

Western Table Talk

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NAT J. BARNET

EDITOR.

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REFLECTIONS.

Up to Wednesday last the list of members elected to represent the colony in the Legislative Assembly showed that of forty-three returned, twenty-five were Ministerialists, ten Independents, and eight Oppositionists. Of these members twenty-four have been re-elected with or without opposition, representing seventeen ministerialists, four Independents, and three Oppositionists. From this it will be seen, as also by an analysis of the votes recorded, that the opinions of the voters leaned greatly to the side of Sir John Forrest and his followers. This, however, cannot be taken as the true indication of public opinion in W.A. As a matter of fact, not two in ten of the t'othersiders now resident amongst us were privileged to record a vote. The strong position which Sir John holds, therefore, may be taken as the opinion of West Australians, pure and simple. "While outsiders are here we will make them pay for their living any how," they argue, and for another spell, t'othersiders may be perfectly sure that they will, by their labours, have to support hundreds of old West Australians who may never put their hands to the plough at all.

Mr. John Davies, at the railway employees' picnic at Woodbridge on Saturday last, in replying to the toast of the "Government Railways of W.A.," struck a happy vein. In referring to the progress of the railways, his remarks were most cheering, and it is no wonder that all present shook hands with and congratulated themselves on the result of their labours. There is no doubt that the progress has been a record one, and that all concerned, from the Commissioner and General Manager to the humblest porter or lamp-trimmer in the service, are deserving of commendation, individually and collectively, upon the result.

The Commissioner of Railways (Hon. F. H. Piesse) and the General Manager (Mr. Davies) referred to the speed of trains in this and the other colonies, and Mr. Davies promised local improvement in the near future. While pleased to hear this, for there certainly is room for improvement, we would like to ask whether the delays at stations, especially country ones, could not be lessened? Elsewhere the travelling public has been educated up to short stoppages, and in consequence line themselves up along the platform ready to take their seats in the carriages nearest to them, knowing that if they do not they will be left behind. (Please don't forget the famous Fremantle-Perth trip in 19½ minutes.)

Railway punctuality, or the want of it, has become a jest and a by word in Western Australia, and we regretted that we did not hear any reference made to this important item of public comfort and convenience by the Minister of Railways or his able and energetic manager. We would commend this to their careful consideration. Time after time in the near past we have heard complaints, indeed we have complained ourselves, when the train has come in too late to connect with another one, and has thus entailed a wearisome wait for the next, or the missing of the opening of a meeting, breaches of appointments, loss of seats at churches on Sunday evenings, &c., &c., *ad infinitum*.

On one point we beg to differ utterly and entirely from the custom in the railway service. While admitting that the staff has abundantly earned the enconiums bestowed upon them by the General Manager for their "utter disregard of office hours," we must emphatically protest against such a system being countenanced, let alone praised, by the heads of departments. While deprecating in the very strongest manner anything approaching the "Government stroke," which is only a euphemism for "loafing" and robbing the employer by not giving an adequate day's work for a day's pay, we still think that in a climate like this, it is not doing justice to the officers to keep them at work day and night, week day and Sunday. This sort of high pressure may last for a time but is certain sooner or later to break down the health of the men subject to such pressure, moreover, making one man do two men's work is keeping another man out of a billet.

Unfortunately for the Colony, high pressure seems to be the order of the day, at any rate for employees. It is notorious that Banks and Institutions, professional men and others, keep their officers at work from Sunday morning to Saturday night, getting something like a hundred hours work out of them per week, quite forgetting (if they ever knew) that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and ignoring the fact that many of our brightest and best have been so overworked that their health has at last given way and they have succumbed to the first attack of the demon typhoid. Oh, for an eight hour's movement amongst the polite professions! yet these employers will hold up their heads in horror, and denounce in scathing terms "sweaters" and "sweating," while they themselves are not only underpaying their employees but, alas, keeping deserving capable men out of work.

"Oh, that a gift the Gods wad gie us,
To see ourselves as ithers see us."

We commend the Government for their action in appointing another Minister, and we offer our congratulations to the Hon. H. B. Lefroy upon his appointment.

It has long been a subject for comment that the Hon. E. H. Wittenoom had quite as much as he could do justice to in the Mines Department alone, without having the Education and Post and Telegraph Departments also under his care. Hard and indefatigable worker though he is, it was impossible to do justice to three large and rapidly increasing departments. And now that he is doing the Premier's work also, a rearrangement of work was an absolute necessity.

Mr. Lefroy will find an Augean stable in the Post, Telegraph and Telephone portion of his charge, while the Education Department will claim a fair share of his time. If Mr. Lefroy had any intimation of his approaching elevation to the Executive Council, it is to be hoped that he made exhaustive enquiry and inspection into the South Australian system in both departments. The want of system in those branches in this colony is notorious, and it needs a strong hand at the helm to steer them into a position somewhat abreast of the times. It will also require a strong personality to undertake and carry through reforms and put down abuses. This, we believe, we shall find in Mr. Lefroy, and we now hopefully await the happy and beneficial results to the general public that we feel satisfied will follow his assumption of the reins of office.

We understand that a project is on foot to present to the English poor large quantities of Australian wine. While fully appreciating the largeness of heart, and kind feeling generally, displayed towards the mother country by this act, we are much inclined to question its utility and wisdom. We know it was the custom in the Middle Ages at the coronation of the king, and indeed on all great celebrations, to allow the fountains of the city to play wine in lieu of water. Those times are acknowledged to have been not quite civilized; but in the nineteenth century surely other things are to be expected of us than the encouragement of the curse of all ages! We have but to look around; to walk down the streets of Perth and Fremantle to observe, firstly, the unlimited number of hotels, greater here, in all conscience, in proportion to population, than in any other Australian town, save, perhaps, Coolgardie; and, secondly, to observe the foot passengers. How many men do we see utterly incapable, even in the forenoon. Surely in few cities was ever such drunkenness seen! Is it possible to get to the root of this great West Australian evil? We fear not entirely. We would venture, however, to point out that the facilities for obtaining spirituous liquors in a hot climate, such as this, are too great, while we observe quite the contrary with regard to the great drink of all drinks for a thirsty man—water. We have already, in relation to this subject, albeit in quite another sense, spoken of fountains. Here, unfortunately, we have no fountains to yield us either wine or water; without doubt a great want in this dust-laden, heated atmosphere. So, taking into consideration the fact that we, in Australia, are gradually learning that we have made somewhat of a mistake in encouraging drink, we do think it would have been better to have sent one of our other products rather than wine to the English poor.

We learn that the Forest Department, the Commissioner of Railways consenting, intends during the following winter to sow seeds, *other* than the golden wattle, along the railway lines. These are to be sown with the view of furnishing to the public a "good object lesson." We rejoice that the "powers that be" are beginning to take *some* interest in the education of the people outside reading, writing and arithmetic. Even the monotony of the graceful wattle, which we might fittingly call, as the Germans do their laburnum, "golden rain," we would greatly appreciate. But to have these trees intermixed with others will be a delight indeed. At the same time we are tempted to enquire in what way they can quite serve as an "object lesson" along a railway line. It is usually necessary, when we wish to regard a tree or growth of any kind for the purpose of learning something about it, to bestow a certain minute ness of attention thereon. This would require a *little* time. But probably the Commissioner of Crown Lands, in considering the advantages to be gained by this new departure, has given due regard to the speed or otherwise of our trains. Nevertheless, this is a step in the right direction. We sadly need the freshness that only green growth can give in our barren, sandy colony, and this chiefly in Perth. We hope that the further experiments in the planting of seeds which are being made by the Forest Department at Pingelly will prove satisfactory; and we trust that the same department will allow the waste land outside the city of Perth to be planted with those trees with a view of forming parks, a most necessary feature of every town, and in this respect, together with any means whatsoever of getting pleasure in a wholesome and inexpensive way, surely Perth is pre-eminently wanting.

Intimation has been received by us to the effect that 200,000 sheep and 500 fat bullocks are to be sent home to feed the London poor. The Diamond Jubilee of our Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, serving as the fitting occasion for the donation. We do not hear of such gifts being bestowed by the rich English upon their poorer neighbours, save in one instance—The Princess of Wales is collecting subscriptions for a supper to be given to the East London poor. The gift is a gracious one; one only of the many bestowed by the generous-hearted Australians upon their poorer cousins in the "far home land." How truly loyal of heart the colonials are, may be judged by such deeds as these. If a fire break out in any English building, where numbers of people are assembled, and there ensues great loss of life, and serious distress in consequence, the Australians are ever ready and willing to contribute their portion. May we not wonder, considering this attachment on Australia's side, that the sympathy has not been mutual, and that it has not taken practical form in England as here, on those occasions when there has been such great need of monetary help? Such occasions as have been given by Bank failures, failures of crops, floods, though here in this later instance, we do her (England) an injustice, for she very generously came to Queensland's assistance in her time of need, when whole towns were deluged, and people were rendered homeless and penniless. We have heard it stated that the fact of the Australians celebrating the Queen's birthday as a public holiday, is a proof that they possess more loyal feelings towards the Queen, than do her own more immediate subjects.

The peripatetic newspaper man is frequently in evidence when he is not wanted. One day this week while strolling through a certain reserve in West Perth, he noticed a large number of iron bands, sufficient to crown all the Lombard kings until the crack of doom, lying about, and he was inquisitive enough to enquire the use of these iron diadems—for such they certainly resembled. He was informed that they were the damaged ends of our new water mains, which some too scrupulous overseer caused to be knocked off, rather than risk the danger of the continual burstings of the mains which would result under the pressure of some 80 lbs. to the square inch, to which they would be subjected by the aqueous force in the future. Now, there are two questions requires to be answered in connection with this gross blunder—to say the least of it. First—Who is responsible for the purchase of the mains? and second—Was not the supervisor at the wrong end? Instead of having to chop off the damage here, one would think that he should have been at the foundry, and where, in addition to the usual hydraulic tests, he would have insisted that all main pipes cast "faucet down" should have the "slag ends" turned off for about ten inches or a foot. Now it becomes necessary to hack the ends off with hammer and chisel—a botch at best, while the "bleeding country" is mulcted in the additional cost. Had not the "grand old man" said that "newspapers are the watchdogs of civilization" we should not have noticed the little transaction.

We feel it is inevitable, but that a new comer should be impressed by the very unstable and unsatisfactory conditions of Western Australian Society. The old native West Australians form a nucleus, around which aggregate comers from every colony, forming a strangely mixed assembly. By "mixed" we mean to convey the same idea that that well-used phrase gives to us all, "All sorts and conditions." But why should its members consist of "all sorts and conditions," seeing that the West Australian ladies have a reputation for being most exclusive, and why *do* they admit into their inner circle certain ladies who are discovered afterwards to possess "a past"? It appears—for this reason—a lady will bring from another colony letters of introduction to one or more prominent

men, from these introductions are obtained to an influential lady, and thus from one to another our newcomer is introduced, and so enters the "Holy of Holies." The re-organisation of society is a difficult problem, and one which, while admitting it is hard to solve, we trust our present leaders of society will, in their discretion, devote a deal of thought, and thus give us a "set" of which even the late Ward MacAlister would be proud.

Under "sêismic" circumstances the eastern colonies, or rather the southern portion of them, are not desirable places of residence just now. Old Cyclops has been having a bit of fun in quite a new region for that sort of sport, at least, new as far as some sixty years or so experience goes. But it seems to us that the single eyed old gentleman who is supposed to direct these matters from his forge below, has made a mistake of a few hundred miles in fixing the locality for his little joke. Had he let poor suffering Victoria and South Australia alone and come west he might have done some good. There is plenty of scope for an earthquake in and around Perth. Something of the kind is needed to shake the local authorities of all grades and shades of opinion, of all colours and kinds of rank and standing, into a sense of their responsibilities and duties. Indeed, nothing short of an earthquake will wake the Rip Van Winkles of officialdom to a knowledge of what the public need and demand from them. It would be a long story to enumerate the deficiencies, and a still longer one to recapitulate the remedies for existing evils, and life is too short for much worry, but if Cyclops or one of his assistants could regenerate the telephone operators, he would be conferring a benefit upon the business people of Perth and Fremantle, and lay them under a debt of everlasting gratitude.

There is a large amount of cheap philanthropy at present being exhibited by folks whose pens move with sibylline sweetness, and whose tongues "drop manna" by way of advice on the present aspect of society in Western Australia. The requirements of all new countries need something more than passive advice; and practical suggestions for the settlement of population in a civilised manner are not compassed by the cant phrases of thrift, confidence, and self-reliance. This might apply to the class of immigrants who sought a home in the wilds of Australia fifty or sixty years ago; the great majority of whom were unmarried men, and who were prepared to brave all discomforts in an endeavour to bring the rude conditions which prevailed on the goldfields of New South Wales or Victoria within the pale of modern habitable conditions; or, take their tools of husbandry into the rich plains beyond the Blue Mountains, or away among the smiling pastures of Australia Felix. The circumstances of these days and the present are not analagous, and West Australian economists should apply the modifications in keeping with the altered conditions.

