

The
Electric Chronicle
 newspaper



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Russia-Japan at war

Night attack on Port Arthur by Japanese navy

Open warfare has broken out between Russia and Japan. Under cover of night, with their lights out, a Japanese naval squadron has torpedoed the Russian fleet stationed off Port Arthur, southern Manchuria.

The Russian navy in Port Arthur has been completely taken by surprise. They had not been expecting an attack so soon after negotiations between the two countries to avert war had recently broken down.

Russia's refusal to honour an agreement to give up her trading monopolies in Manchuria and Korea, and to pour more troops into the region, are the reasons given by the Japanese for the attack.

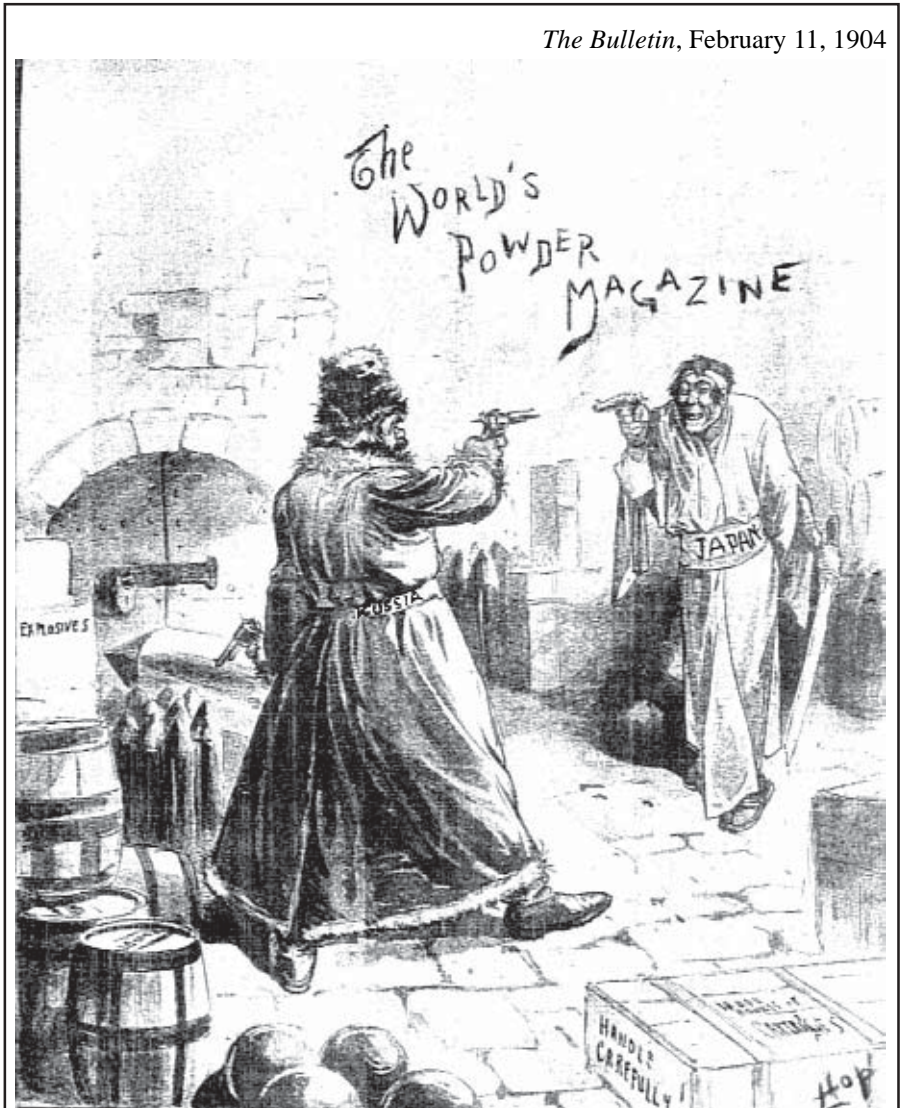
Apathy appeared to possess the Russians. No vessels chased the Japanese nor fired a shot at them until they turned to leave.

Public feeling in Russia has turned against Admiral Alexeieff, the Commander of the fleet in Port Arthur, who is now accused of incapacity.

It is also reported that American veterans of the Spanish-American war in Cuba are sailing to enlist with the Japanese armed forces.

(Compiled from *S.M.H.*, Feb. 1904.)

The Bulletin, February 11, 1904



A NICE PLACE TO FIGHT A DUEL!

More cartoons about the Russo-Japanese war, pages 4–7.

The
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In view of the opening of the Adelaide-Darwin railway line in January 2004,
after a century of discussion and planning, we thought this cartoon from
The Bulletin, February 25, 1904, was appropriate.



