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August 17, 1945

VOL. XVI No. 1

PACIFIC ISLANDS Monthly



DURING his recent visit to the Pacific as personal representative of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir Cosmo Parkinson made an extensive tour of Fiji, and visited the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the New Hebrides, the Solomons and Tonga. He is shown here, at Bau, Fiji, in conversation with Lieut.-Colonel Ratu J. L. V. Sukuna, Adviser on Native Affairs in the Colony.

—Photo by Rob Wright.

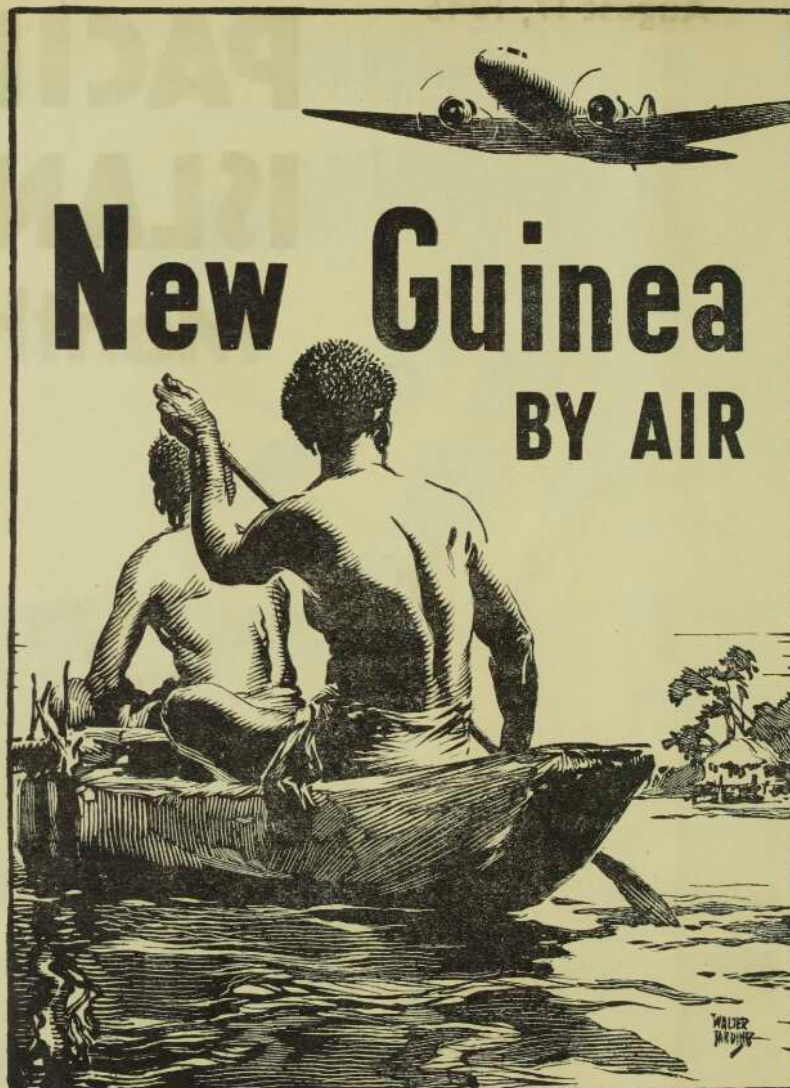
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PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY—AUGUST, 1945



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PACIFIC NEWS-REVIEW

NOTES AND COMMENT ON
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
FROM JULY 16 TO AUGUST 12

July 16: The two-months-old constitutional deadlock in Belgium appears likely to continue indefinitely, because of King Leopold's decision neither to abdicate nor to return to Belgium.

July 22: The Big Three are still meeting in Potsdam, although great secrecy surrounds their deliberations. It is believed that one topic of discussion is the future conduct of the war against Japan. Sensational developments of a diplomatic and military nature are expected in this connection. There are rumours that the Japanese have asked Marshal Stalin to put forward peace proposals on their behalf, and that President Truman carried a draft of US surrender terms to Japan, to the conference.

July 23: The trial of Marshal Petain has begun in Paris. He is accused of treason during the German occupation in that he inaugurated personal rule—the final realisation of a long-prepared plot against the Republic—regime in France. The aged Marshal has protested his innocence—he says that while de Gaulle was fighting for France outside, he was fighting inside France to prepare for victory—and that he had always fought France's enemies. He begged the Court to remember his record in 1916.

July 26: Big Three talks have adjourned while Mr. Churchill and Mr. Attlee return to England to hear the result of the British elections. Counting begins to-day at 9 a.m., London time.

July 26: Labour swept the polls in the British general elections, winning 376 out of the 640 seats in the Commons. Mr. C. R. Attlee becomes the new Prime Minister. This has shattered the calm of the talks at Potsdam. It is thought that Mr. Attlee will extend an invitation to Mr. Churchill to return with him, but few think Churchill will accept.

July 29: The United States has become the first major power to join the United Nations Organisation. The Senate, by 89 votes to 2, ratified the United Nations Charter on July 28.

July 3: The Big Three conference at Potsdam ended yesterday, and an official report of the deliberations has been issued. No mention of the Pacific war is made; but many decisions have been made with regard to Europe. Large portions of Eastern Germany (Pomerania, Silesia, and two-thirds of East Prussia) have been given to Poland. Russia takes the remainder of East Prussia, including Königsberg. There is to be complete disarmament and demilitarisation of Germany, and equal rights for all German citizens. Germany is to pay reparations. A peace treaty with Italy is to be prepared. Spain, under its present Government is not to be permitted membership of the United Nations. War criminals are to be brought to swift and sure justice, and a Council of Foreign Ministers from Britain, USA, Russia, China and France is to be established.

August 6: Nokrashv Pasha, Premier of Egypt, has demanded full independence for Egypt, with the withdrawal of all British troops from the country, including the Canal Zone.

WAR IN THE PACIFIC

July 17: Units of the British Pacific Fleet are co-operating with the American Fleet to shell coastal areas of the Japanese home islands following intense air attacks on Tokyo by about 1,500 carrier-based planes.

July 26: The end of the fighting is near in both the Northern and British Solomons. The Japs withdrew the remains of their garrison on Choiseul Island, south-east of Bougainville (but belonging

to the BSI Protectorate) a fortnight ago. On Bougainville the Australians have sealed off the Jap troops on the north and laid siege to those near Buin in the south.

July 27: Great Britain, United States and China have issued from Potsdam, a joint Declaration calling on Japan to surrender unconditionally or face the alternative of prompt and utter destruction.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE PACIFIC WAR

1941
Dec. 7: Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.
Enemy troops landed in Malaya.

Dec. 9: Japanese landed in the Philippines.

Dec. 12: First landing in North Borneo.

Dec. 23: Hong Kong surrenders.

1942
Jan. 10: Invasion of Dutch East Indies.

Jan. 18: Japs move into Burma.

Jan. 23: New Britain invaded.

Feb. 15: Singapore falls.

Feb. 27: Three-day naval battle in Java Sea begins.

March 10: Japs land in Northern Solomons.

April 18: Doolittle's raid on Tokyo.

May 1: British evacuate Mandalay.

May 4: Japs occupy Tulagi, BSI.

May 6: Battle of Coral Sea begins.

June 13: Invasion of Aleutians by enemy.

Aug. 8: Americans land on Guadalcanal.

Sept. 13: Advance on Owen Stanley Range held. Australians in big counter-attack.

1943
Jan. 20: Last of Japs defeated at Sannanda. Fighting over in Papua.

Feb. 9: Enemy evacuate Guadalcanal.

Nov. 20: Americans land in Gilbert Islands.

Dec. 16: Americans land New Britain.

1944
July 10: Americans land Guam.

Oct. 17: Allies land Philippines, Leyte.

1945
Jan. 9: Landing on Luzon.

Feb. 2: Manila recaptured.

Feb. 19: Americans land Iwo Jima.

March 30: British Fleet in action. Attacks Ryukyus.

April 1: Landing on Okinawa.

April 5: Russia denounces neutrality pact. Japanese Cabinet resigns.

June 10: Landings in Borneo by Australians.

July 14: Japan shelled for first time.

July 26: Surrender ultimatum rejected.

Aug. 7: First atom-bomb dropped.

Aug. 10: Japan makes first peace moves.

The fact that the ultimatum was issued from Potsdam is taken by observers to indicate that it has the blessing of Stalin.

July 29: Japan will utterly ignore the British, American and Chinese ultimatum to surrender, said Japanese Premier Suzuki at a Tokyo press conference. Meanwhile six Japanese cities that were warned on the morning of July 23 by leaflet that they were marked for destruction, suffered devastating fire raids carried out by Super-Fortresses; and on the same day British and American carrier-based planes renewed the attack on the remnants of the Jap Fleet sheltering in the Inland Sea. In Australia, Dr. Evatt, Minister for External Affairs, criticised the ultimatum issued from Potsdam. He said Australia, to whom the peace terms with Japan are of fundamental importance, was not consulted or told of the ultimatum.

July 5: Allied bombers and fighters attacking Japanese cities are now encountering more opposition from both the Kamikaze and ordinary Japanese planes. Japanese submarines have also switched over from running supplies to attacking American shipping. The Allies are concentrating on shooting up Japanese railways and rolling-stock, and it is believed that this smashing of Japanese internal transport will play a large part in their unconditional surrender.

August 8: It is believed in many circles that the atomic bomb, used first on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, will mean the end of the war. This terrifyingly devastating bomb, which relies on the release of atomic energy from a small quantity of uranium, has greater power than 20,000 tons of TNT. It was known that the Nazis were working feverishly on a bomb that depended for explosive force on atom-splitting. This was to be Hitler's greatest secret weapon, and probably what he snook about in early 1945, when he said: "God forgive me for the last ten minutes of the war." Had the Nazis had a few months more in which to experiment, there is no doubt that these bombs would have been launched against Britain. Britain was probably saved by a daring attack made on a Norwegian plant which produced heavy-water, a modification of ordinary water, the best medium yet discovered for atom-splitting. Experiments and final manufacture of the atomic bomb were carried out in America by American and British scientists. This discovery of how to release atomic energy is hailed as the greatest discovery ever made. Its potentialities are endless—but in the hands of the unscrupulous could well mean the end of civilisation as we know it.

August 8: Tokio radio has admitted that the atomic bomb which fell on Hiroshima literally seared to death practically all living things. The dead, they say, are too numerous to be counted, and are burned beyond recognition.

August 6: Russia has declared war on Japan. Within a few hours of the announcement Russian troops had crossed the border into Manchuria.

August 9: The second atomic bomb has been dropped on Japan—this time on the great industrial and shipbuilding centre of Nagasaki. Results are said to be the same as in the first atomic raid on Hiroshima.

August 10: Japan is seeking peace. She has informed Britain, the United States, Russia and China that she is ready to capitulate and will accept the terms of the Potsdam ultimatum on the condition that Hirohito, Emperor of Japan, continues as sovereign ruler.

August 12: The US Secretary of State, Mr. Byrnes, handed the Allies' reply to the Japanese offer of surrender to the Swiss Charge d'Affaires at 12.30 on Sunday morning (Sydney time). Five conditions are laid down by the Allies, the first, relating to the Japanese Emperor, states: "From the moment of surrender the authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the State shall be subject to the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate the surrender terms."

As we go to press, Japan's unqualified acceptance of conditions laid down by the Allies is expected within hours. World War II—which has lasted 5 years and 11 months—is virtually over.

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SAFE AND WELL IN JAPAN

ADVANCE has been received in Australia through official channels, from the Swiss Minister at Tokio, that the undermentioned civilians from New Guinea are at Totsuka Camp, Japan, and are in good health: Joyce O. Harris, Joyce O. MacGahan, Alice Mary Bowman, Mary E. Goss, Jean Mary McLennan, Grace D. M. Kruger, Dorothy M. Beale, Jean Christopher, Mavis Fanny Green, Dora E. Wilson, Dorothy Mary Maye, and Kathleen Bignall.



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Private Enterprise—Flourishing in Central Pacific But Murdered in the West

UNDER the stimulus of returning freedom and of a three-years' accumulation of United States dollars, enterprise in all the South Pacific Territories which are not under military occupation is showing remarkable activity and eagerness. Conditions in Fiji may be exceptional; nonetheless, Fiji provides a good example of what we may expect in the Territories generally. Except the Australian-controlled Territories, of course!

A considerable number of American Servicemen passed through Fiji. They spent their money freely on services and goods; and especially did they buy liberally of Fijian curios and souvenirs—articles of shell, tortoise-shell and silver, especially. The numerous Indian traders were quick to take advantage of this development.

The Indian community of Fiji did little or nothing for the United Nations war effort—a fact which will be taken care of in good time by the inevitable law of compensation—but many Indian traders made fortunes out of the Americans' dollars. And that extraordinary souvenir trade is still going on. The Americans have moved on, mostly; but the arrival of the Fiji "curios" in the United States created a demand there for a large supply of such articles. It is not unusual for some of the bigger traders in Fiji to receive drafts for £20,000 in payment for shipments of "curios."

In an economic sense, that new money has enriched and sweetened Fiji. All classes have benefited. There is more money in the Colony to-day than ever before. Big firms and little firms—they all are holding big balances in their banks which, under present conditions, they generally are unable to profitably employ. Anything that looks like a sound investment is literally rushed. Indians in Fiji always are land-hungry. There is no control over property values in Fiji. The value of all property on the Suva Peninsula, in response to the demand, has at least doubled in the last two or three years.

THE shrewdest minds in Fiji are seeking avenues for the profitable employment of accumulated funds. Compared with conditions in other countries, taxation in Fiji is very low—5/- in the £ on companies, a limit of 1/3 in the £ on incomes from personal exertion. All this means that, somehow or other, new industries will be established in Fiji, to take care of all that idle capital. Fiji has the capital, almost endless resources of raw material, and a very limited reserve of labour—which may be increased when the Fijian battalions are demobilised.

But Fiji wants markets for what she can produce. Fiji's business men are seeking the answer. Private enterprise, stimulated by such conditions, is holding up its head and going

places. There is no one there to tie a tin-can to the tail of private enterprise in the Central and East Pacific Territories, in the way that the political lunatics of Australia are doing in the Western Pacific Territories of Papua and Mandated New Guinea.

IT is not easy to find employment in these Central and Eastern Territories for private enterprise, backed by plenty of capital.

Copra is now very much in world demand; but when the Philippines and East Indies come back to production, copra will return to its pre-war levels. It probably can always be sold; but not at to-day's exciting prices. Sugar has no interest for small concerns; its sale and distribution are matters for international arrangement, and can be handled only by big companies like the CSR. The production of cocoa, coffee, rubber, and so on—all may be grown well in these Territories, but all must meet world competition, so production must be kept, by careful, big-scale operation, on an economic basis.

THE minds of experienced men are running towards the production of semi-manufactured articles, instead of what might be called raw materials and raw foodstuffs. For instance, Carpenter & Co., Ltd., are far advanced with the installation in Suva of a factory which will use from 12,000 to 20,000 tons of copra per annum in the production of vegetable lard—refined coconut oil—for which there is a world-wide demand—but all of which probably can be used in or near Fiji.

There was an expert in Fiji recently

looking at the masses of husks from rice, thrown away as refuse behind the rice-mills. Those husks contain two vitamins—useless while in the husks, but precious when brought to another condition. That expert actually was in Fiji looking for hammerhead sharks—in the livers of those creatures is a vitamin that has come into tremendous world-wide demand.

Another man is in the Central Pacific at the present time looking for supplies of candle-nuts—the possible basis of a new industry.

MR. R. W. ROBSON, editor and publisher of this journal, visited Fiji during July and August, and is at present in New Zealand. Affairs, as he found them in Fiji, are described in several articles in this issue.

And so on. Everywhere one turns in the Pacific Territories—except the unfortunate regions under the control of the madheaded Australian politicians—one finds private enterprise eagerly at work, laying foundations of activities that will bring great prosperity to all classes of the Islands' communities. Fiji, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, and, in a lesser degree, Samoa, Cook Islands, Tahiti, Tonga—all have plenty of money for investment, and an eagerness to establish new or enlarged industries, based on their abundant supplies of raw materials. Wise direction and encouragement now of private enterprise will establish long-term prosperity for all classes throughout many of these Territories. They deserve it—some of them—especially those who kept their economic eggs in one basket—have had a pretty thin time of it in past decades.

IN contrast with all this, the condition and prospects of the Australian Territories of Papua and Mandated New Guinea are pitiful and appalling.

The whole subject is dealt with in reports and articles elsewhere in this issue. Two rich tropical Territories, which are completely dependent upon private enterprise for future development, are being dragged at the tail of an ignorant and intensely class-biased Australian Socialist Government, which will go to any lengths to destroy private enterprise and Bolshevikise all institutions.

Clearly, under present conditions, there is little hope of private people and private capital being profitably employed in Australia's Pacific Territories. For the present, the reorganisation of native labour conditions in accordance with "Eddie" Ward ideals, and Canberra's stubborn determination to keep plantation production under the control of a Governmental instrumentality, make the outlook for private citizens in the Western Territories very blue indeed—a shade which becomes deep indigo when compared with what is happen-

ing in the Central and Polynesian Territories.

New Guinea and Papua must just have patience and await the inevitable turn of the political wheel. All Governmental extremists are dumped overboard sooner or later—and that surely will happen in Australia—perhaps in time to allow Papuan and New Guinea planters to share in the coming surge of post-war prosperity.

BIG FIRMS NEXT? Mr. Ward Still Out After "Exploiters"

HAVING tasted blood in disposing of the rank and file Territorian, in the easy passage through the House of the Papua-New Guinea Provisional Administration Bill, Mr. Ward yearns for bigger game—to wit the Big Companies.

If the Government accepts Mr. Ward's recommendation, it will try to drive private shipping companies from New Guinea and Papuan waters and operate its own services there.

"Eddie" let this bombshell fall during the debate on the New Guinea Bill.

Mr. Rankin (CP, Vic.) apparently gave him the idea when he (Mr. Rankin) said: "Trading companies have a grip on many plantations in the islands operated by returned men. They haven't only got a grip on them, but have taken some over."

"Their power should be curtailed. The Commonwealth should have their own shipping facilities against these other companies to try to safeguard the interest of these people in the area."

Mr. Ward later thanked Mr. Rankin for the idea; he said he would recommend it to the Government and hope

that Mr. Rankin "would support it later on."

Territorians in the past have never been particularly enamoured of the Big Firms. It is doubtful, however, if any alternative suggested by Mr. Ward would be any more popular.

In view of the fact that the New Guinea Bill made no mention of European residents of the Territories (except to present them as "exploiters") it seems odd that the External Territories Minister should suddenly become concerned for their welfare to the extent of providing shipping services.

It all goes to show that Mr. Ward is just a big-hearted boy at heart; all he wants is a fair deal for everyone.

PEACE CELEBRATION FOR TERRITORIANS

ALL New Guinea-Papuan associations at present functioning in Sydney—PTA, RSSAILA, Women's Clubs, Papuan and New Guinea Public Service Associations, etc.—are combining for a Peace Celebration in the Paddington Town Hall, Sydney, on August 22, at 8 p.m.

All Territorians over the age of 16 are invited to attend this rally. They may bring their own refreshments to celebrate Victory in a fit and proper Territories' manner.

Mrs. E. Chester, widow of Edward Chester, of Oroana Plantation, Papua, who died of scrub typhus recently, has taken over the management of the civilian hostel in Port Moresby. This hostel is controlled by the Production Control Board, but previously the management has been confined to Army personnel.

GREAT WHITE CHIEF



In the Papua and New Guinea Provisional Administration Bill, which was recently passed, External Territories Minister (Mr. "Eddie Ward") promised the Fuzzy-Wuzzies a new deal and freedom from exploitation by white bosses.

—Ian Gall, in Brisbane "Courier-Mail."

AIRWAYS IN PACIFIC

Big Developments Afoot

THERE seems little doubt that Suva will become the airways crossroads of the Pacific. Already, military and semi-military services run regularly between Suva and Auckland; between Australia and Honolulu, calling at Suva; between Suva and Rarotonga, calling at Nukualofa and Apia.

The Pan American Airways service between North America and New Zealand, via Honolulu, Canton Is., Noumea and Suva (which was suspended after Pearl Harbour) will be resumed with Skymaster land-planes before the end of 1945; and about mid-1946 very large new land-planes will enter the service.

Mr. Harold Gatty, who inaugurated the service before the war for PAA, was here last week, making preparations for resumption. He expects that the PAA service will be extended to Australia soon—not via Auckland, but via Noumea. Present indications are that the big planes calling at Fiji will use the big dry 'drome at Nadi, on the northern side of the island, instead of the 'dromes nearer Suva, which is in the wet belt. But if a suitable landing-ground can be found near Suva, that will be used.

Honolulu and Canton Island were equipped with suitable airfields for the larger planes, said Mr. Gatty. In the service between Suva and Sydney, the aircraft would call at Noumea. A field at the north of New Caledonia would have to be used temporarily until one near the town was extended. Mascot aerodrome at Sydney was being prepared for the large land-planes.

THE new DC-7 aircraft, which are expected to be in the service by the middle of next year, will cost 1,500,000 dollars each. Twenty-six of these machines have been ordered from the Douglas Aircraft Company by PAA, whose engineers co-operated to develop the advanced type. They will have a crew of 13 and spacious pressurised cabins will provide comfortable travel at an altitude of 20,000 feet. Twice as large as the former Clipper flying-boats, the DC-7's will have, in addition to two large cabins, a modern galley equipped for serving full-course meals, dressing-rooms, toilets, cargo compartment, flight deck and compartment for pilots.

The wing-span of the new machines is 176 feet, the height of a 16-storey building, and they will be powered by four new Pratt and Whitney engines, details of which are a military secret, but which are known to be even more powerful than the 2,100 h.p. Double Wasp engines. They will have a cruising speed of 300 miles an hour. Mr. Gatty said that these new aircraft were under production and one would be flying within a few weeks.

As regional director, Mr. Gatty will be responsible for the Fijian, New Caledonian, Australian and New Zealand branches of the service, and he expects to be stationed at Suva. Mrs. Gatty and the two younger boys are at present living in New York, but Mr. Gatty's eldest son, Leading-Aircraftman Alan Gatty, who is 19, joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force and is now in training at Christchurch.

Since leaving Australia, where he was director of an Allied forces air transport service in 1942-3, Mr. Gatty has been engaged in navigational research. He published a book on emergency navigation to assist Servicemen adrift at sea

New Chief Justice Arrives in Suva

Sir Claude Seton

THE new Chief Justice of Fiji, Sir Claude Seton, arrived in Suva, with Lady Seton in July. He succeeds Sir Owen Corrie, who left the Colony in June.

Sir Claude comes straight from Nyasaland where he was also Chief Justice.

He was born in 1888, and educated at Framlingham College and University College, London; he was called to the bar at Grey's, and served with distinction in World War I, in which he was wounded, received the MC, and was twice mentioned in despatches.

He was president of the District Courts in Palestine, 1920-26, and from 1931-35, and Judicial Adviser, Trans-Jordan from 1926-31. From 1935 to 1941, when he went to Nyasaland, he was Puisne Judge, Jamaica.

He received his knighthood in the 1944 Birthday Honours.

WAR GRATUITIES FOR FUZZY-WUZZIES

From Our Canberra Correspondent

July 27.

NATIVES of Torres Straits Islands, New Guinea and Papua, may receive war gratuities under an Act which passed through the Senate to-day.

The Act provides for payment of varying sums of money as free gifts to Service members from the Commonwealth in recognition of war service.

Section 5 of the Act provides that in the case of Servicemen who are natives of Torres Straits Islands or aboriginal natives of Australia enlisted at rates of pay less than the minimum rates of pay prescribed for male members of the Australian Military Forces, the rate of war gratuity shall be ten shillings for each month or part of a month.

Under sub-section B of the same section members who are natives of New Guinea or Papua may be given war gratuities in the form of a monetary payment, or in some other form as may later on be prescribed.

Rates of payment have not yet been announced.

DEATH OF CI RESIDENT AGENT

From Our Own Correspondent

RAROTONGA, July 3.

MR. DAVID BROWN, Resident Agent of Mauke, Cook Islands, died suddenly in his sleep on June 27. The news was received with regret by his many Rarotonga friends.

Mr. Brown first started business in Rarotonga in 1926 as manager of the Cook Islands Native Association, and some years later became manager for Messrs. W. H. Grove & Sons', Rarotonga branch.

In 1938 he was appointed Resident Agent of Atiu, and was later transferred to Mauke.

Although his end came suddenly, he had suffered from a number of heart attacks during the past year.

Mr. Brown leaves a wife and one son, living in New Zealand.

and was later employed in further navigational research for the United States Navy.

The Rev. Fuata Taito, a Fijian member of the Methodist Mission, commenced deputation work in Victoria in July. He is a missionary to Australian aboriginals.

Awards to Territorians

Lieuts. Stokie and Gilmour

THE Military Cross has been awarded to Lieut. Leslie John Stokie; and the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Sgt. (now Lieut.) John Louis Gilmour.

Lieut. Stokie was a member of the NGVR and, before the war, a well-known plantation manager in the Bainings district of New Britain.

After the Japanese invasion he went bush and lived there for about 12 months before contacting three American airmen who had survived a bomber crash.

They joined forces for several months, constructing canoes in which to escape, but were rescued by an American Liberator before the canoes were ready for use.

Each of the Americans insisted that he owed his life to Stokie's knowledge of the country and the natives.

Lieut. Gilmour is the son of Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. J. Gilmour of Put Put Plantation, New Britain. He joined the first New Guinea contingent of the AIF and went overseas in 1940 with the 9th Division. He served in Tobruk. After returning to Australia, he was detached for special work, and it was while serving with his new unit on New Britain that he won the DCM.

While on leave in Sydney in July, Lieut. Gilmour was married.

NEW CHURCH FOR NUKUALOFA

A WEEK of festivity marked the opening of the new church building of the Church of Tonga. Her Majesty Queen Salote Tupou attended the dedication service on May 14.

In 1924, the original Free Church of Tonga merged with the Wesleyan Church



The New Church of Tonga.

of Tonga into what is now called the Wesleyan Free Church of Tonga.

Those who disagreed with this idea at the time started churches of their own, hence there are now two offshoots, the Free Church of Tonga and the Church of Tonga.

The Church of Tonga claims to have a membership of 7,000, and has branches in Ha'apai and Vava'u. Its Tongan president is the Rev. Nafetala Saimone. Its vice-president, the Rev. Saimone Taumoepeau, designed, and superintended the erection, of the new building.

Two surveyors visited Mangaia, Cook Islands in May and surveyed, between the villages of Tavaenga and Atukoro, an area suitable for an aerodrome. It is proposed to make Mangaia a link in the Pacific air chain. Our Mangaia correspondent remarks: "It will be interesting to see what effect air traffic has on this 'forbidden island'—so far it has resisted every innovation and is still 98 per cent. unsurveyed."

LATEST CABINET DECISIONS ON N. GUINEA SET-UP

Control Board to Continue Stranglehold

RECOMMENDATIONS by the External Territories Minister, Mr. Ward, on the immediate set-up in New Guinea, were considered by Full Cabinet in Canberra on July 31.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Chifley, later announced that certain decisions had been made enabling planning to proceed so that immediate requirements in respect of commerce and agriculture might be met on lines that "will be in harmony with the long-range policy of economic development."

He said that the decisions would accord with the Government's plan that in future the basis to Territories' economy would be native and European industry with the limit of non-native expansion determined by the welfare of the natives generally.

Decisions made by Cabinet that day, Mr. Chifley announced, were:

- That new plantations may be established only with the express authorisation of the administration.
- That the Production Control Board continue for the time being to handle the marketing of products of natives and Europeans, and that the Board continue for the time being to conduct native trade stores.
- That, subject to arrangements being made with the Shipping Control Board and the Movement Control Section of the Army Department, private enterprise be advised that arrangements may now be made to re-open trading activities for the supply of stores to Europeans, subject to Price Control (essential items such as rice and flour to be obtained from the Production Control Board); and that individual Europeans—planters, missionaries and the like—be permitted to indent, direct from Australia, stores and equipment, except essential items, such as rice and flour. Imports will be subject to payment of Territorial Customs duty.
- That private enterprise be permitted to re-open hotels and boarding houses.

Rumour in Sydney (mid-August) fixes the resumption of civil administration at October 1; wives of Provisional Administration personnel, it is said, will be back in the Territory by Christmas.

THE decisions made by Cabinet on July 31, are, in theory, in accord with a policy designed for the duration of the war and six months after.

Such has been the disruption of native life that no one can quibble at the restriction on new plantation enterprises that will make fresh demands on native labour. All available native labour will be necessary to get the existing plantations back into full production. It is universally agreed that the natives generally, after the demands made upon them by the Army, need a prolonged period in which to re-establish their village life and plant their gardens.

It would be interesting to know, however, why, if private enterprise is to be allowed to function to the extent of re-opening trading activities for the supply of stores to Europeans, it should be necessary for the continued existence of the Production Control Board to handle the marketing of products of natives and Europeans and to conduct the native trade stores.

It is doubtful if the "private enterprise," which Mr. Chifley mentions with such unctious, will be really enthusiastic about returning to the Territory simply to sell over the counter, tins of meat and pounds of tea to returned planters and administrative officials, while the Government-directed Production Board controls the sale of rice and flour, markets the products of the plantations, and handles the trade store business.

In a nutshell—while the top-heavy, bureaucratic Production Control Board remains in the Papua-New Guinea Territory, that Territory remains in the firm clutch of Canberra's remote and socialistic control. No soft, apparently reassuring, words from the Prime Minister or anyone else can alter that fact.

