

NATIONAL LIBRARY. An Act to sanction the erection of a National Library for the State of New South Wales. [6th December, 1905.]

- Preamble.** WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Works Act, 1900, the Legislative Assembly did by resolution declare that it was expedient to carry out a certain work, namely, the erection of a National Library for the State of New South Wales: And whereas on the passing of the said resolution a statutory duty was, by the said Act, imposed on the Secretary for Public Works to introduce a Bill into the said Assembly to sanction the carrying out of the work: Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—
- Short title.** 1. This Act may be cited as the "National Library Act, 1905."
- Work sanctioned.** 2. The carrying out of the said work (more particularly described in the Schedule to this Act) is hereby sanctioned, and the Secretary for Public Works, or the Member of the Executive Council for the time being performing the duties of the said Secretary, is hereby authorised to undertake and carry out the said work, subject to the provisions of this Act, and for that purpose shall be and shall have the powers and duties of a constructing authority within the meaning of the Public Works Act, 1900.
- Mitchell Library.** 3. That part of the said work to be used for the Mitchell Library shall be commenced immediately after the passing of this Act.
- Plan of work.** 4. The plans of the said work are the plans marked one to eight inclusive, signed by the Government Architect and deposited in the public office of the said Secretary.
- Cost, and how defrayed.** 5. The cost of carrying out the said work, estimated at one hundred and twenty thousand four hundred and forty-four pounds, may be defrayed from such Loan Votes as are now or may hereafter be applicable to that purpose, and shall not under any circumstances exceed the estimated cost by more than ten per centum.

SCHEDULE.

THE site of the proposed building is that to the north of the present garden attached to Parliament House, with flank frontage to Macquarie-street, and extending northward and eastward over land now partly occupied by an enclosed plantation, electric-power house, Richmond Terrace and the Outer Domain, as is indicated upon the plans. It is intended that the main façade of the building shall face north, overlooking the Palace Garden Grounds, requiring some deviation and rearrangement of the Domain entrance, roads, and fencing in its immediate vicinity. The

(Consolidated Revenue Fund) Appropriation.

The building is rectangular in plan, with two inner court yards, the general disposition being a main front entrance to the north, leading direct into a central reading-room, flanked on the western side by the portion to be devoted to the Mitchell Library, and on the eastern side by a lofty bookstack and the accommodation generally required for the State Library. The basement (although somewhat under the general level) will have its windows above the ground level.

The portion to be devoted to the Mitchell Library consists of three floors, viz., basement, ground, and first floors, with one portion of the latter having special top-lighting for picture gallery purposes.

The State Library also contains basement, ground and first floors, with galleries and reading-room dome, and bookstack on six floors.

The whole of the building is designed to accommodate metal and other fittings requisite for library, search, and exhibition purposes.

The construction of the building throughout is of a fireproof character.

The ventilation is to be provided by motive power, with distributors throughout all the bookstacks.

The design generally is in the Italian Renaissance style, the external faces being in stone and the internal areas in brick and stone.
