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Oenpelli
Oct 10 1917

(18)
Sir Baldwin Spencer
Melbourne University
Melbourne

Dear Sir Baldwin -

Many thanks for your letter to the Bulletin. I am glad that you used our names, in your reply to the poisonous par. Blacke Brother and the law. I am not surprised at anything that may come from the pen of such mean minded person. The only thing that I can say, is the writer was was just on the edge; and thought to raise some kind of a row, no matter how untruthful. so that he could retain his position.

I feel that the Aboriginal Department is much cleaner, now that a certain office was abolished. Some years ago Lt Holmes + Mr Beckett came here overland from Bowen Straits. B- had charge of the late Jim Campbells horses. A survey party was here, in charge of Mr John Power. We had a little whisky; and sat up chatting until a little late, about 12 o'clock. B- was to go

overland to Burrendie next day. B- pack bags were filled with roast mutton, bread, cake, and salted mutton for the road. Daylight next morn a native (Dick) came from B- camp for medical aid. Dr Holmes and I at once started on a fifteen mile ride to reach B- camp. I had started four natives (a short cut to the camp) to carry B- back if he was had - We reached B- camp and found him well enough to resume his journey. Some time afterwards Popperaki said to Mrs Cahill, what for Mr B- been chuck away all about salt mutton - me fellows been pickt up & cook that one salt mutton. Some time afterwards Protector Murphy said to me; B- told me that you tried to poison him when he was at Oupelli - Putting 2 and 2 together, the man threw away the salt mutton; thinking that I had poisoned the meat. Do you think that a man with such ideas, was a sane man. As soon as I met B- I taxed him with Murphys yarn and told him that such a thing should not occur again. And if he ever had to come to Oupelli while I was at the head of the Station; he could bring his own food and

camp on the banks of the lagoon. Just fancy a man having such ideas - I can only say that he must be mad. Again thanking you for your kindness in writing to The Bulletin.

By the way you did have an exciting trip to England. We living in the bush, can hardly bring our minds to grasp the greatness of this world's war. The danger to the ocean travellers, are almost as great as in the trenches. One never knows when going full steam ahead; when a mine may drift into the path of the steamer; and nothing is ever heard of the passengers when this occurs. As you know, our mails here are a bit irregular; but when our papers arrive; there is very little sleep, until we get all the latest war news. The natives flock around and ask to be shown pictures of the war; when I told them that you had gone to England; and that the steamer that you were on may get torpedoed, they would come every mail and ask if your steamer had reached England all right. When you arrived back in Australia, and I gave them the news, their exclamation was, Hi, Hi, Professor humokodo Mootate Germans -

NU-OR-KA-DA

Every one at Campelli were glad to hear of your safe return.

I can understand your feelings when you returned home and found your daughter married and the home nest deserted by the younger one, but Sir, you remember that you did the same trick to your parents i.e. married left home and came right away from England to Australia. I wish Mrs Rowan all the happiness that she could wish and that Lieutenant Rowan comes through this war with all honours that a brave soldier can gain.

I am sending you a few photos of Campelli as it now is, Photos are amateurish and have been taken by Tom. You will see that most of the big trees have disappeared; some were blown down by a wind storm; and others were cut down by a man that I had left in charge, while I was away on the Woodner Reserve Buffalo shooting. The mango trees have grown very well and are now bearing nice fruit. We got our first ripe mango's in July this year, being much earlier than Darwin. Our pawpaws do not show out in the photos, but they are here allright & producing much more fruit than

can be used without the help of the natives. There is generally half a doz- fine large paupaws awaiting the first natives who arrive the earliest, to start milking. It has a good effect, but the usual thing happens, that is; the early bird shares his spoils with the others; unless I tell the earliest, to get right ahead and eat the paupaws. We have a good few pineapples coming along this year. Lemons, Kumquats we have had in large numbers, far more than we require, & the natives do right royally.

This year we have been very short of game. The heavy rains in May, kept the plains covered with water, so the game keep off the large lagoons, until the ~~small~~ small holes dry up. The food is much more plentiful on the small pools and more easily got. We get some when we send boys away from home to shoot them, but not very often.

