

4. I lately had a conversation with Mr. Levesey about a trip that he and his son recently made into country not previously visited by Europeans. He ascended the rivers shown in Plan 4B, New Guinea Annual Report 1892-93, and therein called the Tauri and Lakekamu rivers into the hills, and travelled over some mountain country at their heads. The Tauri had apparently changed its course more than once. There was excellent land on this river, and Mr. Levesey saw some large red cedar trees near its upper waters. I believe that the cedar obtained from this country, so far, has been white cedar and a poor timber. The most remarkable natural feature that he saw was on the top of a hill which he judged to be over 3,000 feet high. Here he came across a large coral reef. Mr. Levesey says that the reef stood out so clean cut, and so hard and solid, that it looked as if it had only emerged from the sea a short time previously. A bank of sand alongside the coral wall, containing fragments of coral and shells, increased this illusive aspect. He took specimens of the coral, but subsequently lost them through the upsetting of his canoe on the river. On neither the Tauri nor the Lakekamu rivers, nor in the hills, did Mr. Levesey see the least trace of man after he had got beyond the district frequented by the coast tribes. Mr. Levesey went up the Biaru River, also shown in the plan mentioned, until he came across a tribe who called themselves the Omwom. So far as he could understand they lived at one time further down the river, but having at some time come into hostile collision with the late Mr. Charles Kowald, formerly Government Agent of the Mekeo District, they had shifted up the river. However, they treated Mr. Levesey with great cordiality and hospitality. They knew of the coast tribes and of the Mekeo station. They used to be settled on the coast, but were driven inland by the Gulf natives some time before this country became a British possession. I may add that I have no recollection of any conflict of a serious character having taken place between the late Mr. Kowald and the people Mr. Levesey saw.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS P. WINTER.

His Excellency Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G., Government House, Brisbane.

APPENDIX B.

DESPATCH FROM THE ACTING ADMINISTRATOR REPORTING VISIT OF INSPECTION TO THE EASTERN AND NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICTS OF THE POSSESSION.

No. 5.]

Port Moresby, British New Guinea,

25th January, 1899.

MY LORD,—

1. I have the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 22nd day of December last I left Port Moresby on a visit to the east, and reached Samarai on the night of the 23rd. The principal event that had lately taken place in the district was a heavy gale of wind, that had blown for several days in the beginning of December. It appears to have been somewhat in the nature of a hurricane, as the wind veered a good deal. The natives say that it was the most severe gale that they have any recollection of: it certainly was the worst that has taken place in the district during the last ten years. Over a score of small vessels were lost. Fortunately, in nearly every case, they were run ashore, and the crews saved. One vessel, that has not since been heard of, had three men on board. Fergusson Island appears to have experienced the worst of the wind. The cocoanut trees on the island were not much damaged, but the storm caused great devastation amongst the forests on the hills. Some natives of the island were killed by a landslip, and a few by falling trees. A good many gardens were destroyed by the wind and the floods.

2. Hearing at Samarai that the Government ketch "Murua," the vessel of the south-eastern district, had been sunk in shallow water during the gale, we proceeded from Samarai to Nivani, taking with us a diver and diving-gear. We found the "Murua" on the beach at Nivani. All through the gale she had been moored with four anchors, in what has always been considered a well-sheltered haven. The storm forced her adrift and drove her on to a sandy islet some miles to the south of Nivani. Mr. Campbell had succeeded in getting her off and taking her to Nivani. It seems that the mission cutter, which was anchored a few miles off, had been sunk by the storm in deep water, and the fates of the two vessels had probably been confounded. Under the personal supervision of Captain Harvey, temporary repairs were quickly effected to the "Murua," and by constant pumping she was kept afloat and towed to Samarai. I am afraid that putting the vessel in sound order will cause heavy expense, and, unfortunately, the lack of proper timber is delaying the repairs.

I visited Panaieti on the 27th, and inspected the mission station there. It is at present under the care of Mr. Williams. The school children seemed to be progressing, and they sang well.

3. From Samarai we went to Auwaiama, where we stayed, to take in water. I visited the Anglican mission station at Taupota. The late storm had washed away the promontory on which the station is built to a distance inland of 50 feet. The village of Taupota had lost 120 houses, which had been close to the shore.

