

At Ware (Teste Island) the only matter causing trouble—a case of adultery—was dealt with.

Appendix D,  
page 16.

15. The island of Nuakata was examined in August. It has excellent anchorage and a considerable population, but poor soil. The people are quiet and peaceful. A suitable man was appointed policeman for the island. All coast villages were touched at from Cape Karitahua, the most southerly point of Duau, round the west coast as far as Dobu. On the south coast they were very friendly towards the Government—a feeling that was largely owing to the fact that some of their men were members of the constabulary.

It became known on this tour that there are hot and boiling springs at Waipoiana, at the foot of Mount Sobia. The villagers on Sewa Harbour were quiet and well-disposed, some of the men desiring to enter the constabulary force.

An understanding was come to with the Bakera people, many of whom had been leading wild and irregular lives ever since the murder of the trader Morro there two years before, by which they should settle down and assist the constabulary to secure the principals.

The Wesleyan teacher of Sikiruku, on Fergusson Island, was met on Sunday performing a round of regular services on the adjacent coast of Duau. He had a circle of places round his permanent establishment at which he holds service every Sunday. By this arrangement these teachers are creating a wide circle of influence. The natives of Sikiruku and Begasse had greatly improved in demeanour. The teacher at the former place had about 200 hearers; the teacher at the latter some 500, in addition to which he occasionally has nearly 200 bushmen. A Fijian teacher at Baiio had about 300 hearers.

Under the firm discipline practised at Dobu in the schools and services established there very extraordinary progress has been made. The teachers were gaining a very beneficial influence on the coast of Fergusson east of Baiio, at Nekumaru, and in the provincial villages of Dobu. Churches had been built, and the tribes were settling down to quiet and regular lives.

At Vakutu Island they were peaceful and prosperous, and the same could be said of the island of Gawa. An effort of the constabulary to arrest two evildoers on Murua was not successful.

At Nada, where it is not difficult to maintain the good order established, a new chief was appointed. While the steamer was anchored at Wavepu Bay, west of Suloga Hill, an inspection was made of the long-sought quartzite quarries from which the banded stone is obtained that is so widely distributed in stone axes.

Advantage was taken of the fine weather to land on the coral island of Iwa. No anchorage could be discovered, but the interior of the island was found to be a depressed, thickly inhabited plateau, similar in shape and formation to the islands of Kitava, Gawa, and Kwaiwata. They had entered into trading relations with a European that visits them periodically.

The island of Kitava was in a satisfactory state. Visits were made to the Kiriwina villages of Wawera, Omarakana, &c., where matters appeared to be fairly satisfactory. The inhabited islands of the Lusancy Group, so named by D'Entrecasteaux, were all called at, and their positions approximately ascertained. They are all small, and only some of them inhabited. They appear to be all coralline except three, which are volcanic. Their trading relations are chiefly with Kwaiwaga (Goodenough). The inhabitants are peaceful.

All the tribes on the east of Fergusson Island were next visited. Some of them were very shy, but none unfriendly. It was noticed to be customary in certain tribes at the foot of the northern range to carry a slab of mica to serve as a mirror, and it was thought this matter might be worth some attention from traders.

The bubbling springs near Cape Labillardiere were found, but they were cold and not of much interest. The adjacent coasts of Fergusson and Kwaiwaga were carefully traversed, and all natives met with were well-disposed.

Appendix A,  
page 1.

16. At Wedau, on the north-east coast, a church was being opened by the Rev. C. King, head of the Anglican Mission. Nearly 300 natives were present, and behaved well, seeming to be proud of the church, which they largely assisted to build. The Rev. C. King went with the party to visit the north-east coast. The principal chief of the Paiwa district was landed at home after undergoing a term of imprisonment, and was appointed rural constable for that neighbourhood. The

coast was traversed by boat from Cape Nelson to the mouth of the Musa River, then found for the first time. There are no villages on the coast in that part of the country until Ketakerua Bay is reached, on which there are several of considerable size. These people were at first prepared for war, but soon became friendly. Their country is flat, low, and swampy at most places.

The natives of Oifabama and Erero were reserved and suspicious, but there were no actual disagreements with them. There was, however, great difficulty in communicating with them, owing to complete ignorance of their or any language north of Collingwood Bay.

Gona (Halnicote) Bay was fully examined. The villagers were at first timid and prepared for hostilities, but peaceful relations were established and maintained, though they might have been disturbed by the numerous and thievish population. The country there is flat and low. Some of the men are of very powerful physique; they possess a great number of good canoes, but they do not appear to use them for sailing. Just north of Gona Bay friendly relations were opened with the natives living near the mouth of Kumusi River. There is no village close to the river there. Five or six miles north of the Kumusi, a courteous tribe was visited, whose village is only sufficiently far from the beach to be out of sight from the sea. Women and children were the first to approach and meet the party.

