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THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

DALGETY

OR

CANBERRA:

WHICH ?

A PAPER

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DALGETY OR CANBERRA: WHICH?

THE introduction recently into the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth Parliament of the Federal Territory and Capital City Site Bill must be accepted as evidence that at last the long-deferred question is to be discussed and decided. The preamble of the Bill sets out that the Seat of Government and the territory shall be in the neighbourhood of Dalgety, and the area of the latter about 900 square miles. The schedule to the Bill defines that area. Hence it is seen that the Federal Government has committed itself to the choice of Dalgety, regardless of the wishes of New South Wales, from which State the Federal territory is to be acquired. But there are not wanting strong proofs that there is a potent section of the Commonwealth Parliament as now constituted opposed to that choice and prepared to contest it. It is equally clear that there is an overwhelming majority of the people, including the members of the Government and of the Parliament of this State, equally strongly opposed to the Federal Government's proposal; both the latter and the dissenting members of the Commonwealth Parliament being on the best of grounds convinced that there far better sites to be obtained than that described in the schedule appended to the Federal Capital Site Bill now before the Commonwealth Parliament.

This paper is written in advocacy of one of such preferable sites: that is, the proposed Federal Territory and Federal Capital City Site of Queanbeyan, an area of 100 square miles, as shown on sketch map appended to the late Mr Commissioner Oliver's Report on Sites for the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth, extended to about 900 square miles (admitted by the late Mr Oliver and others to be a not excessive area) by the inclusion of part of the extended Yass site and part of county of Cowley near Tharwa, commencing on the east bank of the Murrumbidgee River and embracing a large area of moderately-level country, with gentle undulations gradually ascending to high ranges affording perfect shelter from the raw south and south-west winds.

The plea for the advocacy of this suggested site rests on several grounds, viz.:—

(1) That it has been pronounced by many of the members of the Federal Parliament who have seen it to be by far the best of all the sites they have visited. (2) That it has the approval of members of the State Government and Legislature and of officials of departments whose duties have included the inspection and survey of the various sites. (3) That it has been deemed even by Sir John Forrest as the only site approaching Dalgety with any pretence of rivalry. (4) That its location comes more reasonably within territory suggested by the prohibited 100-mile radius.

For further consideration of these points, it is proposed to take the grounds of dissent in the order in which they are set down.

1. A not inconsiderable number of members of both the House of Representatives and Senate of the last, and several of the newly-elected members of the present Commonwealth Parliament, who embraced opportunities of inspecting the whole, or the greater part at least, of the 23 proposed sites, and are therefore qualified judges of their respective merits, have given their opinion that what is now better known as the Canberra Federal Capital Site and territory is far and away the best of them all in every essential feature,—such as climatic and physical conditions, accessibility, character of neighbouring country having regard to facilities for mineral products, capacity

to support a considerable population, and conditions favourable to commercial and industrial development.

2. Members of the State Governments, past and present, who have either inspected Canberra as one of the proposed sites, or from previous knowledge of it, and have also personal acquaintance with most of the other proposed sites, have given unhesitating preference to Canberra. The same opinions have been expressed by members of the State Parliament and some of the departmental engineers who have been sent to report on the several sites. One of these in particular said to the writer: "I think none of the other sites, and I have inspected them all, can compare with Canberra, taking into account all the required conditions."

3. Of course the Report of Sir John Forrest is clearly hostile to Canberra, inasmuch as that he places Dalgety first, compared with all the sites he visited. But when it is remembered that in his recent minute he institutes comparisons as between Canberra and Dalgety only, it is fairly to be inferred that he awards the former second place in the strength of its claims for choice for the Federal Capital.

This is a concession which justifies argument in favour of its claims as against Dalgety. It is to be contended with every show of reason that Sir John Forrest's qualifications for instituting comparisons between Canberra and Dalgety are slight indeed, and that his Report is in consequence bristling with inaccuracies. That he is biassed in favour of the Southern-Monaro site is manifest, and that must be regarded as the natural consequence of his loyalty to the Government of which he is so distinguished a member. It must not be overlooked that Sir John's only visit to the Canberra site, on 4th June last, consisted of a trip, to and fro, of something like 42 miles, occupying about 10 hours; that he could not therefore have gone far off the beaten road, which includes no points of elevation, and along only a few miles of which the Federal City site is visible only from a low-level point of view. One-half of his journey lay through timbered country affording limited landscape view, and at least two hours of the 10 must have been spent in inspecting some miles upwards of the Cotter River, the terminal point of his trip. Yet upon the slender information

thus acquired Sir John presumes himself qualified to judge of the relative merits of Dalgety and Canberra as Federal territory sites.

