

The Picturesque Folio of



Ballarat

"THE MODERN ATHENS"

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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF BALLARAT.

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BALLARAT was proclaimed a Municipal District on the 18th December, 1855. On the 14th January, 1856, a public meeting was held to take initiatory steps for forming a Council. Three days later the first Municipal Council of Ballarat met, and Mr. James Oddie was elected Chairman, the then equivalent of Mayor. The first half-year's income was almost entirely a subsidy from the Government:—Fines at Police Court, £40 0s. 6d.; rent, £44 18s.; Government grant, £3,750; total, £3,834 18s. 6d. The first contracts entered into were for making Lydiard and Armstrong Streets, and Mair and Dana Streets—very short sections. Ballarat has now 82 miles of streets, and its revenue in 1903-4 was £31,037, most of it derived from rates and charges. After only 14 years' existence as a municipality, Ballarat was, on 5th September, 1878, proclaimed a city. The mayor and councillors who now preside over and administer municipal affairs meet in a handsome town hall, from the tower of which they can look, with pardonable pride, upon the great work done by the successive councils of the city since 1856, in making a rough, unsightly, pitted diggings a municipality replete with the conveniences of modern life, equipped with public places of resort and enjoyment, and adorned and beautified in a degree unparalleled in the Southern Hemisphere.

The most famous of the goldfields of the world, and most picturesque of cities in Australia, Ballarat is known throughout the Commonwealth variously as the "City of Statues," the "Garden City" of Victoria, and "Beautiful Ballarat." It illustrates the activities, the enterprise, the taste, and the foresight and modernity of a public-spirited people exercised in their fullest energy for half a century. No tourist has seen the best of Australia who has not visited Ballarat. It stands unique among the cities of the flag the world over for the immensity of its gold resources, the beauty of its surroundings, and the treasures of art which public-spirited citizens have enshrined within it. The name is a native word, originally spelled as pronounced—Ballaarat, the form and designation it still retains in the seal of the Corporation of the City of Ballaarat. Usage, the Government departments, and the Post Office directory have dropped a vowel from the original spelling. The effect has been to apply a title more readily used by the busy men of the twentieth century. The old pronunciation voiced in the name a native meaning—Balla-a-rat being a resting place, or camping ground. Balla is the native word for

elbow, and balla-a-rat the recumbent attitude of a man lying on the ground, his head propped up by his arm, bent at the elbow. Balla-a-rat was, for the nomadic aborigines, a gentle grassy declivity at the foot of the hills, bisected by a rivulet, clad with fragrant wattle and eucalyptus, and stocked with native fauna—a resting place indeed. "Aborigines," writes Mr. Withers, "built their mia-mias about Wendouree; the kangaroo leaped unharmed down the ranges, and fed upon the green slopes and flats where the Yarrowee rolled its clear water along its winding course down the valley. Bullock teams now and then plodded their dull, slow way across flat and range, and marked out unwittingly the sites and curves for future streets. Settlers would lighten their quasi-solitude with occasional chases of the kangaroo, where now the homes of a busy population have made a city. It was a favorite resort of the kangaroo, while the emu, the wombat, and the dingo were also plentiful. The edge of the eastern escarpment of the plateau, where Ballarat West now is, was then green and golden in the spring-time with the indigenous grass and trees." It need not be thought that the spirit of the place is one of *laissez faire*, for Ballarat is a synonym in the minds of those who know its people for activity, alertness, and industry. The forceful spirit of the enterprising adventurers who flocked by tens of thousands into Ballarat in the early fifties gave impulses to public life and business methods which intervening years have failed to modify or diminish.

Ballarat is situated on the uplands, 1437 feet above the sea level, 74 train miles from the Metropolis of Victoria, and on the great intercolonial railway thoroughfare which links Brisbane to Adelaide, through Sydney and Melbourne. It has an area of 4,090 acres; its streets have an aggregate length of 82 miles; the main thoroughfare, the most magnificent in the Southern Hemisphere, is 66 yards wide; some other streets are 44 yards wide; and most are about 33 yards wide.

In this little volume will be seen a view of Ballarat in 1853-4, when the flat in the immediate neighbourhood of the first gold discoveries had been denuded of its trees and covered with tents. In 1851 Ballarat bore its primeval aspect. In 1853 a canvas town marked the site of the present city. From canvas town to Ballarat as shown in these views makes a span of 50 years.

The first white people to see the place, so soon to become famous throughout the civilised world,

were exploring settlers, who made their way from the seaboard in August, 1837. The pastoralists who were early settlers in and about the district of Ballarat must have been among the ablest flock masters of their time. They bred merinoes which gave to the world the finest wool ever placed within reach of the weaver. Wool sent for exhibition from the station nearest the present City of Ballarat obtained from the judges the award, "Absolute perfection; we have never seen better."

"Ballarat struck me with more surprise than any other city in Australia. In point of architectural excellence, and general civilised comfort, it is certainly the metropolis of the Australian goldfields.

"Ballarat is a most remarkable town. It is not only its youth, for Melbourne is also very young, nor is it the population of Ballarat which amazes, for it does not exceed a quarter of that of Melbourne; but that a town so well-built, so well-ordered, endowed with present advantages so great in the way of schools, hospitals, libraries, hotels, public gardens, and the like, should have sprung up so quickly with no internal advantages of its own other than that of gold. The town is very pleasant to the sight, which is, perhaps, more than can be said of any other prominent 'provincial' town in the Australian colonies. As far as the eye went I saw nothing but prosperity. Whatever may or may not be defective in the municipal administration of Australian towns, as a rule, the things which a city requires are there.

"It has, indeed, every municipal luxury that can be named, including a public garden full of shrubs and flowers, and a lake of its own—Lake Wendouree—with steamers, and row-boats, and regattas. It has a cricket ground and athletic games; and it has omnibuses and cabs, which, by their cleanliness and general excellence, make a Londoner blush."—ANTHONY TROLLOPE, in 1872.

"Not a yard of earth where Ballarat now stands but has, within the memory of most of us, been dug over and passed through the sieve. It is now the second city in Victoria, a prosperous town created in the wilderness as if by Aladdin's lamp. As the houses grew, the trees grew which were to shade them. A few years in Australia will raise a tree to a size which it will hardly attain in ten times as many years in our islands. They were everywhere, in yards and courts, in streets and squares. They out-topped the chimneys, and, in spite of the commonplace architecture—no better at Ballarat than most other places—they gave it an air of grace, and even of beauty, as unlooked for as it was agreeable.

"It was as if the council had decided to show what gold and science could do with such a climate. The roses which bloom ill in the hotter lowlands were here, owing to the height above the sea, abundant and beautiful as in Veitch's nurseries in midsummer. Besides roses, every flower was there which was

either fair to look upon or precious for its fragrance. There were glass houses to protect the delicate plants in the winter, but camellias, which we know only in conservatories, grow without fear in the open air, and survive the worst cold which Ballarat experiences. A broad gravel walk led up the middle of the grounds, with lateral paths all daintily kept. Dark, shadowy labyrinths conducted us into cool grottoes, overhung with treeferns, where young lovers could whisper undisturbed, and those who were not lovers could read novels. Such variety, such splendour of color, such sweetness, such grace in the distribution of the treasures collected there, I had never found combined before, and never shall find again."—JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE, in 1885.

And visitors who have seen Beautiful Ballarat since Froude, testify as enthusiastically to its charms, and with increasing praise and appreciation.

