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no 3 1-6

572.994
B32 t
Strong Room

Removed from the Official Files of
The C'wealth Railways, Port Augusta, and
presented to the Dairy Bales Memorial C'ttee and by
them to the Library of the University to go with other
Dairy Bales papers.

PROF J B CLELAND
1 DASHWOOD ROAD
BEAUMONT S A



Chairman,
Dairy Bales C'ttee.

FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (INC.)
80 BROUGHAM PLACE
NORTH ADELAIDE

Jan. 1931 - Feb 1932

6 letters.

Mr. Moore.

I think it would be well to get the ideas
of the Boardmaster about this matter.

Yours,
17.1.31.

Respectfully written to

W
17.1.31.

17/1/31
W
17.1.31

~~Personal~~

Kite's Camp

Bolton

G. W. Lewis

7/1/31

Dear Mr. Aullett

A new mob of cannibals is just coming in, & as each mob that enters by this (Bolton's) gate into civilization is more & more lawless & savage than the mob preceding it, I am concerned enough with its coming to try & lessen any possibility of traps occurring at the siding.

A little mob of six (including a baby) detached itself from this new mob a little while ago, & the one man in the group is demented. You have never seen a cannibal running amok. I have, but hitherto I have been able to keep traps away, & to pursue my self-imposed task without publicity of any kind. In this recent case, after I had stopped Barrapuma in his rush among a group of women & children near my camp; & when the other men had told me that he was demonstrating with his boomerang among one of the employes' fowls, I communicated with the P.O. Inspector of Police, who sent a Constable to the camp. I had suggested that Barrapuma be taken away for medical examination, but my suggestion was not acted upon. In his case I am therefore specially alert

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but he avoids his fellows. That is a bad sign (for a native).
I have some thirty or more names of the new Mob
coming in, & as there are about thirty or forty now at
the Sidcup & water stealing is being carried on there
I am rather worried over the numbers. When new
white women come to the Sidcup I make a point
of especially warning them against familiarity with
these natives, & especially in giving them the freedom
of their houses. Otherwise I keep absolutely apart
from the Sidcup employees & their wives as my work
is confined solely to helping & restraining these
wild creatures. They will not go for water to the
Loak, as long as they can get one belly can full
at the Sidcup, & if these new people coming in
attach themselves to the Sidcup group, I fear there
may be trouble, & that is my reason for this
letter. I should be so glad if Sidcup water were
entirely kept from them, though I do not see
how that can be done now that they are familiar
with every tank & water vessel. I bought some
20 belly cans for them at Christmas with the hope
that they would fetch their water from the Loak -
but I'm very much afraid that these new belly cans
are used to steal the water from the empty houses
tanks! These are "civilized" natives in the Sidcup
group, so civilized that even the white employees
can teach them nothing in the way of "water
wangling". They lower their new belly cans with wires into the tanks.
As I am sure you know, it has always been my desire
to do any service required of me by Sidcup women
but my work lies wholly amongst these wild creatures

I know them so ³ thoroughly, I am suspicious of
each new group comes in until I can quietly observe
each member of it. I keep them all in that fear
that brings respect & caution to them. It would help
me tremendously if Siding water was placed absolutely
'out of bounds' to both civilized & wild natives. But one
billy can of water given to a wild native is sufficient
to stop him from going to the South.

And they are so lawless, so hopeless, there is no cohesion
in the mobs, because every one has got his woman
by force or fight or cannibalism, & not one man has
a lawful wife in all this great Central area. That
is the fatal stumbling block to all measures for
their improvement.

They are an attraction to the trains, but the trains have
become an obsession with them, & they just live for
their passing. Perhaps if women & children (white)
resided at the siding with a school teacher resident
there, in the interests of the white children & the natives
might be kept away from the siding. There is nothing
but evil in contact with little native boys & girls for
any white child, but beyond warning the mother, I am
most scrupulous as to any kind of interference in
Siding matters. When I foresee possibility of danger,
as in Barrajipina's case, I write, as Justice of the
Peace to the Inspector - & then quietly take my
own measures & impress my own Code of Law upon
the natives, & so far the eleven years of my stay
at this 'Gate of entry' of the wild tribes, I have kept
tragedy away.

This is a friendly note to yourself personally, as you are
the only official whom I've had the pleasure of personally
meeting, & I hope there is not the word in it that can be
taken as a case of butting in in matters outside my jurisdiction.
I am an old hand over these new arrivals. Yes faithfully
David M. ...

572.994

B32 K

Strong Room

Kabwai Camp.

W. Ooloca

S. W. Luis

22/1/31.

Dear Mr. Abbott.

If at any time my services can be of use to the Com^d Railways Department in connection with the aborigines frequenting the S. W. Luis I shall be very glad to help you in an honorary capacity, as Consultant, or otherwise as you may need.

I am forwarding the enclosed Certificate (which comes to me yearly from the W.G. Govt.) in order that you may be assured that I have authority to deal with these cannibal natives whose waters are across the S.W. border, & who come into civilization through Ooloca & other waters along their W.N.W. road.