It follows that proofs should be adduced of the alleged inaccuracies contained in Sir John Forrest's minuta which would operate adversely to the claims of Canberra. His Report is based on nine factors, every one of which is admittedly an essential element to be looked for in a suitable Capital city. These, as set out in the Report, are—

FACTOR A.—To be distant from Sydney not less than 100 miles, and to be in height not less than 1,500 feet above the sea. The first inaccuracy is in Sir John Forrest's statement that Canberra and Dalgety equally fulfil the requirements under this head. If Sir John means by this that distance from Sydney is immaterial so long as the site is outside the 100-mile radius, and the chosen area as close to the borders of a neighbouring State as it is possible to get, and as remotely as possible from the prohibited radius, is as equally fulfilling the condition as if the selection were of an area just outside the 100-limit, then he is asking the public to accept an illogical absurdity. There is no equality in the circumstances. It was no condition of federation that the Federal territory should be as practicably as possible on or as near to the borders of another State, and the Federal Capital city be as nearly as possible equi-distant from the two greatest cities of the Commonwealth. But it was a condition fairly implying that of two or more sites, in all respects equally suitable, the nearest to the 100-mile radius should have preference.

The other feature associated with this factor is elevation. This, too, is unfairly dealt with in the Report. While it is correctly stated that the altitude of the Canberra site is 1,900 feet above the sea, pains have been taken to add the altitude of Mount Ainsley and other neighbouring heights, in order to magnify the elevation of Canberra to 2,700 feet above the sea. Then, omitting all reference to the mountains and other elevations in the neighbourhood of Dalgety, its elevation above sea level is given as 2,500 feet—an advantage to Dalgety, from a climatic point of view, of 200 feet. This is plainly disingenuous. Why mention the elevations near to the Canberra site and omit all

reference to the elevations at Dalgety, and the adding of them to the elevation of the city site there? Why not have simply set forth (which is a matter of fact) that the Dalgety city site is 2,500 feet above the sea and that of Canberra, 1,900 feet?—the difference in favour of Canberra, for climatic conditions, being 600 feet. What becomes of the alleged equality in this feature now?

FACTOR B.—An abundant water supply from perennial sources.—Sir John Forrest's dictum in regard to this factor, summed up, is to the effect that, although a sufficient water supply could be obtained for a moderate-sized city at Canberra, it is not such a splendid supply as exists on the Snowy River for Dalgety. Is the case fairly stated here? No one denies the vast possibilities of the Snowy River. It is not, however, a question of super-abundant supply, but of sufficiency for domestic uses, for irrigation, for conservation purposes—such as the creation of larger expanses of water for recreation, sport, and adornment; and, lastly, for power for electric lighting and industrial purposes generally. If Canberra cannot boast of a Snowy River, the extended site here proposed includes the Murrumbidgee River—second largest river in Australia—with its many and considerable affluents, some of them having their sources in the Alpine ranges, spread like a network throughout the proposed extended area, presenting in the aggregate advantages in many respects equal, if not superior, to those afforded by the Snowy River, their distribution facilitating supply for all the possible uses mentioned, including adequacy of power for the production of electricity and for mechanical purposes generally. We may go further, and note the reasonable proximity to Barren Jack Weir, which Mr. Chief Engineer Wade says can transmit 5,000 horse-power, at an economical cost to Canberra, for lighting, tramway, and general purposes; and the natural facilities at points actually within the proposed area below the junction of the Murrumbidgee with the Molonglo River—presented for cheaply constructing a concrete weir which, besides furnishing additional power for electric purposes, would create vast reaches of impounded water within a few miles of the city site itself. The same may be said of the Molonglo River near Queanbeyan, which alone would, provided with a

