

APPENDIX B.

DESPATCH REPORTING VISIT TO THE NORTH AND NORTH-EASTERN DIVISIONS OF THE POSSESSION.

S.Y. "Merrie England," at Samarai, 20th March, 1901.

No. 17.]

My Lord,—I have the honour to forward the following report of my visit to the Northern and North-eastern Divisions :—

2. I had intended visiting the western parts of the Possession, as I informed your Excellency, and had made all arrangements for proceeding with Dr. Blayney, R.M., and Mr. Giulianetti to the Purari to visit the Koriki people, and settle once for all with them, either peacefully or otherwise, the question which they apparently consider their conflict with Sir Wm. MacGregor has left in doubt—whether they or the Government are the stronger—and which there has been no opportunity of testing since that occurrence in 1894.

3. On the 9th February, simultaneously with the return of the "Merrie England" from Cooktown, with the sad intelligence of the death of our beloved Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, the s.s. "Moresby" arrived from Samarai with the news of the death of Mr. Armit, Resident Magistrate for the Northern Division, and the murder of two miners by the natives in the Yodder Valley. I at once decided to go to the Mambare, and finding that I could not in all probability be back in time to do any work in the west before the close of the north-west season, after which it is impracticable, I decided to give up my western trip altogether, and take a long one to the northern and eastern part of the Possession now instead of later, when the south-east season sets in.

4. I therefore despatched the "Merrie England," with Dr. Blayney, to Orokolo, where his vessel the "Lokohu" was waiting for him, and instructed him to, if possible, visit the Koriki with the Rev. Mr. Holmes, London Missionary Society, who hoped to be able to get into friendly communication with them, and thus avoid a fight; if he could not effect it peaceably, he said he should not attempt to risk a collision with so numerous a population without a larger force than we could spare him.

5. The "Merrie England" returned from Orokolo on 14th February, just in time to pilot into port the Austrian man-of-war "Leopard," Captain von Elbein, calling here on her way from the Solomon Islands to Thursday Island and the East. I left on the morning of the 19th, after proclaiming His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. and publishing the King's message, in accordance with the telegrams which I had received from His Excellency the Governor-General of Australia the evening before by a chance sailing craft from Thursday Island.

6. I was accompanied by His Honour, Sir F. Winter, C.J.O., Captain Barton, Commandant A.N.C., Mr. Walker, whom I had appointed to act as Resident Magistrate for the Northern Division (reported in my despatch No. 11, of 11th Feb., 1901), and Mr. G. O. Manning, who had arrived in the "Moresby" to join my personal staff as Assistant Private Secretary in the place of Captain Percy, who had left for England.

7. We called at Kappa Kappa to pick up Mr. G. English, to whom I had offered employment as an assistant Government officer on the "Kumusi," and to land the Rev. Mr. Dauncey, London Missionary Society, who had come with us from Port. Mr. A. English, the Government Agent of the district, came on board and reported everything satisfactory, and that the natives of the interior, who had recently been visited by him and Captain Barton, had been bringing in murderers of their own accord, showing how the Government influence is spreading fast in the interior as well as along the coast. The Rev. Mr. Reilly, who is in charge of the London Missionary Society head station at Vatorata during the absence of Dr. Lawes who has gone to England, also called on board.

8. We arrived after a wet and rough run before a strong nor'-wester at Samarai on the evening of the 20th, and found that Mr. Moreton, R.M., was away in the "Siai." Mr. Symons, sub-collector, and Dr. Vaughan, Government Medical Officer, came on board and reported all well. I was very sorry to hear of the sad death from drowning in the Mambare of the brother of Mr. Maguire, C.E., Contract Surveyor, who is doing the surveys of the dredging claims there. I heard the particulars from Mr. Maguire next day, from which it appears that while they were working on the Mambare, several miles above Tamata Creek, his brother was caught in a dangerous undertow above a swollen rapid which they had with great difficulty ascended with their petroleum launch by towing from the bank, and he was swimming off to his instrument when he was caught and drowned before their eyes in spite of their efforts to save him. His body was recovered several days afterwards near Apochi village, nearly 17 miles further down the river. I felt very sorry for Mr. Maguire, for they had been working together for a long time; and apart from his great personal bereavement, he has lost a valuable and experienced professional assistant.

9. At noon next day, 21st, I had a meeting of the Europeans at the public offices, and proclaimed the King, and published His Majesty's message, as I had done at Port Moresby, aboard the ship. I visited the gaol with Dr. Vaughan and Mr. Macdonnell, the Government Surveyor, who is now employed there on the refilling of the swamp and other works. I brought Mr. Clayphan, one of the Government carpenters, from Port to assist him while I was in the east, as pending the arrival of timber and materials from Sydney, as to which there has been much disappointing delay, he could be usefully employed here. There were seventy-seven prisoners (two females), and, as Dr. Vaughan pointed out, they were crammed sixteen in a cell for want of proper space; there were some cases of scurvy owing to insufficiency of vegetable diet, but these were getting better. I instructed Mr. Symons to at once set about getting the materials for the erection of the extensions which had been already approved, and asked Mr. Macdonnell to carry out the work as soon as possible. I also authorised him to purchase a boat if a good chance occurred for the transport of the timber, &c., from the main land; anything to get something done. The only fault I have to find with officers sometimes is a lack of initiative and waiting for orders as to details of work which has been approved; this, however, is an official constitutional malady by no means confined to New Guinea.

