

1872.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

JOURNAL

OF PROCEEDINGS OF AN

EXPLORING EXPEDITION

TO THE EASTWARD AND SOUTHWARD OF

THE HAMPTON PLAINS,

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF

MR. ALEXANDER FORREST,  
SURVEYOR,

5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST TO 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER, 1871.

*Presented to the Legislative Council by His Excellency's Command.*

PERTH:

BY AUTHORITY: RICHARD PETHER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1872.

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SURVEYOR, 5th AUGUST TO 22nd NOVEMBER, 1871.

TO THE HON. MALCOLM FRASER, ESQUIRE,  
SURVEYOR GENERAL, ETC., ETC., ETC.,

SIR,—

*Perth, December 7, 1871.*

I have the honor to submit, for your information, a diary of my proceedings while engaged in exploring the country to the Eastward and Southward of the Hampton Plains, and will preface it by a brief account of the character of country travelled over by me.

The country between York and the Hampton Plains is generally covered by thickets, with grass in patches round the granite rocks. The plains contain about 800,000 acres of pastoral land, one half of which may be considered of fine quality, but the whole area is entirely destitute of permanent water, and even if wells were sunk, I am of opinion that a distance of at least from 150 to 200 feet would have to be gone, and then perhaps only salt water found. From thence to the Eastward the country is very patchy, and I found thickets generally round any good land that I saw.

Continuing on to Israelite Bay, the country is still a dense thicket, excepting a patch of from twenty to thirty thousand acres, situated in South latitude 31 deg. 52 min. and longitude 122 deg. 4 min. East.

From Israelite Bay to Esperance Bay, along the sea coast, the country is very poor; and, unless on the banks of the rivers, no grass is seen. The country at or near Esperance Bay is considered good, but I am sorry to say that there is no extent of good pastoral country vacant about here. Esperance Bay itself forms an excellent harbour, and ships may lie quite close to the shore without the least danger, as the large number of islands outside prevents any great sea from coming in. Between Esperance Bay and Jerramungup (Hassell's Station) there are several small patches of good land, but these are, I believe, all taken up.

In reference to the objects of the Expedition, I may say, that although I have not been able to carry out my instructions literally, yet I have done what the York settlers particularly wished me to do—that is, to explore the country Eastward and Southward of the Hampton Plains. I am sorry to say no good country was found. If I had been sent out in March, I could, without the least difficulty, have got to Eucla; and should the Government ever send me out again, I suggest that the Murchison be the starting point, or else Eucla. If from Eucla, the party should make to the Hampton Plains, and thence on Northwards; if from the Murchison, I should say make Port Eucla direct.

It is my pleasing duty to record my entire satisfaction with the conduct of every member of the Expedition; they have all done their duty well—in many cases under great hardships and privation. My thanks are due for the very efficient manner in which the Expedition was equipped, and my great regret is that the result has not been the means of opening up any large tract of new country. In conclusion, I must add, I am much indebted to Mr. J. H. Monger, of York, for having supplied horses, forage, and provisions, gratuitously.

I have, &c.,  
ALEXANDER FORREST.

August 5th, 1871.—Received the following instructions from the Honorable The Surveyor General:—

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

SIR,—

*Surveyor General's Office, Perth, 5th August, 1871.*

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to entrust to your charge and leadership an Expedition organized for the purpose of examining the country eastward of the settled districts on the Avon River, and beyond the Hampton Plains; I have therefore to furnish you herein general instructions for your guidance.

The party will consist of seven persons, namely, A. Forrest, Leader; G. Monger, second; H. McLarty, third; R. Burgos, volunteer; James Sweeney, Farrier; Tommy Windich, and J. Mungarar, natives. You will get the enclosed agreement, to serve under you, signed by each European before starting.

By every means you should endeavor to cultivate friendly relations with all aborigines you may meet, and avoid, if possible, any collision with them.

The party proposed will be armed and provisioned for three months, and will start from the town of York. You will direct it by the most convenient route to the Hampton Plains, in South latitude 31 deg. and longitude 122 deg. East, after which you will penetrate as far Eastward as practicable, taking care to secure, if possible, a supply of water for use on your return trip, should you be compelled to retrace your steps. If you are fortunate in procuring sufficient, you will continue Eastward in about an E.N.E. direction from Hampton Plains. From want of water or other causes, you may be unable to do this. In such case, you may, with advantage, go Northward, and return by the route taken by Mr. John Forrest in 1869, which ends in latitude 28 deg. 41 min. South, and longitude 122 deg. 50 min. East. If the season is favorable, you may be able to get still farther Northwards, and strike on to some of the branches of the Murchison River.

