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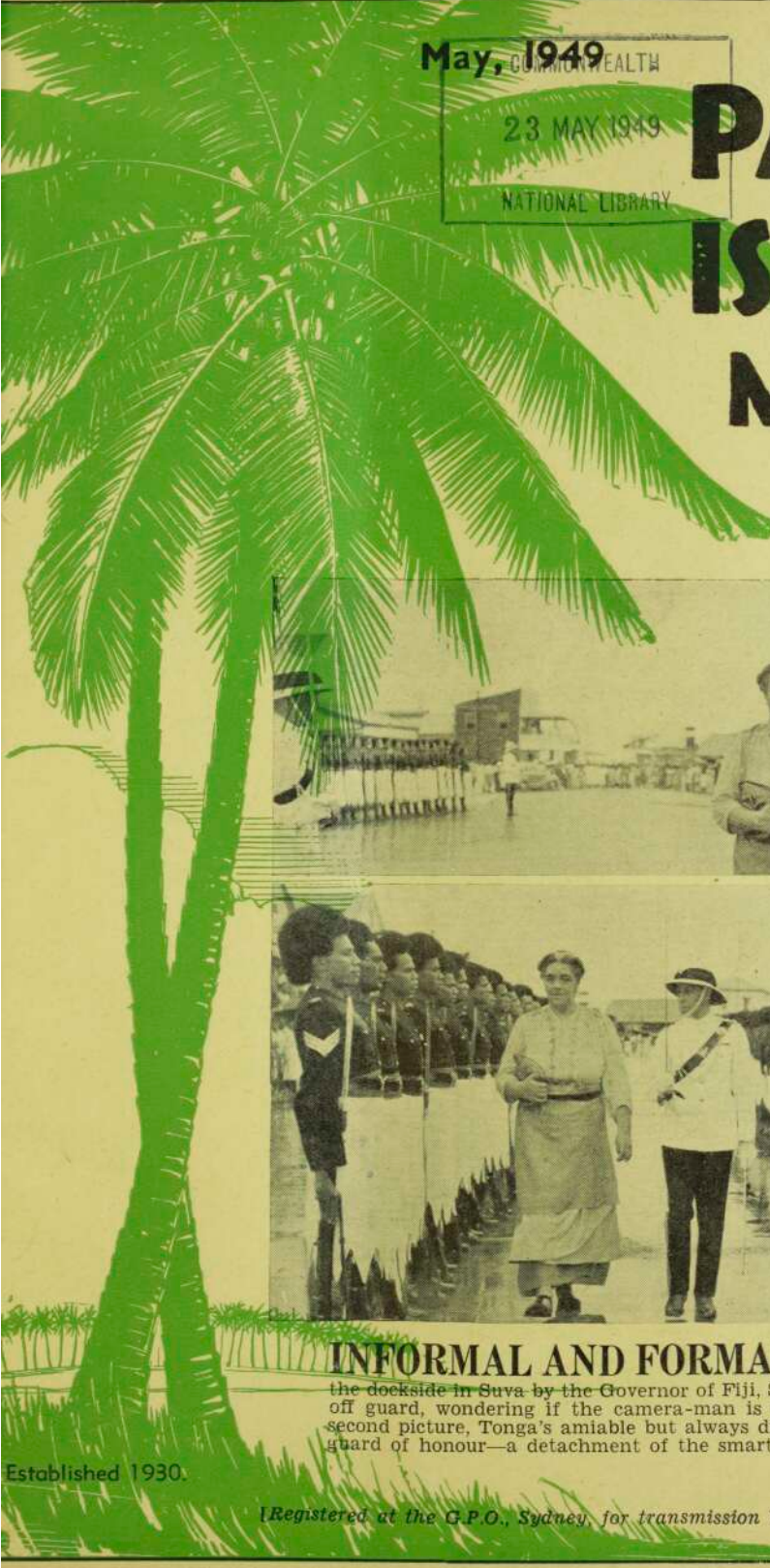
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Vol. XIX. No. 10.

PACIFIC ISLANDS Monthly

919



INFORMAL AND FORMAL : In the top photograph, Queen Salote, of Tonga, is greeted at the dockside in Suva by the Governor of Fiji, Sir Brian Freeston—they are caught off guard, wondering if the camera-man is really after a photograph. In the second picture, Tonga's amiable but always dignified ruler is seen inspecting her guard of honour—a detachment of the smart Fijian Constabulary.

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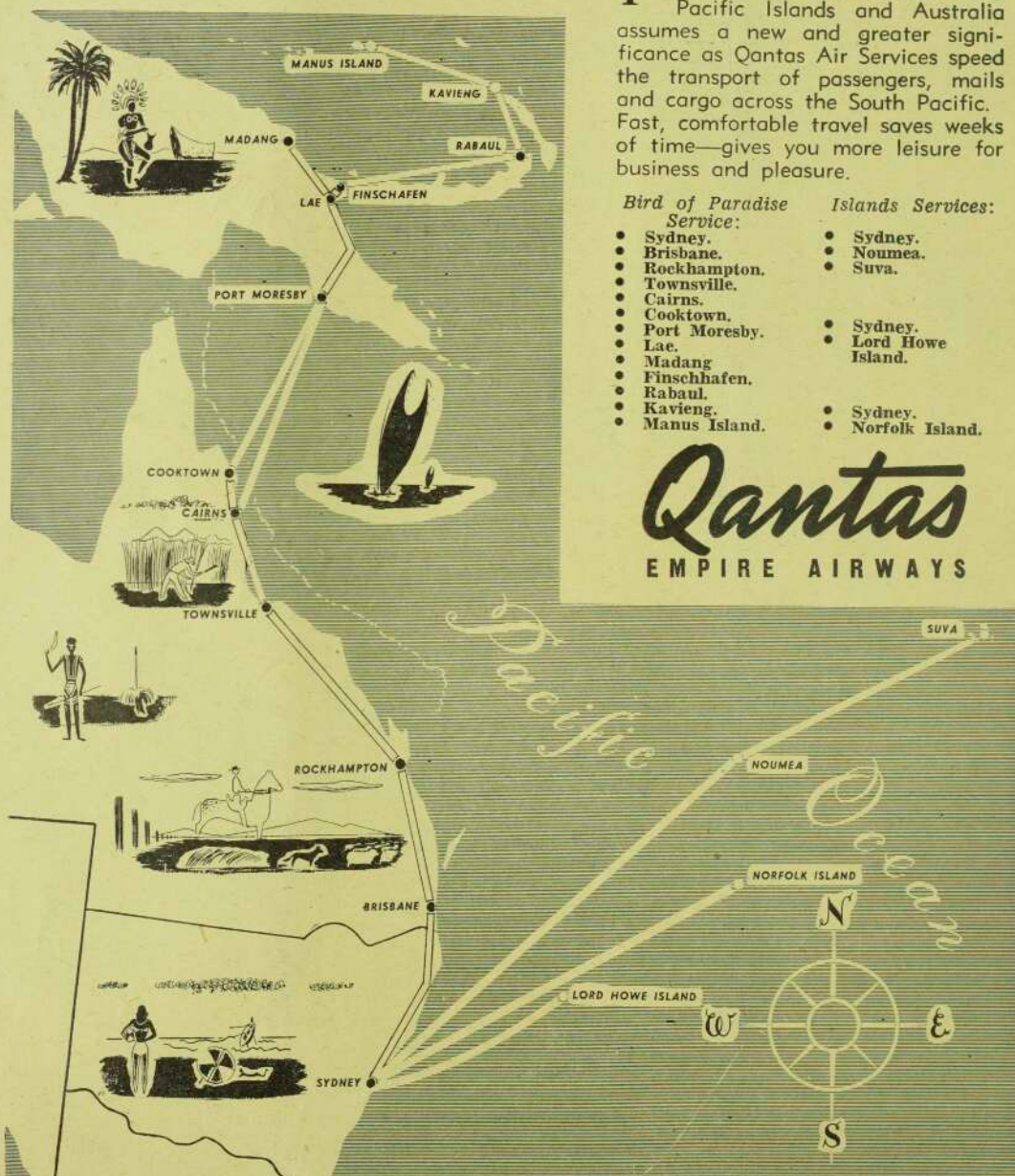
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Mr. G. Arthur, of the Fiji Education Department, is to be promoted to the post of Chief Inspector of Schools. Mr. Arthur, who is at present acting as Deputy Director of Education, has been in Fiji since 1929. He was headmaster of several Fijian Provincial Schools and later of Queen Victoria School.

Miss Elsie Manley and Sister Griffiths are newly-arrived Anglican missionaries to Papua.

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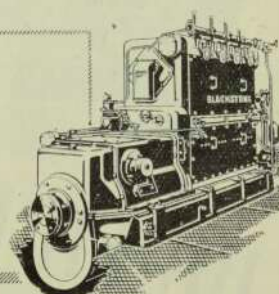
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MAY, 1949

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An Imperial Headache :: The Indian Situation In Fiji

INDIAN journalists in India, and the editor of a newly-established Indian "Review" (published in English) in Fiji, have been using their pens lately in a cheeky and aggressive way, on the subject of Fiji. They have not contributed much to a solution of the ever-growing problem of what is to be done with the Indian community in Fiji.

The claim that the Indian community has some paramount interest in Fiji is so silly that it does not merit serious discussion. Yet, if these Indian journalists are not checked with a recital of cold facts—they "babble like a Babu lawyer"—the tireless repetition of their claims may eventually make some impression upon uninstructed minds.

When the Fiji Islands were discovered, a primitive but very virile Melanesian people, numbering 200,000 or 250,000, had been strongly established there for centuries. According to all international practice and precept, their title to the archipelago is unchallengeable. During the 19th century, the Fijians tried to carry on as a homogeneous nation in a world by then dominated by European ideas and customs. Failing in that, they sought the protection of a European Power; and, after two or three appeals to Britain, the Territory of Fiji was ceded to the British Crown.

In the 75 years which since have passed, Britain has most honourably carried out her pledges to the Fijians. The country has been developed; the native people have been helped in many ways to adjust themselves to a new and changing world—and in three directions, especially, they have reason to be grateful to the British:—

- Because they had no inbred immunity

to overseas diseases, their numbers declined disastrously during the 19th century, so that, after the flu epidemic in 1920, there were only 80,000 left. Under British care, the race has recovered, so that it now numbers 125,000, and is satisfactorily increasing.

- The British Government consistently has resisted all moves to alienate large areas of Fiji land, so that most of the cultivable parts remain the absolute property of the natives.

- The British, over the decades, with exemplary patience, have applied themselves to the task of teaching the Fiji people to govern themselves; and now they are reaping a reward almost beyond their hopes. Year by year, we have increasing evidence that the new generations of Fijians are capable of acquiring all the arts and crafts that are necessary for their maintenance as a free nation.

We need only continue and develop there our applied systems of health and education, and in another couple of decades we shall see a great and growing proportion of the administration in the hands of native Fijians.

BUT into this simple and apparently practical plan there is now obtruded a factor which, if not checked, spells dislocation of the Colony's economy, and great danger for the Fijians. The Indian community wants to dominate the colony and, perhaps, even tack it on to the newly-created India. The attitude of such sections of the Indians as are articulate is one of contempt and patronage towards the Fijians, and of savage hostility towards the British. This does not make for peaceful conditions or happy prospects

within the Colony. Whence comes this noisy Indian demand?

The Colony's economy revolves around sugar. The Indians were brought in to work the sugar plantations and mills, when the industry was established sixty years ago. It never was contemplated, at any time, that these indentured labourers should be allowed to remain in Fiji as colonists. But—just as was the case with Chinese labourers brought into Samoa and Tahiti and New Guinea—the horror of returning to their overcrowded Asiatic homeland created in the minds of these Indian labourers an overpowering desire to stay in the new country; and, one way and another, this undesirable and unnecessary foreign community was allowed to take root.

Certain British officials accepted the argument that the establishment of Indian peasant communities as cane-growers would solve some of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co.'s major difficulties. They may not be blamed for that—there was reason in the argument—but where they did display weakness and shockingly bad judgment was in permitting the entry to the Colony of swarms of small traders, artisans, lawyers and what-not, to cluster around the cane-growers in the sugar-townships.

NEARLY all Fiji's present-day political troubles spring from this section of the Indian community. The sugar-workers generally are decent, peaceable, industrious folk, who create little trouble in Fiji, and would create less if they were left alone by the urban mischief-makers, and the unscrupulous agents of Indian nationalism.

Until very recent times, there always was the hope that the solution of the Fiji problem might be found in changes in the social conditions and mental outlook of the Fijian-born Indians. We placed much hope in a soundly-based education system for Indian children. There was no reason why the younger generations of these

Handy Sydney Addresses

PACIFIC ISLANDS SOCIETY meets every fourth Wednesday of each month at History House, 8 Young Street, Sydney. President: Major A. C. Swinbourne. Tel.: XJ 3295.

NEW GUINEA WOMEN'S CLUB meets in the Feminist Club Rooms, 7th Floor, 77 King Street, every Thursday morning at 11; and approximately once each month in the evening.

POLYNESIAN CLUB OF SYDNEY meets every Monday evening at 38 Clarence Street, Sydney (near Margaret Street). Hon. Sec.: W. Byron. Polynesian visitors always welcome.

Pacific Travel Agency and Sydney office of Fiji Tourist Board—7th Floor, Union House, 247 George Street, Sydney. BW 5037.

people should not forget the traditions, inhibitions and warped social ideas of their Asiatic home, and became loyal citizens of a new country in the South Seas. Fundamentally, there is a world of difference between the Indian and the Fijian—among other things, there is nothing to show that the Indian can justly rule the people of another race. But it was considered possible that, once his ancient background and associations were removed the Fiji-born Indian could get closer to the Fijian, to the advantage of both.

BUT all events of the last two years tend to make such a solution unlikely. Britain, in honourable fulfilment of what she deemed to be a moral obligation, gave India her independence—something that would have been granted in this way by no other world Power, except the United States.

If the British expected to receive, in return, the gratitude and goodwill of the Indians, they already have been disillusioned. Hatred of the British seems to be the outstanding quality of the new India's foreign policy; and hostility, insolence, and non-co-operation towards the British Administrations are already manifest in Natal, Mauritius, Fiji—wherever Indian communities have managed to get a foothold in the British Empire.

It is an irritating, disappointing thing; but at least we have now the proof that we were right in arguing that India was not fit for self-government, and that Indian politicians generally may not be trusted. All these little nastinesses of Indian politicians and journalists in Fiji merely give backing to our contention that in the name of justice and decency we cannot allow such people to have any authority whatever over the Fijian community.

BUT this means, unhappily, that we are farther away than ever from a solution of the problem. Yet the Fiji situation cannot be allowed to remain indefinitely where it is. It is, however, only one of a hundred headaches in the British Empire; some of those headaches are far more urgent than our troubles in Fiji; and so we must be patient—Britain, in due time, will get around to this trouble, and deal with it.

Meanwhile, the British Colonial Office would be wise to remember that the Fijian people are growing up, and thinking for themselves. It is not a good policy to give the Indian too much liberty, because he turns it into license; and, in permitting his arrogance and insolence, we may easily forfeit the goodwill and confidence of the Fijian, which we gained in seventy years of sound and just administration.

By the circumstances of his coming, by his deplorable record in the Pacific War, and by the nature of his present propaganda, the Indian cannot lay claim to any fundamental rights in Fiji. He should be informed of that, officially, and pointedly, and soon. It might put an end to the present obvious attempt, by Delhi,

to get concessions out of the Britain's bemused Socialist Government, in relation to Fiji, before the Socialists go to the poll, this year, for their inevitable defeat.

C. N. SANDFORD RECEIVES HIS DSO

ON March 15, in Melbourne, the Governor of Victoria formally handed the Distinguished Service Order to Flight Lieutenant C. N. Sandford—otherwise "Sandy," of Numa Numa Plantation, Bougainville, New Guinea. Mr. and Mrs. Sandford returned home by April "Bulolo," after three months in Australia. Mr. Sandford, with Mr. Raleigh Farlow (now DO in Bougainville) and Mr. Stan Tame, was among the first men from Bougainville to enlist in 1939. After RAAF training, he went to the South Pacific Area as a Liaison Officer with the American XIV Corps, during which time he was closely associated with the First Battalion of the Fiji Infantry. From October, 1944, until the end, he was with the AIB; and it was for his outstanding work with the AIB on Bougainville that he was awarded the highly coveted DSO. His citation praises his courage and resource in leading native troops through the Bougainville jungles, in the course of which they inflicted severe losses upon the Japs.

His brother received both DSO and DFC for special services while commanding a Beaufighter squadron in the Pacific area.

ANOTHER AIRLINE IN NEW GUINEA

Effect of Socialism and High Price of Copra

LAE, April 30.

A NEW freight and passenger air service has been started in New Guinea by Guinea Air Traders, whose headquarters are at Lae.

The service is weekly, and it runs between Wewak (on the northern coast of New Guinea mainland, near the Sepik River) and Kavieng (on the northern tip of New Ireland). Between those two points, regular calls are made at Madang, Lae and Rabaul.

Qantas also run a regular plane over part of this route. It starts from Lae, and flies to Manus via Rabaul and Kavieng.

New Guinea now is better served by a variety of airlines than it was 15 years ago, in the booming days of the goldfield. The gold industry has not recovered; but increasing production of copra, at a record price, is releasing a good deal of money, to pay for air transportation. The latter is more costly than shipping; but as the policy of the Australian Socialist administration is to discourage private enterprise in coastal shipping, while making a tragic muddle of Government-owned shipping and port facilities, the airlines are given a chance to flourish.

The Scots Have A Name For It



The threepenny piece has been restored to circulation in Fiji.

PROSPECTIVE TOURIST: Aye, Dugald, they tell me they have the three penny piece back in wee Fiji. Mon, it's a real tourist attraction!

GENERAL RECOVERY OF WORLD COPRA PRODUCTION

Interesting Report From London Association

From a Special Correspondent

LONDON, May 5.
ALL commodity markets in the United Kingdom have been confused and unsettled for some time, without any particular feature of interest to residents of the South Seas. However, the following extract from the chairman's report to the London Copra Association, which will be presented at a general meeting this month, will be of interest to copra producers.

The chairman reports:—

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: A year ago I reported to you the result of my investigations, in the Philippines, of the causes of the bad shipments of Philippine copra during the previous year.

I stated then that the best way in which buyers could protect their interests was to adopt the following course:

By avoiding all shippers and sellers who are not regarded as of the highest standing and integrity.

By insisting on buying only on c.i.f. or c. & f. conditions, landed weights (at port of discharge) and on the terms of the London Copra Association Contract.

It appears that buyers have adopted this course. In spite of very heavy fluctuations, there have been very few reports of defaults by shippers during the past year. As a result of buyers' policy of caution, business has been guided back again into the normal, regular channels and irresponsible elements have, very largely, been weeded out.

The most satisfactory feature of the past year has been the general agreement by Philippine shippers to sell landed weights at port of discharge. The result has been remarkable and out-turns have improved greatly compared with the previous year. Many more transactions to Europe are now concluded on this Association's contract which is very satisfactory.

Shipments of copra during 1948 amounted to 625,600 tons. The considerable reduction from 1947 was due to the severe damage caused by the typhoon on Christmas Day, 1947. The greater part of the damage has been repaired throughout the past year and we may confidently look to increased production from last year's level.

SOUTH SEA COPRA: Production in Papua and New Guinea is continuing to improve and it has been estimated that this year's production may reach as much as 60,000 tons, although the latest estimate indicates that only 45,000 tons will be available for export.

Of this quantity, approximately 25,000 tons will be required by Australia and the rest will be taken up by the UK Ministry of Food. A nine-year contract has been concluded with the Ministry of Food—the price for 1949 is reported to be £48 Stg. per ton f.o.b. For each subsequent year the price must be agreed anew, but not less and not more than 10 per cent. of the price of the preceding year.

INDONESIA: Good progress in rehabilitation is continuing. You will remember that last year I estimated that shipments in 1948 would reach 300,000 tons.

Actually, shipments were 238,400 tons, to which must be added 20,000 tons of coconut oil and also a further quantity of 100,000 tons of copra shipped from areas outside the Copra Fund control. This makes a total of copra equivalent, shipped from Indonesia, around 370,000 tons. Exports in 1949 should exceed 400,000 tons from all parts of Indonesia.

During the first quarter of this year the Copra Fund in Batavia, which controls the export of copra, had already sold 150,000 tons for shipment during 1949.

STRAITS: It will be remembered that nearly a year ago a letter was addressed to the Ministry of Food suggesting that all restrictions on the export of copra and coconut oil from Malaya be freed in order to increase the total exportable surplus to any destination.

Action was taken on these lines in the middle of September, from which time Malaya was freed from all export restrictions. Total export of oil and copra, in terms of copra, amounted to 43,192 tons in 1948 compared with only 20,000 tons in 1947.

Due to the stricter control over all copra exports by the NEI Copra Fund since the second police action, it is feared that imports of Indonesian copra in Singapore will be appreciably smaller, and this in turn may cause a falling off again in Malayan exports.

CEYLON: As a result of the visit of the Minister of Commerce of Ceylon to London, a new agreement was reached between the Ministry of Food and the Government of Ceylon. The agreement supersedes the existing agreement in respect of the period, July 1, 1948, to December, 1950, and provides that any quantity taken by the UK during the period, July 1 to December, 1948, shall be at the price of £50 per ton of copra f.o.b. Ceylon ports.

Under the new agreement the price for a minimum quantity of 40,000 tons as oil in 1949 is based on a price of £55 per ton of copra f.o.b. Ceylon ports.

The price for 1950 is to be agreed on towards the end of 1949, in conjunction with negotiations for a long-term contract, possibly for five years, to include the year 1950.

During the latter part of last year fair quantities of coconut oil were sold for export at high prices but since then Ceylon has not followed the general decline in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaya, and no sales have been reported for a considerable time.

Total shipments from Ceylon last year amounted to 54,461 tons as copra and 75,730 tons as oil, making a total, in terms of copra, of 174,667 tons. It is feared that as a result of a period of severe drought in Ceylon at the end of 1948, shipments in 1949 will not exceed 120,000 tons in terms of copra.

Night classes have been commenced by the Education Department in Rabaul, N.G. Mrs. M. Byron and Miss Egan are conducting classes in English and commercial subjects in the Chinese School, each Monday and Wednesday. Although primarily for Chinese residents, Europeans or Malays may also attend.

LATE NEWS ITEMS

MR. H. E. MAUDE

NOUMEA, May 11.—Mr. H. E. Maude, who originally was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the South Pacific Commission, has been made a full-time member (Member for Social Development) of the Research Council. He has been acting in that capacity since the Council was inaugurated.

OH, FOR AN ADEQUATE THIRST!

AUCKLAND, May 11.—The Union Export Co.'s small motor vessel "Melva" sailed to-day for Port Moresby with 93,000 bottles of beer, the product of two Auckland breweries. N.Z. beer is going to the Islands in increasing quantities. Owing to local industrial conditions, the well-known Australian breweries, like Tooth & Co., Ltd., and Carlton United, which formerly held these markets, have difficulty in arranging shipments.

NOT ENOUGH SHIPS

APIA, May 7.—Western Samoa copra is accumulating here. The ships which nominally come in to load copra are generally nearly full when they arrive.

FRUIT FOR NZ

SUVA, May 12.—The Fiji Banana Board plans considerable extension of banana shipments to NZ when the new Union SS Co.'s "Tofua" (5,300 tons) comes into commission in 1951.

RAROTONGA, May 6.—By the time the new "Tofua" comes into service, Rarotonga will be ready to quadruple its orange exports to N.Z.

N.G. CLUB RESTORED

RABAU, May 12.—Premises of New Guinea Club, attractively reconstructed, will be opened shortly.

WATERHOUSE MEMORIAL

RABAU, May 12.—In formal ceremony to-day, a plaque was affixed to Nodup native village school naming it "J. H. L. Waterhouse Memorial School," in honour of the man who did splendid service in the thirties in connection with native education.

DRUNKEN NATIVES

RABAU, May 6.—The District Court sent 21 natives to hard labour for six months for drunkenness.

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN RABAU

RABAU, May 12.—Bishop Strong of Papua, and Bishop Caulton, of Melanesia, and a representative meeting decided that New Britain should be removed from Anglican Diocese of Melanesia and attached to the Diocese of Papua. Rabaul hitherto has been under control of the Solomons church; but communications are difficult.

PHENOMENAL RAINFALL

SUVA, May 5.—No less than 14.5 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. There was considerable flood damage, especially to copra and coconut meal at the Island Industries' new mill.

SUVA, May 14.—The sub-chaser which was picked up at sea in February, 1948, with Mr. R. E. Johnson aboard, and towed 100 miles to Suva, has been converted into a trading ship for the Suva-Lau Islands, named the "Purple Sea," and has left on her first trip.

BOOM OVER IN FIJI, TOO

SUVA, April 25.
THE indications all point to the fact that business, as far as shopkeepers are concerned, is not what it used to be in the Suva area.

A pre-Easter boom is reported to have been followed by a slowdown which has affected businesses as far apart as Indian tailors and hotels.

People spend in spasms but the immediate post-war era of sustained buying has ended.

HE'S BEEN TO NAURU!

Minister's List of Promises To Complaining Chiefs

AS reported in April PIM, the Australian Acting Minister for Territories went off on a hurried visit to Nauru at the end of March, because it was reported that the Nauru native chiefs proposed to complain to the Trusteeship Council about Australian Administration.

When he returned, about a month later, Mr. Chambers reported that he had made the following promises to the Council of Chiefs:

- Construction of 250 houses, work on 12 of which has already begun.
- A complete review of the Nauruan system of education, including advanced secondary training.
- Clinical examination, in a drive to prevent and wipe out tuberculosis.
- Expansion of the training scheme for medical staff and appointment of a dentist.

- Review of wages and working conditions of natives and Europeans.

- The island's sanatorium and lepro-sarium to be improved immediately, and the hygiene and sanitation campaigns intensified.

- The payment of war damage compensation to Nauruans to be discussed with the Prime Minister.

The Council of Chiefs undertook not to proceed with their petition to the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. Chambers expressed the opinion that the housing and education systems on the Island were unsatisfactory, suggesting that Australia was open to censure by the Council. He also said that the term of the present Administrator, Mr. Ridgway, expires in August. He said nothing about another appointment.

EDITORIAL NOTE

THE implication apparently is that Mr. Ridgway placed Australia in an invidious position and that this energetic Minister, by devoting a whole month of his precious time to an unexpected scamper to Nauru, has saved Australia from embarrassment and censure by the lords of the Trustee Council. The facts are that: (a) the Nauruan natives, as a result of the royalties they draw from Nauruan phosphate, are among the richest natives in the Pacific; (b) they are exceedingly well treated, and could not sustain any appeal to the UNO instrumentality—which should not be taken too seriously, anyway; (c) the spectacle of an Australian Minister grovelling in this way to the Nauruan chiefs is not exactly elevating; and (d) Mr. Ridgway is an experienced officer of good reputation who should not be condemned out of hand by any peregrinating junior Minister who has never had one hour's practical experience of tropical administration.

Mr. E. V. O'Brien, of Madang, NG, who had a strenuous time during the war, and who has not spared himself in the management of his five plantations since 1945, was taken south by Mrs. O'Brien in April, and placed in Helenie Hospital, Randwick, Sydney, to get attention to a "wonky" heart. Like many other old-timers of the Territories, he refused to believe that the years take toll of everyone. It is expected that a few weeks in hospital will put him squarely on his feet again.

FIJI TRADE FOR 1948

Sugar Again Tops Exports

FIGURES recently released in Fiji show that sugar again headed Fiji's exports for the year 1948. The value of the 149,494 tons of raw sugar and 25,402 tons of molasses was over 4½ million pounds.

Other exports, in order of value, were:—

Copra and Coconut Products ..	1,837,485
Gold and Silver Bullion ..	1,019,614
Canned and Fresh Pineapples	129,588
Bananas ..	94,996
Biscuits ..	34,960
Hides ..	12,601
Trocas Shell ..	7,177
Beche de Mer ..	3,423
Raw Rubber ..	2,745
Timber ..	1,886

The value of the Colony's total overseas trade in 1948 was £13,734,346. Goods valued at just under six million pounds were imported. Exports were valued at £7,789,512.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR SIR HENRY MILNE SCOTT

ONE of Fiji's leading citizens, Sir Henry Milne Scott, KC, recently was entertained at a special dinner in Suva, to mark the completion of 50 years of active work as a lawyer in that Colony. He was admitted to the Bar in Fiji in 1899, and took silk in 1912.

Sir Henry is a distinguished student of constitutional law. In August last, in Suva, three hours before the judgments were delivered, he gave the editor of "PIM" an almost exact forecast of the verdict of the High Court in the Australian Bank Nationalisation case.

Despite a busy and very successful professional life, he has given much public service to Fiji; and he still is active and alert. His father, the late Mr. William Scott, founded the well-known legal firm in Levuka in the early 70's, and was closely associated with the cession of Fiji to the British Crown. He died in 1898, and the practice was taken over by his youngest son (now Sir Henry), then only 22. Sir Henry's son, Mr. Maurice Scott, who won distinction in World War II, is now also a well-known legal practitioner in Fiji, and is taking a prominent place in public life.



Norfolk Is. Notes

By Vernon Wheatley

CONGRATULATIONS: To Mr. and Mrs. "Cobby" Robinson, 50 years married. Most of the Island attended either the garden party or the social evening. The guest-list would fill a "PIM" page. The Administrator attended the informal gathering in the evening and many musical items were enjoyed.

PITCAIRN: Mrs. and Miss Warren spent a couple of weeks on the Island visiting friends and relations. They were holidaying in NZ and took the opportunity of coming to Norfolk, before returning to Pitcairn.

ANZAC DAY: Was observed by a gathering of ex-Servicemen, a band of school children and other interested residents. Wreaths were placed on the Memorial by the Administrator, the presidents of the Advisory Council, RSS and AILA and others.

FORESIGHT: We are to have electric light soon. The generator, diesel-powered, is on order in England. A census shows 90 per cent. of residents in favour.

BACCHUS: The Liquor Bond Store instead of being open half days on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, will now be open only on Fridays, and will be closed when vessels are in "port." It is reported that this peculiar arrangement came into being because someone approached Canberra and said that an open Bond Store was not conducive to the rapid handling of cargo. The change has aroused anger and indignation.

TOURISTS from NZ complain that the Socialists there seem to be placing difficulties in the way of people who desire to spend holidays outside of NZ. The overseas peregrinations of the politicians—at the country's expense—suggest that overseas travel will shortly become an exclusive political privilege. But November 1949 (NZ elections) may see a change.

WHISPERED—That Qantas is proposing the erection of an accommodation house.

ROOFING and tank iron was recently released to the public. It was of a light gauge and salt-corroded, and definitely not cheap. Nevertheless, it was welcome—but there was no flat iron for the tops and bottoms of the tanks!

BLACKMARKET—You can get all the cement you want from NZ, if you care to pay 17/6 per bag, plus freight. It looks as if my wooden steps will remain wooden for some time.

WOULDN'T IT?—I recently read a contradictory article on "lonely Pitcairn." In one breath, the author stressed the isolation of Pitcairn (Norfolk's "Mother Country"). In the next breath he stated that 22 ships visited the Island in 25 weeks. Norfolk's quota just now is about 22 ships in 4 years. Just as well we have an air service.

The Rev. A. T. Hill, Anglican Mission, Papua, is to spend his leave in the UK.

FIJI GOLFERS

Members of Fiji's Vatu-koula Golf Club Committee, photographed by H. J. Pollock; (standing): A. Miller, R. Ward, N. Rasmussen; (seated): N. E. Neilsen, D. T. Mitchell, L. Abel, P. Dunlop.

TNG COPRA

Still Under Canberra Control

ALTHOUGH many inquiries have been made, New Guinea copra interests still are unable to obtain clarification of the intentions of the Australian Government in relation to New Guinea's major industry. (See article on page 4 of April "PIM.")

The copra producer, as from January 1, is receiving £48 Australian from the Production Control Board, at main Territory ports. The British Ministry of Food is taking over, as at the same points, all the copra the Australian Government can spare, at £48 sterling.

The difference between £48A. and £48 stg. is £12A. We inquired at Canberra what became of the £12, and were officially informed by the Department of External Territories, on April 14 (G.183.1.2), that the sum is accounted for as follows:

Australian Currency	
Storage, handling, selling	
commission, insurance,	
shrinkage, etc.	3 8 6
Account stabilisation . . .	5 0 0
Account Customs Duty . . .	3 11 6
Producer, on delivery ex-	
ship's slings from inter-	
island vessels, or into	
Board's warehouse when de-	
livery is by road, at main	
Territory ports	48 0 0
	60 0 0

£60 Australian, of course, is equal to the £48 Stg. which the Production Control Board receives from Britain.

Copra authorities, commenting on these figures, say that both the £3/8/6 for charges, and the £3/11/6 for export duty are excessive; and neither the planters nor anyone else knows anything about the so-called Stabilisation Fund.

THE Fund was instituted by Minister Ward, when Civil Administration was resumed, as a means of "cushioning" price recessions, which seem to come periodically to the copra industry. Up until the end of 1948, £8 per ton was deducted from planters' returns, and credited to a Stabilisation Fund; but no one—planter, politician or pressman—could find out from the bureaucrats the amount of the Fund, what was being done with it, and how it was proposed eventually to dispose of it.

It was presumed, when the new arrangement with Britain, under a nine-years' guarantee, was entered into—that this being tantamount to stabilisation of the market—that the Fund would disappear. The Acting Minister for Territories told planters, informally, in New Guinea, that the Fund would be distributed to producers in proportion to the quantity of copra they had sent in. But that was not officially confirmed.

When the new price was announced, in March, it was clear that some extraordinary deductions were being made; and the Departmental figures which we now publish show that these deductions amount to £5 for stabilisation.

But there is nothing to show how the £5 was arrived at, where it goes and how it will be disposed of. It, and the other deductions, appear to be just arbitrary figures arrived at by some Minister or official, at his own sweet will. And there seems to be no way of appeal.

The cold fact of the matter is that the Australian Socialist Administration simply cannot bear to see the "emissaries of private enterprise," the planters, getting anything like £60A. per ton, and so they have devised this system of deductions. The system probably will continue so long as the Socialists hold power.

From the New Guinea annual report for 1947-48, we learn that the Stabilisation Fund on June 30, 1948, was £137,573. Assuming that copra has been delivered since that date at the rate of 40,000 tons per annum (deductions being £8 per ton in the second half of 1948 and £5 per ton since), the Fund must now be in the vicinity of £350,000—quite a windfall if it is distributed pro rata among producers.

There is little hope of their getting this money under present conditions; but if there is a change of government in the next Australian elections, they should be able to count upon it.

IT will be remembered (see April "PIM")

that the PCB has been paying to producers a delayed sum in respect of smoke-dried copra. But these prices have been adjusted only up to June 30, 1948. We inquired at Canberra about this, and have the following reply:—

"Prices (for smoke-dried copra) from July 1 are tentative. Final prices in respect of the year 1948-49 will be determined after the close of trading for that financial year."

Which means that smoke-dried copra

will be finally paid for in the latter part

of 1949.

Although it was officially announced months ago that the Production Control Board would be abolished, and some new system of handling NG copra introduced, the PCB is still handling copra, and Canberra is silent concerning any change.

It is presumed that, if there is a change, such Government control as remains will be exercised by the Department of Agriculture's Division of Production and Marketing, whose function is "Control of commercial plantations and native agricultural projects, grading and marketing of produce."

Fiji Morning Newspaper Ceases Publication

THE "Oceania Daily News," established over a year ago to provide Suva with a morning daily, and generally to advance the views of the European Electors' Association, ceased publication at the end of March owing to labour troubles, and has not been re-started. It is understood that the plant is for sale.

A number of well-known men had invested in the project, but a large part of the capital was found by Mr. J. P. Bayly, a well-known Fiji business man who has strong views in relation to political reform, and who is not afraid to spend his own money on the things he believes in.

Judged by its inability to get a quorum at its annual meeting, there is a recession of public interest in the European Electors' Association. The following officers were elected early in April:—

President, Mr. D. M. N. McFarlane; vice-presidents, Messrs. A. A. Ragg, J. P. Bayly, H. B. Gibson, F. G. Archibald, F. V. Dunstan; secretary, Mr. R. L. Barnfather; auditor, Mr. B. Lawlor; committee, Messrs. K. A. E. Marlow, A. Groom, E. M. Heatly, N. Levy, C. S. Phillips, H. N. Murray, K. Witherington, J. B. Turner, D. A. Dunstan, J. B. Stinson, E. H. McElwain, J. S. Rushton, W. J. Ragg, B. Wakeham and T. F. Patton.

The Wrong Name

IT was stated in a paragraph on page 13 of the April "PIM" that Societe Francaise des Nouvelles-Hebrides was a Company controlled by Maison Ballande of Bordeaux. We are advised that this is incorrect—the organisation referred to should have been Comptoirs Francaise des Nouvelle Hebrides. The first named corporation is under the control of the French Government.

APIA HAS A "FLAG INCIDENT"

Series of Remarkable Events Follows Darts Game

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, April 26.

TWO associate members of the Returned Servicemen's Association, H. Krone and B. Brownlee, at the Clubroom and bar of the Association (the so-called USO HALL) late in April, when playing darts, inadvertently threw some darts at the new Samoan flag, suspended on the wall of the hall. The flag fell to the ground, and they tried to remove the darts.

The incident was reported to the two Fautua, the Hon Tamasese and Malietoa. It caused excitement and criticism among Europeans and Samoans, particularly as some versions of the incident were greatly exaggerated.

A meeting of the State Council (which consists of the High Commissioner and the two Fautua) was called and for a time feeling ran high. It was argued that the action of the two Europeans constituted a deliberate insult to the new Samoan flag.

Both the Europeans, who are old residents, strongly denied that any insult or disrespect was intended. They stated that their action had been purely accidental, and that they sincerely respected the new Samoan Government and its flag.

Both the executive of the Returned Servicemen's Association and Messrs. Krone and Brownlee appeared before the Council of State, and expressed their sincere regret and tendered their apologies, which were accepted.

The High Commissioner, on April 23, broadcast an explanation of the incident over the Apia station, and asked the Samoan people to follow the good example of their leaders in accepting the apologies tendered and to consider the incident closed. The High Commissioner's statement was followed by the explanations and apologies of Messrs. Krone and Brownlee, broadcast in English and Samoan.

As a precautionary measure, the USO hall and bar were temporarily closed by the Police.

PRESENT KAVIENG CLUB WILL FIGHT

Petition For Winding-Up of Old Club Heard In June

ABOUT 25 people attended the meeting, in Kavieng, on April 16, with a view to resuming the activities of the Kavieng Club which were suspended (or terminated) at the time of the Japanese invasion in 1942.

The sole surviving trustee of the old Club has appealed to the Supreme Court of Papua-New Guinea for direction in disposing of the funds of the old Club. The case is due for hearing in Port Moresby in June.

Some residents of New Ireland hold that the club activities were merely suspended and that it never went out of business.

The most important decision at the meeting on April 16 was the motion that "the Kavieng Club now resumes its functions which were interrupted by the Japanese invasion of 1942 and take appropriate action to contest the petition for the winding up of same."

The steps to be taken to contest the petition are being kept a close secret for the present.

THIRD SESSION OF S. PACIFIC COMMISSION

New Body Settles To Work in Noumea

NOUMEA, May 9.
THE Third Session of the South Pacific Commission opened in Noumea, New Caledonia, on May 7, at the recently-established permanent headquarters of the Commission, with delegations in attendance from the six member nations — Australia, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Governor-General Cournarie, of New Caledonia, welcomed the delegations at the Commission headquarters in the Pentagon.

"The subject of your activities wakes a great feeling of interest among all the French population of the Pacific," said the Governor-General.

"The co-operative research that you undertake, seeking the ways and means that could be used by the participating Governments to improve the living conditions of man, and to promote along rational lines the economy of countries, is so closely related to the aims that France has always had in view in all the territories of the French Union, that we are bound to give you our fullest assistance and to wish to play a useful part in the studies and research work that you are going to undertake. We are convinced that their outcome will be successful, not only because substantial advantages will come out of it, but mostly because the existence of your Commission will promote cultural intercourse between territories separated by large expanses of sea, and bring them to know, to understand and to appreciate each other better, and to achieve better work in common. Thus, outside of any political action, by a goodwill accomplishment, the South Pacific Territories will play an honourable part in bringing peace throughout the world."

M. R. Lassalle-Sere, Permanent Commissioner for France, as chairman of the Second Session, thanked the New Caledonia administration for its efforts in establishing the Commission at its Noumea headquarters, and praised the Secretary-General, the Secretariat and members of the Research Council, for the work they had accomplished.

