAY, 11th DECEMBER, 1929.

Present:

Mr. LACKEY (Chairman);

Senator Dooley  Mr. Gregory
Senator Reid     Mr. Holloway
Senator Sampson Mr. Long.
Mr. M. Cameron

Archibald John Christie, Chief Commissioner, Capital Commission, sworn and examined.

1. To the Chairman.—I have been responsible for the submission of plans concerning the proposal to construct public baths in Canberra. Most of the information that I have on the subject was given to me by the late Chief Commissioner, or the second Commissioner. There has been a definite demand for public baths in this city for quite a long while. A great deal of correspondence has passed between the late Commission, the late Government, and the present Government, and the decision was arrived at that an amount of £2,000 should be placed on this year’s Estimates as an instalment towards the cost of constructing the baths. The late Commission inspected a number of sites, and came to the conclusion that the site at Acton, which is marked No. 2 on the plan, would be the more preferable one. Other sites that have been suggested are marked on the plan 1 to 7. Site No. 2 is just in front of old Acton House. When the late Commission was considering its suitability it bore in mind the future development of Canberra, the general accessibility of the site from the different suburbs both now and in the future, and also the fact that for many years, if not for all time, it will be on a bus route. There can be no doubt that the bus route will be over Lennox-avenue, up Acton-road, and past the suggested site of the baths, rather than up Commonwealth-avenue. That was the factor which decided the late Commission to approve of this site rather than one where the settlement may be a little closer. There is the further factor that the hospital is on this route. The area to be set aside depends entirely on the amount of parking space and the approaches that will be required. It is in a plantation, and there is no reasonable limit to the area that could be allotted for any form of beautification or development. The outstanding advantage claimed for this site is its general accessibility to the different suburbs. It is conveniently situated to sewerage, water, electricity and power services. From an engineering point of view it is a good site. It has a bottom of rock, and the baths would be comparatively inexpensive to construct. So far as I know there would be no conflict with the accepted design of Canberra. On the original plan the peninsula on which the Commission offices now stand was allotted for a hospital, but a variation has been gazetted which permits of a road bisecting the original hospital block. The evocation of the baths on this site would not conflict in any way with the design. Even when the city is further developed on the north this site would still be in a convenient location for the majority of the people, because it would always be on a bus route. There is a fair settlement in the locality of Canberra House and up towards Hotel Acton. When the lake scheme is developed there will be a high-level bridge across Lennox-avenue over to Commonwealth-avenue.

I think that undoubtedly this will always be the route of the buses that serve Acton, Reid and Acton. There is, and there always will be, a very large area along Commonwealth-avenue that will not be residential, and it is only natural to suppose that the buses will travel along routes where they can pick up passengers. That is in the Acton locality rather than along Commonwealth-avenue. Then again, there must always be a bus route in the north ward of the hospital. The heads of the lakes were located on this side they would not affect the development of the University area or the provision of the lake scheme. I produce a siting plan showing the proposed baths on site No. 2. The baths are to be 30 metres (equal to 106 feet) long by 40 feet wide. Fifty metres is the standard length of all swimming races. The design has been made to conform to the regulations laid down by the American Association for promoting hygiene in public baths, and in consultation with swimming and filtration experts in Victoria. The design of the pool properly also allows of the conduct of competitions under Olympic and Australian championship conditions. Other factors affecting the size, shape and layout generally of the swimming pool are:—

1. The probable maximum attendance of bathers and spectators; (2) the peculiarities of the site chosen; (3) the funds available for construction and upkeep; also probable revenue; (4) water supply. It is desired to keep the quantity of water required as low as possible and to avoid waste, particularly if the water must be drawn from the City mains. In Canberra pumping costs are 6d. per 1,000 gallons. It is considered that the water should be drawn from the City mains and not pumped from the Molonglo. In England the pool areas allowed for bathers are 20 square feet of wading area and 30 square feet of diving area to each bather. It is assumed that 80 per cent. of the bathers will be in the area having a depth of less than 4 ft. 6 in. The depth of water should not be less than from 3 ft. to 3 ft. 6 in. when the bath is to be used for swimming competitions, and 7 ft. 2 in. of the pool area should have a depth of 4 ft. 6 in. or less. The remaining 25 per cent. should vary from about 4 ft. 6 in. to 9 ft. in depth. It is advisable to mark the depth of the pool on the sides at approximate intervals of 4 ft. 6 in. 9 ft. The inclination of the floor in the shallow portion has been adopted as the simplest and most economical to construct. The area, as I have already stated, is 164 ft. (50 metres) long by 40 ft. wide—6,560 sq. ft.—and the capacity is approximately 280,000 gallons. The minimum depth is 3 ft. 6 in., but it has been found that 4 ft. 6 in. is the maximum depth 9 ft. A combined swim-gutter and hand-hold extends completely round the bath. The side end walls are vertical and are designed to resist the inward pressure of the earth when the pool is empty, and the unbalanced outward pressure of the water when the bath is full. The slope of the floor in the shallow portion of the pool (3 ft. to 5 ft.) is 1 in 40. Expansion joints will be provided both in the walls and floor, and, if found necessary, sub-soil drainage will be provided under the floor. The reinforcement of the floor will depend to some extent upon the foundations exposed, and, in addition to reinforcement for the ordinary stresses due to the weight of water, etc., reinforcement will be provided to resist temperature stresses. The whole of the sides and floor of the pool will be covered with white glazed tiles. The corners will be rounded, and the (6) swimming lanes will be marked on the bottom of the pool with black tiles. The lining of the bath with tiles will facilitate cleaning. Steps will be arranged at the ends of the pool outside the swimming area and particular care will be taken to avoid slipperiness. It is proposed also to provide a spring-board and a slide-chute for children. Around the pool.
the pool is a concourse 13 feet wide, paved with concrete finished with a bevelled surface and round edges. The slope of the concourse is 1 inch in 1 foot away from the pool. Provision will be made for circulating, filtering and chlorinating the water. Water will be obtained from the City mains. Bacteriological tests of the water in order to determine the purity of water will be made from time to time, and at regular intervals the pool will be completely emptied and washed down. If the baths were not covered and heated they would be used for only a small portion of the year. In that case the water would be chlorinated. But if they are used throughout the year it will be necessary to make the change every three months. We shall have bacteriological tests from time to time, and if it is found necessary to make more frequent changes they will be made. A decision will be made to pursue the results of the tests. The outlets from the pool are located at the deep end, and the water passes out through a strainer (hatch-catcher) to a sump. It will then be pumped through the coagulating tank to filters and will gravitate from the filters to the shallow end of the pool, where it will be treated with chlorine from the chlorinator and passed to the pool by means of an inlet cascade. The system has been designed to give a complete turnover of water once in eight hours, i.e., three times per 24 hours. In addition, about 290 gallons of make-up water will be provided, sufficient to cover the depth of the central fugal type with electric drives. The filters will be six in number, so arranged that effluent from five can be pumped through the sixth filter for cleaning. The filter-cleaning pump and motor will duplicate the circulating pump and motor and can be used as spares. The pool sides and bottom will be cleaned by suction cleaners worked by the circulating pump. By that means we shall always be able to ensure a plentiful supply of pure bathing water. Water will be obtained from the City mains located close to the site. Sewage will be drained into nearby sewers connected in Acton Septic tank. The layout and arrangement of entrances and exits from the pool in relation to the dressing-rooms, showers and toilets, etc., ensure proper routing of the bathers, and any one, other than bathers, will not be allowed in the pool room. Those who wish to enter the pool will be required first to have a shower. The layout is such that they must pass through the shower before they can enter the pool. The dressing-rooms are provided with smooth concrete floors 6 inches to 1 foot slope, with rounded joints. The walls will be smooth and impervious, and the lockers will be made vermin-proof. In the ladies' dressing-room it may be necessary to have cubicles to enable women to have greater privacy. The general lay-out of the bath-house is clearly shown on the plan. Provision will, perhaps, in addition, be required for laundry, refreshment stand, room for valuables, costumes, etc. Turn-stiles should also be provided in order to ensure that the collection of hired articles is properly made from persons leaving the bath-house. Power and light points will be provided, and in addition it is proposed to illuminate the pool by a method of submarine flood lighting. Electric power for pumps, etc., will also be available. Electric current can be simply and cheaply obtained from the sub-station near the site. At night water is not used and black lighting will be undertaken, and therefore is not at all inviting. If we are to have night bathing it will be necessary to have a series of lights along the sides below the water level. If the baths are not to be covered they will be used for only a short period—probably only two or three months at the beginning of the bath season. The question arises whether it is not better to face what must be the ultimate development of the baths and provide those that can be heated, and thus make it possible for swimming to be indulged in throughout the year. If that is done the baths must be wholly covered. If heating is not provided that will not be necessary. I am submitting two estimates to show the probable cost of both schemes. In the one scheme provision is made for the installation of heating equipment to heat the circulating water and prevent its cooling. To many people swimming is a most enjoyable recreation, but indulgence in the pastime is limited in Canberra by the lack of a suitable natural body of water easily accessible to persons who are without the means of transport. Good, safe, comfortable and convenient bathing would therefore probably be popular, particularly if the proposal provides comfortable accommodation and heating of the water and portions of the building, so that the pool is available for use during the greater portion of the year. A certain proportion of the people, no doubt, would be prejudiced against bathing in the public bath, but this is a feature which exists elsewhere and would be difficult to overcome. The patronage to be expected is most difficult to assess, and I am not in a position to present to you any reliable estimate of it. If, however, proper facilities are provided, the baths will be used, in addition to recreation purposes, for sport and exhibition swimming, and also for educational purposes; for example, school children will be taken there regularly. But if provision is made for spectators I think it is even more revenue will be derived from them than from ordinary bathers. A certain revenue will also be obtained from the sale of sundries, the hire of costumes, etc. There is no doubt that the admission charges will be fixed without regard to the economic aspect. The provision of swimming baths will result in certain indirect gains to the population, and even though at first the revenue obtained will not be sufficient to meet all the costs, the loss must be set off against the enjoyment gained by the people, and no doubt an improvement in their health. I have prepared estimates for two alternative proposals. The first is for open baths, with no accommodation for spectators and no provision for heating. With the inclusion of a wading pool the cost would be about £33,000. Such baths would be used for only a small portion of the year and would be neither revenue producing nor easily accessible to persons who are without the means of transport. 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The upkeep figures are as follow—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendants—1 full time, four months</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water—Two removals of water per year: shower,</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sump, and make-up water—600,000 gallons, at 1s.</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d. per 1000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wading pool—Six renewals—10,000 gallons, at</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3s. 3d. per 1000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric light and power</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation—Buildings—1% per cent on</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance—Concrete works—1% per cent. on</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£5,484</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant—5% per cent. on £2,000</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric fittings—14% per cent. on £900</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadway</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest—5½ per cent. on total cost</td>
<td>1,205</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 2,686 5 0

With these additions, the pool will be available during both summer and winter, as well as for night swimming. The annual charges for upkeep would be as follows—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimate previously given</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for swimming pool</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glazing, and roof over pools</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 30,300 0 0

In each case the building would be of brick and concrete. Under the second proposal there would be a tiled roof. It is proposed to have a low brick wall if the pool is to be an open one. I have not been able to form any definite or reliable estimate of the revenue which is likely to be received. That will depend on what the charges are, and whether school children are admitted free. The admission charges will have to be fixed irrespective of the cost of the baths. If swimming is to be a part of the school curriculum there will have to be either a nominal charge or no charge at all. I am seeking information in other States regarding the practice there. The system for the circulation and disinfection of the water has been designed to give a complete turnover once every eight hours. In the plan I have shown the wading pool attached to the baths proper, and the degree of covering has been included in my estimate. The size of the pool is 32 feet by 50 feet.

In the plans submitted by the Works Department no provision has been made for a wading pool because the question whether a wading pool should be inside or outside the baths is a controversial one. Women, accompanied by their children, may wish to have it away from the swimming baths. It could be placed in the park, and provision could be made for a sand pit. In some places provision is made for a bigger expansion of shallow water inside the baths instead of a wading pool. The purification of the water in the baths would not be affected by having the wading pool inside. We suggest that the depth should be from 6 inches to 18 inches, and that the pool should hold about 9,000 gallons of water. If it is not to be heated, there will be no necessity to cover it. I am now having prepared an alternative plan showing a wading pool outside the baths. If this were adopted, the cost of the baths would be about £2,500 less than the estimate I have given. The shape proposed is rectangular, with a gently sloping bottom. The construction will be of concrete. The pool will be surrounded by a concourse 7 feet wide. It will be supplied with water direct from the mains, and emptied direct into the sewer. The water will not be specially treated. I am in favour of having the wading pool outside. If it were inside and heated, a great deal of expense would have to be incurred in covering it, whereas the benefit would not be very great. The pool will be used only during the summer months, and it might just as well be out in the park. The plans and specifications that I have prepared for baths on the Avon site could be readily adapted to any of the other sites. The approaches might have to be altered slightly. This is merely a tentative scheme.

### THURSDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 1929.

**Present:**
- Mr. Lacey, Chairman;
- Senator Dooley
- Senator Reid
- Senator Simpson
- Mr. Cameron

Archibald John Christie, Chief Commissioner, Federal Capital Commission, recalled and further examined.

To the Chairman.—In the original plan the wading pool was placed alongside the swimming pool. The plan I now submit shows it a little distance away. The new proposal is for a circular wading pool 35 feet in diameter saucer shaped, sloping from the surface at the outer edge to 15 inches deep in the centre. There will also be a concrete path 5 feet wide surrounding the pool and a sand pit on either side. The wading pool could be placed almost anywhere but it might be well to place it as close to the swimming pool as the ground permits. A separate wading pool would necessitate a slightly different treatment of the swimming pool building, for there would be no wing as provided in the original plan. The new proposal will alter the estimate slightly. The separate wading pool would cost about £878 made up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earthworks</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete paving</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete kerb around the sand</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washed sand</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingencies and Sundries</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 287 0 0

The services in connexion with the pool would cost about £89, as under—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brought forward</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-inch cast iron pipes for draining the pool</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete piping</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sump and Gratings &amp;c.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man hole</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inlet and outlet valves</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 355 0 0
The annual cost of upkeep would be about £50. Of that amount depreciation and interest represent £37, the remainder being for water, cleaning, and additional sand, from time to time.

I felt that the estimates previously submitted could be cheapened and I therefore revised them last night. Instead of £23,000 for scheme A the revised estimate is £20,500, or without the wading pool £19,440. For scheme B the revised estimate is £28,200 in lieu of £30,000 originally estimated, or without the wading pool £26,300. The new shape of the pool will affect the design of the roof. It is also proposed to surround the pool with a series of piers having a 4½-inch brick curtain wall with a concrete top on the top.

3. To Senator Field.—The baths would not interfere with the proposed road approach from Commonwealth Avenue to the offices at Acton. The baths would be a little over 100 yards from the proposed road. The actual distance would depend on the site chosen for the bridge, which cannot be determined accurately at present. The baths will be in park lands away from any road or projected road or bridge approach. The proposed site No. 2 is probably one of the most expensive sites for a bath. The land has a rock bottom and the approaches can be easily made. The bottom at site 2 is not so specialized, but we felt that it would be all right. From the point of view of accessibility and engineering problems, No. 4 site is the second best of the sites proposed. The cost of making approaches to site 4 would probably be less than in the case of site 2. That is its only advantage over site 2. It is situated on one of the main 200 foot avenues and the land slopes from the road. Parking areas and roads could easily be made at site 4, whereas at site 2 there would be more earthworks. Site 2 would mean that the baths would be practically adjoining the park. Indeed they could easily be made right into the lake. That would mean that there would be no access from the lakeside. Even if the lake is not made there will be very little land between the baths and the river bank. On site 4 there is now sufficient room for approaches on all sides, but that site is also almost on the banks of the lake, so that if the lake were formed, there would be no approach from that side. There would be plenty of room for the parking of cars in either case. At site 4 a parking space of 20 feet would be made and an avenue just the same as at site 2. There would be no necessity to drive between the baths and the lake. There is a little plantation already in the vicinity. Accessibility from the lake to the baths would not be any advantage because bathers would have to go to the tennis court to get in. No. 4 site would provide a more gradual approach to the lake edge, whereas No. 2 site would mean a steep approach to the lake. In either case the spoil excavated could be used on the site. The level alongside site No. 4 is now being filled in. The extension from the footpath from Hotel Canberra to the avenue facing No. 4 is now being made. The cost of excavations will be much the same either in either case, but the No. 2 site would mean cheaper sewer, water, and electric light connections. Site No. 4 is further from the services than is No. 2. The Commission prefers covered to open air baths. The difference between the capital costs of the two schemes would not be great, but by covering the baths and heating the water the premises could be used all the year round. The extra cost involved in roofing the pool would be £50. That expense would be justified if the pool were used all the year. It would cost about £1,300 a year to heat the baths during the cold months. The cost of submarine lighting would not be very great. It merely means placing a few special lights on the side of the baths below water level. With our remarkably good Cotter water, the baths, if properly lighted, would be very attractive at night. There is no need to cover the children's wading pool, if the children are desirous to heat the water in it. It would be better for that pool to be in the open. If their wading pool is in the vicinity of the baths, the children could be practically under observation all the year by the attendants at the baths. The weight of evidence is in favour of the wading pool. I have not discussed with the Minister the terms on which school children would be admitted to the baths. A good deal will depend on the school curriculum. The usual practice in other places is for the children to have one free swimming lesson each week during school hours. If a charge is made, it will be a nominal one. The idea is that the children attend the baths for one swimming lesson weekly under the supervision of a teacher. In some universities a degree is not confirmed unless the student is able to swim.