A letter received in this office from a returned Papuan civilian states: "The recent Act and Regulations have knocked everyone here sideways. I doubt if there will be any move to open up any busi-

ness until the position is a lot clearer. At the moment the outlook is hopeless."

Who Will Be the Administrator?

DAILY rumours over the last four months, that the Administrator of the Provisional Administration was already chosen, and would be announced at any moment, all came to an abrupt end when applications were called for the position in the daily press on July 23 (this advertisement, and one for heads of departments, appears on page 10 of this issue).

Applications close on August 31, therefore, although rumours are still in order, and the favourite for the position changes from day to day. Territorians will have to wait until after that date before their curiosity is satisfied or their hopes dashed or realised, as the case may be.

Salary of the Administrator will be £2,000 per annum, plus £500 entertainment allowance.

It is emphasised in the advertisement that this is free of income tax. It should be pointed out perhaps, to non-Australian Territories readers, that a man in Australia on a salary of £5,000 a year receives about £1,300 of it—the rest goes into the coffers of the Taxation Department. The new Administrator, therefore, will be paid at the Australian rate of something like £7,000 per annum.

The catch is that the war has not lasted long enough for him to enjoy very much of it. His administratorship should, according to the terms of the provisional set-up, terminate six months after the war finishes.

COPRA MILL

Being Erected by Carpenters in Suva

A COPRA-CRUSHING mill, with a nominal capacity of 7,500 tons per annum, and capable of at once doubling its capacity, is now being erected in Walu Bay, Suva, by W. R. Carpenter & Co. (Fiji), Ltd., under the active direction of Mr. J. Grainger Johnson, the company's managing director.

Much heavy machinery has been installed and more is on the way, and the mill should be in full operation about April of 1946. The company does not plan to produce coconut oil, as oil; it intends to turn out its first products as vegetable lard and stock fodder.

Everything has been carefully planned and solidly based on cement floors. A score of operations lead on from one to another.

So far as the Carpenter interests are concerned, there is no guesswork in this enterprise. They base their plans on their long and valuable experience at Pondo (Northern New Britain), where desiccated coconut and coir fibre were regularly manufactured until the Japanese invaded; and at Vancouver and Toronto, in Canada, where the North American branch of the Carpenter group now operates copra-crushing mills.

When the new Suva mill is in complete operation, it may deal with 20,000 tons per annum, which it will buy from Fiji coconut planters. That should have a good, steady effect on copra prices in the Colony.

Mr. Harold E. Smythe, BE, senior executive engineer in the Public Works Department, Fiji, since 1941, has been promoted to Director of Public Works in British Guiana, and will leave the Colony in September. Mr. Smythe has been a member of the Fiji Civil Service since 1921.

TONGA • HONOURS SIR MAYNARD AND LADY HEDSTROM



The party at the picnic spot. Sir Maynard Hedstrom is shown standing in the centre; Lady Hedstrom is second on his right.

WHEN Sir Maynard and Lady Hedstrom passed through Nuku'alofa, Tonga, en route to Suva in June, they were entertained by members of the Nuku'alofa branch of Messrs. Morris, Hedstrom, Ltd. The local manager, Mr. J. E. Protheroe and his wife were in charge of the arrangements.

The entertainment took the form of a picnic which was held at Sopa Beach—

and a Tongan picnic is something peculiar to the little kingdom.

There was a luhch of Tongan cooked sucking pigs, yams, chickens, ducks, crayfish, and a sweet called "fakakai mei" prepared in the native fashion from bread-fruit and a brown coconut sauce. Tongan orators spoke eloquently in welcoming the guests.

Sudden Death of R. H. Brown

W. Samoa Loses Leading Citizen

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, July 14. RESIDENTS of Apia, Western Samoa, were shocked to learn on July 5, of the sudden death, from heart failure, of Mr. Roy H. Brown. He was one of the leaders of the social, sporting and commercial life of the town, and had been for many years manager of the local branch of Burns, Philp (SS) Co., Ltd. He was only 51 years of age.

He was an Australian, and a World War I veteran.

He entered the service of Messrs. Burns, Philp in 1919, and was sent to Tonga,



Roy H. Brown.

where he married Miss Nellie Skeen, the daughter of Chief Judge Skeen, of Tonga. He was appointed manager of the Apia Branch in 1928.

With great business ability he steadily expanded the business of his firm in Western Samoa to its present solid position. Greatly respected and loyally supported by his staff, he took a personal interest in every member of his organisation.

As president of the Chamber of Commerce, he took a firm stand in guarding and defending the interests of the business community, working at the same time in close co-operation with the administration.

Apart from his business activities, he took an active interest in all social and sporting organisations, particularly in Rugby football. He was also an enthusiastic Freemason.

His elder son was killed in action in Italy, while fighting with the NZEF earlier this year.

The funeral on July 6 at Magiagi cemetery was one of the largest ever seen in Samoa, and gave ample evidence of the great popularity of the deceased, and the general respect in which he was held.

It will be very difficult, indeed, to replace him in the many spheres in which he has taken such a prominent and distinguished part—particularly in a small community like Apia, which has never suffered from a surfeit of public spirited citizens.

Four Times "Mentioned"

ONE name that has been missed from our Honours List is that of Commander D. S. Hore-Lacy, of the Royal Navy. He has been mentioned in despatches no less than four times during the past five years.

Before the war he was well known in New Guinea where he owned Garua and Ulatawa plantations, New Britain.

High British Official On Central Pacific Inspection

SIR COSMO PARKINSON, who has been Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies and has since 1942 been visiting British outposts as personal representative of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, left England last May on his Pacific tour, and has since visited Fiji, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the New Hebrides, the Solomons and Tonga.

Sir Cosmo said there were no big problems affecting the islands which had been brought about by wartime conditions. Asked whether the outlook and way of living of the natives had been altered through the new economic conditions created by the presence of large military forces and wartime activities, particularly in islands used by the Americans, Sir Cosmo said he did not think the natives had been affected to any great extent. Things would gradually go back to normal.

Talks with colonial officials convinced Sir Cosmo that they had their minds set on what could be done to develop the islands. The Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1940 and its subsequent amendment permitted the spending by the British Government of £120,000,000 on colonial development over a ten-year period. Each colonial Governor, said Sir Cosmo, was working out plans for the best possible development of the Colonies and for the improvement of the health and welfare of the natives. Money would be allotted to put the plans in motion, but a lot would be spent on geological and other research work. The church missionaries had contributed much to the health and education of the natives, but there was much more yet to be done by the British Government.

As far as the resources of the islands were concerned investigations were going on at present. Two men were now investigating timber resources in the Solomons on behalf of the British Administration, and an expert from the Imperial College of Agriculture at Trinidad was inspecting banana cultivation in the Pacific. Experiments were being made in

PACIFIC SHIPPING LINES

Plan for New Services by a NZ Company

THE Northern Steamship Co., Ltd., a vigorous New Zealand coastal transport company, is making plans for the formation of a new Pacific shipping organisation. It is proposed to build four ships, and inaugurate shipping services between New Zealand and:

- (1) Solomon Islands, New Hebrides, New Caledonia and Norfolk Island;
- (2) Tonga, Fiji and Samoa;
- (3) Cook Islands and Tahiti.

For some years, at the annual meetings, the chairman of Northern Steamships has indicated the belief of the directors that a field for expansion lies in the Islands trade. At the last meeting of shareholders a definite proposal, along the lines indicated above, was submitted, and unanimously approved.

The plan is now being worked out in detail.

NATURAL CEMENT?

Rock Being Investigated in Fiji

SUVA, Aug. 2.

THE latest natural product of Fiji to be investigated is a kind of rock that apparently is similar to Pozzelen, a well-known building product of Italy. There are large quantities of it near Suva.

It is practically a natural cement. Crushed, and mixed with slaked lime, it sets strongly, and can be used in most of the various ways in which cement is used.

The material is now under investigation by the Mines Department of Fiji; and many people hope that it may simplify the huge building programme with which the Colony is confronted.

the Solomons with various crops for local production. Those islands were still in the military zone, but local administration was still functioning.

PARTY FOR HEAD OF TAHITI FAMILY



Mrs. Julia Nordman, head of the well-known Tahiti family, celebrated her 80th birthday on January 29. This photograph was taken at a party given in her honour. Shown from left to right are: Miss F. Wilson, Mrs. M. Williams, Mrs. O. G. Nordman, Mrs. Julia Nordman (the guest of honour), Mrs. H. Pambrun, Mrs. E. Lucas and Miss Anatila Nordman.

NEW DEAL OR MIS-DEAL?

Papua-N. Guinea Provisional Administration Bill Passed by Both Houses

THE Papua-New Guinea Provisional Administration Bill was passed in the Australian House of Representatives on July 19. Amalgamation of the two Territories until six months after the war is provided for in the Bill, which takes power from the former Legislative Councils and delegates it to the Government through the Governor-General.

Sweeping changes in the new Territory now come into effect. These include a 44-hour week for native labourers, a basic wage of 15/- per month, abolition of the indentured labour system as soon as possible, elimination of professional recruiters, and a limit of 12 months on the duration of native labour contracts.

The Bill and its provisions were discussed at length in the July issue of "PIM." It was, of course, a foregone conclusion that the Bill would be passed—the Government has an overwhelming majority in the House—but it was more than ordinarily disillusioning to Territorians to find from the debate on the Bill that tragically few Government or Opposition members have learned anything about Papua or New Guinea in the past three years.

Several Opposition members confessed as much. Mr. Ward, who as External Territories Minister introduced the Bill, however, did not. Perhaps Territorians would feel better if he had.

The following comprehensive report on the debate on the Bill on July 18 and 19, has been supplied by our special correspondent in Canberra:

SPEAKING on the Bill, Mr. White (Lab., Vic.) described it as an attempt to administer by "remote control" from Canberra a Territory, 2,000 miles away, bearing a population of 1,000,000.

He then moved that the Bill be withdrawn and referred to a Select Committee for report as to whether the Bill meets the requirements of the Territories concerned, and to seek advice upon the best methods of restoring civil administration that would take care of native population and the economic development of Papua and New Guinea.

Mr. White said: "It is essential that we return to the Territories again, those people who were forced into exile and who have been clamouring to return to their homes again."

"This is of the utmost importance because New Guinea is not only our spring-board for invasion against enemies who might attack us, but it is a stepping stone to Australia for those very enemies. It is here that our garrisons fought for Australia, and it is here they may have to fight again."

"We have tremendous responsibilities to the natives, and it is incumbent on us to give them enlightenment. But it must be said that our policy to the natives of Papua and New Guinea has been better than that towards our own aborigines."

"We have seen men like Sir Hubert Murray do much good for the natives, and we must support any measure with a similar aim. But I do suggest we act wisely in the matter."

"Merging of the two Territories is something we should all support, but whether it is constitutional is something which will have to be considered. What I am really concerned about, however, is that the whole of the control of that Territory will be directed from Canberra. This is just too ridiculous to be supported in any democracy."

"The protagonists of this Bill have just run beyond their common sense. They talk about trusteeship and protection of the native. In the past, with the Territories governed by men who knew the place natives were guarded against every form of exploitation."

"We must educate the native, but if we apply to these people, many of whom are primitive, labour laws suited to a civilised race, then we will be spoiling them instead."

"Mr. Ward had a conference in Sydney last December with men who knew the Territories. In deciding against the indentured labour system as a result of that conference he accepted the opinion of one missionary and one anthropologist against the opinions of dozens of others."

Mr. White continued that under the Bill the Government was virtually going to primitive natives in the mountains and offering them trebled wages, a revised dietary scale and a 40-hour week. "These natives are going to be amazed," he said.

"You should allow the former administrations to return to the Territories. You should put the power into the hands of these men who know the place, and are fit to administer the Territory. All we have in this Bill is a sort of co-prosperity plan for the Trades Halls of New Guinea. Do you believe there is slavery in New Guinea?"

Mr. Bryson (Lab., Vic.): "Yes."

Mr. White: "The indentured system of native employment is no more slavery than the apprenticeship system is in Australia. Do you think Sydney trades could operate successfully if their apprentices were authorised three months' holiday after twelve months of work?"

Mr. White continued that there was not a word in the whole Bill about New Guinea settlers who had struggled for years to open up the two Territories. Most of them were returned soldiers, and many of them could not even return to their homes under the conditions now being imposed by the Government. Many of them would not be able to operate if the Bill were passed.

"New Guinea is a place where you want a minimum of governmental interference. I feel the whole matter has been insufficiently considered, and that is why I move this Bill be referred to the Select Committee," he concluded.

MR. HAYLEN (Lab., NSW) said the whole problem of New Guinea revolved around the taking of manpower from villages for long periods, and thus destroying native culture. This de-tribalising process was aggravated by the indentured labour system which the Bill attempted to adjust.

"We must put some measure of dignity back into New Guinea," he said. "We must see that the native owner of the country preserves his tribal rights and eventually regains his country. With such a plan they could welcome us back to New Guinea after the war in the name of democracy. An Australian community dedicated to the White Australia policy cannot see the second largest island in

the world as some sort of place to be exploited by a handful of white men."

MR. SPENDER (Independent, NSW) said the vital issue facing Australia was in whose interests New Guinea and Papua be developed. Despite the fact that planters with the encouragement of previous Governments had gone there and invested money our real obligation was to the native people.

"In plain justice and morality we must discharge that obligation to the best of our ability," he said. "These Territories must be developed for the natives with

PASSED IN SENATE

THE Papua-New Guinea Provisional Administration Bill passed all stages in the Senate on July 27.

Points made by speakers during the debate were:

SENATOR SAMPSON (Lib., Tas.): When you make a personal reconnaissance and see these territories for yourself it makes all the difference in your ability to debate these matters sensibly. The indentured labour system has always been conducted on a voluntary basis, and it is strange that it is condemned almost exclusively by people who know nothing about it.

SENATOR GRANT (Lab., NSW): We hope we will deal with people like Mr. Carpenter and Burns Philp. We will see we are not putting the Japs out of these territories simply to put Carpenters and Burns Philp back in.

Senator Sampson: What's wrong with Burns Philp and Carpenters?

Senator Grant: Other people do the fighting so they can exploit the natives.

SENATOR BRAND (Lib., Vic.): In order to keep step with Dr. Evatt's San Francisco pronouncements concerning the betterment of native races the Government has lost all sense of balance between decent treatment of natives and decent treatment of white settlers.

SENATOR SHEEHAN (Lab., Vic.): When these children of nature are taken away from their own people they lose some of their own ideals. Now that the Labour Government is arranging for their regular return to their villages they will be able to carry on their traditions. Of course, we hope to develop their ideas.

SENATOR COLLINGS (representing Mr. Ward in the Senate): The Bill has been compiled and brought down after consultation with many men who knew New Guinea well. Mr. Ward himself went to both New Guinea and Papua and investigated the situation there on the spot. The Bill is the result of his findings.

the help of white men and all the assistance we can provide. But we must be the sleeping partner not seeking to make a profit out of the work."

Mr. Spender said that, as ANGAU was at present administering liberated areas of the Territories, there was no immediate hurry for the return of civil administration. "Let us take our time and examine the Bill thoroughly before we rush it through," he suggested.

"Under this Bill the Administrator, whoever he is, must obey the instructions given by the Minister, through the Government. And then there is no guarantee that members of the previous administration will be given their jobs back."

"I should like your assurance, Mr. Ward, that no military officer has already been chosen for the position of Administrator. This is a job requiring the services of a man with the qualifications of Sir Hubert Murray. I should also like to know the cost of ANGAU administration as compared with the cost of pre-war administration."

"In my opinion, Mr. Ward, your first step should be to determine the policy to

(Continued on Page 46)

TROPICALITIES

SUPERSTITION lives on in Fiji, even among civilisation's most modern gadgets.

At the Emperor goldmine, suspended over a travelling belt which carries crushed ore into the mill, is a large magnet, powerful enough to pull up and hold any stray bits of iron and steel which may have got among the stone, and which would damage the mill.

One day, a Fijian, carrying on his shoulder a metal container of chemicals, came along that way, and passed close by the magnet. Suddenly he found himself off balance: some strange power was dragging him sideways. No one had ever told him about magnetism; but he knew all about *tevoras* (native spirits)—and so he dropped his burden and, with howls and prayers, he left that place in a very great hurry.

THERE'S a servant problem in New Zealand, as elsewhere. In Rarotonga, as elsewhere, there are many Polynesian maids who have felt the profound and disturbing influences of war. So the maids have gratified their urge to travel (with the approval of the NZ Government) and some two or three hundred worried NZ women thus have got domestic servants.

But the thoughtful and serious people of Rarotonga do not like the arrangement at all. "They are not only taking away the best of our young women," says one resident. "They are also causing a social upset in the whole native community, and they are striking right at the heart of the native birth-rate. It is a stupid innovation, perpetuating many of the social evils of war, and it is unworthy of an intelligent administration."

WHEN the Commonwealth Oil Refineries gave Private Fulton, of the Newcastle district, New South Wales some weather recording instruments, Private Fulton went to work to list the temperature and rainfall registrations of Lae, Madang and Alexishafen, New Guinea.

The lowest rainfall in the Madang area occurred in October, 1944, when 320 points were registered. The highest recording, according to Private Fulton, was in January, 1945, when 30 inches of rain fell. The highest temperature was 110 degrees, in January 1945. The average temperature was about 90 degrees, and in 15 months the temperature never fell below 60 degrees.

Average monthly rainfall for the period was 872 points.

These figures may surprise some Territorians. However, we gather that Army Administration has not been able to change Madang's climate. It is still hot and wet.

It is records like these that probably cause some of Mr. J. T. Lang's brainstorms. It will be remembered that some months ago Mr. Lang proposed to the NSW Parliament that New Guinea's surplus water be piped to Australia's Dead Heart.

FOUR sets of brothers who lived and played together as children in Fiji, are now serving in the RAF or Dominions Air Forces. They are Terry and Paddy Fenton, Weston and Keith Brooks, Bruce and Dennis Baker, and Russell and Ian Leith.

Terry Fenton is flying Catalinas with the RNZAF, while his brother Paddy is on Venturas. Weston Brooks is with RAF

Coastal Command, and is flying Sunderlands. Keith Brooks is a ferry pilot, also in the RAF.

Bruce and Dennis Baker and Russell and Ian Leith are all with the RAAF.

Bruce has been instructing in Canada, and Dennis is flying Kittyhawks in the New Guinea and Netherlands East Indies war theatre.

A TERRITORIAN, an officer in the AIF, who shall be nameless, wrote these verses while engaged in "mopping-up" operations in Bougainville.

We've nineteen dead on the Buin Road,
Ten more on the jungle track,
And all day long there's a broken tide
Of our wounded streaming back.
We've fought all night by the Hongorai
With never a bite nor sup,
And to-morrow's back page news will quote
"Our forces are mopping up."

As dawn awakes with a jaded eye,
Discarding its mighty pall,
White crosses mourn on the Numa Trail
For fellows who gave their all;
In Tsimba's ridges, Soraken's groves,
They drained to the dregs, hell's cup,
But the blood they gave was a trifling thing,
They only were "mopping up."

The screaming silence of ambushed swamp,
The horror of obscene bog,
The vicious foe, in a filthy league
Of blanketing rain and fog,
Are trivial things, which the critics know
Should never hold heroes up;
Good God! Why, this isn't war at all . . .
We merely are "mopping up."

We make no claim to heroic mould,
But this little boon we ask:
That those armchair critics are sent up here
To share in our "simple task."
When they've been on speaking terms with death
And have tallied the blood-cost up,
Perhaps they'll coin a more adequate phrase
Than casual "mopping up!"

THERE apparently is an animal called "bureaucrati tropicus," some examples of which have got into Fiji, judging by this letter in a recent issue of the "Fiji Times":

Sir—
I went to a shop to buy six penn'eth of screws. "Have you a permit?" I was asked. "No! I've never had to have a permit for screws."

"Well, you do now," said the shopman. "Sorry, I can't sell them without the permit, but I'll tell you what I can do. If you buy hinges, I can put the screws in the hinges."

"Don't I have to have a permit to buy the hinges?" I asked incredulously.

"No, not for under a certain amount. I can sell you the screws you want with the hinges, but not the screws you want without the hinges!"

Now, I ask you, is the Government all there, or am I

"A SCREW LOOSE."

WHEN the schooner "Cimba" left Suva, Fiji, in April, the owner-skipper, Mr. G. F. Russell, expected to make the round trip in her to Auckland and back to Suva. He took with him Mr. J. Malloy, of Suva, and Mr. F. Beddes, of Lautoka. But, as the poet said, the schemes of

mere men often go agley—and this is how Mr. Russell, in effect, has "swallowed the anchor."

The schooner reached Auckland on May 12—ten days overdue and after a frightful buffeting—and shortly after Mr. Russell met a young lady and almost immediately they were married.

He abandoned the "Cimba" and made the return trip to Suva by prosaic "Matus," settled his Fiji affairs, and flew back to New Zealand, where, it is understood, he has joined his wife in a business venture.

DOES malaria recur after taking atebirin? Australian Repatriation Commission doctors say it does not—that, in effect, if a soldier takes the prescribed course of atebirin after leaving infected areas he should be malaria-free. John Isackson, an expert in Repatriation matters, who writes for "Smith's Weekly," is not so sure. Neither, apparently, is the Army. Recently it experimented upon a bunch of soldiers on leave—Army instructed these soldiers not to take their atebirin after reaching Australia, although presumably they had been taking the daily dose up until that time. Result: most of them had several attacks of fever.

Whether wartime atebirin has a little something that the pre-war brew did not, we cannot say. But it was the opinion of most Territorians that atebirin did not always work a sure-fire cure. Those who had recurrent attacks after taking a course of the drug were as numerous as those who had been cured.

Because the Repatriation doctors believe that atebirin really works, malaria is not pensionable. There has been a general wail about this in Australia, although few Territorians will quarrel about the decision if they do disagree about the reason for it. Only in exceptional cases would a full-time pension be warranted. Most people learn to cope with their fever as easily as they cope with a common cold.

Mr. Robert Dean Frisbie, well-known American writer, who has been residing in Rarotonga for some time, is now an inmate of the hospital at Pago Pago, American Samoa. Stomach disorders are being cured by a course of special treatment.

Notice of Meeting

PACIFIC TERRITORIES ASSOCIATION

A general meeting of the Association will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 1945, at 8 p.m., in Teachers' Federation Hall, 166 Phillip Street, Sydney (seventh floor).

BUSINESS:

To receive report from the Executive on activities to date.

To deal with any other business that may arise.

C. A. M. ADELSKOLD,
Secretary.

Positions Vacant

TERRITORY OF PAPUA-NEW GUINEA

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

APPLICATIONS are invited from persons desirous of being considered for appointment as ADMINISTRATOR of the Provisional Administration for the TERRITORY OF PAPUA-NEW GUINEA.

Appointment will be at a salary of £2,000 per annum, plus an entertainment allowance at the rate of £500 per annum. (The Income Tax Assessment Act does not apply to any income derived by a resident of the Territory from sources within the Territory.)

The appointee will be stationed in Papua-New Guinea.

Applications, giving full particulars as to age, qualifications, experience and war service (if any) and stating whether married or single, should reach the Secretary, Department of External Territories, Canberra, A.C.T., not later than 31st August, 1945. If lodged by telegraph, a written application should follow by first mail.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA-NEW GUINEA

APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL HEADS

APPLICATIONS are invited from persons desirous of being considered for appointment to the undermentioned positions in the Provisional Administration for the TERRITORY OF PAPUA-NEW GUINEA:

Director, Public Health.—Salary range, £1,100-£1,200 per annum.

Director, Agriculture.—Salary range, £1,000-£1,150 per annum.

Director, Education.—Salary range, £900-£1,000 per annum.

Director, Public Works.—Salary range, £900-£1,100 per annum.

Appointments will be made at a rate of salary within the respective ranges, according to qualifications and experience. (The Income Tax Assessment Act does not apply to any income derived by a resident of the Territory from sources within the Territory.)

Appointees will be stationed in Papua-New Guinea.

Applications, giving full particulars of age, qualifications, experience and war service (if any) and stating whether married or single, should reach the Secretary, Department of External Territories, Canberra, A.C.T., not later than 31st August, 1945. If lodged by telegraph, a written application should follow by the first mail.

(Positions are open to officers of the Public Services of Papua and New Guinea and to other persons.)

PAPUA-N. GUINEA BILL PUTS TERRITORIANS ON THE SPOT

But Debate Provides Parliamentarians With An Opportunity for Slander

BY JUDY TUDOR

THE Papua-New Guinea Provisional Administration Bill was passed by the Australian House of Representatives on July 19, and by the Senate on July 27. It remains in force for the duration of the Pacific war and six months afterwards, when something a little more permanent will be wished upon the long-suffering residents of Australia's New Guinea Territories.

The implications of the Bill, especially as it applies to native labour, and therefore to the whole economic set-up in the Territories, was discussed at length in the July issue of the "PIM." Such is the overwhelming majority of the Government in both Houses it was, of course, a foregone conclusion that it would be passed—a Bill, once it is introduced, almost automatically becomes law these days.

The debate on the New Guinea Bill, for any practical purpose, availed Territorians nothing, nor ameliorated their lot one jot. It did, however, afford members of the House an opportunity of airing their ignorance on New Guinea affairs, and thus making it clear to residents just where they stand in relation to the present Government. Such is Parliamentary privilege in this democracy of ours, that members are allowed to slander freely, or accuse unjustly, any person or section of the community who happens to displease them.

The whole business of proving to Australia's Parliament, and to Australians, that Territorians are simply ordinary citizens, who happened to choose to earn a living in somewhat extraordinary manner has become tedious, boring and unprofitable in the extreme. That it should be necessary to harp on this theme until it is threadbare is one of the phenomena of Australian life.

NOW, consider the ordinary Territorian how he grows. He is no saint; he has his full share of human faults; the isolated, king-of-all-I-survey manner in which he has lived has given inelasticity to some of his ideas; the conditions of war have administered a lesson in tolerance that was badly needed in some instances. But taking him by and large, the present-day Territorian of the outports is much the same type of individual who a century or more ago left Europe for the wider fields of Africa, North America, Australia and New Zealand. We call our emigrating forefathers pioneers—and honour them. Australians call Territorians "exploiters" and give them as many kicks in the pants as possible.

It is this ordinary Territorian, the small man of the outports—the planter, the trader, the miner, but the planter most of all—who stands to be ruined by Mr. Ward's new legislation, because contrary to popular fancy the ordinary run-of-the-mill Territorian was far from wealthy.

The big firms with their many interests scattered over not one, but several, Territories, the big mining concerns, etc.—these can weather the Canberra storms. But the small man sank his all in one stretch of coconuts or rubber—along with anything up to 30 years of his life.

It is beyond the comprehension of the average Australian to understand why any man should seek a life away from the suburban rut. The ambition of all Australians who live in the country is to

go live in Sydney or Melbourne; and of all those already in those cities, to stay there. To seek fresh fields, and in so doing live in a kunai shack, suffer inconveniences, illness, isolation and a dozen more difficulties peculiar to carving a living from the jungle, is to Mr. Average Australian plain, damned silly—if there is not a pot of gold at the end of it or some other dark deep fishy reason for so doing. If he can think of no other reason why Territorians do these things,

N. GUINEA CWA DANCE

A CABARET supper dance will be held by the New Guinea Branch of the Country Women's Association, at Sargent's Ballroom, Market Street, Sydney, on September 14.

Tickets are 7/6 each—and are limited. It is advisable, therefore, to make reservations early by ringing either Mrs. A. J. Peardon (president), FU 6075, or Miss H. Savage (treasurer), MW 2868.

then he sits back and bellows "exploitation," a parrot-cry that needs, apparently, no explanation.

Mr. Average Australian, although he is a good trade unionist, cares nothing for the betterment of man; all he cares about is his own personal welfare, and, being lacking in initiative himself, wants regulations passed to prevent any other person doing what he himself has not the guts to do.

It is this spirit, passing from a large section of the Australian public to-day to the members they have elected to Parliament, that manifests itself in the kind of ill-considered outbursts we heard during the recent debate on the Provisional Bill.

Nothing that has been said or written about Papua and New Guinea in the past three years has registered with these men who presume to control the destinies of others.

If for no other reason than that New Guinea was news, it might have been supposed that they, of all people, would have taken some time off to learn something of its history and background. They have learned nothing. After three years, the best they can do is still to sit on their behinds on the Government benches of both Houses and yell "Exploitation" at regular intervals, as do the mobs upon whom they rely for support.

The performance put up by the Opposition during the debate, except in a few cases, was feeble to the point of disinterest. The Opposition has an election to win next year—or else. And Territorians have no votes.

Nothing uttered by Opposition members indicated any great knowledge of the Territories or conditions there. Their side of the debate seemed to be inspired by no loftier motives than that it is the function of the Opposition to be "agin the Government."

It is, however, through the good graces

of Parliamentary morons, and the Australians who put them there, that Territorians are graciously permitted to return to their homes and their work. And this being so, it is necessary for Territorians to defend themselves against the innuendoes, accusations and straight-out slanders that are heaped upon them.

THERE is, for instance, the matter of a certain Mr. Bryson, a Victorian Labour member.

Mr. Bryson is of the opinion that there was no fighting done in New Guinea except by mainland soldiers; that the planters and miners, who had been interested only in making money, left in a body for Australia when the invasion occurred.

It should be unnecessary to have to point out to Mr. Bryson that the New Guinea and Papuan residents have a war record that is second to none. In the years 1939-40, every young, able-bodied man who could, joined one of the Services; many of them did not wait for New Guinea contingents to be formed, but paid their own fares to Australia, where they joined the AIF, RAAF or Navy. They served in every theatre of war, and many of them lost their lives, were wounded, or became prisoners of war in so doing.

