

THE GOLD FIND AT COOLGARDIE

17 SEPTEMBER, 1892

THE SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY.

Tomorrow, Saturday 17 September is COOLGARDIE'S DAY - the 68th Anniversary of the registering, at Southern Cross in 1892, by Arthur Bayley, Gilles McPherson in 1893-90; and others to whom a journey out of the magnificent Find of Gold made at the place that came to be called COOLGARDIE.

The Find is regarded as so important that its Anniversary should receive more notice than has been the custom in the past.

Prior to 1892, although GOLD had been found in the Yilgarn, and worked at some small mines, there had been comparatively little movement of so many weeks that they had been given up as lost, - they came back with a few men into the country beyond Southern Cross. The country to the east was hundred-weights of GOLD - QUARTZ stone from ULARRING and THE CALLION that could NO-MANS-LAND.

Certainly LEFROY had, in 1867, come to the GNARLBINE Rocks, and sighted from there the high hill that he named MOUNT BURGESS. While proceeding

to the Mount, the party came to the water-holes (or gnamma - holes) at the

*Broadcast  
Talk - 15 Sept.  
G.R.G.  
at Kalgoorlie*

*J. Spencer - Campbell*

native GULGARDA.

In the next three years - 1864, '65 and '66, Surveyor HUNT carried Speakman, and the clues divulged by McPherson. The two partners spent many weeks in the area, trying things here and there, without success, until they any of these parties ever reported any signs or hints of gold.

However there were some comings and goings by men like Withers and Gilles McPherson in 1889-90; and perhaps a few others to whom a journey out into the unknown country for a hundred miles or so meant very little out of the ordinary. They were hardy, and adventurous!!

In 1890 and '91 the first important Finds on the Murchison took away the best of the Yilgarn prospectors. However James Speakman reported to Golden Valley after having been out in the east country for many weeks - for so many weeks that they had been given up as lost, - they came back with a few hundred-weights of GOLD - QUARTZ stone from ULARRING and THE CALLION that could have been thought attractive and worth-while under other circumstances; but the whole country was so very dry, and travel so difficult. Gilles McPherson had already proved that!.

Early in 1892 the country received some good rains, and the partners

Bayley and Ford were induced to follow up the indications brought to notice by Speakman, and the clues divulged by McPherson. The two partners spent many weeks in the area, trying things here and there, without success; until they came to the locality of GULGARDA. At these water-holes they decided to spend a few weeks 'In looking about'.

The first GOLD was found by Ford - only a small piece - but then Bayley 'specked' gold rather freely on the lower country that came to be called FLY FLAT. In a short time they had got together several hundred ounces; and decided to return to Southern Cross to obtain fresh stores. This was about July. Coming to the township they entered without fuss; went to the Bank (with the gold), got their stores and set out again towards the east and GULGARDA; this time with very good prospects of very great success. But their arrival at Southern Cross, their purposeful pursuit of business, and their subsequent quiet departure - again to the east - had been noticed by several young men of the place - Talbot, Baker and Fosser; who watched the departing men, and decided to follow.

On returning to the Find, Bayley and Ford set to work in some earnest

to prospect their area. In September they were disturbed by the young men who had followed their tracks. The advent of these new-comers was a decided embarrassment, because so far the Find had not been registered, and the Finders had no titles or rights. So "chopping off some gold with a tomahawk" (so it is said) Bayley set off again for Southern Cross to register the claim. On Saturday 17 September he arrived and completed his business with the Registrar, showing magnificent gold specimens - enough to fill two large dishes, and making 554 ounces of gold -. Then, the official business being completed, Southern Cross was allowed to see the wonderful and spectacular specimens - and of course to admire. They found them both rich and attractive!

G. Spencer Compton.

There was an immediate reaction! and just about every male person in the town and round about moved off to prepare without any delay, for their journey to the new place of such promise - "The Gnarlbine Rush" as it was called.

It is related that Warden Finnerty, coming to the water-holes spoke to a native, "What name this gnamma gabbi?", (meaning "what is the name given to this water-hole"); and the native called back "G U L G A R D A". Finnerty said C O O L G A R D I E, and so it became! To become in very quick time almost the

most important town in Western Australia; a Magnet that drew thousands from far distant places in the world to it - in the

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