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### AUSTRALIA COMMONWEALTH

One of the Brightest Stars in Britains Firmament

A Hundred Years Ago It Was Peopled With Those Banished From the Mother Country.

"The love of all thy sons encompass Thee. The love of all thy daughters cherish Thee."

The great act is completed. Australia is a nation ready to take her place proudly with her peers on the earth. It was appropriate that the first year of the twentieth century and the birth of the Australian Commonwealth should be coincident. Of both, we can say yet know little, but of both we can hope much.

A hundred years ago who would ever have anticipated that the few thousand men and women, without much character to make a fuss about with a currency of rum and a morality all their own, clustered on the shores of a harbor of which the beauties few of them could appreciate, rasped by a heartless inhumanity or crushed by irresponsible authority, each equally hurtful, who of them would have been bold enough to think that they were having the proud honor of laying the foundation stone of a right royal Empire in those unknown seas, and fashioning one of its most precious glories for England's traditions?

The story of Australia is one of the most instructive lessons given to the world of racial development. When Greece sent forth her youth the swains from the hive to carry her laws and civilization to other lands, they carried with them the high hopes and most sanguine wishes of the mother city. Rome sent her soldiers to conquer and occupy, but, with few exceptions, England has no aspirations for over-sea colonies. Her colonies were made by the people of ten in spite of governmental opposition. Her fleet was always ready to conquer and seize on the possessions of her enemies, but it was always the same. The eye of the government was always turned to Europe. Possessions in foreign parts were simply the pawns in the great continental game, and very little more, indeed. Her statesmen cared nothing for them for many years, and it was said she lost the American Colonies because the prime minister for the first time began to read the American despatches.

Australia for many years had little for which to thank English statesmanship. It is probable that nothing would have been done with the southern continent, but that a great social danger had to be remedied by politicians, and consequently the matter was forced on their consideration. It is a great pity that we cannot claim a higher origin, but that is just where the example of racial development comes in. What country would have evolved a great nation from such unpromising elements? Certainly not Spain, certainly not France, and we think not Germany. Spain abjectly failed with her colonies, France and Germany have not yet found the secret of success. Even our earliest colonies suffered from the taint of conviction, because, like slavery, it debases master and servant alike. But they were all Englishmen and Englishwomen into whom had been inspired by the past the spirit of self-reliance, however obscured for a time, and now we see in our noble cities, in our farms, in our flocks and herds, in our harbors bustling with a world's commerce, in everything from the board to the centre, that God's heritage was given to no ignoble or unworthy hands. Australia teaches us the cause of pride and race. The attitude of the powers that be towards the colonies is

### STORIES OF THE QUEEN

Her Kindness of Heart Is Leading Characteristic.

Anecdotes concerning Queen Alexandra, and illustrating the sympathetic charm of her personality, are numerous. As Princess of Wales she has officiated at more public functions and has mingled more generally with her subjects than might have been the case had her husband succeeded to the throne early in their married life, so that ample opportunity has been hers to display the traits which have endeared her so widely, and the English people have grown to feel intimately acquainted with her.

A story is told concerning a visit paid by the Princess to Cambridge, and of how "an undergraduate, in imitation of Raleigh's gallantry to Queen Elizabeth, spread his gown on the pathway for the Princess to walk on. She started by this sudden act of the suite had whispered a word of explanation, it was charming to see how sedulously she lifted her dress to show the dazzled and rather abashed proprietor of the purple toga of Trinity that she was actually setting her foot on the gown, bowing her acknowledgments to him at the same time." The observer who narrated this incident added, concerning the Princess' simplicity of manner, in the openness and unstrainedness of her enjoyment. "There is something inexpressibly delightful in this spontaneity."

Illustrative of Alexandra's kindness of heart, in which she so much resembles the late Queen, it is told how she entered the hall of Marlborough House one day shortly before Christmas, and noticed a young girl standing there, whose appearance betokened delicacy and who looked wearied. Her Royal Highness bade her be seated, and learned that she was the bearer of some little garments which had been ordered for the royal children. Pleased with the modest manner of the girl, who did not know "that the kind and gentle lady was the Princess, Alexandra led the way to her own room, where she examined the work and made enquiries, by which she gained the information that the bearer had executed most of it herself. The conversation thus begun gradually revealed that she had an invalid mother, who remained alone at home during the long hours when she was compelled to work in a shop, and that the sewing machine, now then, had made her desire to become a skillful operator, in order that she might earn enough money to own a machine of her own some day, and thus be able to keep her mother company while at work.

