

THE .KELLY GANG. By Electric Telegraph. From our own reporter. Benalla, 1st July.

STATEMENT OF CONSTABLE ARTHUR.

The statement of Constable James Murdoch Arthur with regard to the encounter shows the effect which the appearance of Ned Kelly and his extraordinary conduct laid upon the police. Arthur says: — "I was one of the party of police who arrived at Glenrowan with the special train, and was just behind Mr. Hare when he was shot. After that Mr. Hare asked Senior-constable Kelly, to place the men, and he did so. He took me round to the north-western side of the hotel, and we crawled on under what shelter we could find. We paused behind a tree about 100 yards from the hotel. There was a bush close to the tree, and I kneeled down to get a look at the hotel. In doing so I put my hand on a revolving rifle. It was covered with blood, and there was a skullcap close beside it. I was so startled I could not speak; but I drew the attention of Senior-constable Kelly to the rifle and cap, and he picked it up. We formed the opinion that one of the outlaws had passed that way just previously; and hearing a sort of ringing noise we listened, but we could not see or hear anything. I have no doubt however but that Ned Kelly was near us then. He told me afterwards that he was, and said he could have shot both me and Kelly. We moved from that tree to a log within eighty yards of the house, into which I commenced to fire. Senior-constable Kelly left me there. A bullet from the hut tore up the ground underneath my stomach, and I consequently determined to go to another part of the log. It was very cold, and I filled my pipe to have a smoke. It was just daylight, and I was in the act of fighting my pipe when I heard Ned Kelly coming up behind me. His extraordinary appearance so startled me that I let the pipe drop out of my mouth. I gazed at the strange object for a minute, not knowing but that it was a madman who had conceived the foolish idea of storming the hotel with a nail can on his bead. I then said to him, 'Go back, you d— — d fool; you will get shot.' The figure replied, 'I could show you, sonny,' and at that time he fired his revolver at me, but missed. He was evidently crippled, and did not take proper aim. We were then only between twenty and thirty yards apart. I levelled my Martini rifle and fired at the helmet, thinking I would knock it off. I hit him fair, but it only staggered him. The slit in the helmet looked like a huge mouth, and I fired at that and hit him again, but he still came on. I fired the third shot at his body and heard it scud off him. I was completely astonished, and could not understand what the object was. The men around me also appeared astonished. Some one said, 'He is a madman.' Dowsett, the guard, cried, 'He is the devil' and Senior-constable Kelly exclaimed, 'Look out, boys, by God, he is the bunyip.' I at once sought for shelter, and tried to get round at his back. I did so because I found it was no use firing at him in front. Before I could succeed in doing so Sergeant Steele ran up from behind and shot him. When I shot at him at first Sergeant Steele thought I had made a mistake, and called on me to stop firing. After he was captured Kelly shook his fist at me and swore." Constable Arthur is the man Ned Kelly said was a very fine shot.