Mr. J. B. D. Pennink (Netherlands Minister at Wellington, NZ, and Senior Commissioner for the Netherlands) assumed the chairmanship of the Third Session, in conformation with the Commission policy of rotating the chairmanship to each member government in alphabetical order. "All those who have come here from different parts are working for one common purpose, international co-operation in furthering the welfare of non-self-governing peoples in the South Pacific," said Chairman Pennink. He said that much investigation and research would have to be undertaken in several branches of science in the wide territory that the Commission has as its responsibility, while the Commission, at its home in Noumea, would have to build up its organisation, to form the basis of fruitful work and success in the future.

DELEGATIONS present represented the member nations as follows:—

AUSTRALIA

Acting Senior Commissioner: Rev. Dr. J. W. Burton, ex-President General Methodist Church of Australia.
 Acting Commissioner: Dr. J. T. Gunther, Director Public Health, Papua-New Guinea.
 Alternate Commissioner: Mr. T. A. Pym, Officer

in Charge of South Pacific Section, Pacific Division, Department of External Affairs, Canberra.

Advisers: Mr. W. C. Groves, Director of Education, Papua-New Guinea; and Mr. H. S. Barnett, Australian Consul, Noumea.

Secretary: Mr. M. F. Manning, Acting Officer in Charge, International Convention and Research Section, Department of Internal Territories, Canberra.

FRANCE

Senior Commissioner: M. Robert F. J. Lassalle-Sere, Inspector-General of Colonies.

Commissioner: M. Pierre C. J. Bonnard, Directeur du Cabinet du Haut-Commissaire de France dans le Pacifique, Noumea.

Adviser: M. Alfred H. Pourcade, Administrator of Colonies, Noumea.

NETHERLANDS

Senior Commissioner: Mr. J. B. D. Pennink, Netherlands Minister, Wellington.

Commissioner: Mr. A. J. Bevereluis, Senior Official at the Department of Social Affairs, Batavia.

Alternate Commissioner: Mr. G. P. K. van Eechoud, Resident Magistrate, Hollandia.

Advisers: Mr. A. H. Hasselman, Secretary, Netherlands Legation, Canberra; Mr. F. Verkuyl, Netherlands Consul, Noumea.

Adviser-Secretary: Mr. J. Boerwinkel, Officer of the General Secretariat of the Government of Indonesia, Batavia.

NEW ZEALAND

Senior Commissioner: Mr. C. G. R. McKay, formerly Secretary of Department of Island Territories.

Commissioner: Lieut.-Colonel F. W. Voelcker, DSO, formerly Administrator of Western Samoa.

Adviser: Mr. R. Hunter Wade, Assistant Official Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for New Zealand in Australia.

UNITED KINGDOM

Senior Commissioner: Sir Brian Freeston, KCMG, OBE, Governor of Fiji, High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Commissioner: Mr. H. H. Vaskess, CMG, OBE, formerly Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission.

Secretary: Miss A. Harcourt.

UNITED STATES

Senior Commissioner: Dr. Felix M. Keessing, Professor of Anthropology, Stanford University.
 Commissioner: Mr. Orsen N. Nielsen, US Consul-General, Sydney.

Advisers: Dr. Douglas Oliver, Department of State, Washington; Mr. Robert R. Robbins, Department of State, Washington; Commander William J. Germershausen, Jr., USN.

Secretary: Miss Orpha Soine.

The Commission has a large and important Agenda, much of it representing submissions by the Research Council.

First Meeting of Research Council

THE first meeting of the Research Council of the South Pacific Commission opened on April 30 at Noumea, with Dr. J. T. Gunther (part-time member for health), Director of Public Health, Papua-New Guinea, elected as chairman for the conference.

The Secretary-General, W. D. Forsyth, welcomed the members at the first session.

Full-time Research Council members present included: Prof. Dr. L. G. M. Baas Becking, Deputy Chairman; Dr. E. Massal, health; Dr. H. G. MacMillan, economic development; H. E. Maude, social development (acting). Part-time members in attendance were:—

Dr. H. de Rook, health, Chief Medical Officer, NNGPM, Sorong, Netherlands, New Guinea;

Lieut. L. A. Jachowski, USN, health, Head, Filariasis Research, Pago Pago, American Samoa (alternate for Capt. W. F. Stephens, USN);

Dr. J. C. Lopdell, health, Chief Medical Officer, Western Samoa;

Dr. F. Bugnicourt, economic development, Director, Institut Francais d'Océanie, Noumea;

Dr. Douglas Oliver, economic development, Department of State, Washington (alternate for Dean K. A. Ryerson);

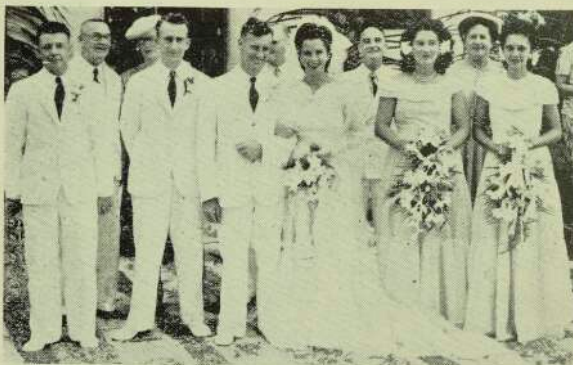
B. E. V. Parham, economic development, Senior Agricultural Officer, Suva, Fiji;

J. G. Crawford, economic development, Director Commonwealth Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Canberra.

Maurice Grangie, social development, Director of Education, New Caledonia;

(Continued next page)

TURNER-MACKENZIE WEDDING



THIS photograph was taken at the wedding of Miss Pele Flora Mackenzie, daughter of the late Gordon Hay-Mackenzie, of Wellington, NZ, and Mrs. Aggie Grey of Apia, Western Samoa, to Mr. Campbell H. Turner, of the Apia Broadcasting Station.

The bride's mother is the well-known hotel owner of Apia.

The bride's attendants were her sister, Mrs. Maureen White, of Sydney, who was matron-of-honour, and her cousin, Miss Nina Meredith, who was bridesmaid. Mr. R. J. Mulligan and Mr. J. L. Anderson were best man and groomsmen.

NZ, where Mr. Turner will be attached to the New Zealand Broadcasting Service.

BGD Returns

DURING April eight BGD dredges handled 1,170,960 yards of gravel for a total recovery of 6,620 ounces of fine gold.

Mr. George Waring, of the Fiji Lands Dept. has passed in three subjects of the first section of the examination for Licensed Surveyors of Australia.

Howard Hayden, social development, Director of Education, Fiji;
W. C. Groves, social development, Director of Education, Papua-New Guinea;
I. S. Kijne, social development, Missionary, Joka, Netherlands New Guinea;
K. R. Lambie, social development, Director of Education, Western Samoa (alternate for Sir Peter Buck).

The Senior Commissioner for France, M. Robert F. J. Lassalle-Sere, Inspector-General of Colonies, was also present by invitation at the opening meeting.

The opening address of the Council, delivered by Dr. Baas Becking (Deputy Chairman) was important and significant. It is published in full in another part of this issue.

IN its First Meeting, the Research Council prepared various proposals to be submitted to the Third Session of the Commission.

The general tenor of these proposals is that they plan immediate measures to be taken, of interest to the entire South Pacific region, in the fields of Health, Economic Development and Social Development. The Council intends to make use of existing services and institutions, wherever possible, rather than to duplicate projects already established, but it has carefully avoided measures that might inflict too much of an additional burden on the administrations concerned.

"The Council will endeavour to be of service to all inhabitants in the South Pacific region," said Dr. J. T. Gunther (Chairman of the First Meeting of the Research Council) on May 7. "The permanent staff of the Research Council hopes to start its field work as soon as proposals have been approved by the South Pacific Commission now in session at Noumea."

NO NG SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR 1949

THE New Guinea Memorial Scholarship was not awarded for 1949 as the only candidate was too young and obviously not up to the standard required.

Two scholarships will, however, be available for 1950, should two candidates be found to be up to the required standard. The examination will be held at the end of this year.

Parents of eligible children, at school in Victoria, should make it their business to obtain from the headmaster or headmistress of the school which their child attends, the subjects required for the Junior Examination in State Schools, in order that the child may study the correct subjects—otherwise he or she cannot hope to obtain the required percentage for a pass.

The scholarship fund was inaugurated by the members of the New Guinea Women's Association of Melbourne. As education is a State matter in Australia, and as each State has a different system, it was found impossible to make these scholarships available to all eligible children at school in the Commonwealth. It had, instead, to be restricted to children attending school in Victoria—at least in its first years, as the scholarship is available, in the first instance, to children of New Guinea residents who lost their lives during the war. When there are no children in this category who are eligible, children of living ex-servicemen of New Guinea may sit for the examination.

The scheme, at present, is of necessity somewhat complicated but in a few years it is expected that there will be no further children eligible in Victoria and then the scholarship will be available to children attending school in New Guinea.

If you are in doubt as to whether your child is eligible or not, you should contact Miss Dorothy Stewart, honorary secretary of the Fund, Rabaul, New Guinea. Each scholarship is worth £30 per year and is tenable for three years.

BURNS PHILP DIVIDEND RAISED TO 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ %

ALTHOUGH shipping conditions "continue to deteriorate, chiefly because of higher working and overhaul costs, and delays in ports," merchandising operations have remained satisfactory, with the result that the directors of Burns, Philp & Co., Ltd., Sydney, have been able to announce a profit of £228,124 for the year ended March 31—which is £8,274 better than the previous year.

As a further result, the dividend rate has been increased to 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., after remaining stationary at 10 per cent. for 29 years. Another £50,000 has been added to reserves, which now total £1,400,000.

The directors emphasise the unsatisfactory conditions governing Island shipping. Freight and passage rates will not cover the ever-rising expenses, after making a very modest provision for interest on the cost of the tonnage employed.

It would almost appear as if the directors, 15 or 20 years ago, foresaw World War II and its politico-economic effects, because they then began to transfer the Big Firm's interests from the Islands to storekeeping in Australia—especially in the bigger towns of New South Wales and Queensland, where they now own and operate innumerable stores. Their hard-won profits more than compensate for the economic difficulties experienced in the Southwest Pacific.

OIL SEARCH IN PAPUA

DURING the month of April, the drilling operations of Australasian Petroleum Co., in Papua, made the following progress: Hohoro, drill down to 1,114 ft.; Upola, down to 1,344 ft.; Oro, operations delayed through hole caving in; Malalaua, road formation in progress; Wana, clearing jungle and forming camp. A report of March operations is on page 71.

TOA'S PACIFIC SERVICES A Film Unit For Tahiti

AN article by a New Hebrides correspondent, published in April PIM, suggested that Trans Oceanic Airlines, Ltd., were meeting so many obstacles in the operation of their Sydney-New Hebrides service that the service might be withdrawn.

We are advised by the directors of the company that there is not the slightest justification for this statement. TOA's New Hebrides service is flourishing, and will be continued as long as it is needed.

Incidentally, a TOA flying-boat will leave soon for Suva, on charter, to pick up an American film unit in Fiji and carry the party across to Tahiti, in French Oceania. Another South Seas film apparently is under way. The "Blue Lagoon" film, made in the Yasawas (Fiji) last year, with Jean Simmons as star, by an English unit, has had a poor reception in Britain.

TELEPHONE TO FIJI?

THE Suva Chamber of Commerce, at a meeting, discussed the possibility of Fiji being linked by radio telephone with Australia and New Zealand, and so with world-wide services.

Members agreed that the service would greatly facilitate business discussions, but they doubted whether in the early stages the volume of traffic from Fiji would make the service pay. They thought, however, that on a long-term basis the proposal should return a reasonable profit.

FAILURE TO SALVAGE "JOHN WILLIAMS V"

APIA, April 26.

SOME time ago, the wreck of the "John Williams V" (the London Missionary Society's vessel which went onto the reef at Avao, on the North Coast of the island of Savaii last Christmas) was sold for £150 to an enterprising bidder, former captain of the inter-island vessel, "Manu'a Tale." He said that in a short time he would have the vessel afloat.

Unfortunately, his confident forecast has not proved correct—he found that the hull was too badly damaged to permit salvage. He gave up his efforts after spending a considerable sum—but has got back a small portion of his investment by selling his interest to Samoans.

SHIP-LOAD OF FARM STOCK

Steamer Carries 500 Animals to New Guinea

WHEN the SS "River Fitzroy" sailed out of Sydney for Papua-New Guinea on May 12 she looked like a floating farmyard, or domestic zoo.

She carried, for the Australian Department of External Territories, for distribution to plantations, mission stations and experimental stations under the control of the Territories' Department of Agriculture, no less than 500 animals—horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, mules, goats, turkeys, geese, and domestic hens. The horses, cattle, and larger animals were carried in specially constructed stalls built along the steamer's decks; and a special staff, instructed by the Agriculture Department, went along with them.

TWO OLD BULOLO GOLDFIELD COMPANIES

TWO of the companies which sprang out of Cecil Leven's great plan of 30 years ago to exploit the Bulolo Valley goldbearing flats with aircraft and dredges—Guinea Gold and Guinea Airways—have just issued their annual balance sheets. Both, in their day, were mighty dividend-earners. Both, originally, had an issued capital of £50,000.

Guinea Gold (established with only £37,000 of actual cash) holds a large block of shares in Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd.; and it showed fantastic profits in the thirties—but nothing in the war years. But it now gets its dividends regularly again from BGD—and soon will be back in the Bonanza class. Its BGD shares to-day are worth £353,000, which gives its shareholders a surplus of £300,000 over the nominal value of their own investment.

For many years, Guinea Airways was in the same class; but sharp competition in the late thirties, plus the Jap invasion immediately after, caused the Co. to transfer its interests to Australia. For a while, it was in danger of being wiped out by Socialist Government competition; but, wisely managed, it got preference capital and survived the storm, and now shows an annual profit of around £12,000, and a regular 7 per cent dividend.

Aceta Vunivalu, a Fijian girl employed in the office of the Fijian Affairs Department for the past five years, has secured an official shorthand record of 120 words a minute—the first Fijian to achieve this. She is a sister of **Ravuvana Vunivalu**, who was the first Fijian lad to win the Morris Hedstrom scholarship, and who is now at Cambridge University.

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FIJI NEWS NOTES

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, May 2.
LAUCALA Bay (where the flying-boat base is situated at Suva's side door) was deluged with 11.8 in. of rain between 6 p.m. and 8.15 p.m. on April 29. The Suva town area reported 4.25 in. in the same period, and Walu Bay escaped with a mere 3.99 in.

In case of disbelief it is added that the Laucala Bay record was checked by two gauges.

The Union Company's ship, "Matua," took 12,803 cases of bananas and 1,810 cases of citrus fruit when she sailed from Suva for Auckland on April 30. The ship's accommodation was filled to capacity and about 200 cases of fruit had to be left.

Twenty-five young Fijians at Canton Island, all of them employees of Pan American World Airways, have sent a gift of a large, handsomely mounted clock to the Jubilee Methodist Church, Suva. The clock was brought to Fiji by plane

NG WOMEN'S CLUB OF SYDNEY

The New Guinea Women's Club, of Sydney, will hold a social function, commencing at 8 p.m., on June 10, in the Feminist Club Rooms, 77 King Street.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held this year on the evening of July 22, at the same address.

by one of the donors, Villame Batibila, of Nadi, who presented it at the evening service on April 24.

Villame described how the Fijians at Canton had formed their own choir and started their own church services, which are frequently attended by other Pacific Islanders and Americans at the island.

Mr. John Neil Falvey has been admitted as a barrister and solicitor in Fiji by his Honor, Mr. Justice Carew, at the Supreme Court, Suva.

Mr. D. M. N. McFarlane was elected Deputy Mayor of Suva at a special meeting of the Town Council on April 26.

The death has occurred of one of the first Fijian women who trained as a nurse at the old hospital (now demolished) at Korovou, Suva. She was Fine Liku, wife of Samisoni Fotu, a very well-known Lauan Assistant Medical Practitioner.

Nurse Fine was a trainee as long ago as 1909. When she became seriously ill recently, she was brought from Lomaloma, Lau, where her husband is stationed, to Suva by an RNZAF Catalina flying-boat. She died at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

Among the representative gathering at the funeral were Lady Marala, nurses of the CWM Hospital and medical students.

Nurse Fine, who was associated with various Fijian women's organisations, including the Matanisiga and the Ruve, is survived by her husband, three daughters and three sons, one of whom, Tevita Fotu, is an AMP.

Providing an excellent boost for the current campaign to organise Fijian amateur athletics for the coming British Empire Games in New Zealand and, later, the Olympics, a young Fijian, Mataika Tuicakau, in spite of a slippery ground and the lack of spiked shoes, put a 16½ lb. shot 45 ft. 3½ in. at an inter-school meet-

END OF TULAGI Old BSI Landmarks Go

From Our Own Correspondent

HONIARA, April 14.
PRE-WAR the capital of the Protectorate, post-war a Government station, and for the past four years the subject of controversy, Tulagi is now almost deserted.

Early this month the Government station was finally closed down and moved over to headquarters at Honiara, terminating Tulagi postal facilities, district gaol, etc.

All that the Government will maintain there in future is a dispensary and dreser, one auxiliary vessel and a small marine department to handle shipping repairs. Messrs. Carpenter retain their offices there. Qantas and TOA flying-boats will base there, as formerly but customs duties and clearance of aircraft will be carried out by officers from Honiara.

Soon work will begin on pulling down the old Residency to provide materials for the new Residency, to be built shortly on a ridge overlooking Honiara. With a vast floor space of beautiful hardwood, to be laid down in the new Residency, the old Residency has been a Tulagi landmark since it was built in 1932. When Tulagi was flattened in the struggle between Americans and Japanese in August, 1942, the Residency remained intact—only damage being to a flight of steps from a near-miss bomb.

The Japs apparently found the old house quite comfortable when they briefly held Tulagi. Then the Americans used it as a club.

The old office buildings on the fore-shore, which also miraculously escaped annihilation and were used during the war, are to be removed to help the current material shortage.

ing at Suva. This compares more than favourably with the present Empire standards.

Members of Fiji's Copra Board have been appointed as follows:—Mr. S. H. Wilson, MLC; Ratu George Toganivalu, MLC; Messrs. J. M. Hedstrom and W. G. Johnson (for two years); and Messrs. S. A. Bull, C. H. Carne, H. Petersen and Ulaasi Bosabalavu (for one year).

Fiji Golf Club Associates elected the following officers at the annual meeting:—Captain, Mrs. W. V. Banting; secretary, Mrs. D. J. Warren; committee, Mesdames Leys, Olsen and Roth (re-elected).

The Fiji Basketball Association's officers for 1949 are:—Patron, Lady Freeston; president, Miss A. Naylor; vice-presidents, Miss Robertson, Mrs. Weaver, Mr. C. Hokin; treasurer, Miss Bradley; secretary, Mr. Hokin; committee, one member from each team.

After less than two years of basketball in Fiji, the association has 26 teams (eight Fijian, nine Indian and nine European).

After being crushed against the railing of the Suvavou Bridge, near Suva, when a bus skidded on the bridge, an 11-year-old part-European girl, Ania Rogers, died soon after her admission to hospital.

A 16-year-old Fijian student, Ratu Apenisa Veikoso, was killed when, cycling down the Bypass Road, Suva, he collided with a bus.

The mounting toll of road accidents in the Suva area is causing serious concern.

J. F. Nicoll Goes to Hongkong Very Capable Men for a Difficult Post

IT appears as if two men well-known in Fiji, and held in high regard, will have a full share in handling the crisis that is fast developing in the British Colony of Hongkong. It is expected that the triumphant Chinese Communists will try to evict the British from what is now a rich Colony, but which was a useless, barren island when purchased by Britain over a century ago.

The two men are Sir Alexander Grantham, who was Governor of Fiji before he was transferred to Hongkong two years ago, and Mr. J. F. Nicoll, CMG, who



Mr. J. F. Nicoll.

—Photo by Fiji Public Relations Office.

has been Colonial Secretary in Fiji for several years, and who has just been promoted to a similar position in Hongkong. He passed through Sydney early in May, en route to his new job.

Mr. Nicoll is a man of impressive personality and outstanding ability, and he gave distinguished service to Fiji. He is somewhat austere in habit, and was not in close contact with Fijian residents generally but in his official activities he gained their respect by his strict sense of justice, and their goodwill by his devotion to duty. He acted, on a number of occasions, as Governor—and in such a way that it was generally expected that his next move would be to a Governorship. His talents will not be wasted in Hongkong, however. Events there may soon shape Britain's Far East policy.

Sir Alexander Grantham, early in May, said that the British were taking no aggressive measures, but "if it is necessary to take firm action, I can assure you firm action will be taken."

The Coral Sea cyclone of March 27, missed Noumea but, as a precautionary measure, ships discharging or loading cargo at the docks were anchored in mid-stream. There were floods up-country and communications were cut in some places.

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MR. E. J. WARD

Discussion Before NG Timber Lease Inquiry

THE Australian Royal Commissioner (Mr. Justice Ligertwood) who is inquiring into the circumstances of the New Guinea "timber leases," so far as the case affects the integrity and administration of Mr. E. J. Ward, Minister for Australian Pacific Territories, resumed his sittings in Sydney on May 10.

All the evidence was submitted several weeks ago, and the Commissioner now is hearing the addresses of counsel.

Counsel assisting the Commissioner, Mr. Shand, KC, in his analysis of the evidence, declared that there was nothing to prove that Ward took a bribe in any shape or form, or that he had any guilty knowledge of the activities of the syndicate (J. S. and Harcourt Garden, Ray Parer and Farrell). Mr. Shand also suggested that the attitude and activities of the Queensland timber company (Hancock and Gore Pty., Ltd) contributed to the trouble.

Mr. Justice Ligertwood said that, if Mr. Shand's submissions were correct:

- J. S. Garden might not be guilty of forgery (for which he was jailed).
- But Garden might be deeper in the conspiracy of which he was acquitted.

Mr. Shand's later argument contained a strong attack on Hancock and Gore Ltd., and their solicitor Mr. Biggs.

The inquiry had not concluded when this journal went to press. There is no indication of when the report of the Commissioner will be presented to the Prime Minister. Meanwhile, although Mr. Ward has been relieved of his portfolios and Mr. Chambers is acting as Territories Minister, Mr. Ward apparently still has the salary and status and some of the privileges of a Commonwealth Minister.

Canada Wants More Fiji Bananas

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, May 2.
THE Vancouver agents for Fiji's banana exports to Canada are anxious to increase the number of bunches shipped in the "Aorangi," according to a report at a meeting of the Fiji Banana Board.

At least 1,500 bunches are wanted at Vancouver (an increase of 500 bunches). It was pointed out that shipping space is available and that it is "eminently desirable to develop this alternative market."

The Colony's banana-exporting industry is largely in the hands of Fijian growers and forms an important item in Fijian economy, particularly in areas

where there is no copra-growing.

After examining the financial return from past shipments to Canada (the buying price left little margin), the board increased the price paid to the grower from 4/- to 5/- a bunch and will review this price within three months.

New Zealand has been complaining about the frailty of Fiji's standard banana case, and the board has decided on a trial shipment of 200 cases in a slightly smaller but stronger case.

The recent price increase to growers of 6d. a case, to 6/6 (in Viti Levu), for New Zealand shipments was confirmed.

TONGATABU AIRFIELD

THE Pan American air-liner, on its regular Auckland-Fiji run on April 21, was diverted to Tongatabu, in the Tongan group, in order that airline officials might examine the airfield there.

The Co. always has regarded Nausori field (near Suva) and Norfolk Island field as alternatives to Nadi (northwest Fiji) in the event of the latter being unavailable. Recently, however, Nausori has been under repair, and unavailable; and, as a routine precautionary measure, it is proposed to place Tongatabu in the list of airfields that might be alternative to Nadi.

Monsieur Henri Lafleur, New Caledonian mining man, has had his term as Councillor of the French Republic, representing New Caledonia, renewed for a six year period. It was he who made the preliminary arrangements for a new influx of Javanese workers into New Caledonia after proposals for Japanese,

Korean or Chinese workers had fallen through.

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He Struck it Rich—But Not On Gold

THE New Zealand "Evening Post" recently ran the following story about a New Zealander who went to New Guinea to look for gold but who apparently has found a fortune in another, and totally unexpected, way:—

AN ex-New Zealander, Mr. Eric Snook, has a thriving business at Nadzab, a former combat area in New Guinea. At the end of the war, Mr. Snook bought, for £100 the junk and scrap of the battlefields around the aerodrome. He has collected from the abandoned war-planes alone, 2,000 tons of duralu-

min which he is selling for £97 a ton. Also on his salvage heaps are lighting plants, gas cylinders, drums of bitumen, and hundreds of iron telephone poles.

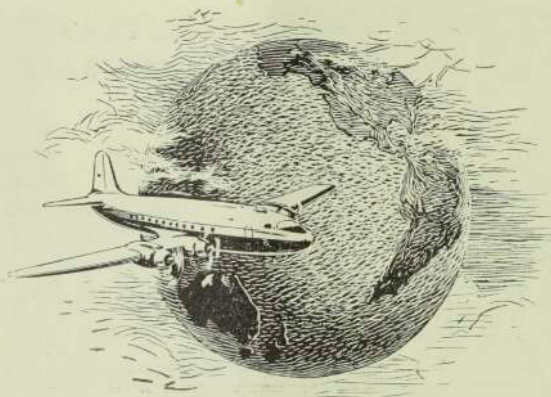
Mr. Snook lives with his wife in the only house still standing on Nadzab airfield. The chairs are former American bomber pilot seats, the tables of duralu-

min. The out-buildings, including laundry, tool-shed, and storehouse are neatly arranged bodies of Lancaster bombers. The doors once closed over bomb bays.

Arriving from Remuera, NZ, in 1927, Mr. Snook prospected for gold in Australia, and in 1934 went after gold in New Guinea, mainly in the Wau area. His knowledge of the territory was invaluable during the war, and as a lieutenant in the 7th AIF Division he was in charge of boats which sailed down the Watut River from Tsili Tsili to assist in the capture of Nadzab.

"We had a hectic trip from the junction of the Watut and the Markham Rivers," Mr. Snook told a visiting Sydney newspaper correspondent. "It took two hours to cover 12 miles. As far as I know, that was the only time the Markham has been navigated by night. I certainly don't want to do it again."

When he has cleared up the Nadzab area, Mr. Snook will begin disposing of American army impedimenta, over which he secured an option, that is strewn over an area of 260 square miles. "I think I'll take it easy when I get rid of that lot," said Mr. Snook.



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He retired last August—and, when we indignantly asked why, he modestly confessed to 74 years. "But you look more like 54," we protested. "Oh, that's the result of a systematic drinking of kava, for medicinal purposes," he replied.

Part of the old-time economy of the South Pacific—before it was more or less destroyed by wars—was a brigade of commercial travellers; and outstanding men were picked by the big exporting firms for the by no means unpleasant job of touring the Islands a couple of times a year, and seeking orders. Among these, Candler had a notable place. Men who still are well remembered included d'Alpuget, Cohen, Bayley, Foldi, Lawton, Trebilco and Bill Shepherd. Most of them now are dead. Candler was literally "the last of the Old Brigade."

Bill Candler, in reminiscent mood, can entertain old Islanders for hours—for nearly half a century he knew every notable man in the Islands. All his anecdotes are interesting. They range from hush-hush tales of "rat-bag" Governors to shocking stories of Samoan bathing-pools.

He pulled from his pocket a fat cigarette case—a most beautiful thing of tortoiseshell and gold. "Given to me by Sir Maynard Hedstrom 40 years ago," he said—and the affectionate inscription bore it out. "A fine bit of craftsmanship," I remarked. "And, like you, it has gone mellow with age—and work." He still was wearing that seraphic Candler smile as he went off to the Sydney Sports Club. —RWR.

Mr. E. C. Harris, who was Treasurer during a portion of the Murray Administration in Papua, and who has been living in retirement in Brisbane for several years, was a visitor to Sydney in March. Mr. Harris underwent a severe operation recently, but he has made a good recovery.

DOUBLE MURDER ON OCEAN ISLAND

A CIVIL engineer employed by the British Phosphate Commission on Ocean Island, Mr. W. Allen, and his wife, were brutally murdered in their bungalow on the night of Thursday, April 28. No motive for the crime has been ascertained.

The man believed to be the murderer immediately took refuge in an almost inaccessible part of the island—which is lightly wooded, but has an extremely broken surface. He was reported to be heavily armed.

Mr. Allen's body was found beside his bed. The murderer apparently leaped on his back, and attacked him with great ferocity. Then, apparently, he attacked Mrs. Allen. Her body was found, horribly injured, on the floor of the lounge-room—a telephone was still in her hand. She evidently had tried to summon help when her husband was attacked.

There are no police on the island, and the male members of the white community of 80 immediately formed armed patrols. Details were radioed to Administration headquarters, in Suva; and the High Commission, in turn, appealed to Australia for help. The freighter "Edenbark" was sailing up the Australian coast, bound for Nauru. She stopped off Brisbane on April 30, and three Queensland detectives joined her there, to be landed at Ocean Island about May 6—representing a slight deviation from the course to Nauru.

Meanwhile, the Ocean Island community remained on guard.

Mrs. and Mrs. W. Allen were old residents of Ocean Island—Mr. Allen had been in the BPC service there for about

25 years. Mrs. Allen also, before she married, was in the BPC service at Ocean Island. Both were held in high regard—she was described by other Ocean Island women as "sweet and lovable."

Mr. J. Garnett, aged 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Garnett of Suva, was found dead at Nadi airport on April 27, as the result of a gunshot wound. He was employed by Pan American Airways.

Bulolo Gold Dredging Limited

FOR the month of March, eight dredges, working in the Bulolo Valley, N.G., handled 1,041,800 yards of gravel for a total recovery of approximately 5,592 ounces of fine gold.

The Rev. and Mrs. Coates, Methodist Mission, Papua, were on leave in Australia in May.

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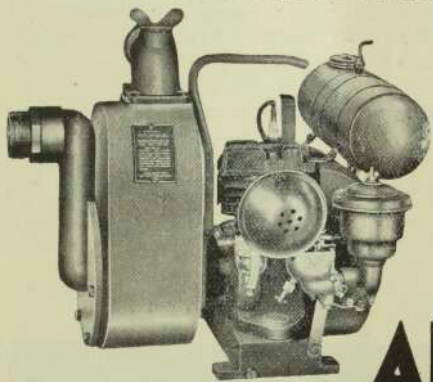
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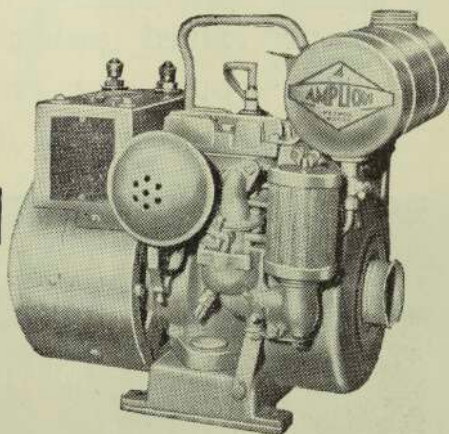
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HE'S A MYTH!

**Robert Edwards, His Millions,
And A Norfolk Is. Claim**

A CIRCUMSTANTIAL story of how the Norfolk Island relations of the late Robert Edwards of New York were claiming a share of his Manhattan estate, said to be worth over £200,000,000, was published on page 6 of the April "PIM." It was a condensation of an article that had appeared in Australian newspapers.

We now have received the following article by Claire Cox, of the United Press, written in New York early in May:—

The ghost of Robert Edwards—a fabulous fellow who really never existed at all—is making one of his periodical calls at Surrogate's Court, and he's getting a mighty frigid reception from the staid old judges.

Court officials thought, 15 years ago, that they had finally got rid of the troublesome little man who wasn't there, and it was with no little consternation that they greeted his unheralded return, under the auspices of a portly Norfolk islander who hoes weeds in a convicts' ancient graveyard.

Robert Edwards, you see, is a myth. But authorities are beginning to think his ghost is very real. In the past 50 years, hundreds of persons have written to the Surrogate's Court, which handles wills, declaring that they are the rightful heirs to the 850,000,000 dollars left by Robert Edwards, along with the ground on which the Empire State Building, the Woolworth Building, and the White House are built, and 40 precious acres of Manhattan.

The Court established definitely long ago that there never was a Robert Edwards—at least, not a Robert Edwards with all those assets. They thought the myth had been destroyed when the late Franklin D. Roosevelt, as Governor of New York, issued a statement telling claimants they were barking up the wrong family tree.

But then came a letter from Norfolk Island, from Vic Edwards, 48, a graveyard caretaker, who wrote on behalf of himself and his 75-year-old father, Charles, who cultivates bean seed for export to Australia. Edwards said that he and his father definitely were the heirs to all that wealth, although their documents proving it have disappeared.

"That's the way it goes," said deputy clerk William V. Pickett. "They haven't a leg to stand on."

Pickett said people write in all the time claiming they are heirs to about a dozen mythical estates, and that all of the claims are about the same. The mysterious thing about it is that a lot of letters will come from one part of the world one year, and another part the next, and nobody knows how the legend ever got started.

CREEPER IS A PEST IN G. AND E. COLONY

VERY recently, a green creeping plant (Convolvulus ?) has appeared in the Gilbert and Ellice Colony and today is growing rapidly over the scars of battle and old camp sites. There is little doubt that if left to itself it will oust the remaining small green vegetation.

The foregoing is from "Polynesian Society's Journal," from an article by Mr. I. G. Turbott, an officer of the G. & E. Administration. It gives warning of a parasitical weed that may do much harm on those coral atolls where, already, the light vegetation—including the few food plants grown by the natives—is extremely limited.

Judge Ralph T. Gore and Mrs. Gore, of Papua-New Guinea, who suffered a serious blow in the death of their only

son, and who have been spending leave in Queensland, are expected back in Port Moresby about the end of May.

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"PIM"
April, 1949

Lautoka Inquiry Into Sale of Ice Cream

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, March 28.

SINCE a fairly widespread outbreak of sickness at Lautoka, Fiji, was attributed to locally-made ice cream, bacteriological examination of ice cream samples has been found to be unsatisfactory.

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Encouraging Tourism to French Oceania

AT the end of April, an exhibition of Marquesan and Tahitian art will be sent to California, in charge of Monsieur Simeon. This is to encourage Americans and their much-needed dollars, to take an interest in French Oceania's tourist attractions. This exhibition will include some of the finest work of native artisans, in wood, pearl-shell and paint.

It will be shown at all of the important centres, and Women's Clubs in the Californian Pacific towns. At each centre there will be a two-day exhibition, followed by a lecture on Tahiti and the Tahitian way of life.

The lecture will commence with a half hour of Tahitian music—the ancient chants of the Island, leading up to the introduction, by the white man, of the guitar and accordion, and the harmonies evolved thereby; and lastly, the interpretation of modern, popular music by these delightfully musical people.

The text for the speeches will be written by the noted American writer on Tahiti life, Mr. James Norman Hall, and the musical arrangements have been made by the American-Tahitian musician, Mr. Eddie Lund.

The lecture will close with a colour film, showing typical scenery of the Islands.

The whole project will be under the patronage of the French Consular Representatives of the USA. During the months of July and August, the exhibition will be suspended as during this time two tourist boats are expected at Tahiti for the July 14 Celebrations. The exhibition will be resumed in September on the Atlantic Coast of USA, under the same auspices.

GUBBAY-CONNOR WEDDING

THE wedding of Mr. Roy Gubbay, of Santo, and Miss Bon Connor, formerly of Broken Hill, NSW, took place in the SDA Church, Santo, New Hebrides, on March 31.

The ceremony was performed by the



Rev. Mr. Miller and the expertly trained native choir sang in the church during the service and afterwards on the jetty at the island as the bridal party returned to the mainland by launch.

A delayed "breakfast," attended by friends of the couple, was held in the

Santo Workshops mess at 10 p.m., that night.

Best-man and Matron-of-honour for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, of Atchin Island off the coast of Malekula.

The wedding was originally announced for June, but plans were put forward owing to the speed with which carpenters had been able to erect a house for the couple.

Sandy Creek Gold Sluicing

ADVICE has been received from Sandy Creek Gold Sluicing Ltd., that during the month of March, 1949, 55 oz. 13 dwt. of gold were recovered from 4,862 cubic yards of material treated.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES CHRISTIAN

ON April 1, Mr. Charles Christian, the senior member of the "Bounty" descendants on Norfolk Island, passed away after a comparatively short illness. Charlie Et, as he was popularly known, had many interests on Norfolk Island, and he spent many years in the Solomons in the past.

Even-tempered and amiable, Charlie Et left many friends, and somehow one feels that the gap left by his passing will never be filled.

Evidence of the esteem in which he was held was manifest by the large attendance at the Kingston Cemetery. He leaves a wife and an adult family.—V.W.

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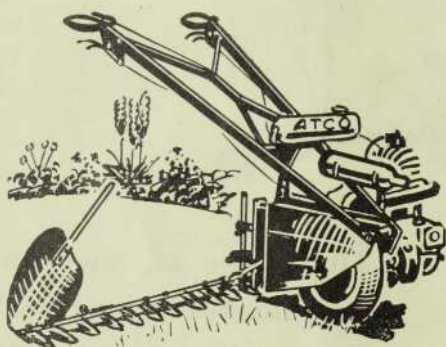
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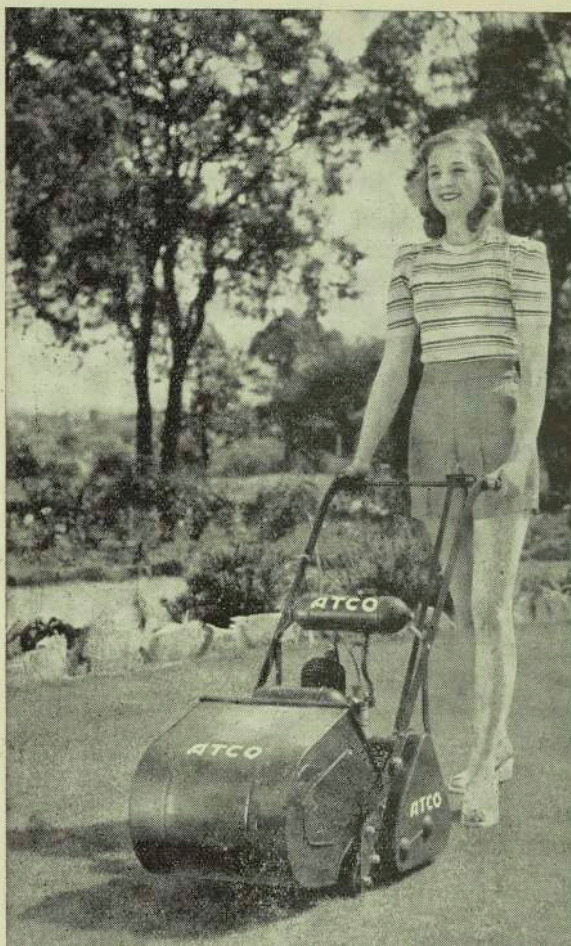
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Prices Recession Felt in Western Samoa

Trade Figures Released

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, April 20.
PRELIMINARY figures have been made available recently of Imports and Exports of the Territory of Western Samoa for the calendar year, 1948. These figures show a recession from the year of 1947, which was an all-time record in both imports and exports. The drop was in volume of exports only as export values, during most of 1948, remained the same as in 1947, the fall in the cocoa price occurring only toward the latter end of 1948. This drop in price will affect cocoa export figures in 1949, of course.

The following comparative figures are given for the years 1946, 1947 and 1948.

	Cocoa Value £	Copra Value £
1946	207,109	340,869
1947	448,794	722,272
1948	312,921	440,530

Imports for the years 1946, 1947 and 1948, were £478,695, £923,773 and £956,723—thus the Territory had favourable trade balances in 1946 and 1947, but in 1948 imports exceeded exports by £48,568.

Actually the 1948 cocoa crop was approximately of the same volume as the 1947 crop, but the drop in actual exports was due to a heavy carry-over in Apia sheds on December 31, 1948, of over 1,000 tons of cocoa beans. Copra on hand in

Apia sheds at the same date was 1,399 tons.

AT the present time there is a heavy accumulation of copra in Apia sheds of approximately 4,000 tons, of which only 900 tons are to be shipped by the SS "Shirrahbank" end of April. It is hoped that more transport will be made available shortly to relieve the congestion.

Western Samoa is suffering from a trade depression due to the drop in cocoa price—plus the fact that this season's cocoa crop is small because of adverse weather conditions. Reduction of the purchasing power of the public has resulted in keener competition in business—many new stores and trading stations in Apia and the outside districts on the islands of Upolu and Savaii opened up during the peak year of 1948, and are now finding the going hard. Some of the Apia firms are carrying heavy stocks of food-stuffs and drapery and have to reduce prices and hold sales in order to avoid heavy losses, as prices of American and

Bananas Value £	Desiccated Coconut Value £	Other Value £	Total Value £
86,421	50,462	34,389	719,050
70,317	79,249	31,138	1,351,770
69,004	71,316	14,384	998,155

English goods come down. Property values are also on the down grade.