4. We reached the Mambare on New Year's Day, and next morning proceeded up the river, arriving at the station about 3 o'clock on the following afternoon. The place was in good order. A hillock had been levelled sufficiently to hold a large barracks, which had been completed, and a gaol in course of construction and to give space for a drill ground. A hospital had also been built. It is supported principally by private subscriptions. There were two patients in it when we arrived, one of whom died on the following day. One drawback to buildings of indigenous materials at this place is that the timber is mostly of a very perishable nature.

Gold-mining is still practically confined to the country between the Mambare and Gira rivers. I was told that the prospects obtained on the other side of the Gira were not satisfactory, and that apparently the auriferous ground lies between the two rivers. All the country from Tamata Station to the farthest point at which mining is being carried on is covered with dense forest. The gold is obtained in the bottom and sides of ravines and gullies. Some miners appear to have done well enough: some have not made a living. We brought away three destitute men.

Sickness had latterly been prevalent. Fever and dysentery combined are formidable foes to a man whose vitality has been lowered by exposure to a hot, humid climate and not the best of food, and who is not provided with proper medicines, and does not take care of himself. I did not see one face that in a temperate climate would be called a really healthy face. Mr. Russell was in charge of the station from the 1st September, 1898, to the 5th January, 1899. In that time thirteen Europeans died of sickness. The Europeans on the Mambare during the period never exceeded 200, and in the last two months of the year their number was much less than this.

The question of native carriers is in as unsatisfactory a state as it has been since the beginning. In the four months that Mr. Russell was in charge of the station over fifty died of sickness. About 100 ran away. Of these some fifty were stopped and brought back before they had got into dangerous country. It is to be hoped that a fair number of the others may reach country more or less under Government control. This mortality from sickness, and the running away, have been going on from the first. Some employers understand their men, and also treat them well. Others neither understand them nor treat them well. In some cases men who are good-hearted, but who are ignorant of native character, fail to gain the confidence of their native servants. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain carriers for the Mambare.

The relations between the Government and the natives of the Mambare appear to be getting into a satisfactory condition. There is a new village close to our beach station, containing some thirty houses. It is composed of survivors from two large villages. I appointed a representative of each section a village constable, in both cases appointing young men who had been prisoners at Port Moresby. The only objection to this site is that through its being so near the anchorage it is exposed to European blackguardism. Other new villages are being built at several points on the river. The people frequently pay visits to the Tamata station, and some come and work there. All the natives that I saw seemed contented, and friendly towards us. It would be too much to expect that they have quite forgiven us. But those who have got safely through troubled times, perhaps find that life on the river is more interesting than it was before we came there. It is probable, also, that the fear of neighbouring tribes may induce them to desire the presence of the Government. Even before the late disturbances the Gira tribes were apparently the stronger. Now they must undoubtedly be so. Fights between the Gira people and the Mambare people seem to have been pretty frequent in the past.

The Gira natives have not committed any acts of hostility. As is customary with natives, they brag at times of their ability to fight the Government. They went so far on one occasion recently as to send a species of challenge to our beach station. The two heralds were arrested, lectured, and sent home rather crestfallen.

A conflict had taken place between the Government and some natives of the Upper Opi River. A new way to the Yodda Valley has been explored, which passes through the Upper Opi district. Some seven or eight months ago a party of miners were attacked by the natives of this district. Finally, Mr. Russell considered it desirable to visit the place with a strong detachment. The natives opposed his progress; he tried to reason with and pacify them, but they attacked him. They were driven back with the loss of a few of their number. One of the constables received a spear through his leg.

5. From the Mambare we sailed to the Opi. A fight had taken place here a short time previously between the people of the villages near the mouth of the river and the inhabitants of some villages situated on the low hills inland. All these had been on friendly terms before. The origin of the quarrel was that a man of a hill village had helped himself without permission to a coconut from a tree belonging to a river village. The hill people seemed to have been the most to blame. We visited three hill villages whose inhabitants had taken part in the late fight. One had been abandoned, and there was no one at home in another. The third village we took by surprise, but though the constabulary entered it at a run they only captured two women. Some of the men from the river villages had come with us, and they talked with the two women. We pointed out to them all the folly of such near neighbours not being at peace with each other, and told them that the Government would not permit fighting. So far as I could judge, both parties were desirous to be again on friendly terms.

