

34. From Taupota we crossed Goschen Straits to Sewa Bay, a little to the north of Cape Prevost Normanby Island. It is a magnificent sheet of land-locked water, about four miles at its longest and three miles at its broadest parts. Its mouth is almost closed by an island, at each end of which is a narrow entrance facing south and west approximately. We entered by the former, getting twenty fathoms in the passage, which is not more than 200 yards wide. The approach from seawards to it is marked by some outlying rocks, which show well above water. The bay is free from dangerous obstructions. We steamed round it, finding secure anchorages in ten fathoms at either end, and anchored at the northern one. The land to the south-east is high, completely sheltering the bay. The hills around are heavily timbered to the water's edge. There were a few huts in groups of two dotted about here and there. A few natives came off in canoes, and appeared quite friendly. From the number and extent of clearings for gardens there is apparently a considerable population located somewhere in the vicinity. It is possible that this might be a practicable site for the principal eastern township. If the harbour were on the mainland near Samarai, which is already too small for its population, it would be invaluable.

35. We left the next morning, 6th January, for Samarai, arriving there at noon. Finding a Samarai schooner on the point of leaving for Cooktown, I sent a telegram by her to Your Excellency reporting my arrival from the east and Mambare, the settlement of the Trobriand affair by Mr. Moreton, and my selection of a position at Cape Nelson for the new Government station.

36. Captain Harvey procured a diving dress and sent the ship's carpenter down to examine the copper on the ship's bottom, and replace any that might have been damaged by contact with the coral patch I have reported. I am glad to say that the carpenter reported that none was torn off or injured. It was important to ascertain this at once as it will be some months before the ship could go to Brisbane to be docked, and copper must be replaced or renewed at once in order to prevent damage to the hull by the sea-worm. The carpenter is allowed the usual diver's pay of £1 a day (or part of a day), which Captain Harvey informed me is the rate in Australia, exclusive of the hire of the dress.

I inspected the Government ketch "Siai." Captain Harvey informed me that she will require to be overhauled for repairs as soon as possible, and advised that she be sent to Port Moresby to be put on the slip there and repaired by the Government carpenter instead of at Samarai.

37. I received a numerously signed petition from persons who had lodged applications for dredging areas with the district wardens, asking that their applications might have priority over others. I replied that until there was a law sanctioning and legalising dredging here the Government could not entertain any applications, and that to do so would, as I have before said, be most unfair to those who have been told by the Government to wait till the Regulations are passed before making application under it. The petitioners were evidently placing dredging claims, on which several thousands of pounds must be expended before a dredge can be worked on them, in the same category as alluvial claims, on which anyone with a miner's right, a pick, and a tin dish can set to work. I have no doubt that they thought they had acted rightly in lodging applications, and that they looked forward to a fair gain when the real dredging men came on the scene. But I declined, in my reply, to go beyond the legal and equitable position of the case. Two of the petitioners called on me as a deputation—Mr Arbouin (manager of Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co., at Samarai, who is largely interested in all mining developments) and Mr. Webster (manager of a gold-mining company)—to ask me to reconsider my decision. At the conclusion of our interview, Mr. Arbouin frankly told me that, having heard the other side of the question, he was satisfied that the view taken by the Government was a right one, and that he should tell the others so. Although a contrary expression of opinion would not have altered my view, I am glad of this incident, as there was a very strong feeling that the Government had acted hardly—some said unfairly—in the matter. But of this my mind was quite clear: it would have acted most unfairly and wrongly to have taken any other course.

38. Mr. Russell remained at Samarai to carry out some survey work, and we left for Port Moresby on the evening of the 9th, landing some returned carriers we had brought from the Mambare at their home in Baxter Bay, and arrived here on the 11th instant, having been exactly forty days on the whole cruise to the east and north.

39. As I informed Your Excellency by telegram from Samarai, I intend to despatch the "Merrie England" to Cooktown for stores after the arrival of the "Moresby," which is expected about 20th instant. On her return, I shall proceed to the west and visit some of the villages in the Gulf district.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE.

His Excellency The Honourable Sir S. W. Griffith, G.C.M.G.,
Lieutenant-Governor of Queensland.

APPENDIX D.

DESPATCH REPORTING VISIT OF INSPECTION TO THE NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT OF THE POSSESSION, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT STATION AT CAPE NELSON.

No. 28.]

