

The
Electric Chronicle
 newspaper



www.echoed.com.au/echron

Up, up, and away!

Wright Brothers fly into history

For the first time in history a successful flight of a heavier-than-air flying machine, without the aid of a balloon to keep it aloft, has been made.

Yesterday over the sand hills of the North Carolina coast at Kitty Hawk, a box kite construction powered by a petrol engine with two propellers soared into the air.

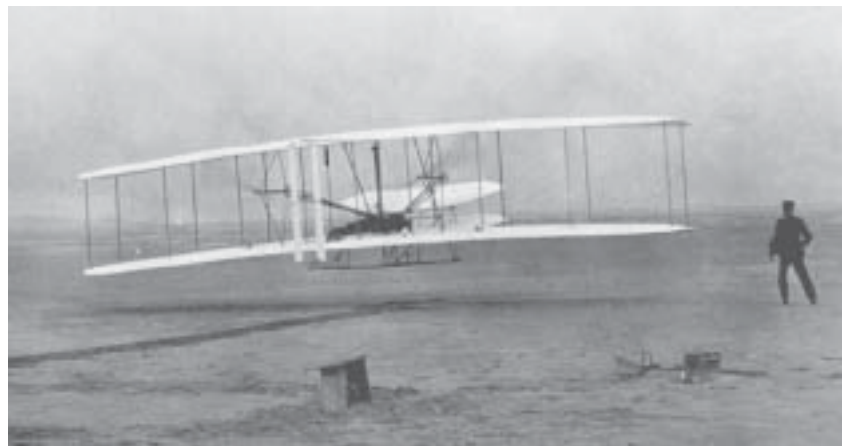
On the last of its four separate flights during the morning, the machine managed to stay air-borne for a total of 59 seconds, covering a distance of 852 feet, flying into the face of a wind blowing at 21 miles per hour.

Its inventors are two bicycle manufacturers from Dayton, Ohio, brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright, 36 and 32 years old respectively.

It is believed that the Wright brothers, realising the importance of the moment, had attempted to maintain strict secrecy until they were able to break the story of their success to the rest of the world from their home-town Dayton newspapers.

However, news of the flight of the box kite, named "Flyer" by the two brothers, leaked out from the Kitty Hawk telegraph office.

The Wright brothers' telegram to their father in Dayton, informing him



'Flyer 1', on its first flight, Dec. 17, 1903.



Wilbur and Orville Wright.

of their feat, had to pass through Norfolk, Virginia, where, somehow, it came to the notice of the *Virginian Pilot* daily newspaper.

Although it is now known that the *Pilot* fabricated some of the details, and made a number of errors in its dramatic front page report today, it managed to "scoop" the Dayton newspapers by some hours.

The inventors state that an effort will be made to arrange the sale of the machine to the American government, where it could be used for scouting and signal work, and possibly torpedo warfare.

(Edited from *Virginian Pilot*, 18th Dec 1903, *New York Times*, 26th Dec 1903, and historical sources on the internet.)


The
Electric Chronicle
newspaper

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edited by Roger Stitson.

Christmas greetings to all,
1903/2003!


SOLVED



THEY SAY THAT SANTA CLAUS IS JUST
A MYTH AND A DELUSION
I STOLE A PEEP AT HIM LAST NIGHT
AND CAME TO THIS CONCLUSION



THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG SOMEWHERE.
I KNOW,
FOR, NEAR AS I RECALL,
SINCE MA REMARRIED, SANTA'S NOW
A SHORT MAN, 'STEAD OF TALL.



New York Times, December 20, 1903

Japan-Russia war looms

Neither side backing off

The likelihood of a peaceful solution to the Manchurian crisis has all but disappeared, with both Japan and Russia extending their troop movements and reinforcing their naval depots in preparation for war.

By the terms of a treaty with China, Russia was to have vacated her trade concession city, Port Arthur, in Manchuria by October 8th, but by the end of December has still refused.

The Russians, in fact, have reoccupied Mukden, the Manchurian capital, on the grounds that the country is in a ferment, and the Chinese are too weak to keep order.

Russia suspects that if she now leaves Manchuria, Japan, backed by Great Britain, will make a play for lucrative trading concessions.

