The Song Of The City Stockman

Published in the Sydney Mail September 1910 and signed by "6 x 8"; Tune David Johnson 2015



We are still handling horses and cattle, It is true, in the old western way. But, Lord, what a different battle, For very near six times the pay! For we yard in the heart of the city, Near pubs and the choicest of scran; Old "milkers" we can't help but pity, For a biograph picture man.

No more through the Mulga and Gidgee, We gallop the leaders to check No more 'cross the plains, and the ridgy Hill country we're risking our neck! We're actors, in white shirts and collar, And shiny top boots, spick and span, And we crack our stock whips, and holler For a biograph picture man.

No night watches now, and no soaking When the skin drenching rain starts to fall And you shiver and list' to the croaking Of frogs, and the curlews' shrill call. We're swells now, and city street rovers, And camp with the white-handed clan We're high-class Centennial Park drovers For a biograph picture man.

We have done with the breaking of fillies And colts, near related to Nick, On the stations outback, where the will is Oft stronger than power to stick! In front of the camera's "blinkers," In a pub-yard the size of a pan, We are breaking-in horses with winkers! For a biograph picture man.

It's a life full of ease and of leisure, And liquor, and blue eyes and brown, Yet at times we get weary of pleasure And the hustle and bustle of town; And we sit down and pine like a tracker For the bush and the black billy can, And wish we had done with the yakker For the biograph picture man.