

Cooktown 9
10th Jan. 1900.

My dear Spencer.

By the time you receive this, I hope you will have got rid of all the worries and anxieties entailed by your organisation work as Secretary for the Assocⁿ meeting, and I know full well that I can congratulate you on a very successful termination of your labours.

Yes, I was indeed greatly disappointed at not being able to get away, but it is hardly good enough to ask for a thing only to know that red tape will refuse it. However, the Government are awfully good to me, giving me every encouragement, and have now taken in hand the matter, which I have urged upon them, of making a collection of the literature

(Scientific of course) bearing upon
the Ouremland aboriginal.

Ever since I returned from the
Peninsula, the middle of last month,
I have had this abominable
malaria, but a short sea-trip to
Townsville and back has pulled
me up again a bit.

So far as I can tell, I shall be
starting as soon as the wet season
is over i.e. about March or April,
either for the Peninsula (its central
portions - the Coen etc), or else
for the Ouremland - S.A. border (i.e.
from Cloncurry to Camooweal,
and so up to Burketown): but as
to ^{whether} ~~this~~ will depend again on whether
the floods are up or not. I must
be back here in June (its end) for
drawing up my Annual Report.

I need hardly say how delighted I
should be to have you on the border-trip.
In haste, and thanking you again
most sincerely for wishes and invitation,
Always gratefully
W. E. Roth.

N.B. Please remember me kindly
to Martha.