Government revenue is bound to suffer from the drop in imports and exports and it seems unlikely that there will be a repetition of the heavy budget surpluses of the last few years. This, in turn, will mean some re-orientation of the Territory's public works and development plan.

Mr. S. Bennett, who is at the head of Etablissements Donald, Tahiti, was in Sydney at the end of March, on his way home from Singapore, where he purchased a handy type of modern motor-vessel for the Tahiti-Cook Islands trade. The vessel will arrive soon in Auckland, where she will undergo extensive fitting before proceeding to Papeete. Mr. Bennett will remain in Auckland for the present.

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The 40 ft. Canadian yacht, "Escapee," arrived at Nuku'alofa at the end of March from Suva with its owner, Mr. P. H. G. Brock and two companions, Messrs. J. Wells and R. Fortune, on board. The

party will spend some time in Tongan waters before resuming their return voyage to Vancouver, the yacht's home port, by way of Rarotonga, Tahiti and Honolulu.



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Rebuilding New Britain Survey of Chief Town Commenced

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, April 21.
THE preliminary work of establishing the new "capital" of New Britain (in place of Rabaul of historic and tragic association) seems to have begun.

A survey is now being carried out by the Department of Works and Housing in Rapopo (near Kokopo) for the new township; and soundings are being taken for the wharf to be built at Kokopo, which will serve it. As Kokopo offers very little in the way of a natural harbour, the wharf will be built on a coral reef.

In the meantime, a road is being opened up into the Kerevat River in the Warengoi Valley where, it is planned, hydro-electricity will be generated to serve the new township. This road, as far as the proposed powerhouse site, was expected to be completed for jeep traffic by about mid-May. A preliminary survey has also been made for a new air-strip on the Gazelle Peninsula, which presumably will serve the new capital.

However, the most welcome Works Department achievement, as far as Rabaul residents (and visitors thereto), are concerned, was the sealing of some of the dirt roads of that town soon after our first post-war consignment of bitumen arrived in the "Empire Mountain," early in March. To date, St. George's Crescent, Mango Avenue and part of Yarra Avenue have been sealed—and we await the second consignment before the work on township roads can be completed.

The first instalment has already reduced the dust-menace—and the swirling dust, beaten up by every jeep, car and truck, has been one of the most uncomfortable aspects of post-war existence in the town. Rabaul's dust is particularly fine and has constituted a problem since the eruption of 1937. However, before the Jap invasion and subsequent Allied blitz, most of the town's roads were tar-sealed. These were destroyed, along with the rest of the town, in 1942-45 and until now have remained, except in the wet, rivers of powdery dust.

Another step forward—Yarra Avenue, once one of the town's beauty spots, has been replanted with trees. The original trees were damaged during the 1937 eruption and completely ruined during the Jap occupation. What remnants remained after the Australian reoccupation had to be cut down.

As well as local constructional progress, we have to report that contracts have been let for two large hospitals of permanent character—one for Sohano, the cost of which will be £15,000; and one for Kavieng, at a cost of £18,000.

DEATH OF RICHARD HEAPE

THE death of Mr. Richard Heape, of Belik Plantation, Namatanai, on April 17, has been reported from New Ireland.

He was a well-known Territorian and a resident of New Guinea since 1928. He commenced planting up Belik in the early 30's; his coconuts were just coming in to bearing when the war broke out in 1939. Richard Heape immediately arranged to leave his plantation in the care of a manager and sailed for England in December, 1939. There he was granted a commission in the RAF and was later promoted to the rank of Squadron-Leader. For carrying out a secret mis-



A photograph of Richard Heape, taken during World War II.

sion during the blitz on Southern England he was mentioned in despatches.

During his Second World War service he met and married (1941) Miss Joan Winifred Barber, and on his demobilisation they went out to Belik Plantation with their four young children.

Richard Heape was an Englishman, third son of the late Samuel Heape, of Bedford, England and Mrs. Bertha Heape of Burleigh Heads, Queensland. His brother Benjamin is a well-known resident of Port Moresby; another brother is in India.

As well as his service in World War II, Richard Heape was a veteran of World War I when he served with a British regiment and won the Military Cross and Bar.

He was about 52 at the time of his death; a man of fine personality and character who could be ill spared from the New Guinea of to-day. It appears that he became ill on his plantation which is somewhat isolated. He was then taken to Namatanai government station by work-boat where Dr. Tweedie, medical officer of Kavieng, went to his assistance. An abdominal operation was performed but Heape later died.

SORROW IN NEW IRELAND

From Our Kavieng Correspondent

THE unexpected death of Dick Heape, of Belik Plantation, on Easter Sunday, was a stunning blow to New Ireland residents. His hospitality was proverbial, and his kindness to the poor and needy will never be forgotten. He was always ready and willing to help a lame dog over the stile. Like that grand old character described by Oliver Goldsmith: "He did good by stealth and blushed to find it fame." His passing has

left a gap in our European community that can never be filled.

The funeral took place at Namatanai cemetery on April 19. Owing to there being no Protestant clergyman available, and at the request of Mrs. Heape, Father Crumple of the Catholic Mission, Namatanai, read the burial service. The attendance at the graveside included all the leading Europeans and Chinese testifying to the esteem and regard in which our late friend was held.

NG'S EXPERIMENT WITH SHEEP

Hallstrom Party in Rabaul

From Our Own Correspondent

AFTER being delayed by engine trouble in Manus, the plane carrying the Hallstrom party arrived here on April 26.

The party consists of Mr. E. J. Hallstrom, Sydney businessman, who has interested himself in native welfare in the Territory to the extent of establishing a sheep-breeding farm in the Central NG Highlands; Mr. J. H. Jones, Director of District Services, Papua-New Guinea; Senator Armstrong; Mr. R. Horner, Cine-sound cameraman; and Mr. S. Wood of Fox Movietone.

They visited Bitapaka war cemetery, Vunapope Mission, Kokopo, Kerevat Experimental Farm, Vunarima Methodist Mission and Catholic schools in Rabaul; and they left for Lae on April 27.

Mr. Hallstrom informed "PIM" that the Romney Marsh sheep which he sent to the New Guinea Highlands are all doing well—especially the 50 animals sent there 18 months ago—and that a number of them have been distributed among native communities. The natives, he says, are using the wool instead of opossum fur and similar things for the weaving of garments. About 50 per cent. of the ewes have lambed quite satisfactorily. The experiment—the establishment of cold country sheep in the tropical highlands—is being watched by many people with great interest.

Recently in Brisbane on his way back to Sangara mission, New Guinea, after leave in London, was the Rev. Dennis Taylor with his wife and son. In 1942, when the Japs invaded Buna, the three

of them (the son then only six months old), trekked 100 miles across New Guinea. It took 14 days from Wanigela mission station to Abu, on the New Guinea South Coast. Mr. Taylor said they followed a Government trail, "and it was pretty tough going over swamps and mountainous country—but we didn't meet any Japs." He went to the Sangara mission in 1944 after all the missionaries there had been killed.

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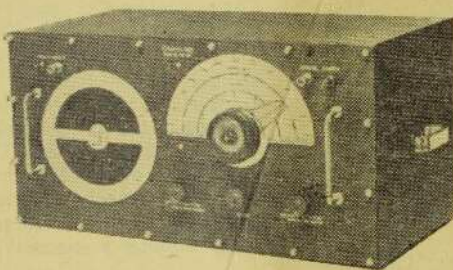
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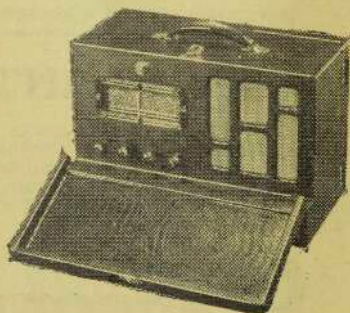
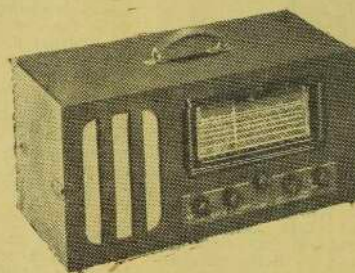
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Murderers of Mr. A. Robinson Sentenced

FOUR natives were brought to trial at the Supreme Court, Rabaul, on April 7 for the murder of Mr. Alf Robinson, at a remote village in New Britain in mid-December, 1948. One of the accused was subsequently discharged by Mr. Justice Phillips on the submission that the native in question struck Robinson with an axe after he was dead and not while he was still living.

Robinson had been on a recruiting trip, trying to engage labour for his plantation. The area in which he was killed had been seldom, if ever, visited by Europeans. Eight native labourers who were with him were also killed.

Robinson was an experienced Territorian, an ex-Administrative official with a good record of work among the natives. He was one of the few survivors from the Tol massacre of early 1942 when the Japs lined up exhausted refugees from Rabaul and butchered them. Robinson succeeded in dashing away from his captors and lived for a considerable time in the bush before he was picked up by an Australian patrol and sent to Australia. Tol Plantation is not so very far from the village in which Robinson was murdered.

The trial of the natives lasted five days. At the end of it three of them were convicted of the wilful murder of Robinson. The death sentence was recorded with a recommendation to mercy as the area where they live is not fully under administrative control.

At the same sitting of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Phillips sentenced another native to nine months' imprisonment for manslaughter.

Some time ago, local natives were extracting the charges from Japanese ammunition in order to sell the brass containers. The native who was convicted had ignited a large quantity of the powder which had been removed and scattered on the ground. Five natives were seriously burned in the explosion and one died later in hospital.

Economic Problem of Fijian Hospitality

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, April 25.
THE impossibility of squaring rigid Fijian traditions of hospitality with present-day conditions in the overcrowded towns is the subject of an article by a Fijian in the "Fiji Times."

The main difficulty is the habit of country relations who visit towns to live temporarily at the expense of Fijian wage-earners.

Added to this is the fact that Indian owners of tenements and other houses immediately (and illegally) demand higher rents if more people are added to those already accommodated in their properties.

Describing this as another example of Indian exploitation of Fijians, the writer of the article suggests that the only way out of the muddle is for the Fijian authorities to discourage temporary migrations from the villages to the towns.

Mr. R. L. Barnes, of the Methodist Overseas Mission, New Ireland, was ordained as a Methodist minister, in Brisbane, on February 28.

Retirement of Mr. J. Judd From Fiji District Administration

AFTER 34 years service in Fiji, Mr. J. Judd retires from the District Administration. After leave in Australia he will take up work in connection with the Fiji Native Land Trust Board.

His place as District Commissioner Southern will be filled by Mr. G. K. Roth.

Mr. Judd was appointed a Sub-Inspector of Constabulary in June, 1915, and remained in the Police until 1924, when he became a District Commissioner. He has since served in almost every district in the Colony.

In 1927 he went to India on a special mission in connection with the re-emigration of Indians. Before the post was abolished, he acted on a number of occasions as Secretary for Indian Affairs. Mr. Judd has held many public offices during his long service in Fiji. He has been a member of Legislative Council, a member of the Suva Town Board, chairman of the Publicity Board, a member of the Board of Education, the Mining Board and the Board of the Trustees of the Fiji Museum. He was Deputy Chairman of the Coronation Committee in 1936, and in 1938 was appointed chairman of the committee to organise Fiji's exhibits at the New York World Fair and the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition. He has been a member of the Boards of Examiners in both Fijian and Hindustani and, for a time, he was a member of the Civil Service Board.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Wauchope, of Madang, New Guinea, who have spent several weeks in Australia—in the course of which they were present at the wedding of their daughter—returned to New Guinea by the "Malaita" at the end of March.

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The New Guinea coastal ship, "Maimuna," broke a fuel line and drifted helplessly out of fuel for some time near the Witu Islands, on March 30. The Fairymead Sugar Company ship, "Cyrena," went to her assistance and supplied her with sufficient fuel to make Rabaul.

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P & T Association Has Six-Hours Meeting to Discuss Problems

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, April 21.
WHAT was to have been a Special General Meeting of the Planters' & Traders' Association of New Guinea, on March 31, developed into the Annual General Meeting. The meeting was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Gilmore, Rabaul, and was somewhat of a marathon. It commenced at 10 a.m., and, with a break for luncheon, concluded at 5.30 p.m.

Twenty-two members, all from the New Britain district, attended. It was decided that the elected committee of the New Britain branch be empowered to act as the Executive Council of the Association until the meeting of delegates of all branches of the Association meet in July this year.

The balance sheet as at January 31, 1949, was adopted and selection of office bearers for the coming year resulted in the following being elected:—president, J. Chipper; vice-presidents, J. T. Allan, D. Barrett; Committee, J. Dunbar-Reid, E. Fulton, J. Thurston, S. McCosker, J. Dale, J. Gilmore, W. Moore.

During the lengthy meeting members expressed their views freely on a variety of subjects of particular interest to the planting and trading communities. Among the affairs that received special attention were:—

- Formulation of the Association's policy;
- Recruiting;
- Co-operative buying;
- Insurance Agency;
- Residence and office of the Association;
- Copra agreement with the British Ministry of Food;
- Membership subscriptions.

Supply of Quonsett Huts

PLANTERS will shortly be able to obtain some Quonsett huts ex-Manus. Their requirements should have been submitted to the secretary of the Association, Mr. W. R. Paul, in March.

THE "ROXBURGH" WAS A FULL-RIGGED SHIP

Letter to the Editor

IN the March, 1949, issue of "PIM" is published an interesting article on the 1906 cyclone, which did so much damage around Tahiti. Reference is made to the loss of the "County of Roxburgh," but your correspondent refers to her as a "barque." This vessel was a four-masted full-rigged ship and, in the photograph of her on the reef, it can be seen clearly that she crossed yards on the mizzen. All of R. & J. Craig's fine fleet of "County" sailing ships were four-masted, full-rigged vessels, built of iron by Barclay, Currie & Co. at Glasgow. The "County of Roxburgh," which was the largest of the "Counties," was built in 1886, with a gross tonnage of 2,209, and 2,091 tons net. Her dimensions were 286 ft. x 44 ft. x 24 ft. Her sister ship, the "County of Linlithgow," built the following year, eventually was sold to a Greek firm, re-named "Katherine," and suffered the ignominy of being converted to an auxiliary.

I am, etc.,

LANCE M. BURNETT.

Concord, NSW,
24/4/49.

The Rabaul Tennis Club was opened on March 26 by the District Officer. At present, only one court is open for play—wire-netting is awaited from Australia before the second court can be brought into use. Those wishing to join should contact Miss Dorothy Bridges, secretary; or Miss Dorothy Martin, treasurer. At the opening of the club, Mr. and Mrs. E. Britten, two members of the original Rabaul Tennis Club, were present.



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LOSS OF TAHITI PATRIOT

(A Letter to the Editor)

PAPEETE, April 21.
TAHITI mourns the passing of Mr. Joseph Quesnot, Senator and President of the Representative Assembly of French Oceania, who passed away on board the SS "Eridan," on March 31, while bound for France.

The Governor of French Oceania, representatives of the Government, and a host of friends attended a Requiem Mass at the Catholic Cathedral, Papeete.

British Award For Frenchman

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, April 19.
A RECEPTION was held at the British Consulate, Papeete, on March 25, the guest of honour being the Commander of the Navy of French Oceania, Monsieur Riviere.

He was presented with the King's Medal of Courage for exceptional bravery during the German occupation of France. He had, at that time, acted as liaison officer between the RAF, the French Maquis units, and inmates of the Amiens prison, which had led to a combined attack on the prison, at the moment when 50 hostages were to be shot. In 11 hours 600 French prisoners were delivered from the hands of the enemy.

The British Consul, Mr. C. Henderson, presented the medal and thanked Commander Riviere in the name of His Majesty's Government for his meritorious service to the Allied cause in one of the most critical periods of history.

The King's Medal of Courage is a decoration specially created by the British Government for award to foreign allies of Great Britain.

Tragedy at New Britain Launch Picnic

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, April 21.
A VISITOR to Rabaul, Mrs. Beryl Fox, disappeared from a picnic launch on April 17, and is presumed drowned. She was one of a party of 16 who had spent the day at the Duke of York Islands. When returning about 7 p.m. she fell overboard from under a permanent awning. An immediate search was made but Mrs. Fox had disappeared completely. Police, when informed, continued the search until the next day.

Mrs. Fox had arrived from Australia, to visit friends in the town only two days previously.

NEW GOVERNOR FOR FRENCH OCEANIA

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, April, 21.
ON April 21 the SS "Ville d'Amiens" arrived at Papeete from Marseilles, carrying on board the new Governor, His Excellency, Monsieur Anziani, and his wife.

They received a warm welcome from Papeete, and were greeted at the gangway by the Secretary-General of the Colony, Monsieur Girault, and members of the Municipality and Representative Assembly.

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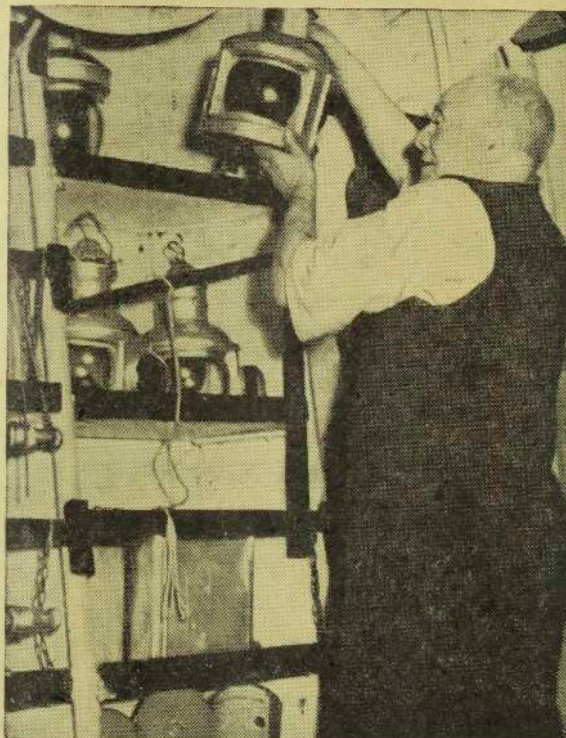
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FIVE MILLIONS LEFT

Australian War Damage Fund Is Wound Up

THE Australian War Damage Commission issued its seventh, and final, report in early 1949, thus winding up a Government organisation that has had a unique reputation with the public it served.

In a country where it is customary to hurl brickbats at all Government instrumentalities, the WDC collected singularly few. And, for the people of Papua-New Guinea, in the war and post-war period, it provided the only leavening in an otherwise dark and demoralising situation.

The claims of these residents of the Australian territories, who lost virtually all their material property through war-damage, were met fairly, and even generously, by the Commission. The rehabilitation of Papua-New Guinea, protracted though it has been, would have been a more heart-breaking business had it not been for the existence of the WDC; in this connection, one has only to contrast the lot of planters in the British Solomon Islands and Gilbert Islands (who had no war-damage compensation scheme) with that of the planters of Papua-New Guinea.

THE scheme was inaugurated shortly after the commencement of the Pacific war. In Australia and Territories, owners of buildings were forced to contribute to a fund on a fixed rate of 8/- per cent. They had the option of insuring other property at the same rate. Later, when it was considered that the Fund was sufficiently financial to meet any claims then likely to occur, the compulsory contributions were discontinued.

As well as its functions under the War Damage to Property Act, the Commission also acted in conjunction with Mr. H. Alderman, K.C., in assessing and paying for damage done, or acquisitions made by the Australian and Allied forces; paid claims in relation to small vessels left in evacuated areas; paid subsidies for the re-clearing of secondary growth due to compulsory abandonment of plantation land in Papua-New Guinea; and settled claims from Commonwealth employees for property loss in Nauru.

Payments made under these heads were:—

On behalf of forces, £1,221,501; vessels, £119,395; clearing, £83,288; Nauru, £5,124.

THE total contributions to the Fund from the inception of the scheme until August 15, 1948, were £14,786,714. During that period the Commission received 10,077 claims, of which 9,309 have been settled.

Place	No. of Claims	Value of Claims assessed
New Guinea and Papua	6,142	£8,130,266
Queensland	775	13,505
Northern Territory	2,751	354,399
Western Australia	237	49,619
Other	172	2,236
	10,077	£8,550,025

The outstanding liability in respect of all claims not yet assessed and recorded, at August 15, 1948, was, for Papua-New Guinea, as follows:—

War Damage	Behalf of Forces	Vessels	Clearing Subsidy
£400,000	£175,000	£25,000	£170,000

Property, other than fixed, was insured

able under various heads, and apart from buildings, plant, stock, etc., the most important from the Papua-New Guinea planter's point of view, was that section covering growing trees.

The values of growing trees were assessed as follows:—

	Maximum value	Average value
	s. d.	s. d.
Coconuts	18 0	9 1.5
Cocoa	11 3	7 9.8
Coffee	4 8	4 7.7
Rubber	12 6	10 7.8

At August 15, the losses on trees on 552 plantations in Papua-New Guinea had been assessed and investigations on 116 plantations were incomplete. In all, the following amounts had been paid:—

In respect of—	
Coconut trees	£1,171,874
Cocoa	215,882
Coffee	39,052
Rubber	35,342
Misc.	15,482
Total	£1,477,632

The assessing of damaged trees on plantations not yet fully dealt with will now be completed under the control of the Commission's Deputy-Controller in Port Moresby (Mr. E. A. James), who is now working on a part-time basis.

AFTER presenting their seventh annual report, the War Damage Commission disbanded and their powers and obligations were transferred to the Commonwealth Treasury, which made local arrangements for dealing with the comparatively few claims outstanding and those which may still be presented. It was estimated that the outstanding liability of the Commission, at the time it disbanded, was £1,070,000. The Fund was, at that time, in credit to the extent of £6,499,889. No indication is given in the report as to the eventual disposal of the surplus £5½ million.

Two Europeans were charged in Rabaul District Court on April 27, with passing valueless cheques. Both pleaded guilty. One was sentenced to imprisonment until the rising of the Court; the other, J. K. Benbow, was sentenced to 14 days hard labour.

After three years of excellent service to the British and foreign communities in French Oceania, the British Consul at Papeete, Mr. C. Henderson, is to take a four months vacation in a cooler climate. During his absence his place will be taken by Mr. George Hunt, who arrived in Tahiti, with his wife, aboard the SS "Waitamata," on March 25.

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All Races Catered For in Rabaul Education Scheme

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, April 21.
THERE are now six varieties of government school functioning in the Rabaul district, but by far the largest individual unit of them is the Administration School for Chinese in Rabaul, which has an enrolment of 300 pupils and 11 teachers—five European and six Chinese. Two of the buildings are in

total disrepair; two of them are fair. It is hoped to have some building replacements here in the near future.

The school for European children, also run by the Administration, functions in temporary quarters, too. At present it has 30 pupils.

There are two schools for Malays—one in Rabaul and one at Kokopo. Native

enrolments at schools in the district now number about 1,650. These schools have just been regrouped with a native supervisor in charge of a group. Possibly the most important establishments, from the native-education point of view, are the Keravat Education Centre and the Technical Training Centre, at Malaguna. The Keravat Centre represents about the ultimate in higher education for New Guinea natives. The central school there has an enrolment of 160 and the teachers' training centre, in the same establishment, has 75 trainees. Selected pupils from Wewak, Madang, Morobe, etc., are sent here, as well as those worthy of higher education from among the local population.

The 176 trainees enrolled at Malaguna are being instructed in carpentry, plumbing and mechanical engineering, with some attention to native arts and crafts.

Native education in New Guinea has a long way to go before it catches up with education in more enlightened native countries; but considering the extraordinary obstacles that had (and still have) to be overcome, one can say that the start has been satisfactory—at least in this district. At the same time, there is no cause for complacency when the over-all New Guinea picture is considered. The Rabaul natives are considerably more advanced, and have had more advantages, than their outport cousins. When the same six varieties of school that function in Rabaul are available to children, all over the Territory, we will really be getting somewhere.

A daughter, Christine, was born to Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Maclean, of Namatanai, at Rabaul Hospital, New Guinea, on April 25.

Captain George Bailly, harbourmaster and pilot of Papeete, Tahiti, who has been on vacation in France, returned to the Colony on the "Ville d'Amiens" on April 2. During his absence Captain Carlson has been acting harbourmaster.

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A QANTAS Empire Airways' Catalina flying-boat will depart from Sydney in May for service in New Guinea and adjacent territory.

It will be based on Port Moresby, and supplement the QEA fleet of 12 land-planes engaged on operations in the New Guinea area. It will serve the east and west coast of Papua, Buka, Rabaul, and on other routes where good alighting areas are available on the water, but not on land.

Administration outposts as well as commercial interests will benefit when the Catalina commences on regular services and charter flights over routes never previously flown.

Before going into regular use, the Catalina will be used to survey routes for the future services. Captain Hugh Birch will be in command, with a crew comprised of first officer, engineer and purser.

In addition to the crew of four, the aircraft has seats for 24 passengers. The seats are collapsible, permitting the Catalina to be quickly converted for use as a freighter.

TAKING GOOD READING TO NG OUTPOSTS

Helpful Service from Rabaul Library

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAUL, April 21.

THE Rabaul Regional Library was refurbished a couple of months ago when it was newly painted, supplied with cane chairs, pictures, pot-plants and other oddments to make it more attractive to those of the reading public who wish to spend a quiet evening there.

A special Children's Corner has been installed also—with nursery-rhyme frieze and low shelves and benches. Pupils of the European school are brought along to visit en masse one afternoon per fortnight when they are instructed in library usage and entertained with a story hour.

Most important of all, the library has received some hundreds of new books and more are on the way.

One of the most popular services that the library supplies is the forwarding of parcels of books to outpost readers.

Applications for parcels of books may be made by individuals or groups who exchange the books amongst themselves. The post-office carries them free and masters of coastal vessels are co-operative in delivering and picking up books from remoter outposts.

Parcels of magazines and newspapers are also sent to registered country borrowers.

Readers may select titles of books from a catalogue supplied by the library but frequently he or she merely indicates the variety of reading preferred and leaves the rest to the librarian.

Extra Shipping and New Hotel For French Island

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, April 21.

IT is reported here that ships of the Messageries Maritimes Lines will now call at Raiatea, Iles Sous le Vent Group, on both outward and inward journeys from France.

Further to this we understand that Mr. Yves Sanquer will soon open a new hotel at Uturoa, on Raiatea.



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Like the skipper who takes chances in unfamiliar waters, the private executor lacks first-hand knowledge of the difficulties ahead. The administration of an estate — never a simple matter these days — is doubly difficult for the man who lives in the Islands. Sound advice on finance, taxation, and investments must be available at all times. The appointment of Burns Philp Trust Company Limited as executor or trustee secures this advantage, together with the collective first-hand knowledge of experienced directors and efficient officers.

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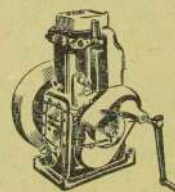
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AND WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

Research Council Leader Makes Some Pertinent Points For S. Pacific Commission

The purpose, the policy and the hopes of the new South Pacific Commission were discussed in a scholarly and very notable address by the Deputy Chairman of the Commission's Research Council (Dr. L. G. M. Baas Becking), when he opened the Council's sessions in Noumea on April 30. The following is the text of the address, complete except for some unimportant omissions.

WE are here as the wards, the trustees, and the partners of the indigenous population.

We have been working in the tropics, according to our lights, for 300 years now. We have played our role in the emancipation of the native population. This role has been ill-defined, for the conception of our task has been partly dependent upon Government policies and partly determined by our own convictions.

But, to-day, we fortunately meet on the common ground of the technical aspect of this problem. Our role has been defined as relating to the economic development, social development and hygiene of the area.

We welcome you here as experts in many fields, and we sincerely hope that our efforts will result in the initiation of various projects which will strengthen co-operation in promoting the economic and social welfare and advancement of the peoples in this region.

THE small group of four, the full-time members of the Research Council, which I represent here, have met in the last three months a number of organisations, specialists, administrations and average citizens, native and European. We have heard about a great number of plans, policies and wishes. We have received a great many projects to be put before this Council. Often we had to remember our own personal background, acquired during our previous sojourn in this area or in the tropics. Often, when our *a priori* ideas threatened to hamper us we had to forget them. We had to try to find a *communis opinio*, the largest common denominator, in an ocean of opinions.

With your help we will consider the proposals made to us, and together we will prepare a report to the Commission. And it is up to this meeting to decide whether, as often happens (as in many more august senates), it will only consume cellulose and produce carbon dioxide, or whether we shall put our ideas into operation.

Our ideal must be to help you in your work, not to burden the workers in the field with more than you already carry. We are in no way inclined, on the other hand, to take over existing duties or services that rightfully belong to the existing administrations. We should strive to propose plans that bind the area together, plans to combat provincialism and isolation.

We should leave the controversial topics to others, and remember that our role lies outside the realm of politics. If, however, social injustice or other misery exists, we should not shirk our duty, as an advisory body, to warn our Commissioners.

We are all aware of our lack of means, in "books, bricks and brains," in materials, in buildings and technical personnel. We are here first to make the "halt lead the blind," but we are here also to cure the paralysis and the blindness of both these patients.

WE are something more than a co-ordinating body, created to act like the old encyclopedist, to gather all the data on the region and to publish it

in heavy tomes. We are here to prepare for speedy action. It is our opinion that at the present time the theoretical and the academic have to yield place to the practical. We must be guided by the master mind of Pasteur: "La Science n'a jamais plus de grandeur que dans ses applications bienfaisantes." When a house is on fire it seems foolish to repair a telephone or to varnish a floor.

Still, the fact that we are scientists here together, men that speak a common language as an expression of common mental



NEITHER SENIOR

NOR JUNIOR is ever immune

To cold epidemics in May and June.

Neither senior nor junior should ever forget

That July and August are wild and wet.

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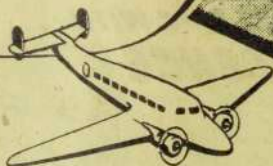
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tenets, is of inestimable advantage to our work. Any practical measures proposed will carry with them scientific implications. And their consequences should be investigated when our first campaign is over.

The only fear, if fear it be called, is that our work may suffer from the wiles and whims of territorial governments. It would be deplorable, indeed, if projects were to be left half-finished, like broken promises, like friendships forgotten. This has been the tragedy of tropical governments; the flower to-day in bloom often fades to-morrow. And this has been clearly recognised by the natives themselves.

We have been deeply impressed by the great trust placed in us. All over the region people expect us to do things; and there will be no excuse if we betray this trust. . . .

IN the course of conversations with village chiefs, teachers, publicans, labourers and scientists, in discussions with administrations and in the proposals made by the Commission and to the Commission, one catch-phrase seems to stick in my mind, "the impact of Western civilisation."

This term describes only very imperfectly the actual influence of black-birders, sailors, traders, planters, Government officials, teachers, missionaries, and last, but not least, the American garrisons in the period 1942-46. Obviously these influences have drawn native communities hither and thither, have often disrupted them or decimated their population. But above all these influences, both destructive and constructive, there has been the changing policy of those who governed, and later developed into administrations.

In the exploratory phase, from the late

Seventeenth to the end of the Eighteenth Century, the original idea of those governing was much the same as that expressed at the birth of the pre-war French colonial policy as "la mission civilisatrice." Not only the missionaries, but nearly everyone concerned, seemed convinced that it was our duty to impose the Western mode of thinking, of life and of behaviour upon the ignorant native.

Prior to, and during the French Revolution, the attitude changed, although the influence of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and his admiration of "natural man" has perhaps been over-estimated. It was now thought that Freedom, Equality and Fraternity should embrace the whole human race. But, unfortunately for the emotionalists, the post-Napoleonic period was in this region, one of exploitation, during which even exploration remained in the background.

Later in the Nineteenth Century the pendulum swung back to the idea of "la mission civilisatrice," and our role in the non-self-governing areas of the world is still by many interpreted as such.

However, the Twentieth Century brought a renewed feeling of guilt and impotence to the white races. These feelings, as interpreted by such historian-philosophers as Spengler and Ortega y Gasset caused, in many respects, a revival of what could be called "Rousseauism."

A common ground for the "civilisers" and the "conservators" may be found in those aspects of Western civilisation that are to be considered beneficial. For no intelligent person to-day would seriously suggest forcing a Western mode of living upon the native races of the Pacific. But it is equally true that nobody would suggest, on the other hand, preserving the native races in the Neolithic Age forever. The tenets of the period of exploitation, which is not yet over, were simple. Eco-

nomie motives came to be the chief guiding star of human existence. The gathering of goods, the increase in wants (often artificially induced), the effort to increase production as well as population were, and are still considered by many, part of an inescapable necessity. Others (without always adhering to the theory of "paradise islands") urge that the facts have disproved the primary importance of economic laws.

(Continued next page)

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BUT, while economic factors play a role in any *socium*, the happiness of man depends upon non-economic factors as well.

Culture cannot be transplanted, for its roots are too deep in history. Civilisation is the material expression of culture. We have therefore to ask ourselves: which are the elements of Western civilisation that can be grafted upon existing local culture in order that the happiness of the natives may be promoted? This may be the modern version of the new super-annuated "mission civilisatrice."

Freedom is the general goal to which all Governments are striving. Only too often this word is interpreted as only political freedom. In order to be free, man should be able to control his environment; and his relations with other human beings are only part of his environment.

One most difficult freedom must be attained: freedom from sickness. It is clear

that all of us agree to this at least. In order to obtain this freedom all forces in the *socium* have to collaborate. For it is not only a matter of hygiene and medicine. Improvement of native diet is a primary factor. But this cannot be attained without improvement of horticultural crops, by fisheries, by the raising of stock. It implies also improved housing, drainage, sewerage-disposal and, most of all, it implies education. In order to implement all this the community should, preferably by means of co-operatives, contribute to world economy, lest it become a benevolent society paid for by far-off governments.

There are countries which may be described as economically "extrovert." By this I mean a country like New Zealand, that contributes to world trade, import and export added, £140 per capita per annum. Other countries are economically "introvert," like India, Indonesia, and China, where the per capita contribution

might be lower than £1. We should not hastily assume that this goes with "backwardness." Self-sufficiency, a form of introversion, also enters into the picture.

A settler, or an autochthonous farmer, may reach a degree of self-sufficiency either on his farm or in its immediate vicinity that enables him to turn his back on the external turmoil. He boils his own soap, he tans his leather, bakes his bread, fells his trees, raises crops and stock. The women weave and the pottery wheel turns in the shed. Maybe there is no better life.

And so, in many cases, we are inclined to leave the self-sufficient people alone. A wealthy brotherhood of nations may well afford it. An impoverished world, however, will continue to look askance at these secluded paradises. To them, increased production to satisfy world demand is a prime necessity for the continuance of the human race.

WE meet with many self-contained tribes and villages and individuals in our region. We want labour to increase trade; they stand apathetically by, then silently return to their villages. They are not interested. If we educate these people (if "educate" be the right word) the fear of labour may possess them. This is an international fear which makes men all over the world look upon labour as a nasty ritual only intended to provide them with wages. We have dragged the people from their little gardens, where they worked with love and pride, in order to throw them into the Babel of our own restlessness.

While there is no solution, I cannot help thinking about these things.

If we must disturb the self-sufficiency of this region, the least harmful way may be by means of co-operatives. The co-operatives, fortunately, can be grafted in most cases upon local culture. It is only in New Guinea, with its multiplicity of languages, that the graft will have difficulty in growing on the wildling scion.

WHEN we centre our attention on the improvement in health, it appears, therefore, that both economic and sociological development is involved. In analysing the problem into factors we find that it is necessary to:

- (1) Further native co-operatives and the raising of export products, the benefit from the trade reverting partly to the co-operative and partly to the administration.
- (2) Further education.
- (3) Further the development of native horticulture, agriculture, fisheries and stock-raising.

And in order to assure the future of the community, an administrative policy of:

- (4) Planned land utilisation and hydrological reserves. Measures against burning, fallowing, clean-felling, over-grazing and other dissipatory practices should be implemented.

The above, however, is by no means all that is necessary to assure the future of a country.

The more successful a Government is in its health programme and in the improvement of economic efficiency, the more the population will increase. And on this point I fully subscribe to the opinion of Warren Thompson, (Population and Peace in the Pacific, 1945):

"... to reduce the birthrate is in contrast with primary colonial aims; cheap labour to produce cheap raw materials..." and further, because in this area these materials are chiefly agricultural, we may quote again:

"... areas which are primarily agricultural and produce chiefly raw

(Continued on Page 55)

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DEATH OF GEORGES SPITZ

A Tribute To "Papa Lulu"

By Oscar Nordman, His Life-Long Friend

GEORGES SPITZ, a leading and beloved resident of Papeete, Tahiti, well known in Honolulu, a 14th degree Mason, died of a heart ailment at his home early on March 13, at the age of 64. A long procession of white-clad mourners from all classes of the community, followed the horse-drawn hearse to the cemetery at Paurani, as a tribute to a fine citizen. He leaves one son (Gustave Francis) two daughters, Martha (Mrs. Norman Gilliland, of Honolulu) and Irma. He is survived by his second wife,



The late Georges Spitz.

Teura (whom he married in 1945) and her two infant children, Eugenie and Albert, and by numerous grand-children and one great-granddaughter.

The life of Georges William Henry Spitz was a long and valued one to the French Colony in which he was born. He was a well-known jeweller, but he is chiefly to be remembered for his long and devoted public service, his intense patriotism and kindly benevolence.

During World War I he threw himself passionately into the effort to obtain overseas volunteers for the defence of the Mother Country. So valuable were his efforts in this direction that he himself was refused enlistment. However, upon the sailing of the Seventh Contingent of recruits from Tahiti, he was permitted to accompany it, as commander, as far as Australia. For his services he was awarded the Inter-Allied Medal and other decorations.

In World War II, Georges Spitz was a foremost and vigorous leader in the movement here in support of de Gaulle. Due largely to his efforts, the plebiscite taken thereon was won by the decisive vote of nearly 6,000 to 16. At this time he was awarded the Medaille de Resistance Française.

In the late war he sustained the loss of his second son Charles (Taro), who, severely wounded at Bir-Hakeim, was exchanged as prisoner, and died under operation at Damascus.

He was elected Assistant Mayor of Papeete, continuously, for a period of 25 years. He retired from public life two years ago. He was announcer in the Tahitian language for the Government-supervised Radio Club of Papeete, per-

forming such service gratuitously for seven successive years.

As a vigilant and forceful opponent of all influences he deemed harmful to the Colony and to the Tahitian people, Georges Spitz made his influence felt throughout French Oceania. It will be, however, in his private capacity as a loyal friend and kindly benefactor that his memory will be longest revered. He will be remembered always by the title he himself loved best, that of "Papa Lulu."

MISSION BOATS FOR BSI

TO enable the Rev. J. F. Goldie, chairman of the Methodist Mission in BSI to travel round the New Georgia Group, supporters in New Zealand last year bought the large yacht "Mandalay" and sent it to the Solomon Islands.

In September Mr. Goldie had an opportunity of proving the worth of the "Mandalay" as a sea boat during a run from Roviana to Marovo. He wrote: "We struck some very bad weather and had a rotten time at sea in a fierce blow for two nights as we did not care to risk looking for the entrance to Marovo. The seas were very heavy. I found the 'Mandalay' a splendid little sea boat—I could not wish for better."

A second ketch is being sent to the BSI for the Methodist Mission this year. At a cost of £3,400, a new boat already on the stocks, has been bought for mission doctor and nurses. She will be named "Cicely II" and is 40 ft. long with 12 ft. beam, ketch rigged, with 30 hp Diesel engine.

"Cicely II" is the successor to "Cicely," the doctor's boat which was lost when the Japs invaded the BSI. That boat was the gift of members of the Astley family, of Auckland, and was named in memory of their mother. Members of the Astley family have donated £1,500 towards

the cost of "Cicely II." It is hoped she will be ready for sea in April.

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BANANAS AND SOUTH SEAS SILLINESS

What An Examination of The Markets Discloses

A SENIOR officer of the NZ Marketing Department, Mr. F. S. Hunter, has been visiting Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa, familiarising himself with the organisation of the banana industry in three territories.

According to Fijian Government sources, he promised an experimental purchase of bananas in hand and quarter hand bunches to see how they travelled, although he pointed out that the Marketing Department preferred bananas in cases.

It appears that New Zealand might take, from Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, a total of 50,000 cases of bananas per annum (of which Fiji's share would be 40 per cent.) but this is dependant on shipping. The USS Co's new refrigerated ship, "Tofua," due on the run in 1951, may help the situation.

New Zealand's Marketing Department buys bananas from the Fiji Government, and distributes them in New Zealand. The Fiji Government now pays the growers 6/6 and 5/6 per case; but, with cases, transport, packing charges, labour, wastage, etc., the Department pays more than twice those figures, FOB, Suva.

