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Electric Chronicle
 newspaper



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First Labor government

Deakin resigns, Watson P.M.

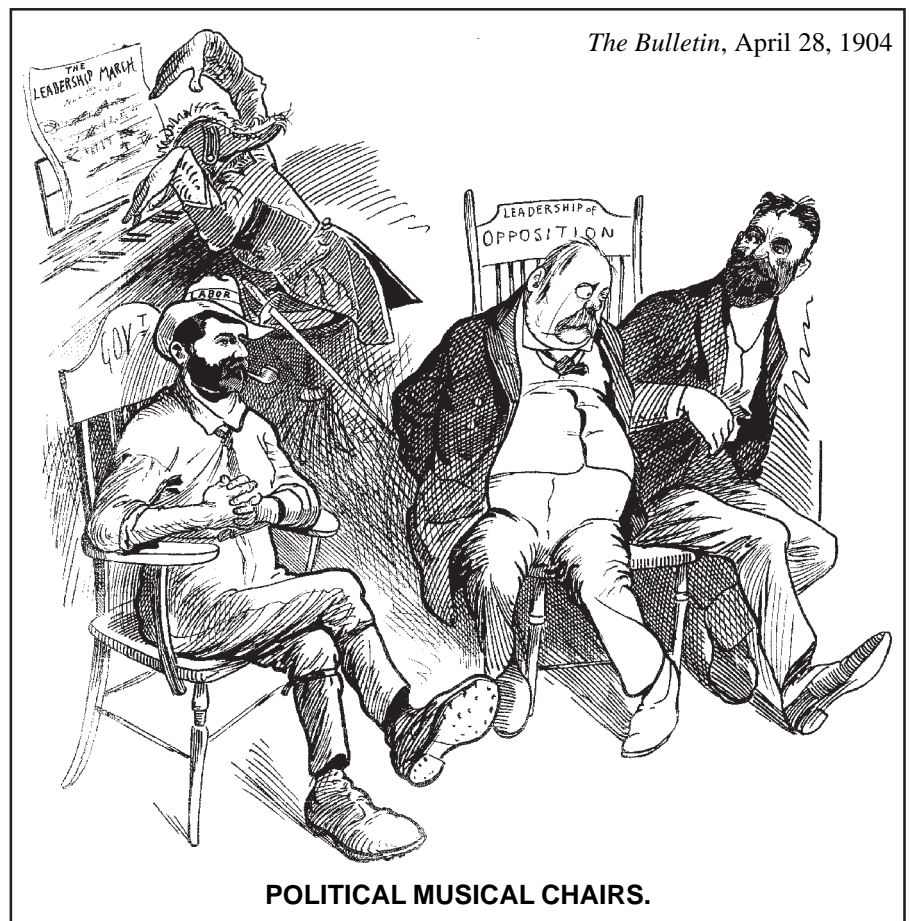
The pro-tariff Protectionist Ministry, led by Mr. Alfred Deakin, has resigned from office after being defeated in a vote taken in the federal parliament House of Representatives last night. The new prime minister is the leader of the Labor Party, Mr. John Watson.

After three days of exhaustive debate the Deakin Government was out-voted 38 to 29 on an amendment introduced by the Labor Party to bring Commonwealth and State public servants under the operation of the Conciliation and Arbitration Bill.

Since the federal election of December last year, neither Mr. Deakin's Government, nor Mr. George Reid's Opposition, made up of Free Trade supporters, has taken a clear majority in Parliament.

Labor gained seats in the election, but until now has remained on the cross-benches. The major issue to be decided by the Labor caucus now is whether its members will try to form an alliance with radical politicians from either of the two fiscal Parties.

A problem has also arisen as to who will be the new Leader of the Opposition. In the vote taken last night, Mr. Reid joined Mr. Deakin, and both were defeated. Will Mr. Deakin now force Mr. Reid to vacate his position as Opposition Leader? (*The Age*, Apr. 22, 23, 1904.)



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The
Electric Chronicle
newspaper

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edited by Roger Stitson.

Ah, Autumn, season (in Australia) of — football, football and more football.
In another part of the world it's Springtime,
and the fans are similarly gearing up.

New York Tribune, March 27, 1904



THE DEVOTEES REJOICE AGAIN.

