

ROBERT MITCHELL BOYD (1849-1912)

***Dorset Registry Office advised (4 Oct 2013) that they could not find registration of his birth in Weymouth District from 1847 to 1850.**

Dorset, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906 (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Robert Mitchell Boyd
Baptism Date:	4 May 1849
Parish:	Melcombe Regis
Father's Name:	Sprot Boyd
Mother's Name:	Catherine Boyd

England Census 31 Mar 1851 (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Robert M Boyd
Age:	1
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1850
Relation:	Son
Father's Name:	Sprott Boyd
Mother's Name:	Catherine Boyd
Gender:	M (Male)
Where born:	Weymouth, Dorset, England (see notes above)*
Civil parish:	Melcombe Regis
Ecclesiastical parish:	Melcombe Regis
County/Island:	Dorset
Country:	England
Street Address:	18 Terrace
Registration district:	Weymouth

SMH 17 Nov 1857 (from Correspondent to the Argus)

PASSENGERS per DUNCAN DUNBAR, FROM PLYMOUTH for SYDNEY, Sept. 1.- **Dr. S. and Mrs. Boyd, three children and servants ; Miss Boyd**, Miss Angel, Miss Cresswell, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Kent, Mr. J. Hill, jun. ; Mr. Buchan, Mr. Templeton, Mr. A. Comrie, Messrs. J. and F. Ramsay, Mr. Boucher, Mr. Watkins, &c. [*Who is the "Miss Boyd"? Possibly one of Sprott's unmarried sisters – possibly Margaret Alexina, who was living with them in Melcombe Regis in 1851*] [*Why did Sprott leave a lucrative? practice in England to come to Sydney?*][*Mrs. Parker is Maria Kneller Parker who stayed with the Boyd family in Sydney for 7 years*]

SMH 14 Dec 1857

SHIPPING ARRIVALS Sydney.

December 13.-Duncan Dunbar, ship. 1360 tons, Captain Neatby, from Plymouth 1st September, Passengers- **Dr. and Mrs. Boyd 3 children and 2 servants, Miss Boyd**, Mrs. Kent, Miss Creswell, Miss Pugh, Mrs. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Walford and 5 children, Miss Walker, Messrs. P. D. Dunbar, Hill, Templeton, Comrie, Lonsdale. Boucher, Ramsay (2), Lloyds, and 36 in the steerage. Smith, Campbell, and Co., agents

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Monday 4 April 1859, page 2

PRIMARY CLASSICAL SCHOOL, Eglington-place, Glebe Point.- Master, Rev. J. PENDRILL, B.A., St, John's College, Oxford.

REFEREES:

Sir Alfred Stephen, Lyons. terrace
The Principal of the Sydney University
The Warden of St. Paul's College
The Rev. Canon Allwood, St. James'
The Rev. Canon Walsh, Christ Church
The Rev. W. H. Savigny, Cook's River
The Rev. S. Simms, Stroud
G. Allen, Esq., M.L.C.,Toxteth, Glebe
M. Metcalfe, Esq , Custom-house
R. Jones, Esq., M.L A., Stanley -street
S. Smyth, Esq., DarlingPoint
W. T. Pinhey, Esq., Bishopthorpe
E. T. Blackett, Esq , Glebe John Bingle, Esq., Newcastle.

This school is intended to meet a specific demand in the department of education, and to provide facilities for the early preparatory training of young boys designed for admission to the public schools of the colony.

The course of instruction will comprise all the elementary branches of a useful and liberal education.

Arrangements can be made to take charge of pupils during the vacations, if desired.

The next quarter will commence April 11th

Mr. Pendrill has taken (in addition to his present residence) the adjoining house, lately occupied by Dr. Woolley, and is consequently enabled to accommodate an additional number of boarders.

Empire 5 Nov 1860

LIST OF DONATIONS TO THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, DURING OCTOBER, 1860.

A live diamond snake (Morella Spilotis), 6 feet long ; caught at Bondi by **Master Boyd**, 6, Lyon's-terrace.

A Monitor Lizard, a Sacred Kingfisher (Halcyon Sanetus), an Acanthiza [*thornbill*] and a Sericornis [*pardalotes*]: By Master **Mitchell Boyd**, 6, Lyons terrace,

Empire 8 Oct 1863

LIST OF DONATIONS TO AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM DURING SEPTEMBER, 1863

Two ferns (*Thalasseus poloicercus*) ; By **Master M. Boyd.**

Empire 12 Aug 1864

LIST OF DONATIONS TO THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM DURING JUNE AND JULY,

A canary : by Miss **Fanny Boyd.**,

A collection of Australian birds : by **Master Mitchell Boyd.**

An African long-tailed finch : by **Miss Fanny Boyd.**

SMH 22 Dec 1864

COLLEGIATE SCHOOL. Glebe Point.-CHRISTMAS EXAMINATION. 1864. PRIZE LIST.

Boyd- 1st Mathematics. [**Robert Mitchell Boyd**, who was 15yo]

CLASS LIST IN ORDER OF MERIT. CLASSICAL DIVISION.

CLASS V. **Boyd,**

MATHEMATICS IN ORDER OF MERIT. INCLUDING EUCLID, ALGEBRA AND ARITHMETIC. UPPER DIVISION. **Boyd,**

N B -Marks are given for School work and conduct, during the half-year, and these, together with results obtained at Examination, determine the prizes and School order

JOHN PENDRILL M.A., Head Master. Glebe Point, December 16th, 1864.

Email exchange with Elaine Roberts 2012.

[From Elaine 1 Aug 2012.]

Sprott and family arrived in Sydney in July 1857. I don't know if Mitch was 8 or 9 as I don't have an actual birthdate for him, or for Fanny. Do you? JA started at Sydney Grammar in 1858, he was 186 on the school register, but **Mitch did not go till 1859, he was 286 on the register and was in the Prep school. He left in April 1859 and never returned.** I wonder why? JA says, in a letter to Houghton on 16 March 1918 - "Had a visit from Jack Hall and his wife today. I have not seen him for 50 years, he was a boy at Pendrella's school with Mitch. We had a great yarn over old times." Pendrilla could be Pindrella, hard to read the writing. Maybe that is the name of the headmaster at some other school?

[to Elaine 23 Nov 2012.]

I have been re-reading some of your earlier emails, and in the one below you may recall asking about someone called Pendrella, or something similar. In the references I sent you regarding RMB, there is one from the SMH of 22 Dec 1864 in which a 'Boyd' received prizes for achievement at the Collegiate School, Glebe Point. The headmaster was a Rev John Pendrill, so it seems certain that Mitch went to this school. I googled Rev John Pendrill and his school today. It seems that he started the school as a Primary School only (called Eglinton House) in Sep 1858. Mitch would have gone there in 1860, after his first year at Grammar Prep – why he was moved I don't know, but from Rev Pendrill's obituary (see below), Sprott was his doctor so the move may have been based on a personal relationship. In 1863, the

school became a Primary+Collegiate school, so Mitch would have stayed there to finish his education.

Empire 25 May 1867

THE LEVEE.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief held the levee in honour of her Majesty's Birthday, at Government House, at 3 o'clock.

GENERAL PUBLIC.

Robert M. Boyd, Dr. Boyd,

E Knox also there

Sydney Mail (NSW : 1860 - 1871), Saturday 28 December 1867, page 3

DEPARTURE OF SIR JOHN YOUNG.

His Excellency Sir John Young, after an administration of the affairs of this colony for a period of six years and nine months, took his departure on the 20th instant, taking with him the good wishes of the whole community, whose affection and respect he had secured soon after his assumption of the Viceregal office. It was, therefore, not remarkable that a popular demonstration to some extent exhibiting the sentiments with which Sir John was regarded should be made when the time came that he should leave our shores. Most of the places of business were closed, and thousands of the citizens mustered in the vicinity of Government House, and in the streets through which his Excellency was to pass in his progress to the place of embarkation. The ships in harbour honoured the occasion by hoisting their ensigns and signals, and the Consular flags floated from each office. In the morning, the following deputations waited upon his Excellency, and presented addresses, to which Sir John young was pleased to return suitable replies:—

The following gentlemen were also presented to his Excellency : Messrs.

R. M. Boyd,

Also Krefft, Knox

SMH 9 Jan 1868

OFFICIAL LANDING OF EARL BELMORE.

THE official landing of his Excellency the Right Honorable the Earl of Belmore, who arrived by the ship Sobraon on Tuesday last, took place yesterday. The place selected for the landing was the Circular Quay; and notwithstanding the drizzling rain which continued to fall during the earlier part of the day, a large number of people assembled in the vicinity of the quay shortly after 11 o'clock, and by noon the concourse of spectators was very great indeed. Every eminence which commanded a view of the landing place was occupied,

Earl Belmore then took the two necessary oaths- the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty, and the oaths to see justice duly administered according to law.

Immediately after the Governor was sworn in, a salute of seventeen guns was fired from Dawes' Battery in honour of the event

THE LEVEE

The ceremony of swearing in having been thus terminated, the hall, and the precincts of Government House rapidly became more and more crowded, and the levee began.....

The following gentlemen were also presented to his Excellency :- '

R. M. Boyd, Dr. Boyd,

Empire 12 Mar 1868

THE FANCY BALL.

In addition to the outline, published yesterday, of the magnificent entertainment given at the Prince of Wales Theatre, on Tuesday evening, to his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, we are enabled to state that about 1150 persons were present- the subscribers numbered 1000 and the guests 150 -and that the ball was in every way a success. The theatre, which had been boarded over for the occasion, was not adapted to accommodate so many without some crowding, so that some were prevented from participating in the dances to such an extent as they desired. Everything, however, that could be done to accommodate so large a number was done by the committee.

.....

Subjoined is a list of the ladies and gentlemen in fancy costume, together with the characters they assumed:Mr. R. M. Boyd, peasant.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 1 Jun 1869

RICHMOND RIVER.

[COMMUNICATED.]

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION. - PUBLIC MEETING.-We are indebted to an occasional correspondent, for the following report of a meeting recently held at Casino, to endeavour to form a Mutual Improvement Association and Debating Class-

Mr. Simpson further remarked that he hoped that if this Institution were started it would not share the fate of many things in Casino, which unfortunately died in their infancy. The following resolutions were then put to the meeting, and passed in each case, without dissent. Mr. Drury proposed and Mr. Greenstreet seconded the first resolution, "That in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable to form a Mutual Improvement Society and Debating Class for Casino and its district." Moved by Mr. Greenstreet and seconded by Mr. Drury, "That Messrs. A. J. Simpson, T. Carlin, W. Drury, and R. Boyd, be appointed a committee to draw up a code of rules and regulations for the proper working of the society, to be submitted at the next general meeting." [not RMB I think]

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

Clarence

The Clarence Examiner says, a hurriedly got up sugar meeting was held in Chatsworth Island Public school on Monday evening last, and as usual, "where the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together, so the sound of a sugar meeting, brought the greater part of the farmers on the North Arm together, like bees on a flower alighting

The meeting, which was only conceived of about nine o'clock the same morning, was one of the most successful and tangible ever held on this part of the river, for now the farmers no more labour " % fnth, but by sight. It sprang out of a debate between Mr Knox, Mr Melmoth Hall, and Mr Corcoran, in which the latter gentleman accused Mr Hall of urging the farmers on to plant cane, and which hitherto has apparently resulted only in the farmers spending their labour and capital without an early prospect of an adequate return Mr Knox presided, and the meeting was entirely conversational, in the course of which Mr Knox warmed many an apathetic spirit, and cheered mon) a desponding one. During the conversation it was elicited from Mr Knox, that it was his intention to erect a sugar mill on the North Arm, one capable of crushing 350 tons of cane per day, the order for which is to be sent to England by the next out going mail

The mill will not be ready in time for the crushing of the next season's crop but will be in time for the crop of 1871. In the interim the cane will be crushed at the Southgate mill. The pros and cons were numerous but Mr Knox was equal and ready for all, his tongue was like the pen of a ready writer To one question-" Will you guarantee a certain price per ton ? The immediate answer was-" Will anyone guarantee a price per bushel for your corn of next year ? This question was therefore speedily disposed of. Towards the conclusion of the meeting, Mr Knox made one of the most liberal offers to the farmers it is possible to conceive. He told them in consideration of the losses they may have sustained by the sugar crop of this year, he would advance them £6 per acre of cane planted, free of interest, and then not bind them down to sell the cane to the company but in the event of that not doing so, he should be obliged to charge them eight per cent At the conclusion he told the company assembled that it was his intention of giving them a treat to witness the process of cane crushing, &c, at the Southgate mill, and urged them firongl), with their wives, and the older children of the Public school to be present

JA Boyd Diary

2 Jun 1870 - Letters from Mother Father, both brother and sister.

22 Aug 1870 - Letters from home, Puss [Fanny] has been nearly dead. (I have no idea what this means, there is no other reference about it)

16 Nov 1870 - Letter from Mike but none from home and no papers.

Maitland Mercury 29 Oct 1870

MACLEAY RIVER.

SUGAR INDUSTRY -Three more gentlemen (Messrs Garling, **Boyd**, and Smythe), visited the district during the early part of the week from the Hastings, where they are engaged in the sugar industry, for the purpose of viewing the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's mill at Darkwater

Clarence & Richmond Examiner 15 Nov 1870

DEPARTURES.

November 6-Ballina., (s.), 800 tons, Captain W. Mann, for Sydney. Passengers- Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Miss Sutherland, Miss Helby, Messrs. Farmer, Leonard, Spence, **Boyd**, and 12 in the steerage. -

Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), Friday 16 December 1870, page 2

PORT MACQUARIE.

The weather has been delightfully fine during the last week. Messrs. Neild and Ross have finished crushing for the season. **Mr. Morrison, of Greenbank, is going on with one of his mills, and report speaks well of the results.** He has shown a fine sample of sugar. Mr. Ewair's mill is stopped at present. It is said that the juice of the cane lately crushed is of very low density, which is attributed to the late wet weather.

Australian Town and Country Journal 10 Jun 1871

THE TWEED RIVER DISTRICT.

Swamps, reserves, and rocky spurs occupy much of the main river banks, which in many places are low and subject to inundations, the only selections I noticed were Mr. Maher's, Mr. Lilly's, and **Mr. Boyd's. Mr. Boyd** has an accommodation house six miles from the Heads, and has also about completed another very comfortable one a mile-and-a half up the Taranora Creek from the pilot station. On this creek, which joins the Tweed near its mouth, is that old established settler, Mr. Scott, who is still in the cedar trade, and who also has a vessel on the stocks, which should be a stout one when completed, if time, seasoning, and amount of timber will do it. Two miles further up this creek is a very fine but very shallow broad water, the entrance to which is studded with islands. [**NOT RMB**]

Australian Town and Country Journal 16 Sep 1871

FATAL ACCIDENT.- On Thursday afternoon, a man named Samuel McKay, an engine-driver in the employment of **Messrs. Morrison and Davies, sugar-planters and manufacturers, of Green Point, on the Hastings River**, was crushed to death by a case-truck jamming him against a piece of wood, at the mill. The deceased was about 45 years of age, and was a quiet, steady, and inoffensive man ; he died about an hour and a quarter after the accident. The following is the evidence given at the inquest -.-**Richard Mitchell Boyd** [**RMB**] stated : Yesterday about half-past 4 p. m., several of us were helping the engine to draw the trucks up the incline ; deceased was assisting us. Just as the truck came upon the landing, some one shouted out to stop, and I saw the deceased fall down ; he was then placed underneath the cane table insensible. We then carried him down to the hut, where he died almost immediately. I account for the accident in consequence of the friction-gear having temporarily ceased to net while the truck was going up the incline ; when the two front wheels reached the stage, the friction-gear suddenly acted, and drew the truck up with a sudden jerk, catching deceased between the corner of the truck and the cane table. Manus O'Donnell stated : I know

the deceased ; about half-past 4 yesterday, as the truck was going up the incline, the engine was working, but had no power to draw the truck up, the belt being too slack, in consequence of being new, and having therefore stretched. We all ran to assist the engine. When we got the two front wheels of the truck on the stage, the belts acted again ; deceased was then standing between the cane truck and the feeding-table : I heard him cry out. I looked round, and deceased cried out again ; he was jammed between the truck and the cane-table. All hands at once slackened the truck ; I ran to deceased's assistance, and caught him in the act of falling; I laid him under the feeding table ; deceased asked me to lay him down to rest ; we carried him down to the hut where he died almost immediately. The truck came up with a sudden jerk and caught deceased. Verdict.- That deceased, Samuel McKay, met his death by being jammed between the corner of a truck and a cane table, and that it was purely accidental.

SMH 6 Oct 1871

SHIPPING. ARRIVALS.-OCTOBER 5.

Diamantina (s), 240 tons, Captain Maldes, from the Macleay River, via Port Macquarie. Passengers-Miss Porter, Messrs Lee, Poole, **Boyd**, and 8 in the steerage.

SMH 27 Oct 1871

SHIPPING. ARRIVALS.-OCTOBER. 26.

Diamantina (s.), 240 tons, Captain Maldes, from the Macleay River via Port Macquarie. Passengers- Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Levey, Miss Snodgrass, Rev. A. Swift, Mr. A. Rutledge, Messrs. Wallace, Platt, **Boyd**, Hobson, Dolan, and 21 in the steerage. C. and R. R. Co., agents.

JAB Diary 1872

24 Jan 1872 Letter from Mike
2 Mar 1872 Wrote to Mike
15 Mar 1872 Letter from Mike
22 Apr 1872 Wrote to Mike
23 May 1872 Wrote to Mike
31 May 1872 Letter from Mike
24 Dec 1872 Letter from Mike

JAB Diary 1873

12 Apr 1873 Wrote to Mike
23 Jul 1873 Wrote to Mike
30 Sep 1873 Wrote to Mike

Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1907), Saturday 2 August 1873, page 7

PORT MACQUARIE. July 21.

With the exception of a solitary day or two, the weather, during the last five or six weeks, has been fine, clear, and frosty ; indeed, during the last fortnight, the frost has been somewhat too severe for our cane-growers. Three or four nights in succession " Jack **Frost**" puts in an appearance, and made sad havoc on some of the plantations ; this visitation for two successive years is to be deplored, and must damp the ardour of

those settlers who have devoted their time, labour, and money in endeavouring to bring to certain success the manufacture of sugar on this river. It was understood that at least two of the principal mills were not to be put in work this season; this was principally owing to unforeseen circumstances. At the close of last year [Dec 1872] Messrs. Morrison and Davies were pressed into the Insolvent Court ; but Dr. Neild's mill having, as I am informed, being purchased by our energetic townsman, Mr. Young, the principal storekeeper here, will no doubt soon be at work again. The late Mr. A. B. Evans's mill has suspended operations since its owner's decease. Should the frost leave the greater portion of the cane now crowing untouched, there will be plenty of work for the millers next year, especially as the Green Point Mill (late Morrison and Davies) is about to be removed from the district. Sugar-cane growing has been the rage with the farmers on the Hastings for the last three or four years, and without considering whether their lands were favourably situated or not. Not a few regret now their indiscretion, and wish they had not abandoned the maize

Brisbane Courier 14 Oct 1873

NORTHERN BOTANICAL EXPEDITION

The HON SECRETARY read the following re port from Mr. F M Bailey, appointed by the society to visit the northern portions of the colony to collect plants, &c. -

" Brisbane, September 13 1873

"L.A. Bernays, Esq. F L S , Vice President Queensland Acclimatisation Society

" Sir,-.....

" During the short stay the steamer made at Townsville on the 20th, I went, in company with Mr. Boyd, over Castle Hill in search of ferns having heard that there was a great variety of these plants there, and, indeed, I thought it a very likely looking place, but the only species I noticed that would have been worth collecting was that pretty little plant, *Gymnogramme Muelleri*, Hook , and this was all killed to the ground by the late dry hot weather, but when it springs up again, my friend, Mr. Boyd, promises to forward a quantity to the society. [Mitch Boyd]

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889), Tuesday 13 January 1874, page 4

The Southgate Sugar Mill, the property of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, appeared in full work- the Chatsworth (s.) being busily employed towing punts loaded with cane to the mill wharf. This sugar 'manufactory is situate on the left hand bank of the river, going from Grafton, about nine miles from town. In this vicinity are also the sugar mills of Mr Henry Leeson and Mr George Blanch, the former worked by horsepower and the latter by steam. The township of Ulmarra, with its pieces of warship, mores, hotels, &c., is also to be seen here. This place has during the past few years so improved, that it has been deemed advisable to proclaim its Municipality, It rejoices in returning seven aldermen to the Council, to make provision for local improvements. The Municipality was incorporated on the 28th November, 1871.

The North Arm of the river is a very short distance below Rocky Mouth [*now called Maclean*], has a wide entrance, but is some-what shallow. Harwood Island sugar mill, which was removed from Darkwater on the Macleay River, and which is now in course of erection, is in sight from the junction. A distillery is also being erected in conjunction with this mill, for manufacturing rum. On entering the north channel, a beautiful view presents itself, there being a large number of islands, populated and under cultivation, while here and there the banks are clothed in the dark and luxuriant foliage of nature.

JAB Diary 1874

Address (front page of the diary) R.M.Boyd, Harwood Mill, Rocky Mouth. Clarence River.

30 Jan 1874 Wrote to Mike and Mother.

9 Feb 1874 Posted letters to Father, Mother and Mike.

1 Mar 1874 Heard from Mother, Father and Mike.

16 Mar 1874 Wrote to Mike

19 Mar 1874 Posted to Father and Mike. (This may have been the letter written 16th as JA had to take, or send by someone visiting him, his letters to a man called Croft in Levuka to get stamps for them to be posted by the next steamer going to Australia and he did not get to Levuka every day.)

31 May 1874 Wrote to Mike.

10 Jun 1874 Wrote to Mike

4 Jul 1874 Wrote to Mike.

10 Aug 1874 Sent letter to Mike.

11 Sep 1874 From Mike.

29 Sep 1874 Wrote to Mike.

20 Dec 1874 Wrote to Mike.

P.O. Directory 1875-1877

R.M. Boyd. Inspector

JAB Diary 1875

2 Apr 1875 Wrote to Mike

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 18 May 1875

CLARENCE RIVER ANNUAL REGATTA.;

So far as we are aware, the following are the entries for the above ; but whether the programme will be carried out in its entirety remains to be seen, as some misunderstanding appears to have arisen in reference to several of the entries, which bids fair to throw a cloud upon the affair, and thereby we may not have the opportunity of witnessing the struggles of some of the best Sydney and other boatmen for the supremacy of the waters. It seems

For amateurs who do not gain their living by manual labour, pulling four oars, with coxswains, in string-test gigs, not exceeding 42 feet overall. If two or more colonies compete or if the Sydney Rowing Club and Sydney Mercantile Rowing Club are both represented- prize £100, or trophy to that value, with a sweep of £4 each to go to second boat ; but for any other competition- prize £50, or trophy to that amount, with a sweep of £2 each to go to second boat.

Victoria- W. Drinkwater, F. G. Crouch, H. Gregory; H. Loveday, Hartley, coxswain- White ; red, white, and blue cap

Amanda- J. Beatson, T. M. Fitzpatrick, C. M. Whitebread, R. M. Boyd, A. Archibald, coxswain: M. Moriarty, emergency- blue sash.

For all skiffs under canvas, not exceeding the following dimensions, fixed centreboards and fins allowed :-22 feet overall, 5 feet beam, 20 inches deep; tune allowed, half minute per foot. Prize £20, with a sweep of £3 each added ; 20 per cent, of the gross amount to go to the second boat.

Fairie Queen, 22 feet-Crouch and Drinkwater-Red, white, and blue
Desdemona, 22 feet- M. H. Moriarty-Red and black
Defiance, 22 feet-M. Hush- Red and green cross
Ella, 19 feet-R. M. Boyd-Blue.

SMH 31 May 1875

CLARENCE RIVER ANNUAL REGATTA.

(From the Clarence River Examiner, May 25.)

Her Majesty's natal day was duly celebrated in Grafton by the annual meeting of the Clarence River Regatta Club which came off with great éclat yesterday, and upon which occasion a large number of boating athletes put in an appearance, and competed for the supremacy of the river while our local boating celebrities had once again to try their skill and strength against able representatives from the Sydney waters.

For amateurs who do not gain their living by manual labour, pulling four oars, with coxswains, in string-test gigs, not exceeding 42 feet overall. ..- prize £50, or trophy to that amount, with a sweep of £2 each to go to second boat.

Amanda- J. Beatson, T. M. Fitzpatrick, C. M. Whitebread, R. M. Boyd, A. Archibald, coxswain:1

Victoria- W. Drinkwater, F. G. Crouch, H. Gregory; H. Loveday, Hartley, coxswain- White ;2

This was a well contested race until the finish, when the Amanda came in about six boats' lengths ahead. Time 23 minutes 30 seconds.

For all skiffs under canvas,

Fairie Queen	1
Desdemona	2
Defiance	3
Ella	4

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 1 Jun 1875

DEPARTURES

May 28-Civility (s.). 240 tons, Captain Sullivan, for Sydney. Passengers- Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Messrs. Mitchell, Boyd, Greville, Wood.

Australian Town and Country 5 Jun 1875

ARRIVALS- (Sydney) May 28.

Ballina (s), 200 tons, from Grafton 26th instant. Passengers- Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Miss Tyrell, Messrs. Boyd; Buchanan, Mitchell, Greville, and 7 in the steerage.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889), Tuesday 10 August 1875, page 4

HARWOOD ISLAND.

Harwood Island is one of many Islands, situated in Shoal Bay. It is about 14 miles in circumference, and of alluvial formation, The chief industry is the culture of the sugar-cane and manufacture of sugar, for which it is well adapted, the sea breeze tempering the atmosphere that the cane is not effected by frost, or scorched by the summer's heat. The mill and distillery erected here by the Colonial Sugar Company are about 10 miles from the Clarence Heads and 40 miles from Grafton ; it has a fine deep water frontage enabling the ocean steamers to load and unload at the wharves. The length of the mill building is 40 feet by 175 feet, and the size of the mill roller, 72 inches by 28 inches. The steam engine is of 60-horse power and capable of crushing 12 tons of cane per day. When in full work from 13 to 14 tons of sugar is turned out. At the distillery, there are three stills at work, which turns out about 5000 gallons of spirits per week. At this mill the company employ about 160 men. For the purpose of bringing the cane from the various wharfs on the river the Company have 1 tug steamer, a launch, and eleven punts. About from 100 to 150 tons of coal per week are consumed at the works. Since the erection of the mill a village has sprung up and can now boast of two stores, a public house, and a school with 50 children enrolled. The number of acres of ground under cultivation is, in round numbers 1,000 acres ; the chief objects of culture are sugar-cane, maize, potatoes, and bananas ; cotton, tobacco, oranges, pineapples, loquats, lemons, apples, and peaches, are likewise cultivated for home consumption. The Island has been all taken up by free-selectors and is fenced into paddocks throughout and fully stocked with cattle. The inhabitants are mostly Scotch Highlanders with a sprinkling of English and Irish.

JAB Diary 1875

3 Jul 1875 Wrote to Mike

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889), Tuesday 19 October 1875, page 5

LAWRENCE. POLICE COURT.

24TH AUGUST.- Before Messrs John Zuill, and S. G. Davison, J.P.s.- Murdock Graham appeared on summons charged with assaulting R. M. Boyd on the 4th instant, and pleaded not guilty ; after hearing the evidence of complainant (R. M. Boyd), Henry Rowe, John Jones, and Edward Owen, defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs of Court.

JAB Diary 1875

28 Oct 1875 Wrote to Mike

[JAB Diary for 1876 is missing]

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Monday 11 October 1875, page 4

ARRIVALS.-OCTOBER .

New England (s), 400 tons, Captain Quayle, from the Clarence 9th instant
Passengers- Messrs Beal, Martin, Oaks, **Boyd**, and 9 in the steerage

[Mitch coming to Sydney to see parents off?]

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889), Saturday 23 December 1876, page 5

"Labor Omnia Vincit."

C.B. DOBBIN takes this opportunity of THANKING No. 1 Gang of Canecutters, also Messrs. David and Robert Boyle ; but for whose strenuous exertions in cutting a clearing through my cane-field, the whole must have been totally destroyed by fire on Saturday last. Also, to mention that through prompt **assistance on the part of Mr. Boyd, the partially damaged cane is being utilised.**

Woodbridge, Lawrence, December 18, 1876.

JAB Diary 1877

1 Jan 1877 Wrote to Mike

SMH 8 Feb 1877

DONATIONS TO THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM. FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

A fish (Cupidoglanis), sp.; a snake (Vermicella annulata) ; a blind snake (Typhlops ruppelli), and small collection of coleoptera, from Clarence River ; by **Mr. M. Boyd**.

JAB Diary 1877

4 Mar 1877 letter from Mike

7 Mar 1877 Wrote to Mike

4 Apr 1877 letter from Mike

23 Apr 1877 Wrote to Mike

Evening News (Sydney) 14 May 1877

SHIPPING ARRIVALS May 12

Fiona, steamer, 126 tons, Curphey, from the Clarence River 11th instant. Passenger-**Mr Boyd**. C.S.R. Co, agents.

JAB Diary 1877

27 May 1877 letter from Mike

28 May 1877 Wrote to Mike

8 Jun 1877 Wrote to Mike

11 Jun 1877 Letter received from RMB on saying he had left Sydney for Mauritius on 16 May 1877.

10 Oct 1877 Batch of letters from home wanting JAB to start for England at once because "the old folk have made up their minds not to return to Sydney for some years."

14 Oct 1877 Wrote to Mike

RM Boyd's Will

30 Jan 1878. RMB entered into a pre-nuptial contract with Eliza Agnes Brown.

Pall Mall Gazette 5 Feb 1878

BOYD-BROWN-At [*St Bernard's*] Edinburgh, Robert M., son of Mr. Sprott Boyd, late of Sydney, N.S.W. to Eliza A., daughter of the late Mr. William C. Brown, H.M.I.A. **Jan. 31.**

London Standard 6 Feb 1878

BOYD-BROWN Jan. 31, at [*St Bernard's*] Edinburgh, Robert Mitchell Boyd, youngest son of Sprott Boyd late of Sydney, N.S.W. to Eliza Agnes, youngest daughter of the late William Craufurd Brown H.M.I.A.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889), Saturday 6 April 1878, page 2

Since the crushing season came to a close the interior of the Harwood mill has been pulled to pieces, and is to be reconstructed on an improved principle. The place now appears a perfect chaos to a person unacquainted with the business, but it seems to me that there will be far more room and better ventilation when the alterations are completed.

Australian Town and Country Journal, Saturday 18 May 1878

Arrival of the Torres Straits Mail.

COOKTOWN, Tuesday [*14 May*].

The E. and A. Mail Company's steamship Bowen arrived early this afternoon with the English and China mails via Torres Straits. The steamer has one case of small-pox among her passengers; it made its appearance three days ago. There was no communication consequently with the vessel, except in regard to the mails for this port. The cargo and passengers remained on board, and the steamer left south. at 2 p.m. The following are the passengers : For Sydney- Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, [*Mitch and Aggie? who were married in Edinburgh in Jan 1878*]

Queenslander 25 May 1878

ARRIVALS. **May 19.**— E. and A. Co.'s R.M.S. Bowen, 864 tons, Captain John Miller, from Hong Kong April 24, Singapore April 30, calling at Thursday Island, Cooktown, Townsville, Bowen, and Keppel Bay. Passengers: for Sydney—Mr. and Mrs. Boyd,

Daily Northern Argus (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1875 - 1896), Tuesday 21 May 1878, page 2

BRISBANE. Monday,

The R.M.S. Bowen's passengers to the Queensland ports including Messrs. Archer and Mayne, destined for Rockhampton, will be landed at the Quarantine Station, Peel Island to-morrow. The Chinese patient on board, ill with the small pox, is nearly convalescent.

Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931), Thursday 23 May 1878, page 2

Shipping; ARRIVALS May 23

Bowen. steamer, 1200tons, Miller, from Hongkong April 24.and Singapore April 30. Passengers— **Mr and Mrs Boyd,**

Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW : 1876 - 1954) , Friday 24 May 1878, page 2

TELEGRAMS. SYDNEY. Thursday, Reed. 5.15 p.m. The Torres Straits' mail steamer Bowen has been placed in quarantine.

Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser (Qld. : 1861 - 1908), Saturday 8 June 1878, page 3

BRISBANE. Friday, June 7. The R.M.S. Bowen's passengers have been released from quarantine.

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Tuesday 11 June 1878, page 4

The Torres Straits mail steamer Bowen received pratique yesterday morning [*release from Quarantine*]

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Thursday 13 June 1878, page 4

ANOMALIES OF QUARANTINE. - At the termination of a long voyage, people are naturally impatient of quarantine regulations; but it is, nevertheless, necessary in view of the public health that these regulations should be observed. There are, however some anomalies in connection with quarantine, as the following circumstances will serve to illustrate, and at the same time show the desirableness of the periods of quarantine in the various colonies being of equal duration. _ The steamer Bowen carne from Hongkong, via Queensland, having 18 Chinese for Melbourne, 43 for New Zealand, and 150 for this colony. There were 16 European passengers in the steerage, and 14 South Sea Islanders; and of the 17 European passengers in the saloon, two were for New Zealand. On the 12th May, after the vessel had left Thursday Island, a case of small-pox was reported. It appeared to have been very mild, however, for at first the doctor was inclined to think it was not small-pox at all. A day or two afterwards symptoms appeared which left no doubt in regard to the malady, and it was then officially reported to the captain by the doctor. At Cooktown, the case was also

reported, and the patient, a youth about 17 years of age, was put in a boat astern of the ship, with a Chinaman, who had had small-pox previously,

to attend to him. The steamer had no communication with Cooktown, Townsville, Bowen, and Keppel Bay. The mails were landed at Brisbane, but no communication took place between the Bowen and the shore. The passengers, including the sick youth, and the doctor, and also the cargo for the northern colony, were sent to Peel Island. This was on the 20th, and the Bowen then pursued her course to Sydney, arriving here on the 22nd, when she was placed in quarantine. After the customary twenty-one days she was released and came alongside the wharf. There the small-pox patient perfectly recovered, and the doctor who had attended him was waiting, having come to Sydney by the Leichardt some time previous to the Bowen's release from quarantine. The quarantine term in Queensland is sixteen days, while here it is twenty-one days. Our readers will perceive the anomaly. A period of twenty-one days is or is not necessary. If necessary, then we are not safe here from people who come from Queensland. If not necessary, then it is perfectly evident that a vessel should not be kept isolated here so long as twenty-one days. Doubtless the medical men will have something to say on this subject.

JA Boyd's diary 1878

22 Jun 1878 Wrote to Mike

25 Jun 1878 Letter from Mike

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 2 Jul 1878

ARRIVALS

June 28-Fiona (a.), 600 tons, Captain Curphey, from Sydney. Passengers- Mr. and Mrs. Boyd.

JA Boyd's diary 1878

23 Jul 1878 Wrote to Mike

18 Aug 1878 Wrote to Mike

13 Sep 1878 Letter from Aggie (EAB)

12 Oct 1878 Wrote to Aggie

14 Oct 1878 Letter from Mike

10 Nov 1878 Wrote to Mike

15 Nov 1878 Letter from Mike Cashed dear Mike's draft for 5 pounds

9 Dec 1878 Wrote to Mike

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 28 Dec 1878

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. ARRIVALS.

December 26 - Bonnie Dundee (s.), 121 tons, Captain Stewart, from Sydney, 24th instant. Passengers ; Mrs. Boyd,

JA Boyd's diary 1879

4 Feb 1879 Letter from Mike

5 Feb 1879 Wrote to Mike

3 Mar 1879 Letter from Mike

30 Mar 1879 Wrote to Mike

31 Mar 1879 Wrote to Mike

Clarence and Richmond examiner 15 Apr 1879

RICHMOND RIVER DEPARTURES.

April 9 -Richmond (s.), 155t Captain Alloy, for Sydney. Passengers- Mrs. Reece, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Gallagher, Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Maguire, Miss Dillon, Messrs. Edmonston, Baillie, Hall, Gallagher, Boyd, and 12 in the steerage. [*Maybe not RMB and EAB – wrong river*]

SMH 15 Apr 1879

SHIPPING:

ARRIVALS.-April 14.

City of Grafton (s.), 555 tons. Captain Bracegirdle, from Grafton, 12th, instant. Passengers- Mrs. Lodge, Mrs. Deane, Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Barnes, Miss Barnes, Mrs. Lipman, Mrs. Davison, Mrs. Grovenor, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Pringle, Miss Walker, Miss M'Donald, Miss Davison, Messrs. Boyd, Pratt, Powell, Collopy, T. Small, Hartnell, Eggins, Davis, Deane, Grovenor, Osborne, Milligan, and 19 in the steerage.

27 Apr 1879 Wrote to Mike

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 24 May 1879

DEPARTURES.

May 16-City of Grafton (a.), 810 tons. Captain Bracegirdle, for Sydney, Passengers- Mrs. M'Donald, Dr. Purdie, Messrs, Boyd,

SMH 24 May 1879

ARRIVALS. MAY 18

City of Grafton, steamer, 555 tons, Bracegirdle, from Grafton May 16. Passengers- Mrs. M'Donald, Dr Purdie, Messrs Boyd,

SMH 27 May 1879

THE LEVEE.

The Levee in honour of her Majesty's Birthday was held by his Excellency Sir Alfred Stephen, Lieutenant-Governor, at Government House, yesterday afternoon;

The following gentlemen were also presented :- Mr. R M. Boyd,

New South Wales Birth Certificate (Certified copy)

No.	1692
Date and Place of birth of child	6 th June 1879, 215 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Name	William Sprott
Sex	Male
Father's name, occupation, age, birthplace	Robert Mitchell Boyd, sugar planter, 30, Weymouth England
Date and place of marriage; previous issue	31 st January 1878, Edinburgh Scotland
Mother's name, maiden name, age, birthplace	Eliza Agnes Brown, 24, Bombay
Informant	RM Boyd, father, 215 Macquarie St, Sydney
Witnesses	Drs Mackenzie and Renwick, Mrs. Arnold
Particulars of registration	17 th June 1879

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Saturday 7 June 1879, page 1

Births. BOYD.—June 6, at Pembroke House, the wife of R. M. Boyd, of a son.
[WSB]

JAB Diary

20 Jun 1879 Letter from Mike Announcing JAB is an uncle (WSB born 6 Jun 1879)

30 Jun 1879 Note that William Sprott Boyd born 9 Jun 1879 at Pembroke House.

22 Jul 1879 Gave Pinnock a draft on Mike for Spirits (probably meth for preserving specimens)

15 Aug 1879 Letter from Mike

16 Aug 1879 Wrote to Mike

31 Oct 1879 Wrote to Mike. Paid Mike £5.11.6

SMH 23 Dec 1879

Fiona (s) 729 tons Captain W A Curphy, from the Clarence River Passengers- Mrs. Stephens child and servant, Mrs. Boyd child and servant, Messrs R M Boyd, C N Stephens, and 56 in the steerage. Colonial Sugar Co. , agents

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 3 Feb 1880

IRELAND DISTRESS RELIEF FUND.

FIFTH SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

R. Boyd £1 1 0

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 13 Mar 1880

Two Farms, Tweed River.

TO LET, for a term of years, TWO FARMS, having deep water frontage, and situated near the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's mill, each containing sixty acres of land, of which 30 acres have been fallen, and all heavy timber removed.

First three years rent free.

R. M. BOYD, Chatsworth Island.

JA Boyd's diary 1880

29 Mar 1880 Wrote to Mike

SMH 18 May 1880

WANTED, for a private family. Clarence River, a thoroughly good General SERVANT ; also NURSE and PARLOURMAID; must have good references. Apply by letter to **Mrs. Boyd**, Chatsworth Mill, Clarence River.

JA Boyd's diary 1880

22 May 1880 Letter from Mike

24 May 1880 Wrote to Mike

25 May 1880 Wrote to Mike. In town enquiring about Ruva and wrote to Mike on the subject. [Possibly a plantation on Ovalau.]

7 Jun 1880 Wrote to Mike. Gave draft on Mike for 50 pounds and sent it to Witham. [This was with 45 pounds from Handyside who lived on the next plantation, to buy Witham's cutter the "Mavis"]

Northern Star (Lismore) 12 Jun 1880

The Tweed River.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

June 5th.

I had a very, enjoyable trip to the Heads a few days ago, and jottings of my trip I now commit to paper. Starting, first, at the light house " (on south side),

Proceeding up the river on the south for a distance of about seven miles, we arrive at the wharf and selection of **Mr. Boyd**, where I am informed is a reserve for a Government township. There is not much cultivation immediately around this part, but plenty of land cleared and being cleared; as there is no sugar mill near here, cane is not much cultivated, but when a start is once made there is no doubt this part, including Cudgen, will become a very garden of Eden. Upon the north side, opposite to **Mr. Boyd's**, are selections owned by Messrs. Lilley, Clifford, Bowen, and Macandrew; there are other selections about here, but at present very little cane is grown plenty of land cleared and clearing, in hopeful expectation of the future

Above Boyd's, upon the south about 1 mile, Mr. Dodd has a very nice selection. Proceeding inland from Boyd's wharf, by a really good metalled road (Government) about one mile, or so we find ourselves at Cudgen. Here are situated the properties of Messrs Clark, Guilfoyle, and Cazla. Mr. Guilfoyle is great on tropical fruit growing, and has really a magnificent property. [Not RMB I think]

JA Boyd's diary 1880

18 Jul 1880 Wrote to Mike

16 Aug 1880 Wrote to Mike and 6 others

Maitland Mercury 11 Sep 1880

General Post Office Sydney, 27th August, 1880.

TENDERS for the CONVEYANCE OF MAILS to and from-

93: Tweed Junction and Tweed Heads, via Cudgen (Boyd's), once a week, [not RMB]

94. Harwood Island and Chatsworth Island, on the days that the Grafton steamers from Sydney arrive at Harwood Island,

Will be received at this Office up to noon on Tuesday, the 19th October next. For full particulars see Government Gazette, a file of which is kept at every Post Office in the Colony.

F. B. SUTTOR.

JA Boyd's diary 1880

12 Sep 1880 Wrote to Mike and many others including gun makers

SMH 4 Oct 1880

Births.

BOYD.—September 26, at Chatsworth Island, Clarence River, the wife of Robert Mitchell Boyd, of a son. [*Robert Sprott Boyd*]

JA Boyd's diary 1880

9 Nov 1880 Wrote to Mike. Made enquiries of Mike

10 Nov 1880 Wrote to Mike and gave Smith to put in the private bag, post being enclosed. Sent paper containing his advertisement. [No mention of what was in the ad and no news cutting.]

27 Nov 1880 Letter from Mike

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 11 Dec 1880

WANTED, a thorough good GENERAL SERVANT. Apply to Mrs. BOYD, Chatsworth Mill.

JA Boyd Diary 1880

24 Dec 1880 Wrote to Mike

JA Boyd Diary 1881

5 Jan 1881 Wrote to Mike

27 Feb 1881 Wrote to Mike

Protestant Standard (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1895), Saturday 26 February 1881, page 3

GOOSE AND GANDER.

As we have done some little public service by the exposure of the St. Mary's immorality and gambling illegality, and blown up the " South Sea bubble " of the so-called Art Union," we now design to blow up another "South Sea bubble," a little farther north, set on on Lnlmlf of » nimral) of England Cathedral at Grafton. It appears that the Bishop of Armidale and Grafton has determined to erect a cathedral at Grafton. The foundations are in ; hut this " man began to build and was not able to

finish." Having strong sympathies with his episcopal brother, " his Grace " of Sydney," the Bishop of Armidale and Grafton naturally looked with interest to his example in getting money for St. Mary's. Example from so high a dignitary could not but influence the smaller light at Grafton. As Dr. Vaughan is nearer St. Peter, and has more of the succession than Dr. Turner has, it was but natural that the latter should imagine that in law and morals and religion the former would be all but infallible when he resorted to the "Art Union" dodge for raising the wind to swell the St Mary's bubble. , Accordingly, Dr. Turner and his friends resolved to have an Art Union also. As Ritualism is a sort of bastard Popery — a sort of timid following afar off— a sort of gimcrack: Romanism — it is not singular that, 'the. Ritualists should follow the same/methods of building " monuments of faith." :In the old time those monuments of faith were built by indulgence money" ! by : equivalents for penance," by .bequests : of /worn-out debauchees, who needed to square, accounts before going off to purgatory, and ; by other species of religious : frauds ; is it wonderful that in modern times those " monuments of faith " should, ; with changing times, change from indulgence tricks to " Art Union " tickets, and from repose of soul for a thousand days to a double-seated buggy, which will give repose of body for a thousand days, without mending ? And is it any wonder that while full- developed Popery offers "Madonnas " and " Saints " as prizes for the love of God and the building of cathedrals, the bud Popery, which is more earthly and material than the other, should, : offer prizes,. ; - with the same high object , of erecting " monuments of faith," the more carnal possessions of a " pair of well-bred horses," a " drawing-room suite, ";a , " new cedar boat for sailing on the; Clarence," a " handsome wardrobe," and a " sewing-machine?" We think the- affair speaks for itself. The nearer you go to Popery, the more you catch the ways of Popery ; and the more you believe in .candles and succession, the more incompetent you become to see moral distinctions, and also the more ready to trample underfoot the laws of both God and man. Hence, while in Sydney, "his Grace" was toiling away to get half-crowns for his illegal "Art Union," —in Grafton, " his Lordship" there was toiling away to get shillings for his equally illegal "Grand Fancy Fair"- — both illegal lotteries to be held in the month of May, " Our Lady's month," when the Madonna herself comes out in flowers to bless mankind ! As we exposed the "ticket" for St. Mary's " Art Union," and showed its illegal character on the face of it, we give below the ticket of the Grafton " Fancy Fair," so that the most, ignorant and blind may see at a glance its disgraceful gambling. Here it is : — - - - GRAND FANCY FAIR and DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES in aid of the BUILDING FUND of the CHURCH OF ENGLAND CATHEDRAL, Grafton. To be held in May, 1881. The following gentlemen have consented to act as a Committee; viz.:— The Rev. C. C. Greenway, A. L. M'Dougall) P.M. ; T. H.- Smith, J.P. ; P. R.' Donaldson, J. P. ; F. W. Chapman, J.P. ; Alfred . Lardnerj J P. ; Thomas Small, J.P. ; C. N; , Stephens, J.P. ; E. W. S. Hayley,, J.P. ; B. Lodge, E. J. Statham, T. F, Mackenzie, E. C. Lewington, E. J. Lowe, R. M. Boyd,

JAB Boyd diary 1881

19 Mar 1881 Received letter from Mike saying he was in town. Left 11.30am, reached town at 5pm, found that he had gone around with Maughan. [Captain Harry Maughan, he may not have been a real captain, is mentioned in the diaries from 1873 until JA left Ovalau. There is mention of his son too. JA spent Xmas day with him in 1874. They visited each other frequently, borrowing things and helping each other, so he must have had a plantation near JA's.]

3 Apr 1881 All day with Gaggin. Mike had a look at Lausa, Hennings f--ons, (written in pencil and I can't even guess what it is) and Lords.

7 Apr 1881 Sent Mike in a canoe after breakfast to Solo, from thence he walked to Joske's (Celiga). In returning he inspected Missen's ground. Mike returned about 5pm, having seen Daly and Miller

11 Apr 1881 Left Naduci after breakfast about 9am. Splendid land about here. Called at Cooksey's, but out. Put Mike ashore to walk Wetadroga and went on in boat. Stayed an hour at Jim's - at 4pm left for Nadroga. Not much sea on bar and good breeze with nasty sea outside. Reached destination about 6pm. Paid guide for Mike - 1/-. [This is all written in faded pencil so is a bit hard to read.]

12-16 Apr 1881 The next few days in the diary are lists of people and places visited - i.e.- beautiful flat land with deep water. Mike is not mentioned by name and I can't find the places on the maps.

16 Apr 1881 Pulled slowly down the river calling in to inspect various properties.

17 Apr 1881 Left Vatia at 6am and took in a reef before reaching Raki Raki. Pulled to Navitu and went ashore to enquire the position of the mill. Arrived there 6.30pm. Stayed yarning to engineer and overseer till 9pm, then went to Chalmer's. [Raki Raki is on the north coast of Viti Levu]

18 Apr 1881 Mike looking over mill and cane before breakfast. Soil very dry indeed and cane small. Left at

20 Apr 1881 Reached home 1.30am We went to Maughan's at noon. Spent a pleasant day and returned a little after mid-night.

21 Apr 1881 Handyside and Croft left for town shortly before noon in the cutter, and Mike in the skiff with Reggie.

23 Apr 1881 Saturday. Mike came home last night but no sign of Handyside

24 Apr 1881 Handyside and Croft returned 10pm last night. Mike packed up.

25 Apr 1881 Left for town after breakfast reaching there at 4pm.

26 Apr 1881 Saw dear Mike off this morning.

SMH 5 May 1881

ARRIVALS.- MAY 4.

Ganga (s), 1275 tons. Captain D. Calder, from Levuka April 26, Passengers -..... R. M. Boyd,

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 4 Jun 1881

THE MINISTERIAL RECEPTION.

In response to the advertisement and circulars issued by the Mayor and the Secretaries, between 50 and 60 gentlemen attended in the Council Chambers on Wednesday evening. The Mayor occupied the chair, and the majority of those who were present on Thursday evening were again present, with the joint secretaries, Alderman Maurice and Mr. R. M. M'Donald. The most of those who had sent replies, stating their willingness to act on the committee, as subsequently they intimated, were also present. Among those we noticed the

Replies were also read from Doctors Purdie and Gregg, Messrs. G. Foott, A. L. M'Dougall, Angus Cameron, J. Stevenson, H. Gerrard, Jacob Fischer, W. Hindmarsh (Ulmarra), R. M. Boyd (Chatsworth),, stating reasons why they could not act on the committee, but in the majority of cases promising assistance.

JAB Boyd diary 1881

17 Jul 1881 Wrote to Mike

27 Aug 1881 Wrote to Mike

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 27 Aug 1881

DEATH.

BOYD.- On the 24th instant, at Chatsworth Island, **ROBERT SPROTT**, youngest son of ROBERT MITCHELL and AGNES BOYD ; aged 11 months. [*of pneumonia after 9 days*]

SMH 27 Aug 1881

DEATHS. **BOYD**.—August 24, at Chatsworth Mill, Clarence River, Robert Sprott, infant son of Robert Mitchell and Agnes Boyd.

JAB Boyd diary 1881

11 Sep 1881 Wrote to Mike

20 Sep 1881 Wrote to Mike about Natuna [on Viti Levu]

Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser (NSW : 1856 - 1861; 1863 - 1889; 1891 - 1954), Friday **14 October 1881**, page 6

THE CLARENCE.

Matters in connection with the Church of England in this district appear to be assuming a far more healthy tone than has been the case for some time past. Recently we recorded the opening of two new churches on the Lower Clarence; a third is shortly to be built at Chatsworth Island. For this latter structure over £80 has already been collected by the Rev. R. Heffernan and others, the list being headed by Bishop Turner, **Mr. Boyd**, and Mr. Lowe, of Chatsworth Islands with £10 each. **Mr. R. M. Boyd, manager of the Chatsworth Island mill, has generously given a site for the church, but as it is not altogether suitable,** it is hoped some owner of river frontage property will grant a piece of land ; and a little further liberality on the part of church members and others will enable a presentable edifice to be erected

JAB Boyd diary 1881

5 Nov 1881 Wrote to Mike

5 Nov 1881 Wrote to father SB with 8 papers sent

28 Nov 1881 Wrote to Mike. Sent in letter to Mike. [JA sent it into Levuka with a friend.]

29 Nov 1881 Wrote to Mike. Gaggin payed money into my bank account . (including - RMBoyd - 14 October - 7 pounds ten shillings.)

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889), Saturday 3 December 1881, page 2

DEPARTURES.

November 26-City of Grafton (s.), 810 tons, Captain H. Creer, for Sydney. Passengers-Mrs Russell and family, **Mrs Boyd**, Mrs Miller and family, Miss Dodd, Miss Hennessey, Miss Petrie, Miss Goldon, Miss Webb, Miss Battersby, Dr. Bernstein, Messrs Taylor, Velter, McLeod, McIntosh, Donaldson, Kinnear, and Livingstone.

SMH 29 Nov 1881

SHIPPING.. ARRIVALS.- NOVEMBER 28.

City of Grafton (s.), 555 tons, Captain F. Creer, from Grafton 26th instant. . Passengers- Mrs. **Boyd and child**, Mrs. Battersby,

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Monday 19 December 1881, page 4

City of Grafton 555 tons, Captain H. Greer, from Grafton. 17th instant. Passengers- **Messrs'** Tulloh, Poss, Lewis, **Boyd**,

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Monday 16 January 1882, page 4

IMPORTS.- JANUARY 14.

; case books and clothing. **R. M. Boyd**;

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889), Saturday **21 January 1882**, page 2

SHIPPING ARRIVALS

January 19- Argyle (s.), 236 tons, Captain Romeril, from Sydney, Passengers-Mrs Solomon, Mrs Sellers, Mrs Crawshaw, Mrs Armitage, Mrs Hemsford; Miss Cugon, Miss Hurley, **Messrs** Lawson, Nicoll, Solomon, Cork, **Boyd**,

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 28 Jan 1882

ARRIVALS.

January 26-City of Grafton (s.), 810 tons, Captain F. Bracegirdle, from Sydney. Passengers- Mrs. H. Creer, Mrs. **Boyd**,

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 4 Feb 1882

GRAFTON HOSPITAL.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS to the GRAFTON HOSPITAL for the year ending December 31, 1881 :

Colonial Sugar Refining Company. £50 0 0
Employees Har. Mill, per C. N. Stephens £30 17 0
Employees Chatsworth Mill, per **R. Boyd** £21 5 11

JAB Diary

6 Feb 1882 Wrote to Mike

7 Mar 1882 (Back from Java; at Waidou). Wrote to Mike

29 Mar 1882 Letter from Father, am much annoyed at there being none from Mike.

30 Mar 1882 Handyside (living with JA at the time) went to town, and returned tonight - no letter from Mike

31 Mar 1882 Writing all day - to mother, Mike etc

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889), **Saturday 1 April 1882**, page 4

DEPARTURES.- MARCH 22.

NEW ENGLAND (S.), 400 tons, Captain W. B. Mann for Sydney. Passengers- Mesdames **Boyd and child**, Bell, Baker, Rathbone and child, Miss Bake, Messrs, Porter, Johnson, Simons, **Boyd**, Peoples, M'Pherson, Martin, Smith (2), Campbell, Simmonds, Master Peoples, and 11 in the steerage

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 8 Apr 1882

ARRIVALS

APRIL 6.

CITY OF GRAFTON (S.), 810 tons, Captain. F. Bracegirdle, from Sydney. Passengers- Mesdames **Boyd and child**. O'Connor, **Messrs Boyd (2)**,

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Monday 17 April 1882, page 4

SHIPPING. ARRIVALS.-April. 16.

City of Grafton (s.), 825 tons. Captain F. Bracegirdle, from Grafton' 15th Instant. Passengers-Mrs. Peate, Mis.' Burling, .Mrs. Noonan,Mrs. Ernest, Mi«. Stephenson, Mrs. O'Connor, Mrs. Yeates, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. M'Donald, Mis« Peate, Misses Noonan (2),'Mlss Grevy, Miss M'Guicn, Miss Darcey, Miss Ray, Miss Feltón,"Miss Tyler, Miss Dowty, Miss Walsh, **Messrs**. D. Hendcison. Powell, H. K. Englefield, **Boyd**,

JAB Diary

26 Apr 1882 Wrote to Mike, Father (sent him 8 papers) and others

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 3 Jun 1882

ARRIVALS.

CITY OF GRAFTON (s.), 810 tons, Captain F. Bracegirdle, from Sydney, June 1. Passengers; **Mesdames** Read, **Boyd**,**Messrs** **Boyd**,

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 3 Jun 1882

DEPARTURES.

CITY OF GRAFTON (s.);' 810 tons, Captain F Bracegirdle, for Sydney, May 27. Passengers- **Messrs .. Boyd**,

JAB Diary

9 Jun 1882 Wrote to Mike

SMH 15 Jun 1882

Births.

BOYD.—June 10, at Chatsworth, Clarence River, the wife of **R. M. Boyd**, of a daughter.
[**Isabella Sprott Boyd**]

JAB Diary

26 Jun 1882 Wrote to Mother, Mike (and others)

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 27 Jun 1882

DEPARTURES,

NEW ENGLAND (s.), 400 tons, Captain W. B. Mann, for Sydney, June 21, arrived June 28.-
Passengers Messrs. **Boyd**,.

SMH 27 Jun 1882

WANTED, strong BOAT, to carry 2 tons on 18 inches water. Send description and price to **R. Boyd**, Imperial Hotel, Wynyard-square.

Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), Monday 10 July 1882, page 2

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE. ARRIVALS.

July 9. - WENTWORTH, A.S.N. Company's s., 650 tons, Captain J D McLean, from Sydney **6th July**. Passengers : Messrs W P Schube, W O Doherty, V O Doherty, R W Stuart, R W Synnot, D S Thistlethwayte, J C Stuart, W Luke, E Vines, D Wood, R H Willis, H Pottie, H Maxwell, M H Lauchlan, **R Boyd**, [*RMB heading for Ripple Creek ?*]

Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser (Qld. : 1861 - 1908), Thursday 13 July 1882, page 2

DEPARTURES **July 11** - Wentworth, s., 0.iO tons, Captain J. D. M'Ltean. for Townsville and Port Douglas. Passengers: Mrs. Cochrane, Miss VoisSteiglitz, Messrs. William Blanchard. J. Whithead, VW. Colt, Allan Ferguson, T. E. Armnnan, Heaton, McMahon, **R. Boyd**, W. Morrison, and 10 in the steerage.

JAB Diary

14 Aug 1882 Dined with Agnes (after going to Grafton on boat). Sent telegraph to Mike re house (left Grafton on 16th)

18 Aug 1882 Telegraphed Mike re schooner

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 19 Aug 1882

SUBSCRIPTION LIST

List of Monies collected by Miss T. KEMPNICH towards providing a home for Mrs. FINK,- of the Racecourse, Grafton.... Any further donations will be thankfully received and acknowledged :

..... Mrs. R. M. Boyd, 2s. 6d.

JAB Diary

19 Aug 1882 No answer from Mike

21 Aug 1882 Received letter from Mike. Replied by telegram and letter. Wrote to Agnes enclosing part of Mike's letter

24 Aug 1882 Telegraphed and wrote to Mike

25 Aug 1882 Received telegram from Agnes about Mrs Burgess - went to see her

28 Aug 1882 Letter from Agnes. Telegram and letter from Beake

15 Sep 1882 Reached Dungeness at 8am. Mike met me. Pulled up to Ripple Creek. Mike got stung with a poisonous fish at the Waterfall.

25 Sep 1882 (List of 7 white men and work being done) Mike and Jim making sawpit

26 Sep 1882 Mike found horses and took wood to "Bricky"

27 Sep 1882 Mike carting cargo from the punt, (list of work being done by 6 others)

3 Oct 1882 Mike and Linn went across the Seymour, returning at dinner time

9 Oct 1882 Mike went to Ingham and also to see Canny who started the new mill at Gairloch today

12 Oct 1882 Mike went to Ingham this afternoon

14 Oct 1882 Mike seedy all day

15 Oct 1882 Mike very seedy this morning early

16 Oct 1882 Mike very ill at 3am and also earlier this morning. Sent for [Dr] Queely who came this afternoon.

18 Oct 1882 Mike went to Ingham

19 Oct 1882 Went with Mike to Gairloch to get Canny to witness our signatures re land selection

21 Oct 1882 Mike left in mail boat about 1pm, Reggie also to help row.

27 Oct 1882 Mike, wife and family came per "Porpoise" and after shipping his goods we came to Ripple Creek in the "Kent". 9 inches rain this month. A downpour all the way.

Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), Tuesday 31 October 1882, page 3

A QUEENSLAND SUGAR MILL

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following interesting account of the machinery just completed on the Gairloch estate :

The opening of the new sugar mill at the Gairloch Plantation, Herbert River, on the **9th instant**, caused a large gathering of our saccharine brethren and their friends. Messrs. Fanning, Nankivell, and Co., of Melbourne, are now the owners of Macknade and Gairloch ; and, under the direct supervision of William Canny, these promise to be, par excellence, the plantations of the Herbert River. Is it not strange that one enterprising Melbourne firm should have purchased the two pioneer plantations of this district ? Macknade, after being worked successfully from its formation by the Neame Brothers has lately been sold by them ; and Gairloch, first owned by the Mackenzies, has at length, after many days and many changes, become a scene of activity and life

The mill, a large airy building 250ft. long by 50ft. broad, with the boiler-house 50ft. by 30ft., and a handsome chimney-stack 100ft. high adjoining, stands a few chains from the river ; a long row- of stables at the back, with the offices and dwelling-houses for the employés on its right, in the form of a quadrangle, presents a very pretty picture on coming out of the cane fields into the open.

The first cane was put through the mill by one of the ladies present, and three hearty cheers "for Gairloch" were then given by all hands. The engines went very smoothly; the megass and cane-carriers also worked admirably, saving a great amount of labour ; and the rollers travelled at the rate of seventy revolutions per hour. Soon after starting the density of the juice was taken, and 11 1/4 Beaumé was the result. I tried the saccharometer several times during the day, and found the density vary from 11 1/4 to 11 1/2.

The mill, when in full working order, is capable of making 20 tons of sugar a day. It was made by the firm of A. and W. Smith, Glasgow, and consists of a fine steam engine of 50-horse power nominal, that drives the three rollers, each 5ft. 6in. long by 3ft. diameter, crushes the cane, and also works the megass and cane-carriers. There are seven clarifiers of 700 gallons each ; a steam battery of five cleaning pans, and two concentrators; and seven subsiders of 1200 gallons each. A steam engine of 25-horse power nominal works the vacuum pans, each of which gives seven tons of sugar at a strike. A 10-horse vertical engine drives ten centrifugals. A 10-horse horizontal engine works a pump on the river bank capable of throwing 30,000 gallons of water per hour. Another 10-horse horizontal engine works the shafting for a saw-sharpening machine, slide-lathe, fan for forge, grindstone, corn-cracker, and chaff-cutter, &c. An 8-horse horizontal drives a double-acting pump for the boilers. The mixing floor in the mill is 50ft. square. A sugar store, 60ft. by 40ft., has also been erected away from the mill, on the river bank. There are at present three boilers at work, and a fourth one is to be erected at the end of the season. The boilers are 14ft. long and 7ft. 6in. in diameter, having 119 tubes in each. A smaller boiler, 10ft. by 5ft., has been ordered in Brisbane to drive the centrifugals and other small work after the crushing is over. The mill and engines have been erected by Mr. Blackmore-well known in Brisbane as the builder of the Artemus Ward and Amy.

I may mention that eighty white men are employed on the Gairloch plantation ; there are also 200 kanakas and Chinamen there

JAB Diary

31 Oct 1882 Mike went to Gairloch to borrow a cultivator. Road so bad across the Seymour that the bullocks had to knock off work, the trolley sinking out of sight in the mud.

1 Nov 1882 Mike laid out the mill site

2 Nov 1882 Louis left with a chinaman for Dungeness to bring up Mrs Burgess

3 Nov 1882 Mrs Burgess and son came this morning

7 Nov 1882 Mike rode to the Anabranth this afternoon and went to Gairloch after tea.

8 Nov 1882 Mike at Gairloch and Ingham

13 Nov 1882 Mike very unwell

17 Nov 1882 Mike went to Ingham and was very unwell on his return

20 Nov 1882 Mike laid out stables and went through the horses. Many are weeds(?) and very wild

21 Nov 1882 Mike went to Ingham and got 8 bullocks. Had horses in. The 3 sick ones seem stronger. Mike is I think better today - a great comfort

22 Nov 1882 Aggie and the children went to lunch with Neame.

Queenslander 25 Nov 1882

Official Notifications.

(From last Saturday's Government Gazette.)

APPOINTMENTS.- C. A. Quin and John G. Lennon, to be auditors for the division of Bulloo; W. G. K. Cusack (assistant mining registrar at Charters Towers), to be mining registrar at Ravenswood; R. M. Boyd to be member for subdivision No. 2, and R. S. Alston to be member for No. 3 division of Hinchinbrook;

JAB Diary

30 Nov 1882. Mitch laid out the new road. (JAB moved in to his new house)

1 Dec 1882 Aggie went to call on the Carrs and returned about sunset. Mike at Gairloch this morning.

2 Dec 1882 Mitch went to Dungeness at 5am to see Captain of the Schooner, returning home at 8pm.

4 Dec 1882 Mitch at Gairloch morning to evening

5 Dec 1882 Mike all day at Ingham on road board

8 Dec 1882 Returned from Dungeness and found Mitch very unwell with a painful boil

10 Dec 1882 Out shooting pigeons before breakfast but did not go out again, remaining with Mike. Hunt and [Dr] Queely came today and lanced him

11 Dec 1882 Mike easier today. Arnot and Hunt here

13 Dec 1882 Queely came to see Mike who is much better today

14 Dec 1882 Mike came out today

18 Dec 1882 Mike better and about.

9 Jan 1883 Mike went to Road Board, Aggie brought me from Gairloch a fine 'Stag' beetle. Aggie and Mike over

15 Jan 1883 Mitch went to Hamleigh

16 Jan 1883 Mitch came home about 7pm having been at Waterview Station

19 Jan 1883 Aggie laid up

20 Jan 1883 Aggie still laid up. Mike at Ingham today

27 Jan 1883 Received from Mike a cheque for £50 and left in big boat with Spider, arriving Dungeness 5pm

28 Jan 1883 JAB left for Brisbane

29 Jan 1883 (JAB in Townsville) Could not do Aggie's commission but sent her a pair of gloves (4/9)

5 Feb 1883 (JAB in Brisbane) Wood telegraphed "Surprise" left on 1st (telegraphed this to Mike)

6 Feb 1883 Saw Sir R Gore about taking Spider down and wired result to Mike

16 Feb 1883 JAB departed Brisbane

Queenslander 17 Feb 1883

Official Notifications.