sufficient storage reservoir, furnish water power equal to the requirements of a city of 100,000 inhabitants. For water for ornamentation and irrigation purposes, contrary to Sir John Forrest's statement, the presence of considerable creeks, in addition to the Molonglo River below its junction with the Queanbeyan River, traversing the undulations of the plains north and south of the Canberra Federal City site, suggest numbers of localities for impounding large sheets of water for the purposes of embellishment and sports. The cost of water supply by gravitation has been greatly over-estimated by Sir John Forrest. For example, he gives the length of pipe from the Cotter River to the service reservoir at Canberra as thirty miles. Of course, the exact length of mileage would depend on the position of the storage reservoir on the Cotter River. But, allowing that, for the purpose of sufficient fall, to be six miles up from the river's confluence with the Murrumbidgee, the extreme distance cannot exceed 20 miles. This source alone can, according to Mr. Weeden's report, supply sufficient water—soft, clear, and free of silt or organic matter held in solution—for a city of a quarter of million of population. If the contribution of the Gudgenby River's supply (of water equal to that of the Cotter) be at any future time required, it can be brought on to the southern boundary of the Canberra Federal territory at a cost of about seven or eight miles of pipe, and extended to the service reservoir at Canberra by less than thirty miles of pipe from its storage reservoir.

FACTOR C.—Good climate summer and winter.—Sir John Forrest avers that in these respects there is much similarity between the two sites under comparison, and he quotes rainfall and temperature statistics to support his statement, adding that, "though with the information before him it is impossible to say whether one has any advantage over the other, probably Canberra is a little milder than Dalgety in winter, and a little hotter in summer." Sir John omits, however, all reference to the length of the winters in the respective localities and their humidity. This it is the object of this paper to supply. The real winter months—if we may call winter weather winter months—at Dalgety are at least five in number; while those at Canberra never exceed three (May, June and July.) The late Mr. Commissioner Oliver never

had Dalgety under review. As a Federal Capital site it has been born out of due season. But from his statistics we take the following average climatic conditions of the Bombala-Eden (southern Monaro) site, part of which is included in the recently-proclaimed Dalgety Federal territory, and those of Queanbeyan (Canberra):—

	Bombala	Queanbeyan
Spring ...	55.6	46.0
Summer ...	61.1	63.1
Autumn ...	56.1	68.9
Winter ...	43.6	50.0

These statistics support our contention as to the extent to which the spring and autumn months in the Canberra territory show to advantage over the same periods of the year in the Dalgety territory.

Again, as to atmospheric conditions: Dalgety, like other parts of Monaro, is well known for the frequency, density, and long duration of its fogs; while such meteorological conditions are of rare occurrence in the Canberra territory, where even the air of winter is for the greater part dry and crisp.

FACTOR D.—Accessibility by rail from Sydney and Melbourne.—Reckoning by existing railway lines, Dalgety is 30 miles south of the nearest terminus (Cooma); Canberra, eight miles from Queanbeyan railway station. Taking possible extensions into account, the construction of a line from Cooma to Bairnsdale would pass through Dalgety in the event of its being the determined site, just as the construction of a loop-line from Yass to Queanbeyan would confer a like advantage on Canberra. With what result? the bringing of Canberra within 436 miles of Melbourne and 222 miles of Sydney, via Yass. Dalgety, however, would, with the advantage of the Yass-Queanbeyan loop-line, be 544 miles (an excess in distance of 109 miles) from Melbourne, and 296 miles from Sydney. Sir John Forrest's figures include the distance of Dalgety from Melbourne, via Bairnsdale, 363 miles, or 91 miles less than the route via Albury and Yass. But no railway statistics affecting the alternative line to Melbourne, via Monaro and Gippsland, give a saving of anything like 91 miles — only half that distance or little more.

FACTOR E. — Great water-power for electric-lighting and power, and other applications of electricity.—Sir John Forrest's minute dismisses this factor as "not worth considering when Canberra's resources are compared with those of Dalgety." Our answer to this assertion, and its complete refutation, will be found in statements in our treatment of Factor B.