While these younger men were away, the older men back home, almost to a man, joined the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. The NGVR's defence of Rabaul when the Japanese invaded New Britain was a little Anzac. That story has been told over the Australian Broadcasting Commission's network and printed in Australia's leading newspapers. Yet Mr. Bryson had never heard of it; or, if he had, chose to disregard it.

On the mainland, the men of the NGVR were the spearhead of the Allied advance. For months, in outposts as far afield as Aitape and the Sepik, in the mountains of Morobe and everywhere a listening post was necessary, these men kept tag on the Japs at the hourly risk of their own necks.

They led the early patrols; they made contact with the natives—because these men, and these alone, had the peculiar knowledge necessary for the job. These were the men who, before the war, while Australians pushed pens in Sydney offices, or worked in pickle-joints in Redfern and Footscray, or attended "the dogs" on Saturday, walked New Guinea's mountains and her swamps, sailed her treacherous seas, suffered her fevers, carved pieces from her jungle, and dug gold from her streams—doing all these things, not because they were snow-headed heroes, but because they were real men who darned well wanted to live that way.

These were the "exploiters," the despoilers of native life and culture, the cruel masters of reluctant slave workers—these men, who in 1942, and 1943, and again in 1944, went out and contacted their former victims, and by some strange

power, probably sorcery, harnessed them to the Allied war effort.

A larger proportion of the male population is in uniform in Papua and New Guinea than in any other British Territory—the over-age as well as the young men.

In New Guinea there were no reserved occupations; everyone, irrespective of class or position, who was under 45 and out of the Army was automatically in, in February, 1942.

Many over-age men, compulsorily evacuated, took one look at Australia, under wartime conditions, and began at once to move heaven and earth to get back to the Territories—if not with the Australian, then with American, forces. Some of the finest work in the Southwest Pacific area has been done by men whose soldiering should have been over in 1918.

It is impossible to list here the decorations that have been awarded to New Guinea and Papuan members of the various forces. In this issue of "PIM" alone there are at least half a dozen new awards for gallantry. This is not an exceptional month; this has been going on for the past three years.

AND again—in Australia at this moment there are several hundred women who have heard no word from husbands or sons for 3½ years. Through sheer Government muddling, those men were left behind in Rabaul to be swallowed up in the Japanese invasion

(Continued overleaf)

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of New Britain. These moral gentlemen of Canberra would do well to dwell a little on the plight of these women, who have had to assume the role of bread-winners to young families, and who know not whether their men are alive or dead, rather than add to their mental anguish by making ill-considered and ill-founded attacks on the courage and integrity of New Guinea manhood.

They might, too, in the comfort of their Canberra hotels, spare a thought to the men who, if they are not already dead, have existed in Japanese prison camps for nearly four years.

In any other country but Australia, the exploits of the New Guinea pioneers, in peace as well as in war, would have been regarded as a proud achievement; theirs would have been an honoured place in the history of the nation.

In Australia these achievements are ridiculed, cheapened, and, worst of all, degraded into catch-calls for politicians who have never seen a coconut or one of the Fuzzy-Wuzzies whom they are going to pluck, willy-nilly, from the burning of capitalism and slavery.

There is not one decent Territorian who does not want to see the lot of the native improved; they, more than Australian politicians, appreciate the role the natives have played in war and in peace. There have been no outcries against the

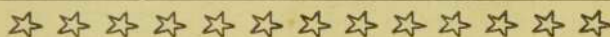
clauses in the new legislation which are designed purely for the welfare of the natives. The complaints are against those clauses, which were designed without practical knowledge of the Territories, simply for the confusion and undoing of European enterprise.

THE Papua-New Guinea Provisional Government Bill is now very much *fait accompli*. A comprehensive report on the debate appears on page 8, this issue. Readers may study it at their leisure—and probably come to the same conclusion as this writer did—that is, that it is rather like butting one's head against a brick wall to attempt at this late date to teach our leaders anything about the Territories.

One part of the debate, however, is not reported on page 8, and as this clears up a mystery that has intrigued Territorians for 18 months, it might be worth recording here.

Mr. Ward, on his visit to Papua in early 1944, refused to be carried off the surf boat, but preferred instead to take off his boots and sox and paddle ashore.

It was concluded, at that time, that he did this because of a feeling of brotherly love for the natives. But now, in the course of the debate, Mr. Ward breaks down and confesses that he refused to be carried ashore simply because he had heard that the natives were suffering from malnutrition.



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Vigorous Protest by N. Guinea RSSAILA

Demands Apology for Bryson's
Slander of NG Men

SUCH a storm of protest was received by the New Guinea Branch of the RSS & AILA, from members overseas and in Australia, in respect of the derogatory statements made by Mr. Bryson, MHR, during the debate on New Guinea Provisional Administration Bill, that a special general meeting of the Branch was held on Friday, August 3, under the chairmanship of the president, Mr. A. J. Gaskin, to consider what action should be taken to correct the false impression given by the member in question.

At this largely attended meeting the speakers did not pull their punches when expressing their opinions of the criticism of New Guinea residents made by Mr. Bryson under parliamentary privilege.

The statements objected to, extracted from "Hansard," were:—

"When the Japanese attacked the islands to the north of Australia the only fight that was put up there was that of our soldiers," and "When the Japanese invaded New Guinea the white settlers left as quickly as they could."

One speaker pointed out that Mr. Bryson had apparently never heard of the NGVR, a unit composed of local volunteers, all being either returned soldiers of the First World War or rejected as medically unfit for this war, and who took the brunt of the Japanese invasion at Rabaul in company with a small section of Australian soldiers.

Of the 75 members of the NGVR who went into action at Rabaul only about nine escaped death or capture.

On the mainland of New Guinea the members of the NGVR, probably 150 strong, acted as the eyes and ears of the Army located at Port Moresby, and provided information as to the movement of the Japanese Fleet and invasion forces.

Another speaker said that, far from

getting out as quickly as possible, as suggested, the men over 45 years of age, then on the mainland, were compulsorily evacuated by the Army authorities, although they wished to remain. The majority of these "old" men, on reaching the mainland, immediately joined up in whatever services would have them.

Other speakers mentioned that over 100 decorations and awards had been received by former New Guinea residents; and that of the 350 civilians at Rabaul at the time of the Japanese invasion only about 35 escaped.

A resolution, in the following terms, was carried unanimously:—

This Branch of the RSS & AILA demands of Mr. Bryson, MHR, an unqualified withdrawal of the statement which cast a slur upon the white settlers of New Guinea, when, in the House of Representatives on July 19, 1945, he suggested that they had been guilty of cowardice.

Further, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Federal President of the League, and the press.

AUSTRALIAN APPOINTED HEAD OF VACUUM OIL

FOR the first time, an Australian has been appointed chairman and managing director of Vacuum Oil Co. Pty., Ltd. He is Mr. Harold Rabling, who joined the company in 1923 as a lubrication engineer, and became Newcastle manager in 1924. His photograph appears below.



Three years after his appointment he was promoted to an important executive post in Melbourne head office, went to New York in 1935 as assistant to the company's resident director, and in 1938 became resident director, which position he retained until appointed now as chairman and managing director in Australia, to replace Mr. C. K. Gamble, who is returning to New York.

FIJI MEN IN THE RAN

A READER has written us: "I was interested in your article in the June 'PIM' on the Fiji members of the Royal Australian Navy. Here are the names of three more which you might care to add to your list. They are: Lieut. V. G. C. Tisdall, late of the Bank of New South Wales, Suva; Lieut. J. R. Elliot, late of the Bank of New Zealand, Suva; and Lieut. R. E. Mountstephens, a former resident of the Colony."



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CSR CO. NOT A ROBBER IN FIJI

Shephard Report Clarifies 1943 Trouble With Indians

THE numerous and various charges made against the Colonial Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., summed up mostly in the allegation that it is a ruthless monopoly exploiting the poor Indians in Fiji, are well and effectively answered by the long-awaited Shephard Report, which was made public in Suva to-day.

Dr. C. Y. Shephard is Professor of Economics at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad; and, following the serious disputes between the Indian cane-farmers and the CSR Co. in 1943, he was sent to Fiji by the British Government to investigate the whole position.

The Indians, under the leadership of certain notorious political agitators, had long insisted that the company could treat them more generously, and in 1943 they refused to grow cane or work the mills. The industry was very seriously disrupted; and, although the Indians resumed work in 1944 (when Dr. Shephard arrived in Fiji and carried out a very full, independent investigation), the company cannot get back to normal production until next year. Cane needs 18 months of growth.

Dr. Shephard's report is an impressive

document, and it represents the most complete description, history and analysis of the sugar industry of Fiji that yet have been published. It clears away many misunderstandings and misrepresentations, and it should make possible a new era of industrial peace in Fiji's principal industry.

DR. SHEPHARD says that no reasonable rearrangement of the figures of the company, in all the years since 1930, will give the company a rate of profit averaging 7½% per annum, which the Indian farmers admit is a reasonable return. He says that, instead, the average rate of profit has been in the vicinity of 3% per annum, which is not an attractive return on the capital invested.

The following is a summary of his conclusions and recommendations:

The company could afford to pay a little more for cane, providing the output of sugar averages over 130,000 tons p.a., that sugar rates do not fall below their present level, and that level of costs is not materially increased. Because of the strike in 1943, the company estimates only 77,400 tons output in 1944 and 70,000 tons in 1945.

The present method of assessing the price of sugar cane should be retained, subject to the addition of the value of molasses to the value of the cane. Payments for cane should be completed by March 31, each year.

A Sugar Board should be set up to advise the Government in all matters relating to the Fiji sugar industry. It in turn should be advised, by a Scientific Investigation Committee, on a programme of investigations into peasant farming, to be financed by contributions from Government, cane-farmers and the company. The present system of farming should not be changed except as the result of experiment.

THE following conclusion and recommendation are important and likely to lead to much controversy:

"Speculation in land has resulted in the assumption of a crippling burden of debt by any (Indian) contractors. The competition for cane land is very keen, and the premium for a lease usually constitutes a heavy burden. Many of the contractors who described their circumstances to me could not hope to emancipate themselves from debt, even if the price of cane were raised to 30/- per ton. Improvident farming, leading to degradation of land, is common among contractors.

"Most of the land farmed by contractors is under the control of the Native Land Trust Board and it is recommended that the Board should refuse to transfer any existing lease if the premium is excessive and should prohibit sub-letting, sub-division and transfer in new leases." Much closer supervision over this class of land generally is recommended.

The general effect of the report is to place the company before the public—and especially the people of Fiji—in a much more favourable light; to condemn the cane-growers' hasty and ill-advised action in striking in 1943; and to bring before Government, company, and Indian cane-growers a series of practical plans which should not only improve relations between the three interests, but also should improve the economic condition of the Indians, and give the company some assurance of a more consistent return on the huge capital it has invested in Fiji.

BSI Resident Mentioned in Despatches

A FORMER resident of the British Solomons, and well known there for 30 years, Mr. A. M. Andresen, has been serving in the RANVR with the rank of sub-lieutenant.

Earlier this year he was mentioned in despatches for his work in the South-West Pacific area.

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CAT'S-EYE GOLD FOR FIJI

Indian Traders Clean Up Many Fortunes

SUVA, Aug. 2.
THE politico-economic background of the Indian in Fiji has altered considerably in the last four years. Once he was a poor Indian; now, he is almost absurdly rich.

This is the result of the hundreds of thousands of dollars which the United States Servicemen left behind them. Fiji always has been notable for the ornaments made from tortoise-shell, silver, shells, etc. The souvenir-hunting Americans went crazy over these objects. The Indian traders suddenly found fortune within their grasp, and they worked like demons, and raised their prices in a shocking way.

Tortoise-shell quadrupled in price. A small bag of "cat's-eye" shells, which could be gathered profitably in almost any lagoon for a shilling, became worth a startling sum. Every back-room behind the Indian shops in Suva became a work-room, where silver was wrought and shells were polished. The Town Board began to wonder what was happening to its electric power—until it discovered that every second Indian shop had hooked small motors on to the electric light wires, to drive cutting and polishing machines.

The American demand was insatiable. Prices continued to rise. The Indians literally wallowed in money.

THOSE were difficult days in the Pacific. The Jap was very close to Fiji. The Fijians enlisted in large numbers, and did a fine job under the command of Americans and New Zealanders, and became world-famous as jungle fighters. The Indians showed no disposition whatever to fight, or help the war effort. They went into their back-rooms, and polished cat's-eyes and sank their trading fangs deep into the Americans.

The Americans moved on towards Japan, but the fame of the Fiji souvenirs had spread into all places where Americans foregather. Contrary to expectations, the souvenir trade did not die when the troops departed. The Indian workshops are busier than ever, making these trinkets for export. A draft for £5,000 for such goods is nothing—one Indian trader recently received a draft for £22,000.

One lend-lease man recently in Fiji, said that if the Government were to publish an announcement that, after a certain date, American money no longer would be legal tender in Fiji, American currency worth at least £1,000,000 Fijian would come quickly to light.

THE amount of new money now held by the Indian community of Fiji is staggering. The Indian, notoriously, is eager for land. This new money is an embarrassment to him—there is so little he can do with it. But he always will buy land—if land is available.

Most Fiji land belongs to the Fijians, and the natives' land rights are most sternly guarded by the British. There is a certain amount of freehold around—land alienated in the early days, before the land laws were tightened up. Every now and again, this freehold comes on to the market. The owners are nearly killed in the rush of Indians, who anxiously and eagerly watch every estate.

The effect of this has been to raise land prices in Fiji generally by up to 100 per cent. There is no wartime control over real estate prices in Fiji. Property

values in Suva Peninsula have more than doubled since 1940.

Politically, the Indian never was humble. Now he is arrogant. He has plenty of money, and there seems no end to the golden stream. Fortified by that feeling of independence, he is going to demand a larger share in government. A British Conservative Government might have kept him in his present place, until he has shown himself fit to govern. A British Labour Government may take a different view.

Now in Business in Sydney

Mr. W. Keith, Former Executive of BP's, Rabaul

ANOTHER well-known Territorian has joined the ranks of those who are setting up business for themselves in Australia, rather than wait to return to a "rehabilitated" New Guinea. He is Mr. W. Keith, for many years assistant manager of Burns, Philp & Co., Ltd., Rabaul.

He was branch inspector of BP's, Port Moresby, when the invasion of New Guinea occurred, and has been in Australia since the suspension of civil administration. He has now bought out the firm of C. A. Arnold, drapers and soft goods merchants, of 125 Miller Street, North Sydney.

Several New Guinea residents have gone to work for Mr. Keith in his new venture. They tell us that a welcome awaits any Territorian who cares to drop in.

A distinguished visitor to Fiji during July was Archbishop O'Shea, SM, of Wellington, NZ. He was passing through Suva on his way to Samoa to be present at the Episcopal Silver Jubilee of Bishop Darnald, of Samoa, and the celebrations connected with the Centenary of the Roman Catholic Mission in Samoa.

SIR ROBERT GILLESPIE, DEAD IN SYDNEY

PART founder of a firm well known in the Pacific Islands, Sir Robert Gillespie, died in Sydney on August 2.

He was born in Melbourne, the son of George Gillespie, a flour miller, and in 1903 came to Sydney to found, with his two brothers John and George, the firm of Gillespie Bros., proprietors of Anchor Brand Flour.

He was one of Australia's most prominent business men, and one of her most generous benefactors.

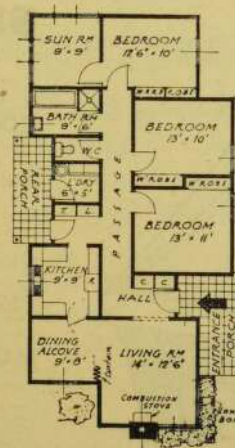
He became president of the Flour Mill Owners' Association, was a director of the Bank of New South Wales, and later president; he was on the board of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co.; a director of the Queensland Insurance Co., Ltd., Ball & Welch, Ltd., of Melbourne; and the Scottish Hospital.

He was a staunch Presbyterian. He was one of the founders of Knox Grammar School in Sydney, and was chairman of the Presbyterian Ladies' College in Pymble, NSW, for 12 years. He was part donor of several of the college buildings. He contributed generously to St. Andrew's College and other Sydney University projects. For the past 20 years he has been an active member of the board of the Burnside Homes, and was one of the founders of the Fairbridge farms scheme in New South Wales.

Sir Robert was knighted in 1941.

The Reverend R. C. Rudgard, well known to many friends of Melanesia in New Zealand, has seen service with the British Forces in Africa, and has been awarded the Order of the British Empire. For some time he was in charge of the senior native school on the island of Ugi, B.S.I.

The Rev. C. Beharell, who has been in Queensland for some time, has received a cable from the London Board of the LMS advising him that he has been appointed to his old station at Niue, South Pacific. He will take up his new duties in August.



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POLYNESIAN NMP's

Quotas Nearly Filled by the Suva School

SUVA, Aug. 3.

AN interesting and important stage in the history of the Central Medical School of Suva, Fiji, has been reached.

The number of trained native medical practitioners required by the Polynesian Territories which support the famous training institution are now within sight; and soon the school, instead of training regularly a full quota for those Territories, will train sufficient only to maintain NMP strength in Polynesia, and will devote its main activities to training selected men (and nurses) for the Melanesian Territories, where a larger number is required.

I renewed acquaintance with the school to-day, and found the principal, Dr. Hoodless, busy with an unusually large class of first year students mostly Polynesians. The boys appeared to be even better than the high standard of mental and physical fitness to which these selected students generally conform; and one observed the usual happy relationship between teacher and pupil. The influence of Hoodless will be felt throughout the South Pacific long years after Dr. Hoodless himself has passed on.

In this year's first class, there are no less than eleven Samoans—five from the Mandated Territory, and six from American Samoa. The arrival of this contingent from the American Territory is noteworthy recognition of the value of the Suva training institution.

Dr. Hoodless gave me the following figures, which show how the needs of the Polynesian Territories have been met:—

Tonga: 15 trained and now at work as

NMP's; 4 in training; 20-22 required altogether.

Gilbert and Ellice: 16 trained (including 2 taken at Ocean Island by the Japs—late unknown); 5 in training; total requirement, about 24.

Western Samoa: 23 trained; 6 in training; probably will want only 2 more to complete the native medical corps.

Nauru: 3 trained. Do not want any more.

Cook Islands: 8 trained; 3 in training; probably will need only 3 more.

This means that in about four years the only places which will still need NMP's, apart from replacements, will be Fiji, New Hebrides and Solomon Islands. In the view of the medical authorities the Solomons could do with a minimum of 50 trained men—they now have only 6. Fiji has 70 trained men—Fijians and Indians—and at least another 30 are needed.

IT has been thought, over the years, that students from Papua and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea eventually would be sent to this well-proven institution; but—as in so many other things connected with the Islands—Australian political considerations override everything else, and Australia remains stubbornly aloof.

Instead of NMP's, with four years' intensive training behind them, being at work in the Papuan and New Guinea native communities, Australia is trying to do the job with natives who have had short and almost rudimentary instruction. Bureaucratic and political stubbornness is depriving the Australian Territories of the best native medical service yet devised in the Pacific.—R.W.R.

The Rev. John Goldie has returned to the Methodist Mission, BSI.

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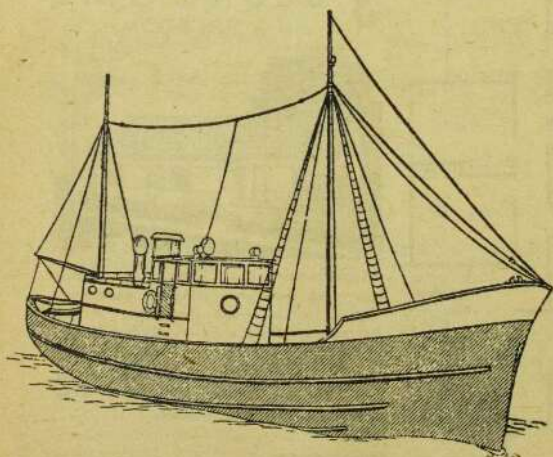
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Fiji Indians' Staple Foods in Short Supply

Drastic Order to Conserve Rice

A LARGE quantity of rice is eaten, normally, in Fiji—mostly by the Indians. Some is grown in Fiji; but, until the Pacific war came, the greater part was imported from Burma or Indo-China. When the Japs invaded these countries, Fiji bought Australian rice. Fiji also imported very large quantities of Australian flour and sharps.

Now, owing to drought in Australia, and the diversion of the reduced Australian output to meet more urgent needs elsewhere, there is no more Australian rice for Fiji. The amount of Australian sharps available also is less. Fiji, therefore, must eat more Australian flour—and the Australian flour price has risen lately by 40 per cent.—which means that the Fiji loaf has risen from 8d. to 9½d. or 10d.

Thus there has been created for Fiji generally, and for the Indian community in particular, an embarrassing food problem. There is a shortage of both rice and sharps, and a rise in price of the only alternative, wheater flour. There are 113,000 Fijians, 113,000 Indians, and about 10,000 Europeans and others to be fed.

In a series of special Orders, issued to-day, the Government has taken steps to: (a) reserve all remaining stocks of rice in Fiji or arriving in Fiji for the use of the traditional rice-eaters, and of others who need rice on medical grounds; (b) make flour and sharps (where sharps are procurable) available to take the place of rice; (c) subsidise flour importations, so that the Colony as a whole will bear the higher cost of the flour, and there will be no increase in the price of bread.

As from to-day, no European or Fijian may hold or acquire rice without a licence.

THE shortage of rice now is very acute, and is likely to remain so for several months. In fact, there is no prospect of relief until more rice is grown in Australia, or in Fiji, or until supplies are again available from Asia.

There is no reason why Fiji should not grow all its own rice requirements, except lack of enterprise and industry. Burma rice always has under-sold the local product, however; and although ricefields and ricemills are found in most parts of Fiji, the Indian rice-growers never have made a concerted effort, although frequently urged to do so by the Government. The situation may be expected to change now; but it may take a year to develop new production on a large scale.

There is an abundance of native food-stuffs in Fiji—taro, cassava (or arrow-root), corn, bananas, pineapples, and, of course, the ubiquitous coconut. The situation will not trouble the Europeans or Fijians very much; and, if it establishes the Fijian rice industry on a sound basis, it will have compensating features.

CENSUS TO BE TAKEN IN W. SAMOA

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, July 12.
A CENSUS of the population of Western Samoa will be taken in September, simultaneously with the census in New Zealand and the Cook Islands.

The last Western Samoan census was taken in 1935. In 1938 the estimated total population was 57,759, and is now estimated to be about 66,000.

Since 1923 the population has about doubled itself.

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE W. Samoa Celebrates Centenary of Catholic Mission and Bishop Darnand's Jubilee

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, July 12.
THE four days from July 3-6 were memorable ones in the hundred years' history of the Catholic Church in Samoa. Attended by an estimated ten thousand church adherents, the Centenary of the Catholic Mission and, at the same time, the Episcopal Silver Jubilee of His Lordship, Bishop Darnand, was celebrated—the pomp and impressive European church ceremony combined with the colourful procedure of a Samoan feast.

Several high church dignitaries, who had arrived by plane from overseas, had come specially for this great function, amongst them, the Right Rev. Archbishop O'Shea, of Wellington, New Zealand, who, 25 years before, had come to Samoa to consecrate Bishop Darnand as Bishop of Samoa; Bishop Foley from Fiji; Bishop Poncet from Wallis Island, and the Rev. Fr. Conneley, Colonel - Chaplain, from Wellington.

The celebrations began on July 3 at the Seat of the Catholic Mission at Moamoa with a Pontifical High Mass and Te Deum. This was followed by a distribution of food to the Samoan gathering and a Centenary and Jubilee dinner.

During the afternoon there was a grand procession of Catholic school children, followed by songs and native dances and the consecration of schools.

In the evening, cantata and tableaux commemorating scenes of the life and martyrdom of Blessed Peter Chanel were presented on the Moamoa Malae by a joint choir of

250 voices, accompanied by the Moamoa Band.

On July 4, the actual anniversary of the founding of the Mission, the celebrations took place in Apia. Pontifical High Mass was held in the morning; the afternoon was given over to the children, and at night a reception and dinner were given by the European Parish.



Bishop Darnand, with the Administrator of Western Samoa, Mr. A. C. Turnbull, and Bishop Poncet, of Wallis Island, in front of the Cathedral at Leauvaa during the third day of the celebrations.

On July 5, the celebrations were at the Cathedral seat of Leauvaa, where High Mass was followed, in Samoan tradition, by a Royal Kava ceremony, at which the Bishops met the Samoan Chiefs.

A Taumafataga (Samoan Dinner) followed and, in the afternoon, songs and dances.

In the evening, tableaux and songs were performed by a joint choir of 500 voices, representing the spirit and progress of the work of the Catholic Church in Samoa.

The celebrations closed on July 6 with a distribution of food by the Leauvaa district, by native dances by the pupils of the schools, and by gift offerings (Taalolo) by the various districts of Samoa.

Reception and Dinner

THE reception and dinner given by the members of the European congregation of the Cathedral of Mary Immaculate, Apia, in commemoration of the Centenary of the Catholic Mission in Samoa, and in honour of the Episcopal Silver Jubilee of His Lordship the Most Rev. Joseph Darnand, on July 4, at the Catholic Club, was one of the best organised functions of this kind ever held in Samoa.

Representatives of all sections of the European community, including the Administrator, Mr. A. C. Turnbull, members of all denominations and Samoan leaders joined the Catholic congregation

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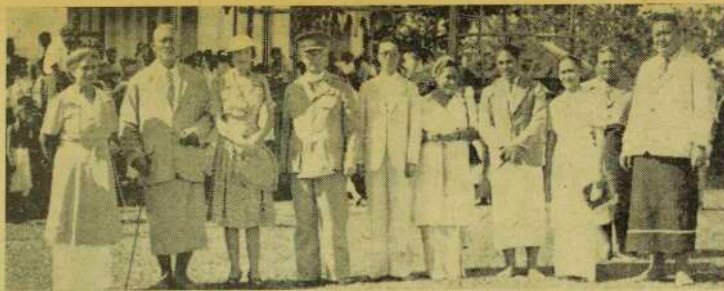
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A GROUP OF GUESTS OF HONOUR AT THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION AT LEAUVAA. From left to right: Mrs. Mataafa, the Hon. Mataafa, Mrs. A. C. Turnbull, Colonel-Ghaphlain Conneley, the Chinese Consul, Mr. C. F. Cheng, Mrs. Tamasese, the Hon. Matietoa, Mrs. Matietoa, a Samoan Chief, and the Hon. Tamasese.

to pay a sincere tribute to the great work of the Catholic Mission, and at the same time to honour Bishop Darnand on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee.

Over 250 guests sat down to the Centenary dinner and listened to addresses by some of the guests of honour.

The Right Rev. Archbishop O'Shea said that this great celebration surpassed, in scope and performance, anything he had seen in New Zealand. He also paid a great tribute to the loyal and devoted work of the Fathers, Brothers and Sisters of the Society of Mary in Samoa during the last century, and to the able spiritual leadership of the jubilant of the evening, His Lordship Bishop Darnand.

Other speakers included Bishop Foley, of Fiji, and the Rev. Fr. Conneley, of Wellington.

Bishop Darnand expressed his great appreciation of the good wishes tendered him and his mission.

The dinner was followed by songs and

tableaux, presented by boys and girls of the Marist Brothers' School and St. Mary's Convent School, which told the

story of the Catholic Mission in Samoa during the last century and the evangelisation of the islands of the Western Pacific by the Priests, Brothers and Sisters of the religious society known as the Society of Mary.

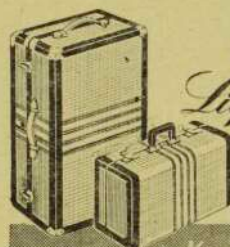
AWARDED DSC OF TWO NATIONS

LIEUTENANT Paul Mason, RANVR, is the only Australian to be awarded the DSC of two nations.

In August, 1942, he was awarded the American DSC for conspicuous skill and gallantry during the American landing in the Solomons. He recently has been awarded the British DSC for "extraordinary gallantry in support of Army operations in the Pacific."

At the time of the American award he was serving with the rank of Petty Officer; he since has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

Before the war he was a plantation inspector at Inus, Bougainville, TNG.



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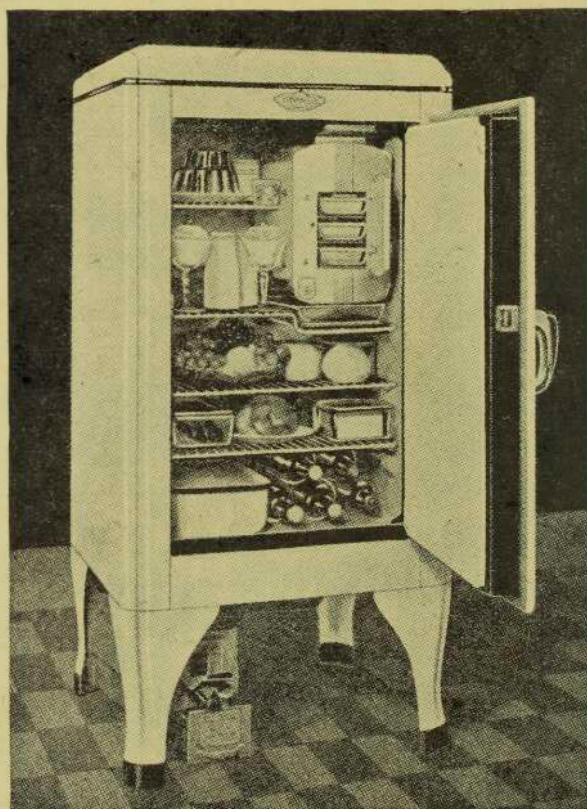
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BROADCASTS FOR PAPUANS

Good Work Through 9PA

AN interesting development of the war period in Papua is the organisation of a radio broadcast service for Papuan natives. The natives take an extraordinary interest in it; and, if it is carried on as it was begun, it may become an important factor in the future government of the Territory.