We also visited the new hospital which has been erected on the charming but somewhat elevated hill to the west of the residence. Dr. Vaughan's views and mine as to the danger to the children against trees but below the site of the building, and which would not even obstruct the view of the river, were not in unison. The house, with one long room and two smaller ones, in all about 1200 ft. of width, is, however, rather too narrow, but it could not be helped, and a kitchen have not yet been furnished.

Four of the members of the hospital committee were away, so that I could not have a meeting with them, and they cannot push on to the completion and use of the hospital. I shall hope to do so the first opportunity.

I went over to Kwato in the evening with Mr. F. P. Walker, of the London Missionary Society,

and Mrs. Abel returned from England a few weeks' time. It was a treat to see the boys working at it with Joe, the local Papuan carpenter, that is, even up their tea so as to push on with part of the till they knocked off that it was found that they had done so unsparsely night and day at this season, work that was exposed to the heavy rain squalls that come from damage. I saw a very good European house which they had built for Mr. Walker, in Samarai, and which Dr. Vaughan had taken for his family. It was built entirely by Joe and the boys without any skilled European assistance or supervision. I was glad to hear from Mr. Walker that one result of Mr. Abel's visit to England will be a large extension of the industrial scheme which has had such good practical results already. It was a (Mission) was expected in a few days.

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

Cape Nelson.

12. We left Samarai on the morning of the 22nd, Dr. Vaughan joining us, and arrived at Cape Nelson on the 23rd. Mr. Monckton was away in Collingwood Bay, but arrived in the evening. His new house is finished, and is a good and comfortable one, beautifully situated on a prominent point, with a lovely view of the fjord and the sea. The judge held a court for the trial of a European, Mr. Dowell, who had been guilty of grossly ill-treating his native boys; he was convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment with hard labour. I have no doubt that his punishment had an excellent effect on the natives, who will see that the Government is no respecter of persons where crime is concerned.

Mr. Monckton had with him several of the Maisine tribe, who had been giving him a great deal of trouble lately; they were the bullies and terror of the weaker tribes about Collingwood Bay, but now quite quiet; they asked me to appoint one of them, Bundu, whom they had selected, and who was recommended for the office by Mr. Monckton, to be their village constable or local representative of the Government, and I accordingly did so, and he was at once invested with the uniform and responsibilities of his office.

Your Excellency will recollect that Busimaiwa, the Mambare chief, had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for fighting his neighbours on the Gira, and that I had directed him to be kept at Cape Nelson (see report for last year). His term of imprisonment had expired some time, but he had stayed on with Mr. Monckton, and had been of great use to him. I decided to take him back to the Mambare, and he accordingly embarked with his wife and small son, a ridiculous replica of his Samson-like father.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

13. We left on the morning of the 24th, and anchored that evening off the mouth of the Kumusi, where I sent a letter ashore to be sent up to Mr. Elliott at Bogi Station (where I was sorry to hear that he was laid up with a bad foot), to let him know that I was coming up there on my return from the Mambare. There were two Europeans at the store on the point, who said that the natives were friendly, and that there had been no more trouble since Mr. Elliott went after the murderers of the two miners. I hear that he did not succeed in getting them, but I shall obtain the correct details later. I regret to say that Mr. G. English was taken seriously ill on board, and it was a great relief to have Dr. Vaughan with us, but he informed me that it would be impossible for Mr. English to take up the appointment I had given him, and I therefore had to decide to take him back. I was especially sorry, too, for him, as he was looking forward to his new work; but Dr. Vaughan was of opinion that he would not be able to stand it, and therefore there was no other right course. I shall be glad if, later on, I can find something for him which he can safely undertake. When I was at Samarai the Hon. R. de Moleyns, who has been visiting different parts of the Possession, volunteered for work in the Government service, and said he was willing to go to the Kumusi or Yodda Valley under Mr. Walker, Resident Magistrate, and as it is absolutely necessary to increase our staff there, I appointed him Assistant Magistrate and Warden for the Northern Division, and took him with me. As Mr. English had to give up going there, I was extremely glad of having Mr. de Moleyns. I have reported his appointment for your Excellency's approval in a separate despatch. We arrived at the mouth of the Mambare River on the 25th, and Busimaiwa was restored to his people at Duvira, who were greatly affected at his return.

Mambare River.