Russia has fortified her concession port of Dalny, and improved railway communications between there and Siberia. They have also enlisted 30,000 Chinese in Manchuria as soldiers, and are overwhelmed with applications from Russians to serve in the Far East.

Meanwhile in Japan all the leading newspapers declare that the nation can no longer endure Russia's attitude to Japanese requests to comply to promises made concerning both Manchurian and Korean trade ports.

One hundred and fifty Japanese military officers training in England have received orders to return immediately to Japan.

The Japanese have also embarked on a series of naval manoeuvres, with six battleships practising firing at sea, and checking Russian naval movements at Port Arthur. Japan's fleet is switching to superior, hard Welsh coal, which is comparatively smokeless.

(*The Age*, Nov-Dec, 1903.)

Johan Braakensiek (Holland), October 18, 1903



THE RUSSIAN "WINTERING" IN MANCHURIA.

The Japanese (to the Russian): "You were supposed to leave on October 8th." (To the Chinese): "You keep out of this."
The Russian: "Friend, don't be so rude. Don't you see that I've just made things comfortable for the winter?"



THE CHEAPNESS OF ADVICE.

John Bull: "Hi say, fellows! One of you go around the back and kick 'im while the other leads 'im out."

New York Times, December 27, 1903

Disaster for Colombia as troops retreat from American marines

U.S.A. grabs Panama Canal

Colombian threats fail

The Republic of Colombia has been forced to back down in its bid to reconquer the State of Panama, which recently rebelled and claimed its independence.

The newly-formed Republic of Panama has signed a treaty with the United States in Washington, ceding to America the absolute sovereignty of all land required for the construction of the Panama Canal.

America will also gain control of a strip of territory ten miles wide on each side of the Canal.

The agreement is in perpetuity, for which Panama will receive \$10 million compensation from the American government. The treaty also provides

that the Canal itself shall be neutral, and will remain open to all nations on equal terms.

Grave problems arose some weeks ago when discussions between Colombia and the United States concerning a treaty agreement about control of the Panama Canal broke down.

The Colombian Senate demanded a considerable increase in payments beyond which America had previously agreed to, causing diplomatic relations to be suspended.

It was then announced in Washington that, "Owing to great unrest prevailing in the South American republics," the U.S.A. would send a fleet of war ships to the Atlantic side of the Panama isthmus.

Shortly afterwards, the Colombian State of Panama rebelled. The revolutionaries imprisoned the

Governor and other federal authorities, seized a Colombian naval cruiser and proclaimed their independence.

