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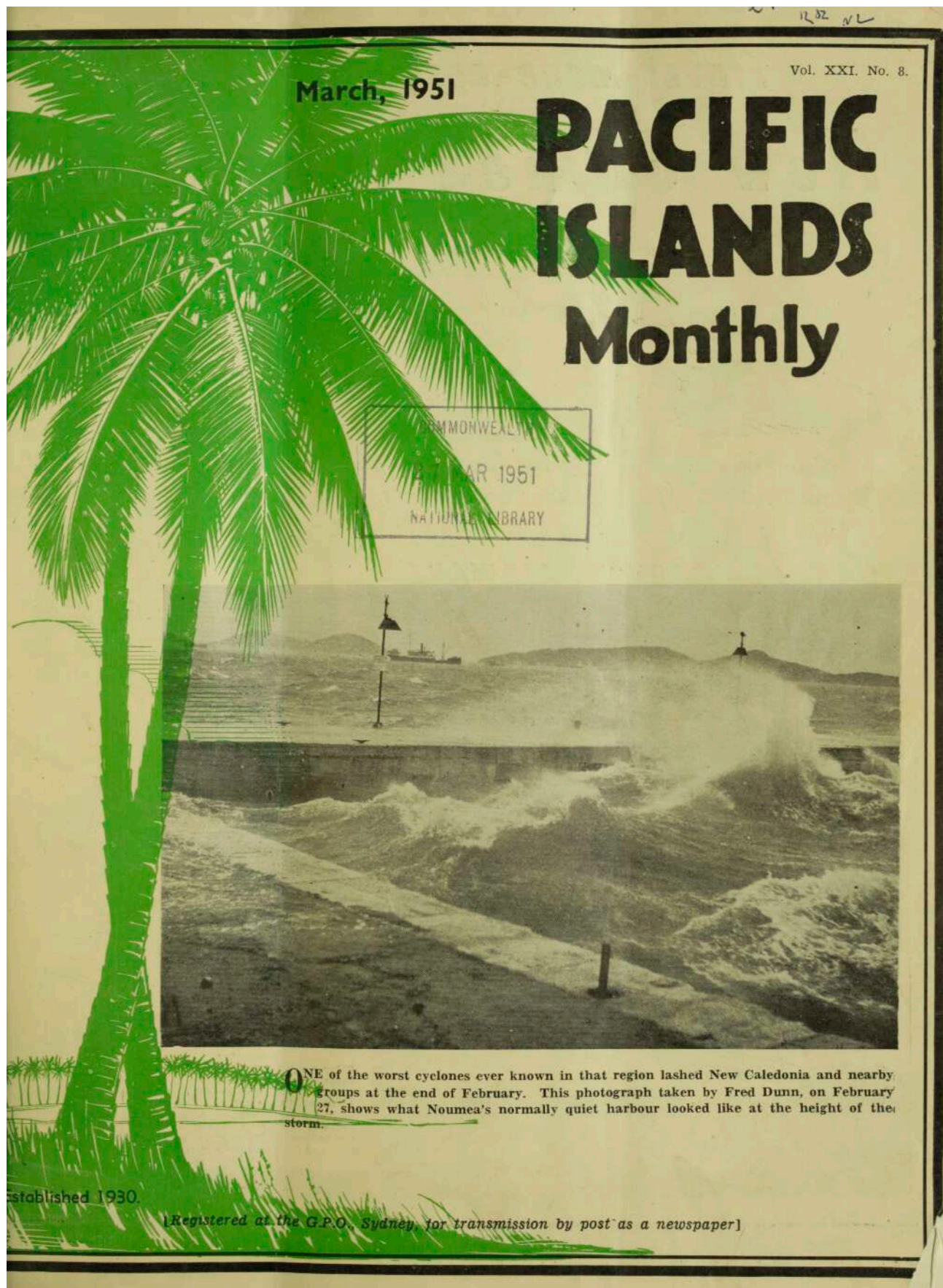
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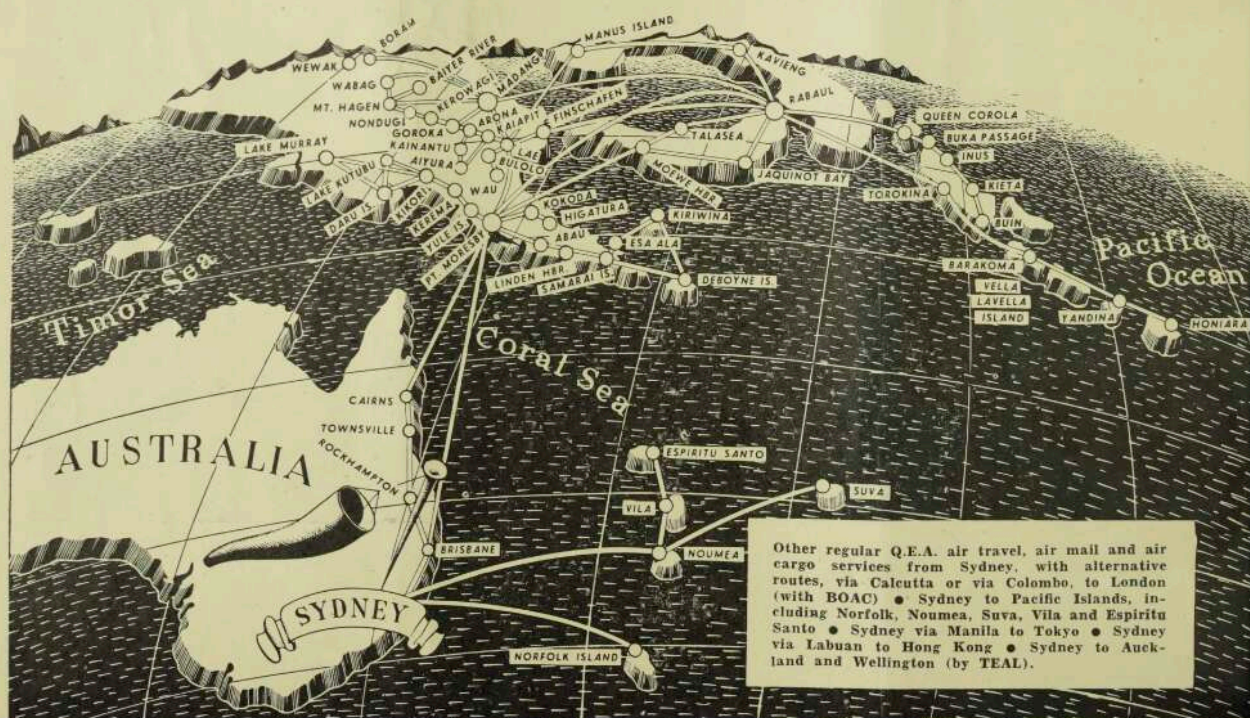
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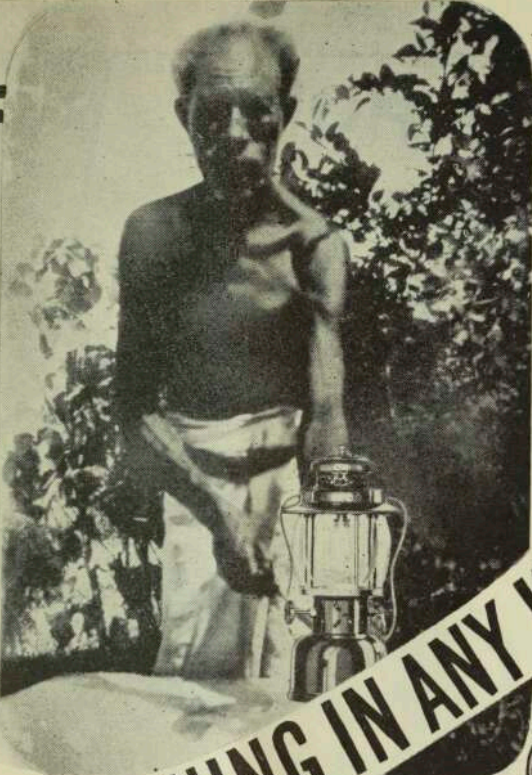


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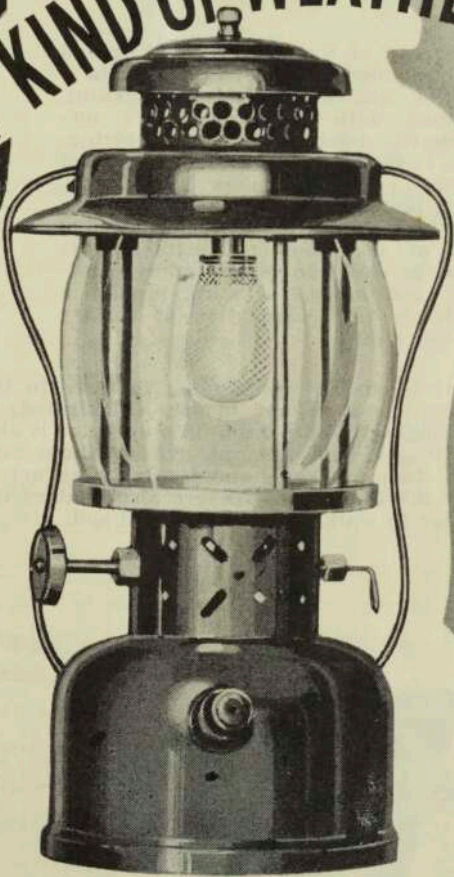
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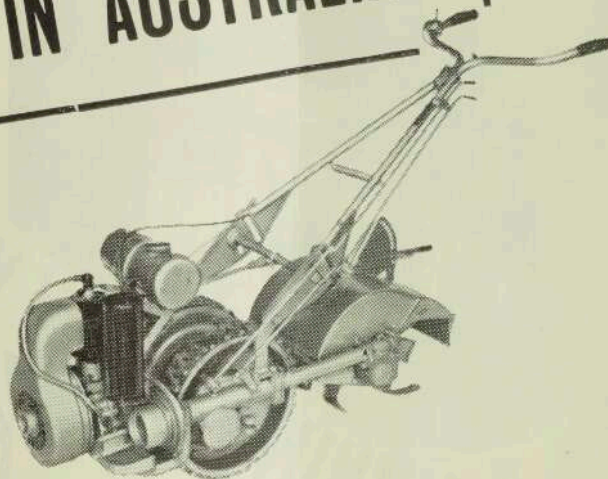
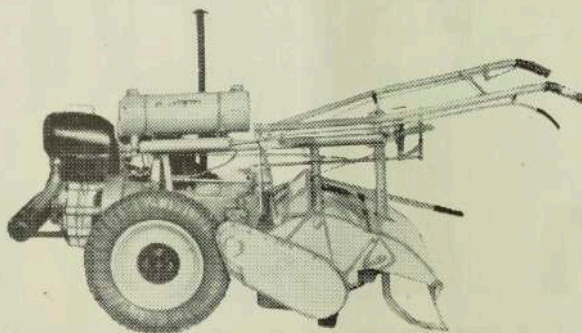
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Index to Advertisers

Achun, Gabriel . . .	87	Kodak (A/asia) . . .	40
"Akta-Vite" . . .	62	Pty., Ltd. . . .	13
Aladdin Industries . .	70	Kolynos, Inc. . . .	13
Alois Akun & Co. . .	72	Kopsen, W., & Co. . .	47
Amplion (A/asia) . .	65	Lillis & Co., Ltd. . .	90
Pty . . .	65	Macintyre, Thomas, & Co., Ltd. . . .	38
Angus & Robertson, Ltd. . .	93	MacLaurin School . .	31
Ardath Tobacco Co. .	88	Mac Robertson Pty., Ltd. . . .	17
"Aspaxadrene" . . .	103	McGee, Andrew . . .	28
"Aspro" . . .	39	McGrath's, Ltd. . . .	15
Balchin, W. Ltd. . .	105	"Mendaco" . . .	92
Bank of NSW . . .	19	Merrilees, J. C., Pty., Ltd. . . .	21
Beil, Stanley P., & Co. . .	22, 99	Millers Ltd. (Fiji) . .	18
Bellhaven Guest House . . .	100	Mobile Industrial Equipment Ltd. . .	52
Berger Paints . . .	84	Morris Hedstrom Ltd. . . .	12
Beriel Ltd. . . .	32	Morris Hedstrom (Aust.) Pty., Ltd. . .	91
Berry's Bay Boat-yard . . .	100	Mungo Scott, Ltd. . .	38
Bethell, Gwyn Co. . .	81	Nathan's Merchandise (NSW) Pty. . .	41
Blackland Rae Pty. .	83	Nelson & Robertson Pty., Ltd. . . .	34
Bundell Spence Co. .	64	"Nisoderm" . . .	51
B.O.A.C. . . .	25	Nordman, Oscar G. .	23
Borthwicks' Paint . .	72	North Sydney Travel Bureau . . .	101
Bovril, Ltd. . . .	37	O'Brien, Geo. . . .	96
Brasso Polish . . .	101	Oliver Corporation . .	110
Bristol-Myers Co. . .	43	Pabco Products . . .	35
Broomfields, Ltd. . .	76	Pacific Is. Society . .	50
Brunton & Co. . . .	107	Pacific Islands Trading Co. . .	89
Bunting, A. H. . . .	27, 61	"Pacific Islands Year Book" . .	103
Burns Philp (NG) . .	61	"Pinkettes" . . .	106
Burns Philp (NH) . .	46	Pitt-Way Courses . .	17
Burns Philp (SS) . .	82	Qantas, Ltd. . . .	cov. H.
Burns Philp Trust . .	86	Qld. Insurance Co. . .	109
Burns Studios . . .	63	Quirk's Victory Light Co. . .	20
Carpenter, W. R. & Co., Ltd. . . .	74, cov. iv	Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd. . . .	30
Carpenter, W. R. (Fiji), Ltd. . . .	95	Reed, Wm., E. . . .	102
Classified Advt. . .	111	Riverstone Meat Co. .	66
Colonial Meat Co. . .	44	Robinson, G. H. . .	67
Colyer Watson (NG) Ltd. . . .	31, 45, 68	Rohu, Sil	75
Craddock Radio . .	36	Scott, J., Pty., Ltd. .	42
Cryer, R. J., Ltd. . .	14	Seward, N. H., Ltd. .	89
Cunningham, R. H. Pty., Ltd. . . .	24	Shell Co. of Aust. . .	107
Cystex	106	Simpson Bros. Pty. .	33
Dangar, Gedy & Malloch, Ltd. . . .	2	Sims, A. G., Ltd. . .	65
Davison Paints . . .	46	Southern Cross Eng. & Windmill Co. . .	30
Dettol	29	Southern Pacific Insurance Co. . . .	37
Donaghy & Sons . .	79	Spartan Paints . . .	93
Donald, A. B., Ltd. (Auckland) . . .	85	Spruce Co. . . .	13
Donald, A. B., Ltd. (Rarotonga) . . .	42	Steamships Trading Co., Ltd. (Papua) . .	49
Douglas, W. C., Ltd. . .	63	Stewarts & Lloyds . .	80
Dunlop Rubber Co. .	23	Sullivan, C., Ltd. . .	71
Ectrolux	74	Swallow & Ariell . .	22
Erker, A. J. . . .	98	Swift & Horndale Pty., Ltd. . . .	111
Establishments Donald Tahiti . .	24	Tallerman & Co. . .	101
Excelsior Supply Co. .	87	Tasman Empire Airways, Ltd. . . .	94
Festival of Britain . .	3	Taylor, Allen & Co. .	71
Fiji	81	Thornycroft, Ltd. . .	104
Ford Sherington, Limited . . .	49	Tilley Lamp Co. . . .	109
French Chamber of Commerce . . .	47	Tillock & Co., Ltd. .	105
Frett, Davidson & Matthey, Ltd. . . .	112	Tongan Photos Bureau . . .	41
Frick Hotel	29	Tooth & Co., Ltd. .	40
Fibey, W. & A. . . .	88	Trans Oceanic Airways . . .	16
Flespie Bros. . . .	82	Tru-Wite Cleaner . .	26
Flespie, Robt., Pty., Ltd. . . .	1, 50, 73	Tyneside Engineering Co., Ltd. . .	75
Flespie, Robt. (NG) Ltd. . . .	85, 97	Undersee Novelties . .	67
Fordon's Gin	76	United Island Traders Ltd. . .	68
Fugh & Co., E. J. . .	79	Vacuum Oil Co. . . .	48, 81
Grand Pacific Hotel .	4	"Valiant" Rum . . .	80
Gregory, A., Ltd. . .	39	Ventura Trading Co. . . .	112
Grove, W. H., & Sons, Ltd. . . .	18	Vincent Chem. Co. .	69
Guaranteed Mail Orders . . .	95	West, Harry, Pty., Ltd. . . .	100
Horsens Sons, Ltd. .	99	"Where the Trade Winds Blow" . . .	26
Hewley's Pty., Ltd. .	78	Williams' Pills . . .	15
Hoy, K. H. D. . . .	73	Wills, W. D. & H. O. (Aust.), Ltd. . . .	cov. III
Hinz & Co., Ltd. . .	51	W. J. Manufacturing Co., Ltd. . .	95
Hingway & Robertson, Ltd. . .	27	Yorkshire Insurance Co., Ltd. . .	45
Holland Rusk . . .	14	Young, Harry J., Pty., Ltd. . . .	108
Hover, Francis . . .	14		
Hyla Sanitary Co. . .	92		
Islands Industries . .	77		
Islands Service Bureau	77		
Jennedy, Captain . .	97		
Jerr Bros. . . .	83, 106		
Jol Polish Co. . . .	34		

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3 MAY—30 SEPTEMBER 1951



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Editorials: Mr. Spender Goes to Washington :: The Future of the South Pacific Commission :: Bureaucracy Clings to Stabilisation Fund :: Others Besides Planters at War with MOF	5-6
CO of NGVR Appointed	6
CSR Fiji Chief Retires	6
Iniquitous MOF Copra Price	7
Severe Earthquakes in New Hebrides	7
Further Changes in P-NG Administration May Await General Election in Australia	8
Stratocruisers on Trans-Pacific Service	8
New Adventure for Captain Taylor—Australia-South American Air Route Survey	9
Aorangi Returns to Pacific Service	9
Resignation of Secretary-General of South Pacific Commission	9
SPC Will Hold Seventh Session in Noumea	10
Third Trading Bank for Suva	10
Native Refugees are a Headache for P-NG Administration	11
Nutty Suggested for Pacific	11
Medals for the Gallant 39—Disgraceful Episode of Nauru Defence in 1941-42	13
Fiji-Australasian Trade	14
BSI Virtually Without Wharf Facilities	17
US Tourists Don't Spend Like the GI's	18
No Permits to Cut New Guinea Pine	19
The Month in Moresby	21
Boom Time in Apia—New Buildings Follow High Produce Prices	23
The Secretary to the Colonies Meets a BSI Planter	25
Off and On Again—Pan American's Call at New Caledonia	26
The Deportation of Otto Soltwedel	27
Rabaul Roundabout	29

Solomon Islander's Remarkable Feat of Translation	31
Angry Delegate and Fiji Liquor Law Planters Should Bargain with MOF Direct	32
Operation Volcano	33
Indonesians in New Caledonia — Strange Indifference of Australia	37
Lae Now Has Advisory Council—Moresby Council's Reluctance to Assume Power	38
Proposed Introduction of Rabbits to BSI	39
Blood for Volcano Victims	41
Murder Trial on Niue	41
Frustration in Cook Islands	42
A Bachelor for Pago Pago—Samoans Do Not Like Unmarried State	43
Its Rich Soil is Niue's Shrinking Wealth	45
Naturalisation Rush in New Guinea	46
Memories of the Former Kaiser	47
UN Tells NG How it Should be Done	49
About Volcanoes	50
Can a Native Refuse to Work	51
Territories' Talk Talk	53
Island Town's Cinema	54
Tonga's 50 Years of Friendship with Britain	55
This is Australia's New Dominion	56
Tropicalities	58
Memories of Edie Creek	59
Fashion :: Children's Section	60
Mr. Evatt Gives Democracy to Lord Howe Island	63
Fiji's Lack of Low-Priced Holiday Resorts	64
Emergency Dromes in Rabaul's Volcano Area	67
All the Praise is for Moresby in Lamington Eruption	67
February News from Port Moresby	69
News from Port Vila	71
Movie Theatres for New Britain Natives	72

Leeches Won't Like this Boot Polish	75
Mr. Dulles' Surprise Visit to Western Samoa	76
W. Samoan Elections in April	76
Pastures in New Guinea Central Highlands	77
Concerning the Fate of Poor Mr. Frings	84
Lae Critical of Lamington Relief Fund	85
Notes from Lae	86
Norfolk Island News	89
Coral Sea Cyclone	91
Madang Newsletter	92
News Notes from the Goldfields	92
Valuable Metal Industries in French Pacific Colonies	93
Plane and Shipping Timetables	95
Wau Has a Boarding School	101
Suva Bids Madly for Damaged Goods Are Mt. Lamington Refugees Being Mollycoddled?	102
25 Years in Pago Pago	103
Theatre Lae Has Town-Plan Troubles	103
Fijian Fighters in Australia	103
Destination of Admiral Chase	103
Fiji-Indian Barred from NZ—Official Explanation Should be Given	103
Coconut Planting Campaign in Fiji	103
Wot—Another Research Section!	103
Island Industries Now Making Cooking Oil in Fiji	110
Fiji Civil Service Salaries Revision	110
Fiji Bananas Held Up by NZ Watersiders' Strike	110
Australian Nightmare: Jap Colonists in NG	111
Commercial, Markets, etc.	111
OBITUARY: C. A. Bentley, 42; J. M. Wilson, 107; Mrs. M. Carruthers, 107.	111
INDUSTRIES: Copra, 6, 7, 33, 35; Gold 8; Oil, 9; Trochus, 19; Cocoa, 38 Bananas, 73; Pearl Shell, 75.	111
ORGANISATIONS: New Guinea Memorial Scholarship Fund, 11.	111

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in South Pacific.

MR. SPENDER GOES TO WASHINGTON

THE appointment by Australia of her
Minister for External Affairs and
External Territories (Mr. P. C.
Spender) to be Australian Ambassador
in Washington is of importance to all
the peoples of the Pacific Islands. We
have no future, here in the South Pacific,
unless we are under the protection of
the United States. Of all the men in
sight, there is no one more able or
better qualified than Mr. Spender to
promote a sound and friendly relation-
ship between the South Pacific countries,
and the Americans.

Naturally, there has been grumbling
in Papua-New Guinea. Those Territories
had an unhappy experience under the
Socialist Minister Ward and the class-
conscious Administration he set up; and,
when Australia threw out its Pink Gov-
ernment, and Papua-New Guinea was
handed over to the care of Mr. Spender,
and Mr. Spender went through those
frustrated tropical lands like an in-
vigorating breeze, promising quick
changes and better political health the
Territorians expected far-reaching re-
forms and sound progress. And, if the
statement of policy which Mr. Spender
made in June last had any meaning at
all, they had every reason to expect the
encouragement of private enterprise, de-
centralisation of administrative authority,
a more realistic outlook regarding the use
of native labour, a voice in their own
affairs, and strong and vigorous adminis-
tration.

As a matter of cold fact, they have
had few, if any of those things. A few
people have been encouraged to make
plans for the establishment of industries,
a few have been given permits to cut
coastal timber. District Officers have had
their titles changed to District Commis-
sioners; but that is about all. There is
the same maddening delay in getting
decisions from Port Moresby and Can-

berra; the same sense of futility and
frustration among senior officials; the
same pampering of natives; and a total
absence of anything resembling local ad-
visory boards or legislative council,
where local interests might voice their
wishes and submit their grievances. Is
it any wonder that, in recent weeks, the
average resident of Papua-New Guinea
speaks with derision of the Spender
Policy and is completely cynical when
discussing PNG administration affairs!

No one knows whether the failure to
implement the Spender policy, and the
abandonment of the Territories to the
tender mercies of Port Moresby and Can-
berra bureaucrats, has been due to de-
liberate sabotage of the Policy by en-
trenched officialdom, or was the result
of Mr. Spender's deep preoccupation with
foreign affairs. Probably, we suffered
under a combination of the two. It cer-
tainly appeared that, after his long ab-
sence abroad in the latter part of 1950,
Mr. Spender lost all active interest in
the Territories.

THE decision made by the Australian
Prime Minister, early in 1950, that
External Affairs and External Terri-
tories should be in the hands of one
man, seemed sound at the time. Inter-
national relations are in contact with
the Pacific Territories at many points.
But experienced Territorians did not like
the arrangement; and their fears were
justified.

In the present condition of the world,
foreign affairs are of paramount im-
portance; and it proved in practice that
they demanded all the thought and
energy of Mr. Spender—who probably is
the best External Affairs Minister
Australia ever had. But that meant that
he literally did not have time for Terri-
tories affairs, and the Territories have
suffered accordingly.

Mr. John Howse, MP, Mr. Spender's
Ministerial assistant, did a good job. He
impressed everyone as a man of ability,
who was quite sincere in his wish to im-
plement the Spender Policy and bring
about worth-while reforms in the Terri-
tories. But, since he had been given
neither Ministerial authority nor a
charter for ruthlessness, he could not be
expected to burst through the rolls of
bureaucratic red tape with which he was
quickly enwrapped.

Since the departure of Mr. Spender
was announced, requests that the Terri-
tories portfolio be not coupled with any
other important portfolio have reached
the Prime Minister from many places;
and, probably, they will be acceded to.

But the prospect is not good. There
are far too few outstanding men avail-
able for inclusion in the Australian
Ministry. Every man of ability and
strength is wanted by Mr. Menzies for
jobs of greater importance than that of
Territories Minister. It looks as if Terri-
tories will either have to share a first-
class Minister with some other Depart-
ment, or must accept as Minister some
inconspicuous individual who will have
neither the brains nor the strength to
stand up to the bureaucrats, and give
the Territories what the Territories need.

One suggestion that is sure to receive
consideration is that Mr. Menzies him-
self should hold the portfolio, and dele-
gate most of the work connected there-
with to an Assistant Minister. There is
nothing at all conspicuous among the
older men; but there are some very able
Members, of outstanding promise, among
those recently elected, and maybe a suit-
able Assistant Minister can be found there.
The situation is affected, of course, by
the probability of an early general elec-
tion.

WHILE Mr. Menzies has been reluc-
tant to part with one of his most
able Ministers, it is likely that Mr.
Spender, in Washington, will give to

Australia and to the Pacific Territories generally, more distinguished service than he would find possible in any other sphere.

Mr. Spender is completely a realist concerning (a) the threat that a Red Asia soon may spill over into these Pacific countries, and (b) the present weakness of the United Kingdom. He knows the harm that the Socialist Attlee Government has done to the British Empire; last year, in London, he personally saw the ineptitude and muddling of the pitiful little men who are trying to handle the Empire's affairs. As a staunch Empire man, and one who believes in British character and British

traditions, he is confident that British prestige will be restored in the Pacific, as in the rest of the world. But, in the meantime, our destiny seems to lie with the United States, and our fate is bound up with what the Americans are trying to do to restore peace, sanity and orderliness to this tortured world; and it is in that belief that Mr. Spender goes to Washington.

The future of mankind lies in the hands of the English-speaking race; and Mr. Spender, as Australia's representative, may do a great deal in forming closer relations between the now powerful United States and what we still hope may be a re-vitalised Britain and British Empire.

Future of the South Pacific Commission

THE South Pacific Commission seems to be at the cross-roads. If its affairs are not handled with skill and vision, in the next few months, it will collapse.

That it has functioned so well in the past two years, and already accomplished work of very real value in the fields of research and administration, is due partly to the organisational genius of Secretary-General Forsyth, partly to the devotion, skill and enthusiasm of the three Directors of Research, and partly to loyal service rendered by certain non-Australian Commissioners.

Australia was responsible for the creation of the Commission; Australia's Territories are by far the biggest in the South Pacific; but—apart from the fact that the Secretary-General is an Australian—Australia's contribution to the establishment and activities of the Commission has been unimpressive. A recent Australian appointee—a Sydney professor who acts as part-time Commissioner—is said to be rendering distinguished service; but he came into the picture only a few months ago. If the Commission is to be kept in being—and there very definitely is a need for it in the South

Pacific—Australia, through its Ministers and its Departments, will have to contribute something more in the way of intelligence, vision and inspiration.

Two major posts now have to be filled—those of Secretary-General and Deputy Chairman of the Research Council. In addition, the Commission is due soon to lose one of its most valuable members in Sir Brian Freeston, who is to retire this year from the Governorship of Fiji. To add to the sense of strain, there are some people who ask whether the Commission now should continue with its full programme, in view of the possibility of war.

If war comes, it is unlikely that the South Pacific will be again an operational area. Instead, it is probable that every class, European and native, will be called upon for increased production of foodstuffs and materials; and that clearly will create a greater need than ever for the Commission's services. If, through difficulties of personnel, and lack of vision, the South Pacific Commission is allowed to become just another Government instrumentality, feebly functioning in a backwater, that will be the end of it. An organisation that now has great possibilities for good will die, and will not be revived.

Bureaucracy Clings To Stabilisation Fund

THE Papua-New Guinea Copra Stabilisation Fund has become an absurdity. At this moment, it contains more than £1,200,000 Australian. If the copra market collapsed, there is enough money in the Fund to subsidise all Papua-New Guinea production, for over 20 years, at the rate of £5 per ton.

In 1946, when it was commenced, there may have been justification for this arbitrary deduction of £5 per ton from the planter's returns; but there is none now. The MOF 9-years' contract gives the planter all the guarantee he wants; and, apart from that, the fact that the world market now consistently values

copra at £100 Stg. per ton (more than double the MOF rate) does not suggest any likelihood of a collapse.

The Stabilisation Fund deduction should have been discontinued a year ago. The fact that there is no sign of its being removed is just another illustration of the fact that, once Bureaucracy is allowed to get its talons into the earnings of private enterprise, in this fashion, it takes more than public discontent, and a good case, to prise it loose. It would appear that in this respect that there is no difference between Administrations, whether they call themselves Socialist, Liberal or Calathumpian.

Others, Besides Planters, Are At War With British Ministry of Food

AS they become more angry over the confidence trick (devaluation of Sterling after the MOF contract was made), by which Britain is getting their copra at about half world-value, South Pacific coconut planters may be interested in what is happening in other countries which are supposed to supply foodstuffs to Britain.