Japanese forces advance

Russian naval disasters

Japanese warships are continuing to blockade Russia's naval base of Port Arthur, in Southern Manchuria. They are bottling up the Russian fleet by sinking merchant steamers off the harbour, to block the exit channel.

Admiral Togo, chief of the Japanese forces in the region, reports that the blockade was carried out by valiant naval volunteers operating under a storm of Russian shot and shell.

Russia has since been attempting, with great difficulty, to blow up the merchant steamers to clear the entrance to Port Arthur.

A terrible accident occurred while Russian steam launches were placing mines in the harbour. A mine exploded under one of the launches, killing an officer and 20 men.

Meanwhile General Kuropatkin, the Russian Commander in Chief, has telegraphed St. Petersburg that Russian troops near the mouth of the Yalu River in Manchuria were ambushed by Japanese infantry and cavalry.

When reinforcements arrived, though, the Japanese were caught in a cross-fire and were forced to retreat, where they eventually hoisted the Red Cross flag.

Reports now indicate that more Japanese troops have advanced across the Yalu River from Korea into Manchuria, and are being supported by Admiral Togo's fleet, which has left Port Arthur and sailed to the estuary of the Yalu.

It has also been announced that the Japanese Government is lifting its restrictions on the movement of war correspondents. Fifty-three foreign correspondents, including 29 English and 17 Americans, are now allowed to accompany the Japanese military forces.

(*The Age*, Mar-Apr., 1904.)

Johan Braakensiek (Holland), March 6, 1904



NOT IN HIS RIGHT ELEMENT.

THE JAPANESE SAILOR: "I dare you to come out of your corner, heavy monster!"

THE RUSSIAN BEAR: "You come to my steppe, you vicious water-dog, then I will teach you!"

Scott returns from Antarctic

After her long absence in the frozen south the Antarctic ship *Discovery* returned to Lyttelton, New Zealand, today, accompanied by her supply ships, *Morning* and *Terra Nova*.

Captain Scott reports that after the *Morning* left in March, 1903, the winter closed in very rapidly, with dark and gloomy weather, but with little snow. Though some ice broke away, the ship never was within five miles of open water.

Keeping in mind his experience of the ice barrier's surface, and being without dogs, Captain Scott thought it would be hopeless to reach further south than he did in the previous year.

He says that much of the region remains comparatively unexplored, especially the ice-capped Victoria Land.

Two properly supported sledge journeys and one unsupported were made. Lieutenant Barne journeyed south-west, his object being to visit the Empire Penguin rookery at Cape Crozier at the period of incubation.

This failed, for these extraordinary birds appear to breed in the coldest and darkest months of the year, but a number of deserted eggs were procured. Dr. Wilson took many notes, and secured two live chicks.

Lieutenant Barne also undertook a south-west journey, and planted a depot to the southward. Captain Scott led a party to the west, and placed a depot 60 miles from the ship.

The lowest temperature recorded by Barne's sledging party was minus 68°. Frequently the temperature fell below minus 50°, which is without precedent in Polar travels.

(*The Age*, Apr. 2, 1904.)

New York Tribune, March 13, 1904



ONE THING HE CAN DO.

THE CZAR — Don't you think it's about time for us to call another peace convention?

Historic Anglo-French treaty

A highly important convention dealing with foreign and colonial questions between Great Britain and France has been signed by the representatives of the two countries in London.

In the case of Newfoundland, France renounces her exclusive rights to the "French shore," but retains her right to fish on the Newfoundland coast.

The present restrictions regarding the supplying of British bait to French fishermen are withdrawn. Ship owners and others affected by the terms of the agreement will be compensated.

The frontier between the French colony of Senegal and the British colony of the Gambia, in North-Western Africa, has been modified by giving France access to the navigable portions of the Gambia River near the south-eastern boundary of Senegal.

Great Britain cedes to France the Los Islands (Isles de los Idolos), a group of three islets of volcanic origin 75 miles north-west of Sierra Leone, which command the French port of Konakry.

The frontier of Northern Nigeria has been modified to give France a straight and easy means of access to Lake Chad.

The convention states that the political status in Egypt shall remain unaltered. France does not ask for any limitation of British occupation. France abandons her old policy of obstruction. Great Britain reiterates the neutralisation of the Suez Canal.

Great Britain also agrees to recognise France's predominant position in Morocco, while France agrees not to fortify the coast of Morocco opposite Gibraltar. Both countries agree to the "open door" trade in Egypt and Morocco for a period of at least 30 years.