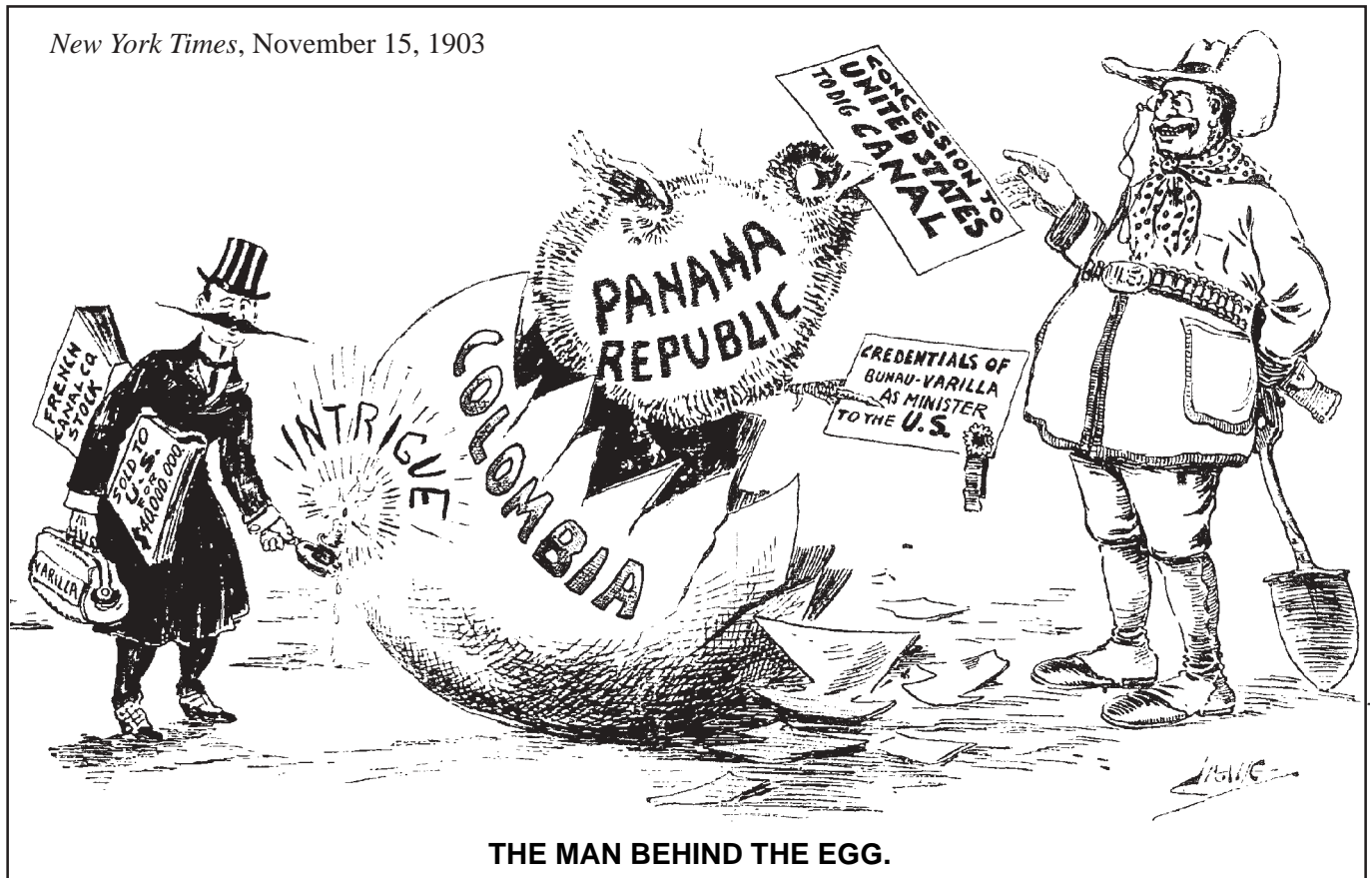
On behalf of the United States, President Roosevelt [pictured in cartoon, below], formally recognised the new, independent Republic of Panama.

An American squadron of a dozen war ships and 1000 marines now guards the Panama coastline to protect the inhabitants from a Colombian counter-attack.

Colombian troops, though, have withdrawn, unable to march across dense swamps and high mountains into Panama. While attempting to advance up the River Atrato in small, leaking boats, their food supplies were destroyed.

(*The Age*, compiled from reports throughout Nov–Dec, 1903.)

New York Times, November 15, 1903



THE MAN BEHIND THE EGG.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER THE BULLETIN

Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney, for transmission as a Newspaper.

No. 1243.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1903.

Price 6d.



A DROUGHT-RESISTING STOCK.
THE AUSTRALIAN OF THE FUTURE, WHO WILL ONLY CARRY A BILLY THROUGH FORCE OF HABIT.

Australia votes

The second federal election since the formation of the Australian Commonwealth in January 1901 was held yesterday.

It is still too early to call the result, but the latest counting of votes suggests that the "Protectionist", or pro-tariff government, led by new prime minister Mr. Alfred Deakin, will be returned with a decreased majority, and may need to rely on assistance in Parliament from an increasingly powerful Labor Party.

This election is notable because for the first time in history the women in most of the Australian States were enabled to cast their votes.

Citizens who stood at the doors of any polling booth in Melbourne would have noted the satisfied smiles, the pride and confidence that characterised the female voters who visited the polls.

In fact, women's franchise campaigner and candidate for the Senate, Miss Vida Goldstein, was waiting in the rain at 7.20 a.m. outside her local polling booth, and it is believed that at 8 a.m. she was probably the first woman in Australia to cast a vote.