Sturt Street has been described fairly as the most beautiful thoroughfare in Australia. Originally it was a section of the 3-chain stock route reserved by the Government in the interests of pastoralists, that flocks being moved from one district to another might have space to travel and graze without infringing upon adjacent runs. The first trees—blue gums—were planted in 1860, between Doveton and Drummond Streets. The gums proving unsuitable they were removed, and the present deciduous English trees planted. The result has amply justified the change. From Lydiard Street to the western boundary of the city, a distance of nearly 3 miles, the roadway and the central paths run past, or under, handsome umbrageous trees. In 1896 were commenced the ornate street gardens, which delight the home-loving citizen and the tourist alike, as they pass up westward from Lydiard Street. For nearly a mile the central avenue is a well-stocked well-laid-out garden. The square between Armstrong and Doveton Streets was first transformed into a garden; up till then it had been a bare, unattractive plot devoted to use as a stand for delivery vans and cabs. The improvement effected by making the square into a garden was so striking popular acclaim endorsed the compliment of calling it "Shoppee Square," after the councillor who originated the scheme and pressed it on to completion. To the perseverance in public affairs of the same councillor is due the remarkable extension of gardens in Sturt Street, which all who see admire.

From the Railway Station radiate lines to the capitals of Victoria and South Australia, and to all the Western District; northerly, to Creswick, Clunes, Maryborough, and Bendigo; north-easterly, to Daylesford; easterly, to Gordon, Egerton, Ballan, and Bacchus Marsh; south-easterly,

to Lal Lal, Elaine, and Geelong ; southerly, to Buninyong ; south-westerly, to Smythesdale, Scarsdale, and Linton ; westerly, to Burrumbeet, Beaufort, Ararat, and Stawell ; north-westerly, to Miners' Rest, and Waubra. The Railway line—Melbourne to Ballarat—was opened in 1862.

The School of Mines, as the name denotes, is devoted to the study of geology, mineralogy, and the sciences and arts associated with the great gold mining industry. Shallow alluvial deposits of gold, almost pure, are not the guerdon of the miner of to-day. Necessity compels his attention to ores of various qualities. The scientist, chemist, and engineer are all wanted in mining now. The School of Mines, Ballarat, affords the best training in mining obtainable south of the line, and to the School come students from every part of Australia, from the Straits Settlements, India, and even from England and Germany. Men trained in the Ballarat School of Mines are amongst the ablest, the most successful, and the most highly remunerated managers, etc., in the goldfields of Australia. The School stands in Lydiard Street South, near the Supreme Court House.

Also in Lydiard Street, but nearer the Railway Station than the Mining Exchange, is the Art Gallery, in which are displayed some of the finest pictures in Australia. "Day's Lock on the Thames" (Vicat Cole), "Departing Day" (Peter Graham), "The Village Inn" (Leader), the gift of the late M. Loughlin, are worth visiting Ballarat to see. Solomon's "Ajax and Cassandra" is among other pictures which delight the eye and gratify the artistic sense.

From Ballarat, miners have won nearly 19,000,000 ozs. of gold, of rare purity, valued at £76,000,000. From an area within a radius of three miles from the mine shown above one-fourth the entire gold-yield of Victoria has been obtained. In the early diggings days gold was found on the surface, and as the miners followed the deposits, they sank from a few feet to over 400 feet, taking out gold by tons from ancient river beds. A party of four men, on August 26th, 1851, got £120 worth of gold for a day's work on the surface. Two dishes washed in the presence of Governor Latrobe, in 1851, yielded £384. A blacksmith's party of eight men took £24,000 out of one small claim, and another claim, 12 feet by 12 feet, gave £5,880. It will indicate the *locale* of some of the early shallow mines to say that the old Gravel Pits mine was near where the Ballarat Club

House now stands ; the Union mine, behind the Unicorn Hotel ; the Constitution, near the Mechanics' Institute, and Bath's, on the south-west corner of Sturt and Lydiard Streets. The Welcome nugget found at Bakery Hill, in 1858, weighed 2,217 ozs., and was sold for £10,500. The Canadian weighed 1,615 ozs. 10 dwts ; Lady Hotham, 1,177 ozs. 17 dwts. Masses of gold, weighing from 50 lbs. to a few ozs., were not uncommon in the early alluvial days. As the alluvial got deeper, mining became a business for companies—not individuals. The larger alluvial mines proved immensely rich. Twenty of them produced £5,902,050, and paid £2,457,496 in dividends. Among these may be mentioned Band and Albion, £2,078,235—dividends £917,459 ; Great Redan Extended, £438,298—dividends £347,890 ; Prince of Wales, £640,131—dividends £250,849 ; Bonshaw, £372,150—dividends £126,024. The record day's washing was 1,637 ozs., valued at £6,548, obtained at the Band and Albion Consols mine. The Band and Albion mine, from alluvial and quartz, paid altogether £1,164,654 in dividends. During operations in the deeper alluvial mines auriferous quartz was discovered, and when the easily-traced alluvial deposits became exhausted, attention was paid to the gold-bearing reefs. These reefs have been followed to a depth of over 3,000 feet. The whole of the mining on this famous field is now in quartz. The Star of the East (quartz) produced £860,050 worth, and paid in dividends £276,000 ; the South Star paid in dividends £26,400 ; the Central Plateau, £13,750 ; the Prince of Wales and Bonshaw, £2,357 ; the Last Chance, £35,500 ; North Woah Hawp, £20,850 ; and the New Normanby, £19,800. Quartz mining is merely in its infancy here yet. The easily reached and rich alluvial deposits have been practically worked out, but the only limit to profitable quartz mining appears to be the greatest depth at which miners can live and work. Within the Ballarat district are famous mines, such as the Madame Berry, which paid £855,450 in dividends, on an original outlay of a few thousands ; New North Clunes, which paid £516,056 ; Port Phillip, £482,321 ; Egerton, £310,729 ; Lone Hand, £244,450. Business in shares used to be carried on at the Corner—where the London Bank, and Unicorn Hotel now stand—until the present commodious Exchange in Lydiard Street was built. The late Duke of Edinburgh, the late Duke of Clarence, and the Prince and Princess of Wales have inspected the mines shown in this book.

Early in the history of Ballarat public men recognised that there were blanks as well as prizes in fortune's field. For those upon whom came old age and infirmity unprovided for, the

Benevolent Asylum was built, and has been maintained. In its kindly atmosphere veterans of every kind and grade, the war-broken soldier, the exhausted miner, the worsted pioneer, the palsied dame, have spent their last declining days, free from the carking cares of the life of unrestricted competition between the able and the feeble. The institution has accommodation for 320 inmates. The smaller building, to the left of the main one, is the Lying-in Hospital.

The accidents of the times and the wounds sustained in the Eureka affair made plain the necessity for a hospital. The handsome building which adorns this page has grown from small beginnings in the fifties into a spacious, commodious, modern hospital, equipped with all that science and the human intellect and invention can devise to cure disease and to alleviate human suffering. The Ballarat Hospital is unexcelled in modernity and management in the Commonwealth. The Victoria Ward was built in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. In the year 1903-4, 1347 in-patients were treated.

The Square in front of the Town Hall, wherein stands Mackennal's statue of Queen Victoria, is "Queen Victoria Square." Westward of, and next to, Shoppee Square is "Alexandra Square," named by His Highness the Duke of York, in 1901, after his queen-mother. "Lord Roberts Square" is that between Windermere and Talbot Streets, and "Prince of Wales Square," named by the late General Sir Hector Macdonald, is the open space at the eastern end of the great central avenue of the city. Sturt Street, besides being the principal business thoroughfare, is a popular public resort. On fine evenings it is thronged with animated and blithe-spirited citizens, who usually, on Friday and Saturday nights, have for their entertainment music provided by excellent bands which play in the rotundas.