**This is N.S.W. Public Works Committee. It is Discussing a Railway to the Moon,
or some such Likely Project. Is it wasting time? Not much!
You should see the fees it draws!**

Chicago theatre fire horror

Hundreds of women and children killed

Six hundred women and children have been killed in a terrible fire that swept through the new Iroquois Theatre in Chicago.

The theatre was in darkness at the time, the lights having been lowered to increase the effect of a song during a matinee performance of the pantomime, *Bluebeard*.

The fire broke out when a tank of chemicals used for stage lighting exploded. Amateur firemen attempted to lower an asbestos safety curtain, but it became tangled halfway down, and the fire spread. The firemen fled for their lives.

In the darkness the theatre filled with smoke. Members of the audience fought their way towards the nearest three or four doors, even though the new theatre contained 40 exits.

Upstairs in the gallery an escape route was cut off because ladders to the pavement had not yet been installed in the new theatre. In the panic women were pushed over the railings and killed.

Many victims were found seated asphyxiated, facing the stage. Bodies were found stretching eight feet beyond the door of the balcony and towards the staircase, and were piled to within two feet of the ceiling of the passage.

Scores of bodies were naked, their faces not being distinguishable owing to having been trampled upon.

Twelve thieves have been arrested for plundering from the bodies. The Mayor of Chicago, the theatre owner, and other officials, have been committed for trial for neglecting public safety and not providing adequate fire protection.

It's believed the safety curtain was not made of fireproof asbestos.

One official has been arrested for bribing witnesses to leave Chicago. (S.M.H., throughout Jan. 1904.)

The Bulletin, January 14, 1904

Apropos of the Chicago catastrophe, it has been proposed to institute fire drill for the audience at stated periods.

Wife (anxious): "What, John! You're not surely going out for another drink?"

John: "No, I'm going in for a little theatre fire drill on my own."



In brief

Pope says no

The Pope has directed that no lady considering herself a good Roman Catholic shall appear in a décolleté gown at gatherings which may be attended by Cardinals or prelates.

Pneumonia

Over 300 deaths from pneumonia are occurring every week in New York.

Convicts in New Caledonia

The wealthy Rothschild family of financiers have denied that they are trying to induce France to send more convicts to work in the nickel mines of New Caledonia.

(S.M.H., Jan-Feb, 1904.)

The Bulletin, January 21, 1904



The editor of the *Sydney Evening News* (who shouldn't notice such things) says: "There are indications that short skirts are coming in again."

Well, there's one comfort; if they get too "décolleté," the Pope will be down on 'em like a thousand of bricks.