If the people who came to Australia from all parts of the world, attracted hither by the dream of riches of these long past days, were the desirable class which historians and novelists are so fond of depicting as "*our* hardy pioneers"—it follows that those who have only crossed over the border, or sailed round the Bight, are doubly "*ours*" by the "crimson thread of kinship" fostered either by long residence on this great Island Continent or as children of its soil. These are the new imigrants—if we may so call them; and are for the most part men with families, who have been accustomed to the comforts of homes elsewhere, and, it must not be wondered at if they complain of the almost insurmountable difficulties which Western Australia presents to the attainment of this primary essential to modern civilization. Now is the time for opulent West Australian patriots and philanthropists to turn this tide of complaining, by prudent speculative enterprise in establishing homes for the people. We already hear of a "Land Company" which it is proposed shall be incorporated with a Building Society to accomplish this desirable end. This is as it should be, and any company which opens a channel for safe and profitable investment at reasonable rates of interest, to enable the restless and dissatisfied immigrants to settle in our midst should be welcomed by all who have the true interests of Western Australia at heart.

Those pessimists who so dogmatically declare that Western Australia, as a gold producing country, is about the most inferior in the world; and who never lose an opportunity to ventilate their views, that this colony will shortly go "smash," because the gold does not exist, except in the imagination; will be very much cut up to learn the following facts:—The gold put out for the first two quarters of 1896, amounted to forty-five thousand, three hundred and fifty-seven ounces, nine pennyweights and thirteen grains; and sixty-six thousand four hundred and seventy-two ounces, seven pennyweights and seven grains respectively; making a total for the first half-year of 1896, of one hundred and eleven thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine ounces, seventeen pennyweights and nine grains. The first three months of 1897, the total out-put amounts to one hundred and thirteen thousand two hundred and eight ounces seven pennyweights and fifteen grains. Thus the output of three months of 1897 exceeds that of six months of 1896 by one thousand three hundred and seventy-eight ounces ten pennyweights and six grains. We wonder after this statement if there *is* any gold in West Australia, and if our pessimistic friends are convinced that their shrieking is in vain.

THROUGH A WOMAN'S SPECTACLES.

Queen Victoria has quite a museum at Windsor, another at Osborne, and a third at Balmoral, of souvenirs of her sojourns at each residence.

I hear that bagpipes are quite fashionable as an instrument for ladies, in British drawing-rooms. Lady Elspeth Campbell, granddaughter of the Duke of Argyle, who is a skilled performer, having introduced the fashion.

The Duchess of Cleveland, an elderly lady who often wears white, entertains most exclusively, and travels all over the world as if she were still in her teens, was the prettiest bridesmaid at our Queen's wedding.

After sentence has been pronounced upon a woman in Austria, she is sent to a convent and kept there for a certain number of years, as woman, in Austria, cannot, under any circumstances, be imprisoned or sentenced to death.

Hair is a great article of feminine fancy. A Devonshire girl who had a remarkably fine head of hair, grew so fond of it that she ate it all and became quite bald. It remained in her stomach in a mass, weighing 5½ lbs., until she died, and it is now one of the curiosities in the museum of the College of Surgeons.

A somewhat novel idea has been introduced by Mrs. Cleveland, wife of the ex-President of the United States, by the introduction, at a ladies' luncheon party which she gave at the White House, of an assortment of various kinds of flowers which are suitable for eating. There was, for instance, nasturtium salad, and another salad composed of the exquisite bell-shaped blossoms of the abutilon, candied and crystallized violets were, of course, on the menu.

Lady Marcus Beresford is a great lover of cats. She has quite an army of them. These animals, about 150 in number, are extremely sagacious, and have been trained to use their intelligence in a remarkable way. Lady Marcus Beresford occasionally holds a reception for her pets. She sits upon a chair, and her cats form a circle round her. One by one she calls these creatures up to her in turn by their names. Obediently they come to receive a soft pat and a kindly word, and then, with the utmost decorum, each goes back to its place to make room for the next.

Apropos of household affairs, I hate the man who invented fringes for towels and toilet covers, and I positively execrate the manufacturers who send forth millions of these things to vex us poor women, and irritate the creatures—the beings who are called lords of creation. Not, be it understood, that I think these beings are worthy of much consideration for their own sakes, but it is more comfortable for us to keep them in a placid mood if possible. You recollect the conversation between the young married lady and her friend who had been married for some years. The former was in despair at the difficulty of pleasing her husband, and said, finally, with a sigh, "I don't know what to do." The friend, of matured experience, said "Feed the brute." Well, keep away from mankind such things—fringes, toilet covers, and fringe towels—which catch in every possible thing, and generally put mankind in a bad humour.

MOLLIE.

LADY'S LETTER.

DEAR SUSIE,—This week we are only just about recovering from the shock we got on receiving an invitation to an At Home at Government House given to Sir John and Lady Forrest on the eve of their departure for England. I say shock, dear Susie, because, you know, there have been absolutely no entertainments given there for many months, that we were getting quite reconciled to doing without the wild delights of Government House. I was so sorry you were not there, you would have been much amused to have seen the bored expressions worn by some of the guests. They came and stood about, glanced furtively at the clocks, and addressed each other in vigorous accents whenever they fancied the hostess or her daughters were looking.

What a crowd of W.A.'s left by the "Rome"? I must tell you, dear Susie, about one gentleman who caused great amusement. He was a candidate for a country electorate, and thinking that he would not hear the result of the election before he left these shores, to be on the safe side, had all his luggage labelled A. B. ———, Esq., M.L.A. He got the news just before starting that he was defeated. Being a conscientious man, he at once rushed for a paint pot and brush to obliterate the coveted—but elusive—letters.

Woman Suffrage!!! Now! what do you think about it, dear Susie? Considering it by the light of the circumstances surrounding the recent elections, and scenes that have been enacted at some of them, all I have to say is that we of the weaker sex could not, or would not, conduct ourselves with a greater regard for truthfulness, honour, and moral courage, than the beings who at present enjoy a monopoly of the franchise, we deserve to be regarded as very low in the scale of creation indeed. In all seriousness, dearest Susie, I believe that if anything is to save Australia from becoming, from a political point of view, utterly mean, slavish, and debased, it must be the establishment by law of woman suffrage. But, dear Susie, you will understand that, in saying all this, I am assuming that there is deep in the recesses of the average man, whether he be a navy or a nobleman, a lurking sense of decency, not to say chivalry—a feeling of veneration—of respect—for what he knows, or at all events, professes to consider purer and better than himself. Dearest Susie, for the good of mankind, as well as of womankind, do all you can to bring about woman suffrage.

A friend of mine was telling me about a new fad in New York. Instead of the usual tea, coffee or cocoa, one is now offered tea, coffee, hot water, or cocoa. Fancy drinking hot water with one's meals. I certainly should not take it, as it is so conducive to red noses.

Are you glad, dear Susie, to hear that the empire belt has again become fashionable. It is a great finish to a bodice, and makes the waist look much smaller than a narrow belt, tho' it makes one look short-waisted.

Good-bye for to-day, dear Susie, I hope to give you a longer letter next week, and tell you of two engagements which I promised a short time ago.—Affectionately yours,

TUSIE.

The X-rays have been responsible for many curious and interesting discoveries. Recently in a Florence hospital some operators were astonished to find that a patient's heart was beating serenely away in the *right* side of his body—not the *left*. Instantly the newspapers were flooded with theories, ideas, and opinions about the matter and "all the world wondered." Very curious and very interesting, but knowledge of human nature has shown us still more wonderful things. Through its agency we have become acquainted with several people who have no hearts at all, not to speak of those with hearts of stone.

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2,000 Men's Silk Stripe Shirts, 1s 11d and 2s 11d each
1,500 Men's Soft Felt Hats, 6d each
300 Men's Pith Hats, 1s each; were 4s 11d
2,000 Boys' and Men's Straws, 3d, 6d, 1s, and 1s 11d; were 1s to 4s 6d
1,500 Men's Beaver Moles, 2s 11d pair
200 Men's Good Heavy Tweed Suits, 6s 11d each
Several Thousand Yards Dress Material, ONE PENNY yd.
Several Thousand Yards Crettonnes, 3d per yard; were 1s 3d
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INFORMATION.

"A chiel's amang ye takin' notes, and faith he'll prent em."

We beg to call the attention of our readers, advertisers, subscribers and contributors to the fact that WESTERN TABLE TALK has opened offices at 7 Broken Hill Chambers, Mouatt-street, Fremantle. This branch is in charge of Mr. A. E. Woodham, a gentleman who has been associated with the literary and commercial branch of well-known English and South African journals for many years.

Dr. McCrae was the first medico registered in Victoria.

It is not generally known that Lord Brassey is part owner of London *Daily News*.

Mr. F. R. Spofforth (the Demon Bowler) will return to Australia shortly.

An anonymous donor has just given a million francs to the charities of Paris. This is charity.

Last month 39,660 oz. of gold were exported from this colony. The value of this is over £160,000.

Cardinal Moran looks a man of about forty years of age, but in reality he is in his sixty-seventh year.

"Bicycle sneaking," we regret to state, still exists in W.A. Mr. Greenshields, the Albany town clerk, had his "bike" stolen last Sunday.

We hear that in a State school not far from Central Perth during one month one hundred children left the school, whilst a similar number were enrolled.

There is no fixed age for Judges to retire. Justice Forbes of New South Wales will be 78 on the 19th of May; he is Australia's oldest Judge, and is still in harness.

Mr. J. Dimant, the indefatigable secretary of the "Lady Smith Home," acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £5 from Mr. W. Herbert Evans, per Lady Smith. The "Home" is progressing in a most satisfactory manner.

Alice (Mrs. J. W. Fleming), sister of Rudyard Kipling, has written a "society" story with great success. *A Pinchbeck Goddess* is a brisk attempt to distil literature, out of the thought and language incidental to five o'clock tea. Rudyard Kipling's father is well-known as a capable writer and a tasteful artist.

It is a question as to whether bare foot walking in this mortal world tends to lengthen life, as some people imagine. The late Baron Von Mueller thought it did, and consequently he went about bare-footed in his house. As the Baron died before he attained the allotted years of life, it rather does away with the bare-footed theory.

Curator Archibald, father of one of Australia's notable journalists, is at present in very feeble health, he having just recovered from a severe paralytic stroke. The veteran is a state pensioner of some note. The nucleus of the Victorian Force, which was formed by a batch of fifty London police, was brought over in this officer's charge.

The question as to whether tobacco growing in Victoria will be a success or not will be decided very soon. An American expert has planted a first crop, which has been gathered, and it is now in the curing process. An independent jury will, after having cured it, reduce it to ashes, and they will be able then to determine its true worth.

According to the *Review of Reviews* the drink bill of New South Wales for 1896 amounted to no less a sum than £4,000,000, which gives an average consumption of £20 for every family in the community. If the prosperity of a colony can be gauged by the amount its inhabitants have to spend on drink, we should fancy W.A. would occupy a high place.

Captain William Oats, the lately returned member for Southern Cross, comes of a highly intellectual stock. His father was considered one of the finest mathematicians of his day, and the Captain is in possession of some of his father's writings on astronomy. This manuscript has been carefully read by most of the Government Astronomers in Australia, and they consider it a learned treatise.

The reported dull times at the goldfields seem in no way to curtail the numbers of persons arriving in this colony. Each incoming boat brings a full complement of passengers and cargo, consequently the pier at Fremantle presents an animated scene the week through, what with the discharging and loading of goods by the various steamers alongside of the wharf.

The Perth Fire Brigade would do well to take a lesson from the Fremantle Brigade, whose smartness in turning out at the fire which broke out on Sunday morning last in some buildings owned by Mr. Fred. Jones, offers such a contrast to the dilatoriness shown by the Perth firemen at the recent fire in Hay-street. The damage, which is estimated at about £500, we understand is fully covered by insurance.

At an art union last week Artist Coate's scholarship picture entitled "Too Late" was won by a sixpenny restaurant-keeper in Bourke-street, Melbourne. The drawing represents a sick man on a bed, with a doctor just entering the room, a suggestion that if this picture were hung in the dining-rooms the results that may attend on over eating at sixpenny restaurants might be impressed on patrons.

Life in Melbourne was unusually dull during the last week of Lent. This fact is put down to the undercurrent of religion which is said to exist in the Melbourne women. We hear that during the week in question there was absolutely nothing to do and nothing to see but to gaze into shop windows. Even the Princess Theatre was closed, and the whole city appeared to be clothed in sackcloth and ashes.