Government House, British New Guinea,

14th April, 1900.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that I left Port Moresby in the s.s. "Merrie England" on the 30th March, for Cape Nelson, in order to place Mr. A. R. Monkton, the Resident Magistrate of the new North Eastern District, at the station to be established on the site I selected in January last, as reported in my Despatch, No. 1 of 16th January, 1900.

1. I was accompanied by His Lordship Bishop Stone-Wigg, who had returned from Australia in the s.s. "Moresby," on 28th March, Captain Barton, Mr. Monkton, and a detachment of fifteen constabulary for the new station.

Samarai. 2. We arrived at Samarai early on Sunday morning, 1st April. The following day I held an Executive Council for land matters and other business.

Bartle Bay. 3. We left at 3 a.m. on Tuesday with the Rev. Mr. Furneau and two lady members of the Anglican Mission Staff, who had arrived in the s.s. "Moresby" the day before, and with the mission schooner "Albert McLaren" in tow, with a cargo of live stock, which the Bishop had brought over from Sydney in the "Moresby." We arrived at Wedau at 3 p.m. that afternoon, and were welcomed by the Rev. Mr. Newton, who was in charge, the Rev. Mr. King having gone to the new station on the Mambare, which the Rev. Mr. Hines had been obliged to leave from ill-health when I visited it in December last.

Cape Nelson. 4. We left Bartle Bay at 11 p.m. the same night, and arrived at Cape Nelson before noon the next day. We found a good house had been erected on the site I had selected by the help of the Rev. Mr. Abbott of the Anglican Mission at Wanigela in Collingwood Bay; and as I was anxious that Mr. Abbott should be present when the station was formally opened, I sent Captain Barton in the steam launch for him.

In the evening, accompanied by the Bishop, I visited two of the villages in the inlet and found the people much more friendly and less afraid of us than before.

5. I had arranged that the "Merrie England" should go on with stores for the Tamata Station and land them at the store on the beach at the mouth of the Mambare River and return to us. Meanwhile, I had sent messages to the chiefs of the Cape Nelson tribes that I should be there for a couple of days and would have a meeting with them and their people, and "open" the station.

Unfortunately, just as I had sent my camping gear ashore and was packing up to follow it, I was seized with a very sudden and acute attack of ague and fever, and had to turn in, and I felt that it would be useless for me to camp in the open ashore, for I should probably only get worse, and be an encumbrance instead of a help to the others. I therefore decided to go on in the steamer and come back in her, by which time I should be fit for work again.

Kumusi River. 6. The steam launch having returned with Captain Barton and Mr. Abbott, the "Merrie England" left that evening, and anchored that night at Porlock Harbour. The following morning we stopped off the mouth of the Kumusi River, where the miners going up to the new finds in the Yodda Valley had formed a camp.

I sent Mr. Elliott, the assistant warden and overseer at Tamata Station, who had joined the ship at Samarai on his return from leave of absence, to make inquiry and report on the state of affairs ashore. He returned and reported to me that there were about thirty-five men camped at the mouth of the river, some in houses built of native material and others under canvas. There were two stores, Messrs. Clunas and Clarke, and Messrs. Whitten Brothers, of Samarai; there were about forty-five men at the upper camp, 45 miles up the river, and from seventy to one hundred on the Yodda Valley Field. One of the two launches, Mr. McKenzie's—a steam launch—had been accidentally burnt to the water's edge a few days before, and the other—a petroleum one—belonging to Messrs. Whitten, had not sufficient motive power to tow a boat upstream. She was on her way up the river then. The storekeepers had plenty of rice and meat, but were entirely out of flour and biscuits. (A vessel was to leave Samarai almost immediately after us with supplies for the river.) The native carrier boys with the miners were all right and had plenty of food, and the natives on the river were friendly. Mr. Armit, the resident magistrate, had been at the Forty-five-Mile Camp about two weeks before and had gone back overland to Tamata Station. He had cut a track across from there by the Upper Ope River, and had some "difficulties" with the Upper Kumusi natives.

Mambare Bay. 7. We arrived the same evening at Mambare Bay and landed Mr. Elliott and the stores there. The beach is now entirely deserted except by the constabulary detachment in charge of the Government store. I was sorry to hear that Busimaiwa, the Chief of Duwira, was in custody at Tamata, having got into trouble through fighting a neighbouring tribe on the Gira River, and that the corporal in charge of the beach station had been disgraced for being implicated in it. I had no definite details.

