

Columbia Park Boys WIN & TRAVEL AUSTRALIA

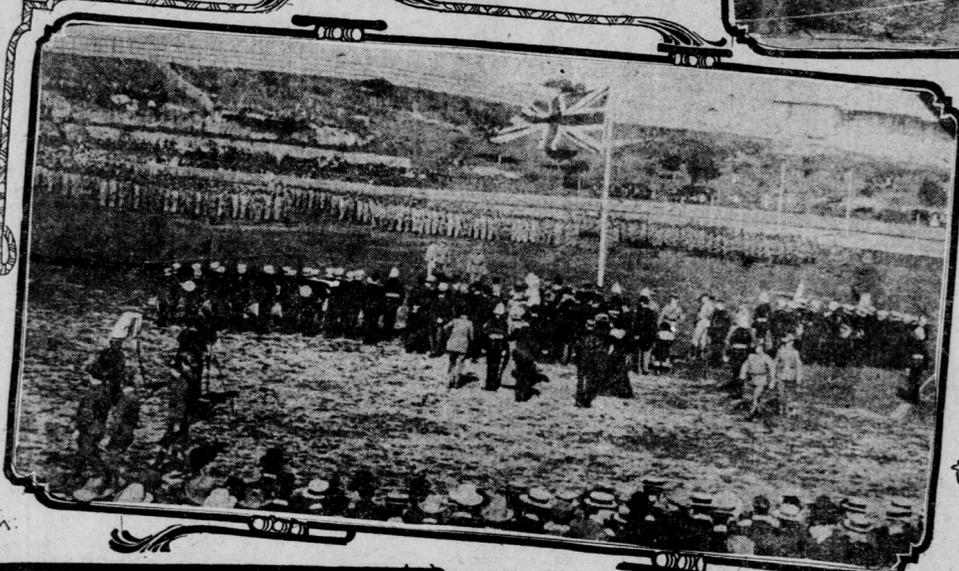
Forty Sturdy Youngsters of the Famous San Francisco Club Will Return This Week From a Triumphant Tour of the Antipodes