The Botanical Gardens are a marvel of floral productiveness, won by the gardener's skill and industry from a rather unpromising and unkindly soil. The site was selected in 1858, and the first work upon it was slow and costly. The full area is 83 acres, the flower gardens proper 33 acres. The visitor who goes to the Gardens will not be content with one visit. In the outer grounds are spaces for the open-air recreations which Australians delight in. On general public holidays as many as 20,000 persons assemble in the Gardens, picnic there, and enjoy the various forms

of entertainment provided for them. People of Ballarat have great pride in their Gardens, and it might be thought their eulogies are the proud outbursts of fond possessors so visitors may be left to speak for themselves, and to tell others why they should see the Gardens at Ballarat before they die :—

A terrestrial paradise.—C. R. WILTON, Adelaide, South Australia.

A visit to the Gardens well repays even a long journey from Sydney.—W. M. DILL MACKY, D.D., Sydney.

In my humble judgment the most beautiful public Gardens in the State.—A. BAILEY, Jersey.

My fourth visit here—much delighted —ANDREW COWIE, Alloa, Scotland.

Absolutely the first Gardens in Australia.—W. PATTERSON, Melbourne.

Beauty within and without, and on every side.—THOMAS QUINTON, Drysdale.

Highly delighted with Gardens: Statuary magnificent.—E. H. WINIBERG SYMONS, Melbourne.

The most beautifully kept Gardens and charming City in Australia —E. THURSTON, Melbourne.

The prettiest place I have ever seen —T. BRAMWELL, Greenmont, West Australia.

Best laid out and cared for Gardens I have seen.—GILBERT D. J. SMITH, Colac.

The most beautiful Gardens I have seen.—LAURENCE MOONEY, Dublin, Ireland.

A paradise of beauty.—W. T. FISHER, South Brisbane.

The prettiest Gardens, Flowers, and Statuary I have seen are at Ballarat.—HERBERT G. STEWART, Wimbledon, England.

The prettiest Gardens and Flowers I have seen are at Ballarat.—DUKE OF LEINSTER.

The Statuary at the Gardens and in the principal street are the glory of Ballarat. Thirty years ago the Council had an idea of setting up statuary in the Gardens, but had not the money for the purpose. In 1884 Mr. Thomas Stoddart, a wealthy stockbroker, being on a visit to Europe, determined to make a gift of statuary to the city where he had prospered so well. He gave the twelve elegant Carrara marble statues with which the open gardens are adorned. His example was inspiring. The Scotchmen of Ballarat erected the statue of Burns in the very heart of the city, and the sons of Hibernia followed with that of Moore. From Mr. J. Russell Thomson came a bequest, which, wisely and admirably invested, gave to Ballarat the most beautiful group of statuary outside the walls of the chief galleries of Europe—a work of art unexcelled in its beauty and merit. The bronze

tablet within the Statuary Pavilion at the Botanical Gardens sets out :—"To the memory of James Russell Thomson, born in Airdrie, Scotland, 24th May, 1818, lived in Ballarat for 33 years, and died 26th May, 1886. He bequeathed to the people of Ballarat the statuary now in this house, and the figure of Wallace standing in the Gardens. The works of art in this house were delivered to the Mayor of the City, Mr. W. C. Smith, on the 3rd August, 1888, and were unveiled by the Hon. Duncan Gillies, Premier of Victoria. This tablet is placed here by J. Noble Wilson, Horatio Arthur Nevett, and Thomas Stoddart, who were appointed by Mr. Thomson a committee to select the statuary. Their trust being now ended, it devolves upon the people of Ballarat to guard with jealous care the noble gift which has been made to them, and to think with reverence of the good man who in his life helped to build up their city, and at his death beautified and adorned it." The ornate gates and the marble lions are the gifts respectively of the Hons. E. Morey and D. Ham. The Queen's Statue, in Victoria Square, in front of the City Hall, was erected in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee. The Soldiers' Statue will shortly be added to the works of art which grace the wonderful city built upon a "diggings." Visitors from all quarters of the globe agree upon the delight and inspiration derived from seeing Benzoni's great creation in the Statuary Pavilion. Let some here speak for themselves :

I think that the Statues of Ballarat are an education in themselves, and must do much to promote the sense of art and beauty amongst its favored citizens.—SIR GEORGE SYDENHAM CLARK, K.C.M.G., R.E., F.R.S.

Would like to see City Council and the Statuary of Ballarat moved to Melbourne.—ARTHUR H. C. JACKSON, Sandringham.

I have much admired the magnificent Statuary.—L. COHEN, Adelaide, South Australia.

Ballarat ought indeed to be proud to possess such treasures.—K. RISCHLEITH, North Adelaide.

Most chaste and beautiful Statuary.—M. SLATTERY, P.P., Wagga, New South Wales.

The most splendid work out of Italy.—G. W. WARD, Adelaide, South Australia.

I envy the people of Ballarat their beautiful City and unapproachable Gardens and Statuary.—J. H. HAMMOND, Ashfield, Sydney, New South Wales.

Well worthy of a visit.—RD. MCDUGALL, M.D., Glasgow, Scotland.

Highly delighted with Statuary and Gardens; after an absence of over twenty years, I must say that nowhere have I seen such beauty in stone.—A. B. WEIRE, Melbourne.

The finest Statuary I have ever seen.—M. TULLY, Bourke, New South Wales.

Rightly named the Queen City of the South.—JOHN BLAYNEY, Lisanally, Mangalore.

Most wonderful works of art—EDGAR WATKINSON, Hamburg, Germany.

The Statuary is as beautiful as anything of the kind I have seen in London.—HENRY WELCH, Congregational Minister, London.

The best Gardens and Garden Statuary I have seen outside of Europe.—W. FITZ WILLIAM TERRY, *New York Herald*.

Have seen nothing equal to it ; it is exquisite.—HENRY WEBSTER, Yorkshire.

A revelation. God designs, and with His aid man executes.—FRED. T. HOLMES, Launceston, Tasmania.

Delighted with the Statues—E. C. ELLSTON, Queenstown, Tasmania.

Magnificent.—A. ROSENBERY, Broken Hill, New South Wales.

A remarkable conception of highest merit.—H. GRATTAN GUINNESS, M.D., London.

Modesty carries the palm.—BELLE COLLINS, Sydney, New South Wales.

I am delighted with Flowers, Trees, and Lake ; to see them and the exquisite Statuary is a liberal education.—FLORENCE BALGARINE, London, England.

Delighted and amazed with Statuary, Gardens, and indeed everything.—JOHN MCT. EADIE, Bendigo.

A delightful surprise.—ALEX. MARSHALL, D.D., Scots Church, Melbourne.

A beautiful Garden, with the most exquisite and ornamental piece of Statuary in Australia. The presentations of splendid Statues were actions that redound to the credit of the public men and others who made them.—E. W. O'SULLIVAN, Minister of Works, New South Wales.

Ballarat is to be congratulated on its beautiful Statuary, and on the public spirit of a good citizen.—WM. KITHER, Adelaide, South Australia.

" Rich Ballaratian, go thou and do likewise ! "—EDWARD LAURI, London.