If such an honorary appointment were offered me from the S.G. & Commonwealth Governments I should be of still greater help to the Com^d Rly Department, if my services were availed of.

It would also - but this is personal & only addressed to yourself - whom Sir had the pleasure of meeting personally - lessen the strain on my purse with regard to feeding & clothing & here

new arrivals until they have become familiar
with the conditions of their semi-civilized relations.
I do not know one Labour member or Minister in
State or Commonwealth, except from Press
reports. You may possibly contact with these people
officially & if so you might make a point of the
steady evacuation of the Great-Aboriginal Reserve
within which is splendid pastoral country, capable
of carrying many millions sheep & cattle. My authority
is the late Frank Hann who explored the area
within what is now an almost empty Aboriginal
reserve. He gave Mr. late Robert Fairbairn of Western
Australia & myself a very comprehensive précis of
his journeys through those areas - & Mr. Fairbairn &
the late Leo Torres - old time friends of Frank Hann,
held him in the highest esteem as a reliable explorer.
Frank named a hill for me: Mt. Daisy Bates within
this area & not far from Mt. Goss. & naturally I
was keen to know the soil of country round about
my hill.

Missionaries & other interested persons give fanciful
estimates of the numbers of wild aborigines within
unsettled areas - but from my native informants, &
my permitted desire to get the names & numbers of
every group, & their waters - & how many remain
at those waters - I can confidently state that there
cannot be more than 2000 remaining above between
Heremambury - though out of contact with it - & the areas
east of the W.A. Goldfields. My estimate is a generous
one. And these groups - every one of them - are all intent
on following the various tracks made by their relatives

into civilized areas - here ³ through badca water - which is known by legend only to every Central Native, through Karonie & other places of entry in W.A. & towards Bodnadatta. And none of the groups who come out of their own country & waters - will willingly return to them. ||

I am giving you these items for your own information & to help the Railway Department in its study of the aborigines frequenting the G-W-Line. It is a very difficult question & with Labour in power especially difficult.

Kindly excuse this long letter - but my years as they pass in this isolation & privation, do not bring health or strength. & so I should like to do as much as I can to ease matters before I pass out.

The new mob is still 'hovering' round. There are quarrels to be started with the mobs that came down last year, owing to cannibalism & the stealing of women etc. but the new mob is also swimming in this respect & counter quarrels will happen. I always allow the mobs to let the steam off - in some quiet place - only forbidding them to kill. Being an Irishwoman I can quite understand their desire to use their 'shillelaghs' on each other. A Lur head ^{yet} had a serious wound to attend after any of these little Donnybreaks.

With friendly regards.

Yours faithfully,

Daisy M. Bates

The enclosed is just a suggestion for you to put forward to Court. or State. w. some auspicious time & moment. Let me know is back please.

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Native Camp
Dolder
E - W - Lin
22/11/31.

Dear Mr. Atlett.

Thanks ever so much for Augusta:
Just the thing absolutely needed to carry my water & supplies
during the hot months. I sampled it yesterday, by bringing
down some flour I had purchased for the natives - flour
that it used to take six journeys to convey here & now
& yesterday I found it is too! lovely!

The workman who turned out Augusta made such
a nice job of it that I should like to give him
the enclosed little Christmas box. I hope he is
married & has dear little children round about
him for whom he can make little 'home-made'
motor cars like this.

Will you kindly change the cheque & give the
change to the good workman.

I will take great care of Augusta & no one will
handle it but myself. It is most kind of you
to have had it made & it is going to be a
real help to me.

With early wishes you a happy & bright Christmas
& a prosperous New Year for the Commonwealth
Railways.

Yours faithfully
Daisy M. Bates

Native Camp.
Golconda
E - W - Linn
22/1/32.

Dear Mr. Artlett,

An accident happened to my little go-cart today, one of the wheels snapping off & the axle while negotiating a pipeline with a load of two kerosene buckets of water.

The little cart has been such a blessing to me in these days of stress & heat. That its breakdown is a calamity, & I am compelled to encroach upon your kindly courtesy, & ask if you can have it repaired for me. I will return it by the supply train tomorrow with this note.

The pipelines are between my camp & the siding & cannot be avoided, & though I make an 'approach' to them with sand, the action of wind & heat causes them to move & wriggle out of line.

The little cart is such a wonderful help to me that I hope you will do me the great kindness of having it repaired somehow, so that I can continue to use it during the dreadful heat of this summer.

It will be a very great favour for which I shall tender my most sincere thanks.

I noticed yesterday, that a small square tank which had been attached to the motor garage of one of the jetties, has been removed from the garage (which has been pulled down), & I thought if you would kindly lend me the square tank instead of the damaged corrugated iron tank, I would take the latter back to the siding & have the square one in its stead. (That is if it is not leaking) & so be prepared for any rain that may come when these dreadful days of heat have passed.