(From last Saturday's Government Gazette.)

APPOINTMENTS. —..... **R. M. Boyd** and William Canny to be members for Subdivisions Nos. 2 and 3 respectively of the Hinchinbrook Division ;

From a visitor to town from the Lower Herbert we (Townsville Standard) glean the following particulars:—**There are only two plantations in the locality that will be in a position to crush this year—namely, Gairloch and Macnade, both the property of Messrs. Fanning and Co.** At the former plantation our informant estimates that something like 350 tons of sugar will be produced during the present season, a quantity that will be very considerably augmented next year under favourable circumstances. At Macnade probably 150 tons will be manufactured. **A crushing plant is being erected at Hamleigh** plantation, of which Mr. A. S. Cowley is the manager. Here a large quantity of cane is under cultivation, and a mill is in course of erection, and will be ready for operations next season. There is also a steam plough at work, which is answering admirably. At the **Victoria plantation another mill is being erected**, and crushing will also start next season. Mr. E. Cowley is the manager of this estate. The township of Ingham is situated about twenty miles from the mouth of the Herbert River. The town is going ahead fast, two Brisbane storekeepers having recently arrived there for the purpose of opening business. There are about forty Europeans employed on Gairloch Plantation, and about 200 kanakas and forty Chinamen. This is the first year the new mill has been worked, and it is answering admirably and producing grand sugar. The manager, Mr. Canny, appears to be a thoroughly practical man and to have gained a lengthened experience at Maryborough in the sugar industry. Next year the owners of Gairloch purpose erecting a bridge across the river for the purpose of bringing their cane to the mill. The country throughout the district is in magnificent order, copious rains having fallen recently

JAB Diary

23 Feb 1883 JAB arrived Ripple Creek

26 Feb 1883 Brother went to Road meeting at Ingham

4 Mar 1883 Mike has gone to Dungeness

5 Mar 1883 Mike returned this afternoon

6 Mar 1883 Mike went to Road Board meeting and is not home

10 Mar 1883 Mike went to Macknade this afternoon

14 Mar 1883 **Mike laying out line for tramway**

15 Mar 1883 Mike laying out tramway, rode out with him this afternoon and we looked at a fine piece of land above where the "Lillian Green" cane is planted

20 Mar 1883 Two men began work today. Mike also engaged a s.....ifer. Looking for clay with Mike this afternoon, found some but not very good.

21 Mar 1883 Mike went to Ingham

3 Apr 1883 **Heard of the dear Old Folks arrival by telegram**

4 Apr 1883 Mike went to Dungeness with Blackmore

10 Apr 1883 Mike went to Ingham returning about 6pm

12 Apr 1883 Mike went to Gairloch this afternoon to get some fittings for the engine

26 Apr 1883 Mike went to Gairloch but found no-one at home, however he saw the schoolmaster

29 Apr 1883 **Priest held service here today and the Bishop preached in Ingham. Mike and Morison attended this service**

30 Apr 1883 Mike to Ingham

2 May 1883 Mike went to Ingham

Queenslander 5 May 1883

Coloured Labour.

THE labour question appears to be quite as serious and as pressing on the plantations of Fiji as in the sugar districts of this colony. Recent files of the Fijian Times state that "the cost of Polynesians has, within three years past, increased so rapidly in every particular that it is impossible to grow produce at the rates which, as an example, were contracted for on the Rewa a year or two ago with the Colonial Sugar Company. It is known that some of the recruits of last year cost those on whose account they were introduced little less than £40 per head for passage money, &c. The wages, with the extra cost in food supply, clothing, screens, houses, and so forth, will make the average yearly wage, over the three years' engagement, little less than £20 for each immigrant." After making allowance for loss of time and for sickness, the annual cost of each labourer is very little under £30 per annum. Added to this, restrictions are being placed upon the employment of the islanders. For instance, the Fijian Government will not entertain applications for only one islander, which greatly restricts their use as domestic servants. Another order that has been passed is that no Line islanders will be allotted to the Rewa or any other alluvial district. This is supposed to be on account of the high death-rate last year in the district named; but there appears to be no reason stated why the Line islanders are specially protected in this manner, or why other alluvial districts are placed in the same category as Rewa. An attempt has been made to bring labour from India, but, as with our own planters, the experiment has not been satisfactory, and it is also found that the cost is now fully as prohibitory as that of Polynesians. In this strait the suggestion that Chinese should be tried comes to them from Queensland. Mr. J. A. Boyd, manager of the Ripple Creek plantation on the Herbert River, writes to the Times on the subject. He says: — "Large numbers of Chinese are employed on the sugar plantations of the Burdekin, Herbert, and Johnstone rivers ; there are nearly a hundred at present on this estate, sixty-four of whom are under agreement for terms varying from three to twelve months. Their wages run from 13s. to 16s. a week, with rations of 10lb. beef, 10lb. rice, 1/4 lb. tea, 1 1/2lb. sugar, and 1lb. of flour for a pudding on Sunday. For this they work fifty-eight hours a week in a climate very similar to that of Fiji. In the event of a man not working from any cause, sickness, wet weather, or other wise, he receives no pay and is charged 1s. a-day (about the actual cost) for his food. The Chinamen of whom I have been writing have come to the country at their own expense, and are managed by Europeans, but a neighbouring plantation has engaged a lot in China, who are now afloat, at a rate which, extending—poll-tax, passage-money, and other expenses—over their five years' agreement, will amount to 13s. per week, rations and clothes included. Their services are guaranteed by a guild that binds itself to fill up the places of absconders. They will be accompanied by a 'compradore,' who will be responsible for their work, and will receive their wages. Chinese make reliable labourers ; they cannot be pushed, nor will they spurt as Polynesians do, but they plod on steadily all day, and finish up at the same pace at which they started. Most of them have some idea of agriculture, so there is not that trouble in breaking them in that is experienced with raw Island recruits. In Northern Queensland they have been a success ; and, should the expected arrivals prove suitable men, the Fijian labour vessels will be relieved from a great deal of Queensland competition, and the certain nature of the report of the Commission, of which Sir Arthur Gordon is head, will have no terrors for us here."

The Times, in view of the statements made in this letter, thinks it not unlikely that after all the Chinese may be the cheapest labourers, and concludes with the remark that "at all events if, by employing these, the harassment from Government interference could be avoided, that of itself would be a great gain in every way." How far these hopes of non-interference on the part of the Government are likely to be realised in Fiji we are not in a position to say ; but there is certainly no guarantee that in Queensland the planters will be allowed to import Chinese without restriction. The objection to this kind of labour is even stronger among the

white population than that so strongly manifested towards coolies and kanakas. It may, however, be hoped that the mass of the people will ere long take a more liberal view of the matter, and realise the fact that coloured labour is a necessary condition of success in sugar-growing, at least in the northern parts of the colony. -With proper restrictions against the spread of an overwhelming Chinese population into our commercial, mining, and pastoral districts, and adequate safeguards, if any are needed, against the improper treatment of the Chinese themselves, there can be but small objection to their employment on our Northern plantations, though there are many who would prefer that our fellow-subjects in India should find employment here, and bring with them many of the industries of their own country, rather than employ large bodies of Chinese aliens who will do no good beyond the daily task assigned them.

JAB Diary

8 May 1883 Mike all day at the sawmill but could not get it to run right

9 May 1883 Mike went to Road Board meeting

14 May 1883 Mike left for Dungeness early and came back at dark having done nothing, the store keeper having been away on a picnic, very annoying

18 May 1883 Mike at sawmill most of the day

19 May 1883 Mike went to Townsville about 1pm with Carnie and Raphael

25 May 1883 Received at noon a telegram from Mike saying he was returning on Saturday. Another at 6:30pm saying home Sunday

28 May 1883 Mike with Father and Mother reached this about 2pm

31 May 1883 Mike went to Gairloch and Macknade

7 Jun 1883 Father Mother and Aggie went to lunch at Macknade

13 Jun 1883 Mike went to Ingham with Mr Cox who rode 'Star' so I had to 'pad the hoof'

19 Jun 1883 Mike went to Gairloch

25 Jun 1883 Mike went to Ingham to try and get some Chinkies

28 Jun 1883 Mike not home yet 8pm

29 Jun 1883 Mike not home from Dungeness

30 Jun 1883 Mike returned tonight

4 Jul 1883 Mike went to Ingham returning about 4pm

5 Jul 1883 Mike returned from Dungeness

6 Jul 1883 Mike and engineer rode to Victoria to see Kidd who is heading south

11 Jul 1883 Mike went to Dungeness with Caldwell about 10pm

13 Jul 1883 Mike came home about 8pm and an hour later 18 Malay men and 1 woman arrived

Brisbane Courier 14 Jul 1883

INGHAM.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

July 7.

There was a large muster of the residents of the Herbert at the courthouse, on the 30th ultimo, called together by our police magistrate for the purpose of establishing a local hospital.

Captain Pennefather, P M., spoke in favour of having a public hospital for the district built at Ingham, and stated that the Government were not only prepared to supplement, by an equal amount, all subscriptions given for that purpose, but would also furnish a sum from "The

Pacific Island Labourers' Fund" for erecting and maintaining a special wing for the reception of Polynesians, that a reserve for this purpose had already been proclaimed, which should be vested in trustees, that the £281 19s , promised at the preliminary meeting held on the 20th ultimo, had been paid, and that a sum amounting to £351 18s. had been collected and was now lying to their credit in the Queensland National Bank. Unanimous approval being expressed by everyone present, a motion to that effect was carried. A committee was then elected for the ensuing year, consisting of Captain Pennefather, Messrs. H. Stone, A. J. Traill, C. Watson. **R. M. Boyd**, William Canney, Bryan Lynn, A. S. Cowley, H. Hodson, E Cowley, and R. S. Traill. The committee were instructed to nominate three gentlemen as trustees for the hospital reserve to the Government for proclamation in the Gazette. Captain Pennefather, Messrs. H Stone, A. S. Cowley, **R. M. Boyd**, and A. J. Traill were then appointed as a special committee to draw up rules and by- laws, to be submitted for approval at the next general meeting. The following officers were then appointed . Captain Pennefather (chairman) ; H. Hodson, Hon treasurer ; Bryan Lynn, Hon. Secretary; and W. Dalglish and R. S. Traill, auditors. The meeting then adjourned.

JA Boyd Diary

15 Jul 1883 JAB dined with Mike

16 Jul 1883 The two carpenters left today and Mike took out a summons for them, when he returned they had left. Mike went to Gairloch

17 Jul 1883 My brother and Spence **laid out foundations for the Mill**

18 Jul 1883 **Father went to Victoria**. Mike went to Ingham, returned tonight. Mike bought two horses from Hunter

19 Jul 1883 Mike went to Dungeness returning 10pm

23 Jul 1883 Mike went to Dungeness. Caldwell also went down

24 Jul 1883 Mike returned at 1am

25 Jul 1883 Aggie sacked the new servant today

28 Jul 1883 A worrying day. Mike went to Dungeness on route to Townsville. Woodgate, Stone, Stack, Walker and Cavanagh also left for a trip

31 Jul 1883 Received telegram from Mike asking for the boat to meet him on Thursday

Brisbane Courier 31 Jul 1883

THF Townsville Bulletin supplies the following from the Lower Herbert - ' Yet another plantation on the river The Colonial Company are now well on with their new estate Fairford. It is only intended to plant about forty acres at first, and a mill will be dispensed with for some years the first crushing to be undertaken by the Victoria plant. At the latter place the visitor is struck with the elaborate accommodation for all, from the manager down to the latest new chum kanaka It is somewhat pleasant to find that everything is not made subservient to getting a large amount of land under cane. The manager expects to crush about October, the mill being almost ready for this year's operations. Their tramway has been of great service to the Hamleigh Sugar Company, who will very probably be enabled to crush before the year's end. Gairloch is nearly ready for the fray, and will most likely operate on 800 or 900 tons of cane from **Messrs Wood Bros and Boyd**. **The latter firm have just constructed a wharf to receive their machinery now almost due.** To meet the growing requirements of the river, there is a small squadron of boats, steamers, &c, for carrying passengers and cargo up and down. The latest arrival, the Herbert launch, is doing some good work, after having made close acquaintance with the chief and most influential snags and sandbanks on the river. The schooner Heath has transferred all her boys to the Macknade plantation. She will start shortly for New Britain, from whence she will recruit for Hamleigh Sugar Company."

JAB Diary

3 Aug 1883 Heard twice from Mike and sent him 2 telegrams
4 Aug 1883 Sent punt to meet Mike, also sent 'Susie' down (small boat)
5 Aug 1883 Tarsool took punt yesterday so could not cross river, could have shot some pigmy geese at Gardiner's lagoons but some alligator amongst them; killed only scrub hen
6 Aug 1883 Mike turned up this afternoon, 3 Malays arrived, rest coming in punt, one died at Townsville
7 Aug 1883 JAB waited up till noon but they did not come, so this morning a boat with provisions down and the men all arrived in the afternoon
12 Aug 1883 Spratt ill tonight
15 Aug 1883 Mike went to Ingham
18 Aug 1883 Mike went to Dungeness about 10pm
20 Aug 1883 Mike went to Gairloch tonight
22 Aug 1883 Mike went to Ingham Board meeting. Father, Mother, Aggie and chicks to Gairloch to see sugar made
25 Aug 1883 Mike went to Dungeness returning this evening

4 Sep 1883 Mike and a lot of the men at court, 3 run in
8 Sep 1883 Mother and Father left for Dungeness at 1pm. Mike and I went with them

Brisbane Courier 8 Sep 1883

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION.

(From Today's Government Gazette)

APPOINTMENTS.--..... Robert M Boyd to be a member for the board for the improvement of the Herbert River, in the room of A S Cowley, resigned ;

JAB Diary

9 Sep 1883 Saw the Old Folks safe on board the steamer and left for home about noon, arriving there a little before 6pm
15 Sep 1883 Aggie came home today
20 Sep 1883 Mike went to Ingham today. A lot of men laid up want a lock up hospital
21 Sep 1883 Mike went again to Ingham to get a warrant for Baducy - very worrying day, nothing done in sawmill, rows with Arabs etc, in fact nothing went on very well, the day ended with a row about the beef and news that a horse "Firestick" was missing
24 Sep 1883 Out with Mike looking for land. Rode over a great deal of devil-devil country but did not find a block worth selecting
25 Sep 1883 Mike went to Ingham and took up some land
26 Sep 1883 Work as usual. A lot of men laid up. Mike and T out at the far lagoon looking for land but could not find a satisfactory piece
27 Sep 1883 Mike went to Ingham this afternoon to attend Hospital meeting. A Mr Grant here today, a very pleasant young fellow.
29 Sep 1883 Out shooting to get a brace of ducks for Aggie as Fanning and Canny coming to dinner tonight

3 Oct 1883 Canny here in afternoon. Mike went to Ingham for Road Board
4 Oct 1883 Went to Gairloch with Mike having taken possession of launch this morning. Mt Bolger here
7 Oct 1883 Out shooting. Got benighted and camped but was hunted up by Mike and overseers before midnight
10 Oct 1883 Mike went to Gairloch to see E Coroby re our machinery, Canny borrowed punts
11 Oct 1883 Mike put "Ruby" in trap and took Bolger for a drive

12 Oct 1883 Mike to Ingham. Lent dear Mike £42-9-0
15 Oct 1883 Mike and Bolger drove to Victoria
17 Oct 1883 Mike and Bolger went to Dungeness this afternoon
18 Oct 1883 Slept at Big House Mike being away at Victoria. Mike and Spencer returned this afternoon
21 Oct 1883 Returned home after 7am from meeting kanakas at Dungeness and found Mike had had a bad fall from his horse yesterday and is rather shaken
22 Oct 1883 Mike left for Dungeness but returned from Victoria wharf
23 Oct 1883 Morison and Mike went to Ingham to prosecute Malays
24 Oct 1883 Mike went to Victoria after lunch
30 Oct 1883 Rode out with Mike to go across Seymour but tide was too high to cross.
31 Oct 1883 Mike went to Ingham about the Seymour land.

1 Nov 1883 Mike caught a cassowary today and has him in confinement
18 Nov 1883 Baby [Ella] very unwell. Mike went to Ingham for the doctor
20 Nov 1883 Mitch went to Victoria early
21 Nov 1883 Mike took Terry to Dungeness today to put him on board the "Unicorn". Dr Macdonald sent for and came to see baby, says there is no immediate danger
22 Nov 1883 Mike came home with a dozen kanakas, all we got out of 75 ordered per "Hopeful"

Brisbane Courier 22 Nov 1883

The Nuddea, which arrived in the bay yesterday (says the Townsville Herald of 17th instant) brings two complete sugar plants, one made by M'Onie and Co., to the order of Drysdale Bros., of Lower Burdekin, and the other from the works of A. and W. Smith and Co., for Young Bros., of the Lower Burdekin. Both of these plants are complete with the latest improvements, and are each capable of turning out 1500 tons of sugar per season. Besides those mentioned, the ship Lanarkshire, which sailed from Glasgow in August last, brings a plant manufactured by Mirrlees, Tait, and Watson, to the order of the Mourilyan Sugar Company, capable of turning out 2000 tons of sugar per annum. The ship Roanoke, which also left Glasgow in August last, brings a plant for Fanning, Nankeville, and Co., of the Herbert River, and the Unicorn has one for Woods, Bros, and Boyd, also of the Herbert. Surely men who are prepared to invest such a large amount of capital in the sugar industry in Northern Queensland have a right to expect that North Queenslanders will assist them in getting a sufficient quantity of suitable labour to produce the cane that will keep the mills at work. Mr. Griffith is opposed to coolie labour, as indeed are his followers, but what does he intend to offer as a substitute? If he acts in such a way as not to check this, the most important industry in North Queensland, we shall be glad to see him remain Premier for the next five years.

Queenslander 24 Nov 1883

INGHAM.

Before Commissioner Berwick, on the 31st October.

SELECTIONS.— Rejected: R. M. Boyd. 1120a., Marathon;

JA Boyd Diary

26 Nov 1883 Mike went to Dungeness after lunch

1 Dec 1883 Mrs Turton at Mike's.

2 Dec 1883 Mr Turton preached tonight
3 Dec 1883 Mr and Mrs Turton left today. Aggie went to AL Cowley's
5 Dec 1883 Mike took Arthur to Victoria. Macdonald here
8 Dec 1883 Mike went to Traill's
9 Dec 1883 Mike came here tonight
10 Dec 1883 Mike went to Dungeness. Aggie and baby came home this evening [from where?]
13 Dec 1883 Mike went to Victoria wharf
17 Dec 1883 Mike went to Dungeness. Aggie sent for me tonight as some of the men were at the house after Bebe.

JAB Diary

3 Jan 1884 Mike far from well
5 Jan 1884 Mike to Ingham and took out a warrant against Allec Hassan and sent it to Dungeness and Townsville
8 Jan 1884 Mike to Victoria wharf
19 Jan 1884 Lent Mike £4-4-0
21 Jan 1884 Juan hit Walter with a hoe, then bolted

Warwick Argus 26 Jan 1884

PRETTY ROUGH.-Says Thursday's Courier: -The Commissioner of Police has received a telegram from Townsville stating that a Malay on the plantation of Messrs. Wood Bros, and Boyd struck the overseer on the head with a hoe or bar of iron. The unfortunate man immediately became unconscious and his life is supposed to be in danger. A doctor, however, is in attendance, and it is hoped he will pull through. After committing the assault the Malay at once took to the bush, whither he was followed by the police in hot pursuit.

Brisbane Courier 29 Jan 1884

PACIFIC ISLANDERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

DEPUTATION TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

A DEPUTATION of gentlemen interested in the sugar industry waited upon the Colonial Secretary yesterday afternoon, in reference to the Pacific Island Labourers Act Amendment Bill now before Parliament.

Mr. HUME BLACK, M.L.A., introduced the deputation, In answer to Mr. Griffith, he enumerated the different branches of work done by kanakas about the mills, and said that as a rule the engine drivers were the only white men employed in the mills, but these were so few that they were scarcely worth specially legislating for, and it would be better to leave the matter as provided for in the principal Act. He could express the feeling of the working men of the country, who really understood the subject as shown in the petition from over 700 of them in the Mackay district. They objected to time-expired boys roaming about the towns, but they did not wish to restrict the planters as to the way in which the kanakas were to be employed on their plantations. To strengthen what he had said, he would read some telegrams he had received. Mr. R. M. Boyd, managing partner of Wood Bros, and Boyd, wired from Ingham :

'If prohibition to employ Polynesians in manufacture of sugar is carried, shall immediately greatly reduce staff of whites and mechanics, and advise partners to close the estate.'

JAB Diary

1 Feb 1884 Mike went to Road Board meeting
5 Feb 1884 Mike to Ingham and took some fat stock
6 Feb 1884 Mike brought home a lot of cattle last night. Laya died 9pm last night. Buried today at 2nd post from strainer.
8 Feb 1884 Martin at big house last night. Mr. and Mrs. Cowley there today
12 Feb 1884 Mike went to Hamleigh to try to get a boilermaker to repair boiler of sawmill
13 Feb 1884 Mike at Ingham with Walter prosecuting Juan
17 Feb 1884 Telegraphed to Boyd Brisbane yesterday [this is AJ Boyd, headmaster of Nundah College in Brisbane where Reggie went to school]
20 Feb 1884 Mike went to Ingham to be present at an inquiry about Mara Kai's death [he died 18th, buried at plantation on 19th]
24 Feb 1884 Mike went to Gairloch
27 Feb 1884 Mike went to Ingham returning about 3:30pm and at 5pm went to Dungeness in 'Kent'
28 Feb 1884 Mike returned from Dungeness about 5pm

5 Mar 1884 Mike went to Ingham
8 Mar 1884 £27-9-4 lent OBC Mike ck, Mike also paid me ck £15 and £4-4-0 each
13 Mar 1884 Planters meeting at Mike's – present Canny, E Cowley, Traill, Lynn and Fairgreve
18 Mar 1884 Mike at Ingham about Wickham's case
20 Mar 1884 Mike went to Ingham about Wickham's robbery
25 Mar 1884 Dear Aggie died this morning leaving a son a few hours old
26 Mar 1884 Funeral
2 Apr 1884 Mike went to Ingham

8 Apr 1884 Mike went to Ingham to prosecute three Arabs who each got 3 months

SMH 8 Apr 1884

Births.

BOYD.—March 25, at Ripple Creek, Herbert River, Queensland, the wife of R. M. Boyd, of a son. [Archibald Herbert]

Deaths.

BOYD.—March 25, at Ripple Creek, Herbert River, Queensland, Eliza Agnes, beloved wife of R. M. Boyd, aged 28 years.

JAB Diary

9 Apr 1884 Rev Taylor here and baptized the baby Archibald Herbert
10 Apr 1884 Mike went to Ingham re fat cows, not back by 9pm
12 Apr 1884 Gave Mike £12, Reggie's outfit etc

Queensland Figaro 12 Apr 1884

Mrs. R. M. Boyd, of Rifle Creek Plantation, Ingham, died last week. She was very much respected.

JAB Diary

15 Apr 1884 Sacked the 2 new ploughmen and telegraphed Mike for 2 more
17 Apr 1884 Got telegram from Mike
19 Apr 1884 Heard from Mike that **Juan had got 3 years** and sent the boat to Dungeness to meet him
20 Apr 1884 Telegram from Mike and a letter dated 16th

Australian Town and Country Journal 19 Apr 1884

WANTED, a Vacuum Pan Sugar BOILER.

Apply, with copy of testimonials and stating salary expected, to **R. M. BOYD**, Ripple Creek, Herbert River, N. Queensland.

JAB Diary

20 Apr 1884 Telegram from Mike and a letter dated 16th
21 Apr 1884 Telegram from Mike
22 Apr 1884 Expected Mike home today but he did not turn up
23 Apr 1884 **Mike came home last night with Walter and Wickham and brought ploughmen, sugar boiler and engine filter.** Boss and Mahomet bolted when steamer was leaving]
24 Apr 1884 Mike went to Ingham after breakfast and did not return till after 7pm
29 Apr 1884 Mike went to Victoria, not home at 8pm. Manila men kicked up a row about their beef and went to Ingham
30 Apr 1884 Mike at Ingham about Manila men and Boss and Mahomet issues

6 May 1884 Mike went across Seymour, also to Farnham to see Pennefather
7 May 1884 Went to Ingham with Mike returning about 7pm. Arabs refused to return and got 24 hours to think about it.
13 May 1884 Mike went to Ingham with Morison. **Arabs got 1 month each**
14 May 1884 Mike went to Macknade for breakfast
20 May 1884 Mike breakfasted and lunched at Macknade
21 May 1884 Mike at Gairloch this afternoon

Brisbane Courier 28 May 1884

COOKTOWN, May 27.

The steamer Governor Blackall, while going out to the R.M.S. Merkara last night, stuck for three hours on the Bar. She left for Brisbane during the night.

The R. M. S. Merkara and the steamer Chang Chow left this morning for the South. The Merkara brings 6 immigrants for Cooktown, 46 for Townsville, 5 for Bowen, 13 for Mackay, 46 for Rockhampton, and 268 for Brisbane. The saloon passengers for Brisbane are - Mr. and Mrs. W. Thorne, Miss Payne, Messrs. T. Hunt, M. Dawson, Dareen, A. B. Macalister, G. Hunt, E. Browne, R. B. Smellie, Drs. Mathews, Owen, and M. Myers, for Cooktown - Miss Bowkett and the Rev. G. Borg ; **for Townsville - Mrs. Fitzgerald**,

JAB Diary

29 May 1884 **JAB went to Dungeness to meet Puss (Fanny).** They were back home 3pm, found Mike was away at Victoria, returned 5pm
31 May 1884 Mike went to Macknade for breakfast

Queensland Figaro 31 May 1884

Last week, thirty-one Malay gentlemen arrived in Townsville en route for Her Majesty's gaol. They were deserters from Boyd's plantation at Ingham.

JAB Diary

4 Jun 1884 Mike went to Ingham about Road Board

7 Jun 1884 Sent away tin for MacLeay by Mike, who left for Townsville taking with him canes for P and A show

9 Jun 1884 To Ingham, Fanny coming with me, to take out warrants for 8 men who had run away, sent 2 telegrams to Mike

11 Jun 1884 Had 2 telegrams from Mike, sent one. Heard our canes had taken 1st prize. Fanny out with me this afternoon.

12 Jun 1884 Telegram from Mike and sent one

13 Jun 1884 Wrote Mike to send draft to Father £11-18-6

Queenslander 14 Jun 1884

We have received a telegram from Townsville informing us that, at the Agricultural Show there, Mr. R. W. Boyd, of Cudgen, Tweed River, has taken all the first prizes for sugar cane, in competition with exhibits from the Johnstone and Burdekin river plantations. [*see correction below*]

JAB Diary

15 Jun 1884 Gaggin brought in owls for Fanny

Brisbane Courier 16 Jun 1884

TOWNSVILLE, June 15.

A banquet to celebrate the conclusion of the Northern Queensland Pastoral and Agricultural Society's show was held at the Queen's Hotel on Saturday night. There was a good attendance, and a long list of toasts was got through. Mr. Boyd, of the Ripple Creek plantation, suggested that a special show of sugar be held at Townsville every year after the completion of crushing operations.

JAB Diary

18 Jun 1884 To Ingham with Mike to prosecute runaways. 3 got 3 months. Lunched at Gairloch

20 Jun 1884 Went with Mike to Ingham to prosecute Malays but they had not come up. On to Victoria where we lunched and home via Pennefathers where we had left Fanny in morning

27 Jun 1884 Started with Mike to Ingham but at Gairloch stables my horse fell – JAB returned home

1 Jul 1884 Mike went to Ingham re summons (not back 8:45pm). Also to Hamleigh

Queenslander 4 Jul 1884

A PARAGRAPH appeared in our issue of 14th June intimating that all the first prizes for sugar cane at the Townsville show were taken by Mr. R. W. Boyd, of Cudgen, Tweed River. This, it seems, was an error, the prizes having been awarded to cane grown by Wood Bros, and Boyd, of Ripple Creek, Ingham. The telegram on which our paragraph was founded merely gave the name of Boyd, and we had to guess who Mr. Boyd was. It would save a great

deal of trouble if people in telegraphing would be a little more explicit, even at the cost of 2d. or 3d. extra.—Queenslander.

JAB Diary

7 Jul 1884 Mike at Gairloch

Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld. : 1866 - 1939), Saturday 12 July 1884, page 68

Planters' Troubles on the Herbert.

THE Herbert River correspondent of the Northern Standard, writing under date Ing-ham, 20th June, says:—"At a meeting of the Herbert River branch of the Planters' Association, there were present—Messrs. W. Canny, Macknade; — Morris, Gairloch; **A. J. Boyd**, Ripple Creek; T. Stodart, Farnham; E. Cowley and F. T. Wolsley, Victoria; A. S. Cowley, Hamleigh; and A. R. Traill, Trebonne. There were very few of the outside public present, as until the eleventh how the general impression was that that affair was private. Mr. Canny having been voted to the chair, Mr. E. Cowley read a long paper **on 'The Locusts,'** in which the supposed habits of the insects were described. He affirmed that the young were hatched from eggs which had been laid ten days previous to incubation, and enlarged upon the devastating effects of their sojourn here. He pointed out the absolute necessity for prompt and energetic action, and strongly condemned half-hearted measures as worse than useless. He effectually proved that the welfare of every individual interested in any matter on the Herbert was at stake, and succeeded in showing the meeting that no time was to be lost in voting active measures. Mr. A. S. Cowley, without going into details, discussed several of the most salient points in a masterly manner. Mr. Traill informed the meeting that there was at that moment an immense mob of hoppers within a few yards of his cane, which was probably too strong for their young gums. It was eventually decided that Messrs. E. Cowley, A. S. Cowley, and A. R. Traill should be a committee to decide upon the best probable way of lessening the scourge. It was also decided that Messrs. E. Cowley and W. Canny write to the hon. the Colonial Secretary to have the Native Birds Protection Act extended to this district, and to further request that certain birds which feed on the locust enjoy a continual immunity from destruction. The debate having been carried on into the twilight, the other question of importance, i.e. the Polynesian regulations, was postponed. I may inform you that as yet there has not been the slightest trace of any locust eggs; indeed it is a moot point whether the insect is ovi-parous or viviparous. Then again, Mr. Cowley says that the locust is hatched ten days after having been laid by the female. Now, Mr. Editor, I have seen some tons of locust eggs in the Levant lying for weeks and months without being hatched, which proves conclusively that even in the event of the insect being oviparous, ten days, or even weeks, is insufficient for incubation."

JAB Diary

14 Jul 1884 Mike at Gairloch in afternoon

16 Jul 1884 Mike attended Road Board meeting

Queensland Figaro 19 Jul 1884

Will Sugar-Planters Wake Up?

The sugar industry of Queensland, that has brought so much capital into the colony and that has given more employment to white men at high wages than any other industry here, is threatened with a violent and sudden death, because Sam Griffith & Co. found it necessary to hoodwink the people in order to get into power. **The anti-Coolie bogey**, which Sam manufactured and dressed up in a fabric of lies for parade upon the election platform,

frightened voters out of their wits and successfully "worked the oracle." It may be said that voters are not so easily "frightened out of their wits;" which empty assertion can be fully met by one of an equally claptrap character, viz.- that any who would vote for such political tomfools as are most of the parliamentary supporters of the Ministry, have very few wits at all to be scared out of. Coolie labor has been prohibited. Kanakas are allowed but the labor trade has been so hampered with expensive restrictions that it will, probably, cease long before the rapidly-diminishing supply of recruits gives out. The only mean labor permitted consists of Chinese, Malays, and Maltese. The Chinese are objectionable, because they are too fond of competing with other branches of white industry—mining, cabinet making, &c.—and because they thus lower the rates of white men's wages. The Malays are wild and intractable. The Maltese are useless. In order to provide Griffith & Co. with office, the labor market has been thus demoralised. The sugar industry and its millions of capital are to be hunted out of the country, and hundreds of white men who have been earning from £2 10s. to £4 per week on plantations are either to starve or to accept the same labor at 15/- per week. This is what Sam calls making Queensland a "glorious country for the working man"

But What are Northern sugar-planters about? Why don't they unite for political purposes, and learn to fight the Queen Street Jeremy Diddlers with their own weapons. There are Planters' Associations in the South of Queensland, it is true; but in the North, the great land of sugar, the planters remain supine. Though their homes and livelihood are threatened, they move not a finger to avert the rain. From Port Mackay upwards, the sugar-planters should combine to form a North Queensland Sugar-Planters' Association. Boyd, of the Herbert River, recently agitated for such a movement, for the mere purpose of holding an annual exhibition of canes and sugars; but the scope of the Association should be more comprehensive than that. The Association should seek to enlighten the dense ignorance respecting plantation facts, that exists amongst all outside classes in Queensland. Half the people in the colony objected at the late elections to the employment of Coolies on plantations, simply because "Our Sam" objected, and because "Queensland for the white man" had a fascinating sound as a war-cry. Half the people in Queensland fancy that Coolies, after the term of their agreements had expired, would stay here and compete with every sort of white artisans and mechanics. They believe this, because Sam and his crowd publicly lied and told them so. They forgot that demagogues lie for a purpose—a profitable purpose. These particular demagogues knew that under the regulations that then existed, the Coolies, by agreement, would be compelled to return to India. Sam swiftly swept away those regulations, and, if Coolies came here now, the working men's fears would be realised. Perhaps, Sam did this in order to make his platform lie come true?

I want to see the North Queensland planters wake up—not only for their own sake, but for the sake of the hundreds of honest white working-men to whom they have been paying big wages, and who, also, are involved in the ruin Sam's parliamentary clowns are attempting.

JAB Diary

28 Jul 1884 Messrs Boyd and Prendergast went to Gairloch

29 Jul 1884 Mike and Prendergast went to Victoria and did not return till late

1 Aug 1884 Mike went to Ingham to take out warrants for Malays who refuse to return from Townsville and Fanny went with him

4 Aug 1884 Mike went to Hamleigh to attend Planters Association

6 Aug 1884 Mike at Divisional Board Meeting

7 Aug 1884 Mike and Morrison at Ingham. 7 men get 3 months

9 Aug 1884 Mike not well, blood much out of order

12 Aug 1884 Mr. Wood arrived this afternoon with Mike who went to meet him at Victoria wharf

15 Aug 1884 Mike and Mr. Wood went to Macknade

29 Aug 1884 Mike and Mr. Wood with Fanny went to Victoria

15 Sep 1884 Mike and Fanny went to Macknade and Canny rode back with them

19 Sep 1884 Took Fanny for a ride to Macknade

SMH 19 Sep 1884

QUEENSLAND SUGAR INDUSTRY AND THE LABOUR QUESTION.

XXVI.-THE LOWER HERBERT.

(BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER)

The Lower Herbert district is one of the oldest fields of sugar-cultivation in Queensland, and it is estimated that at the present time about one million pounds telling is represented in the expenditure on the plantations along the banks and in the vicinity of the river. The estates under sugar-cultivation at the present time are Macnade, Ripple Creek, Gairloch, Victoria, Hamleigh, and Trebonne.

About three or four miles higher up the river is the plantation " Ripple Creek," the property of Messrs. **Wood Brothers and Boyd**. I simply passed through the plantation, and did not make any stay. In the fields I saw some of the finest-looking cane I had yet seen in the district. The soil was magnificent. A number of kanakas were engaged planting cane in newly cleared land from which the scrub had been cleared and the **timber cut down but not grubbed out**. The system of planting in the scrub adopted was to excavate holes about a foot in length and six inches in width ; these holes were made in regular order so far as the stumps and other obstacles would permit. The sections of cane were then laid in the series of holes and covered with soil. **A very complete mill has been erected on the plantation, and the first crushing was to have commenced the day after I passed through.** Substantial quarters for both white and coloured labourers were erected on the estate, and a system of tramway communication between the cane-fields and the mill had for some distance been laid down.

JAB Diary

20 Sep 1884 Mike at Gairloch this evening

26 Sep 1884 Mike went to Ingham about warrants

27 Sep 1884 Fanny left for Rockhampton

30 Sep 1884 Bought a fine joey for Fanny

1 Oct 1884 Mike at Ingham Road Board

4 Oct 1884 Mike at Gairloch

9 Oct 1884 Mike not very well. Dr Macdonald here. Telegraphed to Fanny

22 Oct 1884 Went out wallaby shooting at 6:30pm with Mike who shot one

31 Oct 1884 Mike went to Macknade

5 Nov 1884 **Dear Fanny and Sprott went away this afternoon.** Mike went with them to Townsville

6 Nov 1884 Heard from Mike

12 Nov 1884 Mike came home this afternoon with Mr. Checkie

Brisbane Courier 12 Nov 1884

COOKTOWN

The R.M.S. Dorunda arrived from the south at daylight this morning, and left this evening for London. She takes the following passengers :-From Rockhampton for Batavia Messrs. Mosman and Adams. For London Mrs. Fitzgerald, Master Boyd [Fanny and Sprott], Mr. and Mrs. Parr. From Townsville- Mrs. Waugh. The Dorunda has 165 tons of cargo from Keppel Bay, 24 tons from Maryborough, 17 tons from Bowen, 43 tons from Mackay, and 412 tons from Townsville.

JAB Diary

19 Nov 1884 Mike went to Traill's

1 Dec 1884 Mike to P & A Victoria

3 Dec 1884 Mike very unwell

15 Jan 1885 Got a letter from Fanny written in Batavia. Mike went Ingham this afternoon

24 Jan 1885 Mike, Reggie, Burgess and Cutler left for Townsville, also Donovan

27 Jan 1885 Mike did not come home as I expected he would

29 Jan 1885 Mike came home this morning

3 Feb 1885 Mike went to Macknade

4 Feb 1885 Mike went to Ingham and was there all day

10 Feb 1885 Mike, Gaggin, Morrison and Chuke went to Ingham about Beats and Malayas.

Lost case with Beats. Malayas got 3 months each

11 Feb 1885 Mike and Hamilton went to Victoria in Hunter's trap

14 Feb 1885 Chinese new day. Mike and I had dinner with them.

18 Feb 1885 Mike at Ingham about Lucas again

19 Feb 1885 Heard that dearest Fanny and Sprott and the animals were safe and well at home

4 Mar 1885 Mike at Ingham all day

5 Mar 1885 Mike came home from Victoria

7 Mar 1885 Mike lunched at Macknade and went to Traill's this evening

11 Mar 1885 Hammick came from Macknade with Mike

16 Mar 1885 Mike went to Ingham

1 Apr 1885 Mike went to Road Board

6 Apr 1885 Mike very seedy

8 Apr 1885 Mike breakfasted at Macknade, slept here last night

14 Apr 1885 Mike went to Dungeness this morning in 'Susie'

2 May 1885 Mike started for south. Gave Mike £6 for Fanny payment for books etc

9 May 1885 Wrote and posted long letter to Mike

Brisbane Courier 10 May 1885

ARRIVALS. May 10.-DERWENT. s.. 500 tons, Captain W. Ellis, from Townsville, via ports. Passengers : Mrs. Pitman and 3 children, Mrs. Synod, Mrs. Niscole, Mrs. Robinson and 2 children, Mrs. Jones, Miss Taylor, Messrs. Boyd, Robinson. Kelly, Scraig, Burrows, Reid, Mutton, M'Dermott, Reeve, Neubert, and 10 in the steerage. W. Howard Smith and Sons. Limited, agents.

JAB Diary

15 May 1885 Telegraphed to Mike re Malays
18 May 1885 Mr. Clark brought a telegram from Mike
19 May 1885 Telegraphed to Mike
20 May 1885 Got telegram from Mike saying children would leave on Saturday
21 May 1885 Heard from Mike and Mother
28 May 1885 Heard from Mike
29 May 1885 Got telegram from Mike at Newcastle
31 May 1885 Heard from Mike by today's mail boat

1 Jun 1885 Draw check for Mike's insurance £7-0-0
4 Jun 1885 Telegram from Mike
5 Jun 1885 Telegraphed Mike
6 Jun 1885 Wrote to Mike
10 Jun 1885 Got telegram from Mike
11 Jun 1885 No letter from Mike
13 Jun 1885 Wrote to Mike

Queensland Figaro 13 Jun 1885

Wood Brothers and Boyd, of Ripple Creek, Herbert River, proceeded against Alfred Potchies at Townsville, for refusing to work according to agreement. Alfred's reason for violating the terms of contract, was that he had to work ten hours a day, and, during that time, received only one pound of meat. He was fined £5 or one month in gaol (which latter he chose) and was informed that he had gone the wrong way to work to obtain redress.

JAB Diary

15 Jun 1885 No news from Mike
18 Jun 1885 Heard from Mike
19 Jun 1885 Heard from Mike by telegram
20 Jun 1885 Wrote to Mike
21 Jun 1885 Sent letter to Mike via overland mail
24 Jun 1885 Telegraphed to Mike
25 Jun 1885 Dear Mike came home this afternoon looking very well

13 Jul 1885 Mike and I went to Ingham and knocked Beath's
23 Jul 1885 Mike went to Macknade to lunch

12 Aug 1885 Mike went to Road Board
17 Aug 1885 Mike went to Victoria
28 Sep 1885 Mike went to Ingham, and took out summonses for Crossley, McPherson and Williams

5 Oct 1885 Mike went to Macknade and was not back at 9:30pm
6 Oct 1885 Mike went to Ingham to prosecute Crossley who got a fortnight
10 Oct 1885 Mike at Seymour after lunch
19 Oct 1885 Mike got three sandpipers on sand spit by Gairloch crossing
21 Oct 1885 Fernando, Rocknon, Ah Gow struck work this afternoon. Mike took out a summons for them
24 Oct 1885 Mike went to Ball (Victoria Bachelors' Ball)
27 Oct 1885 Mike caught 19 garfish off the wharf this evening
29 Oct 1885 Mike went to Macknade

2 Nov 1885 Mike to Ingham after breakfast, not back 9pm

3 Nov 1885 Mike seeing Canny and Waller about Hospital arrangements
4 Nov 1885 Mike at Road Board
5 Nov 1885 Mike to Clarke's to look at some horses

Queenslander 7 Nov 1885

The Present State of the Sugar Industry.

THE HERBERT RIVER DISTRICT. [BY OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.]

IN the Northern expansion of the sugar industry the delta of the Burdekin is the last locality subject to periodic droughts on the coast line from Brisbane to Townsville. Beyond

that no dry belt is arrived at until we reach the volcanic plains of the M'lvor, beyond Cook town. Between the Burdekin and the M'lvor lies the magnificently watered country of the Herbert Johnstone, Russell, Mulgrave, Barron, Mosman, Daintree, Bloomfield, and numerous smaller rivers and important creeks. That tract of country, with soil unsurpassed in richness, has an absolutely reliable annual rainfall varying from 75in. to 160 in. Droughts of even short duration are entirely unknown from the Johnstone to the Daintree. The geographical features of the country are sufficient proof that droughts are next to impossible. The planters on the rivers mentioned may suffer frequently from too much rain, but they are never likely to endure any loss from the want of it. The Herbert River is the oldest sugar-growing district north of Mackay. It lies about eighty miles north of Townsville, the river entering the sea at the south end of Hinchinbrook Channel. The rainfall is influenced by the high coast range and the towering mountains of Hinchinbrook. The country on the Herbert consists chiefly of open plains, intersected by belts of scrub, differing completely from the Johnstone, Russell, and Mulgrave, on which there is no open country whatever. So far the only adversity experienced by the Herbert planters has been a plague of locusts; but they adopted vigorous measures to destroy them, and the pests may not return again in sufficient numbers to commit any serious damage. There is a considerable amount of comparatively inferior soil under cane among the Herbert plantations, and the average yield per acre is accordingly reduced considerably below what it would be if only the best of the land were under crop.

..... Ripple Creek plantation is owned by Wood Bros and Boyd. The machinery has a capacity of 1500 tons, and the estate contains 1200 acres. This season the yield is expected to reach 1000 tons. The estate employs about 200 hands, including whites, kanakas, Chinese, and Malays under indenture. The estimated yield, therefore, from all the Herbert River plantations for the present season represents over 9000 tons of dry sugar.

JAB Diary

11 Nov 1885 Fire in cane at which Mike crippled "Star" and my mare got badly cut
12 Nov 1885 Mike went to church meeting
19 Nov 1885 Mike, Armstrong went to town to see Gaggin
25 Nov 1885 Mike went to Macknade this evening

1 Dec 1885 110° on Lime's verandah, Mike went to Macknade
7 Dec 1885 Mike went to Hamleigh
17 Dec 1885 Mike came home
19 Dec 1885 Mike went to Macknade this evening

Brisbane Courier 19 Dec 1885

The Hugh Ewing, schooner, has been chartered to carry sugar from Dungeness, on account of Wood Bros, and Boyds, Ripple Creek Plantation, to Sydney.

JAB Diary

25 Dec 1885 Xmas Day – Reggie, Armstrong and Walker went to the sports at Ingham, Mike Gaggin and JAB stayed home

31 Dec 1885 Mike very unwell, sent to doctor

5 Jan 1886 Mike a good deal better

21 Jan 1886 Mike went to Macknade for a couple of hours this afternoon

Feb 1886 JAB away until June

Queenslander 22 May 1886

The passengers by the steamer Airlie, which arrived from Hongkong on Tuesday afternoon (wired our Townsville correspondent on Wednesday), were quarantined this morning by order of the health officer. There are 152 Malays, one European (Mr. [J.A.] Boyd, of Ripple Creek, Herbert River), and eight Chinese landed at Magnetic Island. The agents of the vessel are annoyed at the vexatious action taken by the health officer, as they understood the proclamation ordering the vessels arriving from the Straits Settlements, Java and Sunda Islands, have been abolished. The health officer, however, acts upon a telegram from the Under Colonial Secretary to the effect that "so much of the proclamation of the 15th April as relates to the Straits Settlements has been abolished." The passengers will be detained fourteen days.

Queensland Figaro 5 Jun 1886

The following are the entries for the Herbert River Races on July 5th.
Maiden Plate.

Mr. R. M. Boyd's b.g. by Carlisle, 3 years;

Flying Handicap.

Mr. R. M. Boyd's b.g. by Carlisle, 3 years; Mr. R. M. Boyd's bn. m. Satanella, 4 years;

.....

JAB Diary

9 Jun 1886 Mike went to Ingham

12 Jun 1886 Mike went to Townsville

16 Jun 1886 Heard from Mike that he is returning tomorrow

17 Jun 1886 Mike came back with Mr. Halloran Sr

18 Jun 1886 Mike and Mr. Halloran went to Ingham

25 Jun 1886 Mike went to Ingham in big entric?

30 Jun 1886 Mike went to Macknade and Carrs

Queenslander 3 Jul 1886

A sale of Government lands was held at the Land Office, Ingham, on the 31st May, the land offered being town lots in the township of Dungeness, at the mouth of the Herbert River. Allotments 1 to 6 in section 1, and 5, 6, 7 in section 2, were purchased by Mr. R. M. Boyd. Mr. E. O. Corbett purchased allotments 2, 3, and 4 in section 2; while Mr. C. E. de F. Pennefather became possessor of allotments 1 and 8 in the same section. All at the upset price, £20 per acre.

Morning Bulletin Rockhampton 6 Jul 1886

THE manager of the Yeppoon Sugar Company is in receipt of a letter from Messrs. **Wood Brothers and Boyd**, of Ingham, enclosing a copy of a petition it is intended to present to Parliament in the coming session. The document is to be signed by sugar planters and manufacturers, and others interested in the success of the sugar industry in Queens land, and contains a request that the Government will pay a bonus on all exports of sugar grown in the colony ; and give such other relief in the shape of suitable labour, &c , as may be deemed right and proper. The principal ground on which the petitioners base their claim to assistance is that they have to enter into competition with European growers and manufacturers, all of whom are subsidised by their respective Governments on all the sugar exported ; but they also urge that suitable labour is scarce, that the market is depressed through competition from other countries where cheap labour is obtainable, and they have had to invest large sums of money. They also point out that the sugar industry has been and will continue to be one of the principal industries of the colony if measures are passed to protect it, and that it contributes largely to the export trade of Queensland, and causes revenue to be derived from shipping and imports, that would be materially affected if it became a failure. After appealing to Mr. Melhuish to assist in the movement, Messrs. Wood and Boyd say : " We are sure you will agree with us that even if this petition is not granted it will do a great deal towards hastening on free trade or some other desirable relief, and opening the eyes of the Government to the very precarious state of the sugar industry.' Mr. Gavin will be pleased to receive signatures to the petition, which is now lying at his office.

Queenslander 10 Jul 1886

The Sugar Industry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE QUEENSLANDER.

SIR,—In your issue of 12th June I read with considerable interest a letter from Mr. Rutherford Armstrong calling attention to the present depressed state of the sugar industry, and suggesting a bounty being given by the Government as a means of not only benefiting the planters and farmers but indirectly the whole colony. Though quite agreeing with the writer of that letter in so far as it is urgently necessary to the colony that some measures should at once be taken to insure the carrying on of the industry, I am more in favour of the relief taking the form of inter colonial free trade, for the reason that it would establish a favourable opening for Queensland in the disposal of her surplus sugars; and would suggest the advisableness of the Governments of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria coming to some arrangement whereby they should receive our sugar duty free, and in return, we should take in their wines and any other produce which might be agreed upon to our mutual advantage. Still, though strongly in favour of free trade, I shall have no hesitation whatever in signing the petition to the honourable members of The Legislative Council and Assembly which is being prepared by some of those interested. Should any of the members of the Legislative Council or Assembly wish for full and true particulars, for their own private information, as to the cost of working a sugar estate turning out 1000 tons of sugar yearly, and giving an average return of 2 1/2 tons of sugar per acre, managed personally by one of the owners, who has had seventeen years' experience in sugar growing and manufacture both in New South Wales and Queensland, I shall be happy to furnish such. In conclusion I may state that it is my firm conviction that, unless prices improve (which is very unlikely indeed) or some relief as suggested is speedily administered, in a very short time the sugar estates in Queensland will have collapsed with the exception, perhaps, of one or two which are working under most exceptionally favourable circumstances. — I am, sir, &c,

R.M. BOYD. Ripple Creek.

JAB Diary

10 Jul 1886 Mike and most of the white men at the races

Brisbane Courier 13 Jul 1886

SUPREME COURT, THURSDAY JULY 8

In the matter of Kenyon and Co. (execution creditors) v. M'Millan (judgment debtor) and Wood Bros, and Boyd (garnishees), on the application of Mr. Roberts for the plaintiff, an order was made for the execution creditor and garnishees to proceed to trial of the issue for the purpose of ascertaining whether the garnishees were indebted to the judgment creditor, the execution creditor to prepare and deliver the issue to the defendant within ten days, and the defendants to return the same within eight days, the issue to be tried at the Civil Sittings of the Supreme Court at Brisbane in November next, before his Honour and a jury. The question of costs was reserved. Mr. O'Shea, from the office of Messrs. Hart and Flower, represented the garnishee in the matter.

JAB Diary

17 Jul 1886 Mike drove ponies to town

18 Jul 1886 Mike came home this afternoon

Queensland Figaro 31 Jul 1886

The Herbert River Jockey Club held a day's racing last week, with the following results :

Flying Handicap, 20 sovs, 1/2 mile.- J. Gould's Blue Mantle, 4 yrs, 8st 7Lb, 1; J. Palmer's b g Perseus, 5 yrs, 9st 10lb, 2; R. Boyd's br m Satanella, 4 yrs, 8st, 3. Time, 55secs. [*this is RMB*]

JAB Diary

4 Aug 1886 Mike went to Ingham and is not yet home 8pm

5 Aug 1886 Mike came home very bad with either gout or rheumatism in left leg, is quite laid up with it, can't move

6 Aug 1886 Mike better

9 Aug 1886 Mike went to Macknade

13 Aug 1886 Dined at Macknade (present 2 Macdonalds, Pennefather, D Walker, L Cowley, Mike and JAB) a farewell feed with Forbes. Horribly slow.

14 Aug 1886 Mike at Ingham to see match between Blue Mantle and Santanella, our mare won by 4 lengths

16 Aug 1886 Mike went to Ingham

29 Aug 1886 Across river with Mike, Armstrong and Blacks, got 10 wallaby

30 Aug 1886 Broke steam pipe in Mill and lost all afternoon crushing in consequence. Mike went hunting for pipe to replace the one broken

1 Sep 1886 Mike went to town

4 Sep 1886 Mike went to Townsville

7 Sep 1886 Mike came home

12 Sep 1886 Nankivell and wife spending the day with Mike

5 Oct 1886 Mike in town prosecuting Broad who got a week

12 Oct 1886 Out shooting wallaby at 5pm with Mike and got one each

13 Oct 1886 Mike went to Traill's

14 Oct 1886 Mike returned from Trebonne this evening

18 Oct 1886 Mike went to Macknade

3 Nov 1886 Mike went to town

5 Nov 1886 Mike went to town for show

6 Nov 1886 Mike at show, won both prizes for cane, one for best blood mare and two with the ponies

13 Nov 1886 Mike went to call on Neame at Macknade

15 Nov 1886 Mike went to Gairloch and Ingham this morning re A. 7 men who left this afternoon and went down to Halifax about them tonight.

18 Nov 1886 Mike shot a wallaby in the garden

29 Nov 1886 Mr. Wood and Mike went to Macknade

1 Dec 1886 Mike and Mr. Wood went to Hamleigh

4 Dec 1886 Mr. Wood and Ned left. Mike going down in boat to Dungeness with them

6 Dec 1886 Mike went to Ingham

11 Dec 1886 Mike went to Victoria

17 Dec 1886 Said Aller arrested at lunch. Mike went up to town about it

18 Dec 1886 Traps here with subpoenas, Mike went to town this evening

21 Dec 1886 White man murdered at Halifax. Mike took man to Wickham's

24 Dec 1886 Mike went to town early to see more gallop

28 Dec 1886 Mike came home this morning

29 Dec 1886 Mike away with O. Waller

5 Jan 1887 Mike at Ingham

6 Jan 1887 Mrs Burgess and Ella returned from Townsville

8 Jan 1887 Mike went away this morning

13 Jan 1887 Got 2 letters from Mike in Townsville

Queenslander 15 Jan 1887

January 13.—WARREGO, Q. S.S. Company's, 1505 tons, Captain J. E. Munroe, from Cooktown, via intermediate ports. Passengers: Messrs...Boyd,

JAB Diary

15 Jan 1887 Received telegram from Mike at Brisbane and posted him a long letter

17 Jan 1887 Telegraphed to Mike that all was well

22 Jan 1887 Posted long letter to Mike

29 Jan 1887 Posted long letter to Mike, also one to Elsie enclosing Jabiru plumes

1 Feb 1887 Paid Mrs. Burgess for Mike £6-16-3. Received telegram from Mike today

2 Feb 1887 Got letter from Mike and Father

5 Feb 1887 Wrote and telegraphed Mike

9 Feb 1887 Sent telegram to Mike. Received same from him and Wood

12 Feb 1887 Posted letters to Mike

14 Feb 1887 Had telegram from Mike

17 Feb 1887 Heard from Mike and Puss (Fanny)

19 Feb 1887 Posted long letter to Mike

22 Feb 1887 Telegraphed Mike at Bolger's residence

25 Feb 1887 Sent C/k tonight for Mike's Insurance to Townsville on policy No 66393A for £1000, amt £14-10

26 Feb 1887 Sent telegram (private) to Mike

27 Feb 1887 Telegraphed to Mike

3 Mar 1887 Heard from Mike
5 Mar 1887 Posted letter to Mike
6 Mar 1887 Letter from Mike at Melbourne
12 Mar 1887 Wrote to Mike
17 Mar 1887 Heard from Mike
19 Mar 1887 Wrote to Mike
30 Mar 1887 Heard from Mike by telegram from Hobart
31 Mar 1887 Heard from Mike at Dunedin

1 Apr 1887 Telegraphed to Mike
3 Apr 1887 Buchanan here this afternoon, asked for a little time to pay his debt to Mike
6 Apr 1887 No news from Mike
7 Apr 1887 Had a letter from Mike in Dunedin but nothing telling me his present whereabouts
8 Apr 1887 Wrote to Mike
9 Apr 1887 Sent back to Cowles [gun repairer] spring of bow of Mike's gun. Wrote to Mike

Brisbane Courier 11 Apr 1887

April 10 -FITZROY, A U S N Co 's, 800 tons, Captain J E Meaburn, from Sydney 8th April. Passengers : Mrs. Boyd, Miss Orr, Messrs J H Maher, Cains, W Coombes, F W Bartlett, Boyd, and 20 in the steerage. -The B I and Q. A Company, Limited, agents
[*NOT RMB?*]

JAB Diary

13 Apr 1887 Nothing from Mike
14 Apr 1887 Got a letter from Mike dated Melbourne
15 Apr 1887 2 telegrams from Mike, one about drying sugar to then saying he was leaving Sydney with horses on Tuesday
16 Apr 1887 Wrote to Mike at Lennons [Brisbane], also sent him 2 telegrams to Imperial Hotel, Sydney
20 Apr 1887 Heard from Mike announcing his engagement to Bradley's sister
21 Apr 1887 Heard from Mike
27 Apr 1887 Nothing from Mike

SMH 28 Apr 1887

CLEARANCES

Glanworth (s.), 877 tons, Captain J. Higgins, for Brisbane, Bundaberg, and Rockhampton.
Passengers:.....R. Boyd,

Brisbane Courier 30 Apr 1887

SHIPPING. ARRIVALS.

April 29 - GLANWORTH, AUSN Company's s., 588 tons Captain James Higgins from Sydney 27th April. Passengers : R. M. Boyd, ..

JAB Diary

30 Apr 1887 Got 2 telegrams from Mike today

2 May 1887 G Buchanan brought d/n of Blairs to pay his debt to Mike
4 May 1887 Sent launch down for Mike, Armstrong also went down
5 May 1887 Dear Mike came home about 10am bringing Kyrigdon(?) with him
7 May 1887 Mike went to Macknade
11 May 1887 Mike went to Ingham
13 May 1887 Mike went to Ingham this afternoon
16 May 1887 Mike went to Ingham
20 May 1887 Mike went to Ingham
24 May 1887 Mike got kicked by his horse

1 Jun 1887 Mike went to town
14-28 Jun 1887 JAB away fishing and shooting

6 Jul 1887 Mike went to Road Board in morning and to the Bachelor's Ball with Hammick tonight
9 Jul 1887 Mike went to town this afternoon, taking to hospital Mrs. Roberts and her adopted child
13 Jul 1887 Mike went to town this afternoon
16 Jul 1887 Mike went to town
19 Jul 1887 Mike went to Macknade this afternoon
21 Jul 1887 Heard that dear Mother had broken her arm and that Sprott was very ill with measles and whooping cough
25 Jul 1887 (Mon) Mike went and skinned a 14ft alligator that the blacks had shot on Saturday in the lagoon by Robert's. It was female and measured before skinning 13ft 10in. Judging by her teeth she was very old.
28 Jul 1887 Some whistling ducks in river close to wharf. Mike went out and shot a couple, and I followed bagging 3. Mike went to town.
30 Jul 1887 Mike went to Dungeness (settling night)
31 Jul 1887 Mike went to town after lunch

3 Aug 1887 Mike went to town
5 Aug 1887 Mike went to Gairloch
12 Aug 1887 Mike got a terrible spill going to town, hurt his nose and arm
17 Aug 1887 Mike went to Ingham
20 Aug 1887 Mike went to town about 4pm
23 Aug 1887 Mike went to Gairloch to lunch
29 Aug 1887 Mike went to town (settling night) [Gairloch purchase?]
31 Aug 1887 Mike went to Trebonne to see Traill about Gairloch

3 Sep 1887 Mike went to Macknade to borrow lime
10 Sep 1887 Mike went to Dungeness to meet Prendergast

Queensland Figaro 10 Sep 1887

TURF GOSSIP

Mr. Boyd's Boomerang was the hero of the Herbert River J.C. meeting, on 27th [Aug], at Ingham, where he won the Jubilee Stakes, 1 1/4 mile, and the Welter.

Queensland Figaro 17 Sep 1887

TURF GOSSIP

At the Herberton races the two principal events were won by Boomerang, a recent importation from Sydney, by **Mr. Boyd**, of the firm of **Wood Bros. & Boyd**. I can find no record of his New South Wales running, unless he be identical with a Boomerang, who ran third in a Selling Hack Race at the Wellington Racing Club Meeting in March, 1886; but I suspect he is a Victorian performer, who, some years ago, won the Maiden Plate at Kilmore, from a big field, and the Berwick Handicap at Berwick, under 10st., or else, possibly, Mr. J. Edmonds's old brown gelding of the name, who ran unplaced to Honora, in the Midwinter Handicap at Elsternwick Park in 1884. Anyhow, he was too good for the Herberton nags.

JAB Diary

26 Sep 1887 Mike at Trebonne

Queensland Figaro 1 Oct 1887

JOHN WOOD, merchant, of Newcastle, N.S.W., died, in that town, on the 6th September, of inflammation of the lungs, following a cold. A local obituary notice refers to the deceased as "a good man-good in every sense of that expressive word. In every sphere of the life in which he moved, his loss will be felt. A man of marvellous energy and business tact, of untiring industry and exceptional application, he occupied the first place in commercial circles. In private life, a model of every manly and social virtue- kind, hospitable, generous, temperate in everything, unrivalled as a husband, a brother, and a father-in a word, a man of unblemished reputation.' The deceased was the brother of the Messrs. Wood, of Wood Bros. & **Boyd**, Ripple Creek, Herbert River, N.Q.

JAB Diary

5 Oct 1887 Mike went to town, paid Lancy's(?) fine and he returned to work

18 Oct 1887 **Mike attended land sale in town**

Brisbane Courier 20 Oct 1887

The Gairloch property, which was advertised for sale in farms of 40 acres and upwards, has been withdrawn owing to the proprietors not meeting with sufficient encouragement. **A portion has been bought by Messrs. Wood Bros, and Boyd, of Ripple Creek,** whilst the house and garden has passed into the hands of Mr. A. J. Cowley, a very old resident of the district, and the Colonial Company have leased the balance with the intention of growing cane for their Victoria mill. This is much better than though the place were abandoned, but it is a great pity such a powerful and splendid mill should be closed. It is to be hoped that by the time the Colonial Company's lease expires it will be run either as a central factory, for which it is admirably adapted, or else in connection with the estate.

JAB Diary

20 Oct 1887 Mike went to town this afternoon

25 Oct 1887 Mike went to town

27 Oct 1887 Mike and Armstrong went to Traill's party

28 Oct 1887 Mike and Armstrong returned **from dance at Trebonne** this morning

1 Nov 1887 Mike and Armstrong at town re assessment

2 Nov 1887 Mike and Armstrong at town

3 Nov 1887 Mike and Armstrong at town, won case against Road Board

11 Nov 1887 **Mike laid up with swollen testes**

12 Nov 1887 Mike still laid up

14 Nov 1887 Mike still laid up
15 Nov 1887 Mike not able to get about yet
17 Nov 1887 Mike very seedy today
18 Nov 1887 Mike somewhat better today
19 Nov 1887 Mike improving
24 Nov 1887 Mike got an old cassowary, female and 1 juvenile
25 Nov 1887 Let the adult cassowary go
28 Nov 1887 Mike getting about

6 Dec 1887 At town with Mike re Kanaka summons
7 Dec 1887 Mike at Road Board
8 Dec 1887 Gave Mike for wedding present £10-0-0

**Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW : 1876 - 1954) , Tuesday
13 December 1887, page 6**

SUGAR. TO STOREKEEPERS & OTHERS. THE UNDERSIGNED receive from their Plantation regular. SHIPMENTS OF SUGAR, in various qualities, including First Whites, which they supply at Lowest Market. Rates. Samples and prices on application WOOD BROS. & BOYD, 1047 Newcastle.

JAB Diary

15 Dec 1887 Heard from Mike and Father re Bertie
17 Dec 1887 Posted to Mike enclosing my Burwood shares
21 Dec 1887 Got telegram from Mike at Brisbane
29 Dec 1887 Heard from Mike
31 Dec 1887 Wrote to Mike and got a wire from him

Queenslander 31 Dec 1887

Some Northern Sugar Plantations.

BY OUR AGRICULTURAL REPORTER. THE HERBERT RIVER.