IN the old days, before we enjoyed the blessings of Socialism, the banana trade between the islands and NZ was in the hands of the trading firms. They bought the fruit from the growers, collected it, shipped it, and distributed it to the consumers in New Zealand.

The growers, comparatively, were better

off; good quality fruit got quick transport; and, above all, the NZ consumers got an abundance of fruit at low rates.

But traders, shippers and fruit retailers made profits—they were even known, as a result of good management, hard work and thrift, to become rich—and this horrible social sin could not be permitted.

So, to-day, the trade is in the hands of the bureaucrats. Growers are no better off; and the prices paid by the NZ consumers for a limited quantity of fruit are shocking. But the leisurely bureaucrats are happy in their well-paid jobs, and the accused exploiters have been wiped out.

In Fiji, Mr. Hunter was informed that the planters would produce more bananas, if given an assured market. Mr. Hunter said that New Zealand could consume many more bananas, but he could give no guarantee, because of lack of shipping.

So there is an impasse, more or less complete.

In the old days, all these things were taken care of by the law of supply and demand, governed by competition, and no such silly situation could develop.

MISIMA GOLDMINE

REPORT of Cuthbert's Misima Goldmine Ltd., for year ended December 31 discloses no profit. "Mine rehabilitation and plant reconstruction were seriously delayed because of shortage of native labour and of supplies" says the directors. This was a disappointment: it had been hoped to resume production from this very rich mine during 1948. However, "Cuthbert's Bonanza" has suffered exactly the same conditions of frustration and embarrassment as have been experienced by most other goldmines in Papua and New Guinea.

Gold production was commenced early

in 1949, and will be increased as additional labour is employed.

The official history of the Fiji Military Forces has been published in the United Kingdom and copies of the book are expected to arrive in the Colony in April. The book was written by Mr. R. A. Howlett, of Fiji, with the assistance of a military committee. Price will be 7/6 to the public, but ex-members of the FMF will be able to obtain it more cheaply. It will also be on sale in New Zealand.

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Mr. J. A. Fulford, formerly of New Guinea, who for the last three years has been merchandise manager in Lautoka for Morris Hedstrom Ltd., has joined the staff of Northern Hotels Ltd., and is now manager of the new Nadi Hotel. He has relieved Mr. T. C. Grayson, who has resigned from Northern Hotels Ltd. to open up a rest-house at Navua.

Sir Maynard and Lady Hedstrom arrived in Melbourne early in April on the Swedish ship "Mirrabooka," after a lengthy holiday spent in South Africa. They are on their way back to Fiji.

PEANUT POLITICS

Hungry British Nation Learns Something of Socialism

PACIFIC Islanders may have heard something of the British Government's grandiloquent schemes for producing enormous quantities of groundnuts (peanuts) in Africa. The groundnuts, of course, are planned as a means of increasing Britain's basic foodstuffs—groundnut oil makes first-class margarine. Fundamentally, a good plan—if not implemented by bureaucrats.

Islanders have shown merely a general interest. Actually, the Pacific Islands should be sharply interested, because groundnut oil, as a foodstuff, is an important and growing rival of coconut oil. If the markets were flooded with groundnuts, the value of copra surely would fall.

At the moment, there is nothing to worry about. The Socialists have made such a muddle of their groundnut scheme that, although there are now enormous quantities in Africa, the nuts are not reaching the British market in the way that had been contemplated.

The British bureaucrats decided to produce groundnuts in quantity in both West and East. The West African plan made quicker progress than the East African enterprise which, though bigger and financed on a really dizzy scale, has been more or less bogged down for months in red tape. Nigeria certainly produced the nuts; but the Socialists, in characteristic fashion, failed to make proper provision for their transport.

At the end of March, according to London newspapers, there were no less than 340,000 tons at Kano, in Nigeria, awaiting shipment. 50,000 tons were 1947 and 275,000 tons were 1948 crop. There were another 15,000 tons out on the plantations. A beetle has got into the stored nuts; and, at the end of March, despite frantic attempts at deinfestation, no less than 18,000 tons were useless. Kano has been described as "not even a port yet."

The bureaucrats are hoping to get the nuts away to hungry Britain at the rate of 25,000 to 30,000 tons per month. This would leave some 165,000 tons of the present accumulation still in Kano in November—enough to give every person in Britain one additional ounce of margarine each week for one year.

Critics have been pointing out that if the Bloomsbury planners who run the British Government had only used, for transportation equipment for West Africa, one quarter of the huge funds they have dissipated in East Africa, this muddle might have been avoided.

Hungry people soon recognise the fallacies of Socialistic planning. So poor Britain's hunger yet may serve a good purpose. The sooner the British Socialist Government is got rid of, the better for the whole of the Western world.

Two Western Samoans Charged After Stabbing Affrays

WESTERN Samoans were involved in two stabbing affairs—one fatal—recently.

A 20-year old Samoan youth was stabbed, in Apia, on April 13. He subsequently died in hospital. A youth, Ama, was arrested and charged with the crime.

A party of Western Samoan youths visiting American Samoa at Easter became involved in a brawl and later Max Hoefflich of Western Samoa was charged by Pago Pago police. During the brawl, a car driver, Popi Sua, was stabbed.



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MAGAZINE SECTION

Territories Talk-Talk

By "Tolala"

THE recent indefinite postponement of the Northern Territory's Legislative Council meetings because there were no stenographers available for the Hansard record recalls the early meetings of the TNG Legislative Council. Official stenographers, even approaching Hansard standard, were not to be had in Rabaul, and there was talk of omitting Hansard altogether. But what's a Council meeting without a Hansard? The local newspaper editor was given the job of organising a Hansard staff. By combining the staffs of the principal commercial firms he collected half-a-dozen shorthand writers, who managed reasonably well—except when the Council's orator, the late Bill Grose, warmed to his subject and became oblivious of the struggling stenographers trying to keep pace with him. Such incidents were overcome, eventually, by one of the Hansard staff displaying in the speaker's line of vision a large sheet of paper with the word SLOW, in large letters, which invariably had the desired effect of lessening the speed of his oratory.

Darwin might take a leaf out of Rabaul's book if they really do want a Council meeting there.

IN February "Talk-Talk" I made mention of a planters' meeting at Kokopo with Acting Minister Chambers. Comes a letter now from the Planters and Traders Association of NG dissociating itself from my remarks, which were based on a report from a prominent planter. But that's OK. It isn't the first time there has been a difference of opinion between an individual and an organisation.

THAT New Guinea is to become a bone of contention in the forthcoming elections, to be tossed hither and yon, appears fairly evident, judging—to cite only one instance—from the recommendations of the Federal Rural Committee of the Liberal Party, which held a conference at Wagga on April 28.

The Director of the Party's Federal Secretariat is Don Cleland, a former chairman of the PCB in New Guinea, and he is plugging for the Territory's development by private enterprise.

I'm tipping New Guinea will become one of the major issues on political platforms, what with the Manus base, the UN Trusteeship and the NG Timber case—cum-commission; assuming, of course, that the sub judice ban has been lifted by election time.

Says Don Cleland, inter alia, "The present government policy means stagnation and ignores the vast potentialities of the Territories." I seem to have heard that phrase before, somewhere.

ANYWAY, Acting Minister Chambers appears to have ironed out some of the wrinkles in the Nauru tapestry, where the chiefs wanted to petition the UN Trusteeship Council against their grievances, which would have brought the matter into world politics.

The Acting Minister reported, after being away for a month around the Equator, that everything in the Nauruan garden was lovely, and no petition would be lodged now. So, temporarily at any rate, that gives External Territories one less headache.

There still remains a bit of unfinished business resulting from the riots last June. Mr. Justice Simpson will preside at the trial of the Nauru police-boy, who is charged with murder.

SIX months ago preparations were being made up Aitape way to touch off a 3,000 ton bomb dump, and zero was said to be the beginning of 1949. I haven't heard any sound of it. Perhaps there's been a change of plan amongst geophysicists, strategists or some other "ists."

MRS. R. C. PAGE last month received from the Governor-General the insignia of a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, awarded to her late husband, Captain R. C. Page, who did such wonderful work in the Hush-hush forces with limpet bombs and such things. Bob, when he enlisted, had one ambition: To earn the same decoration in War II as had been awarded his father (Government Secretary Harold Page) in War I. He very gallantly succeeded—at the cost of his life.

PORT Moresby's model village, of which we heard so much last year, still appears to be a figment of the imagination, judging from reports. Concern was recently expressed locally over a diphtheria scare in this particular spot, which is said to be anything but a model village. If an epidemic ever did break out in serious proportions medics will certainly have a job on their hands enforcing quarantine restrictions now that discipline is at such a low ebb.

GLAMOUR and romance still cling to anything connected with Pacific Islands. Men engaged on collecting and shipping Disposals gear to Sydney recently became head-line news. During eleven months they suffered from tropical ulcers, dengue and malaria fever; they lived off the land, eating "wild pineapples

and taros, a kind of sweet potato." And "It's a pretty dangerous job."

Tut, tut! How some of the old pioneers smile when they read of present-day "hardships" as compared with 30 or 40 years ago. They arrived in Sydney on the old "Mindini" or the "Moresby" after years of "living off the land" and dodging spears and arrows, and never a printed line in the newspapers, nor did they wish it. These days, the Islands are certainly news.

EVEN if such news is a bit off the beam. One daily sheet had a planter from Bougainville, who complained about the accumulation of copra on the island arriving by "Mooltan." Probably "Malaita," actually. But what's in a name? Only a few thousand tons.

"RIGHT throughout New Guinea there is a thirst for knowledge. These people are no longer living in Paradise." Thus, it is reported, said Mr. A. A. Conlon, of the School of Pacific Administration. True too much! New Guinea, like the Garden of Eden, loses its paradise when the fruit of knowledge is tasted. And, like the serpent, we will persist in making the inhabitants taste it. "... in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life. ..." How very true.

BITS AND PIECES: Arthur Weiborn gave a talk over the 2FC network on Anzac Day. Title "The Dance Chief." Cuthberts Misima Goldmine commenced production in the last week of April, treating 15 tons of ore a day, about 12½ per cent. of plant capacity. ... BP (South Seas) Co.'s net profit for year ending January 31 was £94,018, a drop of about £3,000. ... Walter Charles (Bunny) Robertson was accidentally killed at Dreger Harbour on April 4. He was buried at Finschhafen. ... Mrs. E. V. Crisp, of P.M., is visiting Sydney. ... District Officer Charlie Bates, from Rabaul, is down on holidays—and well-deserved, too!

ON THE BEACH AT BIARRITZ



This is Biarritz, Noumea version. A tea-room and cabaret, it is one of the local show places.

—Photo by H. G. Pollock.

The Sad Handicap of the Plumber's Mate

THE time having arrived when the toilet cistern would neither fill nor empty, in its usual noisily uninhibited fashion, Mrs. Gordon asked her husband to call in at the Public Works Department and get the advice of a plumber.

She awaited the outcome with interest, feeling that a Guadalcanal plumber must surely not only live up to the piquant reputation of the profession but should, as well, have something individual to contribute to the lustre of plumbing in general.

So on a brilliant morning when the glittering air overhead was torn to shreds by the swooping of a flock of dove-white birds—contradicting their seraphic appearance with harsh screams of cockatoo derision—the plumber came. He came panting up the hill in a war veteran of a jeep. He was sixteen stone of Fijian, with a little Solomon Islander—either terrified or else very sulky—bringing up the rear.

The plumber came thumping cheerfully into the house and, while she faced his flow of greetings and comments on the weather, Mrs. Gordon's uneasily roving eye caught a provocative glimpse of the plumber's Solomon Islander mate furtively edging away behind the house-wash.

The plumber wore a white shirt and boiler suit, teamed with a pair of sand-shoes reminiscent of landing barges. Talking richly and rapidly, he stumped into the bathroom and gallantly squeezed himself into the toilet annexe. Still talking and pawing affectionately at the newly-painted walls with large and dingy hands, he rapidly sized up the cistern situation.

Saying philosophically, "Trouble coming every day" (about the only bit of his conversation that Mrs. Gordon was able to take to her heart), the plumber next lived up to all stories involving plumbers by intimating that he must send for various tools-of-trade necessary to cover the job. He leant upon the gallery rail and bellowed into the middle distance for plumber's mate, who emerged nervously from his retreat and then went hurtling obediently down the hill in search of tools.

MRS. GORDON returned to her sewing but, from the bathroom, the Fijian continued to fire off mangled remarks about the weather, the architecture of the bungalow, how to take the stains off the fibrolite ceiling and, if Mrs. Gordon's quivering ears did not deceive her, about the deficiencies of his own personal plumbing.

He then thumped out of his seclusion to ask whether he might borrow a pocket knife.

Opening and shutting drawers in her desk and going into little trances in an effort to remember just where she had seen a pocket knife lying about, Mrs. Gordon was roused from her research by the plumber clicking open a large pocket knife right in her ear, at the same time informing her (Mrs. Gordon thought) that this was one he had found in the bathroom, that he had been using it satisfactorily for the past ten minutes, that it strongly reminded him of a pocket knife he had owned in earlier days, that he wouldn't mind being offered a knife like this any day now.

He also added something about its being so useful for something or other, at the same time gesturing with the open blade towards his ample stomach. Preferring to interpret this as an intimation that a knife was ever so handy to clip on to the belt, Mrs. Gordon was pleased to

notice plumber's mate back again, plus tools, and skulking uneasily behind a paw-paw tree.

This fact being drawn to the plumber's attention, he charged outside with shouts of "You come!" and herded plumber's mate towards the steps. Here the plumber stopped dead, bent down and removed the landing barges, which for the rest of the morning stood monumentally at the foot of the steps—whether for their sake or the sake of the bathroom floor Mrs. Gordon was unable to decide.

JUDGING from sounds in the bathroom, work then began in earnest. But suddenly plumber's mate was seen to burst out wildly and make a dash for the house-wash, with barefoot plumber in angry pursuit, waving the borrowed pocket-knife and looking alarmingly influential.

By ROSA MOORE

Plumber's mate circled the house-wash and bounded up the steps and back again to the bathroom. His part in the subsequent curious proceedings seemed to comprise alternate dashes for cover and enforced returns (with much vituperation) to the job in hand. He was a rather black youth, with a slipping grey calico and hair worn in a lime-bleached pagoda.

He had the air of one who never did keep up those correspondence lessons on plumbing and was therefore utterly out of his depth.

The floor vibrating suddenly, Mrs. Gordon realised that the plumber had again materialised behind her. He asked for a cold drink. Opening the door of the icebox a mere crack so as not to display the beer too openly, she fished him out some fresh lime-juice.

He drained this resignedly and lumbered back to the job, shouting menacingly, "You better come back, eh?" to a small area of grey calico incautiously protruding round the corner of the house-wash.

There was quite a long interval, broken by sounds of cataracting water and muffled thumps, before the plumber again accosted Mrs. Gordon. He seemed to be asking to borrow one of the coir mats, at the same time saying that he felt tired and there was far too much water. Jumping to the conclusion that the plumber had drunk too much lime-juice, had come out in a heavy perspiration and was forced to lie down for a little while, Mrs. Gordon nodded assent rather than attempt to delve further into the situation.

Mat and plumber's mate (flushed out of brief sanctuary in the house-motorcar) disappeared into the bathroom. Mrs. Gordon was left to sew and diagnose the hammering and skirmishing.

FIVE minutes before knock-off time, the plumber waved her up to the scene of activities and she noted, without surprise, plumber's mate filtering quietly down the side steps to the garden as she approached.

"Now you look here, miss," the plumber said, seating himself in reverse on the toilet seat and turning up a bland brown

face. "You see this one here—he won't work until to-morrow. But all right for you to use to-night if afterwards you push this one nere and see the water not coming up more high than to here. A little bit of trouble, yes, but all well to-morrow. I forget the other tool now, but to-morrow I come back and take out this wrong pipe here and close him. You use him all right to-night, to-morrow I come back and fix him proper."

And he added, in a bellow, "Here, YOU—you come quicktime, catch'm tool."

Plumber's mate failed to materialise, being by this time well out of control. The plumber continued to sit enthroned and explained, with a gusty sigh, "This boy has a tabu. He say it is tabu for him to work with lavatories. He is frightened too much. He say debbils get very cross about lavatories. I tell him—I do him, and it not kill me yet. More better he take some other job now, I think."

Then he arose heavily, brushed down his boiler suit and prepared to depart.

"I come to-morrow," he cried, thrillingly. "But for now—all right you start to use him."

Beaming, he donned his landing barges. Angrily, he scanned the empty landscape. Waving companionably, away he drove.

Mrs. Gordon sympathetically stayed to watch plumber's mate emerge cautiously from round the corner of the poultry run. He looked sadly as if he were weighing tangible angry plumber against hypothetical avenging debbils.

With rolling eyes, he went streaking off down the hill after the receding jeep.

CONSPIRATORS

(To be Sung to the Tune of "Here We Go Gathering (Coco) Nuts in May.")

We've ninety boys in the labour line—
Labour line—
Labour line—
We've ninety boys in the labour line—
But never a word about it!

The little houseboys rise and shine—
Rise and shine—
Rise and shine—
One is seven, the other nine
(But never a word about it!)

We shipped some copra off to-day—
Off to-day—
Off to-day—
A hundred and ninety bags (hooray!)—
But never a word about it!

We've ninety boys in the labour line—
Labour line—
Labour line—
And the bossboy's just turned ninety-nine—
(But never a word about it!)

—NOELLE TAYLOR.

Mr. W. E. Sansom assumed duties as District Officer, Rabaul on March 17, when he took over from **Mr. C. D. Bates** who proceeded on leave. Mr. Bates had been continuously on duty in Rabaul for almost four years—three with Civil Administration and one with the Army.

Mr. A. W. Small, who is a member of the Fiji Administration and now is stationed at Savu Savu, will retire in October next, after more than 39 years' service. His family has close ties with Fiji. His father, the Reverend A. J. Small, who died in 1925, was Chairman of the Methodist Mission in Fiji for many years. His children, however, appear to be looking towards New Zealand rather than Fiji—Tony, aged 16, is taking up a berth with the Radio Corporation of New Zealand, and Phyllis, 22, is a nurse at the New Plymouth Public Hospital.

How a War Club Became an Emblem of Peace

THIS is the mace of the Legislative Council of Fiji. But once—without the silver embellishment—it was the favourite war club of Cakobau, leading Fijian chief of his day and self-styled king, who, in 1874, ceded Fiji to the British Crown.

Both as a club and as a mace, the implement (or whatever it might be rightly called) has had a long and varied career. Recently, photographs and scale drawings of it were sent to London, so that a model of it might appear at the Colonial Exhibition which will be held there this month (May). The real mace once appeared at another exhibition in London, in 1875, but then appears to have been lost sight of for many years.

In between the time Cakobau took to himself the title of king, and the cession of Fiji to Queen Victoria and her heirs, he set up his own government and, in 1871, Levuka became his seat of government. It was at this time that he had his old club converted to a mace—having it capped with a silver crown and decorated handsomely with palm leaves and (Cakobau had had a change of heart) doves of peace.

Three years later, however, on October 10, 1874, when sovereignty of Fiji was handed over to the British Crown, the mace, or club, was handed over too, and became part of that important ceremonial. In the words of Cakobau's former Prime Minister, Mr. J. B. Thurston, on that occasion, lie the basis of the understanding under which Britain undertook to protect the Fijians' lands.

In presenting the mace to Queen Victoria's representative, Sir Hercules Robinson, Thurston said:—

"Your Excellency, before finally ceding his country to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, the King desires, through your Excellency, to give Her Majesty the only thing he possesses that may interest her. The King gives Her Majesty his old and favourite war club, the former, and, until lately, the only known law of Fiji. In abandoning club law, and adopting the forms and principles of civilised societies, he laid by his old weapon and covered it with the emblems of peace. Many of his people, whole tribes, died and passed away under the old law, but hundreds of thousands still survive to learn and enjoy the newer and better state of things. The King adds only a few words. With this emblem of the past he sends his love to Her Majesty, saying that he fully confides in her and in her children, who, succeeding her, shall become Kings of Fiji, to exercise a watchful control over the welfare of his children and people; and, who, having survived the barbaric law and age, are now submitting themselves, under Her Majesty's rule, to civilisation."

The next year, in London, the mace was lent by Queen Victoria to an exhibition by the Royal Colonial Institute—later it became the Royal Empire Society—and it is after this public appearance that it seems to have disappeared from public ken for over 50 years.

IN 1930, a Member of the British House of Commons, apparently with the intention of driving home a political point, tried to carry off the Commons' mace and this incident resulted in the usual spate of letters to "The Times." Feeling that the time would be opportune, Mr. A. B. Brewster, who had been an administration officer in Fiji for over 40 years, and who had always been interested in the fate of Cakobau's club, also wrote to "The Times" pointing out that the Fijian mace had also, apparently, disappeared.

To his surprise he received a letter from King George V, stating that the mace had been at Windsor Castle for many years, and giving him permission to see it.

The news of the club's resurrection caused great interest in Fiji and the hope was expressed that it would be returned to the Colony. The King was pleased to give his consent to this and, in due course, the old club was returned for use as a mace in the Legislative Council.

With it went this message:—

"Since its presentation by King Cakobau to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, this Mace has had an honoured place among the Royal Treasures in Windsor Castle. His Majesty now returns the Mace for ceremonial use in the Legislative Council of Fiji, as a visible token of his abiding concern for the welfare of his Fijian people, of whose unswerving loyalty he is deeply sensible."

Story based on data supplied by Fiji Public Relations Office.



Photo by the Fiji Public Relations Office.

Installing a Bush Bishop

By "PAT"

ONE thinks instinctively of the installation of a Roman Catholic Bishop as an ecclesiastical occasion of great pomp and ceremony. The installation of our Bishop in Wewak was not like that.

The Most Reverend Leo Arkfeld, Vicar Apostolic of Central New Guinea, is a young man; an American. He returned to Chicago from New Guinea for his consecration by Cardinal Stritch of that city last October 30. It was March 26 when he arrived back home in Wewak, in Northern New Guinea. Wewak, of course, is just a pin-point on the map. It never was very big, but what there was of it was wiped out during the war. There has been some rebuilding, but naturally there is even less of Wewak in 1949 than there was in 1942.

Bishop Arkfeld tried in all kinds of ways to avoid publicity and fuss, but just as his six feet four inches will not allow him to move around unnoticed, so his kindness and popularity made it impossible for him to come home without being "properly congratulated."

Over 30 missionaries had arrived by plane and boat to be present at the installation of their new shepherd and at 4 p.m. the tiny aircraft appeared above Wewak airstrip, the Bishop himself in the pilot's seat but the controls handled, on this occasion, by the co-pilot. He was met by the Regional Superior, the Very Rev. F. B. Fastenrath and other missionaries and escorted to his new Palace—a half-finished building about the size of a week-end cottage. Here he was vested in his Episcopal robes and met all those present at the mission station. His house, the mission station, the church,

and the roads down which his procession passed to the church, had been lavishly decorated with palm fronds and flowers by the natives who were as anxious to pay tribute to their new Bishop as were his fellow-workers.

At the church the Papal Bull was read out; a few words were spoken in English and in Pidgin, the Episcopal Blessing was given—and the ceremony was over. Light refreshments were served and homely chatter continued late into the night.

THE District Officer of Wewak arrived late for the religious ceremony. It is usual for incoming planes to make a few circles of the town before landing—this gives our DO time to hop into a jeep and reach the aerodrome to greet any important visitors—but the Bishop thwarted Mr. Niall on this occasion, by coming in the back door, as it were, without fuss or bother.

The first Pontifical High Mass was held on the following Sunday morning. As the mission church could in no way cope with the thousands of natives, the back wall of the church was simply taken out and the space between house and church transformed into an open-air cathedral. During the breakfast that followed the native children of the Catholic School gave a concert in Pidgin and in English. During this, one little Melanesian made a speech of welcome in which he urged the Bishop to make Wewak his headquarters as the "airfield was so close and the people so good."

This successful effort was rewarded by Bishop Arkfeld handing round plates of sweets among the schoolchildren.



The well swept road goes the full length of the island . .

We Visit Tabiteuea

By Brett Hilder



The village meeting-house at Eita.



Cultivating taro in pits of compost.

THE Gilbertese atoll of Tabiteuea is first sighted as a string of tree-tops along the horizon, soon marked by breakers, for the trees are only visible about 10 miles, and reefs extend out half this distance to the westward. Being 30 miles long, this is the largest atoll in the Gilberts, but the string of islets which form it cannot add up to more than 15 square miles. This dry land is a flat bank of coral debris, up to 10 feet high, and with no real soil. Considering the mean annual rainfall is 30 inches, the number of coconut and other trees that do grow upon it is surprising.

On closing the coastline we find that the compass bearings refuse to fit together, as the plan of the island was made in a hurry in 1841, by the American Exploring Expedition under Commodore Wilkes. The anchorage is found in 7 fathoms at the edge of the western reefs, but instead of being one mile off the shore, as shown by the chart, the island is a good four miles away.

Setting out from the ship in the launch, the island is still just a line on the horizon, and after running over and between the coral patches for half an hour, the launch grounds on the shallows and it is necessary to take to wading. It is about a mile through the shallow water and over the tidal flats to the actual beach-head—that is the penalty for not arriving at high water, when the launch can get right up to the landing.

At the landing we find the Government Station, with the flagpole guarded by an ancient cannon, and dominated by the huge walls of the o'd gaol, which would have done credit to the convict ruins of Port Arthur, Tasmania.

The village of Utiroa stretches along the tidy coastal road to the southward, where I found the famous canoe, "Teraian-Tabiteuea," hidden under a low shelter of thatch, and therefore, very difficult to photograph. It is one of the few survivors in the Gilberts of the old-time canoes for inter-island voyages, but it is no longer regarded as seaworthy, owing to the work of the borers. This island flagship is 66 feet long, and just over 6 feet high, being built up of imported planks with the keel, stem and stern, and outrigger made of the local but (in the Gilberts) rare tree named *Calophyllum*. The name of

the vessel means the "sighting of Tabiteuea"—a good landfall after a long, deep-sea voyage.

The other canoes used by the natives are small craft for fishing, and these may be seen many miles from land. Fishing is also done by men just swimming along the reefs, with lines or spears and a small float. There is a special guild of shark fishermen, who are said to catch some of the sharks with a rope noose when they are sleeping. Certainly fish is the main food of the islanders, after the coconut, and everything that comes out of the sea has a fair wind to the cooking pot. I have seen pieces of baby whale, or "blackfish" being eaten, and besides the sharks, clamshells and octopus there is an occasional Greenback turtle.

The only trouble with the fish is that the local ones are toxic, and if eaten more than two or three times a week, are liable to produce the usual signs of fish-poisoning. The deep-sea fish, and the migratory types like Tuna, are free from this trouble, which is so widespread in the Pacific.

It is quite true that the main food of the Gilbertese is the coconut, and I have often seen them eating part of the husk, that soft part of a green nut near the milk holes. The shortage of water on the atolls makes the value of the coconut milk greater than usual, so that most nuts are taken and eaten in their green state.

NEXT to the coconut is taro, called "ba-bai" with accent on the second syllable. This plant takes more work to cultivate than all the other household chores put together, for besides being slow-growing, it requires water and soil to grow in, and that, on an atoll, is like asking a Sydney publican for bottled beer to take home. The ba-bai is grown in pits about six feet deep, which, there on the atoll, is nearly down to sea level, and the muddy, brackish water which collects in the pits is protected by the shade of the trees, generally remaining about a foot deep.

The taro plants are carefully nurtured in artificial soil, made from compost of the dead leaves and vegetation of the whole island, the rotting pulp of fallen coconut palms, and perhaps some sand, ashes and other more secret ingredients. This compost is banked around the stalks of the plants, and held in place by wreaths of leaves forming a coffer-dam. One result of this laborious work is that the island is kept tidy and clean, for every leaf that falls is gathered up in small baskets for the ba-bai pits. The only gap in the total soil economy is the loss of human nitrogenous waste, for that goes out to sea, probably to lessen the dangers of earth-borne worms and diseases.

The fruit of the Pandanus in the Gilberts is more edible than other island varieties, and is chewed raw or cooked into a thick, sweet jam which is laid out in the sun to dry in sheets. It helps to colour the flat diet.

During the lean years of drought the natives are forced onto still more primitive foods like berries and a type of fig, and small tubers, about an inch long, which grow just below the surface. In the more civilised islands like Tarawa, the Government issues rations of European food, but during our November visits to Tabiteuea there were not even any staple foods for sale in the trade-store. Before the Group was brought under control the problem of overpopulation was eased by tribal wars and the practice of infanticide, and some very forcible invasions and migrations must have taken place.

THE natives are Micronesians like the rest of the Gilbertese, and if their individual variations are any criterion, their racial mixing must have

been still proceeding until recent times. The men look like Japanese, Mongols or Thibetans, while the women vary between Tamils, Malays, Filipinos, and Balinese—partly depending upon their hair-do and their types of clothing. At home on their island the women wear grass skirts, and the men loin-cloths, both sexes generally wearing shorts or pants of some sort underneath, while a married woman will generally cover her bosom with any spare piece of cloth when met by a European.

Before the war there had been British, Chinese and Japanese trading in the Group, American, French and London missionaries, and various stray seamen wandering through the islands, including Germans from the Marshalls, so that some of the Caucasian, Aryan and Mongolian racial strains may not be very remote in their origin.

THE legend about a red-bearded man, castaway on Beru about 1568, seems to have influenced a number of natives who show very tawny strains in their otherwise straight black hair. The natives vary in skin colouring through all the browns from ochre to mahogany, but there is an undercoat of yellow, with the sun-tan on top, and a further layer of black due to the lack of fresh water and soap. The women are particularly averse to cleanliness, and I think that if the women of Tabiteuea were carefully scraped down there would be enough black soil to fill all the ba-bai pits. All the natives are well-built, and appear physically fit without showing any signs of fatness or even plumpness. The men are more hirsute than the average Asiatic, but show no body-hair.

We met a visiting American anthropologist in residence at Utiroa, Dr. Katherine Luomala from the Hawaiian University and the Bishop Museum, Honolulu. She was studying the "material culture" of the natives, or the technique of keeping alive on an atoll.

Tabiteuea provides a bare living for the 3,850 natives, and the white population totals eight or nine people, consisting of the French Bishop, three priests and three sisters of the Sacred Heart Mission, as well as an old trader, Sarah Hicking, and an occasional Government official on tour. The local Government is purely native.

Socially the atolls are entirely communal, with the meeting-house as the

centre of village life. These buildings are very large, but unfurnished, and serve for dances, meetings and the daily chores, a lot of the women repairing there like matrons going to a sewing-bee.

The meeting-house is called the "Maniapa," and the seating positions in it are held by families in hereditary and other classifications, like the British House of Lords. Most villages are now divided in their organisation by the rival missions having separate Maniapas as well as churches, and in the village of Utiroa the official or Government Maniapa is built only up as far as the coral pillars because of some lack of co-operation. The communal feeling is very strong right through the Gilberts, based on the principle that the welfare of the tribe must be paramount, or, "What the mob says, Goes!"

No man can make himself independent of the village life, for without membership he would be a lost soul, and the sense of religion could scarcely counter the decision aimed at an outcast on the atoll. These natives are precocious, faithless and opportunist to the Europeans, and no man can truthfully call them a lovable people. Dr. Luomala said that she could only describe them as being like Yankee taxi-drivers, and that is straight talking from an anthropologist.

And so we say Farewell, without regrets, to the natives, of the villages, of the islets, of the Atoll of Tabiteuea.

In A French Cathedral

BY JOHN VINCENT HOEY

HIGH on the hill behind Noumea stands the greying stone cathedral of Notre Dame, its four clocks, two to each spire, serving as unofficial time pieces for the town below.

It was an afternoon during Lent when I first wandered into the cathedral, and the wind, howling through the spires outside, seemed to accentuate the mourning and loneliness of the purple-covered statues and tabernacle.

The simple, main altar was guarded by statues of kneeling angels, and lit by a solitary red lamp suspended from the rafters above. Behind and above it, a niche held the statue of St. Joseph holding a lily. A concealed light flung the figure into bold relief and for a brief instant its shadow hovered over the kneeling angels and then was lost in the surrounding gloom. For some unknown reason it was not covered in purple like the others. This small altar was framed in carved wood set with candles and the walls at either side were painted with massed hollyhocks.

La Petite Fleur, uncovered also, stood alone against a blue background. Among the armful of stone roses there was one real one; a dark, shadowy red.

The flooring was concrete and cracked; the wooden ceiling warped and bulging in places; the walls water-stained.

But one felt that this building was not the cathedral, but merely a shell to hold the quiet reverence and the prayers of the people; that the white-haired, bespectacled gentleman standing, head bowed, before the picture of Pilate washing his hands; and the aged lady in black, dipping her fingers into the clam shell at the door, gave the atmosphere and not the lights and candles.

Outside the main entrance was a small box, Pour les Pauvres.

I slipped in a few francs, and, emerging from the precincts of the cathedral, felt the impact of the hot sun and the noise of Noumea. And the mood, the beauty and quiet of that French cathedral vanished.



Under the spreading breadfruit tree—Dr. Luomala and children of Utiroa village.

Tropicalities

MALARIA cures come, and malaria cures go: Quinine, plasmaquin, atebrin, paludrine—tropic dwellers know them all.

Each was supposed to have advantages over its immediate predecessor. Paludrine was the latest development, hailed, as atebrin was before it, as a drug that would get the wog "right out of your system."

Now, the British medical profession seems to be having second thoughts about paludrine. It is reported that results from the use of it have not been as satisfactory in India and Africa as they are in New Guinea, and early hopes that it would prove the solution to all the problems in the treatment of malaria are being reconsidered. In some respects paludrine is stated to be inferior to atebrin.

The technical name for paludrine is Proguanil, and, discussing the experiences of over three years of its use, a leading article in the British Medical Journal concludes that "it is doubtful whether the ideal drug either for the prophylaxis or radical cure of malaria has yet been discovered."



This attractive lass stands next to an ugly stone image—which had some connection with the gods of ancient Polynesia—outside the Museum in Papeete. There is much interesting and valuable material in the Museum, but the institution, generally, is rather neglected.
—Photo by H. J. Pollock.

Well—here's still hoping. In the meantime, it appears that those hide-bound conservatives—the quinine addicts—might be doing as well as the rest of us who will try anything new—MAC.

RAVUAMA VUNIVALU, BA (Auckland), the first Fijian Morris Hedstrom Scholar, who is now doing post-graduate work at Cambridge, rocked the university with a report to an interviewer from a students' newspaper, said Dr. J. W. Davidson, lecturer in Colonial Affairs, who recently passed through Nadi Airport.

The interviewer started inauspiciously by asking: "I understand that your grandfather had—well, certain cannibalistic propensities?"

"Good heavens," replied Ravuama; "don't tell me someone's missing from my floor!"

The interview went no further.

LIEUT.-COLONEL ELLIOTT-SMITH, formerly well known as a Resident Magistrate in Papua during Sir Hubert Murray's regime, is now settled near Mildura, Victoria, where he is fruit-farming and likes the life and conditions in that progressive area.

He commanded a particularly smart battalion of the Papuan Infantry during the war, and those who were present will recollect how, at a big parade for General Blamey at Torokina, he and his native soldiers completely "stole the show."

Old-Timers in Papua will recall his ability, during his term as Resident Magistrate, to verbally flay native evildoers, whilst fully preserving the dignity of the Court. In appearance and manner he was a kind of local "Sanders of the River."

This Territory of Papua-New Guinea can ill spare these experienced officers of the old Papuan Regiment—especially in these times of native dissatisfaction and bewilderment, brought about by existing conditions.—**Special Correspondent.**

MR. C. F. CORBETT, of Suva—presumably misquoted by the "New Zealand Herald," Auckland—is alleged to have said that a meat-rationing system would be impossible in Fiji because "many Fijians who, for religious or other reasons, did not eat meat, would probably sell their ration coupons and create a black market."

The Fijian reaction to this is vitriolic—black marketing in Fiji being almost exclusively an Asiatic preserve. The mistake probably rises from the overseas observation that anybody in Fiji may be called a Fijian with impunity.—S.

A hard-bitten resident of Suva was asked to make a donation to some Fiji-Indian institution.

"Certainly," he replied, "I will give £50 to the Indian Returned Soldiers Association, and another £20 to the Indian Nurses Association."

They are still thinking it out.

PLAGUES of giant snails apparently are not new. According to the following extract from the "Crown Colonist" they had an attack in Ceylon 40 years ago. The correct term, in Ceylon, however, is "pest of snails." Otherwise there appears little differ-

ence between that visitation and the one that is the aftermath of war in some of the Pacific Islands:—

A PEST of snails in Ceylon of about 40 years ago is recalled by a writer to "The Manchester Guardian." Gigantic snails, he writes, appeared south of Colombo and proceeded to devour vegetation of all kinds and pollute the water of the wells. "In an incredibly short time the roads, the trunks of trees, the walls of houses, and the gardens were covered with these monsters." Their shells were later found to be seven to nine inches in length, and they weighed two pounds and more. On inquiry it was found that the snail was *Acchatina fulica*, a species from Mauritius. A single specimen had been brought to Ceylon by a traveller and had multiplied, its offspring developing in Ceylon far beyond the usual size.

Recipes From Home—III.

TAKE an ounce of red hibiscus petals; mix generously with 1 lb. of powdered blue coral; add a dash of the scent of frangipani; roll out on a patch of moonlight. For those a little troppo, the above recipe is recommended as a complete cure, or your money refunded.—**ALMA G.**

WE have had several letters about the Marquis de Rays millstone (see PIM of February and March).

It appears that it was brought in from Port Breton by Harbour Master Webb at the request of the Administrator, the late Sir Ramsay McNicoll, following a visit to Rabaul and Port Breton of Mademoiselle J. H. Niau. Mme. Niau was the daughter of one of the Port Breton settlers; she later wrote a book about the venture called "Phantom Paradise."

After the eruption of 1937, the old stone was lying around the Rabaul fore-shore. The tidal wave than preceded the eruption demolished the PWD building, which was then built very close to the shore, and when a very modern establishment was built to replace it (see photograph, March PIM) in the record time of four weeks, the old stone was brought along to give it a finishing touch. The stone was temporarily mounted slantwise but was later mounted upright, and in this position survived the Japanese occupation and the Allied blitz.

The Japanese inscription which has caused a certain amount of conjecture (it was suggested that it might be some Jap war-winning slogan) means "This is where the mosquito-larvae-eating-fish (*Gambusia*) are kept" or, in other words, the "Malaria-control unit."

When the Australian army re-occupied the area in 1945, they set up their dry canteen on the site of the PWD building—only a concrete floor and the strong-room remained. When the Australian Army, in its turn, moved out, the premises were taken over by the Commonwealth Bank who were glad to make use of the strong-room.

The original bronze plate which was affixed to the stone shortly before the outbreak of World War II disappeared during the occupation—apparently taken by some Jap soldier. It has been suggested that, one of these days when Rabaul is in a more reconstructed state, Wunderlich, who supplied the original plate may make another, with some mention of the stone's survival.

We think that this is an excellent idea and worthy of consideration by some public body in Rabaul.

PACIFIC NATURE NOTES

Written for "PIM" by Charles Barrett, FRZS

THE ORANGE COWRY

MY notes on shells and shell collectors have brought me several letters. Writing from Vutemba, Bua, Fiji, Mr. N. C. Mackenzie-Hunt refers especially to a scarce and beautiful shell with a history: "I have had many specimens of the orange cowry, but sold them all as soon as I had got them. I have not had many at all of late years. I don't know the *Cypraea aurora* mentioned in your notes, so perhaps it is not found in these particular island groups. Some nice volutes are found in the Solomons, but nothing very spectacular in Fiji; which seems strange, as Fiji is in close proximity."

Cowries have always been favourites of collectors; though cones and volutes are almost as popular. The orange cowry appeals greatly to tourists as a souvenir of the islands; and scores of fine specimens must have been carried away from Fiji when Pacific cruises were possible—and not more costly than a three weeks' holiday at some over-run seaside resort. Many of these souvenir shells may still survive as mantelpiece ornaments; others doubtless have become playthings for children, or been dumped among household junk in the attic; a pity, for they should be in museums.

The Argue cowry (*Arestorides argus*), now as common in collections as the tiger cowry, once upon a time was regarded as a rarity. It is noted for its elegant form as well as its markings. The "wonder" cowry of southern Australian seas differs from nearly all other cowries in having a long, crooked "tail," and a somewhat depressed spire. The first specimen of this "cold water" form to be collected was regarded as a wonder shell, probably unique, and sold for £30; a very bad bargain for the purchaser. In a few years, specimens became plentiful and cheap; they were brought up from the depths by trawlers. It is unlikely that many specimens of the "glory of the sea" cone will ever be found; and the most valuable of all shells should always remain a treasure.

