

The
Electric Chronicle
 newspaper



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‘Our patriotic duty’

Fight the enemy within, P.M. tells Australians

The prime minister, Sir Edmund Barton, last night said that the greatest enemy facing Australians was drought.

It is always our patriotic duty to be vigilant, to be ready to fight, and if necessary to die in defending the country, said Sir Edmund. “Fortunately we have never yet been invaded, nor were not likely to be.”

But it was fatal to suppose that because there was no danger of a hostile invasion our patriotism might be allowed to sleep.

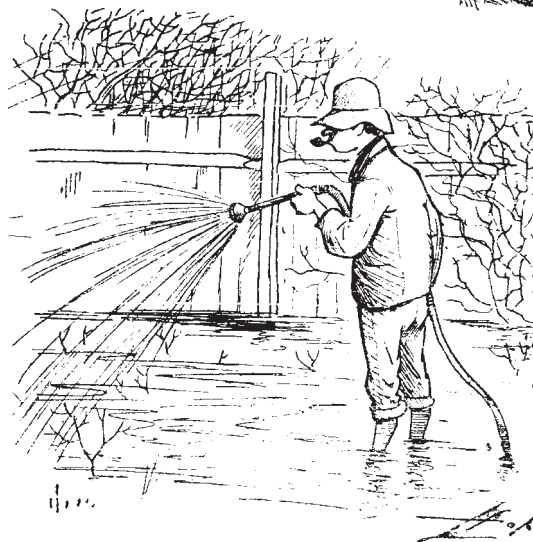
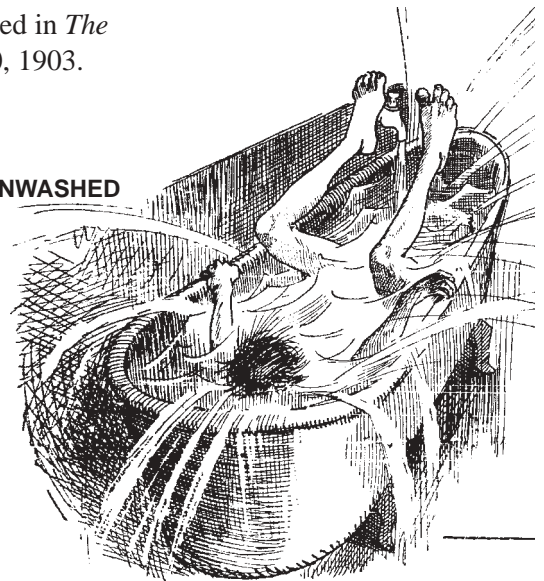
There were grave issues to be faced, which demanded all our patriotic attention. Australians had to solve huge problems with regard to the irrigation of arid land, and the best means of using the available water supply.

The past two years should teach the Australian people to provide against drought. And it was only in these latter days of the need to conserve water that the people of Sydney were beginning to be aware of the enormous extent of this country, said the prime minister.

(Rewritten from *The Age*, January 16, 1903)

In January 1903 water restrictions in Sydney were partially lifted. These cartoons were published in *The Bulletin*, January 10, 1903.

JOY OF THE GREAT UNWASHED



THE MAN WITH THE HOSE
 — Making up for lost time.

The
Electric Chronicle
newspaper

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edited by Roger Stitson.

THE DEVIL'S YEAR
If you add together the figures 1903
the sum total is 13 — the unlucky number.
Cranks, croakers, and prophets,
take notice!



The Bulletin, January 10, 1903.

Britain claims right to send gun boats into the Dardanelles

Russians defy treaty

Telegrams from Constantinople report that Russia is raising the question, which was dropped about three months ago, of the right to send torpedo boats, without their guns, through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus to the Black Sea.

Russia is about to send four torpedo boats through the Dardanelles to strengthen her Black Sea fleet, though it is expressly provided by the Treaty of Paris that

no foreign war ship shall pass the Dardanelles.

England has protested to the Sultan of Turkey against this breach of treaty obligations, and has notified him that she reserves the right to demand a similar privilege.

Russia maintains that the torpedo boats are not war ships, because they are disarmed and are flying the commercial flag of Russia, not the naval flag.

Germany remains neutral in the matter, and in fact her ambassador informed Russia months ago that she would be neutral on the Dardanelles question.

(From *The Age*, January 8, 1903)

War clouds threaten in the Balkans

Russian observers believe a general insurrection of the Christian population of Macedonia will take place in the coming spring. They state that both Bulgarians and Serbians will support the rebels against the Turks.

In response to this, the Sultan of Turkey is mobilising his second and third army corps for deployment to Macedonia. Regarding this as a menace, Bulgaria has appealed to the powers of Europe — England, France, Germany and Russia — for help.

After being pressured by the powers, the Sultan has now agreed to reform the Turkish administration of Macedonia in the interests of justice and impartiality.