The Herbert River flows into the sea at the south end of Hinchinbrook Channel, and is distant some sixty miles from Townsville. As a sugar district it is as old as Mackay, for Messrs. Mackenzie Bros, at Bemerside, and Messrs. Neame Bros, at Macnade, long ago demonstrated that sugar-cane would grow well there. Afterwards the district attracted the attention of capitalists anxious to invest in the sugar industry, and some large estates were formed, and a vast amount of money was spent during the sugar mania of the early eighties. Disaster attended some of these enterprises, and the properties upon which so much had been spent unprofitably are now in a transition state of ownership. It is not my intention, therefore, to write much about the sugar industry of this Herbert River. To me the good soil of the district appears to be strictly confined to a narrow fringe bordering the banks of the lower river. Higher up and further from the stream there is a large area of good pastoral land, of which the thriving town of Ingham may be classed as the central eye. Ultimately I am convinced that there will be much dairying carried on thereabouts, and I heard of cream separators being even now at work upon two of the selections. The time allotted for my journey North having expired, I was forced to forego visiting this extensive district until my next trip, during which I hope to visit all the tablelands of these coastal districts, for there are great agricultural possibilities attached to them. There are now only two sugar-mills at work upon the banks of the Herbert, those at Ripple Creek and Macnade. I journeyed by boat from

Dungeness up to Ripple Creek, which runs into the Herbert at about fourteen miles from the sea, and I received a most hospitable and cordial welcome from Mr. Boyd, the managing partner of the firm, which is that of Messrs. Woods Bros, and Boyd. The day of my arrival proved to be the finishing one of the crushing season, during which, notwithstanding its early termination, over 900 tons of sugar has been produced. The mill machinery is of modern design, and capable of turning out 1000 tons during a season of twenty weeks of daytime work, or 2000 tons if night shifts were required. This I find to be now the average capacity of the Northern mills. It is fitted with double crushing rollers, triple effêts, &c, &c. and the system of burning the green megass is adopted. Tramways, too, are laid down in all directions, but the hauling power is that of horses and not steam. The fields are all level, and the mill is centrally situated as regards the original estate, though recent purchases of adjacent river frontages will tend to diminish somewhat the great advantages resulting from a perfectly centrally situated mill. The river frontages of the Herbert were originally scrub-covered, but this scrub fringe does not extend upon an average more than half a mile from the river. The soil is as good as any of these Northern scrub soils, and is excellent for sugar-cane, but at places it appears to be low and swampy. The deep drains that are cut tend to remedy this drawback. The young cane and the young ratoon-growth were looking healthy. The season, though dry, yet has not been one of drought, occasional rains having fallen during the winter; nevertheless the whiter and spring growth of cane had been checked just as was the case on the Johnstone and in the Cairns districts. Cultivation at Ripple Creek is by no means confined to the hoe and mattock, for the agricultural operations are under the superintendence of Mr. Archie Boyd, who is a great advocate for thorough work, so ploughs of various shapes and makes (sulky and swing), cultivators, disc harrows, &c., are to be seen in the implement yard. It is Mr. Boyd's intention to plant the cane 6ft. by 6ft. and to cultivate across the rows as well as lengthways. Replanting is being prosecuted with vigour, though by far the larger portion of the cultivation land is under ratoons planted some years ago when the scrub was cut down. Mr. Boyd is not a sugar grower of yesterday, having been engaged in the industry on the Clarence River, New South Wales. Upon migrating to the Herbert he brought with him a dozen of his picked men who had been with him for periods extending back to five years. He mentioned to me that it was a remarkable fact that before nine months had elapsed only two of these old hands remained with him. One by one they had requested to be relieved from their agreements on the plea that the work was so much more fatiguing and enervating than when undertaken under the more congenial climate of New South Wales. He is therefore a strong advocate for kanaka labour, and declares that he would cease all operations immediately if the supply of coloured labour was stopped. I have met with several of these one-time New South Wales sugar planters, or their managers, during my travels among the Queensland plantations, and they, one and all, are the very strongest sticklers for coloured labour, so great do they see the advantage to be of working with it. The question simply comes to this, that Queensland is not sufficiently populated with agricultural European labour to allow of even one-tenth the men required for the sugar industry being obtained when wanted ; nor will this population be available for many years to come. Then why, for the sake of class prejudices, destroy a gigantic industry which is drawing more wealth from the soil than all other agricultural operations put together ? This is a question which everyone who thinks about the matter must answer by declaring that the kanaka is a potent source of wealth, and that for some years to come he is a necessity to the colony's progress.

JAB Diary

5 Jan 1888 No letter from Mike. Heard from Tiny

7 Jan 1888 Wrote a long letter to Mike

10 Jan 1888 – telegram from RMB re store and saying he had ordered tramline

11 Jan 1888 – telegram from RMB re price of sugar in Townsville

RMB's Will

Signed an Indenture of Marriage Settlement [pre-marital agreement] **11 Jan 1888**

JAB Diary

12 Jan 1888 Heard from Mike

14 Jan 1888 Wrote to Mike

21 Jan 1888 Sent a long letter (8 sides big paper) to Mike

SMH 21 Jan 1888

BOYD-BRADLEY.- January 12, at St. Phillip's Church, Sydney, by the Rev. W. A. Charlton, **Robert Mitchell Boyd**, of the Herbert River, Queensland, second son of **Dr. Sprott Boyd**, to **Emily**, daughter of Henry Burton Bradley, of Sydney.

Australian Marriage Index 1788-1950 (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Emily B Bradley
Spouse Name:	Richard Boyd [<i>should be Robert Mitchell Boyd</i>]
Marriage Date:	1888 [12 Jan]
Marriage Place:	New South Wales
Registration Place:	Sydney, New South Wales
Registration Year:	1888
Registration number:	48

JAB Diary

23 Jan 1888 – telegram from RMB to send H. sugar to Davis and Rees

25 Jan 1888 – telegram from RMB re Burwood dividend and replied re punt

26 Jan 1888 Got letter from Mike

28 Jan 1888 – telegram from RMB re new bottom for punt

4 Feb 1888 - Wrote to Mike

7 Feb 1888 – Heard **from RMB in Melbourne**, nothing special in his letter

10 Feb 1888 - Wrote to Mike Sydney

11 Feb 1888 - Wrote to Mike Brisbane

13 Feb 1888 - **Heard from Mike re horses**

16 Feb 1888 No letter from Mike

17 Feb 1888 - had a wire from mike saying he would leave Brisbane on 18th

18 Feb 1888 – RMB leaving Brisbane

22 Feb 1888 – Prepared to go to Dungeness (to meet Mike tomorrow) in mail boat but got urgent telegram from Bowen saying he was not coming on

23 Feb 1888 No letter from Mike

25 Feb 1888 Got telegram from Mike re his return on Tuesday next

Queenslander 25 Feb 1888

DEPARTURES February 18—WARREGO, A.U.S.N. Company's s., 1530 tons, Captain T. A. Lake, for Cooktown, via intermediate ports. Passengers: **Mesdames Boyd**, **Messrs. Boyd**, [*RMB and Tiny*]

JAB Diary

28 Feb 1888 Starting down to Dungeness tonight to meet Mike

29 Feb 1888 – Reached Dungeness wet through about 5am, reached home with RMB and Tiny about 10am

1 Mar 1888 Mike and Tiny settling in

7 Mar 1888 – RMB went to 'town'

13 Mar 1888 At Dungeness, Sent a note to Mike re maize and cargo

16 Mar 1888 Wrote and telegraphed Mike

21 Apr 1888 – RMB went to Ingham and bought some of Traill's horses

**Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW : 1876 - 1954) ,
Thursday 10 May 1888, page 3**

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS IN NEWCASTLE. A new suite of offices has also been completed in Bolton street, opposite the Newcastle Permanent Building Society's office, and here Mr. Joseph Wood, J.P., Messrs. Wood Brothers and Boyd, and Messrs. Lochhead and Co. will take up their business positions. The premises are unpretentious, but are a decided improvement to the neighbourhood.

JAB Diary

12 May 1888 – Election at Ingham. RMB drove Wiseman and JAB to town and five of the men also went up.

13 May 1888 – RMB and JAB crossed river and saw lots of brown ducks (first for years) and a few black. Shot 11

15 May 1888 – RMB went to Macknade

16 May 1888 – RMB went to town with F. Neame about signing papers for 'Archimedes', kanaka schooner

22 May 1888 – RMB badly kicked by 'Baby'

23 May 1888 – RMB went to Ingham to see doctor

25 May 1888 – RMB and Tiny went downriver to call on Walters and Carrs

30 May 1888 – MacDougal and RMB went to Ingham, RMB to see doctor re kick.

31 May 1888 – RMB in house with bad chest, effect of kick.

3 Jun 1888 – RMB sick with gripe

4 Jun 1888 – RMB better today

SMH 5 Jun 1888

SHIPPING REPORTS, etc

The following: passengers are Booked by the Orient Company's R.M.S. Orizaba, Captain G. N. Conlan, to leave at 1 p.m. to-day, for London, via ports. From Sydney -For London-..... Mr. and Mrs. R. Boyd and child, [**CAN'T BE OUR BOYDS**]

JAB Diary

6 Jun 1888 – RMB went to Ingham

7 Jun 1888 – RMB and Tiny went to Macknade

SMH 8, 13 Jun 1888

WANTED to Charter handy VESSEL about 120 tons capacity, for Dungeness; prospect return cargo. Apply **WOOD BROS. and BOYD**, Newcastle.

JAB Diary

13 Jun 1888 – RMB and Tiny went to town

19 Jun 1888 – RMB in town re Forster's summons o/a Yoko's case

27 Jun 1888 – RMB up to town twice

Queenslander 30 Jun 1888

Official Notifications. (From Saturday's Gazette.)

APPOINTMENTS.— **R.M. Boyd** and J.T. Abbott to be trustees of the reserve for racecourse, in the parish of Trebonne, in the room of **W. P. Canny, resigned, and E. Cowley, left the district** ;

JAB Diary

30 Jun 1888 – RMB went to Dungeness

3 Jul 1888 – RMB went to town

5 Jul 1888 – RMB went to town

7 Jul 1888 Mike and Tiny went to Macknade for lunch and returned after dark

Cairns Post 7 Jul 1888

Last Saturday, at Dungeness, a deputation waited on the Hon. J. M. Macrossan to get an expression of opinion from him as to the probability of the Government constructing a bridge over the Herbert River, and a railway from Ingham to Dungeness. The honourable gentleman informed the deputation that he must consider it informal, but would be glad to hear what they had to say. **Mr. Boyd** then explained the disabilities the settlers laboured under in not being able to cross the river. Mr. Macrossan said he was under the impression that a low-level bridge could be constructed for £2000, and if the matter was put in writing and forwarded to him, he would bring it before the Government, and it would receive fair consideration. Mr. White then asked the Minister if he could hold out any hope of the Government constructing a railway from Ingham to Dungeness, explaining the difficulties of transit owing to the unnavigable state of the river. Mr. Macrossan said that there was not the slightest probability of the Government constructing the line, as the whole of the present loan vote was appropriated. In fact, works already projected would considerably exceed the appropriations. He recommended the deputation to bring the matter before their Divisional Board with a view to that body constructing a tramway, which might be done by a loan from the Government; but he wished the deputation to distinctly understand that he made no promises, as he was not in the habit of promising anything he could not carry out. At the same time, if the matter was put in writing and forwarded to the proper quarter, it should receive fair consideration at the hands of the Government.

JAB Diary

9 Jul 1888 – RMB went to town

10 Jul 1888 – Schooner 'Zephyr' in, owner came up and he and RMB went to Dungeness

12 Jul 1888 – RMB returned came home 11:40 yesterday night

15 Jul 1888 – RMB tried two horses in the new buggy

16 Jul 1888 – RMB went to town after dinner

19 Jul 1888 – RMB and Tiny in town at Pennefathers. **Tennis party and kanaka hospital meeting.**

23 Jul 1888 – RMB went to town to get **summons for drunken Kanakas** on Saturday last.

24 Jul 1888 – RMB prosecuted Bob and Altagua and got them a month each.

26 Jul 1888 - **Heard from Father. Mother far from well. No chance of Fanny coming out here next year.**

27 Jul 1888 – RMB and Tiny went to Macknade this afternoon.

31 Jul 1888 – RMB in town prosecuting kanakas for Saturday week's drunks.

1 Aug 1888 – RMB at Divisional Board all day.

Queenslander 4, 11, 18 Aug 1888

TO SHIPOWNERS. Kanaka Labour. TENDERS are invited for the SUPPLY of 300 KANAKA LABOURERS, To be recruited during the next Ten Months for Herbert River plantations. WOOD BROS. & BOYD, Ripple Creek, Herbert River. 27th July, 1888.

JAB Diary

8 Aug 1888 - Heard that Mother had had a paralytic stroke

13 Aug 1888 – RMB and Tiny went to town

16 Aug 1888 – Ferguson the carpenter died this morning. RMB went to town about his burial.

Queenslander 18 Aug 1888

Herbert River Show.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.) INGHAM, August 2.

The Herbert River Pastoral and Agricultural Association held their show on 29th and 31st July, in their new show grounds. These grounds are well laid out. and great praise is due to the secretary, Mr. Lynn, for the way in which he has carried out the instructions of the committee. The weather was beautifully fine, and all Ingham and many friends from a distance turned out to see the exhibit*. The pastoral part of the exhibition was held at the show grounds, and the agricultural portion in the evening of the 29th at the Divisional Board Hall. The display in the Divisional Board Hall was splendid, and no one can doubt, after seeing the assortment of canes, fruits, vegetables, maize, and butter shown in the hall, that this is destined to be one of the largest agricultural districts in the North, if not in Queensland. The canes shown were remarkable, both for their size and thickness. Wood Bros, and Boyd won the prize for the best six canes and for new canes, while Messrs. Neame and Co. took the prize for best varieties. In sugars Messrs. Neame and Co. took the prize for the best whites and ration, and Messrs. Wood Bros, and Boyd for the best yellow. Other prize-winners were: —

JAB Diary

27 Aug 1888 – RMB and Tiny went to town after lunch

28 Aug 1888 – RMB went to town this morning

1 Sep 1888 - Tiny ill

5 Sep 1888 – Heard from Fanny with poor account of Mother. RMB and Tiny at town

10 Sep 1888 – RMB at Macknade

11 Sep 1888 – Tiny went to Macknade

13 Sep 1888 – RMB went to town this afternoon

15 Sep 1888 – RMB, Tiny and Piggy [AHB] went to Townsville

18 Sep 1888 – Telegram from RMB re sugar

19 Sep 1888 – RMB, Tiny and Sprott [?]/came home today

20 Sep 1888 – RMB went to Ingham

30 Sep 1888 – Out wallaby hunting with Blacks and RMB. I got 4, RMB 1.

1 Oct 1888 – RMB and Tiny went to town.

8 Oct 1888 – RMB up at town

9 Oct 1888 – RMB and Tiny at Macknade most of the day.
17 Oct 1888 – RMB at town re Malay warrants
18 Oct 1888 - Gaggin and RMB went to town re robbery and engaging kanakas
20 Oct 1888 – RMB went to town
22 Oct 1888 – RMB prosecuted Sallu Java and Abdul L and got them a month each.
25 Oct 1888 – RMB went to Macknade this afternoon
30 Oct 1888 – RMB and Tiny and the kids went to town this afternoon
4 Nov 1888 – RMB today got a most remarkable snake.
5 Nov 1888 - Snake caught yesterday is I fear a common sea snake that has come up with the high tides.
7 Nov 1888 – RMB attended Road Board.
17 Nov 1888 - Out with the children this morning and shot 5 ducks
18 Nov 1888 - Gaggin and Mike went to town about robbery at the store and engaging kanakas
24 Nov 1888 – RMB and Tiny went to town.
29 Nov 1888 – A. Neame, D. Waller, Lynn and Ball here at lunch and after, RMB went to Macknade.
5 Dec 1888 – RMB up at town re bridge across river.
15 Dec 1888 – RMB went to Townsville.
19 Dec 1888 – RMB returned from Townsville very seedy with diarrhoea

Brisbane Courier 21 Dec 1888

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

John A. Macarthur, W. Stanley Warren, and A. S. Cowley to be members of the Committee of Management of the Pacific Islanders' Hospital at Ingham on behalf of the Government, and R. M. Boyd, C. E. Foster, and F. Neame nominated members by the employers of labourers in the district.

SMH 21 Dec 1888

ARRIVALS DEC 20. Adelaide (s.), 1870 tons, Captain T. W. Lockyer, from Adelaide 15th instant, via Melbourne 18th instant. ' Passengers-..... Mr. and Mrs. Boyd and child, [NOT OUR BOYDS]

JAB Diary

1 Jan 1889 Mike went to town
2 Jan 1889 Mike in town at Road Board and paid off 22 kanakas
3 Jan 1889 Mike, Tiny and chicks went to town
8 Jan 1889 Mike went to town and got Comban fined £1 for disobedience

Brisbane Courier 19 Jan 1889

EXHIBITION AWARDS.

The following awards have been made in connection with the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition, and notified to Mr. J H Bichard, secretary to the Queensland Commissioners - John Gaylard, Bundaberg, three first, four second, orders of merit for sugars. R Cran and Co , Maryborough and Bundaberg, first order of merit for sugars. F W Bolton, Mackay, first Older of merit for loaf and refined sugars.

Melbourne-Mackay Company first order of merit for sugars. F and A Neame, Herbert River, first order of merit for sugar. **Wood Bros and Boyd**, two second orders of merit for sugars.

Brisbane Courier 21 Jan 1889

VICTORIA. CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION NOTES.'

In Sugar the awards are posted as follow : -For whites : J. Gaylard, Bundaberg, first ; R. Cran and Co., Maryborough, first ; P. W. Boulton, Mackay, first. For white counters : Melbourne Mackay Sugar Company, Mackay, first; T. M'Bride, Mackay, first; **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, Ingham, second ; H. Macready, Mackay, second. For greys: F. and A. Neame, Herbert River, first ; Swallow and Borham, Cairns, first ; J. Gaylard, Bundaberg, second ; L. Smith, Marburg, second ; J. M'Bride, Mackay, second; A. Gibson, Bundaberg, third. For yellows : J. Gay- lard, Bundaberg, first ; Swallow and Derham, Cairns, first ; Bagot Bros., Mackay, second; **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, Ingham, second. For browns : J. Gaylard, Bundaberg, first.

ROYAL COMMISSION APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE GENERAL CONDITION OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN QUEENSLAND, AND TO REPORT UPON THE CAUSES WHICH HAVE LED TO THE PRESENT LANGUISHING CONDITION OF THE INDUSTRY THROUGHOUT THE COLONY, THE BEST MEANS TO BE ADOPTED FOR REVIVING AND MAINTAINING ITS PROSPERITY, AND, GENERALLY, UPON THE PROSPECTS OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE IN QUEENSLAND

SUGAR COMMISSION REPORT

TUESDAY, 29 JANUARY, 1889.

Herbert River District. — At Ripple Cheek.
Present:

W. H. Groom, Esquire, M.L.A. J H. E. King, Esquire.
A. S. Cowley, Esquire, M.L.A.
W. H. Groom, Esquire, M.L.A., in the Chair.

The Commissioners inspected Macnade Plantation and the mill.
The Commissioners proceeded to Ripple Creek, where the evidence of the managing partner (Mr. R. M. Boyd) was taken, and the estate, mill, hospital, and quarters inspected.

WILLIAM H. GROOM, Chairman.
Will. Robertson, Secretary.

TUESDAY, 29 JANUARY, 1889.

HERBERT RIYER DISTRICT.

(At Ripple Creek.)

Present:

W. H. GROOM, Esq., M.L.A. ; A. S. COWLEY, Esq., M.L.A.
H. E. KING, Esq.

W. H. GROOM, Esq., M.L.A., in the Chair.

Robert Mitchell. Boyd examined:

3912. By the Chairman : Are you a partner in the Ripple Creek plantation ? I am.

3913. What experience have you had in the cultivation of sugar ? Twenty years' experience — since

3914. Have you grown any other tropical produce? No ; not with a view of finding a market.

3915. What is the name of this estate? Ripple Creek.

3916. What is the total area of it ? 1,650 acres.

3917. How much of it is under cultivation ? 800 acres.

3918. Under sugar cane ? Under sugar cane, 720 acres.

3919. How many acres of cane were crushed last season ? 620.

3920. And how much sugar was made ? 1,025 tons.

3921. How much molasses ? 38,000 gallons.

3922. What do you do with it ? Throw it away.

3923. What amount of capital is invested in this estate? £85,000.

3924. What rate of interest does the estate return on that amount of capital ? Nothing.

3925. What is the annual working expenditure ? The expenditure for three years was £60,095 from June, 1885, to September, 1888.

3926. By Mr. King : An annual expenditure of £20,030 ? Yes.

3927. By the Chairman: That amount represents the capital expended on the estate in working expenses ? That is what I have actually expended since 1885.

3928. What have been the receipts during that period ? £49,464, showing a total loss of £10,631 in three years.

3929. Then during those three years there was no interest whatever, you say, on the capital invested ? Not a penny either on capital, wear and tear, or anything else.

3930. What labour is employed in this mill, specifying the number of Europeans, kanakas, Chinese, and Javanese? 50 Europeans, 71 Chinese, 36 Malays, 6 overtime kanakas, 116 kanakas under agreement; total, 229 coloured labourers.

3931. What wages are paid to each class of labour ? Average wages of white men with rations, valued at 6s., £2 4s. 4d. a week ; Chinese, £1 1s. 9d. per week ; Malays, 15s 10d. per week ; overtime kanakas, 14s. ; and agreement boys, 17s. 2 d. That is the amount paid to the kanakas under agreement, including proportion of cost of introduction, return passage, and all other expenses under the Act.

3932. What description of labour is found most suitable for field work ? The kanaka is as good as anybody as far as I have learned here.

3933. Have you ever employed European labour for field work ? Not for hoe work.

3934. Have you ever employed European labour to do what the kanakas are doing ? Not in Queensland.

3935. Are you of opinion from your experience that the European can do work that the kanaka does now? He certainly can not— not for twelve months. They can do it for a few weeks, but to follow it up as a living they cannot.

3936. Is much of your land under cultivation by plough ? About 400 acres, and all will be directly,

3937. When your land is perfectly free from stumps would not Europeans working horses and machinery be able to do a great deal of the work now done by black labour ? Not more than we are doing at present.

3938. By Mr. Cowley : You mean that the proportion will not be altered ? The proportion will not be altered. White men can do the horse work and machinery work but not anything else.

3939. By Mr. King .- When the ground is fully under cultivation, you will be able to do much work that you now do with the hoe, with horses ? But I shall have more hoe work to do.

3940. By the Chairman ; How many acres of cane do you cultivate for each coloured labourer employed ? About three acres at present.

3941. Do the blacks employed in the field work suffer in health ? I think they suffer more from laziness than anything else.

3942. By Mr. King : You do not find it affects their health to work in the field ? I do not think so. As a rule the climate suits them very well. What makes them "suffer in health is bad

Government regulations, too much clothes, and the wrong sort of food. There is no doubt about that. We are bound to give them so much meat to eat whether they are used to it or not.

3943. Are the Europeans affected by the plantation work? I do not think so, so far as working in the open is concerned. They stand the class of work that they do.

3944. By Mr. King : At present the district is a fairly healthy one for Europeans? Fairly healthy, at the work in which they are engaged.

3945. By the Chairman : Were these Malays indented by yourself, or did you hire them in the colony ? Some were indented by myself, and some I picked up.

3946. What is your experience of them ? If you can get the right class of Malay— the real Malay coolie — he would do very well for the country, but if they are got from Singapore or Batavia they are simply no good. They are simply a trouble and a nuisance, and are no good, unless they are brought in under proper regulations.

3947. You are aware that, according to the existing statute, the importation of Polynesians ceases at the end of 1890 ? Yes, I believe it does.

3948. What effect will that have upon the operations of this plantation ? If we cannot get coloured labour the plantation must just shut up. If we cannot get suitable labour, that is to say, labour suited to the climate, we must close.

3949. What is the cost of the machinery in your mill ? £30,107.

3950. Where was it manufactured ? Glasgow.

3951. Do you make an annual overhaul for repairs ? Yes.

3952. Can you give us the average cost of that ? In 1886, £1,557 ; in 1887, £1,534.

3953. That is for putting the machinery in order for crushing ? Yes.

3954. That is the whole cost of putting the mill in order ? Yes.

3955. By Mr. King Has your cane suffered from any diseases or vermin ? We lost about 10 per cent, last year from grub, and we lost one season, I should say, about 10 or 12 per cent, from rust.

3956. You have had no sign of rust lately ? Not the last three years. I ploughed one planting out and we never planted it again.

3957. What variety was it that rusted? Ribbon cane.

3953. By Mr. Cowley : Big or small ribbon ? Big ribbon.

3959. By Mr. King : What are the average wages paid to white labour outside of sugar planting in this district ? Handy men get 11s. a day and find themselves.

3960. What does the Divisional Board give ? From 6s. to 7s. There is a man working on this side who gets 7s. a day and finds himself. Maintenance men get from 6s. to 8s.

3961. "What is the cost per acre of felling and burning scrub ? Taking one season with another, I should say £10 an acre. A great deal depends upon the season.

3162. What would be the cost of stumping it and making it fit for the plough? £20 to £40. I never saw scrub land stumped straight out.

3963. What is the cost of preparing forest land for planting ? Our land cost on an average over £25 an acre; that is, to make it ready for planting.

3961. Is the forest land here suitable for agriculture ? Yes.

3965. Do you consider it equal to the scrub ? No.

3966. Does the forest land soon become exhausted ? Not heavily timbered land. It stands pretty well, but I have only had six years' experience.

3967. Has any of your land shown signs of being exhausted ? Yes; the whole of it. It all deteriorates after one crop.

3968. By Mr. Cowley : You mean one planting? Yes ; in five years.

3969. By Mr. King- Do you manure? I commenced this year, and can give no results.

3970. What manure do you use? The same as the Colonial Sugar Company. We sent for three different varieties, and I have one coming from England. I am experimentalising this year.

3971. You are trying several kinds of chemical manures ? I am trying three sorts, and getting another from England.

3972 You said just now that the working expenses for the last three years have averaged £20,000 a year. Has that been spent in the district — the whole or the greater part of it? I

believe every penny of it ; with the exception of a few thousand pounds for goods imported from Sydney, the whole has, been paid out through the plantation cheque book.

3973. Have you had any experience in distilling? Yes.

3971. Would it not pay to turn your molasses into rum ? No.

3972. Why not ? The cost of freight, casks, cooperage, carriage, and excise would prevent it ; besides which it would be impossible to work under the hours and rules of the Excise Department in an outside country like this. It simply could not be done.

3976. Could you not dispose of your molasses to some of the "Brisbane distillers? No ; they will not take it away as a gift, and pay the cost. Even if 6d. a gallon could be got for it in Brisbane, the whole of that amount, if not more, would be entirely swallowed up in freights, packages, and charges.

3977. By Mr. Cowley Have you had experience of growing sugar in New South Wales ? Yes; ten years' experience.

3978. On what rivers were you ? Port Macquarie, the Macleay, and Clarence Rivers.

3979. Did you ever grow cane for a factory ? Yes.

39S#. What labour did you use ? White labour.

3981. Did you make it a success — was it profitable ? **I lost every sixpence I had in the world, and took a billet with £15 in my pocket after the experiment**

3952. How does the yield per acre down there compare with the yield per acre in Queensland? I have known it on the Clarence average 42 tons an acre for a two-year old crop. That was an exceptional crop.

3983. What area would that comprise ? Over 1,300 acres.

3981. What price per ton was paid for the cane? 10s. on the field.

3985. To the grower? To the grower.

3980. What labour was used in growing the cane ? Mostly white labour

3987. Can you tell us the wages paid, including rations ? They varied from 12s. to 18s. a week with rations. The labourer lived as one of the family.

3988. You employ fifty Europeans on this plantation directly ; how many do you employ indirectly ? I should say that £19,000 out of £20,000 a year goes to the white population.

3989. The bulk of the money spent here goes in some form or other to the white inhabitants ? Yes; not 5 per cent, gets away from them.

3990. Have you ever had cane cut by white labour— contract or otherwise ? No.

3991. Do your white ploughmen stay long with you, as a rule ? No ; the ploughmen do not, as a rule.

3992. Do you readily find those men in the district, or have you to import them from outside? In nine cases out of ten we get them from Townsville.

3993. Do you pay their passages up here ? Yes.

3994. And by continually losing the men you add to the cost of working the plantation? Yes ; it means nearly £1 apiece to every man every three months.

3995. You have £85,000 of capital sunk in this estate. — I wish to know whether that is actually cash sunk, or includes interest from the date of operations ? It is accumulated interest for four years on an overdraft of £50,000. This overdraft has gone from nothing to £50,000.

3996. The interest has been added annually ? Yes; interest is being charged at the rate of 3 per cent.

3997. What cane do you grow here for your crop ? Big yellow, lillian green, rappoc, meeru, and Creole.

3998. Which do you find the best variety ? I like the big yellow, but I am told it is liable to disease.

3999. Is creole the cane that was distributed by the Government some years ago ? Yes.

4000. How has that done with you ? I do not think it is worth planting ; it is too light a crop.

4001 . Then it does not, return the same yield as you were led to believe ? No.

4002. Have you any of the lakinu cane distributed by the Government? I do not think so.

4003. You suffered from grubs last year.— Did you try to remedy that in any way ? I ploughed the cane out of the fields.

4004. Has that destroyed the grub ? We cannot tell till next year. The grubs turn to beetles, and there are millions of beetles. If they come back to deposit their eggs, and those eggs come to maturity, there will not be a stick of cane next year.

4005. You are not in a position to say whether cultivation is beneficial ? No. I believe the birds have destroyed millions of grubs — the kite and magpie lark.

4006. Have you taken any steps to change your plants by introducing from other districts ? I have a few varieties sent from the Clarence.

4007. The bulk of your plants are of your own growing ? I exchange with my neighbours.

4008. Do you get better crops by a change of plants ? I do not know that I do. It depends upon the season. I have no doubt it is beneficial.

4009. Are you purchasing cane from anyone ? I am purchasing all the cane I can buy. I am under agreement for fifty acres at present.

4010. Who grows the fifty acres? Chinamen.

4011. Do you get all you want, or can you take more ? I could take more.

4012. Have you made any efforts to lease your land to white men? **Yes; I have advertised the property three times. ...**

4013. And how many white men have you obtained ? None. I have only had two inquiries out of three advertisements.

4014. What was the character of the land that you offered to white growers ? **I offered to lease the whole property in farms.**

4015. Cleared land? Yes; cleared land under cane.

4016. What was the annual rent you asked ? **£1 an acre for the cleared land.**

4017. By cleared land do you mean land actually under plough ? Under cane itself. Cane growing on the land.

4018. Did it include the crop ? The crops wanted renewing. I took 1,170 tons of cane off the crop that I offered to give in with the lease.

4019. You have been unsuccessful in obtaining any white growers ? We could not get a man to come on at all.

4020. What price did you offer for the cane ? When we first advertised to lease farms we offered 11s. a ton.

4021. In the field or cut ? Standing.

4022. That is the same price as given in New South Wales ? Yes.

4023. And since then ? Since the fall in price of sugar we have offered 8s.

4024 Have you double crushing in your mill ? Yes,

4025. And do you macerate the cane ? Yes.

4026. Is your machinery of the best description known for the manipulation of sugarcane? I do not know of a single improvement that could be made. Not one. I followed the Colonial Sugar Company. Our machinery is a duplicate of theirs on a smaller scale.

4027. You are an old manager of theirs ? I was in their employ for ten years, and managing four years.

4028. Do you strive to avoid all waste in your mill? Yes.

4029. Can you tell us how many tons of cane it took to make a ton of sugar in your factory last year ? Ten tons making white sugar. I have never done it before under 12 tons. Two seasons it has taken 12 tons, two seasons it has taken us 14 tons, and this season it has taken 10 tons.

4030. What system are you adopting for the manufacture of your sugar? When I am making white sugar I use DespeSSI's process.

4031. Are your South Sea Islanders easily managed ? They are no trouble, so long as they are allowed to do what they like.

4032. I mean, do you have any trouble with them? Yes.

4033. What does that arise from ? Being too much pampered by the inspector and grog.

4031. How do they obtain the grog ? They buy it. They can get as much as they like. They have no difficulty at all in getting it.

4035. Have you taken any steps to prevent this ? Yes ; we have complained to the inspector three or four times. We have complained to the police half a dozen times. We have informed the magistrate. We have informed and got convictions in two or three cases ourselves, but we have had very little assistance from the police, as they say that prosecutions should be undertaken by the Excise Department.

4036. Does this seriously affect the labour question ? I reckon it is a loss of 5 per cent, on my kanaka labour.

4037. Do your South Sea Islanders and white labourers ever quarrel ? No ; we have never had a serious row on the plantation.

4038. Do the white men object to the employment of kanakas ? No ; there is no objection.

4039. Are you full-handed at the present time ? No ; and never have been since I have been on the plantation.

4040. What steps do you take to obtain islanders ? We write to all the known owners of labour ships, and very often put advertisements in the papers asking for charters.

4041. Do your ships come with full complements, as a rule ? I have only had one ship with a full complement in six years.

4042. Can you give us any reason for that ? Simply, I believe, because they cannot get the kanakas.

4043. What is the cost of the passage money at the present time, including all charges ? To land them on the plantations they cost from £27 to £30. I have three charters out at £27.

4044. Does that include capitation? Yes ; that includes the £3 capitation and £24 to the shipper.

4015. Can you suggest any idea by which kanakas can be more easily obtained ? I suggest that the Government take the labour question in hand. There would be a great deal more satisfaction given. We never know now when we can get men. We make a charter before a ship is in port, and perhaps she never gets there. If she does and goes out again, perhaps she never comes back. In the meantime our hands are tied from making other charters.

4046. Would you suggest that the Government introduce islanders on a somewhat similar plan to the introduction of white immigrants ? I suggest that the Government introduce the labour and allot it to the planters according to application, and return it to the islands ; the planters, of course, paying the expenses.

4047. By Mr. King : What was the average crop of cane per acre last year ? 65 tons.

4048. What is the capacity of your mill? It can make 1,500 tons of sugar, working a single shift.

4049. How many tons of cane would you require per day ? 140 tons.

4050. Were you able to keep the mill working with that last season ? No. Twice during the season we had to stop to take our labour from the factory into the field to keep the weeds down. We wanted another fifty men on the plantation.

4051. Then your working is more expensive in consequence of not having sufficient labour to work the mill to its full capacity ? Yes; I am losing interest on the machinery, and the same management and supervision would do double the work.

4052. Do you employ a steam plough ? I had steam ploughing done last year by contract.

4053. To whom does the plough belong ? A man named Brims. He bought the steam plant, and takes contracts for ploughing.

4054. How many horse ploughs do you employ ? I am working at present nineteen teams.

4055. What number of horses do you employ ? Seventy-four, and two teams of bullocks.

4056. Are all your horse and bullock drivers whites ? Yes.

4057. What length of tramway have you got ? Six miles.

4058. Do you work it with horse power? Yes.

4059. By the Chairman .- How long have you been on the Herbert River ? I came here in 1882.

4060. Of course you are aware that the depression in the sugar industry commenced in the year 1883 ? Yes; 1883-4.

4061. Have you any personal knowledge of the loss sustained by planters in this district during the last three or four years in consequence of the depression ? Yes ; I have a personal knowledge of one estate losing over £100,000.

4062. What became of the plantation ? It was sold.

4063. Did it realise anything like its proper value ? **It was offered to me for £20,000.**

4064. Were there more than one plantation in the same position? Yes ; another — Hamleigh.

4065. What was the loss sustained on that one? I believe £100,000. Of course I cannot state the exact amount.

4066. Was it sold? I believe so.

4067. What did it realise ? £12,500.

4068. Then throughout the district there has been a general depression for some years past? I believe one firm has lost £300,000 on the Herbert River since 1882.

4069. What tropical productions other than sugar can be grown in this district ? Tobacco, coffee, dahl, cocoa, vanilla, cotton. All these I have grown in my own garden, and seen them growing. No doubt all spices will grow, and anything that will grow in other tropical countries.

4070. What labour would be required to render the growth of these articles profitable ? The same labour that is used in other countries where they are grown at a profit at present.

4071. You do not think that Europeans can grow these articles at a profit without having some other labour than their own ? They certainly cannot. It is simply impossible.

4072. Have you grown any of these tropical productions on the Herbert River ? I have grown all I mentioned, but not for a market.

4073. Have you tried coffee as an experiment ? Yes.

4074. And the result of your experiment has been to satisfy you that the district is well suited to grow all the articles that you have enumerated? Yes; and very likely a great many more.

4075. Can you state the causes which, in your opinion, have led to the depression in the sugar industry ? **Increased cost of labour, and fall in value of sugar.**

4076. Can you offer any suggestions by which the industry can be relieved of the depression ? The only thing I can suggest is to put us on the same footing as other people. The cause of depression is a fall in the market all over the world of about £10 a ton, and the production in Queensland exceeding the consumption, thereby losing the benefit of the import duty to the planters, a further sum of £5 a ton has been lost to them, We are unable to compete with the growers in New South Wales as they still have the benefit of £5 duty, their production being less than their consumption. The cost of sending our produce into the market by steamer is 10s. per ton in excess of what is paid by to New South Wales planters. The European labour in New South Wales costs less to the farmer than the Chinese labour here, which labour we are bound to employ, not being able to obtain any other. A great deal of the cane grown in New South Wales is cultivated by women and children. Here we have to keep men employed at unprofitable work for the sake of having them at hand when absolutely required, whilst in New South Wales a man is only employed so long as there is profitable work for him to do. The sugar industry in other parts of the world is barely paying expenses. The planters in Queensland, to compete and pay expenses must be placed on the same footing in regard to the cost of manufacture, which would mean a saving of nearly £8,000 a year to this estate if the same labour was employed as is used in Mauritius and the West Indies. If kanakas are allowed to be employed at their present cost I do not see that planters would be in a position to compete with other countries that employ cheaper labour unless the planters are assisted by a bonus or protection. I would suggest that on account of the unsatisfactory working of the Polynesian Act and the alleged abuses, also on account of the increased cost since 1882, the Government should take the labour question entirely into their own hands, and introduce suitable labour. I would further suggest that persons engaged in the cultivation of tropical produce, to compete against others who employ cheap labour, should be registered and allowed to employ cheap labour in proportion to the area under cultivation, and the other half of the labour might be done by Europeans and machinery. It costs in Queensland £70,000 to form an estate, and erect machinery and working plant capable of producing 1,000 tons of sugar per annum. To that must be added one year's working expenses — say £20,000 — and

on this expenditure capitalists should reasonably expect to receive, including wear and tear of machinery and depreciation, not less than 10 per cent. — say £9,000 a year. No doubt, in view of the present depression in trade, if they could get 5 per cent., or even 4 per cent., they might be induced to carry on with the prospect of better times coming. The United States Government have given manufacturers of cane sugar a bonus of 1 cent per lb., and a reciprocity treaty with New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia would give us protection nearly equal to the same amount of bonus given by the United States. By allowing the use of reliable labour, and endeavouring to secure a reciprocity treaty, such as I mention, the planters might be able to compete on a fair footing with other tropical countries. If the sugar industry in Queensland can be made a profitable undertaking, the production might be increased until the export amounted to 100,000 tons. It is estimated that the Johnstone River could nearly export that amount. That would mean an expenditure of capital of £7,000,000, and a floating capital of £2,000,000 sterling. I may add that I require 250 kanakas to work this plantation, independent of the white labour, which would be increased, supposing I could obtain that number. In 1882-3 these kanakas would have cost me 11s. 10d. per week, or £7,691 13s. 4d. for the year. At the present time the 250 kanakas would cost me 15s. 6d. per week, or £9,777 1s. 8d. per annum. The present cost of all coloured labour to the owners of the plantation at present is 17s. 2d. per head per week. The increased expense of labour, through being unable to obtain a proper complement of kanakas, even at present rates, makes a loss on a ton of sugar of £1 8s. 2d. and the increased expense of labour, through extra Government expenses and the increased wages and passage money of kanakas since 1882-3, makes a difference on a ton of sugar of £2 1s. 11d. If labour could be obtained as it is in some of the other sugar-growing countries, including even countries where beet-root sugar is made, it would make a difference to the planter on a ton of sugar of £5 6s. 8d.

4077. By Mr. Cowley : You say that the country is adapted for the growth of tobacco. Did anyone ever attempt to grow it? Yes ; a neighbour of mine grew it.

4078. Had he much under crop ? I believe twenty or thirty acres.

4079. Did he get good crops ? He told me that the tobacco grew splendidly.

4080. Was he an experienced tobacco grower? Yes.

4081. Do you know the cause of his failure ? Yes; he could not get labour.

4082 Has he abandoned the place ? Yes ; I believe he lost some £7,000 or £8,000.

4083. Have the islanders ever complained to you of any treatment which prevented them coming here in numbers ? No ; never.

4084. Owing to your partners being large consumers of sugar, have you not had large advantages over other growers? I reckon I have.

4085. Had it not been for those advantages would your debt not have been materially increased? Yes ; to the extent of nearly £1 a ton on the sugar manufactured. In fact, I have paid no commission on two-thirds of my produce since I have been here. My partners have sold it free of commission.

4086. You have only paid 3 per cent, on your portion of the overdraft? Yes; on my portion of the estate.

4087. Do you know of any crop that could be grown on this river to pay solely by white labour? No ; certainly not.

4088. Do you know whether South Sea Islanders, at the expiration of their agreement, ever take much money home ? I am sure they do not. They do not average £1 apiece.

4089. Do the Malays or Chinese take any away ? Yes ; they both do. They do not go home until they have saved money.

4090. Then in that respect you consider that the employment of South Sea Islanders is much more beneficial to the country ? Undoubtedly. They take nothing away, and besides they come back again I have forty-five overtime boys now. Out of 120 boys forty-five have been working in the colony for a period of three to ten years, and are drawing wages from £18 to £25 a year, all of which they spend in the country.

4091- By the Chairman ; Do you know whether the vine has been grown in this district? It will not grow to any perfection. I have an Isabella which has been struggling for five years,

and I have had four bunches in five years. I am not prepared to say that vines would not grow somewhere in the district.

4092. Do you know whether the nutmeg is growing here ? Yes ; it is growing wild.

4093. And if cultivated, it could be grown profitably ? The fruit will come to perfection here.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1.) We recommend that the Government should make inquiry in Java and Borneo about the qualities of the cane of which small quantities were imported by the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. and the Mourilyan Sugar Co., and if satisfied that it is as valuable as it is represented to be, should procure a shipment of plants sufficient to plant twenty or thirty acres of land in a nursery vv li icli, to avoid all danger of importing any disease, should be established on one of the islands on our Northern coast – say one of the Palm Islands or Fitzroy or Dunk Island.

(2.) We recommend that your Excellency's advisers should open negotiations with the colonies of Victoria and South Australia, for the purpose of ascertaining on what terms and conditions (if any) those colonies could admit Queensland sugars duty-free.

(3.) We recommend that assistance should be given either to public bodies or to individuals to enable them to provide means of irrigating all cultivated lands in localities where a sufficient supply of water can be obtained.

(4.) We declare it to be our opinion that if all coloured labour be withdrawn from the plantations the extinction of the sugar industry must speedily follow, and we therefore recommend that the introduction of Polynesian labour be permitted to continue, at all events for some years longer than the period now limited.

JAB Diary

30 Jan 1889 Mike drove the Commissioners up to Ingham. Do not think they will do much for the sugar industry

6 Feb 1889 Mike went to Road Board

12 Feb 1889 Mike went to town to summons 4 kanakas of Wilson's

14 Feb 1889 Mike at court prosecuting 4 kanakas, got them fined 15/- each. He leaves for Charters Towers tomorrow

15 Feb 1889 Mike went to Townsville on his way to Charters Towers

Queenslander 16 Feb 1889

INGHAM.

Before Commissioner Warren, on the 30th January.

OCCUPATION LICENSES. — Approved: R. M. Boyd, 10 square miles, Newton run;

JAB Diary

19 Feb 1889 Went to Macknade to see Neame re chartering labour vessels. Tiny came with me

20 Feb 1889 Got telegram from Mike

23 Feb 1889 Tiny got telegram from Mike

26 Feb 1889 Tiny got telegram from Mike

5 Mar 1889 Mike wired that he would be home tomorrow

6 Mar 1889 Mike returned about noon

7 Mar 1889 Mike to Macknade getting the 15 islanders from the "Archimedes" transferred.

Mike and JPF had a row

8 Mar 1889 Mike up at town

9 Mar 1889 Mike and Tiny went to Gairloch this afternoon

13 Mar 1889 Mike and Tiny went to town

19 Mar 1889 Mike went to town to have cases tried against Bridge and Campbell for trespass and also to engage boys

20 Mar 1889 Proctor came this morning. A man drowned at Gairloch. Police found him with our boat

21 Mar 1889 Dr T Macdonald at lunch. Mike went to Macknade

22 Mar 1889 Mike and Proctor went to town this afternoon

3 Apr 1889 Mike attended meeting of Divisional Board

4 Apr 1889 Mike attended hospital meeting at Ingham

9 Apr 1889 Mike lunched at Macknade

12 Apr 1889 Mike and Tiny and the kids went to town this afternoon

13 Apr 1889 Mike away all day with Minister of Railroads and at Ingham tonight

20 Apr 1889 Mike went to Townsville to meet Sprott

Queenslander 24 Apr 1889

DEPARTURES, Brisbane

April 23. - KATOOMBA, A.U.S.N. Company's s., 1006 tons, Captain G. King, for Burketown, Via Keppel Bay and intermediate ports. Passengers Messrs....., S. Boyd. [Sprott]

JAB Diary

23 Apr 1889 Tiny got a telegram from Mike saying Sprott was not coming till Friday

24 Apr 1889 Heard of Aunt Janet's death [Janet Boyd died 27 Feb 1889]

27 Apr 1889 Wrote to Mike enclosing some papers and sending prospectuses but the mail has not come yet (to do with ore specimens and sample gold sent to F Neame from 'Blink Bonnie' on 26 Apr)

28 Apr 1889 Posted letters to Mike by overland mail

29 Apr 1889 Went to Ingham with Tiny and got wet through

30 Apr 1889 Got a wire from Mike saying that Sprott was coming tomorrow

1 May 1889 Turned out at 5am and after giving orders for the day drove to Halifax to meet Sprott, who did not arrive

Morning Bulletin Rockhampton 2 May 1889

CONFERENCE OF SUGAR PLANTERS.

[BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.]

TOWNSVILLE, April 30.

Some months ago it was proposed to hold a Conference of sugar planters, to consider the present position of the Sugar Industry, but in consequence of the appointment of the Sugar Commission, it was resolved to deter the meeting for some time. Correspondence on the matter was re-opened a short time ago, and as a result, the Conference met in this town to-day. It was a most representative gathering, representatives being present from every sugar growing district in the colony. There were present from the Burdekin district :-Charles Young, Kalamia, who presided ; James M'Kenzie, Seaforth ; and John Drysdale, Pioneer. Herbert River district: F. Neame, Macnade; R C. Blackmore, Hamleigh ; and R. M. Boyd, Ripple Creek. Johnstone River district:-C. E. Foster, Goondi, representing the Colonial Sugar Company. Cairns district:- W. Langdon, Pyramid ; and O. Morrice Williams, Hambledon. Bundaberg district—Messrs. A. and J. M. Gibson, Bingera; Mr. E. Young, Fairymead; Mr. Farquhar. Mackay district—Mr. M'Creedy, Mr. M'Bride.

The Chairman supplies the following summary of the proceedings. After a full discussion it was resolved unanimously to form a Central Association to preserve and promote the interests of tropical agriculturists throughout the colony. It was also decided to appoint a Board of Advice, consisting of representatives from all districts where local associations were not in existence, and the chairmen of all bodies already existing. The following gentlemen were appointed' to the Board. Herbert River district, F. Neame, who was also elected president ; Johnstone River district, C. B. Foster ; Cairns district, O. I. Morrice Williams ; Burdekin district, Charles Young ; Bundaberg district, A. Gibson. Mr. J. E. Davidson, The Palms, Chairman of the Mackay Association, was elected the representative for that district.

The question of the early, discontinuance of kanaka labour was discussed and the opinion of those present was emphatically expressed, to the effect that, the employment of such labour was essentially necessary to the profitable carrying on of sugar growing, and other tropical agriculture in the north. Farther, that unless the supply of such labour was forthcoming as usual, the result would be the closing of the plantations. It was resolved to ask Parliament for an extension of the Polynesian Act, for a further term of five years, so that the planters might save a portion of the enormous sums invested in the industry, otherwise that money would be irretrievably lost. It was considered the concession might well be asked for, in view of the fact that the planters were induced to embark their fortunes in the industry, under the impression that the labour- which really was the true machinery of the planter- would be forthcoming to work the estates to advantage. It was the conviction of all present that if an adequate supply of suitable, reliable labour is obtainable, many of the estates could still be worked profitably. In support of this view it was shown that the seasons for the past few years had been unusually detrimental to the welfare of the industry, by reason of frosts, droughts, and very heavy floods. Further and extraordinary expense has been incurred during the last two or three years in clearing the land, and effecting extensive improvements. It was also thought that the present price of sugar would shortly be improved upon, if the objectionable bounty system was abolished ; and it was pointed out that much misapprehension existed in the public mind, as to the objections to kanaka labor. It was shown that the amount expended on such labor only represented 17 per cent of the total sum expended on plantation work, the remaining 83 per cent being devoted, directly or indirectly, to the payment of white labor.. It was also shown by the report of the Chairman of the late Commission, that whilst £700,000 were expended annually on the carrying on of the industry, yet £50,000 were the gross annual wages of the kanakas throughout the Colony, Further it was pointed out, that when the members of the Legislative Assembly resolved that the Polynesian Act should cease in 1890, it was expressly promised that labour of a suitable description, would be provided as a substitute, and it was thought that as the Government were unable to provide such labour, the planters had strong grounds for their application. Another important fact was, that both, reports indicated that sugar stands in a different position to any other product now grown in the

colony, inasmuch , as it has to compete with sugar grown entirely with black labour of the cheapest kind, and therefore it was absolutely necessary that the industry of the colony should receive the support asked for.

The following propositions were carried : " That this meeting resolves to make every effort to procure an alteration of the date for the cessation of Polynesian recruiting, from 1890 to 1895 and not to ask for other coloured labour." "That the present members of the Conference are prepared to promise, that if the Government will grant an extension of the time asked for, they will not again apply, for a further extension,"

Many other matters of interest and importance to the industry were discussed in detail ; amongst them being the central mill system. The principle of this system was approved of, but as the system has not up to the present proved a success, the opinion was expressed the public should defer its verdict.

JAB Diary

4 May 1889 Tiny very unwell this afternoon, sent for Dr Macdonald. Got a letter from Mike. Macdonald considered Tiny's health rather critical but not enough to justify me wiring Mike to charter special steamer. Telegraphed him to return by 'Burdekin'

Queenslander 11 May 1889

DEPARTURES, Brisbane

May 4.—CINTRA, A.U.S.N. Company's s , 1979 tons, Captain F. G. Lee. for Cooktown, via intermediate ports. Passengers: MessrsBoyd [*Sprott returning home*]

JAB Diary

5 May 1889 Macdonald here seeing Tiny who is much better. Telegraphed to Mike

6 May 1889 Sent down boat to meet Mike tomorrow

7 May 1889 Mike came home this afternoon with Sprott

9 May 1889 Mike went to hospital meeting

11 May 1889 Took Archie for a ride on Molly, and took all hands (chicks) for a pull in the dinghy

13 May 1889 Mike went to town to engage 3 kanakas

15 May 1889 Mike went to Waller's this afternoon

18 May 1889 Mike and Tiny and Arthur Neame went to town

21 May 1889 Mike and Johnson to town

22 May 1889 Mike to Gairloch to inspect machinery offered for sale

23 May 1889 Mike at Macknade this afternoon

27 May 1889 Mike and Tiny went to Macknade this afternoon

1 Jun 1889 Mike and Tiny went to town. Took the children fishing this evening and caught 2 perch

5 Jun 1889 Mike went to town

9 Jun 1889 Took Piggie [AHB] to a Black fight where no-one was hurt

13 Jun 1889 Mike went to town

20 Jun 1889 Mike went to town to pay off 3 Lagoon men

21 Jun 1889 Mike went to Dungeness and returned home about 8pm, and says the new Islanders are a fine set of men

25 Jun 1889 Mike and Tiny at town today and at Macknade tonight

26 Jun 1889 Mike at Waller's sale, homestead sold for £5 per acre, some land as low as 17/6.

Miss Robson came today

28 Jun 1889 Mike went to town for money to pay Kanakas

Brisbane Courier 19 Jul 1889

INGHAM. July 7.

The Cordelia Vale Estate was sold by public auction last week. The homestead of 545 acres, together with houses and improvements, was sold at the rate of £5 per acre, and several of the back blocks realised £3. The Rev. Mr. Phillips, from Croydon, has arrived in Ingham, and will take the place of the Rev. Mr. Clive, resigned. **An inquiry with closed doors was held on the 3rd instant on an accusation against Messrs. Boyd Bros,** by A. W. Woodward, chief of the Pacific Islanders' Department.

JAB Diary

3 Jul 1889 At town with Mike this afternoon about Willie Santo and also to engage 6 kanakas. Took out summons for Ormarr

5 Jul 1889 Mike at town hunting for boiler

6 Jul 1889 Mike at Ingham ? for Tymans

11 Jul 1889 Mike in town at Hospital meeting

15 Jul 1889 Mike went to Dungeness this afternoon re men on 'Lavinia'

16 Jul 1889 Mike not back yet 8pm

22 Jul 1889 Mike went to town this afternoon

26 Jul 1889 Mike at Dungeness re men on 'Archimedes'

1 Aug 1889 Mike away all day buying horses

3 Aug 1889 Mike and women folk went to town this afternoon

4 Aug 1889 Across river with Gardiner and Mike and Blacks, burnt a lot of grass and killed 7 wallaby

5 Aug 1889 Mike went to town for money

7 Aug 1889 Mike at town re Road Board

10 Aug 1889 Mike went to Townsville. **Took the kids fishing this evening**

14 Aug 1889 Mike and Tiny came home this morning **and Mr. Wood came with them**

Queenslander 31 Aug 1889

INGHAM, August 16. Since my last we have been having a dry spell of weather, which has suited crushing operations at the sugar-mills, but a little rain now would be welcomed by everyone. Two labour schooners have arrived at our port lately, with sixty-five and thirty-three islanders respectively, which is considerably less than the complement of each vessel. The boys were divided between Messrs. F. and A. Neame, of Macnade Plantation, and Messrs. **Wood Bros, and Boyd,** of Ripple Creek. It is a pity that there is such difficulty in recruiting islanders, as the planters are now trying to make sure of a reliable supply of labour before this source is done away with. Several gentlemen have lately been casting about for a better and shorter route for the proposed railway from Townsville to Ingham, and say they have found a much shorter track which crosses a smaller number of creeks than that of the trial survey. If this is correct it should be a great factor towards hastening the commencement of the line.

JAB Diary

20 Aug 1889 **Mike and Mr. Wood** went to Victoria

22 Aug 1889 Went to circus! tonight with all hands from the house
 26 Aug 1889 Mike and Mr. Wood went to Hamleigh
 27 Aug 1889 A. Neame and wife at lunch. Wrote to Proctor
 28 Aug 1889 Tiny, Mr. Wood and the girls playing tennis at Gairloch. Got from Father £300, heard from Father, Gaggin, North and Armstrong
 29 Aug 1889 Burwoods gave Mike my c/k for dividends £12-10-0

2 Sep 1889 Mike and the women folk went to Ingham this evening to see Bishop Staunton
 4 Sep 1889 Tiny and the girls went to play tennis at Macdonalds and Mike went to Road Board
 7 Sep 1889 Mike at Separation meeting tonight
 12 Sep 1889 Mike at town about Kanaka Hospital
 14 Sep 1889 Ingham Races. Mike and all the family at them
 27 Sep 1889 Sent letters to Mike (from Mourilyan where JAB was fishing)

2 Oct 1889 Telegraphed Mike after getting a letter from him (JAB staying with Proctor)
 9 Oct 1889 Mike at town, engaged Kanakas
 12 Oct 1889 Mike and Sprott went to Townsville
 16 Oct 1889 Mike came home from Townsville
 17 Oct 1889 Mike went to Ingham this afternoon

Brisbane Courier 26 Oct 1889

DEPARTURE. **October 25.**-MARANOA, A.U.S.N. Company's s., 1505 tons, Captain R. Armstrong, for Sydney and Melbourne. Passengers :, R.M. Boyd,[*This can't be our RMB, who was at Ripple Creek*]

JA Boyd diary

26 Oct 1889 Big spree this afternoon, dancing at night till after midnight, some 3 dozen people here
 27 Oct 1889 Mike went to town for McArthur and did not return till 2pm
 29 Oct 1889 Mike at town nearly all day

5 Nov 1889 Mike went to Dungeness with punt. 'Ellen' landed here and loaded
 6 Nov 1889 Mike returned this afternoon and went to Ingham this evening

Queensland Government Gazette 7 Nov 1889

The Hon. Sm S. W. GRIFFITH said He would now refer to those which appeared to be necessary to explain the Case. He found amongst them the following paper, which was undated, but was received in the Colonial Secretary's office on the 29th March last, and it was dealt with by the Colonial Secretary on the same day. That was remarkable despatch-much greater expedition than was ordinarily shown in dealing with papers, according to his experience. It read as follows:" SIR, "Ingham. " We, the undersigned employers of kanaka labour on the Herbert River, beg to call your attention to the constant and unnecessary annoyance we receive from the Pacific Islanders' Inspector, and the many instructions and demands given and made on us in a most objectionable and arbitrary manner, which, we maintain, the Pacific Islanders Act never intended or implied, giving us to understand that they emanate from the head office. We are under the impression that in many cases when a difference of opinion arises, our side of the question is not represented in a fair way to the officer in charge. However willing and anxious we are to work pleasantly with the

Pacific Islanders Department we find it impossible to do so as long as demands are made which are not included by the Act, and the Act is stretched to suit the purposes of the Pacific Islanders' Inspector, which seems to be to give us annoyance and keep up an irritation between us and the officer in charge. We therefore beg that you will have inquiries made and endeavour to give us some relief. " We have the honour to remain, "Your obedient servants, "**WOOD BROTHERS AND BOYD**, "F. AND A. NEAME:, "CHARLES E. FORSTER, "For the Colonial Refining Company, Limited. "ROBT. G. BLACKMORE, "For Whittingham Brothers."

He was curious to see how that document was got up, for it was evidently a sort of "round-robin," and he found the same handwriting in another set of papers which would throw some light on the matter. Wood Brothers and Boyd was a well-known firm at Ingham ; he remembered the firm very well by name, and having to caution them that if they continued in the course they were pursuing they would not get any more islanders. He found that the complaint made against Mr. Forster was written in the same handwriting in which that firm usually wrote their letters-and he actually found upon one of the documents this minute: "**This course of procedure on the part of Mr. J. A. Boyd will, if continued, compel the Government to refuse to grant licenses to Messrs. 'Wood Bros. and Boyd for the introduction of Polynesians in the future. 'B. D. M. '15-6-89.'**" That was the Colonial Secretary's own minute dealing with the same firm. That was after the dismissal of Mr. Forster. He himself had had occasion to deal with that firm in the same way, and gave them a similar warning. After their complaints had been acted on in that summary way, and Mr. Forster had been turned out of the service, they returned to their evil courses to such an extent that the Colonial Secretary was compelled to warn them that if they did not discontinue them licenses to recruit Polynesians would be refused to them altogether. But there was another reason, he had found, why Mr. Forster should be got rid of ; and it was really a very extraordinary matter. There was an application made by this same firm of Wood Brothers and Boyd in February, to get a transfer of some islanders from a Mr. Neame. He would only read sufficient of the papers to show the history of the affair. On the 27th February, Mr. Forster telegraphed to the head of his department in Brisbane : "Have declined permission for sixteen islanders per 'Archimedes' to remove from Macknade to Ripple Creek until transfer is approved and completed Messrs. Neame have wired Colonial Secretary for permission to remove." No reply was sent to that telegram for several days -not until the 6th or 7th March. But on the 2nd March, Mr. Gray, the then Under Colonial Secretary, sent the following telegram to Mr. Neame : "There will be no objection to the transfer provided the islanders are willing and application is made on proper form which will be supplied you by the inspector." By the law those transfers could not be made without the personal sanction of the Minister. The telegram of Mr. Gray appeared to be an answer to one sent by Mr. Neame to the Colonial Secretary, for on the 27th February, the same day on which the inspector sent his telegram, Mr. Neame telegraphed to the Colonial Secretary: "Our letter 22nd February Please wire inspector granting permission for half recruits 'Archimedes' to go to "Wood Brothers and Boyd." That was endorsed by the officer in charge of the department : "The special sanction of the Minister is required before the asked for transfer can be allowed. Provided the islanders are willing, I see no objection. Mr. Forster very properly refused to allow those boys to be removed to Messrs. Wood Brothers' place until the proper forms had been gone through."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said he was rather astonished at the remarks which had fallen from the hon. gentleman, and he must say that his opinion was that, if that officer had not many wealthy relatives and strong family connections in this and the other colonies, the case would not have been made of in the Committee at all. Henry Mort, a member of the Legislative Council of New South Wales was a well-known man, and was a connection of Mr. Forster, and the Tooths were also. He could tell the hon. gentleman that more pressure had been brought to bear upon him in regard to Mr. Forster, from wealthy people who ought to have been able to keep that ancient gentleman, than in regard to any other Civil servant he had ever had to deal with. In regard to Mr. Forster himself, he was certainly the most cantankerous officer in the Civil Service, and he thought Mr. Woodward, if he were asked, would express the same opinion. So far as regarded the other part of the statement made by the hon. gentleman, that it was owing to the action of Messrs. Wood Brothers and Boyd that Mr. Forster received notice that his services would be dispensed with in three months, that statement was utterly devoid of foundation. The hon. gentleman referred him to the "round robin" prepared by persons he knew. He did not know the handwriting. He had not gone into the detective business, and had never looked into the caligraphy of the documents sent in. Neame Brothers were men whose word he would take as soon that of any other person in the world, and he could say the same for Messrs. Wood Brothers and Boyd, although they had gone a little too far on several occasions. He had nothing to say against the character of Mr. Forster as a man, but he was totally unfitted for the position which he held. Still that would not debar him from holding another position, but a man more unfitted for the position of a Polynesian inspector could not be found in Queensland. That was not only his record in Ingham but also in Mackay, and the leader of the Opposition knew it as well as he did. That hon. gentleman knew the character of Mr. Forster perhaps better than he did. The gentleman who occupied that office now did the work well-as well as it was done by Captain Pennefather - and there was no necessity for taxing the Polynesian Fund to the extent of £250 a year by keeping Mr. Forster or anyone else there when the police magistrate could perform the duties. He did not wish to cast any blame upon Mr. Forster, but the work could be done by the police magistrate alone, and he utterly repudiated the idea that Mr. Forster's services were dispensed with through any representations made by Messrs. Wood Brothers and Boyd, who had received no consideration at his hands; in fact, he had had to censure that firm for the course of conduct they were pursuing. He had no doubt that the leader of the Opposition held a very high opinion of Mr. Forster.

Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), Friday 8 November 1889, page 5

Sir S. W. Griffith drew attention to the case of Inspector C. A. Forster, of Ingham, who had been dismissed. After speaking in high terms of Mr. Forster's abilities Sir S. W. Griffith said the perusal of the papers in the case led him to believe that his dismissal was due to the instigation of Messrs. Wood Bros. and Boyd, as he had been too exacting for that firm in the discharge of his duties, which prevented them obtaining Kanaka labour unless they complied with the law.

The PREMIER expressed surprise at the statements, and said that if Mr. Forster had not had wealthy relatives the matter would never have been brought before the House.

The charge against Messrs. Wood Brothers was utterly without foundation, and Mr. Forster was one of the most cantankerous men in the service. He (Mr. Morehead) had a document in his possession written by Sir S. W. Griffith when in office, which said that if Mr. Forster did not conduct himself with intelligence and courtesy, he would be removed from his position.

After a long debate the vote was passed

JA Boyd diary

11 Nov 1889 Mike and Tiny with kids went to town

13 Nov 1889 Mike went to town with F Neame

16 Nov 1889 Tiny at Macknade

29 Nov 1889 Mike at town about Kanaka Hospital

Queenslander 30 Nov 1889

INGHAM, November 15. The Pastoral and Agricultural Association held their annual meeting on Saturday, the 9th instant. The day was exceptionally mild, for this time of the year, and a great number of people were present in the Show Grounds. Owing to the plantations being in the middle of their crushing season the number of exhibits of stock was not so large as at the previous meeting. Nevertheless, there was good competition for most of the prizes, and the judges were kept busy. The most striking feature of the day was the ladies' hackneys, twelve in number. They were all nicely caparisoned and showed good action and paces. Mr. Tymon's Fenet was awarded first prize and Mr. Blackman's Herod second. The high jump caused a good deal of excitement. There were six competitors, all excepting one jumping well. Mr. R. M. Boyd's St. Dunstan gained first prize, clearing 4ft. 10in., and Mr. Rowlin's Gift second. Mr. Blackman's Top Rail won the hunter's prize, over 3ft. 9in. jumps. The most successful exhibitors were Messrs. Dr. Macdonald, R. S. Alston, J. M. Coulter, and James Cassidy. The ten guinea prize for the best collection of farm and dairy produce was awarded to Mr. W. F. White, who showed very good specimens for the time of the year. The exhibits of sugar and sugar-cane were exceptionally good, Ripple Creek and Hamleigh Plantations carrying off the prizes. It would be advisable in the interest of the district for the committee to decide upon making the show day earlier in the year, say in July or the beginning of August, as the plantations could then prepare their exhibits, and the fruit and vegetables are always best at that time. On Saturday next there will an afternoon's racing in connection with the show, and a very good programme has been arranged. We have had several thunderstorms lately, which have done a vast amount of good. All the crops look well, and the sugar-mills are busy trying to bring the crushing season to a close before the end of the year. One or two of them will have to crush on into the middle of January, having very large crops. The planters are employing Europeans in the field in some cases, and intend to test the question of white labour. At present it is difficult to form an opinion on the subject, as they have not been long enough at it.

JA Boyd diary

3 Dec 1889 Mike went to town and Macknade

4 Dec 1889 Mike and Tiny went to town

6 Dec 1889 Gave Tiny my silver watch to take to Sydney

7 Dec 1889 Tiny, the two children and Miss Robson left this morning

Queenslander 21 Dec 1889

ARRIVALS

December 12.—BARCOO, A.U.S.N. Company's s., 1505 tons, Captain James Banks, from Cooktown, via ports. Passengers; for Sydney and Melbourne—Mesdames, **R. N. Boyd and 3 children**,[*Emily, Ella and Archie heading for Sydney over summer*]

13 Dec 1889 Mike at town tonight

18 Dec 1889 **Sprott came home.** Mike went to Townsville

19 Dec 1889 Mike did not go to Townsville, the 'Dove' sticking in the river, but she got away today

21 Dec 1889 F Neame here at lunch. He went with Mike to Hospital meeting at Ingham

23 Dec 1889 Mike **lunched** at Macknade

28 Dec 1889 **Mike and Sprott** at Macknade

Brisbane Courier 28 Dec 1889

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISIONS.