Before the Socialists devalued the English £, Britain was buying meat from Argentina, bacon, cheese and fruit from Canada, butter and bacon from Denmark, eggs and meat from Ireland, and copra from the Pacific countries at prices regarded as mutually satisfactory. Then the incredible "Blossbury Planners" (in other words, the Attlee Socialist Government) reduced the value of Sterling by

30 per cent., in terms of US dollars, or gold—and still wanted to pay the same number of £s for those foodstuffs.

Naturally, the various nations named objected. Their products (like South Seas copra) have an international or world value, expressed in terms of gold; and if Britain devalues her £ by 30 per cent. in terms of gold or dollars, then obviously she must pay, in Sterling, 30 per cent. more for the foodstuffs referred to.

But (and this is of interest to our now discontented South Pacific copra-growers) the Socialists have stuck their toes in, and refused to pay any more. That is understandable, of course. They have been caught in the cleft stick of their own silly planning. They devalued the £

to stimulate British exports, to keep the British masses employed—which they accomplished; but, if they pay more for their imported foodstuffs (as they must do, eventually) the cost of living will rise, and they will be worse off. While they are bound to be under Social government, anyway.

So, at the moment, the British Ministry of Food is engaged in furious arguments with Argentina, Canada, Ireland, Denmark and other nations, and refusing to pay higher prices—and the British ration is down to 6d. worth per week, and the whole food situation is deteriorating.

Last month, it was announced that the British Socialist Government had written off £36,000,000 of losses incurred in a fantastic scheme of trying to produce peanuts in East Africa. Now comes word that the £800,000 poultry-raising scheme in Gambia (West Africa), which was to provide Britain with 20 million eggs per annum, from mid-1951, is likely to follow the peanuts scheme into a resounding crash.

It looks as if the Pacific copra-growers have very little hope of inducing London to revise that iniquitous price of £55, so which is being paid for copra—while the crazy Socialists remain in office, at any rate.

But the copra-growers—if only they could be persuaded to act unitedly—should at least demand that the bureaucrats of the Australian, New Zealand and Fiji Governments explain why, in entering into the MOF copra contracts, they made no provision for a revision of price in the event of currency depreciation or appreciation. That failure—an ordinary business precaution—threatens to cost the South Pacific copra-growers millions of pounds.

GO OF NEW NGVR APPOINTED

From a Brisbane Correspondent

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL N. P. Madde has been appointed to command New Guinea's European Militia. He is Brisbane for Port Moresby on March 1 to take over his new post.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maddern's island force will be the Papuan and New Guinean Volunteer Rifles. His new post is with the Army's Northern (Queensland) Command. Adelaide-born and a graduate of Duntroon, the new Commanding Officer is 31 years of age. Early in the war, he served with the Darwin Mobile Force. Later he became Adjutant of the famous Australian "Sparrow Force," trapped the Japanese in Timor.

The Japanese captured him in February, 1942. They took him to Singapore. He was awarded the MBE for his efforts for other prisoners.

After the war, Lieut.-Colonel Madde spent three years in Washington as a member of Australia's Military Mission.

CSR's FIJI CHIEF RETIRES

Appointment of Mr. C. Elliott

MR. E. H. GRIFFITHS, Chief Manager and Attorney in Fiji, of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., has retired, and he and Mrs. Griffiths intend to live in Australia.

Mr. Griffiths first joined the staff of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., in 1908. His first appointment of manager in Fiji was in 1926, and since then he has been manager of every mill in the Colony. In 1947 he was appointed to his present position.

He has taken a keen interest in community affairs and he and Mrs. Griffiths have made a large number of friends in the Colony.

He is to be succeeded by Mr. C. Elliott who has been CSR manager at Ba.

INIQUITOUS MOF COPRA PRICE

Planters' Direct Appeal to Ministry Officials

TWO high British officials representing the British Ministry of Food (Mr. Shead Anderson, Under Secretary of the Ministry, and Mr. C. Wilson, a member of the staff) were in Canberra in mid-March, discussing plans for a meat-supply contract. They later left for Queensland, for a similar purpose, and said they would be back in Sydney after Easter.

On learning of this, two BSI copra-growers, Mr. Joe Bryan and Mr. Yarrow (Fairymead Co.), representing the BSI Planters' Assn., sought an interview with the officials, with a view to discussing the inequities of the MOF copra contract, from the Pacific planters' viewpoint. They were advised by the staff of the British Trade Commission that Mr. Shead Anderson would see them on his return from Queensland.

It was expected that, when the interview took place, representatives of the New Guinea Planters' Association, and perhaps of the Fiji planters, as well as the BSI men, would meet the Under Secretary. Messrs. H. T. Allan, Ted Fulton and Jack Allen, representing the NG Planters' Association, have not yet been able to arrange the interview with the Australian Minister to which we referred in last issue; but they could have been available for a talk with the MOF officials.

But no sooner had plans for the interview been completed than a telegram was received saying that the officials would not return to Sydney and suggesting that the planters send a statement of their case direct to London.

In mid-March, we received from an Australian merchant in London a request for several copies of the article on the inequities of the MOF copra contract, which we published in February PIM. Our correspondent said that if these facts were brought formally before the British Ministry of Food, he was sure that the contract price would be revised, and he personally intended to approach MOF officials. Copies of the article were sent by air-mail.

So far as we know, officials of the Governments concerned (Australia, New Zealand and Fiji) have taken no step whatever to seek revision of the MOF contract in the light of Sterling devaluation. Now the planters themselves may accomplish something by direct approach.

HOW CANBERRA TREATS NG PLANTERS

FM Straits Copra (mixed DEI) was being quoted in London on January 25 at £129 Sterling per ton, c.i.f. Continental port.

The Papua-New Guinea price under the MOF contract was announced in February (to operate from March 1) at £54/5/0 (for Hot-air Dried) and £53/16/6 (for Smoked) per ton, Australian currency, at PNG port.

In other words, after adjusting exchange and allowing for freight and handling charges, etc., the New Guinea planter is getting at least £60 per ton under world parity. Other South Pacific planters affected by the MOF contract are in a similar position.

The Australian Department of External Territories (which arranged the MOF contract and, so far, has stubbornly refused to seek a revision in the light of Sterling devaluation) is now selling New Guinea copra to the Australian crushing mills at £74/10/- Australian per ton (12/6 less for Smoked)—which is at least £55 Australian less than it could get if it shipped the same copra to a European port.

Why should the New Guinea planters

subsidise the Australian crushers in this fantastic way?

According to the London "Public Ledger" of January 25, the London Copra Association prices at all Western European ports were:—

FMS Ceylon £130; FMS Straits and Estate Plantation £130; West African, FMS £129/10/-; Straits, FM £129 and Philippines, FM, in bulk, \$305, per long ton. Plantation Mozambique, No. 1, Esc. 10,200; No. 2, Esc. 10,100 and FM Mozambique, Esc. 10,050, per 1,000 kilos; all in bags.

Those prices are in Sterling. Add 25 per cent. to get the amount in Australian currency.

FIJI PRODUCTION: 20,000 TONS PA

DURING the calendar year 1950, Fiji produced over 20,000 tons of copra. 10,158 tons were shipped overseas, and were valued at £544,101 Fijian; and about 10,000 tons, valued at about £950,000, was processed within the Colony.

The figures, made available in February by the secretary of the Fiji Copra Board (Mr. C. St. Julian) show the great and growing economic importance of the Fiji copra-crushing mills. They now take half the total Fijian production. About half the copra which went overseas was shipped from Levuka, with Savu Savu a close second.

By comparison, it is interesting to note that Papua-New Guinea's annual production is estimated to be in the vicinity of 65,000 tons (the average production, pre-war, was 75,000 tons) and less than one-third of that production is processed in Australia.

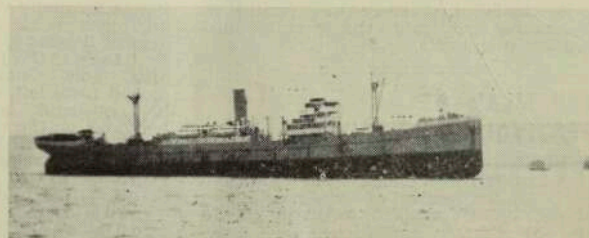
GOVERNMENT GIVES G. & E. NATIVES £20 PER TON

FURTHER information from the Gilbert and Ellice Group (see February PIM) shows that the native producer of copra, after officialdom has done with him, gets about £20 Australian per ton. Yet that same copra can be sold in a European port for £100 per ton more. The G. & E. Government takes over all the native-produced copra, and "slugs" the producer with freight, storage, shrinkage, insurance, handling, export duty (25 per cent!) and deduction for "Development and Welfare Fund"; and then sells the copra under the MOF contract for about £55, which gives the British buyer an advantage of about £70 per ton. In the Western Pacific it is called "Government racketeering." That seems a mild term.

Mr. A. D. Playfair, export sales manager for W. D. & H. O. Wills (Australia) Ltd., well known tobacco manufacturers, will leave Sydney by air on March 31 on a business visit to Papua and New Guinea. After visiting Port Moresby, Samarai, Lae, Madang and Rabaul, he will return to Australia on April 24.

LAUTOKA ON REEF

The 7,000-ton Carpenter ship, Lautoka, on Malapoa Reef, Port Vila, New Hebrides. The vessel struck the reef when entering the port on February 2. She got off some days later.



OVER £1,000,000

NG Copra Stabilisation Fund

THE Papua-New Guinea Copra Stabilisation Fund—created by the deduction of from £4 to £6 per ton from payments due to copra producers—is now well over £1,000,000. The following details have been issued by the secretary of the Department of External Territories (Mr. J. R. Halligan):—

Amount in fund on 1/7/50 ..	£830,962
Levy from 1/7/50 to 31/12/50 ..	161,502
Interest on funds held	32,220

Total on 31/12/50 £1,022,220

Most of the amount is held in Commonwealth inscribed stock.

SEVERE EARTHQUAKE IN NEW HEBRIDES

From Our Own Correspondent

SANTO, March 11

A HEAVY earthquake shock was experienced here to-day, and it caused damage to stores and residences. One house was destroyed by fire.

As a result of the damage and confusion, caused by the earthquake, ordinary business was suspended for two days.

THE END OF THE HUIA



Captain Hugh Birch, in charge of a Qantas flying-boat, Sandringham, from Noumea to Suva, on January 31, took these photographs.

The first shows the trading-schooner, Huia, on the reef in Havannah Passage, near Noumea, where she struck and became a total wreck in thick weather in the night of January 28. The Huia is on the right, and a relief vessel, standing by, is seen on the left. The edge of the reef is visible.

The second picture shows the flying-boat passing typical New Caledonian coastal formation, near Havannah Pass.

P-NG ADMINISTRATION

Further Changes May Await the Result of General Election

THE retirement of Mr. Spender from the Australian Parliament and Department of External Territories is discussed in our principal article.

He will remain in office until late in April—maybe until the Australian general election. There is no indication of who his successor will be.

There have been no official announcements concerning the appointment of deputy-administrators, or the creation of a Legislative Council, or the re-organisation of the Production Control Board, or any of the various other matters affecting P-NG administration which have been hanging fire.

Such matters now will probably all await the result of the Australian general election, and the advent of a new Minister.

TOA's SYDNEY-MORESBY SERVICE AGAIN HELD UP

TOA Ltd. has encountered further difficulties in its plan to establish a flying-boat service between Sydney and Moresby.

A service was announced, originally, to commence in November. This was cancelled because the Australian authorities would not allow the craft to make use of Townsville; and the flying-boats then available could not fly with a load from Brisbane to Moresby.

So TOA bought, in Britain, a Solent capable of flying, with a load, from Brisbane to Moresby. It was to inaugurate the service early in 1951. It crashed, and was lost at Malta, en route to Australia.

TOA immediately bought another Solent in Britain. It was to undergo certain alterations in the factory of Short Brothers, makers of the Solents, and leave for Australia in time to start the service in April. A strike has occurred in this factory, and no date yet can be given for the start of the service.

INDONESIANS TIGHTENING THEIR BELTS AND TALKING LESS

LITTLE has been heard about Indonesia's clamorous claim to Dutch New Guinea since the "Republicans," in August, succeeded in wiping out the Federal set-up (and, with it, the last vestiges of Dutch control) and got the whole archipelago by the throat. Apparently, all the screaming about Dutch New Guinea was merely propaganda to prepare the way for the "Republicans' coup d'etat.

The president, Soekarno, on March 2, promised that Dutch New Guinea would be returned to Indonesia before January, 1952. Last year, with much noise and warlike gesture, he promised the Indonesian people that New Guinea would be theirs before the sun rose on January 1, 1951.

He denied that there was famine in Indonesia, but said the people must tighten their belts.

FIJI MLA's AT FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

THREE unofficial members of Fiji's Legislative Council will probably visit the Festival of Britain as guests of the UK Government between July 9 and 30. Similar invitations have been

issued to members of other Colonial Councils.

It has been suggested in Fiji that each racial group in the Council should select one representative. Whether the representatives would have to pay their own transport costs has not been decided yet.

Stratocruisers on Trans-Pacific Service

PAN American Airways have introduced giant Boeing Stratocruisers on their Sydney-North American route. They have been using them on their Pacific Coast-Honolulu services for some time.

The first Stratocruiser arrived in Sydney after flying the Pacific in early March. PAA, in line with their usual practice, call their new aircraft Strato Clippers. They have now gone onto the regular Sydney-North American service.

The aircraft will carry 56 passengers. There are 39 Sleeperettes and 17 berths. Passengers who have berths use conventional airliner seats during the day. There is no difference in the fare, whichever type of accommodation the passenger chooses.

The Strato Clippers have two decks. On the lower deck is a club-lounge, bar and observation compartment.

Tontouta is Out for Present

BECAUSE Tontouta airport (New Caledonia) is not up to the standard required for the giant Boeing plane, this call has been cut out by PAA for the present. The company has applied to the Governments concerned for a permit to operate a shuttle service with DC4's from Australia to New Caledonia and on to Fiji, but although there has been much negotiation (see page 26 this issue) no permission had been granted for the service up to March 15.

New Zealand Link

A SERVICE will be run with DC4 Clippers between Auckland, NZ and Nadi, Fiji, and return to link up with the Strato Clippers.

INDONESIANS IN N. CALEDONIA

M. J. STRAUSS, Consul-General for France, in Australia, advises us that, in the years 1948, 1949 and 1950, the French authorities repatriated 4,500 Indonesian workers, and that the total number of Indonesians now remaining in New Caledonia is less than 3,000.

We believe this statement to be perfectly correct. Our complaint (made in September and repeated now) is that the 3,000 or so remaining Indonesians have been allowed to settle down in New Caledonia as a permanent colony.

NG Goldfields, Ltd.'s Prospects

ALTHOUGH New Guinea Goldfields Ltd.—the big New Guinea company which was originally capitalised at Five Millions, and later written down to a Million—made a profit of £4,903 in the year ended September 30, compared with a loss of £33,610 in the previous year, there is nothing for the shareholders.

However, the Co. now is proceeding vigorously with the development of its Golden Ridges mill, it has let out a lot of good ground at tribute, it has established a very busy sawmill and furniture-making industry, and the 1951 figures should tell a different story—although worth-while results may not be enjoyed until 1952-3.

The balance-sheet shows that receipts (mostly sales of bullion) are taking care of increasing costs, and that the company has about £100,000 liquid wherewith to carry on.

This company held, and still holds, a lot of very rich country; but it never has returned much to its shareholders, and there has been no dividend at all for many years. The best that can be hoped for, if present plans come to fruitfulness, is a modest to good dividend for a decade or so.

NEW COLOUR FILM OF FIJI

A NEW 16 mm. colour film entitled Fiji—Crossroads of the South Pacific has been completed and released by British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines in co-operation with White's Aviation Ltd. of NZ.

The film, which runs for 13 minutes, tells of a typical flight to Fiji and a tour of Viti Levu. It begins with early shots of Pacific reefs, gives a glimpse of Nadi Airport, then a visit to the Fijian village of Vei Sei Sei. The camera records the peaceful beaches of Sawen, and Cuvu, the summer house at Koralevu, and the lushness of pineapple plantations. It moves on to Suva (Grand Pacific Albert Park, Victoria Parade, the Triangle, Suva Gardens); to Raki Rak (where a 12 lb. Spanish Mackerel is caught, and the camera captures ceremonies and dances at the village of Vitongo); to Ba (Indian market-place and scenes); and the colourful sugar-town of Lautoka.

Copies of the film are available on a loan basis on application to the Publicity Manager, at BCPA's head office, 53 Martin Place, Sydney.

The engagement was announced in Suva, Fiji, recently of Miss Pamela Phyllis Blackie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Blackie, of Suva, to Mr. Frank Anthony Carver, a young Englishman who is an officer of the Department of Agriculture, Suva.

OLD PAPUANS' WEDDING IN BRISBANE

THERE are three former Papuans in this group—Mr. Sydney H. Chance (centre), who was a Resident Magistrate in Papua for many years, and now is a resident of Brisbane; Mrs. E. Lade (formerly Miss Lois Chance), second from left, with her husband beside her; and, on the right, Mr. Alister G. Chance, who was married on February 10 to Miss Smith—his bride is beside him. The group was photographed after the wedding ceremony.



New Adventure for Capt. Taylor

Australia-South American Air Route Survey

CAPTAIN P. G. TAYLOR, pioneer airman, with his crew of three and a correspondent, left Grafton, NSW, on March 14, on the first leg of a survey flight between Australia and South America.

He is using a special RAAF Catalina loaned by the Commonwealth Government, which is sponsoring the survey. The Catalina has special equipment including jet-assisted take-off, which will help get the flying-boat off the water twice as fast as normally. This assistance will probably be needed at Easter Island where take-off will have to be made from the open sea. JATO consists of four rockets, each weighing about 200 pounds.

Captain Taylor's crew members are: Captain Harry Purvis, who flew with Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, was a Wing Commander during the war, and now manages a flying service taking newspapers to the country. Mr. A. Allison, a radio officer with Trans-Oceanic Airways, Mr. A. L'Huillier, flight engineer with the same company.

Captain Taylor said Mr. Allison and Mr. L'Huillier had been members of his TOA crew on regular flights to Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

Also on the plane will be Mr. J. Percival, a business executive who will act as official correspondent for the trip.

The route will be from Grafton (on the northern NSW coast) to Noumea, Suva, Satapuala Bay (Western Samoa), Aitutaki (Cook Islands), Papeete, Mangareva (French Oceania), Pitcairn Island, Easter Island and Valparaiso. The flight is of 8,500 miles and Captain Taylor expects to make it in about three weeks. A token philatelic mail of about 100 lb. will be carried.

Captain Taylor has called the Catalina Frigate Bird II; Frigate Bird I was the Cat in which he made his last big survey flight—from Central America to Australia via Clipperton Island in 1944.

Did Not Reach Lau

The Chilean Air Force recently made a flight to Easter Island in a flying-boat with amphibious landing gear. It was this plane which last month was reported by Australian newspapers to have gone on to the Lau Islands, Fiji Group.

It appears, however, that the Chileans never got further than Easter, nor had they intended to. The aircraft failed to get off, and was damaged, and reports indicate that the crew returned to Chile by sea.

The reported arrival of the flying-boat in the Lau Group was evidently a figment of some newspaperman's imagination.

There is a small airstrip on Easter Island, but no sheltered flying-boat base. It appears that the landing and take-off from Easter will be the most hazardous part of Captain Taylor's adventure.

A reception was given at the British Council Centre in Suva at the end of February by the Fiji representative, Mr. H. T. Lawrence. The function marked the first anniversary of the opening of the centre. The Governor of Fiji was among the guests.

The Rev. Clifford Williams, of the Methodist Mission is at present in Eastern Australia on leave after 11 years in Western Samoa.

Aorangi Returns to Pacific Service in April

THE Canadian-Australasian liner Aorangi will resume its service between Australasia and North America in early April. The governments of Australia, Canada and New Zealand will subsidise its operations. The vessel was withdrawn from service at the end of January and laid up in Sydney. The owners intended to sell it.

The owners announced last July that their losses since the liner had resumed on the Pacific route in 1948, after war service, were so great that they could no longer maintain the service unless they were heavily subsidised by the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and Canada. They gave January 26, 1951 as the deadline.

Months of negotiation followed. New Zealand was willing to pay her share of the subsidy; but Australia and Canada were not. Australia later signified that she was willing but Canada refused until recent war fears changed the situation somewhat.

About four regular passenger ships were on the Sydney-Auckland-North America run before the war, but only the Aorangi came back after the war ended. Between August, 1948, and January, 1951, she lost £600,000 for her owners. Aorangi's losses can be attributed to airline competition, high working costs and dockside unrest, but mostly to dollar restrictions imposed by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, which has cut virtually off trade with North America.

It is understood that the subsidy will be paid for the year 1951 only and then reviewed. In the light of the present international situation, as well as for reasons of trade and communication, the decision to keep the Aorangi in service has been received with pleasure on both sides of the Pacific and in the Islands.

The Melbourne Herald of January 23 summed up the situation neatly in a leader, part of which said:

"It was obviously wise of the Governments concerned to agree on this last-minute salvaging of the 'all-red route.' It would be wiser still for them to study means of restoring the buoyant, two-way flow of commerce that used to exist."

Australasian Petroleum Co. Pty. Ltd.

AUSTRALASIAN Petroleum Co. Pty. Ltd., reported as follows on their Papua operations on March 13.

HOBORO: No. 2 Test Well, which was commenced in early February, has reached a depth of 1,958 feet.

WANA: Formation testing has been completed and the hole plugged prior to dismantling of the plant.

The drilling of this hole has confirmed seismic predictions regarding the presence of a thick sedimentary series in the Delta area; however, no free oil was encountered, although slight traces of oil were extracted from some of the cores.

Island Exploration Co. Pty. Ltd., reports that the Test Well at Omati has been deepened 1,201 feet to 3,350 feet.

The Rev. A. W. Loy, accompanied by Mrs. Loy and their two children has arrived in Fiji to work in the Indian section of the Methodist Church in Fiji. He was born and educated in Australia and has for the past 43 years been in the United Provinces of India engaged in Mission work.

PROBLEMS OF STH. PAC. COM'N

Retirement of Secretary-General

IT was announced in Australian and New Zealand newspapers at the end of February that the Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, Mr. W. D. Forsyth, had decided to relinquish that position, and had asked the Commissioners to release him so that he might return to the service of the Australian Department of External Territories. He was given extended leave in 1948, to take up his present position.

It has been known for some time that Mr. Forsyth wished to return to the Australian service. He is outstanding among the able young men who came to the front while Dr. Evatt was Australia's "Foreign Minister"—he was actually in Paris, in personal attendance on Dr. Evatt, at some international conference there, when he was appointed to the Evatt-sponsored S. P. Commission. Although he is only 42, he had had a distinguished career—first as a scholar and teacher, and then in the diplomatic service. In 1948, he was Counsellor at the Australian Embassy in Washington, and Australian Representative on the Trusteeship Council.

As soon as he took over his new job, Mr. Forsyth displayed a genius for organisation and an extraordinary capacity for hard work; and the six nations concerned can thank him for the speed with which the Commission took shape and character, and began to function.

It soon was apparent, however, that a blunder had been made by the gentlemen who selected Noumea, in New Caledonia, as the headquarters of the Commission. Neither the Commissioners, the expert personnel nor the Commission's staff like life in Noumea, where there are many difficulties connected with language, transport, communications, accommodation and cost of living. It is not suggested that the Noumea location led to the retirement of Mr. Forsyth; but it can be presumed that it added to his difficulties.

Mr. Forsyth's decision to return to the Australian Department of External Affairs—where the condition of international relations will provide him with better and wider opportunities—adds one more to the Commission's headaches.

It means that the Commission's two principal executive positions (Secretary-General and Deputy Chairman of the Research Council) now have to be filled. If they are not adequately filled, the Commission cannot function as its founders intended.

NEW HOTEL AT LAE



The new hotel (Hotel Cecil) at Lae, New Guinea, is now within measurable distance of completion. It has been built for Mrs. F. S. Stewart near the waterfront, on the site of her Hotel Cecil, built in the middle 30's, and completely destroyed in the war.

—Photo by J. V. Knight.

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

Headquarters:
Anse Vata,
Noumea, New
Caledonia

Commission's Seventh Session Opens Next Month At Noumea

THE Seventh Session of the South Pacific Commission will open at headquarters, in Noumea, on April 28. It is expected to last about 12 days. Each of the six member Governments will be represented by two Commissioners or alternates, and such advisers as each Government considers necessary.

Prominent in the provisional agenda is the first progress report on the 42 resolutions of the first South Pacific Conference, held in Suva, in April, 1950, when 41 native representatives from 16 Pacific Territories were brought together for the first time in history.

"Grants-in-Aid" for 1951

The work programme of the South Pacific Commission for 1951 includes the continuation of investigations, and some new projects in each of the fields of health, economic development and social development.

The cost of each project, which varies considerably according to the extent of the research work involved and the expert personnel needed, is either borne wholly by the Commission or by a Government or scientific institution, with financial aid from the Commission.

It sometimes happens that member

Governments or their Territorial administrations undertake similar projects on their own behalf. Where these are of interest to other Territories, the Commission may offer assistance in the form of expert advice, provision of equipment or funds. Specific sums allocated to such purposes are known as "grants-in-aid."

The largest single grant-in-aid appearing in the Commission's 1951 budget is a contribution of £2,900, made to the Government of Fiji towards the further development of a Central Introduction Garden already established at Suva.

A further grant of £500 has been made to assist approved projects for improving tropical pasture and stock. A similar amount will be available for assisting member Governments to assemble information for the Commission on the result of land utilisation surveys.

In all, eight such grants-in-aid, totalling £7,100, are provided in this year's budget.

Visitors' Days at Headquarters

There were two "Visitors' Days" in February at the Commission's headquarters in Noumea. The first, on the 6th, was for members of the public of Noumea, to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the founding of the Commission at Canberra in 1947. The second was for passengers of the luxury cruiser *Coronia*, which called at Noumea on February 19. On both occasions parties of visitors were escorted over the Pentagon building, and briefly told of the Commission's aims and activities.

SMALL SEAPLANE LOST IN LAU GROUP

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, March 1
A SINGLE-ENGINED Cessna seaplane recently imported from America by Mr. Harold Gatty, for his own use, drifted from its moorings at Katafaga in the Lau Group on February 25 and has not been found.

Mr. Gatty expected to use the plane, which has accommodation for three passengers and a pilot, to fly from Suva to his plantation at Katafaga. It would also have been available for charter flights within the Colony. It was assembled in Suva just a week before it was lost and on February 24 Mr. Gatty and Mr. T. French, who acted as pilot flew to Lau from Suva.

A canoe chased it when it drifted from its moorings but was unable to approach it in the rough sea. A RNZAF Catalina made repeated attempts to locate it in the two days following but the small aircraft had apparently disappeared.

Mr. Gatty intends to replace the plane as soon as possible.

THIRD TRADING BANK FOR SUVA

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, March 1
A BRANCH of the Bank of Australasia will shortly open in Suva. A manager and teller arrived from Melbourne by air on February 28 and premises have been secured in a new block of buildings in Victoria Parade.

There are two trading banks already established in Suva—the Bank of New South Wales and the Bank of New Zealand.

Commander W. Burrows of Suva, Fiji, has been appointed a temporary relieving Magistrate with jurisdiction in Courts in the Southern and Northern Districts.

In Fiji in the Days of World War I



In this very interesting group photograph of the Second Fiji Reinforcements to the King's Royal Rifles, England, taken in 1917, there will be found the names of some of Fiji's oldest pioneer families. The photograph was kindly loaned to us by Mr. A. W. Small, who lately retired from the Fiji Public Service. The names, from left to right, are:—

BACK ROW: D. Bannatyne, C. Browne, S. Cox, E. Caldwell, W. Mortimore, A. Walker, J. Munday, S. Reay, J. Hargreaves, H. Whittaker, and W. Powell.

MIDDLE ROW: C. Garnett, C. A. Swinbourne (now retired, and living in Sydney), I. McOwan (notable Government official, now dead), J.

Hedstrom (now Sir Maynard Hedstrom, living in Suva), Lady Escott, Governor (Sir E. B. Sweet Escott), R. Crompton (well-known resident of Suva), A. Roberts, W. Hurrell, and C. V. Dier.

FRONT ROW: D. Mack, C. McGeedy, J. Toy, Joe Cox, W. McDonall, A. W. Small, E. H. Barker, Colin Grieves.

Native Refugees Headache For P-NG Administration

Aftermath of Mt. Lamington Eruption

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, March 1
THE aftermath of the Mt. Lamington disaster is adding new problems to those already on the Administration's list.

The volcano is still intermittently active, and its future activities are, of course, a matter of speculation, even for the volcanologists. This means that no definite plans can be made for the area. It has not been possible to complete the burial of the dead throughout the devastated area because of the constant crater activity. Only a few patrols have been permitted to get near Higaturu as the ban is lifted by the volcanologist only when he is reasonably satisfied that no immediate volcanic activity is likely to occur.

During February, however, the patrols which were able to enter Higaturu found and buried five more European victims. They were Mrs. Maynard Lock and her baby daughter; Mr. T. E. Maher-Kelly; and two men whose identity has not yet been established. The European child found shortly after the first eruption has since been identified as the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lock.

THE native evacuees from villages bordering the blast zone are still in camps at Ilimo and Oro Bay, and the Administration is still trying to solve the problem of their future. They cannot go back to their villages because they are too near the danger zone. They, however, in native fashion do not want to go anywhere else, and if they are forced into new villages will probably not stay there. Later on they may be persuaded to set up new villages in suitable country outside the volcanic area, but until then they are costing the Australian taxpayer a tidy sum in foodstuffs. It takes a lot of rice to feed 3,100 natives, and a lot of close supervising to keep them healthy under camp conditions.

ON Sunday morning, February 18, an earth tremor was felt at widely scattered points throughout the Territory. It occurred about 7.10 a.m. and reports indicated that it was felt simultaneously at Port Moresby, Kokoda, Wairopi, Yodda, Sogeri, Lae, Wau and Madang. It lasted from forty to sixty seconds and was strong enough to set doors and windows rattling, and cause stacked tinned goods to fall. Since then, however, no further earth tremors have been reported from these districts.

The tremor coincided with renewed volcanic activity at Mt. Lamington and the development of a second red glowing cone in the crater. Billowing clouds of smoke, varying from yellow to black, rose to about 24,000 feet, and rocks being thrown up in the eruption were falling back into the crater.

