

or two thousand square miles. Mr. Fisher, a South Australian, recently put upon the market, in the northern territory of South Australia, *blocks* to the aggregate of thirty or forty thousand square miles. In very remote parts, crownlands are sometimes leased at sixpence a square mile. The two greatest difficulties to contend with (besides droughts and floods) are "getting up stores," and getting to market. Cattle are sometimes driven all the way from the Gulf of Carpentaria to Melbourne, the whole length of Australia, for sale, and some cattle which had come this journey had been six months and three weeks *en route*.

Back-breakers. According to the evidence taken before the Children's Employment Commission, the ganger who contracts to do the work hires the smallest and cheapest children, selecting the strongest and most willing of the gang as a *back-breaker*, whose duty it is to set an example of activity to the rest and "put them along."

Back-cheat (old cant), a cloak.

Back-cloth (theatrical), scenes in a theatre or music hall.

The *back-cloth* is the well-known "woodland glade" that Mr. de Pinna, the manager, invariably selects as the scene of these combats, and three rounds are fought under the Marquis of Queensberry rules.—*Evening News*.

Back-door work (popular), sodomy.

Backed (old slang), dead, with "one's toes turned up."

Back end (racing), the last two months of the racing season.

Lowestoft, though amongst the arrivals, shirked some of his engagements last *back end*.—*Star*.

A *back ender*, consequently, is a horse which appears on the racecourse at the end of the season.

Lord Bradford's horse evidently likes the Doncaster course, and he is undoubtedly a *back ender*. It must be for these reasons that he is so well backed, by the public be it understood, the stable rarely making any sign until the last moment.—*Sporting Times*.

Backers (a racing technical term), the general body of the betting public who wager *on* horses winning, in contradistinction to the more limited society of the "ring" or "bookmakers," who bet *against* horses.

This term is also frequently applied to coal carriers, whippers, or heavers.

Mr. Dudley Baxter, M.A., states in *National Income* that a coal *backer* is considered past work at forty.

Back-gammon player (old), a practiser of an unmentionable vice. Also called "an usher," or "gentleman of the back door."

Back-handed turn (Stock Exchange), having made an unprofitable bargain.