

a vigilant officer and generally well liked, and much sympathy is expressed for his widow and five children, who, however, are believed to be in tolerably good circumstances.

At the instance of the Attorney-General, an application was made by the Crown solicitor to the Chief Justice on November 4 for orders requiring Edward and Daniel Kelly and their two associates to surrender themselves. The application was made under the Felons Apprehension Act, passed a few days before, and the necessary formalities having been gone through, his Honour granted an order against each of the gang calling upon them to surrender at Mansfield on or before Tuesday, the 12th November, to stand their trial for murder. The orders or summonses were published next morning, and the accused, failing to comply with them, have been declared outlaws. The police authorities in town at this date appeared to give credence to the report that the bushrangers were lurking about the Rat's Castle Ranges, near Indigo Creek, and reinforcements of police were sent to that district by special trains.

Although bulletins were received from different parts of the district day by day describing the proceedings of the search parties, no definite intelligence came to hand, the following despatch, dated Benalla, November 5, being a fair sample of these daily accounts:—A special party of men, who have been in reserve for several days, have just been ordered up the line. It is the impression of the police that the Kellys are still in the ranges north-east of this place. It has been ascertained that they have endeavoured to pass themselves off as police, with the assistance of the handcuffs and revolvers they got at the Wombat, but their youth and looks ought to be against them. One of Strahan's party arrived from Mansfield to-day. They worked the ranges from the Wombat to the head of the west branch of the King, going along the top of the range. They were out for four days, and had a good deal of wet weather, but Saturday was fine, and they got an extensive view of the valley of the King from the high ground. The tracks seen were not recent, and doubtless were left by horsemen connected with stations beyond Mansfield. On one night they stopped at an old hut on the Wombat range. They crossed the blazed track from Mansfield to Glenmore, but did not descend to Quinn's old haunts. News was circulated in Benalla yesterday to the effect that the Kellys had stuck up a store on the King River, between Glenmore and Whitfield. The statement was found to be correct, but the occurrence took place three weeks ago. The owner of the store tried to shut Kelly out, but at night the marauder forced a road in, and told him that if he ever barricaded his doors in that way again he would be shot. This man was so frightened at the threats he heard that he made no complaint to the police, and his relatives only mentioned the matter privately in the course of a visit to Benalla yesterday, so for his sake the name of the locality must be withheld. This will show how effectively the scattered settlements have been held in terror. To show how extensive the Kelly connexion is, it may be mentioned that scarcely a day passes that we do not hear that some relative has been in Benalla.

We give the following interesting account of an expedition undertaken by the police as illustrating the character of the work in hand. The account is by *The Argus* special reporter, and is dated Benalla, November 7:—The police have had information respecting the Kelly gang in their possession during the past day or two, but it was not considered desirable to make use of it, owing to its doubtful character, until yesterday, when corroborative reports were received, and it was then felt that there was every probability of securing the ruffians. Superintendents Nicolson and Sadleir having this knowledge in their possession, had arranged for a strong party to proceed to the district indicated, which, it may now be said, was about midway between Beechworth and Eldorado, on what is known as Reed's Creek. Here are living two or three families, who, if not directly connected with the Kelly gang by family ties, are known to be close friends of theirs, and the idea was to pay them a sudden domiciliary visit with the expectation of finding some of the gang with them. The matter was kept very secret. Captain Standish, the chief commissioner of police, arrived at Benalla by the afternoon train yesterday, to confer as to the best steps to be taken. As soon as Captain Standish arrived he was met by Mr. Nicolson, Mr. Sadleir having earlier in the day gone on to Beechworth to make the necessary arrangements, and as soon as the whole of the facts were laid before him he fully coincided with the views of his two officers, and it was arranged that the plan should be at once carried out. Unfortunately it has failed, but there can be no doubt that this is, in a great measure, due to the fact that the Kellys have their spies and sympathisers in all parts of the district, so that as soon as any information leaks out or any movement is noticed, information is at once conveyed to them. For instance, when Captain Standish arrived by the train in the evening, two of the Lloyds and Isaiah Wright were seen on the platform, and again subsequently, as will be seen later on, the same party inopportunely put in an appearance, and attempted—by cutting the railway telegraph wires—to frustrate the object of the expedition. About 2 p.m. notice was sent quickly round to all the troopers available in Benalla to report themselves, with arms and horses, at the railway station at midnight, arrangements being at the same time made with the railway department to have a special train in readiness shortly after that hour to proceed to Beechworth; but when an attempt was made to communicate with that township it was found that the wires were cut, or at any rate thrown out of circuit, and it was also found that the line on the Melbourne side of Benalla was interrupted. However, after some delay, the special train got away about 1.30 a.m., and rapid progress was made to Beechworth, which place, after a few minutes' stoppage at Wangaratta, was reached soon after 3 o'clock. The train consisted of two horse trucks and the guard's van. In the former were 10 horses, and in the latter was the chief commissioner of police, Superintendent Nicolson, nine troopers, and a black tracker. Four of these men had been out in the ranges for several days previously, under the command of Sergeant Strahan, and had only returned to Benalla and gone to rest a few hours before they were again called upon to turn out for duty. The men were, however, on the alert, and not only ready but anxious for active duty again.