Mud-flows and floods have developed along all rivers with their source on the Lamington slopes. First this necessitated moving the Wairopi evacuee camp to Ilimo four miles away on higher ground, and then feeding still more villagers whose gardens had been washed away. And away down almost at the coast, pumice banks piled up near the river estuaries ruining village gardens, and more villages needed rations. In the abandoned villages on the fringe of the blast country around the volcano, natives had been able to make daily trips to gather food from the gardens, but gradually the pumice caused the crops to rot, and this supply has been cut off.

So far, the health authorities by exercising careful control and constant supervision, have maintained an excellent health level in the evacuee camps and

there have been no epidemics. The Public Health Department secured the co-operation of the RAAF in having the Ilimo Camp sprayed with a DDT and diesel oil mixture. And to control the fly menace, spraying was also done over Sangara, adjoining villages, Higaturu and Poppendetta.

New Guinea Scholarship Fund

First Queensland Winner

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Rosemary Margaret Bird is the winner of the first New Guinea Memorial Scholarship awarded in Queensland.



Rosemary was born in Rabaul where her father, the late Mr. Allen Bird, was an Administration officer. She was a pupil at the Rabaul European School when she, with her mother and two brothers, was sent away from the Territory when the Jap invasion threatened at the end of 1941.

Her father was a member of the NGVR but transferred to the AIF and was a member of the 22nd Battalion, stationed in Rabaul at the time of the Jap invasion in January, 1942. He was one of the many European residents of New Britain who were sent away from Rabaul by the Japs on the Montevideo Maru and subsequently was lost with that ship.

Rosemary lives with her mother near Southport, Queensland, and at the time that she won the Scholarship was a pupil at the Southport High School.

Her elder brother, John, also was a pupil at the Rabaul School before he went to Trinity Grammar in Melbourne and later to Slade School, Warwick, and the Brisbane High School. He is now back in the Territory with the Department of Works and Housing.

Rosemary's younger brother, Robert, was two when he was evacuated from Rabaul; now 12 he is at Surfers' Paradise State School, in Queensland.

DONATIONS TO FUND

FURTHER donations which have been made to the Queensland Division of the Scholarship Fund since the list was last published in January PIM are:—

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	406	12	5
Received from Mrs. Jamieson from activities of NG Club, Brisbane	6	12	6
Collection, NG Club meeting, Brisbane, Feb. 10	1	13	0
Mrs. Elsa V. Millar	1	1	0
Total	£415	18	11

A son, Herman Robert, was born recently to Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Merklijn, of Ajamareo, Vogelkop, Netherlands New Guinea. Mr. Merklijn was one of the Netherlands advisers at the South Pacific Conference in Suva last year.

Don't Let it Happen Here!

Nuttery Suggested for Pacific

WITH a London dateline, this incredible news item was recently published in a Sydney newspaper:

A plan for switching ground-nut production from Africa to the British islands in the Pacific is under consideration by colonial experts. With an increasing emphasis on industrial development in Africa, the manpower hitherto used in ground-nuts schemes may have to be diverted to industry.

On the other hand, the Pacific islands are suffering from the effects of their dependence on a one-crop "coconut economy." The introduction of ground-nuts as a secondary crop could bring prosperity to these areas. A start in this direction is being made by Tonga, whose Crown Prince has paid a visit to Australia to study ground-nuts production.

FEW residents of the South Pacific would agree that the Islands were precisely suffering for their coconut economy at the present moment; or that there was a surplus of labour anywhere to start any grandiose ground-nut Scheme anywhere here. Prince Tungi's experiment in peanut-growing is based on the peculiar circumstances of Tonga. There is, in that Group, a limited area of arable land; the Tongan population is increasing rapidly; each Tongan male is entitled to 81 acres of land when he is 16; and investigations have shown that although coconuts will return only £30 per annum per acre, peanuts, which have a ready market in NZ, will return about £400.

The British Socialist Government's African Ground-nut Scheme which was to remedy all of Britain's vegetable oil troubles, cost tens of millions of taxpayers' money and produced virtually nothing. The Scheme seems now to be in the final process of folding up.

There are few, if any, areas in the Pacific Islands suitable for the cultivation of peanuts on the gigantic scale that was planned in Africa. Nor are there sufficient natives who have become poverty stricken through coconut-growing to supply labour for such a project.

All Colonial experts please note.

FIJI SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

THE 1951 scholarships awarded under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme have been announced.

The scholarships go to Maikeli Vakacoko Tuitubou and Harold Sylvester Singh. Maikeli Tuitubou, 20, was born at Lakeba and was the first Fijian to pass the New Zealand University Entrance Examination from Queen Victoria School. His scholarship, which is for three years, will enable him to take an Arts course at Auckland University College.

Harold Sylvester Singh, 28, is a son of Mr. Dwarka Singh, of the staff of the Government Printing Office. He is at present studying medicine at the University of Sydney and his Scholarship will enable him to complete his medical degree.

MISS ANNE ROBERTS, who received the highest marks gained by a candidate from Fiji in the New Zealand University Entrance Examination, 1950, has been awarded the Fiji Board of Education scholarship for 1951.

She was a pupil at the Suva Girls' Grammar School until the end of 1950, is a daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. R. B. Roberts, of Suva. She is at present in Sydney and will probably continue her studies at an Australian University.

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MEDALS FOR THE GALLANT 39?

Disgraceful Episode of Nauru Defence in 1941-42

PERSONS acquainted with the recent history of Nauru are indignant over an official announcement that the Defence Medal will be issued, on application, to those members of the Nauru Volunteer Defence Force who rendered 12 months' part-time service between mid-1940 and December 7, 1941 (the day Japan entered the war); or one day of part-time service between December 8, 1941, and February 23, 1942 (when Nauru was evacuated).

Those who know the circumstances insist that certain members of the Nauru Volunteer Defence Force are not entitled to the medal, or to any kind of military decoration.

After the outbreak of World War II, a small formation was stationed on Nauru, and did good work. About 60 resident Europeans were enrolled as a Volunteer Defence Corps, to assist the AIF men in sentry and guard duties, etc.

The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, and bombed Nauru on December 8; and, from that date, a considerable section of the Nauru Volunteer Defence Force was definitely "windy." Under the leadership of one or two loquacious gentlemen, they were unwilling to undertake military duties, and argued that they would have a better chance of survival against the Japs if they were taken prisoners as unarmed civilians.

Finally, on January 11, 1942, 39 of these "Volunteers" signed a petition and presented it to the Administrator, asking that the Force be immediately disbanded, as they did not wish to bear arms.

The feelings of the Administrator (Lieut.-Col. F. R. Chalmers, CMG, DSO, who later refused to leave Nauru in the official evacuation and was subsequently murdered there by the Japs) can be imagined. He appealed to the heroes to carry on; but it was of no avail, and they turned in their equipment, and refused further duty.

A minority of the Force remained on duty, however; and they were ably supported by all the Administration officials, Police-master Tom Cude, the two AWA radio operators (Messrs. Gollan and

Neale), and a number of Nauruan natives. The contempt they felt for the gallant 39 petitioners, skulking in their bungalows between January 11 and the evacuation on February 23, can be better imagined than described. Jap air raids were frequent during this period, and there was plenty of military service needed.

It had been hoped that this discreditable incident of the war's early days would be forgotten. But the formal announcement by the Nauru Administrator, Mr. Richards (Nauru Gazette of

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THEY TRIED to SHAKE out PAIN!

ARABIAN IN 5th CENTURY THOUGHT TOOTHACHE COULD BE CURED BY PERSON OF OPPOSITE SEX SHAKING THE TOOTH. TODAY ONLY KOLYNOS FIGHTS TOOTH DECAY THESE THREE WAYS:

- 1 KOLYNOS NEUTRALISES MOUTH ACIDS
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GLEANS BETTER...TASTES BETTER...LASTS LONGER

LUCKY TOOTH BROUGHT BITES!

GREENLAND FISHERMEN TAKE A TOOTH-SHAPED CHARM CALLED THE "MILK-TOOTH GOD" TO BRING THEM LUCK IN FISHING.

KOLYNOS goes TWICE as far!

ONE TUBE OF KOLYNOS LASTS AS LONG AS TWO TUBES OF ORDINARY TOOTHPASTE. KOLYNOS IS HIGHLY CONCENTRATED... HALF AN INCH IS PLENTY.



January 6 and February 10, 1951), that the medal may be obtained on application in writing to Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, by members of the Volunteer

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Defence Force, including the gallant 39, has aroused indignation and anger among those who know of the incident; and a protest has been sent, accordingly, to the Australian military authorities.

Maybe, the gallant 39 now seeking medals thought that their petition was destroyed when Colonel Chalmers was murdered. It was not; it carries the 39 signatures (which ought to be published); and one of the arguments submitted by the petitioners against the idea that they should continue to carry arms reads thus:

"Do you think that the small amount of prestige that could possibly be lost at Nauru would be important after that already lost by the Democracies in places that really matter?"

The Australian military folk would be wise to learn something of the background of that episode, and read the text of the petition, before giving to the gallant 39 the same decoration that has been awarded to so many good men who really did their duty.

CARONIA VISITS SUVA

From Our Own Correspondent

THE British Cunard liner Caronia, spent a day in Suva in February in the course of a round-the-world luxury dollar-earning cruise.

At least two larger vessels, H.M.S. Hood and the Empress of Britain have visited Suva, but they both anchored in the harbour. The Caronia is believed to be the largest ship to come alongside the wharf.

During the visitors' twelve-hour stay in Suva they saw three Fijian mekes and watched an exhibition of fire-walking by people of Beqa. The afternoon was devoted to shopping or sight-seeing in the town and many of the visitors visited the beautiful display of hibiscus in the Parish Hall.

A sudden downpour of rain in the afternoon rather dampened the spirits of the visitors, and many of them returned to the ship soaked to the skin. On discussing the visitors with various shopowners in Suva, it was surprising to learn that the visitors were not very interested in purchasing souvenirs, as was the case with pre-war visits of tourist ships.

And in respect of the question as to the few passengers on the tour, in comparison to the number of berths available, it was learned that at first the vessel was booked out but that war fears caused cancellations.

FIJI-AUSTRALIAN TRADE

Out of Balance by £2,000,000

OF all the anomalies in Pacific Islands trade, none is more noticeable than the relationship between Fiji and Australia. Look at these figures, taken from the excellent quarterly publication of the Fiji Public Relations Office:—

	1947 £	1948 £	1949 £
Exports from Fiji to Australia	98,832	109,388	111,681
Imports into Fiji from Australia	1,914,218	1,855,254	2,135,702
Exports from Fiji to N. Zealand	1,769,368	2,042,968	1,469,145
Imports into Fiji from N. Zealand	391,698	436,728	497,293

Australia buys very little from Fiji, but sells the Colony goods worth £2,000,000 p.a. New Zealand buys from 1½ to 2 million pounds' worth of Fiji produce each year, but sells Fiji less than half a million pounds' worth.

The United Kingdom consistently buys £2,000,000 worth of Fiji products p.a., and sells Fiji goods to the same amount. United States sells Fiji a million pounds' worth of goods annually, and buys about half a million pounds' worth of Fiji's products.

For 20 years, Fiji has been threatening that, if Australia will not buy more Fiji produce, Fiji will put a special import tax on certain of Australia's main exports to the Colony, such as flour. But nothing has happened.

The trade dis-equilibrium is taken care of by the fact that the three big trading firms as well as the two banks which handle most of Fiji's trade have branches in Australia, New Zealand and United States, and can set the debit balance in one place against the credits in another.



Caronia at Suva Wharf. Suva's new bus terminal centre
—Photo by Stinson's.

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REMARKABLE CARVING BY A PAPUAN

This photograph of a remarkable carving has been sent to us by the Right Rev. A. Sorin, Catholic Bishop of Port Moresby. The carving was done in native wood by a Papuan, Peter Aihi, of Waima, in the Yule Island district. "His hand was not guided by any master other than God," says Bishop Sorin. "He found his inspiration, not in a model, but in reading, over and over again, the narration of the Passion of Christ. . . . One might think that this 'Christ Dead' was the work of the XIIIth century. Yet it is the work of a man who lives to-day in Papua. . . . To me, it is a masterpiece, which shows that the human mind works in the same way through the centuries."



A Brisbane branch of Queensland Country Womens' Association has been established at Samarai, Papua. At a meeting of the QCWA Council held in Brisbane on February 20, it was decided to send the branch donations to help alleviate distress caused by the recent Mt. Lamington disaster.

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PAPER PATTY PANS, GREASEPROOF, Fancy White		3/6 doz. pkts.
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12 oz. tins, 18/- doz.

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"KIWI" OR "NUGGET" BOOT POLISH (black or stains), 1½ oz. tins.	9/6 doz.
CLOTHES PEGS, wooden, strong, reliable	7/- gross
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"GENUINE" O'CEDAR MOPS, No. 10 (with handle)	7/6 ea.
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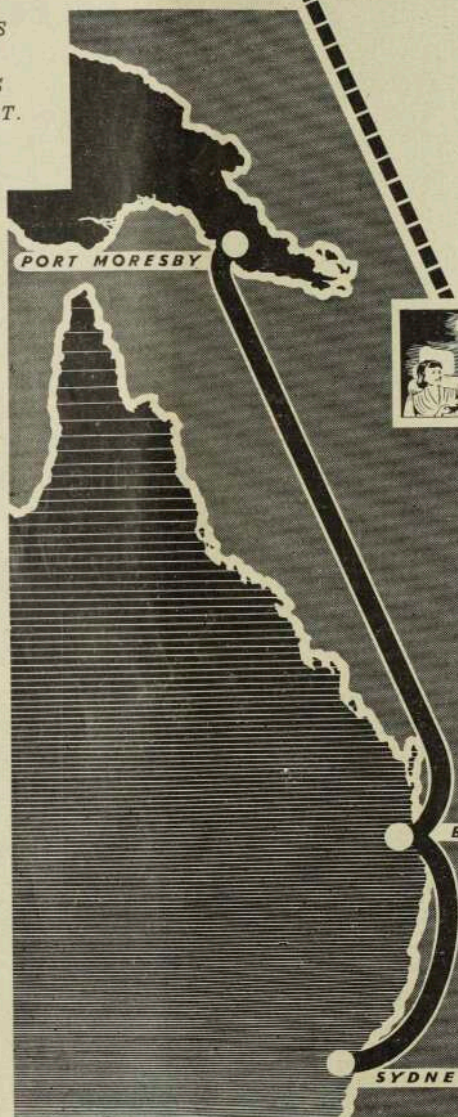
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Some delay is being experienced in having the first of these luxurious Solents specially fitted in England for the tropical flying conditions encountered on the Sydney-Port Moresby route. However, during April the company expects to commence its regular service between Sydney-Brisbane-Port Moresby.



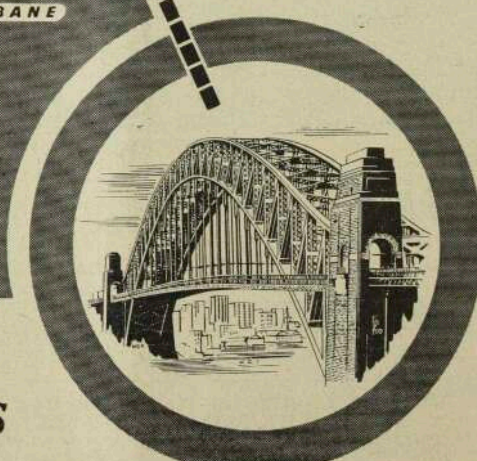
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BSI Virtually Without Wharf Facilities

Kukum Blows Away in a Gale

From Our Own Correspondent

HONIARA, March 5.

KUKUM WHARF, where overseas shipping discharged cargo for all Protectorate areas except the Russell Islands, was completely destroyed by heavy seas in a northwesterly gale on February 24. Kukum is about one mile from Honiara.

The wharf has also been used for loading all overseas shipping, with the exception of some copra loaded at the Fairymead Sugar Company's wharf at Yandina.

Kukum was the last of the American-built wartime wharves to remain operative. Originally it consisted of three "legs," two at right angles to the shore and one parallel, forming three sides of a rectangle. The most easterly section, which had fallen into disrepair, was pulled down some time ago, and its timbers used to repair the remaining two sections. These had recently been further strengthened and some of the decking renewed.

But it has been evident for a long time that Kukum Wharf was in a dangerous state in spite of these temporary repairs. Much of the timber was rotten and many of the piles had loosened. Both private producers and Government have been watching it with apprehension.

Mr. Kenyon Bell, the Crown Agents' Slipway Consultant and Engineer, visited the Solomons towards the end of 1950 to advise on the type and situation of new accommodation for overseas shipping and his final recommendations are

awaited. Gizo wharf and harbour are not yet ready for peacetime use by overseas ships. The wartime wharfs at Tulagi have decayed and what remains of them is unsafe for handling heavy cargo. Yandina Wharf, while it could be used for loading greater concentrations of copra, is unsuitable as the main Protectorate overseas wharf.

Overseas cargo now being unloaded at Honiara, shipping anchoring off East Point Cruz, which provides some shelter.

Kukum Wharf blew away on a Saturday and, on the following Wednesday, the Muliama arrived from Sydney and the Lautoka from Vanikoro. Inward and outward cargo was handled with the assistance of local shipping of suitable tonnage to unload at the smallcraft wharf near Point Cruz.

EDITORIAL NOTE

When the BSI share of Britain's plague of Post-war Planners got to work in the Solomon Islands, and decided to shift the Group's headquarters from Tulagi (where there is a first-class sheltered port) to Honiara (where there is little more than an open coast-line) it was pointed out by experienced people that a serious error was being made.

Practically all BSI traffic moves on the water, and much of it in small vessels. It is essential that the main centre shall have, above all things, sheltered berths for big and little ships, in all weathers. No matter what is done with Honiara, as a port, it is liable to be put out of action by a stiff north-wester; and in that region there is a regular north-west season.

But the post-war type of unfledged Planner rarely listens to the old hands. He is quite sure that his combination of academic equipment and Socialist theories can cope with all situations. He wanted Honiara, on the unsheltered coast of Guadalcanal, so that he might have plenty of land available for training

natives in agriculture—which, of course, is more important than European commerce. So Tulagi was abandoned; and Honiara was built; and now someone is going to be asked to provide some enormous sum for the building of port facilities at Honiara.

The shipping hold-up is maddening. But the old hands have at least the satisfaction of saying "I told you so."

Mr. Tex Archer, of Kumbug Plantation, north of Madang, NG, was in Sydney on holiday in February and March. He bought his plantation about two years ago and has spent most of the time since clearing it of secondary growth. It is now in working order and he took a holiday to mark the occasion.

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US Tourists "Don't Spend Like GI's"

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, March 1.
BIG money strolled through Port Moresby during February when two world cruising luxury vessels—the Swedish Stella Polaris and the British Caronia—paid brief visits to the ports. Stella Polaris, resembling a graceful outside yacht, arrived on February 15

with a capacity booking of world tourists, mostly Americans. For their four-and-a-half months jaunt around the globe they are paying from \$3,000 to \$8,000 each.

As they trooped ashore at Port Moresby they put on a marvellous display of holiday-style clothes—from Fifth Avenue hats to blue jeans with up-turned cuffs. In the sightseeing buses, which whizzed them around the gay and not-so-gay parts of the town, an elderly and wealthy lady of fashion, who finished off her costume with immaculate white gloves, sat beside a rough diamond from the Texas oilfields in corded work pants and his

shirt open to the waist showing a fine expanse of hairy chest. This same gentleman's over-enthusiastic but playful tactics with small pickaninnies produced near-panic among the brown youngsters of one village.

But on the whole the Stella Polaris passengers were a friendly and cheerful crowd who somehow or other still managed to be happy though rich. One thing they did not do was to throw their money around recklessly. Most of their purchases were made after very careful consideration, and souvenir sales were by no means on the lavish wartime G.I. scale.

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THEN on February 23 the Cunard liner Caronia steamed into Port Moresby harbour and the tourist-run-around started again. This was an even more luxurious outfit. A modest little cabin for the cruise cost \$3,500 but at the top of the scale were suites for two persons ticketed at \$30,000.

Both visits had their amusing side, for the tourists were busy seeing the sights, and the townsfolk enjoyed seeing the sight-seers. The tourists said that they liked the harbour, the green hills, the flowering trees, and the grass skirts had them fascinated. "They're not just putting them things on because we happened along?" one Texan asked, and when assured that the grass models were just everyday apparel, and undoubtedly the sole wardrobe of the dusky girls, the man from Texas commented, "Wal, that's sure gonna be something to tell the folks back home."

Native craftsmen worked overtime to reap the tourist harvest, and they didn't do badly, putting a solid minimum of £1 on every article. Fortunately, with the exchange rates on American dollars, this didn't look too bad to the visitors, most of whom meticulously worked out the price to the last US cent.



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NO PERMITS TO CUT N. GUINEA PINE

A Legacy of The Ward Regime

AS an example of the strange New Guinea Administration, we quote the treatment of New Guinea Goldfields, Ltd., in relation to the development of the valuable timber resources of New Guinea.

Bulolo Gold Dredging, Ltd., and NGG, Ltd., placed in the Bulolo Valley gold-recovery establishments worth millions. It was pure coincidence that there are in and around the Bulolo Valley, stands of Hoop and Klinki pine, of almost incalculable value. Each Co., seeing its gold-bearing ground steadily shrinking, has sought permission to cut timber, so as to add timber production to its activities.

The Administration granted timber leases to BGD, Ltd., on some profit-sharing basis of which the terms have not been disclosed; but, so far, it has given no concessions to NGG, Ltd.

Both companies, in 1950, began producing timber in large quantities—BGD from areas made available by the Administration, and NGG from a lease which it purchased from Mr. G. A. Anderson in 1946.

The extraordinary thing is that, although the P-NG Administration has purchased and is purchasing a large proportion of the pine and cedar timber which NGG is producing, the Administration quite stubbornly has refused to make any more timber areas available to NGG. BGD, on the other hand, has been provided with all the country it needs.

This Bulolo Valley timber industry is valuable, not only as a Territories money-maker—it also helps materially in solving the goldfields transport problem. Before the war, all goldfields supplies went in by air—the cost of which put a huge burden on the gold industry. During the war, the Army built the Lae-Bulolo road, and trucks have run over it regularly ever since, carrying supplies to the goldfields operators.

At first, the trucks returned empty. Now they bring out timber—lumber, prefabricated houses, furniture, and so on—as back-loading. Because of this, cargo from the coast to the goldfields (94 miles) goes in at 1d. per lb. Both gold companies maintain fleets of trucks. Both naturally want back-loading.

The discrimination in favour of BGD probably is a source of embarrassment now to the non-Socialist Government in Canberra. The arrangement (to work the Morobe pine on a joint Federal Government-BGD basis) was made by the Socialist Minister Ward, during Labour's term of office, in order to prevent the exploitation of the Morobe timber resources by private enterprise—a thought that he (with reason, presumably!) regarded with horror. Since then, various interests have sought permits to cut NG pine; but none has been entertained—probably because of the terms of the contract with BGD, and because there are so many applicants.

It is probable that that is what NGG is up against. How can Canberra give NGG a permit, while withholding same from other competent applicants?

Another legacy from the Ward regime!

In order to improve existing roads and to build new ones, Fiji has hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of heavy roading equipment ordered from the United Kingdom and the United States. Some of it is already arriving in the Colony and is being allotted to various districts as it arrives.

TROCHUS AT £255A PER TON

A PARCEL of 12 tons of Solomon Islands trochus shell was sold in Sydney at the end of February at £255 per ton, FOB Sydney. This is the highest price paid in the South Pacific for this commodity for many years—probably a record.

The source of the demand for trochus shell—which has doubled the price over 12 months—has not been disclosed. It is clear, however, that the continued de-

mand and high price are tending to revive one of the oldest if the least conspicuous industries of the South Seas. There is a wide variation, however, in the prices for shell taken in the South-west Pacific, Fiji, etc.

One thousand babies have been born in Nurse Morrison's private nursing hospital in Suva, Fiji, since she opened it 26 years ago. The 1,000th baby was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Edwards—Mr. Edwards is on the staff of the Customs Department Suva; and the first baby was David, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Mune of Suva.

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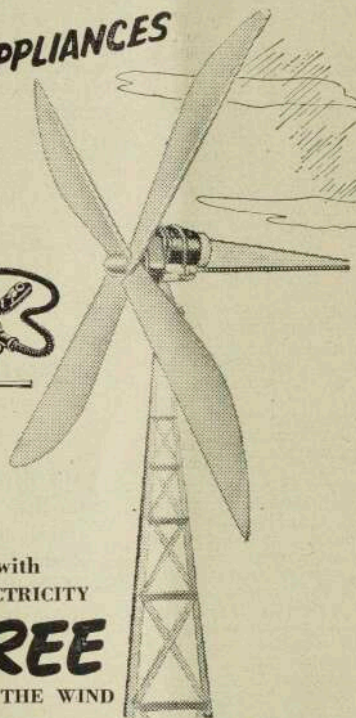
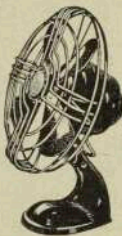
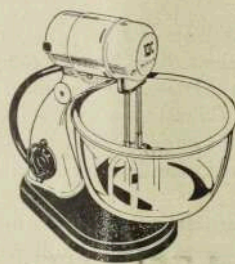
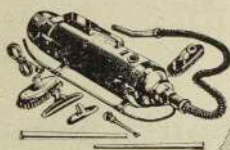
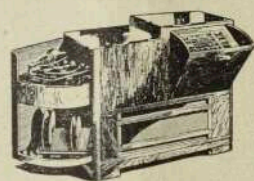
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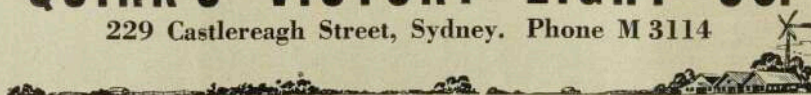
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THE MONTH IN MORESBY

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, March 1
THE Army authorities have started on the establishment of the Pacific Islands Regiment, a full-time Regular Army unit of Papuan and New Guinea natives.

Captain W. R. J. Shields, a veteran of the New Guinea campaign, arrived in Port Moresby during February to get things moving, and shortly after Captain C. J. Orme and Lieut. George Smith also arrived to tackle accommodation and other problems for the P.I.R.

This time the Army must mean business for it sent burly Lieut.-Colonel S. Fletcher, Commander Royal Engineers, to break the accommodation bottleneck which has been partially responsible for slow re-organisation of the Papua and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. He stirred up a pile of dust in his search for a permanent Army camp site and barracks for the P.I.R.

Already it is no secret that land deal discussions have been going on at a rate much faster than the normal leisurely negotiations which bog down so many Island ventures.

Captain Shields, who will command the first Company of the native Regiment, served in New Guinea with the Second Seventh Independent Company, and later transferred to the Third New Guinea Infantry Battalion. Discussing the future of the unit he made it clear that all European officers and NCO's will be men who have had wartime experience in the Islands.

The first natives to be recruited will be ex-NCO's from wartime units, who will be given a refresher course before taking over the training of other recruits. As soon as a Second Company is formed a headquarters staff will come to the Territory from Australia.

:: :: ::

THE reorganisation of Papua and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, however, is still in the doldrums. After a brief sojourn in Port Moresby the CO, Colonel McLeod, went back to Australia, and so far no announcement has been made either as to his possible return or the appointment of his successor. Accommodation is a problem here too, but since it was also placed on Colonel Fletcher's shoulders, maybe even this will be solved before potential volunteers are all browned off by the interminable delays thus far experienced.

:: :: ::

ON January 25, a 27 year old Australian, Donald Harborne, arrived in Port Moresby and started work with a local firm. A few days later he was arrested on a provisional warrant. Then a C.I.B. detective flew from Australia and Harborne was charged with theft of a car in Sydney, and remanded for escort back to Australia. But before transport could be obtained Harborne committed suicide in Bomana jail by hanging himself with the ropes of his mosquito net. The coroner returned a verdict of "suicide."

:: :: ::

USTING relics of wartime vehicles reposing in Disposals dumps at Lae, Port Moresby and Rabaul were not highly regarded by most citizens. However, at Port Moresby even the most small-looking lots of ancient, battered and weed-grown cab bodies raised a bid at local auctions recently, and the buyers set up a fight among themselves for tip-truck bodies and truck hoist equipment. A small group of natives, who knew exactly what they wanted, chased the bidding in a determined fashion for some time. They had the stuff well surveyed, and usually when they started bidding

they kept at it until the lot was knocked down to them.

Two European buyers got into holts for Ford spare parts and a similar lot of Chevrolet spares, and were not concerned when the auctioneer warned that the "number of individual parts was more or less correct."

One prospective buyer who made a preview of the dump suggested a £40 bid for the whole junk pile would be a good

proposition. But when the last grass-entangled heap was sold, the Treasury was richer by a total of £530.

A similar sale the following week at Rabaul got strong support from Chinese buyers.

:: :: ::

AT the Boroka Extension Area 22 housing allotments will be awarded to successful tenderers, and a spate of private home building will soon be on the way. This new suburb is already taking shape as several Hawksley prefabricated aluminium houses are up, and the foundations and floors are in place for many others. These are attractive, although

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there are various opinions on the use of aluminium frames in a tropical climate, and also on the English idea of utilisation of floor space. However, a Hawksley

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house built in a matter of two weeks is preferable to a carefully designed tropical structure with completion delayed for months due to lack of key materials. If this first government experiment with imported prefabricated houses proves successful then there is some hope for solving the Territory's housing shortage. Many people have already left the Islands because of the shockingly sub-standard homes offered them.

THIS year two senior Administration officers have gone to the United States for the annual examination of Trusteeship territory reports. Mr. J. H. Jones, Planning and Development Secretary, went to Lake Success as Australia's special representative for the examination on the New Guinea annual report. And at the same session, Mr. H. H. Reeve, Papua and New Guinea Treasurer, was there in a similar capacity on the Nauru report. Mr. Reeve, until June, 1950, was Official Secretary for the Nauru Administration.

THERE are some handsome new cameras at police headquarters in Port Moresby, together with a lot of other photographic gear. This means that the Criminal Investigation Branch will be equipped somewhere nearer the standards of similar branches in Australia.

MARRIED women working with the Administration have had their annual Territorial allowance of £15 restored, and another bone of contention between the public servants and the External Territories Department has been buried. This little scrap, however, cost government departments several very useful temporary employees.