The British and French press describe this as the greatest diplomatic success achieved for many years.

(*The Age*, Apr. 11, 1904.)



Blacks lynched

Further outrages against blacks in Springfield, Ohio, have followed the lynching of a black prisoner charged with shooting a policeman and a woman.

After breaking into the jail, shooting the prisoner, and hanging his body to a telegraph pole, a mob of 2000 white men, carrying torches and revolvers, invaded the black quarter of Springfield, and burnt 20 houses.

Eight companies of militia have been ordered to Springfield to maintain order.

(*The Age*, Mar. 10, 1904.)

Dutch in Aceh

The long continued Achin war between the Dutch in the East Indies and the Sumatra natives is still proceeding.

Latest reports are that severe fighting has occurred between a Dutch expeditionary force and Sumatra natives who had entrenched themselves into a strong position.

Three Dutch were killed and 25 wounded.

The Dutch command claims to have killed 541 of the beligerent natives.

(*The Age*, Apr. 6, 1904.)

World in brief

Panama Canal

The Panama Canal Committee of the United States Congress has been informed by the Isthmian Canal Commission that the canal, as undertaken by America, will be completed in eight years, and will cost £28,750,000.

Meanwhile a civil tribunal in Paris has rejected a suit by the Colombian government to prevent the transfer of the Panama Canal from the French Panama Company to the United States.

Tibetan curse

The Buddhist lamas who rule Tibet have placed a curse on the British expeditionary forces currently in the country, predicting that they will “dwindle away by an act of Providence.”

Spanish king

King Alphonso of Spain has survived an assassination attempt by Anarchists in Barcelona. A dynamite bomb was thrown at the king while he was leaving a tour of inspection of the Labor Exchange. Two people were injured, and the man who threw the bomb was immediately arrested.

Chinese in Rand

In South Africa the Johannesburg Chamber of Mines has engaged for the gold mines 8000 Chinese coolies at Hong Kong. They are soon to be shipped to the Natal port of Durban, under the provisions of the new Transvaal Chinese Labor Ordinance.

Lord Milner, the chief British administrator in South Africa, recently stated, however, that the Chinese would not be permitted to enter while the plague outbreak in the Rand continued.

(*The Age*, Mar-Apr., 1904.)

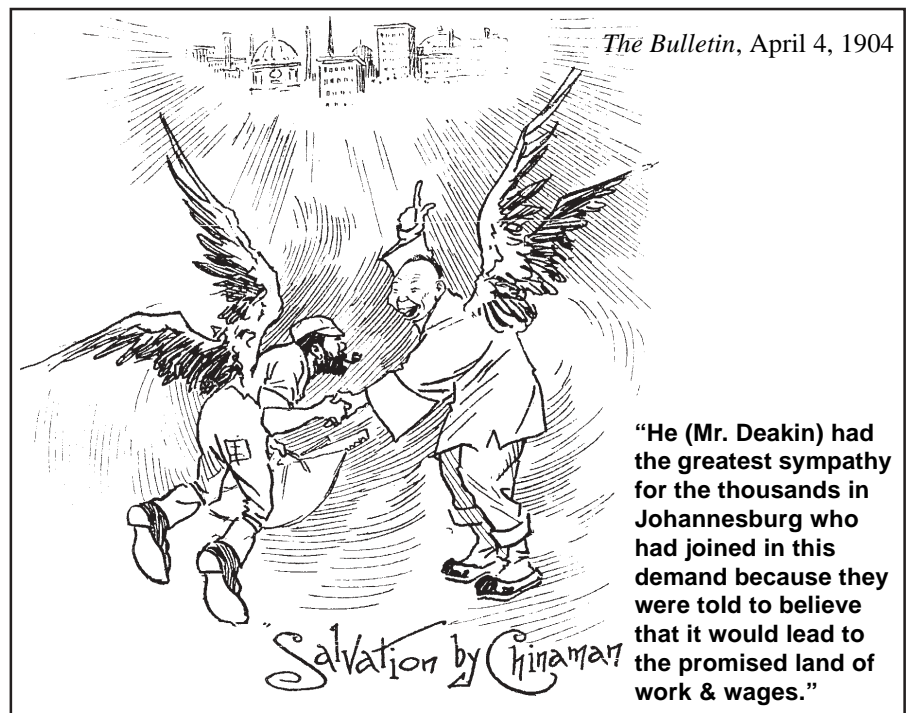


New York Tribune, March 20, 1904

CUTTING THE MELON.