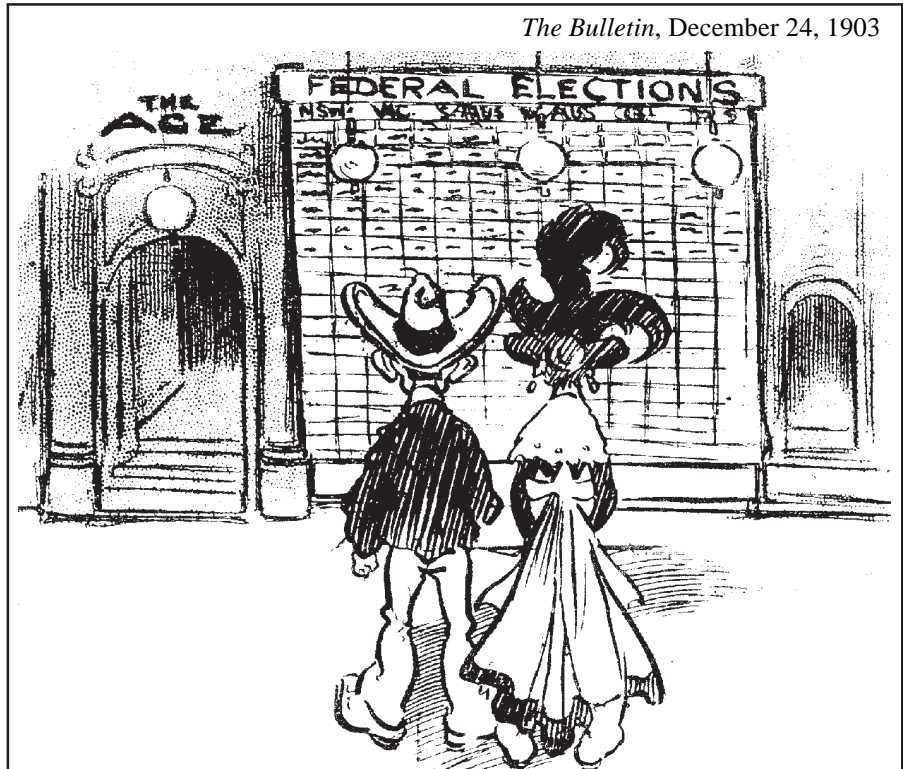
The ballot box into which she dropped her voting papers is to be preserved for posterity.

As a service to Melbourne's voters, *The Age* newspaper is providing an election results board outside its office, showing the latest count.

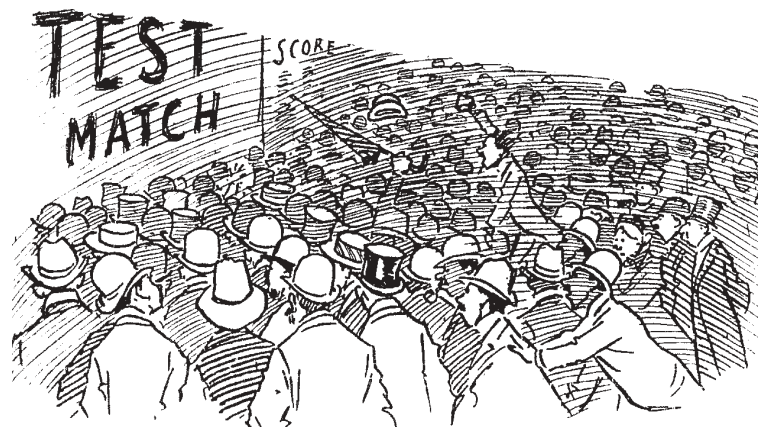
Meanwhile, with the first test cricket match of the 1903-04 series now underway between Australia and England at the Sydney Cricket Ground, *The Age's* regularly updated cricket scoreboard has also proven to be a highly popular attraction.

During the match great crowds have gathered in the street outside *The Age*, necessitating the arrival of three policemen to direct road traffic. (*The Age*, November 16-17, 1903.)

