

Resident Magistrate, Mr. R. Hislop, with the object of having the arrears of clerical work brought up to date. Mr. Parke was relieved of his duties at the same time, and Mr. Hislop retired from the service soon after the close of the financial year, and his place at Tamata has since been filled by Mr. J. B. Higginson, who on his arrival in the Possession on the 11th of May last, in company with the Lieutenant-Governor, was appointed Assistant Resident Magistrate at Tamata. It is obvious that the work of this Division could not but suffer by such a number of changes in the personnel of the officers stationed there; but there is good reason for confidence that a more favorable report in this respect will be forthcoming at the close of the year which is ensuing.

Mining.

No great progress can be reported in this industry during the past year, but at the same time there has been no retrogression. The project of dredging for gold in the Northern Rivers seems to have been entirely abandoned, not, it is certain, because the lands are not auriferous (on the contrary during the year under review the beaches on the Aicora River were proved to be exceptionally rich in the precious metal), but for the reason that the plans of those who were supposed to be promoting the speculation were apparently not supported by any financial strength. The dry weather which prevailed during the year contributed not a little to the success of miners on the Gira and Aicora rivers. The quantity of water and the rapidity of the stream in normal seasons render mining operations more difficult, and the dry season gave the miners access to beaches which gave good returns. Miners generally have been hampered greatly by depredations of local natives. On the Gira the offenders were a nomadic tribe of mountaineers called Biakaiva, inhabiting the watershed of the Gira and Eia rivers. Two miners, James Jossick and James Brackenbury, were speared to death by these natives, the former on the 27th and the latter on the 31st of October, and F. May and F. Hodge were also speared. In order to protect the miners working in these regions, Mr. Hislop, Resident Magistrate, had sent out a detachment of police with orders to systematically patrol what is known as the "Old Gira" in case the Biakaiva should repeat their incursions, and in September, in company with Mr. Walsh, he made expeditions into the mountain fastnesses of these natives, with the object of punishing them, and bringing them into subjection. Quantities of articles stolen from the miners' camps were found in the garden houses of the natives, but although on more than one occasion the police got into touch with small parties of two or three of the natives, probably owing to the natural difficulties of the country traversed, no definite result seems to have been obtained. It is satisfactory, however, to be able to report that the field has latterly been more frequently and actively patrolled, and that as a result no more such casualties have occurred. This, however, does not complete the list of the difficulties of the miners employed on the Gira and Yodda gold-fields. Their chief and enduring trouble is the unreliable character of many of the natives employed, who frequently desert from their employment while carrying stores to their masters, and take to the bush, consuming the edible stores and leaving the rest away. Magistrates are now doing their utmost to deter these offenders by more severe punishment, but desertions are still of frequent occurrence.

Mining on the Yodda Gold-field, with regard to the quantity of gold won, is much the same as during the preceding year. As on the Gira and Aicora rivers, the industry is still confined, practically exclusively, to alluvial workings, which seem to afford a fair measure of success. Unlike the miners on the Gira, those working in the Yodda Valley were hindered by the drought, and those who could not afford to pay the toll levied by the natives were obliged to go elsewhere. The construction of the road from Buna Bay to the Yodda Valley, for which the Acting Administrator has issued instructions, should, it is generally considered, greatly assist the miners by largely reducing the present excessive cost of provisions on the field.

Native Affairs.

Generally speaking the natives in the more settled portions of this Division have shown an apparent improvement in their behaviour during the past year, but some of those on the outskirts of the gold-fields are inclined to be troublesome, as also are others inhabiting the hills in comparatively close proximity to Papaki Station, who have opposed Mr. Walsh, Assistant Resident Magistrate, on more than one occasion.

This Division has not escaped the recent epidemic of measles, but of fatal cases there were few. Beriberi also made its appearance during the year, principally among native carriers.

Missions.

The Station of the Anglican Mission on the Mambare River, controlled by the Rev. Copland King, and the hospital connected with it, managed by Miss Combley and her colleague, Miss Nowland, have been a distinct help to the work of the Government in this Division, and the labours of the staff, particularly of those self-denying ladies, cannot be too highly appreciated. It is a matter for deep regret that the Bishop has determined that the necessity for retrenchment will oblige him to close the hospital and remove the Mission Staff, leaving only a native teacher in charge of the Station.

REPORT ON AFFAIRS OF NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Native matters have, on the whole, in regard to most of the tribes, been extremely satisfactory, when one considers that almost the whole of the tribes of the Division have passed through, for them, an unprecedented shortness of food closely verging in several instances on famine.