It is further believed that the Macedonian gendarmerie will also be reorganised by expert European officers. Its members will include Christians in the same proportion to Moslems.

However, the Turkish Government is not relaxing its military precautions. Yesterday the Sultan ordered the Minister for War to purchase at once ten Maxim machine guns.

Meanwhile, M. Sarafof, a Bulgarian ex-Minister, who escaped arrest when Prince Ferdinand recently ordered the suppression of Macedonian political committees, is making plans.

M. Sarafof has formed and equipped seven fresh bands of Bulgarians, each 250 strong, for the purpose of promoting raids on Macedonia.

(Compiled from reports in *The Age* throughout Jan-Feb 1903.)

The Bulletin, January 10, 1903.

THE AUSTRALIAN NAVAL SITUATION IN A NUTSHELL

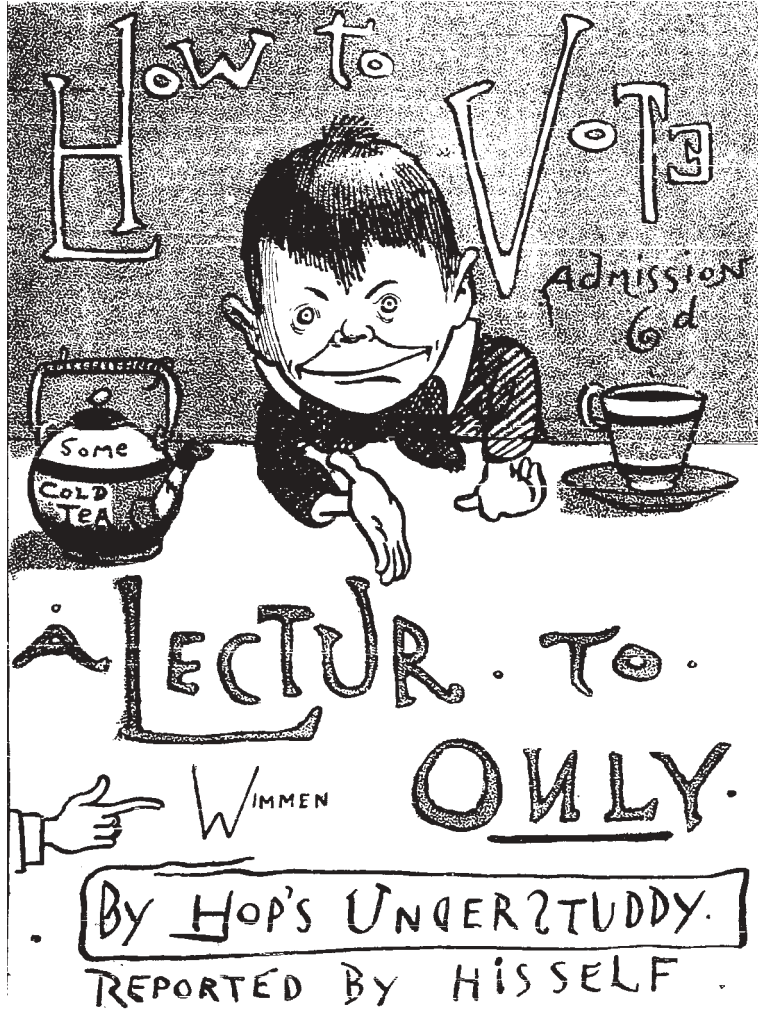


YOUNG AUSTRALIAN: "Mother, may I go and swim?"

BRITANNIA: "Yes, but don't go near the water."

Australian women and the right to vote

The Australian Commonwealth was to hold its second federal election in December 1903. Nationwide, women were to vote for the first time. On February 21, 1903, *The Bulletin* published a full page of cartoons on the subject. The first of them is on this page, with the others appearing throughout the next three pages of this issue of *The Electric Chronicle Newspaper*.



Ladies and Wimmin, — Now that you've got a vote, you nat'rally want to know how to use it. Listen! In the first place good looks is no qualification. You must be of a certain age. If uncertain about your age, ask a pleeceman. (Cries of "We'd die first," and some coughing.)



No 2
Before starting for the polls, see that you have done your duty as a mother. Never let it be said of you that you neglect your children for politics. ("Hear, hear.")