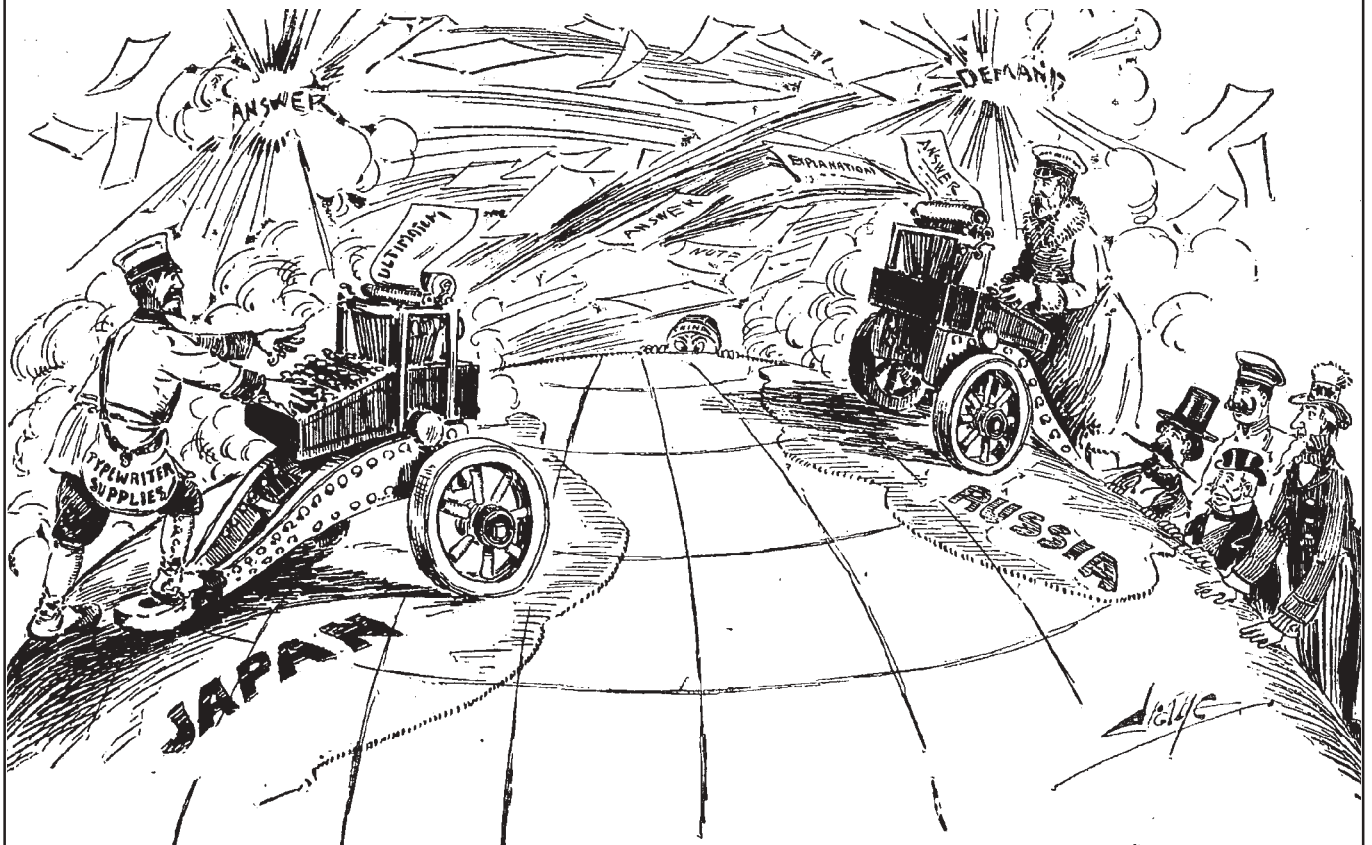
Cartoons of the Russo-Japanese war

Johan Braakensiek (Holland), January 10, 1904



CHINA AND THE WAR DANGER IN EAST ASIA.

The Chinese man (to his neighbours): "If only I knew which one of you will be beaten — I'd join with the other."



IF IT WOULD ONLY STOP AT THIS.

New York Times, January 17, 1904

Cartoons of the Russo-Japanese war

The Bulletin, February 18, 1904

These Russian names



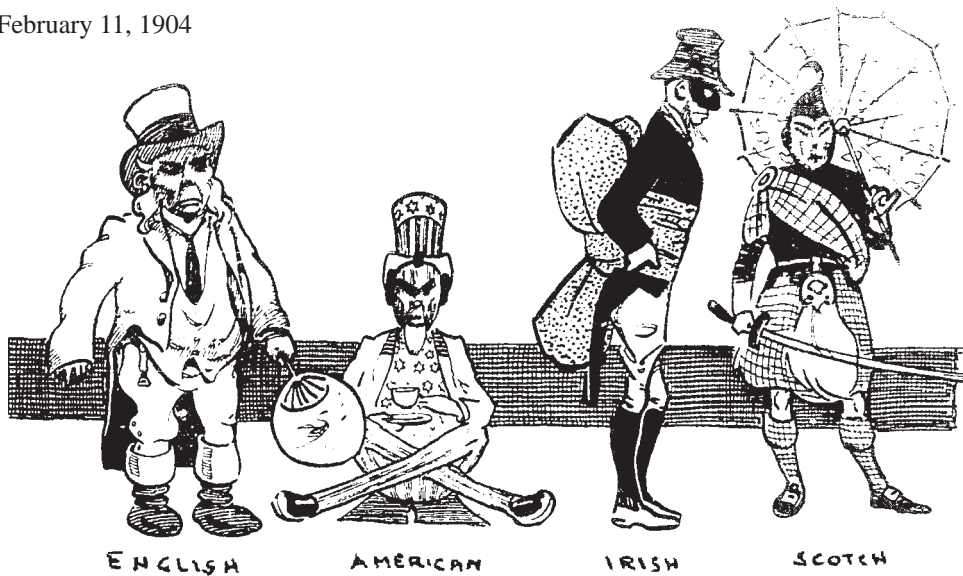
Irate person: —
 "Policeman! take
 that boy in
 charge!"
 Bobby: — "Wot's é done?"
 I.P. — "Why, he called
 me a Vladivostok!"

The Bulletin, February 25, 1904



Enthusiast: "Ef (hic) Japan winszh the Fourth Test Mash, ish a' neverlashing disgrasch!"

The Bulletin, February 11, 1904



JAPANESE ACTIVITY — DISGUISED TROOPS IN KOREA. — Cable.
 SOME OF THE DISGUISES!