If you can from time to time on your route collect any small specimens of rocks, minerals, and other objects of interest, it is very desirable you should; noting carefully the positions and conditions under which they are found.

You will also do any such reconnaissance work in connection with Geodetic Survey as it is competent for you to overtake. However slight this may be, it will add to our knowledge of the physical geography of the interior.

These instructions need not fetter your judgment in adopting such measures of detail as may appear to you necessary in carrying out the intention conveyed, as many concomitants of an uncertain nature are necessary to effect the end desired.

I have every confidence in your desire and ability to bring the Expedition successfully through, and for the result trust in Providence.

I have, &c.,

MALCOLM FRASER,

Surveyor General.

Mr. A. Forrest, Surveyor, York.

August 5th.—Left Perth this morning, accompanied by several friends for a few miles, and reached York on the 7th.

8th, 9th, and 10th.—At York, getting everything in order to make a start on the 11th.

August 11th.—Made a start at one o'clock, taking with me six men, seventeen horses, and provisions for three months. A great number of settlers came with us a few miles, and then returned, after wishing us every success. We travelled in an Easterly direction for ten miles, and then camped on a small gully. Mr. Monger kindly sent hay from York for the horses at night; had a great deal of trouble with them to day, several being young ones. Messrs. Hardey and Monger intend going on 80 miles with us.

12th.—Made an early start, travelling in an Easterly direction for 28 miles, when we reached Youndegin Police Station. The horses gave us a great deal of trouble to-day.

13th, Sunday.—Started this morning at half-past seven, travelling in an Easterly direction for 30 miles, when we reached Cuterling (Mr. Foss' Station); obliged to travel all day on account of the horses being very troublesome. I want them to get well used to the saddles. Read Divine Service in the evening.

14th.—Continued journey, and reached Morannupping (Mr. Leake's Station). We intend to make a final start from here to-morrow, the rations having been carted here by contract. Messrs. Hardey and Monger leave us here.

15th.—Started at eight o'clock, steering in an Easterly direction for 20 miles, and camped at a spot known as Micherin, with plenty of feed and water.

16th.—Continued journey in an Easterly direction for 24 miles, and camped at a spot known as Durdguding, with plenty of feed and water around Camp. The country travelled over to-day scrubby and barren. Found Camp to be in South latitude 31 deg. 25 min. 10 sec. S. by meridian altitude of Lyræ Vega.

17th.—Continued journey in an Easterly direction, passing through poor barren country, and camped at a spot known as Boodalin. Plenty of feed and water around Camp. The horses are beginning to get very quiet now, but we have had a great deal of trouble with them.

August 18th.—Made an early start, travelling in an Easterly direction, over for the most part barren country; camped at a spot known as Moorine Rock. Plenty of feed and water around Camp. Raining a little to-day, the first since leaving York.

19th.—Continued journey in an E.N.E. direction for 19 miles, and camped at Kookudine, on the North end of a small salt lake. Plenty of water and feed around the Camp. Found Camp to be in South latitude 31 deg. 9 min. 26 sec. by meridian altitude of the sun.

20th.—Read Divine Service. It has been very hot to-day, quite a summer heat.

21st.—Continued journey 24 miles, in an Easterly direction, and reached Duladgin. This being the spot Mr. Hunt left his provisions in 1866, searched in every direction, but was unable to see any trace of them. I am sorry for this, as we should then have been able to replenish our stocks. Found Camp to be in South latitude 31 deg. 10 min. 27 sec. by meridian altitude of Lyræ Vega, and Longitude 119 deg. 23 min. East.

22nd.—Made an early start, steering for the first 10 miles in a S.E. direction, afterwards in an Easterly direction, for 10 miles farther. Camped at a place called Guardanoologin, with plenty of feed and water. Distance travelled 20 miles.