The following matters among others were approved of by the Executive Council yesterday :

J. A. McArthur, W. S. Warren, and A. S. Cowley, to be members of the Pacific Islanders' Hospital, at Ingham, to act on behalf of the Government, with A. F. Neame, **R. M. Boyd**, and - McLean, nominated by the employers of labour in the district ;

JAB Diary

7 Jan 1890 Mike went to town

14 Jan 1890 Mike in town

15 Jan 1890 Mike in town

16 Jan 1890 Mike went to Macknade

17 Jan 1890 Mike went to Hamleigh for lime

18 Jan 1890 Mike in town engaging men

21 Jan 1890 Mike in town engaging boys

28 Jan 1890 Mike went to look after the punt which is blocked down river but was unable to get there due to Gentle Annie Creek being up

29 Jan 1890 Mike down Seymour today looking for firewood. Heard from Gaggin, North and Mother

1 Feb 1890 Mike, **Sprott and Reggie** went to Townsville, latter overland. Gave him £10

6 Feb 1890 Mike came home about 10pm bringing mail with him

7 Feb 1890 Mike went to town

12 Feb 1890 Mike went to town

13 Feb 1890 Mike and Arthur Neame to town together

18 Feb 1890 Mike attended Hospital meeting

20 Feb 1890 Mike went Gairloch and Macknade

21 Feb 1890 **Mike went to Macknade about Italians**

25 Feb 1890 Mike went to town after lunch

1 Mar 1890 Mike with Gardiner and Reggie left for Mt Fox this morning [*Mt Fox is a cinder cone, 50km west of Ingham*]

7 Mar 1890 Mike came home having enjoyed his trip but found nothing

13 Mar 1890 Mike went to town

20 Mar 1890 Mike going around roads with Mr. Dunstan (Engineer for HD Board, arrived on 18 Mar)

23-24 Mar 1890 Cyclone!

27 Mar 1890 Mike went to town. Mike came home about 8pm (Hurricane 23-24 Mar destroyed much property)

28 Mar 1890 Arthur Neame at lunch. Mike rode back with him. Boys can do no profitable work when the **damned place is underwater**

30 Mar 1890 Mike went to town this afternoon

2 Apr 1890 Mike, Gardiner and A Neame went to town

4 Apr 1890 Good Friday. Work as usual. White and Miss Warren here tonight

5 Apr 1890 White went home and Mike and Miss L Warren went to Townsville

Apr-May 1890 JAB went to Batavia to buy cattle and get labourers

13 May 1890 Received telegram from Mike this morning reading "Four". Spent 3 hours over ABC Code and can make nothing of it

14 May 1890 Telegraphed Mike this morning; wrote to Mike Tiny and Father

22 May 1890 Wrote to Mike and Guthrie

27 May 1890 Received telegram from Mike re guarantee of return passages [*This day JAB had arranged with a man, Bland, for 102 Sudanese to be taken by a steamer from Singapore to Queensland at the end of the month, £12-10-0 each*]

28 May 1890 Sent Mike a telegram to arrange letter of credit for £1,000

8 Jun 1890 Telegram from Mike saying a letter of credit for £1,000 had been sent [*JAB was camping out in bush on a shooting trip somewhere in Batavia, place names impossible to even guess at!*]

27 Jun 1890 Telegraphed to Mike £11-7-5 [JAB was with Mr. Bland arranging men to be sent to Queensland]

28 Jun 1890 Got letter from Mike dated 14 May. Got a telegram tonight from Mike re landing men at Mourilyan

29 Jun 1890 Went for a drive with Mrs. Shields this afternoon when, after going about the suburbs for some time, we went to Mr. Schultz, photographer and bought a lot of photos, my share coming to £2 (@ £6 per dozen). DEAD Jim Wheeler of Prince Alfred Hospital, aged 84. 'Gone – where we all must go'

1 Jul 1890 Got a letter from Mike tonight

17 Jul 1890 Arranged for coolies to go in the 'Tara' and wrote Mike to that effect.

28 Jul 1890 Telegraphed Mike re men, rice, 'Tara' and not being able to get any roses for Tiny

29 Jul 1890 Got box with 12 sorts of **roses for Tiny**

7 Aug 1890 On Thursday Island. Sent two wires to Mike

9 Aug 1890 Telegram from Mike.

13 Aug 1890 JAB returned to Ripple Creek with Javanese men

The Northern Miner 13 Aug 1890

A TRIP TO INGHAM. [*a great article!*]

(by our special reporter)

The Herbert River district has been brought prominently before the public of Queensland through the agency of sugar planters, and though vast areas are under cane and thousands of persons are employed, mostly Kanakas, the resources of the place are comparatively unknown to any but those interested in sugar learning. Ingham, the capital of the district, is situate on

Palm Creek, a branch of the lower Herbert River, it has a population of about 1200 Europeans, and a large number, probably four times as many, colored men, including Malays, Kanakas, and others. The town is rather prettily situated on the edge of a thick scrub, whilst in front the view is uninterrupted over a vast plain except by occasional patches of timber and the tall brick chimneys of Hamleigh, Gairloch, and Victoria which rear their heads against the clear blue sky. The town has some good public buildings, in fact half of one side of the street is solely occupied by them. There is the hospital where separate quarters are provided for white men, Kanakas, and Chinamen. It has been decided, I understand, to close the Kanaka ward shortly for the very sufficient reason that there will be no Kanakas to put in there. In order to keep this institution going the planter is compelled to pay 30s per annum for every Kanaka he employs which amounts to a very large sum, especially on a large plantation like Victoria; where nearly 700 Kanakas are employed regularly. There is also a nice State school which has an average attendance of about 40 pupils; And the **courthouse**, where that urbane gentle man, Mr. McArthur, the PM, occasionally holds a levee, but his duties are not so onerous or exacting as those of P.M. Mowbray, who has to contend with a phalanx of legal talent, and prepare for the attacks of battalions of mining experts, secretaries, liquidators, *et hoc genus omne*. However, I presume Mr. McArthur is satisfied. Dr. McDonald the genial surgeon of the hospital and district, has also an easy time, in fact all the public officers can indulge daily in the *dolce far niente*, and a more suitable climate than that of the Herbert River could not be found. The principal store keepers are Kennion and Company, and Rankin and Newman. Mr. L. Melvin, who is well known in Charters Towers and Townsville, having been in the railway service for many years, has the boss hotel in the district, and what is more he sells only the best liquors to be obtained, and keeps an excellent table.

This well-kept hostelry is named after our famous gold mine, the Day Dawn, and as the mine gave good dividends, the hotel gives good dinners, a matter of no slight importance to hungry individuals. The Divisional Board Hall is the swell building in the town, and it is there that the district legislators assemble to discuss the important questions of drainage and road-making. The latter process is very simple, a line for a road is marked out, channels are dug on either side, the stuff taken from them is placed in the middle, and the road is made; in dry weather the roads are good, but in the rainy season, and it does rain up there sometimes, they are something to remember.

The furniture of the Divisional Hall is comfortable, at least the chairs are, high-backed and semi-circular in shape, well padded and lined, and as a visitor remarked, a Boarder could listen to a lot of rot in one of them when the meeting was on. There is a nice little stage, with necessity fittings, for companies, and it is in this hall that all the events of the district are celebrated. Church services are held there, and all the local bodies meet in it; the Dramatic Club- all small communities have a number of aspiring Thespians, and Ingham is no exception to the rule- give performances in the building. An Oddfellows' lodge has been in existence there for some time, and a Masonic Lodge under the Scotch Constitution was established there recently. In company with the delegates appointed to open this lodge, I first visited this northern sugaropolis; hence this article. That enthusiastic sportsman, Mr. F. Pearson, supplies the succulent meat of that stubborn animal, the sheep, and of the pensive bovine. Mr. Wakeham provides the staff of life, and Mr. L. C. Cockerell, an old Towers man, makes the non-intoxicating beverages. I almost forgot to mention that Mr. J. M. Sheridan, of the Q.N. Bank, arranges overdrafts, and collars the dubs generally.

Although the town of Ingham is only 78 miles from Townsville, it is the furthest place on the coast of Queensland to get at. To go there from Charters Towers one has to employ no less than four modes of conveyance, 80 miles by rail, 90 miles by steamer, 7 miles up the river in a row boat, and 12 miles by coach, the journey from Townsville occupying about 15 hours. On the last Saturday in July, the Charters Towers contingent of Masons Messrs. E. D. Miles, R. Kirkbride, J. C. Hinton, H. B. Walker, J. Fraser, R. Carbis, and yours truly-assembled at

the Queenston railway station, with Mr. Miles as officer in charge, on their way to Ingham, for the purpose of opening a Masonic Lodge there. A good stock of oysters was laid in that night at Townsville, and on Sunday some of them didn't go to church, and some went to a church with a chimney. About 9 o'clock on Sunday night the whistle of that fast and frolicsome steamer Burdekin, under the command of Captain Keir, sounded "anybody for the shore," which was echoed by the cabin boy, and re-echoed by the cook's mate. There was no cook or bar steward on board of this blooming good templar's lodge, and we slowly left the Harbors and Rivers steps, where a big crowd had assembled to witness the departure. On Sunday a friend in Townsville imparted the information that tucker was an unknown quantity on board; another friend, knowing what keen appetites and insatiable thirsts newspaper fellows generally wear, got some 18 carat Cousin Jack pastys made, and by some unaccountable means a bottle of whiskey found its way into a swag belonging to another member of the party. I think I mentioned that the Burdekin was a frolicsome boat. Well on that occasion she was positively hilarious; she was indeed in a merry mood and though the waves were not of an abnormal size going across the Bay, yet she seemed to laugh and enjoy the fun and rolled about in a manner that was at times indecent, as she rinsed more of her lower extremities than was compatible with decency; in fact the captain was shocked and at the instigation of the reverend chaplain, he covered her side with an awning. It was impossible to sleep, one had to hang on to anything within reach or else get fired out of his bunk; about 2 a.m. the pasties were produced, the whiskey soon after arrived and a good feed was indulged in. Those who went to sleep afterwards were troubled with nightmare, some had alligators and variagated snakes crawling over them and generally had a bad time. At dusk on Monday morning that **desolate looking god forsaken hole Dungenness** was reached and the steamer brought up to the wharf. The first indication of the proximity of the sugar industry was here witnessed in the shape of huge flat-bottom punts, used for bringing sugar down from the plantations. The Ingham passengers were met here by Messrs. Melvin and A. Gedge, who came all the way down to receive them. Two row boats were in readiness and after a short delay a start was made up the river. The distance from Dungenness to Halifax is about seven miles, but against a strong ebb tide it took three hours exactly to negotiate it. The observation from Hell to Halifax has no doubt been frequently heard, but it is open to doubt if the journey is any more difficult of accomplishment than from Dungenness to Halifax. Mr. Robertson, of the Courier, who accompanied the Governor in his recent Northern trip, went into ecstasies in describing the beauties of the Herbert River and the munificent manner in which nature lavished her choicest treasures on this favored spot. I looked in vain for anything that could by the greatest stretch or imagination tend to bear out his assertions but neither I nor any other member of the party could discern them. For the first five miles the river winds its way through a dense mangrove swamp that is of neither use nor ornament; it is the abode of the death dealing malaria and the home of the ungainly alligator, the frisky mosquito and of the equally attentive sand fly. The scenery was observed under different circumstances which probably accounts for the diversity of impressions left. Mr. Robertson went up under the most favourable circumstances, on a steam launch in delightful weather in company with the Governor and several Ministers of the Crown and supplied with 'all the delicacies in season. " The case was very different with us, a bleak morning in an open row boat, going at a snail-like pace against a strong tide, with an occasional cannon against a snag by way of varying the proceedings, and not a nip of Royal Blend within a dozen miles. It is therefore no wonder that the Towers visitors failed to notice the beauties of this stream and gave a sigh of relief when they reached Halifax and breakfast at 9 a.m. Snags are very plentiful in the Herbert River and altogether it is very difficult of navigation as the sandbanks are constantly shifting and the sugar punts go aground frequently, sometimes being unable to set off until the next high tide, in about a fortnight after. **Mr. Boyd, of Ripple Creek Plantation, had charge of the tiller going up stream**, and although he has lived for a number of years on the river and travels on it frequently he was unable to avoid all the sand banks and snags; whenever one of the latter was struck the owner of the boat, a gentleman rejoicing in the historic name of Burke, would sententiously remark "that's another of them," a fact which was apparently patent to the most unskilful navigator on board the craft.

On arrival at Halifax which is chiefly a depot for the Victoria Plantation, being connected with the mill by a tram line, a bee line was struck for Host Robinson's Halifax Hotel, where breakfast was in readiness; all appetites were in beautiful condition, and the manner in which bacon, steak, and hard-boiled muscovy duck eggs disappeared was extraordinary. A breakfast like that, washed down with boiled Kanaka or tea, would set a man up for a week. After breakfast the Royal Mail coach was in readiness. It is a most extraordinary concern; the roof is about fifteen feet from the ground, and any person wishing to occupy a box seat, should be heavily insured in the first instance, and be possessed of a considerable amount of ability to reach the giddy height. After leaving Halifax, the road runs along the river bank, glimpses of the water being obtainable at intervals through openings in the dense forest; it is a charming drive, and resembles the approaches to a gentleman's residence through the oak or beech forests of England. Giant creepers entwine and interlace among the trees, forming an almost impenetrable undergrowth. On the left hand side of the river, a little above Halifax, is the Macnade Estate, the sugar from which is extensively used on Charters Towers. The residence of the resident proprietor, Mr. F. Neame, is situated on a picturesque knoll on the bank of the river, which slopes gently down to the water's edge. It is the prettiest spot on the river, the house is surrounded with palm trees and Norfolk Island pines, and bears very little resemblance to the typical tropical residence; certainly not like those on Charters Towers, the majority of which are remarkable for their barrenness, and the sterility of the ground surrounding them. Selectors grow cane in the neighborhood, which they sell to the mill-owners, but as I intend to deal with the sugar business later on, that will be more fully referred to. After passing Macnade, the road branches off to the left, and open country is entered upon, and the river is left behind. The road then principally lies through waving fields of sugar cane, past deserted Gairloch plantation, the throb of whose mighty engines are stilled; leaving Victoria on the left we pass the Planters' Retreat Hotel. This pub is not of the usual bush order of architecture, and it is not certainly very inviting, and one would judge from appearances, and they are said to go a long way on occasions, that the nomenclature blazoned forth on the dingy lamp- Planters' Retreat- is a misnomer. The driver, by-the-way he was a most remarkable driver, he never anathematised his gory nags, nor metaphorically obliterated their optics, nor consigned them to perdition; he never contradicted a passenger's statement; he never volunteered information nor gave it until after a systematic course of pumping, and he required Miles of that; though he got a hint on various occasions to wobble his tongue, even the persuasions of a cane could not elicit information from this Jehu; he was an extraordinary individual, and confined his remarks principally to a black horse in his team, which was, oddly enough, named Rosebud. At the Planters' Retreat this bashful driver, who is a libel on all the coach driven we ever saw, ventured timidly to enquire if the throats of the party wanted washing, but the officer in charge cried "no surrender, we will not retreat, our motto is advance even unto the Day Dawn." We shortly after, at 11.30, reached Ingham and Melvin's and- had a beer.

Soon after luncheon preparations were made for opening and consecrating the Hinchinbrook Masonic Lodge, under the Scotch constitution. At a little after 2 o'clock Mr. E. D Miles, who had been deputed by the authorities of the lodge in Brisbane to open a district grand lodge, proceeded to do so, with the following officers acting as district grand officers for the occasion: E.D. Miles, Master; R. Kirkbride and J.G. O'Kane, senior and junior wardens, respectively; J. Fraser, secretary; J. C. Hinton, chaplain; H. B. Walker, director of music; R. Carbis, senior deacon; A. Gedge, junior deacon; L. Melvin, I.G.; L. C. Cockrell, O.G.; The usual consecration and dedication ceremonies were then conducted and carried out in a very successful manner by Mr. Miles and his assistants after which the lodge was closed. The first meeting of the newly-consecrated Ingham lodge was then held, and Mr. Arthur Gedge was inducted in the Master's chair by the Past-masters (3) present. The following compose the first officers of the new lodge:- A. Gedge, W.M.; L. Melvin, S.W.; W. C. McDonald, J.W.; J. M. Sheridan, Treasurer; J. Dunstone, Secretary; J. Graham, S.D.; W. Gedge, J.D.; W. H. Atkin, I.G.; L. C. Cockrell, Tyler. The lodge numbered at its opening about 20 members, and before six months have elapsed it is anticipated that there will be over double that number on the

roll. A banquet was provided at 7 o'clock in Mr. Melvin's hotel, to which about 30 Masons sat down. The manner in which Mr. Melvin prepared the banquet reflects highly on his ability as a caterer; it could not be surpassed in the crack hotels of towns having much greater pretensions than Ingham, and Mr. Melvin may feel justly proud of his efforts; the wines and liquors, Pommery, V.D O., three star, etc, were of the best quality, and though there were no good templars or blue ribbon men about, not a member of the party had occasion to seek the aid of a shoe horn to get his hat on next day. The lodge was opened again about 9 o'clock that night, and several candidates were initiated, after which the newly-appointed officers took their respective positions, and went through the various workings in an eminently satisfactory manner.

Tuesday was given up solely to pleasure, it being impossible to get home, as the return steamer was timed to leave Dungeness about noon on Wednesday. The forenoon was devoted to visiting and inspecting the Victoria plantation and sugar mill, through which the visitors were shown by Mr. Scott, Mr. Thorpe, and later on by Mr. Haverfield. The various processes through which the juice passes before it becomes a marketable commodity, in the form of best whites, were lucidly explained by the gentlemen named, but as this article has already grown to such a length, I will defer a full report of this interesting process until tomorrow.

A wallaby hunt had been arranged for Wednesday afternoon, and at half-past 3 a.m, a company of seven, mounted on staunch horses, and accompanied by seven kangaroo dogs, sallied forth. Messrs. Pearson, Sheridan, Melvin, Kirkbride, O'Kane, Carbis, and another went out when the "sound of the 'orn was 'eard on the 'ill," and after a ride of a few miles, arrived at the haunts of the nimble wallaby on a stretch of country outside the cemetery, the property of Mr. Plant. It is awkward and dangerous country to gallop over, being full of melon holes, and with a horse strange there, it would be suicidal to attempt to get over it at a pace quicker than a walk but with a horse bred in the district the task is comparatively safe; they are as active as cats, and very seldom make a mistake, though, during one run that afternoon, Mr. Sheridan got a beautiful crooper; the horse turned turtle and of course the financier went with the velocity of a stone shot out of a catapult.

Wallaby hunting at the Herbert River is the most exhilarating sport imaginable, especially if one has good dogs, such as Mr. Pearson owns, he has two dogs that can kill anything and what is more to the purpose keep it up all day. In a short run a wallaby can lose a kangaroo, yet that afternoon the party secured fifteen scalps, every one of which was obtained after a most exciting run. The manner of hunting is to get in amongst the timber and long grass where the wallabys are very plentiful, in fact, they are sometimes jumping about among the horses legs, then hunt them on to the plain where the dogs can have a fair go, and he most be a chicken hearted rider if he don't jamb the spurs into his rosinante and endeavor to be in at the death. It was magnificent sport. Good shooting can also be obtained there, ducks, geese, turkeys, and pigs being plentiful, whilst the wallabies would afford splendid opportunities for snap shooting. During the afternoon Mr. Walker sallied forth with a carbine and succeeded in knocking over a splendid turkey which made a capital curry for breakfast next morning.

On Wednesday morning, after a good night's rest, the party felt fit for the return journey, and after saying good-bye to their kind friends and hosts, a start was made for home at 9 o'clock. The tide was favorable coming down the river, and a sharp look-out was kept for alligators, but not one was to be seen, although the boatmen were full up of wonderful stories concerning the numbers they had seen on previous trips. Although there was every inducement for an alligator to come out and bask in the sunshine, not one appeared; probably they had been informed that there were a number of deadly shots on the boats, and that it would not be a safe proceeding to venture forth. The Star of Hope, another blue-ribbon steamer, was lying outside the bar, and the party having got safely aboard, her head was

directed to Townsville, the wharf being reached at 11 o'clock that night, and the Towers on the following evening. The weather was fine throughout, and a most interesting and enjoyable time was spent. I have no doubt but when the Ingham railway is completed that Charters Towers people will visit there frequently, more particularly sports men, who will find abundance of sport of all descriptions, and a hearty welcome from some of the whitest men in the North.

JAB Diary

15 Aug 1890 Went to camp at 6am, row with Wilson's men this morning and I took charge while Mike and Wilson took the three men to gaol. Wrote Gaggin and North (with 2 eggs of Torres Straits pigeon)

22 Aug 1890 Mike and Mr. Wood went to town

23 Aug 1890 Mike, Wood and Tiny went to Macknade

3 Sep 1890 Mike and Tiny went to town

5 Sep 1890 Tiny ill yesterday and today

6 Sep 1890 Show at Ingham and sent up sugar. Mike and Tiny, the kids and Janet [Robson?] went up.

8 Sep 1890 Mike and Gardiner went to town this afternoon to see about the land thrown open on Seaview Range

9 Sep 1890 An old digger brought down some fine specimens of silver lead and copper ore from 2 claims on the tableland

13 Sep 1890 Mike and Gardiner went to Tablelands today [*re ore specimens*]

17 Sep 1890 Tiny went to Macknade this afternoon to stay a couple of days

19 Sep 1890 Tiny came home this afternoon

20 Sep 1890 Raining all last night and today. D(amne)d Javanese on strike, refused to work in rain. Mike not home

21 Sep 1890 Mike returned with Gardiner about 10pm last night

22 Sep 1890 Javanese on strike again this afternoon, damn and blast them. Mike went to town to see some horses but owner asked too much.

23 Sep 1890 Mike and Tiny went to Ingham

Morning Bulletin Rockhampton 25 Sep 1890

The Townsville correspondent of the Bowen Times writes as follows :-" Sugar planters are taking active steps to meet the approaching labour difficulty. Messrs. Wood Bros. and Boyd, Whittingham Bros., and F. and A. Neame, of the Herbert River, have decided to introduce cheap Italian (Piedmontese) labour. Preliminary arrangements have been settled with C. V. Fraire, an Italian merchant here, for the importation of Piedmontese as settlers on the plantations. They are to be given a block of land each, on which will be built dwelling places for them on long time payment terms. The Mourilyan plantation, on the Johnstone River, is trying a somewhat similar experiment with German labour. Mr. Isambert, M.L.A., has arranged to purchase the entire plantation from the owners on behalf of a German Co-operative Company, consisting entirely of German agricultural labourers and their families from the Marburg and Rosewood districts. A number of Germans now working on the plantation have forwarded a highly favourable report as to the scheme, alleging that they could realise three times as much from an acre of cane as from an acre of maize. It is stated that the plantation will be taken over on the 1st of January next, and that like arrangements will be made as regards other sugar properties. Payment for the land is to be made by annual instalments."

JA Boyd Diary

30 Sep 1890 Sprott came home per 'Anacoona'
1 Oct 1890 Mike went to the Road Board. Mr. and Mrs. White, Misses King and L. Warren, and Radinlaw with Messrs Tooth and L. Cowley here at dinner tonight
6 Oct 1890 Mike and Tiny went to town this afternoon
8 Oct 1890 Traill drove Tiny to Gough's tennis party this afternoon
9 Oct 1890 Mike went to Hospital meeting
14 Oct 1890 Mike, Tiny and Traill went to Macknade this afternoon
15 Oct 1890 Tiny and Traill went to *Greenfields*, White's place
16 Oct 1890 Traill and Tiny returned from White's
18 Oct 1890 Mike getting ready for a ? to the Tablelands tomorrow
19 Oct 1890 Mike left for silver mines today [*Kangaroo Hills*]
24 Oct 1890 Mike came home today
27 Oct 1890 Mike, Tiny and Moss went to town [*Moss from Kangaroo Hills*]
30 Oct 1890 Mike, Jones, Urquhart and JAB at Ingham all day prosecuting the Javanese who bolted yesterday and the rest that left this morning. Got them fined 5/- and 3/- each. Did not get home till 5:45pm

3 Nov 1890 Mike, Tiny and the kids went to town
5 Nov 1890 Mike and Traill went to town
6 Nov 1890 SS *Aracoona* came up yesterday evening and also our punt bringing syringe for Tiny with which she is pleased.
8 Nov 1890 Took Reggie and Ella across river this evening and had 2 shots at wallaby but killed neither
11 Nov 1890 Mike and Tiny went to town this afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Neame here today
14 Nov 1890 Tiny very sick. Gave Mike the c/k for £1-5-6 and one Album 24/1 for Tiny
16 Nov 1890 Tiny and Mike went to Macknade
18 Nov 1890 Have made some 1250 tons of sugar from a little less than 3000 tons of cane
22 Nov 1890 Took Piggie (AHB) and Elsie [Ella?] catching prawns in creek but got hardly any
26 Nov 1890 Linden (mining expert) arrived
27 Nov 1890 Mike and Linden at town today and found that Ervin [Ewen?] had jumped the silver mines -----?----- him.
28 Nov 1890 Mike with Reggie and Linden left for the mines

8 Dec 1890 Mike and Tiny went to town this afternoon
9 Dec 1890 Mike went to Macknade
13 Dec 1890 Mike laid up with a swollen testicle
15 Dec 1890 Mike still laid up
20 Dec 1890 Wahau took dinghy and brought Sprott home today. Mike and Fuller went to town and Tiny went to Macknade
22 Dec 1890 Mike still laid up
26 Dec 1890 Reggie and Tiny attended concert tonight

5 Jan 1891 Mike and Tiny went to town
6 Jan 1891 Mike walked up to the mill
7 Jan 1891 Mike went to town to see about mining matters and road board
12 Jan 1891 Carter went to hospital
14 Jan 1891 Mike went to town re mine etc engage
16 Jan 1891 Mike and Tiny went to town
19 Jan 1891 Mike in the saddle again, first time for many weeks
20 Jan 1891 Mike went to town this morning taking Sprott
21 Jan 1891 Mike and D'Orban in town
23 Jan 1891 Mike went to town re Italians

25 Jan 1891 (Sunday) JAB took Sprott and Archie for a walk this afternoon but saw nothing to shoot

28 Jan 1891 Mike went to town to lodge objections against others' claims and clashing with ours and brought Carter back from hospital with him (Carter went to hospital on 12 Jan)

31 Jan 1891 Mike, Tiny, Sprott and Carter left for Townsville this morning at 8am.

Northern Miner 2 Feb 1891

SHIPPING NEWS. TOWNSVILLE. ARRIVALS.

January 31--Palmer, S., Captain Clarke : from Northern ports. Passengers-Mesdames Boyd,, Messrs Boyd,[RMB and Tiny, Sprott and Carter coming south to Townsville]

JAB Diary

2 Feb 1891 Got telegram from Mike

6 Feb 1891 Expected Mike and Tiny at Seymour this morning and sent over horses for them but steamer did not come. Got wire saying they would be there tomorrow

7 Feb 1891 Mike and Tiny came home this morning. They left yesterday but had to put back to tow a wreck to Townsville

11 Feb 1891 Mike went to town

13 Feb 1891 Mike went to town to see Ahearne the surveyor from the silver mines

17 Feb 1891 Mike went to town to engage kanakas

24 Feb 1891 Mike went to town to engage kanakas

25 Feb 1891 Mike and Tiny went to Macknade

2 Mar 1891 Mike went to town

3 Mar 1891 Jones and Mike and self went fishing tonight and did not get a bite

4 May 1891 Mike and Tiny at town

6 Mar 1891 Mike left for Ravenswood and took my box of eggs (for North) to ship per *Burdekin*

10 Mar 1891 Sent a wire to Mike

11 Mar 1891 Got telegram from Mike saying everything was postponed

13 Mar 1891 Tiny went to Macdonald's

14 Mar 1891 Tiny came home this evening

16 Mar 1891 Tiny went to Macknade

18 Mar 1891 Tiny returned from Macknade

20 Mar 1891 Got two wires from Mitch and wrote to him a couple of letters

23 Mar 1891 Got telegram from Mike. Too late to do anything

24 Mar 1891 Mike came home this afternoon

31 Mar 1891 Mike went to town

1 Apr 1891 Mike went to town and heard that Davis and Rees had burst

3 Apr 1891 Tiny and kids went to Macknade

17 Apr 1891 Mike and Tiny and Tyvic(?) went to town this afternoon

18 Apr 1891 (Sat) Caught a couple of barramundi this evening when down fishing with the kids

Warwick Argus 18 Apr 1891

A TRIP NORTH.

THE LAND OF THE PURE AND SIMPLE PATRIOT. XIII

THE Mackay district; the Burdekin delta, some sixty miles south of Townsville; the Herbert, about the same distance north; the Johnstone and Mourilyan; and the Cairns district - these are the chief centres of agricultural life in Northern Queensland. Operations have in the past been carried on on a most extensive and elaborate scale, involving the expenditure of millions of capital; and many of the big estates still look, and really are prosperous, but on the other hand in not a few instances cultivation has been discontinued, machinery and buildings abandoned, and the land is reverting back to its original wild condition. One sees many sights in an extended trip through the sugar growing districts, sights which recall Fronde's gloomy story of the decline and fall of the industry in the West Indies, where- though Nature is kind, and there is no lack of that "cheap, reliable labor" which our own planters regard as essential to success- the planting Industry is in even worse case than in tropic Queensland. The labor trouble has undoubtedly been a factor, though not by any means the most important, in bringing our planters to their present unenviable pass; but until the, Continental nations discontinue the bounties they now pay to the manufacturers of beet sugar, steady prosperity for the sugar industry, as at present carried in Queensland, cannot be hoped for. In not one of the districts named are all the mills at work. At one place, In the centre of a wonderfully fertile alluvial flat of large area, I saw the ruins of what was once one of the most complete plantations in the southern hemisphere. Three years ago, nearly a thousand blacks and whites were employed there. Miles upon miles of tram lines intersected over two thousand acres of cane, through which steam motors with long trains of tracks attached glided about in all directions, being the raw produce from the fields to the magnificent mill, surrounded by quite a village of overseers' and workmen's cottages. To-day, not one acre of the estate is cultivated; the land has reverted to grass, through which one can just trace the unused tram lines, on which here and there, scores of costly trucks stand exposed to the weather, many of them already mere rusty ruins. Doors and windows in the cottages and huts bang in every breeze, and desolation characterises the splendid mill, with its lofty brick chimney stack and complete plant of machinery. The machinery alone cost £85,000, and altogether about a quarter of a million sterling was sunk in the plantation, for which the mortgages would probably now be glad to accept one-fifth of that sum. But this scene of unsuccessful enterprise is not in the Herbert district, whither we are now bound; though it is unfortunately only too true that the Herbert can supply an almost parallel case.

From Dungeness we were taken up the river in the stern-wheel steamer "Carrier," a vessel of draft so light that one would almost think she could steam over a morning mist. Mr. Willie White- son of one of Warwick's early P.M.s- who is chairman of the Hinchinbrook Board, and one of the most useful and popular men in the district, had charge of the party, for whose entertainment the most generous provision had been made all along the route to Ingham. The river is broad and picturesque, but a few miles from its mouth becomes very shallow, and the village of Halifax is supposed to be the head of navigation but our skipper, who knew the river well, took us a good deal further, right on to Macknade, where the stream was so narrow that one could step from the dock of the vessel on to the bank. The country is flat and was originally covered with scrub for some distance back from the river; but this has now almost entirely disappeared, and cane or maize is seen instead. The soil, though good, is not by my measure as deep or fertile as that on the Johnstone, and would probably, in the absence of artificial fertilisers, give out much sooner. We breakfasted at Macknade (Messrs. Neame Bros.), our attendants being a number of brilliantly clad Cingalese, whose quaint head-dresses, neat jackets, and gay sarongs presented quite a picturesque appearance. Two of these "boys" were survivors from the wreck of the ill-fated Quetta; they had made some money in Queensland, and were returning to their native land, their little stores of wealth, about fifty sovereigns each, sewn up in their sarongs. In the wild excitement of the disaster they lost clothing, money, everything but their lives; and eventually returned and again started work to replace their lost fortunes. We made our way in buggies and on horseback along a

fearfully dusty road, via **Ripple Creek (Messrs. Wood Bros, and Boyd)** and Gairloch (the Colonial Sugar Refining Company), to Ingham, a straggling town of about 200 inhabitants, situated on an uninteresting stretch of open country, away from the mountains and the river. Here most of the party spent Christmas Day, in prickly heat and perspiration ; I was more fortunate in being billeted at Gairloch, the Northern home of the Minister for Lands, one of the loveliest spots in North Queensland. The house, a big roomy building of two stories with wide airy balconies, stands in a magnificent garden- enclosed by a lime-tree hedge, and intersected by avenues of orange and lemon, coco-palms, and poincianas round whose crimson crowns flitted gorgeous butterflies. The Herbert River, which flows close by, is being bridged at a cost of £15,000 or £20,000 ; and the work is necessary, for in flood time- and there are floods here almost every year- the volume, of water is enormous, and communication between the north and south banks is entirely interrupted. The principal local want is a railway to Townsville, which the people declare would make the district as prosperous as it was in the "good old days" when sugar was worth £30 per ton ; but it is extremely doubtful if this result would follow, for here, as elsewhere, the trail of the Continental bounty serpent is over the cane-planter, and his industry languishes. Little is being done at Gairloch, and the Victoria mill, also belonging to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, is, or is about to be, hung up. The steam ploughs are being shipped to Fiji, which would seem to indicate either that the estate is to be abandoned, or the area of cultivation considerably reduced. The small farmers in the vicinity of Halifax, who grow cane and sell it at the Victoria mill, view its impending closure with alarm, for, deprived of their market as they will then be, they declare that ruin must soon overtake them unless the Government come to their rescue and establish a central mill in the neighborhood. This, however, the Government are not at all likely to do, in the face of their Mackay experiences ; and it is to be feared the small men of Halifax will have to be left to their fate. This is to be regretted, especially as the sub division of the large estates into small holdings is regarded by many as the only possible solution of the problems with which the sugar industry is now face to face.

JAB Diary

28 Apr 1891 Mike up at town

6 May 1891 Mike at town attending road board

7 May 1891 Mike went to Atkinson's this afternoon

19 May 1891 All Javanese but 7 struck work and when Mike went up to prosecute them, magistrate had sent men home saying he was too late

23 May 1891 **Mike and D'Orban went to meeting at Ingham re Mine.** Bliss served summons on 43 Javanese

26 May 1891 Mike at town prosecuting Javanese

29 May 1891 Gardiner Mike and Reggie meant to start for mines but postponed it

30 May 1891 Gardiner Mike and Reggie left for the mines at 9am

2 Jun 1891 Tiny very seedy the last 3 days

5 Jun 1891 Mike not back tonight

6 Jun 1891 Mike not home 5pm

7 Jun 1891 Mike, Gardiner and Reggie returned last night

Brisbane Courier 9 Jun 1891

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATIONS.

(From Saturday's Government Gazette.)

APPOINTMENTS.- A. Neame, R. G. Blackmore, L. J. Cowley, J. Alm, and **R. M. Boyd**, to be **a board for the improvement of the Herbert River** ;

JAB Diary

16-30 Jun 1891 JAB at Hinchinbrook fishing

Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), Tuesday 9 June 1891, page 7

Great interest is taken in the new silverfields near Kangaroo Hills, and **Mr. R. M. Boyd** has floated a company locally to work his two 40-acre leases. Several teams of pack horses have been got together to carry up stores from Ingham, but the road up the range is very bad. There is some talk of a meeting of ratepayers being called to urge upon the divisional board the necessity of improving the road, as a lot of the traffic is expected to come this way. There are about 100 men at work on the silverfields at present, and within a short time there will probably be 1000.

Brisbane Courier 6 Jul 1891

KANGAROO HILLS,

COMMISSIONER CUSACK'S REPORT.

The Under Secretary for Mines has received a report by Mr. W. G. Kelly Cusack, Mineral Lands Commissioner, Ravenswood, **dated 17th June**, on a visit to the Kangaroo Hills Mineral Field. We make the following extracts : The visit all through was exceedingly hot, unpleasant, and somewhat disappointing, through continuous bad weather. The Kangaroo Hills silver mines are situated about ninety miles from Townsville their natural port, on the bend of the Running River, and about two miles northerly therefrom, to which the nearest practicable road for dray traffic is through Argentine township, by the main Georgetown road, turning off to the right on a marked tree line, about six miles on the Georgetown side of the Big Star River.....

The Alice Moss claim and the Alpha claim were being duly worked by the respective owners on my arrival. I found that fair work, considering the weather, had been done on each, and that my order for the working thereof had been attended to faithfully. When about determining the position of the Alice Moss and Alpha claims pegs to guide the surveyor, **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, who came there during my stay as agent for both, arranged with Captain Osborne, on behalf of the Running River Silver Mining Company, for the complete purchase of each claim, intimating the fact and seeking their cancellation. I cancelled these interests on written authority from both owners, and the survey of the lease proceeded as if no such claims had been allowed. This purchase enables the company referred to put down two main shafts at once, one at the Alice Moss and the other further on. Mr. Osborne had started a now main shaft of large dimensions on where the Alice Moss claim was, and it was sunk from 10ft. to 12ft. before I left.

JAB Diary

10 Jul 1891 Mike and Tiny went to town

11 Jul 1891 Mike very seedy with sore ear, swelling in throat and rheumatism. Macdonald came down to see him and **D'Orban** put off his trip to Townsville

13 Jul 1891 Macdonald here seeing Mike who is much better

15 Jul 1891 Macdonald saw Mike today and says he may go out a little tomorrow

3 Aug 1891 Mike, Tiny and D'Orban went to town

5 Aug 1891 Mike and Tiny in town

6 Aug 1891 Mike went to Halifax early and did not return till dusk

10 Aug 1891 Mike went to town to summons Mahi
12 Aug 1891 Mike and D'Orban in town prosecuting Mahi who was fined £2
13 Aug 1891 Mike and Tiny went to town this morning hoping to catch Thomas, a mining expert, but he had left with Armstrong
15 Aug 1891 Mike and Tiny went to town this afternoon
22 Aug 1891 Mike and Wood went to town. Tiny ill.
24 Aug 1891 Mike went to town to prosecute Abdul Rahman for stealing tallow(?) and got him 2 weeks – should have been 3 months. Did 161 tons – biggest crushing we have ever done
29 Aug 1891 Mike, Wood and Gardiner left for Townsville

Northern Mining Register 5 Sep 1891

August 29.---Palmer, Captain Clark, from Cairns, via ports. Passengers: Messrs. Boyd,..... [RMB from Ripple Ck to Townsville]

JAB Diary

2 Sep 1891 Mike and Gardiner returned from Townsville and went to road board meeting
4 Sep 1891 Paid Mike % silver spec £50
7 Sep 1891 Tiny Mike and kids went to town
11 Sep 1891 Mike not home at 8pm
12 Sep 1891 Mike and Tiny to town this afternoon
24 Sep 1891 Mike and Tiny went to town this afternoon
26 Sep 1891 Mike and Tiny went to town this afternoon
28 Sep 1891 Mike went to town hunting for trams to bring in firewood

1 Oct 1891 Mike Tiny and Sprott went to town this morning
3 Oct 1891 Mike and Tiny went to races at Ingham. I took out the kids and rifle, but did not get a shot
5 Oct 1891 Mike Tiny and kids went to town

Brisbane Courier 6 Oct 1891

BARKER AND CO. (IN LIQUIDATION).

A meeting of creditors in the estate of Barker and Co., in liquidation, was held yesterday afternoon in the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce, Courier Building. Captain Sandeman was voted to the chair, and there were present: Messrs., Rees (Wood Bros, and Boyd),

JAB Diary

7 Oct 1891 Mike at Road Board
7-10 Oct 1891 Cattle belonging to Gardiner and Gedge got in to the cane. JAB impounded them, but more got in
12 Oct 1891 Mike out after cattle tonight, got none
13 Oct 1891 Mike after cattle again tonight but got none
21 Oct 1891 Mike went to town this afternoon and Tiny to Gairloch where some Townsville tennis players were distinguishing themselves

Northern Miner 23 Oct 1891

THE TOWNSVILLE PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

(By Our Special Reporter.)

TOWNSVILLE, October 22.

When the Towers Association and that of Townsville came to an understanding regarding the holding of alternate stock shows, it was left for either body to have an agricultural show whenever it pleased. The first exhibition in Townsville under this agreement was opened this evening at the Norman Hall which was crowded with spectators among whom I noticed several Charters Towns residents. Although but few planters are competing in the sugar classes the samples shown are surpassingly excellent. There are all grades from brewers crystals to icing sugar ; I do not think it would be possible anywhere in the world to produce better quality sugars than those shown by Messrs Neame Brothers of Macknade and Messrs **Wood, Brothers, and Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, Herbert River; but I would like to have seen for the sake of the great industry more competition in these classes.

JAB Diary

2 Nov 1891 Tiny went to Macknade and Mike to town and he returned soon after 5pm and paid all hands. Not back 8pm

3 Nov 1891 Summoned Abdul Rahman, Ramien and Karimaire for absence from

6 Nov 1891 Mike went to Dungeness to inspect and take delivery of boys on 'Sybil' and did not come home till midnight

7 Nov 1891 Mike, Tiny and D'Orban went to town this afternoon

Cairns Post 11 Nov 1891

The cane crushing on the Herbert River is progressing rapidly. The Victoria mill will this year have a fair average output and the residents and business men of the district are much relieved by the news that the Colonial Sugar Refining Company have determined to continue working their property. Messrs. **Wood Bros, and Boyd** (Ripple Creek), are in full swing with every expectation of a heavy output. The Bridge at Gairloch is now completed all but the asphalt and metal roadway. In Ingham everything is very quiet, but everyone seems more hopeful for the future.

JAB Diary

12 Nov 1891 Mike Tiny and D'Orban went to town and **brought the buggy over the bridge home**

23 Nov 1891 Mike went to Ingham this afternoon, Tiny to Macknade

25 Nov 1891 Mike and Tiny went to town this afternoon

1 Dec 1891 Tiny and Mike went to town

2 Dec 1891 **Mike left for the mines**

11 Dec 1891 Mike returned about noon

12 Dec 1891 Mine meeting tonight at which Mike and D'Orban went

15 Dec 1891 Mike laid up with pneumonia, hope it will not be much

19 Dec 1891 Mike and Tiny and Miss Robson went to town

29 Dec 1891 Tiny went to white's

30 Dec 1891 Tiny returned. Sprott seedy, a lot of influenza and pneumonia about

Northern Mining Register 13 Jan 1892

Friday's Northern Age says : " One of the Italians from Ripple Creek has paid a visit to Townsville. He says his compatriots complain that **Mr. Boyd** insists upon not paying them for wet days when they are unable to work, and also requires them to pay for their rations on those days. Of course this is only one side of the story, but if it is true it seems rough on the Italians if no mention was made of such a provision in their agreements. They also complain that they were induced to believe that the climate of the Herbert was somewhat similar to that of Italy, which, if true, was a libel on Italy. From the Burdekin we hear the Italians are well satisfied with their lot."

Brisbane courier 15 Jan 1892

The R.M.S. Jelunga will leave Messrs. Parbury, Lamb, and Co.'s wharf on Monday morning, proceeding as far as the Bay. A portion of her cargo will be lightered down to her, and she will take her departure on Tuesday. A tender will leave Parbury, Lamb, and Co.'s wharf on Tuesday at 10 a.m., conveying passengers to the Jelunga. The following passengers were booked up to yesterday evening :- Sydney to London : Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Miss Castledon. Brisbane to London: Mrs. Withers, Misses Claud, Maud, Daisy, and Marion, and Masters Jairus, Juin, and George Withers, Mrs. E. L. Butler and 2 children. Rev. C.D. and Mrs. Ash and infant, Mrs. J. E Leresche, maid, and infant. Rockhampton to London : The Right Rev. John Cani, Mr. A. Archer, M.L.A. **Townsville to London: Mr. and Mrs. Boyd and 2 children**. Thursday Island to London: Masters H. M. and R. J, Douglas. Melbourne to Batavia: Mrs. and Miss Dobson. Sydney to Batavia: Mrs. and Miss Stewart, Mrs. S. Ter Bech. Townsville to Naples : Miss K. Smith.

[according to ancestry.com records, the Jelunga arrived in London on 18 Mar 1892. On board were William Boyd (37), Maud Boyd (25), Archie Boyd (9) and Ella Boyd (7). Does not fit with our family, but see Brisbane Courier article of 5 Feb which clearly states R.M. Boyd and family].

JAB Diary

19 Jan 1892 Mike packing

21 Jan 1892 Mike and D'Orban to town. Sent away Mike and Tiny's baggage

22 Jan 1892 Mike, Tiny and kids to Halifax for the night. River rose 15 ft overnight

30 Jan 1892 Wire from Mike at Port Douglas

Queenslander Sat 23 Jan 1892

The following passengers were booked by the R.M.S. Jelunga, which sailed on Tuesday [19 Jan]:— **Townsville to London: Mr. and Mrs. Boyd and 2 children**.

Northern Miner 28 Jan 1892

SHIPPING NEWS.

TOWNSVILLE., DEPARTURES

January 27.-Jelunga Q.R.M.S. Captain. A. W. Mann, for London. Passengers:-

Mrs. Sandeman, **Mrs. Boyd and two children**; **Messrs. Boyd**, Pollock and three steerage.

Brisbane Courier Friday 5 Feb 1892

INGHAM.

(From our own correspondent)

January 27. [Wednesday]

Our wet season has begun in right earnest, and promises to be rather a heavy one. Since this day week 29-86in. of rain has fallen, giving an average of 4-27in. per day. The Herbert rose about 26ft. on Wednesday last, and has been rising and falling in rather an extraordinary manner ever since. **The bridge at Gairloch Crossing** has suffered some damage, owing to the accumulation of snags and driftwood, but is not of a serious nature. At present the river is overflowing its banks in two or three places near Halifax, and several big landslips have occurred at the same spot that the bank was carried away last year. The planters were all wishing very much for rain, and must be rejoiced to see it, even though they are getting an overdose now. The crops were, beginning to look very miserable and yellow, but the metamorphosis that has taken place within a week is wonderful, and the cane and maize present a most vigorous appearance, and are beautifully green. Although 1891 was a year of general depression, all the sugar-mills in this district, with the exception of one, did remarkably well, and the output of sugar for the season almost reached 10,000 tons. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have decided to remove their mill, after one more crushing, to Fiji, unless they can dispose of it to the farmers, who are now supplying one third of the cane passed through the mill. The reason given for removal is not because the mill has not paid in the past or is not doing so at present, but to the fact that there is no certainly of obtaining reliable labour in the future. The farmers are working hand in hand, and are making every effort to get a mill to crush their cane in 1893 and afterwards, thereby insuring a market and warranting an extension of their areas under cultivation. **Both the Macknade and Ripple Creek mills are adopting the Metayer principle, and next year will purchase some thousands of tons of cane.**

Mr. R. M. Boyd, with his wife and family, left [Ingham] for a visit to England last Saturday [23 Jan 1892?]. He has spent ten years on the estate, and worked most arduously to bring it to its present state of perfection.

UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960 (Ancestry.com)

Arrivals. London **18 Mar 1892**. SS Jelunga from Townsville. Passengers: **William Boyd (37), Maud Boyd (25), Archie Boyd (9) and Ella Boyd (7).** [*Christian names and ages do not fit with our family, but see Brisbane Courier article of 5 Feb which clearly states R.M. Boyd and family went to England for a holiday*].

Queenslander 23 Apr 1892

Treatment of Kanakas.

Sir,—Having noticed in your valued issue of the 26th March an article upon the kanaka question by the Rev. Dr. Paton, and thinking it might possibly mislead people who have not had an opportunity of studying the question for themselves, I venture to state herein a few facts upon the question that have come under my personal notice. The reverend gentleman states that the mortality among the Polynesians has been very great, often the greatest in the world, and implies that such is still the case. This may possibly have been the case years ago, but is not at the present day, as the Government records would show, and by the kind permission of **Mr. Boyd, of Ripple Creek** plantation, I am enabled to give his sick rate for the year ending 31st March, 1892. He had a daily average of 165 kanakas on the plantation, the average daily sick rate being 5.6 boys, or 3.4 per cent. The mortality for the year was three

deaths, one from dysentery and two from phthisis. An epidemic of varicella, also one of influenza passed through the district, and are responsible for one per cent of the sick rate. I could give particulars of other plantations in this district, but refrain from trespassing on your space, merely mentioning that they do not differ materially from the above. Surely these figures will bear comparison with the sick rate and mortality of any labour in the world. As regards the brutality of their treatment the dietary of a sick kanaka may interest your readers:—Two eggs, 4oz. whisky, 1 pint milk, 2 pints leaf tea, and rice. The above is taken from the hospital record at Ripple Creek, and was the allowance for a boy suffering from dysentery. I do not think he would have been more liberally dieted at one of our large general hospitals. Indeed, seeing that each kanaka introduced by the planter costs from £30 to £40 it would be the height of folly on their part to ill-treat them. The Polynesian's life on his native island is not the life of *dolce far niente* that a great many people imagine it to be, but a hard struggle for existence, and if you may judge by the large proportion of kanakas who return to Queensland after a short visit home (in one case fifteen out thirty nine had previously worked on plantations), his life in Queensland, well fed and clothed, and well paid, working fifty-eight hours a week, is a vast improvement on his native life. Indeed to an unbiased mind it is difficult to understand why, if the slavery is as bitter and the chains as galling as the reverend gentleman represents, so many kanakas insist upon remaining in the hands of their cruel (?) taskmasters for from five to ten years. The veil that the reverend gentleman draws over the immorality of the kanakas may, I think, safely be drawn aside, at least wherever I have seen or come into contact with them; but the reverend gentleman may have been un fortunate in meeting them, and so only have seen the dark side of the picture. I do not think that at the present day there is one plantation in Queensland that is fortunate enough to get all their kanakas at the 4d. tariff, which the reverend gentleman omits to mention is the lowest legal rate of wages, not the legal rate. My experience has been about an average rate of 10d. to 1s. per day with good clothes, tobacco, &c. But the kanaka at the present cost of introduction is not cheap, but he is steady, hard-working, and reliable, and if the Government reduce the cost of introduction they will no doubt confer a great boon to the North and particularly to the sugar industry. But if they would go a step further and give us the Indian coolie as a tropical labourer we might see Queensland leading the world as an exporter of sugar, tea, coffee, and cotton, all of which arrive at perfection in her luxuriant soils, but are stifled by the want of labour.—I am, sir, &c., HENRY D'ORBAN, Herbert River

Brisbane Courier 11 Jul 1892

THURSDAY ISLAND, July 9.

The mail steamer India arrived this morning from London 25th May. The following is a list of her passengers :-For Cooktown-Miss Forrest ; for Townsville--Mrs. Boyd and two children, the Rev. M. H. Brassington, Messrs. R. M. Boyd, J. T. Arnot, and J. H. Ennumy Orr ; for Rockhampton-Madame Freeman ; for Brisbane - Mrs. Bimlow, Mrs. W. Bayne, Messrs. L. Lynch, J. H. Hume, Bothery, and Champernowne. The India brings the following cargo :-For Thursday Island, 125 tons ; for Cooktown, 47 1/2 tons ; for Port Douglas, 1 1/2 ton; for Cairns, 34 tons; for Townsville, 800 tons ; for Bowen, 9 1/2 tons ; for Mackay, 104 tons ; for Rockhampton, 300 tons ; for Maryborough, 50 tons ; and for Brisbane, 2500 tons.

Northern Miner 15 Jul 1892

TOWNSVILLE ARRIVAL.

July 13 - India, Q.R.M.S., Captain J. Johnstone, R.N.R., from London via ports Passengers for Townsville - Mrs. Boyd and two children; Messrs R.M. Boyd

Queenslander 3 Sep 1892

Among the Plantations.-I

MACNADE.

BY O.F.W.

Having lately visited some of the sugar plantations on the Herbert River, I thought readers of the *Queenslander* might be pleased to read some description of the more important estates. After leaving Dungeness, which is the port for the district, Macnade is the first plantation reached. It is very prettily situated on the north bank of the river. Originally started about twenty years ago by Messrs. Neame and Waller, Macnade was sold during the sugar boom of 1882 to Mr. E. Fanning, of Melbourne, for a good sum, but is now again in the hands of Messrs. F. and A. Neame. It is managed by Mr. Arthur Neame, his elder brother, Frank, having recently died in England. The area of the estate is 7000 acres, principally composed of rich scrub and forest land, there being scarcely any open plain country. For the area I consider it one of the best plantations in Queensland, being so near to the port and having so very little of its land unsuitable for cane growing. The subsoil being of a sandy nature it is almost naturally drained. The principal varieties of cane grown here are Meera, Bappoe, Mauritius Gingham, and Mauritius Yellow, these being less liable to rust than other kinds. At the time of my visit there were 4,000 acres under cane and more land was in preparation. The cane was looking well, showing signs of careful cultivation, and considering the age of some of the fields it was astonishing to see such heavy crops growing on them. These, by the way, were growing on scrub soil. There are about 100 Europeans and 300 coloured men of various nationalities employed here, and there are several tenant farmers growing cane for the plantation mill. The proprietors anticipate leasing more farms now that the labour question is on a better footing. The original crushing plant was purchased from Messrs. Mirrlees, Tait and Watson, of Glasgow, but it has been considerably augmented at different times by the addition of improved machinery, and the mill is now capable of turn out 3000 tons of sugar in the season providing the weather be favourable. The boiler power is about 300-h.p., and there is an unlimited supply of water. There is also laid down on the estate about nine miles of light railway. All the improvements are very substantial, and the welfare and comfort of the employees, both white and coloured, is particularly well attended to. One of the most recent improvements I noticed here was a large sugar store that had been erected at the lower end of the estate capable of holding some 400 tons of sugar. It is connected with the mill by about two miles of railway, and steamers are able to come up from Dungeness to the wharf attached to the store to load up, by which a great saving in expense of freight is effected in comparison with the old method of shipping. The output of sugar last season was 2000 tons, and as much, if not more, is expected this year although the cane is rather backward. There is a fine mob of horses at Macnade, numbering about 140 head, including saddle and draught animals. The draughts are a fine stamp of horse ; most of them were bred by the late Mr. Harm, of Mary vale, and are very suit able for farm purposes. There is also a good herd of about 600 head of cattle running on the property, and the beef I saw hanging up at the store spoke well for the pasture it came off. I may mention that this plantation had the honour of being awarded a silver medal for sugars exhibited at the Paris Exhibition in 1878. The residence of Mr. Neame is charmingly situated on a little hill which slopes down to the river, and it is surrounded by a very pretty and well laid out garden, where may be seen all sorts of choice plants growing in luxuriance. The view from both the front and back verandas is delightful with a background of bold mountain scenery, the lofty peaks of Hinchinbrook Island towering above the rest; and the waterfall that flows down the side is plainly discernible in fine weather.

RIPPLE CREEK.

The next plantation along the north bank, Ripple Creek, the property of Messrs Wood Bros, and Boyd, is about three miles up the river from Macnade. It takes its name from a running

creek which flows through the estate and empties itself into the Herbert close to the proprietors' residence. **Mr. R. M. Boyd** at the time of my visit was on a trip to the "old country" with his wife and family, but I was very hospitably received by **his brother, Mr. A. J. Boyd**. The area of this estate is about 1600 acres, and it struck me as having a very large frontage to the Herbert for the size of the property. The area under cane is about 800 acres, and 130 acres is leased to tenant farmers; the firm have also contracted to buy the cane off 150 acres of land leased to farmers adjoining the estate, and the owners are still clearing fresh land. The principal varieties of cane grown here are Lilian Green, Meera, Rappoe, and Mauritius Yellow; this latter variety grows in great perfection and I understand yields a large amount of sugar to the acre. The mill, although not a very large one, is very well planned, and is capable of getting through 15 tons of cane per hour.

The supply of water for the mill is derived from Ripple Creek, on the bank of which it is situated, together with the numerous buildings for the employees of the estate. The number of Europeans employed here is about sixty (this does not include forty Italians who had not long been introduced), about 200 South Sea Islanders, and fifty Javanese. **The output of sugar from this estate last season was 1700 tons**, and a much heavier yield is anticipated this season. **Messrs. Wood and Boyd also own another selection of 750 acres across the Seymour River, and have recently taken up another 250 acres.** Unlike most other planters they send the whole of their crop and supply down the Seymour, on which Messrs. Aplin, Brown, and Co. have erected a wharf some two miles from the mill. The river is not a very large one, but being a tidal water from the sea it has 7ft. water at the wharf at spring tide, and by means of a large punt Messrs. Aplin, Brown, and Co. have bi-weekly communication with the Northern and Southern steamers. Two light draught punts carry 20 tons on 20in. of water. One labour-saving improvement I noticed here was a sugar drier. It consists of an iron tube 30ft. long, 8ft. diameter, with 10in. steam pipe running through centre; twelve small shelves are fixed on the interior of the cylinder, which revolves and constantly throws the sugar on the surface of the steam pipe. From entrance to exit it takes about twenty minutes. The sugar is lifted to the drier by a steam elevator, thence by elevator to the upper story of the sugar-house, whence it is sent down through shoots into bags. There is no handling in the whole process. I forgot to mention that the sugar falls on a series of three sieves, the first being the smallest size; the grain not capable of passing through these shoots over into a heap at the bottom, thereby producing a more uniform grain. The residence of Mr. Boyd is a very comfortable one, and commands a fine view of the river. Coffee bushes are to be seen growing here to great perfection, and a very pretty flower garden and lawn surround the house. [to be continued.]

Queenslander 10 Sep 1892

Among the Plantations.—II.

GAIRLOCH.

BY O.F.W.

Some three miles up, the Herbert River from **Ripple Creek**, and on the south bank, is Gairloch, one of the pioneer plantations of the district. It was originally taken up by the Messrs. Mackenzie, who laid out the place with great taste. The mill they erected was not a very large one, but they turned out some very good sugar. The Gairloch Estate at the present time consists of the three small estates, Gairloch (old), Bemerside, and Ing's, which were originally worked separately, and has an area of 4500 acres, about equally divided by the river, giving it thus an exceptionally large river frontage of seven miles, and consequently a great proportion of first-class land. In 1880 Messrs. Fanning, Nankivell, and Co. purchased the Bemerside estate, the property of Messrs. Haig and Miles, which was at the time in full swing and turning out some 200 tons of sugar per annum. They then secured Gairloch, the

adjoining property, and at once ordered a large plant from Messrs. H. and W. Smith and Sons, of Glasgow, capable of turning out from fifteen to twenty tons of sugar per diem. The other estate, Ing's, on the north bank, was formerly occupied by Mr. Ingham, from whom our little town takes its name. Mr. Ingham was killed by the natives off the coast of New Guinea. The new mill is an imposing building 300 ft. by 60ft., with boiler shed 150 ft. by 75ft. adjoining. The crushing plant is perhaps the largest and finest in the colony. The rollers are 84in. in diameter, and 5ft. 6in. long, and both sets are alike driven by 50-horse power beam engines geared up to rollers with massive spur wheels. The vacuum pans, of which there are two, each capable of turning out four tons of dry sugar, are made of copper, and have always given satisfaction. The other machinery is all good, and arranged to save labour as much as possible. The greatest drawback in the mill was the erection of open batteries with multi tubular concentrating pans instead of the triple effect which was just at that time coming into use in the colonies. I believe Messrs. Fanning, Nankivell, and Co. were advised by some old Mauritius men to try it, but it evidently did not answer, as from what I can learn there was not boiler power enough to work the apparatus, and the result was the liquor had to remain at times several hours before condensation, and upset the whole working of the mill. Another drawback was the want of tramway in the field, all the cane being brought to the mill by horse drays. The first cane was put through the mill in 1882, and the output that season was about 600 tons. From that time until 1887 the area of cane was considerably increased, until 1200 acres were covered by a good crop, but owing to the wetness of the season a large portion of the crop had to stand over; this would not have been the case had a tram line been laid through the different fields. The greatest output for one season from this mill was 1200 tons. A novelty here for getting cane over the river from the north bank is a patent wire tramway, which cost, I believe, about £8000, and is capable of bringing over 150 tons of cane in the day. It is so arranged as to drop the cane close to the rollers. In 1888 the owners decided to close the mill and sell the whole property. The principal reasons for this action were the low price of sugar, scarcity and high price of labour, want of triple effect in the mill and tramline in the field. Messrs. Wood Bros, and Boyd purchased 500 acres on the north side of the Herbert. Two or three small blocks from forty up to 100 acres were disposed of also; the balance of the estate was then purchased by a syndicate, Messrs. A. S. Cowley and Co. Their idea is to cut the land up into small farms for growing cane for the Victoria and Ripple Creek mills. They have let 300 acres on the north side of the river in seven farms; the cane grown on these will be crushed by the Ripple Creek mill. On the south side a great many applications have been made by intending cane-growers, but as the Colonial Sugar Refining Company has not signified its intention to take cane only one or two have settled on the land. It is quite probable that this company will take cane from Gairloch in 1894 and will lay down a permanent tramway to facilitate its transport. I understand that if that is done 1000 acres of land will be let immediately. From 1887 to 1891 inclusive the Colonial Sugar Refining Company rented 1000 acres of Gairloch land and grew 800 acres of cane. The residence on this estate is occupied by Mr. Lewis Cowley, who is looking after the property. It is a large roomy house, and is very prettily situated on the bank of the river, commanding a charming view of two reaches. Orange trees grow to great perfection here, and yield fine crops of fruit every year. A beautiful garden surrounds the house, and tropical plants and shrubs grow in great variety and profusion.

Northern Miner 27 Sep 1892

NORTHERN SUPREME COURT.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 .

(Before His Honor Mr. Acting Justice Noel.)

IN CHAMBERS.

Kwong Hing Loong v Ah Tin, trading as Yee Hop.- Mr. Leu (of Messrs Roberts and Leu) applied for a garnishee order against Arthur Neame, trading as F. and A. Neame, of Macnade, and Wood Bros, and Boyd, of Ripple Creek, and asked that as regards Wood Bros, and Boyd, order be made as against **Robert Mitchell Boyd**, manager and only resident partner. Order accordingly; returnable 10th of October, 1892 ; costs of this application to be added to the judgment and paid by the defendant. Notice of this order to be given by prepaid telegram to Arthur Neame and **R. M. Boyd**, such telegram to be signed by the Registrar, this to be sufficient notice of order, pending service in the ordinary manner.

Northern Miner 23 Nov 1892

NORTHERN SUPREME COURT.

Monday, November 21.

(Before His Honor, Mr. Justice Chubb.)

IN CHAMBERS.

KUONG HING LOONG v Ah Jin. Application for garnishee order absolute. Arthur Neame and **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, garnishees. Mr. Roberts (of Messrs Roberts and Leu) appeared for plaintiff. He asked for an adjournment as regards Arthur Neame. Adjourned until 5th. December. As against Wood Bros, and Boyd, be read the affidavit of R. W. Noran, filed 10th November. Order-absolute form 32 ; costs of this application to be added to judgment debt.

North Queensland Register 30 Nov 1892

Ingham,

[From our Correspondent]

The crushing season is just coming to a close, and some of the plantations have done very well. Macknade, the property of Mr. Arthur Neame, will have turned out about 2000 tons of sugar. Ripple Creek, the property of Messrs **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, will clean up for a total of about 1900 tons. This is the smallest mill; but it is very compact and complete in every respect, and is admirably managed.

Morning Bulletin Rockhampton 16 Jan 1893

The Ingham correspondent of the Townsville Bulletin writes as follows:-On the 26th of December four kanaka boys took one of Messrs. **Wood Brothers and Boyd's** punts from Ripple Creek to the wharf at the Seymour River, and on their arrival at their destination were found to be the worse for liquor, and one boy died shortly after arrival, the supposed cause of death being heat apoplexy. An inquiry was held touching the death of the kanaka before the Police Magistrate at Ingham to-day, with the result that the kanakas declared that they obtained the grog from Mr. Faithfull's hotel, Dungeness, and the police have taken out four summonses against that publican in consequence. An Italian was found dead under a pandanus tree. He had been up to Ingham to bank some money, and complained greatly of the heat while travelling home, and stopped at Mrs. Wickham's Retreat Hotel ; had two or three glasses of water, and, after cooling himself, took a glass of beer. Dr. Macdonald's opinion is that death was caused by sunstroke. The heat is again fearful over 114° in the shade-and accompanied by hot wind.

Queenslander 28 Jan 1893

Portable Steel Tramways.

It is a recognised axiom that one of the chief drawbacks, as against the development and growth of any new country or colony, is the means, or rather want of means, of transport of goods and means, transport goods products.This present is their first representative visit to Queensland, where, however, there being such an extensive field for operations, it is confidently expected that a large business will be the outcome, and already the initial order for a large quantity of 14 lb. steel rail, with fastenings complete, has been received from Messrs. **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, of Ripple Creek.— [Advt.]

Queenslander Sat 11 Mar 1893

Townsville, February 25.

Mr. Boyd, [RMB; JAB in England] of Ripple Creek, arrived by the Palmer on Saturday.

North Queensland Register 29 Mar 1893

THE HERBERT RIVER DISTRICT

After the Mackay the Herbert River district is the one in North Queensland in which the growing of sugar cane is being taken up by farmers and selectors and every year the place is steadily advancing towards prosperity. In this issue will be found three views in that district.

The Bridge.

The bridge depicted is one recently erected over the Herbert River, at a cost of about £6000. It is of iron and is wisely built at a low level so that when huge floods come down from the mountains at the back of Herberton they glide harmlessly over the top and carry their debris to the sea-shore in stead of piling it up against the bridge and bringing about the destruction. The bridge allows settlers on the north side of the bridge free access to the town of Ingham, except in time of heavy- floods when no one wants to go out, and is a great boon to the people of the district.

Ripple Creek Plantation.