FACTOR F. — Water frontage for recreation, sport, and beauty; good approach; and commanding view.—To quote Sir John Forrest's Report: "Canberra is distinctly inferior to Dalgety under this heading. It has no water frontage except the Molonglo River, which is almost dry in summer. . . . There could not be any large expanse of water for boating, etc., without immense expenditure." Here, again, there is an attempt to belittle the facts. Mr Chief-Engineer Wade tells us that the Barren Jack scheme will result in a magnificent inland lake within reasonable distance of Canberra Capital City site — a pleasure resort where boating, yachting, etc., can be indulged in, almost as large as Sydney Harbour, with easy means of access to feeder streams amply stocked with trout and other kinds of fish. A weir of very modest pretensions would, if erected in the vicinity of the Black Hill, or nearer still to Canberra, create a sheet of water intersecting the city site itself, and extending through the adjacent plains for several miles, which in the worst of our drought cycles (when only does the Molonglo River diminish in its flow, and not with every summer as is alleged) would only triflingly shrink by evaporation. As proof of this assertion, such a weir has been constructed at Queanbeyan, above the confluence of that river with the Molonglo, and although only 10 feet high impounds a reach of nearly two miles of deep, broad boating water, and through a period of more than six years of severe drought its water has only rarely ceased to flow over the weir wall. Its total cost was less than £2,000 — a mere bagatelle for the results produced. A similar weir, at the point indicated, would arrest the additional inflow of the Molonglo River and three considerable creeks, enough to yield permanent supply to the miles of water frontage it would create at, and in view of, the Canberra city site. How, then, does Sir John Forrest account for the "immense expenditure"? Will there be no great expenditure in the artificial creation of the 10 miles of boating water he

talks of as the one possibility, in the way of boating facilities, at Dalgety? And why confine his attention to the city site itself? As it has already been shown, many an ornamental sheet of water, of no mean pretensions, can be inexpensively created on Canberra Plains within actual view of the city site. But it is only fair to go further afield. Why this reticence as to water frontages elsewhere within the suggested Canberra Federal territory? A glance at the map appended to Mr Commissioner Oliver's Report on the Queanbeyan site shows a length of 15 miles along the Murrumbidgee River as part of the territory's west boundary. The modified area suggested in this paper extends westerly into the county of Cowley from the banks of this magnificent river for at least an equal length. Just over the Mugga Mugga Range, which divides the Tuggranong or Wannassa Plains from those of Canberra and Pinaligo or Majura to the eastwards, there are grand facilities for the multiplication of inland sheets of water of expansive area, in addition to those indicated near Canberra. We have already mentioned the proximity of Canberra to the head waters of that great national undertaking — the Barren Jack Weir; and the practicability of impounding the waters of the Murrumbidgee, the Cotter, the Gudgenby, and the Molonglo Rivers, just below the junction of the last-named stream with the Murrumbidgee, at a point where, as at Barren Jack, natural formation has minimised the costliness of the work of weir-building. In every instance here named there are "the good approach, the beauty, and commanding view" which Sir John Forrest declares to be non-existent. Even nature's "commanding views," unaided by art or skill, throughout, and for miles beyond this area, have excited the admiration of travellers ever since the district became settled — all of whom have declared that inland, throughout New South Wales there is nothing to equal them. It was Sir John's misfortune to traverse the only route where, as he says, "the site is not visible till you get near to it, while the view from it is not commanding." Had he ascended the slopes of Mount Ainsley or the elevations of the Mugga Mugga Range, as previous Parliamentary visitors have done, he would have borne different testimony. With reference to these and other commanding views and objects of paramount interest it is the intention of this paper to treat (under Factor I), and to refute the statement

that "there are no great remarkable features which would specially qualify Canberra for selection as a site for the great Federal City."

FACTOR G.—Commanding sites for public buildings.—Granting, for the sake of argument, that Canberra may be inferior to Dalgety in this respect, as is alleged by Sir John Forrest, he is open to challenge as to the accuracy of his statement in detail. He saw (indeed, from his view-point he could only see) the spurs of Mount Ainsley, and no other rising ground suitable for public buildings. As a matter of fact, the topography of the country around Canberra (which is not the "level, grassy plain" as described by Sir John) affords scores of magnificent elevations suitable for public edifices, while the western slopes of Mugga Mugga Range and the picturesque Yarralumla estate around its homestead, present as many splendid sites for private or official structures, surrounded by ample undulating areas designed by nature for landscape gardening, and other ornamentation.

