Sept-Oct 2003 edition

The

Electric Chronicle newspaper



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Prime minister resigns

Barton named for High Court

The prime minister of Australia, Sir Edmund Barton, has announced his resignation from Parliament. He is to take up a position as one of the three judges who will make up the newlyformed High Court, along with Sir Samuel Griffith and Mr. Richard O'Connor.

Sir Edmund's successor as prime minister will be the current attorneygeneral, Mr. Alfred Deakin.

Soon after 11 a.m. yesterday Sir Edmund attended his last Cabinet meeting where he formally tendered his resignation. He then retired to his official room in the Department for External Affairs, where political supporters and opponents soon pushed their way in to offer their congratulations. The ex-prime minister was clearly touched.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. George Reid, stated from Sydney that now Sir Edmund had been removed from the sphere of political controversy, he wished to forget all political antagonism with the former prime minister, and cordially wished him a long and distinguished career as a High Court judge.

Mr. Deakin, the new prime minister, was heartily congratulated by telegram from all quarters. Among the first were messages from his own electorate in Ballarat.

(Edited, *The Age,* Sept. 25, 1903)



Edmund Barton and Alfred Deakin





News from a century ago, Sept–Oct 1903

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Newspaper and web site published and presented by Echo Education Services.

Newspaper compiled and edited by Roger Stitson.



Slaughter in Balkans

Call for Red Cross aid

A report from Salonika states that another massacre has been perpetrated by Turkish troops.

A band of 300 insurgents in southwestern Macedonia was surrounded by a large force of Turks. When they surrendered the rebels were then slaughtered in cold blood.

Turkey has also expelled the special correspondent of the London *Daily Mail* after he reported a massacre of Christians in the vilayet of Monastir. It has been claimed by foreign pressmen that Turkish soldiers were selling Christian children whose parents had been killed.

Meanwhile Czar Nicholas of Russia, who has been on a visit to the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, has left Vienna after discussions on the Balkan situation. Their joint scheme of reform in Macedonia was to be impressed upon the Sultan of Turkey in the hope he would implement it.

The Sultan, though, has refused calls from Austria and Russia for foreign supervision of his methods for suppressing rebellion.

In other news the American missions in Turkey have sent petitions to the Red Cross societies of England and America urging that humanitarian aid be sent to European Turkey.

The petitions state that thousands of people are suffering terrible distress and starvation in the provinces ravaged by the insurrectionary war.

Refugees whose villages have been destroyed in Macedonia are starving in the hills, with wild roots and herbage as their only food. Whole districts are weltering in blood without any doctors or nurses to attend to the wounded and the dying. (*The Age*, Sept-Oct, 1903.) Johan Braakensiek (Holland), September 6, 1903



THE WAR IN MACEDONIA.

Emperor Francis Joseph (to the Czar): "How fortunate, head of the Greek Church, that being a Christian doesn't give us the obligation to end this massacre..."

The Czar (to Francis Joseph): "Certainly, my Christian Majesty!..."

Japan and Russia on war manoeuvres

The Russian government is continuing her schemes of colonisation in the Far East. Arrangements are being made for settling one million colonists in the valley of the Amur, on the Manchurian border.

Russia has also not met her deadline to evacuate from Manchuria. In preparation for consequent war with Japan there are now 40 war ships in her naval port of Port Arthur, in Southern Manchuria.

Thirty forts have also been erected around Port Arthur, and 50 more are being built. In addition, all the nearby mountain peaks have been fortified. Meanwhile Russia has suggested to Japan that Korea be partitioned between the two countries. The Japanese government has rejected this proposal, and is already moving troops into southern Korea.

Dr. Morrison, the Beijing correspondent of *The Times*, reports that Korean independence is doomed; it must fall either to Russia or Japan.

The admirals commanding the British squadrons on the China, East Indian and Australian stations are conferring in Singapore on questions of naval concentration and strategy. (*The Age*, Sept-Oct, 1903.)

Faith healer enters New York

Dowie's Zionite crusade to raise money

The Rev. John Alexander Dowie, founder of the Church of Zion and of Zion City, entered New York a week ago with 3000 of his followers for a fortnight's crusade.

On arrival the 3000 breakfasted in Madison Square Garden, then proceeded to the quarters arranged for them in a large number of cheap boarding houses.

