

(my swag luckily had been rescued, as it was lashed to one of the timbers of the raft), I put on dry clothes, and had a new raft made, and proceeded on down to Bogi, arriving there about 4:30 p.m. I lost revolver, watch, knife, boots, clothes, and all I had on. I shall walk down the banks of the Kumusi in future. There is one episode I have quite overlooked. At the time those daring natives made off with the half-axe I instantly had the three men of their tribe, who were very reluctantly guiding us, arrested. On the way back to Korobambo, where the large precipice is that I have mentioned before, I went up first with six police, as we feared natives might roll stones down on us, as they were in the vicinity. The place is so steep that it was impossible for our prisoners in handcuffs to climb up, so they were released. Six police looked after two of them, and Mr. de Moleyns and six police after the other. They were all climbing the face of wall together, when suddenly, in a turn round a sharp corner, the two first prisoners jumped from a height of 20 feet into the rushing Kumusi below; they got swept over and over and must have got frightfully knocked about, one of the police, Pam, jumped in after them, but could do no good; he had as much as he could do to look after himself. Mr. de Moleyns grabbed the other prisoner, and he is safe in custody here now. I will take him back in a month or two, and he ought to be very useful to the Government.

The country on the coast side of the Kumusi is quite the best I have seen in New Guinea, in which Mr. de Moleyns concurs; it is the most densely populated portion of this district, and I do not think I am exaggerating when I estimate the population of the country we passed through at 6,000 people; it is practically one mass of old and new gardens.

I have given strict instructions to the officer in charge of Bogi, Mr. Hislop, that he is to prevent, as far as in his power lay, carriers and diggers ascending the Kumusi on that bank. There is bound to be trouble with the natives if these hosts of storekeepers, carriers, and diggers get amongst those gardens, raiding, as they will when the eye of the law is not upon them. These natives have suffered enough, and been hunted a great deal more than has been necessary, and my intentions are, until we have them thoroughly friendly and law abiding, to forbid entrance by anyone into their country. Diggers have nothing to go there for in my opinion. I remained at Bogi a day to do certain work that required attention, and left, accompanied by Mr. Elliott, on the 7th May, arriving here on the 18th, being six days on the trip, which is practically only a two days' trip when travelling light. I had fever the whole time, and could only travel about three hours daily. My intentions are to recruit here for a month or so, and then, on or about the 1st July, proceed to Cape Endiaderi with Mr. de Moleyns, and go from there in a south-westerly direction to the Hydrographers Range, and visit the people thereabouts, and, if possible, connect them with the Kamburada people and the people I have just been amongst. We should be away a month.

ARCHIBALD L. WALKER,
Acting Resident Magistrate (N.D.)

APPENDIX M.

REPORT OF THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION, ON THE AFFAIRS OF THE DIVISION.

Cape Nelson, North-Eastern Division,
9th July, 1901.

SIR,—I have the honour to report, for Your Excellency's information, on the affairs of the North-Eastern Division for the year ended 30th June, 1901.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

1. A marked general advance has been made by the natives of this division along the paths of law and order during the course of the past year, due chiefly to the unswerving loyalty and good work performed by certain of the village constables, and the efforts of two prominent chiefs—Giwi of the Kaili Kaili, and Paitoto of the Mokuru tribes. Among the Maisina, Kuviri, and Winiapi tribes inter-tribal fighting, raiding, and murdering has ceased. In each of the tribes mentioned village constables have been appointed, who appear to be performing their new and novel duties in a satisfactory manner. In each case the man so appointed was chosen by the tribe for whom he was to act as constable, and in every instance he appeared to already possess a considerable amount of authority among the people by whom he was so chosen.