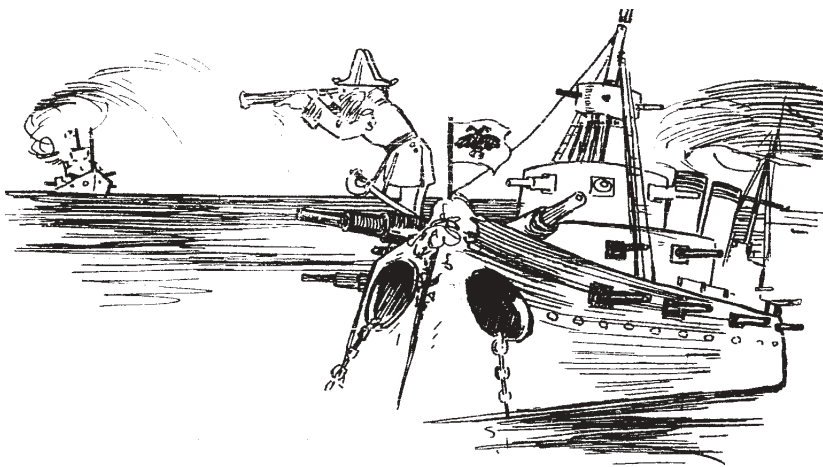
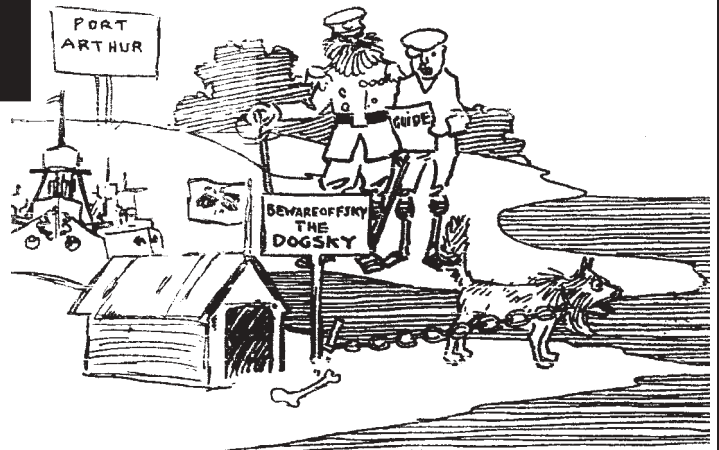
Melbourne Punch, February 25, 1904

Cartoons of the Russo-Japanese war THE RETIRING RUSSIAN

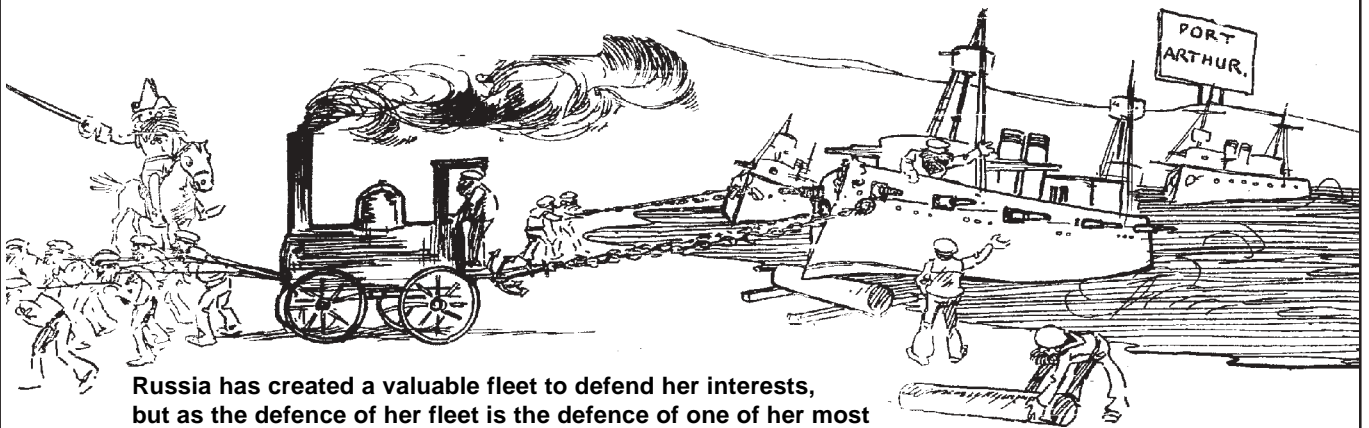
The Russian fleet remaining cooped up in Port Arthur, out of harm's way...

THE BRITISH TOURIST: "But what are you doing with the watch dog here?"