You will probably have heard of the fire that came so near my camp during the Christmas day - 116° & 120° are not exactly 'working' temperatures. Nevertheless 'breaks' & such things had to be made, a most unusual Christmas occupation.

I hope I am not imposing unduly on your kindly good nature, & that the favours I request are within your province. It will be a great kindness if you can oblige me in this matter, & one that I shall most gratefully appreciate.

Yours faithfully
Daisy M. Bates

bars sent out by No 9 ^{27/1/22}
wheels " " " No 1 ^{29/1/22}

Supt Blagg wrote gauge asking how fit wheels to rail and explain to W^{rs} Bales the necessity to oil the beams regularly. ^{9/2/22}

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Native Camp,

Adelphi

R - W. Lewis

31/1/32.

Dear Mr. Artlett,

The old saying "Go goes twice who goes quickly" more aptly applies to you kindly & quick courtesy in having my little go-car put in order again. I have found it so tremendously useful in my primitive duties connected with my tent-life that when it temporarily ceased to function, I realized what it meant to me. Thanks no end for having the repairs effected so quickly, & also for the little tyres which make it so easy to push or pull. Even my natives were interested in it, & superintended the attachment of the wheels to the body, which was done by some kind of railway fetter. I have found a new road from Siding to Camp which eliminates the sharp pipelines that jarred wheels & axle.

The fogs in December & the heat wave in that month & January brought record temperatures to Adelphi. I had to make double breakwinds south & west of my tent owing to the prevailing winds from these quarters. These breakwinds make an increase of heat of 4 degrees, so that when it was 12° at the Siding my thermometer registered 16° . Some time ago I had

presents thermometers to the Siding women, as I found that it. sad- of lessened the effect on them of the great heat. by comparing notes about it! Anyhow it. is a record heat for Oaxaca during the past. Thirteen years (1919-1932). They once during those years my thermometer registered 126°.

My wee birds - many coloured parrots, red-billed & other finches, Thrushes, honeyeaters, Waco me a. Dawn - parrots & finches are in hundreds - & I must get up to give them what 'Paddy' would call their 'Mornin's Mornin' (An old Irish lilt - of which I remember but. one line. 'Whin I wind - for me' Mornin's Mornin' - a - Shanahan's - could I see them -') & while pouring out the water I am covered with parents. Lovely little creatures some rare colourings amongst them. You will appreciate the depth of my regard for these, my only companions, when I mention that, before the happy advent. of Augusta I used to go up before sunrise to the Siding to fetch their water supply in belly cans! They suffer greatly in those days of abnormal heat. & such prolonged heat. Today (Sunday) is the first. coolish (not. cool) day since early December. some cirrus clouds from the west tempering the sun's glare & heat.

With renewed thanks for the kind & quick repair of my little go-car.

I am yours faithfully,
Daisy M. Hayes

By this way, the Aselaine Museum would like
some of those long Totem Poles 7, 9, or 10 feet long. I Native Camp.
cannot send them by boat as 3 ft. 6 in is the limit in
length. How can they be despatched by passenger boat? How packed etc? When I made collections for
one Governor General & Governor there was usually
some friend who saw the parcels through & took
charge of them, attending to freightage etc.

Boldea
E - W - Luis
8/2/32.

Dear Mr. Lett.

I must send renewed thanks to you
for so kindly expediting repairs to my little car. It is
wonderfully easy to push or pull now, & I have found a new
'road' - which is the old waggon road to Boldea water - which
eliminates the pipelines. It carries my large bags of flour
sugar etc. The forerunner in two instalments, & is a heavenly
gift in easing my water carrying.

I shall ask the First Aid man here, Litter Pauncefort, to
kindly show me in detail, the special parts that can be
oiled, & I have sent for bicycle oil to the Court Store.

As I have mentioned Litter Pauncefort & am, it comes
to my mind the relief that man's presence at the
Siding brings to me. When I ascertained what an
upright, straight, & good moral man he was, I have
felt a great comfort in his being near at hand
in case of any emergency, & whenever any books
of instructions, forceps, or other medical instruments
& medicines came to me I passed them on to this
First Aid man, who seems to be always learning
more & more in connection with First Aid.

He is the one man I can safely trust in any matter requiring his attention as a fire and man. I keep a quiet apartness from all White Residents & neither Lettles name nor his wife have been at my camp; but whenever I require any little service of either, both are most ready in their response. & so as I mentioned the Lettles name I have written my testimony of his fine moral character & the comfort his & his wife's presence at this siding have been to me at all times through the years of their residence here. I know I can call upon them for any service, from making me a special little dish, to making a camp stool. & if you have ever been isolated from your kind as I am, you will understand how much I appreciate those two human stand-legs.

To have some decent man close by upon whom I can rely in case of necessity, & whom every Native knows & respects, will I know be good news to your kindly self.

I registered 171 points here on Feb. 6th & inquiries at the siding shows that two inches fell there. yet the distance is only a mile. The rain brings a delightful cool change, the first real change since mid December? & the sky is still cloudy, a most unusual February.

Yours faithfully

Darius M. Felt