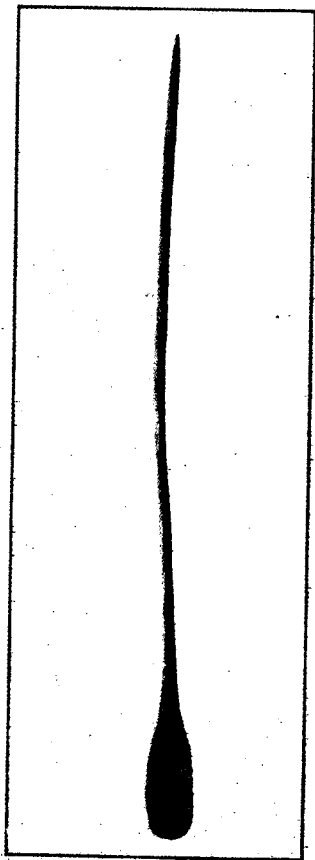


An Old Aboriginal Paddle

(By W. J. ENRIGHT.)

THE paddle shown in the illustration was dredged up by Mr. H. Legge of Bombo Point, Myall Lakes, in two feet of water, where he was dragging for prawns. It is of native pear (*Xylocarpus pyriforme*) wood and apparently had been made with stone tools. The handle is five feet four inches in length, and seven-eighth of an inch in diameter. The blade is eight inches in length and four inches in width. I never saw a native canoe in the coastal districts, but Tony, an old full-blood who made for me the weapons and implements described in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*,¹ informed me that it was made of a single sheet of bark fastened at each end. About the same time that paddle was found, the remains of a dug-out canoe about eight feet long and fifteen to eighteen inches in width were also found at Bombo Point. It was much affected by borers, which old residents of forty years' experience had never known to affect timber on the lake. I had never heard of Aborigines in that district making a canoe of that type, and if made, might have been suggested by seeing boats with some of A. A. Company men at Port Stephens, or might have been made by one of the Maori sailors who lived with the Aborigines at Port Stephens.



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¹ Vol. xxxiv, 1900.