Ripple Creek Plantation, owned by **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, though not the largest, is one of the best, most successful, and economically managed plantations on the Herbert River. It is managed by **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, one of the partners who is a hard-worker as a manager required to be in the bad times from which, let us hope, the sugar industry is emerging. The manager's house is a comfortable but unpretentious edifice and is erected on high piles, the lower story no doubt being used as a dining-room. There is no lack of pretty trees about the place; it is a pity these handsome, shrubs do not grow as luxuriously in our dry interior. A view of the mill which turns out the famous " Ripple Creek sugars" is also given. The Wood Brothers who are interested in the plantation are the well-known Newcastle merchants, one of them being the husband of Essie Jenyns. Mr. Boyd though he scarcely ever leaves his plantation has a decided penchant for mining speculation. **He is interested in Charters Towers mines, and spent a lot of money in assisting in the development of the Kangaroo Hills silver fields** in the latter's case with but poor results so far.

Letter No 7 12 May 1893

RMB at Ripple Creek

Brisbane Courier 8 Jul 1893

INGHAM, July 7.

The Macnade and Ripple Creek mills both started crushing this week, and are doing moderately well.

Mr. R. M. Boyd, of Ripple Creek, met with a serious accident yesterday. His horse threw him, and he had his leg broken. The patient is progressing favourably.

Letter Extract 28 Aug 1893

Ripple Creek

My Dear Warren,

[Weather sugar crop etc. then]

"I had a good passage home and got engaged to a young lady on board. **My brother** has been eight weeks laid up with a leg broken in two places, he got out yesterday on crutches for the first time and was quite proud of doing fifty yards."

North Queensland Register 18 Oct 1893

ARRIVALS.

October 14—*Palmer*, s, from Cairns via ports. Passengers—Messrs W. E. Molle, H. C. Stanley, Bownsley, J. Caine, **Boyd**, Reggazoti, J. Reggazoti, Atkinson, E. Waller, and nine in the steerage. Burns, Philp and Co., Ltd., agents. [*RMB going to Townsville, confirmed in JAB diary*]

JAB Diary

23 Oct 1893 Mike went to Macknade this afternoon."

Northern Miner 31 Oct 1893

October 30-Wodonga, a, Captain J.E. Meaburn, for Southern ports. Passengers **Mesdames Boyd, Messrs ... Boyd**, [*RMB and Emily*]

Queenslander 4 Nov 1893

Townsville, October 21. **Mr. Boyd** [*RMB*]returned to Ripple Creek on Tuesday.

Telegram No 60 18 Nov 1893

RMB staying at Queen's Hotel Townsville. EBB reminded him to engage a cook and laundress.

Brisbane Courier 22 Nov 1893

TOWNSVILLE, November 21.

An important civil case is set down for hearing at the Supreme Court on Thursday, before Mr. Justice Chubb, in which Messrs. Aplin, Brown, and Co. sue Messrs. **Wood Bros. and Boyd, of Ripple Creek** plantation, Herbert River, for the cost of the introduction of certain kanakas which the latter refused to accept, alleging that they were undersized.

Letter No 64 23 Nov 1893

RMB in Townsville at court case

Brisbane Courier 25 Nov 1893

TOWNSVILLE, November 24.

The hearing of the evidence in the case of Sandeman v. **Wood Bros, and Boyd** occupied the whole of the day in the Supreme Court, and the case was further adjourned until tomorrow.

Brisbane Courier 27 Nov 1893

QUEENSLAND.

TOWNSVILLE, November 26.

In the Supreme Court on Saturday the case of Sandeman v. **Wood Bros, and Boyd** was concluded, but Mr. Justice Chubb reserved judgment. He stated that he would like to obtain the evidence of another witness as to the condition of the kanakas in dispute ; that he had power to call for evidence at any stage and would like the opinion of Dr. Ahearne on the case. Mr. Sandeman claims £126 as passage money, &c, for six kanakas brought in the Empreza, who the defendants state were not fit for tropical agriculture.

Brisbane Courier 5 Dec 1893

Mr. Justice Chubb has given judgment for the plaintiff in the case of Sandeman v. **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, in which the plaintiff's claim for £126, the cost of introduction of six kanakas, was contested on the ground that the kanakas were physically unfit for labour.

Brisbane Courier 5 Dec 1893

AN IMPORTANT CASE.

INTRODUCTION OF INCAPABLE KANAKAS.

JUDGMENT OF JUSTICE CHUBB.

Townsville, December 4.

Mr. Justice Chubb delivered his reserved judgment in the case of Sandeman v. **Wood Bros, and Boyd** in the Supreme Court this morning. The claim was for £126, the cost of the introduction of six kanakas, while there was a counter claim for £390 9s. 6d. on account of capitation fees, wages, clothes, rations, &c., for the three years which Wood Bros, and Boyd have to keep the four surviving islanders. The Judge's finding states that the plaintiff is entitled to judgment for the money claimed. Although the islanders were not physically fit

for labour, His Honour did not think the plaintiff could be held responsible. The agreement was to deliver the recruits, and the recruits had been delivered. They were first examined and passed, and certified by the public officers prescribed in the Act, and had passed out of the plaintiff's control. He (the Judge) thought that the certificate of the medical officer, which was, he considered, honestly but improperly given, relieved the plaintiff of responsibility. Messrs. Aplin, Brown, and Co. were not acting as the plaintiff's agents in signing the agreement, and it must not be forgotten that the defendants, by their agent, the master of the ship, introduced the islanders. As to the counter claim, his Honour said he saw no case against the plaintiff. By paying and maintaining the islanders, Messrs. Wood Bros, and Boyd had, though unwillingly, ratified the agreement. As at present advised he did not think that the defendants were bound to retain the islanders for the full term of their agreement. The Masters and Servants Act was expressly applied to these agreements by the principal Act, and by the general law of masters and servants an agreement might be rescinded on account of the permanent disability of the servant arising from disease. His Honour therefore gave judgment for the plaintiff on the claim for £126 and costs, and on the counter claim for the plaintiff and Messrs. Aplin, Brown, and Co., who were defendants by the counter claim, with costs of one set. Mr. Justice Chubb further said :-" I may add, though it is not to be taken as part of the judgment, that it would be well if the defendants were to induce the Government to have the four boys sent back to their islands." Mr. Ross : " We have endeavoured to do so already." Mr. Justice Chubb : " Perhaps the Government will now be more amenable to reason."

Northern Miner 19 Dec 1893

SHIPPING NEWS.

TOWNSVILLE ARRIVAL .

December 16-Palmer,s, Captain A J Clark, from Cairns, via ports. Passengers- Mesdames R M Boyd,; MessrsR M Boyd,

Queenslander 6 Jan 1894

TOWNSVILLE, December 24.

-Mr. and Mrs. Boyd arrived on Saturday week [16 Dec 1893] from the Herbert. Mrs. Boyd left for Sydney by the Peregrine on Monday, and Mr. Boyd and his son returned the following day to Ripple Creek.—

Queenslander 17 Mar 1894

ARRIVALS.

March 8.— ARAMAC, s., 2114 tons, Captain Armstrong, from Cooktown, via ports. Passengers:. For Southern ports —Messrs. ..R. M. Boyd,

DEPARTURES.

March 10.—ARAMAC, s., 2340 tons, Captain Robert Armstrong, for Sydney and Melbourne. Passengers: Messrs. ...R. M. Boyd,

Telegram 152 13 Apr 1894

R.M. Boyd c/- Ducker and Son, Bond St. Sydney

Deeply grieved Mother's death and Father utterly prostrated. Wire sympathies. Love
JA Boyd

SMH 26 Apr 1894

CLEARANCES APRIL 25

Arawatta (s.), 2114 tons. Captain F G. Lee, for Brisbane and Northern ports. Passengers;-
....., **R. M. Boyd**,

Telegram 160 26 Apr 1894

R.M. Boyd c/- Davis and Ross, Townsville. Glad you are coming home. Reggie will meet you
Townsville. Letters at Queens. JA Boyd

Brisbane Courier 27 Apr 1894

TURF NOTES.

Mr. T. S. Clibborn held a sale of racehorses at Fennelly's Bazaar, Sydney, on Monday last, when several well-known performers, as well as a number of untried ones, were submitted to public competition. Bendigo and Escort failed to elicit reserved prices. The following sales were effected :- ; ch.g., by Canary from Beauty, 4 years, **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, 15 guineas ;
.....

Northern Miner 3 May 1894

TOWNSVILLE

Arrivals. .

May 1-Arawatta, s, Captain F. G. Lee, from Southern ports. Passengers-..... ; **Messrs R. M. Boyd**,

JAB Diary

5 May 1894 "Mike came home this afternoon"

Northern Miner 8 May 1894

SPORTING NEWS.

INGHAM, MAY 7

Mr. J. A. Boyd's recently purchased race horses arrived at Ripple Creek safely. [**RMB** *actually bought and brought the horses from Sydney*. Elaine Roberts writes: I don't know if this is JA getting horses for Reg, there is no mention in the diary about any. Maybe they were Mitch's? JA was not into horse racing really. Reggie was and Jeannie loved betting, but mostly, when writing about race meetings. JA only has disparaging things to say about them, probably because he always seemed to lose money!]

SMH 17 May 1894

CLEARANCES MAY 11,

Aramac (s.), 2114 tons. Captain R Armstrong, for Brisbane and ports. Passengers- Mrs. Coote and child, Mrs. Reid, **Mr. R M. Boyd**,

Brisbane Courier 21 May 1894

DEPARTURES.

May 19.-ARAMAC, s, 2111 tons, Captain Robert Armstrong, for Cooktown, via ports
Passengers: **Mesdames**, **Boyd**, , Messrs., **R M. Boyd**,

Letter from JAB to a friend 24 May 1894

“My brother’s wife returned from South yesterday, both looking better for their trip.”

Northern Miner 24 May 1894

TOWNSVILLE Vessels out.

May 22 -Palmer, s, Captain A. J. Clark, for Cairns via ports, Passengers -**Mesdames, Boyd;**
.....: Messrs., Boyd,

Queenslander Sat 9 Jun 1894

Townsville, May 26.—**Mr. and Mrs. Boyd** arrived on Tuesday, and left by the Palmer the same evening for Ripple Creek. **Mrs. Boyd** has been in Sydney for some months.—

Northern Miner 1 Nov 1894

DEPARTURES.

October 30-Palmer, a, Captain A. J. Clark, for Cairns via ports. Passengers:- **Mesdames Boyd,**
..... Messrs Boyd.

Northern Miner 21 Feb 1895

The following letter from **Mr. R.M. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, appears in the " Sugar Journal," of the 15th January. "I would suggest that all the sugar manufacturers of Queensland held a conference in Brisbane, say during the last couple of weeks in March, to discuss the question of exporting the surplus production of sugar that will be made next season in the Australian colonies and also any other matters of importance to the industry, perhaps those gentlemen who lately met the manager of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. in Brisbane would kindly take the matter in hand, and call the conference, when I am sure nearly every one interested would attend the meeting and talk over the present very serious outlook for sugar makers and growers.

Northern Miner 7 Mar 1895

Our Ingham correspondent writes- Still the exodus continues. Mr. Melvin has left for a trip to New Zealand, and now the placid and persuasive J. P. Conroy, mainstay of the

Church of England choir, and mainstay and manager of Kenlon and Co., has also departed for the south. Rumor says to indent largely for the firm, who contemplate largely extending their already extensive business. W. Walker, the popular manager of Macnade, is a candidate for a seat on the Divisional Board. He is opposed by **R. Boyd**, managing partner of Wood Bros and Boyd, of Ripple Creek, and will just about win. It

Northern Miner 12 Mar 1895

TOWNSVILLE ARRIVALS. March 9 -Palmer, s., Captain A. J. Clark, from Cairns via ports. Passengers -Mesdames Riley and nurse, **Boyd**, Rev. Morgan, Messrs **Boyd**.

North Queensland Register 20 Mar 1895

SOCIAL JOTTINGS.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd (Herbert River) are staying in town. [*Townsville*]

Brisbane Courier 26 Mar 1895

INGHAM, March 25.

Mr. R. M. Boyd, who was returned for the vacancy in No. 3 Subdivision, polled six more votes than his opponent, Mr. W. Walker.

Queenslander 30 Mar 1895

Townsville, **March 16.****Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, are in town, and are staying at the Queen's Hotel.—

North Queensland Register 3 Apr 1895

Townsville March 31.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, of Ripple Creek, are at present staying at the Queen's Hotel.

Northern Miner 10 Apr 1895

INGHAM April 4.

I am sorry to say that the dreadful grubs have made their appearance on the river, and some farms are likely to suffer very severely. They are said to be numerous at Macknade, **Ripple Creek** and Cordelia. At the latter place they are worst, and, unless the cane is cut very shortly, great loss to the farmers will inevitably result.

So far the Halifax cane growers have not suffered much, though the unmistakeable signs of the destroyers are to be seen in many of the fields. A petition has been sent to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company asking that the Victoria Mill be directed to commence operations as early in May as possible, and the grub eaten cane be taken off as soon as the mill shuts. This is really the only chance for the farmers whose cane has been attacked to have a decent crop for next year, as it gives them the opportunity to plough out the affected stools and plant new cane for the next crushing. It is stated that the grubs will not attack "plant" cane when they can get "ratoons" and that the better the ground is cultivated the better the grubs like it, it being so much easier for them to travel in it. The only remedy that seems to have any effect in

diminishing the numbers of these destructive insects consists in cutting down the trees which are the habitat of the parent beetle, a large grey beetle with black markings, which infests a species of fig-tree. If these trees are cut down the beetles are easily caught in the young shoots which spring from the trunk, and it has been suggested that a fund be formed to pay a price for the collection and destruction of these beetles. Beetle hunting would then be a pleasant and profitable pastime with the children, for the Australian youth, like his English brother, dearly loves to hunt something. "What a lovely moonlight night, let's go and hunt possums," you know. But first and foremost must come the destruction of the fig trees which remain. Many of them have been already destroyed, and, in some cases, the farmers have cut down every tree in their fields, and I have been assured that the men who have done so suffer, as a rule, less from the attacks of the grubs than those who have yielded to their lore of the picturesque and spared the trees. A very heavy rainfall just now would destroy the grubs, but that blessing might be counter balanced by the harm which would, perhaps, be done to the plant cane.

Cricket has had one of the usual spasmodic revivals lately and a couple of matches have been played. The one last Saturday between a team of Englishmen and one of Australians occasioned a great deal of interest, and attracted a larger crowd to Roscommon Park, kindly lent for all such sports by the owner, Mr. J. J. Hawkins, than has been seen there at a cricket match since Cairns put our men down and our men retaliated by putting Geraldton down. The Australian captain, winning the toss sent the Britishers to the wickets. The following are the scores :.....

AUSTRALIAN TEAM-1st innings.

..... R. Boyd, hit wkt, b Geeson . 0 [*Reg or RMB?*]

SMH 16 Apr 1895

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

FIFTH DAY.

Sugar- Raw sugars collection Wood Bros and Boyd Ripple Creek, Queensland 1. White crystals large grain Wood Bros and Boyd 1. White crystals small grain Wood Bros and Boyd 1. Soft white counter Wood Bros and Boyd v.h.c. Yellow brewers crystals Wood Bros and Boyd the yellow crystals small grain Wood Bros and Boyd 1. Yellow counter: Wood Bros and Boyd v.h.c. The judges remark -Taken as a whole this is a very creditable exhibit. Their collection of raw sugars white crystals large and small grain and small-grain yellow crystals are of a very high standard of excellence Their soft white counter is too grey for a soft white counter The sample described as yellow brewer crystals is too moist and small in grain and their yellow counters are scarcely up to standard of yellow counters.

Northern Miner 23 Apr 1895

Ingham, April 20.

Great improvements have been and are being made at the other mills, and Messrs. Wood Brothers and Boyd have nearly completed the work of laying a tram line from Gairloch bridge to the wharves at the Seymour, and a better laid piece of line is not to be found on any plantation in the North.

Northern Miner 23 Apr 1895

TOWNSVILLE. ARRIVALS.

April 20-Palmer, s, Captain Clarke, from Cairns via ports. Passengers-Mesdames Phillipson and two children, Jenkins and two children, Jenkins sen., Hague; Messrs Cullen, Robertson, Terry, Empson. Hannington, **Boyd**, and nineteen members of the Chinese Opera Company, and ten in the steerage. Burns, Philp and Co, Ltd, agents.

19 May 1895

Archie and Jeanie had a stillborn daughter

North Queensland Register 3 Jul 1895

DEPARTURES.

June 29-Lubra, s, Captain Brown, for Cairns via ports Passengers-Miss Moss; Messrs N. Hatterman, Cassady, **Boyd**, Mattingly, J. Melvin ; **Master Boyd**, and two in the steerage.

North Queenslander Register 17 Jul 1895

HERBERT RIVER JOCKEY CLUB ANNUAL. MEETING

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 20th. and 21st SEPTEMBER.

PATRON--Hon, A. S. Cowley. PRESIDENT--Dr W.C.C. Macdonald. VICE PRESIDENTS--L. J. Cowley and W. P. Canny, Esqs. JUDGE--R. S. Alston, Esq.; STEWARDS- -Dr. W. C. C. Macdonald, Messrs L. J. Cowley, R. G. Blackmore, W. P. Canny and J. Webster. TREASURER--Geo. Urquhart, Esq., **STARTER- -R. Boyd**, Esq. CLERK OF THE COURSE--J. Clark Esq. CLERK OF THE SCALE--W. A. Hopkinson, Esq. HANDICAPPER-Jas. S. Love, Esq. Townsville.

-PROGRAMME[1st Day 6 races, 2nd day 5 races]

[*RMB. RMB's horse 'Romeo' won.*]

Australian Town and Country Journal 21 Sep 1895

In the North..

'THE HERBERT RIVER DISTRICT.

THE SUGAR PLANTATIONS.

(By Our Special Representative.)

(See Illustrations on this and previous pages.)

It is rarely that the peregrinations of the ordinary traveller extend to the Herbert River district, and yet there are few spots in Northern Queensland more interesting or picturesque, rich in tropical foliage and mountain scenery, it offers unlimited scope to the landscape painter, while the student of humanity, will find among the mixed and unconventional population field for the exercise of his researches which, few other places can equal. It embraces, a large and rich tract of agricultural, pastoral and sugar-growing country, and has

for its business centre Ingham, a thriving little town on Palm Creek, about twenty miles from the mouth of the Herbert-River. It is out of the regular tourist route, and this fact, together with the inconvenience experienced during the wet season in travelling, may account for the circumstance that it is very rarely that others than those having business with the district find their way to the hospitable little post towns of Halifax and Ingham, and still more rarely that they penetrate farther inland. Taking passage by the ordinary small but well-appointed coasting steamers plying between Townsville and Cairns, the intending visitor to the Herbert River, leave the sea at Dungeness, from which small seaport he is rowed ten miles down the Herbert River to Halifax, a journey which at low water is, attended with some risk of grounding, but which will amply repay any little inconveniences experienced. The steamer Adelaide, captained by James Keir and run by Messrs. Aplin, Brown, and Crawshaw, Limited, of Townsville, leave Townsville for Cairns, the Johnstone River Port Douglas, and the sugar country every Monday evening. She enters the famous Hinchinbrook Passage in the daylight, so that this marvellous scenery can be fully admired by the tourist, and returns on Friday to Townsville again, after performing a journey which for beauty of scenery is unequalled in Queensland.

The scenery is superb. From the Hinchinbrook Mountain, which stands nearly at the mouth of the river, and forms a prominent peak of the Cardwell Range, right up to Halifax fresh beauties are continually presenting themselves. Bright tinted mangroves, which grow apparently right out of the water, are mingled with giant trees, creeper-infested, and gaunt looking, which stand out clearly defined against the purple, and blue hills whose peaks fade away in the distance until they blend with the cobalt sky. In the early morning (at which time the writer made the journey) the reflections from the timber, skirting the shores stretched half across the river, and were a perfect inverted duplicate of the original, every tint and every leaf and limb being faithfully reproduced on the still and shallow waters. From Halifax a coach conveys the traveller to Ingham along a road flanked on either side with a wealth of tropical palms, trees, and tangle, remarkably dusty in dry and phenomenally sticky in wet weather. During very wet weather, indeed, this road is quite impassable for the best part of the distance, and persistent travellers, after toiling manfully a few miles through black mud and water axle deep, are compelled to take to the boats, and perform the rest of the journey by water. That this does not infrequently occur may be guessed from the fact that the average rainfall for the district is about 150in a year, no less than 200in having fallen in 1894, of which total 140in were registered during the first six months. One amusing incident in connection with the phenomenal rainfall in the district, which is vouched for by a reliable authority, is worth repeating. A bookkeeper on one of the sugar mills, whose duty it was to send to Brisbane an accurate statement of the rainfall in his district, put it down as 3yd 2ft and 10in for the quarter. He received an acknowledgement from headquarters, but his humor was evidently unappreciated by the methodical department, for the letter concluded with the words, "Please do not play with the rain." In a locality where it is no uncommon thing to see houses gracefully floating down the river it might not appear unreasonable to any but a mind perverted by the constant use of red tape to record the rainfall by the yard, instead of by the inch. Only recently the whole of the houses at Dungeness that were not carried away by the floods were shifted by their owners farther inland, in order to escape the sudden rising of the river, occasioned by the erratic favors dispensed. By Jupiter Pluvius in the locality.



Mr. R. M. Boyd's House

THE SUGAR PLANTATIONS.

To a visitor from the south the sugar plantations in Northern Queensland are full of interest. They afford a glimpse of a life entirely foreign to his ordinary every-day existence, and give him an idea of the unlimited resources of this most remarkable colony. He drives or rides along a regular street hemmed in on either side by houses, workshops, and mills, whose outline is but faintly traceable along the graceful leaves of the cocoanut palm and the tropical vines and finds himself surrounded by a life which is in every way unique. The grass houses of the kanakas, which the tropical foliage as a background, carry one back to the South Sea Islands. Then a sudden bend in the road discloses a blacks' camp, a sight typically Australian, except for the palms and the bananas in the distance. There are bits of modern Japan, of Java, of India, with interspersions of Australian, African, South American, Polynesian, and a hundred and one other scenic effects, all mingled together higgledy-piggledy in such a delightfully confusing manner that had he fallen there from a balloon geographically ignorant of the locality, a visitor would be at his wit's end to say with any degree of certainty on what quarter of the globe he happened to be gazing. Here the blushing red rose extolled by the immortal Captain Cuttle rubs noses with the yellow hibiscus-looking flower of the cotton shrub. The hard-hearted cabbage flourishes under the umbrageous shade of the mango. The, cocoanut palm, the pomolo, the coffee-tree, the potato, and the pine live like a happy family in the same garden patch, under the brilliant blue sky and the tropical sun, and even the sensitive kidney bean appears to realise no incongruity, in the fact that it bears its fruit beside the soursop and the orchid. Beyond the row of bamboos or mangroves which line the boundary flows (more or less rapidly according to the tide and the season) the creek, which rumor peoples with crocodiles, of prodigious dimensions, and which recalls (or would recall if it were not for the absence of mud) the land of the Pharaohs. Then there is the engineers' shop, the bakery, the smithy, the hospital, the doctor's quarters, the office, the store, the implement sheds, the Europeans' quarters, the staff head quarters, the head ganger, the field manager, the Japanese inspector, and the general manager's houses, all nestling in a filigree of vari-tinted foliage, and the public school in the distance, with a regular attendance of from thirty to fifty children, testifying, with the cane, the fruits, and the foliage, to the fructuousness of the district. Here and there, burning off trash, cutting cane, loading the trucks, bagging, screening, or clarifying the sugar, are whites, blacks, browns, and yellows all busy like a hive of bees in the work of supplying those glistening grains of saccharine matter which we buy at so many halfpence per pound to sweeten our tea with. The whole process of extracting the sugar is conducted in, these mills, with the most scrupulous regard to cleanliness, and from the time the cane leaves the carrier to be shredded till the granulated sugar is automatically fed into the bags it is never handled. The trams bring the cane from the

plantations to the mill, where it is hurried up by the carriers into the shredder, which hisses and splutters, and bangs, and roars as it delivers it, in a tattered and wet condition into a chamber heated by steam, from whence it passes through a second set of rollers, and is afterwards elevated to the megass loft to be used as fuel, for nothing is wasted here. Mean while the liquor runs into a "juice tank" made of perforated copper, which takes out the small megass (or particles of cane), and from here is pumped through a "juice heater" into tanks and impregnated with sulphur. From thence it passes into the clarifiers, where it is brought to boiling point by means of steam tubes. It is then skimmed with large wooden spades, and run into "subsiders," where it remains about an hour to allow the heavy matter to sink to the bottom. The clear liquor is racked off into a tank which supplies the "triple effects," where, the juice is condensed from 7deg to 22deg B.O. and is afterwards pumped up into a "re-heater," where it undergoes a second course of clarification, and (where white sugar is required) the bleachers are used. From here it goes into a second lot of subsiders, where it remains for twelve hours. It is then run into vacuum pans, and passes into the "mixer," which supplies the "centrifugals," where the sugar is washed with filtered water, and partially dried, after which it is elevated to the steam-drier, and again raised to the top floor of the mill, where it is mechanically screened, falling into a hopper, from which, a shoot discharges it straight into the bag as the first quality of sugar. The syrup thrown away from the first sugar in the process of drying is pumped into the "vacuum stage" to a "blow-up tank," where it is again heated, and goes through another course of clarification. After it has subsided it passes once more into the vacuum pans, and so on until it runs out dry into the bags as the second quality of sugar. This process is repeated with the third quality; and a fourth, quality (that known as "ration sugar") is often subjected to the same treatment.

Mr. R. M. Boyd (of Messrs. "Wood and Boyd), part owner and manager of the Ripple Creek Mill, to whom the writer is indebted for most of the foregoing technical details, informed him that the present market price of the No. 1 sugar per ton at the mill wharf, Seymour River, was £15 10s, of the No. 2 sugar £15, of the No. 3 £13, and of the No. 4 from £10 to £12, according to sample. As it takes ten tons of cane to manufacture one ton of sugar, it will be seen that the present price of the commercial article is cut very fine. "You will see," said Mr. Boyd in the course of an interesting conversation on the labor question, "that it would be impossible for us to continue if it were not for the colored labor, and, indeed, as it is we cannot compete with other sugar outside the Australian colonies. Other sugar producing countries pay about 4d a day a head for their labor; while even our cheapest colored labor costs us 3s per day. We reckon a kanaka (I refer, of course, to the new chum boy, the old hand commands from 12s to 16s a week) costs us 3s a day, a Jap 3s 6d, and a Chinaman 4s for every day they work. Sometimes we have them sick for months together, and then, of course, we are the losers." "How are the kanakas engaged?" asked the writer.

"We take them for three years under the Government conditions, and are compelled to accept boys from the recruiting vessels no matter how useless they may prove themselves, provided they are passed by the health officer. I can tell you, we get all sorts of rubbish." "And are you compelled to keep them the three years, no matter how they may turn out?" "Yes; and we are also obliged to send them back. The passage money, including recruiting expenses, is £21 per head. We pay in addition to this a sum of £3 per head to the Government, which goes to a fund to maintain inspectors and Government agents. We find the "boys" in clothes, tobacco, medicine, houses, cooks-everything, in fact, and at the end of the term it costs us £5 per head to send them home again." "And what would happen if the colored labor were discontinued?" "We should simply have to close our mills," replied Mr. Boyd emphatically. "It is ridiculous to talk of discontinuing the colored labor," he went on. "In the first place, the work is not suited to Europeans, and I doubt very much if, after a trial, white men could be found to undertake it. Then, you see, although we can manage to keep our full complement of cheap labor all the year, it would be impossible to do so if all the employees were white. There are many months of the year when only a comparatively small number of men are required, as so

much of our cane growing is done by contract. It follows, then, that during the slack season the bulk of our employees would be thrown out of work. Just now, we employ about 271 in the mill, 71 of whom are Europeans. Our neighbors, the Victoria Mill and Macnade Mill, between them employ, say, 700. That makes a total of close on a thousand men that would be required at the one time in this district alone. The other mills in Australia would in the aggregate require about 9000—all spontaneously, mark you. Now, in what market in Australia are you going to get 10,000 men at the same time, to accept six months work in the hottest weather, at an industry which is proverbially unpleasant, to say the least of it. Twenty or thirty men are no good to us; we must have our full complement, and I don't see how we're going to get them for, you see, putting aside the pecuniary considerations, which at the present price of sugar are sufficiently weighty, the employment of solely European labor is an utter impossibility. We now employ as much reliable white labor as we can get, and we keep our men on all the year round. If the Government, instead of hampering our efforts, would give some encouragement to the old pioneers, I think our work would be much easier. If we could, for instance, get regular supplies of cane cutters, etc., from New Guinea, say, for five months each year at a fixed wage (the mill owners, of course, paying their passages here and back), just as the harvesters, hop pickers, and grape gatherers are engaged in Europe, we might then offer regular employment to a much larger number of Europeans than (hampered as we are by so many surplus hands during the slack season) we can do at present."

The total weekly output of sugar from the three mills on the Herbert River averages about 4000 tons, of which Ripple Creek contributes 800 tons, and the Victoria and Macnade Mills about 1600 each; while the approximate number of men employed are : -Ripple Creek, which estate comprises 1780 acres, 271; Victoria, 14,000 acres, 350; and Macnade, 5000 acres, 300. These figures are, of course, exclusive of farmers and contractors, who are virtually employed by the respective mills. Dr. D'Orban, the physician on the Ripple Creek Estate, informed the writer that, so far as his experience went, the life on the plantations improved the physique of the kanakas, and he had often known a "boy" to put on two stone in weight during his three years sojourn on the plantation. The death rate for kanakas on Ripple Creek in 1890 was a comparatively high one, owing to an epidemic of dysentery and influenza, the former malady being attributable to an over allowance of meat. The Government regulations laid down an allowance of 1 1/2lb of meat daily for each adult; but this was found to be too liberal for the islanders, and after thoroughly testing the experiment, the plantations stolidly refused to comply with the orders, and only allowed them 1lb, with the result that the death rate appreciably decreased. In 1890 the death rate was 5 per cent., in 1891 it was 3 per cent., and this year also dysentery and influenza were prevalent among the kanakas. In 1892, and 1893 it was 2 per cent., in 1894 it was 1% per cent., and for the first six months of the present year 5 per cent. Among the Japs, who were first employed in 1892, the mortality was not nearly so high. In the first year 4 per cent, was recorded, and this year Beri Beri (a disease introduced by themselves) claimed the greater share of the victims. In 1893 the rate was 1% per cent., and during 1894 and 1895 no deaths have occurred. Close to the Macnade Mill the writer saw a camp of earth eating blacks, though, unfortunately, time was short, and he was unable to satisfy the curiosity which was prompted by the accounts he had read of these peculiar people. It seems incredible that human beings should prefer to subsist principally on earth when food is so plentiful all around them, and yet such is said to be the case. Dr. D'Orban declares that he has seen the blacks eating the earth, and was so interested that he walked a considerable distance to obtain it on the shores of the creek, with a view to getting it analysed. He also obtained the partially-baked substance, and states that the blacks parted with it with considerable reluctance, as they appear to have a great partiality for it. The method of preparing this strange substance is very simple. The natives knead it into a kind of dough, and half bake it, after which they eagerly devour it in large quantities. It is said to contain a quantity of salt, and is a slight aperient. Unfortunately, the samples obtained by the doctor were lost, as it would have been highly interesting to have discovered their exact component parts. That the earth hereabouts must contain certain nutritive qualities hitherto unknown seems to be vouched for by the fact that on the summit of some of the mountains in the

Cardwell Range, some thou sands of feet above the sea level, where there is comparatively little animal life, cockroaches are found in myriads. It may be mentioned that the same phenomenon may be observed in the mines on Charter Towers, which are infested with these in sects even 2000ft below the surface, where the only visible means of subsistence are to be found in the timber used for bracing the walls, or the rock itself. The climate of the Herbert River district, though extremely hot in the summer, is a very healthy one, and the white natives of the place are, as a rule, robust and fine specimens of humanity. Ingham glories in a weekly newspaper, the Ingham "Planter," and boasts besides a hospital, State school, two churches, and a rifle club. Some very interesting rifle matches are frequently arranged between Ingham and Halifax, and some excellent shooting is recorded at these enjoyable meetings.

North Queensland Register 2 Oct 1895

THE PLANTERS' PURSE

Mr. H. Grant's ch.g Clarionet, aged, 9st (owner) 1

Mr. R. M. Boyd's ch.g Bullfinch, aged, 7st 10lb (A.Goode) 2

Mr. A. Taylor's bg Max, aged, 9st 8lb.. .. 3

Other starters; Carnival, Spring Daley, Cynesta, Little Willie, Tattersall, Time 1 min 34 sec.
Dividend £7 16s.

North Queensland Register 16 Oct 1895

Messrs. Burns, Philp and. Co., Townsville, who sent some of Messrs. Wood Bros, and Boyd's sugar to Vancouver, claim to have opened up the Canadian market for that article.

Extract from Letter No 327 to Messrs J.A. Brown 18 October 1895

My brother won a race at last with "Romeo"; he now says he will give up racing (till next time). "Uncle Joe" [Wood], John and his wife paid us a visit. Mrs. Wood seemed to enjoy her trip very much."

Queenslander 28 Dec 1895

Overland Passengers.

WALLANGARRA. December 24. For Sydney: Messrs., Mr. R. Boyd, [Not mentioned in JAB diary]

North Queensland Register 5 Feb 1896

TOWNSVILLE HARBOUR BOARD.

Appended is the roll of voters for the first election under the Townsville Harbour Board Act. The official roll gives the amount contributed in the shape of Harbour dues by or on account of each voter during 1895. We have substituted the number of votes to which each payer of dues above the mini mum (£5) 1s entitled, in the proportion prescribed—for £5 and less than £50. one vote; for £50 and less than £100 two votes ; for £100 and upwards, three votes :—

Wood Bros, and Boyd, Seymour. 1

North Queensland Register 12 Feb 1896

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd and family, Ripple Creek, left for Sydney last Monday [7 Feb] by the Wodonga.

North Queensland Register (Townsville, Qld. : 1892 - 1905), Wednesday 12 February 1896, page 40

INGHAM NOTES.

The Hon A.S. Cowley, In response to a requisition, addressed some of the electors of the Herbert in the Divisional Board Hall on Wednesday night. Mr. White was voted to the chair, in the absence of Mr. Stone, Chairman of the Divisional Board. Mr. Cowley said he had come up for rest, being utterly fagged out with the length of the session, and lie was bound by his office as the Speaker of the House to refrain from politics, but as soon as a dissolution took place lie would be free to speak on any subject. He touched on the surplus, which, when last in Ingham, he anticipated would be about £,50,000. New he was glad to say they could contemplate a surplus of £105,000, which he considered reflected great credit on the ministry and the Parliament. He also spoke of the increase in the exports of the colony. which showed a very satisfactory state of affairs. **Mr. Boyd proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Cowley**, which was seconded by Mr. Canny and carried by acclamation. Mr. Cowley proposed a rote of thanks to the Chairman and the meeting terminated.

JAB Diary

14 Feb 1896 - "Mike went to MacKnade and camped there".

29 Feb 1896 "Mike came to visit talked about last 4 days of heavy rain."

North Queensland Register 4 Mar 1896

February 29.—*Palmer*, s, Captain A. J. Clarke, from Cairns via ports. Passengers—; **Messrs. Boyd**,[RMB]

JAB Diary

5 Mar 1896 "**Mike here today says we had 30 inches in last 4 days**"

11 Mar 1896 "Mike at Road Board"

16 Mar 1896 "Mitch gave me a couple of pups out of Dot by Wood's coolie (?) dog, named them Tui and Buz."

4 Apr 1896 Mike left for Townsville

11 Apr 1896 Mike started for Sydney from Tville per *Tyrian*

North Queensland Register 15 Apr 1896

TOWNSVILLE, April 11th.

Mr. Boyd, Ripple Creek, spent a few days in Townsville last week. [RMB went to Sydney]

North Queensland Register 13 May 1896

DEPARTURES.

May 5-*Palmer*, s, Captain A. J. Clarke, for Cairns via ports. Passengers-Mesdames Neame, Heron; Miss Heron; **Messrs** Heron, W. A. Parker, Neame, **Boyd**, W. H. Martin, Campbell; Masters Allingham (2); through passengers from the Maranoa, and 15 in the steerage. Burns, Philp and Co., Ltd., agents. [*Reg Boyd going to Cardwell to rent land there*]

JAB Diary

11 Jul 1896 Mike went to Townsville

15 Jul 1896 Mike returned from Townsville with Tiny and Ella

North Queensland register 22 Jul 1896

TOWNSVILLE July 17. **Mr. Boyd**, Ripple Creek, paid a short visit to Townsville and stayed at the Queen's. [*Meeting Emily from Sydney*]

North Queensland Register 2 Sep 1896

HERBERT RIVER JOCKEY CLUB

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Herbert River Jockey Club was held on the 22nd August, the attendance, some what small in the morning, being fairly large after lunch. The weather was dull and there "was a very high wind blowing, which no doubt kept many away. The racing was very good, the starting as near perfection as it could be, and the day passed off without a single unpleasant incident. Two races resulted -in dead heats, and, in a third, the winner only gained the verdict by a very short head.

The first race after lunch was the Flying Handicap, for which seven horses were saddled up . Bullfinch was soon installed in the position of first favorite, with his late stable companion, Romeo, close up, Canute and Tatters all being the next most fancied,

FLYING HANDICAP, of 25 sovs., 2nd horse 5 sovs from the prize. Minimum weight 8st. Distance 6 furlongs.

39, E. Martin's ch. g. Bulfinch, aged, 9st., (G. Sheppard) --1

31. **R. M. Boyd's** b. g Romeo, 6yrs, 8st. 10lb., (F. Begley) --2

24, Dr. W. C. C. MacDonald's ch. g. Canute, aged, 9st. 6lb., (J. Fisher) – 3

North Queensland Register Wed 23 Sep 1896

RIPPLE CREEK.

MRS. R. M. BOYD AT HOME.

(From Our Correspondent).

INGHAM. September 12.

A most delightful dance was given by **Mrs. R. M. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, on Saturday night, 12th inst., which was very well attended. The house and grounds, which are naturally very pretty, presented a charming appearance, and the numerous orange trees in full bloom, added

much to the effect in the moonlight. The supper, which was partaken of in a temporary room at the side of the house, was tastefully laid out, and ample justice was done to it by the guests. The following ladies and gentlemen were present:- Mr. and Mrs. Johnstone Allingham (Hillgrove), **Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Boyd**, Mr. and Mrs. Craies, Mr. and Mrs. D'Orban, Mr. and Mrs. Cowley, Mr. and Mrs. Waller, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn, Mr. and Mrs. Garraway ; Mr. and Mrs. Chester, Mr. and Mrs. Gedge, Mr. and Mrs. Smith (Ripple Creek). Mesdames Macdonald, Pears, Goulter. Miss Pears, Miss Goldsmith, Misses Allingham, Misses Johnson, Miss Walker (Townsville), Miss Blackmore, Miss Macdonnell, Miss Lamont, Miss Lawless. Messrs Forrest, Smith, Riley, Christensen, Dannreuter, Macdonnell (2), Tooth, Canny, Blackmore. Songier, Day, **Reg Boyd**, Goldsmith, Atkinson, **Arnot** and Gardiner.

JAB Diary

23 Sep 1896 "Party at Mike's went off very well."

North Queensland Register 30 Sep 1896

THE GRUB PEST CONFERENCE AT INGHAM.

(From Our Correspondent.)

INGHAM, September 20.

The Grub Pest Conference was held at the Exchange Hotel, Halifax, on Saturday afternoon. The meeting was well attended, and was altogether a very representative one. Mr. Neame, of Macknade, was voted to the chair. The Victoria Plantation was represented by Mr. Forrest and **Ripple Creek by Mr. Boyd** [RMB]. Nearly all the cane growers around Halifax were present, and several from Victoria and Macknade.

Mr. Neame in opening the conference, and a few well-chosen remarks, stated what the object of the meeting was. After some discussion on the grub pest, the following resolutions were put to the meeting and carried :

1. "That when, the beetle collection begins, 6d. per quart shall be given, wherever collection is carried on ; and that this price shall not be altered without the mutual consent of each Committee of Collectors." Carried.
2. "That our Member be written to, asking that, under the New Local Government Act, certain areas in grub affected districts may be declared as agricultural areas, and specially rated for beetle destruction ; such areas to embrace all lands under agriculture with a margin of 80 chains of adjacent country."

The Secretary of the Farmers' Club read to the meeting a telegram from Mr. Thynne, stating that the Government intended granting the sum of £1500, as a subsidy to the grub infested districts.

After a vote of thanks to the chair, the meeting closed .

Northern Miner 20 Oct 1896

INGHAM NOTES

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

INGHAM, OCTOBER 13

The Court House presented an animated appearance on Wednesday, this being the day for the meeting of the Licensing Board. There were 13 Magistrates on the Bench. Mrs. Berry's license for Exchange Hotel, Halifax, was transferred to Mr. O'Hara and Mr. Gillan's application for an hotel in East Ingham was adjourned for a month. Mr. Abbott's application for a house on the Seymour River was refused, owing to the strong opposition offered by Messrs Neame and **Boyd**.

JAB Diary

21 Oct 1896 Mike home from Townsville

Northern Miner 22 Oct 1896

DEPARTURES October 20-Palmer, e., Captain A. J. Clark, for Cairns, via ports. Passengers : Messrs. **Boyd**.....[RMB]

North Queensland Register 28 Oct 1896

Speaking at a banquet to Mr. Longden in Cairns. **Mr. Boyd**, the well known sugar-planter of the Herbert River, said :-"The question of sugar paying depended on climate, management. &c. **He had been in it for 26 years, and starting at thirty shillings per week had always lived well. He had lost in mining, and at Kangaroo Hills had swamped four years profits.** Between Ravenswood and Chillagoe was a belt of mineral country, and the future of North Queensland was not agriculture but mining. With regard to silver ores North Queensland had to get into touch with the new processes. He had visited the Mulgrave Mill and found it one of the nicest he had seen, with the latest improvements for economising labor. He believed the Mulgrave Mill would save 25 per cent of labor compared with his own, which said a lot for Messrs A. and W. Smith. He congratulated Mr. Graham on the excellent foundations and buildings, which were, if anything, too good. He was sorry they did not make white sugars, as they were left with only one market. **Mr. Boyd** concluded the speech by saying they had in his opinion a compact mill; the directors had done their duty.

Northern Miner 4 Nov 1896

A Trip to the Herbert.

.....Next morning I started for Ripple Creek, the plantation of Messrs **Wood Bros. and Boyd** on the Seymour River, a distance of about 5 miles from Ingham. After crossing the bridge at Gairloch, about 3 miles from Ingham, the road is very heavy, being composed mostly of sand, left by the frequent floods.

Singleton Argus 30 Dec 1896

Several important purchases of sugar plantations in Queensland have just been effected by the Colonial Sugar Company. Among the properties that have thus changed hands are : Messrs F. and A. Neame's Macknade plantation, on the Herbert River for £65,000 ; Messrs **Wood Brothers and Boyd's** plantation, At Ripple Creek. " It is likely that Messrs Swallow Brothers' plantation will also pass into the hands of the company.

JAB Diary

6 Jan 1897 RMB came home this morning

North Queensland Register 13 Jan 1897

TOWNSVILLE SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

January 5.-Arawatta, s, Captain F. G. Lee, from Southern ports. Passengers-; Messrs **Boyd**,

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 16 Jan 1897

THE C.S.R. Co. IN QUEENSLAND.- This Company, says a Queensland paper, is evidently endeavouring to secure a monopoly of the sugar trade in Queensland. They have already large sugar plantations on the Herbert river, at Geraldton, and at Homebush, Mackay; and large mills in the Isis scrub, and the Sugar Refinery at Bulimba Reach on the Brisbane. They have purchased the Macknade plantation, on the Herbert River, for £65,000. The same company also purchased **Wood Brothers and Boyd's** plantation at Ripple Creek, Herbert River, and rumour has been busy to the effect that the company is making overtures for the purchase of Swallow Brothers' Hambledon plantation at Cairns. [**Report incorrect. Ripple creek not sold in 1897**]

JAB Diary

13 Mar 1897 "Mike and Sprott left for Sydney on 13th".

Queenslander 27 Mar 1897

March 18.- CINTRA, s... 1979 tons, Captain J. E. Butcher, from Cooktown, via ports. Passengers : Messrs. **J. Boyd**, **Master Boyd**, [*RMB and WSB*]

Letter No 153 22 Apr 1897 (JAB to Joseph Wood)

.... "**My brother** returned yesterday looking the picture of health, he has gone this morning to meet Lord Lamington at Halifax, who is accompanied by the Minister for Agriculture Mr. A. S. Crowley. I understand that an effort is to be made to establish an experimental Govt farm on the Herbert, it would be a great boon to us all as we should find out the sugar values of new cane without having to waste our own land, time and money in experiments."

Northern Miner 8 May 1897

Mr. **R. M. Boyd** of Ripple Creek, returned from the South last week. This gentleman has imported a number of turkeys, with a view to keep down the grasshoppers on the estate.

Northern Miner 1 Jun 1897

The Australian Sugar Trust, better known as the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, is gradually absorbing all the plantations which go in for making white sugars. Macnade has been snapped up ; Hambledon, at Cairns, is to follow suit, and only **Wood Bros and Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, Ingham, and Drysdale Bros., of the Pioneer plantation, Ayr, now remain outside the big Company, North of Mackay. They are both very strong, however, and will get

their price or stick at the game ; thorough masters of their business, they fear no foe." Hambleton is one of the finest plantations in North Queensland, and it was the capital put by Mr. Swallow Senr. into his plantation some sixteen years ago, that first made Cairns hum. It was the Chinese who demonstrated that sugar could be grown in the locality, their first plantation being Hop Wah, four miles out of Cairns, possessing a wretched, white, clayish soil, on which only Chinamen could have grown anything. Still they made sugar.

.....

North Queensland Register 2 Jun 1897

The Sugar Industry.

The Sugar Industry, like most others, is suffering from low prices, and those who are engaged in it will have to still further economise, if that be possible. Unfortunately sugar-growers have to struggle against more than ordinary competition for France, Germany and Austria by huge subsidies assist the beet sugar manufacturer to export, and the people of those countries, who pay twice as much for their sugar as the people they sell their sugar to, also help to carry the losses of the export trade. It is said this mad competition to supply Great Britain with cheap sugar cannot last, but the hope seems father to the thought. Up to the present the ocean carriage has helped the Queensland sugar-growers to retain the Australian trade, while aided by the duty they have a monopoly of the market of their own colony. Old World competition, however, is so keen that the Java sugars are being driven out and are seeking a market in Australasia. Naturally the price of sugar is steadily drifting downwards, and producers of raw sugars are now offered nearly £2 per ton less than they were a few years ago; a 25 per cent decline on what were once considered bed rock prices. All the Central Mills and many privately owned sugar factories produce only "raws," and for these the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. are offering £8 per ton, and a bonus if there is an advance in price for the coming season. Millaquin Refinery, practically the Q.N. Bank, is offering £8/3/- per ton, a bonus on the same conditions as the Colonial Sugar Refining Co.. and 30/- per ton advance against the sugar when it is shipped. A few Independent concerns such as **Wood Bros., & Boyd**, Ripple Creek, and Drysdale Bros, Lower Burdekin, which make "plantation whites" are independent of the sugar refiner, but Central Mills could scarcely become refiners as well as manufacturers, and the Government are hardly likely to find funds for a Central Refinery. No doubt, the refiner's profits are considerable, for in several colonies "raws" are admitted at a reduced rate of duty, and the Colonial Sugar Company not only secures the profit on refining, but the profit of the duty saved. It seems, however, that it is hopeless for the Central Mill owners to expect a better offer, for Java sugars can be purchased for £7/15/- per ton at any of the Queensland ports. If Queensland producers of "raws" refused to accept the offers now made, the refiners would purchase Java sugars and compete against the local article in the Australian market. With a none too favorable season the outlook for the Queensland cane-growers is by no means bright, but thanks to co-operative production and manufacture, there may be a living in it until condition and prices become more favorable.

JAB Diary

12 Jun 1897 RMB went to Townsville

29 Jun 1897 RMB went to Ingham to inspect the Ratepayers' Diary

3 Jul 1897 At the Seymour Races on 3 July at Ingham, Mike's horse was a no show, but Reggie's won 2 races

Northern Miner 7 Jul 1897

Messrs. Wood Bros, and Boyd, of Ripple Creek Plantation, are evidently going in for sugar growing and manufacturing in a big way. A letter in the "Ingham Planter" says "Ripple Creek has a plantation tram line laid from the Seymour Wharf through the Seymour township, and

running through the plantation from one end to the other. When the second section of Mr. Boyd's tram scheme is laid there would be no necessity for Messrs Wood Bros, and Boyd to run a single ton of cane grown by themselves or their tenants over the line, though no doubt they would allow a large portion of their produce to be carried on the line so that the traffic would be large enough to make the line self-supporting, and should it not be so, then Ripple Creek Estate would have to be taxed, and have to pay a large share of any loss in working expenses. The owners of Ripple Creek have offered to purchase another 10,000 tons of cane besides that already contracted for, delivered on their main tram-line, and until there is a tram-line laid through the farms, the farmers cannot take advantage of the offer, as it is well known that it will not pay to cart cane any long distance. The Divisional Boards 'Northern Age' and the public on the south side of the Herbert, have already approved of a tram-line to the Stone, a distance of 18 miles, and to cost some £18,000, because the Victoria Mill has promised to purchase 10,000 tons cane on that line, outside their private property.

How much more should Mr. Boyd's scheme to put down 7 or 9 miles of line at a cost of £7000 or £8,000, be supported when it would enable a similar quantity of cane to be produced and find a market. If it is good business to extend a private line through 18 miles of land, at present producing nothing, surely it is better to spend £8,000 in a line running through land now producing 26,000 tons a year, and only waiting the line to be made to have the quantity increased to 30,000 tons or more.

North Queensland Register 21 July 1897

ARRIVALS

July 17.-Palmer, s, Captain A. J. Clark, from Cairns via ports. Passengers- Mesdames Tricket, Sharpus ; Miss Courtney; Messrs Mathers, T O'Brien. J. Roxborough, Hughes, Farley, R. M. Boyd, Atkinson, McLuckie, six members Lode Star Dramatic Company and five in the steerage.

Northern Miner 27 Jul 1897

Crushing at Ripple Creek has commenced (says the "Ingham Planter") and although the density is low, they are turning out some first class sugar.

Messrs Wood Brothers and Boyd have lately erected a very fine double storied sugar room, 50 feet long by 25 feet wide which will be capable of holding a large quantity of sugar.

North Queensland Register Wed 28 Jul 1897

R.M. Boyd, Ripple Creek, visited Townsville last week and returned last Tuesday.

North Queensland Register 11 Aug 1897

HERBERT RIVER JOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

(By Our Special Reporter).

Office bearers and committee. Patron, Hon. A. S. Cowley. President, Dr. W. C. C. MacDonald Vice-Presidents, S. Simpson. J. Lynch. Commit tee, Dr. W. C. C. MacDonald, S. Simpson, J. Lynch, M. D. Campbell, C. L. C. Chester, J. C. Gillam. L. Baillie. W. S. C.

Warren, Jas. Cassady, T. Kirkwood, Reg. Boyd, E. Martle; Stewards, Dr. W.C. C. Macdonald, M. D. Campbell, J. Lynch, C.L.C. Chester, and **Reg Boyd**. Officials. Judge, H. Stone. Totalisator Steward. C.L.C. Chester. Starter, J. Webster. Clerk of Scales, W. E. Day. Timekeeper, Dr. W. C. C. MacDonald. Clerk of the Course, **Reg. Boyd**, Hon. Secretary, P. Burke.

The Annual Meeting of the Herbert River Jockey Club was held at Ingham on Saturday, when there was a fair attendance of visitors from Charters Towers and Townsville turning up in considerable force. It seems that owing to the season the plantations were compelled to work, and thus limited the number of local residents who could attend. Other gentlemen who were noticeable were **the brothers Boyd (Ripple Creek)**.....

MAIDEN PLATE

Of 17 sovs.. second horse 2 sovs. from prize w.f.a. One mile.

22. J. Cassady's b.g - Velocity, 3yrs by Vigor-Wideawake. 8-9, (including 17lbs over), J-Begley -- 1

10. **R. Boyd's** br.g. Ovalau, 8-12 (Munson) - 2:

4. T. Kirkwood's b.f. Nelly 7-6

FIRST HACK RACE

Of 12 sovs, second place 2 sovs. from "prize. ". One mile

27. G. M. Tooth ns b.g. Oregon, aged, by Redwood. 9-4, (Fisher) --1

33. **R. Boyd's** b.g. Encore, 5yrs, 9St (Munson)2

46. H. J. Smallwood ns br.g. Centipede, 6yrs. 11-4, (H. Grant) .. 3

SECOND HACK RACE.

Of 15 sovs. second horse 3 sovs. from prize,

J. Lynch's b.g. Fenian, aged, 11-0, (Fisher) 1

G. M. Tooth ns b.g. Oregon, aged, 9-10 (Beckley) --2

R. Boyd's bg. Encore, 5yrs 9-3, (Munson) ... 3

THE INGHAM OUP,

Of 45 sovs., second 5 sovs, from prize. 1 1/2 miles.

99. H. J. Smallwood's br.g. Svengali 6yrs, by New Guinea-Marie Grand, 10-11 (including 7lb. penalty), H. Grant --1

23. J. T. Parker'ss b.g. Fitzroy, aged; 10-8, (Riley) -- 2

12. **R. M. Boyd's** b.h. Joe Manton, 5yrs., 8-0, (J. Begley) -- 3

North Queensland Register 22 Sep 1897

September 18

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Boyd, Ripple Creek, Ingham, visited Townsville last week and returned to their home last Tuesday evening.

Queenslander 2 Oct 1897

Townsville September 18

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Boyd returned to the Herbert River by the Palmer on Tuesday evening.

Northern Miner 2 Dec 1897

MEETINGS OF CREDITORS.

A meeting of creditors in the estate of Messrs Brodziak and Rodgers in liquidation, was held at the offices of Messrs Roberts, Leu and Barnett Townsville, on Wednesday, when there was a large attendance. Mr. J. N. Parkes was voted to the chair. The estimated liability, allowing for partly secured creditors, was set down at £22,384 6s 5d. and assets at £21,061 11s 3d. The

thief creditors were : National Explosives Co., London. £256 10s 11d.;; **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, Ripple Creek, £148 15s 2d.; others were under £100

North Queensland Register 15 Dec 1897

The late heavy rains have retarded the crushing somewhat on the plantations, but the weather has now taken up again and the prospects for next year's crop are exceedingly good. The water supply of Ripple Creek mill failed for a short time this year, owing to the dry season, and Messrs, **Wood Bros, and Boyd** had just completed making a dam across Ripple Creek when the rain fell and all their ; labor was thrown away.

Northern Miner 23 Dec 1897

INGHAM, December 11.

The cane beetle is very much in evidence now, but as there is plenty of money available for the purpose, it is to be hoped that this pest will be coped with and kept in check. On the **Ripple Creek** Plantation nearly 2000 quarts have already been caught and destroyed and at Macknade and Halifax the beetle hunters are to be seen daily waging war against them. It seems a pity some use could not be made of them after being caught.

Messrs **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, of Ripple Creek have a large mob of turkeys on the estate, and as soon as a mob of grasshoppers are seen anywhere on the plantation in their hopping stage, before they fly, the turkeys are at once driven out there and they very quickly demolish them.

North Queensland Register 19 Jan 1898

INGHAM NOTES (from our correspondent) Ingham January 8

Alligators are still very much in evidence just now. Three (3) horses at **Ripple Creek** were very badly injured by these reptiles last week. It is doubtful if they (the horses) will recover from their injuries. It is supposed the horses were standing in water under a tree at the time they were attacked.

The race horse, Joe Manton, belonging to Mr. **R. M. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, died yesterday in his stable. This will be a loss to the district as well as to the owner, as he would probably have made his mark at the stud. He was nominated to race at the Boxing Day races, but went off so badly in his training that his owner scratched him from all his engagements.

The crushing season at the Victoria Mill and **Ripple Creek** finished to-day. I understand the returns this season are highly satisfactory.

Northern Miner 4 Feb 1898

INGHAM. January 29.

Some of the employees at Ripple Creek Plantation gave a smoke concert to-night. Mr. **R. M. Boyd** taking the chair. Owing to the inclement state of the weather, there were not so many present as was anticipated. A pleasant evening was passed with songs and recitations.

JAB Diaries 1898

17 Mar **1898** Mrs Ned Wood died
 19 Mar **1898** Mitch, Hope and Ned Wood left for Townsville
 30 Mar **1898** Mitch, Wood and Mrs. Wansey came back from Townsville
 31 Mar **1898** Mitch and Mr. Eyre went to Neame's Inlet
 12 Apr **1898** Mitch went to town and brought Hope back with him
 23 Apr **1898** Mitch left for Sydney

Brisbane Courier 29 Apr 1898

SHIPPING. ARRIVALS.

April 28.-ARAWATTA, s., 2114 tons, Captain F. G. Lee, from Cooktown, via ports.
 Passengers : for Southern ports-.....Messrs;.....**Boyd**, [RMB]

Northern Miner 16 May 1898

TOWNSVILLE HARBOR BOARD

ROLL OF VOTERS, 1897-98.

Wood Bros, and **Boyd**, Ripple Creek, Ingham. 1 ;

Northern Miner 23 May 1898

THE WODONGA'S PASSENGERS

BRISBANE May 22

Mesdames: R. M. Boyd. Messrs R. M. Boyd.

JAB Diary

25 May 1898 Sent trap to Halifax. Mike and Tiny back

Northern Miner 26 May 1898

Departures.

May 21: Palmer, s, Captain Clark for Cairns via ports. Passengers —Mesdames Johnson, Robertson, **Boyd**: Misses Johnson, **Boyd**, Woodroffe, Robertson and ten in the steerage.

JAB Diaries 1898

25 May 1898 Mitch and Tiny back – Miss Goldsmith also came
4 Jun 1898 Mitch to Townsville – back on the 8th
25 Jun 1898 Mitch went to Townsville with Lang – back on 29th
1 Jul 1898 Mitch brought Mr. Phiep(?) from England down here

Northern Miner 26 Jul 1898

We are inform (says the "Ingham Planter") that Messrs. **Wood Bros. and Boyd** have leased the Seymour wharf and punts, so that now the two ports of the district are in the hands of plantation owners.

JAB Diaries 1898

30 Jul 1898 Mitch seedy with influenza
1 Aug 1898 Reggie and Mitch have flu, Tiny and maid servant in bed
7 Aug 1898 Mitch and Reggie still sick
8 Aug 1898 Jeanie sick with flu
15 Aug 1898 I went to Townsville to see Dr. Bacot. he says I must leave tropics as soon as I can.
28 Nov 1898 Packing
29 Nov 1898 Letters from 5 people
30 Nov 1898 Went to town. Find it closed for general holiday.
16 Dec 1898 Reached Sydney from Brisbane

Email from Elaine Roberts 6 Jun 2012.

I always understood the reasons JA and Mitch split up - various versions from both sides - were that JA and Mitch were having more arguments, their wives did not get on, alcohol - not sure if it was just JA or also Mitch - and health of both. Now it rather looks like the labour problem was going to make things difficult financially if they were not able to have Kanaka workers - all very interesting.

Northern Miner 20 Feb 1899

Arrivals.

February 17—Palmer, Captain A. J. Clark, from. Cairns -via ports. Passengers; Mesdames Thomas and four children, **Boyd**; Miss Thomas; Messrs T A Bell, C. K. Sharp. S. Abrahams, Byrne, W. Pococh, J. N. Hughes, Greensill, **Boyd**, Cassidy; and 15 In the steerage. [*RMB and wife*]

North Queensland register 27 Feb 1899

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, Ripple Creek, are staying at the Queen's Hotel.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld. : 1874 - 1954), Wednesday 26 April 1899, page 4

Our Ingham correspondent writes : . —"We have had another spell of wet weather, and the river is very high. Most of the rain falls at night, but it makes the roads very heavy for travelling. **The water Is over Gairloch bridge** and running very strong, but in spite of this two fool-hardy men attempted to cross, and the result was a ' fatal accident.

Northern Miner 20 May 1899

DEPARTURES. May 19—Allinga Captain D. P. Davies, for Southern ports. - Passengers;- **Mesdames Boyd**,; **Messrs Boyd**,; **Master Boyd**; and 49 in the steerage. Adelaide S-S. Co., Ltd. agents. [*RMB, Emily and Archie H*]

JAB diary

22 May 1899 Got wire from Reggie saying Mike and Tiny had left last Thursday.

SMH 26 May 1899

ARRIVALS.-May 25.

Allinga, s, 2242 tons, Captain D. P. Davies, from Cairns, via Queensland ports. Passengers – Messrs..... Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, [RMB and Emily, and Archie H?]

Northern Miner 11 July 1899

ARRIVALS July 9—ARAWATTA Captain Francis George Lee, from Cooktown. Passengers —Mesdames McGaw, King and 2 children Riley, Hall, Boyd; Misses Kelley, Boyd and maid ; Messrs Boyd, [Is this the family coming to Townsville to see RMB or WSB off to Sydney?]

Northern Miner 12 Jul 1899

DEPARTURES July 10—Lass o'Gowrie, Captain M Mackenzie, for Cairns via. ports, Passengers:—Mesdames Riley. Herron, Boyd, Corbett, Paten and child, C. Robinson. .T. Cooper: Misses Kelly, Robertson. Boyd (2) ; Hon. H. Moses ; Messrs A. Lynam, J. Turner, Herron, Boyd, Sedan. T. Gaden, T. B. Gaden junr, Tregear, Roberts, Schaffert, Paten, Newman, and 10 in the steerage. Wm. Howard Smith and Sons., Ltd., agents. [Is this the family returning to Ingham after seeing RMB or WSB off to Sydney? Who are the 2 Misses Boyd?]

Brisbane Courier 15 Jul 1899

ARRIVALS

July 14,-ARAWATTA, s., 2200 tons, Captain Francis George Lee, from Cooktown and ports. Passengers :: for Sydney and Melbourne- Messrs., Boyd, [RMB or WSB to Sydney?]

DEPARTURES

July 14.-ARAWATTA, s., 2200 tons, Captain Lee, for Melbourne. PassengersMessrs., Boyd, , [RMB or WSB to Sydney?]

SMH 17 Jul 1899

ARRIVALS July 16

Arawatta s, 2114 tons Captain F.G. Lee from Cooktown and ports Passengers..... MessrsBoyd, [RMB or WSB to Sydney?]

North Queensland Register 20 Nov 1899

INGHAM. November 16

Crushing has finished at the Colonial Sugar Co.'s Victoria Mill, and also at Wood Brothers and Boyd's Ripple Creek Mill. The C.S.R. Co.'s Macknade Mill will not finish for a few weeks yet. The crops have been, in most instances, very light owing to the unfavorable season and the sharp frost which occurred on the 4th July.

Northern Miner 14 Dec 1899

Departures.

December 12—Herbert, Captain H. Turner, for Cairns via ports. Passengers —.....; Messrs R. M. Boyd. Master Boyd [AHB]; and 17 in the steerage. Adelaide Steamship Co., Ltd, agents.

Northern Miner 16 Dec 1899

MULGRAVE JOCKEY CLUB WEIGHTS.

The following weights have been declared for the Boxing Day Meeting of the Mulgrave Jockey Club, December 26th, 1899.

FLYING HANDICAP. I

.....

R. Boyd's br g Ovalou 9st. 4lb. [*Reg or RMB?*]

Northern Miner 25 Jan 1900

A new steamer for the Queensland coastal trade (says the Townsville 'Star') has just been built at Dunn's yard. Berry's Bar, North Shore, Sydney, to the order of Messrs Wood Brothers and Boyd, of the Herbert River, Queensland. She is named the Ripple. The new vessel has a carrying capacity of 150 tons. On her trial trip on Monday, January 15 (says the "Sydney Telegraph") she made a speed of 8 ½ knots per hour.

North Queensland Register 5 Feb 1900

TOWNSVILLE, February 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd and family, of Ripple Creek plantation, arrived by the Palmer this morning from North. [*RMB, Emily, Ella and ArchieH or W Sprott*]

North Queensland Register 19 Feb 1900

The new steamer, Ripple, belonging to Messrs Wood Brothers and Boyd, of Ripple Creek Sugar Plantation, whence her name, arrived from Townsville on Saturday, having, made the trip, from that port to Lucinda Point in about 7 hours. I took the opportunity of being at the Point to take a look over her. She is a nice little craft, very suitable for the trade she has been built for; about 100ft' long by 20ft beam, with a carrying capacity of 150 tons, or so, on a fairly light draught. She steams something over 8 knots and should be a valuable adjunct to the Ripple Creek Mill. On arrival at the Seymour River she promptly took the ground on the sand and remains there still, though the skipper told me he hoped to get her off by Saturday,

Northern Miner 2 Apr 1900

ARRIVALS

March 30-Palmer,-Captain H. W. Wigmore. from Cairns via ports. Passengers—Messrs Boyd, [*RMB?*]

Brisbane Courier 13 Apr 1900

April 12.-WODONGA, s" 2340 tons, Captain Meaburn, for Sydney and Melbourne.
Passengers : Messrs. ... **Boyd**, [RMB?]

Northern Miner 21 May 1900

Arrivals.

May 18.-Palmer, Captain Wigmore, from Cairns via ports." Passengers: Messrs
..... **Boyd**; and 20 in the steerage.

Northern Miner 19 Jun 1900

SHIPPING NEWS.

Arrivals.

June 16:-Herbert. Captain Turner, from Cairns via Geraldton and Lucinda point.
Passengers- Messrs Woods, **R. M. Boyd**,

Northern Miner 10 Jul 1900

Arrivals.

