

Queanbeyan-Canberra Advocate 21 October 1926

CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR AT CANBERRA - CHARGES CONTRADICTED

The Acting Prime Minister (Dr Earle Page) and the Acting Minister for Defence (Mr Marr) have flatly contradicted the assertions made by a clergyman to the effect that the members of the Empire Parliamentary Delegations were 'lavishly entertained with strong liquor at Canberra,' and that '76,000 empty bottles had to be removed from the capital city in a few days.'

Both Ministers said that the functions at Canberra were strictly in accordance with the ordinance which made the Territory dry. Mr Marr said that he saw nothing in Canberra during the visit to which exception could be taken. Respecting the 76,000 bottles, Dr Page remarked that while liquor could not be sold within the Territory, it was not an offence to take liquor into the city and consume it there. A local opinion poll, Dr Page added, would be taken as soon as possible after the official occupation of the city.