Lake Wendouree is of the most attractive of the beauties of Ballarat. As Yuille's swamp it was a reed bed. When the gold-hunting diggers first appeared, the squatter who held the run including the lake area, wanted to charge for the water—but was not allowed. The City council early claimed the lake for the people, at first as a source of water supply ; then as a place for public recreation. In 1864 enthusiasts in rowing cut a lane through the rushes and put their boats on the

lake. Ever since that time the council and public-spirited citizens gave it special attention. In 1869-70 the lake became dry—it was a drought year. When the bed filled again the work of improvement was continued with increased vigor; the lane through the rushes was enlarged; sailing boats were launched, and later, steamers. Each year has seen some advance, until now Ballarat possesses a beautiful pellucid lake of sparkling water, an ideal arena for aquatic pastimes, and one of the most attractive places of public resort in Australia. The illustrations show a yacht race in progress; the scene off View Point; a corner of the lake near the gardens, aptly titled "Fairylake;" and the fountain on the eastern margin. The lake has an area of 650 acres, and a maximum depth of $5\frac{1}{4}$ feet; the walk round the margin is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Fishing is a favorite pastime. Two enthusiastic anglers in 1870 placed a few English perch in Lake Wendouree, and in 1871 some English trout. Carp and tench were tried in 1877, and since then bream, rainbow and Loch Leven trout have been tried, and found to thrive. Angling is permitted in the open season, and no charge is made for the right to fish. The Ballarat Fish Acclimatisation Society breeds trout in ponds and hatchery in the Gardens, and besides regularly replenishing the lake with young fish, supplies trout for various anglers' clubs for stocking other waters.

Oarsmanship on the Lake has furnished to the State rowers who have been a mainstay in interstate races. Victoria has a splendid record of wins in interstate boat races, and is indebted to the oarsmen of Ballarat in no inconsiderable degree for her pre-eminence. Three clubs have commodious houses on the eastern shore of Wendouree, and the crews they send out during the summer season enhance the natural attractiveness of this beautiful sheet of water. The annual regatta affords exceedingly exciting and spectacular events. A close finish of eight eight-oared boats, one of the items of a Ballarat regatta, furnishes a scene which once witnessed is never forgotten. The weekly races and annual regatta of the Yacht Club are also well worth seeing.

The City Oval is freehold property, bought by the Council for the purpose of making an adequate sports ground. It has the best cycling track in Australia, with a circumference of one-third of a mile, banked up to allow of the speediest of trials. The grand stand has seats for 1,500 people,

and the arena is large enough for international cricket, and football. The illustration shows the Oval during the Grand Champion Band Contest of 1903. To this came bands from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania, and the winner was adjudged the champion of Australasia. Tens of thousands of visitors assembled at the Oval during the band contests. This year the visitors include their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Northcote. In no other centre of Australia are band contests held of the scale and importance of these great interstate competitions at the City Oval, Ballarat, conducted by that unique organisation, known over the Commonwealth as the South Street Society. In October in each year the "South Street" Competitions draw thousands of visitors from all the States of the Commonwealth.

"Early morning! The sun rising over thickly-timbered ranges, and shining down with its first red rays on heaps of earth nearly as red—heaps piled up here, there, and everywhere, sometimes red, sometimes a dull slate, sometimes a glassy white—still heaps; some high, some low—but still heaps, and among the heaps, holes. Holes to the right, to the left, and all around—holes on hillocks' sides, holes in gullies running up into the ranges, holes in valleys, holes by the side of muddy creeks—all holes; holes twenty, thirty, forty, seventy, eighty feet deep. And among the holes and heaps white tents, brown tents, and occasionally red tents, dotted here and there, without the slightest order or regularity. Tents on the sides of gullies, tents in valleys, tents on hill-tops, tents all round—nothing but tents, with a few, very few, huts. Through the midst of some of these, winding roads, rutty roads, roads anathematized by many. The domains of Mammon there—the diggings of Ballarat.

"Seen from one of these roads, grouped on the top of a slight eminence, semi-surrounded by a creek, more tents, ranged in order, with a long, low log building, and a smaller building of larger logs—the Government camp this, the stables, and the lock-up. From this group of tents a trumpet blares shrilly. Simultaneously with the trumpet call are heard other noises among the holes, tents, and heaps. Men came out—men dressed in red shirts, blue shirts, brown shirts, corduroy trousers, moleskin trousers, old cloth trousers; but all, shirts and trousers alike, stained and spotted with the offcomings of these red, white, and slate-colored heaps. Knives worn ostentatiously in red sashes,

and here and there a pistol butt peeping out ; rolled up sleeves, bared chests, brawny arms, booted legs, all set in motion towards the heaps and holes, then, from this out till sunset—work.

“ Work among the holes and heaps—hard, plodding, weary, wet, and often wasted work. Work done with wild, eager hearts, and by blistered and fevered hands. Work pursued steadily, with no faltering or flagging, with a fair, forward-looking purpose. Work sending many a man to a sick bed and a grave, but still work never flinched from or deserted. Heaps piled up higher and higher, holes sunk deeper and deeper, garments stained dirtier and dirtier, hands blistered sorer and sorer, brows wet with the sweat of toil, limbs aching with bending and stooping, eyes dazzled with the mingled glare of sun and pipeclay, and yet no slackening. A hearty mid-day meal, rattle of buckets let down by ropes, thud of pick and grating of shovel, rocking of cradles and splashing of water down by the creeks, men wetter, dirtier, and more tired than ever, and yet working on ; holes bottomed, and deserted with a curse, others bottomed and worked at with joy and hope ; men descending on chance into deserted claims, knocking down stuff haphazard, and coming up pale and breathless to tell the expectant mate of the suddenly-discovered wealth that had baffled others. Then sunset. Men plodding home, some despondent, some merry, but all so tired, so wet, and so dirty, that the comparative adjective could not possibly be used. Then fires blazing and blows of axe. More work still—meals to be cooked, pots of water to be boiled, tea to be made ; more work—work even before one can refresh after the toil of the day ; voices heard in tents, holes and heaps deserted. Barking of dogs everywhere, rude scraps of song, and then a dropping fire of gun and pistol. Next, eating and drinking, more singing here and there, and soon quiet and sleep—the sleep of men who sleep only that they may renew toil. The lucid interval of the fever-fit. Not all quiet though—stealthy footsteps near a tent, the barking of a dog, a quickly-fired shot, an oath, the sound of one man hurrying away, the grumbling of others too lazy to follow him. For there are men who, amid all the working of others, keep idle by day to do their work by night. For these men the group of tents on the hill—for these the sabres and carbines sharpened and loaded ; for these the preparation among the tents of gun and pistol ; for these plunder and immunity for a space, and then the log-house on the hill, the irons or the gallows—good if that log-house were used for nothing else. Then late revellers returning home and stumbling over tent ropes with muttered curses.

“ The moon riding high in the heavens now ; the tramp of horses, the clatter of sabres, men cloaked and armed riding along the road—the night patrol passing along to the group of tents on the hill.

“ Perfect quiet now for some hours ; then the chattering of the magpies, the cawing of the crows, the red of the sun coming out over the hills, the blare of the trumpets, the ringing of axes all over again, and the work never ceasing, even as on the day before.”—G. A. WALSTAB (*Ballarat in 1853*).

In the hills to the east of the city are the Water Reserves and the Reservoirs which supply Ballarat—the Gong Gong, Kirk's, Pincott's, Beale's, and Wilson's. A five-mile walk to the Gong Gong is a favorite excursion. The reserves and the stretches of water gleaming through the dark foliage, and the artificial forest surrounding them, afford picturesque views in every direction. The “Gong Gong” and “Kirks” are popular rendezvous for merry-makers in summer-time. Ballarat lies in a lake district. To the north-west, surrounded by magnificent agricultural land, lies Lake Learmonth, thirteen miles away ; and more westerly, eleven miles distant, Burrumbeet, a spacious sheet of water. From Burrumbeet, north and easterly, and southerly to Buninyong, round Ballarat, is a horse-shoe shaped environment of the finest agricultural land on this Island Continent.