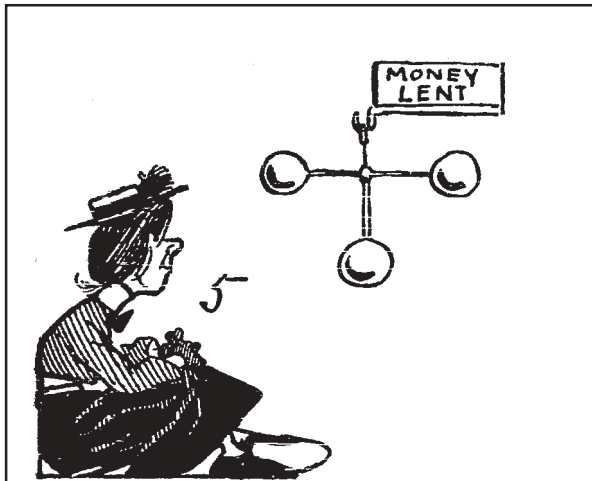


3
And see that your hat is on strate. No woman is likely to vote strate who neglects this precaution. Rubbins and Co. are just now havin' a Summer sale of hats, imported expressly for votin' in. (A voice: "Wot's the address?")



4
And the more delicate among you might supply themselves with an umbrella fitted with a loaded handle. The uses of this here will appear further on. (Sensation.)

'A Lector to Wimmin Only' (continued)
The Bulletin, February 21, 1903.



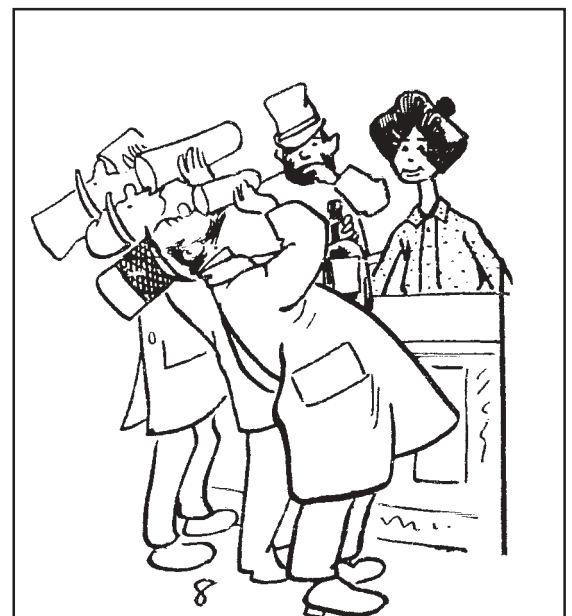
Study Plitercal Economy, specially in its financial aspect. Most wimmin is deficient in finance. (Interruptions and uproar and voices: "We're just as fiscal as you be.")



A woman can be a good citizen. and a good mother as well. There's no law agin takin' your babies to the polls, only you'll find it rather awkward to manage a baby, trail, and an elector's right all at once. P'r'aps you'd better leave your trail behind you. (Cries of, "Never!")



Only one people is allowed in the booth at a time; but you'll always find plenty of politicians hanging about, ready to hold the baby. (A voice: We wouldn't trust 'em.")



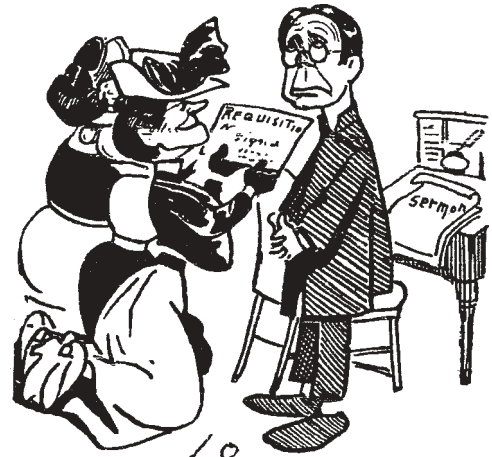
And kiss him, too, if necessary. This is a joke. You don't see it now, but you will some day.

Continued ►

'A Lectur to Wimmin Only' (continued)
The Bulletin, February 21, 1903.



You've been told to vote only for good, pure men. Good men are scarce — though I believe there's a few knockin' about Lower George St.
 [To the printer: Put them words after the dash in small type.]



Of course the only Simon Pure men are the parsons (sighs), who, if asked real pretty to represent you, will promise (loud and enthusiastic cheering) to make it a matter of prayer.



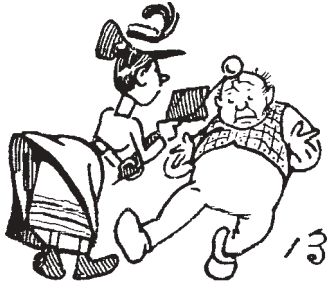
But if you can't find a man or a parson to represent you, choose one from among yourselves. I dare say I could, from where I stand, throw this teapot with my eyes shut and hit someone who'd be willing to wear a railway pass on her watch-chain. (Tumultuous applause.)



Vote early, and see that the cook does likewise. It won't hurt the old man a bit to get his own breakfast for once in a way. (A voice — a deep bass one: "An' sarve him right!")

Continued ►

'A Lectur to Wimmin Only' (continued)
The Bulletin, February 21, 1903.