The Easter Fair held in Bendigo (Vic.) was opened by the Mayor, and it was not that gentleman's first connection with Bendigo Fair business. The Mayor was at one time engaged in an amateur nigger company, and before that he used to lead a blind man around to collect money for the Fair, and at length he has achieved the honor of declaring the Easter Fair open. This circumstance proves how it is possible for a man in the nineteenth century to rise to the top from the bottom of the ladder.

ACME CYCLES, Ladies' Machines in Great Variety.

The Only Visible Typewriters.

Williams' Typewriters,

We have the best **REPAIR SHOP** in the Colony.

The Acme Cycle Co., 40 Howick Street, Perth.

Some complaints are being made, according to the local journal, as to the overcrowding of some of the boarding houses about Bunbury. More stringency is required in the direction of inspection and supervision, if we are to be saved from a visitation of disease.

* * *

Dr. Willie Maloney, the erratic member for West Melbourne, is returning after his long absence in England, having shipped as surgeon on board the s.s. Devon, which is bringing a number of domestic servants to West Australia. The doctor, who has been running his head into a hornet's nest amongst the medical profession in Great Britain, has been touring with "Dr." Richards, *alias* Geismardo, an itinerant medicine vendor and quack.

* * *

The signature of "Lika Joko," which once figured conspicuously in London *Punch*, is Harry Furniss. Harry is *en route* to Australia under the management of Smythe, and on his way he is lecturing with the idea of picking up a fortune before he arrives here. The London *Punch* artist, outside a narrow literary and artistic circle is hardly known in Australia, and we doubt very much if he will succeed in picking up much coin here.

* * *

We clip the following from the Melbourne *Punch*: "Governor 'Jerry' Smith, of Westralia, has much moderated his public exhibitions of bumptiousness ever since that station-master told him to 'go to—ll.' Referring to this recently at the Weld Club he remarked, 'Yas, the fellah told me to go to—ahem—hem. As if I had not already reached my destination, donchernow, when I came to this blasted hole.' This is rather rough on our Gov., and very rough on W.A.

* * *

Mr. Harry C. Rhys-Jones, besides having a shrewd commercial brain, is a writer of no mean order and the possessor of a phenomenal memory. Fifty or sixty nouns can be written on a piece of paper and handed to Mr. Jones, when in a space of five minutes he will commit them to memory, repeat them in order, announce them backward, and will submit to be "dodged," when he will tell the fifth, tenth, sixteenth, or any particular noun his examiner desires him to mention.

* * *

It may or may not be coincidence, but Ethel Turner, the young Australian authoress who has created such a sensation in England by her superb writings, has made use of the word "little" in giving a title to nearly all her works. Firstly we have the "Seven *Little* Australians," then "The *Little* Duchess," again "The *Little* Larrikin," and Miss Turner is now going to treat us to "The *Littles* of "Little" wood." There is a good amount of "little" in her titles, but certainly nothing "little" in the literary worth of Ethel Turner's romances.

* * *

The returns of the gold yield for the Colony of Victoria for the past quarter show a falling off of 42,500 ounces, as against the same quarter of last year. Considerable attention is now being paid to the mineral resources of Gippsland, and several British and other capitalists are now exploring this rich country, which is destined to become the greatest gold, silver and copper area in the world. The mines at Bright, Jamieson, Wood's Point and district are yielding magnificent returns.

* * *

David Syme, the proprietor of the Melbourne *Age*, was undoubtedly born to be a discoverer. He originally came out to Australia for the purpose of exploring, and at one time he advertised for a partner to accompany him in his expeditions. It was fortunate for Mr. Syme that he received no answer to his advertisement, for had he received any, he would not have been the David Syme of to-day. Syme "did," however, go exploring—not land, but journalism, and to-day it can be said that he is the discoverer of the best paying daily newspaper in Australia.

At the Eight Hours banquet in Melbourne, Mr. Taverner is said to have boasted that "an increase of 88,000 ozs. in Victorian gold production is the output of 1896 as compared with 1894, and the miners employed were 4324 more." Each man by his twelve months' work, taking the gold at the rate of £4 per oz., added just over £80 to the wealth of the country, is equivalent to an average wage of 36s. 8d. a week. It does not seem much of a success, even if the cost of nothing else were taken into consideration except their manual labour.

* * *

We understand that a political and social club is in course of formation in Perth, bearing the simple nursery rhyme title of "The Forty Thieves." As the gentlemen already enrolled are very select, we are requested to intimate that the police need not appear until telephoned for, or the Chief Commissioner receives a card of invitation, to attend the inaugural meeting, which is fixed for an early date, and will probably be held at the Palace Hotel. The Ali Ba Ba of the story is a well known manufacturer on the banks of the Swan River.

* * *

"Australia sends 20,000 fat sheep and 500 fat bullocks for the poor of London," was the wording of a cable from Melbourne on the 3rd inst. to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales in response to her appeal the previous day, on behalf of her scheme to provide free meals to the deserving poor of London, in commemoration of her Majesty's Jubilee Reign. *Bis dat qui cito dat.* Australia's contribution will be a welcome one, and will advertise to England that the products of the great pastures of her Majesty's distant possessions are always at the disposal of starving brothers in the home land. The idea of forwarding this gift to London owes its origin to Mr. Andrew Rowan and Mr. M. D. McEacharn and others in Melbourne, and was taken up by pastoralists throughout Australia and carried to a successful issue by the ready assistance of the large shipowners, who will carry the consignment free. In order that the meat may be at the disposal of the Princess on Jubilee Day, it has been arranged to instruct by cable to draw upon present frozen stocks in London.

* * *

We have to go out of the "Golden West" to hear news of our visitors. We clip the following from our esteemed contemporary, Melbourne *Punch*. We must confess it is news to us, and we venture to say it will be news to our readers:—"Miss Regina Nagel, when in Westralia, went down Lake View and the Great Boulder. At a depth of 200 feet in the latter mine she sang "Ben Bolt" to the miners, whom she charmed as much as the Trilby audiences at the Princess'. Miss Nagel was afterwards presented by the Great Boulder men with a handsome brooch made with gold from the mine. The design is typically Westralian—a pickaxe and shovel, crossed with a nugget showing white quartz, and pendant from the nugget a bucket with the letters W.A. Between the pickaxe and shovel 'Hannan's' is lettered on a gold ribbon. Miss Nagel was greatly pleased by the gift and the compliment conveyed by it. She found the high but even temperature of Westralia agreed with her voice, and thinks the climate an ideal one for vocalists."

* * *

We clip the following from our esteemed contemporary, *The Coolgardie Review*:—"Mr. Rhys-Jones, who was so prominently connected with Mr. A. E. Morgans in the late fight, is a man of great tact and unswerving manliness. He did more by his unobtrusive political honesty to keep things from getting red hot and ugly than any ten men who worked for Morgans. Some of that gentlemen's admirers have less idea of the principle of fair play than a he-goat has of eating oysters, and less tact than a brindle bulldog. It was a pity Rhys-Jones was not at the helm of the Morgans' craft from the commencement. We like a square hard-hitting enemy at any time, and we don't growl at men like Jones who shoot in the open. It's the dirty gunner who gets behind a hedge and fires, that we object to. All Hales' best workers have a good word to say for Rhys-Jones, though he worked so infernally hard for Morgans." We endorse the *Review's* eulogy of Mr. Rhys-Jones, and say of him, as we said before, a glorious future awaits him in "The Golden West."

BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR GERARD SMITH.



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St. Kilda Road, Melbourne.

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Manager.

SOCIETY NEWS.

"The rank is but the guinea stamp; the man's the gold for a' that."

A dinner at Government House is included in the forthcoming Victorian vice-regal social arrangements on Monday, May 24, in honor of her Majesty's Birthday. On Wednesday, May 26, a dance at Government House will also be held. His Excellency will hold a levee on Tuesday, June 22, to celebrate the Queen's record reign. A reception will be held on Wednesday, June 23, by the Governor and Lady Brassey, and the Government House festivities for the week will be brought to a conclusion by a grand ball, which will be held on Friday, 25th June.

* * *

His Excellency and Lady Smith give a ball at Government House on the 24th of the month.

* * *

Lady Smith's interest in the "Lodge" continues to be as warm as ever. On the 11th the "Lodge" received a sufficiency of beautiful flowers from the Government House garden.

* * *

The late Sir William Robinson entertained Sir George and Lady Shenton at a large and fashionable dinner party at his residence, 5 Cromwell Houses, South Kensington, on the 15th April.

* * *

His Holiness the Pope will send an envoy to London, on the occasion of the Queen's record reign celebration.

* * *

Sir John Forrest and party were entertained at luncheon at Coolgardie by Mr. and Mrs. Cumbrae Stewart, on their return journey from Kalgoorlie.

* * *

The Mayor and Mrs. Saunders have returned from their tour of the Murchison fields.

* * *

Mr. Wolff, the architect, is no better.

* * *

A Jubilee Ball is also arranged for the 25th in the Town Hall.

* * *

Miss Hettie Gerloff returned to Perth from Adelaide last week.

* * *

We are sorry to hear Captain Russell at the Port is seriously ill.

* * *

The latest news of Mrs. Alex. Forrest we are glad to learn was favourable.

* * *

A great number attended the Bishop's farewell "At Home" last Wednesday.

* * *

Mr. Carey Elwes has been on a visit to New Norcia, sketching, before leaving Perth.

* * *

Dr. Ormsby Burkitt, the distinguished oculist, is taking up his residence in St. George's Terrace.

Miss Moë Canning has quite recovered from her recent attack of typhoid fever.

* * *

There is a great deal of sickness at Bunbury—five cases of fever in one house, we understand.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. S. Burt and family have returned to town from their summer residence, Cottesloe.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Brookman and party have gone to Mandurah on a fishing excursion.

* * *

The Perth Public Hospital is full, we hear, to overcrowding. All the "occasional" wards are full also.

* * *

The United Friendly Societies' ball will take place at the Town Hall, Fremantle, on the night of Friday, May 21st, 1897.

* * *

Mr. Hammell, master at Mr. McGregor's school, is suffering from typhoid and congestion of the lungs. He is dangerously ill.

* * *

Much sympathy is felt for Inspector and Mrs. Newlands in the sad death of their little daughter "Winnie," which occurred last Saturday.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Venn of "Dardanup Park" came up to town last week to bid good-bye to their many friends who left for London by the *Rome*.

* * *

Mrs. Matheson and her daughter, Mrs. Joe Morison, have returned to Perth from Bunbury where they have been staying with Mrs. Williams.

* * *

Mrs. Williams (wife of Doctor Williams), of Bunbury, has been staying at DeBaun's Hotel, and is now the guest of the Rev. D. J. and Mrs. Garland.

* * *

Miss Snodgrass, so well known amongst the different hospital staffs and missions in Melbourne, has undertaken (we are given to understand) hospital work in Fremantle.

* * *

Mrs. Finnerty, the popular wife of Warden Finnerty, and daughter of Captain Oats, canvassed most energetically for her father at Southern Cross, at the last general elections.

* * *

We regret to state that Sir Hartley Williams (the Victorian judge) is still in a serious condition. Sir Hartley is suffering from the effect of a recent accident he experienced in Melbourne.

* * *

At Government House, Melbourne, on Monday, May 3, Lady Brassey, wife of the Governor of Victoria, entertained the members of the "Time and Talents" Society.

* * *

Mrs. Rowe has been compelled to extend her visit in South Australia on account of continued indisposition. Tendering our sympathies we wish her a speedy recovery and safe return to Perth.

"The Economic,"
FREMANTLE,

To meet the Times, and to be in advance of others in the Trade, our Speciality is to Cater for the express wants of our Customers.

IS so well-known now that we need no special effort to lead the People to make purchases with us. Economical Prices all round, and Goods Cheaper than any other House. We invite all to see our JACKETS and MANTLES; our MILLINERY and UNDERCLOTHING; our HOUSE FURNISHING and Stock of BLANKETS; our MEN'S, YOUTHS' and BOYS' CLOTHING; our SHIRTS and TIES, etc., etc. Manufacturers' Stock Purchases at Enormous Discounts.

AITKEN & CO., Fremantle.

We record with sorrow the death of Mr. David Lee, who passed away in Melbourne this week. The deceased was for many years the Melbourne City Organist.

* * *

The Rev. Mr. Rowe purposes delivering a series of sermons on "Pentecost." Those who would follow him closely, he recommends to read Arthur's "Tongue of Fire," from which work his texts will be taken.

* * *

A concert under the auspices of the Caledonian Society, will take place at the Town Hall, Fremantle, on Wednesday evening, May 19th. The proceeds, we understand, will be donated to the Scottish Orphans' Fund.

* * *

A pretty innovation in christening gifts has been introduced by a Perth society lady, a bracelet is made to fit the wrist of the little new-comer, each year a link is personally, if possible, (for luck's sake), affixed by the donor of the bracelet.

