

75 years! This did not pass. Mr. Bromley wants to reduce the working hours on the train and omnibus lines, and to fix a minimum wage-rate. If things continue to move in this direction, the state of the Australian working man will indeed be Utopian.

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Two distinguished Tasmanians are on their way to these shores. These gentlemen are the Hon. John Henry, the Treasurer in the late Government of the Island Colony, and the Hon. Alfred Dobson, the Solicitor-General of the Colony.

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I hear that Professor Robertson, of the well-known experimental farm at Ottawa, is now considering an elaborate plan, drawn up by himself and the Canadian Government, for sending dressed meat to Great Britain, in place of sheep. It seems that the restrictions now imposed on live stock are found to be so oppressive that the Canadian Government propose to take up the frozen meat trade on a grand scale, and, to give "confidence" to the British consumer, design to select the sheep at Montreal, and to "pass" each carcass for the cold chamber officially. This is much, but it is not all by any means. Not only does the Dominion Government propose to open a big dressed-meat trade with England under its own official inspection, but it is further proposed to acquire—and, therefore, control—the retail shops in the United Kingdom where the meat is to be sold! There are other details of the scheme into which I need not enter. It is by no means certain that the plan as formulated by the Professor and his colleagues in the Dominion service will be fully carried out, and it is certain that, if it is, the cost will be very great. My reason for drawing attention to this threatened organised competition with the Australian frozen or chilled meat trade is simply because several years ago in these columns I earnestly recommended colonial meat exporters to arrange to have in the United Kingdom their own retail shops. I pressed this point much, years ago, when the trade was in a very different state from what it has now reached, and many readers must recollect the identification of this journal with the very movement that Professor Robertson is now pressing upon the consideration of his Government. I pointed out, I repeat, a long time ago, that the establishment here of the retail shop controlled by the colonial producer would ensure the importation of colonial meat with complete and permanent success. It would quite deliver the colonial producer out of all "rings" and "cliques," and there are many obvious advantages on which I need not here dwell.

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The King of the Belgians having recently bestowed on the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Calcutta the dignity of Knight Commander of the Order of Leopold, the insignia was taken out to Calcutta recently by the new Belgian Consul, who personally made the presentation to His Grace the other day.

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A great sensation prevailed in the temple of Jagannath the other day, when an up-country pilgrim entered the tower with a leather money-bag. It is considered sacrilegious to approach the idols with a leather bag, and both the priest and the pilgrim were brought to task by the servants of the temple.

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Balls in India appear to be as lively sometimes as they are in Australia. At Lord and Lady Sandhurst's ball at Poona, recently, given in honour of the Viceroy and Lady Elgin, there appears to have been a singularly large number of mishaps. One lady had her leg badly cut right across with a spur, another received a severe cut on her arm from a heavily-jewelled bracelet, while another lady was stunned by a blow on the head from a gentleman's elbow. Several ornaments were lost, and the number of rents in gowns were minor features in this the biggest ball that Poona is said to have known for some years. It would not be a bad idea for the ladies of Poona, when they go to balls in the future, to get themselves up in the New Woman's costume, while the men might go dressed as footballers.

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The *Daily News* has been chiding the British officers who were lately the guests of the Maharajah of Kuch Behar, and whose shooting operations in some of the Maharajah's preserves appear to be very dubious forms of what we understand by the term "sport." The party, which included Captain Bertram,

General Yeatman Biggs, Captain Lister, and other officers, made large bags of buffaloes, tigers, and sambhur, but the rhinoceros proved too much for them, and in all cases got away, taking large numbers of bullets with them. Fourteen "rhinos" were treated in this way, all having been largely potted, but none of which were bagged. The *D. N.* suggests that, if it is not possible to kill the poor rhinos outright, the sport of rhino-shooting ought to cease. It is rather a wonder that the officers in question did not take up a machine-gun, that weapon being found very effective in the case of rhino and hippo. It will be remembered that a few years ago a British naval officer distinguished himself up the Zambesi river by taking a machine-gun in a launch and shooting down about 100 head of hippopotamus. Grand sport, truly, for British officers!

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A python, measuring 19 feet in length, was killed the other day at Darjeeling. When cut open, a goat weighing 60 lbs. was found inside. This report has been verified by the *Darjeeling News*, so that it must be true.

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On the birthday anniversary of the King of Siam, the other day, His Majesty conferred the Order of the Phra Chula Chom Klao on Madame du Plessis de Richelieu, the first European lady recipient of this coveted distinction. The Order of Phra Chula Chom Klao was instituted by the King shortly after coming to the throne, and is the only hereditary honour in Siam. The hereditary character of the Order, however, only lasts for one generation.

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Our Indian contemporary, the *Asian*, has the following painful par:—"O *Tempora! O Mores!* After riding several gallops on the course the other morning, a well-known jockey was seen to mount a pneumatic-tyred bicycle of the latest type and ride homewards."

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Mr. C. E. Savi, nephew of the well-known Mr. W. B. Savi, Superintendent of Kheddahs, shot four tigers in one day recently near the Brahmaputra river.

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Owing to the unfortunate mishap to the *Moor*, whilst the *Scot* is also being overhauled, the Union Company find themselves short of boats. Consequently, they will not dispatch an intermediate passenger steamer on February 22, although they have chartered the *Echuca* to convey freight from Southampton to South African ports, starting on that day. The *Scot* is now at Belfast, where she is rapidly being got ready to resume her place on the mail service, and the *Moor* is not likely to be long in the engineers' hands. The *Pretoria*, which, as mentioned before, takes the latter's place as mail boat on February 15, will take out Mr. J. Perry, the Hon. Walter Colthorpe, and Mr. F. W. Tunnicliffe. The *Athenian*, which takes the service of February 29, has the names of Mr. Kendall, Mrs. Burton, and Miss Matcham already on her passenger lists.

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Mr. G. Atwood, F.G.S., has booked a passage to the Cape in the *Tantallon Castle*, leaving Southampton on February 21.

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Mr. Beit has returned to England greatly benefited by the sea voyage to the Cape and back, and, despite the worry attendant upon the Chartered Company trouble, looks remarkably well.

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