The service was commenced by Major W. R. Humphries, formerly Senior Resident Magistrate, about May, 1944; it later was carried on by Captain Baskett; and in October, 1944, Major-General Morris, who has taken a keen and consistently helpful interest in the new service, put Sergeant Maynard Lock, of ANGAU, in charge of the radio session.

Sergeant Lock was born in Papua, son of W. N. Lock, who was superintendent of SDA Missions there. He could speak Motuan before he spoke English. He was in the Papuan Public Service when war came; he enlisted, and was later transferred to ANGAU. His brother, Private Earl Lock, became his assistant; and now these two, with the aid of two well-trained natives, conduct the Motuan radio session from station 9PA (Port Moresby) three times a week; run a small library (which is rapidly growing) for natives; and issue a monthly eight-page stencilled newspaper in Motuan. The radio programmes are transmitted on long and short waves on:—

Sundays.—News of patients in the various native hospitals, transmitted by radio and picked up in the various villages. If there is time, a fable (story) is broadcast. Educated natives supply the stories, for prizes of 5/-. More stories are submitted than the staff can comfortably cope with.

Tuesdays.—War news and local news, with explanatory notes. If there is not enough local news, there is a medical talk.

Thursdays.—Mostly entertainment—stories from listeners and readers, and musical items. One Thursday in each month is "Children's Day."

ONE day in each month the session is devoted to the work of the Papuan Central Training School. The TB hospital, established on Gemo Island in Moresby harbour by Sir Hubert Murray in the thirties, was taken over by ANGAU as a base hospital and training school for Europeans and selected

natives, many of whom in due course are to do medical work among the native villages. Officers from the school give talks, in Motuan—news of the school, lectures concerned with medicine, hygiene, sanitation. Selected natives are brought to the microphone, to give their own version of events in the hospital to their fellow-villagers.

The most popular items are those given by the native choirs, which include a children's choir. The choirs are conducted by Sergeant Lock.

AS about 80 per cent. of Papuans can understand Motuan, this new feature of native administration is rapidly becoming popular. The native villages eagerly subscribe around £30 for the purchase of a community receiving

set. It has four or five valves, runs on dry batteries (which remain good for about six months), and is jealously kept in the house of the village constable. The whole community gathers at fixed times to listen in. The nearer villages use the long wave; but more distant places receive on short wave. The broadcasts now reach between 4,000 and 5,000 natives; and the audience is increasing as fast as wireless sets can be obtained.

This use of radio directs attention to the use of Motuan, which the Murray Administration tried, over many years, to make the *lingua franca* of the Territory.

There are very many different languages in Papua (as in most Western Pacific Territories), and each tribe speaks



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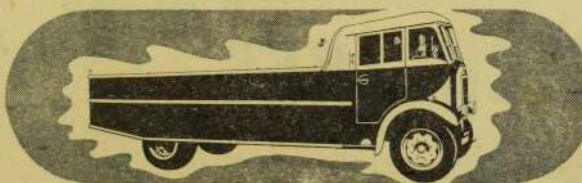
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Motuan differently. To-day, few people can speak pure Motuan. The Motuan that is in general use—and which is used in radio—is Police Motuan, and—having little grammar or syntax—it bears about the same relationship to Motuan as Pidgin English does to English.

The new radio feature may help to spread Police Motuan, and give it an advantage over Pidgin English, which has been creeping across from the Mandated Territory since the Jap invasion came, and the military administration broke down the old border barriers. Most of the New Guinea natives are now returning to their own Territory. Their Papuan cousins will talk Pidgin with them, but they do not like Pidgin, and will not talk it among themselves.

It is the purpose of the promoters of the scheme to use the Police Motuan language to advance the natives' knowledge of English. The natives are eager for knowledge, and those who have acquired enough education to read English (mostly through the mission schools) will take what they can from books, and

pass it on to their uneducated fellows.

The officials made an appeal in Australia, through "Women's Weekly," for books for the Papuans, and they had a remarkable response, and about 500 letters. The books thus obtained (mostly books written for children) formed the nucleus of the present small but growing library, of which the Papuans are gladly availing themselves.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR YOUNG TERRITORIAN

ONE of the Gowrie University Scholarship awards announced recently went to Murray Charles Groves. He is the son of Major W. C. Groves, who was well known in New Guinea before the war.

Major Groves was a Commonwealth official attached to the New Guinea Education Department. He did considerable anthropological work and research into native education in the Territory. Since the war he has served in the Army Education Service.

RECRUITS FOR COLONIAL SERVICE

New Conditions Issued

CONDITIONS of entry for the British Colonial Service were announced in London a few weeks ago. The immediate plan is to facilitate the employment of men and women who have been serving in the armed forces.

Age limitations have been modified, therefore, and provision has been made for counting war service, to some extent, in fixing initial salaries.

Two age limits have been fixed. For the Colonial Administrative Service, the Audit Service, Customs Service, and Survey Service, candidates must have been born on or after January 1, 1910.

For the Colonial Agricultural, Education, Engineering, Forest, Legal, Medical, and Veterinary Services, and for Labour and Social Welfare appointments, candidates must have been born on or after January 1, 1905.

Further details of qualifications required and general conditions of service are available at the Colonial Secretary's Office, Suva.

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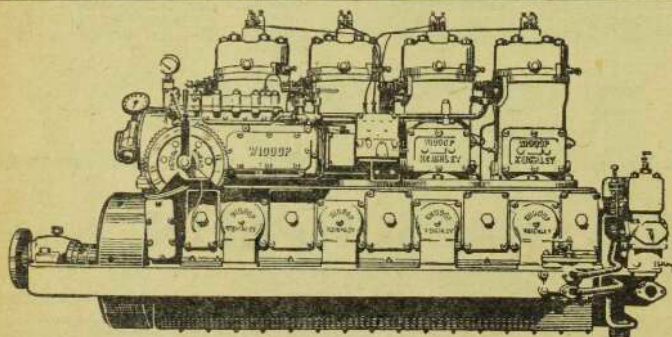


DEATH OF SUVA'S OLDEST INHABITANT

THE death of Fiji's oldest European, Mr. J. F. Crawford, occurred in July, at the age of 99.

Mr. Crawford was born in Scotland on April 11, 1846. He came to Fiji in 1900, and for many years followed the trade of plumber.

About eight years ago he entered the Cottage Home in Suva, and from then until a short time ago, when he was admitted to hospital, he was a well-known figure in the town as he took his daily walk.



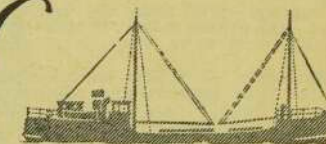
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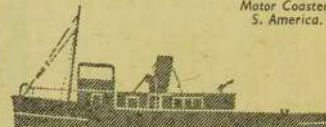
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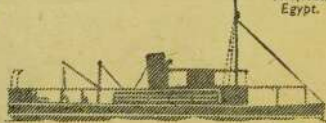
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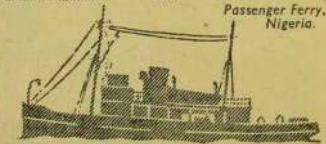
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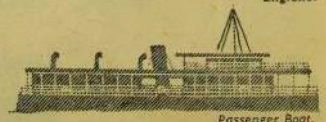
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"ORANGE ISLAND" BLOC URGED Makea and Other Rarotongan Leaders Visit Mangaia

From Our Own Correspondent

WHEN the first fruit-steamer for '45 called here recently, she carried the Makea of Rarotonga (Mrs. Takau Rio Love), Mr. W. P. Browne, and Major Ward, who all came ashore to hold meetings, for the promotion of native welfare on this island.

There is much local dissatisfaction with the 6/- a case now offered for oranges. And there are Mangalan war veterans (of World War I), broken in health, who have never had a penny of pension from the New Zealand Government for the best part of 30 years.

The visit of the leaders was in connection with these two urgent reforms.

Mr. Browne and Mrs. Love both addressed large gatherings, urging the union of all CI "orange islands" into a bloc, capable of bargaining collectively with the fruit-market in NZ, and, if necessary, suspending shipments from the whole Group if the present unprofitable price (to planters) is not raised.

It is stated that 6/- a case does not repay the labour and outlay of picking—arduous work, upon hilly Mangaia!

The same fruit, it is declared, fetches 35/-, and over, on the NZ market; and adjustment is being sought, in view of this profit of 29/-.

A DOCTOR from Rarotonga spent the steamer-day examining the native veterans of 1914-18, and a pensions

official from NZ recorded claims on their behalf.

The outcome has yet to be seen.

One of the veterans, who is helpless, was brought to the Dispensary by truck; and his condition excited much comment, as he is unable to work, and, until Major Ward took up his case, was entirely without means.

At Mangaia only the fit survive, unless they possess money; the native life of the island being exceptionally hard for the aged and the incapable.

It is hoped that reforms will come out of these discussions and assemblies of steamer-day.

Mr. Browne, in conversation with this writer, spoke feelingly of the low living standards of Mangaia, caused by their slender income.

Our natives have money only between May and August each year, but their needs continue all the year round.

Profit and Loss Account

THE very low living standard of the outer Cook Islands is typified in the following little "statement" of a local neighbour's profits and losses from the first shipment of this year, ex-Mangaia Island:

9 cases oranges, at 6/- case	54/-
Less:	
Levy for church repairs, 1/- per case	9/-
School fee for one child	10/-
Annual sub. to LMS (married	

couple)	12/-
Trucking cases to landing-place	2/3
Total	33/3

Fifty-four shillings, minus 33/3, leaves 20/9, to be shared among a family of six persons—that is, an average share of 3/51 to repay a week's hard work in the hilly inland, among dense bush, and, this steamer, in pouring rain.

For this "basic award wage" of 3/51 per individual, the Internal Marketing Division of the NZ Government has obtained nine cases of first-class oranges, the Group's best, to sell in New Zealand at 35/- or more per case!

Is it to be wondered that the native planter feels that the IMD are robbers, and the LMS a drain upon native Christians?

WORLD'S BIGGEST ISLANDS

REFERENCES to New Guinea as the world's biggest island have been challenged. It is claimed that Greenland is the world's biggest—or maybe Australia. But Australia, like North and South America—all wholly surrounded by water—are classed as continents. No ship ever has sailed right around Greenland—its everlasting ice makes it part of the Arctic Continent. The area of the world's biggest islands:—

	Square miles.
New Guinea	313,000
Borneo	306,906
Madagascar	241,094
Sumatra	163,048
Victoria	87,884
Honshui (Japan)	87,425
Great Britain	85,971
South Island (NZ)	58,092
Java	49,532

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A DUTCHMAN'S ONE-MAN WAR ON GUADALCANAL

BY HAROLD COOPER

OUR Allies, the Dutch, who have fought with us on so many battlefields, from their own Low Countries to the jungles of New Guinea and Tarakan, may not know it, but they were worthily, albeit modestly, represented in the campaign to drive the Japanese out of Guadalcanal.

Their representative was a Roman Catholic priest, Father de Klerk, who was in command of a party of native scouts operating on the southern side of Cape Esperance, at a time when the Japanese were making their last stand there.

De Klerk had lost touch with his family in Holland after the Nazis had overrun Western Europe, but he knew enough about what was happening in his homeland to be eager to snatch any opportunity of striking a counter-blow, however puny, at the hated Axis powers. His chance came after the Americans landed on Guadalcanal, and he made the most of it.

When I visited him at his quiet mission station in mid 1943 he had given up war-faring, for there were no Japs left in his scattered parish, but he was full of stories of the good old days when he wore Marine uniform, and went out on regular patrols with his little band of poorly trained but enthusiastic riflemen.

He told me how, on the first of these patrols, he entered a remote hill village and inquired of the elders whether they had seen any Japanese in the vicinity. Their answers were strangely evasive, and he began to wonder whether he was in the presence of Fifth Columnists.

Then one of the villagers decided to make a clean breast of it. He explained that there had been a number of Japanese

bivouacked nearby, and that they had behaved in an intolerable manner, ransacking houses and looting gardens. In the end the villagers had seen nothing for it but to take the law into their own hands and had killed eighteen of their unwelcome visitors. Would Father de Klerk kindly say nothing at all about this unpleasant business to the District Officer, because he knew what an ugly view the Administration took of murder?

The Father explained, as clearly as he could without getting launched into a dissertation on international law, that the killing of Japanese soldiers who were terrorising civilians on Guadalcanal was likely to be regarded as justifiable homicide. The villagers were vastly relieved to hear this pronouncement. Two days later they sent a special runner down to the Father's head-quarters to let him know that they had despatched another twenty-odd Nips. They thought he might like to bring his score sheet up to date.

DE KLERK had a little navy of his own, consisting of the ten-ton schooner "Kokorana," loaned to him by the Government for the duration of his service with the armed forces. She had her adventures, the most exciting of which de Klerk recounted for me. She was lying one night in a bay on the north side of Guadalcanal—most of which was then No Man's Land—when machine guns brought up by a Jap patrol opened fire on her from the beach at point-blank range. The boatman hastily turned his ship about and took her out to sea, leaving the dinghy floating in the bay.

On shore three men from the "Kokorana" had been stranded and two of them, both Americans, were casualties after the first burst of enemy fire. The third—a Solomon islander—dragged them to a hiding place in the mangroves, out of sight of the Jap gunners, then swam into the bay and brought in the dinghy. Under sporadic fire from the enemy ambush he hauled the wounded men into the dinghy and rowed them round the point to safety.

In this action an American private was severely wounded and afterwards died. His grave can be seen at de Klerk's mission station. It is beautifully kept and de Klerk corresponds regularly with the dead man's parents.

One story de Klerk told me was in lighter vein. Towards the end of the Guadalcanal fighting he was linked by telephone with the American head-quarters at Lunga, and used to act as a one-man radar station, sending warnings of the approach of enemy bombers. One day his boys brought in an American airman who had crashed on his way home, and who was slightly wounded.

De Klerk rendered first aid, and the American, after a hearty meal, went to bed. During the night de Klerk was awakened by the hum of what he supposed to be an aircraft engine, and he flashed a warning to Lunga, where a "Condition Red" came into force at once.

After a while de Klerk noticed, to his perplexity, that the bomber seemed to be getting no nearer to its target. Instead, judging from the sound of its engine, which grew neither louder nor fainter, it was hanging stationary in mid air.

Then, suddenly, the explanation dawned on him. His American guest was snoring softly next door. He had sent thousands of men into their foxholes just because one man happened to be breathing a little heavily!

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New Members Needed For PI Society

President Reports at Annual
Meeting

INCREASED membership and larger attendances at monthly meetings and social gatherings are necessary if the Pacific Islands Society is to continue to function vigorously. This was made clear to members in the report submitted by the president of the society at the annual general meeting in Sydney on July 25.

The membership is now 161, of whom 12 are new members. There was one resignation from the society during the year, and a number of unfinancial members were struck off the list.

Twelve gatherings were held during the year; eight speakers addressed members on Pacific subjects during the same period.

Members were urged to do their utmost to obtain new members for the society, both among Pacific Islands residents, and those interested in this region.

Finances

BALANCE at the bank on June 30, was £36—£6 less than at the same date last year. Receipts from subscriptions during the year were £29, and from social gatherings, £53. Expenditure on social gatherings was £81, making a deficit for the year of £6.

Later in the evening, the secretary, Mr. J. T. Bensted, reported that Miss A. D. M. Bushby, of Bowral, had donated the sum of £6/14/- to offset the deficit for the year.

Election of Officers

THE following officer bearers were elected: President, Mr. F. D. McCarthy; vice-presidents, Mr. L. Freeman and Major C. A. Swinbourne, OBE; secretary and treasurer, Mr. J. T. Bensted; assistant secretary, Mr. C. Price-Comgrave; councillors, Mrs. M. S. Williamson, Major C. M. Southey, Messrs. A. E. Stephen, E. A. Sturt, and L. Walker; hostesses, Mrs. R. W. G. Gosset, Mrs. E. Marie-Irving, and Mrs. G. Mackaness; auditor, Mr. R. H. Clarke.

Address by the President

AFTER the business of the meeting had been completed, members were addressed by the president, Mr. F. D. McCarthy, who spoke on the art of the Melanesians of the Western Pacific.

He drew attention to the need for more intensive collecting by the museums of Australia in order to secure adequate collections of Melanesian art material. In spite of the war, he said, there still remains in the Western Pacific, many fine specimens of native art.

The Rev. N. H. Wright, of the Methodist Mission, Lautoka, Fiji, is on deputation work in South Australia.

Flying Officer Victor Hjorring has been awarded the MBE. His father was at one time Mayor of Levuka, Fiji, and

he himself spent his youth there. He joined the RNZAF before the beginning of the war.



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IN DEFENCE OF PIDGIN-ENGLISH

History of its Adoption by the N. Guinea Catholic Mission

SOME people blame the Roman Catholic missionaries for not having introduced a native language as a common language for missionary purposes in New Guinea. Badly informed men compare New Guinea with Africa, where the Suaheli is spoken widely.

It must be emphasised, however, that Suaheli was developed by the natives themselves in their intertribal trade and traffic, and without any European influence. Early Territorians suggested the use of the TO (Gunantuna) language of New Britain as a common language—even the German Administration was inclined to take decisive steps in this direction, because this language was spoken by over 30,000 people, the greatest tribe then known. But nothing came of the idea.

The Lutheran Mission, of Finschhafen introduced the Jabim language for the islands and the adjoining coastal strip; in the inland around Sattelberg, the Kate language, further inland the Amele language, and in the mountain district of Wahgi valley other native languages, but generally the Lutherans seem to have made use of Pidgin-English, too.

That the Catholic Mission of Central and East New Guinea never introduced a common native tongue after the Lutheran plan, can be understood when one knows the history of both missions.

The Lutheran Mission started at Finschhafen and Madang, and extended from

there further inland. The Catholic Mission went leaping from Aitape (Tumleo Island) to Alexishafen, a distance of 200 miles, contacting en route only small tribes of two to three hundred. Alexishafen itself was an uninhabited jungle.

SEVERAL times in the past Malay has been suggested as a lingua franca. Doubtless it would have had great advantages for missionary and trading activities. It is spoken all over the Dutch East Indies. The German Administration considered this proposal, too, but it was unanimously turned down.

The main objection was that it was an unknown, strange language to the natives. Although the Malays traded in the early days with the natives of Northern New Guinea, as can be proved by brass-cannon found at different places, the natives never showed any great interest in the Malay language.

It has often been asked why English was not introduced in the mission after the Australian occupation of New Guinea in 1914. The reason is that the Australian Government showed remarkably little interest in the mission schools then—and very little more since.

In defence of the mission policy, W. C. Groves, an expert native educationalist attached to the Mandated Territory's Education Department, may be quoted. He said in his book "Native Education and

Culture Contact in New Guinea": "When English is widespread in New Guinea villages, there will no longer be New Guinea villages. And a sorry thing that, indeed, would be."

Straight English is taught in the Roman Catholic Central Teachers' Colleges for an elite of clever students. It is necessary for the education of the native clergy

MOST of the ideas in this article come from an essay on Pidgin-English, written by Dr. G. Hoeltker, editor of the international anthropological journal, "Anthropos," now published in Switzerland. A "PIM" reader has translated Dr. Hoeltker's work—which he says is highly scientific, with more foot-notes than text—and added a few comments of his own.

anyway. But for the rest, the plain fact of the matter is that the Roman Catholic Mission simply made use of the Pidgin-English known already to many of the natives.

Pidgin-English first reached the ears of the natives of New Guinea about 100 years ago. The natives were then making their first contact with Europeans—mostly sandalwood-gatherers, pearl-divers, trepang-fishers, whalers, "black-birders," of Anglo-Australian, Anglo-American, or Hispano-American descent.

On the mainland of New Guinea Pidgin was introduced mostly by plantation labourers, domestics, and police boys, who were recruited from New Britain and the Solomon Islands.

When the Catholic missionaries arrived there, Pidgin-English was already spoken, and was soon used by the mission staff when dealing with the labourers.

In the past 20 years the knowledge of Pidgin has spread with incredible speed all over the Territory. Before the war, there were about 40,000 indentured natives all making use of the language.

After having finished his term of labour, the native returned to his home village. He was then a "finish-timer"—and thought himself superior to all his fellow villagers, because above all, he has the snobbish mentality of a parvenu.

With his boxful of European trade goods (even peroxide and perfumes) he brought a mouthful of Pidgin.

On every occasion he paraded the "talk-whiteman." Soon he stirred an ambition in the hearts of the village belles and children to learn this new language.

Remarkable is the adaptability of Pidgin to all phases of life. All feelings, the most intimate feelings, thoughts and moods can be emphatically expressed. Even love letters or hymns can be written in it.

Stories are told; dances accompanied by Pidgin songs are created and introduced and soon the whole village (including the "Lapuns") speak and sing Pidgin.

It does not take long, because in many places more than 50 per cent. of the male population are "finish-timers."

IN one Catholic mission school in the early days there were 120 students, speaking 30 different tongues. Conferences of experienced missionaries were called together, the problem was discussed and at last it was decided to take on the already existing Pidgin as a lingua franca.

A dictionary and grammar were compiled, and in a short time about 50 different publications came off the press at Alexishafen (bibles, hymnals, fairy stories, history, general knowledge etc.). A monthly magazine "Friend Belong Me," was edited and produced.

Some uninformed people blame the

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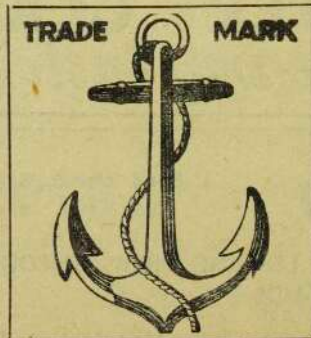
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Catholic Mission for insufficient linguistic knowledge and lethargic disinterestedness; they believe that that is why the mission took on Pidgin-English—because it was unable to master the difficulties of a native tongue.

It may be pointed out that all the missionaries mastered one or several native tongues. It is an essential requisite to grasp Pidgin fully, because it has a Papuan-Melanesian grammar with a collection of words from all the languages of the world, the dominant one, of course, being English.

All the Catholic missionaries who came from Europe had to undergo a course of linguistics and phonetics with final examinations at the internationally renowned "Anthropos" Institute near Vienna (later driven into exile in Switzerland by the Nazis). Therefore, I cannot agree with the "Pacific Islands Year Book" which states: "Philologists and people with a scientific training dislike Pidgin intensely."

Linguistic authorities such as the late Father F. J. Kirschbaum and Father J. Shebesta were responsible for the introduction of Pidgin as a lingua franca for missionary purposes in New Guinea.

No doubt Pidgin will have a great future. The war has increased its influence and use. Papuans as well as New Guinea natives now speak, or are learning to speak it.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. G. Townsend broadcasts weekly from Port Moresby in Pidgin. Millions of leaflets written in Pidgin have been dropped in occupied territory and have had great influence on the morale of the people. Japanese as well as Australian officers have had to undergo courses of instruction in it. Many books have appeared about it, the best written by Captain J. J. Murphy, formerly of the civil administration. It has been warmly recommended by ANGAU chief, Major-General Basil Morris.

MISSION'S ACUTE TRANSPORT PROBLEM

IN its anxiety to keep travelling expenses at a minimum, the Methodist Mission insists that missionaries travelling to and from the field must journey by surface transport and not by air.

This has meant that sometimes missionaries have had to wait in New Zealand as long as four months for a boat connection.

Because of Fiji's urgent need and the number of missionaries waiting in Australia, rules were relaxed and air transport agreed to; but still the problem remains unsolved.

Sister E. H. Taylor, of Queensland, has been in Sydney since May waiting for a plane booking and the Rev. and Mrs. Ivan Blake and Beverley, after having waited in Victoria since March, came to Sydney on June 8 to embark for Auckland en route for Fiji and have been stood down daily ever since.

The Rev. and Mrs. D. I. Telfer have been waiting in Adelaide since March for a plane booking to Fiji.

We can only hope that transport facilities will be eased soon and allow new workers to proceed to their fields and weary missionaries to take their well-earned furloughs.

—Methodist Missionary Review.

News has been received in Noumea that Jean Milliard, Engineer Lieutenant, taken prisoner by the Germans, was freed when the Allies advanced into Austria.

Dr. Captain Mattei, of the French medical service, has returned to France from New Caledonia. His district of Hienghene has been taken over by Dr. Lieutenant Ferron, who previously had charge of the Koumac area on the west coast.

TWO YOUNG MEN CONVICTED OF MURDER

From Our Own Correspondent

NOUMEA, July 15.

TWO young men, one French, one an Annamite, were recently tried in Noumea and convicted on a charge of having murdered a Tonkinese barber on November 15, 1944.

The Frenchman, Jean Paul, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment; the Annamite, You Guy van Phao, to ten years in a reformatory.

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"Pim" Short Story:

THE SHOOT LAMP

By Martin Mackinlay

THE night had been the darkest ever experienced in the valley. Not merely the darkness that comes with moonlessness and rain—and there had been that as well—but a total eclipse of all light. Even the night creatures of the jungle, that usually rasp and hoot from sun-down to sun-up, had been still. Their silence had added depth to the blackness.

But, as the first light trickled down over the mountain top, and the mists lifted sufficiently to reveal the huddle of thatched huts on the terrace thirty feet above the river, two natives rounded the bend of the stream. There was nothing strange in that, of itself; at dawn the labourers on the claim came up the river to the main house to receive their rice issue and their instructions for the day, from Tom Davis.

But, usually, they came in a long, straggling line of half-sleepy automatons, rubbing the light into their eyes with grimy knuckles, and huddled into flannel shirts and extra lap-laps against the faint chill of the tropical dawn.

On this morning, only the two boys appeared, and they at the double. Neither were their eyes dulled from long hours in the smoky labour houses, almost hermetically sealed against the evil machinations of local tambarans, masalis and other assorted devils. They were, on the contrary, bright with some emotion and their faces were the pale, sickly fawn of the Melanesian who has had a soul-shattering shock.

They took the long flight of earth and sapling steps that led to the camp above, two at a time; and instead of approaching the master's house with traditional deference and announcing their presence with a series of polite coughs in rising crescendo, they ran swiftly across the split-palm floor of the verandah and came breathlessly to a halt in front of the doorless doorway of Master Tom's bedroom.

The occupant of the crude bush bed, roused by the unusually hasty pattering

of feet over the yielding palm-wood floor and the consequent trembling of the rest of the flimsy establishment, stuck his tousled head out from under the mosquito-net and demanded with some irritation: "God-dammit—what name something?"

"Master—Master!" Apparently their news was of such magnitude that the boys' thoughts boggled there, and only after half a minute of gulping, eye-rolling and pointing dramatically in the direction from which they had just come were they able to continue, in duet: "More better you come quicktime. Master Mick 'e fall down along water. More better —"

"Master Mick!" The white man was out of his bunk in one supple movement. "What name water?"

"Close-to. Me tink 'e die-finis."

"Die-finis? You must be crazy!" Pausing only long enough to haul on a pair of boots, Davis set off, led by the two boys, who ran ahead like anxious pups.

He followed them round the bend and up a flight of rough steps, longer than that which led to his own camp. At the top they crossed a small, level piece of ground in front of a number of labour-houses, to where the rest of the labourers stood in a silent, scared knot, looking anxiously down into a deep gulch, where, when it rained heavily in the mountains, a turbulent creek rushed out to join the river lower down.

THE group parted to let Davis through. Below the sheer rock wall, on the far side of the gulch, the figure of a man in blue pyjama trousers and a cotton singlet sprawled grotesquely, the head half hidden among the rocks. There was no doubt about it: it was Mick Lonegan.

Davis swung himself over the rim of the cliff and, holding firm to roots and bushes, gingerly eased himself down the sloping side.

One look at Lonegan was sufficient to convince him that the man was very

dead. One side of his head, where it had come in contact with the rocks, was covered with congealed blood. Davis glanced at the cliff above, where stones and vegetation had been dislodged by the fall; evidently death had been instantaneous.

But how had it happened? The creek alone separated Lonegan's claim from his own, but the only means of communication was via the main stream. Lone-

MICK LONEGAN'S death was another unsolved mystery. When Davis found his body at the bottom of a cliff he thought of Lonegan's labourers and wondered if it could be murder. Actually, Lonegan's death was caused by the combination of a very dark night, a very long imagination—and a very human failing on the part of a certain Brown Brother.

gan's house was out of sight, on part of the same river terrace on which stood Davis' own labour-houses, but separated from them by the deep gulch and the stream at the bottom. There was no path down Lonegan's cliff, although there might have been a track from his house to the edge of it, where Lonegan's boys could come to converse with the boys on the opposite side.

Did Lonegan sleep-walk? In the course of years in the same part of the New Guinea bush, they had many times shared the same rest-house and Lonegan had not appeared to have had any such failing.

What then had caused him to rise in the middle of the night and wander a good hundred yards through scrub and fallen trees and then fall over a cliff of whose existence he had been well aware? The previous night had been unprecedentedly dark; but, even so, one rarely moved in that locality without a flash-lamp.

Lonegan was a bit of a fool, as evidenced by his conversation the previous day. But could it be—murder?

