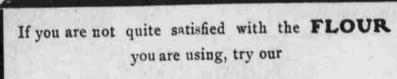
THE MORNING ASTORIAN, ASTORIA, OREGON.

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1908.



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THE BLACK TRACKERS

Wonderful Keenness of These Natives of Australia.

USED TO TRACK CRIMINALS.

Fleeing From Justice.

A criminal in Australia knows that his chances for escape are nearly hopeless if a "tracker" is put upon his trail within a day after the crime is discovered. A "tracker" is a native black man having a natural instinct for running down criminals fleeing from justice. These men are veritable bloodhounds, and their strange power is possessed by no other race in the world.

So implicit is the confidence felt in them by the police that when a black starts out upon a man hunt the officer who goes with him merely follows in his wake. He does not question him or in any way interfere with him, but, leading his own horse, allows the guide to go in whatever direction he pleases, the river, but where had he gone after no matter how apparently reasonless his course may seem.

The most successful trackers are in Queensland, near the edge of New South Wales. They will travel any distance, animated by no feeling of hatred for their quarry, but only desirous of proving their expertness. The reward they ask is absurdly small for the long and difficult trails. A few shillings or some cheap bracelets, rings, and so on, quite satisfy them. They have no idea of the value of money. Rum is their great weakness. Once a tracker was employed to locate some valuable trees for a timber man. He had to travel some forty miles through a forest so dense that it was necessary to cut his way through with his tomahawk. All he asked for irunks too smooth to climb. This he Astorian office. was a bottle of rum, while the timber | threw about the tree and began to merchant derived over £2,000 from the scend it. The others looked on in assale of the trees The following description of a man hunt will convey a clear idea of the dangers and hardships to be endured: In this particular case the tracker was a splendid specimen of manhood. had sprung up on either side. The usual loin garments of kangaroo skin he had exchanged for a light covering of cotton cloth provided by the half dead tree trunk, the tracker seized police. He led a horse, so as to make time in the open country districts where the runaway's footsteps could be seen from a horse. The hunt was very earnest, because the fugitive had stolen some cattle. In Australia the crime of cattle stealing is most severely dealt with and considered a serious offense.

have been impossible to find the way out of them alone, but such is the confidence in that country in the faithfulness and ability of a tracker. He now crawled for the greater part on his hands and knees, minutely examining twigs and branches for signs of a freshly broken passageway for the fugitive. He was about ten feet ahead of the others when he gave a subdued ex-

clamation of delight.

"I catch white feller quick!" he said "Sahih and pointed to a scrap of cloth clinging insisted. These Men Are Veritable Bloodhounds to a broken twig. Four hours more and Have a Natural Instinct For and a river was reached. There in the Running Down Desperadoes Who Are damp earth of the bank two footprints were plainly seen.

The tracker leaped into the river and struck out for the opposite side. Emerging upon the other bank, he ran, dripping, for twenty feet or so, following footprints that had again stopped at the water's edge.

Then the trailer paused. He was plainly puzzled. What had become of river or swam down as far as he could and landed on either bank, then struck

into the woods again? After sharply examining the ground the troubled guide swam back and landed a few yards below his party. By his actions they saw that he had found the tracks again. The criminal had indeed crossed that?

ing the leaves and twigs between him and the other two men until he reached them. They were sitting beneath a huge encalyptus tree.

"White feller no fool black feller!" he said, smiling, wet and breathless. walking backward. Strange to relate, these tracks terminated under the very free where the party were seated. But apparently the man hunt was finished. The game had vanished into space! The tracker dashed into a thicket and hastily secured a strong, pliable vine, used by the natives to scale tree onishment. Up went the black until

mick

"Oh, I don't mind. I'll walt." At the end of the day there was the trader.

"I want to show sahib this beautiful ing.

"I don't want any ring," insisted 'sahib." "Go!"

"But, subib, I sell this ring ver, cheap.' "I tell you I don't want it!"

"I wait, hazor (highness). If sahi only see the ring he will buy."

The next morning he was seated about 100 yards from the tent, gazing into space. Two hours later he was in the same position. At nightfall he was still there. Mr. McCormick could stand it no longer. "Show me the ring!" he called. "What do you want for it?"

"Oh, hazor, it is a beautiful ring! made it myself?"

"Here, you old scandal, this isn't a stone-it's a plece of glass!"

"Oh, sahib, e-stone is good e-stone. Gli-lass, no?"

"Well, what do you want for it, you swindle?"

"Fifty rupees."

"Make tracks quick! I wouldn't give nore than ten!"

The next day the merchant reappeared, offering the ring for 45 rupees; the day after he came down to twenty: the third his price was ten.