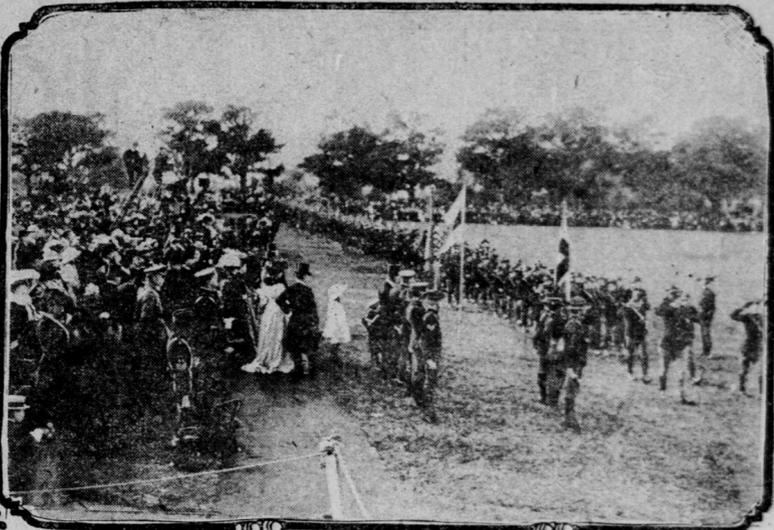
THE BASEBALL TEAMS VICTORIA'S ELEVEN



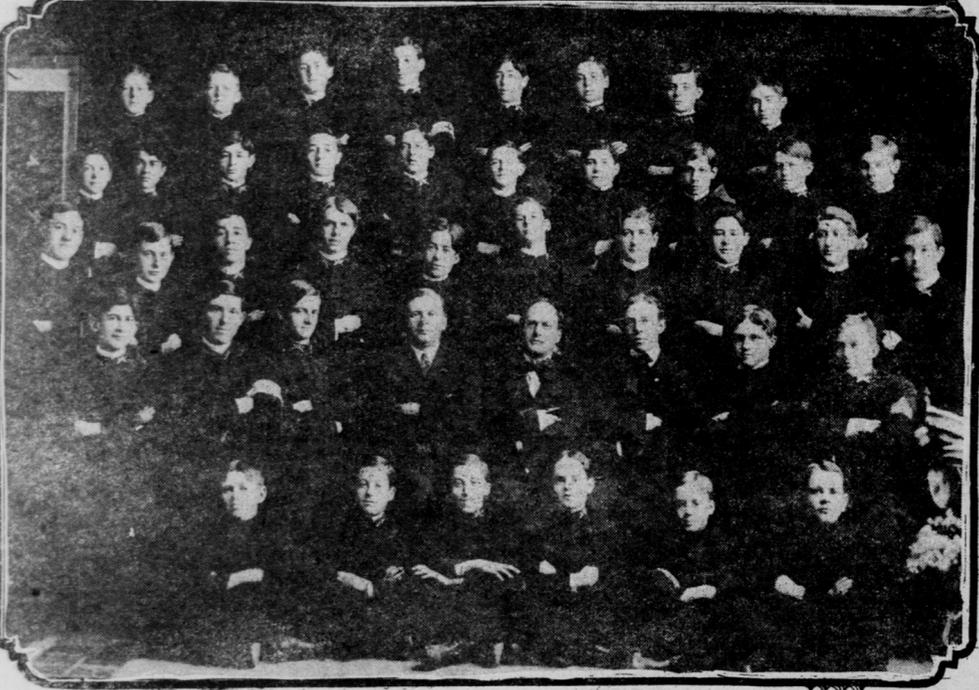
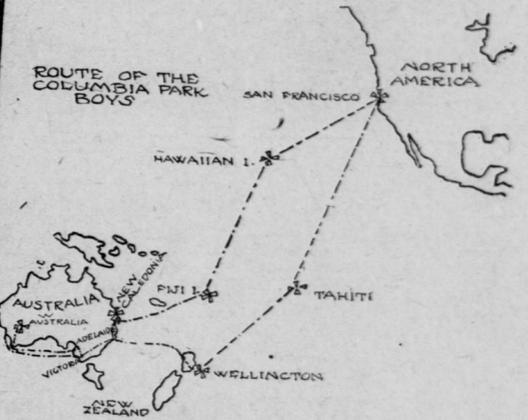
COLUMBIA BOYS TEAM WHICH DEFEATED THEM



JOINT REVIEW OF COLUMBIA PARK BOYS AND AUSTRALIAN CADETS ON FREMANTLE OVAL



REVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN CADETS BY GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES AT TIME OF PRESENTATION OF COMMONWEALTH FLAG TO AMERICAN BOYS (COLUMBIA PARK BOYS CLUB)



MOTOR CAR PARTY OF C. P. B. C. BOYS TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By Clovis A. Farnsworth

THIRTY-NINE sturdy San Francisco lads are returning home on the steamship Alameda Wednesday after a most unusual trip. They are the members of the Columbia Park Boys' club who sailed for the antipodes May 21, 1909, to learn the Australian game of football, to promote a better international feeling between the boys of the two countries, to widen their knowledge and to interest Australia in a return tour of 40 Australian lads to the United States.

The trip has been eminently successful. These alert San Franciscans, recruited chiefly from south of Market street, not only learned the Australian game of football, but won 27 out of the 38 games they played, thus beating the Australians at their own game. The boys were most hospitably received everywhere. The governor of each of the six states in Australia officially received the Columbia Park boys and they are bringing home eleven flags as gifts from as many local governments visited by them. They have also learned much of the ways of the people they visited and have succeeded in interesting the Australians in the proposition of returning the visit. In fact, it has already been decided to send 40 young Australians to the United States in 1911 that they may gain knowledge similar to that acquired by the Columbia Park boys in the course of their record breaking trip.

A remarkable feature of this great trip, embracing many thousands of miles, is that the boys have paid their own way. The transportation item alone amounted to approximately \$14,000, but that sum, as well as the cost of incidental items, has been met by the boys in their entertainments and athletic exhibitions.

Major Sidney S. Peltoote, who was instrumental in the organization of the Columbia Park Boys' club 12 years ago, and who has since been the head worker, evolved the idea of taking the boys on this wonderful trip. He directed the trip, while Garnet Holme, dramatic coach at the University of California, served as business manager. Harvey Loy was the musical director and Mrs. Katherine Angelo was the "mother of the boys," as well as publicity agent when occasion demanded.

It was essentially a trip for the education of the boys. No salaries were paid those who accompanied the boys. The purpose of the trip was not to make money. The results speak for

themselves in branding the jaunt to the antipodes as a great success.

