Station 291/1901 Jan 1901

GOVERNMENT SECRETARY PORT MORESBY 25 APR. 1901 BRITISH NEW GUINEA

5

I901

Resident Magistrates Office

Cape Nelson

8 Febuary I90I

Sir ,

I have the honour to enclose copy of Journal and to report for the month of January .

January I / Arrived back at camp from Apuru village .

The Kuviri people had taken care of the camp during my absence and had brought in a large supply of native food far more than we could possibly consume .

A message came up the river from the prospecting party stating that the steamer ' President ' had landed them there and asking me to lend them the whaleboat to ascend the river in .

Went down the river and assisted miners up in whale boat .

January 2 / Building house to leave whale boat in and visiting native houses .

January 3 / Went up river about five miles in Kuviri canoes and camped for night

January 4 /

The Honourable

The Government Secretary

Port Moresby

January 4 / Went on up river to a junction but saw no signs of natives except someold hunting tracks , we were now apparently in uninhabited country though from remains of old gardens it had at on e time all been more or less occupied .

January 5 / Left the river and cut a track towards Mount Goropu .

January 6 / Cutting track towards Goropu crossed a large sago swamp in which many of the largest sago tree s had been apparently wantonly destroyed , by having small square holes cut in them while standing, the trees had rotted where they stood without any sago having been taken from them, the cutting appeared to have been done some years ago.

January 7 / The Kuviri people sent word that the Maisene had been over and made a night surprise on our abandoned camp that thay had than held a dance and told the Kuviri that they were looking for the police to have a fight , they then asked the Kuviri whether we were friendly to them and on being told yes had asked the Kuviri to humbug us with pigs and presents on our returnwhile the Maisene remained concealed in the scrub when off our guard the Maisene and Kuviri should suddenly fall upon us and killall? the policemen .

The Kuviri had told the Maisene that we were far a away in the mountains and would not return for some time and had not told them where the whaleboat was

left

left , on the departure of the contumacious Maisem the Kuviri had promtly let us know what to expect when we returned or met the Maisene .

I was inclined to think that the affair was a little expedient on the part of the guileful Maisene to keep the Kuviri properly complaisantin the matter of the customary payment of pigs and women .

January 8 / Arrived at and camped in gorge shewn on the maps as the head of Laku or Fir Tree Point creek .

Traces and tracks of natives probably the Doriri were seen all along the last days track but no natives .

Laku creek does not head from the big gorge or gap in the rageas it is shewn on the map but from the flat country at the foot of the Tam Tam range where the head waters of the Kwagila river are at present shewn as heading .

A large river runs from a gorge between the Goropu and TamTam ranges twelve miles in an easterly direction along the foot of and parallel to the Tam Tam range to within a mile of the large gorge shewn as the Laku gorge where it is met by the waters from that gorge and then flows in a northerly direction towards Philip Harbour in Collingwood Bay .

Gorges thirteen in number issue from the TamTam Range at intervals along the twelvemiles between the two large main gorges from which large waterfalls

falls in some cases from one to two hundred feet in height drop into the river .

The succession of falls in many instances must be considerably over a thousand feet in height .

Some great convulsion of nature appears to have ta-ken place from six to ten years ago an inland lake burst or a water spout struck the mountains . Large trees and great boulders weighing many tons are piled in heaps ninty to a hundred feet high while many standing trees have been snapped of-f thirty feet above the ground .

Paradoxical though it appears the river where it issues from the mountains is much larger than any where else most of the water appearing to disappear under ground, in one particular case a tributary disappears before it joins the river .

A channel half a mile wide and far deeper than any flood could possibly fill has been torn along the foot of the ranges throgh the scrub, the sides swept away from hills, while large blocks of country shew signs of inundation .

Small fir trees growing among large diorite boulders shew that for some six to ten years no such flood has occured again while the scrub along the banksintermingled with clumps of giant casarina? growing on the banks shew that for at least a generation before that date such a deluge had not occured .

The natives with me being all Tewari Kaili Kaili or Mokuru could not of course even tell me the name of the river much less how the flood had occured though they remembered vaguely hearing some

seven or eight years ago that a large body of water nad suddenly come from the mountains and cut off and drowned a whole tribe of natives .

The stones in the water course are chiefly diorite , slate . jasper ' quartz , travertin . and a rotten yellow stone resembling cinnabar, a small quantity of a very poor jade also occurs with a micaceous schist .