COLOMBIA: “Gee, I wish’t I’d a’ been good!”

(The lettering on hat, second from left, reads “Panama Canal Company”.
Hat brim, top right, reads “Colombia”.
Hat, bottom right, reads, “Panama”. — ed.)



The Bulletin, April 4, 1904

“He (Mr. Deakin) had the greatest sympathy for the thousands in Johannesburg who had joined in this demand because they were told to believe that it would lead to the promised land of work & wages.”

Horror murder in London

A young woman has been found dead, cemented into a box hidden in a London flat. Neighbours complained of an evil smell coming through the walls and, suspecting murder, called the police.

When a constable arrived he found the owner of the flat bargaining with a cab driver about the removal of the trunk. The owner, a ticket-of-leave convict named Crossman, bolted into the street on seeing the policeman, and when he was on the point of being captured, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor.

The trunk was later opened to reveal the body of a young woman embedded in cement. It is believed she was murdered with a hatchet. She was Crossman's wife, and had been missing for several weeks.

Letters were found in Crossman's pockets which showed that he had been trying to trap another woman into marrying him.

Crossman had already served a term of imprisonment for bigamy. Police now suspect that the young woman found in the trunk is not his only victim.

Under various aliases it is believed he has gone through a form of marriage with at least seven women, two of whom are missing. Most of the other five have children.

An inquest has now ascertained that Crossman married a woman on January 10th, 1903, then sent her back to her parents two days later for a visit.

In the interim, he married Mrs. Owen, a maternity nurse, for her savings. On January 15th, under the name of Seymour, he then married a widow named Ellen Simpson, who was murdered on the 16th January.

Not long before his suicide Crossman had bought an additional amount of cement, telling one of his wives that it was to repair a doorstep. In fact it was to cover the smell of the body decomposing in the trunk. (*The Age*, Mar. 26, 28, 30, 1904.)

This cartoon, from the *New York Tribune*, 27th March, 1904, is about Mormons in America — it has nothing to do with the news report, opposite...



THE SMOOT INVESTIGATION.

CHORUS: "Yes, sir, we are Mrs. Smith, we are, and it's none of your business."

Alderman shot dead in Sydney street

Sydney alderman, Mr. H.R. Steward, 27, was shot dead yesterday while walking towards his office.

The alleged murderer, Alfred Russell, 33, was chased and captured by eye witnesses and a policeman.

It is believed Russell held a long-running grudge against Steward's building business.

Russell frequently complained and demanded alterations to the construction of a house Steward was building for him, resulting in legal costs, which he refused to pay, and attempted to pass on to Steward.

Russell later carried a placard on his back stating that he had been robbed by the firm. He also wrote threatening letters, prompting Steward to carry a revolver for protection.

Russell was prepared for this, for when searched at the lock-up he was wearing an armour breastplate made of sheet-iron under his clothes.

Russell is an employee of the Water and Sewerage Board. He is married, with three young children. Steward leaves a widow and two children.

(*The Age*., Apr. 25, 1904.)

NSW birth rate in decline

The report of the Royal Commission into the serious decline in the birth rate in New South Wales was made available last night.

The commissioners' most important findings were that there had been a marked decline in the birth rate in New South Wales since 1899.

They point out that medical men now believe that deliberate prevention of pregnancy had become very common during recent years, and that the means used are unhealthy and cause sterility.

The evidence shows conclusively that the practice of prevention by artificial means is common in all classes of the community, and has greatly increased during the past 15 years.

The inducement of miscarriage is alarmingly frequent. It arises from the responsibilities brought about by having large families, and the greater ambition of women for a more luxurious and easy life.

The commission suggests ways to encourage child bearing, including increased public hospital accommodation in metropolitan and country districts, and training more women to be obstetric nurses.