23rd.—Started at six o'clock, steering in an Easterly direction over sand-plains and scrubby country. Camped at Wargangering. After our arrival in Camp, found that Sweeney, the farrier, was missing; went at once to find him, and met him coming along, carrying his saddle, his horse having knocked up about four miles back. We at once walked back and brought the horse to Camp. Arrived in Camp at 7 o'clock. Distance walked 10 miles. Tommy shot an emu to-day, which was very acceptable.

24th.—Continued journey in an Easterly direction for 28 miles, when we reached Gnarlbine. Plenty of feed and water around Camp. The country travelled over to-day was generally dense thickets. Found Camp to be in South latitude 31 deg. 8 min. 26 sec. by meridian altitude of Lyræ Vega, and longitude 120 deg. 41 min. 45 sec. East.

25th.—Continued journey, and reached a spot known as Horse Rocks. The country generally travelled over to-day was slightly grassed. Plenty of feed and water at Camp.

26th.—Continued journey in an Easterly direction, and reached Slato Well, on the borders of the Hampton Plains. Distance travelled 18 miles. The country passed over to-day is a very fair feeding country, but entirely destitute of permanent water.

27th, Sunday.—Continued journey in an E.N.E. direction for 15 miles, when we reached a small flat called by the natives Caralyaino. Plenty of feed in the gully, but I am sorry to say very little water. This evening found some natives camped, and brought two of them to our Camp; gave them some damper, which they seemed to like very much; also gave them a pocket knife, &c. They have promised to show us water to the Eastward to-morrow. From this point I intend to take a flying trip to the E.N.E. Found position of Camp to be in South latitude 31 deg. 4 min. 30 sec. by meridian altitude of Aquilæ Altair. Read Divine Service; kept watch at night, on account of natives being about, although I believe them to be harmless, yet it is better to be sure than sorry.

28th.—Started with Mr. R. Burges and Tommy Windich to explore the country to the E.N.E.; the two natives we saw last night going with us. After travelling 34 miles, we camped for the night on a small patch of feed without water; although the natives told me we should find plenty of water to-day, yet all the places they took me to were dry. Kept a watch over the natives all night, as I was afraid they might run away in the night. Saw a great number of kangaroos to-day.

29th.—Got up and made a very early start, and after travelling 13 miles in a N.E. direction, we came to a fine hole of water, containing about 150 gallons. Continued journey for 18 miles farther in an E.S.E. direction over salt lakes, samphire flats, and spinifex. Very nearly got bogged several times in crossing the lakes; the natives still travelling with us all day. The horses were obliged to eat spinifex at night, and had no water; we ourselves very tired, after our long journey. Not keeping watch, I found when I awoke both the natives had made off some time in the night.

30th.—Started at 5 o'clock, steering in an E.N.E. direction, over poor barren country, covered with dense thickets, spinifex, and scrub. After travelling 36 miles, I decided on making my way back to Camp. The horses beginning to appear very much distressed for want of water, returned on our outward

track 10 miles, and camped on a small patch of good feed without water. The whole country I have passed over from Hampton Plains in an E.N.E. direction consists of salt lakes, samphire flats, scrub, and spinifex, and useless either as an Agricultural or Pastoral country. No water or feed was seen for a distance of 54 miles. Distance travelled from Camp 105 miles.

August 31st.—Continued journey in a W.S.W. direction for 24 miles, when we found  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gallon of water in a rock hole. Continued journey 16 miles farther West, when we reached our bivouac of the 28th instant; the horses having been 60 hours without a drop of water, and ourselves on a very short allowance; I am sure the horses could not have gone more than three or four miles farther. I have never seen horses look worse. Of the total distance travelled to-day of 40 miles, we were obliged to walk 25 miles, as they were not able to carry us. The weather very hot.

September 1st.—Continued journey on our outward track 35 miles, and camped at a spot with very little feed and water.

2nd.—Continued journey 28 miles farther West, when I reached Camp at Slate Well, the portion of my party there having been obliged to shift from Caralyaine, on account of all the water being gone. Found all the party well, but was sorry to hear that the horse Mr. Drummond gave to the Expedition had died in my absence, from getting choked, they having left a neck-ropes on him. Distance travelled 28 miles.

3rd, Sunday.—Rested at Slate Well. Read Divine Service.

4th.—Started in company with Mr. Monger and Mungaror to explore the country to the South-east. After going 12 miles, camped for the night, with plenty of feed but very little water. Mungaror shot an emu to-day.

