

11



11

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA.

Professor Baldwin Spencer Esq
Melbourne

Darwin, Campbell March 11 1915

Dear Professor

Your welcome letter dated Oct 3 1914 came
away to hand yesterday. I was very glad to hear from you. Many
thanks for your new book, it is grand & I hope you have a big
sale with it. It is the only work, that has ever touched the
natives of Arnhem's land that has any truth in it. I
am sure that it will be adopted as a standard work
as far as the Kakadoo tribes are concerned in a very few
years, they poor people; will be a thing of the past. -
I sent you a long lettergram when I received your book
at Darwin. I was in a great hurry and did not have time
to write you. The cheque enclosed in your letter post-
will be duly spent as you wished. Mrs Cahill
sent you a small box of bird skins, by Mr J. Bradshaw
I hope that you got them all right. They were a
few specimens that we did not get, when you were here
You remember Unge telling us about his adventures with
a hostile Jalmaroo that led him into the mangroves. -
Well a case has just happened here, almost identical
You remember Jiragarna the tall old man that they
called the King. He sent his wife Mun-gi, to me



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA.

for some tobacco, I sent the old chap a stick of tobacco, for his son was working for me at the station. While she was away the old man who was camped just near a lot of other natives; took his bil-yam-mae, spears + his dogs, also his blanket, got up from his camp and walked right away from his camp - Next morning the camp natives missing him, called out to him, getting no answer, they looked around for his tracks, picked them up and followed them. They tracked him along the creek, and where he stuck his tomahawk into the sand, and went into the water to have a drink and bath. The tracks were quite wet where the water had ran off the old man's legs. The natives knew that he was not far away, so they sang out loudly, some went on up the creek and the others went among the stones. They were now at the head of the creek and among the hills. A path made by the natives crossed the hills here, so some of the searcher's went along the path, thinking that the old man had gone on - From where he came out of the water, where the tracks were wet; no further signs of the old man could be found. The natives searched for days and found no trace of him. Word was sent to all natives camped anywhere near, and the search was continued. A native came here + told his son about him, and away the son went on a search. I gave the boy a rifle and cartridges, so that he could get food on his search. The boy and all the natives searched

Darwin

March 11

1915



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA.

high and low - for a week and never a sign of the old man. Word was sent to all natives within miles, the search was kept up for weeks and never a sign of man, dogs, or blankets. The search is still continued & it is two months since he disappeared. I will get fuller particulars and send them on to you.

I ordered some blank records over a year ago, but so far none have come along. I am trying to get leave this year, about the middle of Oct, and intend going as far as Adelaide. I intend to give Mitchellak a trip with me. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you in Melbourne. I have been very busy lately building yards huts & etc. The caretaker, (one Garr - that was over at Bathurst Island, with the mission people; when you & I were over there) done an awful lot of damage while I was away, he cut down most of the big shade trees along the edge of the Lake spoiling the view and generally messing up things. I had about 40 few paw trees just bearing fruit, Garr piled up the earth around them and nearly all of them died. I have had several visits from the natives high up the East Alligator River, also from the head of the Limpopo River. Some had never seen a white woman - If I had time to go out among them I fancy that I could get something good out of them - But that will come later on - I have been



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA.

promised some Konaki poison - ^{Darwin} that is used to poison ^{March 11} feet ¹⁹¹⁵ and hands - If I get it, I will bring it along when I am going your way - ~~each~~ ^{each} year takes a few of the oldest natives and the worst of it is, so few children -

I must have more power over the natives here, so that I can deal with the scoundrels that come here from Barrumbie and other places steal the women and causing great trouble in the camps. If I had power to imprison these chaps for a little time it would soon make them look foolish and take all the fleshiness out of them, it is mostly done in bravado, and some times at low down white orders I must also have some kind of a reserve for the natives. This we can talk over later on, I am glad to hear that Parliament have at least given full powers, over all departments in the N.T. This I ~~hope~~ ^{hope} to his excellency Mr Gilruth - This should have good effect on would be administrators, it is horrible to be in Darwin - every body thinks that their opinions should be consulted by his ex - before he does anything. Myself, I should like to be appointed public flogger, start on the Editor of the N.T. Times and go through all the would be administrators with a cat and nine tails until they come to their senses - The rainfall so far has been below all other years only 28 inches so far, we usually have over 40 inches by this time We are all in good health Mr Cahill and Miss Mudgett join me in wishing good health & prosperity

with all kind wishes

yours sincerely

Paddy Cahill.