If he objects, well, there's where your loaded umbrella will come in. (" 'Ear, 'ear.") Yes, the ear is as good a place as any. (Laughter.) I am not sure but incompatibility of politics is legal grounds for divorce. (Cries of, "It ought to be", and "We'll make it so.") Though I am no lawyer, as Bruce Smith is — (hisses) — and he's no orator, as I am — *Shakespeare*. (A voice: "Three cheers for Shakespeare.")



In conclusion, keep sober on election day. Don't never descend to the level of the Beast, Man, who gets drunk on election day — and doesn't always wait till then. ("Hear, hear," and a voice, "Why shouldn't we?")



(Here the orator of the evening sat down amid prolonged cheering.)

Lady Todpitcher, in moving a vote of thanks, said: That out of the mouth of babes and sucklings, &c., &c., and that MacMillan, Carruthers, Bruce Smith, in all their oratorical glory were not a patch on one of my style.

I was carried out of the hall and given a jam sandwich and some soft drinks unanimously.



THE MISTRESS — "Accept the suffrage? Certainly not! How dare you offer the FEMALE suffrage to ladies!"

On 29th January, 1903, *Punch* magazine also published a page of cartoons about Women and the Vote, titled, *The Roll Call*. One of the cartoons is presented here. The page caption reads:

"The police who are endeavouring to collect the names of women entitled to the suffrage find the servants complying readily, while their mistresses often refuse the suffrage with disdain."

Roosevelt appoints first Afro-American to gov't position

Outrage in the South

President Roosevelt has raised a violent storm in the United States of America by appointing a Negro to the post of customs collector at Charleston, South Carolina, the most sensitive and excitable of the Southern States on the color question.

Mr. Roosevelt maintains that he will not refuse a post to any American Black who has the capabilities to discharge his duties effectively.

The Democratic newspapers throughout America are unanimous in their denunciations of the Republican President's action.

The appointment follows the first visit to the White House of a Black American, clergyman Booker T. Washington, invited to dine with the President late last year.

Mr. Roosevelt's action has caused a decided split among the Republican journals of New York, a number of

whom agree with the Democratic press in condemning the President's move.

The *New York Herald*, a Republican journal, expresses strong disapproval of the President's action in making a Negro a high Federal official in South Carolina. The newspaper declares the Southerners' social attitude towards Blacks, whether due to customs, creed or prejudice, is most uncompromising, and requires extreme care in treatment by the Federal authority.

It is being reported that Afro-Americans are afraid to accept public appointments in the Southern States, where their color has, until now, been an absolute bar to such employment.

Several Blacks whom the President has also recently appointed have resigned their offices.

The whole of the Southern States are in a white heat of rage. There is some danger of serious anti-Negro riots if President Roosevelt persists in his policy of making black men public officials in the South.

(Compiled from reports in *The Age* throughout January 1903.)

Royal scandal continues

Crown Princess Louise of Saxony, who late last year eloped to Geneva with M. Giron, the French tutor of her children, has been told that she would never see them again if she remained with her lover.

However, she has recently been compelled to return to the royal court at Dresden because one of her children contracted typhoid fever.

On arrival, though, her husband, Crown Prince Frederick of Saxony, has refused to allow her to visit the sick child.

Princess Louise has now entered a sanatorium for nervous affections at Nyon, on the Lake of Geneva, and is said to be profoundly depressed.

The working classes in Saxony, with whom she had become very popular by her unconventionality and her dislike of Court conventions, vehemently support the Princess.

(Compiled from reports in *The Age* throughout Jan-Feb 1903.)

Aeroplanes soon to be a reality, says Prof. Bell

Professor Alexander Graham Bell, the famous inventor, claims to have made an important discovery which is likely to solve the problem of aerial navigation.

Dr. Bell opposes airships of the balloon type like M. Santos Dumont's on the grounds that any mechanical body lighter than air is bound to be at the mercy of the wind, and is therefore impracticable. Birds which are heavier than air, have perfect freedom.

Dr. Bell has not built a flying machine, nor attempted to do so. However, he has been carrying out experiments, and has reached the conclusion that the airship must resemble a kite.

In the course of his recent experiments he constructed a kite or aeroplane carrying the weight equivalent to that of a man. The aircraft also contained an engine which, when cut loose, descended gently and steadily, and landed uninjured.

Meanwhile Professor Myers, of Utica, whose airship will compete at the St. Louis Exposition, has announced the completion of an electric aerial torpedo, which flies like a bird.

The machine is driven by screws making 200 revolutions a minute, while aeroplanes acting as rudders move the vessel in any direction.

Mr. Myers asserts that the vessel can be electrically controlled from a distance.

(Rewritten from *The Age*, February 7, 1903)

Bubonic plague hits W.A.

