

completely stupefied when I remembered that, as far as I know, the R.C. ^{is} was not coming in the immediate future. Matter concerned rations, as usual, & as I was in bed & feeling ill, left it over until tomorrow.

11th JANUARY, SATURDAY.

Faint N. to N.W. breeze. Very hot - sunshine all day.
Rainfall '015" - one short shower.

Attended first thing to matter of deputation which called last night. This apparently consisted of Teibi, Romten, Buake, Tabuortu, Tiaan, Iete, Ulla, Taburimai, and Abera. They wished to ask whether I would have any objection to their raising matter of inadequate rations direct with R.C., if he comes. I replied that I had no objection & that, even if I had, there was no reason why they should not bring the matter up. I promised my support in the application & warned them to think out their case properly & try to give facts & figures. Barely stating that there was not enough to eat would most probably only bring the reply that the R.C. did not notice very many starved looking individuals in the gathering.

I now hear that this deputation came to me after a rather stormy meeting in the N.H.'s house on this question of rations. N.H. & remainder of labourers (Mitata, Urian, ^{Iobi} Komorie, Babera & Hereke - ~~three~~ Rercia did not attend) counselled leaving matter to A.O., who had already stated that R.C. had refused extra Christmas rations; A.O. had stated that he would take up matter again when possible etc.

[Note - I can see no reason why