8. I sent instructions to Mr. Armit, and also directed Mr. Elliott to act on them if Mr. Armit was still absent, that if he considered it necessary that a Government officer should remain on the Kumusi, or in the Yodda Valley, Mr. Elliott was to proceed there at once; Mr. Rohu, who has been acting for Mr. Elliott, being offered temporary employment as overseer at Tamata Station, at the rate of £100 a year while so employed, and Mr. Elliott receiving an extra allowance, in addition to his present salary, while away in the district. This will be fairly chargeable to "Unforeseen." It will be necessary to appoint a resident gold warden on the new field if it opens up as seems likely.

I shall not be able to know what Mr. Armit decides to do until I get a report from him, but I have every confidence in his judgment in the matter.

Kumusi. 9. We left again at midnight, in heavy rain, and arrived off the mouth of the Kumusi again at daylight, to pick up a sick and destitute miner—a German—who had come across from the Mambare field and down the Kumusi. He was an elderly man—as many of those who come here are—and had lost—he stated he had been robbed of—the few ounces of gold he brought with him to the river's mouth, and coming to us across the small creek between the camp and the beach had been capsized out of the canoe. We sent a boat for him, and gave him a warm bath, and he was soon better, though evidently very ill and weak.

The camp is on the left bank of the river, just inside one of the mouths which runs out between two low, wooded points, with a very dangerous bar beyond them. Though quite calm when we were there, it was breaking like a strong tide race. When the south-east wind is blowing, it is, of course, very much worse, and there is a heavy roll along the beach. I was glad that the accident of my having to go on from Cape Nelson gave me the opportunity of seeing the place.

Cape Nelson. 10. We arrived that afternoon at Cape Nelson and found all the party well, and a good deal of clearing had been done about the house, the ground about being dotted with the camp tents; the stores, &c., had been placed in the house.

Mr. Monkton had found an excellent site for the permanent station a little further up, with a good water supply and good garden ground, and a practicable road to the cove close by where the "Merrie England" was riding at anchor within a stone's throw of the shore. It will also command a view of the adjoining fiord to the north. I think I am right in saying that everyone was pleased with the selection we have made. It is certainly in wonderfully beautiful surroundings, as I have before imperfectly attempted to describe.

11. I had seen a large number of natives at the station on our arrival that day, and hoped to have a large meeting on the next day (Sunday), but to my disappointment they had all gone home, and only one chief, Jiwi of Wonu, one of the upland villages, and two or three of his men, whom Captain Barton had managed to keep with him, were left.

Three causes were assigned:—Firstly, it was a very wet morning; secondly, the "Merrie England" is still a signal for a general stampede (this, I hope, was not the cause); thirdly, the corporal of the detachment of constabulary had, Mr. Monkton discovered, given an unauthorised warning that, "being Sunday, no one was to come."

I could not, however, spare another day, so in presence of Jiwi and his three men and about a score of other natives from the villages in the inlet, who had in the meantime arrived in their canoes, and the detachment of constabulary, we hoisted and saluted the Government "blue ensign," and thus formally established the visible signs of the Queen's rule amongst these wild and distant subjects of Her Majesty. I gave Mr. Monkton a short written address to be communicated to the chiefs and people when he could get them together, in which I endeavoured to explain the elementary principles of English administration and law and order, and the position and relation of the magistrate to them.

It is an instructive picture to see how the germs of Government are first planted and left to develop in the hands of a solitary English officer with a few so-called police—for the most part young lads half-trained—among a wild people to whom a stranger has *ipso facto* been hitherto a foe.

12. The boundaries of the North-Eastern District are from Cape Vogel on the south to Cape Endaiadere, to the south of Holnicote Bay, on the north, a coast line of about 150 miles, Cape Nelson station being nearly equidistant from the boundaries. The district also includes the interior lying behind this coast line; but I have arranged that should the head-waters of the Kumusi or Yodda Rivers, which flow through the Northern district, be found to rise in the interior of the North-Eastern they are to be considered throughout their whole systems, together with the tribes along and about them, as under the magistrature of the Northern district. This will avoid administrative difficulties and complications.

13. We left the same day, 8th, called in the night at Wedau for the mission mails, and landed the Bishop and Mr. Abbott at Taupota, from which they were going back by land. We arrived at Samarai that evening.

14. I had a meeting with the committee of the new hospital, which is to be soon started, on the following morning, and was pleased to find that they had already collected £136, and had a guarantee for the rest, making, in all, £200, which, with the £200 grant—£ for £—from the Government, will enable them to make a beginning at once during the present financial year. An excellent site has been given them by the Government, on a hill overlooking the Straits, to the west of the Residency, and prison labour has been granted to them free of charge to clear and level the site. I regret to say that it has entailed cutting down a large number of full-bearing cocoanut-trees planted by Sir Wm. MacGregor.