PERTH,

More cases of bubonic plague are reported here. Nicholas Buicich, aged 20, one of the contacts taken to the Woodman's Point quarantine station, was suddenly taken violently ill this morning. His temperature is very high, and the medical staff state that his condition is serious.

Another patient, Lucy Butterworth, is also dangerously ill.

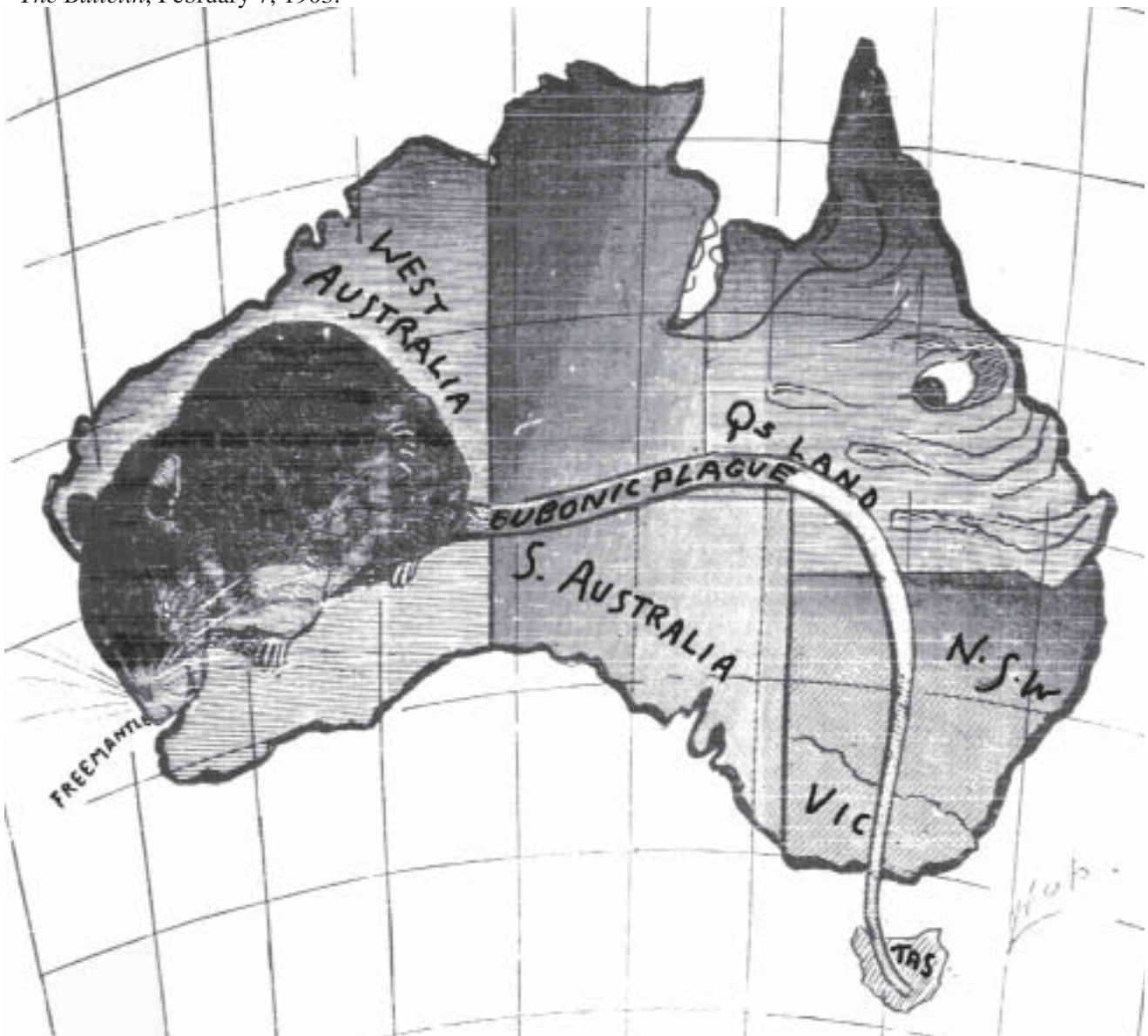
Doctors report that the source of infection was probably bites from fleas, and that the virus must have been kept alive and active by rodents since the last case of plague occurred. Strenuous efforts to kill rats must be made, and drains and back premises must be thoroughly cleansed. The bonus of 6d. per head for rats is still in force.

SYDNEY,

The Prime Minister, Sir Edmund Barton, was today advised by Sir John Forrest, the Premier of Western Australia, of the outbreak of bubonic plague at Fremantle. All vessels arriving at Sydney from Fremantle are to be subjected to the plague regulations.

(Compiled and rewritten from reports in *The Age* throughout January, 1903)

The Bulletin, February 7, 1903.



THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BITE — BE WARNED IN TIME!

