

The Merriwa Man Hunt.

OVER MOUNTAINS AND THROUGH GORGES

SPLENDID WORK BY THE POLICE.

ARRESTED MAN TO APPEAR AT MERRIWA COURT TO-DAY

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 Loggan, being the heaviest loser. On two different occasions his house was robbed of all the food and clothes in the place. Still no trace could be found of the thief.

It was at last reported that a man was 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 country, which is exceedingly rough and mountainous, in the vicinity, but till 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.

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This man, who gave the name of John Joseph Setzer, was quite an old offender, having served several long sentences for breaking, entering and stealing, and it was thought, as he admitted having been in the district several weeks, that the matter would be cleared up. But Mr. Lead's place was again robbed and it was ascertained that another man was in the locality, armed with a sea rifle.

The Merriwa and Wollar police again spent days and nights in the locality, but could not find their quarry. The Cassilis constable then controlled the locality, and a man named Alfred Constable, a farmer in the locality, came across the man near a cave. The man 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.

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The next morning Sergeant Campbell sent Constables Flanagan and 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 straight for Pogy hut, where a supply of tea, sugar and flour is always kept, but seldom occupied during the day. Just as the man was nearing the hut he was overtaken by Constable Flanagan and Constable Smith and arrested. He made no attempt to resist, but, is alleged to have 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 the man had occupied. The cave was situated on the top of a rough hill and to make it look more natural and 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

on many previous occasions. He is a Russian of good physique. He carried the stolen property 15 miles from W. Mead's house to his cave.

Constable F'anagan and Constable Smith, who are both good bushman and keen policemen, are deserving of great credit for the manner in which they worked in this case and effected the arrest. The man is alleged to be a dangerous criminal.

The prisoner was remanded to appear at Merriwa to-day.