POISONOUS CONES

MANY kinds of cones are handsome shells; some are very beautiful. For more than three centuries, the cones have been in high favour with naturalists and collectors; indeed, they rival the cowries and out-rival other favourite groups. Included among the cones are the only known shellfish that definitely are dangerous to man, in the manner of venomous snakes; molluscs that are poisonous by biting. The specimens of *Conus textile* and *C. geographus* in my cabinet were collected with due caution, for I was well aware of the danger of

handling these cones with their owners alive in them. They are not the only poisonous species; both *Conus tulioa* and *C. aulicus* have been responsible for cases of mollusc poisoning. But the textile cone and *C. geographus* generally are regarded as the most dangerous forms: their bites have proved fatal in several recorded cases; and probably in many unrecorded ones—among natives, over the years.

Nearly a century ago, Sir Edward Belcher, of HMS "Samarang," was bitten by a cone (*C. aulicus*) which he picked up, somewhere in the Moluccas. The mollusc clung like a leech to the collector's hand; and inflicted a painful, "burning" wound. This is one of the earliest accounts of cone shell mollusc poisoning. In the 'eighties, a case occurring in New Britain was recorded in the *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*; a native was bitten on the hand by a *Conus geographus*. He immediately made numerous incisions, with a sharp stone, in arm and shoulder—cuts which bled freely; and explained to the inquiring white man that to this painful measure he owed his life.

In the *Medical Journal of Australia*, some years ago, Dr. H. Flecker, of Cairns, summarised reports of instances of poisoning by different species of *Conus*; and recorded a fatal case in North Queensland; details of which had been received from Dr. T. B. Clouston, of Proserpine. The victim, a man aged twenty-seven years, was stung in the palm of the hand when he picked up a live cone shell at Hayman Island, whence he had gone on a pleasure cruise. No pain was felt, but local symptoms of numbness were followed by stiffness around the lips. At thirty minutes the victim's legs became paralysed; soon he was unconscious; and four hours after being bitten, or stung, he died.

Long ago, the Rev. W. Wyatt Gill learned that the dangerous nature of the textile cone, especially, was well known to the natives of Western Polynesia. On one occasion, when the "John Williams" arrived off the island of Mare, the missionary at the station delayed coming off to the ship. Later he explained that he had been burying an islander who had been poisoned by handling a good-sized shellfish, which proved to be a specimen of *Conus textile*. The poor man suffered agony for hours, and his body swelled to an enormous size. "Stung" at night, he died at dawn.

The barbs, by means of which the cone animal injects its venom, have been likened to the sting of a bee. Actually, in cones, the radula consists of very large marginals on either side; the base is

blunt and contains a poison gland with a duct to carry its contents to the barbed point of the marginal.

Though there are some five hundred species of *Conus*, only five or six are known to be poisonous. And the natives discovered their dangerous qualities centuries before the white man invaded the Pacific Island world.

Communications from Nature students in the Pacific Islands are welcomed by our contributor—Mr. Charles Barrett, "Maralena," Maysbury Avenue, Elsternwick S4, Victoria.

THE WANDERING WHITE-EYE

SILVEREYES in my garden, singing their whisper-song, remind me that, when in New Zealand, I must watch out for Zosterops, which became firmly established in the Dominion nearly a century ago. Flocks or small parties of white-eyes, more happily called silver-eyes, arrived from Australia round about 1856; and became successful colonists. Its numbers rapidly increased; and the range of *tau-ho*, the stranger, as the Maoris named the small olive-green and grey bird, with a yellow throat and a ring of white feathers around each eye, gradually extended its range in the new country which it had reached by crossing the stormy Tasman.

Prior to the early 'fifties, the white-eye was unknown in New Zealand; neither Maori nor Pakeha had seen it earlier than 1856, so presumably, that was the year of its arrival. In less than a decade it had spread over the whole of the North Island and southern areas of the South Island; later pioneer parties reached sub-antarctic islands, and became acclimatised.

It has been estimated that the journey across the Tasman would have occupied the first flocks from twenty-four to thirty-six hours. A wonderful journey for such small birds as silver-eyes; but many migratory species, large and small, annually make very much longer passages, over land and sea, than one thousand miles—the distance the white-eyes would cover flying on a direct course.

The family to which the *tau-hou* belongs contains more than one hundred and fifty species, and has a wide range: from northern Africa, India, and southern Asia to Japan, in the east, and Australia and New Zealand in the south. Several members of the Zosterops family occur in China, and one, the South China white-eye, is popular as a cage bird among the Cantonese, who call it "song-si."

Years ago, Dr. G. A. Herklots, of the University, Hongkong, sent me a copy of the fine journal edited by him, "The Hongkong Naturalist," containing an article on the South China white-eye as a cage bird. The author, R. A. Pereira, stated that it was not an uncommon sight to see small boys and grey-headed men, each holding a cage, deeply absorbed in conversation, discussing the merits of their respective birds. The bamboo song-si's Chinese name means, literally, "sing loud-voice"; not a suitable name for the Australian species, whose short, musical notes are never loud; while at times, it warbles so softly that the varied strain forms a whisper song.

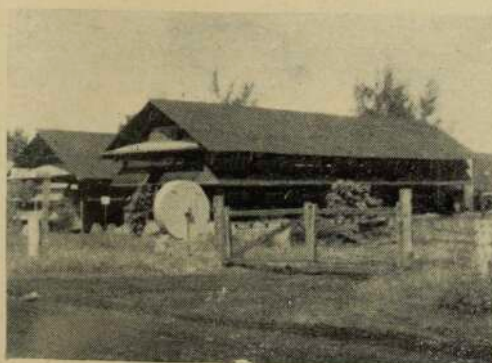
Though unwelcome where grapes and other soft fruits are grown, silver-eyes do a great deal more good than harm, and well deserve their nickname—"blight-birds"—they eat other injurious insects while showing a preference for aphides. My rose bushes are kept fairly free of aphids when silver-eyes visit the garden and remain for a week or so.

(Continued next page)

THE MILL-STONE AGAIN

(See previous page)

This photograph is published, not so much to show the mill-stone, as to show the tar-paper building that replaced the modern PWD headquarters, which was shown on page 15, March "PIM." At the time that this present photo was taken, the building was being used as an Army canteen; it is now being used by the Commonwealth Bank. The PWD building that was destroyed during the Jap occupation was built, before the war, in the record time of four weeks. It is now almost four years since the war ended, but Rabaul buildings are still made of ex-Army junk.



PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY—MAY, 1949

Rarest of all the white-eyes is a pygmy form, found only on Mount Kinabalu in Borneo; where, too, the olive-black species, another rare bird, also is at home. I met with the mountain white-eye, which ranges from Celebes and the Moluccas to the Philippines in Bali: it occurs also in Java and Timor, but I did not get a glimpse of it during my brief visit to the last-named island.

Silver-eyes build dainty, cup-shaped nests, pendent from leafy twigs, usually at the end of a slender branch. Woven of fine grasses, and lined with horsehair in many cases, sometimes they are ornamented sparingly with moss: frail, almost flimsy cradles. The eggs may be visible when one looks up at a white-eye's nest with sunlight shining through it. Four

eggs form the clutch as a rule. They are among the prettiest of all birds' eggs, being pale greenish-blue, or much the same colour as those of a song-thrush, but minus the black markings.

My notes refer to the grey-backed Zosterops of eastern and southern Australia, and Tasmania, which migrated to New Zealand so many years ago. By the way, I recall that the late Dr. J. A. Leach thought it possible that strong winds connected with Black Thursday—that appalling day of bush fires in Victoria—may have carried thousands of small birds over the Tasman; including silveryeyes, some of which survived to become colonies of their kind in the land to which high winds had borne them.

Some Alcoholic Memories of Suva

(By Na Vokai)

IN the good old prewar days in the Islands—when there was always an assured supply of beer, and a man could raise a thirst and the wherewithal to quench it—some amusing stories were told along the Beach. The following are a few tales of what must now be almost a forgotten era in Suva.

Scene: The bar of a well-known Suva hotel, one evening about half-time at the movies. Two well-known brothers and a friend imbibing—two of them feeling playful. Finishing their drinks, the trio walked through the door of the crowded lounge and toward the street.

Then, ranging themselves one on either side of their friend, the brothers each solicitously took an arm, loudly assuring their quite sober mate that he would be all right—they would see him home. "Now take it easy, Frank, we'll get a taxi," was the tenor of their remarks to their highly indignant friend, who made matters worse by struggling to free himself, at the same time abusing the humorists in undertones.

It took Frank quite a long time to convince some of the occupants of the lounge, who afterwards chipped him about being "tight," that he had been cold sober—even then, some did not believe him.

THEN there was a rather well-known character, an employee of one of the big firms, who, during the Christmas season, had a couple too many, at luncheon.

When it was time to return to work, he phoned his chief with the remark: "It's Blank here, Mr. —. Now some call it 'flu, and some say they've got dengue; but the fact of the matter is, I'm drunk, and I won't be at work this afternoon." This engaging frankness so tickled his chief that the celebrant got away with it.

ON one occasion, when an important football match was being played in New Zealand, a party of "sports" gathered in a Suva friend's home one Saturday afternoon to listen to the broadcast. To add to the joy of the occasion they had a good supply of home-brew on hand. During the afternoon, one gentleman took more than was good for him and, in due course, he disposed of it in the backyard. A little later, another member of the party found a set of dentures in the yard. The first-mentioned "sport" had left the party by then, for home and bed, and Bill, the finder, carefully put the dentures in his pocket for safety.

Late on Saturday night the toothless one was dashing around Suva, looking for Bill, whom he had been told had his teeth. By the time he found him, Bill himself was a bit the worse for wear, and could not find the missing plate in his pocket, or for that matter, anywhere else.

Came Sunday morning; and, after a loathsome breakfast of soft tack, there was a frantic and very abusive young man still looking for his teeth.

It was not until Bill had occasion to call at his place of business, later in the day, that he found the dentures in a drawer, where he had placed them for safe keeping some time on Saturday night. It was fortunate; for by this time the dentures' desperate owner was following him around with an axe.

ARRREST of a European for a liquor offence was a comparatively rare occurrence in Suva; and, when it did happen, it was usually a case of: "No appearance, your Worship," followed by formal evidence and forfeiture of bail.

Now, in those days, the Fiji ordinance only made provision for "drunk and disorderly"—there was no plain "drunk" section.

Came the day when the name of a citizen was duly called, and the usual formalities complied with. The constable gave evidence that defendant had been found under the influence, asleep on the Triangle garden plot.

The prosecuting officer was about to ask for conviction and forfeiture of bail when the magistrate, probably with a twinkle in his eye, nonplussed the constable by asking where the disorderly conduct came in.

The upshot was that the case was adjourned till later in the day for the production of evidence of disorderliness. When this was not forthcoming, it was dismissed by an RM who held that, as the ordinance stood, there was no offence disclosed in getting drunk and going to sleep in a public garden.

ARRIVAL of friends among the ships' companies of regular liners on the Pacific run was often a cause for some form of celebration, and one such nearly disrupted a very elaborate amateur theatrical show.

Music for the production had been scored and was to be played by a brilliant pianist, who was very much one of the lads of the village. First performance went well; but the next day one of the Matson liners arrived and the pianist met an officer friend who was celebrating his birthday. One thing led to another, and

at 5 p.m. the local lad was fast asleep in his pal's cabin, just behind the bridge of the liner. The Matson boats pulled out with the regularity of clockwork at 5 p.m., and a little after five our friend came to, to find himself in strange surroundings.

Ambling out, he was amazed to find himself on the liner's bridge confronting an irate American master-mariner who wanted to know what the hell he, a passenger, was doing there.

On being informed that the visitor was not a passenger, the master-mariner was abusive. By that time, Suva was slipping into the background, as the ship approached the Passage.

Frantic signals brought the harbour-master's launch to the rescue, and, roundly cursed, the still-fuddled celebrant was decanted ashore.

It was getting close to curtain-time for the second night of the show when the stage manager discovered that the pianist was missing and what had happened to him.

There followed much rushing around in taxis, making of black coffee, enforced cold showers and assisted dressing before the pianist was placed in front of his instrument in the Town Hall and told to play. The first act, he afterwards said, was a struggle, but after he warmed up he sailed through in good style. But he was angry and indignant when he found that the stage manager had given orders at the performers' bar, at the rear, that the pianist was not to be served with anything stronger than lemonade before the final curtain.

ANOTHER Suva lad got himself into an embarrassing situation when, in the course of a late afternoon session, he reached the helpless stage of drunkenness. A friend picked him up and decided to take him home and put him to bed. The friend got the happy one into a taxi, all right, but then ensued an argument as to destination.

"I live at Lami," claimed the drunk. "No, you don't! I know where you live," said the other, "and I'm taking you there."

After further argument the friend became impatient and neatly laid his charge out with a swift one to the jaw.

Off sped the taxi to a town boarding-house, and the good Samaritan lugged the drunk inside and put him to bed.

What the friend did not know was that the drunk recently had changed his abode and in fact did live at Lami, but a young lady who came home later was more than surprised to find an amiable but fuddled gent in her bed. Fortunately, she knew him and his habits well, and took it in good part.

THERE have been many good stories told of missing bottles; but one of the brightest originated at a Saturday night party at Suva Point.

One of the party passed out in the course of the evening, and a close friend noticed that he had a full bottle of Johnny Walker in his pocket.

Thinking that it might come to some harm, or that someone might steal it, he lifted it himself and took it home.

On Sunday morning he phoned the owner on some pretext, and was immediately regaled with the tale of "some lousy so-and-so who pinched my bottle of wads."

Full of sympathy, the listener invited the bereaved one down for a drink.

The bottle had gone round a couple of times before the guest was informed that he was drinking his own whisky.

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CROSSLEY MARINE ENGINES

A notice in the Papua-New Guinea Gazette of March 2 declares Wewak (New Guinea) to be a first port of entry for overseas vessels.

At the Brisbane "Courier-Mail" floral display, held on March 15, a shrub called the Calitrapis or "King's Crown" from New Guinea was exhibited. Its rarity and beauty evoked the admiration of numerous admirers.

Chandar Pal, a resident of Raiwaga, Navua, Fiji, says that he is seeking "pen friends" in the other Pacific Islands and in Australia and New Zealand.

COOK ISLANDS PARTY RESCUED AT SEA

THE New Zealand judge in the Cook Islands, and other important officials, were aboard a converted Fairmile (an ex-RAAF speed boat) when she broke down away to the north of Rarotonga. The USS Co's "Waitamara" rescued the passengers and crew. Captain Olin Ostenfeld of the "Waitamara" writing to a friend in Melbourne, describes the incident. He says he received the Fairmile's call for help on March 14.

"She was 450 miles away, but we found her," he stated. "She was about 100 miles from the nearest island. She was broken down, short of food and water, and had 33 persons aboard."

Included among the 33, he continued, were a judge, a chief of police, a Roman Catholic padre and natives with children. Most of the people were transferred to his ship by net.

"The church' was underneath and narrowly escaped a second baptism," said Captain Ostenfeld. "They all insisted upon sitting in the net, but the posture was mostly in reverse when the net was lifted."

Captain Ostenfeld said that a meal for all survivors was prepared in the saloon of his ship. The natives, Cook Islanders, who had been used to eating out of leaves with their fingers were so scared that they almost had to be forced to eat. After that there was no trouble, and the food disappeared by bucketsful. No wonder, because they had had no food for 24 hours.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Goodsir, of Nadarivatu, Fiji, arrived in Sydney in March, and Mrs. Goodsir underwent a serious operation in St. Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney, on March 21. It was reported soon afterwards that she was making a satisfactory recovery. Mr. Goodsir is remaining in Sydney for the present.

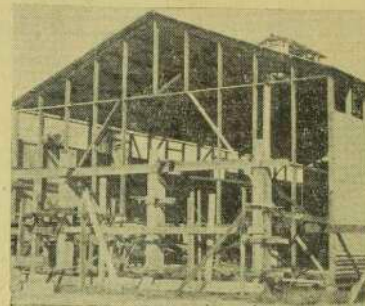
New Theatre For Nukualofa

From Our Own Correspondent

NUKUALOFA, March 10.

THIS is the latest project of one of our most energetic Tongans, Maile Niu. It is the framework of his new picture theatre which, when finished, will seat about 500 people.

Maile Niu already owns an ice-cream bar, a taxi service and a large store in



the country. He is also a Tongan lawyer. The picture show will fill a long-felt want. The only "pictures" in Tonga at present are those supplied by the Education Board, from a mobile movie unit. These are usually screened at school houses holding only a few people.

The King's Medal has been awarded to a Chinese half-caste, Saquis Kenyau Ah Non, for his services as a radio spotter in New Guinea in 1942-43. He was born in New Ireland of a Chinese father and native mother. The citation says his work as a wireless operator had a direct bearing on operations in the Sepik-Wewak-Annaburg area as his information enabled the location of Japanese forces who had occupied the areas.

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TAHITI-NOUMEA AIR FARE : A COMPARISON

Letter to the Editor

I THINK it should be pointed out that one of the most useful air services in the South Pacific—that run by TRAPAS between New Caledonia and Tahiti—is of little use to non-French travellers because of the very high fares charged.

A friend who travelled not long ago between Papeete and Noumea says he had to pay no less than 160,000 Pacific francs for the seat—equal to £100 Australian. The plane left Tahiti at 10 a.m., and spent the night at Rarotonga; left Rarotonga at 6 a.m., and arrived at Apia at noon; left Apia at 2 p.m., and reached Nadi at 6 p.m., and spent the night there; left Nadi at 6 a.m., and arrived in Noumea about 11.30. It carried about a dozen passengers.

As most of the British Pacific air-services now run shuttle services between Australia (or New Zealand) and the individual territories (the New Zealand National Airways service between Auckland, Fiji, Samoa and Cook Islands being the only exception) this Noumea-Fiji-Samoa-Cook Is.-Tahiti line—a kind of cross-service in the Pacific—is very handy; but the fares tend to scare off prospective travellers.

In view of the fact that TRAPAS uses three British territories in the flight between the two French Territories, TRAPAS should treat British travellers with greater consideration.

I am, etc.,
TRAVELLER.

Melbourne, 7/4/49.

EDITORIAL NOTE—The fare Noumea-Tahiti (2,300 miles) does seem high, in comparison with other air fares. The fare from Sydney to Auckland (1,200 miles) is over £30; from Sydney to Nadi (1,700 miles) is £50; from Sydney to Rabaul (about 2,000 miles, via Port Moresby and Lae) £51. The fare from Sydney to Tahiti by the French MM liner, via Noumea and Vila, is £100.

ROAD ACCIDENTS IN TONGA

Letter to the Editor

THE second fatal accident within three months occurred on Tongatabu on March 10, when a child was run over and killed by a Government lorry.

The first fatality was at Christmas when one of the New Zealand airport trucks swerved across the road and hit an old man with the rear end of the platform. The vehicles in both fatalities are alleged to have been going at excessive speeds.

By a coincidence, the case against the driver of the airport lorry was commenced in Nukualofa on the day of the second fatality. When is the speed-limit to be fixed in Tonga? Government drivers are the worst offenders, in this regard.

Are the drivers of these two vehicles, having each killed another human being, to be allowed to drive a motor vehicle again? I am, etc.,

AUGUST HETTIG.

Nukualofa, Tonga.

An American tank landing ship, "Rawhiti," after 13 months in idleness in port, in New Zealand, sailed for Suva on March 21. She is owned by the Roose Shipping Co., Ltd., of Mercer, NZ, but will be registered in Fiji. It is understood that from Suva she will proceed to the Solomons where she will load war disposals goods for the Australian government. Her cargo capacity is between 2,000 and 3,000 tons. Her master will be Captain D. K. Mathieson, formerly master of the schooner "Tagua."

DYNAMITING OF FISH IN SAMOAN WATERS

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, Apr. 20.

MANY complaints have recently been made about the large-scale dynamiting of fish on the coasts of Savaii and South Upolu.

Supplies of gellignite, imported by the Government for blasting on the new roads, now in course of construction, have found their way into the hands of unauthorised people who use it for large-scale fishing, thereby destroying large numbers of immature fish and affecting the future fish supplies in waters around Western Samoa.

It is hoped that in the interests of the Samoan people, the Samoan Government will take energetic steps to stop this illegal practice.

Mrs. Gordon Harris, formerly of Djaul Island plantation, in the New Ireland section of New Guinea, arrived in Sydney from London in April, after an absence of ten years. In 1939, when war came, Mrs. and Mr. Harris disposed of their plantation to Mr. "Dusty" Miller, and hurried off to undertake war service. They were in the forces for a long time—Mrs. Harris was a WREN for over six years—and now they have transferred their interests to Kenya. Mr. Miller was lost in the Jap invasion—his fate is not known, exactly—and his estate has been somewhat of a muddle, and the Djaul plantation of some 30,000 coconuts (half of which have survived) has been sadly neglected. Mrs. Harris intends to spend some time in Australia, looking after the interests which she and her husband still retain in the plantation.

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Cystex is approved by one-time sufferers in 13 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."

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More Europeans Wanted In Fiji

One Answer To The Indian Menace

"I COULD tell you in a very few sentences exactly what to do with the surplus Indians in Fiji," writes a resident of Vanua Levu.

"But one thing is certain—we do not want them here in Vanua Levu. They have been trying very hard to buy freehold land from various Europeans in this big island, and I am afraid that in some cases they have succeeded; but generally the owners of the freehold, even where they want to sell, are patriotic enough to keep the land out of the hands of the Indians.

"After all, apart from the Fijians, who is entitled to this land—the Europeans who pioneered it, or the Indians who have done little or nothing to make it fit for settlement?

"It is in my opinion a shocking thing that there should be so few Europeans in this magnificent island—it could carry thousands of European settlers, instead of a few score. If only we had an Administration with a developmental impulse, a great deal could be done to encourage settlement. Private enterprise, under encouragement, could provide a pineapple factory, goat, pig and poultry farming—and all the industries established on Viti Levu, and a few more as well.

"Viti Levu already has been spoiled by over-population. This other big island of Vanua Levu has far more attractions from the point of view of European settlement, and it is a shameful thing that nothing is being done about it.

"Why does the British Administration sit with folded hands, resigning itself to its belief that the archipelago is going to be over-run by Indians, when, with a little enterprise and energy, it could build up a very substantial European settlement in this Colony as a bulwark against the ever-encroaching Indians?"

Probate has been granted in the will of the late **Geoffrey Hampden Vernon**, medical practitioner, of Port Glasgow, Papua. Personalty was £3,806 gross.

EDUCATION PROGRESS IN NEW GUINEA

Planners May Overlook Importance of Economic Development

WARM praise for what already has been accomplished in Papua-New Guinea by the Territory's Department of Education is given by Mr. Osmer White, a special correspondent of Melbourne Herald.

He says that no one could claim that the Australian taxpayers have had a fair return for the £2,000,000 of their money spent annually in Papua-New Guinea by the Australian Government, but at least the Education people have something to show for their share of it. He was impressed with the average native's eagerness for education—especially technical.

One senior official said that their first jobs there, in order of priority, were to maintain and extend law and order, to improve native health, and educate the natives. Mr. White says that is probably correct.

"However, the practical factor it did not take into account was that these ends can never be attained without the development of a New Guinea economy—that the whole project is far too expensive an undertaking for a nation of 7 million people preoccupied with their own great developmental problems.

"If the classes and choirs of Sogeri are ever to become the classes and choirs of all New Guinea, it will be only because there are sawmills in the mountains, oil wells and mines producing mineral wealth, plantations cropping tea, coffee, cocoa, copra and commercial fibres.

"The tapping of New Guinea's hidden wealth is a job that can be undertaken only by people with a tradition of technological skill. If Australians don't move in more promptly than they are doing at present, someone else is going to take over . . . and the achievement at Sogeri will not count for very much if that happens."

ANOTHER MAKATEA CONTINGENT FROM MANGAIA

From Our Own Correspondent

MANGAIA, February.

THE native labourers from this island who recently returned home after a year's service on the phosphate island of Makatea have again departed, along with a fresh labour force, for further service on the French-owned island.

A steamer in January was formerly an unheard-of thing here, that month being a doubtful one in the hurricane season; but this year the "Marabank" defied tradition, and was rewarded with an almost perfect day for her call to pick up the local labour.

Mangaian residents temporarily domiciled in Rarotonga were not slow to seize the chance of returning home offered by this January call. Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hickling, who are in charge of the local schools, were passengers by the "Marabank," as also was Father Charles of the Sacred Heart Mission; Mr. Edwin Gold of the cliff-village; and Pastor Robert Sema of the LMS.

This time phosphate workers go on a six month contract only—the shortest term yet offered to the Mangaian, who up till now have signed on for at least a year upon the phosphate diggings. With improved conditions, the six-month contract is likely to seem too short to the new hands, who are looking forward to the amusements and amenities described in glowing terms by those who have had experience, and who have returned at the expiration of their contract with many good things bought at Makatea, and never seen in the local stores.

AND WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

(Continued from page 38)

materials have never been able to trade on reasonably just terms with more developed industrial areas, even within national boundaries. . . .

As long as our region is going to depend almost entirely on the export of copra alone, it will be very difficult to materially raise the standard of living.

If we were to write down a sequence of "economic density" both in relation to land-usage and possible population, it would run as follows:

- (1) Stockraising—many acres needed to support one family.
- (2) Agriculture—fewer acres needed to support one family.
- (3) Horticulture—one acre may support one family.
- (4) Industry—one acre may support several families.

If we want increased population as well as increased prosperity, industries have to be developed. Industries, in the first instance, centred about that most abundant economic plant, the cocon palm. In that case finished products will be exported instead of raw materials. Agriculture, horticulture, fisheries—all would become a background for industry.

Apart from "das Dritte Reich," no country ever developed a consistent population policy. But the extermination of undesirables and genocide were its results, which made such a policy rather unpopular.

Still, the question remains: are we going to be able, in spite of migration and industrialisation, to take care of the increasing population which automatically follows any benevolent measure?

Here I shall again have recourse to Warren Thompson and quote:

"... Only an international organisation which is first and foremost interested in colonies as a part of the world organisation can be expected to encourage the control of population growth in the interest of higher levels of living among these colonial people. . . ."

This, again, requires education.

EDUCATION has the attention of every Government. Education is, however, often thought of as a post-Napoleonic system of a sequence of the "three R's," then secondary education, culminating in a university. And the sub-conscious adherence to this (to us, Europeans, self-evident) system has often wrought havoc in the minds of natives—more than anywhere else the dictum "a little wisdom is a dangerous thing" applies here.

The recognised system is such that there can be no "half-way houses." Primary education is not an end in itself. It creates thirst instead of quenching it; it makes half (or less than half) educated creatures, that merely assume some of the outward trappings of Western "white-collar" workers. It gives a young man just enough to make him at war with the world.

The newly educated does not want to follow the royal road. He wants to sit behind a long-coveted desk and look important. He has not learned that education is the creation of an inner receptivity for the assimilation of ideas. To him it is only means to an end, and that end is only too often not to lead his people but to feel superior to them. Leadership should be based upon achievement, and a practical leader should have mastered the fundamentals of hygiene, house-building, and horticulture. . . .

The wider aim of Fundamental Education has now been defined. It is to

help men and women to live fuller lives in adjustment with their changing environment, to develop the best elements of their own culture, and to achieve the economic and social progress which will enable them to take their place in the world. Fundamental Education should thus be designed to provide a first step to further education.

While universal literacy may be a desirable ideal, the teaching of reading and writing is not only, or even always the most immediate, purpose of Fundamental Education. . . .

AS I said in the beginning, the division of our activities into three groups is rather artificial. If we want to synthesize, the question may be put: "What shall be our role in these regions?"

The tendency nowadays is gradually to liquidate ourselves and our influence. Some of the nations represented here have over three centuries of experience in the tropics. To those of us who have been interested in these questions for generations a farewell to the tropics would be unthinkable.

Our own mind is not made up. The pendulum is swinging slowly from one extreme to the other, and only the future historian will be able to determine the period and the amplitude of this movement. Let us hope that we will enter into a close partnership with the inhabitants.

There is Governmental and there is private enterprise. The former may become over-organised and impractical; the latter may become odious when it is out only "to buy cheap and to sell dear." But Government has been learning a lot from business, and officialdom, fortunately, is in many places efficiently organised.

Private enterprise, when it also assumes proper care for its personnel and when it adequately recognises its social task, may be a boon to the community. Government enterprise and private enterprise should meet on common ground; the well-being of the land, so that happy people may dwell thereon.

In the Senates, in Governments and, to a lesser degree, in administrations, problems do not loom so large as at the periphery, where the work has to be done. It would be lovely to write a report, let us say on land-spoilation, in Washington, in London or in Paris. It would not be so lovely if we had to write a report here. It would be more difficult to write it in a territory.

But let us not write reports. Let us go to places where the actual misery exists. For most of us have come to the tropics, not to further our own interests, but to be of real service to the community. As the French poet, Paul Verlaine, has said: "Je voudrais voir le monde en fete."

DEATH OF MR. STANLEY VIVIAN GRIFFITH

THE death occurred on April 9 at Norfolk Island Hospital of Mr. Stanley Vivian Griffith, aged 55 years.

He was invalided out of the Imperial Navy in 1944 and was in ill health thenceforth.

Seven months ago he took up residence, with his wife, on Norfolk Island hoping that the climate would be beneficial.

Mr. Griffith had lived in Tahiti, Rarotonga and Fiji prior to the war.

An Easter Fancy Dress Ball was held at the Kokopo Club, New Britain, on April 16. Prize for the best dressed couple went to Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm English.

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If any chicks in your consignment arrive dead, we will replace them free, provided the extra freight is paid by the purchaser.

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(Guaranteed 96 per cent. accurate sexing.)

These chicks are the cream of Australia's stock, produced under ultra-violet rays to guard against disease; the adult stock is blood-tested monthly by veterinary officers and each individual order carries a N.S.W. Government certificate that the chicks are healthy and from tested stock.

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MAKESHIFT WHARF REPAIRS FOR RABAU

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, April 21.

SOME attempt is at last being made to improve Rabaul's wharf facilities.

During the war, of course, the old Government wharf was destroyed and a Japanese ship was sunk alongside. Now work has commenced on building an approach to the sunken ship which is to be filled in and surfaced as a wharf for inter-island shipping. It should be ready for use shortly.

NO RACIAL TROUBLES IN NEW ZEALAND

WHILE Australia's policy of excluding all coloured races (including not only Asiatics, but also the friendly Polynesians of the Pacific Islands) is creating growing ill-will everywhere, a special correspondent in Melbourne "Herald" (April 13) says that New Zealand has no such problems. By good luck or good management, or by a combination of the two—plus an immigration policy which does not discriminate

harshly against Asiatic peoples—New Zealand has escaped all problems such as those which have recently embarrassed Australia.

A Chinese (says this writer) represented the South Island at Rugby Union football some years ago. Another had a distinguished record in the RNZAF.

In the past few months, the University of New Zealand has sponsored the further training in Britain of a New Zealand Chinese student who has been acclaimed as the most promising research worker since Lord Rutherford.

There are American and West Indian negroes who have lived in New Zealand for many years. A family of Kaffirs won prominence in football in Auckland, where an Abyssinian became one of the most respected citizens.

A Tongan represented New Zealand at rugby football for several years after the war. A New Zealand Japanese, who is now a Rugby referee, was decorated for valour.

Samoans, Cook Islanders, and other Polynesians have become New Zealand residents in increasing numbers in recent years. For a considerable period, Fiji has sent native and Indian students to New Zealand for education at exclusive schools.

Because the admission of Chinese and Indians to New Zealand has been substantially confined to males, there has been a fairly appreciable degree of inter-marriage, conspicuously with Maoris. The effect on the general population has been trivial, although Maori spokesmen have, from time to time, objected to Asiatic miscegenation.

New Zealanders, aware of their small numbers, do not throw open their doors indiscriminately, but they do refrain from abusing strangers at their gates. And the strangers within the gates suffer no hardship.

Asthma, Bronchitis Coughing, Curbed in 3 Minutes

Do you have attacks of Asthma or Bronchitis so bad that you can't sleep? Do you feel weak, unable to work, and have to be careful not to take cold and can't eat certain foods?

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Mendaco not only brings almost immediate comfort and free breathing but builds up the system to ward off future attacks. For instance, J. Richards, Hamilton, Ont., Canada, had lost 40 lbs., suffered coughing every night, couldn't sleep. Mendaco stopped Asthma

spasms first night and he has had none since in over two years.

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The very first dose of Mendaco goes right to work circulating through your blood and helping nature relieve you of the effects of Asthma. Try Mendaco under an iron-clad money back guarantee. You be the judge. If you don't feel fully satisfied after taking Mendaco just return the empty package and the full purchase price will be refunded. Get Mendaco from your chemist to-day and see how well you sleep to-night and how much better you feel to-morrow. The guarantee protects

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PEACE-TIME "BISCUIT BOMBING" IN NG

A QANTAS Douglas freighter recently undertook the job of dropping supplies in the Purari River area, Papua, for an Australian petroleum company field party. In all, 90,000 lb. of supplies were dropped, involving a total of 16 lifts. Only loss incurred during the operation was one 40 lb. bag of sugar.

Earlier dropping operations were carried out in this same area in November and December, 1948.

Similar operations to the Gollala Valley, which were carried out in October and November, 1948, successfully delivered, among other items, 11,200 lb. of rice, 2,805 tins of meat, 180 lb. of tobacco, 3 shotguns and 600 shotgun cartridges. Supplies still have to be dropped by air in many parts of New Guinea where no landing facilities exist.

In addition to the Qantas Empire Airways' Bird of Paradise airlines linking New Guinea and Papua to Australia, there are 12 QEA aircraft based in New Guinea for internal operations.

These operations consist of services to Kavieng and Manus, and charter flights to many areas in the Highlands.

Local Air Transport Co's In New Guinea

THERE now is an important local air transport industry in New Guinea, based on Lae.

In addition to Qantas' local services there are the organisations run by Mandated Airlines Ltd. (W. E. Carpenter and Co., Ltd.), and Guinea Air Traders Ltd., which absorbed Taylors Air Transport some time ago.

Gibbs' Sepik Airways, run by a well-known airman, and based on Wewak, provides service in that end of the mainland.

Ben Hall's Sepik River Trading Co., which ran from Madang to the Highlands, Wewak and Lae, sold out to Qantas recently and Mr. Hall, following his marriage, has settled down on the late V. C. Johnston's plantation near Madang.

NB LADIES' CLUB FAREWELLS POPULAR SECRETARY

Erection of New Club Premises

From Our Own Correspondent

A DANCE was held by members of the New Britain Ladies' Club on April 9, to farewell their energetic secretary, Mrs. Mildred Costello, who was shortly to leave the Territory for an extended holiday in the United Kingdom.

One of the last jobs undertaken by Mrs. Costello before she left was the arranging of sufficient materials for the building of the new club premises, the contract for its erection now having been let.

The New Britain Ladies' Club was formed about a year ago and it is by no means just a gathering of chattering women with purely social aims. The Club is interested in anything relative to the welfare of women in the Territory generally. They visit the hospital, welcome new residents and generally provide a centre for womenfolk, not only of Rabaul, but of outposts.

Since its inauguration, Club members have raised sufficient funds to make a start on the building of the new club house. This will consist of a public hall, two bedrooms and a kitchen and a suitable room for preparing and serving food

for any club function. It is hoped that this building will provide accommodation for outport women awaiting hospitalisation in Rabaul. These people will be given priority. At present, to their own embarrassment, they must stay at the hotel.

Miss Flora Stewart, daughter of Mrs. F. Stewart of Lae, New Guinea, returned to the Territory recently by Qantas Empire Airways. She has been holidaying in Toowoomba (Qld.), Adelaide and Melbourne. Mrs. Stewart, who also has been enjoying an Australian holiday, will return to Lae in May.

Kokopo Branch of Commonwealth Bank

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAUL, April 21.

FROM May 3, the Commonwealth Bank will be operating a branch at Kokopo, New Britain.

The branch will be open on only one day per week—that is, each Tuesday, when hours for business will be 9.30 a.m. to noon; and 1.30 p.m. until 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Dudley Jones has now set up practice as a solicitor in Rabaul, New Guinea.



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Berger FINISHES

KEEP ON KEEPING ON!

Dr. John Wesley Coulter, Professor of Human Geography at the University of Cincinnati, has accepted an appointment in the Trusteeship Division of the Secretariat of the United Nations, where he will be specialist on Pacific Islands and Pacific Asia. Upon taking up his duties, at UN headquarters at Lake Success, NY, Dr. Coulter was placed third in command of the UN Trusteeship Division and in top command for the Pacific Islands and Pacific Asia. Dr. Coulter lived for many years in the Pacific and has personal knowledge of the native peoples. He was

for 13 years on the staff of the University of Hawaii. He is the author of many publications on the Pacific Islands, including "Fiji: Little India of the Pacific," published by the University of Chicago Press. Dr. Coulter was in New Zealand in February, at the Pacific Science Congress.

Mrs. Florence Gilmore, well-known resident of New Guinea was attending a round of farewell parties in Rabaul in April. She left Rabaul on April 22 by plane for Sydney. In June she expects to sail for the United Kingdom in the "Orion" for a 12-months' holiday.

RICHARDS ON 'JACKALS' OF INDONESIA

TUCKED away in the London cable news in the daily press recently was a paragraph which should be brought to the notice of all those Reds and Pinks in Australia who are so prompt to rush to the defence of their Indonesian comrades, and to condemn the Dutch for their actions in Indonesia.

Lord Milverton, better known to peoples of the Pacific as Sir Arthur Richards, speaking in the House of Lords, said the Dutch action in Indonesia was fundamentally right.

Dr. Soekarno and his colleagues were really war criminals, he added. The Dutch were opposing the possibility of the whole of Indonesia falling into the hands of a small group, he said. Apart from a relatively small extremist element, the native population welcomed the return of the Dutch.

"There is a great paralysis of human indecision lying across Britain's foreign and colonial policy," continued Lord Milverton. "It seems that once more the last laugh will not be in London, New York or Delhi, but in the Kremlin, and it will be difficult for us to avoid a large share of the blame."

Lord Milverton gave what he termed "a warning" about what is likely to happen if we do not stiffen our policy and face the actual facts in Indonesia.

He added: "The Indonesian leaders are not crusaders. They are no better than jackals, preying on a war-ravaged, bewildered native population."

That is the opinion of a man of proved administrative ability, whose wide experience of colonial territories, particularly in the East, fits him to speak with real authority—which is more than can be said of the "experts" at Canberra and their Moscow-inspired Union bosses, who dictate Australia's foreign policy.

Arthur Richards started his Colonial Service career in Malaya, and served there for many years before becoming Governor of British North Borneo. Then he was successively Governor of Gambia, Fiji, Jamaica and Nigeria, before his retirement and elevation to the peerage.

—By Na Matanivanua.

DETENTION OF TONGAN PRISONERS IN SUVA GAOL

A SPECIAL Bill to enable the Fiji Government to "accommodate" Tongan prisoners in Fiji gaols will come before the next meeting of the Fiji Legislative Council.

Prison facilities in Tonga are inadequate and in recent years there have been many prison-breaks—particularly by one prisoner who usually follows up by stealing a boat in which he makes for some of Fiji's outer islands.

When Tonga made a request to Fiji recently that this prisoner be retained in the Suva Gaol, the Fiji Government was willing to accede to the request, but found that it was unable to do so because there is no provision in Fiji law.

The new Bill will legalise the reception and detention in Suva gaol of a prisoner sentenced by a Tongan court. The Tongan government has already passed legislation to deal with the matter.

Mrs. and Mrs. R. Booker, of Manus, New Guinea, have a son, born in Melbourne, Victoria, on April 6.

GILLESPIE'S

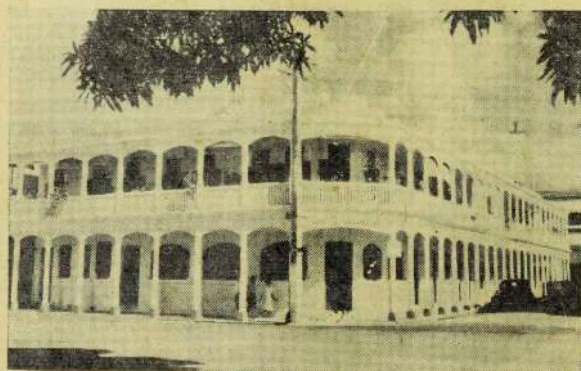
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CINDERELLA OF THE NEW GUINEA TERRITORY

How Bougainville's Copra Productiveness Is Being Hamstrung

From a Special Correspondent

THIS area has become known to its residents as "Forgotten Bougainville." Being at the extreme south-eastern end of the Territory, the district certainly misses out on many things that more favoured localities receive, so that the disabilities of the geographical position are severely felt.

A Missionary from the district attended a conference at Port Moresby some while ago and remarked, upon his return, that there was a tendency amongst Administration officials and others there to overlook our needs when proposals were put forward.