The Princess summoned a servant, and ordered a bottle of wine, biscuits, oranges and other invalid delicacies packed and brought to her, while she was writing down with her own hand the young girl's name and address. She presented her with the basket of delicacies, telling her to take them to her mother, and on Christmas morning the latter was the recipient of a handsome sewing machine, inscribed, "A Christmas gift from Alexandra."

Perhaps nothing more endeared Alexandra to the people than her tenderness as a wife. This was instanced on the occasion now so freely quoted when, the Prince departing for a tour of India, she entrusted one of her suite with a portrait of herself, in order that on the Prince's arrival in India he might be surprised with the unexpected sight of his wife's face. During his terrible illness with typhoid fever she was devotedness itself. At the crisis, which occurred one Sunday, the vicar of St. Mary Magdalene's, Sandringham, received the following short note from the Princess, just before the opening of the service:

"My husband, being, thank God, somewhat better, I am coming to

### ALASKA'S MINERAL WEALTH

The Washington and Alaska Miners' Association

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 9, 1901.—We note in your issue of Saturday that the Washington and Alaska Miners' Association was organized on Friday afternoon, at the Chamber of Commerce. We regard this movement as one of much moment to our people. In our opinion there is good reason why it should have the encouragement and support of every citizen. The city of Seattle possesses natural advantages as a mining center that are not generally understood or appreciated. This city is the natural gateway to and from the great mineral kingdom on the globe. The mineral resources of Washington alone are great, but when we include British Columbia, the coast islands and Alaska, we have a mineral belt extending from here to the Arctic ocean, containing every variety of mineral known, and in quantities so enormous that it seems incredible to all but those who have seen with their eyes the wonderful deposits of Alaska, which, with improved transportation facilities and consequent development, will astonish the world. This estimate of Alaska's mineral resources is no dream. It is based upon known facts. I have traversed the length and breadth of the mineral fields of America, as well as Old Mexico, and my two years' sojourn in Alaska justifies me in the opinions expressed. The wealth of the gold placers of the Klondike and the Seaward peninsula have no parallel. There is native copper enough in Alaska within a fifty-mile limit to make the rails for a road from Valdez to St. Michael, in addition to mountainous deposits of copper running from 50 to 60 per cent in copper. There are large deposits of tin ore, as well as all of the more precious metals. There are large quantities of iron, beds of coal and lakes of oil. But before one can fully realize on this Eldorado of the North, there are serious obstacles to meet and difficulties to overcome. Alaska is suffering from the effect of bad laws, and the worst methods known in mining customs. Some of its best mineral is remote and almost inaccessible at present, and there is much to be done to make it all available. Presumably the object of the Washington and Alaska Miners' Association will be to furnish evidence of the truth of what is claimed for this great Northwest—to exhibit samples of mineral; to publish and distribute literature in that line and to induce capital to invest in railroads, navigable pathways and development. It is important that the organization should be conducted upon a broad and strictly honorable basis, not for individual gain, but for the general good. I earnestly hope that the business men of this city may all join in this movement and help in every way to promote its success.—A. P. Roe in Seattle P. I.

### FORESTS OF BOXWOOD IN TURKEY

The Levant Herald of recent days

says that although large forests of boxwood, which is so largely used by wood engravers, exists in the neighborhood of the villages of Kossovo and Monastir, Turkey, the trade in this wood was little known in the Salonica market until quite recently. During March last two large shipments of boxwood were made to Liverpool, England, and the owners of these forests are now preparing to work them on a larger scale.

Shof, the Dawson dog doctor, Pioneer drug store.

### DISTILLERIES IN SCOTLAND

From Which "Pot Ale" Corrupts River Waters

New Discovery Where by the Use of Microbes the Impurities Are All Destroyed.

There are 164 distilleries in Scotland, and an increasingly difficult problem in connection with them is how to get rid of the by-products of distillation. One of these by-products is what is known as "pot ale," which is the liquor left after the first distillation. It is a most obstinate and complex compound, as brown as peaty water. It becomes putrid and smells badly after a brief contact with the air. It is a highly nitrogenous liquor, carrying 3,000 grains a gallon of suspended and dissolved solids about thirty or forty times as much solid matter as ordinary sewage contains. It has been run into the River Spey, where the Glenlivet distilleries have sprung up like mushrooms during the last few years, until the noble salmon river has been all but ruined. The riparian proprietors, however, by raising actions in the law courts to compel distillers to put a stop to this pollution, have greatly paralyzed the whisky trade in that part of the country.