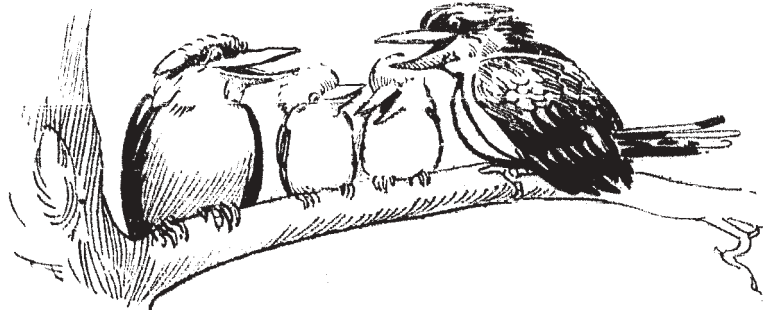
Further accommodation should also be provided at public hospitals for women suffering from diseases which cause infertility.

A Department of the State Government should be entrusted with licensing, supervision, inspection and control of all private hospitals, lying-in homes and maternity homes other than public hospitals.

It is also recommended that it be an indictable offence to offer or agree to procure unlawfully the miscarriage of any woman whether with child or not, whether such offer or agreement is made verbally, by letter or by advertisement or otherwise.

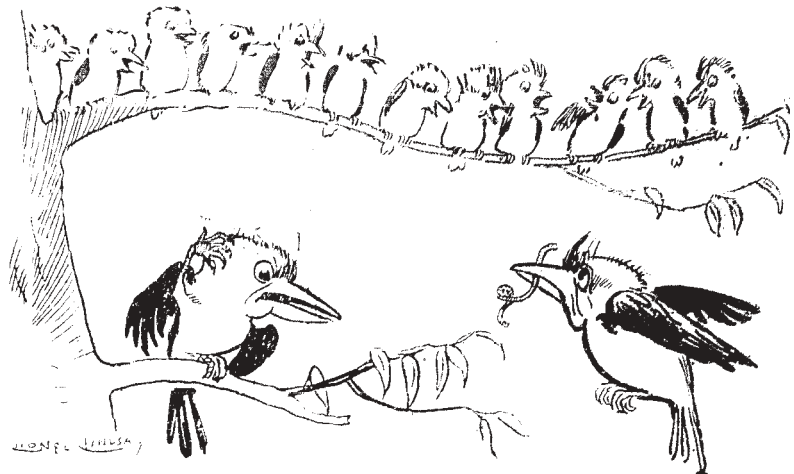
Midwifery should be restricted to legally qualified medical practitioners, and to trained midwifery nurses, who should be subject to examination.

The Bulletin, March 17, 1904



THE AUSTRALIAN BIRTH-RATE PROBLEM!
Look on *this Picture* – and on *That* ↓

FORGETFUL of the lessons of history, ignoring the teachings of science, bent on gratifying their selfish desires and on pursuing social advancement, they are seeking to follow the dictates of a narrow reasoning, and blindly imagine that, in raising the standard of their own physical comfort, they are smoothing the path of life for themselves and for posterity, while leaving to others the creation of that posterity for which they profess to be so concerned.—DR. JOHNSON'S GHOST, by the mouth of N.S.W. Birthrate Commission, 1904.



The Rev. Dowie story, continued from our previous editions.

Dowie accuses clergyman of spying on him

The Rev. J.A. Dowie, head of the Church of Zion, has accused a member of his congregation at the Zion Tabernacle, Melbourne, of being a newspaper spy for Dr. Fitchett, who is one of the city's leading Methodists.

The "Prophet," also known in the press as "Elijah the Restorer", was preaching to his audience when he suddenly burst into a bitter tirade against Methodist ministers.

Evidently he had been angered by reports of the previous day's prayer meeting at the tabernacle appearing

in this newspaper, in spite of all the precautions that had been taken to keep out strangers and the press.

"All Methodist parsons are liars," shouted Mr. Dowie. "If in future I find any Methodist parsons at my meeting, I will have them put out."

A member of the congregation, dressed in the garb of a Methodist minister, arose from his seat and said, "Pardon me, what did you say about Methodist ministers?"

The "Prophet" walked to the edge of the platform, pointed his finger at the clergyman, and screeched, "Who are you that dares to interrupt me?"

After some heated remarks the clergyman resumed his seat, but shortly afterwards the ushers told Mr. Dowie that the gentleman was taking notes.

"He's reporting for his friend Fitchett," yelled Mr. Dowie. "Reporters are not allowed in this meeting. Put him out."

The clergyman then asked the ushers for their names.

"Will you keep quiet!" roared Mr. Dowie.