14. On the following morning we left the ship at 6:30 a.m. with the launch and three boats in tow. The river was in flood, and we had no trouble from snags, but a great deal from the engines of the launch, which broke down several times. We got to Peu camp that night. The next day the launch broke again so seriously that we had to leave her and make our way rowing, and reached Apochi, where we camped for the night. Just below the village we saw poor Mr. Maguire's grave, with a neat white railing round it. The launch arrived at 7 p.m., having been repaired very cleverly by the driver, Buchanan, and she went splendidly from that out. The next morning we found the river in higher flood than any of us had been in before—actually brim-full. Passing Umi village, where it narrows very much for a short distance, the current was so strong that we had to let go a couple of canoes which we had taken in tow a little above Apochi, to give them a hand up, and to help the launch by pulling the boats so as to take the strain off her. We arrived at Tamata Station a little before 11 a.m., and found Mr. Hislop there.

15. The two following days I was busy checking the station books. I found an amount of Tamata £33 7s. 8d. in the district cash, representing the cash balance from 1st December. On writing up the Station cash-book for December, in which there were several omissions, from the receipt-books, I found a surplus balance of cash in hand on the date of Mr. Armit's death (3rd January) unaccounted for, amounting to £15 9s. 8d. I also checked, with Mr. Hislop, the contents of the intestate estate safe, which agreed with the books. Mr. Armit's private effects were packed up for shipment to his widow at Samarai. He had a stock of private drugs, which I asked Dr. Vaughan to examine, with a view to taking them over for the use of the station; but he found they were principally special drugs, mostly of a poisonous nature, which could not be used by persons without medical knowledge. He therefore made a list of them, and packed them for transmission to Mrs. Armit, who will be able, if she wishes, to dispose of them to the Samarai Pharmacy at a valuation.

Mr. Ramsey, at present in charge of the Anglican Mission at Umi, came up to see us, and we arranged to call there on our way back.

I went over to the township and saw Mr. Joubert, who is in charge of Messrs. Clunas and Clark's store, and Mr. Anderson at Messrs. Whitten Bros.; the latter gentleman was recovering from a severe attack of blackwater fever, which, I am sorry to say, seems to be getting more common. They both gave a very poor account of the state of the Gira Gold Field—only some thirty men on it now, and those merely living in debt.

Several of the Umi and Apochi people and their village constables had come in to see me, and I intended having a formal meeting with them to officially introduce their new magistrate to them, but owing to a mistake they all left while I was inspecting the police and the gaol, and it was too late to get them back by the time that I found out that they had gone. I found four runaway carriers in the gaol illegally detained, and as their employers were absent, after a consultation with the judge, I directed them to be sent down with us to the "Merrie England" for return to Samarai.

Captain Barton had brought up some more constables to strengthen the detachment for the district, which is now increased to thirty-six, eighteen of whom will be on the Kumusi. The new constables for that part were sent with the discharged carriers overland to Bogi Station on the Kumusi, to await our arrival there. He was able to arm the whole of Mr. Walker's police with the new Martini-Enfield carbines and bayonets. Owing to my not having specified that frogs were required with the new arms, none have been sent, so that the bayonets cannot be generally issued, but there were a few in store, which enabled him to issue them to this detachment. I shall rectify the mistake by the first opportunity. I took it for granted that, as the arm was an entirely new one, they would be issued with the accoutrements complete. The ammunition for them which had been ordered did not arrive with them, but we had some in store for great Lee-Metfords, which furnished a temporary supply.

The magistrate's house had at last got so bad that they had pulled it down and had built a small cottage out of the materials, adjoining the one which I found had been put up for official visitors on my last visit here. I hope that the new house which is expected from Sydney will soon be erected.

16. Having completed our work, we left on the morning of the 2nd of March on our return to the ship. I stopped at Umi and saw the new native church which the Mission have built since I was here to six weeks ago. It is a good-sized building, arranged in the fashion of a church in a civilised country, with a chancel and a choir, and a vestry. Provision is also made for "railing off the Christians from the heathen," an arrangement I should have thought unnecessary, but I do not perhaps appreciate the finer distinctions in matters as I should.

Mr. Ramsey sent over for an old chief who lives on the opposite bank of the river, Osembo (the for "man" in the dialect of the district), who has a large influence there. As the other people away at their gardens, we left a present for the Umi chief, and a tomahawk in payment of a pig which we had bought at Apochi on the way up, in trust for the owner.

We had a fast run down on the top of a good flood, though not at all as high as the one we encountered going up, and arrived at the "Merrie England" at 5:30 p.m. On the way we stopped for lunch at Manata, where three houses were built on the bank for camping by Mr. Armit. A short way behind them is a small neat village, which we visited. I was glad to have stopped there this time, for we have always gone past before. Indeed, I was not aware of the existence of the village until Mr. Walker told me of it, although we had always seen natives at the camping houses on the river bank.