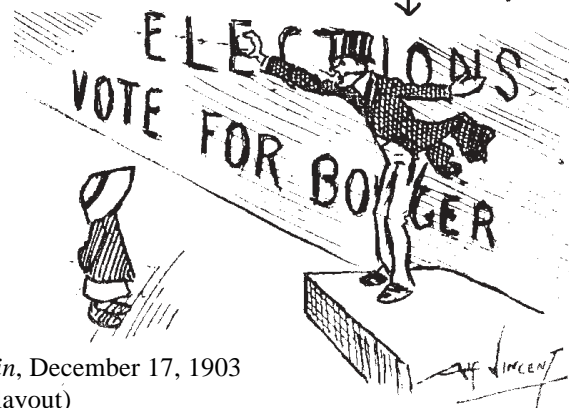
The Bulletin, December 24, 1903



INTELLIGENT ELECTOR: "Blimey if it ain't a mug of a scorin' board. Blowed if I can see Trumper's name anywhere."



Look on ↑
this picture & on this.



The Bulletin, December 17, 1903
(modified layout)

ALMANAC FOR 1904.

THE SMART GIRL'S CALENDAR

JANUARY

S	•	3	10	17	24	31
M	•	4	11	18	25	•
T	•	5	12	19	26	•
W	•	6	13	20	27	•
T	•	7	14	21	28	•
F	•	1	8	15	22	29
S	•	2	9	16	23	30



In January, stout or slim,
The Smart Girl must be "in the swim."

FEBRUARY

S	•	7	14	21	28	
M	•	1	8	15	22	29
T	•	2	9	16	23	•
W	•	3	10	17	24	•
T	•	4	11	18	25	•
F	•	5	12	19	26	•
S	•	6	13	20	27	•



In February little worth
Is aught but Cricket on the earth.

MARCH

S	•	6	13	20	27	
M	•	7	14	21	28	
T	•	1	8	15	22	29
W	•	2	9	16	23	30
T	•	3	10	17	24	31
F	•	4	11	18	25	•
S	•	5	12	19	26	•



In March begins the motor's flight,
The motto is, "Sit close! Hold tight!."

APRIL

S	•	3	10	17	24	
M	•	4	11	18	25	
T	•	5	12	19	26	
W	•	6	13	20	27	
T	•	7	14	21	28	
F	•	1	8	15	22	29
S	•	2	9	16	23	30



In April to the Hunt she jogs,
Quite gaily going to the dogs.

◀ From previous page

ALMANAC
FOR
1904

THE SMART GIRL'S CALENDAR

MAY						
S	1	8	15	22	29	
M	2	9	16	23	30	
T	3	10	17	24	31	
W	4	11	18	25		
T	5	12	19	26		
F	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		



In May she shows her form at golf,
To mash the caddy and the toff.

JUNE						
S		5	12	19	26	
M		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24		
S	4	11	18	25		



In June she thinks it quite a lark
To sit and watch the "men of mark."

JULY						
S		3	10	17	24	31
M		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
W		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
F	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	



In July on the mimic stage,
As Juliet she loves to rage.

AUGUST						
S		7	14	21	28	
M		8	15	22	29	
T		2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	31	
T	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		



In August dull to cheer her gloom,
She'll watch spring bonnets bud and bloom.

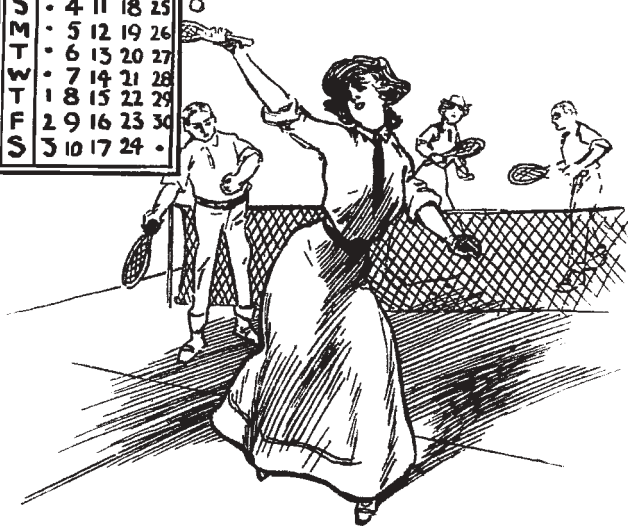
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ALMANAC FOR 1904

THE SMART GIRL'S CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER				
S	• 4	11	18	25
M	• 5	12	19	26
T	• 6	13	20	27
W	• 7	14	21	28
T	• 8	15	22	29
F	• 9	16	23	30
S	• 3	10	17	24



In soft September days she ought
To have a racket in the court.