It is as well to remind those in authority that this was formerly one of the heaviest copra producing districts in the Territory and can be made so again—with shipping and labour, and a modicum of supplies.

PLEA FOR AIR SERVICE

THIS must be the only district in the Territory that is without a plane service, which is such a vital need these days to enable quick receipt and despatch of mails. It would also allow fast and comfortable transport for officials, planters, and others who have business to do in Rabaul and Moresby. Under existing circumstances these people and their wives are often held up for weeks in Rabaul through lack of transport.

It is very galling for those so situated

to see residents of Manus, New Ireland, Madang, Lae and Port Moresby being able to flit home at regular and frequent

intervals. The Buka and Bougainville unfortunates, when their turn comes—often after many false starts and altered dates—"pig it" homeward in small, inconvenient and often overcrowded vessels.

There is a drome on Southern Buka—of pre-war origin and enlarged by the Japs—which, it is generally considered, could be quickly put into shape to take planes. This despite certain official re-

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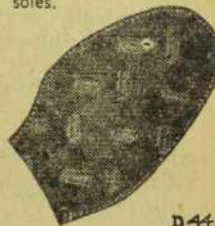


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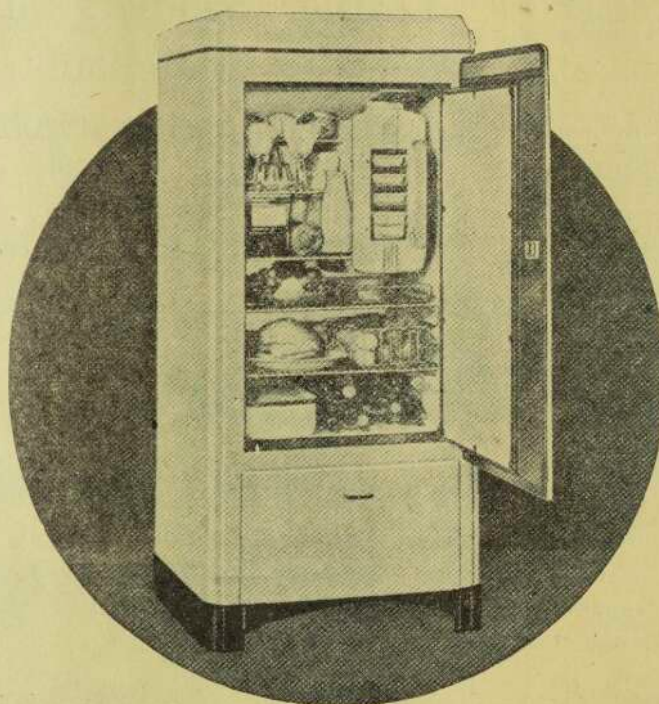
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ports (which strongly suggest that the whole matter is being conveniently "side tracked").

It is a matter for speculation as to what happens—somewhere along the line—to our air mail from Australia.

Quite recently, several air mail letters, posted in Australia in November, reached here in March, after a tedious trip of four months. The envelopes looked jaded! However, the best effort of all was when air mail letters posted in Australia in May turned up at this end in September—fortunately, in the same year! Their wanderings cannot be traced as they bear only the original post-mark.

Strangely enough, air mail letters from the USA are always among those bearing the latest post marks when mail arrives! It is all most annoying and, obviously, shows gross carelessness somewhere.

INSUFFICIENT SHIPS

DISTRICT copra production seems to be keeping on at a steady rate—both plantation and native trade copra—but the Directorate ships are not keeping pace with transporting it.

A short time ago it was estimated that 14,000 bags were awaiting shipment from various plantations and stores, and, at that, no plantation is producing to capacity. Quite a number have not been reopened since the war ended.

Appeals from the District Officer and Planters' Association have resulted in the situation being only partly relieved.

If the ships had big enough carrying capacity the number coming here would be sufficient for our needs, but as it is these toy vessels "huff and puff" and arrive with a hatful of cargo and depart with a hatful of copra.

One explanation offered us is that want of port facilities in Rabaul prevents a quick turn around. Whatever the reasons, the fact remains that the shipping service is inadequate. The biggest vessel on the run—the "Katika"—carries 2,000 bags of copra and is a veritable giant amongst the rest of the fleet.

The smaller vessels have no pinnaces, but only a surf boat in which to offload cargo and handle copra where there is no wharf. It is becoming a frequent occurrence for customers at the Chinese stores at Buka Passage to be told that there is neither flour, sugar nor smoking tobacco, whilst other items are often in short supply.

The store proprietors for some reason—most probably for want of shipping space—are unable to get all their cargo out from Rabaul, but, at times are able to also charter a vessel to bring out a load. There are often some hundreds of tons of Bougainville cargo backed up in Rabaul. It is no uncommon thing for cargo, consigned from Sydney to Bougainville, to be held up for months.

Local residents are indignant at the state of things as there is an increasing population, and absence of essential commodities affects morale, more particularly when there are such a number of women and children included in the community.

NOT ENOUGH LABOUR

THE difficulty of getting local labour—one avoids using the term "efficient labour" these days—for plantation work is increasing in both Buka and Bougainville.

This is probably due to War Damage distributions of cash, generous education schemes, native copra production and an over-riding disinclination to either toil or spin.

Most plantations are hoping to get natives over from Aitape, as soon as recruits and shipping become available, and several plantations in Bougainville are now being satisfactorily worked by Aitapes. Those fortunate enough to be thus situated wear a happy smile and are

content for the locals to sit in their villages, attend their frequent religious observances, chew their betel nut, and follow their own devices. Trying to get work out of them is much like trying to extract blood from a stone, and the process weareth a Christian down.

So is the well-known "Buka boy"—once famous for his ability and for general faithfulness and reliability—now descending into the depths! Owing to the present Administration policy of extreme indulgence to the natives, and with so much easy money about, they have become quite independent and are contemptuous of Europeans; though—as a matter of policy—they give some lip service to Administration officials whom they contact.

Those who heard the Administrator's address to a crowd of Rabaul natives in

October last—wherein he stressed the need for all natives to work faithfully at whatever job they undertook, and the necessity for them to produce plenty of native foods, and not to forget village health, sanitation, roads and coconut groves—wish that such a doctrine would be promulgated by all District Offices. On the occasion referred to, D. O. Charley Bates, of Rabaul, interpreted to the multitude with ability, emphasis and some relish!

CARGO CULT AGAIN!

THE old familiar "Cargo Cult" has been raised again in this area by its devoted followers, who cannot be convinced, or greatly deterred, by friendly and fatherly talks by District Services officials. The high priests of the cult

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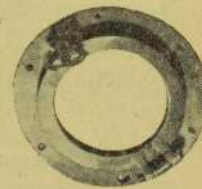
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merely observe more caution in their proceedings, and, if need be, go underground.

Those most closely in touch with natives—the Missions—are well aware of the disturbing effects of this cult on the native population, its ordinary life and morals, and their Micawber-like tendency to wait for something to turn up in the way of ready cash and all kinds of desirable cargo—thus killing all desire to work. One native recently constituted himself a Central Bank in Buka, and invited

credulous natives to lodge deposits with him and see them grow miraculously! He got together quite a number of customers and, among them, most of the Head Men of the area, who, with sporting instinct, "gave it a go."

Another old-time and respected Luluai, of one of the largest villages in Buka, developed the idea—after consultation with the initiated—that for many years he had been missing a good income because of his failure to demand toll from every vessel that passed between his island and the Buka mainland! He wasn't too sure about this rule applying to small launches and canoes, though!

The "Cargo Cult" supporters had sessions in 1932, 1935 and 1939 in Buka and parts of Northern Bougainville, though in 1932 they were a bit unlucky in having ADC Ken McMullen to deal with at Buka Passage. He took prompt and effective measures with those concerned.

The whole business has an anti-European flavour about it and is both mischievous and disturbing, and might well develop into something worse. In both 1932 and 1935 part of the doctrine put forward was that white people should be got rid of, either by moral suasion or force.

It's a question as to whether or not there are still Japanese firearms in the area, and it is quite a possibility that there are. And it must be remembered that since the last manifestation of the "Cargo Cult" a good number of these natives have learned the use of arms and have fought either with, or against, the Allied cause. But in the matter of "Cargo" all these former friends and foes are brothers in a joint cause, as they maintain that the White Man receives goods that really belong to them.

Further, the prestige of the White Man has been distinctly lowered of recent years through various causes.

The recent murder of Mr. Alf Robinson, and his eight accompanying natives, in New Britain, not to mention the murdering of Upper Markham natives, by other natives armed with Japanese rifles, should be a warning to officials and others of the futility of the "it couldn't happen here" attitude of mind. Experience over the years shows that it could happen anywhere in these days of grace.

Sacred Heart School Carnival In Rabaul

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, April 21.

THE Sacred Heart School carnival attracted streams of visitors on Easter Monday and Tuesday. The function was held at the Catholic Chinese Kindergarten site at Matupi Farm, Rabaul.

The carnival was opened by Mr. W. E. Sansom, Acting District Officer, New Britain. He appealed for public support for the carnival—funds raised would be devoted to the education of youth.

On the platform with Mr. Sansom were Father Ormonde, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gilmore Snr., Mr. Gabriel Achun, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Chan and Mr. and Mrs. August Chan, also Mr. and Mrs. Achok and Mr. John Chan Achai.

The organisers estimate that the amount raised will be about two thousand pounds. Three raffles were drawn on the last night of the carnival. The drawing of the major raffle—the first prize for which is an English six-cylinder Vauxhall sedan—will take place in May. With the seven other prizes in this raffle, the prize money is about £2,000. Although a ticket costs £2, Rabaul people have bought out the limited number of tickets in the raffle.

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PIONEER WORK OF TOA The Solomons Service

Letter to the Editor

AN article in your March issue, under the heading "Qantas on the Sydney-Solomon Islands Run," written by your correspondent from Honiara is, I feel, extremely misleading, due to the number of incorrect statements it contains.

I should be grateful of the opportunity to express my views on the matter of air services to the Solomon Islands, and to correct any wrong impressions.

In the first place, Qantas have not yet succeeded in establishing a service to the British Solomon Islands—one hears that they find the Catalina not so suitable. However, it is a fact that an oil company did refuse to supply petrol to Trans Oceanic Airways in favour of Qantas and, when one considers that the fuel stocks were laid principally for use by Trans Oceanic Airways, one can only assume that the Government airline has considerable sway over the oil company concerned. Naturally, TOA was forced to make other arrangements, and future fuel supplies are now assured.

Your correspondent states that twelve passengers awaited the "uncertain" return of the TOA flyingboat, from February 13. As the plane was not scheduled to leave Sydney, northbound, until February 15 these passengers would have been very foolish had they done so. Actually, due to the extension of this flight to the Caroline Islands, and the delay in obtaining fuel supplies, everyone had been advised that the flying boat would return on the 23rd, and on the 23rd it did return, passengers leaving Honiara by boat early on the morning of the 24th to embark the same day at Tulagi.

It was also stated that "allocation of seats for the through flight (Solomons-Sydney) have necessarily been very limited" and that therefore "the new service is welcomed." Has anyone from BSI ever been refused a passage on TOA? Definite priority has always been given to travellers from the Solomons, whether they were booked right through to Sydney or not, as it was realised that alternative means of transport for them was very limited.

The statement that the Solomon Islands Government is "welcoming the new service" may be right; but to say that they are "cutting away a considerable amount of red tape" is most unfair to the administration. From personal acquaintance with these officers, and a knowledge of the policy of the Government, I am sure that all legitimate operators would be treated in the same way. Both individually and collectively, the administration has fostered and supported Trans Oceanic Airways from the inception of the service, and it is only natural that they would similarly aid any other desirable operator. But to say that they would grant unfair advantages over the company who pioneered the service is a reflection on their integrity.

May I take this opportunity of reminding your correspondent, and others who may have the same leanings, that TOA is a private enterprise, is staffed entirely by ex-servicemen and did pioneer the route at a time when shipping was by no means plentiful. It has provided the BSIP with a regular connection for almost two years, giving safe and comfortable travel by large four-engine flying-boat.

Which reminds me that one of the few things the South Pacific Air Conference decided, when it met some years ago, was

that there was an awful lot of water in the Pacific and that air services in that area were a job for four-engine aircraft.

I am, etc.,

BRYAN W. MONKTON

Managing Director

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In St. Columba's Church, Wilston, Brisbane, on March 5, Miss Margaret J. Cheetham was married to Mr. Donald M. Briggs of New Britain.

DEATH OF ITITORO

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, April 21.

WE have to report the death in Papeete, Tahiti, of Mr. Isidore Richmond, known to all as "Ititoro."

On the eve of the departure of his wife and children for San Francisco, Ititoro climbed an alligator-pear tree, to gather some fruit for his family's journey. He slipped, and fell to the ground, breaking his neck and both legs. He died next day without regaining consciousness.

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The Rev. J. H. Stewart Hulse, BA, with Mrs. Hulse and their small child, will proceed to Ambrym in the New Hebrides, about May next, to take up missionary

work there for the Presbyterian Church, in succession to the Rev. W. F. Paton, who retired from that field at the end of 1948.

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Personal Notes From Buka And Bougainville

From a Special Correspondent

MR. and MRS PAUL MASON, of Inus Plantation, Bougainville, have booked passage for England on the "Mooltan," which leaves Sydney in June. Friends will wish them a very happy trip as they are a popular couple hereabouts. Paul, of course, is now Bougainville's best known citizen, owing to his long residence and splendid record with the Coast Watchers in the desperate days of 1942-43. His daring and initiative earned him high British and US decorations, and the thanks of Admiral Halsey, at Guadalcanal.

Miss Ette Taylor, of Sydney, who has been spending a holiday with her sister, Mrs. Paul Mason, at Inus, has now returned to Sydney carrying pleasant recollections of the district and people.

Mr. A. M. Stewart is back from southern leave and has taken over the management of Teopasine Plantation again. Mrs. Stewart is remaining in Australia for the present.

Our old friend, Skipper Ernie Vider, is here temporarily with the Administration trawler "Comworks," relieving the local Administration trawler, which is away having its "innards" overhauled. Ernie knows these waters well and when there is a run to do time, tide and weather seldom delay him. He must be the senior skipper in the Administration service now. Ernie took his former ship out of Rabaul Harbour in January, 1942, at the eleventh hour, as the Japanese were arriving, and made good his escape. He is a veteran of World War I and served in last war as well.

A popular figure at Sohano is Mr. G. Mackenzie, who is in charge of Public Works in the area, which includes mechanical matters on the island. Soon after his arrival he restored the electric light plant, which had been very unwell for a long time. This meant light for longer periods and the brightening of dark places. Busy housewives who are able to use their electric irons, bless his name. "Mac" has married since his arrival and Mrs. Mackenzie has settled to life at Sohano.

Word comes that Ron Pickwell, that energetic and cheery soul, who was Medical Assistant at Sohano for quite a time, has returned from a long leave in Australia and is now stationed at Rabaul. Mrs. Pickwell returned with him and likes Rabaul after out-station life. Residents of the district remember with gratitude the breezy manner of Ron and his ready assistance to those requiring same.

Mr. Jim Joyes, of Iwi Estate, Kieta, recently arrived back from a recruiting trip to Aitape, bringing some 25 natives for work on his plantation. Although landing these recruits in Bougainville was an expensive matter, he is convinced that it is the only way to keep up copra production. The local indolent indigene appears to have given up all manner of work, owing to the horrible effects it has on the system! Jim has put in some hard work on Iwi since his return in 1946, and has achieved results.

Mr. Charley Cooke, who was well known in Buka as manager of Tulaen Plantation, is back in the Territory after a long spell in Australia, and is now at Pondo, New Britain. Mrs. Cooke is with him. They were at Emirau (Squally Island), north of Kavieng when the three German raiders called there in December, 1940, and landed 500 or so prisoners from Allied ships that

they had sunk. Before landing them a German officer came off, and, meeting Charley and wife on the road, politely announced their intention. Charley says he hardly liked to refuse them!

Mr. Ernie Wilkinson, who has been Medical Assistant at Sohano for some months, is proceeding on southern leave with Mrs. Wilkinson and son John. Ernie has done a good job whilst here and residents will be sorry to part with him and his popular wife. Both of them served in the recent war.

Mrs. Elma Good has now taken over the active management of her plantation, Kessa, in North Buka area. She resided on the plantation for many years before the war and her husband, Percy Good, met a tragic end there at the hands of Japanese naval forces. It is no light job to run a plantation and all admire her grit and wish her success in the undertaking.

Mr. Percy Cream, who has been in charge of Kessa for seven months, proceeded to Rabaul by "Mirigini" at end of March.

Bishop T. J. Wade, of the Marist Mission, is back again after spending some months in Australia, during which, in characteristic style, he covered a lot of country. He is now moving round his Diocese in his speedy launch, but he has become used to constant sea travel in his 24 years in the Solomons, and takes good and bad weather as it comes.

Mr. Bennie White, who has managed Arigua Plantation, Bougainville, for two years, has gone south with his wife and family for a spell. Bennie was in a Com-mando unit that operated in Bougainville during the Jap occupation, and later won a DCM when associated with Paul Mason in their guerrilla warfare at the southern end of the Island. Bennie has taken well to plantation life and fits in nicely.

Pastor Cyril Pascoe, of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, has been transferred to Lae, much to the regret of his friends. He was of pre-war vintage and knew the Bougainville natives very well. Like all "Seventh Day" natives his flock were noted for their civility, cleanliness and the manner in which their villages were kept. During the Japanese occupation of Bougainville their assistance to the Coast Watchers was of great value. The departure of Pastor Pascoe and wife will be felt, as their motto has always been "Service with a smile" to all whom they could help along.

Advices received here say that Group Captain Billy Duncan, who owns Lalahan Plantation in Buka Passage, is now in China, where he holds a responsible

position with UNRA. Billy was an ex-officer of the Air Force and was called up for duty at outbreak of war in 1939. He is a son of Captain Jimmy Duncan, of Rapopo Plantation, Kokopo.

A recent addition to local vessels is the "Midas" which was brought up from Australia by Buka Plantations Ltd., who own Numa Numa. The vessel now looks very trim and is in charge of Mr. Frank Riordan, who attends to all engineering matters at Numa Numa.

Mr. Claude Campbell, of Raua Estate, Bougainville is preparing to take an extended holiday in Australia, after a strenuous three years re-opening the coconut plantation and replacing buildings and dryers with such materials as were available. He had made a good job of it all, and has the place in fine shape generally. Claude was the last man to leave his plantation in Bougainville in 1942 and was the first to tackle the rehabilitation problem in March, 1946. He and Mrs. Campbell hope to leave for the South in July. They will be accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. Nari Forster.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Kelly have also proceeded to Buin where Mr. Kelly has been posted as Patrol Officer. He served a previous term in this district.

Mr. Bob Coles has returned from leave and again takes up his duties as ADO at

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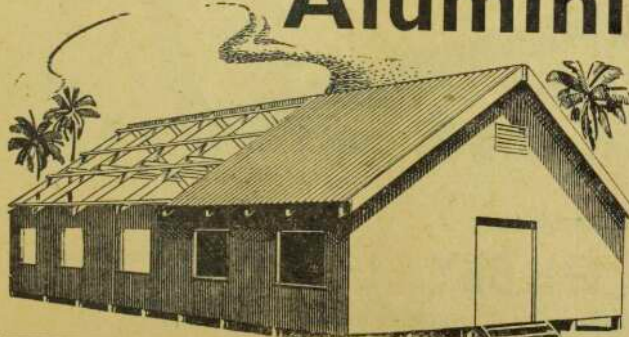
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66 MAY, 1949—PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

Buin. He has made his name there as an efficient and wide awake officer and satisfaction is expressed at his return to the same area. Mrs. Coles accompanies her husband to Buin.

Rev. Clarry Luxton, of Skeleton Mission, is leaving for the BSI where he will take up duty as Assistant Chairman of Methodist Missionary Society of New Zealand. He came to Buka some 10 years ago and has many regrets at leaving; but he is taking an upward step, and also takes with him many good wishes. In January, 1942, when Kieta was evacuated, he took the District Officer and staff, together with the Medical staff and some plantation people—14 in all—in his ketch "Biloea" to Port Moresby, and safety.

Mr. Hamish Munro is in charge of postal matters at Sohano and has earned the gratitude of the district residents by his constant courtesy at the District Office, and the care with which he handles the mail. His desire to ensure safe and prompt delivery of mail matter to outside people is much appreciated by all concerned. Hamish is pretty well known in TNG having served a pre-war apprenticeship with Burns, Philp, and was with ANGAU during the war. Mrs. Munro and son, Donald, are also at Sohano.

Mr. and Mrs. Sandford, of Numa Numa, went south a few weeks ago on furlough. "Sandy" is one of our elder residents now and has spent all his time at Numa Numa. During the war period he served with the RAAF and later with the AIB in Bougainville. His work gained him a DSO.

Old timers were grieved to hear of the death, through accident, of Mr. Tom Skiffington, on the goldfields. He was on Kessa Plantation for a time and left there in 1932 to go to Edie Creek, to take up mining. Tom, who had been a gold, tin and gem miner in his younger days in Australia, came to New Guinea in 1922,

and managed coconut plantations in Manus Group and in Buka for 10 years before returning to his beloved mining. He will long be remembered for his cheerfulness, boundless energy, and generosity to friends or a good cause. Though self-educated, he was a well-read man, and, having a prodigious memory, held his own on most subjects. He was a soldier in World War I and served in France with the AIF, and fellow Diggers have testified to his loyalty and courage. The Territory is the loser by his passing.

The Methodist Mission at Kekesu, Teop has had a run of bad luck recently. Both Rev. and Mrs. Trevor Shepherd have been severely ill, as has Sister Merle Carter. Fortunately that capable person, Sister Winifred Poole, was on the spot and handled the situation with her usual energy and efficiency. Sister Poole holds high New Zealand nursing degrees and residents regret her impending departure for the British Solomons. Sympathy is felt for the members of the hospitable Kekesu household and it is hoped they will have better luck in the future.

Mr. Frank Boisen, of the Education Department, with Mrs. Boisen, have been residents at Sohano for some months. Frank produces a roneo sheet weekly, called "Buka News" which gives information of local happenings, in Pidgin English, to the local natives. This helps to off-set the wild rumours that spring from the source known as "Coconut Wireless" and thus serves an excellent purpose. One meets natives who carry the latest "city" edition in a cleft stick as they proceed homewards. After perusal the sheet can be used for smoking paper in these times of scarcity. Frank is at present busy with the opening of a Native School down Buin way. He served in Bougainville during the war period, and, like so many others, got to like its picturesque ruggedness.

The engagement is announced of Miss Florence Fraser, of Fiji, to Mr. George C. Kavanagh, of Cleveland, Queensland.

Mrs Katherine Cahill has returned to Madang, New Guinea after spending several months in Brisbane and Sydney.

Mr. and Mrs. George Purdy left Brisbane recently for their home in Aoba, New Hebrides. They expect to settle in Queensland towards the end of this year.

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NEW TECHNICAL CENTRE FOR LEVUKA



Photograph taken of the official guests at the opening, on March 1, of the Technical and Community Centre at Levuka, Fiji. The Centre will provide lecture rooms for students in technical subjects as well as club rooms for local organisations. Shown here are (left to right): Mr. R. A. Derrick (Supervisor of Technical Services); G. Thomson (Headmaster, Levuka Public School); C. Legge (District Officer, Levuka); Mrs. Hayden; M. McGrath (Education Officer, Southern); Mrs. Thomson; H. Pidgeon; Mrs. Legge; H. Hayden (Director of Education); Ratu Edward Cakobau.

Mr. G. A. Furby, who went to Fiji from New Zealand about five years ago to join the "Fiji Times and Herald" and later edited the "Weekly Guardian" and its successor, the "Oceania Daily News," has joined the editorial staff of the "Sun," Newcastle, NSW.

Mrs. S. C. Clark, of Wau, New Guinea, was in Sydney recently to attend the wedding of her daughter, Miss Shirley Fay Crouch, to Mr. R. W. Mackenas of Pymble, NSW, on April 2.

The Trapas service between Noumea, the New Hebrides and Tahiti, interrupted in January when the service plane was sent to Sydney for overhaul, was resumed towards the end of March.

Two recent additions to the medical profession in Tahiti are Doctor Andre Tourneux of Paris, who has resumed practice in conjunction with Dr. Andrea de Balman; and Doctor Begon, who arrived recently from France.

BSI Women's Place is Still at Home

MISS THEA HARRY, former Melanesian missionary, now on the Brisbane staff of the Young Women's Christian Association, said in Brisbane recently that women in the Solomon Islands were drudges "but were not looked down upon." In Melanesia, girls growing up had no problem regarding the career they would follow. They knew they would get married. They learned to grow food as well as to cook it; how to care for children; weave mats and baskets, and make clothing for all the family.

According to Miss Harry, the greater the skill of the girl, the higher the price she fetched from her prospective husband. Melanesians did not favour their girls going to school, because they thought the new learning would give them less time for the domestic arts.

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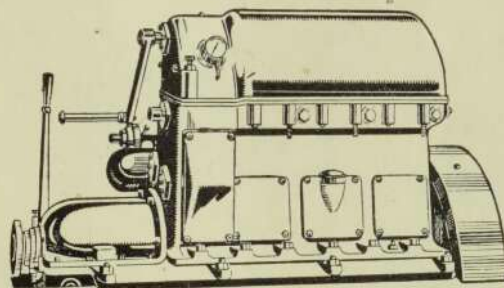
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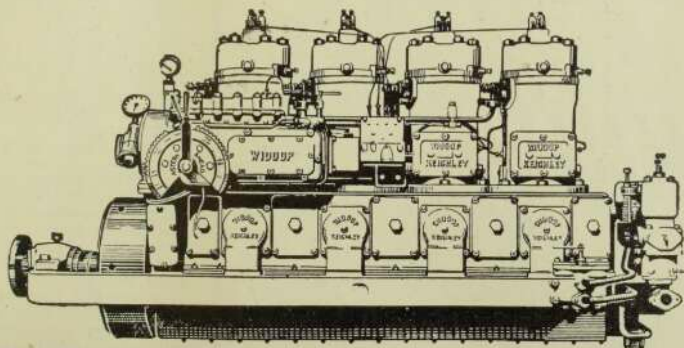
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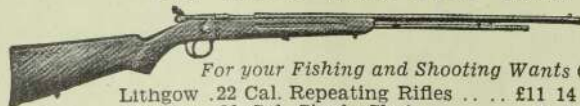


On left:
(X-Type)
120 H.P.
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M. Edouard Mercier, prominent Noumea business man and owner of the town's chief bakery, died at the age of 80. He had been a member of the New Caledonian General Council and the Noumea Municipal Council. One of his sons

played a prominent part in the anti-d'Argenlieu riots in 1942, and afterwards served with the New Caledonian contingent in North Africa. Another son is Emil Mercier, well-known Sydney cartoonist.

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BURGLARIES IN SANTO, NH

From Our Own Correspondent

DURING recent months, Santo stores have experienced four audacious robberies.

Attacks have been aimed exclusively at the two leading stores on the island—one French, the other British. Both stores have been broken into twice. Stocks stolen have been light—but it is the boldness and planning of these robberies which calls for investigation.

The first occurred in January. The French store was broken into through a side door. A miscellany of articles was removed, but any attempt to trace them or the thieves was impossible.

The second took place several weeks later. This time a bulk shed belonging to the British firm was entered. Several bags of rice were removed.

The third robbery occurred in March, in the British firm's main store. To enter it the thieves cut away the outside locks. Only one piece of calico was missing. The motive remains a mystery, for the store was well stocked with a wide variety of desirable, practical articles. Possibly, the burglars sought cash—but the day's takings were safe elsewhere.

The fourth robbery occurred in April, when the thieves entered the French store making a hole through the floor boards. Again, the amount of goods stolen did not seem to warrant such a premeditated and well-planned robbery.

No clues of any kind were left by the thieves. The police apparently are unable to do a thing about it. If the burglaries continue, the community may have to take special steps for its own protection.

TWO JAPS FOUND IN MANUS

They Deserted in 1944

CAPTAIN R. C. CLAMMER, an Inspector of the Royal Papuan Constabulary, who is visiting Brisbane on vacation, exploded the belief that Japanese soldiers, rather than desert, would commit hari-kari.

Two Japanese deserters, he said, had hidden in tabu country on Manus Island for five years, living like Robinson Crusoe until they were captured recently by six natives from Mali Bay. The natives were on a pig hunting expedition.

The deserters were brought to police district headquarters at Lorengau, where they were interrogated, and were being held in the Japanese war criminals' compound until they could be returned to Japan.

Captain Clammer said the men, when captured, were in perfect health, shaven, and appeared to register little surprise when they learned the war had ended.

They had deserted from the Army in February, 1944, when the Allies landed at Los Negros. "The Americans were too strong," the deserters declared, so they fled inland for three days and reached a fertile area where coconut trees and other signs of cultivation were evident. Overgrown gardens contained kau kau and taro.

From scraps of iron found, one of the Japanese, who was a blacksmith by trade, had made knives, razors and spearheads. The other Jap was a farmer.

Food was obtained by hunting wild pigs and other game, and in order to overcome the absence of mineral salt, the Japanese had burnt a species of tree and used the ash.

When the deserters were captured in March, 1949, they were wearing ragged shirts, trousers made of pigskin sewn with gut, and pigskin sandals. Pleskin was also used for making water bags.

DEATH OF G. E. ZUCKSCHWERT

From Our Own Correspondent

NUKU'ALOFA, April 7.
IN the death of Mr. G. E. Zuckschwert, one of the best-known and highly-respected residents of the Kingdom, on April 1, after a long illness, there was severed one of the few remaining links with the "good old days" of Tonga.

He was born in Germany in 1866; grew pineapples in Hawaii in 1891; joined the DH and PG firm in Western Samoa in 1893 and became their accountant in Haapai; served later in Vavau and Apia; and about 50 years ago established in Apia the firm that later became Zuckschwert and Voigt. He sold out, purchased the store of old Mrs. L. Krause, in Nukualofa, built a flourishing business, and became one of Tonga's most esteemed merchants. His fine character and honesty in business endeared him to the Tongan people. He married the daughter of a South American German merchant and his two children, Herman and Edith, survive him.

The funeral, which was attended by a large gathering representative of the various sections of the community, was conducted by the Rev. E. F. Webber of the Anglican Mission.

Oil Exploration in Papua

THE following progress was made during the month of March, 1949, in the Australian Petroleum Company's operations in Papua-New Guinea:—

OROI. Drilling was continued to 1,980 feet at which depth it was decided to insert 9½ in. casing to isolate the upper gas and water which continue to impede drilling progress.

UPOIA. The parted drill collar has been recovered and drilling in heavy shale formation has been continued to 1,344 feet.

HOHORO. The hole was spudded in during the month and has reached a depth of 1,065 feet. Preparations are in hand to insert 18½ in. casing.

MALALAUM. The road to the test site has been formed for 6½ miles of its total length of 9½ miles.

WANA. A drilling site has been selected in close proximity to the left bank of the Era River approximately 5 miles north-north-west of Port Romilly. Little road making is required, and clearing of jungle for rig site, service buildings and staff and labour accommodation is in progress.

In order to obtain stratigraphical information in a zone remote from previous drilling in Papua, a National "50" Drilling Rig will be loaned to Island Exploration Company Pty., Ltd. for the drilling of a test well on that Company's adjacent permit area.

All stratigraphical information obtained by Island Exploration Company Pty., Ltd. from the drilling of this well will be made available to Australian Petroleum Company Pty., Ltd.

On March 15, an American plane arrived in Papeete, bringing Doctor John Kessel, chairman of the Department of Bacteriology of the University of Southern California, and Doctor Willard Wright, Chief of the Division of Tropical Medicine, of the US Public Health Service. They conferred with Doctor Bye, Doctor Edgar, and the French Health Service on work being done on Philorias research in Tahiti. During their short stay they were guests of the Philorias Institute.

Tahiti Officials Return to France

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, March 25.
PASSENGERS sailing on the "Eridan" from Papeete on March 16 numbered 148 for France and 14 for Cristobal. Her cargo consisted of 1,500 tons of copra, 400 cases of tuna fish, and 400 cases of vanilla.

Monsieur Rene Haza, Chef de Cabinet to the Governor, and Monsieur Liauzun, with respective families, were among the officials returning to France.

Monsieur Rene Haza will be greatly missed in Tahiti, where he has carried out his duties with energy and efficiency, and earned the respect of the community by his sympathetic attention to all needing his services.

Monsieur Joseph Quesnot, Counsellor to the Republic of France for French Oceania, and Monsieur Coulon, Delegate to the Union Francaise for the Colony, also left for the motherland.

On departure, the captain of the vessel reported two members of his crew missing. They were taken into custody in Papeete the following day.

INADEQUATE SHIPPING FACILITIES IN PAPUA-NG

IT is reported in Sydney that both the Harbourmaster and the Assistant Harbourmaster in Port Moresby have resigned their posts. The former—Mr. Bell, who served as a Lieut. Commander in World War II, and who formerly was well known in the Australian Lighthouse and Navigation services—arrived in Sydney during April. He took up the job of port manager at Port Moresby about 18 months ago.

It has been stated, repeatedly, in Australian newspapers in recent months that the port facilities in Papua-New Guinea have deteriorated so much in the past two or three years that they are now unsuitable for regular shipping, and that navigational controls on the coast of the Territories are not satisfactory.

Some reports say that there has been extraordinary muddling in relation to the supply of material and labour for the repair of Territories wharves—especially in Port Moresby—and that the authorities in Canberra and Port Moresby do not see exactly eye-to-eye in the matter of placing the blame.

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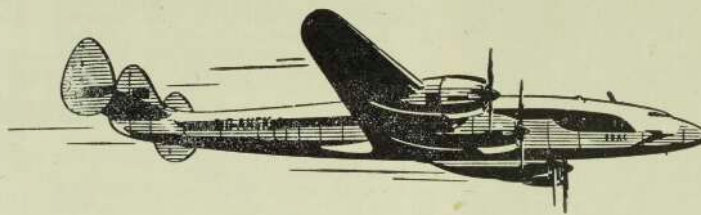
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IN DISPUTE TONGAN CHIEFLY TITLE

PROCEEDINGS in the claim for the hereditary title of Nuku, commenced in the Land Court, Nukualofa, today. The claimant is Sunia; and the present holder Makoni, who inherited the title in 1946.

The case attracts considerable local interest because of the prominent position the title-holder has in the social life of the kingdom. The title was originated several centuries back by Ngata, first of the kings of the present ruling family in Tonga. Ngata bestowed the title upon his

their heads showing above. They were then conveyed to the place of installation, at Hihifo, on a litter. When the would-be assassins saw what they took to be a three-headed monster they fled into the bush and the brothers were able to reach their destination unmolested. There they decided that the youngest brother, Ngata should assume the title.

Because of their ruse the three brothers became known as the 'Ulu Tolu—or the three heads of the land.

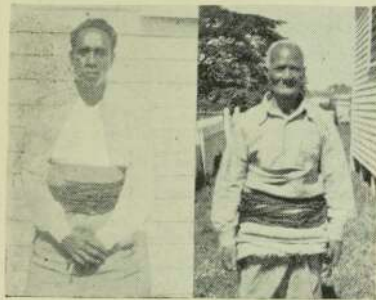
The present holder of the title is a direct descendant of Nehasi, who was Nuku when the Constitution of the Kingdom was granted in 1875, and under which holders of chiefly titles were con-

firmed as hereditary nobles, with estates.

On Nehasi's death his brother, Siosaia, succeeded since Nehasi's only heir was a daughter, Nanasi, females being incapable of inheriting in Tongan law.

Siosaia died and his son, Pulu, succeeded. On Pulu's death in 1946, Makoni, son of Kailahi, who was a grandson of Nanasi by her daughter, Tupou, was appointed Nuku.

The claimant, Sunia, is a brother of Pulu. The claim is based mainly on the assertion that Nanasi was an illegitimate issue of Nehasi, and on the ground that Kailahi, father of the present Nuku, failed to claim the title within the stipulated ten years prescribed by law.



The holder (left) and the claimant.

brother Valoa, and these two, with their other brother Hakakitaua, were known as the three heads of the land.

It seems that at that time assassination of chiefs and their sons was common and when it came to the time when one of these three brothers was to be installed as a chief they decided to avoid the common fate by a cunning trick. They had themselves bound together by one mat, only

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SHIPPING AND PLANE SERVICES

THE following sea and air services are running to schedules in the Pacific. Not all of the regular services which were suspended, owing to war conditions, have been restored; but preparations are under way for their early reintroduction. As they become available they will be announced here.

SHIP SERVICES

Australia—North America

THE regular passenger Trans-Pacific liners, withdrawn during the war, have not been restored.

Canadian-Pacific liner "Aorangi" (Sydney-Auckland-Suva-Honolulu-Vancouver) resumed running in August, 1948. A sister liner is expected soon. See time-table in following column.

Matson liners "Monterey" and "Mariposa" are not now expected back in the Pacific service. Matson ship "Marine Phoenix," carrying passengers, ran on a regular schedule—San Francisco-Honolulu-Suva-Auckland-Sydney; but was withdrawn in August, 1948.

Sydney-NZ-Fiji-Hawaii-Nth. America

THE Canadian-Australasian liner "Aorangi" (17,500 tons) recommenced a trans-Pacific service between Sydney and North America in August. Her itinerary is Sydney, Auckland, Suva (Fiji), Honolulu (Hawaii), Victoria (Vancouver Island), and Vancouver (British Columbia, Canada). Time-table for the Pacific section of her run is:—

		RMS "Aorangi"			
Honolulu	June 2	Aug. 4	Oct. 27	Dec. 29	Mar. 2
Suva	June 11	Aug. 13	Nov. 5	Jan. 7, 1950	Mar. 11
Auckland	June 14-16	Aug. 16-18	Nov. 8-10	Jan. 10-12	Mar. 14-16
Sydney, arr.	June 20	Aug. 22	Nov. 14	Jan. 16	Mar. 20
Sydney, dep.	June 30	Sept. 22	Nov. 24	Jan. 26	Mar. 30
Auckland	July 4-5	Sept. 26-27	Nov. 28-29	Jan. 31	Apr. 3-4
Suva	July 8	Sept. 30	Dec. 2	Feb. 3	Apr. 7
Honolulu	July 15	Oct. 7	Dec. 9	Feb. 10	Apr. 14
Vancouver	July 22-28	Oct. 14-20	Dec. 16-22	Feb. 17-23	Apr. 21-27

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conditions, receive 10 round trips per annum. The ships call at the following ports:

EAST COAST.—Yate, Ounla, Thio, Nakety, Canala, Kouaoua Kua, Moneo, Ponerihouen, Tibarama, Poindimie, Wagap, Touho, Tipindje, Hienghene, Tao, Oubatch, Pouebo, Balade, Pam, Arama, and return.

WEST COAST.—Pouembout, Kone, Temala, Voh, Ouaso Gomen, Koumac, Tangaou, Tiebaghi, Nehoué, Poume, Bauba, Belep and return.

LOYALTY ISLANDS.—Mare (Tadine), Lifou (Chepenehe) Ouvea (Fajaoue, St. Joseph) and return.

The steamer "Neo Hebridaïs" runs regularly between Noumea and Sydney, with occasional trips to the New Hebrides (mostly Aneltyum). The owners are Societe Maritime et Maniere Hagen, Noumea. Sydney agents: H. C. Sleight, 254 George Street, Sydney.

New Zealand—Cook

Is.—Niue—Samoa

THE motor vessel "Maul Pomare," owned and operated by the NZ Government, maintains a direct service between Auckland and Rarotonga (Cook Islands), with alternative calls at Niue and Apia (Samoa).

Next sailing of vessel from Auckland is expected about mid-April.

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WE OFFER ALL TYPES OF BOATS FOR ISLAND WORK

A FEW ARE LISTED HERE:

110 TON DIESEL KETCH. Faithfully built, copper sheathed, 1st class condition. Accommodate 20. Suit Mission work or inter-Island trade. For sale at fraction of original cost. £8,000.

75 TON WOODEN VESSEL. 66 ft. O.L., beam 18 ft., draft 7 ft. Built 1944. Copper sheathed. Powered by National Superior Diesel. Cargo below deck, 40 tons. In commission. £7,000.

WOODEN VESSEL, 55 ft. x 16 ft. x 6 ft., 80 H.P. Diesel Engine, with good carrying capacity. Copper sheathed. Reasonably priced at £4,500.

SPACIOUS WORK-BOAT, 32 ft. x 11 ft. 6 in. x 4 ft. 6 in. Built 1947 with aux. sail power by English Turner Diesel. Carry 15 ton. £1,650.

HEAVILY BUILT 45 ft. x 12 ft. x 4 ft. **DIESEL LAUNCH.** Powered by 75 H.P. R.N. Diesel. Extremely well fitted, and condition guaranteed. Good type plantation boat. Price, £3,000.