The steamer took up a good anchorage in Douglas Harbour, a mile or so south of Mitre Rock, and observations were made at the rock itself for position.

The mouths of the Mambare River were next found and the position of one of the mouths obtained; and a halt was made at the mouth of the smaller Ikore River, which was found to enter the sea in German territory.

On the return journey all the tribes at the foot of Mount Trafalgar and in Collingwood Bay were visited, and friendly trading had with each, though on our approach several of them turned out armed. All the tribes in the vicinity of Phillips Harbour came and visited the steamer when at anchor there.

17. At the end of December a tour of inspection was made to the west of Port Moresby, which extended as far as the Purari delta. At Orocolo the people were holding high festival because some of them had successfully and by stealth murdered three of the Iare tribe. The Purari was flooded, and there was very great difficulty in ascending it beyond the Bevan Rapid. No natives were met with until the Aure, the first considerable branch, was reached, at about four score miles from the sea. There a number of men of the Epai tribe were seen; they were obtaining trees for canoes. The Aure was navigable for only two or three miles, at which distance it comes over rapids that are inaccessible to boats. It lies between rugged sandstone mountains. The Purari was ascended by the steam launch to something over 120 miles from the sea. The current was extremely strong and the ascent very difficult. The river, as soon as it meets the great sandstone main range, turns away to the west, a course it pursues as far as it has as yet been followed.

Appendix E,  
page 22.

Traces of natives, but no actual settlement, were seen before the highest point attained by the steamer was reached. The presence of the party was discovered by natives at that point, but they hurriedly continued their journey up stream to alarm their tribe. The journey was continued up the river four days in the river boat alone beyond the point at which the steamer had to be left. The boat could not make more than two or three miles a day. At the highest point reached there was settled a tribe called Biróe. These were naturally greatly surprised, and instinctively kept on strict guard. They very successfully hid themselves away, and left no trace of their near presence, until they suddenly struck the war-drum and yelled their war-cry. After much preliminary trouble, friendly relations at close quarters were entered into. They are evidently of the Papuan family, and speak a dialect containing root and common words met with elsewhere in the Possession. They cultivate tobacco, sweet potatoes, and bananas.

There was practically very little level land on the Purari after it first entered the hilly zone until the neighbourhood of Biróe was reached, and there was little sago. What small areas of flat land did exist were all cut up by deep gullies formed by violent floods in the river. The whole district is of sandstone formation, and is well wooded. The Purari is more than one-third, but less than half the size of the Fly River. It is the second largest river in the Possession.

Appendix BB,  
page 91.

In descending the river the presence of coal was detected at Abukiru Island. The analyses given in the appended report by Mr. Jack (Appendix BB) show that the coal is of excellent quality. There has been so far no opportunity of making a proper examination of the district. Our knowledge at present is confined to this : That there is a large sandstone area there, and that it contains good coal.

Some progress was made in committing the Maipua language to writing.

A night was spent at the village of Iare on the Purari delta. They were friendly, and were warned against taking revenge on the Orokolo tribe, who, they were told, would be dealt with by the Government. The population is great, and lives almost entirely on sago.

The ground on which their houses stand is in many instances below the level of spring tides.

A night was then spent at the village of Koriki. There is a large population there, and they were not familiar with Europeans. At first threatening and friendly in turn, they soon became thievish and insolent, and there was very great difficulty in staving off hostilities until next morning. At least 200 bowmen manned the banks of the river below, and a like number above the village, occupying each side so that the party must pass along between the two long files a short half-bowshot from each. They were successfully dispersed by rifle fire, and the party extricated itself without sustaining any casualty.

A few days later a visit was paid to the large neighbouring village of Maipua. This community was well warned beforehand that if any of them lifted a bow it would be regarded as the commencement of hostilities. They received the party very quietly, all arms having been put away out of sight. They professed their willingness to receive a teacher, and to build a church ; and they supplied three recruits for the constabulary. At Orokolo, the local name of which is Havida, the tribe received the option of fighting or of surrendering those that had murdered the three Iare people. After due deliberation they gave up all save one that had fled ; they also sent three young men into the constabulary.

Appendix F,  
page 30.

18. At the end of February a tour of inspection of the north-east coast was begun. Carriers and interpreters for inland travelling were engaged at Taupota, Wedau, and Paiwa. The coast line was traversed from Ipote to Dako (Fir-tree Point) by boat. The inland party were landed on the Mobiri Creek, and were conducted to near the foot of Mount Maneáo. At first the numerous natives of the district were timid and suspicious, but soon became friendly and rendered valuable assistance. The party successfully established friendly relations with a large number of new tribes, and made also valuable collections.