4. To Mr. Halfway.—The suggested sites have been selected with a view to their accessibility. No. 7 site would be expensive because of the long distance from the necessary services. The cost of buildings would be practically the same on all the sites with the exception of the additional connecting sewer required; several of the sites would need no sewer. There is no need for the wading pool to be in the vicinity of the baths. The usual practice is to construct a wading pool in some park where the children can be under the observation of their parents. I thought that it would be a good idea to provide at least one wading pool for the children if the adults were given a swimming pool, and that that wading pool could with advantage be situated near the baths. Site No. 2 will be a park in one of the most beautiful parts of Canberra. Even if the lake scheme were not to be developed, it would still be a beautiful place. Wading pools could be constructed in any of the parks, but it seemed desirable to provide something for the children when the requirements of the un tits were being met. The plan provides ample facilities for the parking of vehicles. There will be a road from Lennox Avenue and a parking area surrounded by trees. The parking area can be as big as is required. The whole proposition will take about 1 acre of ground. It is proposed to provide parking space in front of the building.

5. To Mr. Curtis.—The roof of the baths will be 20 feet wide at the top of the walls, and 34 feet 6 inches to the ridge. Ampule provision will be made for the ventilation of the building. There will always be a sufficient current of fresh air.

6. To Mr. Long.—No. 7 site would be most expensive because of its long distance from the sewer. The cost of excavation on sites 2, 4, and 7 would be about the same. The engineer's report regarding site 7 is that the cost of connecting the necessary services would be heavy; moreover it is not on a main bus route. The engineer's report on site 2 is that it is within an existing plantation; it is already moderately sheltered and could be sheltered still further; surface drainage excellent; satisfactory rock bottom and good accessibility; on main bus routes; plenty of parking space; favorably situated as regards sewer, water and electric power; moderately inexpensive site for construction. In response to a question 3 this afternoon as to whether there would be about 1,000 feet west of Commonwealth offices, West Block; low lying land; within an area set apart for park treatment; well sheltered; surface drainage good; accessibility good, being 1,200 feet from a point served by all bus routes. In other words, no engineer would feel difficulties in connection with those services, but a slightly longer length of line. The maximum depth of water suggested is 9 feet. The baths would be
164 feet by 40 feet, giving a total area of 6,500 square feet. The area of the baths is the same in each case.

I have not the exact distances of sites 2 and 4 from the water main. There would be no engineering difficulties in connexion with either site for services; it is merely a matter of distance. The estimates I have submitted this morning were all prepared for site 2. For a covered baths and without a wading pool the cost is estimated at £26,200. The cost of baths on site 4 would be the same apart from the extra cost of connecting the services. The cost of upkeep would be much the same in each case; there would probably be a slightly greater charge for depreciation; if the capital cost were a little greater. I favour covered baths because they could be used all the year round.

An open pool could not be heated satisfactorily without considerable expense.

7. To Senator Sampson.—It would be possible to heat the water in open air baths, but the cost would be considerable. I think that a good deal of night swimming would be indulged in if the baths were attractive. Submarine lighting would make them attractive. If the baths were not heated they would not be popular in winter.

8. To Mr. M. Cameron.—There has been a very definite agitation by the people of Canberra for proper swimming facilities. If erected I feel sure that the baths would be well patronized. There is a natural prejudice against open baths, but I hope to overcome that by making them attractive and ensuring that the water will be clean at all times. There will be a big demand for the baths for the use of school children. Until we get the site definitely settled and full details of the cost prepared, we cannot consider the probable revenue from the baths. The policy of the administration in respect of school children will also have important bearings on the revenue. I cannot at present give a reliable estimate of the revenue.

9. To Senator Dooley.—I know of no other baths which have been erected on similar lines to the scheme proposed here; but the plans have been prepared from the best and latest information obtained from baths experts in Victoria and America.

10. To the Chairman.—In the Griffin plan provision was made for a hospital on a bluff peninsula which would project into the lake. Mr. Griffin's plan provided for a road which cut off the peninsula and practically isolated the hospital. That plan has been altered. When the high level bridge is constructed, the road passing over it will cut into the site reserved by Mr. Griffin for the hospital. It is not desirable to have a main road in such close proximity to a hospital. The position of the present hospital is only temporary, but it might become the permanent hospital site.

With slight modifications, the plan which has been prepared for No. 2 site, could be adapted to any of the seven sites suggested. Tests of the water in the Molonglo river are made every month by the microbiologist at the Sydney University. Any information desired by the Committee in relation to these tests can be supplied.

(Taken at Canberra.)

SATURDAY, 14th DECEMBER, 1929.

Present:

Mr. LACY, Chairman;

Senator Reid 
Senator Sampson 
Mr. M. Cameron 
Mr. Holloway.

William Mainey, Secretary, Fire Brigade Amateur Swimming Club, Canberra, sworn and examined.

11. To the Chairman.—Last year we had 63 members in our club. I am aware that it is proposed to build public baths in Canberra; but my club has made no representations on the matter, nor have we, as an organization, formed any definite opinion regarding baths, or where they should be placed. I have resided in Canberra for about twenty years. As there were no public baths in Canberra, we decided to form a swimming club, and take steps to improve the swimming facilities in the Molonglo. We chose a place near the power house, and improved it by cutting away the bank, building a platform and putting up dressing sheds. We were able to hold a swimming carnival, and though it was not possible to make a charge, we took up a subscription among spectators who realized £8 14s. After that the river got very low, and a warning was issued by the medical authorities that it was unsafe to bathe in it. This year, however, there is an ample volume of water, and we have been considering holding another carnival. I feel confident that open baths would be used all the summer, at least from the beginning of November to the early part of March.

I should say that for nearly eight months of the year it is too cold for swimming in unheated water. I should strongly recommend having the water heated, so that the baths might be used in the winter time. I think that, in any case, even for summer bathing, the water would need to be heated, because the Cotter water is very cold, much colder than that in the Molonglo. I should say that public baths in Canberra would receive a fair measure of support, judging from the fact that 50 or 60 people attend our swimming pool every Sunday during the warm season.

As to the proper charge for admission to the swimming baths, I suggest that perhaps 1s. might be fair; but if the baths were warmed it might be possible to charge more. I am in favour of building baths such as could be used for swimming carnivals, races, &c. The following is a list of some of the principal swimming baths in Australia and other parts of the world, and their dimensions:

**Metropolitan Baths.**

**New South Wales.**

- Abbotsford
- Balmain
- Bronte
- Bondi
- Coogee
- Domain
- Manly

**Interstate.**

- Adelaide (Fletcher's Dock)
- Melbourne (St. Kilda)
- Brisbane (Izana Baths)
- Hobart (Sandy Bay)

**International.**

- Antwerp (Belgium)
- Blackpool (England)
- Brighton (New York, America)
- Budapest (Hungary)
- Christiana (Norway)
- Liverpool (England)
- Honolulu (Hawaii)
- Los Angeles (America)
- Magdeburg (Germany)
- San Francisco (America)
- Manchester (England)
- Stockholm (Sweden)
- Vienna (Austria)

- Acton
- Bondi
- Sydney
- Launceston
- Shed

Fifty yards is quite long enough for the baths, but they should be more than 40 feet wide. Seating accommodation for 150 people is not sufficient. We had 300 people at our last carnival, and there should be accommodation for not less than that number at the baths. I do not care for the proposed site at Acton. I favour a site somewhere between the Commonwealth bridge and Beauchamp House, perhaps on the right
hand side just across the bridge. I would have no objection to a site on the road to the Prime Minister's residence, close to the Secretariat. It has the advantage of being on the bus route. Of the other proposed sites, I prefer that marked No. 3 on the map.

19. To Senator Reid.—I do not think that the site below the Acton Hotel would be convenient for people at the Kingston end of the city. I admit that the higher bus fare from the Causeway would be a consideration; but probably that would not worry those who were keen to have a swim. The proposed site No. 4, near the Secretariat, would, I think, be quite suitable, and I can urge no objections against it. It would have the advantage of being on a single bus route from any part of the city. From the point of view of the swimmers there would be no objection to it. I know of no advantage associated with the Acton site, which would compensate for the increased fares which people living in distant parts would have to pay to get there. I think that 9 feet is quite deep enough for the baths at the deep end. I do not think that a great many people would attend the baths in the winter time, even if they were heated. It is too cold in the winter time here. No doubt they would be attended, but not I think, enough to make it a paying proposition. No doubt, if the baths were enclosed and roofed, the atmosphere inside would be warm, and this would attract people to attend at night, even in the winter. I should certainly prefer to have the baths covered in and heated in the winter.

20. To Mr. Cameron.—Our present swimming pool is just below the power house and above the weir, where the track crosses from Kingston to Duntrone. The river is always flowing at this point. Last year, even during the dry season, the water was always running over the weir. I think it was about February that the warning was issued against bathing in the Molonglo, and the water was then at its lowest point. I cannot say what was wrong with the water; but a notification was sent to the club that it was not fit for bathing in. The club immediately ceased its activities. We are bathing there again this year, but have taken no precautions to determine whether or not the water is pure. It gets rather cold for bathing here at the end of March, and regular bathing could not be indulged in before the 1st November. If baths were erected we should abandon our present pool.

The trouble with the Molonglo is that, after 1 or 2 inches of rain, the water becomes very discoloured, so that it is impossible to bathe in it; in comfort. Last year we had to postpone a carnival on this account. Since the river becomes discoloured it takes a fortnight to clear off. It would be desirable to get representative opinions upon the question of site; but, so far as our organization is concerned, our members have drifted away since the bathing pool was condemned, and we have now only those members who are attached to the brigade. I suggest that the local citizens' organization might be asked for its opinion. It would be a pity if a site were fixed, and the citizens complained of it afterwards. It would be difficult to get a meeting of citizens before Tuesday next, although it might be possible to call one on Monday. I should very much like to see a paddling pool for children attached to the baths. It should not be too far away from the swimming pool, because parents might like to take their children to paddle, and use the swimming pool themselves, or watch while events were in progress there.

10. To Mr. Gregory.—It would not be practicable to build baths on the Molonglo river, for the reasons I have just stated. After rain the water becomes quite thick. It would, I admit, be desirable to get representative opinions upon the question of site; but, so far as our organization is concerned, our members have drifted away since the bathing pool was condemned, and we have now only those members who are attached to the brigade. I suggest that the local citizens' organization might be asked for its opinion. It would be a pity if a site were fixed, and the citizens complained of it afterwards. It would be difficult to get a meeting of citizens before Tuesday next, although it might be possible to call one on Monday. I should very much like to see a paddling pool for children attached to the baths. It should not be too far away from the swimming pool, because parents might like to take their children to paddle, and use the swimming pool themselves, or watch while events were in progress there.

11. To the Chairman.—I have not seen the latest plans for public baths at Canberra, but I designed the original layout, which the Federal Capital Commission asked us to prepare. I am acquainted with the various sites suggested for baths, and I am aware that the Chief Commissioner recommends a site near Acton as the most suitable. I do not entirely agree that this is the most suitable position. Personally, I think that the baths should be where the population is. The proposed site was selected because it was on a bus route, but to me it has the disadvantage that whoever goes to the baths must travel to get there. In my opinion, baths should be on a bus route, certainly, but in a centre of population, so that at least half the people who are keen to have a swim would be able to attend. No doubt, some would attend, but not, I think, enough to make it a paying proposition. I do not think that the site suggested by the Federal Capital Commission for the baths would be a good place for the baths. Placed there they would be in a growing centre of population. A bitumen road connects the district with the settlements on the Kingston side of the river, and a railway station will eventually be built nearby.

12. To Senator Reid.—Mr. Crepp is chairman of the Canberra Citizens Association. There are a number of progress associations in Canberra; but the Citizens Association represents all the residents. The witness withdrew.

Henry Gustavus Oonnell, Chief Civil Engineer to the Commonwealth Department of Works, sworn and examined.

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14. To Mr. Gregory.—It would not be practicable to build baths on the Molonglo river, for the reasons I have just stated. After rain the water becomes quite thick. It would, I admit, be desirable to get representative opinions upon the question of site; but, so far as our organization is concerned, our members have drifted away since the bathing pool was condemned, and we have now only those members who are attached to the brigade. I suggest that the local citizens' organization might be asked for its opinion. It would be a pity if a site were fixed, and the citizens complained of it afterwards. It would be difficult to get a meeting of citizens before Tuesday next, although it might be possible to call one on Monday. I should very much like to see a paddling pool for children attached to the baths. It should not be too far away from the swimming pool, because parents might like to take their children to paddle, and use the swimming pool themselves, or watch while events were in progress there.
in the lay-out of the baths for Canberra. The following are extracts which I have made from the final report of a committee on bathing places in the United States of America:—


[Extracts from Final Report of Joint Committee on Bathing Places of Conference of State Sanitary Engineers and Health Engineering Section of American Public Health Association (Cincinnati, 16th October, 1927).]

Design.—Slope of bottom of any part of pool where water less than 6 feet deep must not be more than 1 foot in each 15 feet. Side and end walls vertical. White or light colored materials should be used for the lining material. Shallow swimming areas should be marked in bottom with black tiles. Markings showing depths in 1-foot increments on both sides of pool.

Dressing-rooms, shower-room, and toilets should be heated to temperature between 70 degrees F. and 75 degrees F. No hot water should be available for direct contact with the skin of bathers. Pool-room and showers should be adjacent to dressing-rooms, and passers should not pass the toilets and go through the shower-room before arriving at the pool entrance. Bathers should leave the pool-room through a separate exit leading to toilets and dressing-rooms. Ample room must be provided for filters. All recirculation piping, inlet and outlet valves, etc., must be located where they will be readily accessible. The chlorine apparatus should preferably be located in a glass enclosure in the pool-room.

Sprinkler.—The total area of any part of pool where water less than 6 feet deep must not be more than 1 foot in each 15 feet. Side and end walls vertical. White or light colored materials should be used for the lining material. Shallow swimming areas should be marked in bottom with black tiles. Markings showing depths in 1-foot increments on both sides of pool.

Inlets and Outlets.—All pools should be provided with an outlet at the deepest end of sufficient size to permit the pool to be completely drained in four hours. Outlet opening in the same plane as the pool floor at least 2 feet wide should be provided to reduce currents. The outlet must be covered with proper grating. In rectangular pools multiple outlets should be provided when the pool is more than 20 feet wide. Outlets should be spaced not more than 20 feet apart and not more than 10 feet from either side wall. All inlets should be in shallow water and not more than 1 foot below the water line.

Swim Gutters should extend completely round the pool. The design of swim gutters should be such that matters entering them will not be washed out by a sudden surge of entering water and that danger of bathers catching any kind of infection must be reduced to a minimum. The edge of a swim gutter should be designed to serve as a handhold for bathers. Gutters should, therefore, be sufficiently deep that bathers fingers will not reach the bottom. Sufficient opening must be provided to permit mechanical cleaning of the gutters. Drainage outlets should be provided every 10 feet. Projection into pool should not be more than 2 inches.

Steps—Treads should be of non-slip material. Should not project into pool. Should have handrail round top at run way.