THE PLAGUE-RAT, WHICH HAS APPEARED AT FREMANTLE, IS AGAIN IN QUEST OF DIRTY CITIES.

In brief

Priest shot by lover

An attempt to kill a French priest has been reported from Paris.

The Abbe Jacquetie had promised to give up his calling in the Church, and marry M'selle Bortoz, a young lady belonging to a leading family in Vichy, the famous bathing resort.

When he failed to fulfill his promise, the enraged lady fired at him, the wound almost killing him.

Princess elopes from Cairo harem

Princess Nehmet, a sister of the Egyptian Khedive, Abbas Pasha, has eloped from her husband's harem with an Austrian count.

The Princess has stated she strongly objects to the restriction and seclusion of the harem, and to the Muslim faith in general.

She intends to become a Christian and to marry her lover.

Monster turtle

A giant black turtle was caught yesterday in the Swan River, near North Fremantle.

It took six men to drag it out and turn it on its back. It weighs 500 lb and is 7 feet long, with fins which spread nearly 8 feet.

Panama Canal

The United States has agreed with Colombia to guarantee the neutrality of the Panama Canal, and to open it for traffic within 14 years.

(Compiled from *The Age*, Jan–Feb, 1903)

Plea to free Lieut. Witton from jail

A deputation of Australians resident in South Africa yesterday presented the British Secretary for the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, with a petition for the release of Lieutenant Witton from jail.

Witton, a Victorian, formerly of the Bushveldt Carbineers during the Boer War, was court martialled and sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in the shooting of Boer prisoners without trial.

For their part, Australian officers Lieutenants Harry ("the Breaker") Morant and Peter Hancock were found guilty and shot by firing squad a year ago.

Mr. Chamberlain promised the Australian deputation to present its petition to King Edward.

(Rewritten from *The Age*, February 26, 1903)

Woman claims to cure consumption

Miss Thorne, a student in chemistry, of Sydney University, claims to have discovered a cure for consumption.

In the course of a lecture tonight she explained her treatment, which is inhalation of hot, dry air, impregnated with a gas which she herself discovered.

She had, she said, been led to take up the special study of consumption because her mother and other relatives had years ago fallen victim to the scourge.

She herself was declared to have been in consumption several years ago, but the process had effected a complete cure in her own case.

She has offered certain rights to the Federal Government free of any charge, and will, she says, demonstrate the cure before a gathering of doctors and scientists at an early date.

(From *The Age*, January 31, 1903)

Advert., *The Bulletin*, February 7, 1903.

All Roads Alike to The Oldsmobile

The enduring and reliable qualities of the Oldsmobile were recently proven in a long distance run held in America between New York and Boston—500 miles.

It was the only machine in the 1,000 pounds class that made the run without a penalized stop, winning the *highest* award.

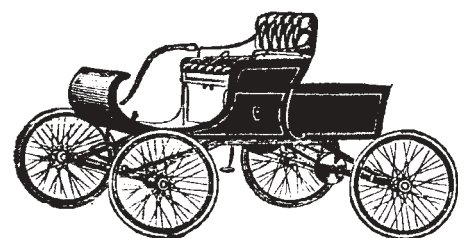
It is made to run *and does it*. The motor is of simplest construction, the result of 17 years' experience in building of Gas Engines and Automobiles. Starts at will from seat and is always under instant control of the operator.

Sells in America for \$650.00 (£135) and the freight here is not large. The cheapest reliable automobile made.

Write for free catalogue, illustrated.

Agents:

W. A. RYAN & CO., LTD., AUCKLAND.



Olds Motor Works, Detroit, Mich.
U.S.A.

Totalisator — racing clubs say yes to controlled betting

The conference convened by the Victoria Racing Club to look into the question of State-controlled gambling has unanimously voted in favour of introducing the totalisator.

About 40 racing clubs were represented. The Rev. Joseph Nicholson, the recognised champion of the anti-totalisator party, occupied a seat at the press table.

On speaking in favour of the motion, Mr. W. H. Croker said that racing was a sport and not a means of livelihood. (Hear, hear.) He also said the general public should judge for itself whether the totalisator would help to elevate the national sport or, as its opponents alleged, whether it would encourage gambling.

There would, of course, have to be restrictions placed upon its use, otherwise they would be letting loose a very dangerous weapon.

However, the totalisator would bring an improvement, as it was quite hopeless to talk about abolishing betting on racecourses. (Hear, hear.)

