

## TRIBAL KILLING

### GRIM EVIDENCE OF PRIMITIVE LAW

Darwin, Feb. 20.—Grim evidence of primitive tribal law was given in the Darwin Police Court to-day when two aborigines from Wessel Island were committed for trial on a charge of murder.

Barbaric looking shovel-nose and hunting spears with feathers hanging from the blades lined the courthouse wall as the Crown alleged that similar spears had sent an aboriginal to his death "going round and round like a drunk with a spear sticking out from his shoulders."

The accused, Magapoid and his tribal brother, Bunumir, pleaded not guilty.

Naked Piccaninnies played in the courthouse while the Crown case was presented.

Constable John Gordon, in evidence, said that he went to Wessel Island, 500 miles north of Darwin, in a patrol vessel and saw the two accused at Elcho Island mission. The two natives told him that they speared Dunulunga when the "big rains came"—about two months ago—and buried the body. Gordon took the natives to Japanese Creek, up the Wessel Island coast and there they dug up the partly decomposed body.

Witness said that the two accused told him that Dunulunga had tried to steal a lubra from their tribal brother, Mulimbi, and that Dunulunga fatally speared that tribal brother and that they speared him to "square back for Mulimbi."

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