Unlike the rank and file of his supporters, Mr. Dowie and his wife went to a fashionable hotel, where he informed the police that a diamond brooch valued at £300 had been stolen from him.

Half of the faith healer's disciples have been struck down by influenza, but he has told them that if they do not recover quickly it is because they lack true faith. Mr. Dowie, though, is also ill, and is reported to have summoned a physician.

Disappointed in their efforts to convert the citizens of New York, 750 Dowieites have returned to Zion City.

As well, cheques supposedly signed and sent by prominent New York business men to Mr. Dowie have been proved to be bogus.

It has now been announced that Mrs. Dowie and her son are to travel to England on their way to Australia to start a Zionite movement there.

Meanwhile Mr. Dowie has been charged with neglecting to support his father. Claiming that the man was not his real father, Rev. Dowie was hissed by an audience for defaming his mother, when he said that years ago she had been tricked into a false marriage by an army officer of the Light Brigade, who then deserted her.

Mr. Dowie's younger brother, now living in Adelaide, denies this story. (*The Age*, compiled from reports throughout October, 1903.)



East African Zionist move

The British government has offered Zionites a territory in East Africa for Jewish settlement, and with full autonomous rights. This is an alternative to the present Zionist scheme of recovering Palestine from the Turks and repatriating Jews from all quarters of the world in Jerusalem.

However, the Polish and Russian Jewish delegates at the recent Basle Congress have dissented from the British scheme.

The people of Mombassa, the chief port of British East Africa, have also protested against the move.

Critics state that 95% of Jewish emigrants would have no knowledge of agriculture — the only way they could earn a living.

(The Age, September 8, 1903.)



ENGLAND'S OFFER TO THE JEWS FOR A TERRITORY IN SOUTH-EAST AFRICA. John Bull: "A free country, an independent State, but under my suzerainty." The Zionist: "But what if we find diamonds?" John Bull: "Then I'll come myself."

Belgium rejects Congo criticism

The Belgian authorities of the Congo Free State have begun to fortify the ports of the State.

Belgium's move is regarded as a reaction to criticism from other European powers that the Congo State is being mismanaged and that the populace is oppressed and illtreated.

Although the titular sovereign of the Congo is King Leopold of Belgium, the State was originally established under international European guarantee. It is believed that King Leopold has substantial financial interests in Congo trade.

There is now a plan to remove the Congo from Belgian control and to distribute the territory between the three countries whose colonial possessions adjoin it — England, France and Germany.

(The Age, September 10, 11, 1903.)



KING LEOPOLD IN PARIS TO DEFEND HIMSELF FOR BEING THE KING OF THE CONGO. King Leopold (to Loubert): "How about that! John Bull claims that I tortured, robbed and murdered more than he did..." Loubert: "No, your Majesty, that's impossible..."

Federal capital wrangle

Senate rejects Reps. on Tumut vote

Although the Federal House of Representatives has voted in favour of the township of Tumut as the site for Australia's national capital, the Senate yesterday voted for Bombala instead, causing a deadlock between the two Houses.

Before the Lower House debated the issue, deputations from all the interested principal towns in New South Wales invaded Melbourne, armed with arguments to impress and bore Honorable Members.

During the debate in the House of Representatives, the Sydney freetraders showed by their actions, whatever their words, that the selection of the best site was the thing furthest from their thoughts.

What they wanted, and were determined to get, was the site nearest to Sydney, and the most likely to be a sort of Sydney suburb, completely under Sydney influence.

The sequel to the sordid Federal capital bargaining was being developed in flagrant log-rolling.

The debate was also notable for another reason. For the first time a lady entered the members' chamber while the House was sitting.

The lady, who was about 25, was soon assisted from the chamber by the scandalised doorkeeper when her presence was realised.

Like many another genius who has not been appreciated until after his death, she was, perhaps, merely in advance of her day and generation.

In the Senate the vote was 19 for Tumut, 10 for Bombala. The deadlock between the two Houses means that the present Federal Capital bill will now be dropped.

(Edited from *The Age*, Sept-Oct, 1903.)



Women demand end to opium trade

A deputation from the Victorian Women's Federation met the Minister of Customs, Sir William Lyne, yesterday, to induce him to exercise powers given by the Customs Act to prohibit the importation of opium, except for medicinal purposes.