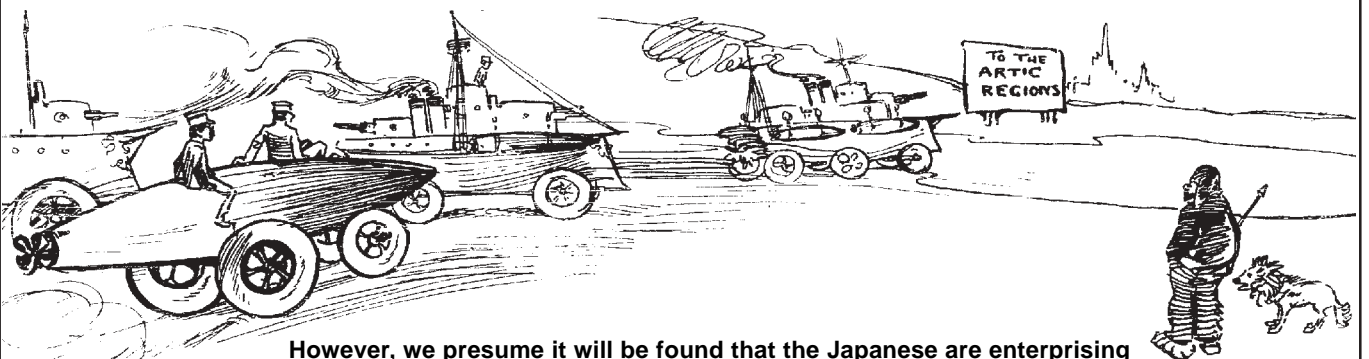
THE RUSSIAN: "What! Would you have us leave our fleet wholly unprotected? He's there to keep the Japs from stealing our ships."



RUSSIAN COMMANDER: "By Jovesky, that's a Japanese man of war coming up. I can't go into action; I've just had my ship painted."



Russia has created a valuable fleet to defend her interests, but as the defence of her fleet is the defence of one of her most important interests, she decides to drag the ships inland out of reach of the foe.



However, we presume it will be found that the Japanese are enterprising enough to meet even this move, and it may be followed by an advance inland of the Japanese automobile torpedo boats.

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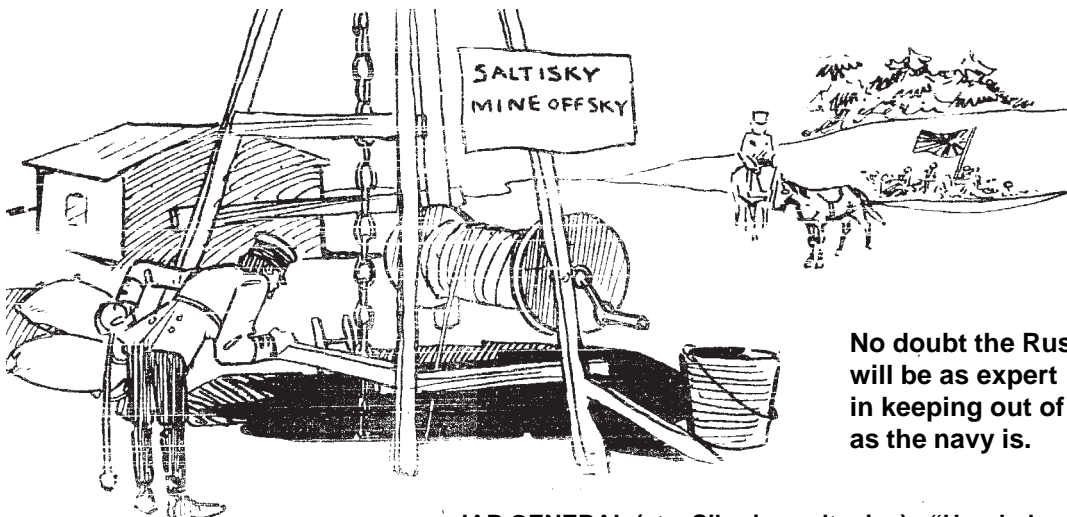
Cartoons of the Russo-Japanese war
THE RETIRING RUSSIAN

◀ From previous page

JAPANESE EXPLORER: "Ah, good day, my friend the Esquimaux, do you happen to have seen a Russian fleet anywhere about the Pole?"



Russian diplomatists said that Russia would play with Japan, but Japan seems to have reversed the order. This is one good "turn" the Muscovite will not relish.



No doubt the Russian army will be as expert in keeping out of the way as the navy is.

JAP GENERAL (at a Siberian salt mine): "Hey, below! Do you happen to have a Russian army in hiding down there?"

Immigration laws tested

Is English a European language?