FACTOR H.—Fertile territory and other natural resources surrounding and adjacent to Capital site.—Sir John Forrest's minute concedes equality between the rival sites in these respects. Our contention is, superiority in respect to Canberra. The difference in altitude and temperature, and the greater lengths of the seasons favourable to growth, not only cause greater fertility, but conditions favourable to the production of semi-tropical fruits which, though successfully grown at Canberra, cannot be produced anywhere on Monaro, and especially within the Dalgety Federal territory. In the vicinity of Canberra there is enough land to supply the wants of the Capital with such necessary food products as cannot well be brought from a distance. The meat, milk, butter, grapes, apples, potatoes, and other fruits and rootcrops raised or grown in the surrounding district cannot be surpassed in any part of Australia; while all the English fruits and flowers are at home, and those that make the South of France to be so attractive come to perfection here. Official reports estimate that within twenty miles of Canberra there are upwards of 100,000 acres available for cultivation.

FACTOR I.—Surrounding and adjacent scenery, with great natural features, and within convenient distance.—"Canberra is distinctly inferior to Dalgety under this heading," is the opinion of Sir John Forrest; and he supports that opinion by claiming that the Snowy River and the Snowy Mountains, with Kosciusko, 7,238 feet above sea-level, are within 40 miles of Dalgety, and that electric tramways could be utilised to reach them. On the other hand, he asserts that "there is nothing of particular importance in either scenery or great natural features at Canberra." If Sir John means within the city boundary of Canberra, same may be said of the Southern-Monaro city. Is there anything in the form of great natural features or scenery at Dalgety except the Snowy River? Sir John has to go 40 miles to find them, in the Snowy Mountains and the giant Kosciusko. Within far shorter range from Canberra exist, not one or two, as instanced by Sir John Forrest, but scores of natural features of wonderful interest. If Canberra has not a Kosciusko within 40 miles (though the "Roof of Australia" is not twice that distance from Canberra), it has within a day's ride mountains of majestic proportions, including Coree—sister mountain to Kosciusko—whose peak is little less than 6,000 feet above the sea, and such other hoary giants as Tennant and Tiddinbilla, nearer still. No more expansive, no more sublime landscape view is there anywhere in New South Wales than that afforded at a point on the Brindabella road, and within 300 feet of Coree's peak. Here the tourist views, without obstruction, westwards, a stretch of wild, mountainous country, billowy as a storm-tossed sea, extending far beyond Tumut and the county of Wynyard; while, eastwards, lie outstretched plains, intersected by belts of wooded country, which cannot fail to delight the eye, extending almost, if not quite, to the sea-board itself; and, northwards again, the like scenery, stretching far away beyond Yass, Bowning, and the Abererombie Ranges. Can Dalgety compare with this? Near to Canberra—from the Yass-road near Hall, from Mount Ainsley, the Black Hill, and the Mugga Mugga Range—wide-spreading and enchantingly beautiful landscape views—an outlook limited only by the Alpine heights westwards and southwards—are to be obtained. Close at hand are the magnificent Gininderra Falls; a little farther on the stupendous Cotter Falls, presenting a sheer unbroken descent to the plateau below of from

1,200 to 1,500 feet. In addition to these are other smaller waterfalls on the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers, with many a grand cascade in the course of these streams and the Murrumbidgee. In the deep, dark gullies over the Murrumbidgee and close at hand are fairy-like avenues of tree-ferns, under whose giant fronds, as beneath a canopy, horsemen ride with ease. Somewhat farther distant, but still much nearer to Canberra than the 40 miles which stretch between Dalgety and its few objects of interest, are Lake George (the largest lake in Australia) and Lake Bathurst. While, southwards, and nearer still, is the curious freak of nature known as London Bridge, over whose broad and level roadway vehicles can pass each other at a height of 50 feet or more from the stream flowing underneath. Beyond all these are multitudes of minor physical features of unchallengeable beauty in every direction around Canberra. Of the existence of these Sir John Forrest evidently knew nothing — all of them to be reached by shorter journeys and with greater ease by road or tramway than is the case at Dalgety.

It may be observed just here that Senator Sir Josiah Symons was not aware that Canberra—embracing the beautiful Duntroon estate — possessed all these natural attractions and facilities for the creation of a great city when he said a year ago that he doubted whether a more ideal spot could be found in the world, and that if it was accepted by the Commonwealth it would not only be the show-place of Australia, but would attract tourists from other lands.