The people of Australia were quick to attach international importance to the visit of the Columbia Park boys to their country. The lads were tendered receptions by the governors of the six states as well as by the mayors of 65 cities which they visited. Particular attention was given by the various foreign officials to a letter of recommendation given by Governor James N. Gillett to Major Peltoote, which was as follows:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA.
Executive Office,
Sacramento, April 30, 1909.
To Whom It May Concern:
The bearer, Major Sidney S. Peltoote, was commissioned major in the national guard of California, April 23, 1903, by virtue of the act of the Legislature, approved February 20, 1872, being military instructor of the Columbia Park boys' club of San Francisco.

The work accomplished in military instruction under the leadership of Major Peltoote is worthy of praise. He not only has given military training to 4,000 city boys, but many of the officers and enlisted men of our national guard have been recruited from the ranks of this excellent boy military work.

Major Peltoote is to be commended for his demonstration to the citizens of this state of the possibility in training the youth to appreciate the highest thing in life, all of which tends to prevent evil and lead to a higher citizenship.

I desire to ask the governors of the Australian states that Major Peltoote be given every facility to study the educational institutions of Australia, and I hereby certify that he carries the credentials of the state of California during his tour. Very respectfully,
J. N. GILLETT,
Governor of California.

(State Seal)
Attest:
C. F. CURRY,
Secretary of State.

No expense was incurred for the entertainment of the boys in Australia. They were taken into the best homes of the commonwealth as guests and thus given an insight into the home life of the people they were visiting. The only trouble experienced along this line was that there were not enough boys to go around. There were often two applications for each boy in the party.

To the credit of the boys it should be said that wherever they were entertained the most cordial invitations were extended for a return visit. The demeanor of these full blooded youths won for them praise wherever they went in the course of their tour.

The greatest publicity was given the young Americans in Australia. Page after page in illustrations and written matter was devoted to the boys by the magazines, while the newspapers gave their columns in each city they visited.

When the boys first arrived in Australia the people feared that the object of the trip was to take good Australian sovereigns out of the country. The entertainments, therefore, were not well patronized at first, but as soon as the boys expressed a willingness to associate with Australian charities they were given good audiences. More

Columbia Park boys' club, which made the trip to Australia. Top row, from left to right—H. Behre, E. Nelson, C. Day, G. Locke, J. Kerrigan, C. Meinart, F. Traschler, H. Fraser. Second row—B. Katz, S. Rosenthal, M. Glaser, George Whir, J. Costello, A. Peterson, J. Caveny, L. Wayne, T. Steffens, C. Nagel. Third row—W. Prang, E. Stern, H. Raphael, H. Meanwell, A. Johnson, E. Ryan, R. O'Connell, P. Webber, A. Truhler, Edward Burke. Fourth row—E. Firestone, F. Cliff, C. Norton, Garnet Holme, Major Sidney S. Peltoote, Harvey Loy, A. Muhelm, L. Wing. Bottom row—E. Griswold, R. Hayes, A. Schmulowitz, E. Hastings, S. Williams, F. Danalis.

than \$4,000 was paid over to the charities of Australia as a result of this action on the part of the boys.

After leaving San Francisco last May the boys landed first at Tahiti. They next stopped at Raratonga, Cook Islands. From there they went to New Zealand. They made a tour of the north island, sailing from Auckland to Sydney. After touring New South Wales they visited Melbourne, the capital. They then set sail for Perth in West Australia, and remained in that state six weeks. The boys returned to Adelaide after touring South Australia and next sailed for Tasmania. Their stay in Australia was extended in order that they might meet 130 west Australian boys, who journeyed about 3,000 miles to Sydney to bid them farewell. From Sydney the boys proceeded to Brisbane, Queensland. On the way home they touched at Suva, Fiji Islands and Honolulu.

Throughout Australia every one vied in extending hospitality to the boys. Fetes were planned in their honor on all sides and no opportunity was overlooked to link the stars and stripes and the flag of the commonwealth on programs for entertainments and receptions attended by the Columbia Park boys. The pupils of the Perth girls' school of west Australia made a commonwealth flag for the boys and wrote their own names in indelible ink on the hem.

The boys were even honored with original poems. Excerpts from a poem entitled "U. S. Stands for Us," by Ellie Weymans of south Australia, dedicated to the boys last November, are as follows:

Brothers, sisters, we clasp your hands,
With fervent love for our great twin lands,
Our new born nations, they lead the world,
And the future shall crown their flags unfurled.
Our hearts beat high with a deathless love,
For the starry flags that are crossed above,
No other nations are linked as we;
No other nations so young, so free.