OCTOBER					
S	• 2	9	16	23	30
M	• 3	10	17	24	31
T	• 4	11	18	25	•
W	• 5	12	19	26	•
T	• 6	13	20	27	•
F	• 7	14	21	28	•
S	• 8	15	22	29	•



October sees her knock them all,
Belle beautiful at the Lord Mayor's ball.

NOVEMBER					
S	• 6	13	20	27	
M	• 7	14	21	28	
T	• 1	8	15	22	29
W	• 2	9	16	23	30
T	• 3	10	17	24	•
F	• 4	11	18	25	•
S	• 5	12	19	26	•



In swift November at the course,
Her fancy turns to thoughts of horse.

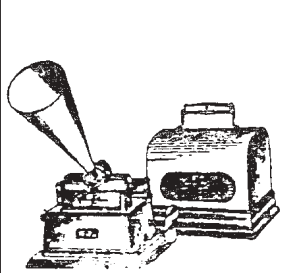
DECEMBER					
S	• 4	11	18	25	
M	• 5	12	19	26	
T	• 6	13	20	27	
W	• 7	14	21	28	
T	• 1	8	15	22	29
F	• 2	9	16	23	30
S	• 3	10	17	24	31



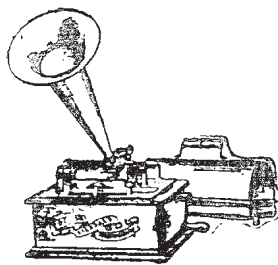
December brings her sweetest joys,
She's Santa Claus to troops of boys!

ALEX SASS

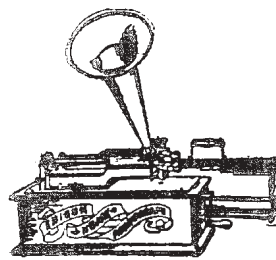
USEFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.



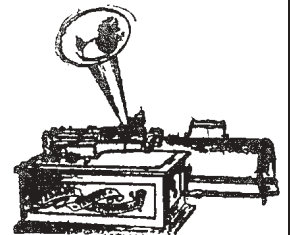
EDISON GEM.



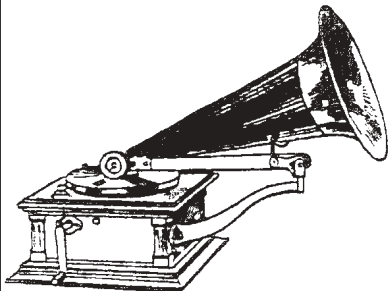
EDISON STANDARD.



EDISON HOME.



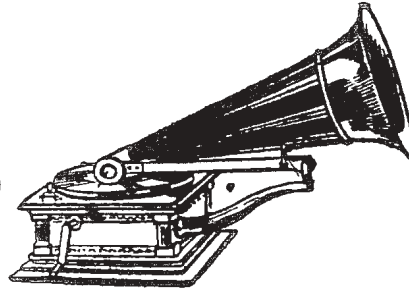
EDISON TRIUMPH.



VICTOR MONARCH, JR.



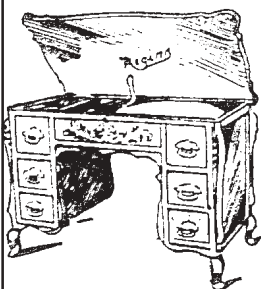
VICTOR III.



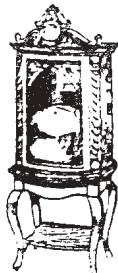
VICTOR MONARCH.



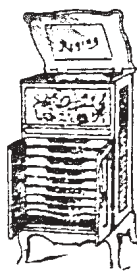
VICTOR IV.



