**Poisons for Vermin**

**Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW: 1859 - 1889), Saturday 25 March 1876, page 3**

SALE OF POISONS.

Mr. Docker has introduced into the Legislative Council a bill to regulate the sale and use of poison. The 2nd clause provides that before arsenic or strychnine is delivered to a purchaser, the vendor shall ascertain the purchaser's name, place of abode, and occupation, and enter the same in a book kept for the purpose. Clause 3 restricts the sale of poisons to persons above the age of 18 years; and clause 4 provides that poisons required for the destruction of vermin shall he sold to householders only. The 5th clause makes it compulsory on vendors of arsenic or strychnine to colour the same before selling. The provisions of the bill do not, however, apply to duly qualified medical practitioners or wholesale dealers in medicines. The following substances are to be deemed "poisonous" under the Bill: - Arsenic and its preparations, prussic acid, cyanides of potassium and metallic cyanides, strychnine and all poisonous vegetable alkaloids and their salts, aconite and its preparations, tartar emetic, corrosive sublimate, cantharides, savin and its oil, ergot of rye and its preparations, oxalic acid, chloroform, clorodyne, belladonna and its preparations, essential oil of almonds unless deprived of its prussic acid, opium and all preparations of opium and poppies. lt is also provided that poisons are to be sold only to persons known to the vendors; and owners of poisons are not to leave them about unlabelled, under a penalty not exceeding £100 nor less than £10.

**Sydney Punch (NSW: 1864 - 1888), Saturday 13 October 1877, page 3**

A Wail from a Queensland Wool Grower.

"In 12 months I paid for killing 50,000 marsupials. I calculate 20,000 over and above this number were wounded and died in the scrubs: this would make 70,000 say 30,000 of these were does young in the pouch, and you have 100,000 of the vermin destroyed at a cost of £1.000. I am a thorough believer in a government measure being passed for their destruction." — Correspondent, *Rockhampton Bulletin*.

Don't talk about Bulgaria,

Where, just for conscience sake,

The Christian coves gets baked in stoves,

Or spitted on a stake.

Don't talk about atrocities,

Turks, Russians, or Hindoos,

When here's a Christian colony

Eat up by kangaroos.

I had a thriving homestead once,

And sheep and cattle too,

Which bore my brand; I'd miles of land

Where green the grasses grew.

But now, a sand hill, ridge, or flat,

(Darn my colonial shoes)

There ain't a blade — confound them cussed

Marsupial kangaroos !

I've tried most things; I've poisoned springs ;

I've hunted, trapped, and shot;

I've lived for months on kangaroos,

Roast, boiled, baked, cold and hot.

Some folks sing out because a drought

Makes mutton of their lambs;

And when their water-holes give out

They cusses and they damns.

And others, when in church they sits,

On Sundays, in their pews,

Pray hard for rain, — I prays for help

Against the kangaroos.

If Parliament don't interfere,

I am a ruined man;

Perhaps that English engineer

Might hit upon a plan.

To drown 'em — blow 'em in the air,

Or somehow cook their gooze;

You hain't no sort o' notion how

I hates them kangaroos.

**Burrangong Argus (NSW: 1865 - 1913), Saturday 1 March 1879, page 4**

A CORRESPONDENT, “Warrigal,” furnishes the Queenslander with a scheme, tested he assures us by practical experience, for the destruction of marsupials, wallabies and paddymelons being the foes chiefly aimed at.

He says: - Take four hurdles, knock out the bottom bars, and tie them together firmly in square form. Set them up about 150 yards from the edge of any scrub frequented by our enemy, the marsupial. Put inside of pen so constructed a lump of rock salt, laying it on a few sticks and a piece of bark, and leave the whole affair for three weeks or a month, visiting it seldom, and never touching either hurdle or salt. Any gamekeeper or ratcatcher knows that bait, gin, or trap should be handled as little as possible. When the wallabies have found out the salt they will very soon come in under the hurdles and lick it. Confidence having been established, probably in about three weeks, take a mean advantage of your marsupial enemies by powdering a little strychnine, and scattering it over the salt; plenty of the vermin will be found every morning for some days in the vicinity of this contrivance. After a few days alter the locale of your hurdles, salt., &c., marsupials being very knowing animals (vide Brunton Stephens), and repeat previous treatment. I do not think that wallabies or paddymelons ever go far into scrubs, perhaps not more than a few hundred yards. Poisoned water in troughs, though a dangerous means to use, is very fatal to small vermin.”

**Riverine Grazier (Hay, NSW: 1873 - 1954), Wednesday 5 August 1885, page 2**

POISON FOR BUSH VERMIN,

There is nothing that so much annoys the selector, who settles down in the midst of uncleared land as to find his first season's work in the field and garden destroyed by bush vermin. The trouble is so universal that many methods more or less successful must have been adopted to combat the evil. We shall be glad to give space for any information upon the subject if settlers will only take the trouble to send in their experience. A farmer writing upon the subject gives his method of poisoning, and says it has been fairly successful. The following is his recipe: — “Pound up some strychnine very fine and mix it thoroughly with bran and pollard: then add water sufficient to mako it into a stiff paste, and put round the paddock, upon pieces of bark, taking care to keep the poultry off it. Kangaroo rats like dry flour boat. Put down some cobs of corn or other bait for a few days previous to laying out the poison, and the result will be that many animals will be killed.

**Bathurst Post (NSW: 1881 - 1922), Monday 15 January 1894, page 4**

Destroying Noxious Animals.

POISONING KANGAROO RATS AND BANDICOOTS.

Inquiries having been made of the Department of Agriculture concerning the best method of exterminating the smaller noxious animals and birds, information has been supplied and disseminated. From Mr. S. G. Smith, local Inspector of Stock, we have received the following prescription of a death-dealing dose: — “For poisoning kangaroo rats, bandicoots, and other such vermin, strychnine may be dissolved as follows in boiling vinegar, in which grain could be dissolved and then dried: Mix a quarter of an ounce of strychnine with every quart of vinegar. Place sufficient grain in the mixture to soak it up; then spread out to dry. Or the solution prepared as above could be made into paste with flour and put into revolving drums, together with the grain. (Maize preferred). By this means the grain would be impregnated with strychnine, or would be coated with a dough containing strychnine. Care must be exercised to prevent other animals or fowls taking this and any vessel in which it is kept should be labelled poison and destroyed when done with. The poison would be useful in destroying sparrows during the winter months or when feed is scarce, oats or hemp being used instead of maize.”