Davis shook his head to clear the clutching mists of doubt and shock from his brain and glanced swiftly up to where his own boys sat round the cliff edge, gazing down with scared, nervous faces. Did they know something? There was no telling with the inexplicable Melanesian, one or two generations removed from the Stone-age, which way his mind would leap in some unexpected contingency.

No telling, either—to such an extent was the tradition of independence sedulously maintained and respected among European residents—precisely what went on during the unknown three-quarters of a neighbour's life—even such a near neighbour, on New Guinea standards, as Lonegan had been.

And, if it came to that, where the devil were Lonegan's boys? Until that moment it had escaped his notice that it had been his boys who had brought news of the accident—if accident it were.

AT mid-afternoon, on the previous day, Lonegan had met Davis in the river near his camp.

"Come up and have a drink," Lonegan said. "I need one—trouble with my boys."

Davis had looked at the man. Lonegan was drawing on his cigarette in obvious excitement. He was shaking a little, and his knuckles were bloodied.

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bush." The thought came unbidden to Davis' mind. "Unstable, and needing the same influence of others about him."

Lonegan's boys were notoriously the worst-behaved in the district. They deserted with almost fixed regularity, or "made court" against their master with enthusiasm. Lonegan received both sets back into his fold—possibly because he found it hard to recruit boys in the first place—but carried on a perpetual feud with them, for the most part, verbally.

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In private, his boys called him "Master Big-mouth."

"Perhaps it's the Irish in him; or just the ordinary cussedness of his nature," Davis reflected, as he turned his footsteps in the direction of Lonegan's camp. Aloud, he contented himself with saying: "What's wrong this time?"

"Two big Sepiks jumped me just now, down on the claim. I had to show them who was boss. It's always the same way with Sepiks. They always try you out sooner or later, and you've got to show them."

"I've had Sepik boys for over ten years," remarked Davis dryly. "and I've never had to show them who was boss, that way. But they seem to know all right."

"You're lucky in your boys; mine are a lot of ——" They climbed the steep path to the terrace above and entered an untidy, thatched house. "Wangi! Wangi!" bawled Lonegan. "Where in hell is that boy?"

At the last bellow, a brown figure detached itself from the adjacent cookhouse, and, stretching and yawning, made a slow entry. "Makim tea," ordered Lonegan. The boy received the order in sullen silence and was about to depart, presumably to execute it, when Lonegan bawled again. "Wangi—you hear 'im good?"

The boy half turned and reluctantly answered: "Yessir."

"You see," said Lonegan going to a packing-case cupboard and removing a bottle of whisky and two smudgy tumblers, "that's what I have to put up with all the time. Just plain, damned insolence." He splashed the whisky into the tumblers, shoved one across to Davis and tossed off the contents of the other in two gulps. He refilled his glass and made a move to add more to Davis' drink.

"Hey, hold on." Davis covered his drink with his hand. "I'll wait for tea." He reflected a moment. "You want to take a pull, Mike. You're letting things get on your nerves."

"Yeah. I know. I'm fed up with the whole blasted place. I reckon I'll get out for a spell soon—it is getting on my nerves. Too much fever too, lately, and quinine plays up with my eyes. Nearly went blind a couple of years ago after an overdose. I get the wind up every

time my eyes get dicky again. Well, what the hell—here's luck."

When Davis left, the coming darkness was already beginning to show itself in long inky shadows that reached out, making themselves one with the overbearing jungle. The whisky bottle was down to the last half-inch and Lonegan's moods were alternating between maudlin remorse at his mis-spent life and truculence at the raw deal Fate had dealt him.

"Fever's coming on again," he muttered, as Davis got up to go. He weaved an unsteady course to a shelf, shook two five-grain capsules of quinine from a bottle and washed them down with the remains of the spirits.

"You want to ease up on both whisky and quinine," Davis told him. "Your fever is a bottle-fed baby this time. Ease up, or you'll leave your bones here, Mike."

"Aw—don't give me that. It's fever a'right. Hell, surely t'God a man knows when he's got fever."

WHEN the last of the dishes had been removed from the table to be washed by the cookhouse monkey, Wangi placed a large cup of coffee and the quinine bottle before his master, as had been impressed upon him so to do. Then he went back to the cookhouse, picked up an old, battered electric torch, ineptly unscrewed the end so that the batteries slid out into his brown paw and returned to the house.

Lonegan still sat, sunk in deep melancholy, stirring slowly at the black coffee. As Wangi entered Lonegan's hand went out automatically to the bottle of quinine, shook out two capsules and washed them down.

"Master," demanded Wangi with the calm effrontery of those who are used to asking, even if they receive not, "Keo belong shoot-lamp belong me, 'e die-finis. More better you give 'im new fella."

Lonegan bestirred himself. "Oh, 'e die-finis, eh? More better me give 'im new fella? That's all you blasted coons ever think about—give 'im new fella!" His voice rose to a roar. "Get to hell out of here. Go work 'im bed."

"Yessir." Unimpressed by Lonegan's roar, which was usual; and disappointed but by no means abashed by his refusal to come across with the highly-prized torch batteries, Wangi sauntered into the partitioned-off portion of the house which sheltered Lonegan's bed. He hung a small hurricane lantern on a convenient nail above the bed, arranged the mosquito-net and turned back the one lightweight blanket.

Then he espied, coyly half-hidden by Lonegan's pillow, Lonegan's own new torch—a thing of gleaming, silver beauty. He stretched out his brown hand and quietly picked it up, sliding the switch forward eagerly. A steady, golden beam flashed out, concentrating in a pool of light at Wangi's feet.

"This fella keo 'e alright," he muttered; and, after a second of hesitation his long fingers almost automatically began to undo the cap. It was the work of a moment to slide the three goods "keos" out, and replace them with the worn batteries from his own torch.

His own "shoot-lamp" would now provide the comforting light to guide him down the stream, so full of darkness and innumerable, silent and unnamed horrors, to the labour-houses below. To-morrow the master might be cross. On the other hand, the master was still slightly crazy from the effects of the water in the mysterious bottle and, in the morning, it might well be that he would have forgotten Wangi's request and believe that his own shoot-lamp had ceased to func-

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tion through nothing more unusual than the passage of time.

Wangi replaced Lonegan's torch beneath the pillow and silently withdrew.

IT must have been late when Lonegan woke. He lay in the darkness with his head throbbing, trying to get his bearings:

Tom Davis had been there that afternoon; and he, Lonegan, had polished off a bottle of whisky, almost unaided. Davis said he hadn't had fever. As though Davis knew what he had. He must have had fever—he hazily remembered taking a double dose of quinine for it—10 grains. Naturally, he must have had fever.

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Suddenly then his bemused brain switched to another scene: a brown arm placing a cup of coffee on the table and his own arm going out again to the quinine bottle. Of course. That was it—he had taken two double doses of quinine; 20 grains within a couple of hours, instead of the daily five. He surely was a fool; his eyes would play up again, as the Doc had warned. He might go blind, as he almost had two years ago.

A feeling of panic swept up from the region of his toes to his bursting head. Perhaps the damage, even now, was already done. Perhaps he *was* blind.

Cautiously, with his heart beating fast, he allowed his eyelids to roll up from his tingling eyeballs. Darkness rewarded him. He put out his hand to the mosquito-net. He could feel it but could not see its grimy whiteness. With sudden terror pounding in his overburdened, drug-filled brain his sat up and, as he bent forward, his eyes boring into the darkness that pressed in upon him, his flashlight rolled down from beneath his pillow, the cold steel touching the hot flesh of his arm. "The torch! That will prove it. If I can't see that light, then this is it. I am blind."

Feverishly his fingers sought the switch and, fumblingly, his muscles scarcely obeying the urgent messages of his brain, he pushed it forward.

Darkness still mocked him.

He shook the torch; jiggling the switch, now muttering, incoherent with the horror that descended upon him.

Panic took possession of Lonegan then. He stumbled out of bed, spilling the torch upon the floor, dragging the mosquito-net down with him. Driven only by some desperate instinct to escape, he stumbled out of the house, searching what he knew must be the sky for some glimmer of light.

But there was no light, not even a

lessening of the darkness where the sky met the rim of the deep valley. No stars twinkled; no trees stood out in silhouette; but a mist of rain fell upon him unnoticed.

He tottered and ran, caught by scrub and fallen trees and trailing creepers. He fell and picked himself up, only to fall again. Finally, he came to rest against a large tree trunk, exhausted, panting and weak with his fright.

He must pull himself together; that's what Davis had said. He must be calm. Even if it were blindness, it might again pass. He had lost his bearings and all sense of direction, but he must try to find his way back to the house, there to await the coming of morning and his boys. He must walk calmly—like this—slowly—

It was then Lonegan came to the cliff edge, not knowing it, and made his fatal plunge forward, down on to the rocks.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, July 12.

DURING the recent Catholic Centenary celebrations in Western Samoa, a fatal accident occurred at one village where huge crowds were gathered to participate in the functions.

The tyre of a truck standing on the main coast road blew out, and the iron rim from the wheel struck with great force a Samoan child standing nearby, killing it instantly.

Mr. Ken Garnett recently became a Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Sydney University. He is an old boy of the Suva Boys' Grammar School, and it is expected that he will be returning to Fiji shortly to enter the Government service.



In the Tradition of Hollywood

"Armed" Hold-up in Apia

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, July 10.
WHEN two American sailors in Apia, one evening recently, went in search of South Seas romance, they found it not quite in accordance with their eager expectations, which were based on Hollywood.

Walking along a dark lane in Apia's suburbs, they found themselves suddenly confronted with four dark and sinister figures, one of whom was pointing a gun at them and demanding in no uncertain tones that they hand over all the cash they had on them.

The two gobs—apparently not made of the stuff heroes are made of—meekly handed over all the dollars they had to Apia's up-to-date hold-up men, who thereupon promptly and mysteriously disappeared in the surrounding darkness.

Two very dispirited and disillusioned American sailors later on found their way to the police station and laid a complaint regarding the unromantic end of their adventure.

Apia's police got busy, and Sergeant Aupau Simalle set out on the trail of the evil-doers.

His only clue was that one of the gang had been wearing a raincoat, which was of no great assistance, as quite a few of these are found nowadays amongst Samoans with former Marine connections. But Sergeant Simalle at last tracked down the gang and secured sufficient evidence.

FOUR young Samoans, aged between 17 and 19 years, later appeared be-

fore Chief Judge J. R. Herd, accused of robbery. They pleaded guilty.

The weapon which had been used to threaten the American sailors in the approved Hollywood gangster technique was produced in Court and proved to be a 1/- toy pistol.

They received sentences ranging from six to 18 months.

The Resident Commissioner of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, Colonel O. C. Noel, visited Suva in July.

Three New Caledonians, Jean Guidon, Augustin Demene, and Jules Helme, have successfully completed their course of studies and have graduated from the officers' cadet school at Cherchell, Algeria.

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FIJI RESIDENT KILLED AT BALIKPAPAN

WHILE serving with the Australian Forces in Balikpapan in July, Captain Bob Chapman, a former resident of Fiji, was killed in action.

He went to Suva in 1938 as a member of the staff of the Bank of New South Wales, and immediately identified himself with the Colony's sporting life. He was manager of the Fiji hockey team which had such a successful tour in New Zealand in 1939.

He left Fiji in 1940 to enlist with the

Australian Forces as a gunner in the field artillery.

He went through the Middle East campaigns, and was commissioned, and returned when the Australians were recalled for fighting in New Guinea. He had only recently been promoted to the rank of captain.

Mr. Crayton Burns, nephew of Sir Maynard Hedstrom, visited Fiji in July, en route to Australia from the United States, where he was an Australian press correspondent at the San Francisco Conference.

DESECRATION OF PAPEETE BEAUTY SPOT

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, June 2.

TREE-LOVERS of Tahiti are broken-hearted over the cutting down of a circle of beautiful, healthy, flamboyant trees that stood about the Protestant Church at Papeete.

The more so, because these trees were planted 60 years ago by the Reverend Vernier, and were a stately memorial of that venerated patriarch of the church in Oceania, and of his three sons who carried on his work with devotion and great honour.

Alas, however, there has been let loose on the islands an icy, Arctic spirit which looks with baleful eyes on all things beautiful, as enticements of Satan to lure the unwary into the quick-sands of sin and eternal damnation.

That glorious circle of flaming splendour resembled a garland—a scarlet garland!

Scarlet, of course, suggests carnal abominations and recalls to memory that horrible woman of Babylon.

So the trees had to come down.

We are to be consoled by a more decorous adornment to be erected on the place of the martyred beauties: a drab and hideous wall of cement and rubble.

The engagement is announced of Cora Young, daughter of Mrs. Christine Young and the late Mr. Rupert Young, of Norfolk Island, to Lieutenant Albert Kleiner, United States Air Corps. Miss Young, who is a direct descendant of Edward Young, midshipman of the "Bounty," will eventually make her home in Los Angeles.

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FOUR YEARS AS A POW

Experiences of a Former Fiji Resident

THE red-letter day of brightest hue in the life of Private John Douglas Whitcombe (formerly of Fiji), was last April 22, when, on a commandeered German motor cycle, he and a friend reached the American lines and safety. They had spent almost 4½ years in a German POW camp.

Whitcombe was taken prisoner in Crete and in early 1942 was sent with other New Zealanders in open cattle trucks from Salonika to Lamsdorf in Upper Silesia. Most of these lads were in tropical kit, and it was mid-winter when they were transported. Their rations were bread and water, and they took turns thawing out the bread by claspings it to their bodies.

Whitcombe and some of his mates were skilled artisans, and after they had settled in at Lamsdorf were given work that entailed more responsibility than usual—and more opportunities for sabotage. They went to work processing cement, and absorbed as much knowledge of German methods as possible.

They found that if one department in the large cement works failed, everything was thrown out of gear. Thereafter, spanners and hammers frequently were dropped in the works.

The Germans attempted to solve that problem by stamping each prisoner's tools with his individual number.

"Then we were taken to work in a sugar factory," said J.D.W. "Mice were always a trouble there and the Germans constructed special traps to catch the mice alive. We had considerable success in letting loose the mice, who immediately went to work on scores of sacks of sugar and ruined them."

One of the highlights of life at Lamsdorf was the building of a "hooch plant" constructed from odds and ends of machinery. Polish slave workers gave the prisoners a formula for schnapps manufactured from sugar, water and yeast, which was fermented and then distilled.

"All hands combined, and we soon had a complete distillery made from stolen parts," said J.D.W. "Of course, we were caught at last. The German commander placed several of us under arrest."

FARMING was the easiest and most sought job among the slave workers and prisoners. After the sugar factory incident, Whitcombe was given to understand he was going farming, but he was sent instead to an iron foundry. Conditions there were grim, but casting provided an admirable opportunity to pour the metal haphazardly, and thus ruin the model.

"We did that constantly, and the number of rejects was terrific. In fact, in time we controlled the whole production of that iron foundry by systematic sabotage."

At the foundry insubordination in any form was ruthlessly suppressed by the Germans.

Two guards, who established a bad reputation by robbing the boys and selling smuggled goods at exorbitant profit, finally became impossible, and the prisoners went on strike.

The prisoners were threatened with death but refused to work under the two guards.

"On one occasion," said Whitcombe, "A Scottish lad and I were stacking pig-iron. The guards became abusive, and I told the foreman in good old New Zealand to go and chase himself. We were handed over to the guards, and they beat us up

in front of most of the slave workers, including women. They refused us medical attention till late in the day, and then put us on carrying molten metal."

At this factory the New Zealand tradesmen made all sorts of things, including test models for hand grenades, in defiance of the Geneva Convention.

They protested, there was an investigation and subsequently the whole party was dispersed.

"Anything could be bought in Germany with cigarettes except your freedom," said Whitcombe. "We bribed the guards and secured radio sets so that we knew more about the progress of the war than the advancing troops."

When the Russian 1945 offensive swept into Silesia there was great confusion among the Nazis. The Red Army's guns

could be heard in the camp, and the commander appealed to the prisoners to leave quietly if they wanted "protection from the Red invaders."

Whitcombe was one of 5,000 who stayed

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Visitors from the Islands to Sydney (or those interested in Islands affairs), are advised to communicate with the honorary secretary of the above Society, which has been formed to study the history, traditions, economics, and political developments of the Pacific Islands.

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behind. He was ill at the time, and believed that the Red Army would liberate the camp within days. However, a thaw set in, the Russians had to straighten their line, and the New Zealanders who stayed had another five weeks there before they were moved to Prague, and from there to a camp in Bavaria.

On April 22, Whitcombe and a mate stole a German motor cycle and headed for freedom. The motor bike was taken from them by US Security Police, but they hitch-hiked the remainder of the way to Kassel. "We reached the airstrip," says Whitcombe, "just as a B42 was pulling out. They found room for two tired Kiwis, and flew us to Paris."

"TAGUA" BRINGS NEWS OF SUNDAY IS.

NEWS of many places and people in Polynesia was given to me in Suva in July, when the auxiliary schooner "Tagua," 205 tons, Captain Matheson, came into port.

Captain Matheson runs his trim and handy craft, in these days, in the service of the New Zealand Government, and he goes wherever his transportation services are needed—Samoa, Tonga, Fanning Island, Campbell Island, the Kermadecs, Rarotonga—it is all the same to him. Mrs. Matheson, who often deserts her home in NZ for a South Seas cruise, was with him on this trip. There is a small, efficient crew. It includes four members of the well-known Marsters family, of Palmerston Island.

Captain Matheson had been recently at Sunday Island (Kermadecs Group, between Auckland and Tonga) where a good deal of developmental work has been done in these war years by the NZ Government. Facilities for working ships are now provided on two sides of the island, so that one side usually can be worked, no matter where the prevailing bad weather comes from. Sunday Island is famous for the quality of its oranges, and much has been done in propagating suitable orange trees.

It will be found, when wartime restrictions are past, that Sunday Island, with its fertile land, genial climate and hot springs, is capable of settlement. The difficulty of maintaining shipping communications killed all previous attempts. —RWR.

STUDENTSHIPS FOR WOULD-BE ANTHROPOLOGISTS

INTENDING Anthropologists may be interested in the Emslie Horniman Anthropological Scholarship Fund, details of which have recently reached Fiji.

Studentships are to be awarded to British nationals for the scientific study of the social, cultural and physical characteristics and development of non-European peoples.

These studentships will be tenable normally for between one and two years at any university which provides approved facilities for anthropological research.

Applicants must submit proposals for a scheme of study and research, an estimate of expenses, and particulars of their income from all sources.

Awards made from the scholarship fund will vary in value and number according to circumstances. In Fiji, interested persons may obtain full particulars from the Colonial Secretary's Office, Suva.

Mr. W. E. Donnelly, of the Methodist Mission teaching staff in Fiji has retired and he and Mrs. Donnelly will take up residence in New Zealand.

A Tropical Moon—And a Juke-box

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, June 16.

OUR United States is, indeed, the arsenal of democracy; as diligent in fashioning the implements of peace as in forging the weapons of war.

From no less authoritative a source than the Armed Forces Short-wave Radio we learn with profound satisfaction that our Wise Men at Washington, in appraising the most necessary requirements of a devastated world, have given precedence to those cultural values which alone can mould men's minds to the pursuit of peace and tranquillity.

First priority has, therefore, been granted for the manufacture of 200,000 Juke-boxes.

The new Juke-boxes, we are told, are to have "eye-appeal" and a range, over the pre-war type, comparable with that of a 17-inch howitzer over a bow and arrow.

Now, the part of the message which cheered us up was that which revealed allotments to backward countries—such as the Belgian Congo and South America.

This has awakened the hope that our honky-tonks at Papeete may get their share. Our island metropolis, notwithstanding progressive acquisition of the paraphernalia of Bedlam, has not, as yet, achieved the majestic perfection of the Chicago Loop.

A few of these new Juke-boxes in our waterfront honky-tonks would help a lot.

For the enlightenment of readers who may not know the term, a Juke-box is an instrument used by proprietors of honky-tonks to stave off alcoholic coma until patrons' pockets shall have been voluntarily emptied of coin of the realm. It looks like an overgrown radio cabinet, and it gives forth "music" when a coin is inserted in a slot.

Its cultural value is that it enables us to hear—with sonorous splendour, unblemished by static—the voices of our most eminent crooners, the symphonic master works of Tin Pan Alley.

In the bright, sprightly miasma of the honky-tonk, this expands our spirit, exalts us to the glittering galaxy of Hollywood itself, and inspires us to add our voice to the music of the spheres.

We condole with our sister South Sea

metropolis, Apia—and with good reason; as the following extract from a Samoa letter bears witness: "By the way, the motor hoodlums with the noises, etc., actually occur here in Samoa in the same manner as at Papeete; but we lack the honky-tonks."

This foreshadows a bleak future for Samoa: no Juke-boxes, no tourists; a land destined to be inhabited by primitives and "anchorets," and visited only by dismal anthropologists.

WE, at Papeete, inherited our honky-tonks, during the hectic 1920 decade, from Honolulu. However, we are shocked and grieved when persistent rumours (which are, no doubt, base calumnies) insist that these cultural institutions stand on properties owned by pious and very respectable people—the progeny of Yankee missionaries who shook the Hawaiian plum-tree, while the orchard was yet ripe for the harvest, and provided for their descendants very handsomely.

Hawaii has bestowed many blessings on Tahiti, since the early days when, as William Ellis has written: "By Sandwich Islanders, who had arrived some years before, the natives had been taught to distil ardent spirits from the saccharine ti root."

But the gift for which we of the South are indebted, in an immeasurable degree, is that "theme-song" of the Boogie, Blondes and Whoopie Decade—"A tropical moon, a romantic lagoon, and you."

The Honolulu radio station recalls nostalgic memories of those "dear, dead days of long ago" by broadcasting the tune with tireless persistence.

Sister N. Pitty, a member of the Methodist Overseas Mission, who returned to Papua last December, will be married shortly to Sgt. W. Rosan, at Salamo, Papua. She will continue her mission work until the end of the war.

A complimentary dinner to President-General Rev. J. W. Burton, MA, and Rev. A. H. Scriven, president of the New Zealand Conference, was given by the NSW Methodist Overseas Mission Board on June 20.

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King Gorai and the First Invasion of Shortlands

By K. W. Seton

AUSTRALIANS, now fighting along the Buin Road, in Southern Bougainville, are coming into an area which has a history as interesting as any in the Pacific. The story of Buin-Shortlands (for the two are inseparable, though an international deadline has separated them for 20 years) is one of piracy, murder, and slavery.

Out of this welter of wild sea-roving and bloodshed emerges the figure of Johnny Gorai, tall and jet black in colour, after the Melanesian type of the Western Solomons. He and his huge black war-canoes, full of savage warriors, were feared for a hundred miles in all directions, in the 'seventies and 'eighties of last century.

Shortland Island, a bare 600 feet high, small as a footstool to mighty Bougainville, which towers over it, was the home of the conquerors of all the sea coast villages almost to Buka Island, in the north. The raiding canoes ranged as far east as Senga, on Choiseul, and to Mundi Mundi, on Vella, in the south, for they thought nothing of crossing 50 miles of open sea. On the other hand, Gorai was always a friend to the white man, and he befriended naturalists, traders, and German officials, with fine lack of discrimination.

GORAI came of a line of conquerors. His father, Porosei (pronounced Por-o-sey) who was King of Mono (or Treasury Is.), where the Allies now have a base, swooped across 25 miles of sea to conquer the Shortlands about 1860, when Gorai was a boy. The original occupiers of the island were, I believe, of a Papuan or Negrito type, and had long lived in terror of the fierce Mono tribes, on whose account they had built their villages in the heart of the jungle.

I have seen the old village sites along the Hisiai River, opposite Buin. There are still clumps of bananas on the bank, wild descendants of those planted by this beaten tribe, and in the river bed can be seen huge flat rocks with worn grooves, where these islanders sharpened

their stone-age implements. To reach this place one must climb for many hours, traversing steep gorges and waterfalls, surrounded by towering forest. As the lazy present-day natives live on the sea coast, and never walk if they can help it, one would flush huge eels, up to four feet long, which had never seen a human being.

In gangster parlance, Porosei seems to have "done over" the Shortlands with great thoroughness, killing out the previous folk almost *in toto*, save for a remnant that fled across six miles of sea to Buin, on Bougainville, and founded a village, called Toriu, where they are to this day, still speaking and thinking Shortland—if the Japs have not run them out.

Many girls and children were kept alive as slaves, and these later intermarried with the Mono natives, to produce the Shortland native of to-day, called the Alu. One of these children, an old man, was still living on Fauro several years ago. Slaves do not seem to have received unduly harsh treatment, and the Mono natives always had plenty of them, caught young on their sea-raids.

ONE hears gruesome stories of the last stands put up by these original Shortlanders, mainly centring round small hills, where the women would huddle at the top with the cooking pots, whilst the men fought to the death at the base. One gathers that the fights concluded with charges of Amazons, armed with pottery. Certainly, all around these places to-day you cannot pick up a handful of earth that is not studded with small pieces of earthenware. This is of some interest to the archaeologist, because pottery-making is rather rare in these parts, and these jars were made out of a special clay to be found on Poporang (another place bombed by the Allies when we were cleaning up the big naval and air bases in Buin-Shortlands nearly three years ago).

Porosei had two important sons by blue-blooded mothers. Bwarri was the elder, but he remained very much a bush kanaka all his days, living in his village of Maliai, on Morgusaia. The other son, Gorai, was early taken abroad by a whaling ship and spent some years in Europe and other parts of the world. He spoke English well.

Gorai is famous for two things. First, for his friendship for the whites; and, second, for his prowess as a naval fighter, with an ability to establish a beach-head anywhere and come home in triumph with his booty when his ends had been achieved. These two features are blended in the story of the avenging of the death of Captain Fergusson, at Numa Numa, far northwards along the Bougainville coast, where, even as this is being written, Australians are fighting patrol actions with the Japs. The following account, translated by me, occurs in "Chez Les Cannibales," written by Count Festetics de Tolna, who spent some months in the Shortlands in 1895.

"Captain Fergusson was commander of a steam vessel engaged in trading. One day, whilst off the Bougainville coast at a place called Numa Numa, he was killed with all his crew by natives. A young cabin boy hid in the water tank and was the sole survivor of the massacre. The locals took off all the cargo they could, intending to return later to continue pillaging. The boy, profiting by their departure, came out of his hiding place, filed the anchor chain, started the engine, took the wheel, got out of the Numa Numa passage, and, without knowing the least thing about navigation, yet succeeded in reaching a German island.

"Gorai, King of Shortlands and Bougainville, was a great friend of Captain Fergusson. When he heard of his death he swore to avenge it. He collected all his warriors and went to Numa Numa, which was about 150 miles away. (The Count's estimate errs somewhat on the generous side.)

"A German warship, sent a little afterwards from the German island, found their work had been done for them. The beach was littered with corpses. The King, Gorai, was not consoled by the vengeance he had meted out to the murderers. He continued to weep for his friend, and so that his name should not be forgotten he gave it to his son. That is why the present King of Shortland and Bougainville is named Fergusson."

I have heard that he carried back with him many slaves from this avenging raid. There are still many natives named Fergusson living around the Shortlands.

AN interesting corollary to this tale is one told by Dr. Guppy, whose book is still the most informative written about the Bougainville Straits. Of one occasion, travelling with Gorai in his canoe, he says:

"I could see the chief and his crew looking attentively towards the coral islet of Ballalai, where in the winter months of the year a light shines. This is believed to be the spirit of Captain Fergusson of the 'Ripple,' killed at Numa Numa some years earlier."

Guppy often tried to see the light, but was never fortunate enough to do so. He suggested to Gorai that it had its source in flares lit by boys fishing round the reefs, but the chief was quite positive he knew better.

I myself used to keep watch, as unsuccessful as the good doctor's, on the northern end of the island whenever we went past it in the launch at night. Ballalai, which lies three miles off the coast of Shortland Island, is the site of a famous Japanese fighter field, which was blasted to pieces by Allied planes in 1943.

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Another yarn I heard was of a huge octopus that lived half-way across to Ballalai, and I was told that, in former times, local natives going past on their canoes would see monstrous tentacles curling towards the surface, and would hastily jettison bunches of banana, and taro, and any other edible they had, in order to appease the brute. These octopi do grow to a great size, for once, off Kamallai, by moonlight, I remember seeing something go past the launch like a huge tree stump with roots trailing . . . a big octopus with all its tentacles lying parallel as it travelled along. "Big feller too much," the launch boys said. "This feller he savvy takim launish." (Big enough to take the launch.)

Dr. Guppy often mentions Gorai, and describes his war-canoe as being 50 feet long and manned by 18 paddlemen. He pays frequent tribute to the chief's helpfulness to white people.

ANOTHER instance of this was furnished in the 70's, when a whaler was wrecked on the reef near Munia, an island 12 miles from Shortlands. Local natives helped the survivors to salvage practically everything and carry it ashore, when they found themselves surrounded by avaricious-looking Melanesians, all black as pitch. The greatest prize amongst them was the captain's wife who had beautiful red hair, still remembered with admiration and regret by the beholders, even up to the time when they were old men.

Gorai got word of the coming massacre just in time to gather his warriors and rush to Munia in his war canoes. He ordered all the loot to be loaded in canoes and the ship's boats, and had it and the castaways brought to his village at Saenai. They were accommodated in the village and fed and cared for until another whaler came that way about a

year later, and they were able to get away on it. Gorai did not lose by his good action, for the grateful captain and crew presented him with the ship's boats, and sent him presents after they reached their homes.

The missions had not quite penetrated to the Bougainville Straits; and Gorai had no illusions about what would become of his harem of 150 odd, if they did come. He asked pathetically how he would get his gardening and other work done if he were restricted to one wife.