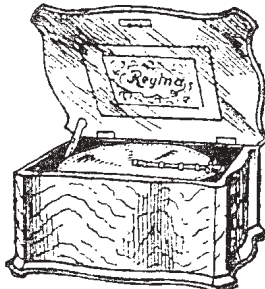
Regina Music Box.



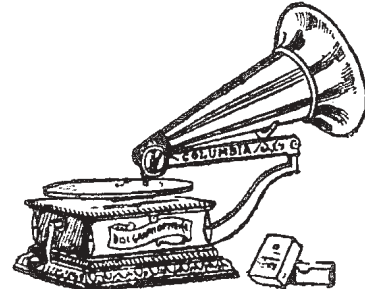
Music Box.
Regina



Regina
Music Box.



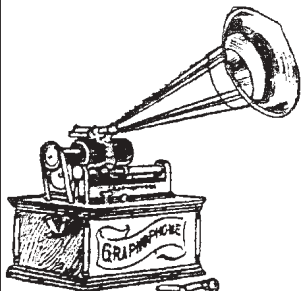
Regina Music Box.



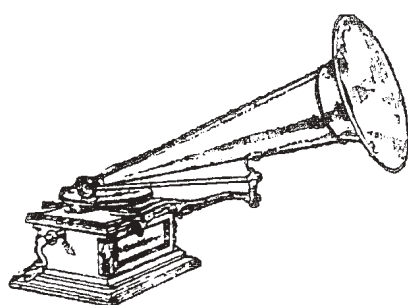
Disk Graphophone.



Guitar.



GRAPHOPHONE.



ZONOPHONE.



BANJO.



Musical Stein.

What Better
CHRISTMAS
GIFT Than a

REGINA

MUSIC BOX

"QUEEN OF MUSIC MAKERS."

Advt., *New York Times*, September 19, 1903

A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

John Wren's tote a disgrace

In the Melbourne suburb of Collingwood 25 or 30 able-bodied constables, armed with loaded revolvers and bludgeons, are lounging around in the dirty ramshackle huddle of old sheds known as "Wren's tote."

What the outcome of their occupation of this ill-favored place may be no one knows at present, but it would not be at all surprising if one of the most important results proves to be an outbreak of fever among the men who are there.

Surprising though it is that the proprietor should have been able for so long to carry on his business in the place, it is more surprising that the condition of this filthy kennel should have been overlooked by the health authorities.

A dirtier den it would be hard to find. The area used as the tote is made up of the back yards of half a dozen squalid houses surrounding it.

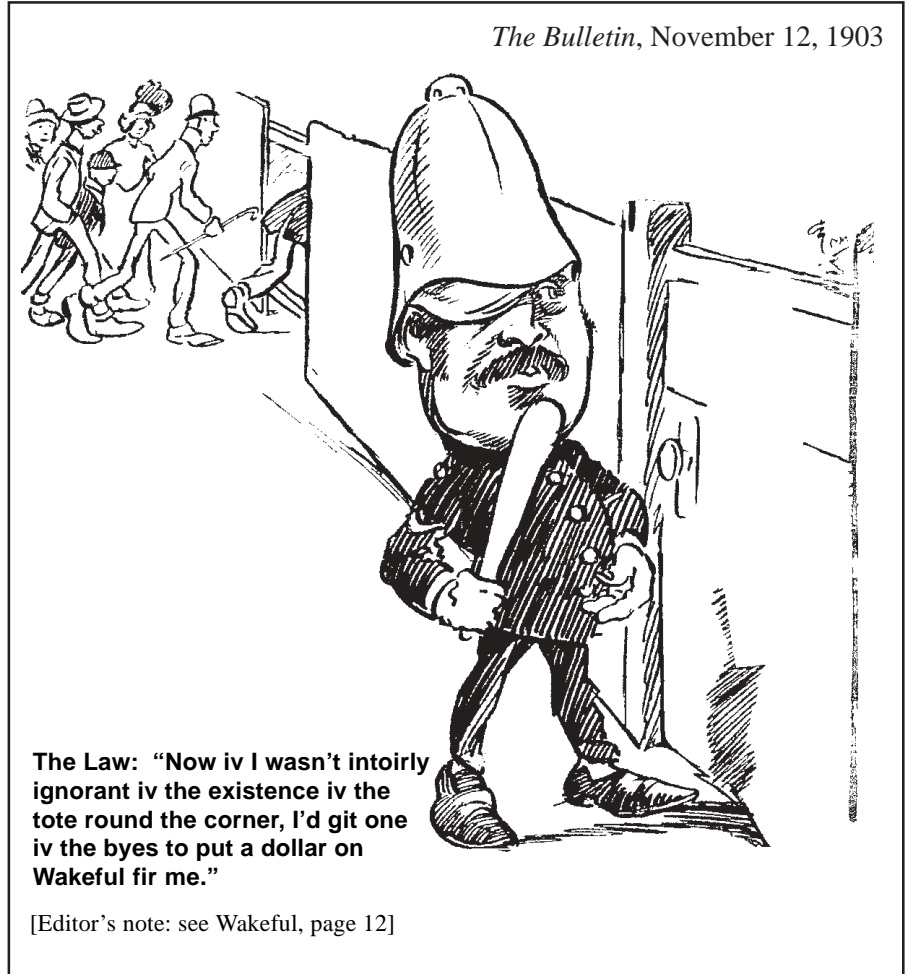
This part of Collingwood is unsewered. A malodorous open drain meanders right through the place, and in this the clients cool their feet, while inspecting the tote sheets displayed in the cage fronting it.

