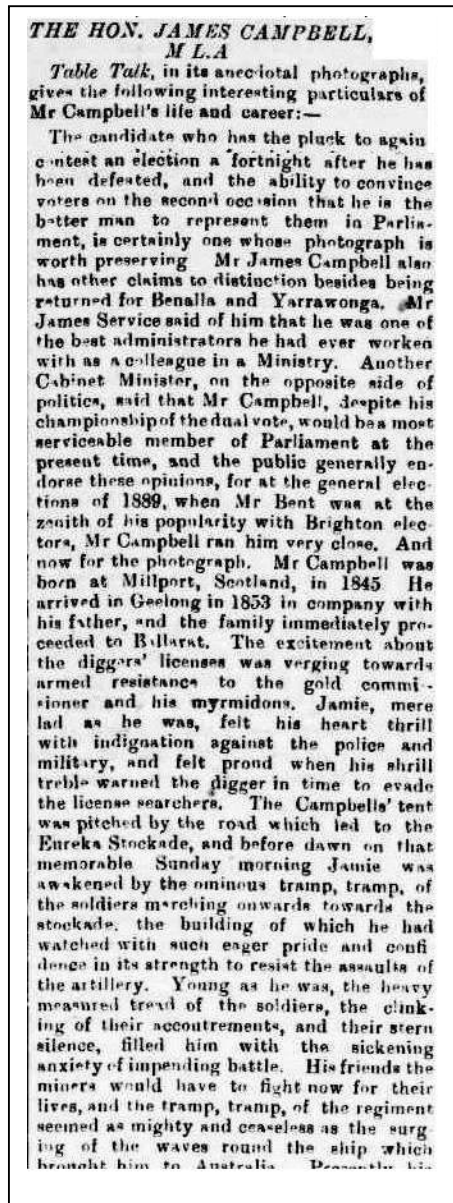


**THE HON. JAMES CAMPBELL, MLA**

Table Talk, in its anecdotal photographs, gives the following interesting particulars of Mr Campbell's life and career: —

The candidate who has the pluck to again contest an election a fortnight after he has been defeated, and the ability to convince voters on the second occasion that he is the better man to represent them in Parliament, is certainly one whose photograph is worth preserving. Mr James Campbell also has other claims to distinction besides being returned for Benalla and Yarrawonga. Mr James Service<sup>1</sup> said of him that he was one of the best administrators he had ever worked with as a colleague in a Ministry. Another Cabinet Minister, on the opposite side of politics, said that Mr



Campbell, despite his championship of the dual vote, would be the most serviceable member of Parliament at the present time, and the public generally endorse these opinions, for at the general elections of 1889, when Mr Bent<sup>2</sup> was at the zenith of his popularity with Brighton electors, Mr Campbell ran him very close. And now for the photograph. Mr Campbell was born at Millport, Scotland, in 1845. He arrived in Geelong in 1853 in company with his father, and the family immediately proceeded to Ballarat. The excitement about the diggers' licenses was verging towards armed resistance to the gold commissioner and his myrmidons. Jamie, mere lad as he was, felt his heart thrill with indignation against the police and military, and felt proud when his shrill treble warned the digger in time to evade the license searchers. The Campbells' tent was pitched by the road which led to the Eureka Stockade, and before dawn on that memorable Sunday morning Jamie was awakened by the ominous tramp, tramp, of the soldiers marching onwards towards the stockade, the building of which he had watched with such eager pride and confidence in its strength to resist the assaults of the artillery. Young as he was, the heavy measured tread of the soldiers, the clinking of their accoutrements, and their stern silence, filled him with the sickening anxiety of impending battle. His friends the miners would have to fight now for their lives, and the tramp, tramp, of the regiment seemed as mighty and ceaseless as the surging of the waves round the ship which brought him to Australia. Presently his heart leaped in his mouth as he heard the sharp roar of musketry and the hailstone rattle of the answering shots from the stockade. The firing ceased, and the boy crept out of the tent to see what was going on. In company with another lad, he made towards the stockade, now battered and

apparently deserted, for the soldiers had passed on in pursuit of the flying insurgents. Young