2. In the case of the Maisina tribe, I regret that friendly relations were not achieved and order enforced without a display of force by the detachment of armed native constabulary stationed at this point. This, until that time, truculent tribe had succeeded fairly well, when not engaged in defending themselves from attack by the people known as Doriri, in keeping the coast and weaker tribes in a state of ferment by periodically making canoe trips in strong force and levying blackmail in the shape of pigs and young women from the weak, scattered people in the Kuviri and more southern districts. The Maisina people were repeatedly warned by me of what would be the ultimate result of such proceedings, but appeared to imagine, in common with the rest of the Collingwood Bay people, that though I might threaten them with arrest and punishment, I was afraid to actually make an arrest unless backed by the "Merrie England," and in that case they could easily dodge off into the bush until the steamer had departed again. In December, while engaged inland in the Kuviri district on the southern side of Collingwood Bay, I was informed by the Kuviri people that the Maisina tribe was meditating another coastal expedition in search of women and plunder. A few days later I was informed by the Kuviri people that the Maisina had sent to demand the usual payment by the Kuviri tribe of a number of pigs and young women. This demand the Kuviri, relying on the support of the police promised by myself, declined to comply with, much to the surprise of the Maisina. The Maisina people then changed their tactics, and sent a friendly message to the Kuviri, asking to be told the whereabouts of the police, and suggesting that as the Kuviri tribe had the confidence of the police and myself, a Maisina party

should come over, and, with the assistance afforded by Kuviri, surprise and kill the police—a proposal which the Kuviri promptly informed me of, and declined to have anything to do with. Two days later I learned that the Maisina had been joined by about 100 men from the Winiapi tribe, and had gone off down the coast on one of their old-time raids. On my return to the coast some weeks later, I was informed by the Kuviri that a camp previously occupied by my party had been rushed by the Maisina a few hours after it had been vacated by myself, and that they had been informed by southern natives of the looting by the Maisina people of a trader's station further down the coast. Uiaku, the chief and largest of the Maisina villages, was then visited by me, and several arrests made of men implicated in the coastal raid. While the police were engaged in making the arrest, a constable proceeding down a side track was cut off by a strong body of men and narrowly escaped being killed, assistance reaching the man and his assailants being driven off only just in time. Two police, left in charge of the whaleboat while myself and constabulary were engaged in the village, had also been threatened by a second strong body of hostile Maisina. One of the arrested men was released and sent back to his friends, with a demand that the chiefs and others concerned in the recent raid should be surrendered to Government, and that the remainder of the tribe should at once lay down their arms, and with an intimation that obedience to this order would be compelled by force if necessary. No notice whatever was taken of the message nor were any natives visible on the beach on the morning following. On proceeding down a "bush" track two of the police were again attacked, and a general fight ensued, during which the hostile Maisina were driven through and out of a large swamp which they evidently regard as their great stronghold, with a loss of three killed and several wounded, and finally fled in a state of utter panic. A second prisoner was then released and sent with a message to our late opponents, pointing out the futility of attempting to resist arrest by force of arms as they had been doing, and allowing them a week in which to send in the offenders wanted in the matter of the coastal raid. No notice whatever was taken at the time by the Maisina people of this message. From the prisoners I learned later on that Bogege, the principal chief of the Maisina tribe, was mainly responsible for the raiding at Kuviri, and had personally conducted the party by whom the station of a trader named Clancy had been looted and the trader's wife subjected to ill-usage. It was palpable that little could be done towards establishing order at Maisina so long as Bogege went unpunished and was at large to influence his people in resistance to Government authority. Early in February I learned while engaged in the Cape Vogel district that Bogege with a considerable number of his immediate followers was at Sinapa, a small island off Philips Harbour. I proceeded to Sinapa at once, landing at night, to find that the information I had received was correct, and that Bogege was camped at that place. Bogege, with two minor chiefs and five others, was at once arrested. Unfortunately at the time that news was received by me of Bogege's whereabouts I had but four police with me, and had no time to send for more to the station without running the risk of Bogege changing his quarters before additional police could arrive, and so failing to capture him. At first in the dark Bogege and the men wanted were secured without any difficulty, but then as the weakness of the force by whom the arrests were made became apparent to the remainder of Bogege's followers, an attempt to rescue the prisoners was evidently decided on by them, as they began to crowd in on the small guard and to make decidedly threatening demonstrations, and became so openly hostile that I was compelled to order the police to fire upon the men nearest to them, with the result that a man was instantly shot dead, and a confused scrambling sort of fight commenced, which went on for about an hour in the dark, during which neither side could clearly see the other, and each took what shelter was available. Eventually the Maisina retreated, leaving the police in possession of our prisoners. In the morning we discovered that two more men had been killed during the fight in the dark, which probably accounted for the retreat of the men who were endeavouring to recover our prisoners. Large quantities of spears were collected lying about on the ground and in the mangrove, and destroyed; and seven large canoes which had been used in the coastal raid were rendered unfit for further use without considerable repairs. Various articles looted from the trader Clancy's house were discovered in Bogege's possession. A message was sent to the Maisina people, informing them that Bogege with certain other of their chiefs had been arrested, and that unless they saw fit to at once amend their ways the tribe would be deprived of the whole of their large canoes, as a means of preventing them making themselves a nuisance and a danger to their weaker and more orderly neighbours. Bogege and nine of his people were subsequently sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. Some days later many of the Maisina people with their chiefs came to the Government Station, to say that they were anxious to make peace with the Government. They were accompanied by the son of the late chief Wanigela, whom they requested should be appointed a village constable, and promised future obedience to the authority of the Government through him. The man in question was subsequently appointed a village constable by Your Excellency personally, since which time no further general tribal offences have occurred at Maisina, and native affairs generally in that district have remained in a satisfactory state under the control exercised by this village constable.