17. We left the next day, Sunday, 3rd, for the Kumusi, calling off the Ope River to pick up our friend, Tabe, the chief of the lower villages, and were lucky enough to find him at the mouth of the river, River Kumusi, so we were not delayed. He had been recently up the Kumusi with Mr. Clark, and I thought he might be of assistance to us with the natives. We anchored off the southern mouth of the Kumusi, which is the best at this time of year. We had been accompanied from Mambare Bay by Mr. Auerbach's petroleum launch "Balmain," a two-masted vessel of 5 tons (carrying 10 tons of cargo), fitted with an oil engine of 15-horse power, and drawing only 2 feet 4 inches, which he has lately brought from Sydney for the navigation of the Kumusi. Our chief engineer, Mr. Robertson, had effected some repairs to her at Mambare Bay, which was of great assistance to him, and one which I was very pleased to be able to give him. As we had two heavily-laden boats to tow, and there were about 6 tons of stores to be got up sometime to Bogi Station, and as there would be some difficulty in carrying sufficient coal for our launch for such a distance, 55 miles against a rapid, flooded river, I decided to engage Mr. Auerbach to take us and the cargo up at once, and we left on Monday morning to join him inside the river, as he was going by the eastern mouth. He got aground, however, going in, and had to discharge his cargo, so we pulled up till he overtook us two hours later than the time when we should have been in tow; this and other delays en route practically cost us a third day on the way up. The river was full, and we had less trouble with the numerous snags than we expected. We saw enough, however, to realise what the difficulty would be with a low river. Sir William MacGregor given a detailed account of his ascent of the lower river in March, 1893 (Annual Report, 1893-4, Appendix F, p. 33), and in October, 1895 (Annual Report, 1895-6, Appendix F, p. 29), on the first of which occasions the original "Ruby" steam launch was lost coming down, and it is therefore not necessary for me to repeat its description. The first part of the river is very uninteresting, but the scenery gets pretty the second day, and increasingly so as you near the hills and ranges about its source. The villages on the banks are all comparatively near one another; the houses are very small and ill-built. We camped

the first night at Ganana, which seemed the best I think of them; it was evidently an old site, and was clean and dry. The natives were most friendly all along the river, and came out with taro and bananas to sell in neat canoes, very much better specimens of handicraft than their dwellings; but a canoe is more valuable and reliable than a hut in case of a raid by enemies. They had a special desire for paper to roll their tobacco in, and we saw several bundles of food sold to the launch for bits of old newspaper. The electric cells of the launch's engines were old and weak, and she had to stop frequently, on which occasions her anchor was let go and raised with great smartness, so that she lost no ground, and she was extremely well navigated often in very difficult places. Mr. Auerbach is assisted by his brother, and on this occasion they had the benefit of Dr. Vaughan's experience with electro-oil engines. We camped the second night at a bend in the river where Mr. Clark's original party built a small hut with iron roofing, which is still there. The site is high and dry, but the ground very uneven and too much cut up for a good camp. It rained heavily in the night, and the river was in flood. When we went up next day, Wednesday, 6th, in some places the launch could only make her way with difficulty against the stream; our small launch certainly could not have towed the boats.

Bogi Station. 18. We arrived at Bogi between 11 and 12, and landed at the settlement where Messrs. Clunas and Clark have built their stores, &c., on a point of land projecting over the river. We were met by Mr. Clunas (Mr. Clark was up at the goldfield) and Mr. Hancock, who was in charge of Messrs. Whitten's store. The Government Station is a short distance above on a similar position, and the backwater between them forms an excellent anchorage for the launches or boats, secure from risk of damage from the dangerous snags which whirl by in the strong current outside. A small petroleum launch belonging to Messrs. Clunas and Clark was lying there, and further in, up a narrow creek, which leads through a fringe of reeds and grass at the foot of the station hill, a two-masted decked craft was left in perfect safety while her owner was up on the goldfield; this is certainly one most important consideration in the selection of a site on such a river as the Kumusi.

Passing from the landing place through a belt of scrub, and across a flat which has been cleared and planted with native food, one ascends the hill by a carefully made path, cut into steps with transverse logs to the station, which consists of a row of native built houses on a narrow ridge of red forest soil, the sides of which are being cleared and planted. Mr. Elliott's house and kitchen are at the river end, and towards the other end are the gaol and the police quarters; immediately beyond them the ridge enters the bush and ascends a steep conical wooded hill, of which it is simply a leading spur, rising some hundreds of feet. Mr. Elliott's house deserves a little description for the benefit of anyone who may happen to have to make a home for the time being in a place where he has to rely on his own ingenuity and handiwork, and with such materials as he may find available. It combines the primary essentials—healthy, and, though necessarily rough, clean, and withal commodious. The ground floor was built and ceiled with strong logs, and divided into roomy compartments for stores, &c.; these were high enough to give plenty of air-space below the upper floor, a matter of the greatest importance to health in such a climate. The upper story was very cleverly constructed: in the centre was a miniature house with four walls roofed over with a canvas fly, and over all was a good high roof of sago palm thatch, the sides of which formed a veranda for the inner chamber, and a balcony of twisted cane ran round it. The floor of the upper room was made of the tops, &c., of packing cases, and though, no doubt, most dry and healthy, was severely hard on those who slept on it. Shutters of the same materials, hung on hinges of twisted wire, afforded ventilation and shelter from driving rain; a good wide veranda of thatch formed by the roof carried out on each side below completed the first Government House on the Kumusi. I might, perhaps, add that the means of access to the upper floor was by a ladder, as perpendicular as those in a ship's hold, from the centre of the ground floor, in a passage which had one beam in it that was a source of constant affliction. Mr. Elliott was able to put most of us up in the house; the others slung their hammocks under canvas outside. He was recovering from a very bad foot which he had poisoned on his recent expedition against the murderers of the two miners, by treading on some spear tips concealed in the path, which penetrated the sole of his boot and entered his foot. He could scarcely walk and was looking very unwell otherwise, but was going about his work and busying himself for us without thought of himself. I am very pleased to say that he seemed and was very much better when we left.