July 7-Herbert, Captain H. Turner, from Cairns via ports. Passengers ; Messrs**R. M. Boyd**,

Northern Miner 4 Sep 1900

ARRIVALS September 2.-Carroo, Captain W. N Thompson, from Cairns via ports.
Passengers: **Messrs Boyd**, Gilbert, Gate; Constable McCabe escorting a prisoner. Adelaide
S.S. Company, Limited, agents.

Northern Miner 17 Sep 1900

ARRIVALS September 14.--Lass o' Gowrie, Captain M. McKenzie, from Cairns via ports.
Passengers:Messrs..... **Boyd**,

Morning Post Cairns 12 Oct 1900

Trip to the Mulgrave.

A number of leading townsmen went out to Aloomba by the ordinary train for the purpose of showing Mr. A. B. Halloran, manager of the Townsville branch of the Bank of New South Wales, and Mr. D Patience, manager of the Townsville branch of Messrs Burns Philp and Co, the progress made in the district. The party returned by special train about 7 o'clock. **Mr. Halloran left last night with Mr. Boyd, of Ripple Creek, in the steamer Ripple for the South,**

SJB Letter 739, 27 February 1901

I, Sarah Jane Boyd of Eden N.S. Wales do hereby appoint **Robert Mitchell Boyd** of Ripple Creek, Herbert River North Queensland to act as my Attorney in all matters

concerning that piece of land owned by me and lately occupied by Alex Grey, deceased.

[*signed*]
Sarah Jane Boyd

SMH 27 Mar 1901

MR O'SULLIVAN AT NEWCASTLE.

THE MINISTER PROMISES A GRAVING DOCK.

NEWCASTLE, Tuesday.

Mr. E. W. O'Sullivan, State Minister for Public Works, addressed a meeting of electors from the balcony of the Royal Exchange Hotel to-night in support of the candidature of Mr. David Watkins, the labour protectionist candidate for the federal electorate of Newcastle. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Newcastle branch of the Australian Liberal Association, and was attended by between 3000 and 4000 persons.The meeting was presided over by the Mayor of the city (Alderman W J Tills), and among those seated on the platform were Mr. Joseph Wood (of the firm of Messrs **Wood Brothers and Boyd**, sugar planters of Northern Queensland),

SMH 22 Apr 1901

CLEARANCES.-April 20.

Peregrine, s.,1680 tons, Captain J. Pain, for Queensland ports. Passengers-Messrs., **Boyd**,

Brisbane Courier 23 Apr 1901

SHIPPING. ARRIVALS.

April 22. - PEREGRINE, s., 2000 tons, Captain J. Pain, from Melbourne and Sydney.
Passengers : Messrs. **Boyd**,

Brisbane Courier 11 May 1901

PRODUCING INTERESTS.

A NATIONAL INDUSTRY- SUGAR-GROWING IN QUEENSLAND, XIII.

THE TROPICAL NORTH.

(By Our Special Commissioner) HERBERT RIVER SETTLEMENT.

MACNADE

.....

RIPPLE CREEK PLANTATION.

Three miles west of Macnade we arrive at Ripple Creek Plantation, the property of Messrs. Wood Bros, and Boyd. The situation of Ripple Creek is none the less beautiful than that of Macnade ; in fact, it has a greater diversity of mountain scenery. The ride across from Macnade is most interesting, the green crops of cane wave in billowy folds up to the base of the hills, forming a background to a picture having both practical and artistic significance.

The managing partner, **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, is seen at the homestead, and in the course of our interview some interesting details were elicited concerning the industry in the neighbourhood, and the labour problems which beset the harvesting of the cane. Mr. Boyd has had a varied experience in sugar-growing, both in Queensland and in other lands, and speaks with decided emphasis regarding the extinction of the sugar industry were the present labour conditions disturbed. He contends that it would be simply courting disaster to attempt to produce cane at the present time without coloured alien labour.

There are 1800 acres of freehold in the property, 600 acres being under cane ; while thirty-eight farmers are supplying cane from adjoining holdings. The plantation, situated on the north side of the Herbert River, was founded in the year 1882. It comprises good alluvial soil similar to that of Macnade, yielding heavy crops. The mill, the only private manufacturing concern in North Queensland, established when the plantation was acquired, has a capacity of 4000 tons annually. Sugar refining is also carried on in connection with the manufacture of the raw material, and in this **Mr. Boyd** finds a very remunerative return. In fact he holds that **the principal profit is derived from this branch of the business. He is, however, handicapped to some extent through not being able to obtain sufficient cane to work the mill with a "double shift."** To do this it would require an additional 10,000 tons of cane per annum ; and as **his operations are restricted under an arrangement with the Colonial Sugar Refining Company to the effect that only so much sugar can be refined at Ripple Creek each year, there seems to be no hope that the output from this mill can be increased.**

THE LABOUR QUESTION.

Speaking generally, the question of the curtailment of the number of Kanakas, or, taking a more serious view, the final abolition of the Pacific Islanders from the cane fields, is causing farmers and planters deep concern. Many of these people have worked hard to establish a home by growing sugarcane ; in fact, by assiduous effort, aided by reliable assistance obtained from the Pacific Islanders, they have succeeded in transforming a wilderness into a prosperous rural settlement. Their difficulties have been overcome as regards the marketing of the product ; they have taxed themselves to provide facilities in the shape of tramways, jetties, and other works, and now, as they have **entered as it were with one accord into the Australian Commonwealth, assured that a market providing a reasonable price for the sugar would be maintained,** they are confronted with the task of proving that they cannot continue the work without the labour they have hitherto employed to build up the industry to its present stage. To disturb the present conditions, or to cut off the source of labour supply would be, they contend, a decided breach of faith. They would not have been persuaded to spend the best part of their lives in establishing a home for themselves and families had they been assured that the necessary labour would not be always available. Therefore, to deprive them of the means of carrying on the industry now is tantamount to robbing them of the prospect of that competency they have laboured long to attain.

In support of the declaration that white labour cannot be depended upon to do certain work in the cane fields, work that brooks no delay, **Mr. Boyd** cites some interesting facts obtainable from the books of the Divisional Board during the time of the construction of the tramway from Lucinda Point to Ingham. The minimum rate of wage was 7s. per day of eight hours, and the work being principally carried out during the cooler months of the year. Each month, on an average, 120 men were engaged to maintain a gang of ninety, thus showing that one-fourth

more men were actually required to keep up a relative strength. These men were presumably inured to hard work, but they soon began to manifest dissatisfaction with the work, and with the general climatic conditions. Mr. Boyd very reasonably argues that the same experiences would result were the planters dependent on white labour solely. It would be necessary to have a reserve of at least 100 men, provided the white man were fit to cut the cane, to insure the mill being kept going.

The number of Europeans on Ripple Creek plantation, including women and children, is seventy nine, the number of coloured aliens being 102. Mr. Boyd directs attention to the fact of there being during some years over 140 wet days and having to pay 200 men their wages for doing nothing practically half the year brings the cost of labour up to a very high average, notwithstanding the alleged cheapness of Kanaka labour.

Northern Miner 15 May 1901

DEPARTURES.

May 13.- Barcoo, Captain J. Grahl, for southern ports. Passengers;MessrsR. M. Boyd,

Brisbane Courier 17 May 1901

ARRIVALS.

May 16-BARCOO s., 1505 tons Captain J Grahl from Townsville via ports. Passengers MessrsR M Boyd

North Queensland Register 20 May 1901

TOWNSVILLE, May 14.

Mr. Boyd, of Ripple Creek, is now in town.

North Queensland Register Mon 27 May 1901

TOWNSVILLE May 18

Mr. R. M. Boyd, of Ripple Creek, left for Brisbane, on Monday.

JAB diaries

14 Jun 1901 RMB leaving (Sydney) tomorrow

16 Jun 1901 Mitch arrived in Eden aboard the "Wakatepu" and went to the Hollies in Mrs. Pike's trap. [She owned a hotel in Eden, was a friend of JAB and he occasionally hired her trap when he couldn't walk in to town.]

19 Jun 1901 Mitch left Eden aboard the "Bega".

22 Jun 1901 Mitch left [Sydney?] for home

North Queensland Register 1 Jul 1901

ARRIVALS.

June 27.-Ripple, s, Captain Broadfoot, from the North. Captain Broadfoot, agent.

June 28.-Cintra, Captain W. C. - Thompson, from Melbourne via ports Passengers: Messrs. R. M. Boyd..... Adelaide S.S. Co., Ltd., agents.

23 Sep 1901

Henry Carr D'Orban died of dengue fever and was buried at Ripple Creek

Brisbane Courier 15 Oct 1901

THE KANAKA BILL.

NORTHERN LABOUR CONDITIONS.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE.

PROTESTS FROM PRACTICAL MEN.

AN OUTSPOKEN SERMON. A THREATENED INDUSTRY.

No. VIII.

LABOUR IN NORTHERN QUEENSLAND.

It has been assumed by many Federal legislators that the question of white labour in cane trashing and cane cutting is merely one of wages, and that given sufficient inducement there would be equal readiness to engage in this as in other pursuits. If this were so there ought to be some evidence available either in Queensland or in other tropical sugar growing countries to demonstrate the fact beyond all reasonable manner of doubt. The European races have, under the impelling force of pioneering enterprise, or under the constraint of necessity, engaged in many pursuits in different countries, and it is very remarkable that the advocates of the abolition of Kanaka labour from the Queensland cane fields should not have been able to appeal to the testimony of any experience to prove that the proposed legislation at the present moment is either wise or just, or practicable. Not even in the case of Southern Queensland, in the closest proximity to the labour centres, has it been proved that white labourers will, under any conditions, readily and permanently undertake the field work now done by the Polynesian. The industry may survive in these Southern districts if the Kanaka Bill be passed, but even this hope is based on a possibility and not on the hard experience gained by the smallest as well as the largest sugar-growers ; and as will be seen the further North we travel, the more hopeless become the prospects of the farmers if their only available labour be taken away and no substitute provided.

THE MACKAY DISTRICT.

It has already been shown that the important and growing town of Mackay is at present solely dependent on the sugar industry. The district occupies a central position between the Bundaberg and Childers plantations in the South, and those of Port Douglas and the Mossman River in the extreme North. How large the area which will be affected by any disaster to the sugar Industry will be understood when it is said that Mackay is 625 miles north of Brisbane, say, roughly, as far as Sydney is from Brisbane. It is 170 miles within the tropic of Capricorn. The Homebush mill, which is sixteen miles from the township, is owned by the 'Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and derives its supplies from 136 holdings, representing as many farmers. On the occasion of the visit of the " Courier" special commissioner, a meeting of the cane-growers was held for the expression of their views on the labour question. Mr. Swayne,

secretary of the Pioneer River 'Farmers' Association, speaking for the others, expressed surprise at the off-hand way in which Southern politicians spoke of depriving the sugar industry of its most effective supply of labour. He asserted that if it could have existed without the Polynesian labourer this result would have been secured years ago, as the great majority of small cane farmers had started work with the determination to dispense with the Kanaka, but had found it to be impossible. To pay bigger wages to secure -white labour was merely pitting money against Nature, and "he did not think it desirable in the interests of the community to bribe men to injure their constitutions. Experience had shown that the bribe of high wages was merely an incentive to do as little as possible, and to get earlier on the spree. In Dr. 'Maxwell's report reference is also made to this fact, but in neither case are the men blamed. The result is merely due to the craving for liquid instead of food, caused by working under abnormal conditions. In a paper read by "Mr. Swayne at a recent farmers' conference, the detailed history was given of the subdivision of the Homebush Estate into small farms, the leases of which were chiefly taken up by men well used to agricultural work. For the 'first year or two many of them managed fairly well, with the assistance of their children, who ought to have been at school, but at harvest time, when extra labour was necessary, there were endless troubles in the endeavour to secure and retain white workers. A cane inspector in the Mackay district, in his 1886 report to his principal, stated that there had been considerable trouble with the cane-cutters. At the start as many as forty men were engaged within a few weeks to maintain one gang of thirteen up to its strength. Eventually the gang had to be disbanded, and replaced by Chinese. Only two gangs (or about twentyfive or thirty men out of the 250 or 300 required to keep the mill going) worked throughout the season. The experience in connection with the Plane Creek Central mill had been much the same. Here there are eighty suppliers, with average holdings of about 100 acres. The establishment of the Central mill in this district was the means of attracting many white workers from other pursuits to become producers. They entered upon their business imbued with the belief that they could do all the work connected with it without the assistance of the 'Kanaka, and in consequence secured the employment of a number of white men. The first task of cultivation and getting in the crop was accomplished without difficulty, but when the time came for weeding the crops the men objected to the work, as being only fit for blackfellows. There was open revolt when thrashing and cutting demanded their energies, and Kanakas had to be procured. The farmers found that, though the cutting cost as much as 5s. 6d. per ton, it was out of the question to obtain white men who would submit to such work. The North Eton Central mill was started in the district as an experiment, to prove that sugar could be produced solely with white labour. It proved was failure, the Government being compelled to suspend its own regulations to keep it running. Since Kanaka labour was permitted new life has been imparted to the industry, and there are now sixty-two farmers who supply the mill with cane, the average area of their holdings being 150 acres each.

LOWER BURDEKIN AND HERBERT RIVER DISTRICTS.

The sugar industry of the Lower Burdekin district, which is about fifty miles from Townsville, is carried on under conditions somewhat different to those of other parts of Queensland, but the experience is the same with respect to Kanaka labour. A visit was made to the Pioneer plantation, the property of Messrs. Drysdale Bros., who hold an area of 7000 acres of freehold, with a leasehold of 3000 acres. On this estate Irrigation is carried out in a scientific manner, under the supervision of Mr. John Drysdale, who is a civil engineer by profession. The water is also supplied to tenant farmers. The fields are also carefully manured each season. The testimony of Mr. Drysdale is that the farmers at the locality never at any time considered it possible to obtain white labour to do the work, and even if such labour could be procured it was debatable whether white men were physically capable of doing the work for any length of time during the summer months. An illustration to the point was given by Mr. T. Douglas Brown, the manager of the station, who at the time referred to was manager for Mr. Maccreedy, a Mackay planter. When the Act of 1885 was passed to fix a limit

for the introduction of Kanakas, Mr. Macreeedy sent out from Scotland thirty Scotch farm labourers. The men were carefully selected, and were inured to field work in their own country. They were engaged for three years, and were to receive as wages 15s. per week and found the first year, 20s. per week the second. and 25s. the third year, with passages paid from Scotland to their destination. The men made an honest attempt to trash and cut cane, and succeeded to some extent during the cooler weather, but in the heat of summer they obstinately refused to continue, and one day the whole thirty absconded. The endeavour was made to compel them to fulfil the agreement, but they preferred the gaol to the tropical cane field. The offence was a glaring one, but it was regarded from a sympathetic standpoint, and their sentences were therefore made short. Here was an instance where Nature herself proved stronger than the most robust constitution, which had been exposed to the hardships of a colder clime.

Further inquiry was made in the Herbert River district, which is sixty-five miles north of Townsville. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company here find it necessary, in order to keep the Victoria mill running, to secure a reserve force of workers on hand on account of the difficulties of the farmers in procuring labour. The expansion of the Industry in this district was certain until the present threatened interference with the labour conditions. Many of the farmers expressed the opinion that no Legislature would attempt to strangle an industry without making honest and unprejudiced Inquiry. Mr. R. M. Boyd, the managing partner of the Ripple Creek plantation, who has had a varied experience of sugar-growing in other lands, contended that it would be simply courting disaster to attempt to produce cane at the present time without coloured alien labour. Mr. Cowley, one of the overseers of the Victoria plantation, gave an instance of two gangs of white men being secured for cane-cutting in answer to advertisement. One gang worked two days, and gave up the job ; the other, after a few days, said the work was not fit for white men, and asked for other work.

IN THE PAR NORTH.

It would, perhaps, be too much to say that similar labour difficulties have been experienced in the Geraldton, Cairns, and Mosman districts. Nature has here proved stronger than theory in the evidence given of Dr. Maxwell's contention that the personal endurance of white men steadily diminishes as the higher latitudes are reached. It may, however, be said that in the Geraldton district one small contract for cutting cane was carried out by white men, but the experiment has not since been repeated. The little experience the farmers have had has convinced them of the fallacy of trying to grow cane without coloured labour. In the Cairns district Dr. Hastings Reed, the manager of the Hambledon Estate, expressed the opinion that the immediate abolition of the Kanaka was not credited to even the most rabid Labour agitator in the Federal Legislature. The investigations to which we are referring, it may be explained, were made prior to the introduction of the Kanaka Bill. In this district is the Mulgrave central mill, whose history is of extreme interest in the present discussion. Cane-growing was started here some twenty years ago, and about the same time a mill was established by a Melbourne company. Operations were carried on successfully for eight seasons. After the passing of the Kanaka Restriction Act of 1885 it was found to be impracticable to continue without coloured labour. Eventually the company was wound up, and the mill sold for whatever it would fetch, while the land passed into the hands of the bank, which held a mortgage over it. When the Government again allowed the introduction of Kanaka labour, and subsequently established the central mill, new prosperity was given to the whole district. The farmers, however, are unanimous in their opinion that the attempt to prohibit Kanaka labour will lead to similar disaster to that experienced in the past. When application was made by the farmers of the Mosman district for the erection of a central mill, under the Sugar Works Guarantee Act, it was at first accepted conditionally on the terms that only white labour should be used in the production of the sugar. The farmers declined to agree to any such stipulation, on the ground that they would be courting disaster from the outset. The mill was eventually erected on the

usual conditions that only white labour should be employed in the manufacture of the sugar, the cultivation of the cane with coloured labour being permitted.

SOME EXPOSURES.

It has been repeatedly asserted that there are farmers in Queensland producing cane without the aid of alien labour. Where such statements were made the " Courier" commissioner took some trouble to make investigation. In the Mackay district a Federal candidate referred to a prominent member of the Workers' Political Association, who was said to be able to dispense with Kanaka labour. It was found to be generally correct that this man did not employ black labour ; but he got over the difficulty by leasing his land to Malays to cultivate and crop, on the royalty system, and he further employed a time-expired Kanaka, whom he apparently designated a British subject, to plough six acres apart from the area let out to the Malays. His neighbours averred, that he had vainly attempted to work his farm in accordance with his avowed political beliefs. Another case of the same kind was referred to by a business man in Mackay, who stated that a firm at Lake's Creek were producing cane without black labour. The members of the firm were visited, and in answer to a direct question said : " We employ more Kanakas than any other farmer in the neighbourhood." The explanation given was that, while in Mackay seeking Kanaka labourers, care must be taken not to permit storekeepers who serve the Kanakas to know that such are required, until an agreement is made, otherwise their Clients are urged to ask the highest wages. At the last general meeting of farmers connected with the Mulgrave central mill it was considered an opportune time to obtain an expression of opinion on the labour question. There were two dissentients to the resolution declaring Kanaka labour to be necessary. Inquiry was made in both cases. One of the gentlemen proved to be a hotel-keeper, who employed a black cook and a black billiard-corker ; the other was an employer of Kanakas and Chinamen, and every effort failed to get any sensible view bearing on the question from him. It was also said that two of the principal sugar growers in the Cairns district did not employ coloured labour. They were interviewed, and it was found that they were the staunchest supporters of the Kanaka. These are the only apparent exceptions to the unanimous expression of opinion from the sugar-growers of every part of Queensland where the industry is carried on.

Brisbane Courier 24 Oct 1901

MEETINGS AT INGHAM AND GERALDTON.

INGHAM, October 23.

An influential public meeting was held last night to protest against the Kanaka Bill. The following resolution was passed, and wired to the Federal Premier : " That, in the opinion of this meeting, if the Kanaka Bill, as proposed, is put in force, and alien labour is not available for harvesting the crops, then the factories on the Herbert must close, and the industry will die out ; and that before any interference with the sugar' industry a Royal Commission should be appointed to investigate the conditions under which sugar is grown in the tropics." Mr. Boyd stated in his speech that twenty-five white men who had been engaged to cut cane at 3s. per ton struck after two days' work, and said it did not pay at the price.

Brisbane Courier 25 Oct 1901

THE KANAKA BILL

COLONEL REAY ANSWERED.

LAST NIGHT'S LABOUR MEETING.

A SIGNIFICANT RETURN.

THE COUNTRY'S REMONSTRANCES

A THREATENED INDUSTRY.

COLONEL REAY'S INVESTIGATIONS.

XVI.

In speaking of the work done by the Royal Commission of 1889, Colonel Reay repeats the old and misleading charge that it could hardly be said that there were any representatives of labour examined. He says that investors, managers, farmers, graziers, inspectors, and others were examined, but no labourers, though the inquiry was chiefly about labour. The last assertion is somewhat wide of the mark, seeing that the commissioners were directed to make "a full and searching inquiry into the general conditions of the sugar industry in Queensland, to report upon the causes which had led to the present languishing condition of the industry, the best means to be adopted for revising and maintaining its prosperity, and generally upon the prospects of tropical agriculture in Queensland." The labour question certainly came within the scope of the commission, but the most superficial reference to the two reports will prove conclusively that the Inquiry was not chiefly about labour. In any case, all sorts and conditions of men engaged, directly or indirectly, in tropical agriculture, were examined, and among the witnesses who gave oral testimony were seventeen Government officials, forty-five planters and managers of sugar estates, fifty-three farmers and selectors, nineteen merchants and storekeepers, five manufacturers and thirteen of sundry professions and working men. If there had been any justification for the charge of bias made against the Queensland Commission, it is natural to expect that Colonel Reay and Mr. Mauger, during their recent visit to Queensland, would have made good that deficiency. The question now before the country with respect to the sugar industry is essentially a labour one, and both gentlemen are, to some extent, connected with the Labour party of Victoria. Queenslanders who are interested in the sugar industry have asked for an inquiry, and when «the Melbourne "Herald" sends a brilliant correspondent on a special commission of Inquiry, there is the anticipation of some valuable practical results. The tour of the visitors is said to have been "extensive," and the investigation "exhaustive." In detail, let it be asked "what is the real value of the inquiry made by the visitors?" Putting aside all merely descriptive matter, and reproduction of Government documents, planters' agreements, and irrelevant statistics, what new light are our visitors able to throw on the related questions of the employment of white and coloured labour, in connection with the sugar industry. Colonel Reay, let it be observed, has made a complaint against the Queensland Royal Commission, and is, therefore, bound to remedy the alleged defects in the reports made by that commission.

THE CAIRNS DISTRICT.

The Herald" correspondent 'speaks gratefully of the reception accorded to Mr. Mauger and himself at Cairns. He mentions the names of Mr. A. J. Draper, chairman of the Mulgrave Central Mill Co-operative, Mr. Hansford, of Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Company, and Mr. Thomas Munro, chairman of the local Divisional Board. All of these gentlemen were of opinion that the continuance of the Kanaka was essential to the continuance of the sugar industry in the Cairns district, and it is admitted that they showed the most perfect willingness to furnish the visitors with all the facts bearing on the question. At Cairns one does not readily discover people who are against Kanaka labour. This is the admission made by Colonel Reay, and as he avows that he did not meet the large planters, and that it was more essential to his purpose to ascertain what the smaller holders thought on the subject, his failure to produce one witness who favoured the abolition of the Kanaka is even more

eloquent than the positive testimony which he has adduced. It is not quite clear why the visitors should not have taken the trouble to meet the large planters, whose plantations would have shown, on the largest scale, the conditions of Kanaka labour. The admission, however, is very interesting, and will be duly weighed by the judicial mind. Colonel Reay says that the general sentiment of the Cairns district may be described in the following terms :

" We do not like the Kanakas, but sugar-growing at present prices cannot be carried on without them, or some such labourers, and quite irrespective of prices, we cannot get white men to do the work."

That was the view expressed by a farmer, and is substantially what they all said.

" Do you mean that white men cannot stand the work ?" I asked the farmer.

"Well," was the reply, " I will not go that far. Many who have tried can't stand it ; some can and won't, and I hardly blame them- particularly if there happens to be good wages for whites at some- thing else."

" You work at the cane yourself ?"

" Not at the same work as the Kanaka does. I do my own ploughing, but I don't trash. That is work only fit for a Kanaka, and I pity the white man who would have to do it."

This conversation describes, I repeat, the general sentiment of the Cairns district, and, as it was held before I saw the work which has to be done, I give it first. Upon what that sentiment is founded and how far it justified by the circumstances we shall see.

A visit was made to the farm of Mr. Thomas Bennie, some eight miles from Cairns. The Victorians inspected the Kanaka quarters and went into the cane. Though it was not summer time, and a nice breeze was said to be blowing outside, Colonel Reay says that he emerged dripping with perspiration from the immense stewpan. Personally he pitied the white who had to tackle anything so disagreeable as the work he saw the Kanakas doing ; but he thought that if given a decent wage whites would do the work. This is hardly evidence. More relevant was the opinion of the farmer : " I think that the sugar industry is, under present conditions, dependent upon the labour we have, and unless there is an assurance of labour as reliable to take its place it is no use our trying to grow sugar." In the following article reference is then made to the Hambledon plantation, the Mulgrave central mill. Aloomba and Pyramid Hill estates, but there is no direct evidence to show that any of these places were visited. The experiences of some of the planters are narrated to show the extreme difficulty of obtaining labourers who would continue for any long period at field work, but there is no single reference to any planter who expressed readiness to dispense with Kanaka labour. At Cairns the "Herald" correspondent met an old friend who was now engaged in the sugar industry, and who gave it as his experience that " white men won't stick at the work like the coloured race." It's too trying," he said ; " even the horses can't stand the severe atmospheric conditions. In the fields, ploughing and cultivating, we can only work the animals five or six hours a day. I tried growing cane with white labour, but had to give it up, because the labour was not obtainable when required." " But sup- posing you could have got the labour ?" " Well, from what I know of it, it would have proved too expensive. The heat is very humid along the river flats where the cane fields are, and you would have to offer great inducements to get white labour." -

ON THE JOHNSTONE (RIVER.

From Cairns the Victorians had a pleasant trip down the coast to the Johnstone River, and were welcomed at Geraldton by Mr. H. Gray, manager of the Queensland plantation, and a

number of farmers. It was too late that night to visit any of the sugar fields, but the question of Kanaka labour was discussed at the hotel. "Not a man among them," says Colonel Reay, "from young Mr. Gray, prim and dainty, to the smallest farmer-in point of holding, of course- but believed that the Kanaka must be retained if the sugar industry was to continue on the Johnstone River, and I was impressed by the genuineness of the fear entertained that without the Kanaka the industry would perish. 'We must have an assurance of labour if our planting is to be of any value to us,' they said, again and again. It was suggested that suitable arrangements must be made to provide white labour, but the answer was invariably, 'You cannot rely upon it when you get it. If white men come here they are either men who, after putting in a few months for wages, will want to get land of their own- which is natural- or they're of the class who go on the spree after the first decent pay day. In that belief I found the farmers on the Johnstone ; in that belief I left them.' On the following morning a run was made through the banana and cane fields, the party returning to Geraldton for breakfast. In the fore- noon the visitors went to Goondi, the Colonial Sugar Company's plantation and mill. Here is one of the cane fields Colonel Reay spent a-quarter of an hour trashing cane. He saw Kanaka women at work planting the sugarcane, and mourned over the hundreds of men in the Southern cities, who, having been eliminated by machines or (to them) otherwise adverse fortune, might have been engaged in the same pleasant planting work. The only other reference made to the question of Kanaka labour in this district is the following :

Throughout the whole of this district I have already indicated, the Kanaka is employed. "Yes," said a man to whom I spoke on the subject, "twenty years ago at Mackay the whole of the work in a sugar field was done by white labour, and done well. Personally, I have done pretty well everything that is to be done in North Queensland, and in all sorts of weather. I say unhesitatingly that white men can do the work needed in the sugar fields, but white men won't do it. Keep that in mind. They think it derogatory to do work which they tell you is 'only fit for a damned nigger to do.' I have heard the remark hundreds of times. It is not a case of can't ; it is a case of won't ; and that's our trouble here."

"What about cheapness !"

"Well, of course, we've always got to meet that. At present prices the industry won't stand dear labour, but I have never thought the Kanaka cheap, all things considered. It would pay me better, I think, to pay decent wages while I want him to a white man than to have to keep the Kanaka all the year round."

HERBERT RIVER DISTRICT.

The Victorians had been advised to visit the Herbert River district, and they arrived at Lucinda Point at about half-past 6 o'clock in the morning, when they learned they were fully expected. A special train was just leaving Macnade Station, over twenty miles away, to carry them on, and they also learned that orders had been given to detain the steamer next on turn for Townsville, until 6 o'clock next evening, if it were necessary, to insure the completion of their inquiries. It is strange that the ironical nature of this alleged investigation into the conditions of the sugar industry had not by this time dawned on the minds of the visitors, who were henceforth to be claimed as experts, on the strength of their having travelled in seven-league boots through some of the sugar districts. The Colonel informs us that the landlady of the **Royal Hotel at Lucinda Point** was of opinion that the Labour party was making a great mistake in running down the Kanaka. The very shrewd remark was made that the Japs, Chinese, and Malays were the real competitors with white labour, and that there was already suffering from the effects of the unrest caused by the report that the Kanakas were all to be sent away. At the Macnade plantation the Kanakas were found to be well housed, and their quarters were remarkably clean. Their food was first-rate-good meat, white bread of the best, from the hands of a skilled baker, potatoes, rice, and tea. There appeared a certain meagreness

in the scant bedding, but the climate had to be remembered. It was here that Colonel Reay tried an hour's work in trashing cane. He survived the attempt, and cleared two chains of plants in the same hour in which the Kanakas cleared each about three and a-half chains. An article is devoted to a description of this hour's work. Nothing is said of what was demonstrated by the experiment. In this district Ripple Creek plantation was also visited. **Mr. Boyd** is represented as having said that the sugar industry of the district was worth more consideration at the hands of those who I talked of taking away the only labour by which it could be carried out. Colonel Reay might well have spared the following alleged conversation :

" You are sure and definite on that point ?"

" Yes. I have had experience here, in Fiji and other places, and I know exactly what I am talking about."

'And you regard the Kanaka as essential ?"

" Yes ; we could not expect to carry on without his labour."

" You would like to see Australia a white man's country ?"

" Yes ; and may I ask what your idea of a white man's country is ?"

" It is really unimportant for the moment what mine is, **Mr. Boyd**. May I ask for yours ?"

" You may. I consider that a white man's country is a country where a white man does nothing, and the niggers do all the work."

" I quite understood. Mr. Boyd, even though I do not necessarily admire ; but you were about to say something; about the value of the industry."

On the following day the party went to Victoria plantation. Here the visitors were assured that the general health of the Kanakas was good, but there was some complaint that the medical inspection, regarded as satisfactory elsewhere, had not always proved, on the Herbert River a guarantee that boys passed were physically as fit as they ought to be. In an interview with one of the company's tenant farmers the opinion was expressed that the farmers could hardly get on without the Kanakas. When regard is had to the courteous treatment of the visitors, and to the only evidence which Colonel Reay has been able to accumulate, the offensiveness of the following paragraph in one of his articles will be resented :- '

SAME OLD GAGS.

In the Herbert river district I heard many repetitions of views expressed in other sugar-growing localities. They furnish the conversational pabulum of the Far North, and are made up of such sentences as these :

" White labour might be all right ; but, you know, whites are so unreliable."

" Whites cannot stand the work ; it's no use talking, they simply can't.

" You know this white Australia cry is sheer humbug. Why, the Kanakas are fast working themselves out. Just look at the figures. The thing will settle itself."

" The cutting machine may make a difference, but we'll still need the Kanaka."

"The Kanaka does not compete with the whites ; other coloured aliens do. The Kanaka makes work for the whites."

And so on. The same man will sometimes run through the whole gamut, and your admiration for his earnestness is such that you really haven't the heart to say either that his statements are contradictory- which is obviously the case-or that you doubt either his Solomonian wisdom or his Washingtonian veracity.

THE WORTH OF THE EVIDENCE.

Reference has already been made to the three hours' investigation of the conditions of the sugar industry in sub-tropical Queensland. Colonel Reay also submits the testimony of one whom he calls a very experienced sugar-grower of the Cairns district. For this he is indebted to the courtesy of Senator Stewart. Whatever value the evidence of this anonymous sugar grower may possess, it hardly comes within the scope of the investigation personally made by the Victorian visitors. The real worth of these investigations can be properly estimated by what has been given in the summary of their movements in the several districts. The whole of the relevant evidence bearing on the probability of white men engaging in the field work now done by Kanakas has been given shorn of irrelevant descriptive and historical matter, and of the comments made by the writer. He explains that the Royal Commission of 1889 failed to examine any representatives of labour ; yet with the whole of the coastal districts open for inquiry he has failed to bring forward a single witness in support of his own case. One can now readily understand why he deemed it necessary to resurrect the distorted evidence of a " Hansard" debate to prove that which has been denied by almost every competent witness. In one of his articles he states that later on his inquiries were pursued amongst those who held diametrically opposite views to those expressed in Cairns. Why have not witnesses been produced in support of these views ? Colonel Reay has written some interesting descriptive articles, which as such were acceptable ; but it would be mockery to speak of them as containing the results of personal investigation, so far as the visit to Queensland is concerned. One may hope for better results when Cook's excursions are run between Southern ports and Northern Queensland. Colonel Reay is more serious in his concluding articles, to which, reference has still to be made.

SMH 28 Oct 1901

MURDER IN QUEENSLAND.

A LABOURER STABBED TO DEATH.

KANAKAS SUSPECTED.

BRISBANE, Sunday.

An atrocious murder is reported from Ingham, but so far very few particulars of the crime are available. On Friday morning a labourer, named William Wing, employed by **Wood Brothers and Boyd**, Ripple Creek, was found murdered on the road near the sugar mill. There were 39 knife wounds in the body. The police have the matter in hand.

The post mortem examination showed that 39 stabs were inflicted on the head, the neck, the chest and the right arm. Two of the wounds penetrated the heart and lungs. The injuries were evidently inflicted with a narrow-bladed sheath knife. A broken head of a South Sea

islander's nulla nulla was discovered near the body. The police searched the kanaka quarter, but no arrests have yet been made. Some Malay Island boys, however, are suspected.

Brisbane Courier 28 Oct 1901

ATROCIOUS MURDER NEAR INGHAM.

THIRTY-NINE KNIFE WOUNDS.

SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS SUSPECTED.

(By Telegraph from Our Correspondents.)

INGHAM, October 26.

William Wing, a labourer in the employ of Messrs. **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, at Ripple Creek, was found murdered on the road near the sugar-mill yesterday morning. There were thirty-nine knife wounds in the body. The police are investigating the matter.

TOWNSVILLE, October 27.

Inspector Meldrum on Saturday received a wire from Acting Sergeant McKay, stationed at Ingham, reporting that a white man named William Wing, who had been employed in gathering trash for Messrs. **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, at Ripple Creek plantation, was found lying dead on Friday on the road near the mill at Ripple Creek. Accompanied by Dr. McDonald, the acting sergeant visited the scene. The doctor made a post-mortem examination of the body, and found thirty-nine stab wounds on the head, neck, chest, and right arm. Two of the wounds had penetrated the heart and lungs. The injuries had evidently been inflicted with a narrow-bladed sheath knife. The broken head of a South Sea Islander's nulla nulla was discovered near the body. A search was made in the Kanaka quarter, but no arrests have been made yet, though from certain indications some Malay Island boys are suspected.

Brisbane Courier 1 Nov 1901

THE KANAKA BILL.

THE OPINIONS OF WORKERS.

THE UNRELIABILITY OF WHITE LABOUR.

The following letter has been received by the Hon. A. S. Cowley from **Mr. Boyd**, the manager of Ripple Creek Sugar-mill :

Ripple Creek, 23rd October. 1901. The Hon. A. S. Cowley, 'Brisbane.

Dear Sir.-I have the honour to inform you that after considerable trouble, Mr. A. J. Wallace sent us twenty-three white men to cut cane on this estate under contract at 3s. per ton. Four, who promised to come, did not do so, but others took their places. They arrived on the estate on Thursday. On Friday they made their camp and signed agreement, except two, who cleared out on arrival. On Saturday they commenced cutting, and on Monday they loaded into cane trucks what they had cut on Saturday, in all for two days' work for the twenty-three men and a cook, a total of thirty-two tons cane. On Tuesday none of them turned to work ; some wanted to do so, and others would not. Next day eight started work, and the others cleared away.

After paying the men's passages from Townsville, erecting shed for them to dine in, stretchers for their camp, &c. , the results are, instead of the mill being supplied with forty tons cane a day, in four days after they started we have received under forty tons in all. I tried to get them to make a try of it, and finish the twenty-five acre field in which they started, also promised them a bonus of £1 to each man who would stay on until the field was cut out.

All the men seemed to me a quiet lot, and only two or three of them rather old for the work. As the weather has not been very hot, these men had a good chance to try cane-cutting in the North, if they had wished to do so. This is only one more trial of the many that have proved the crops will never be reaped if only white labour is allowed.

Northern Miner 2 Nov 1901

WHITE CANE CUTTERS.

" Along the Line " writes from Hughenden " When I was on the Herbert River two or three days ago I saw some thing of the result of an experiment at cutting cane by white labour. There's a dearth of cane cutting labour there, and **Mr. Boyd**, of Wood Bros. and Boyd, Ripple Creek, sent to Townsville for twenty-five men for this purpose, to be engaged to cut at 3/- a ton, which is considered a good pay, and is more than the work costs usually. The twenty-five men were selected in Townsville and sent up by Mr. Wallace, the Immigration agent. I saw many of them in Ingham. They had duly landed at Ripple Creek, and on the first day the twenty five men, as a body, cut 40 tons of cane. Then they began to drop out, of course, some didn't work at all, but there were some six or eight stickers who did belt in and they made up the average. Next day 10 of them jacked up, and Mr. **Boyd** did his best to keep the stickers going as it is ruination to the planter if he cannot get his cane cut. Some of those who stuck cut three tons a day and, of course, this meant 9/-. However it was of the other men I intend to speak. They duly arrived at the hotels in Ingham with their 4/9 a man, earnt in the day they worked. I saw them there ; and of all the deadbeat boerchewers of the wharves, they took the cake. There was hardly one man among the lot that had the slightest semblance to a worker, the look of them was enough. The flabby hands, and bloated dirty faces, and in come cases the decrepit besotted look of old played out men. It was a sight that should have been a shock to those advocating white labour for cane fields. On the arrival the police gave them twenty-four hours to quit the town, under the Vagrant Act, but it's likely they'll bang about until gaoled, **Mr. Boyd's** experiment was the deadest kind of failure, and it was said the few workers who did stay would not remain long. There is one thing to remember in this experiment, and that is that these men were the best available and Mr. **Boyd** paid their fares up, and gave them fair going.

If the planter has to rely upon white labour to see him through, then God help him. He may draw his fires and whitelead and grease his machinery and back out, until sanity becomes more apparent in the legislation of our country.

Brisbane Courier 13 Nov 1901

'THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

ITS PRESENT CONDITION AND PROSPECTS. OBSERVATIONS OF A TOUR.

Mr. R. W. McCulloch, Government inspector and valuator under the Sugar Works Guarantee Act, on his return from an official tour through the sugar districts, was seen by a representative of the " Courier." Mr. McCulloch has had exceptional opportunities to observe the exact position of the Industry in the light of Federal legislation, and to gauge the feelings of those whose interests will be affected thereby. He was, however, disinclined to speak on

this phase of the question- the political aspect- lest he should expose himself to an accusation of partisanship by those to whom the conviction borne of his observation might prove disagreeable. Nevertheless, the information in Mr. McCulloch's possession was deemed valuable, and a summing up of facts was pressed for.

PROGRESS OF THE INDUSTRY.

" First for your tour, Mr. McCulloch ?"

" Since July last," he responded, ' I have visited every mill in Queensland except the mills south of Brisbane, and I propose going round them within the next fortnight. The mills have obtained better results than ever before in quantity. The crops turned out considerably ahead of what was anticipated earlier in the season, - of course, to the gain of farmers. They are making a better living than they could out of any other crop planted in the sugar areas. In some favoured districts farmers have had bigger crops, and have obtained bigger prices. In the Isis district the system of payment by results has been in vogue, and the farmer has greatly benefited, so much so that nearly all the farmers supplying the Childers mill have elected to be paid by analysis. If the cane growers throughout Queensland universally adopted this system of payment it would be to their material gain. To illustrate this, several farmers supplying the Childers mill have increased their receipts by fully £200 or £300 more than they would have obtained had they stuck to the old-fashioned fixed price per ton of cane. The matter is optional, but farmers are seeing the wisdom of dealing with a marketable product on the basis of quality. My principal work has been the examination, the testing of weighbridges, and seeing that the pro- per system of cane accounts was kept, under the Sugar Experiment Stations Act. With very few exceptions I found everything satisfactory in this connection. All the big mills are crushing, and will be until the middle of December. A number of the smaller, ones are closed down for the season. Results all round have been splendid."

"And the prospect for next season ?"

" A record crop. Where they have cut already the crop promises to be very big. Then there is the new land planted ; the growth is going on in glorious style. There will be a tremendous increase in the cane supply. This year at Mulgrave, Mossman, and Hambleton they have been hard pushed to get the crops off. The mills have been working to the fullest capacity."

THE LABOUR PROBLEM.

" What about the labour for next season ?"

" I have no doubt about it being insufficient. The present supply is inadequate. This year's crop has taken considerable trouble to get off, the labour being short at several places. Next season, if Mr. Barton's bill comes into operation, with the proportion of Kanakas that will have to be returned, the situation will become acute. I entertain no doubt about the next season's- unless something most unforeseen occurs- being a record crop. It is certain on account of the splendid season and the increased area planted. Private mill owners will not be able to hold out under the new conditions. They state their intention to make as much as they can during the next five years and then shut down. With the exception of the big mill owners, who might hang out a bit longer, that is the outlook. They will, they say, try, the experiment of white labour if it can be procured. It is not so much a question of growing cane by white labour as harvesting it. Too much stress has been laid on the ' growing.' As to whether a white man can grow cane there is no dispute. A white man can grow cane with the exception of trifling field operations-trashing, &c - and he is doing so. Too much emphasis cannot be laid on this harvesting difficulty. You can imagine the plight of the man with his crop ready for the mill, and no labour to take it off available. Unlike a cereal crop, sugar deteriorates rapidly.

No other industry is on the same footing with it. Yes, everything points to a big crop next year, and short labour supply."

INADEQUACY OF WHITE LABOUR.

"Is that the feeling of the North ?"

" Absolutely. White labour has been tried, and failed. There have been continuous efforts year after year to get white men to do the work in gangs. They have, only spasmodically responded. What the white men will do, the Northerners say, can only be judged by the past. Certainly there is no white labour in Queensland today available to the extent needed to get the next crop off. A combination of whites and blacks for the next five years would perhaps enable the crop to come off- that is without sending the proportion of blacks back as laid down in the Federal Bill. You have instances of white labour. **Mr. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, started a gang of white men, and next there was the Mulgrave Mill experiment, where men were brought from Bundaberg. Failures ! My experience has been that the white man won't tackle the work from choice. Offer him a high wage for cane cutting and a reasonable one for sawmilling work, say, or mining, or navvying. What Is the result ? The lesser wage and white men's work ! This is the result of conversation with hundreds of white working men during the last two or three years. From the very nature of my duties, I must see a great deal more than people who stay at home, or are working in one particular sugar district."

POSITION IN SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND.

"Are there no exceptions-favoured districts ?"

" Down South- I mean below Bundaberg - it is thought people will get white labour. Somehow or other, white people like to be as near the metropolis as is possible. Even they will not get the full supply of white labour. Alluding to Mr. Barton's bill, farmers hereabout expect that by the rebate of 4s. to 6s. per ton for their cane, they will manage. That is the inducement held out to grow cane with white labour. But when you tell them that ' grow' means ' harvesting' also, they say, 'Oh, that is the business of the mill' It is the interpretation of the word ' grow' they are relying on. A small farmer with the aid of his wife, children, and an odd man will 'grow' the cane all right ; but there is the harvesting and delivery of the crop. Suppose the mill refuses to do the harvesting, how are the majority of small growers going to get their crops in, especially if there is a scarcity of white labour ' They will have to use their wives and children ; that is what it comes to. Then take a number of individual farmers delivering cane in small quantities daily. You see at once that you completely upset the internal economy of the mills. Each would be delivering two or three tons of cane a day. How is the mill to be kept going so-? It would mean thorough disorganisation. Instead of bringing up sixty or seventy tons at a haul, the mill loco- motive would simply have to be flying round small individual holdings, hauling small quantities of cane. The cost to the mill would be great. The feeling is very bitter in the North at so sudden and drastic an interference with labour as the legislation proposed threatens. They ask, ' where is the labour coming from,' saying, ' the European language test will debar immigrants coming in sufficient numbers, and if the test is not going to be applied in certain cases, it is ridiculous having it at all.' "

THE CENTRAL MILLS.

" Was the industry making marked headway by comparison between this your last trip and others ?"

" The central mills were doing very good work, and without the present danger, their position was assured. The industry was certainly on the upward move. Mills showed every prospect of

fulfilling their obligations with reliable labour. There is such a lot of false information and erroneous opinions that it is very difficult to get at the facts. Therefore, I consider that an unbiased Government official like myself- with the practical knowledge I have of the business, and seeing what my travelling duties show me in going round the State- is in a better position to sift truths, and ascertain what is incorrect. The turning question has been whether white labour can or cannot do the work. That is a wrong premise. The white man can do almost anything he sets his mind to. But then he 'won't' do it. There you have the whole pith and point of the thing. The industry was working out its own salvation as far as black labour was concerned. The white man was doing his proper work, and the black man his, and if there were any abuses they could easily be remedied. If the black man was being used as he should not be, there were laws to regulate the matter. The sugar industry promised great things, but with the revolutionising of conditions in labour, the Northerners say, 'why such hurried legislation? Why not first ascertain facts indisputably?' Some people, when it is pointed out to them that harvesting is really the biggest thing in the industry, prophesy machinery at an early date. But we haven't got it yet." -

Northern Miner 13 Nov 1901

At the public meeting held in the Divisional Board Hall here on the night of the 22nd October to enter a protest against the passing of the Kanaka Bill in its present form, a large number attended, representatives of all classes of the community being present. The Chairman of the Divisional Board, Mr. A. Gedge presided, and the resolution was proposed by Mr. R. M. Boyd and seconded by Mr. W. P. Canning a cane grower.

Mr. Boyd gave the meeting a short account of his firm's experiment with white cane cutters and, as an instance of how the Federal Premier and other people in the South obtain their information concerning the sugar industry, the planters, Kanakas, etc. gave a rather amusing account of the visit of a couple of Melbourne men to his plantation a few months ago. They arrived at Lucinda Point some time on Friday morning, spent a few hours at Macknade Plantation, one of them played at cane trashing on a beautifully cool day, be it noted, for less than an hour, and then came up in a row boat to Ripple Creek. They walked from the landing to the house, fully 100 yards, and found Mr. Boyd and his manager, Mr. Walker, with their books, etc., ready and anxious to give them any information and to show them anything and everything in connection with the plantation, the Kanakas, etc. One of them, as Mr. Boyd remarked, "would neither eat, drink, nor be merry." He only asked one question, "What is the time?" and on being told, remarked to his companion, "Colonel, I think we must really be going." Being pressed to stay and dine, spending the interval in inspecting the plantation, he declined, saying, "We really must get back to Macknade in daylight, for I am told there is an alligator in the river." The precious pair left Lucinda about noon on Saturday, having spent little more than 24 hours in the district. Then these specimens of what Kipling rightly terms "the travelled idiots who duly misgovern the land" return gaily to the sights and smells of Little Bourke Street, and tell all and sundry, "We know all about the Queensland sugar Industry and that shocking slavery." One of the choice items published in Melbourne by these men is as follows; "While I was on the Herbert, seven Kanaka women arrived, and five of them were suffering from a most loathsome disease." Now, Mr. Editor, the first question which naturally arises from this statement, is, "What was he doing in that galley?" Mr. Boyd mentioned this statement in his speech and characterised it as an infamous falsehood. As he said, all Kanakas arriving in this district are most carefully examined by the Government Medical Officer, who is well known as being the strictest examiner along the Queensland coast. From the remarks of this "travelled Idiot" on the platform and in the Melbourne press, it would appear that the bulk of his enquiries into the question of Kanaka labour were prosecuted among certain places of evil repute in Townsville and elsewhere. And these are the men who have put Mr. Barton in possession of evidence on the Kanaka question, which was never possessed by the Queensland Government," which evidence, he says, justifies the

refusal of the Federal Government to Appoint a Royal Commission to make full inquiry into the sugar industry. Truly he must have a very weak case when he is so afraid of any enquiry into the matter, while on the other hand the sugar planters court the fullest enquiry. It seems to me- and to most people here, that it would be a good thing if Mr. Barton were to enquire as to the composition of the various meetings from whom he has received telegrams expressing approval of his Kanaka Bill, with a view to discovering how many of those who voted at those meetings have any stake in the country, and how many of them voted at the dictation of their tyrant, "The Worker." In this district two meetings have been held, the one mentioned above, and one attended by delegates from six local Farmers Associations, representing 123 cane growing farmers, both of which were unanimous in protesting against the Bill. The Herbert River Chamber of Commerce likewise telegraphed to Mr. Barton, and to our member, Mr. Bamford, in similar terms, but it all seems useless. Mr. Barton must have the support of the Labour party and he finds he can buy it cheapest at the expense of the sugar growers of North Queensland.

Worker (Brisbane) 16 Nov 1901

The Coloured Labour Curse.

The following items culled from the police court records and from the local papers since the 30th September will illustrate the necessity for the Federal anti alien legislation :

.....

October 25, Ingham.-Wm. Wing, a white labourer in the employ of Wood Bros. and Boyd, Ripple Creek, is found murdered on the road near the sugar-mill - 39 knife wounds in body. Four kanakas have been arrested for committing the murder

[many such examples]

SMH 12 Dec 1901

QUEENSLAND SUGAR INDUSTRY.

THE JOHNSTONE AND THE HERBERT RIVERS.

SHORTAGE OF LABOUR.

AN ATTEMPT WITH WHITE WORKERS.

VII.

(BY OUR SPECIAL REPORTER).

Travelling south from Cairns there are the sugar plantations on the Johnstone and the Herbert Rivers. In both places the industry is thriving. The remarks made about the conditions of the industry on the Mosman apply to the growing of sugar on the Johnstone and the Herbert. There is, however, one notable fact about the mill at Goondi on the Johnstone, and that is the rainfall there is literally measured in yards. Up till November 28 of this year the fall had been 200in. In 1894 the rainfall was 241 1/4in., or over six yards. The average rainfall is 180in , or in 5 yards. With the tropical heat and so much moisture it can be imagined how rank vegetation grows. At Goondi, the property of the Colonial Sugar Company, there is an area of 5000 acres under cane. The system of tenant farmers is in force there, and the growers number 60. The kanakas employed on the estate number 350 and 189 are employed by the

company exclusively in field work. There are 90 Japanese and 100 whites. Here, as elsewhere, the crop promises to be a good one. Geraldton is the port of shipment on the Johnstone River. From there to Lucinda Point on the Herbert is a day's steam in one of the small coastal steamers which have to be of light draught to allow of their crossing the bars at the entrances to the rivers. From Lucinda Point a tramway runs to the town of Halifax, the Victoria Mill (C S R Company), and the town of Ingham. There are three mills in this district -the Victoria, the Macknade, and the Ripple Creek. It had been stated in the North that at Ripple Creek Mr. R M Boyd was employing white men in cutting cane. Accordingly I drove out to Ripple Creek to see. It transpired that the men had gone. Mr. Boyd readily consented to state his experience with the white men.

" We buy all the cane we can get from farmers," he said, "and we grow 600 acres of cane annually. We employ 42 Europeans exclusive of the management staff. We have 133 kanakas, 58 Japanese, 19 Chinamen, and 9 Malays. That is for our own place, Ripple Creek. Besides this, the farmers who grow for us are under a contract to send us in 150 tons of cane a day. As a matter of fact, this season they have not averaged 90 tons of cane a day. This was all for the want of labour. The farmers could not get reapers, and therefore could not supply more than 90 tons a day. We also on our own cultivation have been very short of harvesters, and the consequence is that this year in 10 weeks the lost time at the mill has been 362 hours. That means a loss of £1000. We are supposed to work 110 hours a week. In 16 weeks we actually crushed 1403 hours, and the lost time has been 362 hours.

" To get over the shortage and the keeping of the mill idle, we wrote to the Government Labour Agent at Townsville, also to our agents at Cairns, the Burdekin, and the Johnstone for labour to cut cane at 3s per ton, and we would give them a free passage to the plantation and accommodation. In about three weeks Mr. Wallace, the Government Labour Agent at Townsville, informed us he could get us a gang of Europeans. We wired to accept and to tell him to send them on by the first boat. The men arrived here on Thursday, October 17. Of the men engaged four men failed to go to the boat at Townsville. Mr. Wallace picked up a hand or two on the wharf to take their places. Twenty-three men arrived at the plantation on October 17. On their arrival we put the gang into camp on the Friday. When we went to take their names two more men had cleared out. We picked up three more men locally, making a total of 24 men and the cook. On the Saturday they started work in a field of cane, well trashed. On Monday morning I had the gang working all right, and for Saturday and Monday they cut a total of 31 tons. On Tuesday the men said they could not make wages and all knocked off.

" I interviewed them. Some said they would make another start. Others said they would not try it any more. I offered them a bonus of £1 a day if they would finish the field they had started in. There were 25 acres in the field. The next morning, Wednesday, October 23, eight men turned out to work. The others had cleared out. On Tuesday, November 19, we paid eight men for the work they had done. That was four weeks from the time the eight men started work, and they earned £7 11s. 8d for the four weeks. Out of that they had to buy their tucker."

" That was under £2 a week ?" " Yes."

" What kind of men were these ?"

" They were the only eight men willing to work out of 20. I gave them the bonus of £1."

" Were they agriculturists ?"

"No. They were the class of labour we shall have to depend upon for harvesting the crop. These eight men worked before the kanakas began in the morning, and after the kanakas had knocked off at night."

" Can you carry on the industry with this class of labour?"

" Simply impossible. And the difficulty with regard to labour is all round. This week in an area of over 600 acres of young cane we have only 20 men working in the cultivation. Nearly every man is out trying to get the cane out, but there is the young crop coming on that has to be cultivated. I have had to put every possible man on to the cutting, and there is the spectacle of only 20 men looking after the cultivation. Last year it was the same. We are always 40 or 50 men short. Of course we cannot afford to keep men doing nothing for six or eight months of the year. The pastoralists don't do it, neither do the other agriculturists. The shearers go on at shearing time and are not maintained all the year for the sake of the shearing season. We give the European cook in the house here £1 a week and have been for months without one. What are we going to do ? Where are we going to get labour ? The Europeans won't do it themselves and they won't let anybody else. They are going to take away the 8000 kanakas. There are no whites here. If we have not the men to do the work we must shut up. The legislation is making no provision to give us agricultural labour. I may not arrange to bring 300 or 400 men from England under contract. It is not allowed by the law. Well, what am I to do ? The Government won't bring them."

" Will you endeavour to come under the bonus for sugar produced by white labour ?"

" How can we ? All the stuff that is growing now was planted by alien labour. They can get white labour away down at Bundaberg and the Isis, but the white men won't come up to the tropics. We can't get them. It is simply a bonus to take our men away.

" I worked white labour in the Clarence River district for 10 years. The conditions there are different. You can get men there. The estimated output of sugar for Queensland is 120,000 tons. It takes 10 tons of cane to make a ton of sugar. That means 1,200,000 tons of cane to be cut. The season is at the most 120 days for reaping in Queensland, so that 10,000 tons of cane a day has to be cut. A man will cut on the average, allowing for shifting camps, &c., 10 tons of cane per week. So it wants 6000 men, outside of cooks, tramway layers, or anything else, to actually cut and load the cane of Queensland. That is only for an output of 120,000 tons sugar, and some- times it goes up to 180,000 tons. We want to know where we shall pick up 6000 men for reaping, without having anything to do with the factories. Then what are those men to do when they are paid off at the end of the 120 days ? In New South Wales men can go from Sydney to the Clarence for 7s. 6d. If a man comes up here from Brisbane his return passage costs him £5.

" When I first came up here I thought I could work it with white men. I started with 20 white men in the factory, and at the end of the day three of them left. That was the start. We have always tried to work white labour. I have only seven ploughmen working now. I could take another five to-morrow if I could get them. When we could not get Chinese for the cane we tried Cingalese, and that was stopped. Next year not being able to get enough labour we got 90 men from Singapore. After that we tried Malays. Then we started the Japanese. Now we have anything we can get. We tried to bring Italians but the Government notified us that the agreements, having been made outside the State, were not legal. We get a certain price for our sugar and give a certain price for our material.

This legislation is making it impossible for a farmer to grow cane and sell it at a price that would enable the manufacturer to live."

Mr. Boyd then rode round the estate with me. It was pitiful to see the weeds among the young cane, and the cause of it was lack of labour.

The next season promises to be a prolific one in general ; but it will not be prolific on Ripple Creek unless the cultivation is weeded in time. Mr. Boyd is in the dilemma of not knowing whether to allow the ripe crop to deteriorate for want of harvesting, or the young crop to be injured for the want of weeding. When we arrived at the kanaka quarters the boys were having tea.

The last view of Ripple Creek as the writer was ferried across it was of three kanakas fishing and one pulling up a large fish whose silver scales glistened in the light of the setting sun.

Townsville was reached on the following day. At that point inquiries were made at the Labour Bureau as to the men sent up to Ripple Creek. It was impossible to find any trace of them so that they could be interviewed. Mr. Wallace's assistant who engaged them was questioned.

" What sort of men were they ?"

" They said they were used to cane-cutting, and had done it in other places. They also knew the price and were willing to take the contract. More than that they said they were going to show that ' Toby ' Barton was right."

" You heard the result ?"

" Yes ; from Mr. Boyd. But we could only take the men's word that they could cut cane and had done it before "

Morning Post Cairns 20 Dec 1901

The Grub Pest.

MEETING AT NELSON.

A large and representative meeting of farmers from Aloomba, Hambledon, and Mulgrave was held on Monday night last in Molter's Hall, at Nelson. The business of the meeting was the formation of an association to deal with the grub pest.

Mr. W. J. Munro, Chairman of the Cairns Divisional Board, was voted to the chair.

Reports were received from Messrs G. R. Mayers, and G. Merz, who had been requested by a previous meeting to visit Aloomba and find out what support such a movement would receive from that quarter. They advised that as a result of an interview with nearly all the farmers at Aloomba they thought the meeting could rely on their support. Similar reports were received from Messrs Munro, Grimshaw, and Draper, who had acted by meeting the Hambledon farmers.

Considerable discussion ensued as to how best to proceed with the movement. Mr. A. J. Draper stated that he had had an interview with Mr. Boyd, of Ripple Creek, on the subject, and from that gentleman had learned the manner the fund was administered on the Herbert. He advocated going on similar lines here. To do so it would be necessary to have one central committee whose duty it would be to deal with subscriptions -----

-----each of the centres named, or two if necessary. In addition to a central committee it would be necessary to appoint three district committees, and upon these

committees would fall the working of the fund in detail and the spending of all contributions received from the respective centres. In order to give life at once to the Association he thought it would be well to appoint preliminary representatives to all the committees, as by so doing business could at once be entered into.

The following resolutions were then carried: Mr. Draper moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Roberts-"That a Cairns District Cane Beetle Association be formed."

Northern Miner 19 Dec 1901

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

December 18.-Aramac. Captain J. E. Butcher, from Melbourne, via ports. Passengers : Messrs **Boyd**,

Northern Miner 23 Dec 1901

Wood Bros, and Boyd's Ripple Creek. Sugar Mill, Ingham, crushed 20,200 tons of cane for the season. Macknade and Victoria Mills have finished crushing, their aggregate being about 115,000 tons cane.

Northern Miner 4 Feb 1902

DEPARTURES.

February 1.-Tyrian, s, captain J. D Joy, for Southern ports Passengers:; Messrs **R. Boyd**.

North Queensland Register 3 Mar 1902

Mr. R. M. Boyd, of Ripple Creek Plantation, arrived in town by the Lass o' Gowrie yesterday afternoon.

North Queenslander Register 3 Mar 1902

February 24.—Lass o' Gowrie, s, Captain M. Mackenzie, for Cairns via ports, Passengers :— **R. M. Boyd**, ;

SMH 15 Mar 1902

ARRIVALS.-March 14.

Leura, s., 1182 tons Captain ----- from Townsville and ports. Passengers-.. **Mr. and Master Boyd**, [*RMB and AHB*]

North Queenslander register 24 Mar 1902

EDITORIAL

Although every constituency in North Queensland in which the vote of the sugar farmers is in the majority returned supporters of the Government, the polling, however, shows there are a

considerable number of those engaged in the industry who believe it can be carried on by white labor and who are not opposed to the measure which Mr. Barton carried into law.

There are some sugar mills which turn out the refined article, such as Pioneer at Ayr, Macknade, and Wood Bros, and Boyd, Herbert River, and others, and if there were such enormous profits as stated in refining, more of the mills would have been similarly equipped. A sugar refinery, too, becomes a trading concern ; it would have to dispose of the sugar manufactured to the distributors, and enter into competition with powerful opponents. - The cost of the plant and building would probably be at least £100,000, and before that money is voted, the public would have to be convinced a refinery was necessary. No doubt the question will be discussed in Parliament and if a good case is made out for a refinery, it should be granted. The next few years, however, may be a critical time in the industry, and the taxpayers may wish to see how sugar cane growing stands recent legislation before incurring further financial responsibilities.

Brisbane Courier 27 Mar 1902

DEPARTURES.

March 20 -PEREGRINE, S., 2000 tons, Captain John Vain, for Sydney and Melbourne.
Passengers :Messrs, ...A. Boyd, R. M. Boyd,

SMH 29 Mar 1902

ARRIVALS.-March 23.

Peregrine, s., 1660 tons, Captain John Pain, from Brisbane. Passengers- Mr. R. M. Boyd. Mr. A. Boyd,

Brisbane Courier 9 Apr 1902

LAND FOR SELECTION.

REPORTS FROM COUNTRY DISTRICTS.

The following are digests of reports obtained by the Lands Department in reply to inquiries instituted by Mr. H. L. E. Ruthning in connection with the proposal to introduce German farmers from South Australia. The first portion of the information was published in the " Courier" of Saturday last :

Wood Bros and Boyd, Ripple Creek, Herbert River.- No land available in immediate neighbourhood plenty outside, which with tram connection would be suitable.

JAB Telegram No 198, 24 Apr 1902

R M Boyd, Molong Hospital, Darlinghurst

Very glad of good news. Come down here to recuperate.

JAB Telegram No 234, 7 Jun 1902

R M Boyd C/- H H B Bradley, 60 Margaret Street, Sydney

Have important letters. Failing your coming Monday's boat, shall leave for Sydney Wednesday.

SMH 13 Jun 1902

CLEARANCES.-June 12.

Wakatipu, s , 1145 ton, Captain Livingstone, for Launceston. Passengers-.....Messrs; **R. M. Boyd**, [going to Eden]

JAB Diary

13-19 Jun 1902 RMB visiting Eden

JAB Telegram No 266, 8 Jul 1902

RM Boyd C/- Ducker & Son, 16 Bond Street, Sydney

Mail in will send papers Bradley. Raining hard. Best love.

Northern Miner 17 Jul 1902

ARRIVALS

July 16, Cintra, Captain W. C. Thompson from Sydney via ports. Passengers: Messrs **R.M. Boyd.....; Mesdames Boyd.; Misses Boyd,**

SMH 9 Aug 1902

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.-Probate Jurisdiction-In the Will of **SPROTT BOYD**, late of No. 24 Lexham Gardens, Kensington, in the county of Middlesex, England, but hereto fore of Sydney in the state of New South Wales, Doctor of Medicine, deceased. -Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof that Probate of the exemplification of Probate of the last Will of the above named deceased may be granted to **ROBERT MITCHELL BOYD** and **JOHN ARCHIBALD BOYD**, two of the Executors named in the said Will, with leave reserved to **FREEMAN ROPER**, the other Executor named in the said Will, to come in hereafter and prove the said exemplification, and all notices and all claims against the estate of the said deceased may be served at the office of the under signed. BRADLEY and SON, Proctors, 60 Margaret street, Sydney.

Brisbane Courier 25 Nov 1902

BRISBANE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. .

SUGAR EXCISE DISPUTE.

PETITION BY THE C.S.R. COMPANY

A special meeting of the committee of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday.

[a long article. CSR was charged excise by the Gov. on sugar sold in Qld, whereas other firms including **Wood Bros and Boyd**, were not. CSR was the force behind the meeting and petition]

Brisbane Courier 6 Dec 1902

BUREAU OF SUGAR EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR. (No. III)

WORK OF EXPERIMENT STATION.

.....

Outside Experiment Plots. -The experimental work so far described is conducted at the Mackay station, and exclusively by the Sugar Bureau. It appeared highly desirable to bring the purpose and actual work of the Central Experiment Station more directly before the farmers in the other districts. This has already been done to a notable extent, and it will be further extended in the course of the present year. With the co-operation of the cane farmers' associations of the respective sub-districts, the Director has established what may be termed sub-stations. Already seven such outside stations have commenced experimentation, and these are located as follow :

1. Pioneer plantation. Burdekin. Messrs. Drysdale Bros.
2. 'Halifax, Herbert River. Messrs. Anderssen Bros.
3. Ripple Creek, Herbert River. Messrs. **Wood Bros, and Boyd**.
4. Sundown, Johnstone River. Mr. J. Hart.
5. Mundoo, Johnstone River. Mr. Ralph Reid.
6. Mulgrave, Cairns. Mulgrave Central Mill.
7. Mosman River. Executors Pringle Estate,

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 9 Dec 1902

Sugar Industry in Queensland.

THE KANAKA LABOUR QUESTION.