Many of the stones shewed when broken a quantity of a glittering yellow pyrities called by the mine ' Yellow Mundic ' .

T he water in the river appeared to be highly mineralized so much so that whem boiled it would form an enamel like scum on a pannikin dipped into it .

Clumps of exceedingl y tall and very handsome Fir trees, Casarina ? grow at intervals through out the high lands at the foot of the ranges

Mr De Molynes imforms me that it is a most unusual thing to find this tree growing so far from the coast but I am inclined to think that in this case the trees are indigenous to the high lands, the stunted specimens from which Fir Tree Point derives its name being brought down by floods with its natural soil

January 9 / In camp at Gorge , sent carriers down for stores .

January IO / Carriers arrived back at gorge camp with stores from whalebcat, two Mokuru and three Arifu remained behind at whaleboat telling their respective village constables that they were afraid of the bush .

as

as the men were all volunteers I did not wish to have then coerced or disgusted with carrying for ~~G~~ Government so therefore allowed the men to remain where they were, but stated that of course as they would have to be fed that they would receive no pay for what they had already done , I then asked the others whether they would go on or not as I did not wish them to come on and then run away . The whole of the carriers replied that they would go on until I said go back.

During the whole course of the trip the behaviour of the carriers was all that could be desired . Collected as they were from widely scattered villages some of them never having had anythi g whatever to do with white men efore seeing myself on the Stationand t..en to be taken on board the Merrie England " to go they did not quite know where must have been very trying to their nerves . The village constables in most cases brought only their own relations and then carefully picked only the strongest .

January II / In ~~J~~ camp , very heavy rafn .

January I2 /Went on up river to where the river en -ters the gorge between Tam Tam and Goropu ranges Self and some police climbed mountain in order to take bearings of Mounts Victory and Trafalger and locate position of head of river .

No signs of natives whatever were seen .

January I3 / Started back leaving the miners to ~~pr~~ prospect

prospect in uninhabited country .

I left Constable Agara with the prospectors party with orders to come down to Kuviri at once and send a canoe to me should inhabited country be reached. This I did because I was exceedingly desirous that no affray should take place or trouble between white men and the natives arise in this district without my either being present or else having full knowledge as to how the trouble arose and on whom the fault lay .

January I4 / On road back to whaleboat camp .

January I5 / Arrived whaleboat camp , found that the Kuviri had taken care of whaleboat and articles left in their charge .

January I6 / Descended river , the Kuviri man before promised came away with me .

The Kuviri pointed out where and how our camp had been rushed by the Maisene and gave me the numbers of the canoes that had come .

I4 from Winiapi and 22 ftom Maisene .

The whole coast at the head of Collingwood Bay with the exception of the Wanigela people had sent men to join in the attempted surprize .

The Kuviri had also heard a report that a trader on the coast had been attacked his house looted and his wife ravished by the Maisene .

Taking a low estimate of ten men to each of the large Maisene caoes between three and four hundred men must have been concerned in the affair .

January I7 /

January I7 / Left in whaleboat for Maisene in order to make enquiries into the alleged night surprize .

Landed at a small creek of which I could not learn the name and camped in three houses for the night . The houses were deserted but in them we fond a new paint brush about thirty pounds of red lead and soe table forks also a peice of boat chain , this seemed to confirm the rumour heard by the Kuviri of an attack on a trader .

At about I2 midnight natives w ere neard approaching the camp and on the police turning out a man called out from the scrub in a threatening manner for some time , after a time however they went of quietly and we turned in again .

January I8 ./ Bogege appeared shortly after daylight with a considerable number of men leaving the men at some distance he came into camp and calling himself Moreton . Mr Moreton and Bogege exchanged names some years ago . asked me where we were going .

I told him I was going to Uiaku to find out what his people meant by coming to my camp at Kuviri to fight .

Bogege replied that it was quiti true that some people had gone but that they were all Winiapi .

Upon my asking where the paint brush Etc had come from he said that they were a present from Mr Moreton some years ago , the paint brush was certainly not more than a month from a store .

Also that the people yelling at us on the previous night

night had meant nothing by it .

Bogege concluded by sayi g that he had come to ask me to take the police to Uiaku where they wished to give us pig .