19. I decided to spend two or three days here, as the rivers were too flooded and the country too much under water for us to visit the Yodda Valley and the scattered goldfield without a much greater expenditure of time than I could afford. The field, under good circumstances, is a ten days' walk from Bogi, and I could not afford to spend three or four weeks unless there were some very urgent necessity, which had now passed. The natives who had murdered the two miners and fought Mr. Elliott had now ceased from giving trouble on the road since he had visited and severely punished them, and those about the field itself were perfectly friendly. From what both Mr. Elliott and Mr. Clunas told me it would be quite useless trying to get into touch with the former without much time, but they were both of opinion that, by quietly patrolling and visiting them, the Government officers would be able after a little to bring them into friendly relations with the Government and the whites.

20. The circumstances attending the murder of the two miners, King and Champion, appear to be shortly as follow:—They were working together with another, S. McLelland, amongst some gullies about 20 miles above Bogi, on the upper Kumusi, and had been on the most friendly terms with the natives in question; in fact, they allowed them to come about their camp in a perfectly unrestricted way—so much so that McLelland, who was an old experienced pioneer here, warned them that it was unwise in a district where the natives were known to be treacherous and aggressive. On a particular day, when they were working in separate places out of sight of one another, they were attacked without any warning, their rifles seized by those immediately around them, and both King and Champion were speared, carried off alive, and subsequently eaten in one of the villages near the right bank of the river. McLelland's rifle was taken, but he managed to keep his revolver, and succeeded in saving not only himself but also four native carriers who were with the party, cutting their way through the bush to an old mining camp when their enemies left them. He subsequently accompanied Mr. Elliott on his expedition to the village where the two victims had been killed, and took part in the fight, when the principal chief, Asepo, King's actual murderer, was shot with twenty-eight of his men, and several others severely wounded, without, I am glad to say, any loss of the Government party. He shortly afterwards, I was sorry to hear, died of a severe attack of fever; but he was much shaken by what he had undergone. I enclose a copy of Mr.

Elliott's official report of his proceedings. It was unfortunate that there should have been any delay in sending the extra police to him from Tamata, but at the time that Mr. Hislop received the request most of his men were away at the mouth of the Mambare getting stores up. I had foreseen that it would be necessary to increase the staff both of European Government officers and police on the newly-opened Kumusi and Yodda districts, and it was very unfortunate that this sad occurrence should have taken place before I could carry out my intention, for Mr. Elliott is of opinion that had he been given the extra police he had applied for before, it would not have happened; for he had reason to think that there was something on foot amongst the natives of the large and badly disposed tribe inhabiting the country between the right bank of the upper Kumusi and the coast.

There were, however, real difficulties in complying with his request before; there were no available men at the disposal of the Commandant, who was so short of police at the time that he had to keep several of the men at Tamata and Bogi long after their time of engagement had expired, until he could recruit and train others to relieve them. He had not a single rifle then to issue, and there was no means of sending them from Port Moresby until the next eastern cruise of the "Merrie England." As I have stated above, this has now been remedied as far as the district in question is concerned; but should any other unforeseen call arise just now elsewhere we should be unable to send any more men without great inconvenience and difficulty. We certainly could not clothe them, for owing to delays in complying with requisitions for uniforms from England (a blue serge jumper and "rami," or "sulu," with simple red braid facing), and the very inferior quality of what was last supplied to us, our travelling and headquarter contingent, from which every special call has to be met, are in rags. My own Orderly is a scarecrow, and the rest of my boat's crew in the same condition; but this does not in any way interfere with the work we do with them, or the way in which they do it. The fact is, that we are trying to keep pace with the fast-growing wants of the Executive as the Government is extending its authority in new places without increasing our supplies of *materiel* in one of our most important branches, and this will have to be set right in next year's financial arrangements.

21. I went over to the settlement and saw Mr. Clunas; he showed me a very good garden which he had planted in maize and taro, &c., for his native carriers, some of whom I saw there in a very poor condition. He has between eighty and ninety, and Messrs. Whitten about the same number, principally from the Fly River district, employed carrying to the goldfield. Under an arrangement which was made by Mr. Elliott with my approval a short time ago, an escort of police accompanies them for protection, Messrs. Clunas and Clark (Messrs. Whitten did not join it), paying £10 a month to the Government for it. Mr. Clunas said that he thought the road was now safe enough to dispense very shortly with the escort. He also spoke to me about getting some small payment for running the mail service to the goldfield, which he has been doing for some time. I told him that I was quite willing to pay whatever the magistrate might recommend to me as fair, and that I should be glad to establish a deputy post office at Bogi for the Kumusi and Yodda Valley, and that I would ask Mr. Walker to arrange it. Mr. Clunas said that he and his partner would be very willing to do it without any extra payment if the Government would pay something for carrying the mails to the Yodda Valley field. I also went to see Mr. Hancock in charge of Mr. Whitten's store. He pointed out to me a block of land (50 acres) below the settlement on the same side of the river which Mr. Whitten has applied to lease for stock purposes; it is at present in thick bush, but I expect would do very well for the purpose when cleared: it would be a great thing for the miners if they could get fresh meat when they came in from the field. There are about 120 men now out there scattered about, principally prospecting with varying success. I saw at the Government station the grave of one of them, Johansen, who blew off both his hands with dynamite some little time ago—as usual, illegally using it for catching fish.