Rumoji or Umokea.—Slope of 1 inch to 1 foot—smooth and easy to negotiate. Edge should be rounded. High tight walls should encircle runways.

Visitors' Galleries.—Must be absolute separation of space used for bathing purposes and that used for eating and refreshments. There should be no means by which bathers can enter space reserved for spectators, or vice versa. Visitors' quarters must have separate entrances. Galleries for times when pool is not open should not overlook any portion of pool. Floor and foot rail of gallery should be of non-slip material. Gutters should, therefore, be sufficiently deep that bathers fingers will not reach the bottom. Sufficient opening must be provided to permit mechanical cleaning of the gutters. Drainage outlets should be provided every 10 feet. Projection into pool should not be more than 2 inches.

Fountains.—Fountains should be of non-slip material. Should not project into pool. Should have handrail round top at run way.

Water Heater.—System designed to provide a turnover at least twice per 24 hours and preferably three times or more.

Pumps.—Hairdresser, Water Heater, Filter, Plumbing System, Suction Cleaner.

Disinfection.—There must be sufficient amounts of disinfectant to prevent any dangerous pollution disseminated by bathers. If algae give trouble use copper sulphate as well as chlorine.

Chemical and Physical Quality of Pool Water.—The amount of excess chlorine in the water at all times shall not be less than 0.5 p.p.m. nor more than 0.8 p.p.m. (ortho-tolidine). When sulphate of alumina is used the water at all times must show an alkaline reaction. Tests must be made every day. The water must always be sufficiently clear that the bottom of the pool is visible.

Bathers.—Not more than 10 per cent. of samples covering any considerable period shall contain more than 1,000 bacteria per c.c. No single sample shall contain more than 5,000 bacteria per c.c. No more than two out of five samples collected in the same day, or not more than three out of any ten consecutive samples collected on different dates shall show a positive test (B. coli) in 10 c.c. of the water at times when pool is in use.

Our first task was to determine the size of the pool, and on that point, we consulted various swimming authorities in Melbourne, including Mr. Beaurepaire. He told us that the pool should be of such a size as to be suitable for swimming either at the end of a course under conditions of wind. That is why we chose one 50 metres long. The usual width of each swimming lane has been fixed at 5 feet, but Mr. Beaurepaire was emphatic that swimmers were too cramped in that space, especially the swimmer who was in the middle of the pool. The swimmers told us that for cleaning the baths a suction cleaner was used and that 40 feet was the maximum width in which it could be employed. Therefore, we fixed on 40 feet for the width, which allows a swimming lane of 6 feet 6 inches for each of six swimmers. All the swimming authorities told us that we should be careful to insist upon a rectangular pool, because swimmers, when racing, always tend to follow the side of the baths; it was difficult for them to keep a straight course when the shape of the baths was other than rectangular. We made the baths 9 feet deep at one end, and 3 feet at the other for the use of non-swimmers. The baths are not in any sense for washing purposes, but purely for swimming. The size of the baths having been determined, that also fixed the number of people who could be accommodated. According to the standards laid down each swimmer should have 27 square feet of water space, so that the maximum number of people allowed in baths of this size would be 240 at a time. But because a proportion of those using the baths would be non-swimmers, the size of the spaces for non-swimmers using the pool at one time might be increased. The standard provides for twenty bathers for every 1,000 gallons of freshly added water per hour. As we intend to have 30,000 gallons of freshly added water an hour, these baths could carry a load of 600 persons. We followed the standard in all particulars, in the area of dressing rooms, the dressing spaces for swimmers passing in and out, and the situation of such fixtures as were necessary. The details, of course, were designed from our own experience. No matter which site is chosen, my layout can be followed. Our estimate of the cost was only tentative, because we made only a rough estimate of the area, and did not go into particulars. The actual construction of the building was left to the Com mission. We were asked to design open baths, and we designed an open pool which could be converted into a closed one. The annual cost of running the open baths for six months of the year we estimated at £750, excluding interest on the cost of construction. The annual...
cost of upkeep for closed baths with heating installed would be about £2,400. It is very difficult to estimate what the probable revenue would be. We realized that the number of persons regularly using the baths would not be sufficient to pay for upkeep. We did think, however, that when a swimming club was formed impelling it would be possible to increase the fees and that some might be held at the baths, and in that way a greatly increased return would be forthcoming. I do not think that the establishments of baths in an area would attract residents to that place contrary to the intentions of the design. There will be ... If dry is continually blowing into the water the tendency of the filters to clog with mud is much greater. The height of the roof above the pool as shown in the plans appears to me to be sufficient. One radical alteration in the layout, as I designed it, is that in the pool in the Civic Centre, and I think that 15 inches is too deep for a wading pool, but otherwise I agree with the design. A wading pool is essentially for the open air, whereas a swimming bath is better enclosed. I would make the wading pool with sloping sides circular in shape, and at no place deeper than 13 inches.

20. To Mr. Curtain. — I do not think that it would be nearly so difficult to keep the water clean in closed baths as in open ones. Our experience of the weather during the last few days has convinced me that it is cleaner under cover than outside. According to our plans the water in the Causeway would be kept good for six months. In fact, water put straight into a tank is not good swimming water but otherwise I agree with the design. A wading pool is essentially for the open air, whereas a swimming bath is better enclosed. I would make the wading pool with sloping sides circular in shape, and at no place deeper than 13 inches.

21. To Mr. Gregory. — I think that in years to come some sort of inter-suburban railway service will be justified in Canberra. There will be a railway station at Civic Centre, and it could be arranged that it would be possible to use the line for the transportation of passengers and goods between the city and the suburbs. From all examination of the plan, I do not think that the gallery, as provided, could be kept clear next to the pool. I cannot say what the revenue derived from three days is still quite clear — so clear in fact that the whole of the water may be circulated every 8 hours, it is necessary to pass it through the filters at the rate of 30,000 gallons an hour. To do that, we require 250 square feet of filtering area. Six filters will be installed, but only five of an area of 250 square feet each are necessary to deal with the water in the time stipulated. There will be one spare filter, and this will be used to relieve the others in turn while they are being cleaned. This is done by pumping the effluent from five filters back through the other one. The process can be carried on indefinitely, and the water itself can be kept quite good for six months. In fact, water put straight into a tank is not good swimming water for about three days. Even the Cotter water would not be clear enough at first. Water in swimming tanks which has been used continuously by 2,000 people a day for three months is still quite clear — so clear in fact that it is possible to see a small spot on the tiles on the bottom of the tank. In this plan the filters are situated at the end of the baths opposite to the entrance. The filters are only 10 feet by 5 feet, with 4 inch walls between them, and I think that they would not be nearly so much availed of by people in Canberra except on very good days in the summer. For six months of the year people would not go near them, and on wild, windy days even in the summer, they would not be very well patronised. The revenue derived would be much greater from closed baths. I prefer not to offer any opinion on the architectural plans submitted: It is right out of my line. My work is utilitarian, not ornamental.

22. To Senator Reid. — The water in the baths is not changed three times a day. It is the same water which is continuously running out and running in again at a rate which supplies and fills the baths three times a day. In some baths the water circulates completely only once a day, but we found that by having the water circulate three times a day we could increase the number of people using the baths. The number who may use the baths is determined according to a formula under the standards I have quoted. The water is not only cleansed, but sterilized also. The filtering of the water makes it clear and transparent, but does not sterilize it. Sterilization is effected by the process of chlorination. After the water has been chlorinated it is better and proper for bathing purposes even than the water from
the Cotter itself. According to plans prepared by the Commission, provisions are made for a small gallery for spectators at the end of the pool. It would be possible to have a gallery along one side with dressing sheds underneath, but the lay-out would have to be altered. In some of our earlier trial designs we did make provision for a gallery along the side, but we came to the conclusion that it would be too expensive. By utilizing the area around the pool, I think it might be possible to get as many as 4,000 spectators into the building, and that might be all that would be needed. That could be done with the present design. It would, of course, be done only on special occasions, and the place would have to be thoroughly cleaned before the baths were used again. There is no reason why the baths could not be built in such a way that galleries could afterwards be built along the sides if necessary. Personally, I think that nearly everyone would avail themselves of baths if they were built. The transport problem could be overcome by the buses issuing bath tickets, which would enable bathers to travel to two sections for the price of one, and which would give access to the baths also. I think most people would use the baths at night rather than when they knocked off work in the afternoon.

As for the swimming pool. For the wading pool it would be necessary only to draw the water off and fill the pool again. I do not think the wading pool would have anything to do with the swimming baths. It could be built somewhere among the trees, or in some park area accessible to the children. If necessary, more than one paddling pool could be built. They could be placed wherever they were wanted.

24. To Senator Reid.—An ordinary concrete bottom would do for the bathing pool. The swimming pool, of course, should be tiled. I do not think it would be advisable to place sand over the concrete bottom of the wading pool. It would make it very difficult to keep the pool clean, and sand would tend to clog the pipes.

(Taken at Canberra.)

MONDAY, 16th DECEMBER, 1929.

Present:

Mr. Lacey, Chairman;
Senator Dooley | Mr. Curtin
Senator Reid | Mr. Gregory
Senator Sampson | Mr. Holloway
Mr. M. Cameron | Mr. Long.

John Samuel Crapp, president of the Citizens League, Canberra, sworn and examined.

25. To the Chairman.—The provision of public baths for Canberra has occupied the attention of my league for some considerable time. We consider a public swimming pool a necessity in the interests of the rising generation, and we believe that if the State of the finances will not, at the moment, permit of adequate arrangements being made, it would be better to allow the matter to stand in abeyance rather than that the people should have to put up with some makeshift arrangement. The public baths for Canberra should be in keeping with the ideals of the Capital City. If the proposal were to construct baths to be used for only the summer months, I should say that an open-air swimming pool would be preferable; but we take the view that further expenditure on an enclosed pool which could be heated during the winter months would be justified. I have had experience of three summers in Canberra, and I feel sure that open-air baths would not be used for more than three or four months in each year. If the baths were enclosed and heated artificially, they could be used throughout the year, as the warm weather entertainment as well as recreation, could be provided for the citizens. We have discussed this subject at a number of public meetings, and the committee of the league has considered several suggested sites. The most suitable location, in our opinion, would be in the vicinity of site number 7. We believe that site number 2, suggested by the Commission, will not meet the needs of the future population. At present there is no bus route near site number 7, but we have every reason to believe that one will be established before long to enable the people of North Canberra to reach the swimming centre at Kingston by a direct route. This would take buses past the site which we suggest for the baths. Moreover, we claim that number 7 will be equidistant and within walking distance of the two large public schools. There is a strong feeling among residents in the northern suburbs that a more direct bus route should be provided for those who wish to shop at Kingston. At present, it takes them from three-quarters of an hour to one hour to make the journey. A bus route passing near to site number 7 would relieve the traffic congestion around the shops and enable the people of North Canberra to reach the site more quickly than by using the buses that we use at present. We believe that site number 7 is the best. Site number 4 would be convenient for school children from Telopea Park school, but inconvenient for children attending the Ainslie school. I may add that the committee of the league has considered the matter more from the point of view of the needs of the school children than adults. We have not discussed the proposed charges for admission. We do not approve of the Acton site, because we believe that in time the Commission will be succeeded by some other form of government and in all probability the Commission offices will be removed, so public baths located in that vicinity would not then meet the needs of the people. My committee has not considered the probability of the layout of the city being interfered with by the selection of site number 7, but the actual design has been departed from in minor respect on several occasions, and I cannot see how a swimming pool on site number 7 will seriously affect the layout of the city. I do not approve of a location in the vicinity of Civic Centre. A wading pool for small children should be provided adjacent to but not actually as part of the public baths, because of the danger of small children wading into water beyond their depth.

26. To Mr. Curtin.—We believe that in a few years' time site number 7 will more nearly meet the requirements of the capital than any of the other locations mentioned. The majority of the citizens own motor cars. Therefore we think that the convenience of those people living in the weatherboard area, and at the Causeway, which may be regarded as industrial centres, should be considered in fixing on the site for the public baths here. Because of the scattered nature of settlement in Canberra, there will be very little early morning swimming unless provision is made for more than one swimming pool. My committee would not approve of any proposal for a makeshift. We believe that it would be better for all concerned to expend, say, £30,000 on an up-to-date swimming pool, one that could be heated in winter time and made in every way attractive; than to spend £7,000 or £8,000 on two swimming pools for summer bathing only. Unless the pool is heated it will not be used for more than four months in each year, and it will be similar to swimming in any other cities, but I am sure that public baths here will not be successful without heating and protection from the cold winds. In Sydney, where most of the swimming is done in the open sea, men and women indulge in this recreation for at least eight
months in the year. I am familiar with the conditions in the Armidale district. The baths there are not heated for winter swimming. Consequently, they are used only during the summer months. I would not think of plunging into the water for six months of the year in Canberra unless I knew it had been heated. If there were enclosed baths and provisions for heating, the people would be encouraged to use them fairly extensively in winter, and after business hours at night. So far as I am aware there is no instruction in swimming at any of our public schools during the winter months because the conditions then are not favorable. Because of the climatic conditions at Canberra, provision must be made for the protection of bathers from the cold winds.

37. To Mr. Long.—My committee considers that the additional outlay on enclosed baths and provision for heating the water in winter will be fully justified. Even during the last few days we have had unusually cold winds which would deter bathers from entering the water unless they had some form of protection. My first preference is for site number 7; my second for number 4, and my third for number 2. Number 7 site will be within fifteen minutes walking distance of both the large public schools. I believe that, if the swimming pool is artificially heated it will be largely used in the winter. If I were considering this proposal from the point of view of private enterprise, I should not hesitate for a moment. I should decide in favour of an enclosed swimming pool and arrange for artificial heating. I do not think that public baths will be in the nature of a nine-days' wonder, because Canberra is different from many other inland centres, in that it has not so many attractions, so a well-organized swimming club should be able to cater for the entertainment of the people as well as the recreation of its members. I feel sure that the Government will be justified in authorizing the additional expenditure necessary to construct an enclosed swimming pool, as against open bathas.

38. To Mr. M. Cameron.—Unless we have an enclosed swimming pool it will be used for only a short period each year. The change in temperature during summer is not always so drastic as we have experienced during the last few days, and usually a cold change lasts for only 24 or 48 hours. Under present conditions, number 4 site, near the Hotel Canberra, would be convenient, and that is my second choice. If the lake scheme for the city area were carried out, the possibility of crossing over the Molonglo in the vicinity of St. John's Church would disappear. So if the public baths were located at number 7 site people who wished to reach it from the eastern part of the city area would have to make a considerable detour unless, as we anticipate, other crossings were made to the eastward of the lake scheme.

39. To Mr. Gregory.—If the lake scheme were carried out and if there were no other crossings provided, I should prefer No. 4 site, but that is looking a long way ahead. If arrangements could be made to construct the baths so as to allow of further improvements such as enclosing and heating subsequently, it might be advisable to carry out the scheme in that way; but unless the water is heated during the colder months the swimming pool will not be used for more than three or four months of each year. The swimming pool in the Molonglo was well patronised last summer until the water was unsatisfactory.

40. To Senator Dooley.—Site No. 7 is about the same distance from both public schools. At present, No. 3 site is well-served by a bus route, but it is quite possible that in seven or eight years' time, because of the increase in population, there will be an urgent demand for greater bathing facilities. There is a swimming pool in the Cotter river below the dam, but it is fifteen miles distant, and is not used to any extent except by those who own motor cars. We are more concerned about the school children than the adult population.

51. Senator Reid.—There have been no swimming facilities to speak of available in Canberra since the transfer of public servants. A swimming pool on site No. 4 would be convenient for all public servants employed in the various secretariats, but I imagine that the majority, instead of going for a swim immediately after office hours would prefer to go home and change into suitable clothes and then return to the baths. Under present conditions, No. 4 site is the most convenient, but we are thinking of the future and we believe that No. 7 will more nearly meet the requirements of the people. If the baths were enclosed and the water heated it would be possible to arrange for swimming carnivals, and in this way add to the revenue. There is practically no other form of entertainment available to the people apart from the regular outdoor sports such as cricket, football and tennis. Canberra has no relative parallel in other capital cities. In other capital cities the people have ample opportunities for sea bathing, and the populations of such cities as Bendigo, Bellarat and Kalgoorlie and towns like Albury and Orange differ materially from that of Canberra. In this city, the majority are public servants. A considerable percentage of their income is transferred to their families. In every other capital city the people here are supposed to be up to date, and I have no doubt that in no other city in Australia are the inhabitants so well catered for as in Canberra in the matter of private baths and perhaps hot water services. The majority of public servants may be regarded as indoor employees and under ordinary climatic conditions would prefer open-air bathing and sun-bathing; but unless we provide enclosed baths and arrange to have the water artificially heated the swimming pool will not be used to any great extent except in the summer months. It is not suggested that the revenue from the users of the baths will be sufficient to meet interest and maintenance costs, because, like every other public utility in Canberra, the swimming pool should be planned for the needs of the future population. Our water supply scheme, electric light services, and sewerage system have been designed to meet the needs of a population of 50,000. It would be unjust to expect the present generation of users of any of these services to provide all the revenue necessary for the payment of interest, maintenance and contribution to the sinking fund.