5th.—Continued journey in an Easterly direction, passing by Mount Monger, Mount Belches, &c., and camped on a grassy rise, without water. Obligated to go East, on account of a great chain of salt lakes, which I believe are a continuation of Lake Lefroy.

6th.—The horses having strayed away last night, did not make a start until 7 o'clock. After going four miles Eastward, we crossed the lakes, which were very boggy. Continued journey 26 miles farther in a S.S.E. direction, when we came to a large salt lake, running to the South-west; this large lake we were unable to cross, on account of it being so boggy. Followed it in a N.E. direction for four miles, and then camped on a small patch of feed without water. The country travelled over to-day for the most part is mallee thickets and spinifex. We found no water on our track. Distance travelled 34 miles.

7th.—Made an early start, steering in a Northerly direction for 21 miles, over barren country; then steered East 20 miles over rich grassy plains to Mount Belches. Continued journey after dark for 10 miles further towards Slate Well. Camped on a small patch of feed, but without water. Distance travelled 52 miles.

8th.—Journeyed six miles farther, when we came to a gully containing some water. The horses were very thirsty, having been 50 hours without any, and we ourselves 25 hours. Continued 10 miles farther towards Camp, and then bivouacked for the night on a small patch of feed without water. Last night, while asleep, the fire caught alight to our bedclothes, and burnt part of my rug and waterproof coat; it also burnt Mr. Monger's coat, saddle bags, leggings and boots. It was a great wonder we were not both burnt, as, when we awoke, the fire was all around us.

9th.—Continued journey, and reached Camp at 10 o'clock. Found all the party well. Distance travelled since leaving Camp, 160 miles.

10th.—Rested at Slate Well. Read Divine Service.

11th.—Started again this morning to try and penetrate Eastward as far as possible, accompanied by Tommy Windich only, taking with us five days' provisions. Camped on a small gully about 24 miles from Camp. Mount Monger bears N. 323 deg. E. Mag. Left instructions with Mr. Monger to ascertain the correctness of a native report that a large lake prevents a practicable route Northwards from here.

12th.—Continued journey in an Easterly direction over generally well grassed plains, but without water. Found a small water-hole, which was very acceptable, after going a distance of 40 miles.



September 13th.—Made an early start, steering in an Easterly direction over generally a low flat forest covered with a low scrub, and spinifex and grass in patches. The country appears to be one vast level plain. It has been raining slightly all day, which is a great help to us; distance travelled 33 miles.

14th.—Continued journey in an Easterly direction, the first six miles being similar country to that travelled over yesterday; afterwards it seemed to improve, but going 6 miles farther we again came into barren country, and travelling 24 miles more we camped for the night on a grassy patch, without water; distance travelled, 36 miles.

15th.—Made an early start, and 12 miles further East I decided to return to Camp at Slate Well, as the country for at least 30 miles beyond appeared to be similar to that seen yesterday, besides having very little provisions, and being now about 150 miles from Camp. Retraced our steps 25 miles, and halted at a spot with very little feed, and no water for ourselves or horses. The police horse Douglas knocked up; I had great difficulty in getting him along, and was obliged to walk all day. Had no supper this evening on account of being short of provisions; hope to be able to shoot something to-morrow. My farthest East point is 31deg. South latitude, and 123deg. 37min. East longitude.

16th.—Continued journey *en route* for Slate Well 30 miles, and camped on a small patch of feed without water. Obligated to walk the whole of the day on account of my horse Douglas not being able to carry me. I was rather alarmed this evening before camping to see a dog following us for several miles; Tommy told me it must be a native's dog, and that most likely they were on our trail; in consequence of this I continued my journey after dark for 8 miles, and then bivouacked for the night. I afterwards found out that it was only a wild dog.

17th.—Continued journey *en route* for Slate Well, and after going 2 miles came across a native spring. I intend to move the whole party here, and then try and penetrate North and South. Retraced our steps 35 miles, and camped on a grassy flat with water in clay pans. Obligated to walk all day. Tommy shot a kangaroo, which was very acceptable, as we had just finished all our provisions.

18th.—Continued journey for 30 miles, and reached our bivouac of the 11th inst. Tommy shot an emu; great numbers seen; obliged to walk all day.

