

## KITE FLYING SEASON

### PASTIME IS NOW POPULAR WITH BROKEN HILL BOYS

The kite season is here and hundreds of boys, and girls as well, are kite flying in Broken Hill in common with thousands of lovers of the same pastime in other parts of Australia. The kite season is always ushered in in some unaccountable way—somebody starts the craze and hundreds take it up. It is doubtful if so many kite fliers have been in evidence in Broken Hill for years as is the case at present. For the past few weeks wherever one looks, particularly in the suburbs, the sky is dotted with kites. The kites being flown this year are something more elaborate than usual. The small boy has given up the idea of making his own, and a special kite sold in nearly every shop is in great demand. It is offered for a trifling amount and with the purchase of string to suit it kite fliers are fitted out cheaply and without any worry. As is the case in other parts kites are constantly "bolting" with the result that they become entangled in telephone and electric wires. There they are allowed to dangle. Residents of North Broken Hill one night last week were surprised to see a strange light in the sky above the Proprietary Company's dam in Lane-street. Inquiries showed that a boy had attached a lighted pocket torch to his kite which was flying.

Kites were flown by boys and men in Rome in the fourth century B.C. They were probably flown earlier than that in Persia, India and China. And the Maori flew kites long before white men discovered New Zealand. So did the Samoans. In India, where it is an adult pastime and brought to a high degree of skill, there is an Oriental subtlety about

there is an Oriental subtlety about the flying of kites. Indian kites are almost square and are painted in gaudy colors — diamonds, diagonals, chessboard, halves and quarters. The lines, which are plied out to an altitude of 800ft. are covered with glue and fine powdered glass. It cuts like a razor, and is controlled on a reel like a fisherman's reel, only bigger. They can be made to fly against the wind, as in yachting, to zoom up and overhead, and as much as 20 degrees behind where the line is held. They can be made to dive and loop the loop. The idea of the glass lines is to get the line across three or four others, and then by a sharp dive or movement, to cut them all. The more kites brought down in the day the greater the success.