

Oenpelli

Aug 29 1919

Sir Baldwin Spencer CMG
Melbourne

(22)

(31)

Dear Sir Baldwin

Your letter in care of Mr H. E. Carey came duly to hand. Many thanks for enclosed £20. - I will do my best for you re specimens for your Museum. Mr Cahill + I had a pleasant trip from Sydney to Darwin on the S.S. Montoro. Our stay in Sydney was a very wet one, it rained every day, over 20 inches falling the two weeks of our stay in Sydney. Sydney struck us as a very dirty place after our visit to Melbourne. We called in at Brisbane only, no other port was touched at on the voyage, so we had a quiet run. Ten days was the time taken, and no sickness on board. I found on my arrival at Darwin that I was boycotted for my defence of our late Administrator Dr Gilruth. Things were unpleasant for me

No luggage of mine would be handled by the wharf laborers. I had to carry all our luggage from the petty to the Hotel Victoria, myself, on my head. Luckily our boat the John Abce was nearby + I put the heavy boxes on board of her. Anyhow I got through all right. A large case shipped from Sydney was opened and all Mrs Cahill's ^{goods} stolen from the box. A lot of presents that I was taking to the natives were stolen. One of the items taken, was (24) two doz razors, so you can guess that I was very wild, when the case was opened. Cenpelli looked very much off on my arrival. Tom did his best, but got very little assistance from the help that he had here. Jones broken down, and worked away etc, etc. I have been going at top pressure ever since our arrival. A fire had gone through my pine apple patch, killing most of the plants. Paw paw trees all blown down during a cyclone. And in fact Cenpelli looked very dismal. I am getting things shipshape now, and expect to start butter making next week. All the natives asked me if I saw you, and were full of questions about you. They all send you good wishes. Poor old Quiep did not have a happy time after

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leaving Melbourne. He lost his ~~portmanteau~~
and a lot of things that I bought him.
Some of the Darwin Thieves have high ideals; and
most of them should be shot just fancy, stealing
a Portmanteau from a native.

Mr W. G. Stutton
has been here for two months with us, and is
looking splendid.

We are all fairly well
& wish you all kind of good luck
with kindest regards from us all, not forgetting
the natives

yours truly
Paddy Cahill.