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Ospelli  
March 26 1916

Professor Baldwin Spencer B.M.S.  
University  
Melbourne

Dear Professor

The Administrator and Judge paid me a flying visit, in the fast and furious Dow and brought my mail, first since November. You can imagine the hustle, which only one day & a half to see everything in. I was unable to get any replies to my letters. Many thanks for your kindness to Mrs Lehill. I have had letters from her from Adelaide, but none since her return from Adelaide, so you know more about her later movements than I do, I expect her back on the 14<sup>th</sup> April. I will be unable to get over the soft country until about the middle of April, I then go in overland to Burrundie & bring Mrs Lehill & Tom out with me. I am looking forward to a rough trip overland, by on all flat ground to grass high over my head, on horseback no road, mosquitos in millions, will make it lively at night. The visit of the Administrator & Judge was a surprise to me, and very few men in his position, would venture at this time of the year, out in such a toy as the

Don. You know what she is like; and at any time during March, a storm may be looked for, and great danger of the Don getting swamped. On their arrival at Monnerwerke, they sent a note by a native. I took packs and riding horses and went down. A walk over the plain; that was covered with water, was not nice. We all walked back through the water, and at every few yards would go splash into a deep hole. His Ex took very little notice & waded through, leaving the judge and myself to plumbly in the rear. It was just sundown when we reached Genpelli. Next day we rode out and inspect the cattle, horses etc, & got home at 5:30 P.M. Next morning the party started back to the launch & was off at 12:30. When you write to his Ex, ask him how he found us here. We had no ripe pawpaws, but had custard apples, bananas, pineapples and about 50 doz of goose eggs. Any amount of cream, milk, & fresh butter. So we did not starve. I am very sorry to tell you that a very large number of the oldest natives have died. Poor old Congra was the last to go. Poor old chap went clean off his head at the last and would go about by himself. He used to come to me with his fingers on his lips and whisper; so that no other natives could hear & tell me that some of his old ancestors used to come to him at night; talk to him & then take away some of his goods and plant them & would

not tell him where they put his goods. Poor old chap used to get very violent at times. One night I had to put him on a chain to keep him from killing his wives. Afterwards he used to bring other natives, and show them the chain; & tell them that if they did not behave themselves, he would get me to put them on the chain. He seemed quite proud to have spent a night with the chain on him. The death of Imkalaki at the Darwin Hospital; cut him up very much. The old fisherman Minu-maraka, Karlinda. Marryoot, (\*A.O. Goodchallis, Tommy Dodd) Padoroor, and a lot of others have died since you were here. In a few more years, there will be no chance of writing any reliable history of the Kakadoo tribes. There will be no old men left; who know any of the old traditions. I am compiling a list of deaths and births, since 1871 among the natives who used to working for me & those whom I personally knew. If you think that this list will be of any use to you; let me know & I will send it to you. I have a good lot of Mission sticks, here; and if they are of any use to you; let me know, & I will send them along. In one of your last letters, you said there was a cheque; I did not get it, but Professor, you ought not to send any more money to me for the natives. Do you know that I have over £20 in the bank for Mitohi-lactai, Pomula Las about £15 - Quilp about £20 - Jira-garna £10 - Kulwooy £10 - & a boy named Im-mer-ber £4, so

\* Munuim-ker-ill

you see that they are all solvent. When I go to Darwin  
 I get orders for what the boys want and bring them  
 the goods. That three pounds you sent a long time ago, I  
 still have. All the other natives said that I was to  
 take the money to Sydney with me + give it to Quilp and  
 Mitchellackie + they could buy some thing for the others;  
 in Sydney. So you see that they have plenty of  
 money - I have been going pretty hard, all this  
 wet season getting things ship-shap. I have a real good  
 house built (Judge Bevan said it would cost £600 to get the same  
 house put up in Darwin with white labour) a dip for  
 cattle and horses - yards etc. + when you come on your  
 next visit, you will hardly know Cerfelli. I keep on  
 picking up a few notes; but I have had so much to do  
 that I have very little time. As soon as ever I can spare  
 the time, I will get some folk lore etc, from the  
 Koolungooche natives + make notes of what I get &  
 send the notes along to you. I wish you were here  
 again say about October when there are a good number  
 of natives in for fish, we could do fairly good work  
 among them. The order of the day is goose eggs. I  
 am feeding all the natives on them, about 5 doz-  
 per meal or 15 doz per day. A fairly good lot of  
 cash it would take to pay for them; at the present price  
 of eggs in Darwin 3/- per doz. A good egg will equal  
 three eggs from a hen - By your I will not be sorry

When Mr. Cahill gets home again. Being without communication since November makes one anxious. I have a white man here with me, so I was not by myself during the wet season. We had nearly 64 inches for this wet season, but had no floods. We lost no stock through the heavy rain. The horses fell off in condition, but otherwise were healthy. Last night we had our first mosquito for this season. All during the wet season we did not use a mosquito net, but last night we had to fix our nets. I have three young kangaroos, 2 black ones, off the Range. They are doing well, so I am going to try and get three females. The black kangaroos breed during the winter months & very seldom come down off the mountains, unless to drink. I have several of the grey, flesh-eating bats. The chaps with large ears, & an earlike growth on the nose. They kill small birds etc & eat them. If you could send me a small tank of spirits, I could fill it for you, with different kinds of fauna from this part. The jars that I have specimens in, cannot be shipped, for the stoppers are not water tight, & the spirits would be spilled & contents spoiled on the trip. Had I been able to get away myself, I could have looked after them & seen that they did not leak.

Later, I got to Burundie all right, but had won a more rough trip than I expected. I usually take about 42 hours in the saddle to reach Burundie, but this trip took 58 hours riding, so you can guess how the country was.

Megadroma  
Killing  
small birds

Darwin  
Apr 128

Mrs Cahill is still in Sydney and will not be back until about the middle of June or early in July Darwin is the same old place, a few more people and the same old scandal. I leave for Campbell on next Monday & will be glad to get out home again. A great number of the old hands have died this last year. Perry, who married Old Lill's daughter, took some poison & died at Pine Creek a few months ago. Poor Chap, he seemed fairly off his head, when last I met him. Poor Linton, had family troubles & postal worries, I hear, but you know how many lies are spread about people in this part of the world, so I cannot say how much truth there is in the report.

Now Professor I must draw this scrawl to a close.

So wishing you and your family many happy and prosperous years

I remain

yours truly  
Paddy Cahill.