

A WESTERN SENSATION

ATTACK ON A DROVER.

A FOREIGNER APPREHENDED.

COURT PROCEEDINGS TO-MORROW.

CHARLEVILLE Sunday.

Drover Charles Barker, who had a terrible struggle to save his life on Boatman Station is now able to move about with the aid of a crutch, though still very sore about the body and feet. The police are inclined to believe that George Command, a Russian Pole, is alleged to have made a murderous attack on Drover Barker, and is now under arrest.

Drover C. Barker has been in the employ of Boatman Station for 30 years and is a most reliable, steady man, and held in the highest esteem by the owners.

Relating his story Barker says: I was on the way from Morven to Woongarnere with a mob of bullocks and had with me my young son, Norman, who is eight years old. That morning I camped on the Nobline two and a-half miles from the Morven side of Old Boatman Homestead. As customary with drovers, my son and I had tea early, then turned into bed, my boy lying alongside me. During the night being a light sleeper, I heard a sound like a rustle among the grass. I turned towards the sound and from the glare of the camp

sound and from the glare of the camp fire saw a man of big proportions coming toward's me. He had in his hand an iron bar or something huge like a saucepan handle. He struck me a terrible blow across the right shoulder and arms as I sprang off my bed. I had a battle for life. The attack continued for a time over the camp fire. The Russian, still silent, furiously struggled with me and later I endeavoured to close with my big adversary. Blood was trickling down my face and hands. Realising fully that I was not only fighting for my own life, but also for my son, I fortunately was too quick for my would-be murderer.

Barker was handicapped by the loss of blood and having no boots on. He fell in a gully close by the Russian Pole. Both by this time were not so strong as in the early stages of the struggle. Barker reached a musterer's camp exhausted and after relating what had happened Messrs. Wilson, Reardon, Childs, all musterers, hastened in all speed to Drover Barker's camp, where the struggle took place. They found the drover's son sound asleep and strangely enough he knew nothing of the attempted murder. The musterers then paid attention to trying to find the Russian. They picked up his tracks through the bush and came upon a man of herculean build sitting on a swag. He spoke broken English. When confronted with the man, Barker identified his assailant.

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The police are charging the accused with grievous bodily harm and he will appear before the court on Tuesday.

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