2. The Kaili Kaili, Mokuru, Arifamu, Winiapi, Kuviri, Kwagila, Baruga, Koia Koia, Gewadura, Mbesa, and Kikinaua peoples have not had a single indictable offence occur among them, a record which I think few native races in the world could equal.

3. Affairs in Oro Bay, to the north, and Goodenough Bay, to the south, have not been as satisfactory as one could desire. In the former case, for some years past, fighting and raiding one another's villages has taken place at irregular intervals between the Notu tribes of Oro Bay and the Dobodura people, lying a few miles inland to the north.

4. Matters were brought to a head by the scarcity of food, the Dobodura accusing the Notu of having by sorcery prevented rain falling, thus destroying the Dobodura gardens.

5. In revenge for the fancied injury, the Dobodura attacked and defeated the Notu, driving them from their villages and subjecting such prisoners and wounded men that fell into their hands to such fearful tortures that the Notu's were panic-stricken, deserted their villages, and appealed to me for help.

6. In September last I accordingly visited that portion of the district, with the result that a collision occurred between the Dobodura and my party, eventuating in the defeat, with some loss, of the Dobodura.

7. A full report of these operations was furnished at the time.

8. Later, the Dobodura were brought into friendly relations with both their erstwhile enemies, the Notu, and the Government, the principal chief coming to the coast in February last in order to see the Governor, and make professions of his intent to obey the laws in future.

9. The promises by him made to the then Acting Administrator (the Hon. Anthony Musgrave, C.M.G.) have since been loyally kept, and proffers have been made of men to act as carriers or labourers on the contemplated road to the gold-fields.

10. Advantage was taken by a head-hunting tribe, known as the Sangara, situate on the easterly slopes of the Lamington Range, to descend and harry the Dobodura before they had time to recover from the defeat inflicted on the latter by me. Fortunately they only succeeded in killing two men, but did much damage to the villages.

11. Before I was aware of this fact, however, the Sangara, by whom the Yodda Valley Road Expedition was attacked, received severe punishment at the hands of that expedition, and it was not therefore necessary to take further action in the matter, beyond a message sent through prisoner to his tribe that a repetition of their Dobodura raid would bring severe punishment upon them. (Report No. 71, 1903.)

12. *Goodenough Bay—Paiwa.*—These people who, while in the Eastern Division, were a constant source of trouble to the Government, have, until quite recently, well upheld their ancient reputation for crime. From murdering one another and the weaker "bush" people, and blackmailing the Matagara tribe, as well as endeavouring, in some cases with success, to incite every tribe in their vicinity to similar courses, they went on from bad to worse, until, in March last, when, under the leadership of an ex-prisoner and murderer, they boarded a small cutter belonging to a crippled coloured trader, grievously, and without the slightest cause, assaulted the trader, left him, as they thought, dead, looted the cutter, and then turned it adrift.

This last action was followed by sending away to a place of safety the women and children, and a message of defiance to me through the nearest village constable.

13. Of the action taken by me and the loss sustained by the Paiwa in effecting the arrests of the offenders, a report (No. 99, 1903) has already been made by me to Your Excellency the result, however, has been the complete submission of the Paiwas to the authority of the village constable, and a state of order for the first time in their history.

14. *Goodenough Bay—Matagara.*—Of these people there is little to be said, individual murders and more or less serious crime are not rare amongst them, but no general tribal offences have occurred, and the village constable has experienced no difficulty in effecting unaided the arrest of offenders.

15. Many of the younger men are engaging with white men to work either on the Mambare or Murua gold-fields.

Infanticide and violent assaults appear to have been their particular weaknesses in the past, but I have hopes that this year will see them in quite as orderly a state as the Kaili Kaili.

They refused, even under coercion, to take part in the Paiwa offences.

16. *Oro Bay—Notu.*—The conduct of this tribe leaves much to be desired, they have always received me in a friendly manner at their own villages, but apparently never lose an opportunity of inciting some one else to try conclusions with my patrols, several reports have been received of murders of runaway Kunusi carriers committed by them, and raids made on small, isolated bush villages, which I am afraid are but too true.

Little, however, can be done with them until a vessel is on the coast, they are too remote to be often visited in whaleboat, and regular visiting is what for a year they require.

I have little doubt that once the place can be regularly visited, the village constables will be able to put a stop to the too frequent murders.