* * *

Captain Christian Martin Crone Rousing is engaged to marry Miss Florence Holden, the second daughter of the late Edward Holden, of Sydney. Captain Rousing was the late consulting engineer to the King of Siam.

* * *

Bishop Riley's last sermon, preached in St. George's Cathedral, on behalf of the Hostel of the Good Shepherd, touched the hearts as well as the pockets of those present, a sum of £40 figuring as the result of the night's collection.

* * *

The Rev. J. E. Rowe has now entered on the 23rd year of his ministry. He entered as a "lad" and under Divine Providence his work has been most successful. May he be long spared to carry on the good work now in his able hands.

* * *

The quarterly syllabus of the St. George's Literary Society has been arranged with care. Mr. Tottenham's lecture on "Personal Reminiscences of well-known Authors" was, to a person of literary tastes, a stroll through Elysian groves to the Paradise of the gods.

* * *

The 6th of the series of rational concerts given on Sunday evening last, at the Fremantle Town Hall, under the management of Miss Celia Ghiloni, was a great success. The various artistes participating in the programme receiving well merited applause from the large audience present.

* * *

The Melbourne *Sun*, besides containing a portrait of Mrs. Driffield, has also one of the Hon. E. H. Wittenoon, Minister of Mines, also one of Mr. Harry P. Woodward, late Government Geologist of W.A. It also contains an article entitled "Some Facts about Westralia—How it Strikes the Stranger."

* * *

The contingent of Mounted Rifles which left New South Wales for England by the Gulf of Martaban to take part in the Jubilee celebration received a grand reception, and will be attached to the Scots Greys at Hounslow. They were welcomed by Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. D. Ward, C.B., Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General to Major-General Lord Methvan, C.B., who commands the Home District, and Lieutenant G. D. Baillie Hamilton, of the Royal Fusiliers, City of London Regiment. The Scots Greys' depot bands played from the railway station to the Barracks, where the contingent was heartily cheered. General admiration is expressed at the soldierly appearance and physique of the contingent in England.

By the R.M.S. Rome, which left Melbourne last Saturday, Mr. R. Lancelot Ievers was a passenger. Mr. Ievers is quite an identity in Melbourne. He has been associated for many years with most of the leading charitable institutions. It is Mr. Ievers' intention to return to the colony before the next general election.

* * *

One of the many arrivals by the S.S. Adelaide on her last voyage was the celebrated pianist and musician Mrs. A. G. Curthoys (*nee* Ada Willets). The exceptional talents of Mrs. Curthoys have gained her a great many friends, who were extremely sorry to part with her. Mrs. Curthoys' children accompanied her to the goldfields, where she has gone in order to join her husband.

* * *

The "Farewell" in St. George's Hall on Thursday evening last, accorded to Bishop Riley by his people, was crowded to excess. Good wishes from audience to departing guest were freely indulged in, and all those present seemed unanimous in the hope expressed from the platform, that English friends and attractions may not prove too strong in prolonging the absence of this genial prelate from our midst.

* * *

Mrs. Oliver, of the Westralia Hotel, was presented with several handsome presents on the eve of her departure for London, among which were a handsomely chased sterling silver sugar and cream jug, with stand, which was presented by Miss Jennie Keast on behalf of Mrs. Oliver's employees. The present had a suitable inscription on it. Messrs. Goodman, Nicholl and Co., her agents, also presented her with a magnificent basket of choice flowers.

* * *

Lord Brassey was out on his favourite bicycle last week taking a spin with Lady Brassey before breakfast. On his lordship's arrival in Melbourne he learned to ride a bicycle, but gives the preference to tennis before cycling, which latter he thinks rather hard work. Lady Brassey's first appearance on her bicycle was made on St. Kilda Road one November morning, much to the delight of Society. Since her first appearance her ladyship has had her saddle raised, and she looks even more graceful than before.

* * *

The Bunbury Literary Society got fairly to business on Monday evening, when Mr. Bronsden read an excellent essay on the place and purpose of literary societies. A number of members took part in an after discussion, and some half dozen impromptu speeches terminated a pleasant evening. Two bills will be introduced for discussion next week, bearing on "Irrigation," and "Compulsory Early Closing." A stirring fight is anticipated, as a strong opposition is likely to be formed.

* * *

The Melbourne *Sun* is also responsible for the following paragraph: "Mrs. W. Driffield, whose portrait appears on this page, is a lady whose charming personality and strongly marked individuality gives pronounced prominence, in the capital of the West. With her name a sympathetic interest is always associated, because of the sad boating accident on the Swan River, which robbed her of her husband, on the very day she had returned from London to rejoin him, and had landed at Albany. Since her bereavement, Mrs. Driffield has found relief in unostentaciously devoting herself to furthering movements of a benevolent character, and to carrying out the speculative enterprises on which she and her husband had embarked. "Hillside," her picturesquely situated villa, is one of the most perfectly appointed residences in West Perth, and its gracious hostess is noted for her liberal and graceful hospitalities. Mrs. Driffield is an excellent business woman, and has been intimately connected with the prosecution of many Westralian enterprises, in several of which she still retains substantial interest."

The process of toasting induces a peculiar chemical change in bread, changing one of its constituent parts into what is scientifically known as "diastase," and giving a more appetising flavour as well as increasing its digestive properties. Diastase is the active digestive principle in oysters, rendering them in their raw state so valuable and nourishing an article of diet for invalids.

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M. and Co. have lately received a Consignment of STEARN'S PREPARATIONS from the fresh Kola Nut which, in America and other parts, have gained such a good reputation as a BRAIN, NERVE and MUSCLE STIMULANT. They are also recommended as an ANTI-ALCOHOLIC.

Kola Vin 5s. Kola Extract 4s 6d, and Cyles 3s 6d per bottle. M. & Co.'s Cough Mixture 2s 6d.

Notice to Contributors.

The Editor will at all times be glad to receive contributions, couched in crisp and pithy style, and dealing with live topics.

Items of fresh social news, duly authenticated, will be specially acceptable.

Contributions should, as a rule, reach the office not later than Tuesday in each week; a limited quantity of late matter can, however, be taken on Wednesday. All interviews with the Editor must be by appointment.

The Editor cannot undertake to return MSS sent on approval; nevertheless every reasonable request will receive due attention.

All literary contributions should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any individual member of the staff.

Notice to Advertisers.

THE PUBLISHERS OF THE WESTERN TABLE TALK will not recognise any agreement between canvassers and advertisers, unless written on the order form accompanying the advertisement.

For the future it is to be taken as an inflexible rule that all advertisements intended for insertion must reach this office not later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

The following are the subscription rates of WESTERN TABLE TALK including postage to any part of West Australia:—

THE YEAR...	...	13s. 0d.
SIX MONTHS	...	6s. 6d.

Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Postal Orders should be made payable to the Manager.

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Only thoroughly reliable persons engaged. House and General Agent. Businesses bought and sold. Tourists' Tickets bought and sold.

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VICE-REGAL SEEDSMEN, NURSERYMEN,

FLORISTS, ETC., OF S.A.

Have the Largest and Choicest selection of Flower and Vegetable seeds in W.A. Pot plants, including some of the latest novelties. Fruit Trees, over 100,000 to select from, packed and forwarded to all parts of the colony. Floral Art a speciality, including Floral Designs of every description, Bridal Suites, Funeral Designs, Sprays and Gent's Coat Flowers made up at shortest notice. We have on view a large assortment of Funeral Metal Wreaths and Crosses just arrived from Paris.

BOOTS! BOOTS!!

Tremendous Clearing Sale.

IMMENSE SACRIFICE.

Goods must be cleared, as premises are to be enlarged.

Buyers of two or more pairs will have them below Wholesale.

BOOT SHOPS

Can be supplied at English Factory Prices.

COME EARLY.

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S. VISBORD,

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Agent for Yates' Garden Seeds.

GUILD FORD

Western Table Talk.

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1897.

BIOGRAPHY.

JOHN CHARLES HORSEY JAMES.

The subject of our cartoon to-day, Mr. John Charles Horsey James, of whom it may be said, in the words of the old song,

"He's a fine old English gentlemen,"

was born at Rome in the early forties.

Educated at Rugby, where, for over twelve months, he was in the sixth form under Dr. Temple, the present Archbishop of Canterbury, he took his degree at Oxford in the Christmas of 1864.

During his four years at Oxford Mr. James played cricket continuously with the first eleven of that University—no small distinction, with 160 students to pick from. The highest authorities set him down then as a first-class slow round-arm bowler, good steady bat, and a capital field at point.

Mr. James was called to the bar in November, 1866, and practised on the Oxford Circuit with pronounced success.

On the introduction of the transfer of lands system in West Australia he was selected and appointed by the late Earl of Carnarvon as the first Commissioner of Titles, which office he has held continuously to the present time.

During the period of his sojourn amongst us he has held many other appointments under the Government concurrently with his official commission, such as Registrar and Acting Master of the Supreme Court and Registrar in Bankruptcy; also, as Acting Stipendiary Magistrate of Perth, in all of which offices Mr. James was held in the highest esteem.

In 1887 he was appointed fourth official member of the Legislative Council during the absence of Sir John Forrest at a conference in London, and was considered by press and public to be one of the best if not the best speaker in the House. Mr. James sat through two sessions and his debating was always listened to with the greatest interest and deepest respect.

Since the introduction of responsible government "the civil servant has been effaced" (these are the words of the late Sir Wm. Robinson), "but Mr. James is still to the fore." He takes the lead in all sporting matters, chiefly in cricket and horseracing, is acting chairman of the General Committee of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration in Perth, which (to those who know anything about the Civil Service here) must be considered as a very great honour, and amongst clubs of all sorts and descriptions he is sought after as a leading light.

It will be remembered that on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Colony in 1879 he acted as honorary secretary and was one of the principal movers in the celebration.

Mr. James has estates in the counties of Gloucester and Devon, and is a member of the Carlton Club.

It has been whispered about that the most intimate friends of Mr. James would not be very greatly surprised to hear at any moment that he had decided to retire from the Civil Service, and enter into the field of politics where, we are sure, his efforts would meet with the same marked appreciation which has ever been lavished on him as Commissioner of Titles.

List of Guests at Principal Hotels in Perth and Fremantle.

WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 12TH MAY.

DE BAUN'S PALACE HOTEL.

Messrs. Alex. Matheson, Geo. Thompson, W. S. Boyd, Kingswell, J. Kerwan, Wigby, H. Gutman, Dr. Baker, Messrs. E. W. Hocking, T. Fitzgerald, Latham, H. Hoffman, Wm. Rummell, H. Laurence, C. C. McCulley, A. M. Loasby, Wm. Russell, Bushy, J. H. Smith, J. Fison, V. F. Shallcross, E. J. Shrader, A. W. Marshall, W. E. Clair, Miss Marshall, Messrs. Cutler, W. H. Howe, Busby, G. F. Witton, Mrs. Passmore, Messrs. T. H. Passmore, Savage, Dobney, Dr. and Mrs. Simon, Mr. and Mrs. McLellan, Mrs. Deverant, Messrs. A. T. Whalley, Bankier, Gorman, Miss Benington, Dr. and Mrs. Benington, Messrs. E. Perkins, O. Page, R. Boyce, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Saw and nurse, Messrs. B. Boan, H. Boan, Mair, J. H. Grainger, A. K. Brown, W. G. Gibson, F. Clouts, C. A. V. Butler, Savage, J. A. Robertson, J. W. Quash, John Tassie, Jas. Stevens, J. Gordon, A. F. Gray, Vance, A. G. Ascher, Miss Harkness, Miss B. Westwood, Messrs. J. A. Cameron, H. C. M. Garling, H. S. Eaton, Capt. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Hampson, Messrs. E. H. Stafford, A. H. De Baun, B. F. G. North, C. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Haymes, J. M. McGregor, Lauri, Miss Nyulasy, and Dr. Nyulasy.

CRITERION HOTEL.

Messrs. J. Cocks, J. Hare, H. M. Scott, J. Akhurst, E. White, J. McDowell, L. Bevilacqua, Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. O'Neil, Messrs. H. W. Robinson, N. Grainger, McKail, O'Driscoll, C. Tuckfield, J. Harford, Piggott and J. Edwards.

UNITED SERVICE HOTEL.

Mr. and Mrs. Sewell, Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, T. F. Crimage, C. Higgs, Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. Hester, Miss Hester, Mrs. and Miss Crawford and child, Mrs. MacGregor and two children Messrs. Kirke, C. Denny, Schlapp, Banks, Nicholas, Paterson, Hedges, Dempster, F. Craig, J. H. Joseph,

GREAT WESTERN HOTEL.

Messrs. Harris, Albert, Simmonds, Ankitilli, Brown, Kinberely, Pascoe, Mr. and Mrs. Daley, Captain Stewart, Mr. Power, Mr. Watson, Mr. Gutman, Mr. and Mrs. Thursby and child, Messrs. Clarkson, Claringbold, Haines, Bloom, Banks, Geogram, Mr. and Mrs. Condon, Mr. and Mrs. Davidson.