The witness withdrew.
Lewis Windermere Nott, Medical Practitioner, Superintendent of Canberra Hospital, sworn and examined.

33. To the Chairman.—I am aware that there is a general desire among the citizens of Canberra, for the establishment of public baths in this city, and I am familiar with the several sites suggested. I prefer the site at Anzac-parkway, near St. John's Church on the Anzicale side. Because of the climatic conditions obtaining at the present time and the falling water level, the baths will be much over-done nowadays. The rapid climatic changes in Canberra would militate against the success of open-air bathing. High external walls around an open-air swimming pool would meet the case, because the dust-laden atmosphere would quickly contaminate the swimming pool and render frequent cleansing imperative. If the baths are enclosed, and the temperature of the water is raised to between 60 and 70 degrees, the air temperature in the baths will correspond to the temperature of the water so that it will not be necessary to have additional artificial heating in the building itself, and if sound architectural principles are followed, the ventilation should be quite satisfactory. For the type of population we have in Canberra, facilities are required for bathing all the year round.

34. To Mr. Long.—I am perfectly sure that from the point of view of physical development the establishment of public baths in Canberra is an urgent necessity. All children should be taught the art of swimming and receive instruction in efficient principles of life-saving. Enclosed baths with water artificially heated will be patronized to a much greater extent than open-air swimming pools. Swimming is regarded as being beneficial to health, but in my judgment it is much over-done nowadays. The rapid climatic changes in Canberra would militate against the success of open-air bathing. High external walls around an open-air swimming pool would meet the case, because the dust-laden atmosphere would quickly contaminate the swimming pool and render frequent cleansing imperative. If the baths are enclosed, and the temperature of the water is raised to between 60 and 70 degrees, the air temperature in the baths will correspond to the temperature of the water so that it will not be necessary to have additional artificial heating in the building itself, and if sound architectural principles are followed, the ventilation should be quite satisfactory. For the type of population we have in Canberra, facilities are required for bathing all the year round.

35. To Mr. M. Cameron.—I consider this provision necessary in the interests of health and for the recreation of the people. Swimming should be included in the curriculum of all the schools. The Molonglo swimming pool last year was condemned as being unsafe, from a health point of view. The water of all suspended matter, but if the pool is not enclosed, dust may settle in the water and contaminate the water subsequent to filtration. Duststorms are fairly prevalent at this time of the year, so I am absolutely certain that, in the interests of public health, the baths should be enclosed.

36. To Mr. Gregory.—When the committee, of which I was a member, investigated this proposal some time ago, it is estimated that there would be 600 ticket holders, members of the swimming club, and that it would be necessary to provide transport facilities for school children attending for the purpose of instruction. When we are considering the site, I assume that the site recommended, was under the impression that the lake system would not materialize for another 25 or 30 years, and that the population would then have increased to such an extent that there would be a demand for swimming pools on both sides of the river. I assume that arrangements will be made for the transport of all children to the baths. The present low-level bridge giving access to the site which I recommend is at times under water. I understand that the Christian Brothers will build a school on their site north of the river so that there will be schools at the extreme northern and extreme southern end of the Federal Capital area. That being so, the site at Anzac-parkway should be the most convenient from the point of view of all the schools. My second preference is for No. 4 site; but, as I have said, I should like to see the baths established on No. 4 site as I believe that a recreational building like that suggested should not be in competition with the monumental public buildings. I assume that the filtration plan will provide for the adequate agititation and aeration of the water, but I do not know under what pressure the water will be forced through the filter beds. Efficient filters will deal with the bulk of the suspended matter which would lodge in the water as the result of duststorms, and chlorination will prevent algae from multiplying. I should prefer the wading pools to be established in well-known picnic spots or some of the public reserves convenient to the residential areas, and I suggest that the water should not be more than 18 inches deep. There should not be much danger of contamination of the water from the dust off visitors' shoes, if additional temporary accommodation were provided at the baths for special occasions such as carnivals.

37. To Senator Dooley.—If provision is to be made for sunbathing, I suggest that it should not be in connection with the baths, because not a few people object to others indulging in this practice. Arrangements could be made, I suppose, for sunbathing on the roof of the baths, but probably that would mean additional expenditure on foundations to carry the flat roof.

38. To Senator Reid.—I am absolutely certain that satisfactory arrangements could be made for three swimming schools with wading pools. These would attract good attendances, thereby adding to the revenue of the baths. The expenses need not be heavy, because most of the swimmers are amateurs, and are not paid
appearance money. Winter swimming would be largely in the nature of an experiment, but I feel certain that if it were encouraged, an increasing number of people would continue with what is at present regarded as an unusual recreation. With the proper arrangement money would be provided and the number taking part in it would progressively increase, especially if swimming becomes part of the curriculum of our schools.

The children of the average parents have multifarious duties to perform, but I am sure that if transport facilities were provided, there would not be serious objection on the part of parents to swimming being included in the school curriculum. In my opinion, a considerable number of public servants would patronize the baths in the luncheon hour. This is the experience in metropolitan centres. I assume also that if the baths are properly equipped, there will be a great deal of interest in swimming. I agree that at present No. 4 site would suit the convenience of the majority of the people, but from an aesthetic point of view I do not approve of the narrowness of this site, which I regard as an important recreation for all the part of parents to swimming being included in the curriculum of our schools.

With a well-equipped public baths we should have a healthy swimming club, and the people would then be encouraged to indulge in this recreation for a considerable period each year.

40. To the Chairman.—I should prefer swimming to be made compulsory in our schools, and, accordingly, I should not oppose a proposal to make it free; as I consider it an essential part of every child's education. Most of the children below school-going age would not be taken to the public baths, but if wading pools were provided in convenient locations, their mothers would no doubt, allow the little ones to enjoy the pastime of wading in shallow water. An efficient transport system will be an important factor in the success of the public baths in Canberra.

42. To the Chairman.—I have considered, in a general way, the proposal to establish public baths in Canberra. The site would be a public park that has a water front. It seems to me that we should choose a site for the Canberra baths at a spot where there would be a park near the edge of the proposed lake, and for that reason, I am attracted to the site near Northbourne Avenue. The new scheme of works would be most in line with the ANZAC-reserve. My opinion as to the aesthetic value of any site would be of no special value. The hospital is not now located on the site assigned to it on the city plan, and the question arises whether we should continue to spend more money on the present site, or establish a hospital on a new site.

If the baths were established on the site definitely assigned for hospital purposes, the land would be unsuitable for the erection of a permanent hospital. To prevent any danger to health, it is necessary to provide means for ensuring the cleanliness of the baths before he bathes and also for ensuring a supply of clean water. There should also be proper dressing rooms, and provision for preliminary showers and foot pools. Another requirement is proper drainage facilities, such as sunk gutters and vacuum cleaning apparatus for the latter. The baths should be placed below the flood level, which is unlikely to happen. Open baths would probably furnish a more hygienic environment than closed baths, but it would be impracticable to have a fully equipped bath system unless it was enclosed. On some days an open bath could not be kept clean because of dust. Certain standards that are already well established have been laid down in great detail by an American committee. If this committee has not already had them, I can make them available. Given the conditions therein laid down, it can suggest no other precautions. Concrete is impervious to water, and it seems to favour the growth of algae, which would immediately make the swimming pool unpopular, and associated with which is a certain degree of risk. The baths should be covered with some material of a baked, vitreous nature. The water from the baths could quite well be run into the Molonglo, or used for the watering of gardens. I am not sure to the effect that any residual chlorine would have on plant life. Some plants might not stand it; but it would not be irremovable from a health point of view, if it were disposed of in either of these ways. The treatment required for the purification of the water is circulation, filtration and chlorination.
number of times that it should be changed is best determined by bacteriological examination at intervals; but, two or three times a year it should be totally changed. Examination should be made every three or four times a year. Since less bathing would make more than necessary. It is rather healthy in fact. Its use is one of the facilities of wading pools. There would be much dust in the summer and so little warmth that school children, taught to swim, and those lessons might properly be distributed over the whole year as part of the school curriculum. The site of the proposed baths should be decided having regard, not to the present, but the ultimate distribution of population.

48. To Senator Southey.—I have given no previous consideration to the subject of wading pools. There is so much dust in the summer and so little warm weather that I am not sure to what extent these proposals would be in favour throughout the year.

49. To Mr. M. Cameron.—There is some doubt as to whether the present hospital will be removed in the near future. I think that the original hospital site extends right across the suggested site at Acton. I have never been swimming on the Molonglo, and swimming is always good for the development of physique, and it reacts beneficially on the health of the bathers. Generally speaking, I say that the proposed expenditure of £30,000 is warranted, but if I were in control of affairs here, and there was only £30,000 available, and if I had to choose between baths and new abattoirs, I would spend the money on the latter, because they are more urgently needed.

50. To Mr. Gregory.—The water of the river Molonglo is unsuitable for bathing purposes, because it contains too much suspended matter. In a tiled bath it would look very objectionable. Bacteriological counts have been made and the best count was considerably worse than the lowest permitted by any of the recognized standards. Even if we arranged for filtration and chlorination of the Molonglo water, there would still be the uncertainty in the supply as well as the cost of the work. I think that the fact that this river runs through Queanbeyan, which is unsuitable, has something to do with the condition of the water. It might be advantageous to run water from the baths into the sewer, but on the other hand, the chlorine might adversely affect the digestion of the sewage. This water would not tend to cause the growth of algae, but would rather have the reverse effect.

46. To Senator Reid.—The sluggish flow of the Molonglo in comparison with the width of the stream causes the water to have a muddy appearance. This river consists of a series of pools, with a slight overflow from one to another. Artificially heated baths, which need a constant temperature of the water, would not be suitable for this time. As a parent, I, personally, should encourage their use. The distance from the baths to various parts of the city would not be very great, and, of course, there is the bus service. It would be necessary to regulate the temperature of the water in winter so that it would not be kept too warm, and hot water would be used. This might be done in one of the ways suggested by Mr. Cameron. I have been unable to say to what extent they would be used. These things are apt to come and go in public favour somewhat capriciously. Experience shows that it is quite possible to keep water pure by chlorination. Water so treated has a definite odour and a definite taste, but it is not unpleasant; it is rather healthy in fact. Its use is one of the facilities of wading pools. There would be much dust in the summer and so little warm weather that school children, taught to swim, and those lessons might properly be distributed over the whole year as part of the school curriculum. The site of the proposed baths should be decided having regard, not to the present, but the ultimate distribution of population.

47. To Mr. Holloway.—The provision of facilities for sun-bathing in open baths need not be discussed, because the amount of sunshine experienced here is quite sufficient for the requirements of the citizens. You ask me whether it would be better to establish two or three open baths for the money that closed baths would cost. I point out in the first place that so much dust is experienced here in summer that open baths could never be kept clean; they would become very dirty after dust storms such as that experienced last week. It is most important to remember that open baths would be quite unsuitable for winter use in Canberra. Those who have lived here in July and August, know that it would be idle to suggest the use of open baths at that time of the year. Such baths would limit the swimming season to about three months in the year. I strongly urge the desirability of swimming instruction being given throughout the year. Children cannot be taught to swim in three months of the year. Quite apart from the health aspect, it seems to me to be rather an important duty of the community to see that the children are given an opportunity to learn to swim. I am rather definitely in favour of closed and adequate baths, and it seems to me that £30,000 is not a large sum to spend on an establishment that will provide bathing facilities for, say, 30 years.
wonders if it would be desirable to bring a civic function into an official area. It is said that this site is about mid-way between the northern and southern portions of the city, and would involve a 3d. bus fare for the patrons of the baths. I have not formulated a view on that matter, but the present distribution of population is not at all likely to coincide with the ultimate distribution. I think that eventually the majority of the people will live on the Ainslie side. The Forrest area is already built on, but the northern areas are far more desirable for residential purposes than those of the south. The population on the south side may be regarded as temporary. It seems to me that we should consider how the population will be eventually distributed.

(Taken at Canberra.)

TUESDAY, 17th DECEMBER, 1929.

Present:

Mr. Laeoyt, Chairman;
Senator Dooley | Mr. Gregory
Senator Reid | Mr. Holloway
Mr. M. Cameron | Mr. Long.
Mr. Curtin


50. To the Chairman.—I have been a resident of Canberra for over fifteen years. At present I reside at No. 15 Eastlake. By trade I am a carpenter, but on account of the scarcity of work I am now employed as nightwatchman at the offices of the Commission. I am greatly interested in the proposal to establish public baths at Canberra, and have discussed the matter with the people with whom I associate. There is a strong demand for these facilities. I consider that any baths erected should be open, for health reasons. No people in the world are more fond of the open air than are Australians. Open baths could be used during the whole of the cricket season, from the 1st September to Easter time. The fact that young girls go to their offices in the middle of winter wearing sleeveless dresses indicates plainly that they are fond of the open air. There are various types of open baths. The Bronte bath is completely open; but if there were a Palladium of the site at Scott’s Crossing, it is almost the centre of the city proper, is within easy walking distance of Eastlake, and is handy to the offices and Ainslie. We should erect baths that will be self-supporting. In Pretoria, they have baths that are partly closed in. The water is pumped from the heights and flows through continuously. When it leaves the baths it is used to clean the streets. Then it is conveyed by pipes to the sewage farm. It is used to irrigate vegetable gardens that supply Johannes­burg regularly with vegetables. Those baths are a paying concern. The reason that I advocate Scott’s Crossing is that for a very small expenditure you could have an almost continuous flow of water. It could be conveyed through pipes across the river, and the Dunroon flats could be turned into market gardens. That would go a long way towards removing the present scarcity of vegetables in Canberra, and the baths would be a really good paying concern. Any company would be only too happy to take them over. I do not see any chance of the baths paying here if you incur a large expenditure on artificial heating. It would be interesting to find out what is the cost of heating the Government offices. I would not go to tremendous expense in the erection of a beautiful building. The cardinal point to keep in view is to have real good baths. Then if you had any money to spare you could put up a nice building and cover it in. If a man wants a hot bath he should be compelled to pay for it. I have no wish to swim in hot water, but the northern areas are far more desirable for residential purposes than those of the south. The population on the south side may be regarded as temporary. It seems to me that we should consider how the population will be eventually distributed.

51. To Mr. Holloway.—I believe that the majority of the people at Canberra would prefer to have open baths.

52. To Mr. Long.—The demand for baths has been growing rapidly. The first sports club that was formed after I came here was a swimming club. There has always been an agitation for baths, but for some reason or other the proposal has not been proceeded with. I consider that the demand justifies their construction. I do not think that the rapid climatic changes that take place in Canberra will have any effect on the patience, which, in my opinion, will be sufficiently great to justify the holding of carnivals. If the baths are fitted up with proper appliances, the football clubs and other sporting bodies will use them for training purposes. If they are established at a reasonable cost, and are properly maintained, they will pay. I prefer to swim in water in its natural state rather than to have it artificially heated. I do not think it is the wish of the sporting people that the water should be heated.

53. To Mr. M. Cameron.—I favour Scott’s Crossing because it is central. The St. John’s Church site is also central, and favorable to the irrigation scheme I have suggested.

The witness withdrew.

Joseph Stewart Weatherston, Hansard Reporter, sworn and examined.