17, 18. *Cape Vogel—Lasa Lasi, Kapi Kapi, and Mukawa.*—Among all the tribes of the Division these people suffered most from the failure of the food supply, so much so that I found it necessary to give some small relief to the worst cases (through Mr. S. Tomlinson, of the Anglican Mission) of sago and rice. No case of murder or other indictable offence has been reported among the Cape Vogel people other than infanticide, which crime appears to be greatly on the increase.

No less than seven cases have been committed to the Central Court for trial, and these I think represent but a percentage of those which have occurred. I am, however, inclined to think that this in a great measure may be due to the exceedingly bad year we have had and the difficulty a woman burdened with a child would experience in obtaining food for both.

19. Larceny has been common among the people, and they have stolen with equal readiness from police and mission, white men and natives, while thefts of food from gardens have been a chronic source of disturbance and trouble among them.

20. Many of the younger natives have gone off in various vessels to Samarai, where they have engaged to work on the various gold-fields.

21. The population of Cape Vogel as a whole appears to be steadily decreasing, and in my opinion it is only a matter of time when, unless a change takes place in the habits and customs of the people, they vanish altogether.

22. *Collingwood Bay—Maisina.*—The Maisina tribe has suffered less from want of food than any other.

23. Serious crime has been rare among them, but in number of simple offences and breaches of the Native Regulations they have been an easy first.

24. The attendance at the Mission School has been from its opening an exceedingly good one, and no trouble has been experienced in getting the parents to send their children.

25. No "Doriri" murders or raids have taken place in the twelve months in the district, and visits by the Doriri to Maisina are of not infrequent occurrence.

26. Like all other tribes the Maisina's have one especial weakness, in their case a penchant for burying their deceased relatives in front of the Mission House. On three separate occasions have I had bodies exhumed to be placed in the cemetery, and punished the offenders, but I can still be fairly certain that on visiting Uiaku I will be met with an indignant protest from the local missionary that "they have done it again," and find a body in the same old grave.

28. Sorcery for a time proved rather a difficult thing to eradicate at Maisina, but once the people really found that the sorcerers would be punished they readily complained, with the result that a few severe sentences considerably cooled the sorcerers' ardour in several cases and, as they were given the most menial of work, badly frightened the rest.

29. *Collingwood Bay—Wanigela and Koia Koia.*—These tribes, like the Maisina, were not greatly affected by the prevailing scarcity of food.

30. Indictable offences have also been infrequent, but simple offences common.

31. The village of Wanigela, before located in an unhealthy, foul-smelling swamp, is in process of removal to a better site about a mile to the north.

32. Attendance at the Mission School is good.

33. Habits of sloth and indolence appear to be growing among the people together with a more lax morality.

34. *Okeina.*—The Okeina, by whom, up to the time of the establishment of the station, the Cape Nelson district was constantly raided, have until quite recently kept an attitude of armed neutrality, more or less, in their relations with the Government.

35. In the early part of the year, however, their attitude became one of open hostility, and culminated in a collision between themselves and the detachment of armed Native Constabulary at this point, as already fully dealt with in Report No. 114, 1903.

36. *Doriri.*—No Doriri raids have taken place in the past twelve months.

37. Several natives charged with minor offences were arrested among the Doriri tribes by the village constable and brought to this point for trial.

38. An escaped convict, under sentence for manslaughter, was recaptured by the village constable and returned to gaol, without any assistance being needed from the Armed Native Constabulary.

GENERAL.

40. Mr. Oelrichs, Assistant Resident Magistrate, was absent on leave from the 10th February to the 29th May, 1903.

41. An expedition was made by me to the foot of the Tam Tam Range, and through the valley of the Ruaba River, in December last, to afford protection to a gold prospector named Lindsay, who had previously been driven from the outskirts of the country by hostile natives.

42. The country traversed did not prove to be auriferous, but was excellently adapted for pastoral purposes.

43. The expedition was successful in avoiding hostility on the part of the natives.

44. A people, the Gabagai, were met with, by whom a language was spoken that was quite strange to all the natives in my party.

45. A full account of this journey is given in Report No. 35, 1903.

46. An expedition was made by me, in conjunction with Mr. Surveyor Tooth, from Mangrove Islands, Northern Division, to Papangi Station, under instructions from His Honour the Acting Administrator, to examine the intermediate country and report on the possibility or otherwise of a road to the Yodda gold-field.

47. The expedition was successful in discovering a practicable road. Report No. 71, 1903.

48. A strange and curious tribe of Morass Dwellers was discovered by me in the country behind Ketakerua Bay. Report No. 79, 1902.