Mr. J. H. Waller, Mayor of East Maitland, who has been on a trip to the Herbert River, Queensland, gives some interesting particulars respecting the sugar industry away north. Said Mr. Waller : "I feel perfectly satisfied that the sugar industry cannot be carried on in North Queensland that is north of Townsville- without alien labour. I saw the whole process from the trashing to the cane-cutting, loading, weighing, crushing, and finally the sugar after going through the process of refining. The C.S.R. Co. do not refine the sugar at the works, but I saw the process at the **Ripple Creek** Mills. From what I saw I am convinced that, however euphonious a White Australia may sound, practical application of it in this district is never likely to be attained in connection with the sugar industry. There appears to be three objections to the kanaka in the minds of those who demand his abolition. The first is the humanitarian question ; but a very slight investigation of actual conditions prevailing will show that the kanaka is in every respect guarded, and, apart from statutory agreement with his employer, he is in all respects free. The second objection is that of possible racial deterioration. Still, after an experience of 25 or 30 years no such deterioration can be found, the third objection is the question of his competition with the white man. But every argument in favour of this contention, I hold, is equally applicable to any and every labour saving machine. The kanaka only competes with the white man as far as his sinews and muscles are

concerned in the performance of work which, even if capable of being performed by a white man, would be most unsuitable for him, and if persevered in, must of necessity bring about a serious deterioration of the white race employed or engaged in such an industry.

"Then again, here is a fact that is not generally understood. The kanaka cannot be employed in anything but field labour, there 'being a heavy penalty provided for any breach of the condition. An employer dare not have one as a domestic servant, or even employed in the mills. The work of the mills is performed by European and Japanese. And from these latter the real danger the white man has to fear will be found. The Japanese uses his mental as well as his physical powers, and in that way he is likely to come into competition with the European in various ways, such as trade competition, and in labour requiring skill in connection with the industry, whereas a kanaka is practically only a harmless beast of burden.

Reverting to **Ripple Creek** mill and plantation, Mr. Waller said : "The annual average of cane crushed is 20,000 tons. Of this about half is grown on the plantation and about half by farmers, who are paid 11s per ton, the company providing a portable tramline and haulage. There are about forty-seven suppliers supplying to this mill, and about two hundred Europeans depending upon the operations of the mill. There are sixty-seven whites employed in connection with the plantation, receiving in wages from £1 to £5 per week, with food and quarters. There are 71 Japs in the mill, and on the plantation about 120 kanakas. For the first eight months of this year the company .(Messrs. **Wood Bros. and Boyd**) paid out about £25,000, which amount went into circulation in the immediate district. It is calculated that the cutting of cane by the alien costs 3s per ton, and by the white man 4s 6d per ton. The whites employed this year in connection with the mill cut an average of 1 ton 8 cwt. per day per man, whereas the average for the alien is 10 tons per week certain. **Mr. Boyd, the manager, assured me that he will close down his mills at the end of the period allowed for employment of the kanaka, and that would be in 1906, which will mean that the Europeans engaged as already stated will be thrown out of employment.** To show what this implies in the sugar industry, I may mention that the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, in renewing their agreements with the cane farmers, are providing for the termination in 1906. From what I can gather at the C.S. Co's, establishment, they contemplate dismantling and removing their mills, if the kanaka has to go. In the Herbert River district there are approximately 1200 kanakas employed in cane growing and harvesting, and the white labour experiences

of this district show that in order to have a regular supply of white labour to do the work now performed by kanakas, there would have to be an available labour supply of 4000 white men. As an illustration of this, I might mention that when certain works were being carried out in the Herbert River district, under conditions particularly suitable to white men, which were to employ regularly for a given time 50 men, no less than 250 names passed through the Company's books, showing that the only white men available were of the nomadic class.

It is estimated that the annual cost of an indentured boy is £33. That includes wages, provisions, and return fares. The Government protects the boys with regard to their wages by requiring the employer, unless the holder of an unencumbered estate, to find and provide a sufficient guarantee, such guarantees invariably being the mill owners. All wages have to be paid to the boys in the presence of the Police Magistrate of the district in which they are employed. Their earnings are all spent in the State, as money is of no value in their island homes. A good object lesson to our labourers is supplied by the fact that on the 30th of June last the Government Savings Bank at Ingham, the headquarters of the Herbert River district, had no less than 811 accounts in the names of kanakas, with a total credit of £4,323 5s 11d, on which amount, of course, interest is being paid. One cannot be surprised at the planter in North Queensland objecting to the employment of white labour when past experience in this direction has been fully explained. One fact which struck me as being particularly significant was that from the white labourers recently employed by cane farmers a revenue was obtained

by fines imposed for drunkenness amounting to £17 10s on one pay day. Sir Edmund Barton quoted figures showing that a large amount had been refunded to the farmers on account of cane grown by white labour. So far as the amounts rebated in the Herbert River district are concerned, I can say that it was not in respect of cane grown by white labour, but simply on cane harvested by white labour after the worst of the work had been performed by the alien up to February inst.

"To return to the question of rebate, I wish to relate one instance of the harshness of the provisions of the law which came under my notice. A certain farmer was registered to cut his cane with white labour, and was so cutting it when a fire ran through one of his fields. The white labour at his disposal being totally insufficient to cut the cane before it deteriorated through fermentation, the mill-owner sent down a gang of kanakas to assist to cut the crop. The cane cut by the Europeans and the cane cut by the kanakas were kept separately, taken to the mill separately, and weighed separately. At the conclusion of the harvesting the farmer claimed rebate on so much of his cane as had been cut by white labour, but inasmuch as he had been compelled to have a portion of his crop cut by alien labour, or suffer considerable loss, the whole of the rebate was disallowed. When one considers the large number of Europeans who derive a living from the sugar industry both as labourers on the plantations and the mills, wharves, shipping and carting, it is hard to understand the bitter opposition in labour circles to the employment of the kanaka in merely dealing with the raw material."

Northern Miner 23 Dec 1902

(By Our Travelling Scribe.)

INGHAM. December 17.

RIPPLE CREEK.

This plantation and sugar mill is the property of Messrs. Wood Brothers and Boyd, and is situated upon the Herbert River about 8 miles down stream Ingham. The estate has a frontage of 4 miles to the river, but the mill is located on Ripple Creek about half a mile above the junction with the Herbert River.

The extent of the property is about 5000 acres, of which the owners have about 1000 acres under cane, and there are 30 farms of different extents let to planters.

The owners cut over 800 acres of cane this season of their own, and treated this and all the farmers cane at the mill. The average output from cut cane was 14 1/2 tons per acre, which though by no means a record tonnage per acre, still produced a record amount of sugar. This was owing to the season being dry; the density of cane was good.

The produce from the mill is taken from private tram service to the owners wharf on the Seymour River, and shipped by their own steamer to Townsville. Ripple Creek is one of the few, if not the only mill which now turns out white-manufactured sugar in Queensland, and almost the whole of the output of this article finds steady sale in the home State. In addition to the land under cultivation, there are large grazing paddocks where cattle and horses are kept, and the owners kill all their own meat for consumption on the estate. The mill is a fine structure and fully equipped with all up-to-date appliances and the "Ripple Creek" brand of sugar is a household word throughout Queensland. All the buildings are commodious and convenient; offices, stores, bachelors quarters &c. being on the mill block, whilst the managers residence and that of the works superintendent are more secluded.

The manager's residence is a perfectly situated and comfortable home, and the managing partner, **Mr. R. M. Boyd** is most generous with unostentatious hospitality to all visitors.

The stables and paddocks are well filled with good horses, and there are to be seen hacks, jumpers, buggy horses of first-class quality, also one or two good gallopers, which generally render a good amount of themselves at district race-meetings. Taken as a whole this concern is one of the largest private ventures in North Queensland, and it appears to be a pity that legislation is likely to completely wipe it out of existence, for when I asked Mr. Boyd how the proposed labour restrictions would affect Ripple Creek, his reply was most emphatic being in effect that when the proposed restrictions upon alien labour for cane-growing and cutting were enforced it would be utterly impossible to carry on the mill and that there would be nothing for it but to shut up the doors and abandon the place, and once abandoned no outlay could ever re-instate it, for cultivated land once neglected and buildings once untenanted, could never be made of use again.

Mr. Boyd, who has had 30 years' experience of cane plantation and mill work, points out that during the cutting season it would take 800 men to keep the three mills here going, 680 men for the Johnson River, and 800 men for the Cairns district, a total of 2100 men, which must be available every day during the cutting season. This would mean that a reserve of labour must be available to fill vacancies caused by inability, sickness and other causes.

Mills in full swing cannot wait or shut off but must be kept going, or the cost of production of the manufactured article would preclude a profit. These figures do not include the hands required for agricultural work, merely for cutting, therefore add those wanted for other classes of work; and it is probable that the numbers would be forthcoming?? - And even so; would the labour be thoroughly reliable enough for a capitalist to stake his all upon. **Mr. Boyd is of opinion that, under the present forecast and with no hope or any alterations, few, if any, planters will dare to plant cane after 1904, In fact, to do so would be utter ruin.**

When one hears each practical man as **Mr. Boyd** speak on this subject it makes one believe how the proposed legislation will undoubtedly end in not crushing the cane of North Queensland, but utterly crushing the Industry.

Brisbane Courier 20 Mar 1903

KANAKA AFFRAY.

The Commissioner has also received a telegram from the Ingham police that at 12 o'clock on Saturday night, at Ripple Creek, nine miles from Ingham, a kanaka was dangerously wounded by his country-men using a hoe, causing three large wounds on the head and cheek. A portion of the brain protruded. Dr. Macdonald is somewhat doubtful of his recovery. The assailants' arrest was effected by Constable Brady. There was apparently no provocation. Both are Malayas, who arrived recently, and were employed by **Wood Bros, and Boyd.**

Queenslander 21 Mar 1903

Mrs. and Miss Boyd (Ripple Creek) are in town, staying at the Queen's Hotel—

SMH 5 Jun 1903

Sugar.-The local market remained steady and unchanged. **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, of the Ripple Creek plantation, some little distance from Townsville, is at present in Sydney. He holds very pessimistic views as to the future of the sugar industry in Northern Queensland. He says that even if it were possible to get white labour, which it is not, the protection of £3 per ton, which

means about £2 14s net, is not sufficient to enable plantations to carry on. **Should present conditions be maintained Ripple Creek will be shut down in 1906.** At present 240 aliens are working, and a regular staff of about 50 white men. Some of the latter have been connected with the plantation for 16 years, and have families growing up around them. The aliens cost 3s per day on an average, and white men, were they available, would cost a further 3s, which, reckoning 300 working days a year, would mean an increased cost of £10,600. As against this they would secure a rebate from the Government of £2500. The production of cane at Ripple Creek is 10,000 tons, and a further 12,000 tons is purchased, from which **an average of 2000 tons is produced**, Mr. **Boyd** also says that the system of Governmental inspection is very irksome. He is of the opinion that in Southern Queensland the difficulties in connection with white labour may possibly be overcome. **If the property has to be abandoned in 1906, the year when black labour absolutely ceases, then the land now worth £30 per acre will be worth no more than 20s per acre for grazing purposes.** This expression of opinion, as coming from a planter, is of interest to all who have any connection with the sugar industry.

Brisbane Courier 23 Jun 1903

OVERLAND PASSENGERS.

WALLANGARRA, June 22.

The following passengers travelled by mail train to-day :

For Brisbane :Messrs. **R. M. Boyd**,

Brisbane Courier 25 Jun 1903

OVERLAND PASSENGERS.

WALLANGARRA, June 24.

The following passengers travelled by mail train to-day :

for Brisbane : **Miss R. M. Boyd**,

SMH 4 Jul 1903

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES Probate Jurisdiction. - In the Will of **SPROTT BOYD** late of Number 24 Lexham Gardens Kensington in the county of Middlesex, England but heretofore of Sydney in the State of New South Wales Doctor of Medicine deceased. - NOTICE is hereby given that all Creditors and other persons having a debt or claim upon or affecting the estate of SPROTT BOYD the abovementioned deceased, who died on or about the fifteenth day of April A. D. 1902 and Probate by Exemplification of Probate of whose Will was granted by the Supreme Court of New South Wales in its Probate Jurisdiction on the 11th day of September A D 1902 to **JOHN ARCHIBALD BOYD** and **ROBERT MITCHELL BOYD** two of the Executors named In the said Will are hereby required to send in particulars of their claim to the said JOHN ARCHIBALD BOYD and ROBERT MITCHELL BOYD or to the undersigned their Proctors on or before the first day of August next, at the expiration of which time the said Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the persons entitled thereto having regard to the debts and claims only of which they shall have had notice and the said Executors will not be liable for the assets so distributed to any person of whose debt or claim they shall not have

had notice at the time of such distribution. Dated this eighteenth day of June A.D. 1903.
BRADLEY and SON Proctors for the said Executors 60 Margaret street Sydney.

SMH 28 Jul 1903

BRISBANE, Monday.

The Chingtu arrived at Moreton Bay last night, after an uneventful voyage, and left shortly after midday to-day for Sydney. The following are passengers for Southern ports - Mr. and Mrs. Boyd,

North Queensland Register 10 Aug 1903

Mr. R. Boyd, Ripple Creek, spent a few days at the Queen's this week.

Morning Post Cairns 28 Aug 1903

HERBERT CANDIDATES.-A meeting of the Herbert Divisional Executive Committee of the National Liberal Union of Queensland was held on Tuesday afternoon last, there being present : Messrs Darley, (Herbert), A. J. P. MacDonnell. (Cairns), R.M. Boyd, (Herbert), H. L. Gill, Chataway, (Mackay), J. D. Johnstone, (Woothakata), W, J. Castling, Colonel Tunbridge, (Townsville), and Mr. A. St. Ledger (authorised organiser of the union). Formal business received attention, with a large quantity of correspondence, and formation of rules to govern the body. The principal business of the meeting was to arrange for the selection of a candidate to stand for the House of Representatives. Six nominations were received, showing five in favor of Mr. Cowley, and one for Mr. Swayne. It was decided to test the feeling of electors by taking a plebiscite throughout the Federal electorate. A Provisional Executive meeting was held immediately after, consisting of four delegates from each of the Herbert and Kennedy Federal electorates, at which Colonel Tunbridge was unanimously elected the nominee of the Northern Province of Queensland, to contest the Senatorial election.

Letter from RMB to EW Knox 15 Oct 1903

Letter written by RMB at Ripple creek making CSR an offer to sell.

North Queensland Registers 23 Nov 1903

Staying at the Queen's Hotel, Mrs. and Miss Boyd (Ripple Creek)

Australian Electoral Rolls 1903-1980 (Ancestry.com) - 1903

Name:	Robert Mitchell Boyd
Gender:	Male
Electoral Year:	1903
State:	Queensland
District:	Herbert
Subdistrict:	Seymour River
Place of Living:	Ripple Creek
Occupation	Farmer
Others at Ripple Creek	Amely Boyd, Emily Boyd, Alice Sprott Boyd, Reginald

Boyd, Isabella Sprott Boyd

Northern Miner 22 Feb 1904

WYANDRA'S PASSENGERS

(By Telegraph.)

BRISBANE, February 21

The departures yesterday by the s.s. Wyandra for Cooktown via ports were:, Messrs., **R. Boyd**, [*Reg or RMB?*]

Brisbane Courier 11 Apr 1904

DEPARTURES.

April 9.-INNAMINCKA, s., 2500 tons, Captain Mackenzie, for Cooktown, via ports.
Passengers : Mesdames. **Boyd**, Messrs. **Boyd**,

Northern Miner 13 Apr 1904

SHIPPING, ARRIVALS.

April 11.- Barcoo, Captain Eaton: from Brisbane via ports. Passengers: -... Through passengers: -**Mesdames Boyd, ..; Messrs- .., Boyd.**

SMH 26 Apr 1904

PURCHASE OF THE RIPPLE

Messrs **Wood Bros and Boyd** report the sale of the steamer Ripple, which has been lying in the Newcastle harbour for some months past (says the "Newcastle Herald"). The purchasers, the South Coast Direct Supply Company, paid £3600 for the steamer, and they intend to run her in the trade between Sydney and Moruya. The Ripple is a wooden steamer of 73 tons register, and was built four years ago at Sydney. She was used by the vendors in connection with their Queensland sugar plantations. The Ripple left Sydney yesterday afternoon on her first trip to Moruya.

Brisbane Courier 4 May 1904

ARRIVAL.

May 3 -TYRIAN, R , 1455 tons, Captain T D Joy, from Townsville Passengers **R. M Boyd**,

JAB Diaries

8 May 1904 Mike should have reached Sydney yesterday

Queenslander 14 May 1904

ARRIVALS.

May 3.—TYRIAN, s., 1455 tons, Captain J.D. Joy, from Townsville Passengers: Messrs. A. White, R. M. Boyd,

Northern Miner 26 May 1904

SHIPPING. ARRIVALS.

May 23.-Adelaide, s. Captain W. Knight, from Brisbane. Passengers:; Messrs. Boyd, ..

Northern Miner 2 Jun 1904

PASTORAL ITEMS,

The C.S.R. Co's Victoria mill (Herbert River), is to commence crushing on 14th June and Wood Bros, and Boyd's Ripple Creek mill will start operations early in the following month.

JAB Diaries

4 Jun 1904. Went to wharf and met Mike on "Waikatipu". Barlow, Alford and Harris here at cards tonight.

5 Jun 1904. Dull and cold. Sun showed out after 4pm. Harris, Alford and Misses Brookes at tennis. Mrs. Brookes and Giverney came later.

6 Jun 1904. Sunny but cold. Planted about 50 fruit trees.

7 Jun 1904. Bright and sunny, almost warm. Mike and I went up town today. Mike went to Pambula this afternoon.

8 Jun 1904. Mike and I went up town this morning to go fishing with H. Robinson but found him going away with a load of snapper. Went out in his boat and caught 32 flathead, 3 sharks and 5 barracuda.

9 Jun 1904. Dull cold day. Mike left at 6.15 to catch 'S.S. Eden'. I had dressed to go but he wishes me to stay as it is so cold.

Brisbane Courier 20 Jul 1904

OVERLAND PASSENGERS.

WALLANGARRA, Tuesday.

The following passengers travelled by mail train to-day : For Brisbane : Miss O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, Miss Boyd,

Brisbane Courier 23 Jul 1904

DEPARTURES

July 22- BARCOO s 1505 tons Captain J E Butcher for Gladstone and Townsville via ports. Passengers, Mesdames Boyd; Misses Boyd ...MessrsBoyd

Northern Miner 30 Jul 1904

Visitors at the "Queen's," Townsville for the week from July 22 till 28th, include - Mr., Mrs. and Miss Boyd (Ripple Creek),..

Northern Miner 30 Jul 1904

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Boyd and Miss Boyd, arrived by the Barcoo on Monday last en route for their home (Ripple Creek) Herbert River.

Mrs. Chauncey arrived by the Barcoo on Monday and left by the Palmer, for Ripple Creek where she will be the guest of her aunt, Mrs. R. M. Boyd.

Queenslander 27 Aug 1904

TOWNSVILLE. August 10. Mr. R. M. Boyd, of Ripple Creek, In a letter to the Press, declares that to maintain the productiveness of the sugar industry north of Townsville under "all white" labour conditions at least 8000 acres of cane must be planted every year. Although the bonus offered to farmers is equal to £3 14s. 6d. per acre per annum, if they will plant and cultivate with white labour, he finds, on careful inquiry, that only 500 acres have been planted this year north of Townsville. He adds :— " When we find that in this third year of the experiment of sugar produced by white labour in these districts, in which there are 430 producers, holding an area of 37,312 acres under culture for sugar, only one out of every seventy-four acres has been planted, it must be admitted that the experiment is a failure."

SMH 8 Sep 1904

BANKRUPTCY COURT. CREDITORS' PETITIONS

Joseph Wood, John Robert Wood, and Robert Mitchell Boyd, of Newcastle, trading as Wood Brothers mid Co., merchants, versus Robert Coulson, of Marrickville, near Sydney, and formerly of Katoomba, draper. Petition to be heard 12th inst.

Joseph Wood, John Robert Wood, and Robert Mitchell Boyd, of Newcastle, trading as Wood Brothers and Co., merchants, versus Martin Isaacsohn, of Bexley, near Sydney, gentleman. Petition to be heard on the 12th

SMH 13 Sep 1904

IN BANKRUPTCY.

(Before the Registrar, Mr. A. Henry.)

HEARING OF CREDITORS' PETITIONS.

Joseph Wood, John Robert Wood, and Robert Mitchell Boyd, trading as Wood Brothers and Co., Limited, v Robert Coulson. Mr. Abbott appeared for the petitioners, and asked for the usual order. An order sequestrating the estate was made, and Mr. W.H. Palmer appointed official assignee.

Joseph Wood, John Robert Wood, and Robert Mitchell Boyd, trading as Wood Brothers and Co., Limited, versus Martin Isaacsohn. Mr. Abbott appeared for the petitioners, and asked for the usual order. An order sequestrating the estate was made, and Mr. L. T. Lloyd appointed official assignee.

North Queensland register 19 Sep 1904

Mr. G. A. Uther, who has been spending a few months as the guest of **Mr. Boyd**, Ripple Creek, arrived by the Palmer and is staying at the Queen's. [*G A Uther, Shore School, lawyer, flower grower, KIA WWI*]

Morning Post Cairns 1 Oct 1904

SUGAR LABOR CONFERENCE.

In connection with the recent communications between the Townsville Chamber of Commerce and Mr. **R. M. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, the following letter has been received from the former by Mr. A. J. Draper, chairman of the Mulgrave Mill:-.....

Morning Post Cairns 3 Oct 1904

October 2.-Wollowra, s., Capt. W. Knight, from. Melbourne, via.ports. Passengers-.....
Messrs. ... Boyd,

Northern Miner 11 Oct 1904

SHIPPING. ARRIVALS.

October 8.-Lass o' Cowrie, s, Captain W. Pearson, from Cairns via ports. Passengers:-;
Messrs. **Boyd**, ...

Northern Miner 12 Oct 1904

Arrangements for the holding of a conference in Townsville on the condition of, future prospects of the sugar industry in the tropical parts of Australia are proceeding satisfactorily. **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, arrived on Saturday night, and discussed arrangements with Mr. G.H. Pritchard

Besides Mr. Boyd, three other representatives will be present from the Herbert River district, namely, Messrs G. Pearson, A. W. Carr, and Frank Fraser.

North Queensland Register 17 Oct 1904

Mr. **R. M. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, is spending a few days in town.

Brisbane Courier 24 Oct 1904

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

PROPOSED CONFERENCE.

At a meeting of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday last, Mr. G. H. Pritchard, chairman, referring to the origin of the proposed sugar conference stated that in its earliest stages it was intended to invite **Mr. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, to come to Townsville and meet the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the position of the sugar industry. The chair man then conceived the idea that the scope of the conference could be extended so as to embody representatives from the sugar growers of tropical Queensland.

SMH 9 Nov 1904

IN BANKRUPTCY.

CREDITORS' PETITION.

Joseph Wood, John Robert Wood, and Robert Mitchell Boyd, merchants of Newcastle, v Alexander George Watt, salesman, of Kogarah, Petition to be heard on November 15.

Morning Post Cairns 9 Nov 1904

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

November 8.- Palmer, s-, Capt. E. Calbert, from Townsville via ports. Passengers-Messrs. Boyd,

Morning Post Cairns 9 Nov 1904

A HERBERT RIVER VISITOR.

Mr. Boyd, of Ripple Creek Plantation, Herbert River, arrived by the Palmer yesterday, and goes to the Mulgrave to-day. It will be remembered that it was owing to Mr. Boyd's vigorous writings that the recent sugar labor conference in Townsville was held. Mr. Boyd is very emphatic regarding the necessity for colored labor in the Northern cane fields, and he states that if colored labor is not obtainable after 1906, it will mean the closing down of his plantation and mill as well as hundreds of cane farms now owned by - Europeans! - As Mr. Boyd puts it "I am not going to spend £1 in order to get a return of 18/-, and that is practically what working with white labor in Northern Queensland means.

Northern Miner 8 Nov 1904

November 7.-Palmer, Captain J. S. Macphail, for Cairns, via ports. Passengers; ..Messrs. Hendra, Boyd, James, Harding, Fowler; Con stable Power; 16 In the steerage; and through passengers from South.

Northern Miner 12 Nov 1904

Mr. Boyd, of, Ripple Creek Plantation, Herbert River, is visiting the Cairns district. -

Morning Post Cairns 14 Nov 1904

MR. BOYD ON THE SUGAR

QUESTION."

Mr. Boyd, of Ripple Creek sugar mill, returned south by the Wodonga on Saturday, after a visit to the Mulgrave and Cooktown. In the course of conversation, he stated that three years ago he made 2000 tons of sugar, and the amount had gradually decreased until for the season just closed he manufactured only 1700 tons. Mr. Boyd attributes this state of affairs directly to the uncertainty as to the future of the industry caused by the approach of 1906, when, according to the Federal Polynesian Bill, the last of the kanakas are to be deported and

the excise ceases. Mr. Boyd asserted that the farmers did not feel justified in knocking down scrub and planting new lands at a cost of £10 per acre, in view of the near approach of 1906, nor could he honestly advise them to close until such time as sugar legislation provided acceptable conditions for a definite and satisfactory period. The whole of the tenant farmers at Ripple Creek were paid 1/- per ton bonus on all cane delivered at the mill. It was his luck to have to close down before the rise of 10/- per ton in sugar last week.

Northern Miner 14 Nov 1904

Mr. Boyd, (Messrs Wood Bros, and Boyd, Ripple Creek sugar mill) owing to the rise in sugar is paying his tenant farmers 1/- per- ton bonus on all cane delivered to his mill this year.

SMH 15 Nov 1904

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

A Cairns telegram states that the Mulgrave Central mill will end the sugar season the second week in December. Hambledon will finish in the middle of January. Mr. Boyd, of Ripple Creek, states that he only manufactured 1700 tons of sugar this season as compared with 2200 tons last year, and 2400 in 1902. He attributes this directly to the feeling of uncertainty as to the future of the industry among growers.

SMH 16 Nov 1904

BANKRUPTCY COURT. HEARING OF CREDITORS' PETITIONS.

Joseph Wood, John Robert Wood, and Robert Mitchell Boyd v Alexander George Watt. Mr. Moses appeared for the petitioning creditors, and asked for an order of sequestration. The order was made, and Mr. L. T. Lloyd was appointed official assignee.

North Queensland Register 21 Nov 1904

Visitors at the Queen's, Townsville for the week include:—.. Mr. R. M. Boyd, Ripple Creek;

Morning Post Cairns 22 Nov 1904

NEW NORTHERN STEAMER. A new steamer, just off the stocks in Brisbane, named the Seymour, made her maiden trip to Cairns on Sunday. She was made to the order of Messrs Wood Bros. and Boyd, of Ripple Creek, and was designed for the river trade between Cairns and Townsville. Her carrying capacity is 70 tons, and with this loading she only draws 5ft. 6in. Captain Broadfoot, late of the steamer Ripple, is her master. She left Cairns yesterday for the Tully River, where she will load bananas and corn. Mr. J. G. Fearnley is the agent for the steamer.

Northern Miner 2 Dec 1904

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

("Herbert River Express.")

Sip,—Your contemporary reported lately that Mr. Boyd was presenting his tenant farmers with a bonus of one shilling per ton on all cane delivered to his mill this year, and the report

of this boon I find is not quite correct. I received a circular (a very patronising one) from the firm of Wood Bros, and Boyd, as follows:—

' Ripple Creek, November 1st, 1904.

Mr. E. S. Waller,. Maragen.

Sir,—We are in great hopes that when the Federal Parliament has seen the resolutions passed by the Sugar Conference held in Townsville last week, that it will take steps to prevent the destruction of the Industry in North Queensland. It is therefore most desirable that the producers of cane should keep their land under cane cultivation to enable them to get the full advantage of any change In legislation in their favor. To assist them to do this we will pay in season 1906 on all cane delivered to our mill under the terms of our Cane Agreement, the increased price of two shillings (2/-) per ton instead of 11/- as now payable under the cane contracts.

Yours, faithfully,

(Signed) WOOD BROS., & **BOYD**.

I found that this differed from one received by one of my neighbours, in that it did not mention this aforesaid spontaneous liberality called a bonus. I wrote twice to this firm to enquire about it, and I received a reply as follows:—

Ripple Creek, 17th November, 1904.

E. Waller, Esq., Maragen.

Dear Sir,—In reply to yours of 6th and 16th inst, we beg to Inform you we have no intention to give a present of a bonus to any cane grower who does not do his best to carry out his cane contracts with us, or to anyone who has the impertinence to come into this office and say we are robbing our contractors.

Yours truly,

(Signed) WOOD BROS. & BOYD.

To explain matters I may tell you that the few Europeans farmers who have for the last five years been growing cane for the Ripple Creek Mill are thoroughly disheartened at getting such a low price as eleven shillings, and naturally indignant with Mr. Boyd. I being am one of the unfortunate few, approached the firm of Wood Bros. & Boyd early in 1902, and pointed out that the C. S. R. Co. for obvious reasons had raised the price of cane, and I asked for more for the farmers supplying cane to Ripple Creek Mill.

I offered, if the price was raised sufficiently, to produce one thousand tram of cane per annum over and above what I had contracted for. But I stated if no better price were given I could not plant any more cane. The other European farmers made the same request, but the effect was nothing but a ripple.

As my agreement to grow cane for Ripple Creek Mill terminates this year, I was able without planting fresh cane to continue supplying cane from the full area agreed upon. Mr. Boyd may, perhaps, think he is able to manage Ripple Creek Mill and plantation to suit his own ideas, but If he thinks that he can get European farmers to continue to grow cane for his

firm's mill for about six shillings a ton less than the market value, he will find, if he has not already done so, that he has made a great mistake, and his mill will get starved like some of the poor farmers, and he must not be surprised if he happens to hear some plain speaking on the subject.

I have "written to Messrs. Wood Bros. & Boyd and told them that the offer they are now making to the farmers is not good enough and that I shall certainly advise my fellow farmers not to accept it.

In justice to ourselves I do not see the advantage of continuing to grow cane for the benefit only of Messrs. Wood Bros. & Boyd. What the farmers of Ripple Creek want is not a trifling bonus dependent on keeping in the good graces of the managing partner, but a fair and reasonable price for their cane.

Thanking you In anticipation,

Yours faithfully

EDWIN S. WALLER.

Maragen, 21st November. 1904.

Northern Miner 10 Dec 1904

Mr. Reggie Boyd, of Ripple Creek, is at present in town, staying at Buchanan's, and intends returning home this week.

SMH 14 Dec 1904

IN BANKRUPTCY. (Before the Registrar, Mr. A. Henry.)

SINGLE MEETINGS.

Re Alexander George Watt. Bankrupt, who was sworn and examined by the official assignee, said he was a draper in the employ of Anthony Hordern and Sons, and received a salary of £6 per week. He is a widower with two daughters, 18 years and 16 years of age respectively, and his mother-in-law is dependent upon him for support. His bankruptcy was caused by a fish speculation. There were four in the transaction-Coulson, Isaacson, Hine, and witness. They purchased a steamer from **Wood Brothers and Boyd** for £4000, paying a deposit of £50, and two instalments of £50 each. Witness paid one £50, and Coulson, Isaacson, and he paid the other between them. Wood Brothers and Boyd took the boat back.. Witness himself paid about £330 in connection with the matter. He thought Isaacson paid about £1000 in connection with it, and Coulson put in about £250. Hine put in nothing, but was to manage the affair. **The Ripple, the steamer referred to, ran for about three months, but did not earn sufficient to keep her.** The Bundoo cost £700. She used to go fishing inside the bay where the Ripple could not go. In 1904 witness got a bonus of £91 15s 4d, and £86 in the previous year. He was not prepared to make an offer to pay anything out of his salary for the benefit of his creditors. His life was insured in the AMP Society for £300, the policy having been taken out over 12 years ago. He had 20 shares in the Manly Co-operative Company which he had handed over to the official assignee. During the past two years his income had amounted to £400 per year.

The Registrar: You have an income of £400 a year and yet you decline to make an offer to pay anything for the benefit of your creditors? Witness refused to make any offer.

The Registrar: Then perhaps the Court will have to make an order for you to do so.

At this stage the meeting, on the application of the official assignee, was adjourned to February 14.

Queenslander 17 Dec 1904

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS' TOUR.

In his report to the Comptroller-General, Department of Trade and Customs, of his tour through the sugar districts of North Queensland, Mr. W. H. Irving, Collector of Customs says:-

On the 29th I visited Ripple Creek factory, the property of Messrs. **Wood Bros, and Boyd**. About 15,500 tons of cane was crushed, the mill having closed that day. Of this, 1250 tons were produced by white, and 14,250 by coloured labour. There were employed in connection with this mill, 65 whites, 70 Japanese, 132 Kanakas, total coloured, 202. Seven white growers send their cane to this mill.

Worker (Brisbane) 24 Dec 1904

Sugar planter **Boyd**, who was one of the black labour Jeremiahs at the Townsville sugar conference, is a partner in the Ripple Creek mill, near Geraldton, and pays the cane-growers the starvation price of 11s. per ton for cane. This is about 6s. per ton less than the market value. Is it any wonder that there are so few white growers employing white men in this district when they have to accept about the lowest prices in Queensland ?

North Queensland register 30 Jan 1905

R. M. Boyd and Miss Boyd (Ripple Creek), Herbert River, are at present visiting Brisbane, staying at the Gresham. [*May be Mrs. RMB*]

Northern Miner 6 Feb 1905

SHIPPING. ARRIVALS.

February 3 s captain J. S. Macphail, from Cairns via ports. Passengers; Mesdames **Boyd**, ... Messrs. **Boyd**, [*may not be RMB and Emily*]

Brisbane Courier 14 Feb 1905

OVERLAND PASSENGERS.

WALLANGARRA. Monday.

The following passengers travelled by mail train to-day :

For Sydney: Mr. and Mrs. Boyd and party. ... Messrs. Boyd. [*may not be RMB and Emily*]

Brisbane Courier 4 Mar 1905

IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING INTERVIEWS.

Another interview has reference to the much-debated question of the growth of sugarcane by white labour. This information has been furnished by Messrs. R M. Boyd and A. L. Anderson, of Ripple Creek, North Queensland. Both gentlemen have been connected with the industry for many years, and they are therefore well qualified by experience to speak on the subject.

SMH 6 Mar 1905

QUEENSLAND. THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

QUESTION OF BLACK LABOUR.

BRISBANE, Saturday.

Mr. A. L. Anderson, a sugar planter on the Herbert River, North Queensland, interviewed at Brisbane, said he had tried white labour in the cane fields, and had come to the conclusion that the sugar industry without black labour was impossible north of Mackay. White labour in the north was not only scarce, but utterly unreliable, and as a result of that, and the uncertainty as to the future of the industry, farmers were not increasing their acreages. Mr. R. M. Boyd, a mill owner at Ripple Creek, North Queensland, was also interviewed. He stated that there was good ground for fearing that unless the sugar bonus was continued, and the tariff, so far, as it affects sugar, fixed on a permanent basis, the sugar industry would not only not progress, but north of Mackay it must die out. The present position, he declared, was leading farmers to hand over their land to Chinamen.

Brisbane Courier 6 Mar 1905

Mr. R. M. Boyd, of the Ripple Creek sugar-mill, is equally emphatic in his statement of facts, and in his declaration that unless some fixed and favourable policy is adopted by the Commonwealth Government, the sugar industry to the north of Mackay must die out. Mr. Boyd further states that the abolition of the Kanaka will not by itself substitute white for coloured labour, as the planter will be compelled to seek the assistance of the Chinaman, the Hindoo, and the Malay.

North Queensland Register 6 Mar 1905

Visitors at the Queen's for the past week include Mr. J. P. Murray, Brisbane ; Dr. W. C. C. MacDonald, Ingham; Mr. C. Barnes, Herbert River; Mr. A. Robertson, Sydney ; Mr. Bryan Lynn, Ingham; Mr. R. M. Boyd, Ripple Creek ;...

Queenslander 11 Mar 1905

Mr. R. M. Boyd (Ripple Creek) went South on Friday.—

JAB Diaries

11 Mar 1905. Left for Sydney in 'S.S. Eden' at 8:50am with Archie. Left Tathra at 4:50pm had pigs on board all ports. Got warmer as we got North

12 Mar 1905. Reached Sydney at 8:30am. Went to Forbes Hotel. Rang up Mitch in the afternoon. He, Ella, Archie and I called on the Belasario girls.

13 Mar 1905. A few drops of rain this afternoon. Lunch at Metropole Hotel with Mike, Tiny and Ella and all but Tiny went to Manly. Hunted up Barlow, then kids and I went to see 'The Orchid'. Bought Archie a gun at Cowles and Dunn.

14 Mar 1905. Sold 14 Wallsend Coal through Thompsons and Sons at £25-10-0 each. Took Archie to fight for lightweight championship (H. Hugo v M. Andrews). Very big crowd in the N.S.C. No blood no knockdowns and little science. Andrews won on points scoring with a straight left that did little harm.

15 March 1905. Mitch, Barlow and I went to the zoo with Archie in the morning. After lunch, Barlow, Archie and I went to the Tivoli to see 'Little Tich' and at night to the Bicycle Racing for the Sydney Thousand.

16 Mar 1905. Got on board 'Bega' before 10:00am and met Mitch. Left at noon.

17 Mar 1905. Reached Eden 11pm

Northern Miner 13 Mar 1905

VIEWS ON CANE CULTURE. ,

("Brisbane Courier.")

Messrs. Anderson and Boyd, of Ingham, interviewed in Brisbane, were rather severe on the Townsville White Labor Conference. They said there were present several unsuccessful political candidates - two members of the Legislative Assembly, an auctioneer, a camp cook and platelayer, a tailor, a storekeeper and publican, a storekeeper and keeper of a deposit bank, and a couple of cane-cutters. There were cane-growers there, but two of them refrained from voting on the resolution endorsing the White Australia policy.

Mr. Anderson's Views. [omitted]

Mr. Boyd's Views.

Mr. Boyd's interests are those of a mill-owner, and his chief concern is that there shall be sufficient cane grown to keep his mill going. At present he indicated there is good ground for fearing that unless the sugar bonus is continued, and the tariff so far as it affects sugar fixed on a permanent basis, the sugar industry will not only not progress, but north of Mackay it must die out. He regards fixity of policy in regard to the protection given to the industry from outside competition as of the first import question - more pressing in fact, than the labor question - for he points out no capitalist will invest money, and no farmer will extend his cultivated area unless the industry is placed upon a sound basis. The present position, he says is leading to farmers handing over their land to Chinamen.

Asked for some instances, he cited several. There were Edwin Waller, a grower of 30 years' experience. In 1902 he sent to the Ripple Creek mill 1400 tons of cane ; in 1903, 1000 tons; and in 1904, 620 tons. Now the place is thrown out of cultivation. - Then there was an Italian named Ferari, who registered as a white cane grower, but after the second cutting threw up his farm. I know myself of no less than five farmers on the Herbert River who have abandoned sugar-growing and leased their land to Chinamen. But perhaps the best instance of the effect of this white labour policy is afforded by the Port Douglas district, where sugar-growing is practically the sole industry. Last year Mr. Irving reported that there were 1059 aliens working there. They are earning about £40 a year. If white men had to be employed in their place, they would cost at least £80 a year. That would double the cost of labor, supposing

they make 8000 tons of sugar, they will get in rebate £16,000, but where does the farmer come in ? Collectively, his expenditure has been. Increased £40,000 a year, and he only gets at most £16,000 from the Federal Government, so that the industry has to pay £24,000 more than it does now. The cost of manufacturing 1000 tons would be increased by £3 per ton, and, seeing that the Central mills only make £1 a ton profit, it is not easy to see how the others are going to pay their way.

What is the alternative to Kanaka labor ? -By forcing the Kanaka out of the field you compel farmers to look for the next cheapest kind of labor- that is Chinese, Malay, or Hindoo. The Chinaman, the Malay man, or the Hindoo gets about 4/- a day including their food, while the Kanaka gets 3/-. The exclusion of the Kanaka means that the farmer has to pay 1/- a day per man more wages or 25 per cent, and, after all, the white man does not get the work. It goes to other alien labor. The fact of the matter is that the industry cannot afford to pay white labor as it should be paid. Important as is the question of labor, I think it is more urgent now that some definite policy should be laid down, so far as the mill owners are concerned, everything depends on that. They have to make contracts with the farmers so many years ahead- as a rule, the farmers will not plant cane unless the mill guarantees a certain price for six or seven years -and they cannot do that if they do not know what the tariff is going to be.

Worker (Brisbane) 18 Mar 1905

Two howling pro-kanakas, sugar-grower Anderson of the Herbert River and the notorious **Boyd** of Ripple Creek sugar mill have been wailing in the Brisbane day-lie press against white labour in the far north. To show what claims Anderson has to pose as an authority on the question, it might be mentioned that in one breath he eulogises Hood's gang of white cane-cutters for the splendid work they have done during the sugar seasons in the "most humid climate in Queensland", and in the next he utters a cowardly libel on the whole white race by stating that "white labour in the North is utterly unreliable." As for **Boyd** - his opinions are too inane for serious consideration.

Northern Miner 10 Apr 1905

The White Sugar Process.(By Telegraph.)

MOSSMAN, April 8.

There Is great excitement here with reference to the process which is to convert, with the appliances already at the mill, brown sugar into white. The inventors, the Chemist and the Engineer at the Mossman Mill, are confident that their process will be successful, and that their confidence is shared by others is shown by the fact that a 24th share in the invention was sold for £600 cash.

The above telegram deals with a question of more vital importance to Queensland than anything now undecided. If the process of converting raw sugars into marketable whites is as cheap and effective as the inventors claim, it will be worth millions to the inventor of the process and more millions for the country. If by any stroke of good luck the same would not apply to the refining of beet sugar, it would enable white grown cane sugar to compete in the markets of the world with the now ruling beet supply. It is stated the cost of refining sugar is about £6 per ton, and if the mills could even do it for £2 per ton there would be an extra profit of £4 per ton of sugar to the mill companies, which are really owned by the co-operating cane farmers. Pioneer Plantation at Ayr, Macknade at Herbert River, and other mills in Queensland, have turned out white sugars, but with special machinery and at extra cost, and of late years they have found it better to sell their raw sugars to the Colonial Sugar Refining

Company. Wood Brothers, and Boyd, of Ripple Creek, we believe, however, still turn out the finished product.

Queenslander 15 Apr 1905

WHITE LABOUR IN THE CANE FIELDS.

TO THE EDITOR.

C.G. MUNRO, Proserpine, 2nd April.

Sir,— I have read with interest Mr. Boyd's views in your article on "White Labour and the Sugar Industry." His statement that "the industry cannot afford to pay white labour as it should be paid" is to a certain extent true, but not all the way. The sugar industry could " pay white labour as it should be paid" if some of the refining profits were diverted to the cane growers' pockets, or provided the protection now given to cane produced by coloured labour were transferred to the product of white labour. Taking Mr. Boyd's figures for illustration this is how it works out. Mr. Boyd mentions 8000 tons of sugar produced by the labour of 1050 aliens, and he argues that if these coloured men were replaced by white the extra cost would be £40,000, towards which the Federal bounty only provides £16,000, leaving a difference of £24,000 for the industry to make good. Now Mr. Boyd has evidently lost sight of the fact that this sugar is protected to the extent of £3 per ton in addition to the £2 per ton bounty paid direct to white labour cane, producers. Therefore this extra cost, £24,000, is provided for by the present tariff and ought to be paid to the grower in a corresponding price for his cane. Of course the mill owner will naturally ex claim ; Where do I come in ? To this the reply is : The white Australia burden does not fall on the manufacturer of raw sugar or the refiner but on the actual cane farmer ; but if the mill owners consider they are justified in obtaining more for their produce they should take a stake out of the refining profits by cooperative refining. In round numbers there is a difference of £6 10s. between the cane required to make a ton of " raw" sugar and £9 between " raw" and " re fined" values. As the difference outside Australia between " raw" and " refined" sugars is only some 40s. per ton there ought to be a big margin for our mill owners to exploit in Australia under existing tariff conditions without resurrecting the detestable coloured labour question.—

SMH 20 Apr 1905

SUGAR AND BLACK LABOUR.

'A PROTEST FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND.

Mr. Boyd, of the Ripple Creek sugar mill, who is at present in Sydney, is keenly alive to the importance of the members of the ' Commonwealth Ministry and of the Parliament making a thorough inquiry into the conditions of sugar planting and refining in that portion of Queensland north of Townsville. There is, Mr. Boyd states, capital amounting to fully £3,000,000 invested in the industry in that district, which means a circulation of something like £750,000 per annum for labour, and expenditure in other directions. "If the 6000 kanakas are sent away at the end of next year, in compliance with the present law, where is the labour to come from?" asks Mr. Boyd. "Even if the kanakas are not deported," he continues, "it will be illegal to employ them." Mr. Boyd admits that it may be a disputed point as to whether or not white men can work in the cane fields south of Townsville, but it is beyond proof, he asserts, that no white man can be found who will undertake the labour in the area north of that point. "Where could you find 6000 white men in Sydney," asked Mr. Boyd yesterday, "to go to Townsville, or further north, for cane field labour? People talk glibly about getting the Sydney unemployed. Why, it would cost each man by steerage fares on any steamer £1 10s to

get from Sydney to Cairns, and to the Herbert or Johnstone River from Sydney the fares would be £4 15s."

"Half the sugar produced in Queensland is manufactured north of Townsville," added **Mr. Boyd**. ' Last year the output was 50,000 tons, to the value of nearly £1,000,000. There we have a territory almost as large as New South Wales, and the Federal Ministry and members of Parliament are going to spend from May 27 to June 1 in the district to make themselves acquainted with this problem, which is fraught with such vast importance to the well-being of Australia generally and Queensland in particular. Whole weeks are being spent inquiring into the tariff question, but four days or less are to be considered sufficient to settle a complex problem involving not only the sugar Industry, but a number of others that would doubtless be started in the future if labour were available."

Mr. Boyd says he feels certain that if members of the Federal Parliament would spend sufficient time to investigate on the spot they would come to one conclusion only- that kanaka labour is an absolute essential to the sugar industry north of Townsville.

Worker 22 Apr 1905

LABOUR.

"Bluey" (Prosperine): "Sugar-planter and mill-owner **Boyd**, of the Herbert, unwittingly gave away the whole case for pro- alienism in his recent attack on our White Australia Policy. After quoting certain figures to prove that the white labour employing farmer was not sufficiently paid for the extra expense of white labour, Mr. **Boyd** wound up by saying that on an 8000 ton crop of sugar, made at Mossman, the extra cost of substituting white for coloured labour would be £40,000. He then triumphantly pointed to the fact that the 'white' growers, if they had produced the cane for these 8000 tons of sugar, would have only received £16,000 in bounty, leaving them in a loss of £24,000. Now **Boyd** did not tell the daily papers that boomed his utterances, that these 8000 tons of sugar were protected to the extent of £3 per ton, which, curiously enough, just makes up the apparent deficit of £24,000, and which, under present conditions, is allowed to drop quietly into the pockets of coloured-labour producers like **Mr. Boyd**. It beautifully explains why there is more coloured-labour sugar in N.Q. than white. £3 per ton protection to coloured sugar and only £8 per ton bounty to white lab our sugar or its equivalent in cane ! Senator Givens' proposal was to do away with this 'protection' to coloured-labour cane and hand it over to the white product, and it is a phase that needs ventilating, because there is attendant evidence to show that unless the rapacity of the pro aliens is strongly curbed by legislative enactments, fearlessly administered, the white labour farmers' will be insidiously squeezed out.

SMH 25 Apr 1905

THE NORTH QUEENSLAND PICNIC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,-It was only to be expected that such accomplished and highly-experienced tourists as the Ministers and members of the Federal Parliament should have selected the pleasant months of May and June for their much-talked of picnic to the sugar growing districts of Northern Queensland. They may with the utmost confidence entertain pleasurable anticipations of the coming jaunt and even should they return as wise or unwise, as ever concerning the subject which they are supposed to be about to study they will at any rate, be able to speak with authority upon the beauty of North Queensland's scenery, the richness of North Queensland's mineral, agricultural and pastoral resources and possibilities and of the hearty hospitality of

the people of the territory. But it would be the very height of absurdity to expect the members of the picnic party to gain even the most rudimentary knowledge of the methods and conditions of sugar growing during the few days they will spend among the plantations And the visitors will most certainly come to absolutely erroneous conclusions upon what is perhaps the most important feature of the whole question- the climate of the sugar territory. As a resident of coastal Northern Queensland for over 20 years and also a traveller and dweller in many lands, I am in a position to say that during the cooler months of the year- there is no winter in North Queensland- that portion of coastal Queensland lying north of Rockhampton possesses a climate as near perfection as is possible to imagine; warm days, cool nights bracing mornings and it is quite safe to assume that the delighted visitor to the region will wax enthusiastic on the subject and envy the happy lot of him whose lines are cast in such pleasant places. I can easily understand the righteous indignation of the Federal politician on his first visit to North Queensland upon being told that work on the sugar plantations isn't fit for white men No Sir, this trip to the sugar country, though it will probably prove an ideal pleasure excursion, will also turn out to be an utter failure as a means to elucidate some of the difficulties of the sugar-growing problem. If legislators from the south want to judge whether work in the canefields is what a white man can or should do let them pursue their investigations in January, instead of in June. Let them go themselves into the fields in the midst of the sweltering sweating heat of the tropics in midsummer and work alongside the kanaka for a few days. We should soon hear some sufficiently decided expressions of opinion upon the subject if the unfortunates survived the awful ordeal. Why, even in the towns- Townsville for example, which is favoured by the sea breezes- there are plenty of cases of sunstroke heat apoplexy, etc , during the hotter months and carpenters, brick layers, and others are forced at times to knock off work owing to the insupportable heat. There are thousands of men out of work in Queensland just now but the deportation of 6000 kanakas to their homes In the islands will have no effect upon the ranks of the idle, which reminds me that I saw in the columns of the "Herald " a few days ago some remarks on this subject by **Mr. Boyd** of Ripple Creek, North Queensland who, with unconscious humour associated the thousands of Sydney unemployed with canefield labour in the north A quaint conceit- truly Gilbertian- to suggest that the professional gentlemen who leisure in Hyde Park and their other pleasure grounds should proceed to Cairns or the Johnstone River to engage in an occupation only comparable with the labours of the unfortunates in the stokehold of an ill-ventilated ocean liner in the tropics, especially when Mr. Boyd admits that no white man can be found north of Townsville who will undertake work in the canefields. He is quite right, too. The test has been made over and over again. White gangs have been engaged started to work and cleared out at the first chance. It is simply this. White men can't stand the work, and if they could they wouldn't And if the sugar country is eventually to fall into the hands of the Chinese which seems quite likely, it is difficult to see how the cause of a "white Australia" will be served. Strange how the Polynesian is objected to and the Chinaman encouraged by the "white Australia" enthusiasts. In some North Queensland towns the Chinese grocers are entirely supported by the labouring classes. Ross Island, the home of practically the whole of the labourers of Townsville, simply teems with Chinamen, whose occupation would be gone if the workers of that city were true to their alleged principles and dealt with traders of their own colour, instead of with demoralising aliens. But I digress. Trusting I have not trespassed too much upon your space, I am etc, T.P.A.

April 24.

JAB Diaries

30 Apr-8 May 1905 **JAB visiting Mitch in Sydney. 'Mike had dinner with me tonight'** (1 May)

Northern Miner 15 May 1905

ARRIVALS

May 12.-Wallowra, s., Captain William Knight from Melbourne via ports. Passengers: Mesdames ... R. M. Boyd, ... Misses ... Boyd.... Messrs ..A. Boyd, ... R. M. Boyd,

Northern Miner 19 May 1905

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Boyd, Miss Boyd and Master Boyd (Ripple Creek) arrived by the Wallowra, and after a short stay at the Queen's went north by the Lass o' Gowrie.

Northern Miner 23 May 1905

Killed When Returning From Camp.

(By Telegraph.)

INGHAM, May 22.

Sergeant A. Anderson, of " D " Company, A.L.H., when, returning from the encampment at Townsville, met with a buggy accident when nearing Armidale. The wheel hit a stump and threw Sergeant Anderson over the pole. The wheel of the vehicle passed over his head, and he was killed instantaneously. The body was brought into Ingham at 7 o'clock this morning.

Sergeant Anderson, whose age was about 41 or 42 years, was engaged as a saddler and chief stableman at Ripple Creek plantation, being one of the oldest employees of Mr. R. M. Boyd. He enjoyed a very high measure of respect from his comrades, and was regarded by the northern military, authorities as a very efficient officer.

He was connected with the Herbert River half squadron from its inception in 1901, and was really its mainstay in the absence of a commissioned officer. From inquiries of Sergt-Major Green and later messages received at the camp, it appears that the accident happened in the vicinity of Leichhardt Creek, which is 30 miles from Townsville, and about 50 miles from Ingham. The deceased was driving an express waggon and a team of four horses, his own property, which was utilised this year to convey the squadron's baggage to camp. Previously it was the custom to bring the baggage by pack horses, but an express waggon was used last year successfully, and subsequently requisitioned this year. Sergt Anderson leaves a wife and family of five boys, the youngest being four years of age. The eldest is a trooper in the Ingham Light Horse, and must have been with his father when this accident occurred. The news of the sad affair has caused much sorrow among the officers in camp and elsewhere.

Northern Miner 24 May 1905

DEPARTURES.

May 22.-Wyandra, s, Captain Grahl, for Melbourne via ports. Passengers :-.....Messrs....., Boyd,, Boyd,

Northern Miner 1 Jun 1905

The Northern Sugar Season.

(By Telegraph.)

TOWNSVILLE. May 31.

The Northern sugar season commences to-morrow (June 1), when the Mossman mill will commence to crush. Pioneer, on the Burdekin, will start about the middle of June, and Kalamta in July, The last mill to start to crush will be Wood Bros, and Boyd, Ripple Creek, in August. The estimate is that 64,000 tons of sugar will be manufactured North of Mackay this year, as against 63,300 tons for 1904.

North Queensland register 12 Jun 1905

Townsville

SOCIAL ITEMS.

Visitors at the Queen's for the week include:—.....R. M. Boyd, Ripple Creek. Mr. Wollesly, Ripple Creek-

Brisbane Courier 15 Aug 1905

STATE SUGAR REFINERY.

AN ADVERSE OPINION.

A DISTILLERY PROPOSED.

TOWNSVILLE, Monday.

Mr. R M Boyd of Ripple Creek, has been interviewed with regard to the proposed State sugar refinery, and said it would do the farmers more harm than good. The competition the State concern would have to contend against from the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and other companies would be such as to materially affect the price the farmers realised for their cane and the producer would suffer. Instead of establishing a refinery it would be better if the Government erected a distillery in Townsville and took all the molasses from the central and other mills, which at present are allowed to go to waste. That would do some good to the sugar industry, as no single mill produced a sufficient quantity of molasses to warrant the owners in introducing a still. The State could work a distillery probably much cheaper than a private mill owner, and he thought such a concern would pay well. They could distil the molasses, send the spirit to England or elsewhere, and let the purchasers do what they liked with it. There would be no difficulty in converting one or two small river steamers about the port into tank vessels, which could call at the various sugar producing centres, ship the molasses and convey them to the wharf at Townsville. From there the liquid could be pumped, say, to the old bonded store near the Harbour Board office and distilled. If the Government did not care about such an undertaking, Mr. Boyd said he had sufficient confidence in such a project to take up shares in a company promoted to carry it out. Instead of a refinery, the Government should provide central mills which would give assistance to the producers. Every new mill would bring something out the soil, but a refinery produced nothing, and would give very little employment. Provided Federal legislation was satisfactory, central mills would tend to increase the acreage under cane and add to the quantity of molasses which would be available for treatment at the distillery. This would give producers a little return from by products which to a great extent were at present allowed to go to waste.

Northern Miner 21 Aug 1905

Transshipment Dues.

Mr. R. M. Boyd, of Ripple Creek, called at the " Townsville Star " office on Saturday, to contradict a statement made by Mr. Ackers at the Chamber of Commerce meeting on Wednesday, as follows: "Then it was said a transshipment charge would be imposed on sugar. But up to the present he could say that no charge had been made on sugar, though it was intended to do so in future. It had been stated that the imposition of this charge had been the means of driving trade away, but he did not think so." Mr. **Boyd** states that the transshipment charge was imposed on their agents in Townsville. The firm decidedly object to the charge, and arrangements have been made to tranship in future at Cairns after the next trip.

Morning Post Cairns 22 Aug 1905

SUGAR AND TRANSPORT DUES.

Mr. **R. M. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek left last week for Melbourne, and hopes to reach there in time to hear Sir John Forrest deliver his Federal Budget Speech. Approached by a 'Bulletin' representative concerning the much-discussed transshipment dues and other matters affecting the sugar industry, Mr. **Boyd** said he had no intention of paying the transshipment dues. If the Harbor Board persisted in levying them he would do all transshipment work either at Lucinda or Cairns. The Ripple Creek sugar and other requirements ran into about 2000 tons a year, and he did not see why he should pay £100, per annum in transshipment if he could avoid it. The Seymour, had just brought to Townsville from Ripple Creek 58 tons of sugar, and would leave again next day (Sunday) for another load. All the firm's sugar had previously, been transhipped at Townsville, but even although the transshipment only averaged 20 tons a month, by sending it to Lucinda or Cairns it would mean the saving of £1 per month, and every little counted in these times. The output from the mill would be about 1700 tons of sugar. He expected to finish crushing about the end of November.

Brisbane Courier 28 Aug 1905

DEPARTURES

August 20-WODONGA, s., 2341 tons, Captain J E Meaburn, for Sydney and Melbourne. Passengers, **Messrs. ...R M Boyd**,

Letter from RMB to EW Knox, CSR 7 Sep 1905

Letter written from Newcastle making an offer to sell Ripple Creek to CSR

Brisbane Courier 18 Sep 1905

OVERLAND PASSENGERS.

WALLANGARRA. Sep. 16.-The following passengers travelled by mail train today :- For Brisbane **Mr. and Mrs. Boyd**,

Queensland Figaro 26 Oct 1905

Queenslanders in Sydney.

..... Among Queenslanders at the Hotel Metropole are **Dr. R. M. Boyd**, and others.

Brisbane Courier 30 Oct 1905

DEPARTURES

Oct 28 -WYANDRA, s., 4057 tons. Captain J Grahl, for Cooktown, via ports. Passengers
.....Messrs. Boyd,

Northern Miner 2 Nov 1905

October 31.- Wyandra, S., Captain James Grahl from Melbourne via ports. Passengers:-
.....Boyd,

North Queensland Register 6 Nov 1905

Mr. R. M. Boyd (Ripple Creek), who has been spending a couple of months in the South, returned by the Wyandra and left for home by the Seymour. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd shortly leave for Sydney, where they intend making their future home.

Northern Miner 10 Nov 1905

PERSONAL

Mr. R. M. Boyd, Ingham, has returned from his Southern holiday.

Letter from RMB to EW Knox CSR 22 Nov 1905

Letter written at Ripple Creek offering sale to CSR

Letter from RMB to EW Knox, CSR 14 Dec 1905

Letter written from Ripple Creek

Brisbane Courier 3 Jan 1906

ARRIVAL

Jan. 2.-GABO, s . 2500 tons, Captain J. Rowland, from Townsville, via ports. Passengers : Mesdames Brown and infant, Boyd,; Misses .. Boyd, ; Messrs. Boyd,

Letter from RMB to EW Knox 9 Jan 1906

Letter written from Indooroopilly, Brisbane, where he had taken a house for “4 to 6 months”

Queenslander 13 Jan 1906

January 1. Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Boyd, Ripple Creek, left for the South on Saturday last to spend the summer months.

Morning Post Cairns 3 Mar 1906

THE SUGAR BOUNTY.

In answer to a communication Messrs. **Wood Bros. and Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, are in receipt of the following letter from Mr. W. H. Irving, Collector of Customs : " Gentlemen- I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8th instant relative to the employment of aboriginal natives of Australia on registered white plantations, and in reply to inform you that Section 9 applies to " any labor " other than that of members of a grower's family. This term includes all classes of labor that the Act permits the employment of. You will also note that under this section the Minister has discretionary power as to payment of bounty if the wages paid to the various classes of white labor (including aboriginals) has not yet been ascertained, but probably will be shortly. . I have the honor, &c."

Queenslander 10 Mar 1906

TOWNSVILLE

Mr. R. M. Boyd, Melbourne, arrived from the South by the Marloo on Friday.

Mr. R. M. Boyd; who was staying at the Queen's, returns to Melbourne today.

Brisbane Courier 12 Mar 1906

DEPARTURES

Mar 10-WODONGA, s., 2341 tons, Captain W. C Thomson, for Sydney and Melbourne, Passengers -.Messrs.. **Boyd**,

Queenslander 12 May 1906

Ripple Creek Sugar plantation, Herbert River , Ingham.

HOMES FOR SMALL FARMERS.

Messrs **Wood Brothers and Boyd** have decided to dispose of their well-known Ripple Creek Estate, which is situated on the Herbert River in North Queensland; and they announce that they are now prepared to subdivide it into lots to suit purchasers. Ripple Creek, it may be mentioned, is one of the best-known sugar plantations in Queensland, and .is. one of the very few still retained by individual owners. A visit to it is full of interest; for it has been gradually formed for the purpose of raising sugarcane, and only rich land suitable for that purpose has been added to it from time to time. **It is 24 years since Mr. R. M. Boyd left the Northern Rivers district in New South Wales, where for 12 years he had been engaged in cultivating sugar, for the purpose of establishing a plantation in North Queensland,** and the rich alluvial flats and virgin scrub land on the banks of the Herbert River and Ripple Creek commended themselves to him as ideal sugar country; At that time he thought it the best in Australia, and to-day he holds that it cannot be beaten. At first some 600 acres of land were purchased, but gradually as operations were extended this was added to, until to-day the estate totals 3580 acres, having a frontage of seven miles to the fresh water reaches of the Herbert River and Ripple Creek. It is practically all cane land, and 1320 acres have been cleared " and are now under cultivation; presenting a beautiful sight when the crops are growing. On virgin soil as much as 40 tons of cane has been grown to the acre, but the average yield, taking the whole area, is about 15 tons. It may be mentioned that several small farms have been leased to tenants, and kept under cultivation at a royalty of 1/ per ton of cane, in lieu of rent. •

The question of a market for the cane grown on this estate does not present any difficulties at all. Mr. Boyd proposes to retain the homestead and the mill, which will be available for

farmers. The mill has a capacity for crushing 300 tons of cane a day, or 40,000 tons in the season. It is well equipped, the machinery being supplied by Messrs. Mirrlees, Watson, and Co., the well-known Glasgow makers. Adjoining Ripple Creek is also the Colonial Sugar Company's Macknade plantation, and that mill is only two miles distant; while over the river, three miles away, is the Victoria mill. It will thus be seen that there is ample crushing power for all the cane grown in the locality.

Tramways are a big factor in the handling of cane crops, and Ripple Creek, like every other plantation, is well equipped in this direction; in fact it would hardly be possible to cut out a 100-acre block without it having connection with a tramline at some point or other. Then there are other improvements of an extensive character. The homestead is a well-built brick house situated in one of the finest gardens in tropical Australia. Connected with the sugar mill are a saw mill and a manure mill. There are also stores, blacksmith's shop, implement shed; and stable for over 100 horses, in addition to numerous cottages and quarters for the workmen. There is also a post and telephone office on the estate, and a schoolhouse, and a hospital. The shipping port is at Seymour, which adjoins the estate. Lighters work from there and meet steamers going North or South at the mouth of the river, Lucinda Point. To the latter place steamers run three times, a week from Townsville, so that communication is frequent.' A tramway also runs from Lucinda Point to within three miles of Ripple Creek (a distance of 30 miles), passing through the townships of Halifax and Ingham on the way. With rich alluvial soil, and an average rainfall of over 80 inches, and a tropical climate, the growth of vegetation of all kinds is remarkable. These are the features which make tropical agriculture so profitable and interesting. Take the garden around the house for instance: in it are growing to perfection oranges and lemons, passion fruit and granadillas, custard apples and cocoanuts, pomelos, pineapples, and tamarinds; while the mango runs wild, and bananas are growing along the edges of the scrub and the riverbanks like weeds.' These all indicate possibilities for the future. To build up an estate like Ripple Creek is the work of a life time, and requires a heavy expenditure. For most of the land in its unimproved state £6 and £8 an acre was paid; and £30,000 has been spent on improvements, and making the land fit for cultivation; apart from which the sugar mill and tram lines have cost £40,000. For the purposes of cultivation alone at the present time 150 horses are kept on the estate, and 80 are working every day. There are all the facilities for irrigation on the estate, and a mile or so of fluming has been laid down, but it has not been found necessary to use it hitherto owing to the good rainfall. Intending purchasers can ascertain full particulars and see plans of the estate at the office of Messrs. Aplin, Brown, and Crawshay, Elizabeth-street, Brisbane, or from the Manager at Ripple Creek. [*Several photos*]

Brisbane Courier 8 Jun 1906

ARRIVALS

June 7.-BARCOO, 1505 tons, Captain A. Cowie, from Townsville, via ports. Passengers : Mrs. J. J. Dolan, Misses Rollston, R. Gilligan, Green, Messrs. H. W. Mair, S. E. Gilles, Green, S. G. Reid, H. Burrows, C. Meyer, V. Morrisett, his Honour Mr. Justice Chubb, Major Clark, Lieutenant Griffith, Master Green, and 9 in the steerage. For Southern ports : Messrs. Pennefather, **P. M. Boyd**, [RMB?] R. Torpy, F. W. Watkins, B.I and Q.A. Company, Limited, managing agents.