THE letting of a contract for the construction of roads in the Matigod Subdivision at Port Moresby will permit development of another residential area. A number of residential blocks were allocated in this area nearly two years ago, but as there is a steep rise from the main road, building for most of the leaseholders was out of the question until access roads were constructed. This is a magnificent site along a ridge overlooking the sea and is easily one of the most attractive residential areas in Port Moresby.

THE trout fingerlings released at Nodugl in the Central Highlands at the end of 1949 are showing excellent growth, and some that have been sighted in the streams are a foot long. However, anglers will have to wait several years before they can take a fishing trip in the part of the Territory. The young trout will not start spawning for two years, after that the ban will be maintained until stocks have been built up to a good safety level.

SPECIAL quarantine precautions have been introduced in the Territory to guard against the introduction of the overseas influenza epidemic. Overseas visitors must have been in Australia for at least seven days before they can land in the Territory, and a medical check, being made of all aircraft passengers from the south. Flights into Dutch New Guinea from Wewak have also been banned, and liaison established with medical authorities in the British Solomon Islands.

SOON after the Lamington disaster pilots reported that an area of several hundred acres of timber on the banks of the Markham River at Gabens had been flattened. Unofficial accounts suggested this was due to ground heave caused by volcanic action, and there was talk of tremors and ground rumbling.

A geological party that made a ground trip to the district was convinced that a freak atmospheric disturbance had flattened the timber some months ago, at that there was no basis for the reports of ground heat, rumblings and tremors.

HE FEARS THAT HE ATTRACTS ERUPTIONS!

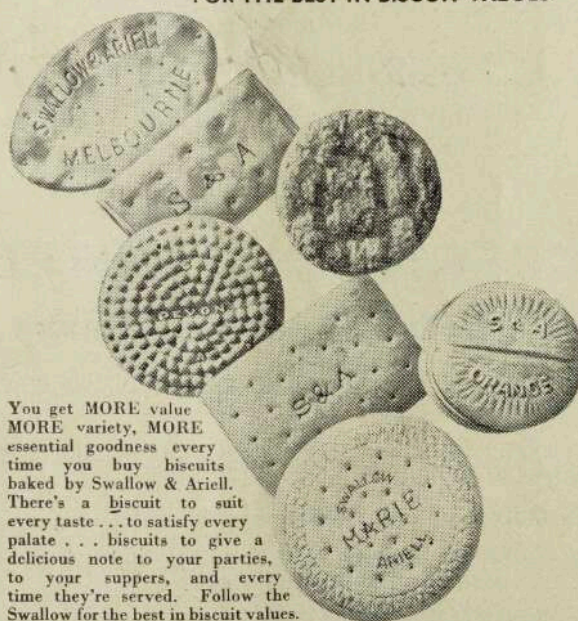
CHEERY H. S. Wynne, Sydney representative of the Australian Petroleum Company, is beginning to dislike active volcanoes.

He was an oil company man in Rabaul in 1937, and he got more or less severely mixed up in the eruption that then occurred. Thirteen years later, when New Guinea's next serious eruption took place at Mount Lamington, HSW was so close to it that he could smell the sulphur and taste the dust. On both occasions, Judge "Monty" Phillips was Deputy Administrator, and deeply involved in the consequent administrative activity.

HSW is inclined to think that Monsieur Vulcan has put a hoodoo on him and that more or less following him around.

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Boom Time in Apia

New Buildings Follow High Produce Prices

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, Feb. 21.
VISITORS to Apia, Samoa's capital, who knew the old town with its ramshackle wooden buildings, stores and churches, lately notice a vast improvement in the architectural picture on Apia's main beach. Gradually the old eyesores are disappearing and are replaced by modern concrete structures, business premises, churches, Government offices and workshops and residences in latest architectural style—improvements for which it is not difficult to find the cause in Samoa's cocoa-copra prosperity.

It is now impossible to buy a foot of land on Apia Main Beach and new enterprise is forced to move inland from the beach and look for other sites. The Taufusi Road, which was widened and modernised last year, at a fantastic and much-criticised cost, is now the centre of building activity and a large number of new stores are already completed or in course of construction. It appears clear that the Taufusi Road will develop along the lines of All Nations Street in Suva, and that the Chinese shacks and Samoan fales, of which a few remain in this neighbourhood, will have disappeared in a few years' time.

At the eastern end of Apia, the Vailima Road, which leads to the former home of Robert Louis Stevenson, now the residence of the High Commissioner, and the Hospital Road, both connect Apia with the residential suburb of Motootua,

where in recent years many attractive residences have been built by the Government and by business people.

Land prices here have risen very fast and, where a few years ago you could buy building sites for £100 to £150 an acre, present prices are in the neighbourhood of £500 per acre.

Building activity and business expansion is not confined to the capital. Numerous new trading stores have been opened or are projected on the West Coast Road to Mulifanua, and in Savaii, particularly in those districts where cocoa is grown. Most of the new stores seem

to be doing well in spite of strong competition; some stores belong to the large trading companies of Apia; many others are run by independent traders.

All building at the present time is, however, greatly impeded by the serious shortage of building materials—galvanised nails, roofing iron and cement—which are practically unobtainable in New Zealand and Australia, and lately even from England and the Continent. The high prices ruling are, however, no deterrent, as the present high rates for Samoan produce seem certain to continue for years to come.

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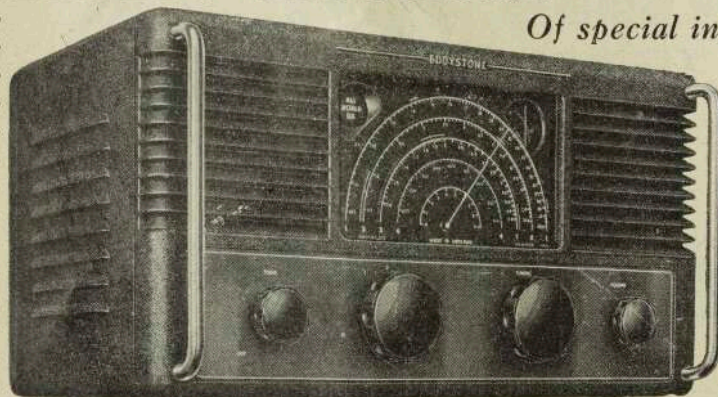
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The Secretary for the Colonies Meets a BSI Planter

WHILE in London recently, Mr. R. Symes, planter, of the British Solomon Islands (he is president of the BSIP Planters' Association and a member of the Advisory Council) was able, after much persistence, to more or less bludgeon his way in to see the present Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Griffiths.

Mr. Griffiths did not want to be seen; but, having once submitted, he was, according to Mr. Symes, quite pleasant and seemed sympathetic to the troubles of BSI planters. Mr. Griffiths expressed amazement at the high rate of taxation levelled on the planting industry in the Solomons. It had, he said, not been pointed out to him before, and, it is understood, he will now have someone "look into the matter."

He suggested that in future the BSI Planters' Association place their complaints directly before him instead of sending them through the regular channels—that is through the Resident Commissioner, BSIP, to the WPH Commissioner in Suva, and thence to London.

High Taxation for Planters

THERE are about a dozen independent planters in the BSI. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that their combined voices do not reach as far as London. Lever Brothers, who have extensive planting interests in the Protectorate, are not interested in joining forces with the other planters; now, as before the war, the Lever Combine is interested in cheaper copra—not dearer copra. (A BSI planter in Sydney in November informs us that Levers in Sydney quoted him £140 per ton as their selling price for crude coconut oil. The source of copra for this oil is not known, but it possibly is P-NG copra, which is sold to Australian millers by the Australian government at the same price that is paid by the MOF under long-term agreement. We are informed that a ton of copra makes about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a ton of coconut oil.)

In the Solomons there is a 15 per cent. export tax on copra—levelled on the full gross MOF price, not on the price received by planters, which is less handling charges. In addition, all income earned from copra is subject to heavy income tax.

To take Planter X as a hypothetical case:—

	£
Gross annual return on MOF	
Price	10,000
Cost of production, including	
15 per cent. export tax ..	5,000
Profit	5,000
BSIP Income Tax	2,000
Net income of planter	£3,000

The gross return is based, of course, on the MOF price, which is about 50 per cent. of the world price. If the BSI planter, who wanted no part of the MOF 5-years agreement, was getting the world price for his copra, his expenses would be no greater and, although his income tax and export tax would be more, he would still come out of the deal about twice as well off as he is at present. It has been estimated that of the gross amount earned by BSI planters, the MOF—that is, the British Socialist Government—gets about 45 per cent.; the BSIP Government about 25 per cent.; and the producer gets what is left.

THE planters of the Protectorate have no voice in their own affairs; they are suffered, not encouraged; the majority of officials sent out by the Colonial Office appear to feel that the Protectorate would do as well without planters. Not one penny of war damage compensation was paid them. No assistance, or even transport, was provided for these people to return after the war—the handful who did return made their own way back, carrying with them the bare essentials for starting off afresh.

Now that their plantations are producing again, almost three-quarters of the gross proceeds of their labours are skimmed off to help fill the coffers of the British Socialist Government—perhaps to help them finance more nutteries or egg farms in Darkest Africa.

None of the Big Firms have been so foolish as to re-establish themselves in BSI since the war; both W. R. Carpenter & Co. and Burns Philp & Co., Ltd., have some shipping services in the Group, but neither has trading establishments or copra interests. There has not been one acre of new land planted in coconuts, and many leases of virgin land have been turned in.

This is not surprising when the ground rent for virgin land can be anything up to 6/- per acre per annum.

(Continued Next Page.)

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One asks, at this stage: what does the British Government intend for the Protectorate? And the answer, five years after the end of the war, is obviously, "Nothing." Whether this is due to sheer inertia or deliberate Socialist policy is a matter of opinion.

It would be hard to convince any intelligent individual that Colonial Service officers approach a term in the Solomons with any enthusiasm. They must of necessity look upon their stay there merely as an interlude on the way to better things in Fiji or the West Indies or West Africa. If there is in existence any forward-looking, constructive and practical plan for the development of the British Solomons, we have not heard of it.

Such rebuilding as there has been in the Protectorate since the end of the war

appears to have been in constructing houses at Honiara for Government officials to live in. If there has been any attempt to lay the foundations of new industries, native or European, we have not heard of it.

It might be asked, why do planters stay there under such adverse conditions? The answer, of course, is that even with the worst that the British Socialists can do, copra is still profitable.

Looking beyond the immediate scene, however, the fact that there are only a dozen or so European planters in the whole of that vast fertile area is testimony to the fog of frustration that shrouds the Protectorate at the present time.

No doubt the UK Socialists, if and when they spare a moment's thought for this distant speck in a once mighty Empire, feel that they are making the Group safe for the Solomon Islanders. The Solomon Islanders, however, seem even more reluctant than do the Papua-New Guinea natives to get down to hard work on their own account.

Presumably, the Whitehall Socialists believe that, come another war in the Pacific, the United States will again be under some moral obligation to prevent the British Protectorate from becoming an outpost of Asia.

RETURNING briefly to Mr. Symes and his interview with the Secretary for the Colonies: The professional amiability of the politician can be generally discounted, so it seems unlikely that the amazement of Mr. Griffiths at the high taxation suffered by BSI planters will be sustained sufficiently long for him to do anything practical about it.

The only way that the few planters in the Protectorate have of getting any redress for their grievances is in making common cause with the stronger planters organisations of the Australian territories and Fiji, who also have grievances—although in lesser number than their BSI friends.

OFF AND ON AGAIN

Pan-American's Call At New Caledonia

From Our Own Correspondent

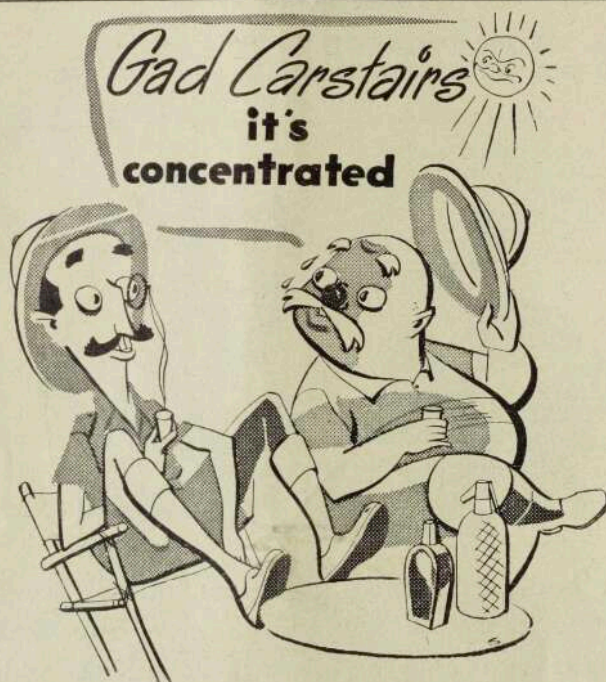
NOUMEA, March 10.

FOLLOWING representations by the New Caledonian authorities, with French backing, Pan American Airways decided, from March 12, to restore a weekly service by DC4's between Sydney, New Caledonia and Fiji.

A brief suspension of the service, owing to the use of Boeing Stratocruisers on the Pacific route—which now by-passes the French Colony because the Tontout airport, about 35 miles from Noumea, is not ready for such heavy traffic—has aroused dismal fears of isolation.

New Caledonia, in the face of much criticism for failure to act—as Fiji has done, by working night and day to have Nadi ready for the Boeings, from March 1—tardily realised that immediate steps must be taken if Noumea is to resume its place as a link on the direct route between San Francisco and Sydney. Truly, New Caledonia is a land of *laissez faire*.

In the circumstances it is better that the local population should throw the blame for such dilatoriness on the local administration. The latter is all too fond of "passing the buck" on to the distant metropolitan government. The colony has more than ample warning of Pan American's intention to introduce the Stratocruisers on the major Pacific route.



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THE DEPORTATION OF OTTO SOLTWEDEL

COMMENTING upon the death in Germany lately of Otto Soltwedel, formerly of New Guinea, the PIM said, in February, that it was believed that high officialdom in Australia had somehow got hold of a letter which Soltwedel had written to a prominent personage in Germany (some said it was Dr. Goebbels); and this was held against him when, after his internment, at the end of the war, he sought permission to return to New Guinea instead of being deported.

We now have received the following letter from another New Guinea old-timer, Mr. Paul ("Kar-Kar") Schmidt, who is living in retirement at Gosford, NSW.:-

"Soltzy did not write to Goebbels. He wrote to the German Foreign Minister, Ribbentrop, and for the following reasons. "Although he had a faultless record in New Guinea, over 30 years, he found in 1939 that he was the target of much unwarranted abuse from newcomers to the Goldfields. The old-timers, and the Government officials resented this as much as Soltzy did; but they could do nothing.

"Finally, in desperation, Soltzy decided to return to Germany. But he then learned that because so many Germans were returning to Germany, at that time, from all over the world, the German Foreign Office had asked them to delay their return. The FO said that overseas men, with their varied callings, were not easy to assimilate into Germany's new economy.

"Soltzy, however, felt that he had good reasons for returning. He was getting on

in years, and he was not happy under the conditions then affecting him in New Guinea. Therefore, he wrote specially to Ribbentrop, setting out his plea, and the reasons therefor. He himself sent a copy of the letter to the Administrator of New Guinea—and that no doubt is the letter to which the PIM refers.

"All who knew Otto Soltwedel will know that he was not the type of man who would do anything improper or unfair."

HCL AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

From a Special Correspondent

RABAUL, March 1.

THE cost of living goes ever higher. HCL has caused more resignations from the Public Service, and an increasing number are looking for jobs on the plantations. Income tax would just about give them the coup de grace.

The Key to Earning Power...

Sometimes men think that a general education or an elementary knowledge of business is enough to get ahead. But experience soon teaches that thorough, specialised training is just as necessary for success in business as it is in the professions of Law, Medicine or Dentistry. If you are interested in the many opportunities in the Business World... if you seek responsibility, success and economic security, commence training now—in some specialised business subject. H.R.I. is available always to help and advise ambitious men and women. Write or wire for particulars and career information.

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Length Overall: 8½ in.
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.22 Calibre Rifled.

The Webley "Senior" Air Pistol is the latest Model de Luxe. It contains the leading points of the "Mark I" Air Pistol, with the following important additions:—

1. Adjustable Backsight (both Lateral and Vertical), which is capable of being regulated.
2. Fitted with a special sear mechanism, which ensures a light pull-off and obviates the necessity of a Trigger adjusting screw.
3. The cocking of the Pistol by means of the barrel has been enormously facilitated by the addition of a patent double joint, which assists in the leverage to such an extent that any young person can easily operate it.
4. The top catch of the "Mark I" is replaced by a Webley Revolver stirrup, this giving an absolute and positive lock.
5. The barrel has been considerably strengthened.
6. Piston is fitted with special Metal Ring in place of Leather Washer, giving increased velocity and durability. Use Webley No. 2 Oil.
7. The butt of the Pistol is serrated to ensure a perfect grip.

Each Pistol is supplied in cardboard box containing Webley Special Pellets, Spare Washer, Cleaning Brush and Instructions.

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ANDREW MCGEE

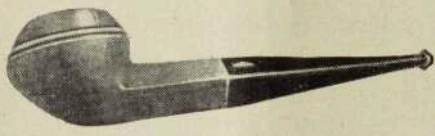
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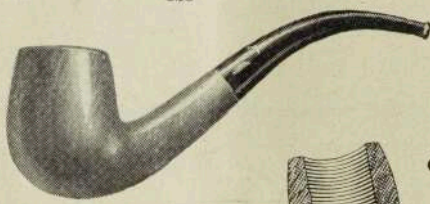
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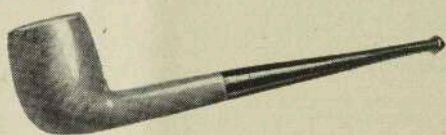
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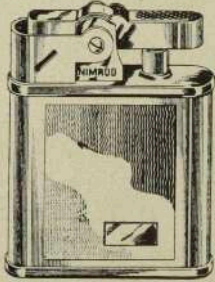
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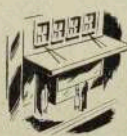
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RABAUL ROUNDABOUT

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAUL, March 1

PUT PUT, discovered by Parkinson in 1884, and to-day one of the largest plantations on New Britain, is to change hands.

In the possession of the well-known Gilmore family for over twenty years, it is now to become the property of the Catholic Mission. It is valued at about £70,000.

Having sold the plantation, the elder Gilmores, Flo and John, have presented their two vessels, the 85 ft. ketch Lady Josephine and the smaller Gawa, plus a substantial cash settlement to their two sons John and Graham. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore Snr. will take a well-earned rest in an overseas trip when conditions are suitable.

WE received an interesting letter this week from a frustrated foreigner, living in Rabaul, who finds our ways beyond comprehension. I give it to you as he wrote it.

"I am a foreigner in a foreign country, with a very bad foreign habit of liking to build things up, and I find pleasure in doing so. But take Rabaul—What has been done to improve the remnants of war. Not much! It is so easy to blame the Government but much could have been done by the population. And the only obstacle is lack of co-operation because one is frightened about what his neighbour is going to say.

"I started a soccer association and included Chinese and Malay teams in the body. For over six months I battled along with three European players as being the only European team. It was not that there were not enough soccer fans, but merely because a whispering campaign was held that I was associating with Chinese and Malays. The eye was not focussed on the sporting side of the whole matter but only on the social side. I think this is very childish if not poor attitude towards sport and co-operation in general. Why does someone have to wait and see what his neighbour is going to do? I know that there are before and behinds but both are anxious to see things going smartly. Well then, why not throw away that hang on attitude and come together and see what can be done about making Rabaul a model place with an attraction for outsiders to come here?"

A SILENT poll over the telephone wires in Rabaul during a recent blitz on subscribers, revealed that 95 per cent. of residents when using the phone ask for names, not numbers.

We have been spoilt by those charming telephone girls who knew all the numbers. It was a comfort when looking for that elusive telephone book. But if you cannot find your book now all you'll get from the savages manning the switchboard is that bland, dead-end remark, "Me no savee."

AN important meeting of Rabaul citizens was held in the District Office on March 2, to form a working committee for raising money for the Lamington Disaster Relief Fund.

From the 28 persons present, including representatives from the Chinese and Malay communities, Mr. Frank Riordan of the Commonwealth Bank was elected chairman, with Mr. Roy Galloway, secretary and Mr. Bernie Ryan, BP manager, Treasurer.

A working committee of eight was then elected, consisting of Mrs. Mildred Costello, The Reverend Mr. Lewis, Father White, D. Williams J. Chipper, N. Holland, Mollinger, and E. Smythe.

The concluding date for the all-out

drive was fixed at May 1, and many excellent suggestions were handed in, beginning with a carnival which always brings in big money, a car raffle, sports day, tennis, soccer, swimming and bridge tournaments, and also a mock police day

on which residents would be charged for mock traffic offences.

An interesting point was raised by a Committee member who said that many people of Rabaul wanted assurance before they would contribute any money to the central fund, that it would not be diverted to a certain section of the native community of the area, who were of unsavoury reputation, particularly with regard to their war-record. (Continued next page)



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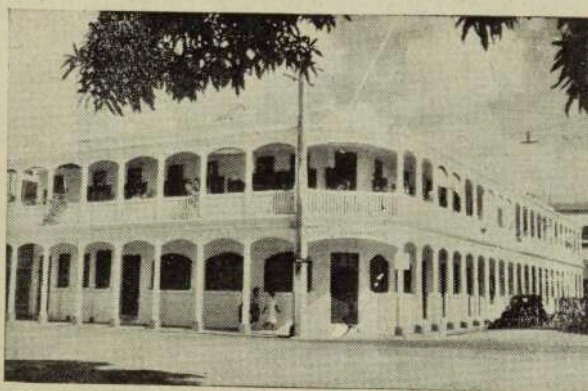
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In reply Mr. Macarthy, District Commissioner, said that the natives referred to, who had already been heavily punished for their war crimes, were not in any case affected by the eruption of Mt. Lamington, being out of the area, so could not possibly be included in any benefits from the Central Fund.

With this assurance the Committee agreed on an intensive co-operative effort.

Mr. Sorrell, an accountant from the Department of Works and Housing said

that he had already collected £30 that afternoon with a promise of £45 from another member of the Department, and said that Works and Housing personnel had already arranged to have a Sports day and that the proceeds from this would be devoted entirely to the Lamington Fund.

Mr. Thomset of New Guinea Co., Mr. Dever of SDA Missions, and Mr. MacMullen of Bank of New South Wales sent their apologies for not being at the meet-

ing and assured the Committee of their full co-operation.

THE age when women lived on pedestals and all their secrets of the toilet were inviolate, lives on in one masculine heart in Rabaul.

During stocktaking at a local store, the store manager could not understand why the new hand was stocktaking up to underneath, and around, a certain section of the shelves. Something odd here, he told himself, and asked the young man why he was avoiding that particular portion of the stocktake.

"Sir," he replied, standing stiffly at attention, "there are some things we will not stocktake."

The tambu area was the brassiere and scantie department.

ONE of the most delightful places you may visit in Rabaul is the new Club House of the Rabaul Women's Club. Now members may bring their friends to the Club for morning, afternoon teas and luncheons — all at very reasonable prices.

It is also of particular interest to Country Members to note that two rooms are now available for occupation, and may be booked by visiting members at the small cost of ten shillings per night.

At a general meeting of the Club this month, office bearers were elected for the coming year. They are Mrs. Mildred Costello as President, Miss Audrey Wood as Treasurer and Miss Loran Carey as Secretary.

It was unanimously agreed to call the Club in future the Rabaul Women's Club not the Ladies Club, as hitherto.

THE Rabaul Soccer Association close its round of competition matches with a victory for the Red Dragon.



The illustration shows the "Victory," a popular light all-steel plough, combining maximum strength with minimum weight and draught.

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in any class of soil can be obtained with one implement or other in the wide selection which we offer — Our range covers share and disc ploughs for animal and tractor draught, cultivators, disc harrows, planters, etc.

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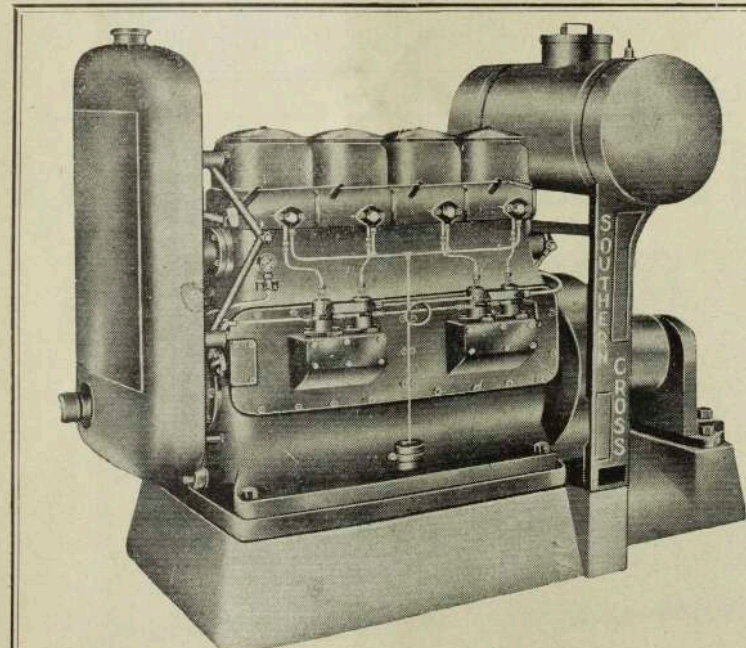
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Mark YB-4 h.p. . . .	£144/ 7/6
" BDC-10 h.p. . . .	£201/ 1/0
" BEC-20 h.p. . . .	£362/17/0
" BFC-30 h.p. . . .	£553/10/0
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(Price of 20, 30 and 40 h.p. Units includes Radiator Cooling System.)

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NOTE:—The 1950 Southern Cross Catalogue is now available. Please write for a copy indicating the machine in which you are interested.

After the play finished Mrs. J. K. Macarthy, wife of the DC presented the cup donated by James Chung to the winners.

Mr. Macarthy then spoke to the gathering of over 500 people, and congratulated all teams and wished them luck for the future.

Mr. Frank Mollinger who is a promoter and a keen supporter of the Soccer Association, said that application had gone forward to the Olympic Games Committee to admit the association to the games, represented by a combined Papua-New Guinea soccer team.

He also said that the Association hoped to form both baseball and football teams as soon as their new fields were ready.

.. ..

THE engagement has been announced of Miss Helen Louise Burrows to Mr. John Cairns Lee.

Both are popular members of the staff of New Guinea Company, Rabaul.

SOLOMON ISLANDER'S REMARKABLE FEAT OF TRANSLATION

A VISITOR to several of the Australian States recently has been Pastor Kata Ragoso of the SDA Mission at Marovo Lagoon, Western Solomons. Kata Ragoso has retained the name given him at birth by his father. His father had just been converted to Christianity; he therefore called his son the Marovan equivalent of "No-Devil-Strings."

Kata Ragoso does not look in the least diabolic, he is a striking-looking man of middle height, with a halo of hair just starting to grey, a soft voice and an inscrutable face. He has done considerable travelling—he was a delegate to the SDA World Conference in San Francisco in 1936 and has paid several visits to Australian States—otherwise one might link his inscrutability with the queer antics of we givers of Christianity when running loose in our native state.

As a leader of the Western Solomons people during the war, he organised villagers in the rescue of 27 US airmen shot down in the area, and 180 New Zealand seamen. Kata Ragoso does not seem eager to discuss this interlude—he is more interested at the present time in the translations of the Bible which are now nearing completion and which have taken, before and since the war, about seven years.

It is the final revision of this translation of the Bible into the Marovo language that has brought him to Australia on this occasion. The work is being completed in Victoria where it will be printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society. Natives in the Western Solomons, of whom there are about 50,000, have collected £2,800 to pay for the printing.

The difficulties of translating the archaic English of the Bible, with its allegories and its abstractions, into a native dialect would appear to the layman to be almost insuperable. But Kata Ragoso and the SDA between them have somehow managed to overcome the difficulties and the end of the job is now just in sight.

The Most Reverend J. M. Aubin, Roman Catholic Bishop of the South Solomons, left for Australia by air on January 23. Bishop Aubin, who is of French nationality, has spent more than 40 years with the Mission in the Solomons. His present visit to Australia is for health reasons.

Mr. J. B. McCaig has been selected to take the Colonial Administration Service Course in the United Kingdom, prior to being posted to Fiji as an Administrative Officer. Mr. McCaig is a graduate of Otago University, N.Z. and an old boy of John McGlashan College, Dunedin.

Mr. George Manning, who has been on the staff of the Bank of New South Wales in Suva, Fiji for the past 3½ years, has returned to Australia. This completes Mr. Manning's second tour of duty in Fiji. He was in the Colony from 1939 to 1945.

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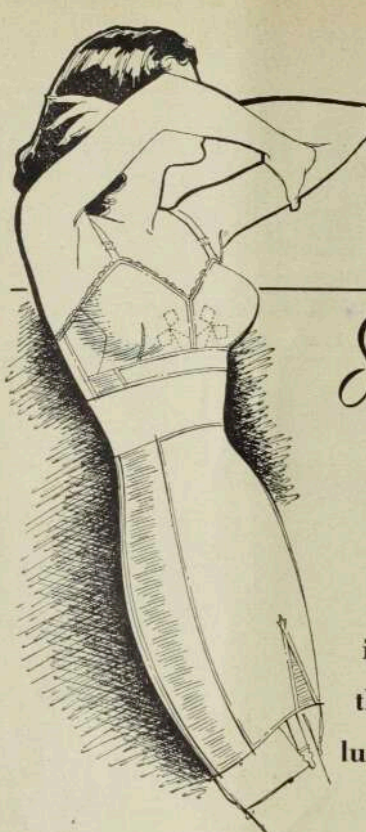
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ANGRY DELEGATE AND FIJI LIQUOR LAW

A NOTE from a friend in Tahiti indicates that an unfortunate incident of the South Pacific Conference (held in Fiji last April) is far from forgotten.

As it happens, I saw the thing break. I was sitting in the Government Buildings in Suva, chatting to a high executive officer, when the telephone rang. He answered it in the flat, unemotional voice characteristic of the British Colonial Office.

But his boredom left him in an instant. He sat up straight, as if he had been stung.

"My God—my God!" he wailed. I could hear, from the telephone vibrations, a voice at the other end rising octave by octave.

My news-hound training sensed an international crisis. It was—but I got no details then. My friend edged me out, and ignored me, while he went frantically into action.