22. A number of chiefs and natives from the Upper Ope village about the road to Tamata, who were at very open enmity with us not long ago, came to see me during the three days I was at Bogi, and at Mr. Walker's request I appointed Ade, the chief of Korosuka village, and a Mambare man, Ambusi, who has settled at Omburagi village on the Lower Kumusi, and has been very active and useful to the Government and the whites, Village Constables. I also, by his own desire, made Tabe, the Lower Ope chief, one. It is now a sure sign of settled acceptance of Government control for a village or district to ask for one of their own men to be appointed their "polisimani"; and as the cost is a salary of from 10s. to £1 per annum, a monthly allowance of a few sticks of tobacco, and a blue dungaree and a rami, with a turkey-red sash, when the magistrate may have them in stock, it must be allowed that this is probably a unique example of economical Home Rule, with the additional advantage that it ensures a peaceful and loyal respect for the authority of the Crown.

23. Some of us ascended the hill behind the station to see if any view of the surrounding country could be got, and Captain Barton sent some of his police to cut a clearing at what was intended to be the top, but the clearing they made was far short of the top and in the wrong direction. I got a compass bearing of Gumboro Hill to the north-east at the mouth of the Ope, and Captain Barton took some for me of the Hydrographer's Range to the south-east, which I hope would have coincided with the position of the hill as laid down by Sir William MacGregor's map, but they did not agree with the position as laid down by Sir William's astronomical observations taken on the spot on his first expedition up the river, so I conclude mine were wrong; they placed the river further to the east than he did, and so I think will my compass traverse of the river from the mouth to Bogi, when I have time to work it out. I am most probably wrong, and in any case I am certainly not in a position to question his or anyone's work; but even allowing for very large errors in taking rough compass bearings, the difference between the exact position as fixed by his accurate observations and the approximate one arrived at by the rougher and less reliable method is so large that it will not fit in with anything on the present map of the locality. The real top of the hill is a considerable way behind its apparent one, and runs up to about 1,000 feet; a long ridge runs from it in a westerly direction, connecting it probably with the range behind, but the bush was so thick that it was not possible to see anything clearly, and rain coming on I returned.

24. We had expected to see Mr. Auerbach's launch back by Friday evening from the mouth of the river, but as she had not come we decided to pull down by ourselves; and on Saturday morning, 9th, we left at 9 o'clock, intending to camp at one of the villages, as we did not expect to get down in the day without starting at an inconveniently early hour for such a large party; and even then we were told that we should not have time to stop for anything on the way. Just after we left, Mr. Auerbach's

launch passed us, and he said that as soon as he had discharged his cargo he would pick us up ; but whether he changed his mind or came to grief on the way down we do not know, for we did not see him again. The river was in full flood, which was a great help to us, and we had a quick run down to Omburagi, which I had promised Ambusi, who had accompanied us in a canoe, to stop at. When we landed the river was overflowing the village, but we stayed long enough to boil our billies, and then found that tea and everything else was in Captain Barton's boat, which, owing to a misunderstanding, had gone on ahead without stopping ; we found him waiting for us with tea ready at Ganana village, where we camped the first night going up. Sir Francis Winter thought that with a push we could get down before dark. It would be very foolish to risk the boats with so many snags as the Kumusi has after daylight, so we left again, and all lending a hand we just managed to reach the intricate mouth (fortunately smooth) as it became dark : 56 miles in a little under nine hours, not counting the two stoppages. As we were twenty all told in my boat, and from Omburagi down full of taro, &c., which the villagers had brought to us, it was not a bad day's work for a light crew with, for the most part, only lads to relieve each other.

Mr. Walker and Mr. de Moleyns remained at Bogi ; the former was to return overland to Tamata to settle things there, and then return to the Kumusi and Yodda Valley, and Mr. de Moleyns was to patrol the country about Bogi and visit the friendly villages first.

25. I had directed Captain Harvey to take the ship further down the coast while we were up the river, as I did not think it wise to keep her lying at the unhealthy mouth so long ; and he went down to the "Mangrove" Islands, off Basabua, at the bottom of Gona Bay, which we visited last year. The people did not run away this time, but none of their women were seen the whole time they were there. He returned to the Kumusi the morning of the Saturday we came down the river.