The Monument marks the site of the Eureka Stockade, about two miles east from the Post Office ; the only place in Australia where the Queen's soldiers were blooded. The story of the tragedy can never lose its interest. There is association between the spirit of the diggers which caused bloodshed at Eureka and the revolt of the Bostonians from the tea tax, which lost the United States to the Empire. Every digger on the Ballarat goldfield had to pay a license fee of £1 10s. (it was raised to £3 and then lowered to £1 10s. again) per month for leave to dig. The license fee was levied by a Government and Parliament wherein the taxed digger had no representation. The tax was collected with rigor and imperiousness which excited the indignation and resentment of free and enterprising men. Diggers were harried to produce their licenses ; any unlicensed man found on the field was liable to be taken to the police camp and chained to a log. There was peculiar ignominy in being in police custody, because Port Arthur (in Van Dieman's Land) and Botany Bay, at the time, were

festering pest houses of vice and infamy, filled with the worst of England's malefactors, and honest men adventuring their lives in search of fortune could ill brook imprisonment because they were too poor to pay an arbitrarily imposed tax. The flame of discontent was fanned by some revolutionary spirits, with ambitious notions of founding a republic. The objections to the tax became acute, hundreds of the diggers organised for armed resistance. Peter Lalor was their chief. The authorities deemed it wise to crush the insurgents before they became more powerful. At daylight on December 3rd, 1854, a force of infantry, cavalry, and police attacked the stockade—a rough enclosure of slabs, barrows, ropes, overturned drays, etc. Captain Thomas, 40th Regiment, commanded the troops. Volleys were fired, and then the little column charged, and the bayonet and sword ended the affair. It is estimated that forty of the diggers died. Captain Wise of the infantry and four soldiers were killed, and several were wounded. Lalor was wounded and lost an arm. Rewards for the heads of the leaders of the insurgents were offered, but none was claimed. Peter Lalor became subsequently Speaker of the Victorian Assembly. His statue, in bronze, erected by Mr. James Oddie, stands in Sturt Street. Eureka has been called the cradle of constitutional liberty in Australia.

Victoria Park is an area of 323 acres, set aside for public purposes. The trees and avenues are in their early stages of development, but already give promise of much arboreal beauty. Paths provide capital walks and cycling tracks. From the mound of mining debris (left by the extinct Park Company), now known as Mount Hotted-Smith, a very fine view of Ballarat and its southern environs can be obtained.

BALLARAT IN 1853 (explanatory).

The view of Ballarat in 1853 is a photograph of an oil painting by Von Gerard, and presented by Jas. Oddie, Esq., J.P., a pioneer of 1851, to the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, where it can now be seen. The picture has been copied for this book by the permission of Mr. Oddie. Von Gerard's picture is most valuable. The artist saw the Ballarat of the time himself, took numerous sketches then, and painted the picture, at the commission of Mr. Oddie, from his own original sketches. As an authentic view of Ballarat in its canvas days, Von Gerard's picture is unrivalled. The road on the rise on the observer's left hand is over Bakery Hill, and is now known as Victoria Street. To get an idea of the contours the picture depicts, the present-day observer should stand in the enclosure at the School of Mines and look towards the facade of the Eastern Town Hall. He will then look over the flat where the large round tent and most of the other canvas structures stood. The gable end next to the first tree from the left edge of the picture marks as nearly as possible the site of St. Alipius Church. The site of the long, low block building over the left shoulder of the circular tent is now occupied by St. Paul's Church. The line of tents, etc., from left to right gives an idea of the windings of the Main Road as it debouched from what is now the eastern end of Bridge Street, and continued southerly as Plank Road.

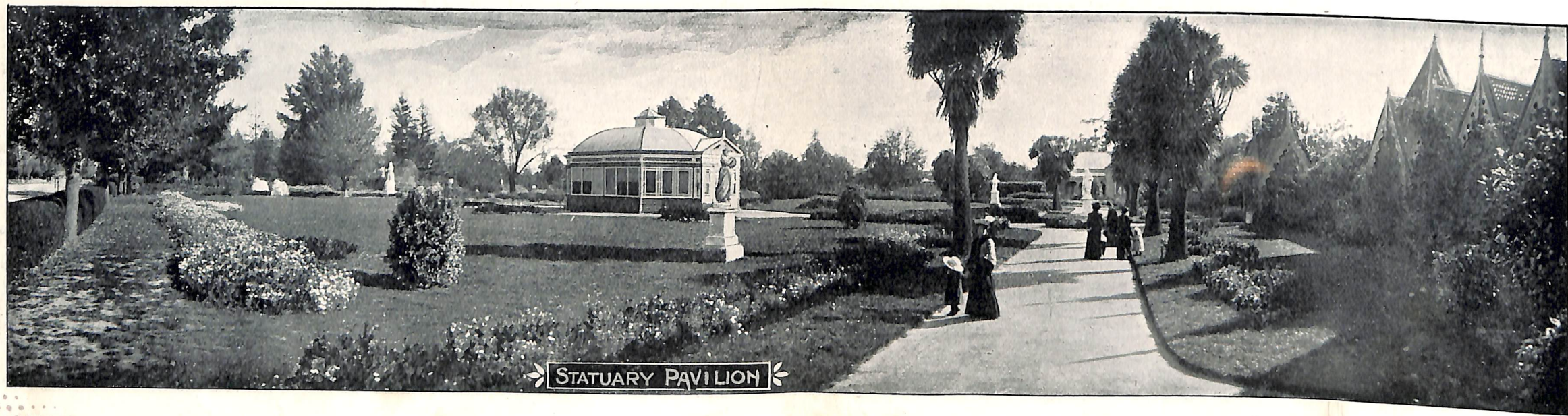


STURT ST. LOOKING WEST

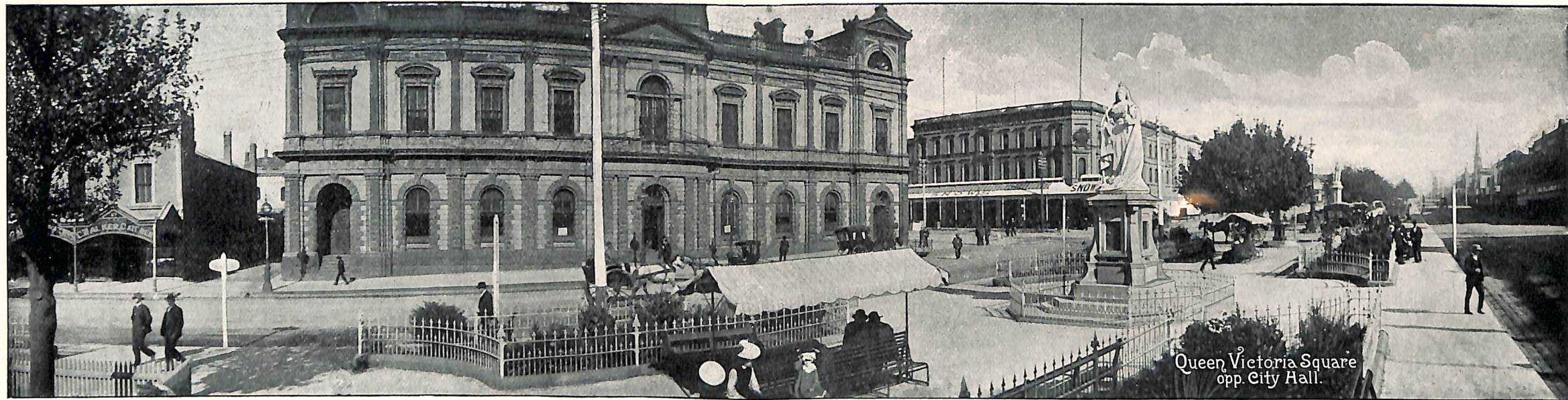


THE LAKE —
EASTERN SHORE





STATUARY PAVILION



Queen Victoria Square
opp. City Hall.