Queenslander 16 Jun, 14 Jul, 28 Jul, 4 Aug, 11 Aug, 25 Aug, 8 Sep, 1906

Ripple Creek Plantation, Herbert River, N.Q. TO CANE GROWERS AND OTHERS WISHING TO OBTAIN AGRICULTURAL FARMS MESSRS. WOOD BROS. & BOYD are prepared to Subdivide and Sell, on Terms, THE WHOLE OF THE MAGNIFICENT AGRICULTURAL LANDS OF ABOUT 3000 ACRES (1000 acres under Crop), and having

A FRONTAGE OF SEVEN MILES TO THE HERBERT RIVER. As the MILL is to be conducted on a CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLE WHEREBY THE PRODUCER OF CANE RECEIVES A FIXED SUM for cane on delivery at factory and an ANNUAL SHARE OF PROFITS, the opportunity offered here is excellent. Inspection invited. Apply APLIN, BROWN, & CRAWSHAY, Limited, or THE **MANAGER, RIPPLE CREEK**.

Brisbane Courier 18 Jun 1906

DEPARTURES.

June 10.-ARAMAC, 2113 tons, Captain W. C. Thomson, for Sydney and Melbourne.
Passengers: Messrs. **R. M. Boyd**,

Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser 29 Jun 1906

Sugar in the North.

The Ingham correspondent of the 'Geraldton Sentinel' writes as follows : Since the Sugar Commission sat at Ingham and took evidence bearing on white labour in the cane problem, several events have transpired which go a long way to prove that sensible men are satisfied that cane growing under the conditions is a profitable game. For instance, Mr. S. Blackman one of the C.S.R. Co's officials, has purchased the farm ' Scotston' for £3,600, Mr. Berry, the late owner having found it necessary, on account of ill health, to go home to the old country. Just fancy a C.S.R. Co's official buying into a ' doomed industry' and paying about £4,000 for the fun of the thing. Then we have Mr. M. Lynch, of Ingham, recklessly throwing away £1,800 in the purchase of Mr. Grant's farm at Stone River, and **Wood Bros., and Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, buying Cudmore's estate, Tara, and advertising it as being cut up into blocks for farmers to take up.

Brisbane Courier 30 Jun 1906

DEPARTURES.

June 29.-BINGERA,- 2090 tons, Captain A. Cowle, for Townsville, via ports, Passengers : **Mesdames .. Boyd,..; Messrs, Boyd,**

Letter from **RMB to EW Knox, CSR, 20 July 1906**

Letter from Ripple Creek re political donations.

Letter from **RMB to EW Knox, CSR, 9 Aug 1906**

Letter from Ripple Creek re political donations.

Northern Miner 5 Feb 1907

DEPARTURES,

February 2.—Peregrine, s, Captain J. D. Joy, for Melbourne via ports. Passengers
Messrs **Boyd**,

Queenslander 9 Feb 1907

TOWNSVILLE, **January 27.**

Mr. R. M. Boyd will leave for South on Monday.—

Worker 9 Feb 1907

World or Labour.

The Malays employed at the Ripple Creek mill struck work recently for a higher rate of wages (says the Herbert River Express). Messrs. **Wood Bros. and Boyd**, however, refused to comply with their demands and the aliens at once gave up their positions. The agreement with the Japanese expired on the 31st ult., but on the following morning they intimated to the company that they wanted an increase of wages before they would sign on again. The company declined to accede to their request, with the result that the Japs lost no time in making their presence scarce at the mill.

Morning Post Cairns 26 Feb 1907

LABOR FOR RIPPLE CREEK.

A batch of 18 young and sturdy laborers from Brisbane, and bound for Ripple Creek plantation; arrived by the Wakefield off the mouth of Seymour River on Friday night (says the 'Northern planter'). They were conveyed by launch to the plantation. We understand that **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, who is now in Brisbane, has secured the laborers for a 10 months' contract at the Creek.

Brisbane Courier 14 Mar 1907

AN EMPHATIC DENIAL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,- In your issue of today you quote a telegraphic communication that passed between the Premier of the State and the Acting Prime Minister, a portion of which reads: "In spite of the outcry of future shortness, and in spite of our willingness to make liberal provision, we have as yet no definite applications for men and will take no action till we have." In explanation allow me to state that in December last a notice appeared in various portions of the State asking employers of labour to let the local C P S know the number of men they were likely to require and the rate of wages offering nothing further. At the Townsville Conference Mr. McGee, one of the Government representatives, said he was prepared to register men then and there according to the Government proposal, which the planters refused to sign until they had seen and read the agreement, not being desirous of buying 'a pig in a poke'.

The writer was informed on Saturday last that there was no agreement ready yet. So who is to blame for there being no definite applications from the planters? This question of wages payable to earn the bounty must be decided once and for all before matters can be definitely arranged and if this game of "bluff" continues much longer labour and capital will both be in the same boat as the cane will be lost.

-I am, sir, &c., **R. M. BOYD**. Indooroopilly

Worker 16 Mar 1907

IMMIGRATION LEAGUE OF QUEENSLAND.

President: J. D. Campbell, Esq., M.L.A. Vice-Presidents : Hon. E. J. Stevens, M.L.C., Hon. Peter Murphy, M.L.C., Hon. Angus Gibson, M.L.C., Hon. Robert Philp, M.L.A., Hon. J. W. Blair, M.L.A., Hon. J. T. Boll, M.L.A., Hon. D. F. Denham, M.L.A., **R. M. Boyd, Esq.**,
.....

Brisbane Courier 29 Mar 1907

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir, -As this league has been given prominence in your telegraphic news from Geraldton in yesterday's issue in connection with employment of youths on plantations, I should esteem it a favour if you will grant me space in your columns to reply to that portion referring to "the scum of the cities," so far as the placing of city youths on the soil under the auspices of the Immigration League of Queensland is concerned. To deal impartially with the matter, and to detail a true and unvarnished account of the last few days' work in this direction carried out by the league, I have by telegraphic communication and other means to-day obtained information, which I now have pleasure in placing before your readers, "in broad daylight," as follows:-Yengarie-Twenty-five youths sent ; result of inquiries : "Youths working fairly well ; four absconded." Result : Twenty-one to four defaulters. Ripple Creek.-Twenty youths sent (chosen by **Mr. R. M. Boyd** in this office). Result : Sixteen to four defaulters.

Queenslander 30 Mar 1907

IMMIGRATION LEAGUE OF QUEENS LAND.

Head office: No.1 North Queensland Chambers, Queen-street, Brisbane.

OBJECTS.

- I. The education of the Queensland people as to the need of increased population of the agricultural class.
- II. The dissemination of information both in Australia and in Europe with regard to immigration and land settlement.
- III. Practical assistance and advice to immigrants on arriving in Queensland.
- IV. The advocacy of a vigorous policy of placing city people on the soil.

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF ADVICE. President: J. D. Campbell, Esq., M.L.A. Vice-presidents : Hon. E. J. Steven* M.L.C. ("The Courier"), Hon. Peter Murphy, M.L.C., Hon. Angus Gibson, M.L.C., Hon. Robt. Philp, M.L.A., Hon. J. W. Blair. M.L.A (Attorney-General), Hon. J. T. Bell. M.L.A. (Minister for Railways and Lands), Hon. D. F. Denham, M.L.A., **R. M. Boyd**, Esq. (Messrs Wood Bros, and **Boyd**),

Queensland Figaro 16 May 1907

Mrs. and Miss Boyd, Indooroopilly, leave next week for Sydney.

Northern Miner 29 May 1907

May 27.-Cintra, s, Captain J. K. Meaburn, for Melbourne via ports. Passengers : - Messrs **Boyd**, [not RMB, possibly AHB]

Northern Miner 12 Jul 1907

Mr. Fred Martindale has received a telegram from Ripple Creek from Mr. W. P. Vance, leader of a contract gang of 12 mostly married men who went up to Ripple Creek about a fortnight ago to **Wood Bros. and Boyd**, stating they started cutting last Monday, and were all well, and pleased so far. His gang, and a wages gang of 12 which went up with them, and were working with them, were in good heart.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 9 Aug 1907

News has reached Townsville of an incident which occurred at the Seymour River wharf, whereby **Messrs Wood Bros, and Boyd** of Ripple Creek, lost five trucks and 100 tons of sugar, valued at £150. There is an incline leading on to the wharf, and on August 3 William O'Rourke, an employee of Messrs Wood Bros, and **Boyd**, took down the tramline a load of sugar drawn by two horses. It is customary to stop the horses about 150 yards from the wharf and push the trucks on to the wharf. O'Rourke, however, drove too close to the wharf, and the trucks rushed down the incline, across the wharf, and five of them, each containing two tons of raw sugar, went over into the river. The trucks were all broken up, and only a small portion of the sugar was recovered. O'Rourke and two other men on the wharf managed to release the horses, but failed to stop the trucks, and the stop block on the wharf was carried away. The oil launch and punts were drawn away from the wharf, otherwise the loss would probably have been more serious.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 22 Aug 1907

'NORTH QUEENSLAND HERALD.'

ILLUSTRATED NUMBER. SATURDAY, AUGUST 24.

Next Saturday's Issue of the 'North Queensland Herald' will contain several pages of special illustrations in addition to a number included in original letterpress. Amongst the special illustrations will be some showing the progress of railway construction in the north, others dealing with the sugar industry, and others appertaining to sport.

'Agricultural Immigrants, photo graphed on the Bowen Jetty,' is the title of an Illustration of a big batch of indented people who recently arrived for work on the sugar fields of North Queensland; and, as the camera has the reputation of not being able to lie, it may be said that the North has been very fortunate in getting such a contingent of young, stalwart, able-bodied men to help in building up a White Australia by engaging in field operations on sugar plantations. "A Planter's Home in North Queensland" and the "Ripple Creek Sugar Mill" may be called companion pictures, and they show **Mr. R. M. Boyd's** residence at Ripple Creek and the mill and buildings of Messrs Wood Bros, and Boyd's plantation at Ripple Creek, Herbert River district.

Townsville Daily Bulletin (Qld. : 1907 - 1954), Wednesday 28 August 1907, page 4

THE RIPPLE CREEK MILL.

PREMIER'S REPLY TO PETITION.

(By Telegraph.)

BRISBANE. August 27.

A largely signed petition by farmers of the Ripple Creek district was recently presented to the Treasurer, asking the Government to take over the Ripple Creek mill, which the owners (Wood Bros, and Boyd) are prepared to sell at a low figure. Mr Kidston. said there was no money for the purpose

Morning Post, Cairns 29 Aug 1907

Personal Notes

Mr. R. M. Boyd, of Ripple Creek, is paying a short visit to Cairns, and will, return home on Saturday.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 28 Aug 1907

THE RIPPLE CREEK MILL.

PREMIER'S REPLY TO PETITION.

(By Telegraph.)

BRISBANE. August 27.

A largely signed petition by farmers of the Ripple Creek district was recently presented to the Treasurer, asking the Government to take over the Ripple Creek mill, which the owners (**Wood Bros, and Boyd**) are prepared to sell at a low figure. Mr. Kidston said there was no money for the purpose.

Singleton Argus 27, 29 Aug 1907

WANTED FARM LABOURERS for North Queensland, who can Plough and Drive Horses. Wages, 22/6 per week, with food and quarters. For further particulars apply to **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, Woods' Chambers, Scott street, Newcastle.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 2 Sep 1907

September 1— Aramac, s, Captain W. C. Thomson, from Cooktown via ports. Passengers :—..... **R. M. Boyd**,

PERSONAL. **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, arrived from north by the Aramac on Sunday.

Singleton Argus 21 Sep 1907

Farm Labourers Wanted.

Attention is directed to the advertisement relating to farm labourers required for North Queensland, with particulars as to wages and food, etc. All further information can be obtained from **Wood Bros, and Boyd**, Scott-street, Newcastle;.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 23 Sep 1907

September 22.- Cintra, s. Captain J. Grahl from Cooktown via ports. Passengers Through passengers for South:- Mrs. Austin; Miss A. Murray; Messrs Neilson and Boyd; and 29 In the steerage. Burns, Philp and Co.. Ltd., agents.

Brisbane Courier 30 Sep 1907

DEPARTURES

September 28-WYANDRA, s. 4053 tons Captain Jas Grahl for Sydney and Melbourne. Passengers Messrs; ... Boyd

JAB Letter No 217, 22 Dec 1907

My Dear Mike,

I have your letters of the 4th and 12th inst. the latter enclosing a cheque for £42-5-0 for Bonini's and Rosendale's rent, many thanks for it. In reply to your enquiring about the deeds to Bonini's farms, I wired on 16th December "Yours just received, all my deeds are with you, Love" I brought none of my papers away with me, no doubt you have found them ere this. I am very sorry you must get rid of the estate, it seems like giving it away at £34,000, still if people can't get labour at a reasonable rate to grow cane, the land and factory is useless. Has Cowley retired from politics altogether that he refuses to stand for the Herbert?

[218] I hope you may be able either to sell or get a new tenant for Bonini's farms. I hear from Gaggin that Gardiner has reached Sydney. Gaggin says he is coming down on Tuesday. I have asked "Uncle Joe" to spend a week or two with me. Jeanie has engaged two servants for the summer months so we may as well have visitors.
Many happy New Years dear brother mine.

Ever your loving brother.

J.A. Boyd

Northern Miner 21 Jan 1908

DEPARTURES

January 18.-Buninyong, s, Captain R. F. Douton, for Melbourne. Passengers ; -..... Messrs. ..., Boyd, A. Boyd,

Townsville Daily Bulletin 19 Mar 1908

PERSONAL.

Mr. R. M. Boyd (Ripple Creek) will be a passenger by the Innamincka for Sydney.

Northern Miner 21 Mar 1908

SHIPPING.

DEPARTURES

March 19.-Innaminka; s. Captain C. C. Mackenzie, for Melbourne via ports.
Passengers.....**R. M. Boyd**;

Queenslander 28 Mar 1908

TOWNSVILLE, **March 19.**

Mr. **R. M. Boyd**, Ripple Creek, leaves for Sydney this evening.—

Brisbane Courier 3 Apr 1908

OVERLAND PASSENGERS.

WALLANGARRA, April 2.

For Sydney: Messrs. **.Boyd**.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 16 Apr 1908

The following wire was received by the Ingham 'Express' on Friday morning from Mr. **R. M. Boyd** (Wood Bros and Boyd), Sydney, dated 9th April:— 'I authorise you to state that after consultation with my partners it has been decided to close Ripple Creek mill because we are unable to pay present prices for cane. I have ascertained that the company will take at current local rates any cane offered by our growers. (Signed) **R. M. Boyd.**'

Brisbane Courier 24 Apr 1908

Last of the Private Sugar Mills.

Ripple Creek, on the Herbert River, is the last of the privately-owned sugar mills in Queensland, and the proprietors have decided, in view of the lookout for the industry, to close it down. Mr. **R. M. Boyd**, one of the owners, arrived in Brisbane last night, and, when questioned on the subject, said that his partners had decided not to have anything more to do with sugar growing in Queensland. For twelve months the plantation, which contains some of the finest land on the Herbert River, has been under offer to the Government, but they declined to buy it or deal with it in any way. The owners have therefore decided to sell the property in the best way they can, and have arranged for the C.S.R. Company to take the cane of the farmers on the estate for the coming season.

Townsville Daily Bulletin and Northern Miner 28 Apr 1908

ARRIVALS.

'April 27.— Maranoa, s, Captain H. T. Middleton, from Brisbane via ports. Passengers : —
Mesdames Boyd,; Misses ... Boyd, R.M. Boyd

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Boyd (Ripple Creek) and Miss Boyd returned from the south by the Maranoa.

Queenslander 2 May 1908

Ripple Creek, on the Herbert River, the last of the privately-owned sugar mills in Queensland, and the proprietors have decided, in view of the lookout for the industry, to close it down. **Mr.**

R. M. Boyd, one of the owners, arrived in Brisbane last week, and, when questioned on the subject, said that his partners had decided not to have anything more to do with sugar growing in Queensland. For twelve months the plantation, which contains some of the finest land on the Herbert River, has been under offer to the Government, but they declined to buy it or deal with it in any way. The owners have therefore decided to sell the property in the best way they can, and have arranged for the C.S.R. Company to take the cane of the farmers on the estate for the coming season.

Northern Miner 6 May 1908

CANE FARMS FOR SALE.

RIPPLE CREEK ESTATE.

THE Owners of the above Estate having disposed of their Factory, are now CUTTING UP their well known property into FARMS of all sizes to suit the Purchasers. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have given a guarantee to Purchase all Cane grown on this Estate in future. The average price of Cane paid last year, Including White Labor and Bonus, amounted to 22/6 per ton.

WOOD BROS, & BOYD,

Queenslander 9 May 1908

TOWNSVILLE, April 30.— **Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Boyd**, accompanied by **Miss Boyd**, arrived from the South on Monday, and went on to Ripple Creek the same day.—

Townsville daily Bulletin 19 Jun 1908

Mrs. and Miss Boyd (Ripple Creek) intend leaving by the Yongala next week for the south.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 26 Jun 1908

ARRIVALS.

June 25.— Lass o' Gowrie, s, Captain Keir, from Port Douglas via ports. Passengers :— **Mesdames ..., Boyd, .;** **Misses Boyd,**

DEPARTURES.

June 25.— Yongala. s, Captain Wm. Knight for Melbourne via ports. Passengers :— **Mesdames .. R. M. Boyd.MissesBoyd,** [*RMB stayed longer and left on the Bingera*]

Telegram No 373 JAB to RMB, 27 Jun 1908

Hope you are having good sale today. Very cold here. love Boyd

Townsville Daily Bulletin 2 July 1908

INGHAM, July 1. At the Chamber of Commerce meeting last night **Messrs Wood Bros, and Boyd** offered their grazing farm of 632 acres with two miles of frontage to the Seymour River and Arnott Creek for a State farm, in addition to 600 acres of rich agricultural land and buildings thereon, already offered. No advance In the original price was asked.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 7 Jul 1908

July 6.— Bingera, s, Captain A. Cowie, for southern ports. Passengers :— .. Messrs **Boyd**,
[RMB]

Northern Miner 6 Jul 1908

At the Chamber of. Commerce meeting last Tuesday night, (says the "Ingham Planter"), a letter was read from **Messrs. Wood Bros, and Boyd** announcing that they had made arrangements to include a grazing farm of 632 acres in the county of Cardwell, and baring a frontage of about two miles to the Seymour river and Arnot's creek, in their offer of land already made for a state farm, without any advance in price. This will make an area of 1232 acres submitted by them and includes both rich agriculture land and country suitable for grazing purposes.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 9 Jul 1908

Mr. R. M. Boyd, late, of Ripple Creek, left by the Bingera on Monday for Newcastle direct, where he will join **Mrs. and Miss Boyd** and they will continue their journey to England.

Brisbane Courier 10 Jul 1908

SHIPPING,

July 9.-BINGERA, 3000 tons, Captain A. Cowle, from Townsville, via ports. Passengers:, Messrs. **R. M. Boyd**,

Australian Star (Sydney, NSW : 1887 - 1909), Thursday 23 July 1908, page 5

SHIPPING

LUND'S BLUE ANCHOR LINE GEELONG SAILING TO-MORROW

Lund's Blue Anchor liner Geelong Is timed to leave Central Wharf, Miller's Point, at 1 p.m. to-morrow for South Africa and London, via ports. Messrs Gilchrist, ' Wall, and Sanderson, Ltd., agents for the line, have secured extensive lines of general cargo. She also takes the following passengers:— Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, Miss Boyd,

JAB Telegram 24 Jul 1908

Mike left on 'Geelong'. Telegram to Adelaide.

JAB Telegrams 23 Jul-6 Aug 1908

RMB was in Adelaide.

Northern Miner 4 Sep 1908

The many friends of "Jack" Richardson, who for the past twenty years served in the employ of Messrs **Wood Bros., and Boyd**, of Ripple Creek (says the Herbert River "Express") will regret to hear of his death which occurred at the residence of his sister at Blue's Point, Sydney, a few days ago. Deceased was well known and highly respected by all who knew him and his

demise will remove one of the most familiar faces of the district, for old "Jack" was respected alike by everybody.

Email from Elaine Roberts 1 Apr 2012

In 1908, Mitch, Tattie and Ella set off to see the world. At Christmas JA received a postcard from Weymouth, where they were all born and left in 1857.

In the **1909** diary there is mention of postcards arriving from Europe saying Tiny has measles, then, when they reached Rome in April, Ella had them too. They left England on 24 June, were in Vancouver 13 August and were expecting to be back in Sydney the beginning of September. There may be other entries about postcards, I will check again sometime.

UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960 (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Mr R M Boyd
Birth Date:	abt 1849
Age:	59
Port of Departure:	Sydney, Australia
Arrival Date:	19 Sep 1908
Port of Arrival:	London, England
	Sydney
	[Adelaide]
Ports of Voyage:	[Cape Town]
	[Durban]
	[Melbourne]
Ship Name:	Geelong
Search Ship Database:	View the 'Geelong' in the 'Passenger Ships and Images' database
Shipping Line:	Lunds Blue Anchor Line
Official Number:	118426
Travelling with:	Mrs. Boyd and Miss E Boyd.

SMH 24 Nov 1908

A prominent citizen of Newcastle in the person of **Mr. Joseph Wood, senior**, died at his residence, Woodlands, Church-street, yesterday morning. He had been ailing for some weeks, and his death was not unexpected. The late Mr. Wood was 86 years of age and was born at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, coming to Australia in 1856. With his brother, the late Mr. John Wood, he established the business carried on by the Castlemaine Brewery and Wood Brothers, Limited, and his great business experience has long been recognised by business people in the city of his adoption. The deceased gentleman was connected with many business ventures, and had filled the positions of chairman of directors of the Castlemaine Brewery and Wood Brothers, Limited; chairman of the Victoria Theatre; director of the City of Newcastle Gas and Coke Company, Limited; director of the Newcastle Building Society; director of the Newcastle and Hunter River Steam Navigation Company, which position he had to resign owing to his health; trustee of the Newcastle School of Arts and Newcastle Sailors' Home; and president of the Newcastle Hospital, which ill-health also caused him to resign; treasurer of the Newcastle Cathedral building fund; churchwarden of the Newcastle Christ Church Cathedral; and synod representative of St. Paul's, Stockton. He was also a life member of the Newcastle Jockey Club, and belonged to numerous other associations and sporting bodies. His commercial life was not confined to Newcastle alone, as he was a senior partner of the firm of **Wood Brothers and Boyd**, owners of the Ripple Creek sugar plantation, North

Queensland. A notable donation to the city of Newcastle made by the late Mr. Wood was a pair of large iron gates at the main entrance to the Upper Reserve. He leaves a widow, three sons and three daughters. The sons are Messrs. J. Campbell Wood, J. Arthur Wood, and Heith Wood; while the daughters are Mesdames H. H. Lang, C. F. Warren (of Wagga), and Mrs. Marcus Logan (who was just recently married). The funeral will take place to-day.

Northern Miner 27 Nov 1908

A private letter from **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, late of Ripple Creek, dated Ford Abbey Chard, October 5, advises that he reached London on September 21, after a pleasant passage.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 7 Dec 1908

NOTES FROM LONDON,

(N. Q. Herald's' Resident Representative.) LONDON, October 30.

Recent callers at the Agent General's office from Queensland:— .. and **Mr., Mrs. and Miss Boyd, Herbert River.**

Townsville Daily Bulletin 19 Jan 1909

LONDON, December 11.

Mr. Boyd, of the Herbert River, has called on Mr. Garraway of the City Office this week.

JAB Letters received

10 Mar 1909 Postcard from Venice

19 Mar 1909 Postcard from Florence

24 Mar 1909 From Rome. Tiny has measles

2 Apr 1909 From Rome Ella now has measles

5 May 1909 Postcard from Paris

JAB Diaries

24 Jun 1909 Mike leaves England

UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960 (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Mr R M Boyd
Gender:	Male
Departure Date:	25 Jun 1909
Port of Departure:	Liverpool, England
Destination Port:	Montreal, Canada
Ship Name:	Virginian
Shipping Line:	Allan Line
Official Number:	121219
Master:	A H Vipond
Travelling with:	Mrs. Boyd and Miss Boyd

Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935 (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Ella Boyd
Gender:	Female

Date of Arrival:	2 Jul 1909
Vessel:	Virginian
Port of Arrival:	Quebec
Port of Departure:	Liverpool, England
Roll:	T-4761
Travelling with:	“Albert” Boyd, Emily Boyd

JAB Diaries

13 Aug 1909 Mike leaves Vancouver

Honolulu, Hawaii, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1900-1959 (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Miss E Boyd
Gender:	Female
Port of Departure:	Vancouver, British Columbia
Departure Date:	1909
Port of Arrival:	Honolulu, Hawaii
Arrival Date:	20 Aug 1909
Ship:	Marama
Travelling with:	Dr R.M. Boyd, Mrs. Boyd

SMH 6 Sep 1909

THE MARAMA FROM VANCOUVER

BRISBANE, Sunday.

The Canadian-Australian mail steamer Marama, from Vancouver, via Victoria, B.C., Honolulu, and Suva (Fiji), bound to Sydney, arrived here late on Saturday [4 Sep] night. Her passengers are:-

For Sydney: Mesdames Boyd,.....Misses E. Boyd, Messrs. W. M. Boyd,

JAB Diaries

6 Sep 1909 JAB went to Sydney to meet Mike, returning from Europe via Vancouver, but the “Murama” arrived early and he missed him.

8 Sep 1909 JAB met RMB at Duckers and spent next few days with him.

Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), Thursday 30 September 1909, page 4

OVERLAND PASSENGERS.

WALLANGARRA, September 29.

For Brisbane Messrs R M Boyd

Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld. : 1872 - 1947), Saturday 2 October 1909, page 3

SHIPPING. DEPARTURES.

October 1. — MARANOA, 1,505 tons, Captain Cowie, for Townsville, via ports.
Passengers : **R. M. Boyd**,

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld. : 1874 - 1954), Tuesday 2 November 1909, page 2

SHIPPING ARRIVALS

October 31.-Mourilyan, s, from Cairns....., **R. N. Boyd**, I. Hopkins, S. Walker,

Northern Miner 17 Dec 1909

Mr. K. P. Cameron, Land Commissioner, held a Court at Ingham on Saturday. The following applications for selections were accepted:-M. Killoran, 320 acres, agricultural farm (priority) por. 32, parish of Berwick; H. B. Walker, 32a. 2r. 30p., agricultural homestead, Par. 1, parish of Hecate; John Gollogly, 800 acres, agricultural farm, Por. 33, parish of Cordelia; G. H. Ellieas, 40 acre, agricultural farm, Por. 41 and 15, parish of Berwick. The following were called upon to show cause why their selections should not be forfeited: -G. W. Clarke, 160 acres, agricultural form, Par. 411, parish of Lannercost; **R. M. Boyd**, 240 acres, agricultural farm, Por. 26v, parish of Marathon; **R. M. Boyd**, 356 acres, agricultural farm, portion 3. parish of Marathon; **R. M. Boyd**, 300 acres, agricultural farm, Por. 27, Parish of Marathon. In each case it was proved to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the selector had failed in the performance of the condition of occupation.

SMH 27 Dec 1909

ARRIVALS.-Dec. 25.

Omrah R. M. S. 8282 tons Captain Shelford from London via ports Passengers -For Sydney **Mr. and Miss Boyd and maid** [**NOT OUR BOYDS**]

Email from Elaine Roberts 1 Apr 2012

A few bits and pieces from diaries- Mitch and Tiny were living at 51 Walker Street, North Sydney, in 1910 before they lived in "Kuringai" in Neutral Bay. The address in the 1910 diary in February. I was able to find a picture of it - a most helpful man at the Stanton Library at North Sydney who had helped me find old houses before, told me how to find it. If you are interested I will look for the reference and you can do likewise, or I can send you a copy of it. Later that year, their address was "Kuringai".

SMH 22 Mar 1910

NEUTRAL BAY FLOWER SHOW.

The tenth autumn show of the Neutral Bay Horticultural Society was held in the Watersleigh Hall on Saturday last.

In the members section the following were the prizewinners -Six roses: H. Wright. Three roses (distinct): A Herron 1; **R M Boyd**, 2. Three roses (one variety) : **R M Boyd**. Three carnations: A M Clapin Six cactus dahlias (distinct) W R. Baker 1; H Wright 2.

Four vases pompon dahlias: Frank Osborne, 1; **R M Boyd**, 2.

Six cut flowers: R M Boyd, 1; A M Clapin, 2.

Northern Miner 13 Sep 1910

September 12.-Wodonga, s, Capt G. T. Hall, from Brisbane via ports. Passengers; Messrs ... R. M. Boyd,

Northern Miner 22 Sep 1910

NORTHERN SUPREME COURT.

(Before His Honor Mr. Justice Shand).

IN CHAMBERS

("Townsville Star.") ,

APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE.

In the matter of Gettullo Bonini, Ripple Creek, near Ingham, farmer, insolvent, In forma pauperis, application for certificate of discharge under Section 168, sub-section 2. Mr. G. E. Suthers (Messrs. Connolly and Suthers) appeared for Insolvent. The Official Trustees report was read. The affidavit of the Insolvent set forth that he was adjudicate on the 8th June, 1908, with the Official Trustee (Mr. C. S. Norris) as trustee.

The business was that of cane growing, under contract to supply cane to Wood Bros, and Boyd, Ripple Creek. He bought 35 acres of sugar land from Joseph Baker for £250, at seven years' terms for repayment with interest. He also leased 109 acres at £74 per annum. The crop of cane estimated at 900 tons, only realised 303 tons. He was compelled to re-transfer the properties, and found himself indebted to the sum of £159/11/. and £9/9/ costs. The cause of his in solvency was pressure from mortgagee and landlord. Messrs. Wood Brothers and Boyd were the only creditors who had proved in the estate.

Order: Certificate of discharge granted under section 168 sub-section 2.

Northern Miner 4 Oct 1910

Mr. John Swan passed through yesterday for Ingham with 20 head of draught horses bought by Wood Bros, and Boyd, of Ripple Creek, Ingham The draft was bred by Messrs. Swan and Milwain on Pajingo plantation.

Northern Miner 10 Oct 1910

DEPARTURES. ' .

October 8.-Cooma, s. Captain Gerrit Smith, for Melbourne via ports. Passengers: -..... Messrs R. M. Boyd,..

Northern Miner 14 Oct 1910

Halifax Notes ("Herbert River Express.")

HALIFAX. October 7.

Mr. **R. M. Boyd** (of Wood Bros, and Boyd, of Ripple Creek), passed through Halifax to-day on his way to the South. He said, in the course of a brief conversation, that 500 more laborers were required in the Herbert River district, but could not be got. The district was heavily handicapped in many ways, and would never be what it ought to be until the railway from Townsville to Ingham was an accomplished fact.

SMH 26 Oct 1910

ROSES.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION

St. James s nail exuded fragrance yesterday the occasion being the annual grand rose show of the Horticultural Society of New South Wales.

The alternating hot days and cold spells that have h en the vogue lately affected the blooms somewhat, and as a result the show as a whole was not quite up to last year's standard A large display of hippeastrums from the **nurseries of Messrs H H Bradley and Arthur Yates**, was much admired as were the other spring blooms and orchids. Following are the prize winners -

Division B -18 roses: W C M Kay 1. 12 roses: H. J Emert, 1 ; W. C McKay, 2 ; **R M Boyd** h c. 6 roses: **R. M. Boyd** 1; W C McKay 2. 3 roses: **R M. Boyd**, 1 W C McKay 2. 3 light roses: W C M Kay 1; **R. M Boyd**, 2. 3 dark roses W C McKay 1; **R. M Boyd** 2.

Division D - Six vases of sweet peas: R Davidson Roseville 1; **R M Boyd** 2. ..

In the non competitive displays Messrs Arthur Yates and **H H B Bradley** were awarded cultural certificates

RMB's Will was executed 27 Feb 1911

JAB Diaries

3 Jul 1911 Mitch and Archie shooting gill birds and Bell parrots in morning and speared 5 bream this afternoon

4 Jul 1911. Archie and Mitch went fishing off the rock and caught 3 leatherjackets and speared 3 bream and brought home some salmon from the net fishers. Mr. and Mrs. Walcott came for cribbage tonight.

Mitch and Archie went round the rocks but caught nothing. Mr. Downton called for lunch, Barlow this afternoon. I have a heavy cold and headache.

6 Jul 1911 Mitch spent the day in town. Charlie Solomon called this morning. Mitch collected the (undelivered) Daily Telegraph on enquiring at the Post Office.

7 Jul 1911. Up early to go shooting at Boyd town but raining and Barlow did not bring the trap.

8 Jul 1911. Went with Barlow, Mitch and Archie to Boyd town, shot 79 gill birds and 2 rabbits.

9 Jul 1911. Mitch left at 6:30am by "Sydney".

SMH 9 Dec 1911

FOR SALE, STEAMER, carries 85 tons, on 6ft draught; speed 8 knots, on two tons coal a day; two hatches and winches: large iron water-ballast tank; good sea boat; specially built by owner for northern coastal trade. Apply **R. BOYD**, Royal Exchange.

SMH 13 Dec 1911

WOMEN AND THE INCOME TAX.

Mr. **R. M. Boyd** has handed us an instructive statement, compiled by himself, from the reports and balance-sheets of the various companies mentioned, which shows the heavy percentage of holdings by women.

Bank of New South Wales, number of shareholders 3330, no of shareholders women 1428, percentage women, 43.

Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, number of shareholders 1540, no shareholders women 620, percentage of women, 40.

Australian Gas Company, number of shareholders 1535; number of shareholders women 704, percentage women, 49.

Sydney Ferries Company, number of shareholders 613, number of shareholders women 240, percentage women, 40.

North Coast Steam Company, number of shareholders 608, number of shareholders women 241, percentage of women, 40.

Hunter River S.S. Company, number of shareholders 643, number of shareholders women 205, percentage of women, 30. Out of these 643 shareholders, 600 receive dividends of £30, or under, the dividend being 6 per cent, on face value.

In the Sydney Ferries, 460 shareholders, or 77 per cent, receive dividends (10 per cent on face value) of £50 and under, and 390, or 62 per cent, only receive £30 or under.

From the above we find, out of a total of 8269 shareholders' accounts, 3500 women have Interests, or 42 per cent.

The above facts are an interesting addition to those given by **Mr. Edw. W. Knox** recently.

SMH 13 Jan 1912

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE SYDNEY FERRIES LIMITED

I am a CANDIDATE for a seat on the Board of Directors in the SYDNEY FERRIES, Limited

ROBERT MITCHELL BOYD.

Kurringai, Neutral Bay.

SMH 24 Jan 1912

SYDNEY FERRIES LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given that the 4th Half yearly MEETING (the 67th of the old Company) will be held at the Company s Offices No 2 Jetty Circular Quay on WEDNESDAY 31st day of January 1912 at 2 30 p m.-To receive the Directors Report and Balance sheet to 31st December 1911 to elect two Directors in lieu of John Dalglish Esq. and Dr J R M Robertson

and one auditor in lieu of Mr. David Fell FCPA all of whom retire but are eligible for re-election and have given the requisite notices. **Mr. Robert Mitchell Boyd** has also given notice of his candidature for the position of Director. And to transact such other business as may be brought forward at the Meeting in terms of the Articles of Association.

By order of the Board

January 5th 1912. W G TODD Manager

SMH 21 Feb 1912

WEDDINGS. I

Parry-Okeden - Parry-Okeden.

A very pretty wedding took place at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, on February 17, and was of interest to a large circle of friends in Queensland. The bridegroom was Mr. Edmund Robert Parry-Okeden, M.A., of West Lodge, Dorset, England, and third son of the late Mr. William Parry-Okeden, J P , Turnworth, Dorset, England, and the bride Miss Evelyn Constance Parry-Okeden, third daughter of Mr. W E Parry-Okeden, I.S.O, of Delamore, Kedron, Brisbane. The Rev Mr. Wilton performed the ceremony. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a beautiful gown of palest gray marquisette made over soft white satin with a short apron tunic, the Magyar bodice was arranged with small vest and short sleeves, of steel net lined with white ninon and ornamented with Oriental embroidery. Her hat of gray Tegal straw was lined with pale pink satin and trimmed with shaded roses. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Parry-Okeden held a reception at Petty's Hotel, where only relatives and a few old friends of the family were present. Mrs. Parry-Okeden wore a handsome gown of black embroidered ninon over satin and a toque to harmonise. The guests included Mrs. Cope, sen., Dr and Mrs. H. Roger Cope, Mrs. H.R. Cope (the bride's sister) Miss McKenny (cousin), Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Wentworth, **Mr., Mrs. and Miss Boyd**, Mr. and Mrs. Craig, Mr. and Mrs. McNeil, Miss Holt, Mr. Sidney Hudson. Later in the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Parry-Okeden left for the Blue Mountains, when Mrs. Parry-Okeden wore a dainty gown of soft gray embroidered voile, and a gray picture hat lined with pink roses. Mr. and Mrs. Parry-Okeden will leave for England via Brisbane, Singapore, and Java at the beginning of March. Some of the dresses worn at the wedding were from the establishment of Finney, Isles, & Co., Ltd

Townsville Daily 24 Feb 1912

FEDERAL SUGAR COMMISSION.

SYDNEY SITTINGS. (By Telegraph.)

SYDNEY, February 23.

At the sitting of the Sugar Commission to-day William Ambrose Davis, manager for Toohey Ltd., and Mr. Geo. Stedman, of Stedman Ltd., said they were quite satisfied with the way the C.S.R. Co. treated them.

Arthur Wm. Tooth, of Tooth and Co., said his firm used from 2000 to 2500 tons per year of Java, Mauritius, and China sugar in preference to the local article. Benjamin Lewis, Secretary of the Pyrmont Sugar Workers' Union, said there were times when the employees of the C.S.R. Co. had been dismissed instantly for refusing to handle cargo that had been loaded in Queensland by free laborers during the sugar strike. Men had to work at the refineries in a semi-nude state, and this led to serious acts of indecency.

Thos. Joseph Casey, Secretary of Dalton Bros., Ltd., Orange, said his firm used from 300 to 400 tons of sugar annually. It purchased from whomever It could. The C.S.R. would not supply the country trader, and his firm used to buy direct from the sugar company in conjunction with Dalton and Coy., Sydney. About two years ago his firm received an intimation from the C.S.R. Co. that these arrangements would have to cease. **Robert Mitchell Boyd**, said he was connected with the sugar Industry up to 1908. Where white labor was employed the cost to the owner of a plantation ran up to something like- 7s per man per day, and the average cost of cultivation and harvesting amounted to £1 7s 8½d, as against 9s 8d, when black labor was utilised. Mr. McGown, agent for Messrs Young of Fairymead, Bundaberg, said that the protective duty should be increased to £8 to make up for some of the extra cost of white labor. Mr. John Musgrave, Sydney, Inspector of Excise, said that the cost of supervision of the bounties in New South Wales last year was £45,700. The Commission adjourned till Monday.

SMH 24 Feb 1912

SUGAR COMMISSION.

LOCAL COMPETITION. UNION SECRETARY EXAMINED. TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES.

WHITE v COLOURED LABOUR.

Robert Mitchell Boyd said that he was connected with the sugar Industry up till 1908. The plantation in which he had been interested was on the Herbert River, and his experience extended over something like 39 years. In 1905 he had 591 acres under crop, from which he reaped 7595 tons of cane, or approximately 15 tons an acre. The average number of acres he had under crop for the four years 1903-4-5 and 6 was about 612, and the average annual yield for that period was 6782 tons of cane, or a little over 11 tons to the acre. The average number of coloured men engaged in wooding and keeping the cane clean was 34.39 per acre. The average cost for these men, including rations at 1s a day, was 2s 6d a day. Therefore, the total cost of cultivation was £4 5s 2d per acre, or approximately 7s 8d per ton. Added to this was the average cost of harvesting, viz., 3s a ton, bringing the cost up to 9s 8d a ton. For white labour, where the cost to the owner of the plantation ran, out to something like 7s a man a day, the average cost of cultivation and harvesting I would be £1 7s 8½d. as against 9s 8d when coloured labour was utilised.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner 7 Mar 1912

A Sugar Planter's Experience

Mr. **R. M. Boyd** writes to a Sydney daily, with reference to his evidence before the Sugar Commission, that he did not state that mill white sugar could be landed in Sydney at £7 per

ton, but that the cost of marketing amounted to that sum.. The wages of the white man whom he mentioned as having saved £500 were 25s per week. The £100,000 capital put into the business included working capital of £20,000. The plantation was worked for 25 years, and the average profits for 15 years were £6000 per year. With the loss of the kanaka labour, the average profits from crops in 1905 and 1906 came to under £2500 per annum. The minimum wage was again increased in 1907, and a further £1 per ton excise duty imposed by the Federal Government on the mill owner. When this was done, he considered it about time to get out of the sugar business, under conditions imposed by the Federal Legislature, as every other private mill owner in tropical Queensland had done before him. If the Government wished, the northern coastal agricultural lands to be settled and cultivated by white farmers and workers, so that they might make a comfortable living and good wages, as they should do in such a climate, then the protection to the industry against black grown sugar must be increased from £6 to £8 per ton.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 25 Mar 1912

Visitors for the week at Lowth's Hotel Include-.**Mr. and Mrs. Boyd**, [*AHB and Bessie, or RMB and Emily?*]

SMH 1 Apr 1912

NEUTRAL BAY FLOWER SHOW.

The autumn show of the Neutral Bay Horticultural Society was held at the Warringah Hall, Neutral Bay on Saturday, and was well attended. The display of blooms was excellent, especially in the cactus dahlia and rose sections. A special certificate was awarded to Messrs. Lovegrove and Son for a beautiful non competitive collection of sweet peas. Mr. K. Harris staged the champion cactus dahlia, an "H. H. Thomas," which was greatly admired. The champion rose was a fine specimen, "Prince Camille M. Rohan" shown by **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, while Mr. A. M. Clipin staged the champion carnation. Messrs Grant and Ward were the judges, and made the following awards -

Members' Section -Six distinct roses: **R.M. Boyd** 1; W.H. Forrest 2. Three distinct roses: L.H. Newman 1; **R.M. Boyd** 2.

Ladies Section -Best decorated dinner table arranged with flowers and foliage in vases: Miss Wright 1; **Miss Boyd** 2.

Miscellaneous Section -Three foliage plants: **R.M. Boyd** 1; Rev. R. H Waugh 2.

SMH 15 May 1912

EXHIBITION OF BLOOMS.

The Horticultural Society of New South Wales held its monthly exhibition of blooms at the Congregational Hall last night. There was a very fine display, especially of orchids, pentsternons, roses, etc. Mr. A. Yates was the principal winner with orchids of the cypripedium variety. In roses Mr. **M. Boyd**, of Neutral Hay, won for six roses, with Mr. Newman second.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 17 May 1912

Mr **R. M. Boyd** (Ripple Creek), and Mr and Mrs A. Boyd arrived from Ingham on Friday last on their way south.

Email from Elaine Roberts 6 Jun 2012

It is interesting how JA and Mitch were such good growers of roses - I expect it all goes back to Weymouth. On every visit to England I have always admired the roses growing in every district in people's front gardens. There were the most brilliant and unusual colours in suburban gardens when we walked from the caravan park at Abbey Wood to the tube station and every park seemed to have a rose garden featured.

JA Boyd's diaries

29 Jun 1912	Mitch came about 9pm. Archbolds at dinner to eat swan.
01 Jul 1912	Mitch and Archie went for Wonga – got some. Connor called in the afternoon.
02 Jul 1912	Mitch, Archie and Archbold after gill birds – shot 41.
03 Jul 1912	Connor drove Mitch to his place this afternoon – Jenkins brought him home.
05 Jul 1912	Mitch drove out to Connor's.
07 Jul 1912	Mitch brought in a tame black kitten that came to him on the road.
09 Jul 1912	Mitch went to Connor's
10 Jul 1912	Mitch out with Barlow and Johnson in the latter's motor car.
11 Jul 1912	Connor here this afternoon, he and Barlow at dinner.
12 Jul 1912	Archie and Mitch went across the lake this afternoon but only got a rabbit.
13 Jul 1912	Whales. Mitch saw a fine chase today and 2 were killed.
15 Jul 1912	Mitch and Jeanie went to town.
16 Jul 1912	Mitch went to Connors.
17 Jul 1912	Mitch left by motor at 4pm.

Brisbane Courier 29 Jul 1912

DEPARTURES July 27-WYANDRA, 4053 tons, Capt W. G. Thompson, for Syd. and Melb. Passengers . Messrs....., **Boyd**, [RMB?]

Brisbane Courier 26 Sep 1912

OVERLAND PASSENGERS. WALLANGARRA, September 25

To Brisbane: **Messrs. ..., Boyd, .., Mesdames ..., Boyd,**

Northern Miner 15 Nov 1912

A meeting of Ripple Creek and North Gairloch farmers was held in Messrs **Wood Bros, and Boyd's** old office, Ripple Creek, on Thursday night 7th inst. There were fifteen farmers present, Mr. D. Walker occupying the chair. It was decided that, a contribution equal to 6d per acre on the cane contract area be made this year by each farmer towards the beetle destruction fund, and an order authorising the C.S.R. Coy. to deduct this amount from the 1912 crop returns was signed by all present, with the exception of one, who, apparently, while desiring the destruction of the beetle, prefers to let the other fellow pay for it. It was resolved by those present to form an association to be known as "The Ripple Creek Farmers' Association," and through the Herbert River Farmers' League to affiliate with and contribute to the Australian Sugar Producers' Association. Mr. W Goodacre was appointed hon. secretary. Mr. W. Walker

treasurer, and Messrs W. Goodacre and J. W. Grimes delegates to the League. The membership fee was fixed at 2/6.

JA Boyd's diary entries

16 Nov 1912 Letter from Tiny saying Mitch ill, a wire in reply to mine stating he was a little better. Telegram from Tiny saying "Mitch sick". Replied "Leaving on Saturday"

17 Nov 1912 Letter to Hought Bradley – Am worried about Mitch, he seems seriously out of sorts.

Telegram to Tiny – Please wire how Mitch is getting on

Telegram to Tiny – Very anxious, please wire me daily.

Telegram to Tiny – Glad good news, keep me posted daily, don't forget to wire.

Telegram to Mitch – Delighted at improvement, please wire me daily, wish I could help you, Best Love

18 Nov 1912 Telegram from Tiny saying Mitch was about the same.

20 Nov 1912 Telegrams to and from Tiny- Mitch better.

21 Nov 1912 Telegram from tiny – Mitch the same.

23 Nov 1912 JAB left Eden for Sydney to visit Mitch

24 Nov 1912 Went to see Mitch. Was only allowed to see him for a few minutes.

25 Nov 1912 Mitch looks better than he did yesterday

26 Nov 1912 With Mitch most of afternoon.

27 Nov 1912 Went to Mitch's. Tonight Connor took girls to P. show. (Ella and 2 girls from Fiji, who were going to Eden).

28 Nov-1 Dec 1912 No entries. [ER. Over these 3 days JAB returned to Eden with Rosie and Winnie Harris from Fiji]

02 Dec 1912 Telegraphed Tiny re Mitch, he seems a little stronger

03 Dec 1912 Telegrams from Bradley, Archie saying Mitch is dying.

Telegram to Hought Bradley. Thanks for wire. Very rough. I should have trod this road first. Console Tiny and Ella in their trouble.

Telegram to Hought Bradley. Not coming, could not reach Sydney till Thursday night, too late to do good.

04 Dec 1912 Mitch died this morning.

Australia Death Index 1787-1985 (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Robert M Boyd
Death Date:	[4 Dec] 1912
Death Place:	New South Wales
Father's Name:	Sprott
Mother's Name:	Catherine
Registration Year:	1912
Registration Place:	St Leonards, New South Wales
Registration number:	17928

SMH 5 Dec 1912

DEATHS

BOYD – On 4th inst, at his residence Kuringai, Ben Boyd Road, Neutral Bay, Robert Mitchell, aged 64 years, second son of the late Sprott Boyd M.D.

SMH and Daily Telegraph 5 Dec 1912

FUNERALS.

BOYD. -The Funeral of the late Mr. **ROBERT MITCHELL BOYD** will leave his late residence, 'Kuringai', Ben Boyd-road, Neutral Bay, at 12.30 o'clock, arriving at Fort Macquarie about 2 o'clock, thence to Waverley Cemetery. By request, no flowers. WOOD, COFFILL, and COMPANY, LTD.

Letter to Elaine Roberts from the Council of Municipality of Waverley

15 May 1991

Mrs. E. Roberts
22 Ruskin Row
Avalon Beach NSW 2107
Dear Mrs. Roberts

In reply to your letter dated 10th May 1991 Council has conducted a search of its Cemetery Records. The following information has been found:-

NAME	AGE	DATE OF INTERMENT	GRAVE NO	SECTION
Robert Mitchell Boyd	-	5.12.1912	6080	C/Eng Spec. Section 19
E. Boyd (Ashes)	91	30.11.1954	6080	C/Eng Spec. Section 19

Enclosed are maps detailing the location of the grave within the Waverley Cemetery

Yours faithfully Chris Sargent, Administrative Assistant.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 10 Dec 1912

Personal. -

Mr. **R. M. Boyd**, one time a well known planter in the Herbert River district, died in Sydney last week.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 12 Dec 1912, Northern Miner 13 Dec 1912

Personal.

Writing of the death of **Mr. R. M. Boyd**, the 'Herbert River Express' says:— After an illness lasting for some time there was removed from the list of pioneers of the sugar industry one whose name has been connected with it in this district as far back as the beginning of the eighties. We refer to the death of Mr. Robert Mitchell **Boyd**, who passed away at his residence, North Sydney, Wednesday morning last at the age of 65 years. Deceased came to this district in 1882 and took up the present Ripple Creek estate for the purpose of embarking in the industry of sugar growing and manufacture. Two years later the Ripple Creek mill was an accomplished fact, and its operations were successfully carried under Mr. **Boyd's**

management for nearly a quarter of a century— the refined sugars of Messrs Wood Bros and **Boyd** having gained popular favour right through out Australia. With the advent of the White Australia policy and drastic legislation in connection with the sugar industry, Messrs Wood Bros. and **Boyd** decided to relinquish the manufacture of sugar, and five years ago disposed of their Interests in the mill to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, who immediately dismantled the structure. After disposing of their manufacturing interests, Mr. **Boyd** took a long tour of the Continent, returning to Queensland looking much improved in health. He afterwards visited and revisited the district, and his friends looked upon him as a much improved man. He eventually settled down at North Sydney with his family, and some time ago was struck low with an internal complaint. Despite the very best that the medical skill of five practitioners could do for him— included amongst whom was Dr W. C. C. MacDonald (recently of Ingham)— it was of no avail, and he passed away at an early hour on Wednesday. **Mr. Archie Boyd**, of 'The Palms' Ripple Creek, left hurriedly on Sunday morning last to be at his father's bed side, but despite his efforts to reach there by the fastest routes he arrived too late to witness his father's death. Deceased leaves a widow and two sons and one daughter.

Northern Miner 19 Dec 1912

HERBERT RIVER NOTES.

(For the "N.Q. Register.")

INGHAM, December 11.

Mr. **R. M. Boyd**, one of the old pioneers of this district, died in Sydney last week. His son, **Mr. A. H. Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, who was hastening to his father's side, arrived too late to see him alive.

Northern Miner 20 Jan 1913

HERBERT RIVER NOTES.

(For the N.Q. Register.) INGHAM, January 18.

Mr. T. Thomson, who recently took over the sawmill in the Pocket, has now decided to further improve the plant by installing a breaking down saw, capable of taking logs up to 2ft. 6in. in diameter. Mr. Thomson has secured the necessary machinery from **Messrs. Wood Bros., and Boyd**, of Ripple Creek, and the brothers Venables are now busily engaged erecting it.

SMH 8 Feb 1913

LAW REPORT.

PROBATE COURT.

The following probates and letters of administration were granted by the Registrar of Probates during the past week -....., **Robert M Boyd**,

Riverside Reflections memoirs of Lugarno. Glenyss Barnham pp39

“Records show that Emily Boyd purchased the land at Lugarno on **2 April 1913**, following the probate of the will of **Robert Mitchell Boyd** in February of the same year. Isabella’s share of her father’s inheritance was held in trust for her until February 1927 when it came into her ownership.”

SMH 13 May 1913

Stamp Duty.-During the past week £7413 was paid at the stamp office in connection with the estates of deceased persons. Of this sum, the estate of the late Mary Dalton, spinster, of Duntry League, near Orange, paid £1148, and the estate of **Robert Mitchell Boyd**, sugar planter, late of Neutral Bay, which was sworn at £55,151, paid £4191.

Townsville Daily Bulletin, Cairns Post, SMH & Brisbane Courier 14 May 1913, (et.al)

NEW SOUTH WALES. SYDNEY, May 13. **Robert Mitchell Boyd**, formerly a sugar planter on the Herbert River, Queensland, who died recently at his residence, Neutral Bay, left property to the value of £55,151. The executors and trustees of the estate, according to the terms of the will, are:— **Emily Boyd** (testator's wife), his brother-in-law, Henry Houghton Bradley, and his son **William Sprott Boyd**. The testator directed that, the proceeds of his life assurance policies should be devoted to the use of his wife, and after her death, with a small exception, to the children in equal shares. The settlement conferred upon his first wife he directed should go to his children, **William S. Boyd**, **Ella S. Boyd**, and **A. H. Boyd**. His daughter receives £10,000. and sons, **W. S. Boyd** and **A. H. Boyd**, £20,000 in equal shares. The remainder of the estate is left in trust for the use of testator's wife and daughter. To his nephews, Reginald and Archibald, he left £50 each.

Northern Miner 12 Mar 1914

SUGAR MILLS

The density result will be very hard owned by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. The Macknade Mill is situated about five miles up the river on the northern bank, and is modern in all respects, capable of handling about 90,000 tons in an ordinary season. The lands around Macknade have been growing cane for about 30 years, and still give profitable yields. A few years back the Company built a light line (after they had purchased Wood Bros, and Boyd's **Ripple Creek Mill**), through Ripple Creek, and on to Elma Grove, about 18 miles from Macknade, and lands along its route are being developed, there still remains quite 12,000 cane supplies from the Macknade area and along the northern bank of the Herbert River as far as Elma Grove, also from Halifax farms.

Brisbane Courier 17 Jun 1914

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION

Robt. Mitchell Boyd, of Kuringgar Ben, Boyd-road, Neutral Bay, North Sydney, formerly of Ripple Creek Herbert River, sugar planter; died December 4, 1912, realty £67 personalty £2945. Reseal of probate to **Emily Boyd**, of Kuringgar, widow, and Henry H B Bradley, of Sydney, solicitor, executors to whom probate was granted

SMH 16 Nov 1914

DEDICATING A MEMORIAL.

The work of restoration at St. Thomas's Church, North Sydney, which was undertaken in June last, is practically complete. Encaustic tiles have been laid down in the main aisle and passages, the fabric has been thoroughly repaired, and during the present week the whole of the seating accommodation will be replaced with handsome oak seats of a uniform character.

On Saturday evening, at the first evensong of the dedication festival, the new altar, which has been erected to the memory of the late Mr. **Robert Mitchell Boyd** by his wife and family, was dedicated by Bishop Stone-Wigg. The new altar is of Gothic design, and is richly carved in dark oak. At yesterday morning's service a notable feature was introduced in the choral eucharist by the rendering of Palestrina's communion office, "Aeterna Christi Munera," Mr. E. J. Robinson presiding at the organ. The Rev. W. F. Wentworth-Sheilds was the preacher. At festival evensong, the rector, the Rev. Horace Crotty, M.A., occupied the pulpit. The recent alterations and additions are to be dedicated by the Archbishop on Sunday next.

Letter (undated) to Elaine Roberts from someone at St Thomas'

Dear Mrs. Roberts,

Thank you for your letter enquiring about the altar at St. Thomas' – it was given in memory of **Robert Mitchell Boyd** by his wife and family. There is no record of either of them having been buried at St. Thomas'.

The inscription on a small brass plate on the right hand side when one faces the altar reads as follows:

“In Memoriam
Robert Mitchell Boyd
who departed this life
4th December 1912
In the Faith and Fear of God
Erected by his wife and family
Blessed are the pure in heart
For they shall see our Lord. Matthew 5:6”

Publication describing St. Thomas' attached to the above letter

“Above the oak altar (given in 1915 as a memorial to **Robert Mitchell Boyd** by his wife) is the east window which is memorial to the first rector of this parish, the Rev. W.B. Clarke. It bears an incorrect date of death.”

Townsville Daily Bulletin 15 Dec 1914

Legal Notices

TRANSMISSION BY DEATH.

REAL PROPERTY ACTS OF 1861 AND 1877

NOTICE has hereby been given that application has been made for the Registration of Transmission of Title to the Lands hereinafter mentioned. Particulars of such application are given below, and any person desiring to oppose must do so by lodging a caveat on or before the day specified, at the Office of the Registrar of Titles in Townsville.

Name of Deceased Proprietor - **Robert Mitchell Boyd**, late of North Sydney, New South Wales, formerly of Ripple Creek. Herbert River, sugar- planter

Description and Situation of Land Portion 500, subdivisions 7 to 16. of section 8. subdivisions 1 to 5, and 6 to 10 of section 9, subdivision. 1 to 14 and 19 to 32 of section 10. subdivisions 1 to 10 and 13 to 24 of section 11, subdivisions 1, 3 and 9 of section 2, and subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 5, all of portion 197; subdivision 28 of section 14, of subdivision 1 of portion 1a, county of Elphinstone, parish of Coonambelan.

Estate claimed to be Transmitted Fee simple.

Particulars of Will or otherwise. Will dated February 22, 1911.

Date within which caveat may be lodged. January 31, 1915.

J. MITCHELL. Registrar or Titles.

Registrar of Titles Office. Brisbane, December 12. 1914.

Osborne and Waugh, solicitors for applicants, Brisbane.

By: Roberts, Leu and Barnett, solicitors. Townsville.

Brisbane Courier 19 Jul 1915

Legal Notices

Name of Deceased Proprietor.-Francis Cashel (or Cachel) Gardiner, late of Ripple Creek, near Ingham.

Date of Death.-18th March, 1914.

Name of Claimant.-William Walker, of Ripple Creek aforesaid, plantation manager.

Description and Situation of Land. Allotments 2, 4, 5, and 10 of section J 5, allotments 1, 3, and 4 of section 17, and allotment 9 of section 18, town of Ingham subdivisions 1, 2, 4, to 13, and 14 of section 1, subdivisions 1, 2, 4 to 12, 15 to 22, 25 and 20 of section 4, subdivisions 7, 8, 10 to 15 of section 5, subdivisions 1 to 4, 7 to 10, 12 to 18, 18 to 22. of section G, subdivisions 1 to 8, 11 to 14 of section 7, subdivisions 1 to 10, 17 to 22 of section S, subdivisions 1 to 16 of section 12, section 13, subdivisions 1, 2, 5 to 9, 11 to 14, 16, and 17 of section 14, and subdivisions 11 to 14 of section 15 of portion 197, allotments 1 and 2 of suburban section 1, allotments 1 and 2 of suburban section 2, allotments 2, 3, and 4 of suburban section 3, and allotments 3 and 4 of suburban section 4, and portions 420 and 400, and subdivi-.....

Northern Herald 13 Aug 1915

Not far from Seymour is historic Ripple Creek estate, historic because here the first sugar mill of Queensland was built. At present very little of the old mill stands, land it has long since been dismantled. The Estate is made up of a series of extensive farms, all of very rich lands and under most capable management.

Townsville Daily Bulletin 2 Jun 1916

Sugar Mill Commission.

APPLICATION FOR A CENTRAL SUGAR MILL AT LONG POCKET INGHAM.

.....Do you think there is any possibility of land which it at pre sent supplying cane to your mill going out of cultivation or of producing smaller crops, thereby compelling you to extend your operation into long pocket; for instance the lands on the Seymour River are new lands, are they not?— Some of them have been cropped for Ripple Creek Mill for years. They are fairly new as far as our mill is concerned. By Mr. Easterby: There was some cane land brought in by Wood Brothers and Boyd at Tara? - That is really an extension of the Hawkins Creek area. We extended through the Ripple Creek area, taking all Wood Brothers and Boyd's property, and from there we went right on to Hawkins' Creek, right up to portion 298.

.....

Cairns Post 11 Oct 1918

The **Ripple Creek plantation is now almost wholly in the hands of Italians**; who are a much better class than many of the other nationalities represented. The Ripple Creek lands require liming and green manuring.

The Australasian 28 Dec 1918

SNAKE CHARMERS.

There-used to be several snake charmers on the sugar plantations in those days, mostly Indians, Javanese, and Malays. The Chinese did not make pets of snakes, and although there might be one or two Europeans more enterprising than their fellows in displaying their skill in catching and killing snakes, more especially about Halifax, on the Herbert River, I did not hear of one who could lay claim to such a wide won reputation as that eccentric person age Morrissy, of Victoria, who claimed to have found a never-failing antidote for snakebite, and who gave practical demonstrations on his own person as to how poisonous snakebites should be treated. I was on one occasion present at the death of a snake charmer at **Ripple Creek** plantation, on the Herbert River, in **1886**. This man, a native of Ceylon, had a dozen pet snakes which he carried about with him to and from work on the cane fields. Whilst playing with them at the midday smoke-oh, he snatched at something, a piece of rag or cloth, towards which a large brown snake was advancing. It bit him. The man grabbed it at once, forced its mouth open, and drew out its fangs. The effect of the bite soon became apparent, and the man grew drowsy. A doctor was in attendance that day at the plantation hospital, so his services were at once requisitioned. Neither he, nor the man's mates, could ever rouse the poor fellow properly, though by means of artificial respiration they kept him alive beyond sundown. The man's fellow countrymen were quite certain that, if the victim could be awakened sufficiently to kill the snake before sundown, his own life would be saved, so all the time they kept the offending snake within reach until after sundown. Then, when the man was pronounced dead, there was a general slaughter of all the snakes, and the lot were buried with their late master.

SMH 21 Mar 1919

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 SUPREME COURT.

Probate Jurisdiction - Before the First Clerk-To pass accounts ; .. **10.45 R M Boyd**,

SMH 6 Jul 1920

IN EQUITY. '

Probate Jurisdiction.-Before the First Clerk.-To pass accounts: At 10.30, **R. M. Boyd**;

SMH 16 Dec 1932

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES-Probate Jurisdiction - In the Estate of **ROBERT MITCHELL BOYD** late of Neutral Bay in the State of New South Wales formerly of Ripple Creek In the State of Queensland Sugar Planter deceased. -Notice Is hereby given that the Sixteenth Accounts and Plan of Distribution in the above Estate have this day been filed in my office Chancery square Sydney and all persons having any claim on the said Estate or being otherwise interested therein are hereby required to come in before me at my said office on or before the first day of February 1932 at 11.45 o'clock in the forenoon

and inspect the same and if they shall think fit object thereto otherwise if the said Accounts be not objected to, the same will be examined by me and passed according to law. And Notice is also hereby given that on the allowance of the said Accounts by the Court commission will be applied for on behalf of the said Trustees. Dated this 15th day of December In the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty two CHAS F BUTCHART (LS) Deputy Registrar.
BRADLEY SON MAUGHAN HYMAN and KIRKPATRICK Solicitors for the Trustees 27 Hunter street Sydney.

SMH 1 Feb 1933

SUPREME COURT.

In Probate.-Before the First Clerk. To Pass Accounts: re **R. M. Boyd**, deed., at 11.45 a.m.

SMH 16 Jan 1941

State Jurisdiction, Supreme Court

IN PROBATE

Before the Second Clerk -To pass accounts **RM Boyd** deceased at 12 noon

SMH 5 Jan 1943

LAW NOTICES

IN PROBATE: Registrar -10 30 Re **R M Boyd**

SMH 12 Apr 1945

Law Notices For To-day

IN PROBATE.

Third Clerk.-**R. M. Boyd**, deceased, at 10.15;

SMH 3 May 1945

LAW NOTICES. PROBATE

Registrar.-10.30. No. 5 Court. Elisabeth St:**R. M. Boyd**, deed.:

SMH 5 Nov 1945

IN the Will of **ROBERT MITCHELL BOYD** late of Neutral Bay near Sydney in the State of New South Wales formerly of Ripple Creek in the State of Queensland Sugar Planter deceased. Notice is hereby given that the 26th Accounts in the above Estate have this day been filed in my office Supreme Court Sydney and all persons having any claim on the said Estate or being otherwise interested therein are hereby required to come in before me at my said office on or before the 7th December 1945 at 11.15 o'clock in the fore- noon and Inspect the same and If they shall think fit object thereto and if the said Accounts be not objected to the same will be examined by me and passed according to law And Notice is also hereby

given that on the allowance of the said Accounts by the Court commission will be applied for on behalf of the said Trustees. Dated at Sydney this 2nd November 1945. Chas. E. Butchart (L.S.) Registrar. Bradley Son & Maughan, Solicitors for the Trustees. 27 Hunter Street. Sydney.

SMH 20 Nov 1947

LAW NOTICES FOR TO-DAY

IN PROBATE

Registrar-No 5 Court Elizabeth St 10.30 am-to pass accounts and for commission ; **R M Boyd**

SMH 22 May 1951

LAW NOTICES FOR TO-DAY

IN PROBATE

Third Clerk -To pass accounts **R M Boyd** deed at 10.30

1 Aug 1978 Letter to GBC re Estate of RMB

1st August, 1978.

G.B. Connor, Esq.,
C/- Zinc Corporation Limited,
BROKEN HILL. N.S.W. 2880

Dear Sir,

RE: R.M. Boyd Residuary Estate

Since July, 1968 we have been holding in our trust account moneys from the trust account of the former practice Bradley, Maughan and Cutler which merged with this practice some five years before that date.

The only substantial amount among those held was \$862.01 credited to R.M. Boyd Residuary Estate in 1959.

Through Mr. C.J.S. Cutler, a former partner of this firm who retired on 31st March, 1975 we were able to contact Mrs. C.N. Maddocks and Mrs. C.E. Pearson who informed us that you and Mrs. Maddocks were the surviving trustees of the estate and the three of you were equal residuary beneficiaries.

We are therefore forwarding you a cheque for \$287.34 representing one-third of the amount held.

Yours faithfully,
CUTLER, HUGHES & HARRIS



Enc.

R.J.M. NOLAN