3. The Kuviri tribe is one inhabiting a very rich tract of inland country between Maisina and Dark Hill Point. The tribe had hitherto had no intercourse with Government or with white men. In December last their district was visited for the first time by myself. After some little difficulty a spirit of hostility, which at the time I ascribed to timidity, was overcome, without any collision occurring between the people and my party. Subsequent and better acquaintance confirmed my opinion of the cause of the first attitude of this tribe towards Government, and I found that, once their fears had been dissipated and their confidence gained, they were one of the quietest and most inoffensive peoples in the division. They appear to number from 1,000 to 1,500 souls, and to be a people depending almost entirely on agricultural pursuits. They also appear to have been a much more numerous people at one time, but from their own account have been for the past two generations remorselessly slaughtered by a "bush" tribe known as the Kikinua. The Doriri—but not, so far as I could ascertain, the Musa people known as Doriri—also appear to have had a hand in driving them from their once extensive villages and in considerably reducing the numbers of the tribe. The Maisina were also in the habit of visiting the district to collect a blackmail of pigs and young women, so that between all their enemies their lot was a truly unhappy one. Once they had discovered who we really were, and on better acquaintance had been informed by the various village constables by whom I was accompanied what the work of the Government consisted in and its power, according to a village constable's lights,

they begged that something should be done to protect them from the ceaseless raids of the Kikinaua and the Maisina exactions, pointing out to me that in the month previous to my arrival in their district no less than seven murders had been committed by the Kikinaua, to say nothing of numerous murders during the months previous to that time; and stating plainly that unless they found some friend sufficiently powerful to protect them they were a doomed people. After hearing the complaints, I decided to visit the Kikinaua tribe, and if possible arrest some of the men responsible for the most recent murders, at the same time explaining to the people previously in the habit of raiding in the Kuviri district that the Kuviri were, for the future, under the protection of the Government, and any people raiding or murdering in that district in the future would be called to account for their action and punished accordingly.

4. I discovered, after leaving the Kuviri district to visit the Kikinaua, that the latter tribe lived across and in the midst of particularly vile swamps full of plants possessing extremely long and sharp thorns. After passing the first swamp we came to a small strongly stockaded village named Apuru, which I was informed by the Kuviri is a colony pushed out by the Kikinaua, who appear to be conquering and holding the country as they advance. This village we passed; and, as we approached a larger village named Bonarua, the actions of the inhabitants did not leave much room for doubt as to the reception we were to meet with at the hands of the Kikinaua. Yells of defiance were set up as soon as our approach was perceived, and preparations made by the inhabitants for a fight. The village of Bonarua was one splendidly designed for defence, being approached only through a long tunnel cut through dense undergrowth for about 100 yards, down which one had to crawl bent nearly double, and up to one's knees in an unusually sticky mud, the tunnel ending at a strong stockade, behind which was a small square courtyard backed by a second and much stronger stockade, flanked by houses from which spears could be thrown on the heads of a force attempting to force the gate. Finding that it was impossible to go round the stockade owing to the dense undergrowth, or to avoid fighting, the police rushed and carried the first stockade, the defenders hastily falling back on the second and stronger of the two. The first attempt to take the second stockade failed, owing to some of the police being delayed at the first stockade. On the whole of the men, however, making a second rush at the stockade, it was also carried, the defenders losing three men killed and two or three wounded. Four prisoners were taken. News of our coming had plainly been sent to the village, as no women or children were in it, nor articles such as natives value, while large quantities of food were stacked inside the stockade, and many spears placed in readiness. There were also many more men engaged in the fight than could have been furnished by the village itself. The prisoners, upon being questioned, admitted constantly raiding in the Kuviri district, but pleaded in extenuation that they themselves were constantly being raided and murdered by a mountain tribe at the back of the Kikinaua district, by whom they (the Kikinaua) were being driven in upon the Kuviri district. Two of the prisoners were released to carry a message to the tribe, explaining why the visit had been made, and pointing out that the punishment received by the tribe was the result of their own action in receiving us in an unfriendly manner. They were also informed that the two men taken away would be returned so soon as friendly relations had been established between them and the Kuviri tribe. From what I could gather from the prisoners later on, it appeared that the Kikinaua were only attacked at long intervals of time by the Doriri mountaineers, and then could usually manage to defend their villages. Some time afterwards the remaining two prisoners were returned, and a promise of Government assistance made to the Kikinaua should they in the future be attacked by the mountain tribe. The friendly relations that were established at the time of the remaining prisoners being returned, between the Kikinaua and the Kuviri, have continued since. A Kuviri man returned to the station with me, and, after travelling with the police for some time, returned to his tribe as village constable. Much exceedingly rich waste and vacant land could be made available for planting purposes in the Kuviri district, the one-time owners having all been either slaughtered or driven away by the "bush or mountain tribes."