26. We left next morning, Sunday, 10th, and visited Kombeka village, a little way along the coast. The natives, though rather nervous, were quite friendly, and brought us native food, &c., but we saw no women or children. The chiefs of some of the neighbouring villages came to see us, and were as usual given presents. We were without any good interpreter, which was a disadvantage. A runaway carrier from the Yodda Valley was brought to us, who, as far as we could make out, had been with King and Campion at the time of their murder ; he and three others succeeded in escaping, the other three had taken a line across country further to the east ; he was merely a lad, and belonged, we thought, to some place on Goodenough Island ; he was very glad when he learnt he was to come with us. A few months ago he would certainly have been eaten instead of being cared for at the place we found him.

We anchored that evening off Buna, where we had landed the woman on the occasion of our first visit to the north-east coast two years ago. The place was quite deserted now, and all trace of the pretty little village had disappeared in the undergrowth of the bush. We had heard at Oro Bay last year that the people had left it, probably burnt out in a murderous raid. We did not land as it was late when we arrived, but the police camped ashore.

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

27. The following day we went on to Porlock Bay, which we reached too late for any but a few of our keen—and keen-eyed—sportsmen to land ; it was dark before they got ashore, but by running to a favourite spot for duck, they managed to get five.

Cape Nelson.

28. As we were passing Spear Island Inlet, on the north side of Cape Nelson, the next morning, we saw the Anglican Mission schooner "Albert Maclaren," at anchor there, and as she ran up a flag we ran in expecting to find the Bishop ; but Mr. Monckton met us in his boat, and told us that the schooner was getting native food for the Mission stations, and that he had just brought her round. As he had a case for the judge to try—some runaway carriers from the Kumusi who had robbed their masters of arms, and had made their way along the coast, found a man and a woman in a canoe here, shot the man dead, wounded the woman, and appropriated the canoe ; being subsequently caught by the people of the place, they were taken to Mr. Monckton instead of being killed and eaten, and were now brought to trial—we decided to stay here the next day and visit the Okene village, Oregia (the "G" is scarcely sounded), which Captain Barton described in my report of our visit to this district last year. We walked there the following morning while the judge was trying the case I have mentioned ; the result being that the principal was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, and the others to lesser periods. No doubt His Honour had good reason for a sentence which appeared to be a lenient one ; possibly the fate of former runaways was taken into account. We were most warmly welcomed by Giriba, the chief, and his people. All the women and children were there, and the very old chief mentioned by Captain Barton was carried to see me. It was quite touching to see the care and attention shown to him by the people ; he is said to be the chief who originally led them here and drove out the Tewari. We saw a very large fine pot being made ; it was having its finishing touches put to it ; it had six double-loop projecting knobs below the rim at equal distances apart ; below each were voluted scrolls, while between them the artist was filling in the space with a herring-bone pattern ; the bowl was slightly oval and curved outwards at the foot ; the bowl had a well-shaped curve, not turning outwards at the lip, which was flat and unadorned. We got some smaller specimens of their pottery. The people from several of the villages near came to see us, bringing food. I should like to have been able to have gone to Mafua village amongst some cocoanuts on the crest of a hill some miles off, but I had had an attack of fever the day before, and did not feel up to it even if we had had the time.

29. We went round to Mr. Monckton's station in Tufi Harbour the next morning, 14th. We had a specially fine view of the three highest peaks of Mount Trafalgar, two only of which have been named, the highest retaining the original name. The southern one I named Mount "Britannia" last year, after Admiral Collingwood's flagship at Trafalgar, and the third and most northerly one, I think, may with propriety be named Mount "Téméraire," after the grand old fighting ship, immortalised as well by her active service in Lord Nelson's fleet as by Turner's great picture of her last resting place.

The heights, as given on Sir Wm. MacGregor's last map of the three, are : Mount Trafalgar, 5,584 feet ; Mount Britannia, 4,946 feet ; Mount Téméraire, 5,084 feet. I was not aware of the height of the last when I named Mount Britannia, or I should have transposed the names ; but, as a matter of fact, Mount Britannia is the most conspicuous of the two, as it stands out more by itself. Mount Victory has separate peaks, which have not yet been named. The heights given on the old maps and Admiralty charts are much less than the above.

80. While we were at Tufi, I visited two of the small villages on the high slopes, to which the people from the shores of the inlet have recently removed. I also took advantage of there being a large number of natives from various parts, who came in to dance at the station, to speak to them, and remind them of the difference between this and a year ago when I left Mr. Monckton and his little force amongst them. I also told them that it would not be long before a white township would be started on the Cape, and that a Government Surveyor would come down to see where the best place for it would be, and that they would be faithfully paid for any land that was bought through the Government, and that none would be bought otherwise. They said that they quite understood, and that they would be glad to see a white men's town. I made Jiwi, the Tewari chief, who had been the first to help the Government, a special present before them, and a general issue of tobacco all round completed the ceremony.