It must be said that the appearance of the party in the van would not have given a stranger any idea of the usual smart appearance of the Victorian police force, for had such a crowd been met on a well-frequented thoroughfare there would have been a general desire to at once hand over any valuables that might be in the possession of the travellers without any cry of "Stand and deliver" being made. It should here be said that while the party was waiting on the platform for the train to get ready, three men were seen hanging about taking stock of the party. They were at once pounced upon, and upon being interrogated made some unsatisfactory replies, and were detained for the time. Beechworth was reached just as the cold grey dawn was showing over the eastern hills, and the party being here met by Superintendent Sadleir, quietly proceeded to the police camp, where they were reinforced by another strong body of police, until at last, when a departure was made, there were over 30 well-armed and determined men, together with two black trackers. Rapid progress was made for a few miles along the southern road, and then a divergence was made to the left entering the timber, the men at the same time dividing into three parties, so as not only to push forward more rapidly, but also to cover as much ground as possible. The ground was anything but suitable for rapid progress, as in places it was quite rotten, the horses sinking at times up to their knees, while in other places patches of granite cropped up out of the soil, and this being smooth and slippery from the recent rains, rendered it necessary for every man to keep a tight hand on his bridle, more especially as the gun or rifle carried by each man was loaded, and in readiness for use. After a few miles of such work a halt was called, just as a clearing with a large slab hut was seen in the valley below. A short consultation was held between the officers, and then the place was surrounded by a cordon, while some half-dozen, with Superintendents Nicolson and Sadleir, went to pay a morning call at the house, where it was hoped to find the Kellys. A reserve of about a dozen men was kept in hand by Captain Standish, in order to give chase should the desperadoes break through the cordon drawn around them.

A few minutes of intense anxiety, and then the report of a gun was heard. This was quite enough. No necessity for any order to advance. Each man of the party, from the chief commissioner to the junior trooper, instinctively drove his spurs home, and a rush was made for the house. Logs that would have been looked at twice before leaping on another occasion were taken recklessly. Rotten ground was plunged through, and a sharp turn round a paddock fence showed a nasty-looking rivulet, swollen with the late rains, and with very bad ground on the taking-off side. None of these were noticed, but each man, keeping a tight grip on his weapon with one hand and on his bridle with the other, galloped forward, the only anxiety being who should be in first, so as to join in the *mêlée*. The pace was terrific while it lasted, but when all pulled up at the door of the hut and rushed it, they found, to their disgust, that the Kellys were not there, and that the report they heard had been caused by the accidental discharge of one of the guns in the anxiety of the advance party to make sure of their expected prey, whom they supposed to be in the house. This one incident very plainly shows me that the remarks that have been made about the police not desiring to come to close quarters with the Kelly gang have been quite uncalled for. What I think is, that the men want to be held more strongly in check, or some more valuable lives will be lost. That the men desire to meet the Kellys and their two confederates is very plain, and when the two parties do meet I fancy the four ruffians will never be brought in alive.