5. The Winiapi tribe has been an exceedingly difficult one to get into line with the rest of the district. Several of the chiefs were arrested in July, 1900, on a charge of assaulting a white trader and looting his cutter. Later on a particularly cold-blooded murder was committed by some members of the tribe. I made repeated attempts to apprehend the offenders, but in each case utterly failed in doing any good, mainly because I could not get into communication with the chiefs, nor could I secure a mau as village constable; and I could not use village constables from other districts as messengers to the chiefs, without the risk of the constable so used being murdered by the Winiapi people; whilst the attempts made by myself with the police to secure the men wanted for the several offences more nearly resembled a man mounted on a bicycle trying to catch a rabbit in a stumpy paddock than they did anything else. The people steadily set their faces against all Government influence, and, though they took care to never openly encounter the constabulary, were becoming a danger in that portion of the district to more peacefully disposed natives. I accordingly seized and held the fishing grounds of the tribe, with an intimation to the chiefs that, as they were sheltering offenders against the law, and would not allow village constables to be appointed to see that the orders of Government were obeyed, they should not be allowed to fish or to come outside their own hills until they were in a more proper frame of mind. The message was sent by a Winiapi man captured for the purpose. After being thus bottled up in their own district, and afraid to venture forth in small parties to fish or visit other tribes, lest they should encounter a village constable from an adjacent tribe, who would most assuredly summon help and hale them away to the Government Station, the Winiapi tribe became rather tired of this state of affairs, and in last June sent their principal chief with about 100 followers to promise to obey the laws in the future, and to request that the chief's son should be made a village constable.

6. The Wanigela people call for little remark. They possess a good village constable, the third appointed during the year, two previous men being dismissed for misconduct, and are notable only for an unusually large attendance at the mission school and the extremely insanitary condition of the village. James Nogar, a South Sea Islander, stationed by the Anglican Mission at Wanigela as teacher, has afforded me much assistance in many ways, and appears to have done much good work among the natives.

7. Great scarcity of food prevailed among the tribes settled at Cape Vogel during the earlier portion of the year, affecting chiefly the Kapi Kapi and Yasi Yasi people, the Mukawa suffering to a

much less extent. At Yasi Yasi the scarcity was in my opinion directly attributable to habits of sloth and indolence, fostered by the ease with which that people had obtained large quantities of "trade" and tobacco from the prostitution of their women to white men and their native employees proceeding to and fro from the goldfields. The people were beginning to utterly neglect their gardens, and were learning to depend almost entirely on food purchased from other tribes with tobacco and "trade" obtained either by the sale to white traders of a small quantity of pearl-shell and bêche-de-mer, or in the manner before mentioned. The appointment of village constables, and action taken under Regulation No. II. of 1897, put a stop in a great measure to the scandalous condition of affairs at Yasi Yasi. But tobacco for the purchase of food had become a necessity to them, and as the supply they had been obtaining by the before-mentioned immoral traffic was stopped, they turned their whole attention to bêche-de-mer and pearl-shell fishing, with the result that they soon exhausted their limited fisheries, and became unable to buy food. Many of the young men thereupon left to work at the fisheries in other places, and on the goldfields, and as a condition was made that all men engaged on labour agreement from that district should receive half their wages in advance, payable in rice at Samarai cost price, and which rice was left with their relations, this, together with the small quantity of food purchased with tobacco obtained in other legitimate ways, kept the people going until the gardens, which they were now forced to attend to, came again into bearing. Offences against the law occur but seldom at Yasi Yasi, and are then chiefly trifling thefts of food from gardens.