CLEOPATRA HOTEL, FREMANTLE.

Messrs. Hayes, Snodgrass, Rhoden, Brain, Hackett, Coombes, Owen, Atkins, Simpson, Saunders, Roberts, Hendricks, Headley, Norman, Flemming, Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

FEDERAL HOTEL, FREMANTLE.

Mr., Mrs. and Miss Callaghan, Messrs. Taylor, J. Penrose, Halyday, Todd, Howe, Cockerty, Carter, Archer, Wilson, E. Miller, Smythe, A. Miller, F. Hunt, Hamilton, Cocksidge, Shollcross, Bethell, Corn, Proctor.

SHOWS OF THE SEASON.

Our day of inspection has come round again, and according to promise we meet at Foy and Gibson's. The ever-obliging manager, Mr. Freeman, places us at once in the hands of the buyer, Miss Flintoff, whom we remember as a well-known face in the East. Under the guidance of this lady we are shown the newly-imported French picture hats. The first is a black silk velvet (remember, the coming season promises the revival in all its force of a modified Gainsborough, known to us to-day as the "Picture Hat"). The velvet hat we are looking at is trimmed very elaborately with chenille and Probian lace, new cock's feathers, black mounts, and artistic bows of black satin. A stylish hat is of green silk velvet, French folds of an exquisite rose pink velvet lie round the jewelled crown, black mounts and wings, bows of green silk and rose velvet complete a neat picturesque chapeau. Another is of brown velvet, the crown of white satin; this is covered with guipure lace, the trimmings being cream mounts and cock's feathers. Those in love with striking colors may find their fancy in a rose felt trimmed with black sequin net, black mounts and rhine-stone buckles. Innumerable are the different shapes and colors our patient guide points out, but our eyes have already wandered to a table whereon is piled the neat, and, to most of our masculine friends' way of thinking, the proper winter hat for a woman—viz., the Alpine shape. A very pretty grey lies nearest to us; then again white, nearly approaching a grey, with black ribbon fan at one side, edged with black silk. These hats are to be had in all colours, ranging in price from 4s. 11d. On a large table felt hats of all shades, from a very light brown to dark tints, are packed. Miss Flintoff assures us in this line the prices at Foy and Gibson's are much lower than those adopted by firms in our far-famed East. These felts are all French make, and are sold at the reasonable rate of 3s. 11d. per hat. We'll now glance at Toques and Bonnets. The first is decidedly French, it is built on a ground of China blue silk velvet, crown satin with sequins, black mounts and jet trimmings. A "taking" bonnet is brown velvet, passementerie trimming over crown, dark French grey chenille wheat ears, gold ornaments and bows of shot green ribbon. A few girlish hats are on view, large felts with box pleated faille ribbon and strings in all colors; from the girl of about twelve we'll descend to their younger sisters and describe two pretty shapes shown us, "Puritan" and "Gypsy," made in beaver, in cream and white. From a child's hat to its coat seems to be within reasonable limits, hence we will note a few. The materials used in the coats being principally lambs' wool and beaver, fawn and cream, we decide as being the choicest in make and color. Over two hours have been pleasantly spent in our "tour," but before we take our leave, we are prevailed upon to look again into the Women's Department to create the longing to buy one of the firm's newest imported tailor costumes, coat lined with silk, of a military cut, trimmed with braid. These costumes are priced from £4 4s. Then, too, on the counter, lie underskirts of shot silk, nicely lined with linen and flannel. The clock near striking one suggests luncheon hour, so it is with a quick but grateful "thank you" we leave the genial lady buyer of Foy & Gibson's.

It is undecided as yet as to whom our visit next week will be paid, in all probability to Messrs. Caris Bros., jewellers, of Barrack street.

Blankets galore! Our friends at the Bon Marché have evidently overdone the quantity of blankets that will be needed for W.A., and their policy of pushing them out at lessened prices will no doubt meet with the fullest appreciation by the public.

MEDICAL MAN, Married, with Large Healthy House, Good Garden, overlooking Swan River, receives Ladies for their Accouchements, etc.

Apply M.D., "GLENDOVAN," Forrest Avenue, East Perth.

INSURE WITH THE New Zealand Insurance Co., FIRE and MARINE.

[ESTABLISHED 1859.]

Capital: £1,000,000. Reserves: £435,000.

Unlimited Liability of Shareholders.

This office does the leading business in the Colonies.

It is everywhere favourably known for its PROMPT and LIBERAL SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.

It covers every class of Fire and Marine Risk at LOWEST CURRENT RATES.

It is the only Colonial Fire and Marine Insurance Company that HAS FREEHOLD ASSETS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Head Office for W.A.: St. George's Terrace, (next A.M.P. Society), Perth.

EDWARD PRETTY,
Manager.

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TELEPHONE No. 177.

SOLE LESSEES - Messrs JONES & LAWRENCE
TREASURER - Mr. S. B. MARKS

5th WEEK OF THE STANFORD-BARNES SEASON
TO-NIGHT, SATURDAY, MAY 15.

Dion Boucicault's ever popular
AFTER DARK. AFTER DARK. AFTER DARK.

Mr. C. R. STANFORD, as OLD TOM.

The Furnishings by Messrs. Bickford & Lucas.

PRICES.—Dress Circle 4s. (no hats or bonnets included);
Orchestra Stalls, 3s. (if reserved, 4s.); Stalls, 2s.
Family Circle ONE SHILLING.

Doors open at 7.15. Commence at 8 p.m.

Box plan at Nicholson's where seats can be reserved six days in advance.

CREMORNE THEATRE

MR. HARRY RICKARDS' TIVOLI COMPANY.

SPECIAL.—In consequence of the enormous success of our past season the management have completed arrangements for a short Valedictory Season on the return of the Company from the goldfields, commencing MAY 24th (QUEEN'S BIRTH NIGHT)

MESSAGE AND ELECTRICITY.

Successful when other remedies fail.

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87, Newcastle Street, Perth,

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Experienced Masseuse,

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St. George's Terrace, Perth.

HOURS—10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Evenings by Appointment.

MISS LANDOR,

Who has just arrived from Melbourne, has opened a High-class Millinery and Costume Show and Work Rooms at Dr. Tratman's late residence, St. George's Terrace, Perth, where she will be able to supply all orders entrusted to her in first-class style.

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NICHOLL'S BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON STREET,

Conducted by Miss MARIE TUCK, Certificated Teacher and Exhibition Member of Adelaide Easel Club. Students received at any date. Commissions Executed. Dado Painting and Floral Panels a speciality. Pictures on view at Studio, opposite the Railway Station.

MRS. POTTER,

COSTUMIER & LADIES' TAILOR,

From the celebrated firm of Redfern & Co., Ladies' Tailors, London, begs to inform the ladies of Perth and W.A. that she has opened commodious rooms at Sholl's Buildings (next to Snowball's), HAY STREET, where she will be happy to receive all orders.

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ROBERT SMITH,

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Boarders specially catered for.

K. COSTELLO, Proprietress

THE FOOTLIGHTS.

"The play's the thing."—HAMLET.

[By "THE DEAD HEAD."]

SHOWS FOR THE COMING WEEK:—

Theatre Royal ... "After Dark."
Cremorne Theatre, The Lucifers and Vaudeville Co.

The well staged and smartly played "Hans the Boatman," drew splendid houses to the Theatre Royal, last week. It is decidedly the best thing the Stanford-Barnes Co. have yet done, and should they go on improving at their present rate, the Perth play-going public will be very sorry to part with them. Mr. Stanford as Hans, played the great big soft hearted character right up to the nail, his feelingly rendered songs, deserving a special word of mention. Miss Rosa Conroy as Gladys Farwell, again played up to her high standard, and during the week received many recalls for her splendid work in the blind scene. The management are hereby requested to get a large supply of blankets, should they stage this play again, the handkerchiefs being all insufficient for the tears shed during the week. Besides if careful evaporation were introduced, a good trade in tear-salt might be established. Little Nelly Finlay took the house by storm. Her dancing was a revelation and her acting natural and unaffected. Miss Ette Williams sang and danced very creditably, but her "grip" the character Jeffie was rather amateurish. However, she got home with both feet at times, and, when she has a little more experience, should develop into a good actress. Mr. Ashton King was successful as the Lieutenant, and Mr. Meymott, as Frank Thursby, was very well received. Mr. Townsend and Mr. Maxwell call for no special mention. As stated before, the staging was perfect, and reflects great credit on the stage manager. "After Dark," Dion Boucicault's ever-green and popular play, will be staged this evening.

During the week, at the Cremorne Theatre, Mr. Harper's scratch company has been playing to well n't the sort of houses it deserved. There were many charming items of the programme rendered in a charming manner, and Miss Lenore Switzerland and Mr. Andrews, in themselves, were worth the entrance fee. The Lucifers are announced to appear this evening, and advertise, as a leading feature, the first appearance in Perth of little Emily Lucifer, aged four, who, it is stated, was described by the Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie press as "The matchless child."

In conjunction with Pain's Fireworks, the Banvards open at the Coolgardie Cremorne on Queen's birth-night, 24th May. A strong Vaudeville company will support them (advertised as late of Harry Rickard's Tivoli Co.) The leading feature is to be Albert Banvard's great dive in a shower of rain. Mr. A. L. Lawlor is the business manager.

There was a tremendous row up in "the gods" at the Royal. It was a first night and "the boys" were enjoying themselves.

A new arrival from England and a young t'other-sider in the prominent place in the dress circle were severely "chucked."

"Bia jove," said the new chum, fuming under the epithets "Woa there beef-eater." "Ah there globe-trotter." "I will instantly go and request the management to put some more ushers up there."

"No, don't," said his friend, "the worst of it is that there is too much dammed Ushers' up there already."

After a brilliant season in Perth, the Tivoli company opened to big business at Kalgoorlie on the evening of the 11th. Mr. C. B. Henningham, at present representing Mr. W. J. Jenkins, informs me that the management have arranged for a short farewell visit at Cremorne Theatre on their return to Perth, opening on the Queen's Birthnight. Our next issue will contain full particulars as to programme, box-plan, &c.

The Banvards have visited Bunbury, and the Dampiers are billed to appear in "Robbery Under Arms" at an early date.

[On account of severe pressure on our columns this week we have had to hold back most of "The Dead Head" matter, which included a charming interview with Miss Rosa Conroy. This will be published in our next issue.—EDITOR W.T.T.]

We beg to call the attention of our readers to Miss E. Benjamin's advertisement. Miss Benjamin is a masseuse, and has had considerable experience as a complexion beautifier, manicurer, and bust develop-

GAIETIES.

On Tuesday last, in the Melbourne Masonic Hall, a sympathetic audience of Miss Charlotte Hemming's friends were presented with a lengthy programme, of which the following are some of the leading items. Miss Hemming's elocutionary and histrionic gifts deserve special mention. Mr. J. F. Deegan, who has the advantage of being a Shakspearian scholar, surpassed Miss Hemming. It is safe to predict that the beautiful Cesca Vollugi, the talented young Victorian will develop into one of Australia's greatest singers. Verdi's "Ah e lui" (Traviata) and Gounod's "Serenade" were charmingly sung. Signor Buzzi sang two numbers—"Eri Lu" (Un Ballo) and "Dio Possente" (Faust)—in his usual style. The prologue from Pagliacci was sung very artistically by Mr. Gladstone Wright, who has recently returned from Europe. Mr. W. R. Furlong, Miss Josephine O'Brien, Mr. W. T. Barker, Miss Sarah Lewis, Lieutenant Colonel Bingham, and Miss Regina Nagel's contributions were also much appreciated. Six encores were insisted on by the demonstrative audience.

A quiet, but very pretty wedding took place on Thursday last at St. Albans, Highgate Hill, the bride being Miss Alice Crevano, and the bridegroom Mr. Thomas Newton. Rev. F. Price officiated. The bride was costumed in an effective gown of cream cashmere with bodice of cream satin, orange blossoms and silk cream lace were elaborately used as trimmings. The bridal shower bouquet was of white chrysanthemums and maidenhair fern. Miss Susie Osborne as bridesmaid-in-chief, wore a pretty dress of white muslin, buttercup trimmings and hat to match. Miss Edith Osborne looked charming in a peacock green costume. Both bridesmaids carried bouquets of white and yellow chrysanthemums. Mr. Mullett gave the bride away, and Mr. Tandy supported the bridegroom as "best man." The wedding breakfast was held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Goderich Street. Mr. and Mrs. Newton spend their honeymoon at "Osborne."

