

Barrow Creek

July 15. 1901

At 7m
have time send
me a few lines to
Powell Creek via
Port Darwin. Letters
are most welcome.

My dear Dion

Just a line to
report progress. We have pretty
well finished with the Kaitish &
Anmatchera tribes - and but there is
plenty else which we could find
out if we had more time but
we have worked out I think the
main features which differ enough
from those of the Arunta to
make it of interest to understand
them. In many respects of
course their ideas are fundamentally
similar to those of the Arunta;
but in regard to Totemism we have
got a little further on in one
respect. It is abundantly
clear that in the minds of the
Kaitish the men of the totem are
entirely responsible for the situation

W.B. admin. Spencer.

some of anciently

is vile.

of the ttoemic annual or plant. The
head man must perform the
ceremony to cause its increase and
then the others must bring him in
a bottle of it to eat and then he
gives them permission to eat it
freely whereas if he does not it
will prevent him being able to
increase it and they will bring him
up as they say. No one can
eat the main stem without his
permission. To make some of
the matter of course we have tested
several stems and as you will
understand it is the finding of
of details which takes the time.

We have been at it practically
daily for 6 weeks and never a
day without adding something of
more or less value to our note books.

I am hoping to trouble you to

what would happen if by any chance
the "official record" got lost in a fire
or met with an accident & am posting
home my rough notes so as to be on
the safe side. We have also been
hard at work photographing and are
getting excellent records of ceremonies
etc & I am glad to hear from
Melbourne that the last batch of
1900 ft. of cinematograph film has
turned out well. The only thing
is that one needs at least two years
~~work~~ instead of one for even the lot
of work which we have in hand.

So far we have had success &
excellent health & I trust that it
may remain so until the end.

We are grateful to you for your
kindness at Queens & much appreciate
your thought for us. As you can
imagine home friends are very often

in our thoughts and deeply
interested, though we work in we shall
be thankful once more to see home
again and find all well there.

You may perhaps have heard of the
sudden death of my Father: it was
of course a great shock to me as he
took, apart from everything else, the
greatest interest in our work and
was as pleased with it as if he were
doing it himself. I was much
looking forward to seeing him once
more when it was over & published
but now that is not to be.

I hope you are well and not
over-worked or worried. Give my
kindest regards to Honitt if you chance
to see him - I don't think that I shall
have time to write to him this mail.

In two days we go north to Tennant
Creek to work the Warramunga &
probably the Waagai also. This is an
awfully monstrous dreary kind of
country where everything save man