In Fiji there is a law very strictly policed, that no native, and no half-caste without European status, shall have alcoholic liquor. Certain individuals have liquor permits.

The Conference organisers did a fine job and seemed to have provided for everything. But no one thought of the liquor laws in relation to the overseas delegates, many of whom were native or part-native. Delegates from New Caledonia and French Oceania live a Frenchmen—which means that they partake of light wine regularly at luncheon and dinner.

The Fiji police knew nothing of this and had no instructions. Naturally, there were incidents.

For example, a delegate from Tahiti was M. Paul Berniere, an educated and highly-esteemed man of part-Martinique blood. M. Berniere was eating lunch in a Suva hotel, when a large person in uniform stood by his table, seized his bottle of light wine, and glared at him.

"Don't you know that natives are not allowed to drink alcoholic liquor?" he demanded.

M. Berniere—who knows little English—was at first dumbfounded. Then his indignation and anger brought forth a torrent of French which caused a still and a hurried reference to High Authority.

Officialdom, of course, quickly brought the situation to rights. But some faces were red before all the explaining and apologising were over.

My Tahiti correspondent says M. Berniere still entertains his friends with the story of how he fought with the police in order to retain his luncheon wine in Suva.—R. W. ROBSON.

RECRUITERS FOR PAPUA-NEW GUINEA

MR. SYDNEY H. CHANCE writes from Brisbane of an interesting job he has had for a month or so at Victoria Barracks—teaching Police Motu to some soldiers going to Papua-New Guinea to recruit native soldiery for the Pacific Regiments. Mr. Chance says that he does not now, or ever did, pose as an authority on Motu, but had the job thrust upon him, as there was nobody else in Brisbane able and willing to help out the Northern Command Educational Services. We hope the troops "get by" when they contact the Police Motu-speaking natives. So does Mr. Chance!

PLANTERS SHOULD BARGAIN WITH UK MOF DIRECT

*Written for PIM by a well-known
S-W Pacific Planter*

ALTHOUGH it has the power to socialise the Mother Country, does this give the somewhat wobbly Socialist Government of Great Britain any moral right to subject the other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, or the Crown Colonies, to a compulsory subsidy of their own reckless experiments? If the member nations got an adequate quid pro quo the case would be different, but, so far, the Home Government has shown a deep reluctance, if not actual hostility, to having the various overseas contracts thrashed out over the conference table by fully accredited representatives of the producers concerned.

The nine-year contract covering the purchase by the British Ministry of Food of copra produced in various quarters of the Pacific is a case in point.

When the contract was first advanced, the copra market was in chaotic condition. No one at that time seemed to know with any certainty what world parity prices were. Accordingly, the British MOF's offer of £48 stg. per ton was accepted by most of the countries to whom it was offered.

The position clarified very quickly. It soon became apparent that £48 per ton was considerably below world parity. Whether the authority which offered this price was aware of this fact at the time of making the offer is beside the point.

When the time arrived for the first annual revision of the price provided for under the contract the British Govern-

ment had the temerity to offer one or two of the countries concerned a slightly lower price than that ruling for the preceding year. The Contract provided for an annual revision upwards or downwards of not more than ten per cent. in any one year. Whether the condition was ever expressly stated or not, copra growers generally were of the opinion that prices in subsequent years would bear some relationship to world parity. In any case, were world parity not to be regarded

as a guide for future adjustment why was any provision for future adjustment included in the Contract?

When the Ceylon growers were offered in 1950 a slight reduction on the 1949 prices they decided to repudiate the contract entirely and since then Ceylon has been selling on the open market. The Seychelles Islands also repudiated the Contract according to published reports. An open market for copra exists at Singapore also. (Continued on next page)

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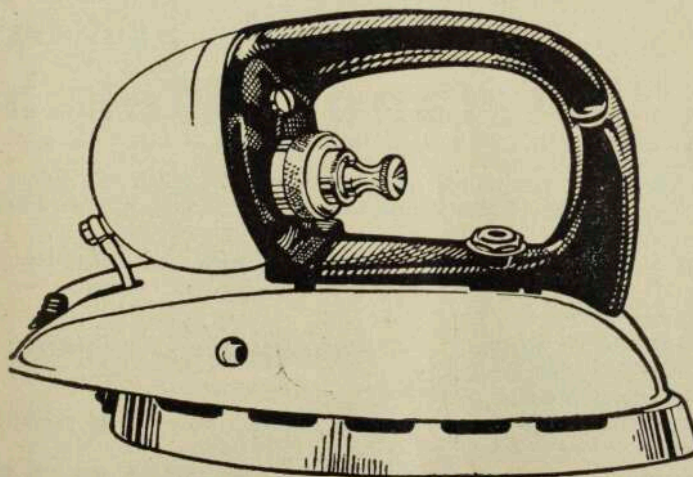
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To overcome the feeling that had developed amongst planters generally that the British MOP was "taking them for a ride," a suggestion was made that towards the end of each year of the contract representatives of the British Government (MOP) and accredited representatives of the planters (not Governmental appointees), from the various producing areas of the Pacific, should meet in conference and agree upon a price for the ensuing year.

It is obvious that an impartial rep-

resentation of the planters cannot be expected from Government officials meeting official representatives of the British Ministry of Food and fixing the price. In these negotiations, so far, the planter has had no say whatever.

If the yearly contract price of copra had been fixed in line with world parity prices from the original acceptance of the contract up to the present, the ten per cent. annual revision would have been applied in full each year to boost the price. As the Contract took effect first

in January, 1949, the increase (in Australian currency) for 1950 would have been from £60 to £66, for 1951 from £66 to £72/12/-, or in Sterling from £48 to £58.

Even this increase would not have done justice to the copra producer. The original price of £48 Stg. was regarded as a stop-gap price to give a measure of stability to a market which had been disorganised during the war and early post-war years at a time when no open market appeared to exist. Had the contract been fair and reasonable, it would have contained a proviso that as soon as a stable market had been achieved the price of copra would be revised in line with world parity. It is doubtful whether the Pacific planter at the latter part of 1948 would have been at all eager to enter into the contract had he been informed of the true price of copra on the world's markets.

IN the latter part of 1949 came the devaluation of sterling. Pacific planters were astounded to learn that it was not proposed to make any variation in the price paid by the Ministry of Food as a result of this event. Copra, being a commodity in world wide demand, should have been re-valued under the contract with any variation in the pegged level of sterling. Had this been done, and the moral right of the planters to this adjustment cannot be questioned, the £72/12/- (Aust.) or £58 (Stg.), representing the contract price from inception plus annual increments of ten per cent. would now stand at £108/18/- Aust. or £87 Stg. Even this figure does not at present represent full world parity for copra.

For any Government spokesman to exclaim that this price is too high would amount to sheer hypocrisy. No Government has ever waived taxation on the ground that they were collecting too much. During the depression years when the planters were taking the greatest bashing of all time, no Government came to their rescue with a subsidy.



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Is it not the duty of a Government official representing the planters in negotiations with the British Ministry of Food to regard himself as an agent and spokesman for the planters? If he is not prepared to regard himself in this light, the planters should be advised beforehand of his intentions, so that they can insist on proper and impartial representations being made on their behalf.

What copra producer in the Pacific has ever sighted the MOF contract? None to my knowledge. In the Solomon Islands Protectorate the planters refused to accept the contract. Nevertheless, the BSIP Government have commandeered the copra produced and carried on the shipment of copra to the British MOF as if the planters had formally approved and accepted the nine-years agreement. The BSIP Government called the planters together on two occasions and offered the contract to them for acceptance. The planters refused to accept same. If they had no choice (and apparently the BSIP Government—as proven by their actions since then—gave them no choice) why the farce of asking for their approval?

The planters must insist upon all the cards being placed on the table and negotiations carried out between their own elected representatives and the representatives of the British Ministry of Food, without benefit of official interference by Colonial Governments or by the Australian Federal Government.

Failing this, the planters should take control of the sale of their product out of the hands of the Governments concerned entirely and attend to the sale in the open market of their own production. Many firms would be pleased to provide the marketing machinery on a commission basis or to purchase same outright.

OPERATION VOLCANO

THE occupants of two Qantas aircraft flying over the Mt. Lamington area, Papua, about 10.40 a.m. on January 1, were eyewitnesses of the explosion that devastated the country and killed 1,000 people.

One was a Dragon aircraft flown by First Officers Biddulph and Barlogie and carrying Administration personnel to Popengetta from Lae. From Popengetta the passengers expected to go by road to Higaturu. As they were taking photographs of the steam and ash which had been issuing from Mt. Lamington since the previous week, the whole mountain side blasted out towards them, and pilots and passengers watched while the township of Higaturu was enveloped with volcanic ash and pumice dust.

Therefore (we quote from the Qantas report) . . . "As his trip was for the purpose of carrying the passengers for Higaturu to Popengetta and they had all seen it just disappear, the passengers requested Biddulph to return to Lae."

At the same time—but obscured from Biddulph by a layer of stratus cloud—Captain Arthur Jacobson, commanding a DC3, was flying from Port Moresby via the Gap to Rabaul, at 8,000 ft. A tremendous explosion occurred below the cloud, and volumes of jet black matter rose into the air only 10 miles away. He took two pictures of it but, as the cloud approached at terrific force, he dived the plane away from it at 215 miles an hour. He said that the apex of the explosion reached about 50,000 feet, and blanketed an area about 100 miles wide.

In the following days Qantas aircraft based on Lae flew 20,600 miles in and around the devastated area, and carried one million pounds of loading.

HIGHER RATE FOR BETTER COPRA

From Our Own Correspondent

HONIARA, Feb. 20.

THE British Solomon Islands Copra Board has accepted an offer from the Ministry of Food, London, to pay a premium of one pound sterling per ton for hot air dried copra or its equivalent, with a discount of ten shillings sterling for FMS or its equivalent.

This offer was accepted on the assumption that the two local BSIP

grades, Plantation and FM are equal to hot air dried and FMS respectively.

(Some months ago the MOF complained of the bad quality of copra shipped to the UK from BSI.)

Simione Nadakuitavuki, one of Fiji's oldest Assistant Medical Practitioners, died in Suva in February in his 62nd year. He qualified in 1910, and was posted to Makogai, in 1911. He had served in almost every district in the Colony before he retired in 1942.

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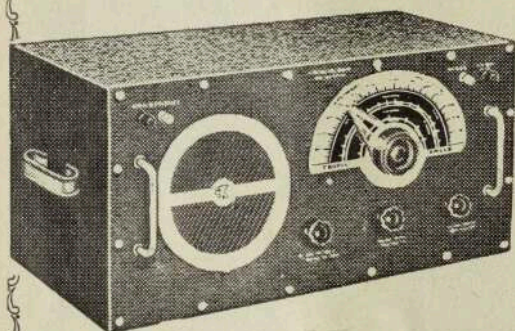
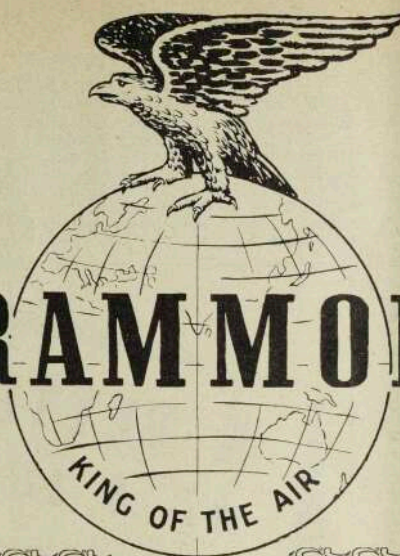
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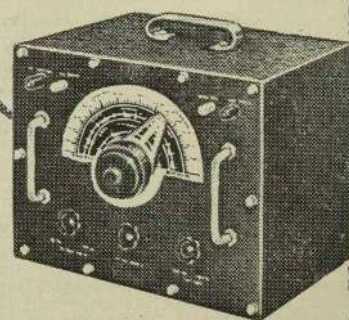
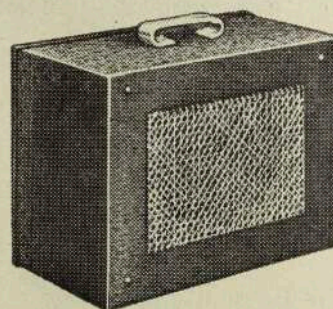


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INDONESIANS IN N. CALEDONIA

The Strange Indifference of Australia

A FEW months ago, the PIM pointed out that, owing to the breakdown during the war of the repatriation provisions of their indentured labour contract, a colony of at least 3,000 Indonesians had taken root in New Caledonia, only 700 miles east of the Australian coast. The comment was made that it was strange that Australia did not concern itself with the new Asiatic invasion of the Southwest Pacific, while making so much fuss about the possibility of Indonesians settling in Dutch New Guinea, which is little nearer the Australian coast than is New Caledonia.

As a result, Mr. D. H. Drummond, MP, asked in the Australian Parliament a question concerning this matter, and invited the Government to give an indication of policy in relation to the settlement of Asiatics in the South Pacific. The Government promised to make inquiries.

Mr. Drummond, in due course, received a reply from Acting Prime Minister Fadden. He was informed, at length and in detail, that normally, before the war, New Caledonia and New Hebrides together gave employment to about 10,000 Indonesian indentured labourers (5,000 Javanese and 5,000 Tonkinese); that, owing to absence of shipping in 1942-46, most of them were not repatriated, as they should have been; and that some of them have been repatriated since the war ended.

But the Prime Ministerial statement carefully avoids the whole point of our article and of Mr. Drummond's question—namely, that the non-repatriated Indonesians, to the number of some thousands,

have been allowed by the French to form a permanent colony in New Caledonia.

The statement says: "The French authorities appear to have been fully satisfied with the conduct of the Indonesian community in New Caledonia. There has been, so far as can be ascertained, little evidence of subversive activity among these Indonesian residents of New Caledonia." All of which was already well known.

APPARENTLY, the Australian Prime Minister has never heard of the Indians of Fiji. There were only a few thousands of non-repatriated Indian labourers there in the beginning, when they were first allowed to settle—quiet, industrious, law-abiding people. Now they number over 130,000—nearly 10,000 more than the native Fijians, whose lands they covet.

In an economic sense, the Indians are an asset—their industry has made of Fiji a very rich and prosperous British colony. In a political sense, of course, they are what is popularly termed a pain in the neck.

Taking the long view, we believe that there is no future for the European and the indigenous races here in the South Pacific—in Australia and New Zealand, and the Islands—unless the United States will protect us against Asia. Without American aid, we cannot hold these lands against 1,000,000,000 Asiatics.

Why, then, should we hasten our own destruction by introducing colonies of Asiatics to these pleasant, empty lands? Already, they are established in Fiji, Tahiti, New Guinea and the Solomons. Why permit another establishment in New Caledonia?

New Caledonia, of course, is French; and the French, in colonisation, have no racial consciousness. It is not an accident that, although the French hold, in area, the world's second largest colonial

empire, they have not succeeded in establishing one worthwhile French community, outside of the Mother Country.

Generally, what the French do in New Caledonia is entirely the concern of the French. But if, by blundering and indifference, they are going to establish an Indonesian colony within 700 miles of the Queensland coast—in much the same circumstances as they established a Chinese community in Tahiti—that is very much the concern of Australia.



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COCOA EXPERT IN BSI

From Our Own Correspondent

HONIARA, Feb. 20.
DR. D. H. URQUHART, formerly Director of Agriculture, Gold Coast Colony, arrived in Honiara, by air on February 5 from New Guinea, where he has been investigating cocoa-growing potentialities and problems.

His visit to the Solomons was made at the request of the BSIP Government for the purpose of advising on the most suitable soil areas and varieties of cocoa for initial plantings in the Solomons.

The Right Reverend S. G. Caulton, Bishop of Melanesia, returned to the British Solomon Islands by air on February 5 after a short vacation in Australia and New Zealand.

Lae Now Has Advisory Council

Moresby Council's Reluctance To Assume Powers

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, March 1.
LAE now has a Town Advisory Council. Its formation was announced in the same week as the Port Moresby Council presented its first annual report. Members of the Lae Council, all appointed by the Administrator are:—

A. J. Bretag, Chairman; J. A. Baker, Deputy Chairman; G. Whittaker; C. Heavy; C. Beckett; R. Morgan; J. A. Birrell; Mrs. F. Stewart; Mrs. J. Pollard; the Assistant District Officer, Lae; the Regional Works Officer, Lae; District Medical Officer, Lae; J. Womersley, Forest Botanist.

In many ways these councils are quaint public bodies since as they, as yet, have no statutory powers, and as there are neither income nor municipal taxes imposed in the Territory, their deliberations are not curbed by any shadow of a financial reckoning.

The question of its constitution and the matter of statutory authority was handed over by the Administrator to the Port Moresby Council last year. But, at a session closed to the Press, it was decided not to seek statutory powers but to reconsider the matter after the body had been functioning 12 months.

Now the 12 months are up, the Council is asking the Administrator for his view on the matter, and if he wants a recommendation from the Council itself.

When this fox-trot debate finally ends it will then be known whether the burghers of Port Moresby are ready to assume municipal authority. It is possible too, that the question of whether members should continue to be appointed by the Administrator, or elected by their fellow citizens, may be settled, and a Council constitution adopted.

With no Legislative Assembly and no form of participation in the government of the Territory, it seems logical that municipal councils should be elected and not appointed by the Administrator. However, the first Council members with the chance to do something about this have not rushed their opportunity. This time the fault does not lie with the government.

It is to be hoped that the delay on the part of the Port Moresby Council members is due to reasonable caution and not to distaste for definite responsibility.

In this matter the decision of Port Moresby Council may set a precedent for contemporary councils. A limited franchise is better than none at all, and if Territorians do not take this chance, they will rightly lose their present privilege of protesting against government without representation.

ON its first year's record the Port Moresby Council has a lot to its credit. It has put in some hefty and at least partially-effective protest on many important matters. Its representations resulted in improved plans for the new main wharf; it hurried the slow motion Town Plan a little farther along its weary road; and it put the spotlight on the inadequacies of power and water services. It sponsored an Anti-Litter campaign which got a lot of rubbish moved out of the town, and perhaps even incited a sense of pride in the appearance of the township. In a dozen different ways the Council did a very good job, and when it sits as an elected body, with statutory powers, it can render an even more useful purpose.

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Meat or a Menace?

Proposed Introduction of Rabbits to BSIP

From Our Own Correspondent

HONIARA, Feb. 10.

ONE recent topic of conversation in Honiara is a proposal to import rabbits into the BSIP to provide fresh food and lower the ever-rising cost of living. Honiara residents, English, New Zealanders and Australians, stand by their respective backgrounds of home experience.

The English cannot understand how a few rabbits, imported for food and kept in hutches, could ever become a pest; the New Zealanders combine neutrality with a leaning towards the English viewpoint.

Most Australians are with difficulty restrained from tubthumping and arguing (occasionally with more force than good manners) that if as the opposition claims rabbits will not do well in the tropics it would be of little value to import them, whereas if they flourished they might prove a dangerous threat to native food supplies, plantation cover-crops and possible future coffee and cocoa ventures.

Some Queenslanders, however, believe that rabbits could safely be introduced and would be kept in check by the tropical climate and conditions.

None have as yet been imported.

(Ed. Note.—The introduction of rabbits into Pacific Islands has been discussed, pro and con, many times. The general opinion is that they would not become a menace, but few have been tempted to deliberately try the experiment. A small island off Norfolk Island has been completely devastated by rabbits.)

Mr. B. H. Marks, prominent resident of Suva, Fiji, has retired and, with his wife, in future will make his home in Melbourne, Victoria. He is the son of the late Sir Henry Marks, who went to Suva from Melbourne in 1881, and soon after established the firm of Henry Marks & Co., Ltd., which years later amalgamated with Morris Hedstrom Ltd. Sir Henry (knighted in 1933) and his son both gave long public service to Suva—at one time

they were Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively. Mr. Marks was also Danish Consul in Fiji in succession to his father and after his recent resignation the King of Denmark created him a Knight of the Royal Order of Dannebrog.

In Launceston, Tas., on February 22, Miss Rae Marion Winspear was married to Mr. Eric Beattie. They will make their home in Wau, New Guinea.

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BLOOD FOR VOLCANO VICTIMS

From Our Brisbane Correspondent

FOUR hundred Brisbane people gave blood on January 23 for victims in Papua of the Mt. Lamington volcano disaster. It was reported to be a record "bleed" for the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service which was set up in Brisbane in 1940.

About 750 blood donations were flown from the Brisbane city blood-bank on January 22 and 23 to Papua. The demand was twice that of any previous Australian tragedy.

A returned serviceman, Mr. I. Smith, of Rathdonnell Street, Auchenflower said that he gave his blood "to repay a seven-year-old debt to New Guinea natives." Now an upholsterer, he was then a 42nd Battalion private. He was wounded near Salamaua and six natives carried him for 3½ hours to the nearest beach. "I was saved because of them," he said, "and resolved then that if I could ever repay the debt, I would."

The Director of the Brisbane Blood Transfusion Service says that the percentage of deaths of victims of the New Guinea volcano disaster is higher than for any other catastrophe on record.

RABAUl WEDDING



A photograph taken after the wedding of Miss Norma Dicks to Mr. Kevin Ogorman, in Rabaul, on December 16 (See Feb. PIM, page 113.)

MURDER TRIAL ON NIUE

From A Special Correspondent

A RECENTLY retired Auckland Magistrate, Mr. J. Morling, arrived at Niue on January Maui Pomare, to preside at the trial of Lakamu, a 19-year-old native from the village of Lakepa.

Lakamu was charged with attempted murder, with a second charge of causing grievous bodily harm to a native constable. For the purpose of the trial Mr. Morling held the temporary status of a Judge of the High Court of the Cook Islands. An Auckland Barrister, Mr. F. D. Baxter, also arrived on the Maui Pomare to defend the accused.

The trial was held on January 24, and the charge of attempted murder was dismissed, but the accused was found guilty

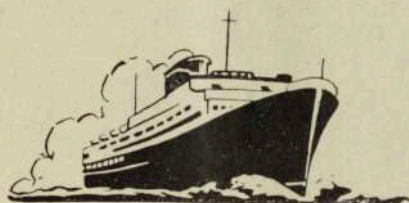
on the second charge and sentenced to five years imprisonment which it is understood, will be served on the island.

Serious criminal offences are not frequent at Niue and this is the first time a Magistrate has been needed on the island for a considerable time.

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Ratu Isireli Tawake, formerly Roko Tui Ra and Roko Tui Tailevu died in Fiji on January 16, aged 62. He joined the Fiji Government Service in 1908 as a clerk in the Native Department and served in various clerical posts until he went to Europe with the Fiji Labour Corps in 1917. In 1924 he was appointed to act as Roko Tui Bua and then became Native

Assistant Commissioner, Lautoka. He was appointed Roko Tui Ra in 1925 and in 1937 was transferred to Bau as Roko Tui Tailevu. He was awarded the Certificate of Honour in 1937 and for some years was one of the Fijian members of Legislative Council. He retired in 1946 and has been living at Bau.

FRUSTRATION IN THE COOK ISLANDS

MR. W. B. JACKSON, lecturer in Geography at Auckland University College spent six weeks in Rarotonga at the end of 1950 making a "pilot survey" for a Ph.D. thesis. On his return to NZ he said that the Cook Islands were a forgotten frontier.

No ship had called at Rarotonga between August and November, he said. Flour and bacon supplies ran out; meat and dairy products were very scarce and eggs were 5/- per dozen.

Although the Cook Islands had formerly produced large quantities of bananas, tomatoes and oranges for export, exports are now very small owing to the fact that native growers in the past have seen too many of their crops rot on the trees through lack of ships to lift them.

The natives, now, Mr. Johnston said, have nothing but a feeling of frustration regarding fruit growing and have turned to wage-earning, either in the Cook Islands, or, if they can get away, at Makatea, the French phosphate island, or in New Zealand.

DEATH OF MR. C. A. BENTLEY

MR. CHARLES A. BENTLEY, who was born at Suva 79 years ago, died at Lautoka in February. He was the last surviving member of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bentley. His father was a planter in the Rewa district, where he grew cotton during the boom caused by the American Civil War.

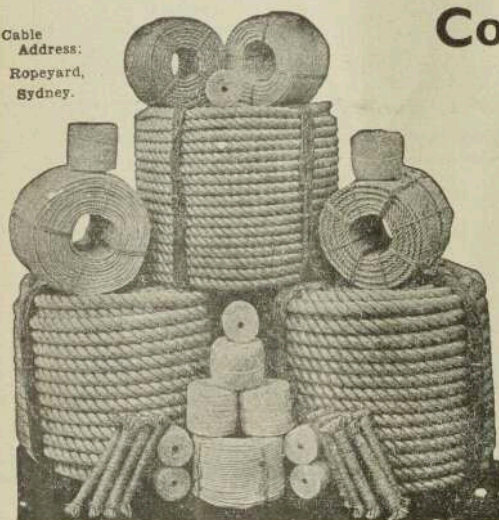
He is survived by his wife, one daughter (Mrs. W. Morrison, of Vatukoula) and four sons, including Mr. Viti Bentley, of Wakaya, and Mr. Dick Bentley, formerly Chief Engineer of the Viti, and now in the British Solomon Islands.

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Samoans Do Not Approve The Unmarried State

From a Special Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 20. THE new Civil Governor for American Samoa is Colonel Phelps Phelps, of New York. Already, he is on his way to the South Seas.

There was a tragedy connected with the minor post. Mr. Sutherland, of Pasadena, was appointed deputy-governor and, with his wife and family, he was ready to depart by plane last Monday for Samoa, via Fiji and Apia, when on Sunday he suddenly died. No other appointment has yet been made.

THE Department of the Interior, in taking over administration of American Samoa, is placing a serious handicap on the prospect of good relations with the people of Samoa by the appointment of a bachelor as their initial Governor.

Evidently Oscar Chapman, Secretary of the Interior, is not aware that this is an affront to the traditional culture and conventions of the Samoans. And evidently Colonel Phelps is equally unaware of the necessity of having a wife to share this high honour with him. He will find it difficult to gain the esteem of the Samoans, for they will be embarrassed for him, and formal occasions will be, to them, a manifestation of disrespect.

Even a woman member of his family, presiding at Government House up on the hill at Fagatoga, will fail to obviate this disregard for their requirements of good taste, and give him the dignity that would be his as the head of a family.

Being the head of a family is a Samoan man's pride, from the time of early manhood, when he is given the title of *matua*. Upon assuming this title he accepts a responsible place in village life and is rated a better man, socially and politically, for having the counsel and companionship of a wife. If by any unfortunate circumstance he has not a wife by the time he is elected to the high position of *ali'i sili* (chief) it is the duty of his orator (talking-chief) to find a wife for him.

In Samoan politics a bachelor has a weak voice and, socially, he has an inferior place. His single status stamps him as being without stability in their daily life, and thus denies him the respect of the people.

How far this matter of respect is tempered by the fact that he possibly may be lax in moral rectitude is a question. Their idea is, taking into account the inherent carnality of man, that it is more logical that a man lives virtuously if he has a complete and pleasant home life.

In accepting foreign rule, the Samoans have been patient and charitable with the shortcomings of their *papalagi* Governors. But those who have shown them consideration for their age-old traditions have done infinitely more to promote co-operation and goodwill than have those, intentionally or not, who disregard these precepts.

Samoans know full well that their civilisation is older than that of the administrators at Washington, and it would be well for those in position to make appointments to give this their serious attention. The latter should reckon with the fact that the Polynesians are an older branch of the Caucasian race than are the Washingtonians of the European branch. And, in their countless centuries of self-government under their *matua* system they have maintained a

higher standard of efficiency than has prevailed during the trying change to *papalagi* rule, even with such benignity, during the past 50 years, as no people have known.

The Tasmanian-built schooner, *Speedwell*, belonging to M. Graziani, a French settler in the New Hebrides, has been wrecked in the Banks Group. The *Speedwell* was a vessel of the same type as the Hobart-built *Evaleeta*, which that fine seaman Captain H. Simms, also of Hobart, under wartime US Army contract, regularly ran from Noumea to the Loyalty

Islands recruiting native labour for Noumea docks. Alas, the *Evaleeta*, which in 1946 the Americans handed over to the French, has been laid up ever since in Noumea's Orphelinat Bay, and nothing has ever been done to put her again into commission. It is sad to think of South Pacific islands without these last beautiful reminders of the great age of sail—for the *Speedwell*, I hear, is likely to be replaced by a motor vessel.—H.E.L.P.

The French gunboat, *Francis Garnier*, has been visiting the Marshall and Mariana Islands.

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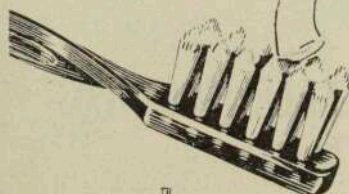
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Its Rich Soil Is Niue's Shrinking Wealth

ISOLATED Niue Island, apparently the product of some mighty upheaval of pre-history, situated 300 miles from anywhere in the South Pacific ocean, has recently had a soil survey by the New Zealand Soil Bureau.

Soil is important on Niue—all of its inhabitants, most of them directly and some of them indirectly, depend upon what grows there for their sustenance—and there is, in all, mighty little of it. Most of it is volcanic ash, lying in pockets on the rugged surface of the coral limestone. It is fertile, but precious.

The formation of Niue speaks mutely of some cataclysm, or cataclysms, that took place there in the dim past. The island is of "makatea" formation—what apparently were once circular, coral reefs have been thrust upwards now to form terraces or plateaus. Niue has two terraces—one about 90 feet above sea level; the other about 220 feet above sea level. There are 12 villages on the island—seven of them on the lower terrace, which is a natural coconut plantation, five on the upper plateau. The upheavals that lifted this two-tiered, 100-square-miles island out of the ocean also, presumably, provided the volcanic ash which makes the extremely fertile soil in which Niue grows its crops of taro, bananas, yams, tapioca maize and other vegetables.

ABOUT half of the island's 65,000 acres are suitable for agriculture; the rest grows scrub and some forest. The Niueans work their land on the well-known system of shifting cultivation—a five to nine year rotation of crops with a spell of three to five years when the land is allowed to revert to native cover. Without artificial aids the soil, in this way has maintained its fertility in all but about 8,000 acres which are no longer capable of growing crops and have re-

Alofi, Niue's port of entry and seat of government.

verted to permanent scrub land.

This, then, seems a good time for a soil survey and for the practical measures advocated as a result of that survey. Niue population is growing slowly but very definitely—a wise agricultural policy now will prevent any land poverty in the future, as well as giving these Polynesians a better life now.