8. The Kapi Kapi people also suffered from shortness of food, a condition of affairs that seems to be more or less chronic with them. In the past they appear to have been in the habit of helping themselves to food from the gardens of other and weaker tribes, when pushed for food, and quietly killing and eating the owners of the gardens, should any objection be made to such proceedings. In October, according to time-honoured custom, the few gardens possessed by the Yasi Yasi were raided by the Kapi Kapi tribe. The principal chief, two minor chiefs, and three others concerned in the affair, were arrested; their defence was simply that they had no food, and as food they must have they were forced to steal it. Sentences ranging from four to six months' imprisonment were inflicted on the most guilty men, and a suggestion made to the remainder of tribe that the younger men should go away and work for rice; advice which they subsequently followed with satisfactory results to themselves.

9. At Mukawa much good has been done among the natives by Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson, lay members of the Anglican Mission, and very great assistance has been afforded me in establishing a state of order in that portion of the division by these indefatigable workers in the cause of Christianity and Religion. Serious crime, unfortunately, appears to be more prevalent among the Mukawa people than in any other part of the division, infanticide—always a difficult crime to bring home to the guilty person—being by no means uncommon, and assaults of an aggravated character of frequent occurrence. The people also appear to be incorrigible thieves: in some cases no sooner has a man completed a term of imprisonment for larceny and been discharged, than he will at once commit a similar offence, and be brought up again. The general shortness of food on Cape Vogel was less felt by the Mukawa people than elsewhere, the staple food of the tribe, I believe, being peculiar to Mukawa. It consists of the root of a large species of banana, grown only for the root, which is eaten by the people at all times, and not only during scarcity of food. The younger men of this tribe are commencing to seek employment on the goldfields, and in Samarai. Mukawa also possesses a good village constable, by whom excellent work is being done.

10. Among the Kaili Kaili and the Mokuru, Tewari, and Arifamu tribes, immediately surrounding the station on Cape Nelson, the system of village constables has been thoroughly established with excellent results, and I think I may say that the incessant tribal warfare formerly common among these people, with its concomitant acts of cannibalism, has ceased for all time. Many disputes and acts, which in the beginning of the year would most assuredly have caused bloodshed, are now settled by the village constables and those chiefs recognized by Government without reference to me with most satisfactory results to all concerned. I regret, however, that in the case of the Mokuru this result was not brought about without a collision occurring between that tribe and the constabulary, with a loss to the Mokuru tribe of three lives as already reported at length by me. The tribe in question is now one of the most orderly in the division, and one of the most friendly to Government, a state of affairs entirely due to the good offices of village constable and chief Paitoto, referred to in paragraph 1. Village constables are only just being appointed, and the influence of Government extended to the Baruga tribe on the Musa River, and the Okeia to the north of Mokuru, and as yet they call for no remark.

11. An expedition was undertaken by the Acting Commandant of Armed Native Constabulary, Captain Barton, and myself, acting under special instructions from Your Excellency in April last, to the headwaters of the Musa River in order to locate the position of a people known as Doriri, and to put a stop to frequent murderous raids by that tribe among the people of Collingwood Bay. This expedition proved successful in its object, and has since been the cause of friendly relations being established between the tribes of the Upper Musa and the coastal people, whom they had for generations been in the habit of murdering. A report at length of the work performed by the expedition has already been forwarded by myself. The success of the expedition was due in a great measure to the assistance given by the Kaili Kaili and Mokuru tribes in sending picked volunteers as carriers.

MISSIONS.