VIEWED from the anthropologist's standpoint, the most interesting feature of his smash and grab raids consists of the constant influx of new blood into the Mono natives through the children who were captured in other parts of the Solomons, and brought back as slaves. These grew up in the midst of their captors, and seem to have been quite kindly treated, but their children were always regarded as of slave ancestry, and of no standing socially.

It is a very interesting point that the

days of the greatness of the Mono natives coincide with this outbreeding, especially when it is considered how the present-day Shortland natives have decreased in numbers and in resistance to disease from the prolonged inbreeding to which they have been subjected since Buin was arbitrarily cut off from Shortlands when New Guinea Mandated Territory was made to include Bougainville, in 1919.

Because Bougainville was captured German territory, and had to be administered by Mandate, an imaginary line was drawn through the six-mile distance which separates it by sea from Shortlands, which is in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. Natives were forbidden to go across at will, as in the old days. Entry from Shortlands to Buin could only be made after securing a clearance from the DO at Shortlands, and then going about 70 miles to Kieta, the port of entry for Bougainville. To go that six miles one would have to take a trip of about 140 miles, with all the worry and bother of Customs and health

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clearances, which are expensive things also, and then one would have to reverse the whole performance in order to return to Shortlands. During this trip a boat must carry a yellow flag and not land anywhere except at Refuge Island, half way. It was a bad enough trip in a well-found cutter and, of course, out of the question to natives in canoes. They would be unable either to light a fire to cook food, or to lie down to sleep.

The Shortlanders accepted the only alternative open to them. They stayed at home, becoming more and more inbred and consumptive or rachitic, and their only contact with their kinsfolk at Buin was made by meeting secretly on a small island half way between Moila Point and Malahuna Point, where they could exchange news and gossip—but not collect a wife. Such a new arrival in the district would have created quite an international problem, and the young men must have thought longingly of the days of Gorai, when wives were plentiful. Many of them were relegated to bachelorhood for an indefinite time, as men outnumbered women in their declining tribe. The incidence of sterility was high, and numbers of marriages were childless.

I do not know just the numbers of the Shortlands natives prior to the enactment of this very high-handed tabu, but there seem then to have been villages full of natives, where now there are deserted groves. I have been told that the population of Shortlands and Fauro was estimated at 1,100 about 1940. It is about 50 miles to Vella Lavella, and nearly that to Choiseul, so the other islands of the British Solomons are too far away for intermarriage on a useful scale. Now, after three years of Japanese occupation, one cannot feel that there will be too many of Gorai's tribe left in the Shortlands.

THE garden lands now being cleared of Japanese, by the Australians, near Buin, used to feature heavily in the economic structure of Shortlands society. Men in canoes loaded with fish, oysters, clams and crayfish from Bougainville Straits used to go across to Buin to barter their wares of sea food for huge yams and other produce of the fertile Buin gardens.

The loss of this may also be a feature of decay, for the Shortlands never had very good gardens, and the natives became so wealthy and lazy with the decline in their numbers and too many coconut groves available per head that they would neither garden nor go out and work on plantations, where their health would have improved.

Kipau, chief of Shortlands in 1942, traced his descent from Gorai through his mother, Evelui, that worthy's eldest daughter, by a high-ranking mother. He had some concern over a successor and, just before the evacuation, held what is perhaps destined to be the last big Kai Kai of his race in order to designate his successor, who would be, I think, a grand-nephew.

The chief wife or wives of a chief were always high-born princesses and had an extraordinarily high standing, otherwise their children could not inherit. Guppy records that when Gorai's principal wife died during his stay there, in the 80's, Gorai wept for her for a long time.

It is on record, in fact, that one of these high-born ladies was known by the Mono equivalent of "God Almighty" (which in the native tongue sounds remarkably like "Tum Tum" to the Caucasian ear!). She was so aristocratic and so holy she must never be allowed to set foot on the ground, and was carried everywhere in a chair. If she alighted it must be only on bead mats made for that purpose.

APPARENTLY, Kipau's children, if any, were not from a wife high-ranking enough to inherit his chieftom, and his choice fell on a small boy of three in Kolai village, where the feast was held. All local natives were invited, and came in their hundreds, even from Fauro and from Mono. Whites were also invited, headed by the District Officer and his wife, and other guests were indentured Malaita and Guadalcanal boys from the plantations.

There is a long, wide reef outside Kolai village, and when we anchored off it, the natives carried us ashore, shoulder-high, in canoes. All the *optimus quisque* received us with handshakings and a really very fine courtesy, and they conducted us to the "talking house," a small

open-leaf shed, to watch the dance.

For this the Alus had bedecked themselves with coloured clay and leaves, and they skipped round in circles waving spears, bows and arrows, and clubs, whilst either shouting or blowing their pandean pipes. On this occasion there was not the usual hollow, wood drum, but a short plank laid across a hollow, and two of the village elders jumped and sang on this, in a way that ought to have benefited their waist-lines, but seemed ineffective. They had already been dancing and singing for several days, whilst the womenfolk cooked the food and tied it up in leaf parcels for guests to take home. This food consisted of pork, fish, vegetables, and a very much valued pudding made of sweet potatoes and narli

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nuts. It was a lovely greyish colour, and oozed oil.

When everything was ready, the dancing stopped, the natives gathered round the main road of the village, and Kipau came into view, heading a mass of relatives and chiefs. Just behind him was the heir apparent, carried by his grandmother (for his mother was too ill to attend). He was a fine plump little boy, with bead ornaments bound round his kinky black head, and a network of specially-made beads covering his sturdy chest. The rest of him was in a pair of blue ranger pants that wouldn't stay up as there was nothing to button them to, beads and nakedness being a poor substitute for a shirt.

Kipau was a fine-looking old man, with a snowy head above his dead-black face. He took the child and held it high so that all the natives could see it, and told them in his own tongue that this was his heir, and was to be the next chief when he passed on. It was a short ceremony, but really a very striking one, despite the child's wincing from the publicity and the proximity of grand-uncle, who had probably never held him before, and Kipau's somewhat bewildered clutching of the slipping garment.

Both seemed relieved when the child was passed back to his grandmother, and the old chief, in a few words, asked the natives to be very quiet round the mother's house as she was so ill. She did, in fact, die less than a week afterwards, of TB, having never recovered from the birth of the baby. She was a gentle, attractive girl of 20, and the young father, too, was a slender, pleasant-faced boy, but he too, did not look over-strong.

That day, in the village, was the only time I have ever seen the *maries* dance. It consisted of monotonous singing and a kind of hopping step, whilst they went round and round in a circle at the opposite end of the village to the men's dance.

RECENTLY, I heard that Kipau had died during the Japanese occupation, and I have been wondering what has become of that little boy, who should now be chief of Shortlands. His kingdom has been sadly diminished since the days of his great ancestor.

I have drawn a likeness between Goral of Shortlands, and Drake, who, in olden times enlarged the kingdom of Elizabeth, and enriched her coffers by his beard-singing sweeps, and by his audacity on the high seas. The two have much in common, and, to deepen the analogy, one wonders if the Alus have any legend similar to that of Drake's drum.

One fears that fantasy must wait upon history. Even if, when '42 the Japs came down upon Shortlands, the lalis of Gomal and Mallal had thundered for the return of Johnny Goral, he may have found his comeback a little disappointing. He would have had to bring back his ghostly hordes of warriors to rally their lazy, effete descendants to the keeping of the kingdom that was won for them in 1880 by Porosei of Monó.

Acknowledgment is gratefully made to the trustees and staff of the Mitchell Library for access to the following: Festetics De Tolna, "Chez Les Cannibales"; Guppy, "Solomon Is. and Their Natives."

The Reverend Dr. C. E. Fox, MA, who has such a long record of service in the Solomons, writes appreciatively of the kindness shown to him by American officers and men. Dr. Fox is at Siota at present. In addition to his work in teaching, sermons, translations, etc., he has a dictionary of 10,000 words of the Gela language which he recently "mastered." A collection of Solomon Island shells, 700 species, many very lovely, he recently presented to the USA Naval Museum.

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ENTERING THE FOURTH (PERHAPS LAST) EVACUEE YEAR

New Guinea Women's Club Annual Meeting

ONE aspect of the annual general meeting of the New Guinea Women's Club of Sydney, in the Feminist Club Rooms, on July 21, was the apparent strange reluctance of rank and file members (with one or two exceptions) to get to their feet and offer ideas or indulge in discussion. This, plus the fact that the old committee was re-elected in a body by a resolution, certainly indicates the utmost confidence in the ability of executive members.

But it would surely considerably lighten the burden of the hard-working committee if members, in free and open discussion, brought forth a few new ideas and argued the pros and cons of old ones. Reports of both president and treasurer were received without comment and when the meeting was thrown open to discussion there were no acceptors.

Lady McNicoll, in moving that the president's report be adopted, expressed the hope that that would be the last general meeting held in those circumstances and that this year would see the return of most members to the Territories.

She expressed her admiration of the women evacuees who had carried on so bravely since their arrival in Australia and spoke with particular appreciation of the work of the club's president, Mrs. H. H. Page, who, although her load of personal anxiety was greater than most, continued untiringly with her work for the club.

Following are extracts from the president's report:

Soldiers' Parcels

FEWER parcels were sent this year. This was because of a resolution carried at a committee meeting held in September, 1944. It read:

"In view of the fact that a great part of our efforts to date have been directed to providing comforts for our Service men and women, and considering the progress of the war and that so many

of our soldiers are now within canteen districts, that our efforts now be directed mainly towards building up a fund to provide some relief for our POW—especially civilian POW or their dependants—on their return to Australia, and that the previous motion directing Xmas cakes to be sent this year be rescinded."

We sent parcels only to isolated areas, therefore, and we remembered the Services at Xmas time with a card reading:

"Remembrance for the past,
Bright hopes for the future."

Rehabilitation Fund

WITH the consent of the Australian Comforts Fund, we then opened a fund for "Prisoners of War and Civil Internees" and it was decided to write to various firms, soliciting their interest and support, and the response has been most gratifying. A list of donors appears in the "PIM" each month.

Entertainments

MRS. FOXCROFT, the leader of the Entertainment Committee, together with Mrs. Meldrum and her committee, have done grand work and been responsible for eight entertainments during the year, as follows: August 24, 1944, bridge and games afternoon, held at Feminist Club; September 29, 1944, dance, held at Feminist Club; December 18, 1944, children's Xmas party, held at Feminist Club; December 21, 1944, adult get-together party, held at Feminist Club; March 2, 1945, bridge and games evening, held at Feminist Club; April 20, 1945, dance, held at Lovejoy Dance Hall; May 31, 1945, entertainment arranged by Robert Payne and compered by Eric Creighton, held at Radio Theatre.

On June 16, Mrs. Foxcroft invited members to afternoon tea at her home in Arncliffe, each to bring a gift suitable for a street stall.

All entertainments were very successful, particularly the Christmas parties.

We all hope that with the end of the European war, and the progress of the war in the Pacific that this will be the last year for the New Guinea Women's Club as a war organisation. With the thought that so many more of our people may be able to rejoice, we tentatively engaged the State Theatre Ballroom for the adult Christmas party, 1945, for consideration by the incoming committee.

Street Stall

THE street stall held by the courtesy of J. C. Williamson & Co., at the balcony entrance of Theatre Royal, on June 29, and of which Mrs. Meldrum was in charge, was an outstanding success. All members were particularly interested in this new venture and although we had less than a month in which to prepare, the generosity of members and the public helped us to realise a greater sum than at any previous effort, and it is our earnest hope that street stalls may be periodically arranged—the overhead expenses are so minute.

Help for NG Chinese Community

IN August, 1944, the committee discussed the desirability of helping the Chinese of New Guinea now in Sydney. We interviewed the Chinese Consul, who expressed his appreciation but said External Territories and the Chinese popu-

(Continued on Page 42)

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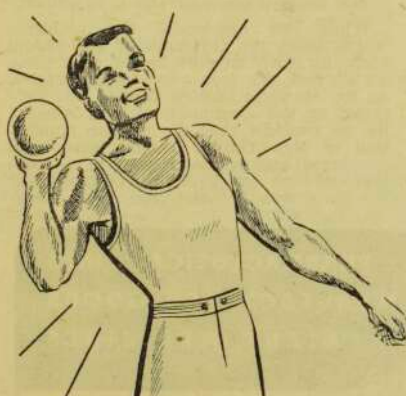
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Bentley's Comp. Phrase
Bentley's 2nd Phrase.

lation of Australia were doing all that was necessary, but that he would advise us at a later date should our help be needed.

Delegates to Other Organisations

RED Cross Standing Conferences held in Sydney have been attended by representatives of the club, Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Bliss representing us when meetings are held in Melbourne.

Our representatives have also attended meetings of the Pacific Territories Association executive, and meetings of the National Council of Women.

Civilian Internees and Dependants

IN last year's annual report I told you how hard we had worked to have

the evacuees' loans made grants; and also that we asked that women be allowed to take positions without the allowance ceasing. I then had reason to believe that something would be settled in the near future. Something has been settled, but it is extremely disappointing.

In a letter to the secretary, dated October 17, 1944, the Minister for External Territories, Mr. Ward, says:

"In continuation of my letter, July 6, 1944, relating to the allowances that are being paid to dependants of New Guinea civilian internees in Japanese hands, I wish to inform you that when this question was considered at a recent meeting of the Ministerial sub-committee dealing with matters affecting the Territories of Papua and New Guinea, it was decided that the allowance to dependants will not be reduced or discontinued if the dependant engages in remunerative employment and where the total income, including allowance, does not exceed:

Woman	£3 10 0	per week
Woman & 1 child	4 15 0	" "
Woman & 2 children	5 5 0	" "

"For each additional child the maximum will be increased by 5/- per week and no reduction is made when Child Endowment is received.

"With respect to the question of regarding allowances to dependants as grants and not repayable loans, whilst the sub-committee was not prepared to agree to this course it was decided that no action be taken to recover amounts to dependants of New Guinea civilian internees until the internee is released and his position generally is examined."

Whilst we appreciate the problems which beset the Government and thank them for their support as far as it goes, we do feel this is a very special matter. As the Mandate of New Guinea was governed by the Commonwealth of Australia, we consider that the civilian population of New Guinea should have been evacuated and so have been in a position to care for their own dependants, but such was not the case, and there-

fore the dependants should be the Government's responsibility.

Perhaps a different approach to the Government might bring results, but what that approach could be I do not know. It seems to me that the best we can hope for is that this hideous war will soon end.

Help for Territorians

THIS year, as in preceding years, it has been our pleasure to help many of the New Guinea women, and we would be glad if members would consider it their duty to advise us of any necessitous case. Such matters are treated very confidentially.

Appreciation

I SHOULD like to place on record my personal appreciation of the help given me so graciously by Mrs. Maclean at all times; and of the work of the club's secretary, Mrs. J. H. McDonald, and its treasurer, Mrs. H. Adams.

The club is also indebted to Miss Grant, our hon. auditor, for her four years' continuous service, and to the following: Mrs. Cameron, for her outstanding help; Mrs. Ormonde and Mrs. Meldrum, for the arrangement of flowers when necessary; the officer in charge of External Territories, for placing a room at our disposal for committee meetings; the "Pacific Islands Monthly," for its generous support in keeping us so much before the New Guinea public, and to Mr. Foxcroft for all help given so spontaneously throughout the life of the club.

FINANCES

RECEIPTS for the year (including £316 carried over from year ending June 30, 1944) were £921. Expenditure was £718, leaving a balance at bank of £203. Included in the expenditure was an amount of £279—money transferred from the general account to the civilian internees account.

The Civilian Internees Fund, at June 30, 1945, amounted to £420/17/11.

OFFICE-BEARERS

THE committee of 1944-45 was re-elected in a body, on the motion of Lady McNicoll, seconded by Mrs. Duncan. Mrs. E. G. Haynes was elected to the vacancy created by the recent resignation of Mrs. Ord, who is to return to Papua with her husband.

Office-bearers, therefore, are as follows: President, Mrs. H. H. Page; vice-presidents, Mrs. C. H. R. Maclean, Mrs. N. Foxcroft; secretary, Mrs. J. H. McDonald; treasurer, Mrs. H. Adams; committee, Mesdames J. Allan, W. Wallace-Brown, B. G. Edgell, M. Forsyth, J. Harding, A. C. Meldrum, K. McMullen, E. Ormonde, L. Saunders, E. G. Haynes.

Lady McNicoll again consented to remain patroness, and Miss I. Grant hon. auditor.

NEW GENERAL SECRETARY FOR METHODIST MISSION

THE Rev. Alfred Robert Gardner, who took up his duties as General Secretary for the Methodist Overseas Missions in August in succession to the Rev. J. W. Burton, is an Adelaide man, and received his education at Prince Alfred College.

He has not had any active missionary experience, although he has always taken an intelligent interest in the work of overseas missions, and took advantage of the Centenary Cruise in 1935 to visit Fiji. He also is familiar with the American missions in Egypt, a good deal of which he visited during the last great war.

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NZ GOVT. ARRANGES TASMAN PASSAGES FOR FIJI RESIDENTS

THE decision of the New Zealand Government to arrange a monthly quota of Fiji passengers across the Tasman by Tasman Empire Airways should solve some of the transport difficulties experienced by would-be Fiji-Australian travellers in the past three years—at least from the Fiji end. There still seems no way of booking a through passage to Fiji from Australia.

In the last few years, some people have been stranded in Australia or New Zealand for months awaiting passages to Fiji. These people all had important reasons for travelling, or were going to new positions in Fiji. They were not made any happier by the knowledge that Australian politicians, their wives and other Labour Party personnel were being permitted to trip around just as the spirit moved them.

In Fiji those who wish to travel should let the local Movement Control Committee know at least two months before the date when they wish to leave Fiji. The usual form of application for a sea passage to New Zealand should also be completed, and bookings should be made with the Union Steamship Company. Applicants should say whether they are prepared to travel by air between Fiji and New Zealand if air passage can be arranged.

Consideration will be given to cases, where, because of special circumstances, two months' notice cannot be given.

Sister Helen Williams expects to leave for Papua shortly where she will be attached to the London Missionary Society.

CANDLE-NUT OIL Interesting Enterprise in Fiji

SUVA, Aug. 1.

A MELBOURNE company, Industrial Oils (Fiji), Ltd., with a nominal capital of £40,000, has commenced in Fiji experimental operations on the well-known candle-nut (lumbang) of the tropics, from which it is planned to extract lumbang oil.

Plant is arriving in Suva this month from Australia and elsewhere, and is being installed in the Pearce building; and candle-nuts are being collected wherever they can be found, and brought to Suva for crushing. The world is desperately short of paint oils; and, for that purpose, the lumbang is said to rank close to the product of the tung tree, to which it is botanically allied. Operations in Fiji are in charge of Mr. H. A. Mitchell, of Melbourne.

The lumbang tree (or candle-nut) is widely scattered over most of the tropical islands of the Pacific, in more than one variety. It has such a large content of fairly volatile oil that the nuts can be strung together by natives on a wick, and used as a torch, or candle. It often has attracted the attention of men seeking for oil; but the intensely hard shell (the size of a large walnut), and the way it is packed within the shell, as well as the fact that the trees are widely scattered have defeated all attempts at exploitation.

Mr. Mitchell calculates that, by weight, 67 per cent. of the nut is shell and 33 per cent. kernel; and that, of the kernel, 65 per cent. is oil, of which 60 per cent. can be extracted by special machinery recently devised for the purpose. The resi-

dual cake is claimed to have high value as a fertiliser.

The promoters claim that the oil has so many good qualities as a drying oil for paints and varnishes, and for lighting, that it should find a profitable market, under all conditions. Critics say that its present promising market will become restricted when better-established oils return in force after the war; and that it is impossible to profitably handle the raw material (candle-nuts) until the nuts are grown in plantations closely surrounding the crushers. It will take from four to five years to bring such plantations to steady production.

The Fiji enterprise is being watched with sympathy and eagerness, and the Government is helping the promoters by assisting in the collection of the nuts now growing wild in widely scattered localities.—R.W.R.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. TOM MORRISON

THE sudden death, in July, of Mr. Tom Morrison, came as a great shock to his many friends in Fiji.

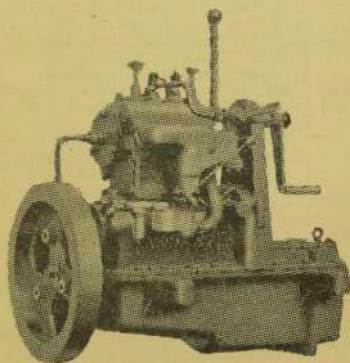
Mr. Morrison, who was just under 36 years old, was a member of the staff of the Customs Department. He was a very popular man, and he took an energetic interest in a number of Suva institutions. He was a member of the Committee of the Suva Bowling Club, and had just finished a game of bowls when he collapsed and died. A few days before his death he became secretary of the Masonic Lodge, Rewa of Viti, and his name was on the nomination paper for the Council of the European Civil Servants' Association which is to be elected at a meeting at the end of this month.

The Morrison family was well known in the Rewa district in the early days.

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PROVISIONAL ADMINISTRATION BILL PASSED

(Continued from Page 8)

be followed in these Territories. Then you must generously provide for compensation for men, who have put their lifetime into managing plantations there, who are affected by the policy. Certainly we in this House want to be better informed on the matter before we commit ourselves to any policy. It will be seen here that complete control is vested in Canberra in the Minister, and even if the Administrator is given full power to control the Territory he must carry out his duties in accordance with the instructions of the Minister.

"I support the amendment for the reference of the bill to a Select Committee."

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Representation for Territorians

SPEAKING to Mr. White's amendment, Mr. Cameron (Lib., SA) said that New Guinea was most valuable to Australia strategically, but this was something the Government had ignored in the past. Since then, however, Mr. Ward has "become one of the great discoverers and ranks himself with Marco Polo—he was responsible for the discovery of that wonderful 'Brisbane Line' and I'm surprised he takes any interest in anything north of it."

Mr. Ward appeared to think he was going to bring the New Guinea native to a state of civilisation something akin to our own. Mr. Cameron, for his part, had never believed that Western civilisation and Western ideas could be applied to these people whose living conditions are so vastly different.

"We have to have due regard for the welfare of the natives, but I do hope we are not going to the islands just as a sort of Father Christmas to them. They have certain rights, but let us not forget they also have obligations. As for this Bill—it proposes what virtually amounts to a New Guinea dictatorship."

"The Bill provides for a mongrel type of administration where there should be one of a local type on which white residents could have representation. I think the people residing in these Territories should have at least one representative in Parliament here. Then we would not have to rely on Ministerial statements purporting to give an accurate picture of what is going on in New Guinea."

"I don't know whether the Minister is qualified to decide what New Guinea should have. Certainly he has been face to face with the Fuzzy Wuzzies, although whether he has been admitted to their societies I do not know . . ." he concluded.

An All-Party Committee

MR. ANTHONY (CP, NSW) who also supported the amendment, suggested that an all-party Committee be sent to New Guinea to study conditions there first hand. Whatever legislation was finally passed in respect of the island Territories, he said, its first consideration would have to be the advance of Australia.

Education of the natives could ultimately result in their amalgamation with enemies of Australia, such as Japan. They would then become a menace to this country. The Government was protecting the natives, but not Australia. Mr. Anthony said the native would not be helped by Mr. Ward going up and talking "Domain platitudes" to them. In any case the changes proposed in the Bill would probably end up killing off the natives.

"I would like the Minister to indicate to the House just who is advising him in these matters," Mr. Anthony concluded.

Mr. Rankin (CP, Vic.) said the measures proposed by the Government would mean the ruination of the New Guinea planter. Contrary to general opinion, the average copra planter had difficulty in making ends meet, especially as many of them were in the grip of trading companies. He calculated the price of copra would have to be raised £4 to counter added expense which would be incurred by planters as a result of Mr. Ward's "improvements" for natives. If the Government insisted on its present plans, it would have to subsidise these planters if they were to exist.

Mr. Abbott (CP, NSW) said if administration were contemplated it should be placed in the hands of competent men like Sir Hubert Murray, or Sir William MacGregor.

"What is proposed under this bill is centralised government. The curse of the world has been the centralisation of government in the hands of people who did not know the needs and requirements of the native races, and whose opinions could be swayed by sectional interests on the spot. If a Gallup poll could be taken amongst the natives they would just want to be left alone."

Territorians Slandered

MR. CHAMBERS (Lab., SA) said natives had suffered greatly in Papua right up to the beginning of the Pacific war. Very many of them throughout both the Territories were suffering from malnutrition—he would rather close down Papuan industries than see them carried on with labour being paid the slave rate of 2/6 a week. I have seen and met Papuan native intellectuals, and they are comparable to any Australian people.

Mr. Bryson (Lab., Vic.) said white planters in Papua and New Guinea had only been interested in making money, and had not waited to fight when the Japs poured down from the north. He added: "The only fighting done there was by troops sent from Australia."

Mr. Anthony (CP, NSW): "That's a lie. Haven't you ever heard of the Volunteer Rifles?"

Speaker: "Order! I will have to ask you to withdraw that statement."

Mr. Anthony: "In deference to you, I will withdraw."

Speaker: "There must be an unqualified withdrawal."

Mr. Anthony: "All right. I withdraw."

Mr. Bryson (continuing his speech): "Planters in these Territories were sometimes returned soldiers and sometimes not, but they went there to make money, and get what they could out of the country. They went there to exploit the country and make a good profit out of that exploitation. There is no reason why they should get labour to help exploit it. And if this is not slave-labour, then I have the wrong idea of what slave-labour is."

"If these exploiters cannot make their money when we give the inhabitants better conditions, then they had better walk out of the country and leave it to the natives. I commend this Bill to the House as a piece of humane legislation."

Mr. Chambers (Lab., SA) supported Mr.



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Bryson's remarks about the planters.

During debate he interjected, saying that white residents of the Territories had done little in their defence. He said that one man in Papua had employed a native child aged about six years. This man had been one of the first to leave Papua when danger threatened.

The Minister for External Territories (Mr. Ward), who was in charge of the Bill, was more cautious. He said: "Many planters entered the services. Many of them entered ANGAU and gave very valuable service. But there were also many absentee shareholders of companies operating in the Territories, and they weren't there to face the Japs."

"The man who had most to fight for in New Guinea was the man who was making the money out of the Territories—and these absentee shareholders were not there."

Mr. Ward's Aims

SECOND-READING debate closed with an address by Mr. Ward, who, in his opening sentence, abruptly told the Opposition that the amendment could not be accepted, as it would result in delay in establishment of an administration.

Other points were:—

- Proper administration would be returned to the Territories just as soon as the white population went back.
- That power temporarily vested in the Governor-General by the Bill would be returned to Legislative Councils of the former type upon return of the administration.
- That natives would ultimately take an "intelligent" part and interest in their own Government.
- That the Bill would later afford some protection for white residents of the Territories, but that it would first and foremost cater for the native population.
- Natives would be taught agricultural

methods and encouraged to sell their products on island markets.

- That arbitration machinery would be set up in the islands to investigate and determine wages for natives.

- Employers would have to report to a Department of Native Employment every time they worked their native labourers overtime on the 44-hour week basis.

- That control of the Territories from Canberra would not be "remote control" because the Administrator in New Guinea would be free to make his own decisions. He would, however, be given directions as to the policy to be followed.

- That Labour's New Guinea would set an example to the world.

One of the first things to be done under the Bill, said Mr. Ward, would be a survey to be taken of villages. This would estimate how many men each village could spare for outside labour without upsetting "native economy," and no more than that number could then be taken from the village.

Then there would also be workers' compensation for natives who previously had been cast aside by companies, after they had done their part in amassing wealth for mining firms.

The Government would send a competent officer to the Territory to find out what the rates of pay should be for natives performing certain work under certain conditions.

Mr. Ward said that all the best advice had been obtained before deciding on the measures now proposed. Advisers had included Sir Hubert Murray, whom the Opposition had mentioned several times. It was intended to abolish the indenture system of labour at the earliest possible moment, and professional recruiting was being banned. Previous administrations in the islands had done a good job, although they had been starved by Federal Parliament.

"There will be a Native Labour Department whose particular duty would be to see that the Government terms are observed. Employers will not be permitted to work their natives overtime, unless very special circumstances warrant it. In those cases, the employers will be obliged to report the incidents to the Native Labour Department."

The Government was going to see that



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the native got his full value from planter-employers, by enforcing revised dietary scales. It was the intention of the Government, through skilled agriculturalists, to teach natives to improve the standard of their crops. They would later be able to use their own crops, and would be encouraged to sell them on island markets. This would not affect Australian currency. Natives would also be encouraged to take an interest in their own affairs.

"We want to make it quite clear that we intend having the care of the natives themselves the primary objective," said Mr. Ward.

It was the Government's opinion that at the present stage, with the great majority of the Territory's population evacuated from the islands, it would be absolutely ridiculous to establish any form of legislative machinery. But that will be done later.

In the meantime the control will be under an Administrator who will be given directions by the Government in regard to policy matters, but in regard to decisions of government there will be no interference.

The Minister said the Government would not interfere with missions in the Territory.

Mr. Ward concluded: "We hope to be able to set an example to the world in the conditions which we will establish in New Guinea, and by the way we treat the inhabitants. When the system of trusteeship begins to operate this country will have no need to be ashamed of what has been accomplished by the Labour Government for New Guinea Territories and for the people living therein."

A division was taken on Mr. White's amendment, which was lost by 36 votes to 14.

The Bill is Passed

WHEN the Bill entered the committee stages (during which each clause is debated)—the Government encountered very little opposition on every clause except one—clause 8.