A Chinese man recently convicted under the Immigration Restriction Act with being a prohibited immigrant has appealed to the General Sessions on the ground that he had not been asked by a customs officer to write out a passage of 50 words in any European language dictated to him by the officer.

Mr. Ah Foo also claimed that English was not a European language.

It was stated by counsel that a customs officer had dictated to Ah Foo ten words in English, but that he had been unable to write them. As a result, should the officer be obliged to go through the farce of dictating the full 50 words?

The Chief Justice said the test would also trap many Englishmen, who would be unable to write 50 words in English. However, it was reasonable for the customs officer to assume that if a man could not write ten words he could not write 50.

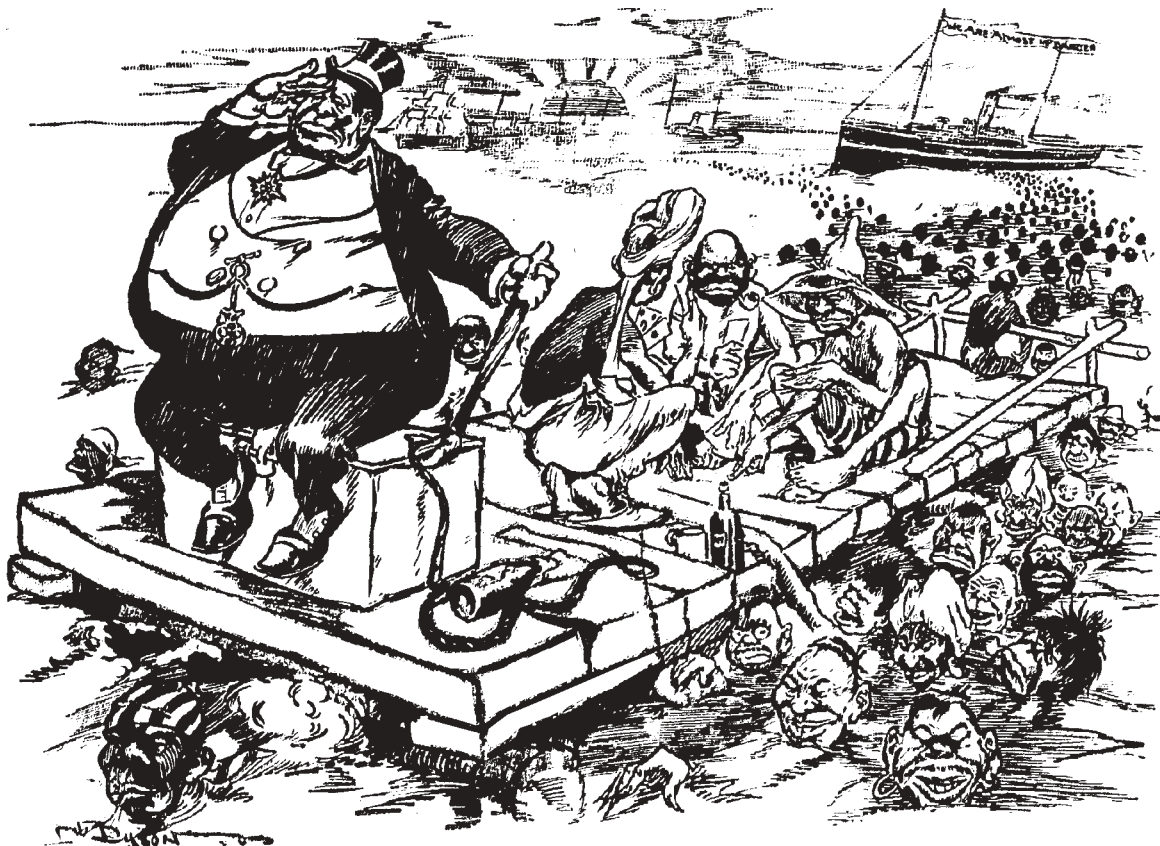
This may have absolved the officer from not having read more than ten words. But it was astonishing, he said, how often people refrained from taking a small amount of trouble to avoid these kinds of disputes.

The Chief Justice added that it would not have taken him five minutes to decide the point as to whether English was a European language, but this was a matter which might upset the entire immigration system of the country.

The whole case was then referred to the Full Court.

(Edited from *S.M.H.*, Feb. 26 1904.)

The Bulletin, January 14, 1904



THE WAY IN.

(Vide the uproar over the Petriana incident in the capitalistic press and on the capitalistic platform.)

FAT: "Bless me, I think I can break through that Alien Immigration Restriction Act on beautiful humanitarian principles."

Riot at Dowie's Zion campaign

The Rev. J.A. Dowie's crusade of the Church of Zion, which recently failed in New York, fell into wild disorder last night when two of his officials were arrested at a public meeting held in the Sydney Town Hall.

