

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

Australia Suffering From An Attack of Hard Times

Seventeen Thousand Emigrants In Six Months, Ten Thousand Idle In Sydney Alone

According to a Canadian journal: "The women and children can be seen at night in the streets of Sydney, fighting with dogs for the refuse in the garbage boxes. The streets are filled with beggars and unfortunate. A vast army of men are continually sweeping the hush in search of food. The departments are nests of corruption and jobbery, most of the officials are for sale to an extent that puts in Tanqueray Hall in the shade." The fact that there are some 10,000 unemployed men in Sydney alone is not to be denied. Some weeks ago a party of workmen applied to the government for aid, and were provided with a "home-breaking." The men say they want something better than "home-breaking" metal at 15 bob a week. A reputation, claiming to represent 40,000 men, recently called on the United States consul, explaining that since their own government would "do nothing for them," they had come to see what America had to offer.

They cited the statement, cabled in London to the effect that a man named Baker had advertised for 20,000 laborers, and they announced themselves as prepared to fill the gap. To say that Mr. Baker was surprised at this visit is putting it mildly. However, he is of the opinion that the Kansas man was either offering himself or his state, or the victim or perpetrator of a joke. Before his visitor retired, counsel assured them of the utter futility of their proposition as far as America was concerned, and gave much new and desirable information regarding the immigration of the United States. In Melbourne recently several hundred men, led on by the chief justice and applied for admission to the jail, where, at least, they would have a place to sleep and something to eat. The chief told them that it would be necessary to secure a warrant for each man, and the matter subsided.

The continued exodus of the self-porting laboring element is causing much consternation, not to say alarm. During the last six months 1500 Victorians have sailed for the Africa, while in the same period 10,000 men, largely farmers, and mechanics, are said to have left New South Wales for Africa, Canada and America. On top of this an announcement comes a cable dispatch that two well-known Australian farmers are negotiating with the Canadian officials at Ottawa for the settlement of Western Canada, of a colony of Australians. The primary cause of this wholesale desertion of the part of citizens of the commonwealth is found in the far-reaching drought wrought by the recent drought. The dearth of adequate rainfall in certain sections is a recurring condition, the drought of last year, as all the world knows, was exceptional. The figures, in truth, appalling. Briefly and in round numbers the loss to the farming community in New South Wales alone amounts to 34,000 horses, 263,000 cattle and 15,000,000 sheep, representing \$80,000,000.

Aside from the evil effects of the weather, however, there are other features in the social and political horizon which militate against the prosperity of the commonwealth. Immigration is opposed in every possible way. "Population will lower the price of the great hue and cry, a fallacy! Surely it would tend to require an unwelcome amount of intelligence to comprehend the well-established fact that every new-comer is a consumer of labor by his labor to open up and develop the resources of the country. Restrictive laws in respect to immigration, as well as in other directions, only prevent strangers from entering a foothold, but are largely unable for driving the bone and marrow out of the country.

As an instance in point, illustrating the dog-in-the-manger policy of the Government. Some weeks ago the English syndicate, represented by the Mayor of Hay, submitted

a proposition to build a large reservoir, on the Murrumbidgee river, near a place called Barren Jack. The reservoir, which was to be used for irrigation purposes, was to be one of the largest in the world. It would include three times the surface area of Sydney harbor, and the walls 200 feet in height, represent an outlay of \$2,500,000. The Cabinet sat on the matter in more ways than one. It was not in accordance with the principles of the Federal Government to allow a private corporation (their own "flesh and blood," please notice) to build the reservoir. So they had agreed not to accept the offer of the syndicate nor to proceed further with the business.

Meanwhile the commonwealth has accumulated a vast debt. The London Stock Exchange has just issued a manifesto declining a future negotiation of colony loans, so that Australian credit in England has apparently collapsed.

Given an area of land large enough to include the whole of Europe, excepting Russia, or the entire United States without Alaska, the possibilities of Australia to the wide-awake American, with his propensity for promotion of "big things," is simply stupendous. Aside from Siberia, Australia is the one vast habitable expanse left on the earth's surface. Its territory is capable of employing a great number of people, and yet, at the close of a century's existence under Anglo-Saxon rule its population aggregates less than 4,000,000. A network of railways, a system of irrigation involving the conservation of its great rivers and the opening up of its hundreds of thousands of acres of irrigable districts, and the commonwealth would have inducements to offer unexcelled, perhaps, by those of any other country on the face of the globe. Its coal supply is possibly unsurpassed. It has immense mineral and forestry resources while its splendid harbors, coupled with a climate of semi-tropical nature, afford facilities for a wide variety of manufacturing enterprises. With a vigorous Government administration, ready to embrace every opportunity to advance the interests of the farmer, this one-time "paradise of the workman" may yet fulfill its manifest destiny and become one of the strongholds of the earth.