NEW 110 TON STEEL VESSEL. 75 ft. x 18 ft. x 7 ft. Cargo capacity 75 tons. Completed except for engines, which are available.

ALL VESSELS OPEN TO INDEPENDENT INSPECTION AND SURVEY.
DELIVERIES ARRANGED TO ANYWHERE IN THE PACIFIC.

Write for further details or requirements.

NEW SOUTH WALES YACHT BROKERS

Suite Three, Argent Chambers, 19 Hunter Street, Sydney

Cables: "Agarscarr," Sydney. Telephone: BW 7000

All your inquiries promptly attended to.

New Zealand—Fiji— Samoa—Tonga

Monthly Service by MV "Matua"
SERVICE CONDUCTED BY UNION SS CO.,
LTD.—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT
NOTICE

Auckland	May 14	June 14	July 14
Suva	May 18-19	June 18-19	July 18-19
Nukualofa	May 21-22	—	July 21-22
Vavau	May 23	—	July 23
Niue*	May 23	—	July 23
Pago Pago*	—	June 20	—
Apia*	May 24-26	June 21-23	July 24-26
Vavau	—	June 25	—
Nukualofa	—	June 26-27	—
Suva	May 29-30	June 29-30	July 29-30
Auckland	June 3	July 4	Aug. 3

*Western Time.

On arrival of "Matua" in Auckland in August she will withdraw for annual survey.

Sydney—Norfolk Island— New Hebrides

THE SS "Morinda," Burns, Philp & Co., Ltd., runs at approximately three-monthly intervals from Sydney to Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island, and main ports of the New Hebrides, and return.

AIR SERVICES

Summary of Pacific Air Services

PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.—Regular Qantas service from Sydney.

SOLOMON ISLANDS.—Frequent regular flying-boat service from Sydney by Trans Oceanic Airways.

NEW HEBRIDES.—Frequent regular flying-boat service from Sydney by Trans Oceanic Airways. Service from Noumea by French plane runs twice weekly. Qantas plane from Sydney to NH on alternate Tuesdays.

NORFOLK ISLAND.—Regular service from NZ by NZ National Airways; from Sydney by Qantas.

LORD HOWE ISLAND.—Regular weekly service from Sydney by Qantas and Trans Oceanic Airways.

FIJI.—Regular services from Australia by Pan American and BCPA (to Nadi); Auckland by NZ National Airways (to Nadi); from Australia by Qantas (to Laucala Bay, Suva); from Auckland by NZ National Airways (to Laucala Bay, Suva). Irregular calls from Australia to Laucala Bay, Suva, by Trans Oceanic Airways. Regular service from Suva to Labasa by NZ National Airways.

WESTERN SAMOA, COOK ISLANDS AND TONGA.—Regular service from Fiji by NZ National Airways.

TAHITI.—Infrequent service from Noumea by TRAPAS plane.

AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND.—Regular service by Tasman Empire Airways.

AUSTRALIA-NORTH AMERICA.—Regular Trans-Pacific services by Pan American Airways and BCPA.

NZ National Airways South Pacific Services

THE Pacific services run by the New Zealand National Airways Corporation are as follows:—

AUCKLAND-LAUCALA BAY (SUVA): A "Sunderland" flying-boat leaves Mechanics Bay, Auckland, at 7 a.m. each Saturday for Laucala Bay, Suva (arrives 3.30 p.m.).

The aircraft departs from Laucala Bay, Suva, on the return journey at 7.30 a.m. each Monday, and arrives at Mechanics Bay, Auckland, at 4 p.m.

LAUCALA BAY (SUVA)-LABASA (VANUA LEVU): A "Sunderland" flying-boat operates this service on a charter basis. A return trip is made between Laucala Bay and Labasa each Sunday.

AUCKLAND-NORFOLK ISLAND-FIJI-TONGA-WESTERN SAMOA-COOK ISLANDS: A "Douglas" airliner leaves Whenuapai, Auckland, on alternate Sundays at 8.30 a.m. (June 12, 26; July 10, 24) for Norfolk Island (arr. 12.30 p.m., dep. 12.1 a.m. Monday), Nadi (arr. 6.55 a.m., dep. 5.40 a.m. Tuesday), Nausori (arr. 6.30 a.m., dep. 7.15 a.m.), Tonga (arr. 10.45 a.m., dep. 11.45 a.m.), *Apia, Western Samoa (arr. 4.10 p.m. Monday, dep. 7.45 a.m. Tuesday), Aitutaki, Cook Islands (arr. 1.50 p.m., dep. 2.45 p.m.) and Rarotonga, Cook Islands (arr. 4.5 p.m.).

The aircraft departs from Rarotonga on the return journey at 7.30 a.m. on alternate Thursdays (June 2, 16, 30; July 14) for Aitutaki (arr. 8.50 a.m., dep. 9.45 a.m.), Apia, Western Samoa (arr. 3.35 p.m., dep. 8 a.m. Friday), *Tonga (arr. 11.15 a.m. Saturday, dep.



Finishes by

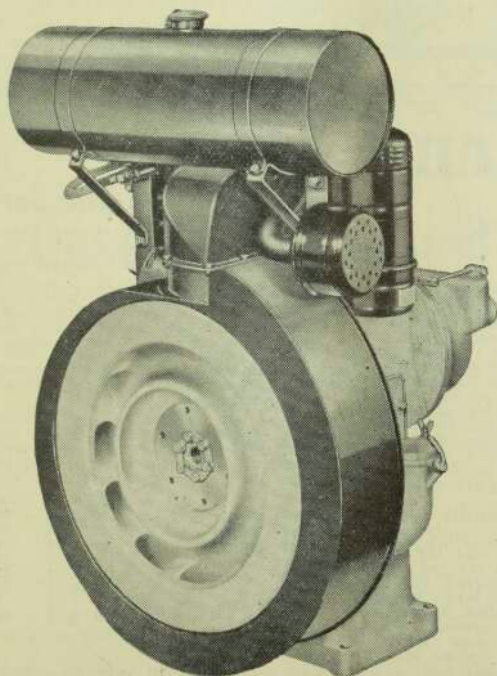
DAVISON

For Tropical conditions

Velvete Water Paint and Davison's Zinc Base Paints are used extensively throughout the islands and Mandated Territories on Government and Private buildings, giving full satisfaction under severe tropical conditions.

DAVISON PAINTS LTD.

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AIR COOLED DIESEL ENGINES

Precision Built By

ARMSTRONG SIDDELEY

COVENTRY ENGLAND

5, 6, 7, 8 H.P.

- Compact Design.
- Easy Installation.
- Low Fuel Consumption.
- Pressure Lubrication.
- Cold Starting.
- Low Weight.

Ideal for Pumping, Lighting, Spraying, Rice Mills, Auxiliaries.

PRICE: £152 Aust., F.O.B. Sydney. Under Bond.
PROMPT DELIVERY

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VENTURA TRADING Co. Pty. Ltd.

26 BRIDGE STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

Cables: "Ventura," Sydney.

Represented by:

P. & R. HUTCHINSON,
Suva.

H. G. EEKHOFF,
Lae.

Allen Taylor & Co. Ltd.

COMMERCIAL ROAD, ROZELLE,
SYDNEY

Sawmillers and Wholesale Suppliers of Hardwoods for
Constructional Purposes

GIRDERS . . . PILES . . . POLES . . . SLEEPERS, Etc.

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Livraison IMMEDIATE LINOLEUM ECOSSAIS IMPORTE

delivery immediate

Genuine Scottish

IMPORTED

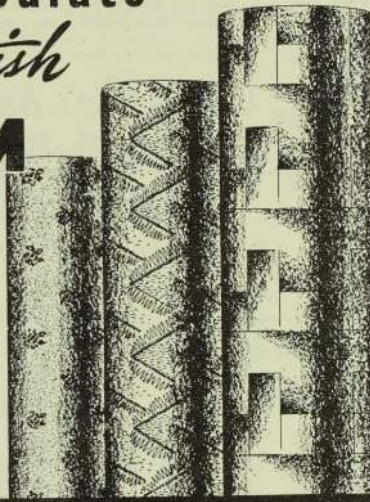
LINOLEUM

Ideal for Island Conditions. Long Wearing.
Hessian Back. Cork based. Full range of colours,
patterned or plain. Full rolls (30 yards by 6 ft.)
only supplied. Order to-day through your
Trading House for delivery by first boat.

Ideal pour les pays tropicaux. D'une durabilité
sans pareille, a base de liège couvert en toile de
chanvre. Dessins ou unis. Rouleaux de 30 yards
par 6 pieds de large. Commandez aujourd'hui
chez votre Agent pour livraison par premier
bateau.

TAYSIDE Linoleum distributed by:
**INTERNATIONAL TRADING
PTY. LTD.**

Halifax House, 26 O'Connell Street, Sydney.
Phone: BL 1543. Cables: "Mondial," Sydney.



Itching Skin Germs Killed in 3 Days

Thanks to the discovery of an American
physician, it is now possible to kill and remove
the true cause of most skin troubles. Your
skin has nearly 50 million tiny seams and pores
where invisible germs and parasites can hide,
and which are the true cause of terrible Itch-
ing, Cracking, Peeling, Burning, Ringworm,
Acne, Psoriasis, Blackheads, Pimples, Foot Itch
and other disfiguring blemishes.

Blemishes such as these make you look and
feel embarrassed, unattractive and handicapped
in life, both socially and in business. You can't
get rid of these disfigurements with ordinary
treatments, which give only temporary relief,
because they do not kill the germs or parasites
responsible for your trouble.

New Discovery Kills Cause

Former skin sufferers throughout the world are
now praising Nixoderm, the discovery of a
leading American skin specialist. This remark-
able new preparation quickly penetrates into the
pores of the skin and kills the germs and para-
sites responsible for your trouble in 7 minutes,
stopping the itch almost instantly. At the
same time, this wonderful preparation acts as a
tonic and skin food, so that as the cause of
your trouble is removed, your skin becomes soft,
smooth and clear. This clear, healthy com-
plexion will give you new charm and make it
easy to win friends.

Praised by Doctors

Dr. T. A. Ellis, well-known physician of
Toronto, Canada, recently stated: "Skin dis-
orders caused by parasites, as many are, yield
to Nixoderm. These parasites are invisible to
the naked eye. They eat away the skin, form-
ing ugly eruptions. Ordinary ointments or
remedies fail completely, or give only tempor-
ary results because they do not reach the cause
of the condition. It is this value about Nix-
oderm in attacking parasites which impresses me
most favorably, and explains in large measure
the success it enjoys over many stubborn cases."

Guaranteed Results

Get Nixoderm to-day. Put it to the test. In
a few minutes you will find that the itching
has stopped, and in 24 hours you can see for
yourself that your skin is clearer. And it is
guaranteed that, within one week, Nixoderm
must make your skin soft, clear, smooth and
attractive or money back on return of empty
package. Get Nixoderm from your chemist or
store to-day. The guarantee protects you. So
don't delay. Get Nixoderm to-day.

Nixoderm 2/- & 4/-

For Skin Sores, Pimples and Itch.

12.15 p.m.), Nausori (arr. 3.10 p.m., dep. 4.15
p.m.), Nadi (arr. 5.5 p.m., dep. 2 a.m. Sunday),
Norfolk Island (arr. 8.10 a.m., dep. 1 p.m.), and
Whenuapai, Auckland (arr. 5.45 p.m.).

An additional return service between Raro-
tonga and Aitutaki is operated on alternate
Wednesdays when traffic warrants.

*Crosses International Date Line.

AUCKLAND-NORFOLK ISLAND: A "Douglas"
airliner leaves Whenuapai, Auckland, every Sun-
day at 8.15 a.m. for Norfolk Island (arr. 12.15
p.m.), and departs on the return flight at 1.15
p.m., arriving at Whenuapai at 6 p.m.

FARES, single (in NZ currency): Auckland to
Norfolk, £12/10/-; to Fiji, £31; to Tonga,
£31; to Samoa, £34; to Aitutaki, £39; to Raro-
tonga, £39/10/-; Norfolk to Fiji, £19; Fiji to
Tonga, £8/15/-; to Samoa, £13; to Aitutaki,
£29/15/-; to Rarotonga, £31; Samoa to Raro-
tonga, £17/15/-; to Aitutaki, £16/10/-; Suva to
Labasa, £4/10/-. Return fares, less 10 per cent.

BOOKING OFFICES: Wellington, Govt. Life
Bldg., Customhouse Quay; Auckland, Airways
House, Customs St.; Dunedin, 8-10 Manse
St.; Christchurch, Union SS Co., 168 Hereford
St.; Gisborne, 74 Peel St.; Palmerston Nth.,
107 Broadway Ave.; Hamilton, 8 Alma St.;
Rotorua, Airport Bld., Fenton St.; Norfolk Is.,
Burns Philp, Ltd.; Fiji, NAC at Nadi and Suva;
Burns Philp, Labasa and Lautoka; Tonga, Mrs.
F. F. Melrose, Fua-amotu Airfield; W. Samoa,
Burns Philp (SS), Ltd., Apia; Cook Is., Mrs. P.
McVeagh, Aitutaki, and Mr. J. D. Campbell,
Rarotonga.

Sydney-Vancouver

BCPA Service

BRITISH Commonwealth Pacific Airlines, Ltd.,
operate a twice weekly trans-Pacific service
from Sydney to Vancouver, via Fiji, Canton
Island, Honolulu and San Francisco; and a
weekly service between Auckland and Vancouver,
via the same ports.

Planes leave Sydney every Wednesday and
Saturday, and Vancouver on the Southbound
trip every Monday and Thursday. Every fourth
trip from Sydney terminates at San Francisco
instead of Vancouver.

Planes leave Auckland every Tuesday and
arrive in Vancouver the following Wednesday.
The Southbound trip to Auckland commences
from Vancouver every alternate Friday. Every
other Friday the service commences at San
Francisco.

Fares are (in Australian currency): Sydney-
San Francisco, £200 single and £360 return;
Auckland-Vancouver, £A198 single; Auckland-
Nadi (Fiji), £A39; Sydney-Nandi, £A55.

Douglas DC6 aircraft carrying 48 passengers
(seated) or 37 passengers (in sleepers) and a
crew of nine are used on the service.

Pan-American—

Trans-Pacific Service

PAN-AMERICAN World Airways clippers now
provide the following services in the South
Pacific, using DC4 planes, equipped with Sleep-
ettes:—

Planes leave Sydney every Tuesday for San
Francisco, via Tontouta (New Caledonia), Nadi
(Fiji), Canton Island and Honolulu; and every
Friday for Seattle, via Tontouta, Nadi, Canton
Island, Honolulu and Portland. The return
flights are made from San Francisco every Tues-
day and Saturday, via Honolulu, Canton Island,
Nadi and Tontouta.

Planes leave Auckland every Thursday, and
fly via Nadi, Canton Island and Honolulu to
Portland and Seattle. They leave Seattle for
Auckland every Sunday and Friday by the same
route. Fares, in Australian currency, are:—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sydney-Seattle	200 0 0	360 0 0
Sydney-Frisco	200 0 0	360 0 0
Sydney-Fiji	55 0 0	99 1 3
Sydney-Honolulu	166 17 6	300 6 3
Auckland-Seattle	184 1 3	331 5 0
Auckland-Honolulu	150 18 9	271 11 3
Auckland-Fiji	39 1 3	70 6 3
Fiji-Frisco	145 0 0	260 18 9

(Time-tables and fares subject to alteration
without notice.)

To convert to Fiji currency, reduce above
figures by about 10 per cent.

Free baggage allowance is 66 lb. per person.
Excess baggage at 1 per cent. of single fare for
each kilogram of excess (1 kilo=2.2 lb.).

Trans-Tasman Service Sydney—Auckland

TASMAN Empire Airways, Ltd., operate a flying-boat service between Rose Bay, Sydney, and Mechanics Bay, Auckland. Large flying-boats, capable of carrying 30 passengers, are employed. The trip is comfortable, and takes approximately 8 hours.

The flying-boats leave both Sydney (6 a.m.) and Auckland (8 a.m.) every morning, including Sunday—seven flights each way per week. Fares: £35(A) (£28 NZ currency) single; £63(A) (£50/8/- NZ currency) return.

In addition, this flying-boat service is, at present, supplemented by a Skymaster service, details of which are available on application to T.E.A.L. offices in Australia and New Zealand. Bookings may be made at Tasman Empire Airways in Auckland and at Qantas Empire Airways, Carrington Street, Sydney.

Sydney—Queensland— New Guinea

QANTAS Empire Airways, Ltd., employing DC3 planes, operate a regular service between Sydney, Port Moresby, Lae, Finschhafen, Madang, and Rabaul, and return, via Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns. This service is now known as the "Bird of Paradise" Service. DC3 aircraft, carrying 19 passengers, are used.

Planes leave Sydney on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9 a.m., and arrive at Lae at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The plane which leaves Sydney on Wednesday and arrives at Lae on Thursday then goes on to Rabaul. It returns on Friday. The plane, which arrives at Lae on Tuesdays, then goes on to Madang, returning to Lae the same day.

Planes leave Lae at 5.45 a.m. on Wednesdays, Saturday and Sunday, and arrive in Sydney at 10 p.m., accomplishing the Lae-Sydney run in a day.

The return plane from Rabaul leaves at 1.30 p.m. on Fridays.

Bookings may be made at Qantas offices at any of the towns named. At present, berths are available only to passengers holding official permits to visit Papua or New Guinea.

Sydney—Noumea—Suva

THE following is the time-table of the Qantas flying-boat:—

Sydney	dep. 9 p.m. alt. Tues.
Noumea	arr. 6.55 a.m. alt. Wed.
Noumea	dep. 7.55 a.m. alt. Wed.
Suva	arr. 2.55 p.m. alt. Wed.
Suva	dep. 6 a.m. alt. Frid.
Noumea	arr. 11 a.m. alt. Frid.
Noumea	dep. 12 noon alt. Frid.
Sydney	arr. 7.45 p.m. alt. Frid.

Intending passengers may book through Qantas offices in Australia, Burns, Philp (South Seas) Company, in Suva; and T. Johnston in Noumea.

Fares: To Noumea, £35 single; £63 return. To Suva, £52/10/- single; £94/10/- return.

Noumea-Suva, £17/10/- single; £31/10/- return.

Sydney—Lord Howe Is.— Norfolk Is.

QANTAS, Sydney, run a Catalina once weekly from Sydney to Lord Howe Island. Fare, single, £12. Return, £21/12/-.

Qantas run a land plane alt. Thursdays (returning same day) from Sydney to Norfolk Island. Fare, £22 single; £39/12/- return.

(For Norfolk Island, see also under NZ National Airways. For Lord Howe, see also under TOA.)

Noumea—Fiji—Tahiti

TRAPAS (a French company with headquarters in Noumea) ran an air service once a month from Noumea (New Caledonia), via Nadi (Fiji) and Aitutaki (Cook Islands) to Papeete (Tahiti), and return.

The Trapas Co. also runs a service to New Hebrides—see under Caledonia-New Hebrides.

TOA Services

TRANS Oceanic Airways run the following Pacific services:—

SYDNEY-LORD HOWE IS.: A regular fortnightly service with large four-engine flying-boats from Rose Bay. Fare: £11 single; £21 return. Free baggage allowance 50 lb. Excess

baggage and freight rate 6d. per lb.

SYDNEY-NEW HEBRIDES: A regular monthly service with large four-engine flying-boats from Sydney, via Noumea (overnight stop), to Vila and Espiritu Santo. Fare: Sydney-Vila, £45; Sydney-Santo, £50; Noumea-Vila, £12/10/-; Noumea-Santo, £18/15/-; Freight: Sydney-Vila, 2/- per lb.; Sydney-Santo, 2/3.

SYDNEY-SOLOMON ISLANDS: A regular monthly service from Sydney, via New Caledonia and New Hebrides to Tulagi, Solomon Islands. This service is frequently extended to Lingatou, in the Russell Islands, and calls are sometimes made at Vanikoro, in the Santa Cruz Group. Fares: Sydney-Tulagi, £65. Free baggage allowance, 60 lb.; excess baggage and freight, 3/- per lb.

New Caledonia—New Hebrides—Tahiti

A TRAPAS amphibian runs twice each week between New Caledonia and New Hebrides. The days vary, but on the selected day the planes adhere to the following time-table:—

Noumea—dep. 0630.	Vila—arr. 1315
Vila—dep. 0945	Santo—arr. 1115
Santo—dep. 1145	Vila—arr. 0900
Vila—dep. 1400	Noumea—arr. 1630

A TRAPAS plane runs monthly between Noumea and Tahiti.

Papua-NG Local Services

MANDATED Airlines, Ltd., of Lae, New Guinea, and other private operators, run air services between Lae and the New Guinea mainland centres of Wau, Bulolo, Madang, Wewak, Aitape, Mt. Hagen, Finschhafen, Moresby, Kokoda—in fact anywhere in Papua or New Guinea where there is an air-strip. These planes carry passengers, mails and cargo on regular schedules or charter flights.

Guinea Air Traders Ltd., of Lae, New Guinea, employ six aircraft on local services, and on charter work.

Under arrangement with the Administration, a Qantas plane, carrying Administration personnel and cargo, and mails, flies once each week from Lae to Rabaul, Kavieng and Manus, and returns to Lae by the same route.

Telegram: "CARRLOCK"

P.O. Box 2140, Hong Kong

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2nd Floor, Queen's Bldg., Chater Road, HONG KONG

General Merchants :: Commission Agents

Exporters and Shippers of All Kinds of
Merchandise To the Pacific Islands

Representatives of Leading Manufacturers
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— INQUIRIES INVITED —

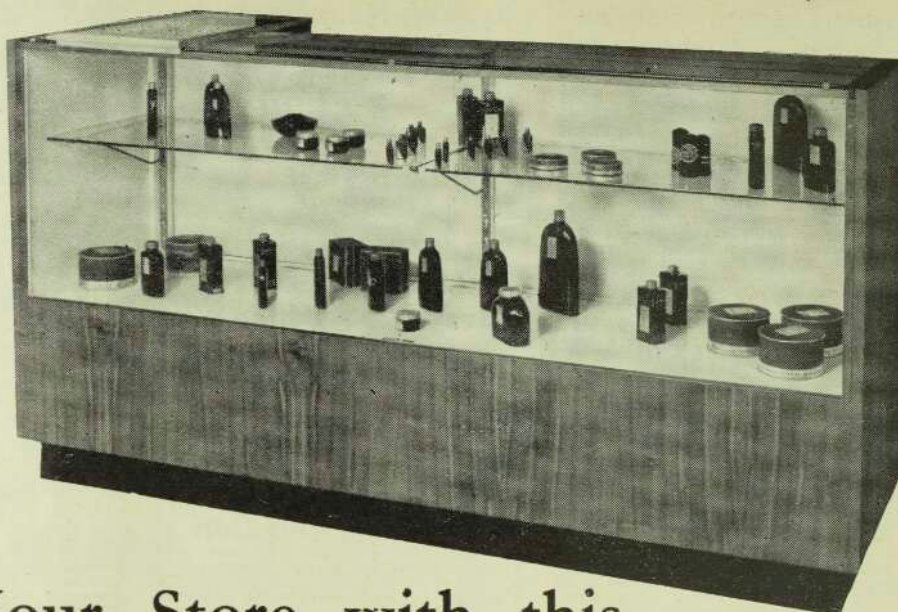
Price at Works:
£36/10/-

Extra for 10 inch additional shelf and brackets (if required):
£2

Glass Server to Top (if required):
£1/10/-

Packing and Transport to Wharf:
£10/10/-

The display case is securely packed in two substantial crates occupying shipping space of 37 cubic feet. Total weight, when packed, 5 cwt.



Equip Your Store with this Smart Modern Counter Display Case *Specially Built for Export*

As smart as those in leading Australian city stores, and built by a firm that has been making fine store and office fittings for over a third of a century.

Moreover, it is specially built for export, so that it can be readily securely packed, and assembled by anyone, from simple directions, in an hour, with no tools other than a screwdriver.

Retailers all over the world have learned the selling value of modern display equipment, and this "silent salesman" will soon pay for itself in increased sales.

Volume production has enabled us to make economies in manufacturing costs, and this saving has been passed on to our customers. The price has been substantially reduced, and is now only £36/10/-.

HERE ARE THE DETAILS of the "Brahol" Export Counter Case *(as illustrated)*

To help you to get an accurate picture of the "Brahol" Special Export Glass Counter Case, here are the main specifications:—

- Overall size is 6 feet long x 1 ft. 9 ins. deep x 3 ft. 3 ins. high. Made from first-class, well-seasoned Queensland Maple, hand french polished, wax finished, in natural maple colour. Glass parts are $\frac{1}{4}$ inch British plate glass.
- The inside is lacquered ivory colour, and the recessed base is lacquered burgundy.

- There is a pair of solid core sliding doors, and one glass shelf, 14 inches wide, on adjustable nickel-plated brackets.
- Storage space below is 11 inches high.
- The plate glass front is 22 inches high.

BRAY & HOLLIDAY PTY. LTD.

*Makers of Fine Store and Office
Fittings for over a third of a century.*

Brahol House, 66-74 McLachlan Avenue,
Rushcutter Bay, Sydney. Telephone: FA 4121.

Cable & Telegraphic Address: "Brahol"

SERVICE SECTION

ACCOMMODATION. A resident of Port Moresby has kindly given us the addresses of two holiday flat possibilities which may be of interest to Island visitors to Australia.

One flat is in Melbourne and the other at Burleigh Heads, Queensland. The Melbourne flat is not self-contained but it is quite private, and the owners are "very nice folk." It has three bedrooms and its own kitchen but it is necessary to share the bathroom. Rental, inclusive of gas, electricity and wood is £5/5/- . This is situated in a very quiet spot opposite public gardens and is only three minutes walk from Queen's Parade and shops. It is only a 3d. fare from the city by bus and tram.

The Burleigh Heads flats are right on the beach (Burleigh Heads is 65 miles south of Brisbane, and a well-known seaside resort). They are modern self-contained two-bedroom units, with hot water, septic tank and electric stove. Rent varies according to season of the year.

The addresses of the owners of both Burleigh Heads and Melbourne flats will be supplied on application.

PHOTOGRAPHY. If you have any photographic problems we have found someone who might help you—he is prepared to consider difficulties with which the larger commercial houses usually will not bother these days. He will—

- Repair and adjust all makes of cameras and photographic equipment;
- Advise on photographic problems, especially those arising from tropical conditions;
- Endeavour to obtain for you hard-to-get materials or parts; purchase new or second hand cameras to your require-

PACIFIC ISLANDS SERVICE BUREAU

THE Pacific Islands Service Bureau has been established to assist Island residents who cannot shop for themselves. Briefly, we will perform those services for you, in Australia, which you cannot perform yourself, or are outside the scope of ordinary mail-ordering.

We will purchase and forward goods to you; have repairs made on your behalf; send flowers, sweets, fruits, gifts to friends in Australia for you, or to your children at school in Australia; match materials and sewing accessories; and arrange holiday accommodation and travel.

For these services we charge a small fee—in the case of shopping services, usually 10 per cent. of the purchase price.

If you missed the circular which explains this service fully and which was included in all copies of "PIM" which went to the Islands in March, 1948, please let us know and we will send you a copy of the pamphlet, free of charge.

All inquiries should be addressed to: The Director, Pacific Travel and Service Agency, Box 3408, Sydney.

ments. Developing, printing and enlarging also done, if you wish.

Fairly complete files of the "Pacific Islands Monthly" of 1946, 1947 and 1948, may be had by anyone interested, on application to Mr. C. H. Luxmoore, of Kuranda, via Cairns, Queensland. Mr. Luxmoore will send them c.a. by post to anyone who requires them.

BP (SOUTH SEA) CO. HAS ANOTHER GOOD YEAR

DESPITE higher costs in practically every department, the Directors of Burns, Philp (South Sea) Co., Ltd., report a profit of £94,017 for the year ended January 31. Higher prices for most products, and the sound position of the copra industry allowed this Co.'s trading to continue advantageously in all its Territories—Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Norfolk Island and Niue.

The Co. has a subscribed capital of £750,000, reserves of over £750,000, creditors of £182,744, and a balance in P/L of over £100,000—a total of nearly £1,800,000 being thus employed. On the other side are shown the usual figures (over One Million in merchandise and produce in transit), with £15,000 in investments, nearly £120,000 in cash, and about £300,000 in a "subsidiary company." The Co. pays a dividend of 1/9 per share (8 1/2 per cent.), transfers £25,000 to reserve, and carries forward £48,600. A very sound concern. The Directors are Messrs. James Burns, Joseph Mitchell, P. T. W. Black, John Trotter, F. E. Loxton, and Sir Henry Milne Scott.

N. Caledonian Timber Country Opened Up

RECENTLY a jeep went off the road on the Col d'Amieu route in New Caledonia and fell 16 feet into a ravine, injuring most of its occupants—all civil aviation officials.

The Col d'Amieu route was finished during the war. It resembles the famous Burma Road in many respects but it opens up a plateau rich in some of the Colony's best timber. Australian bushmen are already at work up there cutting timber for the Commonwealth.

STEAMSHIPS TRADING COMPANY LTD.

PORT MORESBY AND SAMARAI — PAPUA

Wholesale & Retail Merchants, Planters, Sawmillers, Engineers, Slip Proprietors, Shipping, Customs and Insurance Agents.

MANAGING AGENTS for:

SAWMILLERS & TRADERS LTD.
CORAL SEAS INSURANCE CO. LTD.
ACME BAKERY COMPANY.
MARIBOI RUBBER LTD.
RUBBERLANDS LTD.
KEREMA RUBBER PLANTATIONS LTD.
COCOALANDS LTD.

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FIJI CLAIMED AS COLONY OF "FREE INDIA"

Interesting Development in Indian Propaganda

From Our Own Correspondent

A NEW development in the current Indian propaganda campaign in Fiji has appeared in the first issue of "Tara," a quarterly publication in Hindi, edited by Gyani Das, of Nasinu, Fiji, and published by the Arjun Press, New Bazaar, Delhi, India. The title of the production is "Fiji—an Indian Colony."

As far as is known, this production marks the first occasion in which an Indian has openly demanded the ending of British control in Fiji and the handing over of this Crown Colony as a "colony of Free India."

The publisher's note starts the discussion with the statement that in Fiji the Indians are subjected to "despotic rule" and alleges that in Fiji, as in South

Africa, plans are under way to deport the Indians.

BUT, says the note, "the Indians have full rights over Fiji. It is therefore our colony, or, to put it in other words, an Indian colony. Our rights must be conceded in this colony. Will justice not prevail in this age of humanity? If not, for how long remains to be seen."

"The world is changing rapidly, and it cannot be long before Fiji will have the good fortune to style itself a colony of Free India. When this hope is realised, will the British Government still treat, as at present, the subjects of Free India? There is still time for the Fiji Government to reflect."

Mr. Gyani Das improves on this by

blandly claiming that the Fijians have no right to Fiji. The Fijians, it is suggested, were originally blown to these islands by accident and therefore have no claim to their homeland.

"Although the Fijians are called the native population," he says, "it is in fact not their native land. The Fijians, like the Europeans and Indians, came and settled in Fiji from outside."

"The only point of difference between the three is that the Fijians came first, drifting through storm and sea; the British established themselves through intrigue and fraud; and the Indians, as simpletons, came and settled here because of their industry. The Fijians, therefore, have no rights over Fiji on the ground that they are the native population."

AFTER an emotional passage dealing with the indenture days—in which the writer is to an extent justified in his bitterness against some of the planters and overseers of that early period—Mr. Das moves into a full-scale assault against almost every aspect of life in Fiji as it is understood by the Indians—omitting, however, any reference to the enormous accumulation of money and property which passed into Indian hands.

He assails the "accursed residential tax" without mentioning that this is the only direct tax imposed on the non-Fijian population as a whole; and, while denouncing it as an imposition on the Indians, ignores the fact that the Fijians pay more in direct taxes than do the Indians, although the latter have far larger monetary resources.

There is the usual complaint that Indians are still unable to swamp the two or three schools (the writer implies that there are many more than there are) which are reserved for Europeans and part-Europeans. ("How far this treatment against the Indians in Fiji can be justified is hard to say.")

THE Fijian Second World War record, and the part taken in it by the Indians (however it may be described) is summed up in the following contradiction:—

"During the last war, Indians also started joining the forces; but, because of discrimination in pay, refused to join. Justice appeared hollow when coloured men who offered themselves for sacrifice in order to defend British rule were not conceded even their just rights. . . . At present, from the dark races, only Fijians, whose poor living in koros can make them satisfied with bread, butter and a khaki uniform, are in the Fiji Military Forces." (Actually only one or two Fiji-Indians joined the forces.)

After a general denunciation of the Government, the English language press and the Europeans, the following summing-up appears: "Because India is not free, Fiji is considered to be a British colony; but when India becomes independent, Fiji will also be recognised as an Indian colony. By this the writer means that Indians will then be conceded equal rights with Europeans and Fijians."

A final statement, for which it is difficult to find any substantiation whatever, is: "Indians who cleared the jungle and made Fiji habitable and prosperous are asked to vacate the land which is thought suitable for Europeans."

The review ends with a comprehensive attack on the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, on the Fijians as landlords and the Medical Department—which, despite the overwhelming number of Indians in hospitals and other institutions, is accused of "discrimination."

It is typical Indian stuff—"cockeyed," illogical and generally unsubstantiated; and it is quoted here only to show the character of the propaganda that is developing since India was granted independence.



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TWO BISHOPS VISIT NEW BRITAIN

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, May 10.
THE Rt. Rev. S. G. Caulton in April and May paid his first visit to New Britain since his appointment as Bishop of Melanesia.

He spent three weeks visiting stations in the southern and western districts in the mission vessel "Southern Cross" and conducted services at Rabaul and Kokopo on May 1 and 8. He baptised the infant children of Mr. and Mrs. Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Seymour and Mr. and Mrs. Avenall at Rabaul and Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm English and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Joyce at Kokopo. The Bishop has been given a cordial welcome by the Anglican community in the Rabaul district and it is expected that as an outcome of his visit plans will be made to provide a permanent church and resident chaplain at Rabaul, which has not been possible since the war.

He remained in Rabaul to meet the Rt. Rev. P. N. W. Strong, Bishop of Papua-New Guinea, who arrived on the "Bulolo" on May 7.

3,000 TONS OF WAR SCRAP

HONIARA, April 27.

CARRYING 3,000 tons of ex-war materials from Munda, the privately owned New Zealand LST, "Rawhiti," left the Protectorate for Botany Bay yesterday.

Her cargo came from the former American Navy base at Munda (Western Solomons) and comprised mainly heavy machinery, bulldozers, tractors and 300 tons of shell cases to sell as scrap brass on the Australian market. The deal was made by Australian interests with the US Foreign Liquidation Commission.

NOTES FROM NEW IRELAND

From a Special Correspondent

KAVIENG, April 30.

MUCH indignation was expressed locally, by merchants and others, when the M.V. "Raulawana" arrived from Rabaul on April 3, practically empty. European and Chinese stores are almost bare of all kinds of food stuffs and all await stores from Rabaul.

Mr. Colyer, of Colyer Watson (NG) Ltd., visited us, along with his son and members of the Rabaul staff, on April 12. They came over on the Company's trawler and stayed two days.

A court at Kavieng, presided over by ADO I. F. Downs on April 14, fined Captain Feneally, of the "Karu" £12 for striking a native. Notice of appeal was given.

The visit of a team of players from the Rabaul Tennis Club, scheduled for the Easter holidays, was cancelled when the vessel they had chartered broke down.

The New Ireland District Sports Association entertained a large and representative party of town and country members on Easter Saturday. The District Officer, Mr. J. Read, and his wife made their home available for the occasion.

Kavieng observed Anzac Day with a short ceremony at the Hagstaff at 11 o'clock. This was attended by Europeans, Chinese and natives. A detachment of Native Constabulary formed a guard under the command of Mr. Harry Thackston; Mr. John Cox delivered a short address.

Miss B. Nelson, a member of the well-known Western Samoan family, was a visitor to Sydney and Melbourne in April and May, and left Sydney for New Zealand early in May. She met many old friends in Australia and made many new ones.

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WESTERN PAPUA NOTES

From Our Own Correspondent

DARU, April 28.
THE Australasian Petroleum Company's Native Labour Superintendent, Mr. A. H. Baldwin, is at present at Daru to recruit natives for work on APC's various fields of operation. The Company's vessels, the "Potrero" and "Davara" are being used for transport.

About 12 months ago, a modern diesel-electric plant with a capacity of 15 KVA was landed here for the purpose of lighting Administration residences and offices. To date, however, the project has not been completed, due, it is understood, to lack of an electrician to install the wiring, etc.

Over two years ago a handful of local natives conceived the idea of operating a co-operative store and they have been collecting money for the purpose from many parts of the Division. A store has been built and goods to stock same are expected on each vessel.

Whether this can be made into a successful business venture appears doubtful to many, especially to established traders who find it very difficult to obtain many lines of trade goods at the present time.

Much more good would come from some co-operative effort to grow food. The Administration uses vast quantities of rice and meat, both costly items.

The Rev. W. Riley has made several trips lately in the LMS launch to outlying stations. The Rev. Ure recently visited Daru on LMS business.

Part of Rabaul Swimming Pool in Use Again

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, May 5.
IT is expected that part of Rabaul's swimming pool will be open to the public this month.

The pool, a very attractive affair designed by Mr. W. L. MacGowan of Public Works Department, was built just before World War II. During the Jap invasion it was severely damaged and has not been used since the reoccupation. The total length of the pool is 33 metres, but the portion that will be functioning shortly will be only 20 yards long.

A contract has been let for repairs to the rest of it however, and it is hoped that the whole of the pool will be in use shortly.

More Hospital Facilities For Rabaul

From Our Own Correspondent

May 5, 1949.
THE native hospital at Rabaul is being moved from temporary quarters established by ANGAU during the war. It will be established in the former Japanese War Criminals compound.

A Chinese hospital will be opened within a few days. Two European sisters will be in attendance but it is expected that Chinese girls will be trained there as nurses.

An officer of the Papua-New Guinea Department of Agriculture (Dr. Kelly) visited Rabaul district in May to examine the cross breeding of Zebu cattle with Australian breeds. Opportunity to meet Dr. Kelly was given local planters.

MOSQUITO CONTROL AT MANGAIA

From Our Own Correspondent

MANGAIA, February.
THE annoyance and potential danger from the mosquitoes that infest the bush surrounding local villages has always been a problem for Manganians. But it would now appear to be within reach of a solution.

Two local youths, who spent some months in Rarotonga studying mosquito control, have returned, and arrangements will presumably be made for preventive measures as practised in Rarotonga.

As things stand, we have always had open water-drums, commonly used by natives to conserve rain-water for household use, beside village huts; these are a fruitful breeding-ground for the insects, and no one thought of killing the larvae with a film of kerosene on the surface of the water—lamp-oil is too precious here, in any case.

Again, water in the exposed roots of trees, and in meat-tins left lying around, constitutes another mosquito source. Our natives are not yet awake to the danger of a wandering mosquito biting, first, a filaria victim, and next a healthy person, thus spreading the disease. While the incidence of elephantiasis has always been very slight here, this danger is always to be considered.

The cutting of the thick mori-scrub will present for landowners, a formidable job, in the event of an edict compelling this measure. Growing to a height well above a tall man's head, the mori shuts out fresh air from some compounds and is a mosquito roost around others.

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The Fight Game in Fiji

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, May 2.
WITH a flourish of trumpets the Boxing and Wrestling Association of Fiji was revived and reconstituted in 1947 but, after announcing an ambitious programme, it promptly relapsed into its former coma.

Sharp prods from the press having failed to stimulate it to any signs of activity, there are indications that boxing supporters (mainly Fijian, European and part-European) may take matters into their own hands.

Boxing promotion in Fiji, oddly enough, is almost entirely in the hands of the Indians, who, on the whole, do the job well, but inevitably with an eye to the profits rather than to the interests of the Fijian and part-European boxers who do the actual fighting. Boxing is thus a business, and amateur boxing, despite the obvious demand for it, is virtually non-existent.

Matters appear to have come to a head over a recent contest at Ba in which Sireli Saro, a brilliant and popular Fijian middleweight, was matched, at 11 st., with a formidable opponent named Miliano (12 st. 5 lb.). The result was inevitable.

Monsieur Tresch, director-general of the French Pacific flying service TRAPAS, on whose directorate he represents the interests of the Air France company, was expected in Noumea late in April. His background achievements are managing Air France in Syria and Far East, and in 1947 he attended the International Civil Air Conference held in Melbourne as one of the French delegates.

MALAYAN WASPS FOR HAWAII

MALAYAN wasps have been sent from Singapore by air to Hawaii and Mexico to fight fruit-tree insect pests, the Oriental fruit fly in Hawaii, and the black fly plague in Mexico.

Larvae of the Malayan wasps hatch inside the larvae of the Hawaiian and Mexican pests, and destroy them.

