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Oenpelli

Aug 13 1913

Professor Baldwin Spencer Esq  
University  
Melbourne.

Dear Professor,

Your two welcome letters came to hand by Romula overland via Burrundie on July 1<sup>st</sup> and I was very pleased to hear from you and hope that you are again your old self and in good health long ere this reaches you. We at Oenpelli have had a bad time with heavy colds or influenza for about a month - The natives suffered very much and several very nearly died, I had over seventeen down at once, but luckily, I was able to get them all well again. At Manu-rook several deaths occurred; for I was unable to get there. I was very bad myself and could not go so far away from my patients. Manu-rook is about 30 miles in a straight line, but during the

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time that the swamps are full, it is over fifty miles - The women were the worst sufferers - At the Red Lilly the natives also had a bad time but I was able to attend to them and give them food and medicine - I had to rely on my wits to provide a cough cure and hit on honey and Iruia's Balm and by jove it worked wonders - When my private stock of tinned honey ran out, I had to fall back on (not-mo) native honey - and now if any get a cold no matter how slight a one, they want that one, make hot fellow (adamba) chest. The natives all swear by the St. B. and H.

I will be forwarding a black Kangaroo at the first chance. I have one very fine specimen on hand. I have been too busy to get any birds, let alone for the sickness among the natives left me almost without any workers and I am going on with the work about the station. By the end of the year I hope to have things ship shape. I have one house built for the natives, three rooms and vrandak

and hope by the end of the year to have four more erected. I have put two new verandahs on to our dwelling house, made a mosquito proof room, put a verandah on the back of the big shed, made a dining room for the natives, refenced the garden build a large shed and a new yard for the goats and am now starting to put up a horse paddock - so you see that I have been going strong. I had seven weeks out of this year lost, but going to Darwin and then the lost time during the sickness of the natives, I consider that I have done fairly well. I am starting Romulea overland with the mail on sunddy, so that I can hear what has happened. A survey party are camped here and the boat is a month over due so, there may have been an accident, Mr Stretton wrote telling me that he would be here early in July, so I think that it is best to send in and find out the truth. Murphy the Protector from the Roper passed here a month ago. bound for Bowen Straits on Coburg Peninsula, where he is to be permanently stationed. Miss Masson, paid us a flying

visit. Reaching Onepelli 10 P.M. and  
 off again a 7.30 A.M. She was with  
 the Royal Commission, on a holiday trip  
 A rough survey is being made of the  
 reserve and I will shortly be able to  
 know where the boundary will be. I hope  
 that His Excellency will let me have some  
 cattle as soon as possible so that I will  
 be able to make the station pay its way.  
 Most of the natives are always asking when  
 you are coming back and only this afternoon  
 old Ari-yah wanted know where you were  
 and what you were doing. But Sidors thinks  
 that the natives have no feeling, but by god  
 a native never forgets. I will do the best.  
 I can for you with regards the Mo-ran  
 ceremonies as soon as I can do so.  
 You may rely on that Sir. Every one at  
 Onepelli natives included would be pleased to  
 see you back here again and I can assure  
 you that every paper we get is eagerly pursued  
 to see where you are lecturing and hear about your  
 successes - We'll wish you the best of good  
 health and hope that this scribble will find you  
 fit and well again.

With kindest regards from us all  
 Yours truly Paddy Cahill.