54. To the Chairman.—I am appearing before the committee as the representative of the Parliamentary Officers on the Public Service Welfare Committee. I have been empowered to express the opinion of that committee on the matter referred to by the last speaker. I regard the establishment of public baths in Canberra. During the week-end I consulted the various delegates over the telephone, and ascertained their views. An overwhelming majority of them are in favour of site marked No. 4 on the plan. It is on a permanent bus route. The two bus routes fork within 100 yards or so of the site, and to reach it a resident in any part of Canberra would have to pay only one fare. The largest concentration of public officers will be in the administrative block, within a quarter of a mile of this site, and within a radius of 1,500 or 2,000. The intention underlying the establishment of Canberra is to have all the Federal activities here, and that means the compulsory transfer of large numbers of public servants. We are selfish enough to think that the prime consideration always should be the welfare of the public servants. Therefore, we consider that bathing facilities should be made to suit us. The suggested site at Acton (No. 7) is not regarded favorably by us, not only because it is inconvenient, but also because it would involve an additional bus fare. Further, we recognize that the peninsula on which the Commission offices now stand will ultimately be abandoned, and that will mean the abandonment of the bus route in that direction. It will then be along Commonwealth-avenue, in as direct a line as possible to Civic Centre. If the baths were on the Acton peninsula those who wished to make use of them would be compelled to walk a considerable distance from the bus route. The same remarks apply to the suggested site in the neighbourhood of the Rectory. There is no chance that this locality except on Sundays, for the benefit of those who attend divine service at St. John’s Church. The bus services are not paying at the present time, and it is not likely that they will be supplemented to suit intermittent travellers to the baths. From a citizen’s point of view, we consider that it would be better to have the baths at No. 4 site for a start, and to provide further facilities in the northern...
and southern areas at a later date in the development of Canberra, particularly wading pools for children in the neighbourhood of the schools. My committee has not considered in any detail with which bath would be opened first. I have also been asked to place before your committee the views of the Canberra branch of the Australian Natives Association. It was that body which initiated the move in Canberra for the establishment of baths. It favours an even temperature of water throughout the year, and understands that that would involve the roofing of the baths. There is a feeling that some opportunity should be given for indulgence in sun bathing. It might be possible to have a considerable portion of the roof glassed. That would provide a means of controlling the temperature of the baths, and at the same time, if the rays of the sun to penetrate to the pool. In the event of that being impossible, I consider that heating throughout the year would be more advantageous than sun bathing. There is also need to make arrangements for a cafe, for which facility the plan does not appear to make any provision. A small cafe would be the means of adding to the revenue derived by the baths. People returning along Commonwealth Avenue from the Cotter would stop there for light refreshments, which otherwise would not be obtainable except by making a considerable detour by Manuka or Eastlake. Such a cafe would also be a convenience to members of the Public Service, who are located in the Secretariats, and be of great advantage to school children who attend the baths. Provision along these lines ought to be made.

55. To Senator Dooley.—There should be ample gallery provision for parents to watch their children bathing, and for spectators at carnivals. I suppose that £40 or £50 would provide plenty of material such as Oregon, that could be erected at a moment's notice. The attendance at the baths would not, on the average, be as many as 100 or 150 a day. There are some thousands of people who enjoy an early morning dip, but it would be too much to expect a daily average of 150 throughout the year.

56. To Senator Reid.—I believe the baths would be more freely patronized if the water was kept at an even temperature throughout the year. The climate of Canberra is exceedingly variable. If you have your bath water at an even temperature you provide greater facilities for night bathing. I am sure that the opportunity to bathe in the luncheon hour would be availed of largely by public servants, particularly if there were a cafe at which they could get a snack. The attendance at the baths would not, on the average, be as many as 100 or 150 a day. There are the schools and other places where many people enjoy an early morning dip, but it would be too much to expect a daily average of 150 throughout the year.

57. To Mr. Holloway.—There has been, is, and will continue to be, an insistent demand for bathing facilities. I agree that school children must be considered first. The proximity of Melbourne, school children are transported long distances to the baths in special trains once or twice a week. Four of the five schools in Canberra are fairly close to the site I suggest. On the principle of a bird in hand being worth two in the bush, I think we ought to get the baths open in a central position, and later endeavour to have others constructed in other parts. If it were decided to divide the available funds and construct two baths you would have to cut down in some direction. I understand that channels will probably be cut to the baths, that would be better for heating apparatus and the submarine lighting. It would be a pity to economize by cutting those channels out. They could be let into the concrete so that they would be ready for future development in the matter of heating and lighting. The amount saved could be utilized in the construction of other baths somewhere else.

58. To Mr. Long.—I consider that the support given to the proposed cafe would be sufficient to justify the additional expenditure involved. A cafe in this neighbourhood is badly wanted.

59. To Mr. M. Cameron, I favour the revenue derived from the cafe being devoted to the maintenance of the baths.

60. To Mr. Gregory.—Such a cafe would not be inside the baths but in the foyer. Biscuits, confectionery and other articles could be purchased on entering or leaving the baths. It might be better to have it altogether outside the main building and thus remove any possibility of pollution of the water. I am not in favour of the children's wading pool being attached to the baths. If possible, there should be separate arrangements for wading pools not connected to the baths. We should endeavour to have the possibility of inducing swimmers from other parts to visit Canberra to participate in swimming carnivals, but it goes without saying that that will eventuate. It would not be necessary to have permanent accommodation for more than 100 spectators. Temporary galleries could be provided at very little cost and kept on hand for such occasions. I have had to utilize provision of that sort in connection with lawn tennis carnivals. Such structures can be erected in half a day. There would need to be room for them on the site. The danger of pollution could be overcome by the engineers. All our requirements would be met if provision were made for heating apparatus to be installed at a later date. So long as we are given the baths we shall be satisfied to have the other things added subsequently. Although the population of Canberra is limited just now, it will steadily grow. It must always be remembered that the public servants in Canberra have been transferred compulsorily from the seaside to a dry interior. For the time being, it would not be unsatisfactory to have the baths a distance of a couple of miles from the centre where the transport facilities are not very good and the heat is great. Assuming that there is to be only one bath for many years, the site I have suggested would give satisfaction.
John Leo Mulrooney, President of the Canberra Football League and the Northbourne Cricket Club, sworn and examined.

61. To the Chairman.—I was treasurer of the Social Service Association which functioned for some considerable time, but ultimately grew too unwieldy, and has now passed out of existence. It was an organization created by Sir John Butters for the purpose of considering various sporting and social propositions that might be submitted for the benefit of the people of Canberra. I am aware of the proposal to establish public baths. Several public meetings have been held which affirmed the urgent need for proper swimming facilities, and I was one of a sub-committee of five appointed by the citizens of Canberra to formulate a comprehensive scheme which was submitted to the Federal Capital Commission, but probably has now been forgotten. I believe it is the unanimous wish of the people of Canberra that swimming baths should be established here. The following statement furnishes particulars of fifteen swimming pools, all, with one exception, in Victoria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suburb where Pool Located</th>
<th>Cost (Approximate)</th>
<th>Dimensions and Capacity</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Charges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camberwell</td>
<td>£11,000</td>
<td>100 feet long; 36 ft. to 75 ft. wide; 2 ft. 9 in. to 9 feet deep; 220,000 gallons</td>
<td>£2,000 per season (Season is from 1st November to 30th April)</td>
<td>£13 15s. per week = £487 10s. for season, or 14½ per cent. on capital invested</td>
<td>Season tickets—adults 15s.; juniors, 6d.; children under fourteen years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malvern</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>300 feet long; 30 feet to 100 feet deep; 6 inches to 8 ft. 6 in. deep. Racing track 60 meters; 250,000 gallons</td>
<td>£700 per season (November-April. Attendance—Adults, 25,000; juniors, 20,000; School children in mornings, 10,000)</td>
<td>£650 for season</td>
<td>Season tickets—adults, 15s.; juniors, 10s. 6d.; family tickets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>£9,000</td>
<td>130 feet long; 60 feet; 2 ft. 6 in. to 7 ft. 6 in. deep; 250,000 gallons</td>
<td>£200 for season</td>
<td>£260 per annum</td>
<td>Season tickets—gentlemen 15s.; schoolboys 10s. 6d.; ladies, 6s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collingwood</td>
<td>£8,000</td>
<td>122 feet long; 80 feet; 2 ft. long; 6 in. to 8 ft. deep; 450,000 gallons</td>
<td>£200 for season</td>
<td>£260 per annum</td>
<td>Charges for admission:—adults, 15s.; children, 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonee Ponds</td>
<td>£2,268</td>
<td>150 feet long; 65 feet wide; 3 feet to 7 feet deep; 55,000 gallons</td>
<td>£200 for season</td>
<td>£260 per annum</td>
<td>Season tickets—adults, 15s.; juniors, 10s. 6d.; ladies, 6s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.M.C.A. (Melb.)</td>
<td>£10,000 to £12,000</td>
<td>Attendance 1928, 63,000</td>
<td>£200 for season</td>
<td>£260 per annum</td>
<td>Season tickets—adults, 15s.; juniors, 6d.; schoolboys 10s. 6d.; ladies, 6s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kew</td>
<td>£7,000</td>
<td>158 feet long; 60 feet wide</td>
<td>Season 1927-28, £311</td>
<td>£250.</td>
<td>Season tickets—Men. £1; Ladies 15s.; Junior 10s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northcote</td>
<td>£6,000</td>
<td>200 feet long; 50 feet wide</td>
<td>Operation expenses met but not interest.</td>
<td>£210.</td>
<td>Season tickets—adults, 15s.; under fifteen, 10s. 6d.; Schools 1d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>£11,000; Filtration Plant £3,000; land £2,600</td>
<td>200 feet over all length; 90 ft. to 30 ft. wide; 15 in. to 6 ft. 6 in. deep; 280,000 gallons</td>
<td>1st month £200 (opened 10th November, 1928)</td>
<td>£12 per week.</td>
<td>Adults 15s.; Children 10s.; 3d. swimming; 6d. towel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick (Victoria)</td>
<td>Originally cost £3,000; Spent £32,000 on additions, including building and filtration plants</td>
<td>Men's 65 yards long; 20 yards wide; 2 feet to 14 feet deep; 400,000 gallons; women's 75 feet long; 33 feet wide; 3 feet to 8 feet deep; 80,000 gallons</td>
<td>£200 per annum from 1925-28</td>
<td>£500 per annum from 1925-28</td>
<td>Adults £350; half-yearly (S.) 15s.; half-yearly (W.) 15s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CAMBERWELL.
The pool is an octagon shape, and the reasons for this novel shape are:

1. More accommodation is provided at less cost than in the usual rectangular shape.
2. It is found that non-swimmers are always in the majority and the shallow end is therefore wider.
3. Those who are learning to swim have a very definitely designed danger point, thus ensuring safety.
4. Requirements for swimming races are met by the sides being parallel.

Baths are open for six months in the year.

MAIRVEN.
Filtration plant, chlorinator, etc., cost £2,330.

Baths open during summer months, and no hot water baths provided.

PRESTON.
Erected mainly for the convenience of the many schools in the municipality.

There is also a wading pool, the depth of which is 18 inches to 3 feet.

Filtration plant cost £3,000.

HAZWORTH.

New baths opened on the 2nd November, 1925. Elaborate seating accommodation for 1,000 spectators who can see every movement in the water, owing to effective lighting system. Heating plant also included.

FOOTSCRAY.
Not yet opened. The old-style long lines of dressing rooms has been dispensed with, a large dressing room being provided for each seatee on either side of the entrance pavilion.

Two pools are provided—a swimming pool 154 feet by 75 feet, and a wading pool 60 feet by 30 feet, and an average depth of 2 feet. Both pools are lined to the sides with white glazed tiles while the larger pool has black racing guide lines.

The swimming club rooms provide meeting places for different clubs.

MELBOURNE.
Heating plant keeps water, when required, to 70 degrees.

Hot and cold water showers provided.

Reconstructed baths at North Melbourne and Carlton will be opened shortly.

Young Men’s Christian Association—Temperature of the pool is maintained at 72 degrees to 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

So far as Australia is concerned, each year sees an increase in the number of swimmers and the demand for well conducted and sanitary places in which to enjoy the healthiest of sports. The question of expenditure seems to be secondary to public health considerations. In America there are thousands of privately controlled pools operating. These pools are not simply an excavation filled with water. The proprietor, who is a business man and realizes how dependent he is upon good will, looks after the comfort and convenience of patrons. There is a restaurant attached to most pools, accommodation for parking and picnicking and everything in the way of tobacco, soaps, sweets, etc., can be purchased. The authorities are to be congratulated upon their having definitely jettisoned the idea of using Molonglo water. The matter of vital importance to bathers is the purity of the water used. Let us adopt the slogan “Swim in Drinking Water” coined by public health associations in America. It is in the last few years only, that plant for the purification of swimming pool water has been made in Australia. The first installation was at the Young Men’s Christian Association (Melbourne). Shortly after a filtration system was installed at the Brisbane baths, at Camberwell, and at Malvern (Victoria). I understand that at some memorial baths have been erected by the Sol­ diers’ and Sailors’ Committee; and this includes a filtration and sterilization plant. The site for the baths is an all-important one, and it would appear that history is to repeat itself and Canberra is again to be concerned in a great battle of sites; but it is to be hoped it will not be necessary to re-incurrate Alexander Oliver of historic memory to settle the question. The site must be on a bus route, and it must be in a central position. Archaeological features of any kind would, I understand, be rendered possible by the site being on sloping ground. Of the sites suggested, that near the Church of England is the most suitable. At the present time, the residents of Ainslie, Reid, and Braddon who wish to get to Kingston will travel through many suburbs to reach Kingston. The journey takes about one hour and the residents of the suburbs I have named hope that the day is not far distant when there will be a direct bus to Kingston, which will thus save many useful hours of the housewife’s time. At the present time, the bus runs along Constitution-avenue on Sundays, so that much deviation will not be necessary to introduce a service over Scott’s Crossing. It will be approximately an equal distance from the schools on the north and south sides of the river, and in this respect, I refer to the fact that at the distribution of prizes yesterday afternoon, the lack of swimming facilities was referred to by the headmaster of the Telopea Park school. Mr. Christie’s statement that the children who would have baths next season was loudly cheered by the large assembly of boys and girls at Scott’s Crossing pool through a swimming bathing—for men, women, and children. Golf links, round courts, and bowling greens have been provided, and it is to be confidently anticipated that there will be no lack of interest in making available a pool which will meet every contingency. This is a democratic investment. An economical feature of any design is, it is understood, that there will be a sun bath more than the usual swim, and a larger portion of their time inside the enclosure is spent in basking in the sunshine. We should make full and wise use of the daily dividend that is paid to all out of the boundless resources of the solar system. Sunlight is being used, not only to keep healthy people well, but also to cure many sick people who respond to no other treatment. It is unfortunate that if we are to have the baths heated all the year round, it is absolutely essential that they must be roofed in. I am opposed to the roofing in of the baths, but if the roof is absolutely compulsory, let it be the flat roof so that there will be ample facilities for sun-bathing. Experience has shown that in very few instances in Australia have baths proved a paying proposition from a financial point of view only, but the establishment of a kiosk would be an excellent method of recovering revenue. This kiosk could also be the entrance pavilion and the attendant in addition to controlling the entrance could be the observer who is so essential at any bathing pool. It is also anticipated that any structure which may be erected will provide a gymnasium and a room where sporting organizations could hold their periodical meetings. This, then, would ultimately become the centre of sporting activity for the Federal Capital. I have examined the seven suggested sites,
but am unable to say whether the establishment of the baths on any of them would be contrary to the spirit underlying the design of Canberra. Speaking as a layman, I was under the impression that Canberra would be built in a north-westerly direction, and that any baths scheme should conform to the establishment of those centres opposed to site No. 4, because I cannot see whom it would serve. It might be useful in the case of those who work in the Secretariats, but I do not consider that it offers greater advantages than site No. 7, which would certainly serve a larger section of the community. I am of the opinion that they would be submersed to the swimming pool so that when parents were accompanied by their children they would be able to keep an eye on them.