The house to which such an unceremonious visit had been paid was that of a man named Skerritt, who is well known to have long been intimately connected with the Kellys, and whose eldest daughter was to be married to one of the party now wanted by the police. The house and immediate vicinity were closely searched, but with no success. The birds had evidently received warning and had taken their departure. Of course the man Skerritt put on a virtuously indignant air, and asked whether he ought to be suspected of harbouring such persons, after having been in the police at home. As it was evident nothing was to be got at this place, a push was made for another selection some distance off, belonging to Skerritt, jun., a son of the last visited individual. Upon entering this hut young Skerritt was not found, and from the appearance of the squalid den, the sole furniture of which consisted of a large bunk, a rough table, and stool, it was evident that neither the proprietor nor any of his acquaintances had been there that night. No time was lost in speculating upon possibilities, but the party pushed on over the ranges, and descending a precipitous and dangerous gorge about 800ft., came upon a green valley known as Sebastopol, having a creek running through it, and overshadowed on either side by the high ranges known as the Woolshed Ranges. A sharp turn to the left brought us in front of a slab hut, situated in a nicely-cleared piece of land. This was the hut of Mrs. Byrnes, who is also known to be most friendly to the Kellys, and is further said to be connected with another of the gang. She appeared at first greatly soiled at seeing such a large party surround her house, but finding that she was not required, she became very bold and impudent. She could not, or more probably would not, give any information, and, in fact, denied all knowledge of the Kellys.

It was now plain that information had been already forwarded to the gang that this locality was not safe for them, and that they had consequently shifted their quarters, for those who speak on authority are certain, from the information afforded them, but which unfortunately arrived too late, that the Kellys have been about this part within the last few days. That they have not crossed the Murray is quite certain; but at present there is some doubt which direction they have taken, the general opinion being that they are doubling back to their old position. Whichever way they do take, they must sooner or later show themselves, to obtain provisions, and be pounced upon. In the meantime, the police officers and men are working their hardest to secure the ruffians. As nothing further could be done for the day, the whole of the men being pretty well tired with their last few days' work, the party dispersed at Byrnes's hut, Captain Standish, his officers, and some of the men returning to Beechworth, while the others

separated and went to the respective points where they are stationed and from whence they were summoned. As showing the absurd character of the statements which are made to the police officers, it may be said that Dr. Cleary, of Beechworth, went to Superintendent Sadleir about half-past 10 o'clock last night, and reported that while driving from Everton during the evening seven shots were fired at him, and he showed a small scratch as the effects of one of them. Of course, his extraordinary story was set down to the effect of imagination, but it shows how men who are supposed to be endowed with a little common sense may be carried away by the present scare. Captain Standish returned to town by the afternoon train. The men who were out to-day were greatly pleased to see him with them in the field. Up to the time when we go to press the ruffians are still at large, and no information exists as to their whereabouts.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY.

