

## A STRANGE, NEW PEOPLE IN WILDS OF AUSTRALIA

**A Race That Had Never Seen a White Man—Are of a Peaceful  
Disposition and More Primitive Than the Ordinary  
Aborigines of the Country—Their Customs.**

London, Nov. 7. — The days of Australian exploration are not yet at an end, for a couple of scientists from Queensland and New South Wales, curable, there being an opinion that further investigation will assist in throwing some light on the character of Australian aboriginal life in the past.

respectively, have just ascertained the existence in the far north, of a people who had never previously seen a white man. The discoverers were Dr. Roth, the Queens-land protector of northern aborigines.

who is, perhaps, more familiar with aboriginal life and character than is any other individual in the Commonwealth, and Mr. Charles Hedley, ethnologist of the Sydney Museum. They were making a scientific tour of the Gulf of Carpentaria and of the Wellesley

Archipelago, at the southern end of the gulf. Mornington Island, which has an area of 10 to 40 miles, was discovered by Capt. Matthew Flinders, in 1802, while surveying and mapping out the steamships will be Canada, Dominion, Cambrian and Vancouver.

**Sad Accident in the Woods Near Marmora.**  
Marmora, Ont., Nov. 7. — A very sad accident occurred yesterday afternoon

son being poor, with extensive tracts of marshy country. There is plenty of bush and coarse forest, and this affords shelter to large numbers of kangaroos and other animals, which furnish a plentiful supply of food for the islanders.

**FEAR THE WHITE MAN.**  
Dr. Roth and Mr. Hedley experienced no difficulty in effecting a landing, and found the islanders, scientifically speaking, an interesting people, their physical and mental characteristics

modes of living and general characteristics showing that they had been separated from the mainland natives for many generations. With one exception, an aborigine who had visited the shores of the gulf, none of the islanders had ever seen a white man and the use

FEARED THEY ARE SUFFOCATED

where — remained on the island, three days, employing the "tame" blacks as guides and scouts; and it was speedily discovered that the latter could converse, in a fashion, with the islanders, whose language was a dialect of the English.

lectical version of that of the gulf natives. Great caution had to be observed by the visitors, who were always armed, the islanders having spears and a few boomerangs, but always running away as the white men advanced. At

last, however, a couple of the islanders were induced to make friends with the two explorers, whom they regarded with a stolid gaze, as if their unexpected appearance was an every-day occurrence. This seeming indifference

is an aboriginal characteristic. They assumed apathy vanished the moment that Dr. Roth and Mr. Hedley lighted their pipes. They stared in bewilderment, and according to the "tame" boys, declared that the white men were

burning their mouths. They were equally astonished when a match was used for lighting a fire, and a "billy" employed for boiling water. Mr. Hedley distributed among them a number of penny whistles which he had brought

The islanders, who form a race new to ethnologists, are supposed to be a

retrograde type, or else a more primitive type. They do not make huts, as do the natives on the mainland, but simply collect heaps of grass and sleep on the bare ground to the leeward of them. Articles which have to be car-

ried from one place to another and wrapped in bark, the use of baskets being unknown, as is that of canoes, the water craft employed being rudely constructed rafts, consisting each of a couple of logs with some light wood.

propelled by branches as paddles. Compared with the natives on the mainland the islanders seemed far behind in a knowledge of even the rudest aboriginal appliances. They have, however, a stringent system of tribal classifica-

the origin, intended to represent different degrees of relationship and to assist in preventing too close intermarriage. The origin of this system, so prevalent among all classes of Australian aborigines, remains an unsolved mystery. Its existence, as Mr. Morrison told you

existence on Mornington Island was discovered by Dr. Roth when one of the islanders refused to speak to one of the "tame" boys because he was his "father-in-law."

Only members of the tribe belonging to the same class are allowed to marry,

and much to the amusement of the two explorers they found an island woman flirting with one of the "tame" blacks, she having ascertained that both belonged to the same class, and that she, therefore, could marry him if he were willing. Notwithstanding the rough nature of life among the

islanders they looked strong and healthy, although somewhat undersized, and were apparently of a peaceful disposition. They were ignorant of the arts of cultivation, their food consisting of wild fruits, fish and meat, fire being obtained by rubbing a couple

of sticks together. Except for Taggart, blacksmith, and Wallaceburn, there is no personal property, almost everything being shared in common. It is probable that a second visit may be paid to the island a few months hence, when some further information respecting the islanders will be pro-

...repaired when it was discharged.