62. To Senator Reid.—I do not think that any of the baths about which I have given particulars are paying propositions. From a revenue point of view, I do not know that there is any material difference between open and enclosed baths; they all seem to be losing approximately the same amount. Enclosed baths would provide greater facilities for those who wish to swim in the colder months of the year, but I do not think that they are more revenue producing. All the baths to which I have referred are in thickly populated areas, and they do not pay. Mr. Prince of Preston has said that the baths in that suburb were built principally for the convenience of school children. Only three of the number are heated. I have no information with respect to the attendances during the winter months. I admit that a fatal objection to any site would be the necessity to pay a double bus fare; but in the event of the site that I have suggested being chosen, we were hopeful of having the section extended to at least that spot. I have suggested that married men and their children ought to be transported free of charge, but that proposal would have to be made good by those who have been responsible for having Canberra built to its present design; in other words, the Nation. I am favorable to the construction of three baths. Such a proposition might involve the people in fairly considerable expenditure, but I sincerely hope that the residents of Canberra will not be called upon to pay more than they are paying at the present time. Even if free bus facilities and free baths were provided the people of Australia would get a good return, not in pounds, shillings and pence, but from a health point of view. Mr. Prince has said that the health of the people of Canberra is good, and that he does not see how we can be improved by bathing. I would not put my opinion against his, because I am only a layman. It might be argued that as the majority of the population work in the area in which site No. 4 is situated, that site would be the most suitable for those who would use the baths; but similar arguments could be advanced in regard to some of the other sites. There is one site opposite the Commission offices. If the people who work there would make use of the baths facilities provided there; would be a suitable position. But there are other people who have to be considered besides those who work in these buildings. It is certainly in a central position, and situated on a bus route. Those who live on both the north and south sides could be landed at the end of the section, and thus receive equal treatment. My proposal, however, is a double-barrelled one. Those who live on the north side want to see a new bus route instituted over Scott’s crossing. If that were ultimately brought about, the site between the Church of England and Scott’s crossing could be improved by making it a bus route. I hope that that day is not far distant. I live in the suburb of Reid, which, in regard to transport facilities, is very inconveniently situated. It takes over an hour to get from there to Kingston. We want the bus to go by the short route, so that a woman will not waste an afternoon doing her shopping. I consider that eventually site No. 7 will be the most suitable for the population of Canberra than site No. 4. It must be remembered that these are to be permanent baths. A proposal has been put forward to lay a line of railway through the city. If it were constructed, it would provide access to this site. There is a large area of land at North Annie that has been overlooked, and if baths were erected there they would be of considerable advantage to the people who live in the northern part of that suburb. Canberra is being built in that direction; the greatest activity is taking place near the north Annie.

63. To Mr. Holloway.—I admit that when we try to analyse the possibilities of the revenue being equal to the expenditure, we must take into consideration the geographical situation of Canberra, where the baths would not have to compete with open sea bathing such as the Melbourne baths have. I agree that baths which are situated in a place where open sea bathing cannot be indulged in ought to have a better chance of paying their way. Baths in Canberra will not only be used by the permanent residents, but will also be a considerable advantage to those who visit the city. Only last week a resident of Melbourne was in Canberra, and not the only one. That town has baths which are patronized by people who go there to keep dry. At the present time site No. 7 is not on a bus route. I favour the building of two or even three swimming pools so long as reasonable facilities are available. The Dandenong baths cost only £2,500, and they are excellent. If we had here a couple of baths like those, they would meet the convenience of the people, although the cost of building them here would be greater than in Melbourne, and it would be necessary to install a filtration plant. It would be best to have here baths that would cater for the people throughout the year. Not more than 50 “spartans” attend the St. Kilda baths in Melbourne, and if the water was not heated here, it is hardly likely that more than 5 would do so. I do not think that in other places temporary arrangements are made for accommodating spectators at carnivals. At Brunswick there is accommodation for 1,000 spectators.

64. To Mr. Long.—I know the location of the baths about which I have given particulars, and can say that they are conveniently situated, but I cannot speak with any degree of accuracy regarding the internal arrangements, except in the case of St. Kilda. I am opposed to the roofing in of the baths here. I should like facilities to be provided for sunbathing. If they are to be heated, and on that account must be roofed in, would it not be possible to have a flat roof and allow bathers to sunbathe on it? I believe that the revenue from a cafe would go a long way to justify the position of site No. 7 being involved. Taking all aspects into consideration, I consider that site No. 7 is the most suitable. The only objection at the present time is that it is not on a bus route; but we hope that the day is not far distant when that will be overcome. I think Mr. Prince recommended that the baths should be on No. 3 site at Acton. The reason which prompted me to support that recommendation was that the site was in the neighbourhood of the Bachelor’s Quarters, Hotel Acton, Beauchamp House, the Hospital and the Commission
offices. But I consider that we are doing too much for the single people and not sufficient for the married man, his wife and children. Taking those factors into consideration, I altered my opinion in favour of site No. 7.

65. To Mr. M. Cameron.—Even if I had longer time to consider the matter, I cannot say that I might again change my view. I cannot see the motive which underlies the suggestion that site No. 4 should be chosen. I am of the opinion that the people who live in Canberra are worse off than those who live in many other inland towns, in that they have not been allowed to select the place where they shall reside. They have been told that they must live in this or that suburb. If they went to another town they would have the choice of where to live. But I would not say that this is a more disagreeable place to live in than many other inland towns. I would not favour free transport for the people of other towns, but I would support free baths. In municipalities such as Malvern and Camberwell the baths are maintained principally out of the revenue received from the rates. Why should not the municipality of Canberra act similarly?

66. To Mr. Gregory.—I would not be in favour of a special rate to make up any deficiency. We are not asking for something for nothing; all that we want are reasonable facilities.

(Taken at Melbourne.)

FRIDAY, 10th JANUARY, 1930.

Present:

Mr. Lacey, Chairman;

Senator Sampson

Mr. M. Cameron

Mr. Long

Mr. Gregory

George Wall Bagot Hughes, General Secretary, Y.M.C.A., Melbourne, sworn and examined.

67. To the Chairman.—I am aware of the proposal to establish public baths at Canberra. The Young Men’s Christian Association pool in Melbourne was opened in January, 1926. I would not say that it is right up to the standard, but it is quite up to the standard required. It is 75 feet long and 30 feet wide. The depth varies from 3 feet 6 inches to 9 feet. One-third of the bath is between 3 feet and 4 feet in depth, and then it slopes rapidly to 9 feet, rising at the end of the wall to 6 feet 6 inches. The bottom is spoon-shaped. The membership of the association has considerably increased, and, therefore, the use of the pool has also increased. The following figures show the extent to which the pool has been availed of, holidays and Sundays being excluded:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of bathers</th>
<th>Daily average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>36,623</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>46,647</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>62,253</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>65,023</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following tables show the extent to which the pool has been availed of, holidays and Sundays being excluded:

**Receipts.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>1011</td>
<td>1077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap and Towels</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Swims</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbaths</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>149</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1928</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and wages</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap and Towels</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light and Power</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil and Coke</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coagulant and Chlorine</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning materials and sundries</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and renewals</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A record is kept by our boiler attendant which indicates the number of hours for which each boiler is used daily. The amount debited against the swimming pool shows an average cost of from 272 to 277 per annum for heating the pool water. The temperature of the water is never raised above 74 degrees, the average being 72 degrees. Over that temperature the conditions become somewhat enervating. In the summer months we lower the temperature to about 65 degrees. We have installed a system of radiators through such rooms as the locker, bath, and check rooms. These are operated from the steam chamber of the boiler. We have no special system of ventilation of the pool and dressing rooms. There are times, particularly in the
middle of the winter, when the tendency is to close all windows. Our system enables us to heat the atmosphere to from 80 to 85 degrees. As no bathing costumes are worn in our pool it is necessary to heat the atmosphere to a temperature approximately 10 degrees higher than that of the water. If the plan was to build a new pool, in the light of the experience we have had with the present one, I would make the pool room— or, as we call it, thenatatorium—larger and higher, with a width of at least 10 feet on the sidewalks. This would be advantageous, particularly if the holding of aquatic carnivals was contemplated. At the present depth it is desirable to have the sidewalks from 15 to 20 feet wide to allow running room for divers. Most of the diving done now in our pool is of the standing type. We now have a width of 70 feet at one end and 6 feet at the sides. In providing seating accommodation for spectators we erect three-tiered or bleacher seating, and we can accommodate from 300 to 400 persons. If we had a higher roof and wider sidewalks we could increase that accommodation. Another result of that improvement would be to give better atmospheric conditions. At present we have a portion of our roof glassed in. Originally we had more glass than at present, but we lengthened our gymnasium and cut off about 15 feet of the glass roof. An entirely glazed roof could increase the accommodation. We use a large open dressing room with locker accommodation for the individual swimmers. It would be desirable to add to that space if we could afford to do so. With 100 men using our dressing room at one time the space is taxed, and this does not make for the best hygienic conditions.

68. To Mr. Gregory.—There are a number of satisfactory boiler heating systems. Ours is of English make; another is "The Ideal." We have never used residual oil. The fuel must have a degree of clarity, or otherwise it will not vaporize. Our boiler-house is 32 feet by 20 feet. It contains three holden's filtration plant, which includes an agitation tank and a waste water tank, and also a refrigeration for the cool store. The plant provides hot water and steam for the whole establishment and gives us a standby boiler in the event of anything going wrong with either of the other two. In certain portions of the premises we have steam radiators. The electric motors which drive the centrifugal and centrifugal pumps in connexion with the filtration scheme work from eight to twelve hours a day; it is only necessary to clean out the pool twice a year. We have had practically no trouble with the installation. On one occasion we had difficulty with one of the valves, and when we dismantled it we discovered that some body had thrown something into the pool which had gone through the grating and blocked the valve. In my opinion it would be wise to have a standby boiler in a cool climate. I do not think that such a pool would be used. It is desirable to place the lavatories near the dressing room, in such a position that the bathers would have to pass them before entering the shower room. The last thing they would do before entering the pool is to shower. It is necessary to consider the effect of the chlorine on the bathing costumes. We insist on no clothes being worn in our pool because the dye comes out in the water. Even going from the shower to the pool a certain amount of dirt is collected by the bathers. The greatest problem is caused by hair from the human body. I should say that if we desired to erect our pool to-day as a separate feature of our work it would cost about £12,000. The provision of a diving tower is more important. If it is intended to hold swimming carnivals at the baths at Canberra, the committee would be well advised to obtain the views of men like Mr. Frank Beaurepaire, who have seen swimming pools in other countries.

69. To Mr. Long.—One boiler would probably be sufficient, but it would be wise, in my opinion, to install two, so that one would be available at all times. Our pool holds 55,000 gallons of water. I do not contend that the system we have adopted is the best available, but we have proved it to be effective from every point of view. Being automatic, practically two-thirds of the time of the water treatment is available for other purposes. The boilers cost approximately £200, to which must be added the cost of installation. The cost of the filtration system, together with the extras put in, amounted to £500. The cooling pool—a variety of vacuum-cleaners, costing £20 to land. The chlorinator was landed and installed for about £180. The tiles were imported direct and cost us £700. The tilting contract amounted to £800. The filters were locally made, but otherwise the whole of the plant was imported. The white ceramic tiles of the type we have adopted could not be secured in Australia at the time our pool was built. A heating plant such as ours should be suitable for the proposed baths at Canberra. The pipe leading from the boiler to the pool has a diameter of 4 inches, which we find quite effective.

70. To Mr. Holloway.—I believe that residual oil could be used for certain types of machinery, but it would not suit our plant.

71. To Mr. Cameron.—Our peak period occurs on Saturday mornings, when we have from 320 to 370 swimmers during two hours. From 80 to 100 persons could comfortably use the pool at one time. A raised platform, as the indoor nature is desirable, but I would have the whole of the sidewalks clear. Bleacher seats could be placed there for the accommodation of a large number of visitors. The city health authorities take tests of the water in the pool at different times. In May last they published a statement on swimming pools in Melbourne. The committee very highly commended the pools at Campbell- well, Malvern, and the Young Men's Christian Association.

72. To Senator Sampson.—The losses on our pool amounted to £185 in 1926; £39 in 1927; £88 in 1928, and £140 in 1929. The variation in these figures is due to the different sums received by way of membership subscriptions. If our membership fees in 1929 had equaled those of the previous year, the pool would have shown a profit of £10.

73. To Mr. Gregory.—I believe that the gravity type of filter was used for the first time in connection with our pool, and has been adopted in other places as a result of our experience. The drainage from the pool
goes direct to the sewer, and that is probably desirable.

76. To Mr. Gregory.—There is provision for the treatment of the water to ensure its purity. It had been suggested that this might be omitted; but I would not recommend the construction of baths without making adequate provision for the sterilization and filtration of the water. Therefore this estimate of cost includes the proper sterilization and filtration of the water, but not for heating.

77. To Mr. Curtis.—The cost of a heating plant for an open-air pool would be fairly high; but this could, under certain conditions, be provided for, as at Brunswick (Melbourne), where the warm water from an enclosed pool is circulated into the open pool, thus reducing materially the temperature of the water in the latter pool.

78. To the Chairman.—Provision for heating could be made at a later date. In any case, I do not admit that artificial heating of the water is essential in Canberra. If another site of similar formation and levels were selected the estimate of cost in regard to both amended schemes would not be altered materially, and I have not personally inspected the various sites that have been suggested. In the second and simpler scheme which I now submit to the committee, it is proposed to leave out the two dressing rooms provided in the more expensive proposal, and to have a platform 10 feet wide down either side of the swimming pool, and a platform at the ends. Beyond the platform along either side there will be dressing cubicles for 88 men and 41 women, and the same arrangements for lavatories, kiosk and foot baths. Around the 10-ft. space between the dressing cubicles and the edge of the bath there will be a wooden platform about 3 feet wide for sun-bathing. Adequate arrangements have been made to ventilate the cubicles and other accommodation. Altogether the building will be quite nice in appearance, and if the committee thinks fit, its cost can be still further reduced by construction in hardwood and galvanized iron, suitably treated.

79. To Mr. Holloway.—It is not proposed to tile the sides or the bottom of the swimming pool. Cement sides and bottom suitably painted will look quite well. Tiles may be substituted at any time if considered necessary. I would suggest, also, that if the committee favours the less expensive of the two modified schemes now submitted to it, the work can be designed in such a way as to permit of the future extension of the swimming pool.

80. To the Chairman.—Both schemes provide for a pool of the same size—82 feet by 40 feet. A cement-lined pool, treated in the way I suggest, could be kept clean. It could be regarded as a contribution to a more perfect scheme to be undertaken at a later date. I would not recommend any scheme that omitted ample provision for filtration and sterilization of the water. On the question of site for any permanent baths proposal, I think this should be determined in association with the Civic Centre of Canberra. Action should be taken as soon as possible to design the Civic Centre, because the location for many important public bodies must be fixed before many years elapse. I am aware, of course, that for several years the Federal Capital Commission has been extremely busy with other important matters, with the result that, up to the present, there has been no serious attempt to design the Civic Centre. Now that things are comparatively quiet, the present is an opportune time to give attention to this matter. A reminder from this committee would probably carry weight with the Government. If the design were made, we should have less difficulty in fixing the location of many important public functions that will be demanding accommodation in the near future. Mr. Griffin, the
designer of the Federal Capital, considered the needs of the city for the next 100 years. Accordingly he provided a location in his plan for a great natatorium, somewhat on the lines of the ancient Roman baths. A beginning has been made to design the Civic Centre. As to doubt members of the committee know, the city plan contemplates the erection of a monumental town hall forming the centre of the hexagon, and huge commercial buildings surrounding the outer circle, from which streets radiate in all directions. Altogether two such blocks have been erected. One has been completed and the other is about three-fourths built. All these buildings are privately-owned. It is assumed that other similar blocks will be erected in the course of time for shopping and other purposes, and that within the hexagon, which is about 1,600 feet across its axis, will be the town hall and other semi-public buildings.

81. To Mr. Curtin.—No. 5 site is the nearest to the Civic Centre, and site No. 3 was recommended by the Federal Capital Commission. This recommendation disregarded the idea of the designer of the city. Parliament has laid it down that Mr. Griffin's plans shall not be departed from without parliamentary sanction. Had the scheme for the Civic Centre been designed, this committee and the people generally would have had no difficulty in determining the site for public baths, as well as for other public utilities, such as a fire station, court house, police station, post office, and citizens' library. The population of Canberra is fairly evenly distributed in the Ainslie and Kingston districts; but the principal public school is in Telopea Park. I think that, whilst the aim of the committee should be to establish the permanent public baths at Civic Centre, the present needs of the people would be best met by the construction of a simple open bath in the vicinity of the Telopea Park school. Then, as the city develops, arrangements could be put in hand to build the permanent public baths on a location within the Civic Centre design.

82. To the Chairman.—A bath in the Telopea Park district would not interfere with the integrity of the Griffin plan. I assume that, as the population develops, other open baths will be established in various portions of the city area, but the site for the permanent baths, which will include Turkish baths, as well as other accessories, should be in Civic Centre.