The "Perth City Assembly" gave another of their pleasant dances, on Friday evening last, in St. George's Hall, during the evening attention was drawn to Mr. Frank Wilson's (President of the Assembly) successful political campaign, Mr. King in a few happy words, assuring the President, of the pride and pleasure felt by those present, in their President's well-won fight. The winter season, being in its infancy—nearly all the dresses worn looked pretty and effective. Conspicuous were: Mrs. Frank Wilson, in a gown, white silk, draped with ruby chiffon, Miss Wilson, pretty girlish costume of rose pink silk, Mrs. Foster, black moire bodice, trimmed with different shades of violet, pearl ornaments, Mrs. Harry Butler, muslin de laine, Mrs. Potter, gown of black velvet, jet trimmings, Miss Sadie Martin, salmon pink silk bodice, ornamented with chiffon and pearl trimmings, Miss Hill, black silk grenadine, relieved with red satin bows, Miss Peel, pale canary crepon, Mrs. Grey, chine primrose silk, white chiffon and pansies, Eileen Martin, pale blue liberty silk bodice trimmed with chiffon and silver sequins, Miss May Moi, nun's veiling, draped with black chiffon.

A charming "At Home," was held last Friday evening, in the Misses Musgrove and Brenan's Rooms, "Tratman's Buildings." The hostesses (four in number) were untiring in their efforts towards the promotion of the amusement of their numerous guests. The evening was devoted to dancing, with the exception of two songs and a duet ("When we meet"), good naturedly contributed by Miss Nora O'Shannessy and Miss Isabel Reid. Some pretty dresses were worn, amongst the most noticeable were: Miss Musgrove, in a skirt of cream crepon, with a nice fitting silk bodice, of a lighter shade. Mrs. Caldwell, cream nun's veiling, with light blue satin stripes, jewel trimmings, satin belt, and sash ribbons of sky blue, Miss Isabel Reid, black figured crepon skirt bodice of sage green, with deep cream silk case frilling, Miss Legge, light blue crepon, Miss Huntly, salmon pink satin, chiffon trimmings, Miss Martin, buttercup silk, Brussels net over yellow satin, pearl trimmings, Miss O'Shannessy, white moire bodice, trimmed with red berries and autumn leaves, Mrs. Macartney, black silk lace costume, red roses, Miss Brenan, pink accordeon pleated gown.

About seventy guests were present at a "smoke night," in the Masonic Hall, Melbourne, given by Messrs. Gordon and Gotch Proprietary, Ltd., in honour of Mr. John Barclay, who is to be married

very shortly. The chairman, Mr. Davies, gave a congratulatory address, at the request of the employees, and presented Mr. Barclay, with a set of table cutlery, a handsome clock was presented him, by Mr. Flintoff on behalf of the News Agents' Association. A very enjoyable evening was spent, Mr. J. S. Gotch, gave a speech in response to the toast of the allied houses of Gordon and Gotch, in which an allusion was made to the humble beginning of the firm, initiated fifty years ago, by Mr. Gotch, and the enormous prospects of the firm, with its hundreds of agencies everywhere at present.

A pretty wedding was solemnised in St. George's Cathedral, by the Rev. Mr. Saville, on the 8th inst. (Monday), between Mr. Thos. Harkness, manager of the West Australian Bank, Kalgoorlie, and Miss L. Graham Westwood, late of Port Augusta, South Australia. The bride, who was accompanied by her sister, left Adelaide about a week since. Mr. Harkness also hails from South Australia. The charming bride wore cream bengaline, with train fastened with bows of tulle and orange blossoms; a lovely tulle veil fell from the wreath, completely enveloping her; she carried a beautiful bouquet with trailing orchid blossoms and maiden hair ferns. The bridesmaids were Miss Beatrice Westwood and Miss Harkness, and wore pale blue dresses and sashes, with white picture hats trimmed with broad white ribbon, and carried exquisite bouquets of cream and pink roses. The bridegroom and groomsmen wore the regulation grey trousers, morning coat and white kid gloves, the groomsmen being Mr. M. Moss and Mr. J. W. Kirwan. The "Wedding March" was played by the organist. Mrs. and Miss Moss were also in attendance. The former wore a handsome black silk, bonnet to match, trimmed with pink roses. Miss Moss wore dark blue and white picture hat. After the service the party drove to the residence of Mrs. Moss, "Moninde," Francis-street, where breakfast awaited them. Mr. Bevilacqua proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom, which was suitably responded to by Mr. Kirwan, who proposed "The Bridesmaids." "The Parents of the Bride and Bridegroom" was also proposed, and responded to by Mr. Ferguson. Mrs. Harkness' travelling dress was of brown and blue shot silk, trimmed with brown fur and corded silk to match. The presents were many handsome and expensive gifts, including a diamond star worn by the bride on the occasion of her marriage, a gift of the happy bridegroom.

A promenade concert took place in aid of the building fund of the new Congregational Church, Bunbury, on Wednesday last, which was a pronounced success. Mr. James Port was entrusted with the whole arrangements of the affair, and the success which attended his efforts must have been very gratifying. Among those who took part we noticed Mrs. Spencer, Captain and Mrs. Fraser, the Congregational Church Choir, Misses Bayliss, Clark and Port, Messrs. S. Clark, Bunting, Davey, Curry and the Bunbury Volunteer Band. Everyone seemed well satisfied with the evening's entertainment.

The usual fortnightly "Conversazione" took place last Wednesday evening at Miss Martin's Tea Rooms, Barrack street. The large room was filled to overflowing. A short musical programme was given, the following artistes contributing:—Miss Isabel Reid (Lost Chord); Duet, vocal (When we Meet), Misses Nora O'Shannessy and Isabel Reid; "Killarney," Miss Nora O'Shannessy; Mr. Andrew, "Island of Dreams," and "Sunshine, Above"; Mr. Hicks, "Hark, Hear the Wild Winds Blow,"; Mr. Neville (comic song) "Lovely Women"; accompanists, Mrs. Bamborow and Miss O'Kane. Mr. G. T. Bell as M.C. performed his duties to the entire satisfaction of the dancers. Captain and Mrs. Lewellin, Mrs. and Miss Godfrey, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew, Mrs. Valitzsky, Mr. Levey, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, Miss Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Foster, Misses Frances, Levinson. Mrs. and Misses Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Baker were present during the evening. Miss Martin, as originator of these little gatherings, is to be congratulated upon their ever increasing popularity.

St. Patrick's Cathedral was the scene of a very fashionable wedding, on Tuesday afternoon May 11th, when Miss Le Poer Trench, daughter of the late Mr. Robert Le Poer Trench, Q.C. (Victoria), was united in holy wedlock to Mr. M. F. Cavanagh, Architect of this city. The bride wore an exquisite gown of white brocade, with handsome silk embossed veil and orange blossoms. The shower bouquet of white flowers, with trailers of white satin ribbon, small white flowers affixed, finished a most picturesque bridal toilette. Miss Cavanagh as bridesmaid looked charming, in a well built gown of yellow silk, bouquet to match, picture hat of black silk velvet,

Jacoby's No. 1 Claret WELL MATURED AND SOUND,
HAS THE
Largest Sale in the Colony.

BOTTLING CELLARS—WILLIAM STREET, PERTH.

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THE PREMIER FLORISTS,
 Have opened in
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 WEDDING ORDERS A SPECIALTY.
 FOUR FIRST ORDERS OF MERIT C.I.E.M.
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 HIGH SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES.
 Conducted by the Sisters of the Institute of the Blessed
 Virgin Mary, and open to Pupils of any religious deno-
 mination. Second Term commences April 21.
 ALL BRANCHES TAUGHT.
 Terms on Application to THE LADY SUPERIOR.

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ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS,
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 —AND—
 Bayley Street, Coolgardie.

WM. A. DRAKE.
 FELIX WHITWELL.

LADIES! LADIES! LADIES!

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 10,000 boxes sold in Victoria and New South Wales

Dr. Boxwell's Female Pills restore regularity,
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 Chemists in Perth, Fremantle, Coolgardie, Kal-
 goorlie, the Goldfields, and in all the Eastern
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 W.A. Factory: Hay-street West (nearly opposite
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THE whole to be sold, or will take Working Part-
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 regular and certain. Liberal terms can be arranged.
 Apply

JOHN HURST & CO.,
 GENERAL BUSINESS AGENT,
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Restaurant.

MESSRS. VIDAL & DOMENECH have
 become the Proprietors, and are now
 placing before their Customers the BEST MEALS
 in PERTH for ONE SHILLING. BEST BEDS,
 ONE SHILLING. Many as are the Restaurants
 which have been established in this city, none
 can give the Public as much satisfaction as the
 MADRID, Howick Street. The place has been
 thoroughly renovated, and fitted with the electric
 light. The Fremantle Branch will continue to be
 conducted in the same popular manner.

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 the well-known Parisian Artist, where ladies can
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 FAMED NATURAL DEEP WAVE which lasts for a
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NOTE ADDRESS—

263 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

SPORTING NOTES.

[BY HERMIT.]

Inverary went down before Ivy at the 'Nor' West meeting.

Idalium II. and Duke of York have been scratched for their W.A.T.C. engagements.

Hova broke down badly in the Elder Stakes, in which event Loyalty finished very fast.

Grassmere fell at Adelaide last Saturday, after running prominently in the Steeplechase.

Borderer, purchased by Mr. A. Eccles, mine host of the Grand Hotel, was one of the best hurdlers in Victoria.

Lord Roseberry won the 2000 guineas with Chilandry. The Earl has also Velasquez to do battle for the blue riband.

A new innovation has been made by the Hurst Park (Eng.) executive. This is a race for geldings only.

Malbia (Malua—Lesbia), winner of the Wangoom Handicap, is a three-year-old sister to Mr. H. J. Saunders' mare Leda.

Mr. R. Young bought the galloway Jessie from Mr. McMaster on Saturday last, for £120, with a consideration out of the first win.

Mr. McGillicuddy's challenge to trot his mare Ivy against Mr. Wolfe's mare Nellie for £50 a side, one mile and a half, has been accepted.

The sum of £1,465 passed through the totalisator there on Saturday, representing 2,930 tickets. Mr. Sullivan effectually worked the machine.

Black Diamond has run better than he did the other day at Canning Park. What price in the Hurdles at the W.A.T.C. meeting with 9st.?

The New Zealander, Bombshell, and the Newmarket winner, Maluma, both started in the English City and Suburban but have not been heard of yet.

Ribbon gardening is to be a feature at Canning Park. Already a number of chrysanthemums and other plants have been put in near the fountain.

Mr. O. Gibson, half owner of Diamio, is engaged to be married to Miss Maud Simondson, of Sandhill, Beddington, England. We wish him luck.

Pickles (Inverary-Matchbox), carrying 9st. 3lbs., easily accounted for the Brighton Handicap run over 5 furlongs in the rattling time of 1min. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ secs.

Paul Pry paid the best dividend he has yet done in this colony, viz., £2 7s for 10s. His time for the six furlongs with 10st. 6lbs. in the saddle, was 1min. 19 2-5th secs.

A contemporary in this colony, who has been defending Mr. Smith's handicapping in a vague kind of manner, cannot possibly go into details without getting hopelessly beaten.

An effort to get Shrimpton released is being made by influential people here in Perth. A petition is to be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying for his release.

Still they come! Amongst the horses to arrive from the other side are Borderer, the steeplechaser, The Purser, Terminal, and The Clipper, who left in the Gabo for Fremantle.

Acceptances for the West Australian Turf Club meeting on 22nd and 24th inst. are very satisfactory. Black Rock has been withdrawn, owing to the absurd handicapping, as also several others.

The match between the West Perth and Fremantle Football Teams, played on the ground of the latter last Saturday afternoon, resulted in a win for West Perth by 4 goals 4 behinds to 1 goal 5 behinds.

Mr. Harry Moses, the oldest bookmaker of the Victorian Club, left in the Innaminka. He had a good send off from the above-mentioned Club. His departure is also a great loss to charities over there.

Mr. Firebrace's Yakerong is considered to be above the average of our two-year-olds, and will have to be reckoned with at the W.A.T.C. meeting. All the same we prefer Lady Sylvia. She has improved a great deal.

Mainstay is entered in the Hurdle Race at the W.A.T.C. meeting. He is a most proficient jumper, and if he does not strike himself behind at the bend into the straight, should carry his owner's colours to the head of affairs in that event.

Lucy, the dam of Cressy, is anything but thoroughbred, having a touch of draught blood in her veins, and was got by a sandgroper. There are a good many more, too, one could mention after the same style who can gallop but cannot generally stay a distance.

We regret to chronicle the death of that well-known sportsman, Mr. Linde, of Ayrefield. For thirty years he was a prominent figure on the English and Irish racecourses. Among his successes were two Grand Nationals—with Empress in 1880, and 1881 with Woodbrook—and numerous cross-country races in France and Ireland.