50. *Village Constables.*—Village Constables now number 26, and have, with the exception of a few instances, done the Government work thoroughly and well.

51. *Armed Native Constabulary.*—The detachment stationed at this point numbers 25 men.

52. Health has, in the main, been good, with the exception of two men, but, as one of them arrived at the station in an advanced stage of phthisis, and the other suffering from chronic ulcers in the legs, they can hardly be taken into account.

53. Discipline and efficiency have been well maintained by Sergeant Kimai.

54. Corporal Barigi and Lance-Corporal Bia deserve special note for loyal and faithful services.

55. The recruits obtained from the tribes of the north-east coast and rivers are, in my opinion, in every way superior to the later drafts of men recruited in the Gulf, for all purposes. They have more pluck and stamina, are more obedient, and reach a much higher state of efficiency, while in bush-craft there is no comparison possible.

60. *Gaols.*—Two hundred and fifty-one prisoners have passed through the prison in the twelve months.

61. Three deaths have occurred, but in each case the prisoner died from dysentery, contracted before coming into the gaol, and within a few days of his admission.

62. Health has, in general, been exceedingly good.

63. It was found necessary, after the cases of dysentery had occurred, to, for a short time, camp the prisoners in tents away from the gaol, whilst the floors were pulled up and the ground, on which the gaol is built, was thoroughly disinfected with quick-lime before re-cementing the floor.

65. Several escapes have occurred, but in each case the escapees have been quickly recaptured.

66. *Judicial*.—The following cases have been dealt with:—

Indictable offences ...	...	...	...	...	44
Summary jurisdiction ...	...	...	...	...	135
Forbidden acts ...	...	...	...	...	111
Civil claims ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Warden's Court ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Small Debts Court ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total ...	...	...	...	...	290

67. The large increase in number of cases is not due to any increase of crime amongst the natives, but to the rapid extension in this division of the Government sphere of influence, bringing several thousand more natives under the control of village constables.

68. *Missions*.—No extension of mission influence has taken place, nor have any additional mission stations been opened during the past year.

69. The Mission Station at Wanigela has been removed to the new village site at Rainu.

70. Mr. Money, without any white helper, has done a great work in getting hold of the Uiaku people, and has done a lot in many ways to assist me.

71. Of the work that Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson are doing at Cape Vogel, it is impossible to speak too highly.

72. Twenty-two children are at present under mandate to the Anglican Mission from this division.

73. *Trade and Labour*.—All traders working in the division sail from Samarai, at which port they, as a general rule, engage and pay off their crews and pay their licence-fees.

74. Beche-de-mer and pearl-shell fishing are the only industries followed, and that on a small scale.

75. Though many natives have left the southern portion of the division to work on the gold-fields, they have, without exception, engaged at Samarai.

76. *Lands*.—A few applications for small areas, by the Anglican Mission, are the only ones that have been received.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

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

REPORT ON LAND TRANSACTIONS.

(J. Richmond, Esq.)

Consequent upon the resignation of Mr. H. H. Stuart Russell, the charge of the Departments of Lands, Mines, and Works devolved upon me on 23rd September, 1902, and the report following will indicate the miscellaneous nature of duties comprehended under this charge:—

The work of the office is very extensive, and fully occupies the present staff in doing current work, and in trying to overtake arrears of work accumulated during past years, and it has not yet been possible to take up work which is pressing, and must be done before progress can be made in the land administration of the Possession. I here refer to the compilation of maps of all Crown lands and native lands.

BRIEF REPORT ON LAND MATTERS.

		£	s.	d.
Fees chargeable for surveys effected ...	...	594	0	0
Cost of unproductive surveys, roads, &c. ...	...	869	8	7
Fees chargeable on deeds prepared ...	...	82	0	0
Work done for other Departments ...	...	44	3	0
		£1,589	11	7

PORTIONS SURVEYED.

Applicants.	Division.	Number.	Area.			Total Area.		
			A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
London Missionary Society	Central	18	16	3	6			
Sacred Heart Mission ...	"	30	596	1	33	807	0	38
General Public ...	"	12	193	1	39			
London Missionary Society	Eastern	21	77	3	27			
Aus. Wesleyan Meth. Miss.	"	19	105	3	9	345	1	38
General Public ...	"		101	3	3			
Aus. Wesley. Meth. Miss.	South-Eastern	3	6	0	0			
General Public ...	"	3	355	1	28	361	1	28
Total	...	112				1,514	0	24