Americans are concerned about Mexico's fly plague because the pest threatens to invade 18 million citrus trees owned by orchardists in the United States, 250 miles off the border.

Death of Madame Margot Coulon

MADAME PIERROT COULON, nee Margot Lehartel, died at Papeete Hospital on March 19 after an operation.

Three years ago, Madame Coulon was riding in a buggy on the island of Tubuai with her husband. The horse took fright, M. Coulon was thrown out, and, as the buggy seemed about to strike the bridge and overturn, he called for his wife to jump. She did so, but a wheel passed over her body.

As she felt little ill effect at the time, the accident was taken lightly. However, complications later arose which necessitated the amputation of one leg. From this operation she did not rally.

The funeral service was held in the Catholic Cathedral, Papeete, and a large crowd followed to the cemetery of Paurani.

She was one of the most attractive women of the younger generation in Tahiti. Her grand-parents came to the Colony in the old sailing days, and their family still forms part of the little settlement of Papara.

GELIGNITE FOR FISHING IS FORBIDDEN

APIA, April 26.

AS reported recently, the indiscriminate use of gelignite for getting fish evoked criticism by the public and by Samoan leaders because it would do irreparable damage to fishing in Samoan waters.

The Samoan Government has now severely restricted the issue of gelignite for any purposes other than roadmaking and public works. Blasting is allowed only by employees of the Public Works Department.

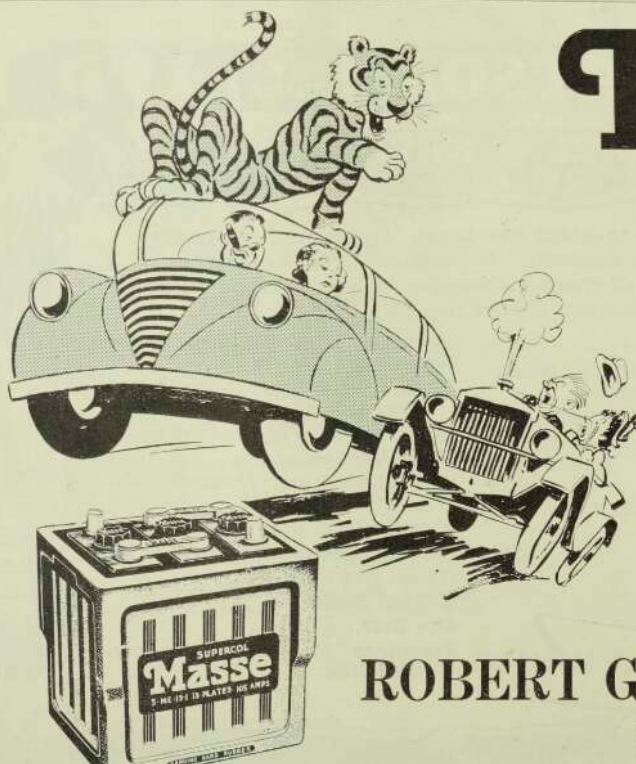
WESTERN SAMOAN ASSEMBLY

APIA, April 26.

THE Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa is in session at present to discuss a number of important new ordinances and to debate the Government Estimates for the coming year. It is expected that work on the new road plan for the island of Savaii, and probably other public works, will be greatly curtailed, owing to reduced Government revenues, caused by the drop in the cocoa price and the smaller exports of copra.

Following the departure of Mr. J. F. Nicoll to his new post in Hongkong, Mr. D. P. MacDonald is acting as Colonial Secretary of Fiji, and Mr. E. R. Bevington as Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Queen Salote, of Tonga, returned to her home in Nukualofa in April after a private visit to New Zealand. The Queen was met by the Governor on arrival in Suva, on her way to Tonga on the "Matua," and accorded the usual honours.



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SUDDEN DEATH OF E. E. LLOYD

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, May 5.
THE manager and announcer of Apia broadcasting station, Mr. E. E. Lloyd, who was only 49, died suddenly from heart failure when attending a meeting of the Returned Servicemen's Association on April 28. He was an experienced NZ broadcaster; he attained the rank of major while on active service; he then became an Administrative Officer in the Gilbert and Ellice Colony; and was thence appointed to take over 2AP two years ago. He was successful and popular, and the community was shocked by his untimely death. Mrs. Lloyd, another popular figure, left for NZ only a few weeks ago.

Honiara Club Loses All in Fire

From Our Own Correspondent

HONIARA, April 27.
HONIARA had a spectacular fire on April 16 (Easter Saturday) when the big, open, leaf-roofed premises occupied by the Guadalcanal Club were burnt to the ground.

Erected during the war as the BSIP Defence Force Officers' club and mess, the building was lent to the newly-formed Guadalcanal Club in 1945, and served as a meeting-place and entertainment high-spot for locals.

Starting on the seaward side, the fire was not detected until the flames suddenly swept across the building. At that time, nearly all Honiara residents were two miles away at a cocktail party. There was to be a dance that night which meant that considerable stocks of liquor and cash were on the premises. The only Club property saved comprised a few old chairs and tables. The Club committee estimates its loss at £600.

Before the fire spread to the kitchen and restaurant operated by Ho Man, which formed one wing of the building, volunteers and kitchen staff managed to remove icebox, safes, crockery, etc. The restaurant has now re-opened in temporary quarters converted from the as-yet unused native market. The Club meanwhile is homeless.

No specific reason for the fire has been determined. Attention has been focused on the need for an organised fire-fighting

unit in Honiara. It was fortunate on this occasion that a land breeze carried burning debris out to sea instead of menacing the adjacent leaf-roofed buildings of the camp.

According to the "ABM Review," half the 2,000,000 people in the South Pacific are professing Christians. It is stated that of the 1,000,000 others, the Fiji-Indians will be hardest to convert.

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New 300-ton Cargo, wood construction, 125 x 25, carry 70,000 feet timber, twin 200 h.p. diesels, diesel auxiliaries, electric winches, 9½ knots, in Federal survey, £34,000. Another 300-ton Vessel, in survey. Twin Diesels, Electric Winches, £22,000.

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RANSOMES, Sims and Jeffries Ltd., engineers of Ipswich, England, have produced a new garden tractor which will be of interest to owners of small holdings in the Pacific Islands. The new machine is called the MG5, and looks like a miniature tank as it has rubber tracks.

While being quite as versatile as the ordinary hand-tractor, or rotary hoe, it has the added advantage of permitting the operator to ride as he works. With this machine you can plough, cultivate or hoe between row-crops, harrow, make ridges or furrows, roll grass, haul loads or spray crops. Petrol consumption is three to 4½ pints per hour.

M. and Madame Jocteur, who have been spending a lengthy holiday in Sydney, have returned to their plantation home on Efate Island, in the New Hebrides, about 8 miles from Vila. M. Jocteur is an old resident of the Condominium, and takes a very keen interest in international affairs.

Donaldson-Threlfo Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Donaldson leaving the Congregational Church, Strathfield, NSW, after their wedding, on March 19. The bride was formerly Miss Rae Threlfo, of Strathfield, and of Port Moresby, where she was with the Australian Broadcasting Commission. Mr. Donaldson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Donaldson, well-known residents of Port Moresby; he himself is with Papua-New Guinea Administration. The young couple will make their home in the Territory.



BRIGGS-CHEETHAM WEDDING



KN

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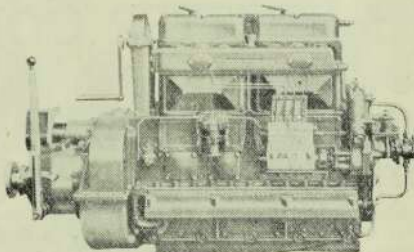
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A photograph taken after the wedding in Brisbane on March 5 of Miss Margaret Cheetham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. "Spot" Cheetham, well-known pre-war residents of the Territory of New Guinea, and Donald Briggs, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Briggs, of Londip Plantation, Kokopo. A large reception was held at the Catholic Girls' Guild, Brisbane. The young couple plan to live in Rabaul, as Mr. Briggs is attached to transport section of the Administration, Rabaul.

The Rev. Robert Leek, formerly Anglican missionary of Port Moresby and Samarai, Papua, died in New South Wales on May 6, at the age of 81.

Red-Tape and Neglect Can Strangle Papua-N.Guinea Development

IN a long letter to the Melbourne "Herald," an anonymous resident of Port Moresby, Papua, comments on the series of articles that recently were written by a "Herald" reporter, Osmar White.

The Port Moresby resident, who signs himself "Moresby," makes an appeal for a fair deal for the 15,000 white people in the Territory and cites many of the disadvantages under which Moresby residents now live. His arguments may be right, but his figures seem to be astray. Before the war the European population of New Guinea was stated at 4,804 and of Papua at 1,822—6,626 in all. There are less, rather than more, whites there in 1949 than there were in 1939. Or does the reported increase of 8,400 represent the larger Papua-New Guinea Public Service, about which we have heard much?

We publish, below, a summary of "Moresby's" charges. We do not say they are correct; but they certainly indicate the beliefs of a large proportion of Europeans in the Territories;

HAVING fought for New Guinea, Australia should retain it and develop it, not only as an outer defence but because it is an asset, in that it will grow some things that Australia cannot produce.

Living conditions in Port Moresby are understated by Osmar White, if anything. The scandalous housing position applies not only to public servants but to all residents, many of whom have been waiting years, not months, for houses. There are frames of houses that have been standing for two years, while their owners wait for flooring, roofing and wall materials.

Almost every second person one meets is a Government employee, and there is a general opinion that there are far more of them than is required to run this country.

Moresby's wharf, which Mr. White mentioned, must be the only one of its kind in existence. It is hard to understand how it stands up to the strain of mooring a ship, for it is just a patched-up mass of odd-sized timber, sitting on piles that are all eaten away beneath the water line, providing little, if any, support.

Some shortages may be expected, at times, in the tropics; but in Moresby they are continuous and unnecessary. They are caused because monopoly is allowed to exist—this monopoly, with only one line of ships calling, can spell only poor service, and until there is competition in the shipping and retail trades, Moresby will not progress.

Although the town has a population of over 2,000, it has only the stores run by the three big firms. There is no news-paper, barber, bootmaker, frock shop, milliner, tobacconist or any of the other businesses one would find in a small Australian country town of the same size.

Diet is poor in Moresby, for the simple reason that there is only one freezer in the town. It is a disgrace that a place of this size has no fresh milk supply—but that is not the fault of the public. Prices for meat, butter, eggs and vegetables at the freezer are exorbitant, and

rise with each new shipment; but the public has no option but to deal there.

New Guinea can become a great producing country; but under the present conditions we are not permitted to progress.

Much has been said in Canberra by ill-informed people about the "exploitation" of natives. Actually, it is the white race that is being exploited. Eight months ago it was announced that the Government had decided to abolish the Production Control Board which controls the sale of copra. The Board is still going and although world parity for copra is more

than £60 per ton, local planters are still receiving only a little more than £40 per ton.

Mr. C. W. T. Johnson, who for several years filled the post of British Consul and Agent in Tonga, left Nukualofa for Fiji on March 24 and will sail from Suva on May 6 for Britain, via Canada. Mr. Johnson's successor, Mr. Windrum, arrived in Tonga and took over the Consulate before Mr. Johnson departed.

Wartime dollar earnings partly account for the fact that there are now nearly 3,200 motor vehicles serving New Caledonia's small white or partly-white population of fewer than 20,000. This figure does not include army and administration vehicles. Passenger cars number 1,630, trucks and utilities 1,365, and motor-cycles 225.

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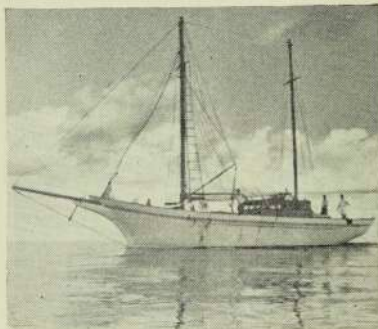
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BSI MISSION ACQUIRES HANDSOME KETCH

LAST month the Marist Mission at Honiara, British Solomons, secured the well-known diesel auxiliary ketch "Capricorn" for use in mission work at Guadalcanal and adjacent islands.

The vessel (50 ft. long, 14 ft. beam, draught unload 6 ft.) was formerly employed as a tourist ship on the Queensland coast and Barrier Reef. The sale was negotiated by William E. Reed, Islands agent in Sydney.



The "Capricorn," which cleared Sydney early in April with two pedigree calves, a bull and a heifer included in her general cargo, arrived safely in Rockhampton. He skipper is youthful George Wyeth and her crew includes the internationally-known American yachtsman Billy Weld, as navigator. Weld interrupted his round-the-world cruise in his 28 ft. Colin Archer ship to make the cruise in the "Capricorn" to the Solomons.

The senior member of the firm of Capricorn Charters, of North Queensland, Mr. Max Matthews, and Brother Channell, representing the Marist Mission, comprised the rest of the crew of the vessel when she cleared Gladstone late in April on the 1,200 miles voyage to Honiara.

With 33 tons displacement, "Capricorn" has a 4-berth cabin as well as 3 bunks in the main cabin. Powered with a 4-cylinder Southern Cross diesel, which drives the ship at 7 knots, her equipment includes 24-volt electric lighting, washroom, galley, toilet, deck house, chart room, and an 80-cubic-foot ice chest. She was launched in Gladstone in 1945.

The live stock aboard will be welcomed at Guadalcanal, where the Japanese destroyed all animals, and replacement has been difficult because of shipping shortage.

GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT PROGRESSES ON MANGAIA

From Our Own Correspondent

MANGAIA, April 7.

OUR local Girl Guides, who have been studying knot-tying, Guide Law, tracking, etc., for so many months since the inception of the movement on this island, have got their uniforms at last, and now parade in regulation blue, with the red GG necktie and badge. Mrs. W. H. Ryan, wife of the Resident Agent, is guide-mistress of the Mangaia corps, and has been very successful in training the girls along the lines of the NZ Guide organisation.

The CI Guide movement makes every effort to be self-supporting, the Mangaia girls' uniforms being purchased out of the proceeds from dances and entertainments held by the corps, and made locally.

The idea of a Girl Guide company was suggested by the Governor-General of

NZ when he visited Mangaia in 1948. He made the suggestion to Miss Teireapi Robati who was already a Guide.

The organisation was started in August, 1948 and has an enrolment of 80 girls.

Suva Point Householders Will Be Compensated

Many Must Leave to Make Way for Airport

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, March 22.

THE Government of Fiji has undertaken to treat landowners and householders, who will be evicted to make way for the international airport at Suva Point, with every consideration and as much generosity as is compatible with the Ordinance governing the resumption of land in such circumstances.

This assurance was given in reply to a motion introduced in the Legislative Council in March by Mr. A. A. Ragg.

Another motion, introduced by Mr. F. G. Archibald, stressed what was described as the neglect of Vanua Levu and other parts of the Eastern Division in comparison with Viti Levu.

The Government conceded that the criticism was just and admitted that population, overseas communications and other factors had led to a concentration of expenditure in Viti Levu.

Among the points made by the Colonial Secretary (Mr. J. F. Nicholl) were the need for a wharf at Lodonl which, he said, was kept very much in mind, and the necessity for a radio-telephone service for the eastern portion of the Group.

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Estate Notices

Estate of Eleanor Florence Andrews, also known as Florence (or Florance) Ellenor Andrews or Rodgers, deceased.

Take notice that the Public Trustee of New South Wales is the Administrator of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased, who died intestate at Gladesville, New South Wales, on May 16, 1946. The deceased, who died without issue, was married on January 18, 1913, to Charles Alfred George Andrews. If the said Charles Alfred George Andrews survived the deceased he would be entitled to share in the Estate. If the said Charles Alfred George Andrews did not survive the deceased, the Estate will be distributable between brothers and sisters of the deceased, the issue of any such brother or sister who predeceased the deceased taking per stirpes the share to which their parent would have been entitled. Therefore, let Charles Alfred George Andrews or his Legal Personal Representative or any one claiming through him take notice that unless a claim by them or any of them to be the next of kin of the deceased is received by the Public Trustee, 19 O'Connell Street, Sydney, New South Wales, on or before July 26, 1949, the Public Trustee will distribute the estate of the said Eleanor Florence Andrews amongst the next of kin of whose claims he then has notice.

MASLEN, A LEGACY OF ABOUT £100 under the will of James Maslen is held for William Maslen, son of James Maslen and Margaret Hamilton Barr, born about 1882, who was last heard of at Bundaberg, Queensland, in 1918. Will he or anybody knowing of his whereabouts, marriage or death, kindly communicate with the PUBLIC TRUSTEE, 19 O'CONNELL STREET, SYDNEY.

Stamps!!

Correspondents required in Pacific Islands to exchange stamps and despatch "First-Day Covers" (new issues). All Island stamps required, common or otherwise, used or unused.
J. Ramsay, Torbay, Auckland, New Zealand.

Positions Vacant

Plantation Manager Wanted.

Experienced manager wanted for Kekeru Estate, Bougainville. Knowledge of cocoa desirable, but not essential. Good salary and commission. Send details of experience, condition, salary required, and when available to:—

J. M. Joyes, Iwi Estate, via Rabaul, New Guinea, "Private Bag."

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Plantation position wanted. Young ex-Serviceman, 32. Married. Very keen. Good education. First-class references. Experience in sugar, cocoa and coffee and copra, and in handling native labour. Administrative and commercial experience. Is most anxious to obtain position on a plantation in the Islands. Available immediately. Write:—

P. Legh, Branksome Gardens, City Beach, Perth, W.A.

Certified Mechanical Engineer, non-drinker, aged 36 years, married, has own 54 ft. ketch and car, experienced native management, references available, would like purchase Plantation or would manage Plantation providing proposition was good. Apply, "Engineer," c/o Box No. 3408, G.P.O., Sydney.

The newly dedicated Martyrs' Memorial School (Anglican Mission), at Sangara, Papua, is now open, although the buildings are not yet complete. Two classrooms and the dormitory have already been built. There are 40 boarders and 30 day boys. Lessons are to be given in typing, bookkeeping, carpentry and engineering.

CIPA RESURGENCE AT MANGAIA

From Our Own Correspondent

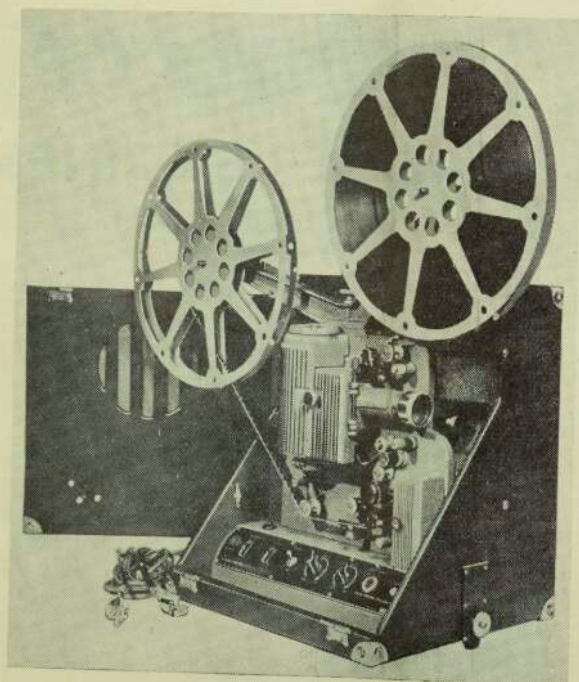
MANGAIA, Feb. 1.
THE "DCB" steamer "Mahurangi," run by Mr. D. C. Brown of Rarotonga, called here for copra in the last week of January. This is the second ship to dare the cyclone months this year; and the "Mahurangi" restored to Mangaia's their much-loved talkie-show, which, by reason of the sale of copra at present prices, has been well patronised—the first screening had to run two sessions in one night, and curfew was ignored for the occasion.

A more important occasion even than this, was the meeting of CIPA-guided local chiefs convened by a CIPA leader from Rarotonga, who was a passenger by the steamer.

It is evident that, in spite of setbacks in Rarotonga, the Progressive Association is determined to retain its mana upon Mangaia, and interesting developments are likely. One notes, however, a change of policy; the Association now lays a stress on peaceful and legitimate ways of uniting orange-growers into a bloc for the purpose of collective bargaining with the IMD—a refreshing change, indeed, from the former radical tone of our local politicians.

Stress has been laid upon non-violence and moral suasion in dealing with non-adherents or hesitant planters, of whom there are still a few, though the island in general embraces CIPA policy.

Mangaia, as the only island having ample supplies of oranges every season, in a peculiarly favourable position in dealing with the IMD, though, from figures gained by the writer in Rarotonga, the average spoilage is high per case. No local, however, will believe this; and Mangaia's hope to continue in a seller's market indefinitely.



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Cogea, a Village In Vanua Levu, Fiji

BY H. F. L. PARHAM

COGEA village, situated about a mile up the Wainunu River, Vanua Levu, is a very pretty place.

Clear creek water, on both sides of the village, runs rapidly over very rocky beds to join the river at this point, and adds to the attractive appearance of the place, with bush-covered hills in the distance.

The scenery along the river bank is varied, with masses of coconut palms on the left bank and bush-covered land on the other.

In this part of Bua Province the change from dry to wet zone is very noticeable, on account of the way most of the palm trunks are absolutely covered with large creeping ferns.

About half way up the river to Cogea there is a small sort of island, which is said to be *tabu*. The reason given is that "no one is allowed to cut trees there, as it belongs to a Tevora".

Close to Cogea there is a hot spring, between the village and the washing-pool in the creek; the spring has green slime in it and does not look very clean; but it is really hot. In the stones beside it there grows an unusual species of *Commelina*. It is much smaller than the commoner sort, and its rather tiny flowers are of a pinkish colour, instead of blue.

In reference to the hot springs of the lower valley of the Wainunu River, Guppy writes: "All the springs are situated in the tidal part of the river valley, with the exception of Cogea, which is just above this limit".

Mr. Guppy records, when writing of the Savu Savu hot springs, that in 1863 "The Chief of Wainunu (Tui Wainunu) came to fight the Savu Savu people" and that "he endeavoured, but without success, to choke up the springs by heaping earth over them".

Fiji's well-known Tea Estate is up the Wainunu River.

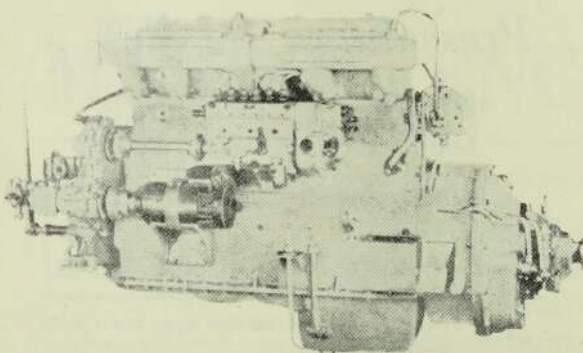
The legend of how Wainunu got its name and other more historical facts are to be found in the "Early History of Vanua Levu", by Mrs. Parham.

Anzac Day at Bulolo, NG

BULOLO observed Anzac Day with a service conducted by Dr. C. E. M. Gunther. Many wreaths were placed on the memorial cairn.

In the evening, a social gathering sponsored by the local sub-branch of the RSSAILA, was held in the Bulolo picture theatre. It was attended by 11 ex-Service-women and 72 ex-Servicemen of many different units—nursing services, WRANS, WAAFs, AWAS, 1st and 2nd AIF, RN, RAN, RAAF, RNZAF, RAF, Royal Marines, Seaforth Highlanders, RASC, NGVR and Merchant Navy.

The village of Cogea, on Vanua Levu.



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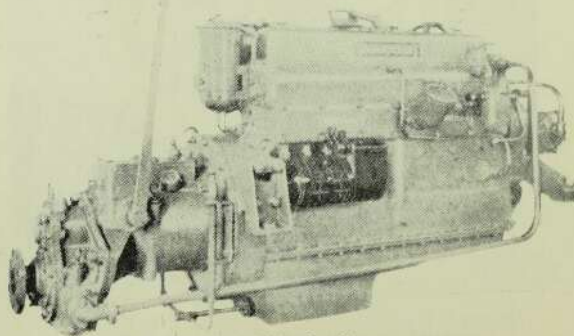
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Showing NZ Flag In The Islands

THE Royal New Zealand Navy's four new frigates, which arrived from Britain recently, manned largely by ex-RN personnel, are to make independent cruises to the Pacific Islands between late May and early August. They are HMNZ Ships "Taupo" (Commander L. P. Bourke, DSC, and Bar), "Hawea" (Lieutenant-Commander A. C. B. Blomfield, DSC, and two bars), "Pukaki" (Lieutenant-Commander L. E. Herrick, DSC) and "Kanieri" (Lieutenant T. W. Stocker). The itineraries are:—

TAUPO

Place	Arrive	Depart
Auckland		23/5
Suva, Fiji	27/5	2/6
Nurakita, Ellice Is.	4/6	5/6
Funafuti, Ellice Is.	6/6	9/6
Nui, Ellice Is.	10/6	10/6
Nanumea, Ellice Is.	11/6	11/6
Rotuma, Fiji	13/6	15/6
Suva, Fiji	17/6	27/6
Ocean, Gilbert Is.	2/7	5/7
Nauru	5/7	8/7
Tarawa, Gilbert Island	9/7	22/7
Makin, Gilbert Is.	23/7	25/7
Beru, Gilbert Is.	26/7	28/7
Arofae, Gilbert Is.	29/7	29/7
Suva, Fiji	2/8	

HAWEA

Place	Arrive	Depart
Auckland		23/5
Papeete, Tahiti	30/5	6/6
Rarotonga, S. Cook Is.	8/6	10/6
Mangaia, S. Cook Is.	11/6	11/6
Mauke, S. Cook Is.	12/6	12/6
Mitiaro, S. Cook Is.	13/6	13/6
Atiu, S. Cook Is.	14/6	14/6
Aitutaki, S. Cook Is.	15/6	15/6
Rarotonga, S. Cook Is.	16/6	17/6
Palmerston, N. Cook Is.	18/6	19/6
Niue	21/6	22/6
Tongatabu, Tonga Gr.	23/6	23/6
Suva, Fiji	26/6	15/7
Apia, W. Samoa	17/7	20/7
Fakaofo, Tokelau Gr.	21/7	21/7
Nukunono, Tokelau Gr.	22/7	22/7
Atafu, Tokelau Gr.	23/7	23/7
Apia, W. Samoa	25/7	31/7
Suva, Fiji	4/8	

KANIERI

Place	Arrive	Depart
Auckland		23/5
Suva, Fiji	27/5	2/6
Christmas, Line Is.	8/6	10/6
Fanning, Line Is.	11/6	13/6
Canton, Phoenix Is.	16/6	19/6
Hull, Phoenix Is.	20/6	20/6
Gardner, Phoenix Is.	21/6	21/6
Suva, Fiji	25/6	3/7
Rarotonga, S. Cook Is.	7/7	9/7
Penrhyn, N. Cook Is.	12/7	14/7
Rakahanga, N. Cook Is.	15/7	15/7
Manahiki, N. Cook Is.	16/7	16/7
Suvarov, N. Cook Is.	18/7	19/7
Nassau, N. Cook Is.	20/7	20/7
Danger, N. Cook Is.	21/7	22/7
Apia, W. Samoa	24/7	31/7
Suva, Fiji	4/8	

PUKAKI

Place	Arrive	Depart
Auckland		23/5
Raoul, Kermadec Is.	25/5	27/5
Ata, Tonga Gr.	29/5	29/5
Tongatabu, Tonga Gr.	30/5	4/6
Haapai Gr., Tonga Gr.	5/7	8/7
Vavau Gr., Tonga Gr.	9/7	12/7
Keppel, Tonga Gr.	13/7	14/7
Lakemba, Fiji	15/7	15/7
Ono-i-lau, Fiji	16/7	16/7
Suva, Fiji	18/7	22/7
Lautoka, Fiji	22/7	25/7
Yasawa, Fiji	26/7	27/7
Lambasa, Fiji	28/7	29/7
Tavenui, Fiji	30/7	31/7
Levuka, Fiji	31/7	3/8
Suva, Fiji	3/8	

It will be noted that Hawea and Pukaki will be together in Apia late in July, and that all four frigates will assemble in Suva, Fiji, in the first week of August.

Anzac Day in New Britain

WELL attended Anzac Day services were held at Rabaul and Bitapaka, New Britain, on the morning of April 25.

The service at the Bitapaka Memorial which marks the area in which first Australians fell in 1914-18 war, was very impressive with a Native Constabulary guard and the Catholic Mission Band.

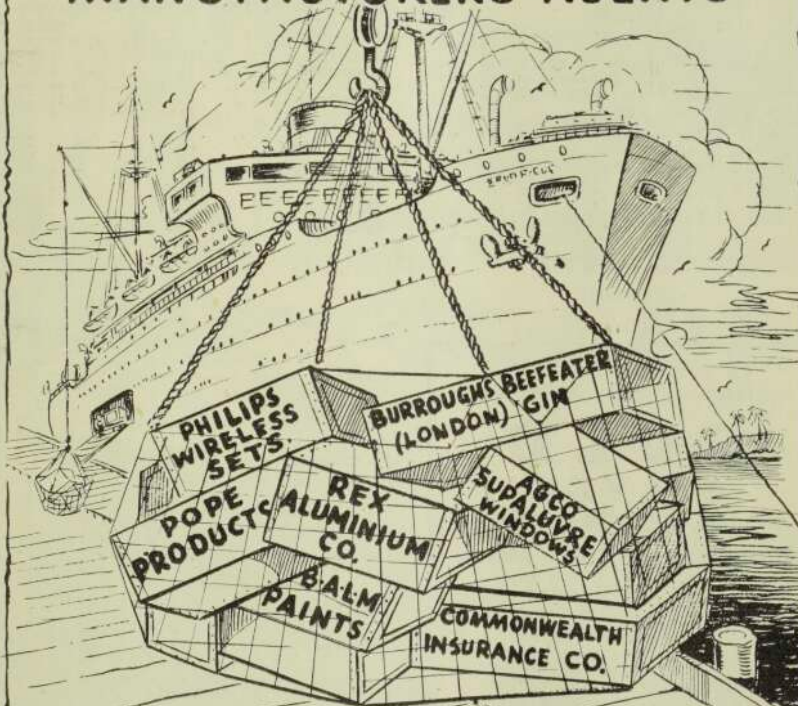
Both the Rabaul and Bitapaka services were conducted by the Rev. B. Chenoweth. The acting District Officer, Rabaul, gave an address at the picture theatre, Rabaul, where residents gathered before going on to the cemetery where Father Ormonde delivered an address.

Frederick William Cuthbert, a 93-year-old mine-owner of Georgetown (Qld.), who died on October 25, 1948, left £128,987

in cash to be shared among his relatives. Known as "the man with the Midas touch" because, wherever he went he found gold, Cuthbert, in 1928, with a partner, bought a mine property on Misima Island, Papua, for £2,000. In 1935 he and his partner sold it for £95,000 (£75,000 in cash and £20,000 in shares) to a company. Cuthbert was reputed to have made £80,000 out of Misima.

The Kumgunan native brass band from Kokopo gave a recital in the grounds of the Sacred Heart School, Rabaul, on the evening of May 1. The Band has 45 pieces and is conducted by the principal of the School, Brother Joseph Landinger. Although the membership of the Band is continually changing owing to coming and going of natives at the School, Brother Landinger has brought it to a high standard of playing. Kingunian School is one of the Catholic Mission Schools operating under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme.

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COCOA

Cocoa beans imported into Australia from the Pacific Islands come mostly from New Guinea and the New Hebrides and are purchased almost wholly by the Commonwealth Chocolate and Confectionery Manufacturers' Association. The buying price is based on the ruling rate of Accra beans (produced mainly in the Gold Coast Colony, West Africa). The current world crop of cocoa beans is the third largest for 25 years and some overseas market observers indicate that the recent fall in prices is the result of over-supply. Prices are expected to fall again, slightly within a short time, before the price level is stabilised. Recent quotations for sales of Western Pacific cocoa beans are:—

New Guinea: £144 per ton.
New Hebrides: £149 per ton.

Western Samoa's cocoa production goes mainly to USA, where its distribution is controlled by the International Control Board. The price in Apia fell in February, 1949, to £100-£120 Stg. per ton, f.o.b.

Accra (quotation by Colyer, Watson Pty., Ltd., Sydney): £132 2/6 Sterling (equivalent to approximately £165 Aust.), c.i.f., Sydney.

TROCUS SHELL

Irregular shipments are handled in Sydney by several Pacific Islands trading firms. Latest sales were: Thursday Island shell, £72 per ton; New Guinea shell, £64 per ton.

COFFEE

No coffee trading is permitted in Australia without the consent of the Tea and Coffee Control Board, to which all offers must first be submitted. Nominal quotations as follows:—
New Guinea and Papua: £120 to £160 per ton (c.i.f.), according to quality.

New Caledonia: Production is being taken by France, at considerably higher than normal rates (equivalent to around £200 Australian per ton for Arabica and £160 Aust. for Robusta).

Java: No importations at present—prices are too high to interest Australian buyers.

VANILLA BEANS

No Pacific Islands supplies available. Production of the main South Seas, vanilla-producer, French Oceania, now goes to USA.

COTTON

At present, no cotton is coming to Australia from any of the Pacific Territories.

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RICE

No free-trading in rice at present. The whole of the Australian rice crop goes to the Government for allocation to countries where rice is a staple of the native peoples. Rice shipped from Sydney to Islands ports is fixed at £45 per ton White and £49 per ton Brown.

GREEN SNAIL SHELL

There have been sales recently on the Sydney market at £72 per ton, c.i.f.

PEARL SHELL

The opening price for the new season's M.O.P. shell was: Thursday Island, £400 per ton (assortments, 80 per cent. sound; 20 per cent. "D" and "E" grade). Firms in USA made early quotes of around £445 (Aust.) per ton, c.i.f., for Torres Strait pearl shell.

PRICE OF GOLD

Fine	Standard
oz. ... £10/15/3	oz. ... £9/17/3½

(Australian Currency)

COPRA

Copra Prices During World War II

The copra market was controlled by Governments from outbreak of war in 1939 until the end of the war in 1945. Some controls are still being exercised in the post-war period.

Fiji Local Buying Price, In Store, Fiji Currency.

	Plantation	FMS
June, 1942	£16 0 0	£15 0 0
July, 1942	16 12 6	15 12 6
June, 1944	19 10 0	18 0 0
October, 1944	20 0 0	18 10 0
December, 1945	19 7 6	17 17 6
January, 1946	18 5 6	18 0 0
August, 1946	23 10 6	23 5 0
February, 1947	29 15 6	29 10 0
June 9, 1947	36 19 0	36 13 6
December 8, 1947	38 5 6	38 0 0
March 15, 1948	46 5 6	46 0 0
January 1, 1949	49 10 6	49 5 0

From January 1, 1949, the British Ministry of Food is buying Fiji copra at a fixed price. For each subsequent year until the end of 1957 the price will be adjusted by negotiation.

New Hebrides

From a maximum of £70/12/6 (Aust.), per ton, in 1948, the price of New Hebrides copra recently firmed to around £50 (Aust.) per ton.

Western Samoa

Canadian buyers recently were paying £53 (£66 Aust.) per ton in Apia for Samoan copra. Samoa has a 10 years' contract agreement with the UK Government, thereby stabilising the industry.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA-NEW GUINEA

ANGPCB Fixed Price, Delivered to Ship's Slings:

	Hot-air	Smoked
Jan. 7, 1947	£28 0 0	£27 0 0
June 17, 1947	231 2 0	235 10 0
Nov. 23, 1947	£35 10 0	
April 8, 1948	£40-£45	

January 1, 1949:—

	Pt. Moresby		
Samarai	£48 0 0	£47 7 6	
Madang	£48 0 0	£47 7 6	
Rabaul	£48 0 0	£47 7 6	
Kokopo	£46 17 6	£46 5 0	
Kavieng	£45 17 6	£45 5 0	

All prices quoted are for copra delivered to ship's slings, or to the Board's warehouse.

Official Price for P-NG Copra sold in Sydney:

	Hot-air	Dried	Smoked
January, 1947	£36 10 0	£35 10 0	
July, 1947	£51 5 0	£50 5 0	
April, 1948	£61 0 0	£60 0 0	
April, 1949	£66 0 0	£65 7 6	

Australia has agreed to sell P-NG copra to the UK Ministry of Food for a period of nine years at fixed prices. For 1949, the price to the UK will be £48 Stg. per ton, f.o.b. Territory ports; the price for each subsequent year will be adjusted by negotiation. Territories' planters, during 1949, are receiving £48 Aust. per ton for this copra.

RUBBER

	Para.	Smoked
	per lb.	per lb.
London Price on—		
January 6, 1939	7½d	8½d
July 7	13d	11.6½d
January 3, 1940	15d	12¾d
July 5	13d	12.47½d
January 3, 1941	16½d	13.5½d
June 6		
October 10—Price officially fixed at.	13¾d	

PAPUAN RUBBER PRICES

During World War II, Papua's rubber production was controlled by the Australian Government. The fixed prices paid at plantation, per lb. (Australian currency) were:—

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
September, 1943 ..	1/6½	1/4	1/2
September, 1944 ..	1/6½	1/3½	1/3½
July, 1944	1/4½	1/3½	1/1½

Current Rates

Since the price control on rubber was lifted, most Australian trading firms are using the Singapore day-to-day quotations as a basis when buying Papuan rubber. The Singapore Exchange gives buying prices for four grades, and average rates ruling in April were:—

No. 1 RSS, loose, 36½ cents lb. (1/0.4d. Aust.)
No. 1 RSS, baled, 36½ cents lb. (1/0.4d. Aust.)
No. 2 RSS, loose, 34½ cents lb. (11.8d. Aust.)
No. 2 RSS, baled, 32½ cents lb. (11.2d. Aust.)

QUOTATIONS FOR MINING SHARES

	Aug. 1939.	Apr. 1.	May 1.
Emperor Mines ..	b9/11	b8/3	b8/3
Loloma	s25/6	b14/9	b15/-

NEW GUINEA

Bulolo G.D.	b124/-	s122/6	s122/6
Enterprise of N.G.	b27/6	s15/-	b15/-
Guinea Gold	b13/3	b11/10	b12/-
N.G.G. Ltd.	b1/10	b2/4½	b2/1
Oil Search	s3/11	b6/2	b5/5
Placer Dev.	b68/6	s140/-	s150/-
Sandy Creek	b1/5	b10d	s1/-
Sunshine Gold	b6/5	s11/9	s11/6

PAPUA

Cuthbert's	s16/6	s8/-	b7/10
Mandated Alluv.	b3/8	b5/-	s1/3
Oriomo Oil	b5/-	b2/-	b2/-
Papuan Apinaipi ..	b4/11	b4/10	b5/3

Exchange Rates

THE following exchange quotations show the rates existing in Sydney in May:—

FIJI

Through Bank of NSW and Bank of New Zealand:—Australia on Fiji on basis of £100 Fiji: Buying, £A111/2/6; selling, £A113. Fiji-London on basis of £100 London:—

	Buying	Selling
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Telegraphic transfer ..	111 2 6	113 0 0
On demand	111 2 6	113 0 0

WESTERN SAMOA

Through Bank of New Zealand:—Australia on Western Samoa on basis of £100 Samoa: buying, £A123/12/6; selling, £A124/10/6. Samoa on London, on basis of £100 in London:—

	Buying	Selling
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Telegraphic transfer ..	100 7 6	101 10 0
On demand	99 9 3	101 10 0

Samoa on New Zealand, on basis of £100 NZ:—Buying, £100; selling, £100/10/-
Samoa on Fiji, on basis of £100 Samoa:—
Buying, £111; selling, £110.
Samoa on USA and Canada, on basis of £1 Samoa:—

	Buying	Selling
	Dollars	Dollars
Telegraphic transfer ..	4.03736	3.91872
On demand	4.07943	3.92118

The Bank of NZ in Apia pays the following Samoan currency prices for overseas notes:—
NZ notes

NZ notes

Australian notes

USA notes

Fijian notes

PAPUA-NEW GUINEA

Bank of New South Wales, which now has branches in Port Moresby, Lae, and Rabaul quotes an exchange rate between Australia and Papua-New Guinea of 10/- per £100. Similar rates through Commonwealth Bank of Australia (branches at Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul and Madang).

FRENCH PACIFIC COLONIES

SINCE the end of 1945, the franc, instead of having the same value in all parts of the French Empire, has been given different values in different Colonial Groups. There are three groups. Group 1: France, North Africa, West Indies, French Guiana, Group 2: All African Colonies, Madagascar, Reunion, St. Pierre, Miquelon. Group 3: New Caledonia, New Hebrides, French Oceania. The Group 1 franc was devalued in January, 1948. Exchange values, in francs, are (nominal only):—

	£ Stg.	USA Dollar	£ Aust.
Group 1	860	216	684
Group 2	508.23	126	498.5
Group 3	200	49.6	159

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