

A Cave Dweller.

CAPTURED AT POGGY HUT

**SAYS HE WOULD HAVE SHOT
POLICE**

During the past two months the residents of the Krui and Goulburn Rivers have had food and clothing stolen from their dwellings during their absence, Mr. William Mead, of Coggan, being the heaviest loser. On two different occasions his house was robbed of all the food and clothes in the place. On the last occasion articles weighing nearly 2cwt. were stolen, and no trace could be found of the thief. It was at last reported that a man had been seen wandering about in the bush, and was supposed to be camped in a cave. Sergeant Campbell and Constable Flanagan, of Merriwa, assisted by Constable Smith, of Wollar, made a thorough search of the locality, but still without success. At last Sergeant Campbell was fortunate enough to come across a man carrying a chaff bag and a little food, and arrested him on a charge of vagrancy, and he was sentenced to six months. This

was sentenced to six months. This man, who gave the name of John Joseph Setzer, was quite an old offender, having served several long sentences for breaking and entering and stealing. It was thought, ~~as he admitted, being in the~~ district several weeks, that the matter would be cleared up, but Mr. Mead's place was again robbed, and it was ascertained that another man was in the locality armed with a pea rifle. The Merriwa and Wollar police again spent days and nights in search, but could not find their quarry. The Cassilis constable then patrolled the locality, and Alfred Constable, a farmer, came across the man near a cave, but he escaped in the bush clothed only in his trousers. Constable Brogan, of Cassilis, then communicated with Sergeant Campbell, by telephone, and he and Constable Flanagan left once more for the scene, on tired horses, riding well into the night over country so rough that in many places they had to dismount and lead their horses. That night Sergeant Campbell went to an empty place, and thought he heard someone running away. This afterwards proved the man they were after, as he later returned and stole several small articles. The next morning Sergeant Campbell sent Constable Flanagan, Constable South.

stable Flanagan, Constable Smith, of Wollar, and Constable Brogan, of Cassilis, to three empty houses which he considered their man would have to rob to get food and clothes. This proved correct, for he made for Pogy hut, where a supply of tea, sugar and flour is always kept, but is seldom occupied during the day. Just as he was nearing the hut he was overtaken by Constable Flanagan and Constable Smith and arrested. He made no attempt to resist, but admitted that, only for having to leave his rifle behind, he would have shot them.

The proceeds of several robberies were found in the cave he occupied. The cave was situated

on the top of a rough hill, and to make it look more natural and so escape notice he planted three wild cherry trees in front of it, and kept them watered to keep them alive. When arrested he gave the name of Gustave Romnik, which he said was assumed, and admitted being in gaol on many previous occasions. He is a Russian of good physique, and had carried the stolen property 15 miles from W. Mead's house to his cave.

Constable Flanagan and Constable Smith, who are both good bushman and keen officers, are deserving of great credit for the man-

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serving of great credit for the manner in which they worked in this case and effected the arrest.

The man is supposed to be a dangerous criminal. He has been remanded to appear at Merriwa on December 23.