15. There will be provision made for the treatment of natives, and the committee are going to ask local employers of native labour to arrange with labourers when engaging for a contribution of 5 per cent. of the labourers' wages being given to the hospital when they are paid off (1s. in the £). This is, of course, not compulsory, nor will it in any way effect the statutory liability of the employer to supply medical treatment free of charge to his labourers, but it will be found to be, I think, advantageous to the labourers when an employer (who must be a subscriber himself to the hospital, or he will be charged the full fees) can send them at once for treatment in hospital without extra expense. Without the additional help from the labourers' contributions the hospital could not undertake a native ward, and in no other way would the labourers, when seriously ill or injured, obtain as good medical treatment. It will also, I believe, tend to improve the relations between the natives and Europeans when they see the latter interesting themselves and caring for them. At any rate, I saw no objection to the experiment. Credit is due to Dr. Vaughan for the energetic way in which he has made a start and set the thing at work in so short a time.

16. The materials for the various new buildings and extensions provided for in this year's estimates have arrived, and the work will be taken in hand; but, owing to there being only one local carpenter available, it will be some considerable time before they can be completed. It will be necessary and economical to have a second Government carpenter on our establishment; the one at Port Moresby is always fully employed.

An extension of the gaol is required, and proper quarters for the constabulary, boats' crews, Government stores, &c. All these will be carried out by prison labour and with native materials, except the roofs, which will be of galvanised iron, to secure a much-wanted water supply. That and the necessary tanks and spouting will be the only extra expense, and these will be provided for in next year's Public Works Estimates.

17. I held an Executive Council for the settlement of various local land matters and for other business, and left for Port Moresby on the morning of the 11th, bringing Mr. Russell, the Government Surveyor, back with me.

18. On Mr. Moreton's recommendation, I have approved of the six lads, sons of the Trobriand chiefs, who were taken to Samarai as hostages for the carrying out of the reparation of the damage done at the outbreak in Kiriwina last November, and which has been completed, returning to their homes. They have behaved themselves exceedingly well, and I saw two of them acting as assistant warders with the prisoners employed on the hospital site. I have no doubt that their stay under Government supervision at Samarai will be of great benefit to them and their people later on. I told them that when they grew a bit older I should be glad to make use of them in Government employment. Mr. Moreton, who has been extremely kind to them, will take them back to their homes very shortly. I need not say that the boys were very pleased at the news.

19. I have just received the enclosed very interesting account of the peace-making at Kiriwina from the Rev. Mr. Fellows. I regret to hear of the death of the old Chief Enamakala.

"Merrie
England."

20. We arrived at Port Moresby on Thursday, 12th instant. I am sending the "Merrie England" to Cooktown to meet the mail of 20th instant there. On her return she will go to Daru with the "Juanita," which we brought up here from there for repairs, and return with the steam launch "Ruby" which I left there for Mr. English's use. I shall then proceed on my regular visit of inspection to the eastward, &c.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE.

His Excellency Sir S. W. Griffith, G.C.M.G., C.J., Lieutenant-Governor, Queensland.

MEMO. FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, CONCERNING THE PEACE-MAKING CEREMONY
BETWEEN THE KIRIWINA TRIBES, WHO WERE LATELY AT WAR.

Mission House, Kiriwina, 11th January, 1900.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

DEAR SIR,—I thought you would be interested in learning some details of the doings of the Kiriwina fighting natives, since Your Excellency's last visit here.

Taolu, the brother of Enamakala, turned up on the morning the steamer left, with some paltry excuse for not having come in the day before. I pointed out to him his mistake and the probable consequences to himself if he repeated it. I also gave him Your Excellency's messages for Enamakala and himself. On the last day of the year Enamakala died from the dysentery which had prevented him from coming here to meet Your Excellency.

Enamakala is succeeded as *Guiau*, the ruling chief, by Taolu, who also takes over eight of his brother's widows. The rest of the widows have been divided among the other chiefs of the family, one of whom was very angry because he only received two.

