

New Guinea Mission (Papua)

TENSION AT WANIGELA.

Some time last year, we at Wanigela were surprised to see several large canoes coming down the coast, crowded with strange natives. Such a sight does not cause much comment as they are fairly common, but this was different. The people appeared to be afraid of something that they thought was going to happen. Having passed the village of Rainu slowly and without noise, they passed the mission station and came to a stop opposite the village of Oreresan.

The canoes having stopped, the people showed no hurry to move, nor did they even attempt to land. This patient waiting continued for several hours, but all through that time the visitors remained almost as still as their canoes; and the village people, while surely and carefully keeping an eye on them, went about their usual tasks apparently as casually as ever.

The strangers arrived early in the morning, and about two o'clock there was a bustle and a few sharp yells, and the old men of the villages came together on the shore and held a long consultation and made many remarks loud enough to be heard by the patient watchers on the canoes.

Later, a great concourse of men from all the local villages came, and then the noise became almost unendurable.

After a time the men rushed to the water's edge brandishing their spears and yelling as only New Guinea people know how to, then the waiting ones began, and there ensued a real battle of words. All this went on for two hours or more, until the village people were up to their waists in water and the tips of the visitors' spears were near enough to do damage should the occasion warrant their being used.

Suddenly, with a final yell, apparently peace was made; the village people returned to their houses and the strange people returned to a nearby rest-house.

The next day the talking went on again, and food was presented to the visitors and friendly

relations existed. When I went to see and talk to the new arrivals I learned the whole story. It appears that just before the mission was founded at Wanigela the Ubir people went into the hills towards Keroro, or Mt. Victory, and raided the villages there, killing all the inhabitants except six. These six managed to escape and were befriended by the Winiafi tribes, who allowed them to marry their daughters. For nearly forty-five years they had been afraid of the Ubirs, and at last had come to make peace. They had with them a long piece of native string on which were fastened thirty-five small pieces of coconut fibre, representing the exact number of men who were killed:



Men of Wanigela.

After the meal was over, they, with the Wanigela people, were rejoicing and telling again the story of that eventful day so long ago. The visitors are not Christians, nor are they in touch with any mission, but they recognise the change that comes to the people when they embrace Christianity. It was good to see the friendly spirit existing between these people after so long and bitter a feeling of hostility.

The strangers returned home very happy and asked that the mission send teachers to teach them. Here is one more open door wide enough for the Church to enter; but how can they hear without a preacher? Whom shall we send? We have to give to them the same



On the Beach, Wanigela.

negative answer as so often has had to be given to others: "No money and no teachers."

W.T.T.

Personal Notes

The Rev. A. H. Lambton, formerly of the New Guinea Mission, left Sydney yesterday for Brisbane, where he will join Mrs. Lambton. Mr. Lambton has received an appointment to a parish near Townsville in January.

The Rev. Philip Seymour has been accepted by the Bishop of Carpentaria as Chaplain at the Mitchell River Mission. Mr. Seymour, for the past two years, has been Rector of Wiluna, W.A.

The Rev. N. W. Gowing was a passenger from London by the "Jervis Bay" last month on the way to Thursday Island to take charge of the Torres Strait Mission. He joined the "Chingee" at Brisbane on the 20th November.

Miss Nellie Hullett and Miss Lilla Lashmar, after furlough in Adelaide, were passengers to Samarai by the "Macdhui," which sailed from

Sydney on the 12th November. Before returning to their work in Papua they were able to give valuable help in the Missionary Exhibition in Adelaide, which was organised as a part of the South Australian Centenary Celebrations.

Congratulations to the Bishop of Melanesia and Mrs. Baddeley on the birth of a son.

Mr. William Alwyn Coleman, at one time in All Saints' parish, Bendigo, passed through Sydney on the 24th November, having been appointed to the staff of the Yarrabah Mission. Mr. Coleman offered to the Board several years ago, being a fruit of a Missionary Exhibition, and was accepted by the Board as a candidate in training. For some months past he has been working as a catechist under Rev. Joseph Tyson at St. George's, Malvern, Vic., and was receiving other training from the Brotherhood of St. Laurence.