6. After leaving the Opi we went to Philip's Harbour in Collingwood Bay. Your Excellency will remember the village of Maisina in that bay, the one we visited on the 6th of May last just at dusk. A few months ago Wanigela, the chief of Maisina, and fifteen men of the village, whilst working in their gardens, were killed by a war party from some inland tribe. According to the Collingwood Bay people, this tribe or collection of tribes are known as the Dori, and live on the Musa River, some distance from its mouth. From the direction they pointed to, it seemed to me that the river in question might be the main eastern affluent of the Musa. These same people are alleged to have completely destroyed several of the bay villages in detail at different times. Apparently the inhabitants of the sea coast have never ventured to retaliate by invading the enemies' country. The Collingwood Bay people in general, and the Maisina people in particular, have up to the present shown a disposition to distrust and to be unfriendly to Europeans. There have been exceptions to this, the most notable one being that of the late chief Wanigela. They are still great thieves. I think that this unsatisfactory spirit has been due, partly to some confidence in their own numbers and partly to fear and mistrust. As yet there are really no competent interpreters for this district, and it is difficult, therefore, to make them understand us. Although I doubted whether the Maisina people really knew where their enemies' villages were, and even if they did whether, with the limited time at our disposal, we could get to them, it seemed to me desirable to take a trip inland. The fact that we were not afraid to meet the tribes they feared, would impress them, as would also the fact that we could travel about inland. Natives of new districts apparently have an idea that we are afraid to go far from our vessels. Our taking up the matter might induce them to believe that the Government was a friendly power, and also might enable them to realise more completely than they have yet done that their independence is at an end.

In company with Mr. Moreton, Mr. Russell, and Captain Butterworth, I started from Maisina on the morning of the 12th January. Although the Maisina people and some of their near neighbours had expressed their readiness to come with us, we had some difficulty in getting any of them to do so. Finally we procured a few guides and a dozen carriers. We had taken the precaution to enlist a certain number of carriers from places near Samarai, who had been brought to Philip's Harbour in the Government ketch. As the day wore on it became evident that the Maisini people were getting more and more reluctant to come with us. Our best interpreter, who kept close to them, overheard them expressing doubts as to what our intentions towards them were. They appeared to be doubtful about procuring food if we did not come across any villages. They did not like the rice we had given them at midday. We were not very much surprised, therefore, when they all deserted us in a body that night.

We had neither the time nor a sufficient stock of food to permit us to go back and make a fresh and more satisfactory start. I had sent the steamer on to Samarai, as there were a number of miners on board of her from the Mambare. The lack of guides, and the having to leave stores behind us at the first camp, through the loss of the Maisina carriers, apparently put an end to the chance of reaching the Dori villages. I determined, however, to take a look at the country. If we should come across any villages we could get food for the men, and would thus be able to prolong our stay. We went on for a couple of days, travelling by compass bearings. Our course was nearly in the alleged direction of the Dori villages, but to avoid possible swamps we kept more towards the hills. Practically we skirted the Garopo (Mount Suckling) Range. We never got out of dense forest. We saw no natives, nor anything to indicate that the country between our track and the summit of the range was inhabited. For the first few miles after leaving Maisina our path was through a very miry, swampy, jungle. Then we passed over a grassy flat into a valley between two small villages. A rapid stream ran through this valley, and its channel became our road for some little distance. This stream seems to lose itself in the swamps between Maisina and Philip's Harbour. After we left this river we entered and continued to be in pure forest country; that is to say, country thickly covered with arboreal vegetation that consisted almost entirely of tall trees and saplings of such trees. There was no grass in this forest. It began to rain every afternoon, between three and four, and continued raining long after dark. The sun's rays rarely reached the sheeted, sodden ground. I came to a spot where one of the men had shot at a bird at least ten minutes after the shot had been fired, but the smoke and the odour from the exploded powder were as distinct as if the gun had only just been discharged. Our progress on the third day was much obstructed by fallen trees. Judging by the look of the fallen timber, most of the trees had probably been blown down in the late gale. On our return journey the track that we had cleared enabled us to reach our camping-places at an early hour. This gave time for some of the men to go in search of game. They shot nine rock or forest wallah on the first afternoon and eight on the next, which shows that this animal must be fairly plentiful in this forest, although when on the march we saw but one. It differs altogether in colour, and slightly in form, from the wallah of the grass lands. Some wild pigs and a few goura pigeons were also shot. The soil for the first few miles after leaving the coast swamps seemed to be good, but after that it became poor and stony. Judging from the rocks, the country looked as if it might be worth prospecting for gold.