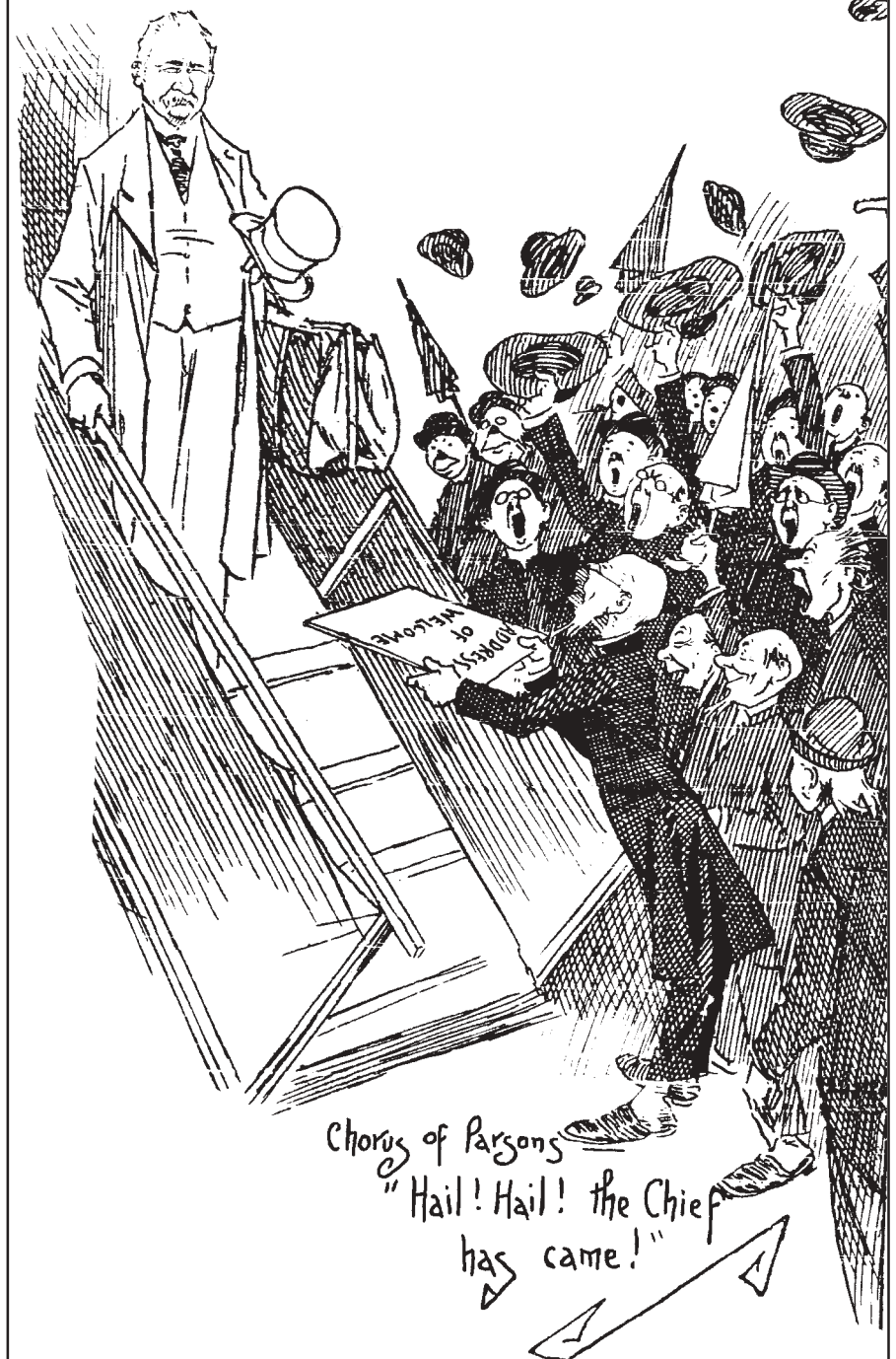
If the totalisator were legalised here it would limit the activities of "the ring", a class of people who presently made profits from betting without helping the industry much.

It would also remove temptation out of the way of jockeys.

Mr. Croker said that in France not only were some of the proceeds of their totalisator donated to charities, but money was to be raised from it to improve the breeding of horses.

In seconding the motion, Mr. J.N. McCracken said that he had yet to hear that any harm had come to those four States of the Commonwealth that had already legalised the totalisator. (Rewritten from *The Age*, January 21, 1903)

Joe Thompson, the "Leviathan" bookie, disapproves of the Totalisator on the grounds that it "encourages gambling".
(extract from interview)



The Bulletin, January 24, 1903.

The Electric Chronicle Newspaper

Sports News



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Letter to the editor

Slow cricket

Sir — Permit me to raise my voice in protest against the “deadly lively” way cricket is now played. The umpires come out five or ten minutes late, stroll out to the pitch and have five minutes’ chat. Five minutes later the team gently meanders out, followed another five minutes later by the batsmen.