Several plans have been tried to utilize this "pot ale" as a feeding stuff for cattle and as a manure. Hitherto none of these plans has proved a commercial success. The process which has the best record of the test of experiment is that which is known as the "microbe" system, which is a filtration expedient strongly assisted by bacteriological aid. It is not new. It is in use to purify sewage in several of the large towns of England, but the credit of successfully applying it to get rid of the refuse of distilleries is due to Dr. Cowle of Dufftown, Speyside, who has been experimenting with it for some time and has got such good results that his system is now considered applicable to large distilleries.

A plant of this kind costing \$700 (\$3,400) has just been laid down at Glen Kingie distillery, East Lothian. It is large enough to deal with 52,000 gallons of "pot ale" a week, and the eyes of the distilling world are now upon this place to see what will come of the experiment. In the process a series of seven tanks in duplicate are used. These are so arranged on the face of a steep slope by the side of the distillery that the liquor to be purified passes from the one to the other by gravitation. There is also on the top of the bank, above all the others, a receiving tank, capable of holding 2,500 gallons. To this "pot ale" is pumped up from a settling and storage tank at the low level.

The first five tanks are filled with cinders of various grades in size, while the two lowermost tanks are filled with fine sand. The cinder tanks are seeded with microbes and the work of these innumerable unseen and silent workers is marvelous. They eat up or transform the nitrogenous matter, so that when the effluent is discharged from the lowest tank it has no smell, is clear as water, will not froth and is quite harmless to fishlife. It now carries not 3,000 grains a gallon of solid suspended and dissolved solids, but only from 100 to 150, and the "pot ale," or all that is left of it, from being a strong acid is alkaline, and in the process of filtration has lost 25 per cent of its bulk. The effluent from the last tank can accordingly be returned to any stream with little detriment to the rest of the water, for the purified ale has not the power to produce fungi,

which the unpurified ale possesses in a very marked degree.

A most toothsome sight is a river into which this "pot ale" is discharged as it leaves the still. The bed of the stream is covered for miles with a gray, slimy cat's-tail fungus, "leptomatis lacteus," which there is no killing so long as it is fed with this stuff.

If well constructed at first, the contact beds or filters are practically permanent, and as the microbes can be freely cultivated there is no difficulty in keeping the beds constantly at work. The method adopted is to work them two hours out of twenty-four and to let them rest the other twenty-two, as the microbes it seems want a long rest after feeding on this rich product.

### OUT WITH HER GUN

Open Season for Shooting Is on at Seattle.

Seattle, Dec. 17.—William Barton, one of the proprietors of the Owl saloon, on Washington street, had a narrow escape from being shot to death in his place of business early yesterday morning by an infuriated woman, who claims that Barton had jilted her.

Gussie Grant, who rooms in the Pacific house, entered the saloon at 3:28 o'clock and after a short altercation fired two shots pointblank at Barton, at a distance of not more than ten feet. Barton struck the woman, knocking her senseless, just as she was preparing to fire again in his face.

The Grant woman found Barton in a box in the rear of the saloon, and a quarrel ensued. She left the box, and going behind the bar, secured a revolver which was lying in sight, and returned. Without warning Barton of her presence, she quietly entered the box and when within three yards of her intended victim opened fire. Two shots rang out in quick succession, and Barton sprang to his feet. He struck at the woman and knocked her to the floor, where she lay in a stupor for several minutes. At the same time a bystander wrenched the weapon from her hands. Two bullets were imbedded in the casing alongside the chair in which Barton was seated when the woman entered the box the second time, and one of the missiles could not have missed him more than a hair's breadth.

No report of the matter was formally made at the police station and the officers, who patrol Washington street did not locate the saloon where the shooting took place until yesterday afternoon. They finally ascertained that the Grant woman was in room 49 of the Pacific house, and from her obtained an account of the shooting. Barton did not appear in court to file a complaint against her and under the circumstances she was not detained by the police. The woman charged Barton with having discarded her after procuring from her all her savings, which she claims amounted to several thousand dollars.

### Wanted to Be Sure.

An old woman of undeniable Celtic origin entered a provincial savings bank the other day and walked up to the desk.

"Do you want to withdraw or deposit?" asked the clerk.

"Naw of doant. Oi wants to put some in," was the reply.

The clerk pushed up the book for her signature, and, indicating the place, said, "Sign on this line, please."

"Above it or below it?"

"Just above it."

"Me whole name?"

"Yes."

"Before Oi was married?"

"No, just as it is now."

"Oi can't write."—London King.

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SOCIETIES.  
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