

The Eureka rebellion

With the miners furious about the licence laws, it did not take much to stir up trouble. The murder of a digger in Ballarat started a chain of events that led to the rebellion at Eureka.

Menu ▲



7 October 1854 Outside Bentley's Eureka Hotel, Ballarat

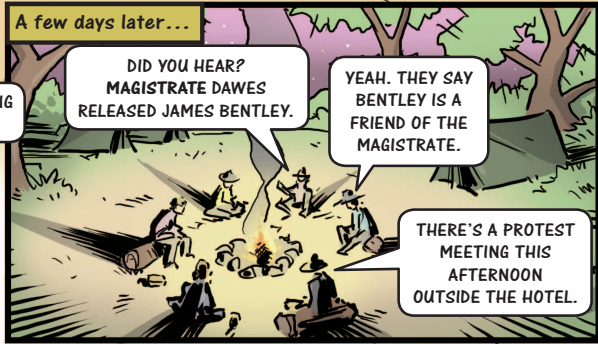
HELP!
JAMES SCOBIE
HAS BEEN
MURDERED!



Everyone suspected that the murderer was James Bentley, the owner of the hotel.

BENTLEY, WE'RE ARRESTING YOU FOR MURDER.

HEY, YOU KNOW ME, BOYS. I'M NO MURDERER.

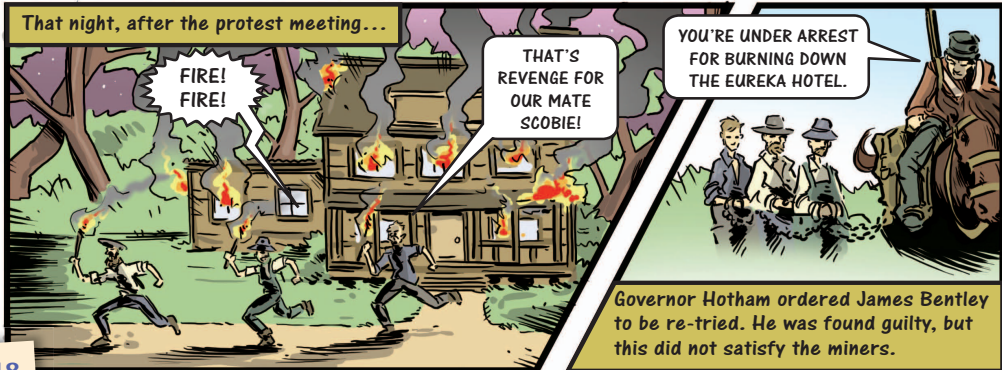


A few days later...

DID YOU HEAR? MAGISTRATE DAWES RELEASED JAMES BENTLEY.

YEAH. THEY SAY BENTLEY IS A FRIEND OF THE MAGISTRATE.

THERE'S A PROTEST MEETING THIS AFTERNOON OUTSIDE THE HOTEL.



That night, after the protest meeting...

FIRE!
FIRE!

THAT'S REVENGE FOR OUR MATE SCOBIE!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR BURNING DOWN THE EUREKA HOTEL.

Governor Hotham ordered James Bentley to be re-tried. He was found guilty, but this did not satisfy the miners.



11 November 1854

The miners formed a new protest group called the Ballarat Reform League. They prepared a list of demands, which was brought to Governor Hotham.

RELEASE THE ARRESTED MINERS!

NO MORE LICENCE FEES!

VOTES FOR DIGGERS!



27 November 1854

Governor Hotham's office, Melbourne

DEMAND?! I CANNOT GRANT THESE REQUESTS!



29 November 1854

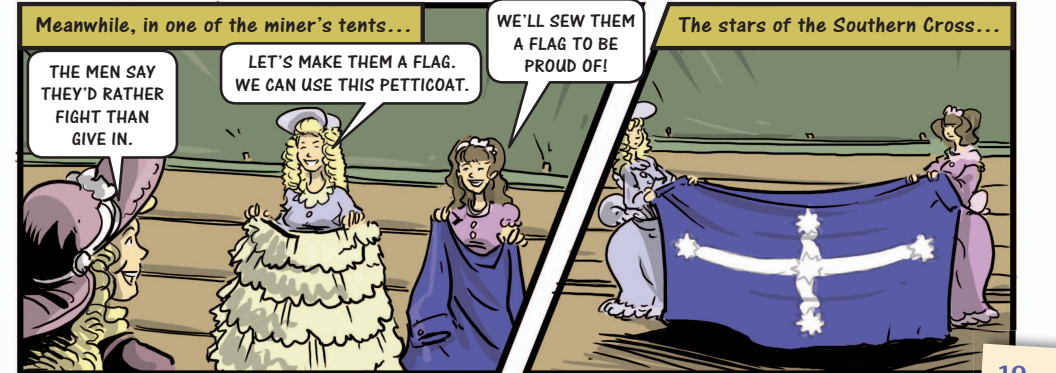
The Ballarat miners were furious. They called a 'Monster Meeting' at Bakery Hill, where 10 000 diggers turned up.

BURN YOUR LICENCES!



JUSTICE FOR MINERS
by Henry Seekamp

THE BALLARAT TIMES
30 November 1854
MONSTER MEETING
90 miners burn licences



Meanwhile, in one of the miner's tents...

THE MEN SAY THEY'D RATHER FIGHT THAN GIVE IN.

LET'S MAKE THEM A FLAG. WE CAN USE THIS PETTICOAT.

WE'LL SEW THEM A FLAG TO BE PROUD OF!

The stars of the Southern Cross...