"I will keep quiet if my denomination is not insulted," replied the clergyman.

"I will insult the Methodist parsons wherever I feel inclined," shouted the "Prophet".

At this point several ladies left, pausing to shake the minister's hand and pass approving remarks to him.

"There they go," exclaimed Mr. Dowie. "Let the Methodists go. I will continue my address when they have left."

After the service one of the ushers attempted to throw the minister out. There was a commotion and two police constables rushed in. Some ushers then violently hustled the clergyman into the street, where several of those at the meeting congratulated him.

[The day after this report appeared Mr. Dowie cancelled his Melbourne meetings and went to Adelaide.]
(*The Age*, Mar. 4, 5, 1904.)

The Bulletin, April 14, 1904



MR. DOWIE'S CHAMBER OF HORRORS.
(For Catalogue see daily press.)

Advt., *The Bulletin*, May 5, 1904

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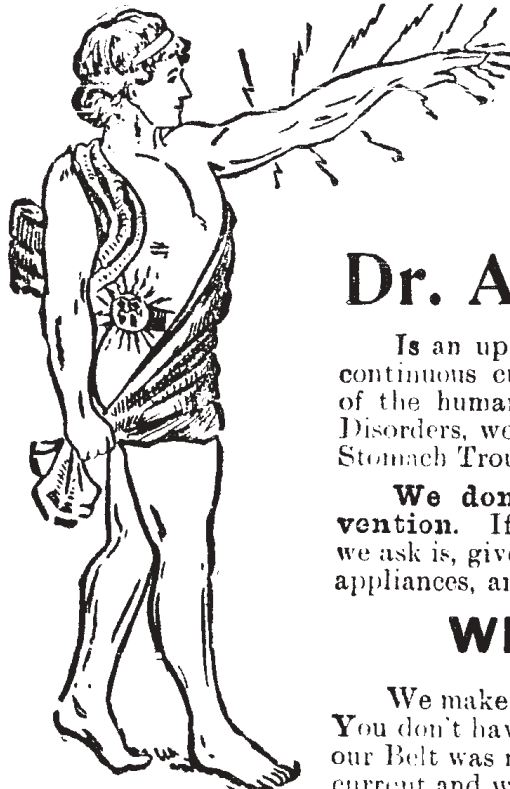
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Cricket of the future

The Bulletin, March 10, 1904



A WET WICKET.

“Shocking accident in the cricket field. A popular batsman drowned at the crease. (The above are headings from a daily paper of that future date when the wicked spectators have had their way, and cricketers are denied the privilege of coming in out of the wet.)



The Bulletin,
March 17, 1904

THE TEST MATCH OF THE FUTURE.

The future Australian team, if the pro-Chinese-Indian-Kanaka crowds get their way. On a distant hill a small object appears (a telescopic view of which is given). This is the last white Australian come from his mountain fastness to see what the score is.

The Electric Chronicle Newspaper

Sports News



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England wins Ashes 3-2

Poor crowd behaviour at Sydney Test

England has won the Ashes, bowling Australia out in the fourth Test, played at the Sydney Cricket Ground, for a victory of 157 runs. English slow spin bowler Bosenquet took 6 wickets for 51 in Australia's second innings.

Australia went on to defeat England in the fifth Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. On a sticky wicket affected by rain, England was dismissed for 61 and 101, with Australian bowler Hugh Trumble taking 7 for 28, including a hat trick, in his final match.

It was too late, though, for England's victory in the fourth Test gave them an unbeatable lead in the series.

During the Sydney Test the crowd jeered at Umpire Crockett following the lbw dismissal of Australian batsman Gregory, prompting Noble, the Australian captain, twice to sit down on his bat until they quietened.

English newspapers suggested the crowd would have been better occupied attending events suited to their interests, such as cock fighting.

Warner, the England captain, also wrote a newspaper article referring to the "lovely crowd of barrackers". He ironically suggested the England team should be protected by troops when playing in Sydney.

(From *The Age*, Mar-Apr. 1904.)

(Pelham Warner was captain of the England team. Monty Noble was captain of the Australian team — Ed.)

Melbourne Punch,
March 10, 1904



WARNER: "I'm happier than little Jack Horner! I get the ashes, you can wear the sack cloth."



THE KING: "Rise, Sir Plum, Knight of the Order of the Urn, a distinction well earned."