STURT ST FROM G.P.O. TOWER



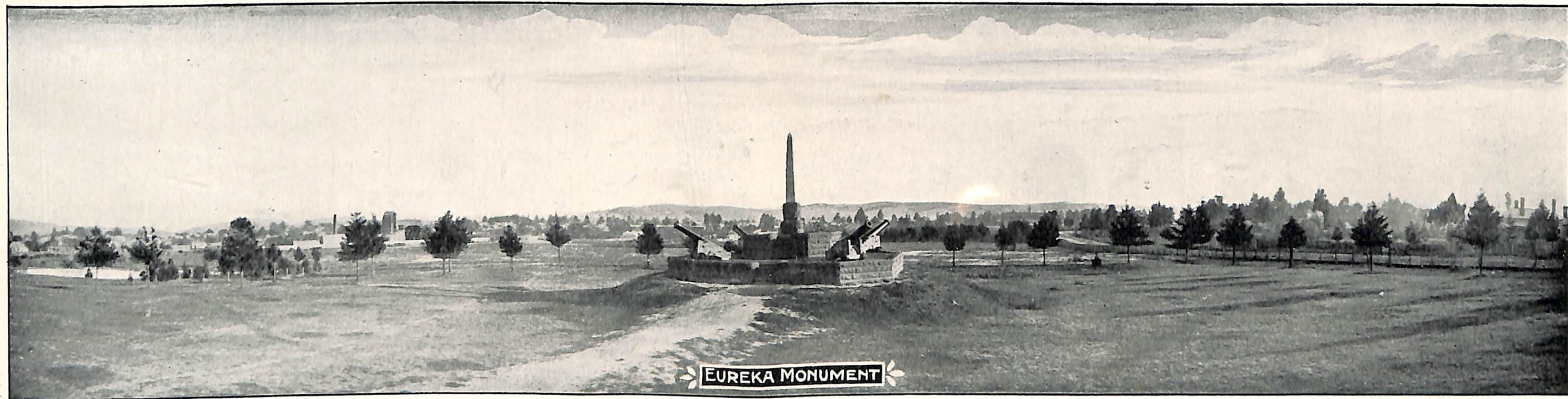
IN THE GARDENS







VIEW FROM CITY HALL TOWER



EUREKA MONUMENT



WALLACE
GENERAL SIR JAMES GORDON WALLACE
OF THE 42ND REGT.
JAMES WALLACE FOUNDATION
ERECTED 1907-1908

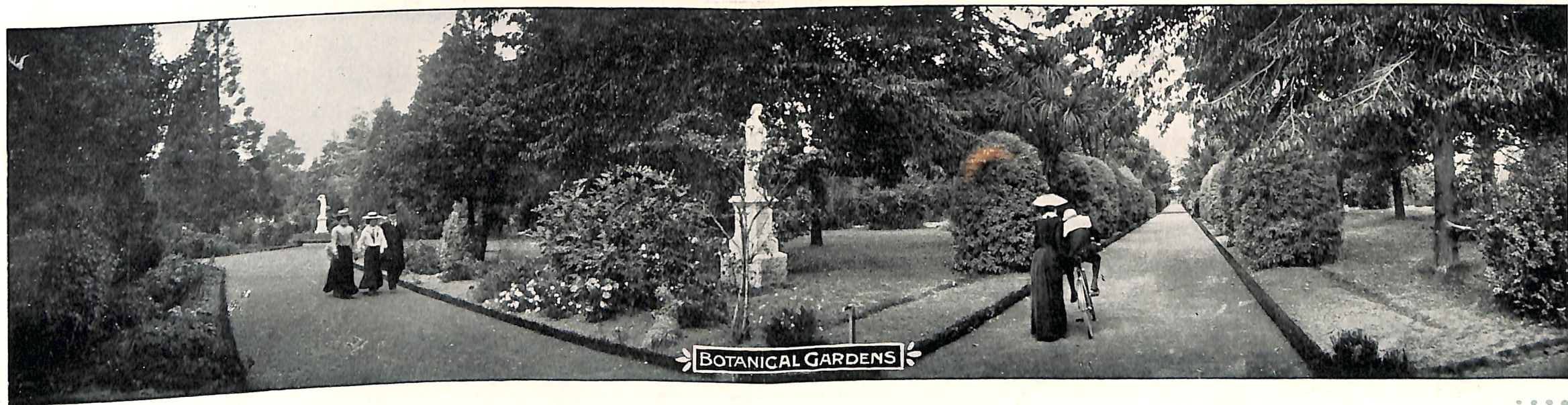


THE FLIGHT FROM POMPEII



BURNS





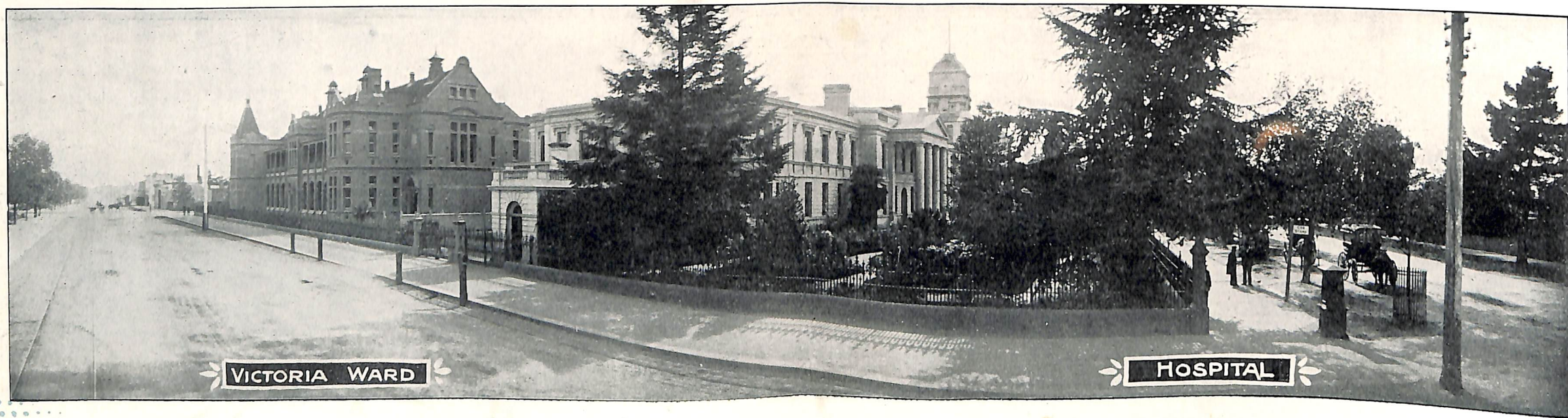