19th.—Made a very early start, and after going 25 miles reached Camp at Slate Well, and found the party there all well, we having been absent from Camp 9 days, and travelled a distance of nearly 300 miles. Found that Mr. Monger had only been able to get about 40 miles North of the Camp, and had found no good country and no permanent water.

20th.—Started with the whole of the party for the spring before alluded to found by me on the 17th inst., had a good deal of trouble with several of the horses, they being quite fresh. Camped on a grassy flat, with feed and water. Mount Parker bears South mag. from Camp; distance travelled 15 miles.

21st.—Continued journey 35 miles and camped on a grassy flat at our bivouac of the 18th inst. While travelling along I managed to shoot a kangaroo.

22nd.—Continued journey 15 miles, and camped for the remainder of the day on a good patch of feed and a little water. I shot a kangaroo to-day, and while at Camp Tommy and Jimmy shot also one each; found Camp to be in South latitude 31deg. 5min. 10sec. by meridian altitude of Lyræ Vega.

23rd.—Started in company with McLarty and Windich to explore the country to the South-east. After travelling 33 miles over a barren district, we came across a small party of natives. They appeared to be much alarmed, but after some time we made them understand we wanted water. It being almost dark, and the native who came with us still pointing ahead until we came to a thicket, and the country not looking promising for water, I decided to go no further as it was just getting dark, when all at once he made off as fast as he could. After going about 200 yards I again overtook him, but seeing he was no use I let him go. Continued journey about 2 miles and camped on a small patch of food without water. Kept a very strict watch all night.

24th.—Made a very early start, and after going 17 miles, over very poor country, and having seen no water since we left the spring, I made up my mind to return to my Camp there, as the country did not look very promising ahead. After going 7 miles on my return in a Northerly direction we came to a small rocky range, and after searching a good deal we found several rock holes, containing altogether about 200 gallons. Continued journey North and came to another rock hole containing 40 gallons,

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and at 20 miles another containing 50 gallons. I intend from this range to make Israelite Bay, distant about 120 miles, and return to Perth by way of Esperance Bay. I am unable to get Northwards on account of the lateness of the season. The natives here are entirely destitute of clothing, but they are fine looking fellows, and have plenty of pluck.

September 25th.—Continued journey and reached Camp at the spring, the party having moved here and dug a large well; distance travelled, 20 miles.

26th.—Rested at spring, getting everything in order to make a start for the coast to-morrow. Found Camp to be in South latitude 31deg. 5min., and longitude 122deg. 36min. E.

27th.—Started for coast, following our tracks of the 24th inst., and camped at the rocky range, with a little feed and water; distance travelled, about 30 miles. For the whole of this distance the country is one vast thicket, with salt lakes and spinifex. Found Camp to be in South latitude 31deg. 29min. by meridian altitude of Aquilæ Altair.

28th.—Started this morning at 7 o'clock, steering in a S.S.E. direction for the first ten miles, the country being one vast samphire flat, covered with limestone ridges, which are very boggy. After going 20 miles the mare I purchased before leaving York gave in, and I was obliged to leave her on account of having no water, and being about 100 miles from the coast. At 30 miles we came across a splendid range of grassy land, although we saw no water here; but I have every confidence that it exists here. The extent of good land may be about 20,000 to 30,000 acres. I have named these ranges after the Honorable the Surveyor General. I intend to travel all night, as the weather is very hot. I was unable to take the latitude on account of the weather being cloudy.

29th.—Started at 9 o'clock last night, travelling the whole of the night through dense thickets covered with spinifex. At daylight came across a nice patch of feed without water; here we rested for a few hours. Started again at 9 o'clock, travelling over worthless country for 20 miles, when we again halted on a small patch of feed without water. The horses appeared to be very much distressed this evening. The party have all been obliged to walk, the horses being very nearly knocked up.

30th.—Started again last night at 9 o'clock, travelling the whole of the night through a dense thicket covered with a low scrub and spinifex; after going 20 miles gave the horses a rest for two hours; continued journey 12 miles farther, when the horses appeared so distressed I was obliged to leave all the packs, &c., and make haste to the coast, distant about 35 miles, intending then to return from there and bring them on, but I am glad to say that after going half a mile we came across a native spring, the horses having been 56 hours without a drop of water, and ourselves on a very short allowance, I cannot but speak in the highest terms of every member of the Expedition on this trying occasion, we having been two whole days and nights without closing our eyes, as well as having to walk most of the way; and I cannot but be sensible of that guarding Providence which had guided us through such a barren waterless region.