REFRAIN
U. S. stands for us,
United States—we are more than mates;
U. S. stands for us,
U. S. stands for us.
Yet stronger still than the links we name
Is that rare affinity that we claim,
For none can fully express its power
Save him who gave us that priceless dower,
United we stand. Star flags unfurled,
United we stand for the peace of the world.
For our world wide Anglo-Saxon people,
And man's great brotherhood, crowning grace.

The physical prowess of the sturdy San Francisco boys was demonstrated in the games they played in Australia. Aside from beating the Australians at their own game of football, they won 10 out of 12 games of baseball, in addition to playing 45 exhibition games. In many parts of Australia they found that the national sport of America was unknown. The efforts of the boys to introduce baseball were keenly appreciated. In West Australia, James Caveny, one of the boys, was left behind for a period of three months that he might coach the West Australian boys who are to visit the United States in 1911. The San Franciscans gave 22 exhibition games of basketball, besides playing four games with Australian teams, victory going to the Columbia Park boys in each contest.

One of the most amusing contests participated in was a game of rounders with the state school girls in Launceston, Tasmania. This is an old English game, from which the American game of baseball was derived. Again San Francisco won.

That one of the principal objects of the visit to Australia was to learn the Australian game of football was highly pleasing to the sports of that country, and, as a mark of appreciation, the Australian football council made a gift of \$200 to the boys.

Quite a feature of the jaunt through Australia was the Columbia Park boys' band. The young musicians gave 29 concerts in addition to playing at the athletic contests and before the evening entertainments. Young America showed to his cousin of the commonwealth that he could become a musician while rounding out as an athlete.

That the trip of the Columbia Park boys to Australia was more than a pleasure jaunt was the burden of an editorial in The West Australian of Perth, published August 16, 1909. Following is an extract from the editorial:

The visit of the American boys was one of those enterprises characterized by an equal degree of originality and common sense that are much deserving of recognition. It is not that the specific passage of a group of boys highly the country, which is now happening, is a particularly important thing in itself; it is, in fact, only a kind of extended picnic, but it embodies a great principle and there is great significance behind it. It is peculiarly modern. The growing value of the interchange of visits between people of the different nationalities is being

recognized in England and on the continent, where visits on a large scale are mutually engendered, particularly between Great Britain and France and Germany. A very beneficial effect has been realized. Credulity as to one another's invincible wickedness is not so prevalent among the people now as it was. The more the enlightened white race get mixed up, as in the case of the boys, with the darker races, and the more the restrictions of language and race become, if not effaced at least robbed of their old time grotesque antagonism, the better for the world. "Insularity" is at the root of race hatred and is one of the greatest impediments in the way of intelligent progress and tolerant cosmopolitanism, and it is best to catch your cosmopolitan young and before the ossification of prejudice has set in too strongly. There is enough human about all mankind to guarantee that for a few generations yet there will be quite enough left to give a stimulus to any national back bone that may be needed.

Prejudices of the heart, for or against a given object, are much more obstinate than those of the mind, and the trend of the prejudices of the heart of that section of Uncle Sam's rising generation is indicated by the remarks of one of them that they have been received more like brothers than comrades. This is as it should be. That the exercise of hospitality and the extension of the best of feeling should be taken as a matter of course is an excellent sign. The best side of the visit, and the one with the most permanent and vital effects, is that which will arise through acquaintance with the home life of the Australian people. It will be an education in the practical humanum. There are no people on the planet who would derive greater advantage from understanding one another more and more than those of the United States and Great Britain and the Greater Britain over the sea. Nothing that contributes to that end is unimportant. That was the consideration that gave significance to the visit of the white armada, and it gives a share of significance to the presence of a band of young minds who have come mostly to learn all about how to play Australian football. In what other times but these times could such a thing happen? Sport hath its victories no less renowned than war, and they are a good deal more agreeable.

There are many things humorous, but there is at the same time something characteristically practical in the action of Major Peltoote, president of the Columbia Park boys club, in bringing out his contingent of boys to learn what they know about American football and instruments in introducing a more rational game into American schools. But apart from these considerations, and on the sole ground of sentiment and common human fellowship, the boys of the great republic or our kinsmen deserve the heartiest and most spontaneous of welcomes.