BOTANICAL GARDENS



- LAKE WENDOUREE -

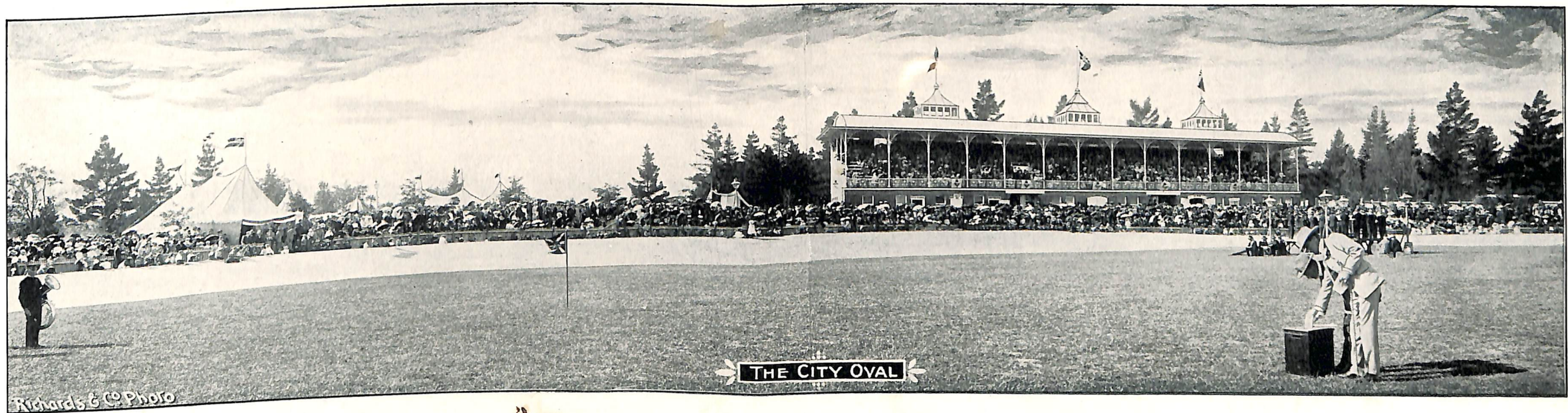


BENEVOLENT ASYLUM



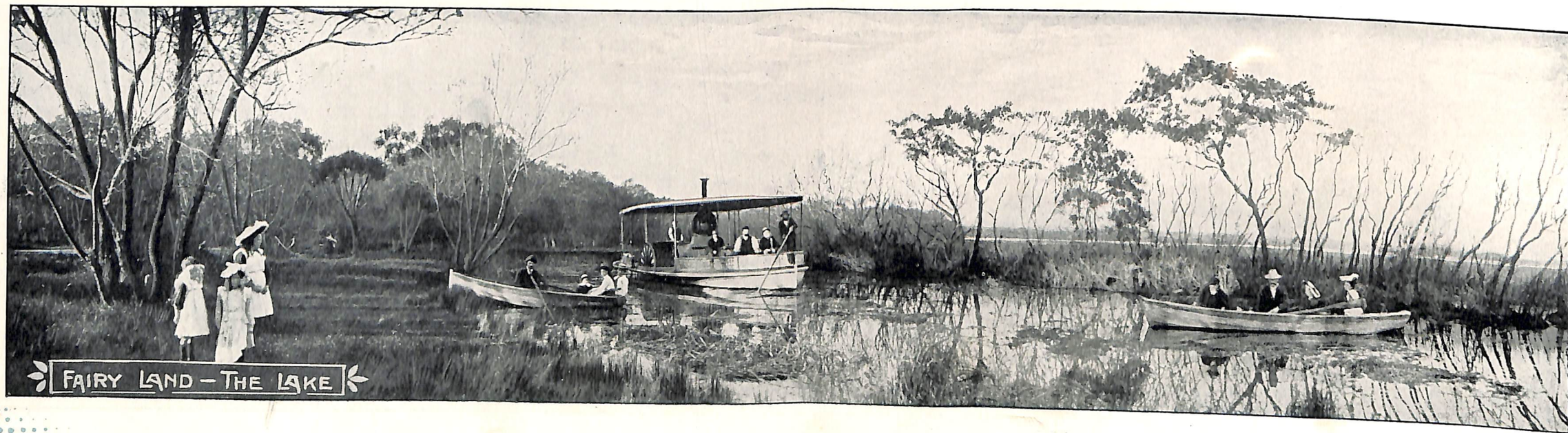
VICTORIA WARD

HOSPITAL

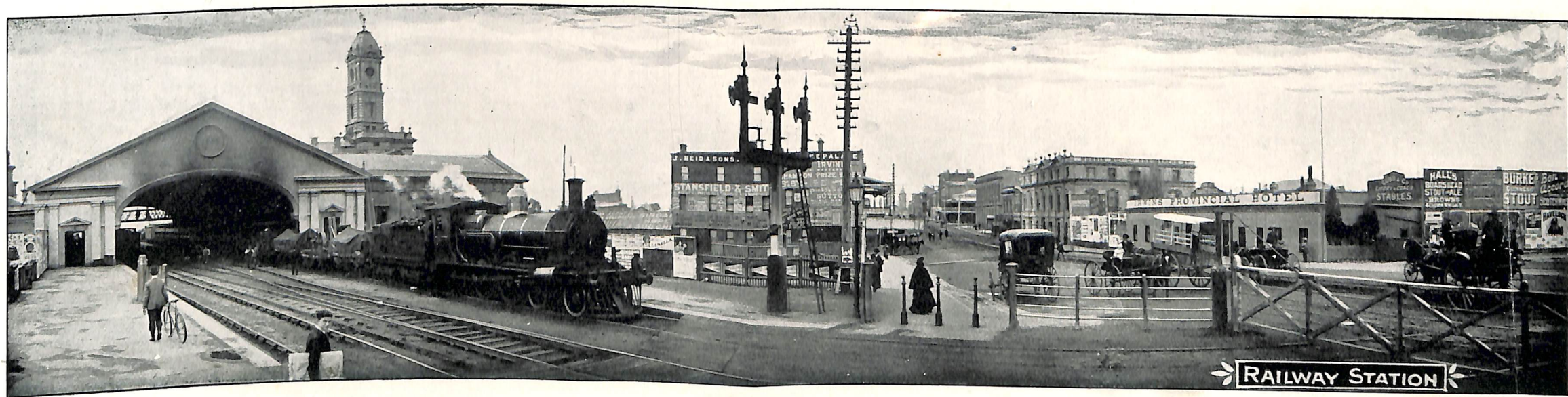


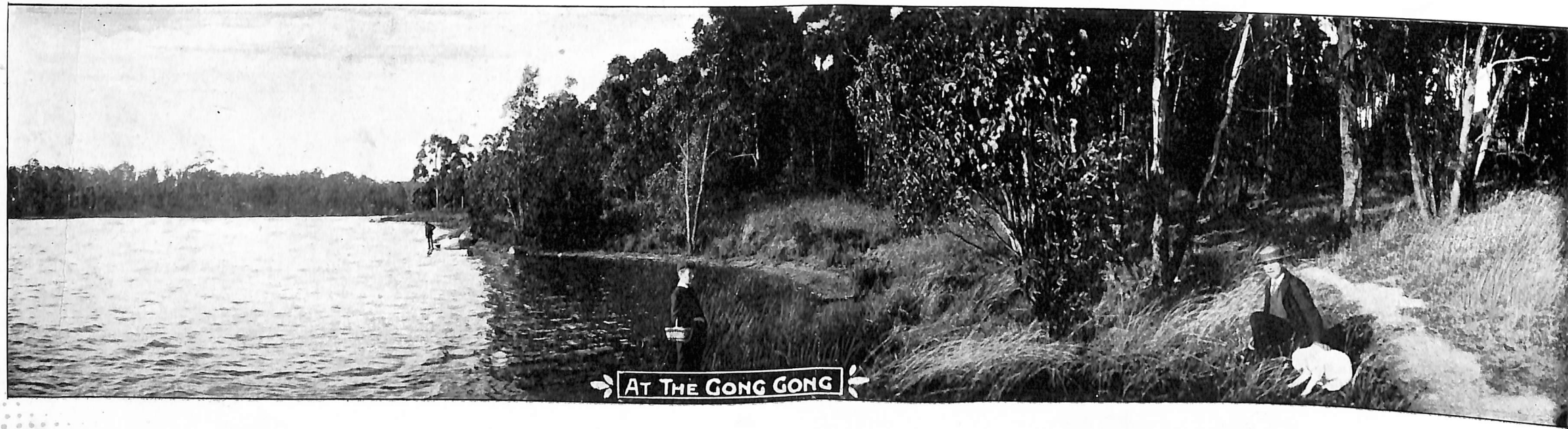
THE CITY OVAL

Richards & Co Photo



FAIRY LAND - THE LAKE





AT THE GONG GONG

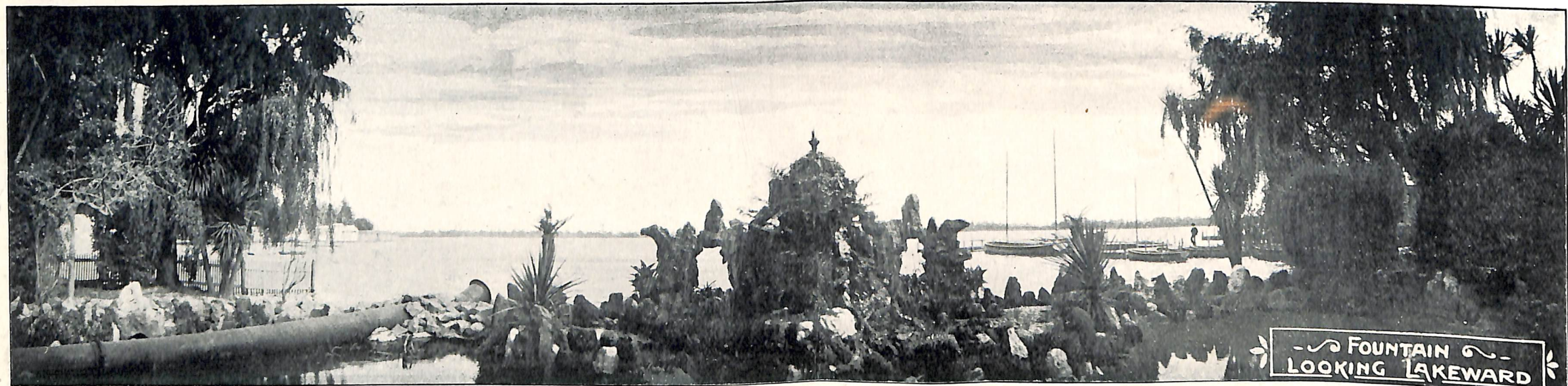