83. To Mr. Curtin.—I consider that we should enter for the needs of the children particularly, and, since Telopea Park has an attendance roll of 1,600, many of whom travel from all suburbs within the city area, a public bath in the vicinity of that school would serve the needs of the greatest number.

84. To the Chairman.—In compliance with the request of the committee, I submit the following estimates of cost for a swimming pool, 82 feet by 40 feet in accordance with the design set aside by the Minister as being too ambitious for present needs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative block (brick finish, including end galleries seating 200 persons)</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockers</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath (from concourse level, not including paving to concourse, but including foundations, to enclosing walls and column supports)</td>
<td>2,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting generally</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boiler house (not including retaining wall or special foundation for plant, or asphalt)</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plus interest and overhead charges</td>
<td>10,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11,413</td>
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If the estimated cost be considered beyond what should be expended on this work, it could be reduced to £18,070 by omitting the roof and bringing down to a 9-f.t. wall (£2,750), and omitting heating (£2,000). The Minister considers that this estimate is not low enough. I agree with him. The modified plan might very well be regarded as a good beginning. Certainly it is as much as is required. I consider that the bath estimated to cost £21,000 could be got ready in time for next summer; but either of the modified schemes, plans of which I have just submitted, could be finished by October next. The roof or the arrangements for heating could be provided later. I have formed no idea of the probable revenue, but I do not think a public bath in Canberra will ever pay. It must be regarded as a concession from the people of Australia to the inhabitants of this city. I consider the establishment of a public bath here desirable, but I do not say that the need is urgent, except that I believe the rising generation should have facilities to learn swimming, and in this respect be on a level with the children in almost every city or town in Australia. I consider that a bath constructed in accordance with the modified plans would be quite hygienic. Provision would necessarily be made for scum gutters around the swimming pool.

85. To Senator Reid.—The cleansing of the sides and bottom of the swimming pool, if the work is carried out in concrete, should not be a difficult matter. Even a tiled bath has to be cleansed regularly by the attendants. I admit, of course, that it is not possible to keep concrete as clean as a tiled surface; but tiling would add £750 to the cost of the pool. In suggesting that the baths should be located near the Telopea Park school, I am guided almost entirely by the needs of the children living near that school and other places situated south of the Molonglo. It would not be more than about 2 miles, via Scott's crossing, for children and adults living north of the Molonglo, and as most of the people in Canberra own motor cars, it would be no hardship if they had to travel to Telopea Park. I should not say that the bath of the people lives in the northern suburbs. The people are fairly evenly distributed between Ainslie and Kingston, but the latter area contains a big artisan population. An inexpensive public bath in the Telopea Park district...
would meet the needs of the Federal Capital for probably five years. By that time, perhaps, a start would be made on the construction of the permanent public bath somewhere within the Civic Centre. It would be possible to build a bath in a pleasing environment, situated in a prominent position, and it could be made on the construction of the permanent public bath. It would perhaps be better to carry out the construction in brick. The judicious planting of the surrounding area would quickly beautify the site.

86. To Senator Sampson.—I have no figures with me to show how the population of the Federal Capital is distributed; but I consider that it is fairly evenly divided between the two areas mentioned. During week days large numbers of children from all suburbs attend the Telopea Park School. Consequently a public bath somewhere in that locality would meet the needs of the greatest number of children. Site No. 7 is not far distant from the site selected by Mr. Griffin for the natatorium. I have no doubt that, well within the next quarter of a century, arrangements will have to be made for a court house, police station, post office, head fire station, library, and other quasi-public bodies, and I suggest it is desirable to design the Civic Centre without delay. This would do away with the necessity for searching for sites because every one who would know permanent locations of any of these bodies would be somewhere within the Civic Centre. I consider that it is better to meet the convenience of one-half of the population by constructing the swimming pool in the vicinity of Telopea Park School, than to inconvenience the whole of the population by fixing the location at, say, No. 4 site. The great bulk of the children in the Capital City area, as well as many from distant centres in the Territory, attend the Telopea Park school, and arrangements could be made by the head master for swimming instruction during the summer months. The pool might even be established in school grounds, because a large area of these is not really necessary, or is could be in Telopea Park itself. Possibly the actual cost would be less than £9,000, because tendering for all works is now pretty keen. It might be desirable to invite alternative tenders; that is to say, for construction in concrete with or without tiling.

87. To Mr. Gregory.—If the pool were constructed somewhere in the vicinity of the Telopea Park School, it would not be so far distant from the Molonglo, but to be made for a court house, police station, post office, head fire station, public library, and other quasi-public bodies, and I suggest it is desirable to design the Civic Centre without delay. This would do away with the necessity for searching for sites because every one who would know permanent locations of any of these bodies would be somewhere within the Civic Centre. I consider that it is better to meet the convenience of one-half of the population by constructing the swimming pool in the vicinity of Telopea Park School, than to inconvenience the whole of the population by fixing the location at, say, No. 4 site. The great bulk of the children in the Capital City area, as well as many from distant centres in the Territory, attend the Telopea Park school, and arrangements could be made by the head master for swimming instruction during the summer months. The pool might even be established in school grounds, because a large area of these is not really necessary, or is could be in Telopea Park itself. Possibly the actual cost would be less than £9,000, because tendering for all works is now pretty keen. It might be desirable to invite alternative tenders; that is to say, for construction in concrete with or without tiling.

88. To Senator Dooley.—The estimate of £8, a cubic yard for excavation, given in evidence before the committee, is probably high. The cost naturally depends upon the nature of the material to be taken out. We estimate tilling will cost £7s, a square yard. The estimate of £5 10s, a cubic yard for concrete is perhaps on the low side; it represents the finished cost of the work.

89. To the Chairman.—I shall look up our estimates for the cost of tilling and verify my figures. It may be of interest to the committee to know that recently the Federal Capital Commission received a communication from William and Company, a Sydney firm, stating that polished slabs made centrifugally might be used for the bottom and sides of the swimming pool.

90. To Senator Sampson.—A few years ago the Telopea Park district was subject to floods, but that trouble has been rectified now by efficient drainage.

91. To Senator Reid.—Cement surfacing costs 3s. 6d. a square yard, and tiles 7s, a square yard. If cement were used, the work of repainting—the work of repainting could be done by the caretaker in the slack season—there should not be great difficulty in cleansing it of water vegetation.

(Taken at Canberra.)

TUESDAY, 11th MARCH, 1930.

Present:

Mr. Lowry, Chairman;

Senator Dooley | Mr. Curtis
Senator Reid | Mr. Gregory
Senator Sampson | Mr. Holloway
Mr. M. Cameron

William Henry Bufe, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Canberra, sworn and examined.

92. To the Chairman.—Regarding the proposal to build baths in Canberra, I would like to offer a few observations in the hope that they will be considered by your committee. The fact that I am an enthusiastic bath and have been connected with swimming and life-saving clubs for many years does not, of course, entitle me to speak authoritatively as an expert on the building of baths; but perhaps these suggestions from me as an individual may be of interest in determining what should be done to meet the desires of those residing in the Federal Territory. These seems to be a difference of opinion as to where the baths should be located. With the houses scattered, in some instances four or five miles away from the Civic Centre. Assuming that only one baths will be erected, it would be a question of deciding which is the position that would—(a) harmonize with the layout of the city, and (b) meet the convenience of the whole of the residents as far as practicable. I suggest that in regard to (a) the Civic Centre should be near the No. 3 Secretariat and the Hotel Canberra should be selected. It would be unfortunate if baths were built in an inconspicuous part near the Commission offices. Respecting
In the winter, will not be justified. I do not pretend to know anything about costs, but speaking as an ordinary taxpayer, I would hesitate to authorise an expenditure of $200,000 to build baths seems to me to be far too much, especially at this time of financial stringency. The Albany baths cost in the vicinity of $4,000. With certain improvements, such as a filtration plant costing $2,000, every one here would, I think, agree that it is almost a fact that the more they cost the higher will be the charge for admittance. This is an important factor to be considered if it is desired to make the proposition payable one as far as possible. There seems to be a general impression that there should be a palatial building for this purpose and so in order to induce the governing association to hold its championship carnivals here.

It appears to be forgotten that it is very expensive to invite international champions to Australia to compete with our local swimmers, and there is no likelihood of races being held in Canberra until the population exceeds that of either Melbourne or Sydney. I am afraid it will be many years before that happens. Baths are badly needed in Canberra. Most of us came from homes near the seaside, and, during the recent spell of hot weather, a bath of that size $2 lengths would be equivalent to a mile, or sixty lengths to half a mile. A length of 82 feet. I think it should be 55 yards, as that is the length usually provided in important swimming pools. In hotels of this class $2 lengths would be equal to a mile, or sixteen lengths to half a mile. A length of $2 feet is not of any advantage from that viewpoint, and special provision would have to be made for arranging distances in the event of swimming carnivals. Swimming races in Australia are not conducted under the metric system, and championship races are usually over a quarter of a mile or half a mile. The Domain baths, in Sydney, where championship races are held, are 110 yards long. It is not likely that championship races of 82 yards lengths would be held in Canberra for some time to come; but it is desirable when arranging the dimensions in conformity with those used in connexion with such events, we should favour a bathing pool 55 yards long, and I consider one $2 feet in length much

In the month of May I had an opportunity of inspecting the plans and am surprised to find that the length of the proposed bathing pool is to be only $2 feet. I think it should be 55 yards, as that is the length usually provided in important swimming pools. In hotels of this class $2 lengths would be equal to a mile, or sixteen lengths to half a mile. A length of $2 feet is not of any advantage from that viewpoint, and special provision would have to be made for arranging distances in the event of swimming carnivals. Swimming races in Australia are not conducted under the metric system, and championship races are usually over a quarter of a mile or half a mile. The Domain baths, in Sydney, where championship races are held, are 110 yards long. It is not likely that championship races of 82 yards lengths would be held in Canberra for some time to come; but it is desirable when arranging the dimensions in conformity with those used in connexion with such events, we should favour a bathing pool 55 yards long, and I consider one $2 feet in length much
too small. If a bathing pool were constructed in the vicinity of the Telopea Park School, it would be convenient to a large number of children who should be the main consideration. If baths were erected in that locality, a large number would be able to have an early morning swim without having to contend with transport difficulties, whereas, if they were adjacent to the Hotel Canberra, time would be taken in travelling backwards and forwards, which is an important consideration.

96. To Mr. Holloway. — I understand the Brunswick baths are 35 yards long, and the Richmond baths 50 yards long, but I do not know the length of the Young Men’s Christian Association swimming pool. For the information of the committee, I produce photographs taken from current newspapers showing open air baths, which I strongly approve. Even if the first proposal which the committee was considering, namely, covered-in baths, was considered, I do not think they would be patronised to any extent during the winter months. There would, of course, but the people concerned would in any sense justify the extra expenditure involved. Those who like to bathe in the winter usually prefer cold water. In order to meet the requirements of all of the residents of Canberra, I think it only fair to say that a site midway between the two centres of population, say, adjacent to the Hotel Canberra, would be most convenient, although every one visiting the baths in that locality would have to travel by bus or use some other means of conveyance. Baths on a site adjacent to the Telopea Park School, I believe, would be more convenient to a majority of the people in Canberra, and would also be handy to a very large number of school children who should be the main consideration. If baths were erected in that locality, a large number would be able to have an early morning swim without having to contend with transport difficulties, whereas, if they were adjacent to the Hotel Canberra, time would be taken in travelling backwards and forwards, which is an important consideration.

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96. To Mr. Holloway. — I understand the Brunswick baths are 35 yards long, and the Richmond baths 50 yards long, but I do not know the length of the Young Men’s Christian Association swimming pool. For the information of the committee, I produce photographs taken from current newspapers showing open air baths, which I strongly approve. Even if the first proposal which the committee was considering, namely, covered-in baths, was considered, I do not think they would be patronised to any extent during the winter months. There would, of course, but the people concerned would in any sense justify the extra expenditure involved. Those who like to bathe in the winter usually prefer cold water. In order to meet the requirements of all of the residents of Canberra, I think it only fair to say that a site midway between the two centres of population, say, adjacent to the Hotel Canberra, would be most convenient, although every one visiting the baths in that locality would have to travel by bus or use some other means of conveyance. Baths on a site adjacent to the Telopea Park School, I believe, would be more convenient to a majority of the people in Canberra, and would also be handy to a very large number of school children who should be the main consideration. If baths were erected in that locality, a large number would be able to have an early morning swim without having to contend with transport difficulties, whereas, if they were adjacent to the Hotel Canberra, time would be taken in travelling backwards and forwards, which is an important consideration.
Harold John Filshie, B.A., headmaster, Intermediate School, Telopea Park, Canberra, sworn and examined.

102. To the Chairman.—I am aware that the committee is considering a proposal to construct swimming baths in Canberra, for which, I contend, there is an urgent need. I cannot claim to have any intimate knowledge of modern freshwater swimming pools. I have been closely associated with swimming for the past 35 years; but mostly in connexion with the metropolitan schools in Sydney, the scholars from which have attended swimming classes at different salt-water baths. The only closed baths of which I have knowledge are the Clorey at Coogee. If baths were erected in Canberra they would be extensively patronized by school children, and swimming would be included in the school curriculum. Of a total of 320 children of nine years of age and over attending the school, there are only 110 who can swim a distance of 10 yards or more. That is a low percentage in comparison with that of other schools. Fully 200 scholars would join a swimming class if facilities were available for instruction. An attempt was made some time ago to establish a modified salt-water swimming pool in Canberra. Instructors were appointed by the Education Department of New South Wales, and 160 non-swimmers were enrolled during the Christmas vacation, when a large number of the children were absent from Canberra, with their parents on holiday. The scheme fell through, however, owing to the fact that the health authorities said that the water in the Molonglo at that time was not fit for swimming purposes. A similar scheme was not proceeded with this year, as it was felt that the same objection would be raised, and the class would have to be disbanded. The only swimming pool available is at the back of the power house, where the water is badly discoloured, overgrown with weeds, and entirely unsafe for non-swimmers. We have been conducting classes amongst the secondary boys; but our efforts have not been altogether satisfactory owing to the conditions which prevail. I have been in Canberra for over two years, and I do not think there would be much swimming in the open between April and October. From the 1st of November to the end of March would, I think, define the limits of the swimming season. There would be a limited number that would, perhaps, utilize a bathing pool for a longer period, particularly those who have been accustomed to living at such places as Manly, where bathing commences in September and continues until May. I am not in favour of enclosed baths, as I contend that one of the principal pleasures associated with swimming is the opportunity of sun-bathing. Heated water would not, I think, prove an attraction to school children, who derive pleasure not only from swimming in cool water, but from a general romp and the opportunity of sun-bathing. I think it of great importance to erect public swimming baths in close proximity to our principal schools. I was a member of the committee of Canberra citizens which considered this subject some twelve or eighteen months ago, and I then recommended the construction of baths on a recreation reserve near the Blandfordia tennis courts and bowling green, which would be fairly central to the four principal schools, which have a total attendance of approximately 1,000 children. The present attendance at Telopea Park is 300, St. Christopher's 250, Canberra Boys' Grammar School about 75, and St. Gabriel's Girls' School 90 to 100. The time taken to walk from the Canberra Boys' Grammar School to the site I suggest would not be more than 10 minutes, and is not more than a few minutes from the other schools I have mentioned. The site would be permanent and secure, as tennis courts and a bowling green have been provided, and is not more than a few minutes' walk from a 'bus route. Baths on such a site would, doubtless, be availed of by tennis players and bowlers, as well as being centrally situated in a large residential area. Baths conveniently situated to the Telopea Park school would be used on Wednesday afternoons by the pupils of the secondary school, and on Friday afternoon by about half the primary school; and on Sundays by a large number of adults. It is necessary that a bathing pool should be easily accessible from the school rather than from the children's homes. Wherever the baths are situated transport arrangements will have to be provided. There are only 250 pupils at the Albert ACT Research Guide School, but at the Telopea Park school we have 40 or 50 scholars from Ainslie receiving secondary education, as well as scholars from the Cotter River, Molonglo and Hall. If the convenience of the school children is to be considered, it must be remembered that there are approximately 1,000 attending schools on the southern side of the river, and only 250 attending school on the northern side.