The most noteworthy natural objects in the country were what I believe to be the outlets through which the storm waters of the more lofty portions of the Garopo Range find their way to the sea. There were two distinct classes of water channels traversing the country. The first was the ordinary mountain streamlet or brook of clear water, running at the bottom of the tortuous little hollows formed by the undulations of the land. These streams apparently take their rise in the foothills of the great range and are not subject to very heavy flooding. The other class of water channel was quite different. These channels were torrent beds. Only one had a deep, narrow channel; and only the two widest had any, running water in them when we passed by. The smaller of the two broadest channels had a stream of very muddy water running along each side of it, apparently fed from different sources. The largest one of all was most striking. You emerged from dense forest into a stony, sandy waste, covered with boulders, and sparsely strewn with logs and driftwood. That portion of it which we could see up and down had a straight course, and was about a mile long by 300 yards wide. This species of avenue was fringed on each side by rows of dead or dying trees. Through it ran two streams in shallow channels. The western stream was the larger of the two. It was about thirty feet wide, and apparently nowhere more than two or three feet deep. Where I crossed it it was not more than eighteen inches deep, but if it had not been for the assistance of some of the constabulary I should have been swept off my feet. The water was the colour of liquid mortar, and it seemed to be charged with as much earthy matter as it could hold in suspension. When this rapid stream of watery sludge encountered an obstructing ledge of rock it boiled and surged and rolled over it in a whirling mass of muddy froth. This outlet cut through the dense forest must, I think, be of recent formation, and the beginning of it at least must, it seems to me, have been caused by a large body of water travelling with great velocity. Besides the rows of withered trees at the sides, a few tall trees in a similar state were dotted about near the centre of the clearing. These trees, from their shape, had evidently grown to their existing height hemmed in by other trees, and not in free space. The course of that portion of the avenue that we could see was along the highest part of a very low, slightly sloping undulation. The land fell away from each side of the avenue, though at a very gentle slope. The exposed roots of the trees in the waste showed that the surface of the soil had been torn away, and that it was not a case of a hollow having been filled up. Nothing but a great mass of water, moving very rapidly, could, I think, have kept such a course for such a distance. Landslips are common in the lofty Garopo Range. A landslip blocking up the mouth of one of the great gorges would easily account for the accumulation and the sudden breaking out of a very large body of water. So far as I could judge, from a subsequent view of the mountains from the deck of the steamer, one of the deepest gorges in the Garopo Range debouches close to the head of this remarkable water channel.

We were a little curious about the reception we should get at Maisina on our return. I gave instructions that we should be quite friendly, and treat their deserting us as of little consequence. They had evidently thought out what they would do. There were only a few men in the village when we arrived. They received us politely, and were assiduous in bringing firewood, cocoanuts, and water. They also, later on, brought us several pigs, but these we paid for. They were apparently on the alert, and ready for a

bolt into the bush if need be. I therefore spoke to some of them, telling them exactly what we were going to do that day and the next. Presently a rather anxious-faced man, who seemed to have a little authority, came and asked me if it was true that we Europeans were going off to the steamer at Philip's Harbour, but were going to leave the police and carriers at Maisina. I replied in the affirmative. He said that this was good, and added that they would not steal anything from our party. The sergeant told us afterwards, that although everything had gone on smoothly, none of the natives stayed in the village that night. We saw nothing of our deserters. One result of our visit was the restoring to the mission, by the bay people, of a number of stolen knives and tomahawks. The restoration was always accompanied by the request that the mission would say nothing to the Government about the theft.