Of the great gathering at the Flemington racecourse on Melbourne Cup Day, November 5, and the racing proceedings, we take the following from *The Argus*:—The morning of the Cup day broke rather inauspiciously. The sky was as grey as an English one, with banks of clouds piled up all around the horizon, varying in colour from a sober dun to a sullen indigo, while a cool wind came sobbing up from the south-west, with moisture in its breath, and the possibilities of a rising storm in its wayward gustiness. But there were broad rifts of lovely azure in the overcast heavens, and to these the sanguine looked hopefully, while fitful gleams of sunshine gave emphasis to their cheerful expectations. Then came an interval of gloom, doubt, and perplexity, a hasty shower, the massing of some portentous-looking clouds in the wind's eye, and the prospects of the promenaders on the lawn were somewhat discouraging. But towards 11 the day brightened, the ranges were evidently drawing the rain clouds thitherward, and by noon the fineness of the weather was assured. In fact, nothing could be pleasanter than the tempered brightness of the sunshine and the breezy freshness of the wind, blowing in from the sea; and when the great race was run at 4 o'clock, the aspect of the overarching sky was really magnificent. To the windward there was a broad expanse of radiant turquoise, dappled with a few pearly clouds, which were opalescent at their edges. In the opposite direction the heavens were curtained by rain clouds, from which heavy showers were dropping fatness upon distant pastures; and these dissolving vapours, as they drifted before the wind, varied in density from what resembled a gauzy veil to something not unlike a pall of purple velvet.

When the bell rang for the first race the appearance of the course and of the surrounding landscape was unwontedly picturesque. The whole of the flat and the environing slopes, green as a Devonshire valley in the spring time, was chequered by interchange of sun and shadow, chasing each other in swift succession across the scene; while in the distance the Dandenong Ranges were continually changing their robe of colour from a misty blue to a rich ultramarine, according to the fluctuating quality of the atmospheric medium through which they were seen, and the equally fluctuating accidents of light and shade.

Of the human constituents of the spectacle what is to be said? Numerically the attendance appeared to be quite equal to, if not in excess of, that of last year. The grand stand was full to overflowing, notwithstanding the separate gallery which has been erected for members in the saddling paddock, every seat in which was occupied. One ought to have spent a few months in the establishment of M. Worth, and to be thoroughly conversant with the *argot* of the modiste, to do justice to the dresses of the ladies. For the first time the Cup costumes and the walk and carriage of the wearers were exposed to a trying form of criticism, for a sort of impromptu committee of taste was spontaneously instituted by about a hundred of the rougher sex, and it took its station at the head of the flight of steps which now gives access to the carriage paddock. As each equipage drove up and deposited its occupants at the foot of these steps, every lady who alighted underwent the scrutiny of the committee aforesaid, and was compelled to take a preliminary canter, as it were, before exhibiting the splendours of her toilette on the lawn. It was a trying ordeal. To descend from a carriage gracefully used to be considered an accomplishment so difficult of mastery that it formed a special branch of instruction both in England and France some years ago; but to perform this exploit in these days of clinging skirts, when the nearest approach to a feminine walk is a dexterous shuffle, is almost an act of heroism, especially when it is struggled through under fire, as it were. Of the dresses themselves, speaking from an artistic point of view, it may be said that many of them combined elegance with simplicity in an unusual degree. There were others, of course, in which it seemed to be the object of the wearer to heap as much costly and incongruous ornament on to the richest material as could possibly be effected, and to attract attention by the grotesqueness of the *ensemble*. But these were the exceptions, and taking them altogether the Cup costumes made a brilliant show, and only occasionally offended the eye by painful discords of colour, or by lines that did not flow in the curves which satisfy the sense of vision. The green sward over which the fish-tail trains trailed in amplitude of sheeny silk, never looked fresher than it did yesterday, and it served to heighten the brightness of the delicate blues which predominated among the colours chosen by the younger ladies more especially. We have no word in the English language which is exactly equivalent to the French *se pavaner*, derived as it is from the walk of the most gorgeous of birds, but the present fashion necessitates the adoption of the gait thus characterised, and there was a certain element of comicality in the alternating deflections of such of the trains as were quite *de rigueur* while their stately wearers were in motion.

The hill, from base to summit, was literally black with human beings, and is evidently becoming too limited in area for the annually-increasing numbers who resort to it. All the refreshment-booths upon it appeared to be doing a roaring business; but the small betting men did not seem to obtain so large and profitable a *clientèle* as in former years. From this spot you could form some idea of the magnitude of the concourse of people on the flat; although any conjecture as to their numerical total would only be hazardous and misleading. They fringed the