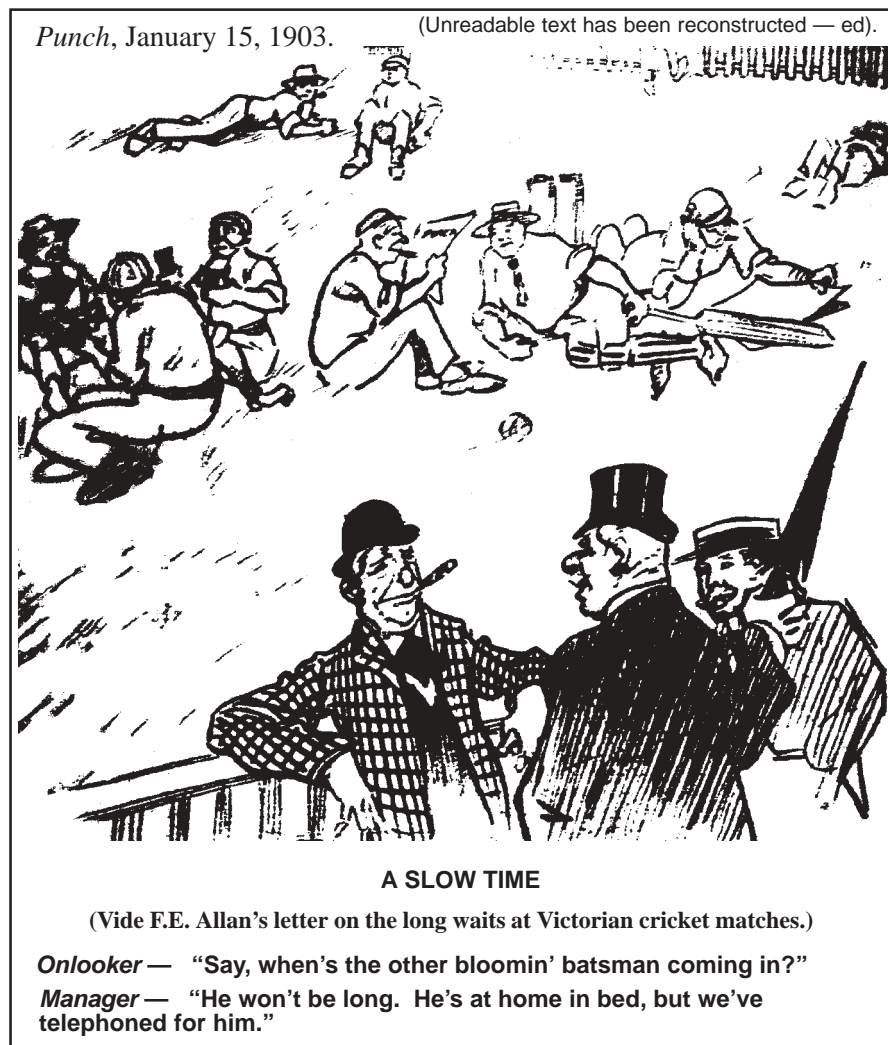
Then the various preliminaries of placing the field, adjusting the sight board, the bowler bowling half a dozen deliveries to the wicketkeeper, and the game starts about 15 or 20 minutes late.

Then a sure “fourer” goes to the chains and a fieldsman gently trots after the ball. A man gets out and gently returns to the pavilion. After he has disappeared his successor — at, of course, a decent interval — gently takes his place.

Presently it is time for lunch, after which the umpires, fielding team and batsmen stroll out a little late, as before, and the game goes on till that abomination, 4 o’clock tea. This is supposed to be ten minutes. Did it ever take less than 20?

Then when the side is out, does the interval ever be less than double the proper time? And so the thing drags, and the paying public has to put up with far less than it pays for, and the wonder is that there are anything like good attendances.

I remember when the first Australian Eleven went home in 1878 the game was being played in the same lethargic spirit. We noticed this, and we determined to alter it. On the tick of 12 we went out of the gate (frequently before the umpires). The public were delighted. The papers referred to us as “those punctual



Australians.” Our actions put our opponents on their mettle, and we had real “live” matches and made quite a revolution in the game.

Just now all sorts of suggestions are in the air to do away with, or at least minimise, the ascendancy of the bat over the ball, but nothing has been done. Instead of widening or raising the wicket, narrowing the bat etc, let us do away with the sightboard and let the batsman do the best he can without it.

Nothing is done to help the bowler on our billiard table wickets. To help him so far seems to me a fair and

reasonable thing. The absurd episode of today ought to help the board on its way to extinction.

Yours &c., F.E. Allan.

Victoria Parade, 3rd January.

(Rewritten from *The Age*, January 5, 1903)

(F.E. Allan played one test match for Australia, in 1879. He was selected to play in the first-ever test match in 1876-77, but withdrew before the game, preferring to stay in Warrnambool for an agricultural show! He was also a member of the first Australian test team to tour England, in 1878. — Editor)