12. The Anglican Mission has two stations established in this division—one at Mukawa, Cape Vogel; and the second at Wanigela, Collingwood Bay. Mission work at Mukawa was carried on by Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson, lay members of the Mission, until May last, when, I regret to state, Mrs. Tomlinson's health caused them to temporarily leave the Possession. Mission work at Mukawa has since been carried on by Miss Combley, assisted by Mr. E. L. Giblin. At Wanigela, since Mr. W. F. Abbot left the service of the Mission in December, mission work has been carried on by James Nogar, South Sea Islander. A new mission station is to be established at Uiaku, in Collingwood Bay, under the charge of Mr. P. J. Money.

IMPROVEMENTS.

13. Resident magistrate's house, constabulary barracks, gaol, married men's quarters, and non-commissioned officers' quarters have been built, and about 20 acres of ground cleared and brought under cultivation.

VILLAGE CONSTABLES.

14. Fifteen have been appointed in all, of whom three were subsequently dismissed for misconduct, and one at his own request in order that he might enlist in the Armed Native Constabulary. In so far as is possible, the already existing authority of the chiefs has been strengthened by either the chief himself or, if too old, his son being appointed village constable.

ARMED NATIVE CONSTABULARY.

15. The conduct of the detachment has been invariably good, and discipline and efficiency have been well maintained by the non-commissioned officers, of whom Corporal Sara deserves special notice. Four men, the first recruits ever obtained in this division, have joined the force. Patrols from the station have marched and travelled by whaleboat a distance in all of 1,780 miles during the year.

GAOL.

16. The health of prisoners has in general been good, though, owing to the absence of the simplest means of treatment, skin diseases and the common form of itch have at intervals given much trouble. The use of leg-irons as a means to prevent escape has been abandoned of late in the case of prisoners brought in by village constables or surrendering themselves voluntarily, and are only used in such cases after an escape has been attempted.

LANDS.

17. Several applications for the purchase of various sized areas have been received, but, by Your Excellency's instruction, applicants have been informed in all cases that consideration of such applications is deferred until such time as the native affairs of the district are in a settled condition, and the quantity of land available is better known.

I have, &c.,

C. A. W. MONCKTON, Resident Magistrate,
North-Eastern Division.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, Port Moresby.

APPENDIX N.

REPORT BY RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION, WITH REGARD
TO DORIRI EXPEDITION, 1st APRIL TO 24th APRIL, 1901.

Resident Magistrate's Office,
Cape Nelson, 6th May, 1901.

No. 46.]

SIR,—I have the honour to report with regard to the proceedings of special police expedition to head waters of the Musa River, conducted by the Commandant of Armed Native Constabulary and myself acting under special instructions, a copy of which has already been forwarded by me to your office, from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

The object of the expedition was to locate the position of a tribe known as Doriri, and if possible to arrest the chiefs or others immediately concerned in the most recent of the murders in Collingwood Bay, and to put a stop to such murders in the future; also, to establish friendly relations with any tribes settled along the upper waters of the Musa or slopes of Goropu with whom we might come in contact, and clearly explain to them the object of the expedition, and that Government could and would not allow any one or more of the inland tribes to raid and butcher their coastal neighbours.

2. Considerably over thirty people have within the past twelve months been killed by Doriri, the last occasion being the murder of nine people on the 10th of February at Koia Koia, a small village some few miles from Wanigela.

In August, 1898, a prominent chief and sixteen others were murdered at Maisina by the same people. (See Despatch No. 5, 25th January, 1899, Acting Administrator to the Governor of Queensland, and report by Resident Magistrate, Eastern Division, July, 1899.)

An expedition was at the time undertaken to deal with the matter of Doriri murders, but failed in consequence of the desertion of local carriers and guides coupled with difficulty of interpretation in proceeding very far from the coast into the country at the back of Collingwood Bay. Since the establishment of the Government Station at Cape Nelson, careful inquiries had so far supported a surmise by His Honour the Deputy Administrator, in the despatch referred to, that the Doriri were a tribe living on "the main eastern affluent of the Musa River"—a surmise now proved to be correct.

The first question to be decided was the route to be followed, and at first I was decidedly of opinion that, though undoubtedly longer, one starting from Fir-tree Point and following a road cut by myself to the most northerly spur of Goropu would be the best, as we would thereby avoid the swamps with which I feared we would have to contend on a more direct route from Maisina or Wanigela. Later inquiries, however, elicited the fact that there was a track known by the Maisina which would in the first day take us clear of swamp and effect a considerable shortening of the distance.