The question of renewing the contract with the Oceanic Steamship Company for the San Francisco mail service is under discussion in the New Zealand Parliament. There is a strong current of adverse sentiment among the political leaders, who would much prefer to turn the subsidy over to the Canadian line now plying between Vancouver and Sydney. They consider it "unpatriotic" to subsidize a foreign line of steamers, especially after President Roosevelt's widely circulated prophecy concerning an American domination of the Pacific. One member argues that American laws debar British-owned steamers trading on their shores, and asks: "Why should we pay their steamers to call?" Another member said that the colony could get all they wanted from the Vancouver service and was opposed to giving the subsidy to "aliens." A third believes it would not be worth while to renew the subsidy, especially if Mr. Chamberlain's preferential bill is put into circulation. "How," asks a fourth, "can we consistently penalize foreign imports, which are so largely American, and at the same time continue the mail subsidy?" Finally there is the question of cost. The Oceanic Steamship Company, which, by the way has become metamorphosed in the Antipodes into the "American and Australian Royal Mail Steamship line," is receiving some \$17,000 per annum from the New Zealand Government. They now demand \$25,000 and a five years' contract. A rumor is current that the Union Steamship Company is prepared to build immediately three 6,000-ton steamers for the Vancouver line. This may account for the sudden coolness on the part of the legislators toward the San Francisco service.

A man died in Sydney last month who, while an alien under the federal exclusion act, was regarded as one of the city's foremost citizens. This was Quong Tart, a native of Hongkong. He arrived in Australia when only 10 years of age and was taken in charge by a Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, who practically adopted the little Mongol. The latter soon evinced a capacity for commercial life, and gradually built up a thriving tea trade and restaurant business. He became a great favorite in society, his witty after-dinner speeches always eliciting shouts of laughter, and he had a peculiar and inimitable penchant for singing Scotch songs. He was generous to a fault, and his own countrymen regarded him as their best friend and counselor. Upon his last visit to China the late Emperor "knighted" him as a "mandarin of the fifth rank," which included the crystal button, peacock feather and other important decorations. A few months ago Quong Tart was the victim of a mar-



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derous assault. Upon his recovery he was tendered a public reception at the Town Hall by prominent merchants, who presented him with a check for £200. The dead Chinese had adopted the Christian faith, was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and married one of his bookkeepers, the daughter of a resident Englishman. He was 53 years old, and left his widow and six children amply provided for.

While the Federal Government has practically abandoned all notions of participating in the St. Louis Exposition, private individuals are occasionally heard from who do not intend to let such an opportunity escape them. C. A. Burt will exhibit a natural cluster of pearls, which was secured at Shark's bay, West Australia. This unique specimen measures 1½ inches in length, ¾ of an inch in breadth and about an inch in thickness. It contains 150 pearls and is valued at \$100,000. The famous cluster known as the "Southern Cross," found some years ago at the Looepe Islands, recently acquired a new owner, who paid \$50,000 for its possession. The only other known specimen of value belongs to the British Government.

The annual recurrence of "bank holiday" on the first Monday in August has brought about considerable newspaper agitation as to the desirability of abolishing this enforced day of idleness. The idea of the holiday originated with Sir John Lubbock and was begun in 1871. Since there was no public holiday in England between Whitmonday and Christmas, the added day of recreation, coming, as it did, in midsummer, proved a real boon to the sweltering Britisher. In Australia, however, the day arrives at the height of the winter season. The weather is more than likely to be cold and inclement, with the exception of the public offices, banks, law courts and a few large concerns,

the great mass of workers keep open house. The people already have twice as many holidays as Englishmen have, and, since the extra day only results in depriving them of their accustomed business facilities, they do not see why it should be continued on the statute book.

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AGENT GREEN IS BUSY.

Looking Up Testimony in the Ware-McKinley Case.

A. R. Green, who is Secretary Hitchcock's personal representative and who has been connected with the government land office in various capacities for the past fifteen years, visited Cottage Grove last Saturday in an official capacity and favored the Leader with a pleasant call. He is sifting Oregon timberland and homestead entries east of this city, which were signed by fictitious names. The Leader files were examined back to 1898, and the very entry notice for which he was looking was found. He discussed the lien law and scrip questions freely, and strongly upheld Secretary Hitchcock in his actions regarding Oregon government land matters. "When asked if he found more fraudulent land entries and more corruption in public land affairs in Oregon than in the other Western states, Mr. Green promptly replied that he did not, and said the statement that Oregon is particularly corrupt in such matters is wholly false. A United States deputy marshal was in town at the same time issuing subpoenas in the Ware-McKinley case.—Cottage Grove Leader.

Green was in Eugene about ten days ago on the same business as mentioned by the Leader.—Eugene Register.

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