A large body of police were stationed in and around the Town Hall, and only those members of the public with tickets for the meeting were allowed inside.

There were scimmages with the police, and many young men without tickets were ejected, to sympathetic cheers from thousands of people who had gathered outside.

When Mr. Dowie finally took to the platform and began to speak, there were many interjections. Hymns were sung to restore order, but the noise grew louder.

Mr. Dowie angrily shouted, "I cannot go on talking, straining my voice like this. I am not speaking for money. I have all the money I need." Derisive cheers and whistles followed.

In the centre of the hall pandemonium broke out. Two officials approached the crowd. Suddenly they were arrested by police on the orders of a Member of Parliament, who claimed they had used threatening language to him.

The meeting then broke up in complete uproar.

Mr. Dowie beat a hasty retreat through the platform door, but someone shouted, "he's getting away; outside, after him."

Immediately there was a scramble amongst a lot of young fellows to get out of the hall.

Mr. Dowie, however, had been made aware of the huge crowd waiting for him in front of the Town Hall, and made his way to a vehicle at the back of the building.

A side gate was opened, and the cab was at the Hotel Australia long before the crowd had time to realise that Mr. Dowie had vacated the precinct.

(Edited from *S.M.H.*, Feb. 18, 1904.)

Below are two cartoons of Rev. J.A. Dowie, from *The Bulletin* of January 14 (left) and February 18, 1904 (right). Dowie, often satirically referred to as "Elijah the Prophet", is pictured punishing Victorian Premier Mr. Ervine, who had just announced his resignation.



Crime brief

Demented Pole

During a patriotic demonstration in Warsaw, Count Dembsky became demented and fired upon a crowd from a balcony, killing 13 people before he was disarmed. He kept the police at bay for four hours.

Sly grog lady

Mary Ellen Griffith, also known as Mother Evans, has been sentenced at Charters Towers, Queensland, to two years' jail for conspiracy. After being arrested for sly grog selling she had attempted to induce a witness to give false evidence.

Police gun stolen

Cornelius O'Donnell, bootmaker, has been sentenced to three months' hard labour for stealing a police officer's revolver. Constable Duffy had thrown the firearm to the ground while running into the water to save a man who had fallen off a moored steamer into Sydney Harbour.

Violence on tram

A gang of drunken Sydney men, described by police as a well-known "push" residing around Waterloo, commandeered a Botany Road tram, punched the driver and threw the conductor onto the road. Their leader was later arrested near a hotel, while the others ran away. He has been fined, in default seven months and seven days' jail.

(*S.M.H.*, Jan.-Feb., 1904.)

New Governor-General in Aust

Lord Northcote, who succeeds Lord Tennyson as Australia's Governor-General, was welcomed to the temporary capital of Melbourne today, and installed in his high office.

The welcome was quiet but cordial. Some thousands of people lined the foreshores at St. Kilda, and at points along the route little knots of residents had gathered.

The day was bright and cool. A strong west wind blew, but heavy rain during the early morning settled the dust, which menaces so many of Melbourne's summer functions.

The city streets leading to Parliament House were thickly thronged. Flags and bunting waved vigorously in the breeze, and the cheering, if not tumultuous, was spontaneous.

(Edited from *S.M.H.*, Jan. 22 1904.)

Australians are 'moral cowards'

Mr. Ernest Faveng has published a sensational essay in the *Sydney Morning Herald* alleging that white Australia has a continuing history of moral cowardice towards the Aboriginal race.

Most of the white usurpers of this continent, he argues, consider the blackfellow a nuisance, whose demise should be hastened rather than retarded.

If the rights of Aborigines were a popular issue, our politicians would have acted long ago. But as the question is politically worthless, it will be passed on from generation to generation until the last native dies.

Mr. Faveng argues that the federal government should take control of Aboriginal affairs from the states immediately, for under the present system the shameful scandal will continue for as long as the unfortunate race exists.

(Edited from *S.M.H.*, Jan. 9 1904.)