Closely allied to picturesque scenery and natural objects of paramount charm and beauty, are such manly fieldsports as hunting, shooting, and fishing. Game is everywhere plentiful. Besides kangaroo, wallaroo, and wallaby of many sorts, the wombat has its haunts hercabouts — to say nothing of the ubiquitous rabbit, hare and fox. We may even include the stately deer which are already in considerable numbers on the park-like uplands fringeing Lake George. Birds of game include the beautiful lyre-bird, brush and plains turkey, curlew and plover, and, in their season, snipe and quail; wild-duck, teal, swan, redbill, water-hen, and other aquatic fowl; so that employment for the gun can always be depended on. As for the rod, the Queanbeyan district stands an

easy first—albeit the fame of the Snowy River—for its trout (that gamest of our fresh-water fishes) and its trout-streams, and the princely Murray-cod, the bream and the perch (indigenous and English), to which will shortly be added the handsome English roach.

4. The fourth and last ground of dissent has already been argued under Factor A.

There is one essential qualification for a Federal Capital City which, somehow or other, Sir John Forrest has quite overlooked: that is, what, in his list of physical requirements, the late Mr Oliver mentions as "the possession of, or proximity to, stone, timber, and other building material." The importance of these can hardly be over-rated. Whatever may be claimed by Dalgety in these respects, so far as concerns its building timber, that will have to be brought from long distances—probably by sea, via Twofold Bay; while Canberra has on the spot or within easy access every kind of building material of superior quality. Just across the adjacent Murrumbidgee River there are hundreds of square miles of the very best of hardwoods for building and other uses; while on and immediately around the city site itself are inexhaustible beds of granite, limestone and freestone, with quarries of marble and slate, and extensive beds of fine clays and sand; so that for the highest styles of architecture, little, if any building material will have to be brought from far.

If access to sea-board be a *sine qua non*—concerning which there is a diversity of opinion—the port of Merimbula is nearer to Canberra, and through country of easier grade, than Twofold Bay is to Dalgety, and at much less cost can be made to afford ample shelter and anchorage for the requirements of a Federal Capital City.

To sum up: We have shown that in every essential factor Canberra stands unrivalled. It possesses water supply for all possible requirements; in summer and winter its climate has all the desirable conditions; in accessibility it has decided advantages over Dalgety; in fertility of soil and hygienic conditions nothing is left to be desired; its possession of stone, timbers, clays,

and other mineral deposits are close at hand and inexhaustible; and its scenic charms and natural objects of interest are unique and wondrously varied. It is almost impossible to conceive of a site more perfect in all its essentials, where neither great heat nor cold is often experienced, or in such an altitude snow and fog so rare, or a climate more free from the rawness so common at such elevations. One cannot contrast the meteorological conditions obtaining here with the cold cutting winds and dank and enduring fogs of Southern Monaro without a strong conviction of the justice of the claim of Canberra to fair, exhaustive and impartial consideration at the hands of the Commonwealth Parliament. Here the clear and ever-flowing Murrumbidgee sparkles through our splendid site and brightens it; here our stupendous Alps slacken the cold blasts from the west and south and refresh the eye with their ever-varying aspects; while the balmy, but fresh and invigorating air gives such health and vigor as to cause work to be easy, appetite sharp, and sleep certain.

For sporting purposes, also, this locality has been shown to possess great advantages. A national Park as large as, and infinitely wilder than either of those which Sydney possesses, and in which zoological specimens could be kept in conditions adapted to their natural habits, could be created without impoverishing the State. Fishing, too, can be had in abundance; and the advantages of this exciting and beguiling sport are increasing as the beautiful and dashing trout is becoming more and more plentiful every year in all the rivers and streams of the district.

For excursions, the attractions which are accessible are numerous. Within a day's drive — a drive through such mountains and wild scenery as many travel hundreds of miles to see — are the vast and still unexplored caves of Coolamon; while the better-known caves of Yarrangobilly are only some dozen miles further on. At Coolamon, also, can be seen the phenomenon of a river which disappears and runs underground — doubtless, through a series of unknown stalactic caves — from which it emerges as the wild and dashing Goobradigbee. In another direction, Lake George — so varied in its aspects — will often be worth visiting; while a climb to the summits of Coree, Tidbinbilla, and Tennant will make pleasant and

exhilarating many a day's outing (within easy reach of the entire Commonwealth) without incurring the extra expense and toil involved in a journey of upwards of a hundred miles further to reach Dalgety with its proved inferiority in many respects to the site of the Federal territory and Capital City of Canberra, with its historical associations, dating back to the early days of the colonization of New South Wales.