The walls, rails and woodwork are of a shiny dark brown, veneered by thousands of greasy wastrels constantly rubbing against them.

Bloated rats peer from cracks and crannies in the daytime, and shriek and dart about fearlessly at night, whilst verminous insects infest the walls and ceilings. The place reeks like a cloaca.

As yet no one has claimed to be the owner of the premises, and it is not considered likely that Mr. John Wren will enter an action for being refused admittance to his "place of business."

Three shifts of 25 policemen, at a daily cost of £25, are in constant occupation. And what good has come of it?



It seems there has been none, for with audacious disregard of the police, a new tote is in full swing around the corner, while another is conducted in Bourke Street without any hindrance from the authorities.

By the time the concentrated wisdom of the responsible officials has formulated some ponderous scheme for overcoming this new difficulty the tote will, of course, be somewhere else.

In circumstances such as these the present police action is ridiculous, and the pursuit of the tote is as futile as the hunting of the snark.

There is only one possible way to deal effectively with this matter, and that is by fresh legislation. The present laws have been proven by Supreme Court ruling to be inadequate.

The police have no power. The methods which have to be adopted in trying to obtain evidence for a betting prosecution are so cumbersome that it is impossible to catch a reasonably smart law breaker.

Some years ago the attorney-general, Mr. Isaacs, introduced a measure which, if it had been made law, would have enabled the police to exercise absolute control over public betting and gambling. But parliament rejected it by one vote.

Among the documents seized by the police on Tuesday morning of Melbourne Cup day, when they entered the totalisator premises, were some papers containing the names of a number of people, publicans, shopkeepers and others, who acted as agents for the totalisator.

The police say that this information may prove useful later on.

It seems, though, that the authorities who are now in possession of Wren's tote in Collingwood are in much the same position as the man who found, pegged out and laid formal claim to a whale stranded on the beach. It proved to be a whale of no value, and he didn't know what on earth to do with it.

(Edited, *The Age*, Nov. 5, 1903.)

The Electric Chronicle Newspaper

Sports News



www.choed.com.au/echron

According to *The Age* of November 4, 1903, the Melbourne Cup, run the day before, was raced in perfect conditions in front of a large crowd. First past the winning post was Lord Cardigan, with Wakeful second. On this page, cartoonist Alf Vincent has his say.



The Bulletin, November 12, 1903

AT FLEMINGTON.

PAT (whose horse has just run second): "I tell ye that wasn't the way to ride the horse at all. Ye should hev tuk him to the front, an' kep' him there, an' he'd hev won."



SPORT IN AUSTRALIA.

JOCKEY: "Shall I go for a win this time, sir?"
OWNER: "No, my boy, I can't afford it."

The Bulletin, December 3, 1903