On the following day I visited the new station of the Anglican Mission at Wanigela. The mission have abandoned the idea of having a station on the point at Philip's Harbour. Most of the people at Wanigela had gone fishing or run away, but the chief, who has been made a village constable, was there. He looked a good man for the post, and he has behaved well towards the mission.

7. From Philip's Harbour we proceeded to the small bay west of Cape Vogel, on the hills above which the Anglican Mission are building a new station. We landed a quantity of building materials that we had brought from Philip's Harbour. This formed a portion of the large house that had been taken to Philip's Harbour by the mission, but not put together there. The new site is a good one. It commands a fine view of the coast to the north-westward. The natives of the place seemed pleased at having the mission amongst them. The Cape Vogel natives are on friendly terms with the Collingwood Bay natives, and trading canoes are constantly passing backward and forward between the two places.

After leaving Cape Vogel we called at Paiwa and Boianai, in Goodenough Bay. The Paiwa people, since the death of their old chief Rebuna, have evidently been relapsing into the shy, mistrustful stage. Owing to the situation of the village, in a deep nook of the bay, it is an out-of-the-way place. At Boianai I tried a man from the neighbouring hills who had been arrested by the village constables of the coast villages. This indicates a decided improvement, as not long ago a coast native would not have ventured to arrest a hillman in the latter's village. The only other cases from this district had been those of coast natives for killing the hill people. These cases have probably had some effect in persuading the hill people that the Government are their protectors. The offence I tried was the killing of a hill woman by hillmen because she was a witch.

From Boianai we proceeded to Samarai, and from thence to Port Moresby.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS P. WINTER.

His Excellency Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G., Government House, Brisbane.

APPENDIX C.

DESPATCH FROM THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR REPORTING VISIT OF INSPECTION TO WESTERN DISTRICTS OF THE POSSESSION.

Government House,

Port Moresby, 11th April, 1899.

No. 25.]

MY LORD, —I have the honour to report that I left Port Moresby on Tuesday, the 28th March, in the s.y. "Merrie England" for the west, accompanied by His Honour Judge Winter, Dr. Blayney, Resident Magistrate for the Central Division, in his Government ketch "Lokohu" in tow, Captain Butterworth, the Commandant, and the usual travelling escort of armed native constabulary for boats' crews. I also gave a passage there to Mr. Allen, the Government Printer, who is, I regret, retiring from the service of this colony owing to urgent private affairs. He proceeds to Brisbane, *via* Thursday Island, on six weeks' leave on half salary; and to Mr. Walker, a gentleman who had been temporarily employed as sub-collector at Daru by Mr. Hely after Mr. De Lange's death. We took a mail for Thursday Island.

HALL SOUND.

2. We called in at Hall Sound at 1 a.m. on Wednesday morning, 29th, and sent a boat in for letters to the Roman Catholic Mission on Yule Island, and to the London Missionary Society Station at Deleua, on the other side of the Sound. The Rev. Mr. Holmes, of the London Missionary Society, and Mr. Guilianetti, Government Agent for the Mekeo district, came on board. Mr. Guilianetti reported all quiet and satisfactory in his district. I had already arranged with His Grace Archbishop Navarre to call in on my way back from the west. We left again at 2:30 a.m., taking letters for Thursday Island, the reverend fathers on Yule Island availing themselves of the opportunity, which I was glad to have been able to afford them, of writing home.

KEREMA.

3. We anchored that night off Kerema village and landed there early next morning. The mission teacher, Tauwa, a Raratongan, received us. He has a nice wife and children, also an excellent house, and garden full of pineapples, and has just completed a good church (40 feet by 20 feet, about) made of sawn timber, most of the materials being obtained from the wreck of the mission vessel "Mary," which was lost near there about four years ago during the south-east season, when navigation of the whole of this coast is difficult and often dangerous. The teacher informed us that about fifteen children attended school.

4. I made the acquaintance of the two village chiefs; one Mara, who is village constable, and represents the Government; the other an older man, Loā, whom the mission regard as the hereditary chief. For the purposes of my visit I made no distinction between them. I heard here of a rumour that some people of Maipua, a large village at the mouth of the Oriomo River, to the west of Orokolo, had, some two months ago, killed some people belonging to inland villages of the Koriki tribe, to settle some old-standing account; but the information was very indefinite. I decided to make further inquiries as I went westwards.