The NZ official who undertook the survey recommended that an agricultural officer be appointed to the island im-

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diately; that instruction in good soil management be instituted in Niue schools; that experiments be made in grassland establishment for the possible introduction of dairy and beef cattle (only poultry and pigs are raised at present); and that nitrogen, phosphorus and potash manures be tried with a view to shortening the interval between planting staple food crops without impoverishing the soil. At present the economic life of the island depends on the export of copra, plaited ware (hats, baskets, etc., from coconut and pandanus leaves) and bananas. There seems, however, no reason

why citrus fruit for the New Zealand market could not be grown as well as some other cash crops. Much depends on sea transport, of course, although in recent years Niue has averaged about one New Zealand ship per month.

THERE are no streams on the island but rainfall is fairly adequate (average 79 inches) and distributed throughout the year. Rain is stored in concrete tanks and reservoirs. Droughts do sometimes occur and apparently, before the days of tanks, the natives got supplies from deep caverns. The Govern-

ment was recently investigating the feasibility of deep wells. Water has been reached at 175 feet—if it proves suitable for drinking purposes deep wells may be sunk in the vicinity of all villages.

Naturalisation Rush In New Guinea

IN the Papua-New Guinea Gazette of January 8, 20 aliens gave notice of intention to apply for Australian citizenship. These are all missionaries—Dutch, German and French born—but just a sample of those non-British residents of the New Guinea territory who have sought citizen rights in the last few years.

Many of these folk have resided between 20 and 40 years in the Territory. While New Guinea was a Mandate, they were unable to qualify for naturalisation. This prohibition was removed in recent years.

Most of the missionaries, however, who left their Continental homelands for life to work in the mission fields of the Pacific, probably felt they were above nationality. It might be wondered why, after having served say 46 years in New Guinea without benefit of Australian citizenship, it might be regarded as important to acquire it now.

The layman's case was somewhat different. A number of German residents of New Guinea, either because they did not want to, or could not, become naturalised Britishers, spent not one but two periods of internment in Australia—during both World Wars.

Mrs. E. O. Newton Daly, of Ba, Fiji with her daughter, Angela, was visiting her parents in Sydney in February.

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Memories Of The Former Kaiser

(Until 1914, the Emperor of Germany, Kaiser Wilhelm II, head of the Hohenzollerns, was one of the three most powerful men in the world. Now, 30 years after his downfall, he is little more than a memory.)

But there is, in Tonga, in the South Pacific, one man to whom the late Wilhelm II is still the Kaiser, and who still reveres his memory. He is 90-years-old F. J. Goedicke, of Haapai, Tonga. A few years ago, Mr. Goedicke succeeded to an old Dutch title, that of Count van Astén. He was reared in aristocratic circles in Germany, and is believed to be of royal blood. He was in New Britain before 1880; and, after roving the world, he settled down in Tonga over 40 years ago, and married a relation of the Queen of Tonga. He was born on August 15, 1861.)

BY F. J. VAN ASTEN-GOEDICKE

IN October, 1949, I received a very interesting letter. The postmark is Sigmaringen, and the writer is the former Crown Prince Friederick Wilhelm, of Germany.

The Crown Prince writes that, some time ago, he approached the Dutch Government to allow him to take possession of the estate of his late father (the former Kaiser) at Doorn, Holland. This the Dutch Government refused.

Through the influence of Prince Bernhard (Consort of Queen Juliana), who is related to Crown Princess Cecilie, he received many private articles, and the whole of the Kaiser's correspondence, which the Kaiser had kept during his stay in Doorn.

This correspondence the Crown Prince had read from A to Z; and, while going through it, he came across some of my letters and he now asked me to let him know how and where I met Mr. Poulteney Bigelow. (Bigelow, Poulteney, born 1855; American journalist and author; educated in Germany; a friend of Crown Prince, afterwards Emperor Wilhelm II; has written books on Germany; a celebrated canoe-traveller; has written travel books).

I have informed the Crown Prince that, while living in San Francisco in 1889, I took my meals at a restaurant and, at the same table, there sat a Mr. P. Bigelow, with whom I became very friendly. One day Bigelow told me that while his father was USA Ambassador to Berlin, he (Poulteney Bigelow) studied at the University at Bonn, where Prince Wilhelm of Germany also studied. These two young men became close friends. When father and son returned to America, Wilhelm and Bigelow kept up a friendly correspondence. Later, when Wilhelm became Kaiser, Bigelow was always invited to join him on his Nordland yachting trips.

In 1930, I received from Germany an illustrated paper, showing the Kaiser and Bigelow, arm in arm, at Doorn. Another picture showed them with other Princes, playing cards; and another, where they were all chopping wood. The newspaper said that the Kaiser and Bigelow had been great friends, until America entered in World War I. Then Bigelow wrote against the Kaiser, and it hurt the Kaiser very much that an old friend should turn against him when he needed sympathy.

WHEN the war was over and Bigelow found that on some matters affecting the Kaiser he had been misinformed, he was man enough to say so. He went to Doorn and apologised to the ex-Kaiser, and they became friends again.

Believing Bigelow to be still at Doorn, I wrote to him in 1930, expressing appre-

ciation of what he had done. This letter he showed to the ex-Kaiser and I received the following letter. The translation does not bring out the really kind expressions.

"Your letter, addressed to Mr. P. Bigelow, was laid before His Majesty the Kaiser. His Majesty has, with great pleasure, taken notice of the so-kindly-used expressions, and was deeply touched. His Majesty was more delighted when he was told that the writer was his boyhood friend Fritz Goedicke, with whom he had spent six happy weeks, in 1870, in Ludwigslust. I am commanded by His Majesty to send you his love and good wishes for the future. The picture, under separate cover, has been by His Majesty with pleasure autographed. By Command (signed) Count Conrad van Finkelstein, Hofenasschall."

The following month I received a letter

from Bigelow acknowledging my letter, and in which he wrote warmly of the Kaiser and praised the Kaiser's good intentions for peace. This letter I sent to

(Continued on Page 65.)

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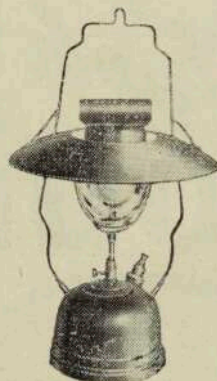
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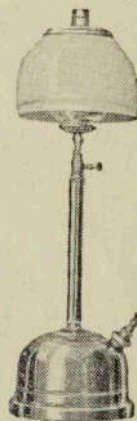
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It Lubricates better because it maintains correct body despite temperature changes.

MS06

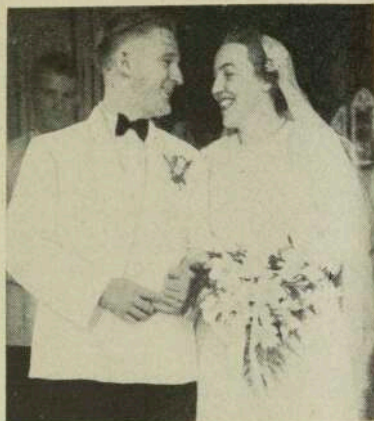


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WESTERN SAMOA WEDDING

A PRETTY wedding took place at Apia Protestant Church on January 11, when the Rev. P. Kightley united in marriage two popular members of Apia's younger set—Miss Shirley Helen Sheddin, of Dunedin, and Mr. Howard Lloyd



Webber, of Taranaki, N.Z. The bride is a member of the teaching staff of the Education Department, while the bridegroom is a radio operator at Apia Radio Station. Miss Jean Burton was bridesmaid, and Mr. B. L. Clare acted as best man. The bride was given away by Mr. G. E. Burton; and a reception was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Burton at Motootua.

UN Tells New Guinea How It Should Be Done

IT is believed that the four-nation mission which visited Trust Territories in the Pacific last year will suggest at the next UN Trusteeship meeting that Australia undertake a large road-building programme in New Guinea.

The UN mission seems to have been quite carried away with the idea of building roads in New Guinea, as this is all we have heard from their extended visit there in 1950. It is quite as obvious that they have no adequate idea of the task involved. It appears that they have suggested that a road be built from Madang to Mount Hagen—100 miles—at a cost of £10,000,000 and an annual maintenance of £100,000. But although the cost is so high, the UN mission feels it would be worth it.

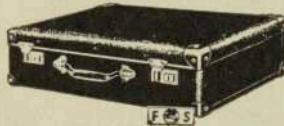
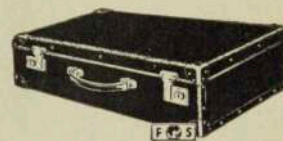
Why should it be worth it? The only

justification for building such a road from Madang to Mount Hagen—or from Lae to Hagen which would be a much more reasonable route—and to keep it open, would be exploitation of the Highland area and the Highland natives. But these UN gentlemen usually scream their heads off at the idea of native land or inhabitants being made to produce anything.

If the Highlands are to be thrown open to intensive European settlement, and the establishment of such industries as tea, coffee, quinine growing or cattle raising pushed ahead in a vigorous and realistic manner, then there may be something in building an adequate road to the coast. But if the industry of the Highlands is going to be native industry, then we will not need to worry about a road for another 100 years; and, if the Highlands are to be left pretty much as they are to-day, then there is nothing—health services, education and trade goods—that cannot be taken to the Highlanders in the way they are taken now—by air.

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RSL Support for NG Missions

ALL Australian ex-servicemen who served in New Guinea will be asked by the RSSAILA to support an appeal to assist the Anglican Mission whose buildings at Sangara and Isavita were destroyed in the Mt. Lamington eruption in January.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS SOCIETY

(Founded 1937)

Visitors from the Pacific Islands to Sydney, or persons interested in Islands affairs, are invited to communicate with the Honorary Secretary of the above Society which was formed to constitute a social centre for those interested in the Pacific Islands.

Regular meetings and social gatherings, with lectures, are held at History House, 8 Young Street, Sydney, on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 8 p.m.

Address for correspondence:—

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS SOCIETY,
Box 2434, G.P.O., Sydney.

About Volcanoes

LOOKING back on the Mt. Lamington disaster and to other great volcanic upheavals of history, it seems we can almost make this rule: When a known volcano periodically lets off steam you can assume that it is reasonably "safe." But when an area that has been inactive for centuries, or always, so far as modern man knows, starts growling and rumbling, just go for your life.

Almost invariably where a volcano has caused great loss of life, it has (a) been dormant for centuries; and (b) given some warning of the impending eruption.

Mt. Lamington took at least 4,000 lives. Other volcanoes have killed even more people. A few of the more famous volcanic eruptions are listed hereunder:—

VESUVIUS: Before the Christian era it had lain dormant for centuries. It began its rumbling several years before it finally blew its top in 79 AD, burying the

towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. It became quiet again after that effort, but again erupted in 1631, and killed 18,000 people. Since then it has been almost continually active, in a small way, and has thereby let off some of its energy.

KRAKATOA: A volcanic island between Java and Sumatra literally blew up with four terrific explosions in 1883. The noise is said to be the loudest ever heard on earth—it was heard as far away as Central Australia. Krakatoa was an old volcano, and it was uninhabited, but there were 36,000 casualties in Java and Sumatra from the tidal waves which it caused. Krakatoa had started to rumble in May, 1883. On August 27 it blew up.

TARAWERA, in New Zealand's thermal region erupted in 1886 and destroyed the until then famous Pink and White Terraces. One hundred people were killed.

BANDAI SAN, about 180 miles from Japan, exploded in 1888, after 1,000 years of inaction. It, too, began with preliminary rumblings and earthquakes—but gave only a day's warning.

MT. PELEE, in Martinique blew up in 1902, after only 90 years of inaction. It gave warning by rumblings about two days before—then a heavy cloud of incandescent dust rolled down the mountain side and killed the whole of the 40,000 inhabitants of the town of St. Pierre.

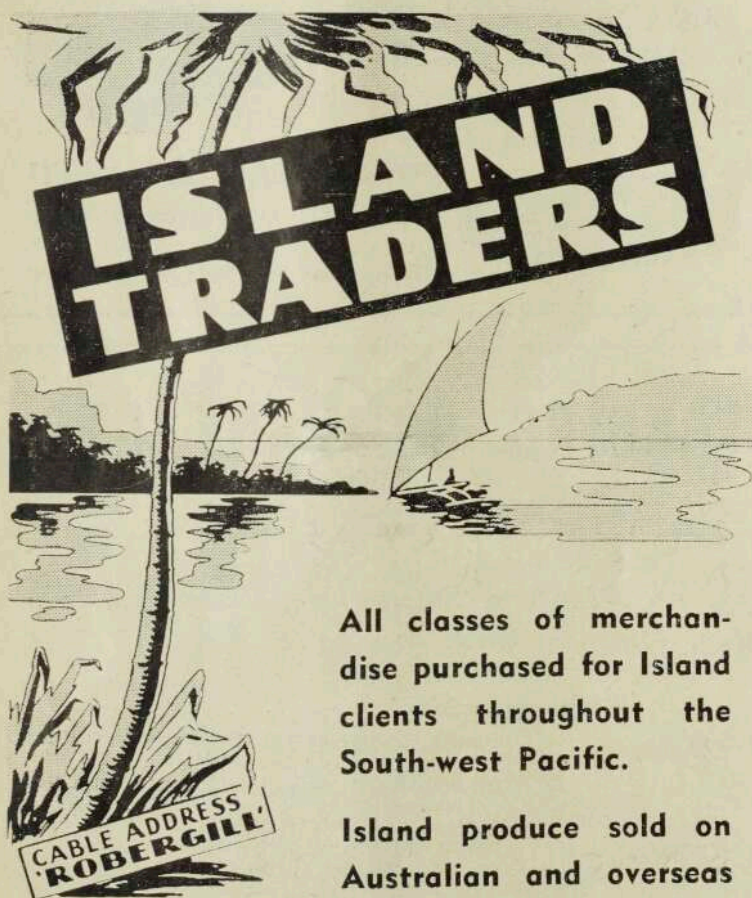
MORE recently, there has been (about 1944) the appearance, in a ploughed field in Mexico, of a 2,000 feet-high volcano—Paracutin—which, because it was more or less American, got more publicity than the 1937 effort of Rabaul's Vulcan, which previously had been an apparently inoffensive little island (although it, too, had bobbed up out of the harbour about 1888). We are reminded now that when Vulcan started to rumble, etc., in 1937, a number of the leading citizens of Rabaul took row-boats and went out to have a look-see. Only when hot rocks and other odd things began to be flung out of the sea did they row for the shore. Shortly afterwards Vulcan erupted.

There seems no telling when or where the next Papuan-New Guinea eruptions will occur—but scientists are agreed that occur they will. The moral seems to be: when a mountain unexpectedly starts to rumble, or some other part of the scenery behaves oddly, take care! Send for the vulcanologist, and you go away somewhere to a safe area until he tells you to return.

MANY people are intrigued as to how one becomes a vulcanologist. A vulcanologist primarily is a geologist and, to a lesser degree, a physicist and chemist. Geologists have always been interested in volcanoes and the effect they have on the earth's strata. A vulcanologist differs from a geologist in that he gets there before it happens, usually.

A vulcanologist was appointed to Rabaul after the 1937 eruption to keep local volcanoes under constant observation. The present P-NG vulcanologist, Mr. G. A. Taylor, is stationed there, but has been at Popengetta since the eruption of Mt. Lamington. He has flown over the area daily and, when activity has died down, will lead an expedition into the area to examine the results of the explosion at first hand.

A troupe of Australian professional vaudeville artists, headed by comedian T. ("Tubby") McDonald, is planning to make a Pacific tour shortly in a Fairmile launch, "Lester II." They propose to visit Norfolk Island, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Fiji, and Papua-New Guinea, putting on complete live artist shows at the various Islands centres and outport settlements.



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CAN A NATIVE REFUSE TO WORK ?

Letter to the Editor

I BELIEVE the new Papua-New Guinea Native Labour Ordinance is out. I would like to know if, in the main Ordinance or the regulations, a native can be charged with "Refusal to perform work allotted to him."

When I first went to Papua a regulation existed under which a native could be charged with either Neglect or Refusal to Perform Work. Quite sensible, as there is a difference. Many a sulky Gulf native I have known to flatly refuse to perform his work. However, a later Ordinance omitted the words "or refuses." Not so sensible. When I pointed this out to the Commissioner for Native Affairs, instead of remedying the omission, he did nothing. Instead he seemed (to me) to float over the fact that a native could not be charged with refusal! Dealing with and disciplining the Gulfites (the type who killed poor old Tom Bowers) an Ordinance needs to be pretty water-tight and should cover everything.

I am, etc.,

SYDNEY H. CHANCE,
Ex-R.M. (Papua).

Brisbane,
2/2/51.

EDITORIAL NOTE—The Ward-Murray plan of controlling native labour makes no provision for anything like that. Under the new regime, the native is treated like a European. If he enters into an engagement to work, and then refuses orders, the employer's only remedy is to take him to a civil court, and the court may tell him that he is a naughty, naughty native, and fine him five shillings, or thereabouts. The old-timer's effective measures against a recalcitrant servant—a short spell in calaboose, or a heavy smack across that part of his anatomy provided by nature for the purpose—are frowned upon by the

gangs of Bloomsbury Planners now in charge of the Empire. They say that these things are part of the system they call "Colonialism;" and, even although "Colonialism" produced the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and a score of nations in South America, it is condemned by the Planners as very wicked indeed . . . Wake up, Mr.

Chance! This is 1951, and the great era of racial brotherhood, peace on earth and goodwill towards all men!

Fiji Customs revenue for January broke all previous records. Duty collected was over £200,000. With large quantities of cargo arriving on every overseas vessel, the Customs sheds are proving inadequate.

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Because Nixoderm is scientifically compounded to fight skin troubles, it works fast. It stops the itching, burning and smarting in a few minutes, then starts to work immediately, clearing and healing your skin, making it softer, whiter and velvety smooth. In

just a day or two your mirror will tell you that here at last is the scientific treatment you have been needing to clear your skin—the treatment to make you look more attractive, to help you win friends. Nixoderm has brought clearer, healthier skins to thousands such as Mr. Bob Weedon, Edmund Street, Fremantle, who writes: "I was troubled with pimples ever since I was 13, and have spent pounds and pounds on so-called cures without results. I then tried Nixoderm with astounding effect. The pimples seemed to fade away, and after a week there was not the slightest trace of them."

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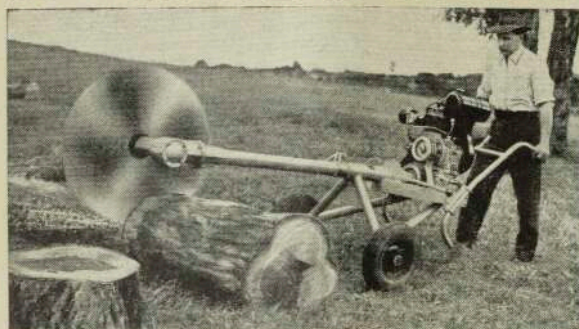
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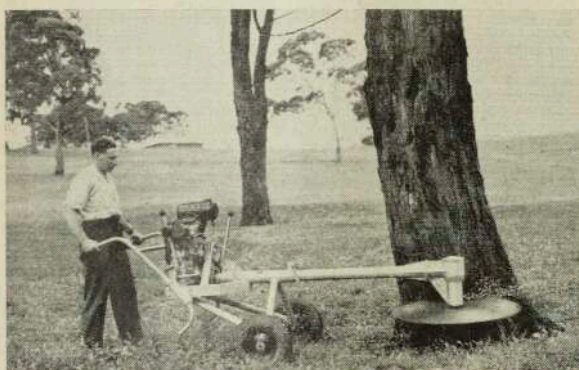
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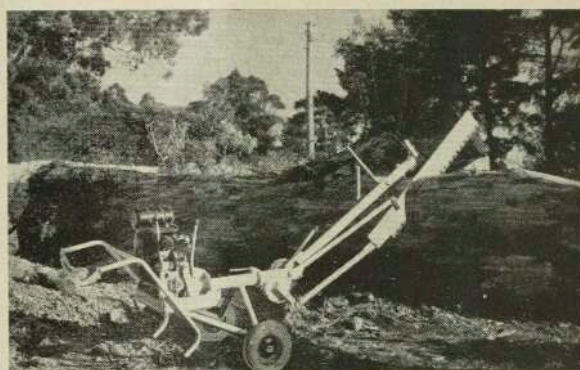
3 MACHINES IN ONE



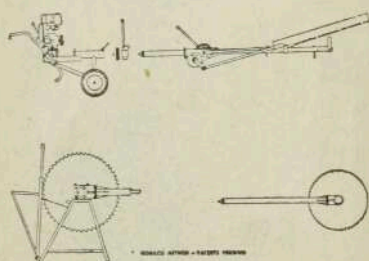
The Shaft driven Mobilco Circular Saw can be easily moved up to any tree of up to 3 feet in diameter and will quickly fell and cross-cut it into required lengths. This is just one version of the Mobilco 3 in 1 Method.



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The above diagram illustrates the Mobilco Method. You can remove the Drag Saw attachment and replace it with the Circular Saw attachment in twenty minutes. The Saw Bench takes only five minutes to attach.

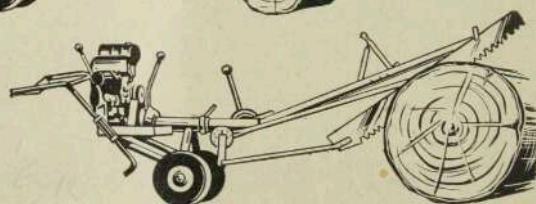
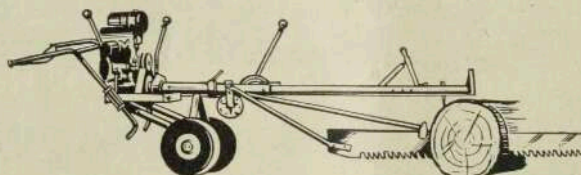


Fig. 1 illustrates the patented Mobilco pressure arm which constantly bears on the blade during cutting. It is spring activated and controlled by a lever and ratchet. Fig. 2 illustrates the pivoted main arm which can be positioned to cross-cut big logs, at the same time retaining the engine in a horizontal position.

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MAGAZINE SECTION

Territories Talk-Talk

By "Tolala"

THE February Tropicality anent the Hallstrom butterfly collector is most interesting and focuses attention on a hobby that became a flourishing industry 30 years ago in TNG.

For years, Rothschild had one or more collectors scouring the New Guinea jungle and adding rare specimens to his famous collection in England. Most of the butterflies came from the Madang and Aitape districts. But a Catholic Priest down Buin way made some fine catches for Continental and American museums and, I heard, managed to erect several fine churches from the proceeds received. Rather strange, building a church from butterflies!

I managed at one time to get hold of some good specimens of those six-inch wing-spanned beauties down in Bougainville, but I caught them the easy way: Collected the pupae and hatched them out beneath a mosquito-net. It saved a lot of rushing about with a net.

SO New Guinea sulphur deposits are reported to be an uneconomical proposition (February PIM, p. 42). I suppose that may be partly due to spiralling costs.

Not long before the last war Japanese interests made surveys of both Matupi and Lolabau, and appeared anxious to complete negotiations for their acquisition. Pearl Harbour intervened.

During the Jap occupation of New Britain their geologists showed more than a passing interest in the sulphur, as well as the iron ore deposits in the Baining district. Australia seems often to lag where turning over new ground in New Guinea is concerned. Is it because it might conflict with vested interests in more civilised areas?

AS a case in point: Cocoa beans, according to a recent announcement in a Sydney paper, have risen from £30 a ton in 1939 to a current price of between £350 and £400 (Australian) a ton. I have heard of no rush in New Guinea to plant up areas with cocoa, though.

SO Minister Spender goes to Washington as ambassador. There will now be some jockeying for places for the External Territories portfolio. PNG had little opportunity of discovering the suitability, or otherwise, of Percy Spender. It was apparent, however, that the two portfolios cannot be combined with fairness to the Territories—you cannot expect a Minister to be continually switching from world affairs to Territorian domestic problems with complete justice to all.

External Territories requires a full-time Minister, preferably one who has some first-hand knowledge of the Territories. The man who comes first to mind is Senator Roy Kendall, who has already raised some pertinent questions in the Senate, has lived in the Territory as an ordinary, unofficial individual, and has a comprehensive idea of what is, and is not, wanted up yonder. His orderly, naval training should be another qualification,

especially when there is so much talk about defence—or the lack of it—up in that neck of the woods.

RECEIVED a most interesting letter last month from one of the real old-timers of New Guinea, F. T. Goedicke-van Asten, now in his 90th year and living in Tonga. PIM readers are well-acquainted with his writings, but I had no idea his first visit to the Bismarck Archipelago was so long ago as 1884. The main point of interest to me was his description of the selection of Karawara, in the Duke of York Group, for the first German capital.

It was chosen by the newly-appointed German Commissioner von Oertzen. I have visited the site and my contention, in the past, that the first capital was on Karawara has been questioned, hence my appreciation of this corroboration by one who was actually on the spot when the selection was made.

Count Goedicke-van Asten has a fund of valuable information about the early days which, it is to be hoped, will not be lost, but handed down in readable form for future generations.

AN inquiry came to hand the other day: "Why should his Honour, the Administrator of Papua-New Guinea always be referred to as Colonel Murray? On the Administration staff there are dozens of ex-soldiers who held field rank with fighting units, and yet we do not hear them addressed by their military titles five years after hostilities have ceased."

That is rather a curly one. Force of habit, I suppose—it seems fitting that an Administrator should have a title. Judge Murray, who later became Sir Hubert,

was Papuan Administrator from 1907-40. And the TNG had as Administrators ex-Brigadiers since civic times, and they were always dubbed "General."

For years after the military had handed over the reins of government to the Civil Administration, in 1921, nearly every Government officer received his title, and captains, majors and colonels were tuppence a dozen; but it was rarely extended to non-Government persons. No doubt Colonel Jack Murray has had the perpetuity of his title thrust upon him. He was Colonel Commanding AIF Training Depots, Northern Command, and is on the Reserve of Officers.

A RECENT issue of a Sydney women's periodical carried a feature story about that well-known identity of the goldfields "Ma Stewart" and her Hotel Cecil at Lae. It hands out a few well-deserved tributes to Mrs. Stewart's progressive spirit, but I doubt whether she will appreciate some of the remarks about her hands. But Ma can take it.

One point the writer missed, and which should go down on record, is the origin of the name "Cecil." Some people may think that it is named after the one-time famous London hostelry of that name. It perpetuates the memory of Cecil Levien, the man who put Morobe on the map.

THE passing of W. R. A. (Bill) Parker in Rabaul at the beginning of January seemed to me to be particularly pathetic. Most deaths in the Territories are tinged with tragedy or pathos, I know, but Bill was taken just as he was busily engaged in trying to bring Rabaul back to something like its

One of Lamington's Quieter Moments



Mt. Lamington crater one week after the disastrous eruption on January 21 which caused the death of 1,000 people. Smoke and steam are issuing from the main crater; the wisps of white in the middle foreground are also steam.

—Photo by First-Officer Jock McKee of QEA.

former self—the Rabaul he knew when he was in Naval Intelligence at CA.

When the Japs arrived he made his way out as one of Police Inspector Ball's party; the trip was quite a grim affair. Then, after dodging death in many spots during the war, he died suddenly in Rabaul of pneumonia, leaving a wife and two small babies. The trees he planted in post-war Rabaul will be a fitting memorial to him.

A LADY recently despatched a suitcase of personal linen from Moresby to Sydney by sea. Landing and Customs charges totalled £3/14/6, plus yards of red tape. It is about time someone got busy with a pair of shears and cut away some of the superfluous red tape which makes PNG practically a foreign country.

BITS and Pieces: Sir Raphael Cilento is back in Australia from his duties with UNO in the Middle East.

A job for someone: Secretary-General W. D. Forsyth, of the SP Commission, wants to hand over the job before June 30. Miss Pam Page, a daughter of the late Harold Page, Government Secretary of the TNG before the war, made a hitch-hiking tour through New Zealand last year. Now she has announced her engagement to John William Boyd Stevenson, of Blenheim NZ. James Ashcroft, previously of NG, died suddenly in Sydney last month. He was F. H. J. Dahl, a travelling Commissioner for the Boy Scout Movement, has ideas of starting Scouting amongst the natives of NG. He says the Government approves the scheme.

ISLAND TOWN'S CINEMA

By J.V.H.

TWICE a week our town dutifully goes to the Cinema. It is the same programme both nights, but as our pleasures are few and far between, we take what kind Providence gives us and thank Her. Simple folk we are, and we laugh, sigh, cry and chew peanuts in the same places, twice.

In our town audience-participation has reached a degree of perfection. With a business eye to the Asiatic and native population, who make up the bulk of the audience potential, the management usually screen pictures of the blood and thunder type and the audience reacts to them in a way marvellous to behold, not to mention hear.

The theatre is a flat, square building, well-ventilated by louvres along the sides, holes in the roof above and missing planks in the floor below. It is built in a hollow, at the base of three hills and when it rains the water drains right into your seat.

We go along to the cinema for three reasons: to see, to be seen, and, now and then, to watch the screen.

You simply push your money through a wire grill, receive a piece of white paper from some mysterious hand, and enter. Another hand takes the ticket from you and following a pool of torch-light which bobs up and down before you, you trip across outstretched legs, crunch through acres of peanut shells and finally collapse into your seat.

As the floor is flat, you have to pick your seat with some consideration as to

the height of the person sitting in front of it. If you are taller than he it doesn't matter as much to you as it does to the person behind you. But if the patron before you has his head and shoulders over you, you have a miserable night in front of you. It is also impossible to settle into your seat and let it go at that. If the person in the front row moves, the whole movement must be relayed through to the last person in the back row.

The show is always scheduled to begin "at eight SHARP!" But only to keep up appearances—nobody ever arrives before quarter past.

About twenty past, those lights which have not already gone out of their own accord, are switched off and a loud bell summons drinkers in from the bar. There is no hush of expectancy, rather does the conversation become louder.

There is no wraithlike curtain to part the shadows and reveal a silver screen. Rather is there a rasping noise and the mad flight of sundry ropes hither and yon as dyed hessian parts jerkily to reveal a stretch of white, or off-white, which is the screen.

The theatre is plunged into darkness as with a little ceremony as possible the entertainment is begun.