"Sahib said he would give ten!" he

Mr. McCormick finally in desperation handed out 10 rupees, and the trader went away smilling, having fairly bored his way to success.

Potter Wasps at Work.

The family cumenidae, or solitary wasps, contain some curious workers. Some are miners and dig tiny tunnels in the earth: some are carpenters and cut channels in wood and then divide the space into chambers by partitions the cattle thief? Had he recrossed the of mud; some build oval or globelike mud nests on branches or twigs. This home may be partitioned into several tiny rooms, into which are put various small insects captured by the mother wasp and upon which the young wasps

Kidney complaint kills more people than any other disease. This is due to Trust a tracker to solve riddles of the disease being so insidious that it that sort! Suddenly he began uncover- gets a good hold on the system before it is recognized. Foley's Kidney Cure will prevent the development of fatal disease if taken in time.

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A Horseman's Getup, 1662. ST CARD HA "If the sword be not bought," writes Sir James Verney, "I had much rather have one according to the mode, and the rather because a black one is more agreeable to my phancy. I hope you have given my tailor full directions about the belt, for I can by no means **Entrance Whitman's Book Store** dle you mention. I am very much obliged to yourself for borrowing and \$3000PostCardStock to Sir Rich; Temple for lending it, if he knows for whom it is, but my feare is that I shall not become a saddle of that worth, if it belongse to him as Kt. of the Bath, and I question whether I may have it for both assises. As

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feed. St. Nicholas

The offender was a well seasoned the tactics of the trackers. Furthermore, he had two days' start of his pursuers

To accompany a chase like this is awesome, the utter slience and desolation of the woods is so depressing. Then, too, the trails are deceptive, ofthe sky. Darkness closes in very ployer were glad to reach an "accommodation house," or rancher's home, where such as these were usually welto hear tidings of his man, but no one had seen him.

All the next day the black fellow led along as swiftly as possible. The way was extremely rough, and mile after mile was covered through wild silences until a stranger would surely think the guide was playing a losing game. At no time could they ride, and it was with great difficulty that they reached a sort of clearing, where the horses were tied and camp struck for the night. Tearing huge strips of bark from the trees and wrapping blankets around them, each lay on the concave surface of one for a bed and rested.

At noon the next day a bushman's eabln was reached, and there the tired horses were tethered. The hunters then proceeded on foot. Another night in the forest, and the fourth day found these intrepid hunters making their way through underbrush peculiar to Australia, called "lawyers and barristers," because its thorns and brainbles catch one at every turn. Once the guide hesitated, turned back and struck off in another direction down an embankment, the rest tumbling after him.

A wild chase that must have been! Two white men following the apparently mad actions of a black fellow into places so remote that it would

thirty feet in the air; then those below noticed that the main trunk of the tree had been broken off years before, forming a crotch for the new branches that

A most astonishing thing happened. Reaching down into the hollow of the something, at the same time shouting to the officer beneath: "Boss, boss, I catch white feller! He play possum!" Out of the opening appeared a man's head, and a more wretched object could never have been seen. He was tousled, dirty, gaunt, half starved. In due course he paid the penalty of

his crime. He said that, knowing a tracker would be put upon his trail, he bushman, cunning and acquainted with had hoped to give him the impression that he had been drowned while swimming the river.

Trackers have a horror of traveling after dark, being constantly in fear of meeting the bunyip, a fearful monster with glaring eyes, which they believe to be the spirit of an old aboriginal ten leading to a deserted wood camp king who roams around the swampy beneath a foliage so dense that it is land at night to catch black men. impossible even to catch a glimpse of You can frighten trackers half out of their wits by telling them you will send quickly in the mountain regions, and the bunyip after them. They also beby nightfall the tracker and his em- lieve that a giant lives on mountain tops, waiting to klll them with a club; hence they never sleep on top of a mountain or near a swamp, always comed and allowed to put up for the pitching their brush tents, or mimis, might. At this house the officer tried near a dry and level spot. Their only religious belief is that a big god who has been asleep for ages will one day awaken and eat up the whole world .-Pearson's Weekly.



rik, sahib," said one. "I am too busy," replied Mr. McCor-

bought.

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he will be too high for a low fellow to gett upon; if so, I shall be bold to send for yours. I am nuwilling to look like 1 jackanapes on horseback. You men tion topps to be faced, which I suppose are to be worn upon my leggs; if so, I feare there will be so much topp, as there will be but little bottom to be seen. My legga all are short enough in

for the horse I have at Sution, I feare

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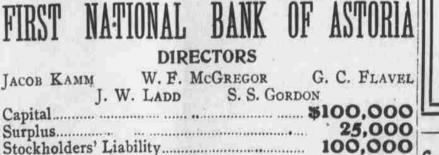
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