The West Australian intercolonial eight were beaten but not disgraced, only losing by a length and a half. Queensland being tailed off 300 yards behind. Bad steering was attributed as the cause of our beating. Certainly the question of coxswain was never satisfactorily dealt with. The time of the race was 17 min. 10 secs. Powell won the Champion Sculls in brilliant fashion.

One of the effects caused by unsatisfactory handicapping in this colony, is the selling off of Mr. Elliott's string. When Bain Marie's weight became known to that gentleman, he expressed himself as thoroughly disgusted, and asked why she should have been risen 8lb. in the weights for running her all out into third place. She has never won a race in the colony since her arrival.

When boys give excuses of too much to drink when they lose their races and are called up to explain, certainly suggests a great deal of laxity on the part of those in office. Why should not a boy be given to understand that he will not be allowed to ride if drunk, and if not noticed to be the worse for drink before the race, how can his plea be accepted after the race? One and one make two.

The following selection of crews have been made by the Fremantle Rowing Club to represent the club at their 11th Annual Regatta, to be held at Fremantle, on June 21st or 22nd:—

Senior Championship Fours—J. Donald, P. Ryan, J. Horsburgh, J. Porteous.

Senior Pairs—J. Donald, P. Ryan.

Senior Sculls, in best boats—W. Beasley, H. Blinco.

Junior Fours—W. Sloan, F. Shaw, C. De Vere, A. Vickers.

Maiden Fours—J. Leckie, J. Bennett, F. Musgrove, R. Counsell.

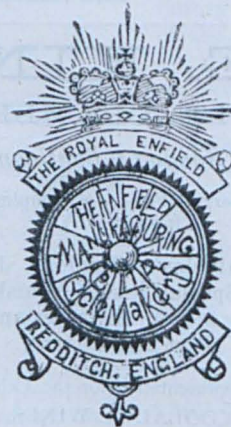
Maiden Pairs—W. Sloan, A. Vickers.

Maiden Double Sculls—C. De Vere, R. Counsell.

Maiden Sculls—Not yet selected.

The Power-Lindrum billiard match, for £25 a side, and a purse of £25, given by genial Mr. Phil Millar, has been a most exciting game all through. The luck has not favored one more than the other. It was certainly the highest class match yet played in Perth. Power, as his name suggests, plays, to our mind, with more power than his antagonist, has good nerve, but shows that he is not yet at his zenith, one or two fairly easy strokes being let off. However, his all-round play, losing hazards and his screw-back strokes are particularly good. He plays with more pace than Lindrum, which is rather a handicap. Lindrum certainly played a very strong, steady game, and when he was farthest behind he played at his best, regaining his points. Nursery canons are his strongest point, and losing hazards in the middle pockets, of which he had the strength to a nicety. Power won by 176 points. Lindrum has challenged him for another match.

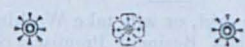
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GRADE
CYCLES.



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AND

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157 BARRACK STREET,
PERTH.

CYCLING CHAT.

[WRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR WESTERN TABLE TALK.]

Racing men cannot grumble at the catering in front of them this season. What with the W. A. C. C., Perth C. C., Druids, and League Meetings, they will have their hands full. In all, the clubs are offering about £650 in prize money.

* * *

All cyclists were glad at the result of the Canning election, when Mr. Frank Wilson, the popular president of the W.A.C.C. was returned by a large majority at the head of the poll. We offer him our hearty congratulations on his return.

* * *

Few cyclists have any idea of the grand roads around York. Talking to Stewart, the noted York rider, he told me that 20 miles an hour was easy work on their billiard table highways. We are surprised that the Perth clubs don't organise a three days' run in this district.

* * *

"Erney" Mayes had a tour round the Williams River district last week, and speaks in glowing terms of the riding abilities of the local riders, and the grand roads in the district. A match between Stewart of York and an unknown from Wagin comes off shortly, and it is more than likely a match will be arranged between Stewart and Brodie, of the Williams, over 100 miles.

* * *

We hear of much good work being done by the Police Department on their recent purchase of machines. P.C. Brodie, of the Williams, rides about 300 miles a week on his "Red Bird" machine, and speaks in the highest terms of the stability of this popular mount. Whilst talking of this energetic officer, we are reminded that it was he who first arrested the notorious murderer Butler.

* * *

We should like to see a little more enthusiasm shown by the members of the Perth Club at the present time. Some half-dozen of its members are doing all the work. With Captain Peart as skipper, Coulter as vice, and Farmer as hon. sec., the club have three hard-working officers, and if the members would only work with a will, the club would rank second to none in the colony.

* * *

Never before has the track presented a more animated aspect, —between 5 and 6 p.m. there are fully 50 riders whirling round the track, singles, tandems and triplets are all going; a nasty accident happened this week when Jack Hayes was brought down through the carelessness of a tandem. Amongst those who are doing really good work are, Porta, Reynolds, Healey, Rose, Leitch, Coultas, Stevens and Alberts.

* * *

The action of the Perth Club in holding a Race Meeting is commendable. The race committee consists of Mayes, Peart, Gollan, and Farmer. In this quartette we find both enthusiasts, club men, and business men, and a successful issue is bound to ensue, given fine weather. The programme drafted out is a varied one, and the first multi-cycle event is bound to centre a deal of interest, inasmuch as eight teams, consisting of one quartette, three triplets, and four tandems will take part.

* * *

The attractive programmes drafted by the clubs has had the desired effect of inducing leading lights from the other colonies to compete. Porta (the Italian flyer), Reynolds and Healy (the Englishmen), Middleton, Bunning, Grantor, and many others will be competing, and the last lap in the scratch events will be worth going miles to see. Then again, Coolgardie will be represented by Wilson, Jerger, and Alberts, a trio who will be found in the front rank when the bell rings. Fremantle will be represented by Cooper and Stotter.

* * *

Training on the Association grounds on Sunday morning has been the subject of comment during the week, and even the Rev. Mr. Rowe made allusion to the matter from the pulpit on Sunday last. We are entirely in accord with those who have brought the matter so prominently before the public. Still, looking at it from a racing man's point of view, every man wants to be as fit as possible on the day of the race, and he has only a limited space of time to do it in, as the track has only been finished two weeks, and it takes the average cyclist fully six weeks to get into condition. No doubt "the powers that be" will arrange matters for the future guidance of would-be Sabbath breakers.

ADELAIDE (S.A.)

(BY WESTERN TABLE TALK'S SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Sunday, May 4th, was proclaimed a day of prayer for rain.

* * *

Mr. Shiels, manager of the Bank of Adelaide, has arrived in London.

* * *

Dr. Allan Campbell's scheme for a convalescent home for children has met with such a substantial reception that it will be entirely independent of the jubilee committee.

* * *

The residents of the Echunga district are objecting to the presence of rosella parrots. The sparrow nuisance has been well aired, and now people have yet another grievance. Who can please ALL men?

* * *

The lad Blackwell, who met with an accident at the O.B.T. camp at Goolwa, on Monday, has injured his leg so severely, that already the doctors at the Adelaide Hospital have been compelled to amputate his foot.

* * *

"Matsa" has been performed at the Theatre Royal. Heinecke's Grand Orchestral Concerts commence next month. Pollard's Opera Company will be in Adelaide in June; they play "Les Cloches de Corneville," "Falka," "Rip Van Winkle," and "Nell Gwynne."

* * *

The Murray Flats are in a pitiable condition. A water train has been running from Morgan to Endunda, continually, for the last eighteen months, not a vestige of growing feed is to be seen and even the hay stubble has been swept away by strong winds. Sad indeed is the state of affairs.

* * *

His Excellency the Governor opened the Chrysanthemum Show, at the Town Hall, on April 29th. It is always a favorite show here, and this season's display was a good one, especially for quality, character, and colour. Sir Edwin Smith was also there. Cawthorne's band rendered the music.

* * *

The editor of the *Register*, Mr. Finlayson, Mrs. and Miss Finlayson, and Mr. H. Finlayson, left S.A. by the *Ville de la Ciotat*, on a visit to England. All the members of the departments of the *Register*, *Evening Journal*, and *Observer* met in the library to give them "farewell" and *bon voyage*.

* * *

Obit.—Mr. G. W. Sellejant, civil servant, at the Semaphore, aged sixty-three years. He was highly respected. The burial service was read by Canon Pollett, rector of All Saints', Hindmarsh, assisted by the Rev. J. W. Ceven, of St. Bede's, Semaphore. The deceased gentleman was brother-in-law to Canon Green, of St. Peter's, Glenelg.

* * *

The Premier was tendered a farewell by the members of the Legislature on Tuesday, by the Mayor and Corporation on Monday and by the Civil Service on Tuesday at 8 p.m., prior to his departure to England, and a demonstrative "send-off" took place at the Adelaide Railway Station. It is said "he has forgiven his enemies."

* * *

A small military contingent, consisting of twenty-six members are leaving Adelaide for the Jubilee festivities. Captain Wilson was the recipient of a purse of sovereigns. The Mt. Gambier portion were accorded an enthusiastic send-off at the Town Hall. The contingent is in charge of Lieut. Col. J. Rowell, (M.R.) of Adelaide.

* * *

Murif, the cyclist, according to latest advices, has reached Tennant's Creek, on his way across the continent. He is in excellent health, but it is an unattractive journey to perform on a bicycle. Yet on a light one he has covered a tract of country where many have succumbed, even with horses. He will have crossed 1,975 miles of country quicker than any who have yet attempted it in any mode of travelling.

THE FIELDS

(By "WESTERN TABLE TALK'S" SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

The Cyanide works on the Lake View Consols are now completed.

The Great Boulder returns:—1061 tons for 3171 ozs. smelted gold. Average, 2 ozs. 19 dwt. 18 grs.

The Lady Shenton gave 340 tons for 1384 ozs. smelted gold, with 2 ozs. per ton left in the tailings.

The football season opened here on Sunday, the 2nd, when a capital game between the Rovers and Coolgardie resulted in a win for the former by 44 points to 39.

The Lady Bountiful's first clean up has resulted as follows:—125 tons for 253 ozs.; average, 2 ozs. In addition there are 3 tons of concentrates with 15 ozs. per ton, and 4 tons blanketings with 4 ozs. to ton. In future the mine will clean up every fortnight.

Great excitement has been roused in the district by the murder of the woman, May Wain, at the Six mile. The general opinion is that Conley was quite mad, and Reid not much better. The promptitude with which the police acted is the subject of much favourable comment.

Now that Sir John Forrest has left, after his visit to the fields, we are beginning to wonder if we have benefitted much by it. Sir John proved himself a slippery customer to try and bind down to anything definite, and beyond an offer of £1000 for the maintenance of Coolgardie roads, he would promise nothing.

Mr. Parsons, the Mayor of Kalgoorlie, has written to Mr. Wittenoom asking for Government assistance towards a Botanical Garden, with nursery and experimental farm attached. Mr. Parsons hopes to be able to grow peaches, apricots, and vines at Hannans, from which we conclude that he is a gentleman of an optimistic and sanguine disposition.

The Menzies Municipal Council abandoned a proposed deputation to the premier *re* the railway to that place, as they decided that it was not a municipal affair, and that the money could not therefore be fairly taken out of the rates. We should think this was something like a record for W.A., as municipal councils, as a rule, are not too tender about our purse.

Clause 93 of the G.M. Regulations is to be repealed and a new clause inserted to the effect that a lease can be worked by not less than two men for the first twelve months, and after that by one man to every six acres. This will be a great boon to the small prospectors who certainly ought to be encouraged in every way. Of course our legislators would be very indignant at the suggestion, but there is no doubt that this reform has been largely brought about by pressure from England.

We have at least three good men amongst the successful candidates, viz., Captain Oates, Yilgarn; Mr. Vosper, N. E. Coolgardie; and Mr. Morgans, Coolgardie. Of Capt. Oates it may fairly be said that he is one of the best mining men on the fields, and his opinions will be of the greatest value in any mining questions under discussion. Mr. Vosper has one of the most brilliant personalities in the country, and as a debater, is unrivalled, and Mr. Morgans, with his large interests and moderate views is a worthy representative for Coolgardie.

There is now, unfortunately, no doubt that the unfortunate gentleman, Mr. F. Hamilton, was burnt to death in the fire at Kennedy's Hotel, on the 4th. The hotel, one of the best in the town, was built entirely of wood, and the flames spread with extraordinary rapidity. It is marvellous that there should only have been one fatality, as most of the inmates had only just time to escape in their night clothes. A fund is being started in the town to assist the girls employed at the hotel, who have lost all their savings and belongings, all the publicans in the district will give one day's takings for this purpose, which should realise a good sum.

The funeral of the Rev. Charles Grenfell Nicolay, chaplain to the Fremantle prison, took place on the afternoon of Monday, May 10th. The burial service was conducted by Dean Goldsmith and Archdeacon Watts. Amongst those who attended the funeral were the Chief Justice, Sir Alex. Onslow; Dr. Hope, Dr. Waylen, Mr. R. Fairbairn (R.M.), Mr. J. B. Roe (sheriff), and Mr. J. Sewell; also a number of officers of the Government Penal Department and Lunatic Asylum.