Sensational news items of seven years ago enthrall us. "TOMORROW'S ENTERTAINMENT TO-DAY" bravely goes the blurb. "THE WORLD'S HEADLINES," screams the screen. We sit fascinated, overcome by the majesty of events in the outside world. The newsreel pursues its relentless course until its last few feet scatter themselves in a mad rush before our eyes. The newsreel is over. The lights go on again, and we, keyed to untold heights of concentration, blink our eyes in the glare.

There is a minute's respite while the operator behind us prepares his machine to show us the feature film of the night.

This is chapter one of Texas Tim of the Badlands.

The audience goes mad with delight.

As the image of the actors and actresses and the role he or she portrays in the promised drama, is flashed before our eager eyes there are cheers or whistles or plain boos according to the popularity of the character. It is all very chummy.

The introductions over, the scenes of Chapter One begin to unroll themselves. Before one hundred feet of film is gone there are three murders, three railway disasters and at least fifteen narrow escapes. The plot literally moves along the path of corpses, wrecked bridges, barrels of dynamite, scalp hunting Indians and mayhem.

We are sick with apprehension as a circular saw saws its circular way toward the midriff of a captive maiden when there is a series of explosions from the operator's box, and chapter one collapses in a state of complete abandon. "Don't miss next week, Will Daphne's screams reach the ears of Texas Tim?"

"Scream louder, Daphne," yells the audience. Will Texas Tim stop fooling around with that bear cub and race to her rescue? Next week, and next week alone, can provide the answers.

Until the next cinema night Daphne's exploits will be a major topic of conversation among us. Texas Tim will be blamed for his mistakes and better things will be expected of him in Chapter Two.

As I said, we are a simple folk, and we take our pleasures seriously. We go home satisfied and the evening is a success.

PIM Crossquiz — No. 15

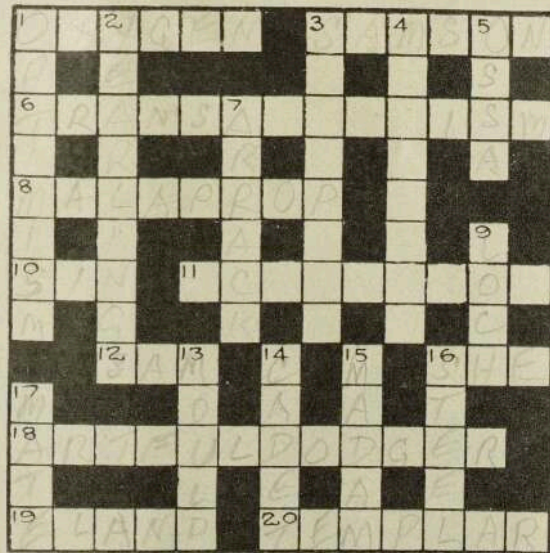
(Solution on Page 29.)

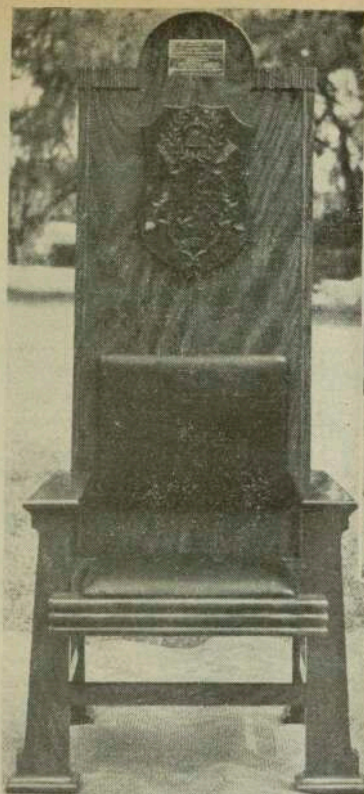
ACROSS

- 1.—What element is essential to life?
- 3.—Who lost his strength as a result of a haircut?
- 6.—What is the name of the doctrine started and followed by members of the "Oxford Movement"?
- 8.—Who, created by Sheridan, is famous for her misuse of long words?
- 10.—The original one was committed with an orchard product.
- 11.—What number is computed from the known dimensions of a ship?
- 12.—Who is the richest uncle in the world?
- 16.—Which pronoun was used as the name of a novel?
- 18.—Who is the impudent young pickpocket in "Oliver Twist"?
- 19.—What is the name of the South African antelope, resembling the elk in having a protuberance on the larynx?
- 20.—What was the term for a member of a religious and military order in the twelfth century?

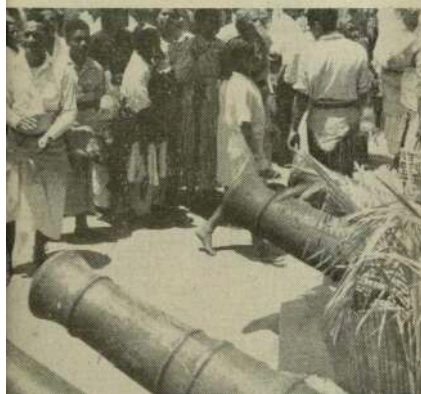
DOWN

- 1.—What doctrine believes that everything is ordered for the best?
- 2.—What is the term for year-old animals?
- 3.—What articles are accepted as the agreement between captain and seamen as to wages?
- 4.—Who is the purveyor of a college?
- 5.—What is the famous mountain of Thes-saly?
- 7.—What spirit is fermented from coco palms and rice in the East?
- 9.—Which unit of length occurs frequently in Scottish names as an island?
- 13.—What was penicillin grown from?
- 14.—What is the name of a corps consisting of an organised body of boys undergoing military training?
- 15.—What is the courteous form of address to a lady?
- 16.—What is formed by adding carbon to iron?
- 17.—What is the name of tea made in Paraguay?





Tonga's 50 Years of Friendship with Britain



THE celebrations which marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship between Tonga and Great Britain were entered into enthusiastically by the Tongans in Nukualofa, on February 15 to 17.

The three days of festivities followed months of preparation. Sir Brian Freeston, Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, with Lady Freeston and party arrived on HMNZS Hawea. On the morning of the 16th, Sir Brian and Queen Salote drove through cheering crowds along a route decorated by arches erected by various districts and institutions, to the Mala'e where both addressed the people.

At the end of his address Sir Brian announced that an honorary CBE had been conferred on Prince Tungi, heir to the Tongan throne, and he presented the Prince with the badge associated with the award.

A handsome chair of Fijian hardwood,

with red leather upholstery and the Tongan coat of arms carved on the high back was then presented on behalf of the British Government, for the use of the Tongan monarch when presiding over the Privy Council.

The Tongan Government presented to Great Britain four historic guns which were captured from the privateer Port-au-Prince in 1806 by Finau, a leading Tongan chief of that day. The guns were later used by Finau for his own purposes and they, probably more than any other factor, were responsible for the unification of what was to become the independent Kingdom of Tonga.

One of the sailors of the Port-au-Prince was an observant and intelligent young man called Thomas Mariner. Finau adopted Mariner who was forced to spend many years in Tonga; his observations during that time resulted in the book we now call "Mariner's Tonga"—a classic on the life of the Group before the impact of civilisation and Christianity.

A march-past of returned servicemen, schoolchildren, visiting Navy men and the Royal Guard followed the presentations, and this was followed by a procession of floats depicting, generally, the progress made in the Kingdom during the past 50 years.

The day concluded with a lavish Tongan feast given by the Queen to her visitors in the Palace grounds. Whole roasted suckling pigs lay tail to tail for two hundred yards, flanked by cooked poultry, fish, crayfish, native fruits, vegetables and puddings. Table napkins were of tapa cloth, and there was coconut milk to drink.



AT TOP: The carved chair presented by the British Government. **At right,** Prince Tungi, assisted by his brother Prince Tupelehake, films the original of the Treaty of Friendship which was on show for the occasion. **AT LEFT:** The guns of the Port-au-Prince. Below is shown one of the arches that decorated the procession route; this one was built by Fijians living in Tonga.

Photos by Fiji Public Relations Office and Hettig.

THIS IS AUSTRALIA'S NEW DOMINION—

By R. W. Robson

IF any Australian quiz-master asked, "What new dominion, ten thousand square miles in extent and containing a half million to one million people, was acquired by Australia between 1930 and 1933?" the chances are that he would get no answer.

Australians know nothing and care less about the New Guinea Highlands, that vast, cool, fertile region of green valleys and jungle-clad ranges, which lies at an average altitude of 5,000-6,000 feet, and which has been called "a second Kenya." When Australia took over New Guinea in 1914, no one knew that the New Guinea Highlands existed—they were not discovered and explored until prospectors from the Morobe goldfields began to penetrate the interior at the end of the 'twenties.

Pedants will point out that this is not Australian territory—that it is part of the New Guinea which is now held in trust by the United Nations. We need not worry about that—the UN still is very much an experiment. For all practical and material purposes, New Guinea, and the central plateaus of that region, are completely the responsibility of Australia. Periodical visits by parties of pettifoggers, called United Nations missions, are merely a nuisance to be suffered in silence.

Behind both the north and the south coasts of the 2,000-miles-long island there are high and almost impassable mountain ranges. Between these two chains of mountain systems lies, as on a great plateau, this vast network of valley systems, drained by several large rivers—the Sepik and the Ramu, which flow to the north coast; the smaller Markham, which flows east; and the Purari, the Fly, and several smaller streams, which flow to the south coast.

A TYPICAL valley system may be 20 miles wide and 50 miles long. A large river runs through it. It lies at about 5,000 feet, but the ranges which hem it in on all sides may go up another 3,000 to 5,000 feet. The valley is almost entirely without timber—it is simply a wide expanse of rolling grass-land which, from a plane, looks like excellent pasture.

Little valleys run from the main valley into the mountains; and from these valleys, and from points part-way up the foothills, the timber commences; and the

jungle continues practically to the mountain-tops.

Generally, the natives live, not in the main valleys, but in the smaller valleys among the foothills; and the houses of the natives who live farthest out are almost always perched on the razor-backs. So great has been the erosion, over the ages, of these volcanic formations that practically all the hills and mountains of New Guinea are razor-backs.

All the tracks in these regions follow the topmost ridge of the razor backs. Few tracks seem wider than a couple of dozen inches. The houses cling to the steep hillsides, just below the track. The oldest joke in New Guinea says that the natives, bred to this environment, have one leg five inches shorter than the other.



A typical line of native huts in a typical Highlands village. But, generally, the people live in small clusters of huts on their own farms, and not in villages.



There are swarms of natives everywhere. They are friendly to Europeans, and they use steel tomahawks and matches instead of stone hatchets and firesticks; but otherwise they are completely primitive and unashamed. **TOP:** Natives on a Highlands air-strip help to load a Gibbs plane with produce for Moresby. **BELOW:** Some of the local villagers call to discuss matters of common interest with the Squire of Goroka, Mr. Jim Leahy.

ALTHOUGH completely primitive—it is barely 20 years since they first saw white men—the Highlands natives are goodlooking, intelligent, high-spirited, small of stature. Their forebears seem to have been the first inhabitants: there is little, if any evidence of a former culture.

Although they are clearly of the same race as the coastal dwellers, they more closely conform to one type. They, in their highland isolation, have not been subjected to the same invasions and race modifications as the coastal natives.

Among all Pacific Islands races, they are most notable for their agricultural technique. They cultivate their lands in neat and accurate squares and rectangles; they bring water, in races, long distances



These Highland natives are all dressed ready for formal occasions. That they are well-endowed citizens is shown by the strings of gold-lip and cowrie shells which they carry. These may be ornamental, but they very definitely are also the measure of a man's wealth—and he carries them with him. Head-dresses are usually elaborate, as well as brightly coloured.

from the foothills to irrigate their gardens; and the cane fences and green hedges which mark out their fields, and their water-ditches, and the long lines of casuarinas—which they plant everywhere to divide their lands and give shade—are absolutely straight.

Each farm is marked by a little collection of grass-thatched, cane houses, often surrounded by shrubbery. There are very few villages, such as one sees in the coastal areas, or in Fiji and Samoa—only hamlets, occasionally, where the farm-houses have been kept fairly near each other.

Seen from the air, it is hard to believe that these farm districts have been planned and laid out without any European influence whatever. Except for the little grass huts, instead of colourful bungalows, one might be looking down on a bit of Victoria, or the Waikato region of New Zealand, or a district in California.

I could not see any reason why a proportion of these people, instead of living comfortably on the level valley floors, put their dwellings and their precarious gardens high up on the razor-backs, so far from running water. (Patrol officials told me that the women's daily chore, extending in some cases over many laborious hours, is to go down to the river with the calabashes or gourds, and climb up again with loads of water.) I suppose it has something to do with their hereditary wars. It is easier to defend a palisaded house on a perilous razor-back.

Although European influence, against fighting, has been extended all over these Highlands, in a marvellous way, a large proportion of the native men, when encountered away from the Administration posts, go heavily armed, mostly with spears, and bows and arrows. White people may go anywhere, now, in perfect safety; but there is still plenty of fighting between tribes and sections.

THAT fearful handicap upon Administration progress, the multiplicity of native languages, is just as marked

in the Highlands as on the coast. Every valley system has a different tongue; many tributary valleys a different dialect.

I was interested to note that the Administration officials, and the handful of whites who are engaged in private enterprises in the Highlands, make no apparent attempt to master the local languages. Most of them have a staff of natives who are well-trained in the ways of Europeans, and are masters of Pidgin; and communication with the local natives is through the latter. The staff natives know one or two local languages, and they interpret, in Pidgin, to their masters. It is slow, cumbersome and unsatisfactory; but it seems the only way to solve the ever-present problem of communication.

It is to be noted that the Highlands natives, as the result of the enlistment of 10,000 of them for labour service in the Europeanised coastal districts, are now learning Pidgin very quickly. Thousands of these time-expired labourers are returning home.

I think that, whether they like it or not, the Administration officials soon will employ Pidgin as the common language of all New Guinea.

FROM the viewpoint of that quaint modern production, the anti-colonial anthropologist, the NG Highlands must seem a veritable paradise.

Anything from half a million to one million primitive natives are being brought under control by our white Administration but, except for the bare machinery of government, and the activities of less than a dozen white farmers who have somehow got under the Administration's guard, they are absolutely untouched by "Europeanisation" and the "evils of colonialism."

The only established local industries on which local natives are employed are represented by less than half a dozen trade stores, a few farms, the Administration's local roads and air-strips, and air transportation (the Highlands' only means of communication with the outside world). Otherwise, the natives live on in their valleys much as they did in the beginning—eating their indigenous foods of sweet potato, pork, bananas, pineapples, and sugar-cane; dressing in flimsy garments of bark and plaited pandanus leaf (aided by a liberal coating of pig-grease); sleeping in huts made of plaited cane-grass walls, roof of grass, and floor of plaited cane—in which they huddle closely, without ventilation, to escape the sharp cold of the average Highland night.

Yet they are changing, in spite of all the Port Moresby dreamers' eagerness to keep them unspoiled. They clamour for knives and agricultural implements to replace their digging sticks and stone axes; for matches, instead of the rubbing sticks; kerosene lamps instead of the primitive things of grease; cloth and flour and canned meat, instead of bark and scorched kaukau.

That tendency is being accelerated by the return home of the now sophisticated, time-expired labourers.

DESPITE the absence of forests in the valleys (the result, I am told, of the natives' persistence, over the ages, in burning off the grass and small trees in order to scare wallabies and other small animals into the hands of the food-hunters) the valleys are wonderfully fertile. The natives now are growing introduced vegetables, like potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce, cabbages, peas, beans of high quality; and planes are carrying these "cold country" products out to Moresby and Lae. With the proceeds of these sales, and with the wages which 10,000 recently-recruited labourers are bringing back from the coast, the Highlands people who are in touch with the Europeans are increasingly seeking to buy European goods.

But the necessary trade stores are few and very far between—almost non-existent. Europeans and Chinese are quite prepared to go in and trade; but the Administration seems reluctant to encourage private enterprise to provide facilities like that.

In this regard the Administration is strongly backed by the "anti-colonialists." They want to keep the Highlands inviolate for the native people. If there are to be trade and industries, they say, let the natives themselves become the traders and industrialists.

Port Moresby, still under the influence of the Ward-Murray set-up, will have to make up its mind, soon, to a definite policy. Are European enterprise and settlement to be kept out of the Highlands?

I AM of opinion that there is, in the NG Highlands, a magnificent field for European enterprise and development; that there is plenty of room for Europeans and natives; that properly-controlled development will do the native more good than harm; and that all the fanaticism of the "anti-colonialists" cannot hold back the march of Western civilisation and culture.

(Continued on Page 81)



Of the many Administration stations, effectively laid out and maintained in beautiful condition, that at Mount Hagen probably takes the prize. This is only one corner of the area, and it shows some of the police lines. The whole area is like a big park—green lawns, charming flower-beds, paths edged with brightly-coloured shrubs and flowers, and most of it shaded by the picturesque casuarinas which grow so prolifically in this pleasant region.

Tropicalities

OLD residents of the British Solomon Islands will be glad to know that Mrs. Clara Scott is battling along gamely with the rehabilitation of her Shortlands plantation.

No war damage compensation is payable in the BSI and after having her house and personal possessions completely destroyed during the occupation, Mrs. Scott has set to work to clean up her overgrown plantation, living considerably more austere than in pre-war years, and faced by the acute labour shortage which is handicapping all Shortlands planters. After more than 20 years in the Solomons, her enthusiasm and sense of humour are as keen as ever.

The amount of work involved in rehabilitating the plantation can be judged from a story told by two pre-war residents who happened to land near Mrs. Scott's plantation soon after the war. An odd-shaped piece of concrete was visible through the grass and secondary growth; one visitor said, "Is that some Jap religious monument?" The other, better accustomed to devastated areas, said "Don't be silly, those are Clara's doorsteps."

A fully trained nurse before her marriage, she acts as honorary emergency midwife and general dresser for Shortlands natives, many of whom go to her in preference to Government or Mission dressers because they have known her all their lives. It is nothing new for her to be called out at midnight for a canoe journey of several hours to attend a patient. Generous to a fault, and with an irrepressible twinkle in her eye, she takes it all in the day's work.—K.S.P.



DICK HOFFMAN—drawing by Brett Hilder—is a genial soul with the figure and philosophy of a Chinese Buddha. He is a veteran trader, planter and recruiter in the New Hebrides, having arrived there a long time ago as Second Mate of the yacht *Lola* from Sydney. Dick was born in Hamburg in 1876, left there at the age of 13, and hasn't been back since. His usual address is at Naruku or Bice Bay on the Northern coast of Aoba.

REPORTED from London that John Fox-Strangways, a son of Lord Hchester, has been obliged to resign from the exclusive White's Club because he administered, within the Club, a hearty kick in the pants to Aneurin Bevan, the Socialist Minister for Labour. Bevan (not to be confused with Bevin, Foreign Minister) is one of the most objectionable of the British Red leaders; he has gone out of his way to be offensive to people of good class; and it is not surprising that any man of spirit, finding the gentleman in a place like Whites, should react exactly as Fox-Strangways did.

The name is not unknown in the Pacific. A young man named Fox-Strangways arrived in Sydney, on his way to become Resident Commissioner in the Gilbert and Ellice Colony, just as the Jap invasion occurred. He did not get to his post; but he was associated with the Forces here for some time and gave good service.

TO go to isolated Mangaia, in the Cook Group from NZ, per m.v. "Maui Pomare," and take an important examination within 3 days of his arrival, was the interesting experience of young Bryan Johnstone, the 15-years-old son of Mr. Johnstone, newly appointed Resident Headmaster of the local native schools.

Bryan is the only white schoolboy on Mangaia, and has the added distinction of being the tallest of his age here—six feet—and was taken by Mangaia for a grown man. Locals were at first not quite sure whether father or son was their new Headmaster.

The Certificate Examination, which is the first step to a NZ University career, was taken upon the Residency veranda, under the supervision of Mr. Edwin Gold, who is an Old Boy of Wellington College, NZ. Regulations demanded that only candidate and Supervisor be present after "zero hour," and enforced upon both a three hours' complete silence. Exam-papers were forwarded to Rarotonga, per inter-island Fairmile, for dispatch to the Education Department per registered air-mail.

This examination, the first to be held here, was unique in having a candidature of only one student, although held under all the strict conditions applicable in NZ where there are hundreds of candidates per sitting.—E.T.I.

KIDS are kids no matter where they live.

In the cities they scale trams and tease policemen. In the country they throw bangers under flighty horses and harness the parson's nag into his sulky with a fence between nag and sulky.

And I've just been watching a European son of Rabaul, about the same size, shape and general specifications as Huckleberry Finn, drifting slowly through the broken piles of our former wharves, spearing tiddlers.

His dinghy approached the native canoes crowded alongside my ship, where the maries were doing a vociferous trade in native produce with the crew.

Suddenly the multi-pronged spear flashed out at the nearest canoe, impaled a hand of bananas, and despoised the haul in the dinghy's bow, in one smooth flick. Then, with a toss of his snowy head, he left for home and Mother.

The old mary realised something was up when my crew started cheering and laughing; and discovering her loss, she took off after him.

The last I saw of the pair was a dinghyful of impish delight going like the proverbial bat, pursued by "Wah! Banana belong me. Wah!"—SEAHORSE.

VOLUME 6 of the official history of the US naval operations in World War II (just published) devotes several pages to the work of District Officer Donald Kennedy of BSI, who stayed behind to harass the Japanese in New Georgia in 1942. It says:

"Kennedy, Australian coast-watcher, operated a radio station as an intelligence post, and downed-aiemen's refuge and a controlled native guerilla base at Segi Point. He was a tower of strength for the Allies. 'These islands are British and they are to remain British,' he declared, in a message delivered to every native village.

"He backed up these words by ambushing over 100 Japanese soldiers who tramped too close to his hideout. His flagship, *Dadavata*, a 10-ton schooner, won a duel with a Japanese whaleboat in which the enemy were rammed, shot up and showered with hand grenades.

"The Japanese tried to entice Kennedy to give himself up with a promise that he would be treated as a first-class prisoner, and threatened him with a dire fate if he didn't.

"The Japanese sent out an infantry company with a machine gun platoon to capture Segi. Kennedy ambushed the party and captured the inevitable Japanese diary containing details of the expedition.

"He then faded into the hills and wire-lessly for help. Admiral Turner, who never let a brave man down, sent two companies of a marine raider battalion to bring him out."

Few Territorians knew that a quiet-spoken, inconspicuous man who visited all parts of Papua-NG last October was this same Major W. G. Kennedy.

IN Newcastle (NSW) for the Sands-Bray fight on February 10 was a young Fijian who seemed to cause much more local wonder than did the Fijian champ. In a milk-bar he amazed onlookers by tearing crown-seals off the top of cordial bottles with his teeth. He told admirers that he had been doing it for years and that his teeth were as good as new.

The Fijian heavyweight champion, who goes by the name of Bray in fighting circles in Australia, is a seaman on the *Lakemba*. The Australian champion, Sands, won by a technical knock-out in the 7th round and, according to those who know, did not have to exert himself to do that. Sands is a native of Newcastle and the fight drew the biggest crowd seen in that Stadium for 10 years.

MR. JACK HALLSTROM, son of philanthropist E. J. Hallstrom, returned to Australia from New York in mid-February, after attending the annual meeting there of the Explorers' Club. The meeting, at which Mr. Hallstrom lectured on New Guinea, was followed by a dinner, one course of which was grilled sloth, a prehistoric monster between two and three million years old.

Some members of the Club had discovered the sloth on one of their expeditions. It had been cooked in a volcanic eruption and then deep-frozen in a glacier through the ages until it became this year's fantastic surprise at the Explorers' Club.

Mr. Hallstrom said the sloth tasted fine; he also said that some of the ex-

plorers would probably visit New Guinea shortly. They may find sloths there—but not of the prehistoric kind. (That last comment is ours—not Mr. Hallstrom's):

WHEN Mr. Bertram Batt, a New Ireland coconut planter asked the Mayor of Flensburg, North Germany, to find him a wife, he seems to have started something. Not only has it given newspapers all over the world a top-grade "human interest story" but it has sent a flood of similar requests to Flensburg's mayor from British Empire bachelors who evidently despair of getting themselves wives through more orthodox channels.

The Mayor chose Gisela Hansen for Mr. Batt. She is a 19-years-old typist and, from her photograph—which has had as wide a distribution as that of a film star—she appears to be an attractive brunette.

Gisela is shown pointing to a map on a wall. On the top of the map are the words Papua-New Guinea and, underneath that, something that looks like "Colyer Watson." Apparently Gisela knows where she is going. According to a Hamburg source she says: "Mr. Batt is the kind of man I always longed for. I thought, until now, that such men existed only in dreams."

RICHARD HUMPHRIES' VERSES

WHEN Richard Humphries, prominent official of the Papua-New Guinea Administration, perished in the Mount Lamington eruption on January 21, he was on the point of retirement. He had given a life-time—40 years—to New Guinea; and he loved the country, and was most unwilling to contemplate departure.

He was a gifted writer of verse; and, at a Returned Soldiers' function shortly before his death, he submitted a poem which he had written, in which he expressed his unhappiness over the cruel and far-reaching changes which the Japanese invasion and the fighting had brought about. There is a reference to the country's volcanoes ("hidden flames"); and, although the poem is intended to describe the effect of war, it could just as readily refer to the eruption's "smoke and flame and fields of agony," in the midst of which he died.

The poem, printed hereunder, has great literary merit. Richard Humphries will be long remembered for his collected verses—he had been writing, at intervals, over many years.

New Guinea

Wild is your heart: your beauty knows no trace
Of loveliness distilled from tender grace,
But glows in savage splendour in the glare
Of hidden flames that sing your name
and share
The darkness and the magic of your ways
With wind and stars and crimson dusk
of days.

But I who worshipped at a shrine now riven
Shall ever see the image, whole, not part,
That long ago by you to me was given
When I first crossed the threshold of
your heart.

No fairer image with my spirit lingers,
No dream so fair will come again to me.
Enchantment fled with all her lovely
singers
Through smoke and flame and fields of
agony.

RICHARD HUMPHRIES.

MEMORIES OF EDIE CREEK

By "OLD TIMER"

ANDY GILLESPIE was a bit late in getting to Edie Creek. He had made a bit of a clean-up on the Lakekamu and, with more money to his credit than he had had for many years, he decided to visit Scotland and see his old mother. It was many years since Andy had been home—years spent as a deep-water sailor, in tin mining in the Northern Territory, and on every gold-rush in Papua.

One of the features of the big Wembley Exhibition of that time was the rough-riding and buckjumping exhibitions, with competitors from all parts of the world. After the big Exhibition broke up, small buck-jumping shows began to tour England and Scotland.

One arrived at Andy's home town on a day when Andy had been celebrating valiantly with his boyhood pals. They all went to the buckjumping show. Andy looked like a fair-dinkum bushman, with his bandy legs and weather-beaten features.

The ringmaster was offering £50 prize to anyone who could ride the outlaw of the show; and Andy's pals urged him to give it a go. One of them threw Andy's hat into the ring, and Andy followed it. Andy, he it said, had never ridden a horse in his life!

The Ringmaster sidled up to Andy. "Where are you from, sport?" he asked. "I'm from the Northern Territory of Australia," said Andy.

"Can you ride?" asked the Ringmaster. Andy spat expertly. "I wouldn't blanky well be in here if I couldn't ride," he said.

"Well, look sport," said the Ringmaster. "This is the only decent buckjumper we've got, and if you rode him fair-dinkum he wouldn't be fit for anything afterwards. I'll tell you what. I'll make it worth a fiver if you'll pull out."

Andy pulled out!

HE MIXED HIS BOATS

ANDY was returning to Papua from Scotland, via Suez and Australia.

They were a snooty mob on board, and Andy didn't take to them. He found his own haunts, where most of his conversation consisted of the magic phrase "Fill 'em up again."

At Colombo, the liner anchored in the stream, and Andy went ashore. There he met two or three fellows of his own style, and they got well and truly on it.

Some hours later, after dark, Andy, well under the influence, found himself on the waterfront, explaining to a native boatman that he wanted to be taken off to the ship. With a lot of manoeuvring and some assistance from the native boatman, he ascended the gangway and staggered along to the "boozie," where he promptly fell asleep.

A couple of hours later he awoke with a raging thirst. Another man was sitting there, and Andy invited him to join in a drink. They had two or three, and got conversational.

"Where are you going?" asked Andy. "I'm going to England," said the stranger.

"But, how can you be going to England?" said Andy. "We've just come from there."

"I think you're mistaken," said the stranger. "This boat's next stop is at Aden. Where are you going?"

"I'm going to Fremantle," said Andy. "You might be," said the stranger, "but not on this boat."

The native boatman had delivered Andy to the wrong liner, and his own ship, by this time, was many miles away steaming southwards. He got home, eventually.

ANDY DOES TIME!

THE early days on Edie Creek were a bit rough and tough. Everybody was getting gold, but it was the devil's own job to ensure sufficient kai-kai—rice, biscuits, and tinned meat—to keep a box-team going. The miners would hang on to the last minute before taking or sending their teams down to Salamaua for a load of provisions.

The older men dreaded the walk down and back. If possible, they would send their teams down in charge of a white man who happened to be "going out," and occasionally they sent them down unattended.

Andy Gillespie had sent most of his team out to the beach, and his kai-kai was finished. Everyone was short, and he could not buy or borrow a thing. The outlook, for Andy, was a bit grim.

Then he was called before the Warden's Court to answer for a minor breach of the Mining Regulations. The Warden's Court was a tent, and the Warden's residence was another tent. Andy was fined £3 and, when the Court finished, he made no move to pay.

The Warden sat down to his simple dinner. Andy poked his head through the flap. "Don't you feed your blanky prisoners?" he exclaimed.

The Warden looked up in astonishment. "I fined you £3, Gillespie," he said, "now pay your fine and go home."

Andy spurned the suggestion. "I'm not paying any blanky fine. I'm cutting it out."

The nearest European gaol was at Rabaul, and no European had ever before refused to pay a small fine.

"Look here, Gillespie," said the exasperated Warden, "I'm not going to feed you. I haven't got enough blanky tucker for myself."

"I can't help that," said Gillespie, "you blanky well fined me, and I'm blanky well cutting it out, and you've got to feed me until I cut it out."

The argument waxed strong, but Andy stood firm. The Warden offered to waive the conviction, but Andy wasn't having any. He knew his rights, and he was determined to be fed at the expense of the Warden's scanty stores until his boys got back from the beach. He refused to budge, and threatened all sorts of complaints to the Administrator and the Minister for Home and Territories.