October 1st.—Rested at spring. Read Divine Service.

2nd.—Went this morning in company with Jimmy to have a look at the sea. After going 15 miles the horses appeared to be very much distressed. I then returned to Camp; sent Jimmy on top of a high tree from whence he could see Mount Ragged and the Russell Range; arrived at Camp at 12 o'clock a.m.

3rd.—Rested at spring, I intended to have taken a flying trip to the N.E. from here, but the horses being in such low condition I am unable to do so. Found position of Camp to be in South latitude 32deg. 40min., and longitude 123deg. 29min. East.

4th.—Continued journey *en route* for Mount Ragged, steering in a Southerly direction for 25 miles through dense and almost impenetrable thickets; obliged to tie our horses up all night, having no feed or water. I hope to reach Russell Range to-morrow; found position of Camp to be in South latitude 33deg. 3min. 30sec. by meridian altitude of Aquilæ Altair.

5th.—Made an early start this morning, and after going 3 miles came across a splendid flat with abundance of water, as well as two permanent springs. This is the finest patch of grass I have ever seen. From this point Mount Ragged bears N. 192deg. E., and high peak on Russell Range N. 180deg. E. I purpose to let the horses recruit here for a few days and then make a final start for York, *via* Esperance Bay.

6th.—Started this morning in company with Messrs. Monger and Burges, and Windich, to have a look at Russell Range. After going 15 miles went on the top of a high peak, and had a fine view of the

sea; Israelite Bay, Capo Paisley, and Point Malcolm were also visible; returned to Camp in the afternoon; distance travelled, 80 miles.

October 7th.—Rested at Camp.

8th, Sunday.—Rested at Camp. Read Divine Service.

9th and 10th.—Rested at Camp. Found position of Camp to be in South latitude 33deg. 4min. 40sec.

11th.—Continued journey to Esperance Bay. Steering in a Southerly direction for 15 miles through dense thickets. Camped on the West side of Russell Range; Mount Ragged bears N. 192deg. E., and high peak on Russell Range South Magnetic; I am sorry to say Jimmy broke his gun in the thickets.

12th.—Continued journey in a Southerly direction for 25 miles and camped on a grassy rise without water; the country travelled over being generally thickets. Saw a small party of natives, but as soon as they observed us they made off, and we were unable to catch them in the thickets. I hope to reach the Thomas River to-morrow. From Camp Mount Ragged bears N. 42deg. 30min. E. Mag.

13th.—Continued journey and reached the Thomas River, the bivouac of Mr. J. Forrest in 1870, when on his way from Perth to Eucla and Adelaide. Jimmy shot a kangaroo; plenty of feed and water around Camp; the country travelled over is generally sand plains; distance travelled, 25 miles.

14th.—Continued journey and reached the Alexander River, distance about 18 miles; plenty of feed and water at Camp.

15th, Sunday.—Rested at Camp. Read Divine Service. Tommy shot a kangaroo.

16th.—Continued journey in a Westerly direction over sand plains, and camped on a salt gully which runs into the Duke of Orleans Bay; distance travelled, 9 miles. Jimmy shot a kangaroo.

17th.—Continued journey in a Westerly direction over sand plains, &c., passing by Mount Saddleback and Mount Merivale on our way; camped on S.E. side of a small salt luke, with plenty of feed and water. Mount Merivale bears N. 57deg. E. from Camp; distance travelled, 38 miles.

18th.—Continued journey and reached Esperance Bay, the homestead of the Messrs. Dempster, who were very glad to see us all back safe. We remain their guests while here; from them we obtained some later news from Perth.

19th.—Rested at Esperance Bay.

20th.—Sent the party on 14 miles, there being no feed near the house.

21st.—Continued journey 10 miles and reached Mainbenup, Messrs. Dempster's old station.

22nd.—Rested at Mainbenup. Read Divine Service.

23rd.—Continued journey in a Westerly direction for 25 miles and camped on the East side of the Young River; very little feed and water here; raining most of the day. I shot a kangaroo.