Clause 8 states: "Subject to this Act the Governor-General shall have power to make ordinances for the peace, order, and good government of the Territory." Mr. White moved an amendment, later defeated, that the words "Governor-General" be omitted and "Administrator" inserted in their place.

Mr. Cameron commented: "I am concerned about the power that the Minister for External Territories will exercise under this clause. Whether the power is vested in the Administrator or the Governor-General, the whole essence of the thing is these ordinances will express the views of the Minister."

"Under these Regulations, whatever they may happen to be, the Minister proposes to conduct, by Regulation, virtually a revolution in the strategic, economic and social spheres of Papua and the parts of New Guinea under his control. And all this power is to be granted in this single clause."

"It is quite obvious that the Minister proposes to set up by Regulation authorities which will handle all the reforms he has explained."

"His authority for supervision of native labour will be done by Regulation, and so will it be for all his other proposals. The Minister, through his satellites, will have a really new New Guinea before long."

"I think the whole of clause 8 from start to finish is the really dangerous part of this Bill. This is the clause which will deny the Commonwealth Parliament any right to supervision over these matters."

"This is the clause under which the Minister is going to put in force, without further reference to Parliament, his ideas on how New Guinea is going to be run. He is no better qualified to do that than I am."

"Under this clause he will be able to do things, which would alter the face of New Guinea, in a short couple of years or even less than that. And worse, the things he will do under clause 8 will be permanent—despite his protestations."

In reply, Mr. Ward said the Territories had been governed by ordinance for years. The only difference was that, in this case, the Government, and not the Administrator, was to make the ordinances.

"Whoever is appointed to the post of Administrator will have the confidence of the Government, and he will be in constant touch with the External Territories Minister," he said.

The Bill was then passed in all stages in the House of Representatives.

After a short leave in NSW, Major Stanley Cowled, chaplain with the Fiji troops, has returned to his unit in Suva.

New Policy for French Colonies

Announced by Governor of N. Caledonia

From Our Own Correspondent

NOUMEA, July 1.

A SESSION extraordinary of the New Caledonian General Council was opened on Monday, June 11, by an address by Governor Tallec, who made the customary promise to reform the Colony's political institutions and increase liberties now that the bad system known as the "pacte coloniale" has been definitely abandoned.

Current liberalism, he said, made it necessary to consider matters in a new perspective. From the new policy that has been outlined, French Territories like New Caledonia should benefit in the way of moral, political and economic advancement.

He referred to the telegram from the Minister for Colonies (M. Giacobbi) with its express assurances that France would endow the Colony with a "considerable degree of political freedom" and an organisation guaranteeing Caledonian rights. The year 1945 had seen the re-establishment of the principle of universal suffrage, and the right of women to vote, and as from July 1 women were to be enrolled on the electoral list.

The administration would submit for consideration a plan to equip Caledonian agriculture with modern equipment which would simplify the labour problem. Also to be studied was a large-scale plan of public works, in which connection there was a lot of leeway to make up, due to the war, and other causes.

REFERRING to the crisis in the Middle East, Governor Tallec, who was for 15 years an official in Syria, said that the Provisional Government of the Republic and General de Gaulle had protested vigorously against inadmissible proceedings and had insisted that French rights and interests should be respected.

He also referred to the new statute for Indo-China after its liberation from the Japanese, adding that it was a guarantee of the will of the French people to remain faithful to the ideal of liberty and to hasten the evolution of coloured people associated with France.

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SERIOUS FLOOD-DAMAGE TO CROPS

From Our Own Correspondent

Mangaia, June.

TERRIFIC rains during the first week of June put the Keia taro patches under 20 feet of muddy water, causing a renewal—or, to be more correct, an aggravation—of the food shortage. Mangaia is unlucky these days!

Owing to the depth of the flood, even diving, to bring up the taro for immediate consumption cannot be attempted; and by the time the floodwater has gone, the taro of the cliff villages will be a total loss, and the hard work of planting it a wasted effort.

The Rev. T. P. Fricke, Commissioner of the Board of Foreign Missions of the American Lutheran Church, has arrived in Brisbane to discuss with the Australian Director of Lutheran Missions, Dr. F. O. Theile, the rehabilitation of the Lutheran mission work in New Guinea. After completing his negotiations in Australia, Mr. Fricke will visit New Guinea, and then proceed to India.

New Land Regulation For N. Guinea

Soldier Settlement Scheme

By a regulation, gazetted on July 23 (under that Government boon, National Security Regulations), Mr. Ward, as the "appropriate Minister," may declare any area in New Guinea or Papua an "area suitable for settlement of ex-Servicemen under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme."

Once having declared an area "suitable" no land therein may be bought, sold or exchanged without the Commonwealth Treasurer's sanction.

In addition to Papua, New Guinea, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, all six States are covered by the regulation.

Commenting on the new measure, Mr. Chifley said: "Consent to transactions in respect of a holding situated in a specified area would be given by the delegate of the Federal Treasurer only after he was advised by the land settlement authority of the State or Territory in which the land is situated, that the particular holding is not actually required for the settlement scheme."

He said that it had been considered that land suitable for soldier settlement had been acquired by private interests, and the Government had been asked by the various States and other organisations, including the RSL, to take preventive action.

"It is essential that the costly mistakes of the soldier settlement scheme after the last war should be avoided, and it is necessary to ensure that a maximum number of suitable properties are available."

This new regulation could give the Minister for External Territories a stranglehold on land transactions in the New Guinea Territories. Simply by declaring any area fit for soldier settlement, all normal land transactions could be prohibited.

The Minister for External Territories has never showed any great concern for the welfare of the returned soldier before, nor was there any hint in the recent Papua-New Guinea Bill that Servicemen would be encouraged to settle in the Territories.

It is felt in some circles that this new regulation, therefore, is just another means taken by the present Socialistic Australian Government to keep rigid control of the Territories.

New Australasian Secretary of LMS Arrives

THE Rev. Norman F. Cocks, who succeeds the Rev. Leonard Hurst as secretary of the London Missionary Society in Australia and New Zealand, arrived in Sydney from England at the end of July.

Mr. Cocks is a director of the London Missionary Society, and a member of its standing committee. He was minister of Congregational churches in Poole, Dorsetshire, and in Tottenham, North London, for 11 years.

Mr. Cocks is responsible for educational and propaganda work, the raising of funds throughout Australia and New Zealand, and for the administration of the work in Papua. He is looking forward to a campaign of great development. He expects to visit Papua shortly.

The Methodist Missionary Society of NZ recently celebrated the 43rd anniversary of the landing of its missionaries in the Solomons.

Brigadier Cleland Awarded CBE

And Liberal Ticket for Fremantle By-election

BRIGADIER Donald Mackinnon Cleland, MBE, has been awarded the CBE.

Until March, when he resigned to resume his law practice in Perth, WA, he was head of the Production Control Board in Papua.

Out of all Government and military appointees wished upon Papua and New Guinea, Brigadier Cleland had the unique distinction of finding favour in the eyes of harassed Territorians. Within the limited scope of wartime regulations and red tape he gave returned planters a fair deal.

He is the endorsed Liberal candidate at the Fremantle by-election to be held on August 18. The Fremantle seat fell vacant on the death of John Curtin on July 5.

Fremantle is regarded as a border-line electorate—Curtin held it by only a narrow majority at the last general election—and it is believed that Cleland has at least a 50-50 chance of winning the seat. It would be refreshing to have an Australian MP who actually had some practical experience of Territories' administration.

LOCAL BOYS CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING A SMALL GIRL

From Our Own Correspondent

MANGAIA, June 10.

SEVERAL members of the local "Boys' Brigade" are to come before the Supreme Court, charged with alleged concerted assault, "with intent," upon a girl aged twelve.

The offence is alleged to have been committed on the evening of VE-Day, during an assembly at the beach. This,

and other misdemeanors of its members, is a very bad advertisement indeed for the newly-formed Boys' Brigade, and has caused adverse comment here.

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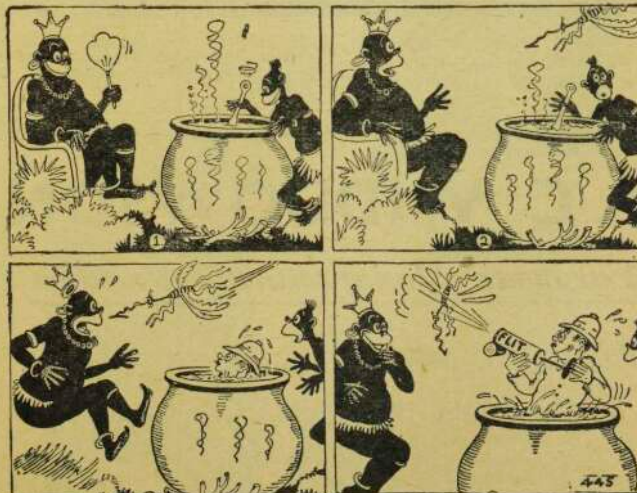
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Famous
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DAUGHTER OF WELL-KNOWN FIJI FAMILY IS MARRIED



AT THE WEDDING.—Top left: Bridegroom, under his new wife's direction, cuts the cake. Father J. M. Oreve on the right. Top right:

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Costello. Lower half: The Costello brothers, all residents of Fiji—from left to right—James, Vince, Tom, Pat, Dan and William.

FRIENDS and well-wishers of the well-known Costello family, of Fiji, were strongly represented at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Suva, on July 14, when Miss Peg Costello, daughter of Mr. Pat Costello, was married to Wing Commander John Bray, of the New Zealand Air Force. The bride was given away by her father; the Very Rev. Father J. M. Oreve, SM, performed the ceremony; the bridesmaid was Miss Betty Davis; Flight Lieutenant R. Pilling was best man; and Mr. John Costello was usher.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Costello received the guests, later, at their residence in Suva.

Miss Pat Costello lived for some years in Sydney, where she became a qualified nurse.

Wing Commander Bray is now at an operational station in the Pacific, and his bride is living, for the present, with her parents in Fiji.

"Colonial Office" Needed

Senator's Plan to Cope With
Australia's Responsibilities

(From Our Canberra Correspondent)

ESTABLISHMENT by the Australian Government of a Colonial Office to deal with territorial problems, was suggested in the Senate, during the New Guinea Bill debate, by Senator Mattner (Lib., SA).

In the past, said the Senator, Australia had relied upon Britain's colonial policy, but the time had come when the Government had to institute a special office to deal with problems of our own Territories—to wit, Papua and New Guinea.

Before the war we had taken little interest in these Territories. Now we were taking a direct interest in them, and were aware of our responsibilities.

After the war the responsibility would be so great that only a special office—the Colonial Office of Australia—would be fitted to cope with it.

MISS PEGGY GILMOUR MARRIES IN SYDNEY

Member of Well-known N. Britain
Family

ANOTHER young Territorian who has grown up since the evacuation is Miss Peggy Gilmour, who married Sgt. David McAvoy, AIF, in Sydney on August 11. The bride is a real Territorian—she was born in Rabaul—and is the daughter of Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. J. Gilmour, of Put Put plantation, New Britain. An award of the DCM to her brother, Lieut. J. Gilmour, is announced elsewhere in this issue.

John Gilmour, Snr., has also played a fine role in the Pacific war. At first attached to American Small Ships, he now holds the rank of Lieut.-Colonel in the US Army. He is at present stationed in Manila, Philippines, but obtained leave for his daughter's wedding.

Mr. C. O. Taylor, who has been Assistant PMG and accountant at the Post Office, Suva, since 1938, has been appointed Deputy PMG in Northern Rhodesia, and will leave for his new post at an early date. Mr. Taylor has been 33 years in Fiji.

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PROMPT ATTENTION TO ALL POSTAL ORDERS

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REHABILITATION FUND

Latest Contributions

THE Rehabilitation Fund appeal, now being made by the New Guinea Women's Club of Sydney, has had considerable success since the last subscription list was issued on July 1.

Over £120 was added in the July-August period.

Total contributions to August 1, were:—

	£	s.	d.
New Guinea Women's Club General Fund	200	0	0
Major Ayris	5	0	0
Mrs. N. Atkins	10	0	0
Lieut. J. W. Cox, DCM, MM and Bar	1	0	0
Bank of New South Wales	5	0	0
Burns Philp & Co., Ltd.	5	0	0
Mrs. W. L. Clark	10	0	0
David Jones, Ltd.	1	1	0
W. R. Carpenter & Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
New Guinea Women's Club General Fund (further donation)	44	0	0
"Pacific Islands Monthly"	20	0	0
Proceeds of Variety Concert	34	13	6
Mrs. Golding	10	0	0
Mrs. J. Tudor	10	0	0
Amalgamated Wireless (A/sia), Ltd.	5	5	0
Mrs. I. Isaacs	1	0	0
Mrs. L. Roberts	1	0	0
Mrs. Waterhouse	1	0	0
Mr. W. M. Middleton	5	0	0
Mrs. George Gee	10	0	0
Lieut. C. Maclean	2	2	0
Mrs. J. Duncan	5	0	0
Mrs. M. Anthony	13	0	0
Mrs. J. Peel	1	0	0
Mrs. Kennett	10	0	0
Mrs. J. Duncan (sale of flowers)	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Quinton	2	0	0
Miss Cherry Craigo	5	0	0
Warrant Officer Wallace Brown	1	1	0
Mrs. M. Browning	5	0	0
New Guinea Goldfields, Ltd.	20	0	0
Vacuum Oil Company, Melbourne	5	5	0
The Shell Company of Aust., Ltd.	5	5	0
Mrs. J. Duncan	5	0	0
Mrs. Waugh	10	0	0
Mr. J. P. Peel	5	0	0
Capt. B. O'Connor	5	0	0
Sgt. J. E. Lattimer	3	0	0
Sgt. L. C. E. Parker	1	0	0
Bank Interest	15	11	
Robert Gillespie Pty., Ltd.	10	10	0
Dr. Vernon	1	0	0
Mrs. L. Froggatt	1	13	0
Mrs. W. Wallace Brown (proceeds of pictures)	4	4	0
Mr. and Mrs. J. Long	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Perichon	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. W. Mosman	2	0	0
Mrs. Waterhouse	1	0	0
Miss Woolnough	1	0	0
Garrett & Davidson Pty., Ltd.	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne	1	1	0
Mrs. P. Hammond	1	1	0
Mrs. C. H. R. Maclean (proceeds of statue)	1	0	0
Proceeds from Street Stall	64	3	2
Mrs. C. I. H. Campbell	1	0	0
Mrs. P. Ryan	1	0	3
RSS & AILA NG Branch	25	0	0
Mrs. Eglinton	1	10	0
Mrs. McFadyen	8	0	0

£556 8 4

Get-together Evening

THE Entertainment Committee of the club hopes to arrange one of its popular get-together evenings in the Feminist Clubrooms shortly. Delay in arranging this function has been caused by the general change-over at the end of the club's year, and the co-opting of a new Entertainment Committee.

The Rev. R. S. Brown, of the Methodist Mission, has been accepted as a chaplain for service with ANGAU (Australian and New Guinea Administrative Unit), and will shortly be leaving for New Guinea to take up his duties among the native peoples of the Mandated Territory.

BSI Native Welfare Discussed

Colonial Office Representative at New Capital

AFTER flying visits to Tarawa and other Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony centres, and to the New Hebrides, Sir Cosmo Parkinson, who was recently in the Central Pacific as representative of the British Colonial Office, arrived at the new Government headquarters of the BSI Government on July 7, for a four-days' visit.

The Resident Commissioner, Mr. O. C. Noel, and his staff had made many preparations for this visit, at the site of the new capital on Guadalcanal, but heavy rain spoilt the parades and the outdoor reception. Indoor functions were well attended, and went off according to plan. During the reception native dances were performed depicting wartime events.

On the afternoon of Sunday, July 8, wreaths were placed at the flag pole in memory of the fallen Americans, and again in the New Zealand cemetery in remembrance of New Zealand's Servicemen who had paid the supreme sacrifice.

On the same afternoon a large party travelled, by jeeps and cars, ten miles to the Solomon Islands native cemetery, where natives lost in battle are buried.

Bishop Baddeley conducted a service here, assisted by Pastor N. A. Ferris, of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, and others.

Sir Cosmo Parkinson placed a wreath on one of the graves.

Both he and his secretary paid high tribute to the services rendered to the United Nations by loyal natives.

During the rest of his visit, Sir Cosmo

discussed administration matters with officials. A full inquiry was made into the policy to be instituted for the future development of the Solomon Islanders.

SIR COSMO left BSI on July 10 to return to Fiji. On July 14 he left Fiji by plane for England, via New Zealand.

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AND STOVE COMPANY LIMITED
TORONTO, CANADA
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NEW TRADING COMPANY IN COOK ISLANDS

MR. W. H. WATSON, of Rarotonga, Cook Islands, who bought out the Cook Islands interests of W. H. Grove & Sons, Ltd., last year, has now sold his interests to a new company which he has formed, called United Islands Traders, Ltd. The first directors are W. H. Watson and L. N. Jacka.

Mr. Watson was in Wellington, NZ,

early in August, and he urged upon the Government there that, as New Zealand imposes direct taxation upon the Cook Islands, the latter should have a more direct voice in administration. He does not argue in favour of representation in Parliament; but he does say that the New Zealand Minister in charge of Islands matters should visit the Group at least once a year, with sufficient authority to deal finally with most of the matters that would be placed before him there.

ALL STOREKEEPERS HAVE—

AUNT MARY'S BAKING POWDER

- Aunt Mary's Baking Powder is now obtainable from your storekeeper. That's good news for you, especially as Aunt Mary's Baking Powder maintains the high quality which has stood the test of housewives for over 70 years.

There is no substitute for Aunt Mary's—There never will be.

Pimples and Bad Skin Fought in 24 Hours

Since the discovery of Nixoderm by an American physician it is no longer necessary for anyone to suffer from ugly, disgusting and disfiguring skin blemishes such as Eczema, Pimples, Rash, Ringworm, Psoriasis, Acne, Blackheads, Scabies and Red Blisters. Don't let a bad skin make you feel inferior and cause you to lose your friends. Clear your skin this new scientific way.

A New Discovery

Nixoderm is an ointment, but different from any ointment you have ever seen or felt. It is a new discovery, and is not greasy but feels almost like a powder when you apply it. It penetrates rapidly into the pores and fights the cause of surface skin blemishes. Nixoderm contains 9 ingredients which fight skin troubles in these 3 ways. 1.—It fights and kills the microbes or parasites often responsible for skin disorders. 2.—It stops itching, burning and smarting in 7 to 10 minutes, and cools and soothes the skin. 3.—It helps nature heal the skin clear, soft and velvety smooth.

Works Fast

Because Nixoderm is scientifically compounded to fight skin troubles, it works fast. It stops the itching, burning and smarting in a few minutes, then starts to work immediately, clearing and healing your skin, making it softer, whiter and velvety smooth.

In just a day or two your mirror will tell you that here at last is the scientific treatment you have been needing to clear your skin—the treatment to make you look more attractive, to help you win friends. Nixoderm has brought clearer, healthier skins to thousands, such as Mr. Bob Weedon, Edmund Street, Fremantle, who writes: "I was troubled with pimples ever since I was 13, and have spent pounds and pounds on so-called cures without results. I then tried Nixoderm with astounding effect. The pimples seemed to fade away, and after a week there was not the slightest trace of them."

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Get Nixoderm from your chemist or store to-day. Look in the mirror in the morning and you will be amazed at the improvement. Then just keep on using Nixoderm for one week and at the end of that time it must have made your skin soft, clear, smooth and magnetically attractive—must give you the kind of skin that will make you admired wherever you go, or you simply return the empty package and your money will be refunded in full. Get Nixoderm from your chemist or store to-day. The guarantee protects you.

Nixoderm 2/- & 4/-
For Skin Sores, Pimples and Itch.

FIJI PINEAPPLES

CSR Getting Ready to Restore Good Pre-war Industry

THOSE who believe that there is a good future for the pineapple industry in Fiji are watching, with eagerness, the resumption of pineapple planting by the CSR Co. on its estates at Nadi, where supplies are grown for the large canning factory at Lautoka.

The company, in 1936, acceded to the Government's request that it should try to establish the pineapple canning industry. It bought out the interests of the two local canning companies (Fijian Pineapple Co., of Ovalau, and West Coast Pines, Ltd., of Nadi). The Government wished to give farmers a chance of growing a cash crop, other than sugar.

The company built, at Lautoka, a cannery with a capacity of some hundreds of thousands of cases per annum; and then, to show the way to the small farmers, it began to grow pineapples at Nadi, some 15 miles away.

In growing, canning and marketing, between 1936 and 1941, the company had remarkable success. It gathered 448 tons of fruit in 1938/9; by the summer of 1941 its crop was 2,578 tons. Its field staff lifted production from 5½ tons to 16 tons per acre. It found good markets in Europe, North America and New Zealand.

It was disappointed, however, in the response by small growers. The belief that the Indian farmers would gladly take advantage of this profitable alternative cash crop was not justified—the Indian stuck to his cane-growing, and his political and economic grievances, and made little concerted effort to help himself, per medium of the new industry.

The outbreak of the Pacific War crippled the industry, because the company—apparently because it was new in the industry and had not established a "quota" in tinsplate—could not get sufficient material for canning. Also, great air and military forces came to the good aerodrome country at Nadi, and placed encampments right upon the pineapple farms. Also, there was only restricted shipping space.

The few Indians who were beginning to show some interest abandoned their crops; the company reduced its operations to some 500 to 600 tons per annum—just enough to keep the machinery moving—and everyone marked time. The company sold pineapple juice in jars to the forces.

The company now is making preparations to resume canning as soon as supplies of fruit and tinsplate are available; and, if the developments of the 1938-1941 period are any indication, the industry should make rapid strides.

BIG FIRMS' CHANGES IN SAMOA

IT is reported—but not officially confirmed—that the controlling interest in A. C. Smythe & Co., Apia, Western Samoa, has been bought by a big firm operating in the principal Polynesian Territories. It was reported at first that there had been a sale to O. F. Nelson & Co., Ltd., but this was later contradicted.

Mr. Bill Clark has taken charge of Smythes, and Mr. and Mrs. Smythe are now enjoying a holiday in Savaii.

It is reported that Mr. A. E. Moore, who was BP manager at Port Moresby before the war, has taken charge of the BP establishment at Apia, in succession to the late Mr. Roy Brown.

Plea for New Guinea's Half-castes

(A Letter to the Editor)

I HAVE been following with keen interest various articles that appear from time to time in Australian papers advocating educational schemes for native races in Papua and New Guinea (Mandated Territory).

It is regrettable that no mention is made in those articles of the future welfare for the unfortunate half-caste.

The general opinion that prevails everywhere throughout the Pacific Isles, as far as I can see, is that the "half-caste inherits the vices of both races (European and native), and the virtues of neither." That, to the best of knowledge, is without foundation.

They have also been unfortunately classed as "Bush Lawyers," in an article I read some months ago in "Wings," a RAAF magazine.

Yet, on the other hand, I have seen a published statement to the effect that, given the right educational background, they would make worthy citizens. Furthermore, it was stated that the old tag about the "vices and virtues, etc.," has been scientifically proved by experiments to have no foundation whatsoever.

There is, to the best of my knowledge, only two denominations—that is, the Anglican and Roman Catholic—in the Territory of Papua who have a school set separately aside for the benefit of half-caste children and orphans. Both missions concerned have done well, considering the small financial aid put at their disposal for this work.

Events in the past five years have proved that a higher education scheme should be introduced for all scholars in those particular schools. Outstanding pupils should be sent to schools in Australia to continue their studies, as is the case with Tongans, Samoans, Fijians and other Central Pacific people.

But the missions referred to cannot afford to introduce such a system yet, unless an interest is shown by the Australian Government, and financial aid given for the purpose.

HALF-CASTE children have been brought into this world through no fault of their own—especially in

these times, with our armies occupying Australian Island Territories for indefinite periods.

The half-caste problem in Australian Island Territories has not decreased—but has increased a hundredfold. It is a problem that should be tackled by Australian politicians who are keen to prove their humanity to the world.

I am, etc.,

JOHN DOUGLASS DE GURSE.

Vilerupu, Papua,
July 12, 1945.

FIJI GOVT. WILL STAFF OWN T.B. HOSPITAL

AT the last annual meeting of the Methodist Overseas Mission Board a cable was received from the acting chairman of the Fiji District, intimating that the Mission might be asked by the Fiji Government to take over and staff a hospital at Tamavua for tubercular patients, and asking whether the Mission was prepared to accept this extra responsibility.

The Board appealed for workers, and received a large number of inquiries.

After four months of waiting for further information, the following cable has now been received from the chairman of the District:

"Government while appreciating our offer to staff hospital has decided to recruit its own staff as in other hospitals."

DEATH OF PIONEER MISSIONARY

Miss Kathleen Deck

THE death occurred on July 6 at Ashfield, near Sydney, of Miss Kathleen Deck, one of the founders of the South Seas Evangelical Mission.

She was a New Zealander who was well known in the Solomon Islands for her beneficent work among the natives.

Miss Deck was born in Invercargill in 1866. As a girl and young woman, she worked with her aunt, Miss Florence Young, in North Queensland for the betterment of native labourers brought from the islands of the Pacific to work on the sugar plantations.

From 1907 until a few years ago she had lived in the Solomons. While there she reduced two of the native languages to writing, and wrote lesson books in the vernacular and in English. She also trained others for educational and welfare work among the islanders.

Miss Deck had the gift of gaining the confidence and later the affection of the natives. She played a big part in establishing schools for the natives, and helped in the translation of books, hymns and scriptures into native languages.

SOUTH PACIFIC MEDICAL CONFERENCE IN SUVA

SENIOR medical officials from various South Pacific administrations were in conference in Suva in July.

Among those who took part were Dr. Buchanan, Inspector-General South Pacific Medical Service; Dr. M. H. Watt, Director-General of Health, New Zealand; Miss Lambie, Director of the Division of Nursing, New Zealand; Dr. H. S. Evans, Acting Director of Medical Services in Fiji; Dr. Monaghan, Chief Medical Officer in Western Samoa; Dr. Ellison, Chief Medical Officer, Cook Islands; Major Rutter, Acting Senior Medical Officer, British Solomon Islands Protectorate; and members of the staff of the Medical Department of Fiji.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT:

PACIFIC PLANTER'S HANDBOOK

Publication About January, 1946

IN response to a strong and growing demand for an authoritative Handbook covering the whole field of Planting and Agriculture in the Pacific Islands, the compilation of the "Pacific Planter's Handbook" was commenced some time ago, and the work now is well advanced.

The Handbook is designed to give standard instruction on all the branches of Tropical Planting which might be undertaken in the Pacific Islands, and to be regarded as an indispensable part of a Pacific Planter's equipment.

SECTIONS of the Handbook deal separately with Palms (including Coco-nuts and the Manufacture of Copra), Cocoa, Coffee, Rubber, Citrus, Bananas, Vanilla, Spices, Kapok, Pineapples, etc. The production of every plant grown for profit in the islands is described.

Other Sections cover such subjects as: Livestock on the Plantations; Revenue from Non-Agricultural Products (Sea, Forest, Minerals); How to Ensure Comfortable and Healthy Living Conditions in the Islands; Etc.

SPECIAL SECTIONS: Survey of Opportunities; Selection of Territory (Malarial and non-Malarial, Melanesians and Polynesians, Climate and Rainfall); Lands and Land Laws; Labour Conditions in the Various Territories; Importance of Transport; What You Must Provide For and Against in Choosing Your Plantation.

The subject of MARKETING is dealt with very fully. It is no use planning your plantation until you know where you will find a profitable market for your product, and whether it is dependable.

EACH SECTION WRITTEN BY AN EXPERT

Numerous Photographs, Diagrams, Drawings, etc.

PUBLISHED PRICE: Not less than 35/- Australian.

(NOTE: Owing to the present difficulty of obtaining paper and binding service, it is impossible to fix a price, until the work is near completion. It will be between 35/- and 40/- Australian. The edition will be limited. Persons who wish to be sure of a copy may order in advance; and if 35/- is sent, that will be accepted as the price of the book, although the final published price may be higher.)

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FOR SALE

Property

SOUTH PACIFIC—Manuae (or Hervey) Islands.

Situated: Lat. 19° 21' South. Long. 158° 58' West.

COMPRISING: Two islands, protected by outer coral reef. First, island of Manuae—Area, 528 acres; second, island of Te Au-o-tu—Area, 996 acres. Planted with approximately 80,000 coco-nuts, in area 1,397 acres. Lagoon, approximately 3,000 acres, divides the two islands. Average annual production of copra over the past seven years (1939-1945 inc.) 201 tons.

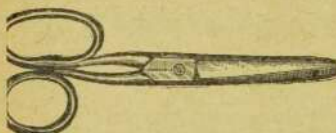
The islands are leasehold, at annual rent of £61/10/-. Lease expires 1st February, 1997. The lease, and buildings, comprising small residence, manager's house, labour huts, storehouse and copra dryers (all in first-class condition), also 3 lighters, are offered for outright sale at £12,000, or near offer. The island carries stock of fowls and pigs. Communication by Schooner from Rarotonga, 132 miles south-west. For further particulars apply to owner:

J. AYLMEY BUNTING,

c/o Box 13, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Sir Howard and Lady Ellis returned to Fiji in June after a visit to NZ.

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SHARPENED and REPAIRED



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TAHITI FAMILY GIVES SECOND SON FOR FRANCE

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, June 16.
WORD was received in Papeete on June 9 of the death in action of Lieutenant Albert Vernier, on April 11, in one of the last battles fought in the Italian campaign. He has been created a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, posthumously. He leaves a wife and a small daughter.

Lieutenant Albert Teuruarui Vernier—the second son of the beloved and honoured leaders of the Protestant Church in French Oceania, the Reverend and Madame Charles Vernier—was born at Papeete on October 26, 1915.