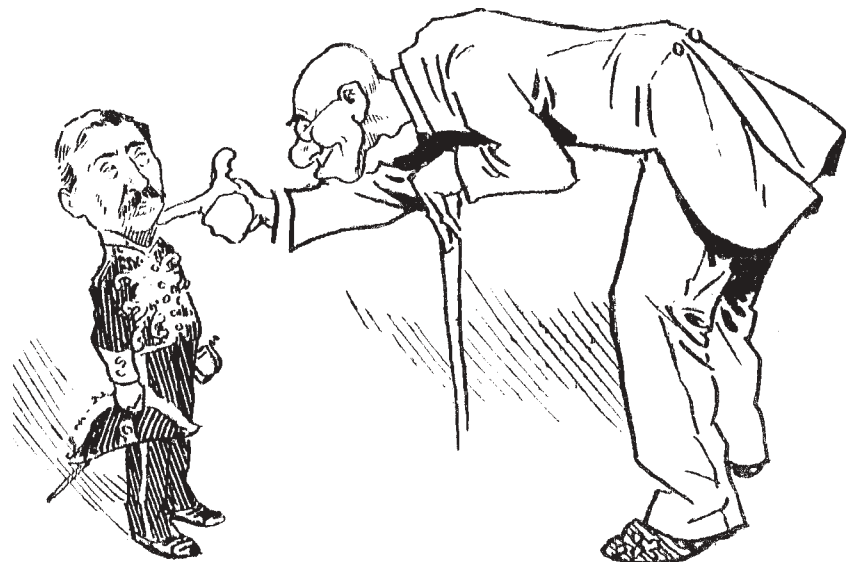
The Bulletin, January 14, 1904



Arrival of Lord Northcote ceremonial landing at St. Kilda pier.

Australia is very busy just now but still can find time to hold out at least two fingers of welcome to the new Governor-General.

The Bulletin, February 4, 1904



The Bulletin has seen our new Guv'nor General. He is rather small as Guv'nors go, but what he lacks in stature he makes up in blue blood.

Third Test, Australia vs England

(See story, page 12.)

Melbourne Punch, January 28, 1904

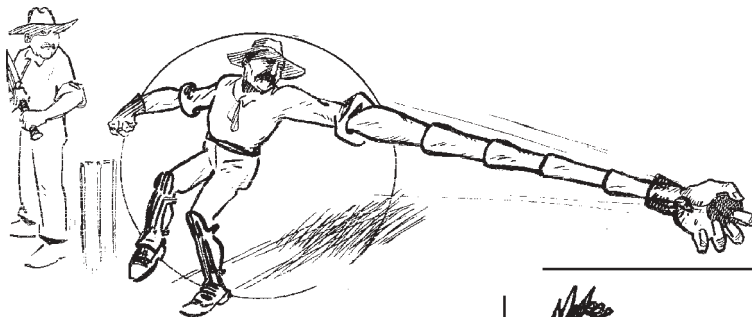


Little Plum Warner
 Sat in a corner,
 Eating his cricketer's pie.
 He put in his thumb,
 But scooped a bad plumb,
 And said, "What a sad boy am I."

Trumper, after missing a dead easy thing, was so disgusted with himself that, according to the reporters, he immediately "buried his face in his hands" — possibly with the intention of putting a new complexion on the affair.



("Missing a dead easy thing", i.e. dropping a catch — Chron. ed.)



Kelly took Tyldesley in an amazing way by exerting the telescopic power of his arm to the full. "Yah!" said the disgusted batsman, "I bar miracles!"

This is the Royal Humane Society presenting Syd Gregory with a medal for valour, in saving his own life, which he did by putting up his 112 score in his last chance.



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Sports News



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Australia wins third test

Trumper stars with the bat

After three matches in the current five-test cricket series between Australia and England, the score is 1–2. England won the first and second tests, and Australia yesterday were the victors in the third test, played in Adelaide, by 216 runs.

Australian opening batsman Victor Trumper has scored heavily in the past two matches, while England spin bowler B.J.T. Bosanquet continues to confuse the Australians with his unpredictable turn off the wicket.

A noteworthy feature of the second test, played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, was the behaviour of P.F. Warner, the England captain. While batting, he annoyed the 20,000-strong crowd by twice interrupting play to apply eucalyptus oil to his face to keep the flies away.

Trumper batted throughout Australia's first innings for 74 out of 122 on a rain-affected wicket. When he fell in the second innings all hope was abandoned for the home team.

In the third test Trumper scored 113 in the first innings, bringing up his century in only 166 minutes to great cheers from the crowd. S.E. Gregory made 112 in the second innings, while Bosanquet claimed seven wickets for the match, the Australians now watching his off and leg breaks very closely.

(Compiled and edited from S.M.H. reports throughout Jan. 1904.)

More cricket cartoons, pages11-12.

The Bulletin, March 3, 1904



TWO MISSING.

HE: "The Englishmen won by one wicket."

SHE: "Ah! I always keep posted in the cricket; but, tell me, what did they do with the other two wickets?"

The Bulletin, February 25, 1904



COMPULSORY CRICKET.

"The Mayor of Perth (W.A.) suggests that the English cricket team may be compelled by a Supreme Court *mandamus* to fulfil its engagement to play at Perth." — *News item.*