Dr. Mary Stone spoke on the evils of the opium habit, quoting cases from her own experience. She said the current New Zealand act was a success, causing opium importation to sink from 3033 lb. in 1898 to 85 lb last year. The Minister made a sympathetic reply, but, seeing that opium was already included in tariff restrictions, he doubted whether he could prohibit importation. However, he said there was more opium smuggling in the Commonwealth than in anything else.

Sir William regarded opium smoking as a most degrading vice, and said he would bring the deputation's representations before the Federal Cabinet.

(from The Age, September 26, 1903.)

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Women disrupt political meeting

A meeting in Sydney on Monday night to discuss the merits of the revised State Children's Relief bill has been disrupted by angry women.

While one State politician held the floor, a woman suddenly cried out that

the Relief Board had treated her child very badly.

Mr. J.A. Hogue, M.L.A., the chairman, suggested that the speaker be allowed to continue, but he was interrupted by Mrs. Hamilton Grey, who shouted, "You Parliamentary humbugs!"

A verbal argument then broke out, in which Mrs. Hamilton Grey told the chairman that he was a "miserable coward". She then left the hall.

Two other women then rose and attacked the chairman, at which some gentlemen commented on "women's rights with a vengeance." The women left and order was finally restored.

In Parliament on Tuesday it was suggested that if female electors behaved this way, members should be given police protection. (Laughter.) (Edited, *The Age*, Oct. 1, 2, 1903.)



In brief

Tasmania turns 100

Tasmania's centenary is being celebrated. On September 12, 1803, Lieutenant John Bowen of the Royal Marines sailed into the Derwent on HMS Glatton, and made the first settlement, which he called Hobart. Owing to smallpox in Launceston festivities have been postponed until early next year.

Girl housebreaker

In the Hobart criminal court today May Miller, 15, pleaded guilty of housebreaking and robbery. She is a Sunday school scholar. Her grandmother was Fanny Smith, the last of the Tasmanian Aborigines.

Black versus white

A party of white men stationed in a hut on the Glyde River, Northern Territory, has been fiercely attacked at night by Aborigines. Two men were clubbed by blacks wielding nullah nullahs while another man was struck by a waddy. The blacks were beaten off when the white men fired their rifles.

Kaiser in a bog

The German Kaiser, Emperor William, had to be rescued recently while out hunting. He ventured into a treacherous bog, sank up to his shoulders, and was unable to extricate himself. Members of his suite pulled the Kaiser out.

Aussies marry later

Recent statistics indicate that Australians are marrying later. Between 1867-1870 the average age of marriage for women was 25.7. By 1896-1900 the average had risen to 26.2 years. Marriage age for men had risen from 28.0 to 28.4 years. (*The Age*, Sept-Oct, 1903.) The Bulletin, September 24, 1903 "If the land had not been free in the early days I would never have come to Van Diemen's Land. But not only was the land given to us, but the labor as well." — Dowling, M.L.C.

There you have the disconsolate M.L.C. dreaming of the days when land was dirt cheap, and when the ideal "free laborer" was provided by a benign government that had no loathly socialistic sympathies.



News from a century ago, Sept–Oct 1903

Although Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is famous for his Sherlock Holmes detective mysteries, he also wrote many stories of historical action-adventure, and even science fiction. His tales of Lieutenant Gerard, a French military officer, were set during the Napoleonic Wars of the early 19th century.

Advt., New York Times, September 19, 1903



Be sure to read

Conan Doyle's latest book

That same ingenuity which has made Sherlock Holmes' exploits classic is exhibited in carrying Gerard triumphantly through enterprises no less exciting, in

THE ADVENTURES OF GERARD

HOW HE LOST HIS EAR HOW HE BLEW UP SARAGOSSA HOW HE SLEW THE FOX HOW HE SAVED THE ARMY HOW HE FOUGHT THE BOX-FIGHT HOW HE LOST MINSK HOW HE SAVED NAPOLEON HOW HE SAILED TO ST. HELENA

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Crime file

A basket case

The body of a wealthy nobleman from Polish Russia has been discovered in Moscow packed in a large basket. The victim had been reduced to insensibility by a hypodermic injection of narcotic poison, and then strangled. Three men in whose company he was last seen gambling have been arrested.

