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Burns & Co  
Publishers at Oropelli

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Oropelli  
Sep 19 1918

Sir Baldwin Spencer  
University  
Melbourne

Dear Sir Baldwin

I am sending you a few items for your museum. viz. one heian bale or bundle of bark paintings, you will have to throw away some of them as they are broken. The box of mixture, such as bags - Marr-gool and some pandanus mats IM-BURRA-BAR-ER. These mats are worn by the Liverpool River native women, & are hung by a string around the neck, with mat hanging over the rump. The Marr-gool (Cabbage palm) baskets will have to be soaked in water until they are soft enough to take apart. I packed them as they are, to save space. There is also some crab claws that the natives on the St. coast, use as tobacco pipes. In one box is the ornaments worn by the youths while going thru the Water's ceremony. A bag that is worn by a woman when she is pregnant for the first time. All items in this bag is composed of presents for the baby, to entree the child to come through the birth troubles safely. I am sorry to say, that nearly everything in the bag is composed of white man's material. I have been trying to get one of the old time bags, & have some old women now on the job, to try and make one like they used to make before the white man's time. There are three Murians, which I will personally explain to you I have also got

a few fresh water turtles UN-BUN-PAR-BEE. These eggs are not very often got in this district and are the first that I have managed to get. The turtle not tortoise grows to about 8 lbs in weight, and lives in large deep water holes, generally with a sand patch near, for egg hatching. You will notice the eggs, for they are quite round, like a pig pony ball.

There is also a collection of eggs, a few bird skins, some snake heads, fish etc. I have some fish that the natives call BOR-EE. The habit of the BOR-EE, is to dig or burrow in the wet earth and keep on going deeper as the surface dries. The way the natives catch the fish, is make a dense shade over the mouth of the hole, and wait patiently until the fish comes out, (which they always do, when the sun gets low) and then quickly cover the hole and grab the fish. I also got a few of the fish that are to be found on mud flats & along the river banks. WER-PAIR-EE. The natives call them. You have seen them when you were on the Alligator River. They leap about in the mud; climb up the mangrove roots. These eggs are very close together & they are funny looking eggs. They also dig deep down in soft ground & make tunnels and have a regular messy of messy underground home. The boys that caught the few that I am sending you; said that they had to dig about five feet deep & keep on following the tunnels, before they caught the fish.

You will find a little of everything that I thought may be of use to you; in the boxes. Fish, etc are soldered up in tins and preserved in a strong solution of formaline and I hope that the goods reach you in good condition.

This is a list of parcels etc. that I am sending you.  
 One bale of back drawings -  
 One large case of sundries  
 One smaller box of ditto.  
 One Keweenaw box of soldered tins (2 gal. oil tins & one Keweenaw tin)

(all plainly marked  
 NATIONAL MUSEUM  
 WASHINGTON  
 D. C.)

Campelli is not the same old quiet place that you used to know as I am writing this. Tom is cutting firewood with a circular saw; the compressor engine making a din of a row, cows bellowing for their calves. Boys calling out; hail up there to the cows etc. What with making butter, nailing up boxes separating & milking twice daily, I have my hands full. Tom does all the engineering, such as running the compressor to keep the butter cool, and driving the other engine for other purposes & he is doing splendidly, far better than any other engine driver that I have had here. I have now in the cool room, nearly one ton of butter. This I should think, should prove that the W.T. can support dairy cattle. I am glad to say that we are all well & hope to see you early in November. Trusting this short note will find you and yours in the best of health.

Best & best wishes from all at Campelli

Yours faithfully  
 Paddy Cahill

P.S. I will instruct agent to wire you when goods have been shipped to you.

P.C.