103. To Mr. M. Cameron.—I do not know what proportion of the population of Canberra resides on the southern side of the river; but I have suggested fairly central for the residents on that side of the river. A large proportion of public servants who work at Civic Centre and in the secretariat buildings live on the southern side of the Molonglo. The committee should also bear in mind that a high school has recently been established in the territory, and I suggested is in the vicinity of the Hotel Wellington, which is also convenient. I understand the site for the high school has been definitely decided upon by the authorities.

104. To Mr. M. Cameron.—In most cases the school children would patronize the swimming baths after leaving the schools provided satisfactory arrangements were made for transport, and I suggest the issue of season tickets, at a cost of, say, 2s. a month, with ample provision for the end of the season. I understand the proposed swimming pool is to be 32 feet in length; but I think that probably 200 scholars from Telopea Park would make fair swimming use of it. We would have big classes under expert male and female instructors. I think that the proposed pool is too small for the requirements. I could not say definitely how many school children would be using the pool at one time, but I think that probably 200 scholars from Telopea Park would make fair use of it. We would have big classes under expert male and female instructors. I think that the proposed pool is too small for the requirements. I could not say definitely how many school children would be using the school pool at the one time, but I think that probably 200 scholars from Telopea Park would make fair use of it. We would have big classes under expert male and female instructors. I think that the proposed pool is too small for the requirements. I could not say definitely how many school children would be using the pool at the one time, but I think that probably 200 scholars from Telopea Park would make fair use of it. We would have big classes under expert male and female instructors. I think that the proposed pool is too small for the requirements. I could not say definitely how many school children would be using the pool at the one time, but I think that probably 200 scholars from Telopea Park would make fair use of it. We would have big classes under expert male and female instructors. I think that the proposed pool is too small for the requirements. I could not say definitely how many school children would be using the pool at the one time, but I think that probably 200 scholars from Telopea Park would make fair use of it. We would have big classes under expert male and female instructors. I think that the proposed pool is too small for the requirements. I could not say definitely how many school children would be using the pool at the one time, but I think that probably 200 scholars from Telopea Park would make fair use of it. We would have big classes under expert male and female instructors.

105. To Mr. Gregory.—I understand that the committee is desirous of serving, to the best of its ability, the whole of the people; but wherever the baths are erected, some must be inconvenience. I do not think that there would be much objection on the part of the sportsmen to the site suggested, as it is within walking distance and the site is large enough to enable it to be maintained as a swimming bath. If baths were built on the site suggested in the Griffin plan it would be very inconvenient to residents of Griffith, the Causeway, Kingston, Forrest and Red Hill. I am considering this matter more from the school children's point of view, as many of the adult population have got out of the swimming habit. Baths will be patronized principally by...
members of sporting bodies and school children. In view of the severity of the wind during certain periods of the year, I think the baths should be protected. The absence of any break would be an inconvenience to bathers and would cause the water to become discoloured by dust. I have seen the Melbourne City and Richmond baths, but I have not visited the baths at Malvern in Victoria. Probably an earthwork gallery or break would be more expensive than a brick wall.

106. To Senator Reid.—Where facilities are available swimming is included in the school curriculum. It is quite voluntary, but there is not much compulsion needed where facilities are available. I asked the children at Telopea Park this morning how many would join a swimming class if baths were available, and they were quite unanimous in favour of joining up. During the Christmas vacation 160 youngsters were ready to join a class and go to the pool at the Power House for daily instruction, and that was at a time when half the population was absent on holidays. We are not allowed to instruct children under nine years of age. There are 320 scholars in the Telopea Park school of nine years of age and over and of that number 65 per cent. cannot swim. I have suggested a brick wall for protection against wind and dust, as I think it would be some years before a creper or a shrubbery would be sufficiently advanced to keep out wind and dust. Even if a wall is erected it could be covered in time with creepers, and the general surroundings of the pool beautified by shrubs, lawns and garden plots.

(Taken at Canberra.) WEDNESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1930.

Present:
Mr. Lacey, Chairman;
Senator Dooley, Mr. Curini
Senator Reid, Mr. Gregory
Senator Sampson, Mr. Long.
Mr. M. Cameron

Rupert Clarence Smith, Head Master of the Acton Public School, sworn and examined.

107. To the Chairman.—I am aware of the proposal to erect public swimming baths in Canberra, and although I had no experience of teaching swimming in closed baths I have taught hundreds of children to swim in rivers where stretches of shallow water have been chosen as swimming grounds. Special consideration should be given to the needs of school children in constructing baths in Canberra, and careful attention should be paid to the depth of the water. Our department provides for the handling of classes of from 40 to 50 children at a time. Under the latest methods of teaching, the group system is used. As many as 60 or 70 children are controlled by one teacher, the pupils working in pairs. In the teaching of swimming it would be necessary to have a sufficient area of water of a depth of from 5 to 4 feet. In my opinion, there would be an insufficient area of shallow water in a pool 50 feet long with a depth of 3 feet at the shallow end, and gradually sloping to 8 or 9 feet at the deep end. A pool of such measurements would prevent us from handling a sufficiently large number of children at one time. We usually take children from the age of 6 years, and a depth of 3 feet is in danger, because the children receiving lessons in swimming would be under the close supervision of a teacher. Even on days when there was no teacher in attendance such a pool would indicate the deeper water and make the pool safe for the youngest pupils. I have resided in Canberra for about eighteen months, and I should say that swimming would be indulged in, in an average season, from the middle of November until about March, and in some years until the end of March. I do not think that swimming could have begun last year until the end of November. We have about 150 children over the age of eight years at the Acton School, and only twelve of the boys and girls are of that age, and the total number in attendance is 256, and I believe that practically the whole of the children would attend the baths for instructional purposes. Last year the department proposed to hold a swimming school in the Molonglo River, but owing to the state of the stream the arrangements were cancelled. About 90 per cent. of the children were then anxious to learn to swim. If the proposed baths were built, swimming lessons would be included in the school curriculum. In my opinion, the baths should be located within walking distance of the greatest number of homes. I should say that a site on a regular bus route, or within a few minutes walk of it, should receive first consideration. It seems to me that the most favorable site near the pool at Acton would be within reach of children living on both sides of the river. You inform me that it has been suggested that a site at Telopea Park would suit the largest number. There are between 500 and 600 children attending the Telopea Park School, but they are not all residents of that district. About 100 of those children live on the north side of the river, and travel to school by bus. Those children would desire to use the baths in other than school hours. A number of the scholars come from Westridge and other outlying portions of the Capital. I anticipate that the attendance at the Acton School will be 300 by the end of the present year, and it may increase to 400 next year. Therefore, a large number of children would be deprived of the use of the baths if they were not built within a reasonable distance from their homes. I do not think it would be better to compel one-third of the school children to use the buses in attending the baths than to make all of them travel some distance. Very few children in capital cities have swimming baths so close to their doors that they can reach them without travelling at least one section by tram or train. While I consider the baths most desirable from the point of view of the adult population, I regard them as most necessary in the interests of the children.

108. To Mr. Long.—In saying that the swimming season in Canberra would extend from the middle of November to the middle of March, I am thinking of open baths. I do not think that the heating of the baths would be justified, so far as the children's interests are concerned. I do not think that the heating of the water would encourage swimming for the whole year. I have not considered the wisdom of providing heated baths. I am doubtful whether winter swimming would be popular. I do not think a sufficient number of pupils would be attracted to the baths in the winter months. I believe that the parents would wish for their children to be out of doors in winter. Children would be enthusiastic over the teaching of the children to swim in the summer months.

109. To Senator Sampson.—Assuming that the baths were erected near Telopea Park it is conceivable that the Commission might grant concessions to the children who had to use the bus to reach the baths. I think that the children receiving lessons in swimming would be under the close supervision of a teacher. Some
pupils travel from Ainslie to Telopea Park on Thursdays for domestic science instruction, and they are carried free of charge. Since swimming would be part of the school curriculum it is possible that some concession would be made on bus fares. I am quite satisfied that the children are very keen on having swimming lessons.

110. To Mr. Cameron.—The department considers that the average pupil can be taught to swim in ten lessons. I have taught children of 8 and 9 years to swim 10 yards in two lessons. Results have been recorded from year to year, and we have found that between 80 and 85 per cent. of the pupils acquire the art of swimming. Only the dullest or nervous children fail to learn after that amount of instruction. You suggest that for the purpose of teaching large classes, there ought to be a sufficient area of shallow water in a pool 82 feet long, 40 feet wide, ranging in depth from 3 feet to 9 feet, and having a gradual slop, and that the great majority of the pupils would soon be taught to swim. I point out that under ordinary circumstances, a class would receive only one or two lessons a week, and the lessons would extend over ten weeks and yet the swimming season is of such short duration that the lessons are given on ten consecutive days. I admit that once the pupils acquire a taste for the water they attend the baths of their own accord, but they do not necessary learn to swim; they generally play about in the shallow water. I should say that the baths should be located within a walking distance of about a mile of the residential area to be served. There are some residents who look upon swimming facilities as most important, and they might be encouraged to reside in the vicinity of public baths. Residents of Ainslie already feel that they are furthest removed from railway and shopping facilities and picture theatres, and they would regard the building of public baths on the north side of the river as an addition to their drawbacks.

111. To Mr. Gregory.—Having regard to the interests of the residents of Canberra as a whole, I should say that either No. 1 or No. 2 site would be the most suitable. It is within reach of both the adult and juvenile population of Ainslie.

112. To Senator Doolan.—If the baths were built in the Telopea Park area all of the swimming ages, the vacation, the lessons are given on ten consecutive days. I admit that once the pupils acquire a taste for the water they attend the baths of their own accord, but they do not necessary learn to swim; they generally play about in the shallow water. I should say that the baths should be located within a walking distance of about a mile of the residential area to be served. There are some residents who look upon swimming facilities as most important, and they might be encouraged to reside in the vicinity of public baths. Residents of Ainslie already feel that they are furthest removed from railway and shopping facilities and picture theatres, and they would regard the building of public baths on the north side of the river as an addition to their drawbacks.

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115. To Mr. Drummond.—I have no objection to the building of the baths at Telopea Park if it did not involve an increase in bus fares. My objection to the building of the baths at Telopea Park is that they would not be large enough to accommodate children of the residential area to be served. The baths should be located within a walking distance of about a mile of the residential area to be served. There are some residents who look upon swimming facilities as most important, and they might be encouraged to reside in the vicinity of public baths. Residents of Ainslie already feel that they are furthest removed from railway and shopping facilities and picture theatres, and they would regard the building of public baths on the north side of the river as an addition to their drawbacks.

116. To Mr. Curtin.—I do not think that our department would be opposed to the building of the baths at Telopea Park if it did not involve an increase in bus fares. My objection to the building of the baths at Telopea Park is that they would not be large enough to accommodate children of the residential area to be served. The baths should be located within a walking distance of about a mile of the residential area to be served. There are some residents who look upon swimming facilities as most important, and they might be encouraged to reside in the vicinity of public baths. Residents of Ainslie already feel that they are furthest removed from railway and shopping facilities and picture theatres, and they would regard the building of public baths on the north side of the river as an addition to their drawbacks.

117. To The Chairman.—The evidence that has been given recently regarding the provision of a swimming pool in Canberra has been discussed by the Public Service Welfare Committee, which has asked me to see it built near the central administrative block. We do not believe that it is on the Forrest recreation reserve. We have also been asked to see it built near the central administrative block. We do not believe that it is on the Forrest recreation reserve. We have also been asked to see it built near the central administrative block. We do not believe that it is on the Forrest recreation reserve. We have also been asked to see it built near the central administrative block. We do not believe that it is on the Forrest recreation reserve. We have also been asked to see it built near the central administrative block. We do not believe that it is on the Forrest recreation reserve. We have also been asked to see it built near the central administrative block. We do not believe that it is on the Forrest recreation reserve. We have also been asked to see it built near the central administrative block.
We consider that the site on the Forrest Recreation Reserve will suit by far the greatest number of the children in Canberra, and will also be handy to at least half the residents of the city. We hope that the pool will have a surrounding wall of brick, and that provision will be made for the addition at a later period of heating appliances. Despite the optimistic remarks of many persons, we know that the season for swimming in open baths is limited in Canberra to a period of about three months. The rapid changes of temperature here will preclude bathing to a great extent for nine months of the year. We trust that when the financial position improves provision will be made to regulate the temperature of the water so that swimming facilities will be available for a much longer period than is possible with an open concrete pool. The proposed pool will be 40 feet wide, and the depth will increase gradually from 3 feet to 9 feet. At least an area 12 feet by 40 feet could be roped off at the shallow end of the pool to make a safe bathing area for those unable to swim. I do not advocate attempting to cater to any great extent for non-swimmers. Every boy and girl ought to be taught to swim, and if the pool were too shallow it would greatly interfere with the bathing facilities of the adults. The exact depth at various parts of the pool is a matter to be dealt with by swimming experts.

118. To Mr. Cameron.—The residents of the northern portion of Canberra are well represented on the Public Service Welfare Committee. They know that if there is to be a small pool it must be provided at one end of the city and that later on another will be built at the other end. The population of Canberra has not yet reached the point to which it will normally increase. The figures of Washington over a large number of years show that the population of that city as compared with that of the United States of America is in the proportion of 1 to 240. On that basis, allowing slightly different figures because of the large black population in Washington, and taking a basis of, say, 1 in 300, with the present population of Australia there ought now to be 35,000 people residing in Canberra. I am assuming that Commonwealth activities are equal to those of the Federal activities in the United States of America, but we know that the Commonwealth activities are greater than those of the Federal Government in the United States of America. So it is a conservative estimate to say that the normal population of about 35,000 should be provided for by every 6,000,000 people in Australia. On that basis we think that there is ample justification for the construction of two bathing pools in Canberra.

119. To Mr. Curtin.—You suggest that I am comparing a capital that has been developing for over 100 years with a capital in embryo, but I submit that Canberra will grow rapidly in population, and residents on the north side will soon have justification for the erection of a second bath there.

120. To Mr. Cameron.—There is an ample area of land available at the Forrest site. You ask me whether the grounds on which the baths are located should be made a beauty spot where visitors could rest on seats or lawns while watching the swimmers. The question presupposes a transparent enclosure, but I contend that climatic conditions in Canberra would not lead themselves to a wire netting enclosure. Almost every afternoon in summer a sea breeze springs up, and the nights are almost always cool. I think that the baths will have to be enclosed. I trust that the surroundings of the baths will be made beautiful in keeping with the general tone of the city, but not for the purpose of enabling parents and visitors to witness the exhibitions of swimming.

121. To Mr. Gregory.—The erection of mounds planted with grasses and shrubs to serve the place of walls seems a good idea, but I am afraid it would not provide sufficient protection from winds.

122. To Mr. Cameron.—I consider that there is a great difference between the climatic conditions at Malvern, Victoria, and at Canberra. Here we get a cold sea breeze between 2 and 5 p.m. nearly every afternoon throughout the summer. On the bowling-green one needs a sweater to rely on playing in comfort. You ask me whether I think that a plain brick wall would make the enclosure look too much like a gable. I have too much confidence in Mr. Meredith as an architect to imagine that he would sponsor the erection of a structure resembling a prison. Some of the brick walls to be seen in the Old World are beautiful in design. The Melbourne climate cannot be compared with that of Canberra. The summer breezes experienced here pass over 60 miles of tableland, while a breeze in Melbourne comes across thousands of miles of temperate ocean. Canberra has very few humid nights in the summert. It is nearly 2,000 feet above sea level, while Melbourne is almost awash with the sea.

123. To Mr. Gregory.—The Public Service Welfare Committee represents all the public servants in Canberra. Half the departments are located on the north side of the city. Our decision was unanimous, because those members on the north side knew they had no chance of the bathing pool being placed there. They realized that the greatest development has occurred on the south side, and they supported the request in the hope that later on a pool would be erected in the residential district on the north side.

124. To Senator Reed.—I cannot say what was the population of Washington when it was as young a city as Canberra. Some time has elapsed since I took out the figures relating to Washington, but I noticed how steadily the proportion of 1 in 240 was maintained throughout the decades. Members of our committee have seen public swimming pools in various parts of the world. One spoke very highly of the heated bath in Capetown. Another told us what he had seen in Havana. Some members of the committee are familiar with the Camberwell baths near Melbourne, and some of them have said that the Footscray baths are the most up to date in the metropolitan area of Victoria. If there is any money available for beautifying the proposed pool we should prefer to see it spent in tiling it. The surroundings are of secondary consideration.

By Authority: H. J. Green, Government Printer, Canberra.