At the age of twelve he was sent to France, where he studied law, and had achieved the degree of "Licence en Droit" when France went to war.

At the military college of Saint Cyr he gained his commission in the Army of France.

He became a prisoner of war in Germany in 1940. Three times he escaped from the German prison-camp, but was re-taken. Finally, in 1943, he succeeded; made his way through Germany, through Occupied France, into Spain.

He was detained in Spain for three months. At length, he was able to proceed to French North Africa where he volunteered for service under General de Gaulle.

His desire was to join up with the Tahitian Battalion, but from that time his parents received no accurate news until the telegram announcing his gallant end.

All hearts in Oceania sorrow with Monsieur and Madame Vernier in this their second great sacrifice. Another son, Andre, was killed in the service of France a few months ago.

The Unevangelised Fields Mission held a meeting in the Assembly Hall, Melbourne, on July 5, to farewell Mrs. G. E. Sexton, Mrs. L. A. Twyman, Mr. K. Dennis, Mrs. T. Hoel, Mrs. Horne, and Miss Lanyon, who are shortly to leave for Port Moresby.

Death of Jean Peyroux

One of Rarotonga's Most
Picturesque Characters

From Our Own Correspondent

RAROTONGA, July 1.
RAROTONGA lost another interesting old-timer with the death of Jean Peyroux on July 19. He was 85 years of age.

M. Peyroux spent the earlier years of his life in the French Navy. He told many anecdotes of his life afloat. Once he had a narrow escape from death when he was one of the few survivors picked up after a long drift in an open boat from a shipwreck in the Indian Ocean. Once he was stranded for many weeks on a mudbank far up an African river.

The last years of his naval career were spent as an engineer on a gunboat stationed in Tahiti, when he escorted Queen Pomare on many journeys among the Society Islands. He later became a close friend of Queen Makea, of Rarotonga.

When he finished his naval service he embarked on a steamer bound for Noumea, intending to catch a connection there to return to France.

The ship made a stop at Rarotonga. In those days Messrs. Donald and Edensor were operating a sawmill at Rarotonga, and at this time it happened that the steam engine of the plant was out of action.

Learning that M. Peyroux was a steam engineer, members of the firm invited him to look at the engine. The trouble was rectified, and the grateful staff persuaded the engineer to join them in sampling a few bottles of rum.

When the party was over the ship had gone, and so Jean Peyroux stayed in Rarotonga—for no less than half a century.

The dashing and dapper Frenchman set to work with much energy to create a home and a plantation at Matavera. About 1910 he lost his right arm while engaged in the forbidden sport of dynamiting fish. It is said that after the accident, his native companions fled, and that unaided he harnessed his buggy and drove five miles to the hospital where his arm was amputated with a few stiff brandies in place of anaesthetic.

This accident did not deter him from coming near to losing his other arm in the same manner not long after.

M. PEYROUX continued to work his plantation almost to the end of his days with the aid of his growing sons.

Although he never again saw his beloved France, he remained a loyal Frenchman. On July 14, he would gather a few friends to drink many toasts to France and Tahiti. Then with glass held high he would sing the Marseillaise, in a quavering but earnest voice.

M. Peyroux leaves a wife and a European family of five sons, two daughters and ten grandchildren. The Peyroux family are outstanding for their good looks and athletic ability. The eldest son, Dominique, is in the Free French Forces, and at present is stationed in Tahiti. The eldest daughter, Marie, is the wife of Mr. W. H. Watson, a Rarotonga business man.

Mr. H. E. L. Priday has had another book published in Wellington, New Zealand. It is called "The War from Coconut Square." This is his second book since the Pacific war began. The first, "Cannibal Island," was about the early history of New Caledonia.

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Timber Concessions in Papua and N. Guinea

Government Considers Development

MEMBERS of the Pacific Territories Association who attended the March quarterly meeting, in Sydney, will perhaps remember that Mr. Cyril Helton asserted that there was a "Forestry Unit" then at work in New Guinea and Papua making a survey of the timber resources of both Territories. It was suggested that this survey was being made on behalf of "big timber interests in Queensland."

Territorians may, therefore, be interested in the question asked by Mr. Spender, of External Territories Minister Ward, in the Australian House of Representatives on July 4.

Mr. Spender asked: "Have concessions for timber-getting yet been made in the Territory of Papua and, if so, who arranged for that to be done and what is the nature of the concessions? Further, if concessions have not been granted, does the Government intend to grant them and, if so, will the Minister make a statement as to the conditions under which the concessions will be made?"

Mr. Ward replied that no concessions had yet been granted, but that the development of timber resources in the Territory is being considered by the Government. He hoped to be able to make an early announcement on the matter.

SURVEY TO BE MADE IN BSI

THE services of Queensland's State Botanist, Mr. C. T. White, have been made available to the High Commission for the Western Pacific for a timber survey of the British Solomon Islands.

Mr. White's task will be shared by a British official, and their investigations will be part of a general survey of forest resources being carried out in all British Crown Colonies.

Mr. White expects to be away from Australia for six months.

SOUTH PACIFIC INSURANCE CO., LTD.

THE balance-sheet of the Southern Pacific Insurance Company, Ltd., shows that the company's gross income for the year ended March 31 was £132,117, as against £135,528 in 1944.

Profit for the year amounted to £7,295 after allowing £4,000 for taxation, £375 for directors fees and £137 for depreciation. An amount of £6,784 was brought forward from last year, making the total available, £14,079.

The directors of the company, at the tenth annual general meeting to be held on August 16, will recommend a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent., payable on August 17.

This dividend will absorb £4,375, leaving £9,704 to be carried forward.

During 1944-45, Mr. H. B. Carpenter was appointed to the board; at the general meeting on August 16 all directors having retired in accordance with the articles of association, will offer themselves for re-election.

Directors' fees for the ensuing year will also be fixed and auditors elected at the meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Henry Marks returned to Suva in June after six months' visit to NZ.

Mrs. Aileen Taylor

Death of Popular N. Guinea Woman in Sydney

ANOTHER of New Guinea's well-known personalities, Mrs. Aileen Taylor, has died while still in exile in Sydney.

She was the wife of Mr. E. ("Ted") Taylor, popular Assistant-Director of District Services in the old Administration and later of ANGAU; she died in Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, on July 23.

Mrs. Taylor was of Irish-Scandinavian descent and the Taylor wedding in 1926 was one of the social events of Rabaul, as it was then, in its hey-day.

While Mr. Taylor was District Officer in New Britain Mrs. Taylor frequently accompanied him on his out-station inspections and became as well known to Witu, Talasea and Gasmata as she was in Rabaul. Later the Taylors were transferred to Morobe and made their home in Salamaua.

Mrs. Taylor was a great lover of children and always made Christmas a great occasion for them in whatever station she happened to be. Her parties, with their Christmas trees and presents for every child in the district, were a feature of New Guinea social life.

For many years she had been a sufferer from diabetes but she did not allow this to interfere with her activities or change her sunny disposition and bright outlook on life.

When the Japanese invaded the Territory, she and other New Guinea women, were evacuated to Australia and in common with them, she lost her cherished personal and family belongings.

Mr. Taylor then became a high-ranking ANGAU officer and Mrs. Taylor stayed with relatives in Marrickville, Sydney.

Mr. Taylor was discharged, from the Forces a short time ago and since that time had been preparing to live in retirement in Sydney.

Mr. Taylor, may, if he wishes, retire from the New Guinea Service. His many friends hope, however, that he will return to the Territory he knows so well and help in the great work of reconstruction.

An LMS dinner was held at the Central Church, Ipswich (Q.), on July 26. The Rev. S. H. Dewdney, of Papua, spoke of the bad habits the natives had picked up when working on the Wau Road in New Guinea with Australian soldiers.

Rid Kidneys Of Poisons And Acids

If you suffer sharp, stabbing pains, if joints are swollen, it shows your blood is poisoned through faulty kidney action. Other symptoms of Kidney Disorders are Backache, Aching Joints and Limbs, Scleritis, Neuritis, Lumbago, Sleepless Nights, Dizziness, Nervousness, Circles under Eyes, Loss of Energy and Appetite and Frequent Headaches and Colds, etc. Ordinary medicines can't help much because you must get to the root cause of the trouble.

The Cystex treatment is specially compounded to soothe, tone and clean kidneys and bladder and remove acids and poisons from your system safely, quickly and surely, yet contains no harmful or dangerous drugs. Cystex works in 3 ways to end your troubles.

1. Starts killing the germs which are attacking your Kidneys, Bladder and Urinary System in two hours, yet is absolutely harmless to human tissue.
2. Gets rid of health-destroying, deadly poisonous acids with which your system has become saturated.
3. Strengthens and reinvigorates the kidneys, protects from the ravages of disease-attack on the delicate filter organism, and stimulates the entire system.

Praised by One-time Sufferers

Cystex is approved by one-time sufferers in 73 countries from the troubles shown above. Mr. Reg Thomas, Townsville, Queensland, recently wrote: "My joints were all stiff, I had leg pains, my back used to ache day and night. My bladder was weak. I had headaches and no appetite. The first dose of Cystex helped me and before I finished three boxes my health and strength came back."

Guaranteed to Satisfy or Money Back

Get Cystex from your chemist or store to-day. Give it a thorough test. Cystex is guaranteed to make you feel younger, stronger, better in every way, or your money back if you return the empty package.

Now in 2 sizes—4/-, 8/-.

This is a
GUARANTEED Cystex
Treatment
for Your Kidneys, Bladder, Rheumatism.

DURING the stress of war McILRATH'S Export Dept. has still functioned regularly, shipping groceries and other commodities to those Pacific Islands where shipping facilities have made this possible.

And when the war is won McIlrath's will be ready again to render their renowned good service to all Island friends wherever they may be.

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202 PITT ST., SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

ISLANDS PRODUCE

COCOA

Official prices for New Hebrides cocoa beans, controlled by the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Committee, are as follows:—

Buying: £41/10/- per ton, f.o.b. Island port.
Selling: Delivered Sydney, Melbourne or Hobart, £53/5/- per ton.

Acacia: £69/10/- (on wharf, Sydney, all charges paid).

New Guinea cocoa beans: No quotations.

Western Samoa: Last sale reported, 1st quality, £80 (f.o.b., Apia).

TROCHUS SHELL

No sales have been reported since January, when small parcels changed hands at £110 per ton. Nominal quotations obtained in mid-August indicate that the market is unchanged at that figure.

COFFEE

No purchases are permitted without the consent of the Tea and Coffee Control Board, to whom all offers must first be submitted. Nominal quotations as follows:—

New Caledonian: Arabica, £81 per ton (c.i.f. Sydney). Robusta, £63 per ton (c.i.f. Sydney).

New Hebrides: Robusta, £63/10/- per ton (c.i.f. Sydney).

Mysore: £240 (c. & f. Sydney).

New Guinea and Papuan: No firm quotations available.

Java: No quotations.

VANILLA BEANS

White Label and Yellow Label, 17/2 per lb., c. & f. Sydney.

KAPOK

Market for Javanese kapok has been suspended.

Indian kapok is being quoted for indent at 1/6 per lb. c.i.f. stg.

COTTON

Government controlled. Stocks being made available to manufacturers at following rates:—
For spinning and weaving yarns, 14½d. per lb.; cordage making, 11½d. per lb.; condenser yarn, 12d. per lb.

IVORY NUTS

No firm quotations available.

RICE

No quotations.

GREEN SNAIL SHELL

F.a.g., £103 per ton, in store, Sydney.

PEARL SHELL

Government-controlled price:—

"B" Class, £200 per ton. "C" Class, £190 per ton. "D" Class, £135 per ton.

FIJI BUYING PRICES

Suva, July 12

THE following, taken from the "Fiji Times," shows the prices current in Suva on the date mentioned. The prices, of course, are given in Fiji currency, which is 12½ per cent. below sterling, and 12½ per cent. above Australian.

Copra (Plantation Grade)	£20
Copra (F.M.S. Grade)	£18/10/-
Copra sacks, each	2/-
Kerosene, per gallon	3/4
Flour, per sack	32/6
Flour, per lb.	3d.
Sharps, per 140 lb. sacks	26/-
Sharps, 5 lb.	1/-
Barbed Wire, ton lots	£42
Trocas Shell, per ton	£85
Benzine, per gallon	2/10
Benzine (bowser) per gallon	2/7

PRICE OF GOLD

Fine	Standard
oz.	£10/13/6
oz.	£9/11/7

COPRA

London	Price on—	South Sea, Sun-dried, to London	Plantation, Hot-air Dried, to London	London	Price on—
January 1, 1932	Per ton, c.i.f.	£14 0 0	£14 0 0	January 6, 1933	4½d
June 17	£13 2 6	£13 2 6	£13 2 6	July 7	5½d
December 16	£14 2 6	£14 2 6	£14 2 6	December 8	4½d
January 6, 1933	£13 0 0	£13 0 0	£13 0 0	January 5, 1934	4½d
June 30	£10 17 6	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	July 6	5½d
December 1	£8 12 6	£9 0 0	£9 0 0	December 28	5d
January 5, 1934	£8 0 0	£8 7 6	£8 7 6	January 4, 1935	5d
June 15	£8 0 0	£8 12 6	£8 12 6	July 5	5d
December 28	£9 0 0	£9 12 6	£9 12 6	December 6	6½d
January 4, 1935	£9 5 0	£10 5 0	£10 5 0	January 3, 1936	6½d
June 7	£11 15 0	£12 7 6	£12 7 6	June 5	9d
December 6	£12 17 6	£14 0 0	£14 0 0	December 4	1/-

London	Price on—	South Sea, Sun-dried, to London	Plantation, Hot-air Dried, to London	London	Price on—
Jan. 3, '36	£13 2 6	£13 15 0	£14 0 0	July 1	6½d
Mar. 6	£11 15 0	£12 15 0	£13 0 0	December 2	7½d
June 5	£11 10 0	£12 10 0	£12 17 0	January 6, 1939	7d
Sept. 4	£13 2 6	£13 10 0	£14 12 6	July 7	7½d
Dec. 4	£19 7 6	£19 7 6	£20 7 6	December 1	12d
Jan. 8, '37	£22 12 6	£22 12 6	£22 12 6	January 5, 1940	13d
Mar. 5	£19 0 0	£19 5 0	£20 0 0	July 5	15d
June 4	£15 15 0	£15 12 6	£16 12 6	December 6	13d
Sept. 3	£13 5 0	£13 5 0	£14 0 0	January 3, 1941	13d
Dec. 3	£12 10 0	£12 12 6	£13 7 6	February 7	13d
Jan. 7, '38	£12 12 6	£12 15 0	£13 12 6	March 7	15d
Mar. 4	£10 17 6	£11 0 0	£12 0 0	April 4	15d
June 3	£9 15 0	£9 15 0	£10 12 6	May 2	16½d
Sept. 2	£9 10 0	£9 10 0	£10 10 0	June 6	16½d
Dec. 2	£9 5 0	£9 5 0	£10 2 6	July 4	17d
Jan. 6, '39	£9 12 6	£9 15 0	£10 10 0	August 1	17d
Feb. 3	£9 10 0	£9 12 6	£10 10 0	September 5	(No quote)
Mar. 3	£10 0 0	£10 2 6	£11 0 0	October 8	—
Apr. 6	£9 12 6	£9 15 0	£10 12 6	October 10—Price officially fixed at	13½d
May 5	£10 0 0	£10 5 0	£11 0 0		
June 2	£10 7 6	£10 10 0	£11 7 6		
July 7	£9 2 6	£9 7 6	£10 5 0		
Aug. 4	£9 2 6	£9 5 0	£10 5 0		
Sept. 1	£9 10 0	£9 12 6	£10 12 6		

Sept. 8.—Not quoted—outbreak of war.

Sept. 15 to 29.—Not quoted.

Oct. 6 £11 15 0 [unquoted] £12 15 0

Oct. 12.—Fixed price based on £12/7/6 per ton, c.i.f., London, for plantation hot-air dried.

Jan. 8, 1940, to April 20, 1940.—Fixed price for plantation hot-air dried, £13/5/- per ton, c.i.f., London.

April 20, 1940.—Fixed price for plantation hot-air dried, £12/17/6 per ton, c.i.f., London.

On February 18, 1942, Fiji and Tonga copra, 1st grade, was fixed at £18 per ton (Fijian), f.o.b.; and in July: Plantation Grade, £18/5/-; Fair Merchantable Sun-dried, £18; and Under-grade, £17/15/-. The values are stated in Fijian currency. To get Australian or New Zealand values, add 12½ per cent.; sterling values, deduct 12½ per cent.

In April, 1942, unofficial quotations in Sydney were around £24 (Aust.) per ton, c.i.f., Sydney.

July, 1943.—N. Guinea and Papuan copra under Aust. Government control. Fixed prices, payable at port of shipment, or on plantation, where no coastal shipment is involved: Hot-air Dried, £15/10/-; Sun-dried, £15; Smoke-dried, £14/10/- per ton. These prices subject to circumstantial considerations.

In September, 1943, prices were revised as follows: Hot-air and Sun-dried, £18/10/-; Smoke-dried, £17 per ton. Tentative thereafter.

New prices covering the period October 1, 1943, to June 30, 1944, were declared in September, 1944, as follows: Hot-air and Sun-dried, £18/10/- per ton; Smoked, £17/10/- per ton.

Prices to operate from July 1, 1944, were tentatively fixed at: Hot-air and Sun-dried, £19; Smoked, £18 per ton.

QUOTATIONS FOR MINING SHARES

	FIJI	Mid-June	Mid-July	Mid-Aug.
Emperor Mines	b11/9	b11/9	b11/9	
Loloma	s20/-	b19/6	b19/6	
Mt. Kasi	s1/9	s1/9	s1/9	
	NEW GUINEA			
Bulolo G.D.	b108/-	b108/-	b108/-	
Guinea Gold	b10/11	b10/11	b10/11	
N.G.G. Ltd.	b3/9	s3/4	s3/2	
Oil Search	s5/4	s5/-	s5/-	
Placer Dev.	b80/-	b80/-	b80/-	
Sandy Creek	s1/6	s1/6	s1/5	
Sunshine Gold	s7/6	s7/6	b5/9	
	PAPUA			
Cuthbert's	s15/-	b15/3	s15/3	
Mandated Alluvials	b4/6	b4/6	s3/-	
Orlomo Oil	s2/6	s2/8	b2/8	
Papuan Apinaipi	s3/3	s3/1	s3/2	
Yodda Goldfields	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	

RUBBER

London	Price on—	Para.	Smoked.
January 6, 1933	4½d	per lb.	per lb.
July 7	5½d	4½d	2.43d
December 8	4½d	5½d	3.71d
January 5, 1934	4½d	4½d	4.08d
July 6	5½d	4½d	4.28d
December 28	5d	5d	7.08d
January 4, 1935	5d	5d	6½d
July 5	5d	5d	7½d
December 6	6½d	6½d	6½d
January 3, 1936	6½d	6½d	8½d
June 5	9d	9d	7½d
December 4	1/-	1/-	8-1-16d
January 6, 1937	1/2	1/2	10½d
June 4	11d	11d	9½d
December 3	7½d	7½d	7½d
January 7, 1938	7½d	7½d	7d
July 1	6½d	6½d	7½d
December 2	7½d	7½d	8d
January 6, 1939	7d	7d	8½d
July 7	7½d	7½d	8½d
December 1	12d	12d	11½d
January 5, 1940	13d	13d	11½d
July 5	15d	15d	12½d
December 6	13d	13d	12d
January 3, 1941	13d	13d	12.47½d
February 7	13d	13d	12.5½d
March 7	15d	15d	13½d
April 4	15d	15d	14½d
May 2	16½d	16½d	14.0½d
June 6	16½d	16½d	13.5½d
July 4	17d	17d	13.7-16d
August 1	17d	17d	13½d
September 5	(No quote)	(No quote)	13½d
October 8	—	—	13.11-16d
October 10—Price officially fixed at	—	—	13½d

July, 1943.—Papuan rubber under Australian Government control. Fixed prices, payable on plantation, where no coastal shipment is involved, or at port of shipment: No. 1 Grade, 1/5; No. 2 Grade, 1/4; No. 3 Grade, 1/2 per lb. These prices subject to circumstantial considerations.

In September, 1943, prices were revised as follows: No. 1 Grade, 1/6½; No. 2 Grade, 1/4; No. 3 Grade, 1/2; Inferior, 10½d. to 1/2½ per lb. Tentative thereafter.

In September, 1944, the following new prices, covering the period October 1, 1943, to June 30, 1944, were proclaimed: No. 1 Grade, 1/6½; No. 2 Grade, 1/5½; No. 3 Grade, 1/3½ per lb. Commencing July 1, 1944, prices were tentatively fixed at: No. 1 Grade, 1/4½; No. 2 Grade, 1/3½; No. 3 Grade, 1/1½ per lb.

Exchange Rates

THE following exchange quotations show the rates existing in mid-August:—

FIJI

Through Bank of NSW and Bank of New Zealand:—Australia on basis of £100 Fiji: Buying, £A111/2/6; selling, £A113. Fiji-London on basis of £100 London:—

	Buying.	Selling.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Telegraphic transfer	110 15 0	112 0 0
On demand	110 12 6	111 17 6

WESTERN SAMOA

Through Bank of New Zealand:—Australia on Western Samoa on basis of £100 Samoa: Buying, £A99/12/6; selling, £A100/2/6. Samoa on London on basis of £100 in London:—

	Buying.	Selling.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Telegraphic transfer	—	£125 10 0
On Demand	£122 18 9	125 7 6
30 days	122 8 9	125 2 6
60 days	121 18 9	124 17 6
90 days	121 8 9	124 12 6
120 days	120 18 9	—

NEW GUINEA AND PAPUA

Only nominal at present.

FREE FRENCH PACIFIC COLONIES

Buying, 160; selling, 163; francs to Aust. £.

Australian Short Wave Broadcast

AN Australian radio programme is broadcast daily on short wave from Lyndhurst (Victoria) for listeners in the Western Pacific:—

Call.	Time.	Wave Length.	Frequency.
VL8R.	6.30-10.15 a.m.	25.51 metres	11,760 M/ca
VL3R.	12.00-6.15 p.m.	25.25 metres	11,880 M/ca
VL6R.	6.45-11.30 p.m.	31.32 metres	9,580 M/ca
Power: 2 kilowatts.			

COOK ISLANDS HAVE A HOUSING PROBLEM

Health Commission Makes Survey in Rarotonga

From Our Own Correspondent

RAROTONGA, June 30. A special health commission — Dr. J. C. R. Buchanan, the recently appointed Inspector-General, South Pacific Medical Service, Suva; Dr. M. H. Watt, Director-General of Health, Wellington; and Miss M. I. Lambie, Director, Division of Nursing, Wellington.

Their stay was brief, but they were, nevertheless, able to make a fairly comprehensive tour of inspection and gather local opinions on pressing health matters. The tour of inspection included the hospital, TB sanatorium, schools, native housing, and swamps.

Besides the official discussions with administration and medical authorities, public views on health matters were received at a meeting with the Island Council.

Some of the most urgent health matters presented for consideration were: The prevalence of filaria and the need for mosquito-control measures; the drainage of swamps (water collects in the low-lying areas between the hills and the coastal road forming mosquito-breeding swamps, and causing considerable damage to crops during heavy rains, and it is suggested that these swamps could be drained by cuts to the sea, as has already been done in one area) better filter systems for the domestic water supply; and a suggestion that the mountain catchment areas be taken over by the administration at a nominal rental and fenced to prevent animals from straying near the intakes.

TUBERCULOSIS undoubtedly remains the most serious health problem in the Cook Islands.

For some time past there has been considerable local concern over the fact that although a large sum of money has been spent on the erection of a sanatorium to treat a comparatively small number of advanced cases of TB, nothing had so far been done to attack the conditions which encourage it—that is, bad housing.

When this was mentioned at the Council's meeting with the commission, Dr. Watt assured members that the greatest consideration was being given to this important question, and that improvements were on the way.

The matter of native housing is a different one, because here, once again, we are up against native habits and customs—always a formidable barrier to overcome—plus the intricacies and jealousies of native land tenure, and the eternal island spirit of "Ariana"—or "never do to-day what you can put off till tomorrow."

Housing conditions are usually found at their worst in the little "squatter" settlements of outer islanders who make up a considerable proportion of Rarotonga's population. Having no land of their own on the island, they crowd together in small lots usually in low-lying, damp areas as close as they can get to the main township.

Native building materials are cheap, and can be utilised to build quite charming, clean and airy houses of any size, suited to the climate and in keeping with the general scenic beauty of the place. But leave a native to himself, and he will throw up the smallest possible shack into which he will pack his ever-growing family, together with any relations and visitors who care to pile in.

As the shack deteriorates and leans awry the owner never bothers to repair it or push it straight, but waits till it finally collapses in an extra strong breeze, then rebuilds from the ruins.

Some of the massive-walled, gloomy, dungeon-like coral-lime houses, built at a stage when the natives wished to emulate Europeans at any cost, have incubated disease germs for generations, and are as great a menace to health as the shacks.

That native building materials can be used to build clean, orderly, even picturesque houses, one may appreciate by a visit to the model village of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission at Titikaveka, Rarotonga.

Housing regulations are absolutely necessary. There are some enlightened souls to-day who feel that it is wrong to attempt to make native subjects do things, even for their own benefit. But when dealing with a people who are a peculiar combination of Europeanisation, stonage, and a variety of child-like stubbornness, it is sometimes necessary to make them do things for their own good.

From half a mile off-shore Rarotonga looks a South Sea paradise, and with the advent of frequent aerial visitors, the legend of the charm and hospitality of the inhabitants is spreading far and wide.

The expenditure of a reasonable amount of money now, and an energetic cleaning-up programme would put a little reality into the paradise, both for its native inhabitants and for the post-war visitors who are sure to come.

MATTERS presented by the Island Council were sympathetically received by the visitors. Assurances were given that every effort will be made to improve health conditions in Rarotonga.

Dr. E. P. Ellison, Chief Medical Officer for Rarotonga, accompanied the visitors on their departure. He will attend the forthcoming Pacific medical conference in Suva. During his absence his post is being filled by Dr. E. Loten. Dr. C. M. Dawson left Rarotonga by the same plane to take up his appointment as Medical Officer of Niue.

CEREMONY OFF LEVUKA

Friends Scatter Ashes of Late Mark Roebuck

RECENTLY at Levuka, Fiji, an impressive ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Buckness, of the Church of England, when the ashes of the late Mark Roebuck, of the United States Navy, were scattered on the sea off Nasova.

For many years Mr. Roebuck had been living in Hawaii, but was well known in Fiji; a report of his death appeared in the May issue of the "PIM."

Mr. W. H. Caldwell and Mr. Pat Costello made the journey from Suva to carry out the wishes of their old friend. Cyril King, Hartley Palmer, and Jock Sword, were also present when the launch moved out across the water. While the service took place, ashes and wreaths were thrown on the sea.

Mrs. Roebuck is still living in Honolulu, but for many years she was a resident of Levuka, Fiji.

The Rev. C. N. MacDairnid, of the New Zealand Presbyterian Church, has been visiting the New Hebrides for the 1945 Mission Synod. This year marks the centenary of the landing of Samoan Christian teachers on Efata, and the 75th anniversary of the landing of Rev. Peter Milne, and also the jubilee of the Tanga Training Institute.

US and Island Bases

New (Labour) View of Our Allies

(From Our Canberra Correspondent)

EARLY granting of island bases to the United States was urged in the Senate by Senator Sampson (Lib., Tas.), during the second-reading debate on the Papua-New Guinea Provisional Administration Bill.

The Americans should be encouraged to establish bases in New Guinea, the Solomons, Admiralties and Marshalls, he said, and Australia should be only too pleased to have the bases there.

Due to the scarcity of our population, we would find it almost impossible to satisfactorily defend Australia and the Territories without the aid of the US.

Senator Grant (Lab., NSW), said if the Americans wanted Pacific bases they should have them. "But," he added, "while the Americans are fighting in the Pacific they want all they can get, and there is no real desire on their part that the Australian soldiers should go in these islands. On the other hand, the English want all they can get and they do want the Australians to go in."

"We own the Netherlands East Indies indirectly. It is a question of oil so far as the Indies are concerned, and oil companies there are largely formed on British shares. These Territories themselves mean nothing. It's what's in them that counts."

HOT FROM THE FIGHTING FRONT

BRIGADIER-GENERAL Basil Morris, Commanding Officer, ANGAU, recently left his Port Moresby headquarters on an extended tour of his domain aboard the "Laurabada" (which has been handed over to ANGAU by the Navy). He was accompanied by several staff officers and the full band of the Royal Papuan Constabulary.

In the course of his tour he arrived off Kwato Mission, near Samarai, where an official call was paid with much pomp.

News of the visit there of General Morris and his entourage quickly spread by bush wireless to Milne Bay, where an American officer, a little away from his base, duly was informed of the news in a hastily scribbled note.

The American sat up as though stung, then rushed to the nearest phone and rang his base. "Say, there," he inquired excitedly, "is it true that General Motors are starting up in Kwato?"

NEWS OF EX-FIJI FAMILY

NEWs of the Barnett family, now living in Melbourne, Victoria, will be of interest to Fiji readers who will remember Mr. E. A. Barnett as the Deputy Commissioner of Police in the Colony until his retirement some years ago.

Daughter Rosemary is now the wife of Major Philip Barton, AIF, and has an infant daughter, born recently.

Mavis Barnett is employed in a secretarial capacity with the Royal Navy, Melbourne.

Mr. Barnett himself has had two years' service in this war—as a lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps.

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