Last Saturday Moliassi came to see me. He informed me that Taolu had visited him the day before, in his village Kabwaku. Many people tried to dissuade Taolu from going, saying that Moliassi would kill him. "But," said Moliassi to me, "I have eaten the words of the Governor and Mr. Moreton and yourself: my fighting is finished." So I received Taolu into my village, and after conversation I said to him—"I will go and see Mr. Fellows, then we will arrange for the *Kabilula*: atonement, or peace-making ceremony. The usual custom is to keep the defeated tribes out of their villages for at least one year. Of course, I again urged Moliassi to settle the matter as soon as possible. The following Wednesday was finally decided upon as the day for this important function.

On Tuesday, Taolu came to ask me to accompany him on the morrow to the *Kabilula*. We arranged to meet at the inland village of Obweria. I was there early, and about 9 o'clock Taolu arrived with a numerous retinue, all fully armed with spears and shields and long knives. Taolu carried no weapons, but I noticed that, in addition to the ordinary ornaments by which a *Guiau* is distinguished, he was also wearing the sacred emblems of royalty—the armlets and wristlets previously held by Enamakala and his predecessors for many generations in the office of supreme *Guiau* in the ruling *Labai* family of Kiriwina. As Obweria was the first village in Tilataula territory entered by Taolu, he was here formally received by a Tilataula chief. This man, named Kunoi, rushed into the centre of the village, and began jumping about and gesticulating like a madman, never once looking at Taolu, but addressing him, and him only, all the time. In effect, he said: "Taolu, we are glad to see you. We acknowledge you as our *Guiau*, in succession to Enamakala. We have had enough of fighting, and everything is ready for making the atonement to-day. All the Tilataula chiefs are waiting for you in Kabwaku. Let us go and make peace. Then come back and live in your village, Omarakana, and rule the country as a *Guiau* should. Make peace and keep the peace; put away all the spears so that there be no more war." Then striking his forehead with the palm of his hand—the usual pledge of a chief that he would defend from danger—he made a leap to where Taolu stood, grasped his hand, and drew him to the path leading towards Kabwaku. As a dramatic performance, Kunoi's action was perfect; its effect on the men standing round was electrical. They simply roared out their acclamation to the *Guiau*, and, shouldering their spears, they crowded pell-mell into the narrow track after their leaders. Beyond the village the procession was marshalled. A band of warriors took the lead, headed by a sorcerer, who, with his continuous incantations, cleared our path of all evil spirits. Following these came about twenty women, carrying on their heads the appeasing gifts for the *Kabilula*, then the chiefs with more warriors, and behind came the crowd.

Going in single file, the column stretched out to a great length. At frequent intervals a wave of cheering ran down the line. The excitement increased as we went along, and reached its climax in deafening acclaim as we entered Kabwaku, where Taolu was welcomed by Moliassi in fine dramatic style. This was a proud day for so young a chief as Moliassi, and he was equal to the occasion. In the *Kabilula*, equal presents are given and received on both sides, but the defeated chief, after seeking and receiving permission, has to come to the village of his conqueror, and there make his offering of atonement.

A clear space was quickly made in the middle of the village in front of Moliassi's house. The multitude of armed men with their spears in their hands eagerly crowded round. At one end of the rough circle stood Moliassi stern and silent, surrounded by other chiefs of his side; at the other end Taolu and his friends were busy unpacking their things. The proceedings were opened by Taolu rushing into the ring and carrying aloft a valuable armlet which he laid on the ground, at the same time crying out in a loud voice *Kam lula Moliassi* (thy atonement, Moliassi). He immediately turned and retired, and the armlet was instantly snatched up and handed in by one of Moliassi's men. Again and again Taolu repeated this performance, each time bringing only one *vaigua* (article of wealth), and calling out the name of the chief to whom he was giving it. Some of his friends also did the same. In this way between thirty and forty different *vaigua*, consisting of armlets, old stone tomahawks, necklaces of native money, &c., &c., were presented and received. Then Taolu ran in and made a speech to Moliassi and his people, simulating furious passion as he sprang from side to side of the circle, and swung his arms about in energetic gestures. He addressed them as *Bodagua* (my younger brothers) and said, "I am weak to-day through the death of my elder brother Enamakala. Had he been alive to-day he would have brought more *vaigua* than you have men. I have brought you my own *vaigua* as your *lula*; let that suffice. We are living in the bush, permit us to return to our villages. Put away your spears and let us work at our gardens that there may be plenty of food for ourselves and our families." Then Moliassi and the other Tilataula chiefs began to present the return *lula* to Taolu. In the same manner, one by one, article for article, they laid down the exact equivalent of the *vaigua* they had received. After this they made their speeches, all of them definitely accepting Taolu as their *Guiau*.