24th.—Continued journey in a Westerly direction for 25 miles and reached the Oldfield River, Mr. C. Taylor's station; raining a little to day.

25th.—Rested at Mr. Taylor's station, the horses requiring a rest, they having had very little feed since leaving Mount Merivale.

26th.—Continued journey 15 miles and reached a spot known as Yait Camp, with plenty of feed and water, the country travelled over being sand plains.

27th.—Continued journey in a Westerly direction over sand plains and swamps for 18 miles, when we reached the Jorticutup River. Tommy shot 3 ducks here; plenty of ducks and swans in this river.

28th.—Continued journey and reached the Phillips River; distance travelled, 20 miles. Jimmy shot an emu to-day.

29th, Sunday.—Rested at Camp. Read Divine Service.

30th.—Made an early start, and after going 25 miles reached a spot known as Coombedup, with plenty of feed and water. At 8 o'clock this evening the rain came down in torrents, and continued all night. Jimmy shot a kangaroo this afternoon.

31st.—Did not make a start to-day until 12 o'clock, on account of the very heavy rain; continued journey 15 miles and obliged to camp on account of the very boggy state of the country. Finished all the flour to-day, but I hope to reach Mr. Hassell's station to-morrow. Raining all day and night.

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November 1st.—Made a start this morning, but after going 8 miles was obliged to camp, several of the horses being bogged, and the rest very nearly knocked up. Tommy and myself attempted to walk to Jerramungup, but after going 8 miles and very nearly getting bogged, we came across some horse tracks, which we followed for 2 or 3 miles, when we lost them. I thought it best to return to Camp, which we did at 7 in the evening, being drenched to the skin and having had nothing to eat all day. Found that Jimmy had shot a kangaroo; we did justice to it, although we had no bread; raining all day and night.

2nd.—Rested at Camp; raining all day; intend to go to Jerramungup to-morrow; we have now been three days without flour.

3rd.—Started this morning in company with Windich, and after going 17 miles we reached Jerramungup, Mr Hassell's station. I was very kindly received by Mr. Frank Hassell, who at once sent a native with some flour for the party; we became his guests while here.

4th.—Rested at station.

5th, Sunday.—Rested. The party arrived here from Jecup; found all well; intend to give the horses a rest here.

6th.—Rested at station.

7th.—Continued journey 15 miles *en route* for York; camped at a spot known as Carracup; plenty of feed and water at Camp.

8th.—Made an early start and reached Bungenup, on the Salt River; distance travelled, 25 miles.

9th.—Continued journey and reached Camballup, Mr. Moir's station, on a branch of the Salt River; distance travelled, 28 miles. Had a thunderstorm this afternoon, which lasted for about 2 hours.

10th.—Continued journey, passing by Martinup and Eticup, and camped on a grassy flat with feed and water, about three miles North of Eticup; distance travelled, thirty miles.

11th.—Continued journey in a Northerly direction, passing by Yokonup, and camped at a washpool belonging to Haddleton; plenty of feed at Camp; distance travelled, 25 miles.

12th.—Continued journey and reached Whadging Lake; plenty of swans and ducks here; distance travelled, 16 miles.

13th.—Two of the horses strayed away last night, consequently did not make a start until 10 o'clock, and after going 16 miles we reached the Arthur River and camped for the night with plenty of feed and water.

14th.—Continued journey 24 miles farther towards York, and camped on a grassy flat with plenty of water.

15th.—Continued journey and reached Moorumbine, Mr. Bailey's station; distance travelled, 24 miles.

16th.—Continued journey and reached the Upper Avon Bridge; distance travelled, 18 miles.

17th.—Continued journey and reached Haisthorpe, Mr. W. Lukin's station; distance travelled, 20 miles.

18th.—Continued journey and reached the town of York, after an absence of 100 days. Before arriving in York we were met by a number of friends, who escorted us into town. After our arrival we sat down to a champagne luncheon, provided by the settlers of the York district, which we did justice to.

19th, Sunday.—Rested in York.

20th.—Delivering horses, &c.

21st.—Reached the Lakes.

22nd.—Reached Perth, when I had the pleasure of an interview with the Honorable the Colonial Secretary and the Honorable the Surveyor General.

ALEXANDER FORREST,  
Leader of Expedition.