I told Bogege that as he had come of his own accord to my camp that I would let him depart as he came but that all the Maisene must assemble at Uiaku whre I would talk to them about their recent be haviour .

Went on to Sinapa found the villages deserted , left the carriers and camp gear on Sinapa and went on to Uiaku .

As we landed at the Uiaku beach large numbers of m were seen running about carrying spears and clubs. They however all disappeared into the scrub so soon as the police were on shore with the exception of about twenty men who remained about twenty yards away .

In the village ther were many signs of the recent presence of a very large number of men the ground was al so much beaten by the feet of men dancing. I spent about an hour calling to the Maisene and t trying to get them to approach but with nc result and in the end imformed them that unless they came in I would order the police to catch them , this threat however was treated with contempt whereupon I told the police to chase them in the bush .

So soon as a move was made towards them the men in sight dissappeared down different tracks in the scrub with the police in hot pursuit, several men were caught .

Constable Ekoaa

Constable Ekowa who became separated from the others was cut off on a track by a large body of men and narrowly escaped being speared Constables Bia and Apa however heard him firing and calling for help and going to his assistance drove off his assailants with a loss of two killed .

The police were then recalled several of them reported having seen bodies of armed natives hurrying in one direction .

Upon return to the whaleboat a body of about fifty men were seen hovering about the scrub and beach in the vicinity of the men left in charge of the boat, these men were chased for about a mile but none were captured.

Not a woman or child was anywhere seen .

I then released a prisoner sending him off to his people with a message that unless they laid down their spears and came in that I would in the morning drive them right away from their villages and destroy the canoes that had been used in their attempted attack on my party .

Returned to camp for night .

January 19 /Proceeded to Uiaku again in the morning, natives all disappeared from the beach as we approached down one track , followed them down the track to a very thorny swamp where the police were extended into a long line , two of the police were again attacked but the whole party closing into the firing drove the Maisenes clean through the swamp with a loss of one killed .

The Maisenes were now thoroughly demoralized casting

casting away their spears they bolted in every direction, whereupon as I was quite satisfied that they were not likely to again make a stand I recalled the police and returned to the beach , at the beach another prisoner was released with a message to his people that when I returned again if they chose to behave themselves and cease raiding and bullying their neighbours and generally misbehaving themselves that we would make peace and they could have their own police as the Kaili Kaile Mokuru and Arifu had .

Left Uiaku and arrived at Wanigela at 10 p m

.January 20 / At Wanigela , visited the Mission Teacher and asked him to let the natives know that I expected them to come in and discuss the Koia Koia affair .

The Mission Teacher James Nogar said the people would come in if promised pardon .

I told the Teacher that as I had said before I could and would not make terms with offenders before they were brought before me, that thay were given one more chance to come and in the event oft their not coming that the plice would stop in Wanigela until they were got, also that I would feed all my large party in their gardens whil~~e~~ waiting and also send the village police back to Kaili Kaili for more men to come and hunt for them After some little waiting several men came in then the whole of them .

They

They pleaded guilty on the charge of raiding the Koia Kcia gardens .

I lectured them and pointed out the foolishness of their conduct in firstly robbing their neighbours and secondly defying the police and sheltering off- enders , but in their case as they had already suffered a far greater punishment by having to live like kangaroo in the bush than any I should have inflicted on them , they would be let-go without farther punishment the two ex village constables who had not come in would however have to go to gaol as in their case I could not overlook open defiance of my orders , lying ,and wrongful assumption of athourity after being formerly dismissed.

The Mission Teacher told me that he had seen the fourteen Winiapi cances go past on the way to join the Maisenes and had heard also of the big fighting dances being held at Maisene but no news of the contemplated attack on my party had reached him though the Wanigela had been told by the Maise -ne that they had looted a trader at Gaiowa house and ravished his wife .

Left for Station .

January 21 / Arrived Station , found everything in order, very little fuss was made by the local people about the return of the carriers who had accompanied me , when asked whether they had not been anxious about their friends , they simply said , We knew they were all rightand would come back when the police came back .

paid

Paid off the carriers ,

Complaint was made by two boys engaged working for one Peter Dowell a trader fishing on the coast of brutal illusage and of being starved by that perso
On the man in question coming up to answer a summo he made complaint that his boat had been looted by the Mokuru people .

Sent the Mokuru village constable who had accompan -ied me on my inland trip to make enquiries and order the village compained about to come up and answer the charge .