31. We intended going round Collingwood Bay, working along to Cape Vogel, and then leaving Mr. Monckton and Captain Barton at Wanigela, as the Doriri tribe, somewhere between the Musa and the coast, had lately been killing the Maisina people again, and it was decided that they should go after them while I was going to the east; but the day was so stormy and dark that Captain Harvey thought it better to go on straight to Cape Vogel and work back among the reefs of the bay, so we went on there, finding a heavy northerly swell outside. We arrived at the anchorage in the afternoon, and running in rather too fast before the wind and sea, had to go full speed astern. We had Mr. Monckton's whaleboat in tow, which at the moment was forgotten, and in a few seconds her towline got foul of the screw, and she was dragged bows under. Fortunately the line broke, but not until her bows were burst open, and the forepart of her garboard strake split; there were two men in her, who stuck to her till she sank, trying to clear her. Unfortunately all Mr. Monckton's things and his men's kits and rifles were in her ready to land; it would have been better if they had been taken out of her before we left Tufi. In a second every one of our police and private boys were overboard saving everything that floated, but some of the heavy things were lost, including four Snider rifles, the whole of the ammunition, handcuffs, &c. As there was no means of repairing the boat there, I decided to go straight to Samarai, have the boat properly repaired by the ship's carpenter, and return to Collingwood Bay on my way east, and complete my original plan of visiting the villages on the bay. We accordingly left Cape Vogel that night and arrived at Samarai on Sunday, the 17th instant. I shall continue my despatch report in a subsequent despatch.

I have, &c.,

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE,

Lieutenant-Governor, British New Guinea,

P.S.—I have just heard from Mr. Auerbach, who came in from the Kumusi yesterday, that the day after we left Bogi news came in that two more carriers had been killed on the road to the Yodda Field.—G.R. LeH.

Samarai, 21st March, 1901.

His Excellency Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., Governor of Queensland.

[*Enclosure to Despatch No. 17, of 20th March, 1901.*]

REPORT OF MR. A. ELLIOTT, A.R.M., BOGI CAMP, FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 1901.

New Year's Day.—It is very quiet here. Mr. W. Whitten arrived from Tamata, but as no police had come up, I sent Turse, a boy from Borogotatu, in to Tamata, asking Mr. W. E. Armit, Resident Magistrate and Warden, to send me some police for two or three weeks, as there seemed to be some restlessness among the natives—going about in fifties and sixties in a lot. I think that there is something on foot that I don't know of, but I will myself go into Tamata on the 4th. This roving about of the natives must be put a stop to at once. I sent the boys to order leaves for the new store. They are all in good health just at present and are working well.

3rd January.—Two Kiwi carriers reported that two Mailo boys had been killed by the natives near the big crossing of the Kumusi while coming into the store. They belong to Campion and King, who are out prospecting. I am afraid that there is something more behind this, so I shall not go into Tamata now, but will start out to-morrow to find these men.

5.30 p.m.—I was going into tea when Mr. W. McClelland, one of the three men who were out prospecting, arrived and reported that he was left in charge of the camp when the boys were sent to the store for rations. King and Campion had the tools. He said that two boys told him that they wanted to try a creek close by, and that they would be back in about two and a-half hours. There were not any natives with them when they left their camp, except their own two boys. About an hour after their departure McClelland went into the bush about 200 yards from the camp, leaving two boys in the camp. Suddenly he heard them cry out, and he ran up to see what was the matter. The boys told him that some natives had stolen his rifle and shot-gun. About an hour afterwards the two boys who had gone out with Campion and King came running into the camp and told him that the natives had killed Campion and King. McClelland waited for two hours, and as the other men did not put in an appearance, and the natives came round his camp, he told the boys to make the swags up. They did so, and McClelland started on the road. The natives attacked him several times and tried to catch the boys. At last he told the boys to leave two swags behind, and they left King's and Campion's swags, as there was nothing of any value in them. Two of the boys were in front of McClelland and two behind, with the natives all round him, and he kept his revolver going all the time. He was making through the bush for the crossing of the Kumusi River. Had he been on a road he would not have got through with his life, as the natives would have speared both him and the four boys.

I sent one policeman into Tamata for more police to be sent out at once. My boy was kept in there three days by Mr. Hislop, and then sent back, but without any police. He brought a note from Mr. Hislop, stating that he was waiting for his boat to come from the beach.

It was nine days before any boys arrived here. I started off the next morning at 6 o'clock with eight police from Tamata and four boys of my own, leaving one boy and the two Mambaré recruits at the station till I came back. I hear that thirty miners have gone after the natives, but I have seen nothing of them. Just before reaching Angareta I had a fight with a party of natives, who must have been following Elliott and party. We had to cross the Elopa Creek by means of a tree which had fallen across it, and as Constable Maku was crossing the natives rushed from behind and threw six spears at him. He called out to me and jumped into the creek and shot the nearest native. I fired from about 150 yards, and had only fired three shots when the natives ran and got clear before the rest of the police came up.

I think that they must have been following Elliott and party. I camped at Angareta. There were four natives shot in the charge on Constable Maku, but it was unavoidable, as all the natives on the other side of the river are under arms. This meant the killing of the two carriers, and then the whites, and has started a fire which will take a lot of putting out, as there must have been 7,000 or 8,000 natives at the feast.