View in Start Street



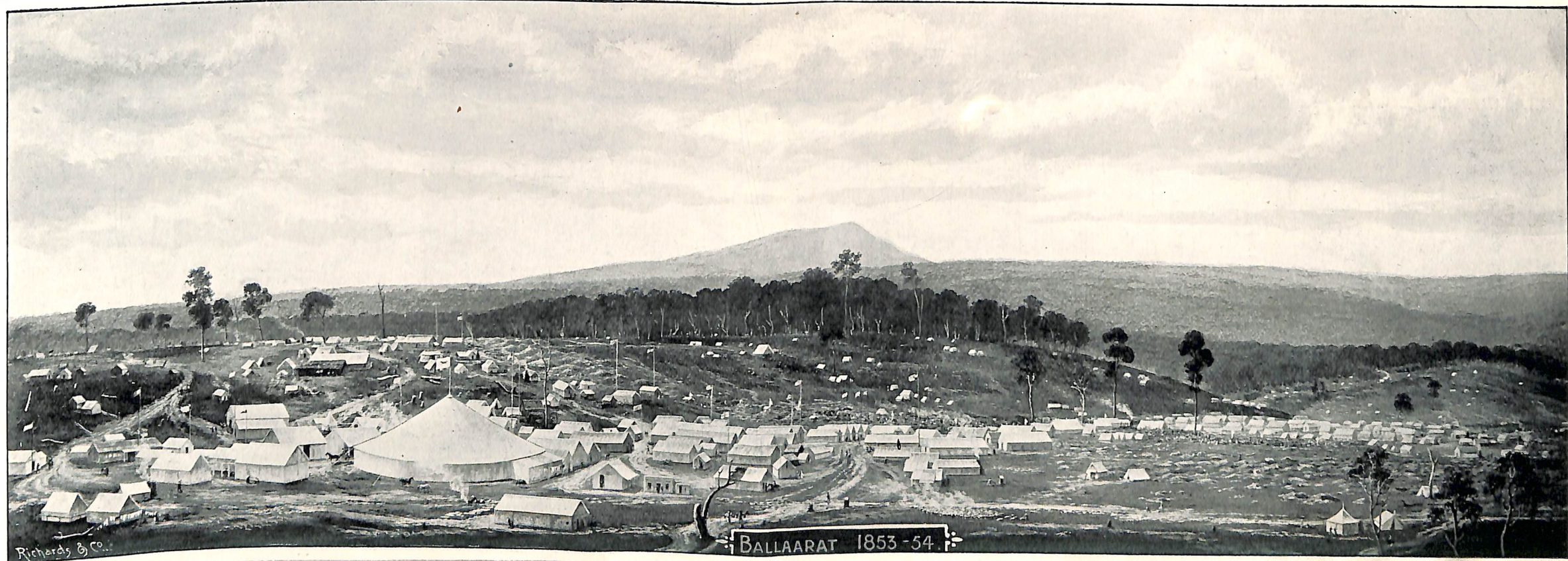
SCHOOL OF MINES & METHODIST CHURCH



- FOUNTAIN -
- LOOKING LAKEWARD -



IN -
KEWARD



Richards & Co.

BALLARAT 1853-54.



OFF VIEW POINT



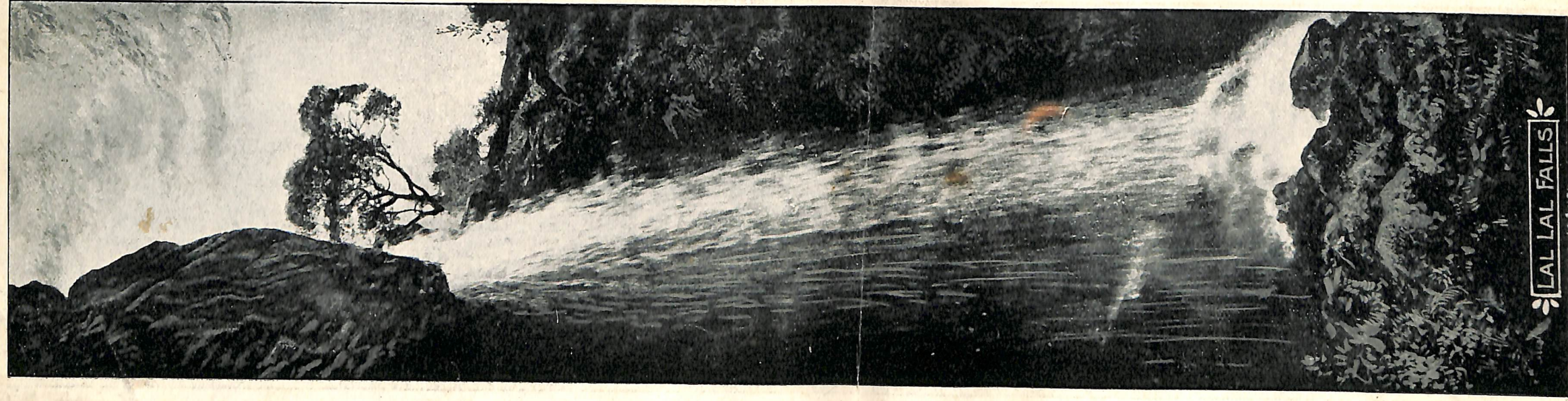
GONG GONG
EMBANKMENT



SHOPPEE SQUARE



SOUTH STAR MINE



LAL LAL FALLS



BAND & LOCH MINE