January 22 / Heard the first complaint against Peter Dowell of assault and found the case proved fined defendant three pounds and costs in default, of immediate payment two months with hard labour . Dowell refused to pay the fine and was therefore committed to gaol .

23 January /Heard second complaint against Peter Dowell found the case proved and committed him to. gaol with hard labour for another two months in this case without the option of fine , sentences not to run concurrently .

Heard third complaint against Peter Dowell of assault and decided that that the case warranted committal for trial the assault being of such an aggravated character that in my opinion it could not be adequately dealt with in a Court of Petty Sessions .

The Mokuru village constable brought in the people alleged to have looted Dowels cutter , the statements made by Dowells crew did not

not agree with the statements made by Dowell himself with regard to the alleged robbery, I came to the conclusion that though some trifling articl -es might have been stolen from hi m there had been no combined robbery by the Mokuru tribe of his propertyalso the man through out had perjured himself so abominably that I did not attach the slightest weight to his statements .

The Mokuru people on being questioed stated that two of their number had some time before stolen two tomahawks from Dowells boys on the beach but nothing else, the two tomahawks were brought to me . with the men by whom they had been stolen, also another tomahawk which they stated that one of their number had stolen from another boat many months ago , in Dowells case I was not clear in my own mind as to how far Dowells own boys were consenting parties to the theft .

The three youths by whom the tomahawks were stolen were sent to gaol for seven days and at the village constables request two Mokuru chiefs were fined a pig each for allowing the boys in the village to steal and retain the tomahawks during the village constables absence from his district on duty with me .

The man Dowells boat was taken charge of by the po -lice and on examination proves to be quite unseaw -worthy .

An ~~enty~~ empty meat case with about a dozen half rotten bananas and paw paws in it was the only provision

provision made for feeding the crew of seven boys
In every instance the witnesses in the differant a cases against Dowell shewed signs of starvation or wounds and scars from illtreatment .

24 January / On Station engaged in clerical work . I requested one of the carpenters engaged in the erection of the house to perform the duties of gaoleras it would be necessary for me to proceed to Mukawa in order to hear certain complaints reported by the Missionary at that place and to visit the traders station at Gaiowa where alleged outrage by the Maisene people had occured .

I did not feel justified in leaving a white prisoner for any length of time in the charge of native police .

January 25 / On Station , engaged in general work on Station .

January 26 / On Station , engaged in general work on Station .

January 27 / Left Station in steamer " President " for Mukawa taking four police with me .

January 28 / Landed at Iasalasi and proceeded to Mukawa .

January 29 / At Mission Station Mukawa waiting for offenders to be brought in .

January 30 /At Mission Station , appointed new village constable , heard one charge of infanticide dismissed for want of sufficient evidence , two of larceny , six months imprisonment in each case , two of assault , one dismissed the other two

months

months imprisonment was inflicted .

Infanticide appears to be of frequent occurance at or in the Mukawa district but it is an exceedingly difficult offence to bring home to the guilty person or persons without medical evidence .

January 31 / Left Mukawa and proceeded to Iasa Iasi in order to discuss with the chiefs and village constables at that place means of preventing the spread of a sickness from which many deaths have been occuring .

This matter is referred to in a special report .

My attention was drawn by Mr Tomlinson the lay missionary stationed at Mukawa to the number of orphan children ten to adozen in all who were living in the gardens and picking up their food as best they could , these children range from three to nine years of age .

Food is at all times scarce at Mukawa and the villagers to not seem to care about taking care of children other than their own .

I informed Mr Tomlinson that I would communicate with the Bishop of New Guinea and would in the event of His Lordship consenting to undertake the custody of the children bring the cases under the notice of His Excellency as fit and proper cases for Mandate under theNative Children Custody and Reformation Ordinance .

Reports of the village constables of the Mokuru Kaili Kaili and Tewari tribes for the month have been

been most satisfactory not a serious offence of any description having occured .

These people now come up readily in answer to a su -summons and when committed to gaol do not require to be strictly guarded or kept in irons to prevent escape .

Two men who while undergoing sentences of imprisonment some months ago escaped from the gaol came in and voluntarily surrendered themselves stating that their respective villages had refused to have anything to do with them until they did and that they had lived in the bush until they were quite tired of it .

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

A A W Monckton

Resident Magistrate N.E.D