God told me to kill

A religious maniac has been captured and arrested for murdering an old man with a tomahawk in Manilla, New South Wales. The madman had been seen wandering around the district for some days, begging for salt, tea and sugar, and telling one woman that he was "about to make a big sacrifice for the dear Lord." On hearing this the woman had snatched up her baby and run away.

Thieves in the night

A sensational jewel robbery was carried out last night in a London auction room. Diamond brooches, pearl necklaces, tiaras, ecclesiastical plate, watches and rings were stolen by thieves who had hidden in the building before closing time. Using duplicate keys they opened a safe then escaped with their booty through a skylight.

Messenger shot — who cares?

Benjamin "Pitchfork" Tillman, Lieutenant-Governor of South Carolina, who some months ago shot dead the editor of a local newspaper for publishing criticisms of him, has been acquitted of murder by a jury in Lexington. Tillman was a senator for South Carolina from 1895 to 1901. (*The Age*, Sept-Oct, 1903.)



Advt., The Bulletin, October 1, 1903.



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Child raised in chook yard

An extraordinary case, showing the influence of environment on the infant mind, came before the Sydney water police court today. Agnes Martin, 20, a servant, was charged with having wilfully exposed her child, Hilda Martin, 4, in her employer's fowl yard, in a manner likely to result in bodily suffering.

Senior Constable George Brown said he saw the child playing in the yard with some fowls. She was scratching in the earth with her feet and hands, rolling in the dust, picking up things with her fingers, crowing and imitating the fowls in every way, and "spurring up" against the fowls in the way that roosters do to one another.

The child crawled through any small opening, and followed the fowls around the yard. She was without boots, hat and portions of clothing.

Margaret Johnson, attendant at the benevolent asylum, said the child was taken to the institution. It's head was in a filthy condition, and had sores where vermin had eaten the scalp. There was also fowl lice on its body. For two or three days the child would not speak, but would crow and chuckle around the other children. When retiring it would not go to bed like an ordinary child, but would perch on its cot.

Agnes Martin said that she had received no wages from her employer in 20 months. She lived on the premises and worked from 6.30 a.m. to 10 or 11 p.m. The child was sent to the yard. In wet weather, or on very cold days, it was left in the kitchen. The child never wore boots or socks, except on Sunday afternoons, when she was taken out.

Agnes Martin was fined 20/-, or, in default, seven days' hard labor. Two months were allowed in which to pay the fine.

The child was ordered to be placed in the custody of the superintendent of the benevolent asylum until the age of 16 years. (*The Age*, September 30, 1903.)



There was no sworn evidence as to whether the child crowed of mornings.



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Sports News



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England test cricket team setting sail for Australia

The committee of the Marylebone Cricket Club has decided not to invite a 15th man to join the team it is sending to Australia under the captainship of P.F. Warner.

The team has set sail for Melbourne on the R.M.S. Orontes. However, B.J.T. Bosanquet arrived too late, and will join the steamer at Marseilles, along with Hayward, Tyldesley, Lilley, Arnold, Rhodes and Hirst.

During an interview the captain expressed every confidence in the team. "We will not lose the rubber," he said, "if trying hard will win it."

Meanwhile the New South Wales Cricket Association has announced that each player in the Australian team will be paid £25 per match, in addition to fares, hotel bills and other expenses.

An inquiry into suitable colours for the Australian team was also to be set up.

(*The Age*, Sept. 23, 28, Oct 20, 1903.)

Other sports news

America's Cup

The United States yacht, *Reliance*, has won the third of the five races for the America's Cup, defeating Sir Thomas Lipton's English boat, *Shamrock III*. The Americans now cannot be beaten, and therefore still hold the Cup.



VFL grand final

Before an excited crowd of 32,363 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Collingwood has won the 1903 premiership, defeating Fitzroy 4.7 to 3.11, a winning margin of 2 points. With seconds remaining, Brosnan, the Fitzroy captain, missed a clear shot on goal that would have won them the game. His kick shaved the goal post.

Spring Carnival

The city of Melbourne is rapidly filling with visitors from interstate and the country. This time last year, rural people were badly affected by drought. Now, with bountiful harvests, they arrive with increased spending power. Prospects for a successful Melbourne Cup are excellent. (*The Age*, September-October, 1903.)

