

Convicts Foiled

AN ancient 24-pounder cannon on St. Helena Island, near Brisbane, originally did duty on the rock of Gibraltar.

It was used on this Australian convict island to send warning to the police on the mainland, six miles away, whenever a convict escaped.

In the first 15 years of the penal settlement, the cannon was fired more than 100 times.

Some of the escapees were taken by sharks, but most were caught by the waiting police who had been warned by the cannon.

One convict, after

abandoning an attempt to leave the island in a bath-tub lashed to a table, hid himself for two days and nights in a marshy area on the island.

Although this was searched through he was not seen, for he had buried himself in mud, exposing only his face, which was protected by a small bush. When the hue and cry subsided he made a raft and paddled across to the mainland, but he was caught by watching policemen as soon as he had landed.—*Bull Baiting over 28L.*