Amongst the most valuable jewels in Europe are Queen Victoria's pink pearls, the Empress Frederick's seven rows of white pearls, and the superb necklace of the same gems worn by the Grand Duchess Marie of Russia.

THE "CITY" PHARMACY, No. 4 HAY STREET, Near Town Hall, One door from Barrack Street (Next Piaggio & McKinlay, Jewellers)

Dr. James's Little Pink Liver and Kidney Pills, 1s. Dr. Oliver's Red Aperient Draught 2s. 6d. Armstrong's Diarrhoea Wind and Spasm Mixture, 2s. 6d. Selocs Saline Mixture for the Kidneys, Liver, and Female Complaints, &c., 3s. 6d. Dr. James's Compound Sarsaparilla with Potash, 3s. 6d. and 5s. Selocs Barcoo Blood Purifier (effective) 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. The "Cavan" Healing Ointment, Old Leg Sores, &c., 1s. Dr. Oliver's Cough Elixir (Throat and Head), 2s. Armstrong's Effective Cough Mixture, 2s. 6d. Armstrong's Asthma Powders (Instant Relief), 2s. Selocs "La Grippe" Influenza Mixture, 2s. 6d. Dr. McLean's Phosphated Quinine and Iron Tonic, 2s. Selocs Magic Australian Eye Lotion (never fails), 1s. 6d. Armstrong's Golden Eye Ointment, 1s. 6d. The "Iris" Genuine Hair Restorer, 2s. 6d. Selocs Wonderful Scurf and Dandruff Pomade, 2s. 6d. Armstrong's "Cura Clava" Instant Corn Cure, 1s. Tooth Anodyne, 1s. Trusses, Enemas, Belts, Electric Appliances, New Drugs, Chemicals, and every known preparation. Depot for Dr. Hall's Hygienic Douches (The Water Cure), from 7s. 6d. upwards. Armstrong's Famed Sydney Medical Remedies.

IMPORTANT.—Geo. E. Armstrong (late of George Street, Sydney), has only one address, viz., "City Pharmacy," Hay Street Corner, near Town Hall; and specially requests those requiring Armstrong's Original Sydney Remedies, Medicines, and other wants, to be sure and add the initials of his name to all communications, &c.

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French folds of white, yellow and deep orange silk and white wings. The Rev. Father Burke, acted as officiating clergyman. Mr. Le Poer Trench, brother of the bride, gave his sister away. The bridegroom was supported by Mr. Pennyfather, M.L.A., as best man. Amongst the bridal guests were Mr. and Mrs. Quinlan (M.L.A.), Mr. and Mrs. Monger (M.L.A.), Mrs. Sherard, Mr. and Mrs. L. Clifton (Fremantle), Dr., Mrs., and Miss O'Conner, Mr. Sedgfield, Mr. Ernst Crome, Mrs. Keogh, Mr. Trench, Mr. Kavanagh (brother of the bridegroom), Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Deakin. The wedding march was capitally rendered at the organ by Mr. Ernst Crome, during the entrance of the bridal party.

* * *

A wedding, rather unique in its character, took place last Wednesday afternoon, 12th ult., at Wesley Church, when Miss Halliday, of Perth, was married to Mr. W. H. Bramwell. The bride being (with one exception), the oldest attendant member of Wesley Church choir, was honoured with a full choral service. Mr. Ernest Crome presiding at the organ. The bridal costume was a gift from Messrs. E. C. Shenton and Co., and consisted of a gown of cream silk with train, bodice handsomely trimmed with cream silk chiffon, embossed silk veil, white shower bouquet. A massive gold bangle the gift of the choir, was worn by the bride at the ceremony. Miss Gent as bridesmaid looked very pretty in a dress of cream lustre, with trimming of silk chiffon and satin ribbon, picture cream belt, hat mounts to match. The brother of the bride gave her away, the Rev. G. E. Rowe being the officiating clergyman. Mr. Gifford Parker acted as best man. After the ceremony the bridal guests were entertained at the residence of the bride's mother, the guests being: Rev. G. E. Rowe, Mrs. Gent, Mrs. Halliday (mother of the bride), Mrs. Greening (mother of the bridegroom), Mr. and Mrs. J. Halliday, Mr. Clifton, and Mrs. Jenkins. The wedding presents were pretty and numerous:—From fellow employes of Messrs. Shenton & Co., an exquisite satin eiderdown quilt and three pairs of gloves; Mrs. Baker, tea set; from Wesley Church Sunday Scholars, a Morocco bible; Mr. Ashley Cooper, pair ornaments, pair vases, pretty water bottle and glass; Mrs. Gent, piano; Mrs. Greening, half-dozen tea spoons; Mr. E. Marsh, two specimen glasses; Mr. Wrigley, two large Venetian jugs; Mrs. Angove, pair silver pickle jars; Mr. Tom Hilliday, cosey; Miss Jenkins, hand-worked picture embossed in silk; Mr. H. Arnold, decanter, two small coloured jugs; Mrs. Hefferan, scent bottle; Mr. Fraser, three handsome cushions; Mr. and Mrs. Hewett, Misses Gent, and Younge, ornaments (3) Doulton ware; Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, Blue set Bohemianjugs, biscuit barrel; Mrs. J. Halliday, silver preserve spoons; Miss Ada Harvey, linen fringed afternoon tea cloth and centrepiece; Sister Florence, ruby coloured butter dish and preserve glass; Mr. and Mrs. John Halliday, macrame tea cosey; and Miss F. Gent, painted cushion.

* * *

Nearly a hundred ladies and gentlemen attended the second fortnightly dance, of the present season, held under the auspices of the Metropolitan Assembly, in St. George's Hall, on Tuesday evening last. Mr. G. H. Parkinson secured the goodwill of all present for his unflagging energy as M.C. of the evening. Mr. Kraetzer (of Melbourne fame) supplied the orchestral music, leaving, in this direction, nothing to be desired. Amongst the ladies elaborate dresses were indulged in—Mrs. Frank Wilson (wife of the patron) wore a very handsome gown of white silk draped with crimson chiffon, pearl ornament; Miss Wilson, pretty cream figured lustre, trimmed with canary velvet bows at shoulder; Mrs. Isaac, an exquisite costume of heliotrope silk, sleeves of chiffon (lighter shade than dress), bodice trimmed with violets; Miss J. Legge, buttercup crêpe, sequins and buttercups used as trimmings; Miss Tobin, ivory white silk gown; Miss Elliott, skirt of heliotrope, silk bodice, sleeves of buttercup liberty silk; Miss E. Legge, pale blue silk, large royal blue silk velvet collar on bodice; Miss Kafe, black silk skirt, blouse of rose pink silk; Mrs. Hillier, cream costume; Miss Legge, pale green crêpe, chiffon trimmings, interspersed with lillies of the valley; Mrs. Simeons, white satin relieved with canary satin, pearl ornaments; Mrs. Scott, black lace dress trimmings worn on shoulders of bodice of mauve and white; Miss McCarthy, crimson silk and old gold sash; Mrs. Kraetzer, black silk skirt, silk bodice and jet ornaments; Miss Conway, black costume, bodice trimmed with pink roses; Miss Jones, yellow satin (sunflower); Miss Legge, pale blue silk, epaulettes of white silk.

Housekeepers have come under the protecting *agis* of the x-rays. It has lately been discovered that by their aid, the adulteration of food stuffs can be detected. This will be good news to everybody, especially in those countries where exorbitant prices tempt tradespeople to evade the laws and swindle their customers.

That there is a humorous side to the x-rays as detectors was shown recently, when a lady who had lost her ring in the dough while making some cakes, took them to a friend skilled in the use of the rays, who quickly indicated the position of the ring in one of the cakes, whence it was rescued, none the worse for its baking.

The Röntgen ray is proving a valuable adjunct to the science of medicine. By its use the risk of being buried alive is reduced to a minimum, and the victims of trance or of cataleptic seizure may suffer in safety, if not in comfort. It has been ascertained that while dead flesh is opaque, the flesh of the living subject is transparent, and the bones may be clearly seen. The ray is also used as a curative agent in tumour, phthisis, &c., as light is fatal to bacilli and the ray penetrating their stronghold destroys them, and nature gradually repairs the damage they have done.

SIR JOHN FORREST.

[WRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR "WESTERN TABLE TALK."]

Sir John is the pivot, the centre-piece of the political tableaux; the sun of a dim constellation, the Jupiter of a dull cabinet. Even in his school-days Sir John dominated his fellow scholars, not because he was brilliant, for, as a matter of fact, the boys christened the future premier of the largest colony in the Australasian group "Johnny Slow," but because he was endowed with an innate knowledge of human weakness and a forceful personality. He lured adherents to his banner by judicious gifts of sugar candy and Everton toffy, and cowed his would-be opponents by a punitive threat. Muscle spells right in a schoolboy kingdom, and as Sir John ran to muscle in those far-off days, he found no difficulty in exercising his youthful love of power. As a citizen Sir John stands upon high ground, for the youthful muscle has merged into breadth, the muscular boy has become a man of beef, and the fat man always takes precedence. Sir John is essentially a plodder. A practical intelligent plodder generally makes a good statesman. It cannot be denied that he has made great mistakes, and that the prosperous state of the colony's finances has covered up those errors of judgment, but Sir John, benefitting by experience, will not repeat those *laches*. His breadth and inches, his ponderous utterance, his dominant love of power, his diplomatic promises—all bespeak the leader of men; but we must examine the tell-tale hands before we attain to the true inwardness of the character of the subject of this article. Observe the broad, firm metacarpus, the powerful digitals, and the impressive thumb. It is a mighty hand—the hand of a man of strength; an unflinching member that will not brook opposition, but would strike with effect upon occasion. Sir John, in any community, would attain a certain eminence, and, had not his early environment stultified his capabilities, he would be the most popular politician in Australasia. But Sir John has found the attainment of power too easy. He had not to strive for the laurel. However, the fact remains that, reviewing the capables and incapables which comprise the Government of the colony, Sir John is the only man strong enough to guide the Ship of State to a safe harbor.

The rest are impossible for obvious reasons. Your bright, vivacious politician, whose meteoric career might dazzle a world, comes to grief over some unforeseen political crisis, and falls into unmerited obscurity for the lack of the solid common sense possessed by the less bright but more stable politician, who seizes the helm at the critical moment and meets the waves of adversity with a dogged perseverance the other was not capable of. It is said that Sir John would break down should adversity threaten the now prosperous colony, but the general opinion is, that should the good ship Westralia be in danger of crashing against the breakers of Depression, Sir John will not shirk his duty, but will exert himself, and steer the wind-tossed vessel into the haven of Prosperity. Some time ago, Sir John, wishing to placate for ever the inhabitants of the gold-fields, conceived a mighty scheme which would change arid Coolgardie into a paradisaical region. There would be water for everyone at little or no cost. Gardens would spring up as if by enchantment. The mines would be able to profitably treat the large bodies of low-grade ores. The population would cease to be migratory. They would settle on the land, and become a powerful factor in the progress of the great Western Land. But, to his astonishment, the cynical goldfields population, upon mature consideration, derided his much-loved scheme, which, to him, seemed full of golden promise, and heaped contumely upon their would-be benefactor. Even at this period there are many who positively state that Sir John is only juggling; that the scheme is only a mighty piece of escamoterie skilfully planned to dazzle and deceive the people of the fields. But the truth is that he, having given birth to so stupendous an idea, has now become intoxicated with its mighty possibilities. The juggler has deceived himself; the great scheme possesses him, and, like the luckless Frankenstein, the self-invented monstrosity spurs him on regardless of the derision and the jeers of half the colony. What will be the outcome of all this we cannot foretell, but, most assuredly, Sir John will persevere, and, whether they like it or not, the gold-fields population will be saddled with a gigantic scheme, which, only time will show, will be either an everlasting monument or a never-failing reproach to the statesman from whose fertile brain the genesis of the scheme evolved. That he is also a diplomat of high degree his speech at Bunbury proves up to the hilt. He knew the exact moment when the enunciation of so liberal a platform would take the most effect, and stifle the opposition party by forcing down their throats the pabulum they were shrieking for. It is obvious that Sir John has much to learn, and that he must make a few errata as time flies on, but he will not easily be deposed. His successor will need to be a strong man, and, on the political horizon, there is, as yet, no star rising that could be conceived as fit to oust from his position the Sun of Westralian politics. By a bold, liberal policy, he has yet time to attract to his banner each and every one of the would-be opposition. Sir John's visit to the Big Smoke will go far towards restoring the confidence of the British capitalist in Westralians, and will, no doubt, be fraught with great benefit to the whole community.

Vale Sir John, our good wishes attend thee.