Mr Carey will tell you about Campelli when you see him, he and the Administrator were here last month and only ^{stayed} two or three days.

I have been going for all I was worth, to get the dairy business in full

Swing, and have had no time for anything else for a long time. We have been working Sundays and all other holidays, with the exception of Christmas and New years days - so I am going to let the boys have as many holidays as I possibly can, during the coming wet season and have a few days spell for myself.

Mr. Carey asked me to keep a list of natives medically attended to and the result has been startling. I got so used to handing out medicine; that it had become a habit. Numbers of natives that had heavy colds or influenza used to come for cough cure; which I compound myself. The cough cure is composed of wild honey (Mor-mo) Benzoin, Quinine and water. To give you an idea of what I do in that line - I will give you the July figures. Cases treated during July 1917
 Total 42 doses of medicine given out, and several bottles sent out to bush natives

Influenza or very heavy colds (treated) 545 doses of medicine given and several bottles sent to outside natives.

15 cases of Bubo treated 14 yaws, 11 cases of skin disease - and 30 for other complaints accidents etc. In one case a small boy

fell from a tree, and got badly staked. He was brought to me the day that I was starting for Darwin to bring Mrs G + Lon home. The natives said that there was nothing in the wound as they had taken the stick out. I dressed the wound and gave them some ointment to put on the wound. On my return I sent for the boy (aged about 9 years) as the natives said that it was "little bit sore". I probed the sore and found a piece of wood lodged against the thigh bone. I injected some cocaine, opened the leg and took out a piece of wood 2 inches long by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. This had gone in along the thigh bone and had been in some six weeks - The boy was soon well again, and now only a small scar can be seen.

One man brought in his daughter (aged about 5 years) thirty miles, to be treated for a bad scald. Others come from Kapaljoos to have teeth pulled out.

Bad eyes is another thing that I attend to in great numbers. I sent out numerous bottles of eye water to different camps. Just after the Administrator's visit last month, I was attending to some old women for sore eyes. One was a very bad case, so I blistered her behind the ear, which often releases the eye pain. In doing this I must somehow have

inoculated myself; for that night the pain in my eye nearly drove me mad, do what I would I could not ease the pain. My head swelled, my eye was like a coal of fire, the white around the iris was like jelly I suffered this pain for about four days. I kept hot water bathing up both night and day & then large quantities of matter came out of the corner of my eye. The top and bottom lids burst and thick matter came from them both. I kept bathing the eyes with hot water and put hot bread poultices on for days. I can just see to write & read now, but for nearly three weeks I had to make one eye do the work. I am lucky in getting my sight again; for had I been near a doctor; the chances are, that he would have taken the eye out, all is well that ends well. And I leave here on Sunday morning to catch the train at Pounds for Darwin; to rear my wet season's supplies -

I have been making a little butter here this season; and hope in the next season, to do much better. I have been in the happy position to be able to invite a friend to have an iced whiskey. Just fancy that at Campelli - We often put in the cool room, some pawpaws

and other fruits and have a feast of frozen fruit. When I have the compressor running for any time, we put in a few pigeons and black ducks; and Mrs G. says, I wish Sir Baldwin was here now, to do justice to the pigeons. Old Tharvalmark just asked me, when Tim came back that one professor Spencer.

Did I send you a photo and legend of the dog roets (Kor-go GAEMBY)

I hope to have a little spare time this wet, and will get some of the old men to freshen up my memory in some of the little folk lore legends and send them along to you.

Mitcherlack is not so anxious to take a trip as he was two years ago. When the old fisherman, Minw-makā died Mitcherlack fell heir to a young wife, hence his withdrawal. Quip is saving up his money and very eager for a trip with me, as soon as I can get away for a spell. I was very glad to hear from you; but knew how much of your time was taken up with public duties, that every minute was valuable, and I was not disappointed

at your absence. I have some bark paintings
on hand; if they are any use to you; I will send
them along to you; on the understanding; that there
is to be no payment made for them of any
kind. Did you get the key to the Murian
totems, that I sent you, some time ago. Mrs Cahill
and Lon join me in hoping that you and
Lady Spencer are well

With best wishes from
all at Oenpelli.

I remain

yours faithfully

Paddy Cahill