Further observations were made at the mouth of the Ikore River, which confirmed those made formerly, and placed that spot nearly a mile and a-half inside German territory. The natives there were at first friendly, but became thievish, and then put on an unfriendly aspect. As soon as it was clear that the mouth of the river was outside British New Guinea it was left, although it appears that the river enters the Possession within a very few miles of the sea. A camp was then formed at the north-west mouth of the Mambare River (the Clyde of the charts), and the ascent of that river was begun from that point. A guard with spare stores was left at the mouth of the river. Villages were met with five or six miles from the sea. The people were greatly alarmed at first and prepared to fight, but eventually friendly approaches were made by two men. Many extensive sago-fields and some unoccupied good alluvial land were passed the first day. Some large villages were reached at something over a score of miles from the sea. The hostile demonstrations of the natives there, as in all the other villages, were soon set aside. It was not the outcome of a warlike disposition, but the result of timidity and suspicion.

The unmarried women were naked, and the men loaded with native jewellery. The peculiar characteristic of the men was that as soon as it was clear that we had not come for the purpose of making war they danced and sang. At several of the villages they put up a taboo to keep us from landing. A considerable number of villages was passed before the launch had made two score of miles, beyond which she could not ascend the rapids. The journey was continued by boat for about a dozen miles more when rapids were met with, up which it was not advisable to take a boat. In the last twenty miles there were no villages, and the river passed between low hills for the last half-score of miles. Its bed contained a great

variety of stones, including large boulders of quartz containing much iron pyrites. Traces of gold were found. It seemed strange that although the district contained great sago fields, the natives hardly used it; but make extensive gardens of taro, &c., from which they chiefly live. They had no tobacco plant, no papaya, and no pumpkin. They cook in rude pottery. Some good land could be had on this river for settlement.

Additional observations were made at Mitre Rock, which again put it nearly three miles inside British territory.

Some ten or twelve miles of the Ope River were examined by the steam launch. This small stream opens into the sea in front of Gumboro Hill, a conspicuous landmark as far down the coast as it can be seen. There are many small villages on and near the Ope, all of whom were friendly and willing to barter. The Ope is a low country river, traversing swampy land, and receiving no branches from the main central range of mountains.

The Kumusi River was next examined. A guard was left at the mouth of the river with spare stores, some of which, however, the natives were able to steal, in spite of the vigilance of the Papuan guard. There are many gardens on the banks of this river from three to seven or eight miles from the sea; but after that they disappear, the country being low and swampy, with many fine fields of sago trees. Native settlement is sparse on the lower part of the river. The first hill was nearly three dozen miles from the sea, and was composed of a lava.

At the highest point reached by the launch there were fine plateaus of alluvial forest land, and the neighbouring country composed of low rolling hills, with fine valleys between. The sun was very hot during the day, but soon after dark it became cool, and before morning there was a cold breeze from the great mountain range.

The launch got aground in keeping out of the current and could not be got off until the river rose during the night. Many natives soon came round the launch, all prepared to fight on the spot, but friendly relations were established. The Kumusi is clearly, like the Mambare, a stream that has its rise in the main central range of mountains. In descending the river the steam launch struck a concealed "snag," and sank in deep water and was lost.

A few days afterwards the Basari Creek was examined for a few miles. There are no villages on the part of it seen by the party, but it has some good forest land about three miles from the sea. It rises on the Hydrographer Range of mountains. A large tribe was come into contact with there. They seemed to live somewhere not far from the coast. They became friendly, and appeared in great numbers—men, women, and children—next day.

It was found that a considerable creek opens into the sea at Cape Sudest. It is called Tambokoro, and comes from Hydrographer Range.

From a camp formed at the mouth of the Kevoto Creek it and the Umunda Creek were examined. The country on them is so low and wet as to be worthless. The natives in their vicinity were very friendly.

Some three dozen miles of the Musa River was examined by boat. At that distance the country was beginning to lose the character of swamp it had so far kept. Several small villages were passed, with all of which a good footing was established. It is a fine stream, and no doubt has its rise on the main range of mountains. A party at the same time examined part of the foot of Mount Victory on its north face, and established relations with a considerable tribe there. They found the country very rough. The people in the vicinity of Phillips' Harbour were again visited, and the party examining Maneao were met and removed. They had successfully executed their task.

19. In the middle of April the prisoners and the prison were inspected at Samarai. All the Port Moresby prisoners were there then, occupied in reclaiming the swamp. Their condition was satisfactory and the work making fair progress. The communities at East Cape and at Dobu were all quiet and peaceable. A number of carriers were engaged at Dobu for transport on the island of Kwaibwaga, the upper lands of which were examined. The tribes met with became friendly. The pearl fishery was being actively prosecuted at the Kiriwina Group, and no native disturbances were reported there. All pearls were being procured by natives and

Appendix G,  
page 38.