The enthusiastic rooting of the boys when their companions were playing against an Australian team was a revelation to the sports of the commonwealth. The tangled way in which a Sydney paper attempted to reproduce the peculiar rooting terms of the Californians was quite amusing. Here are excerpts from the article on the California-rooter, or "barracker," as he is known there:

"There was no lack of comment and vocal excitement among the boys of the Columbia Park club of San Francisco who were onlookers at the football match played between a team of Australian schoolboys and 18 of the California boys at the Sydney cricket grounds yesterday. One caught an echo of the wild excitement that prevails among the spectators of a great baseball match in the states when the lads

began to take a live interest in the fluctuations of the game.

"The antics of the small boy from California who did something that brought him into the limelight tickled his friends greatly. 'Gee, now, look at that,' said one; 'and he's only as big as a minute.'

"Nagel's playing the game," said another. 'Kah, rah for Nagel!' and the abbreviated hurrahs were chirruped heartily.

"Whir's the best of the bunch; he's a defty coot," was the comment on George Whir's playing.

"Come on, fellows, fight up,' push it up the field,' 'beat it up,' 'give 'em down,' 'get after that guy and mix it,' were some of the running remarks on the play, and the speakers were delighted when their field companions began to score points freely. The lads were evidently keen partisans, and when anything good for their side occurred they broke into a queer chant about an axe, the rapidity of their utterance being remarkable."

The boys who are just returning from this noteworthy trip to the antipodes are as follows:

H. Behre, Edward Burke, J. Caveny, F. Cliff, J. Costello, C. Day, F. Danalis, H. Fraser, E. Firestone, M. Glaser, E. Griswold, R. Hayes, E. Hastings, A. Johnson, B. Katz, J. Kerrigan, G. Locke, H. Meanwell, C. Meinart, A. Muhelm, C. Nagel, E. Nelson, C. Norton, R. O'Connell, A. Peterson, W. Prang, H. Raphael, S. Rosenthal, E. Ryan, A. Schmulowitz, T. Steffens, E. Stern, F. Traschler, A. Truhler, L. Wayne, P. Webber, George Whir, S. Williams and L. Wing.

In making such an extensive tour the Columbia Park boys' club has not only helped to spread the fame of California and the United States abroad, but it has also aroused the liveliest interest in the club itself.

Before the disastrous fire of 1906 the club was located in Seventh street opposite Columbia park. When the fire left that part of the city a mass of ruins the club followed many of its members into the Mission and established temporary headquarters at 45 Guerrero street. The buildings now in use are inadequate and unsuitable. Supported as it is by private subscription the institution is lacking many essentials in its equipment. The great success of the club in educating and training the boys, thus keeping them off the streets and improving their morals, is arousing wide interest. Increased subscriptions would make it possible to erect suitable buildings for the club.

The membership of the club is now restricted to 200 because of the inadequate accommodations. There is a waiting list of 50. The boys are required to take gymnasium work once a week. The regular members must attend gymnasium, club and military, drum or band practice once each week. There is also voluntary chorus work for the boys.

No initiation fees or dues are exacted, the only requisite for membership being full compliance with the rules. It is the aim of the institution to give the boys something that they like rather than what some one thinks in the abstract would be good for them. Club nights are very interesting, tending as they do to broaden the youths intellectually. After a business meeting in which the lads gain an idea of parliamentary law, they spend an hour in manual training. They then produce an impromptu play in which only the plot is outlined for them. Much originality has been shown by them in this dramatic expression. These impromptu performances have been found to be an excellent substitute for debates.

The athletic work is in charge of George A. Schlitter, a member of the playgrounds commission and athletic director of the Public Schools athletic league. He has been physical director of the club for eight years.

"The Columbia Park boys' club is having its effect on all the boys of the city. It tends to make them more self-reliant and to better fit them for life. Boys between 8 and 15 years are accepted as members. At the outset the club was devoted principally to working boys, but in later years it has become essentially a club for schoolboys.

The trip to Australia would hardly have been possible without the excellent training which the boys have received in past years. It has been the custom of the club for several years to take long walking trips in the summer, going either to Eureka or Los Angeles and paying their way by giving entertainments at the towns through which they pass. For those who do not go on the walking trips there are stationary camps. For four years camp was maintained at Carmel-by-the-Sea, but for the last two years camp has been pitched at Cloverdale.

When the 39 Columbia park boys trot down the gangplank Wednesday it will be with a realization that their trip has not been in vain. They may congratulate themselves on the fact that they mastered their teachers in Australian football; that they helped to introduce baseball into the commonwealth and that they have tended to bring about a better feeling between the boys of the two great countries. Their experiences and observations on the trip should be a valuable education for them. When the Australia boys visit this city next year our boys will appreciate the fact that their long cruise is bearing fruit.