<sup>1</sup> James Service, 12<sup>th</sup> Premier of Victoria

<sup>2</sup> Later Sir Thomas Bent, 22<sup>nd</sup> Premier of Victoria

Campbell and his companion were the first boys to climb the stockade, and they, were horrified to see men lying about, dead or dying. The boy's father had taken no part in the rioting, and stuck steadily to his business as a machinery manufacturer, which trade was rapidly prospering. A few months after his eighteenth birthday James Campbell's father died, from injuries received while doing his duty as captain of the fire brigade, and he had to undertake the management of the factory. For 31 years he resided in Ballarat, retiring from business in 1878 on a competency thoroughly well earned. Mr Campbell married in 1867, but at that time he was so nervous about appearing in public that he persuaded his betrothed to attend the church at 8 o'clock in the morning, so that the wedding breakfast was over and the happy pair had left on their honeymoon before the good folk of Ballarat were aware that the young master of the mining machinery factory intended making a Benedict of himself. Mr Campbell has a family of eight children, but unlike many other men who marry young, he has never felt oppressed by family cares or felt his domestic duties to be a drag upon his public career. Mr Campbell is one of the Ballarat Pioneers. He has seen that city glow from a diggers' camp to a thriving town, and has watched the rebuilding into its present handsome appearance. He has seen neighbouring towns spring up, flourish, and die away as gold became worked out. But during all that time he led such a busy life that the changes came almost unnoticed, and no incidents have impressed themselves markedly on his memory.

By 1870 Mt Campbell was sufficiently prosperous to put into execution his long-considered project of going to Europe. He visited England, travelled all over the continent, from Moscow to Rome. In 1873 he returned to Europe to study, and then resided at Lausanne in Switzerland, and Dresden in Germany, spending altogether about three years in learning French and German, and acquiring n knowledge of political economy. He returned to Ballarat, and in 1877 he contested that constituency. The fight between Berry<sup>3</sup> and McCulloch<sup>4</sup> was at its height, and Mr Campbell sided with the McCulloch party, though by no means a blind partisan of his Ministry. The result was that Mr Campbell was defeated by 100 votes in a poll of over 1900. His friends to this day declare that they would have returned him at the head of the poll if he would only have been neutral, but Mr Campbell was too strict a disciplinarian to run as a free-lance. The consequence was that five years elapsed before he was elected unopposed to the Legislative Council in 1882, for the Wellington Province. A few months later he was appointed Postmaster-General in the Service-Berry Government, which portfolio he held until the coalition was dissolved in 1886, and the Cabinet reconstructed under the leadership of Messrs Gillies<sup>5</sup> and Donkin. During his tenure of office, Mr Campbell introduced many useful reforms in the administration, besides organising the service of sixpenny telegrams. He also laid before the Cabinet a scheme for penny postage, a parcel post, and the reorganisations necessary for joining the Postal Union and establishing an intercolonial Postal Union. Asked about the relations between a Minister and the head officers of his department, Mr Campbell says that his experience was that the officers of the department as a body, were zealous in carrying out the proposals of the Minister, and took a strong interest in their work, always ready, when asked, to make suggestions nr to work out sketch plans of alterations proposed. Like every large business, however, some officials were slow to move, and disposed to think that the ways they were accustomed to could not be improved. "A Minister," says Mr Campbell, "has to work a great deal harder for his department than the head of any well-organised firm. The business is so varied, and questions of policy so often complicate matters which otherwise could be promptly settled, that a Minister has to regulate his actions with the deep consideration of a chess player if the result is to be satisfactory."

(To be continued)

---

<sup>3</sup> Sir Graham Berry, the 11<sup>th</sup> Premier of Victoria

<sup>4</sup> Sir James McCulloch, the 5<sup>th</sup> Premier of Victoria

<sup>5</sup> Duncan Gillies, 14<sup>th</sup> Premier of Victoria