The Warden weakened and ordered his boy to set another plate for Andy. After three days Andy's boys turned up with a load of kai-kai. Andy then gravely informed the speechless Warden that, having now purged his offence, he was prepared to go home.

RED BILL'S FUNERAL

OLD Bill Parks reckoned that if a creek was good enough for a man to get his bit of gold out of, it was good enough to be buried in. He knew he was breaking up, and he asked his mates, when his time came, to bury him at the back of his claim on the Black Cat Creek (in the New Guinea ranges, between Wau and Salamaua). Instead of that, they carried him over the range and down the ridge to the new church at Wau.

(Continued on page 80)

CORNER FOR THE CHILDREN

THE BOOK WORM

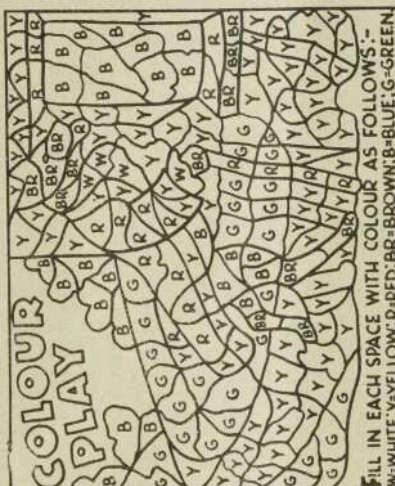


Last night I had a lovely time looking at the books in our little library. I read eight pages of travel, I read right through a book on pictures, which had twenty-one pages, read twelve pages of poems. I read sixty-one pages of an encyclopedia. After that I went to bed. I wonder how

many pages I read altogether?

WHEN YOU READ THIS LITTLE PICTURE AND WORD STORY YOU WILL FIND THAT IT IS REALLY A PUZZLE. DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?

MY FIRST IS IN—
MY FIRST IS IN PAPER
 BUT NOT IN THE NEWS;
MY SECONDS IN BACON
 BUT NOT IN HOT STEWS;
MY THIRDS IN THE WASH
 AND ALSO IN SUDS,
MY FOURTH IS IN PETALS
 BUT NOT IN THE BUDS;
MY FIFTH IS IN PENNY,
 BUT NOT IN A POUND—
THE WHOLE OF ME'S STUCK UP
AND ON DESKS I AM FOUND.



FILL IN EACH SPACE WITH COLOUR AS FOLLOWS:—
 W=WHITE; Y=YELLOW; R=RED; BR=BROWN; B=BLUE; G=GREEN.

FUNNY FINDS

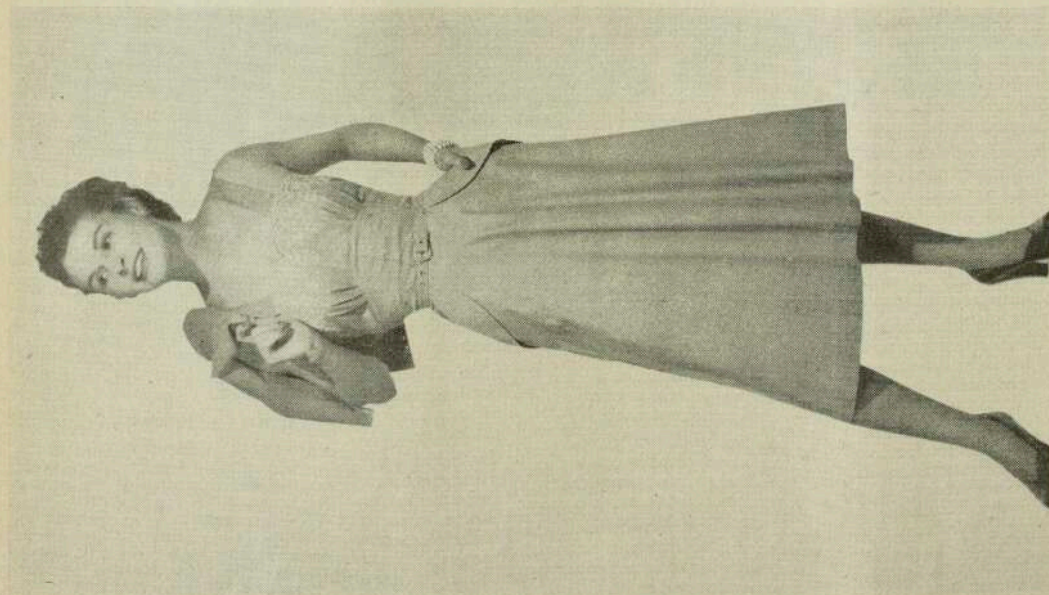
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Mr. Evatt Gives Democracy To Lord Howe Is.

THE priceless Mr. Clive Evatt, NSW Chief Secretary and brother of Dr. H. V. (Manus) Evatt, turned his attention from the activities of the Fiji tuna clipper *Senibua* in December and visited Lord Howe Island for a week.

Since then the usual peaceful atmosphere of the island has been rent by feuds and private wars—brother against brother, they say; father against son. Nothing like it has happened to the 185 inhabitants of Lord Howe before. And it certainly never happened to their grandfathers who settled the island about 100 years ago.

In early February the Sunday Sun devoted a whole page to the efforts of Mr. Evatt on behalf of the Island. They called it Turmoil in Paradise.

The present "Islanders" of Lord Howe are descendants of about 100 people who settled there 100 years ago without permission. They hold no legal right to the land—all of which is Crown Land—but the Government of NSW, which owns the island has always granted them permissive occupancy, and this has, in the past, enabled land to be passed from father to son. The affairs of the Island are run by a Board of Control, which has its headquarters in Mr. Evatt's own Department in Sydney. The island has an Advisory Council of three to make recommendations to the Board of Control.

It has been felt by some that permissive occupancy does not give the settlers protection and the Board has suggested that each islander receive a perpetual lease of three acres and a five years' renewable lease of the rest.

Mr. "Fixit" Evatt, however, disagreed with his own Board and proposed another plan. It was with this important plan that he flew to Lord Howe in December. According to the Sun, when he stepped to the jetty from the flying-boat launch he announced to the welcome committee: "Here is your Minister." Then, turning to Mt. Gower, he said simply: "I am monarch of all I survey." This would be hard to believe—if it did not concern the incredible Mr. Evatt.

DURING his stay he held a rowdy meeting in the Soldier's Memorial Hall, and told the 52 Islanders present that he proposed to bring Democracy to Lord Howe. He also said that he would like to abolish the Board of Control and that he would give them 99 year leases of their holdings. So far, so good. Mr. Evatt returned to Sydney.

In mid-January he went back to Lord Howe with a draft of his land tenure proposals; and in it, according to the Islanders, was a clause that was not discussed at the December meeting. The clause gave them the right to sell or sublet their leases—and it is this that is causing the turmoil in paradise. For, say the islanders, could not this result in Sydney transportation and tourist interests, and new and old Australians with money and no Island interests, gaining a foothold in the last unspoiled area in the world; and would not, in time, the Islanders merely become hangers-on in an ostentatious tourist resort for the wealthy?

It should be stressed here, perhaps, that to be an Islander you have to be born one. A secondary sort of Islander can acquire that distinction by marriage. There is no other way—and the Islanders are fussy. Only they can hold permissive occupancy rights.

Islanders are fearful of Australian

tourist companies becoming established there. If there is to be a tourist industry they want to control it themselves.

Evatt in due course departed—but the battle still rages. To help untangle their troubles the Advisory Council invited the NSW Minister for Lands and their State member, Mr. Dan Clyne, to pay them a visit. Perhaps, then, we will again have the pleasure of seeing some of his own political brethren giving Mr. Evatt a swift kick in the pants. Since he became Chief Secretary Mr. Evatt (to quote a fellow Minister) has shoved his nose into everything; he has concerned himself with size of prawns, fruit machines in clubs, tuna fishing, the banking practises of the NSW fire brigades, and any other piffling thing normally taken as a matter of routine.

IT is worth repeating the Sun's story of his meeting with the Island Council: On his first visit, Evatt formally met the advisory council of three. On his second visit in January with the draft land tenure proposals, Evatt did not call the advisory council together. "Council member Roy Wilson said: 'Who runs this island, Mr. Evatt or the Board

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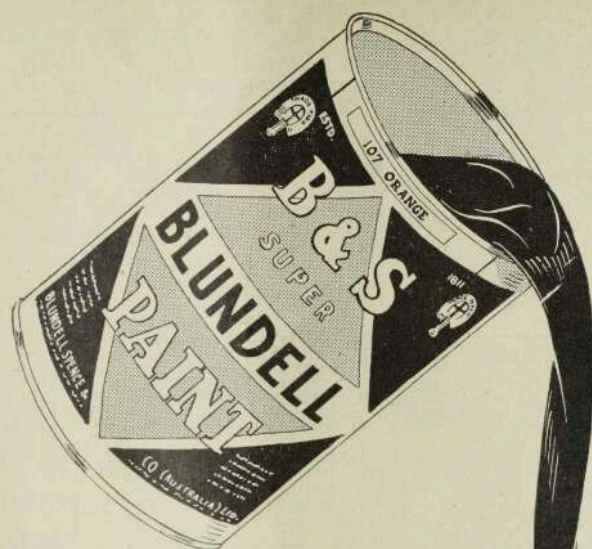
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of Control? There has been trouble and quarrelling ever since Mr. Evatt set foot on it.

"He scarcely seemed to listen when we placed before him our views on land tenure. Mr. Evatt practically turned his back on council chairman Willie Thompson and, in my opinion, treated him outrageously. Mr. Thompson is nearly 84. His age alone merits courtesy.

"I heard later that Mr. Evatt referred to me as a boneheaded adolescent. He told Tom Payton, third member of the council, he could order him off his land at five minutes' notice."

"Wilson, a man in his middle twenties, won the George Medal on September 28, 1948, when he dragged two bodies from a blazing Catalina which crashed on the island. Payton, nearly 50, occupies land which his grandfather settled. Chairman Thompson, who was born on the island in 1867, sees merit in both the board's land tenure plan and Evatt's, provided Evatt will drop the clause permitting conditional transfer of leases outside the island."

Fiji's Lack of Low-Price Holiday Resorts

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, February 2.
THE coral island of Nukulau, Suva's nearest beach resort, has been popular during the school holidays. Parents have seized the opportunity of getting their children out of Suva for a week or so during the hot weather; and others, with their own sailing boats and launches, have spent week-ends there.

The Defence Club of Suva had their first picnic on the Island on January 21, and this was attended by members, their wives and children, a total of 250 people altogether. Refreshments were served for adults and children, and during the afternoon races were run for the children.

It is unfortunate that the importance of Nukulau Island to Suva has been considerably overlooked. This Island could offer an up-to-date tourist resort complete with tennis courts, nine-hole golf course, well-furnished cabins, a restaurant and a dance floor—and a regular launch service connecting with the mainland.

As it is at present, the buildings are badly in need of repair and steadily deteriorating. The primitive "conveniences" built out in the tide, are beginning to come apart, with planks missing here and there.

It is understood that at one time plans were made to improve the amenities on this island but these were apparently dropped in favour of more important development works.

With the high cost of living, overseas holidays for short periods are not within reach of the average citizen in Fiji. Holiday resorts near to the town are, therefore, essential.

Residents with families cannot afford to spend their local leave in a hotel at the rate of £1 to £1/5/- a day per person. The hill rest house at Nadarivatu having been closed, this leaves very little in the way of holiday resorts to the public.

Nukulau Island is used as the Quarantine Station but with a little organisation, this area could be placed elsewhere, leaving this little Island free for tourists and local holiday makers.

The new Conservator of Forests for Fiji, **Mr. J. B. Angus**, arrived in the Colony on transfer from Kenya in February.

the Kaiser, and I received the following reply:—

"His Majesty the Kaiser has taken great interest in the letter of Mr. Bigelow, of 14.11.30, and sends you his thanks for the nice expression used in your letter of 27.1.34. I am commanded by His Majesty to enclose the photo, which His Majesty has personally autographed."

In the Crown Prince's letter there was a picture of Princess Cecilie (the youngest daughter of the Crown Prince) and her betrothed, an officer of the American Occupation Force in Berlin (a very wealthy American from Texas, USA). The wedding was to take place in Sigmaringen, the home of the Hohenzollerns.

IN November, 1949, I received another surprise—a letter from an old friend of mine. This letter shows how small the world is—and in how many of the world's places the PIM is read.

Mr. Otto Eckert was a fellow-passenger of mine on board SS Provila, from Hamburg to Australia. We arrived in Port Adelaide on New Year's Eve, 1882. I stayed in Adelaide while Eckert went to Sydney.

In 1886 I met Eckert in Apia, Samoa, where he was a clerk for the German Consul. In 1889 I met him again in Jaluit, Marshall Islands, where he was secretary to Dr. Haki, the Governor of the Marshall Islands. Eckert had a six-months leave, and was awaiting a chance to get to Germany via USA. He took passage on the "Golden Fleece," one of A. Crawford & Co.'s San Francisco vessels, on which I was travelling.

Life on a sailing vessel can be rather monotonous. The library of the Golden Fleece consisted of one book, Alexander Dumas' "The Count of Monte Cristo." Everybody on board read this book and, when we arrived in Frisco, in March,

1890, the first thing we saw was a sign on the wharfshed: "Tonight, California Theatre, Alexander Dumas' Masterpiece, The Count of Monte Cristo."

Eckert and I spent 10 happy days in Frisco. A year later, in 1891, Eckert wrote that he had joined the Colonial Office in Berlin. Forty-five years afterwards, in 1936, I learned that he had resigned from the Colonial Office, as he had had enough of Hitler, and that he

was going to live in Sigmaringen with his married brother.

While in Sigmaringen he made the acquaintance of Crown Princess Cecilie (wife of the former Crown Prince Frederick Wilhelm), who came from the same town in Mecklenberg. Eckert became a frequent visitor to the Castle.

One day, at the Castle, the Crown Prince asked Eckert if he knew a place called Lotofua, Haapai, Tonga. "I believe

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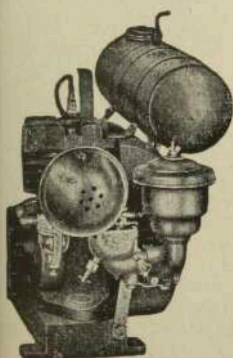
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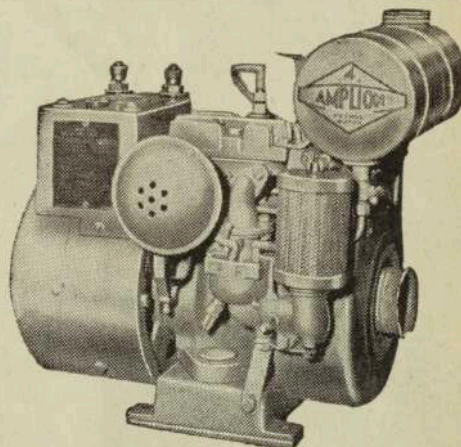
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- 8-oz. Tomato Soup.
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- 12-oz. Sheep Tongues.
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you have been somewhere in that direction," he said.

Eckert replied that he had been in Samoa, but not in Tonga. "But why?" he asked.

"I am writing a letter to a Count van Asten-Goedicke, who lives in Tonga," replied the Crown Prince.

"Count van Asten-Goedicke?" asked Eckert. "I have been wondering lately who is this Count van Asten-Goedicke. He has been writing articles in a magazine called Pacific Islands Monthly, which a friend of mine in Hamburg, who was a book-keeper for the DHPG in Apia, Samoa, sends me every month. I must write and find out if this gentleman is my old friend Fritz Goedicke, who was a fellow-passenger in the SS Provida from Hamburg to Australia in 1882. I would be thankful to your Royal Highness if I could have this gentleman's present address."

Eckert wrote, and I duly received his letter, telling me all about his doings since 1889. He also writes about the present Germany. He says food supply is normal (they had two good harvests) and everything would go smoothly if it was not for the mischiefmaker, Russia.

This letter shows again how small the world is, and where the PIM is read.

Sir Edward Herring, Australia's Director-General of Recruiting, on February 1: "For awhile, during the Pacific war, I lived on the side of Mt. Lamington in Papua. If anyone had told us we were literally sitting on top of a volcano, we would have laughed, just as some people laugh when we say there is a great danger of an international upheaval. The people who were on Mt. Lamington a few weeks ago are not laughing to-day!"

Emergency Dromes in Rabaul's Volcano Area

From a Special Correspondent in Rabaul

THE Mt. Lamington eruption has revived local discussion as to the wisdom of moving the capital of New Britain from Rabaul. Of course, in this, as in everything else locally, there are two schools of thought; and, perhaps, a little stronger than the others are those who are of the opinion that as it is not known where the next blow will come, one might as well stay put.

With some justification, they say why rush away from a place where there is a safety vent and where one eruption has proved there was no loss of life. A move to another place might put one right on top of the next eruption.

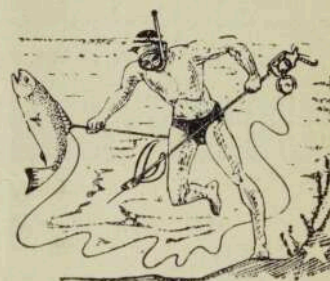
So far so good—but if nothing is to be done about moving, what about a few precautions?

If any of the Rabaul craters blew up right now there would be little chance of a speedy evacuation or help by air. The Rabaul airport is right under Matupi. Vunakanua, which is the nearest emergency drome, is all rough surface growth, although it would not take much to put it in order. Kerevat, Gasmata and Jacquinot Bay dromes are not in order, and the nearest in the other direction is Torokina on Bougainville.

During an eruption Rabaul Harbour is an unknown quantity, and we could not depend upon getting away in that fashion.

There is much talk of what "they" should do about emergency dromes; but, as usual, we have not heard of anyone taking the big step to start the job.

The Governor Designate of American Samoa, the Hon. Phelps Phelps, with the Attorney General of American Samoa, Mr. Fred Simon, and Dr. Gordon Macgregor of the United States Department of the Interior, were the guests of the Governor of Fiji at Government House when they passed through Suva on their way to Pago Pago in February.



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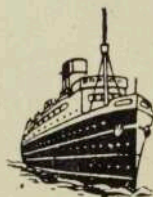
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DOWNPOUR DAMAGES HOUSES AT LAUTOKA

From Our Own Correspondent

THE so-called Garden City of Lautoka was flooded, when torrential rains poured down at midnight on January 23.

Within a short time the sleeping

residents woke to find water entering their dwellings and street gutters and drains flooded. Water poured into buildings, damaging household property and store goods.

The main roads of Naviti Street and Vitogo Parade became rivers, and Nede Street had four feet of water flowing down it; all road metal was washed away.

It is estimated that at least £1,000 worth of damage was done to streets and buildings.

"SOKA" IS NOW THE GAME IN NIUE

From a Special Correspondent

NIUE, Jan. 31.

THE London Missionary Society has introduced Soccer to the Island of Niue. The lads of the Boy's Brigade have taken to the game in a big way, and, although essentially a cool weather sport, the keenness is so great that the boys play even in December and January, when the heat is intense.

One could hardly say that the rules of the game are strictly adhered to. Despite this fact, the teams after one season are showing considerable ability, and in a year or two will provide strong opposition to teams from visiting war-ships. The crowd too, is becoming "Soka"-minded and a neat piece of heading or a hefty kick downfield brings its applause from the appropriate section of the crowd.

One habit which is dying rather hard, is the tendency of the teams playing to give themselves a hearty clap whenever one of their side scores a goal. They vent their joy on such occasions with a series of "Niuean Yells."

The Mission hopes that through the agency of this sport, so suitable to Niue's rocky terrain, will come the means of teaching the youth of the island the elements of sportsmanship.

This winter, organised matches will be played between 10 of the villages for a shield made and presented by two Ministry of Works officials who are taking an interest in the games.

Arrangements are now under way to introduce basketball as a recreation for the girls of the island.

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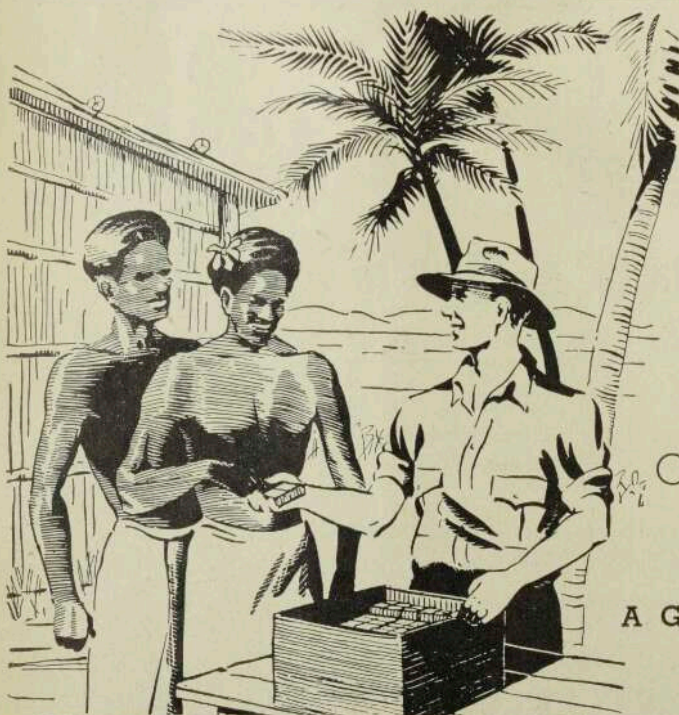
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FEBRUARY NEWS FROM PORT MORESBY

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, Feb. 10.

For reasons of space this material was held over from our last issue.

RECONDITIONED Bailey bridge steel from Britain will be used for the new bridge over the Markham River, above Lae. About 500 tons of this material has reached Sydney, from Britain, for the 1,730 foot bridge, and smaller quantities will be shipped to Lae from Bougainville. Tenders for construction of the bridge may be called by the middle of this year.

TIMBER from the privately-owned mill at Angoram on the Sepik River, and a new sawmill near Wewak are helping to solve the shortage of building materials in that part of New Guinea. A number of new houses have been built from local timber at Wewak, and Angoram which had no buildings at all at the end of the war, is now an attractive station with some of the best permanent homes in the Territory.

Across at Goroka, Mr. Jimmy Leahy has started a new sawmill which will be a valuable asset to the district. Up to now, practically all timber has had to be air-freighted from Bulolo and Lae. That makes even Australian building costs look reasonable.

PORT MORESBY residents no longer walk in darkness for now their evening strolls can be taken under the glow of about 70 street lights. Soon there will be a real glitter over the big town for another 70 are due to go in as soon as the linesmen can get on to the job. Then comes the crowning glory, suspension lights along Ela Beach.

REMEMBER the old days when the hangman's noose was around the Treasury money bags, and a million men or more waited for a job? Now the Civil Aviation Department has got the okay on a £1,000,000 expenditure in the Territory, and is having a hard job to spend it for lack of men and materials. This is holding up construction on big new airports and improvements to existing aerodromes. There is also high-frequency radio equipment, radar and communications gear to be installed, plus erection of D.C.A. houses and airport buildings. The vital importance of air services and facilities was thoroughly demonstrated in the Lamington rescue work. The tragedy would have been even greater without the prompt relief and re-organisation made possible by air transport of personnel, medical supplies and food.

BEACONS are being installed along the south coast of Papua by the Commonwealth Lighthouse Services vessel Wallach. The work is being directed by Mr. Douglas, senior Engineer of the Lighthouse Services, who expects to be in the Territory on this job for about 12 weeks.

DURING the recent scholastic year the Sogeri and Kerevat Education Centres had a record number of trainees complete the two-year teachers' training course; 35 did their course at Kerevat and 20 at Sogeri. They have now taken up duty at Administration schools throughout the Territory. Meanwhile 60 new students have started at Sogeri, and after the holidays another 120 resume course at the Central School or in the teacher training section.

JUST over 100 secondary education grants have been made to Territory parents whose children are attending schools in Australia. The subsidy for each child is £125, with one return air passage to Sydney or ports to the north. The qualifications were completion of Grade six or an equivalent standard. Most of the students are from 12 to 17 years.

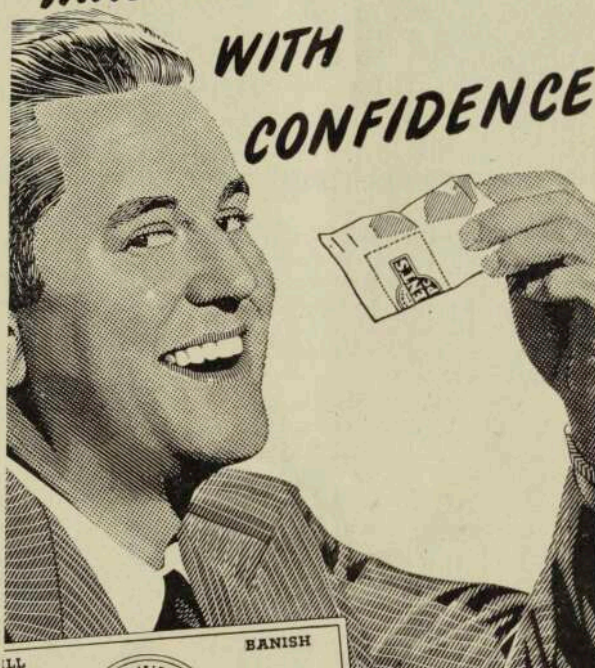
This secondary education bonus, so far, is for one year only, and was announced by the Administrator, Colonel Murray, some time ago when informing the public

that the proposed Wau High School could not be built on the original plan which set February, 1951 as the opening date.

PORT MORESBY residents have been enjoying an uninterrupted supply of electricity for some weeks now, and a big new 720 HP generator from Britain is being installed. This should be in use by the end of March.

Prospects are bright for the future as some time in the next few months, alternators are due for another two new generators already at Port Moresby. Then

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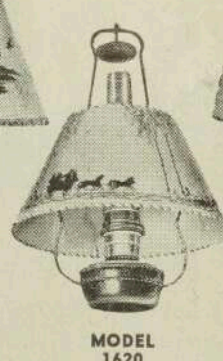
Aladdin light is the closest of all to natural daylight, and these non-pressure lamps give a steady white light of 75 candle-power. There is no smoke or fumes, no pumping. They light at the touch of a match! Burning 94% air and only 6% kerosene, these modern lamps are extremely economical in use, and safe and easy to use.

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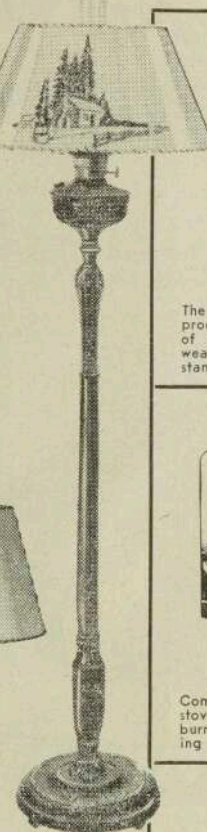
MODEL 1630



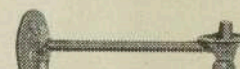
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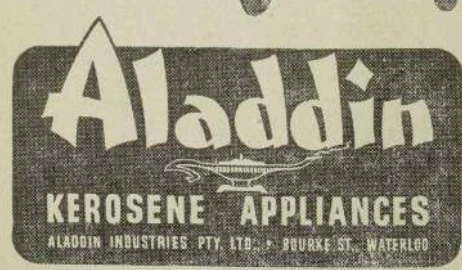
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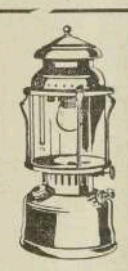
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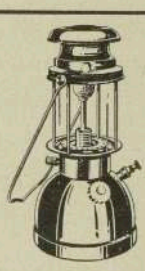
WALL BRACKET



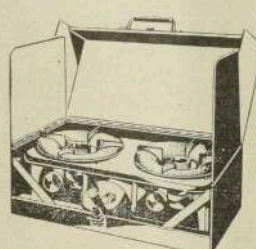
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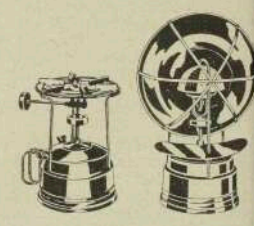
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there is the big hydro-electric scheme which will utilise water from the Laloki River just below Rouna Falls. Tenders will soon be called for the turbine, generating equipment and driving and switch gear, and orders have already been placed for the transmission line steel work. The Works and Housing Department's executive engineer from Melbourne, Mr. C. C. Rosenthal, was in Port Moresby during January discussing the scheme with Territory engineers. This scheme is a £200,000 job and it will probably take two or three years to complete. But with the local power supply backed by three new generators the time factor looms much less important now that when evenings were measured by the number of local blackouts.

This long-range planning will put Port Moresby in a position to handle new industries for the initial output of the hydro-electric scheme will be 3,000 kilowatts, as against the present peak consumption of 600. And the project is being designed for enlargement to a final output of from 4,000 to 5,000 kilowatts.

.. ..

ANOTHER bright star on the Moresby horizon is the prospect of a local brewery. A Territory syndicate now in process of being formed into a company to be known as the South Pacific Brewery Limited, has been granted a brewery licence, and machinery is on the way from Germany. A German brewer will also be brought from Europe, and if he can successfully turn Laloki River water into good beer he's going to be a boon to local thirsty souls.

Mr. Joe Bourke of Wau, who is one of the big men in the new company, expects that Moresby beer will sell at about half the present retail price of imported beer.

NEWS FROM PORT VILA

From Our Own Correspondent

VILA, Feb. 20.

THIS month saw the departure for Australia on leave of a number of local residents.

Heading the list was British Resident Commissioner, Mr. H. Flaxman who flew to Sydney and thence to Melbourne to witness the fifth and final test match. He goes to New Zealand for the remainder of his three months' leave. During his absence, Mr. B. Blackwell is acting R.C.

Others departing include Mr. L. Baird, merchandise manager of Burns Philp's Vila store, Mr. and Mrs. W. Reid and Mr. W. Buffet, also from B.P.'s. Mr. Buffet's trip down was unplanned and for urgent medical treatment.

The month also marked the return to Vila of residents who had been away for varying periods of leave.

Formerly in the Condominium Public Works, Mr. W. Young returns as Collector of Customs. He was accompanied by his wife and two infant daughters. Mr. H. Richards returned to take over the job of postmaster, a position vacant for some time. Mr. W. Roberts of the South Pacific Air Transport Council stationed in Vila

returned to take over from the relieving officer, Mr. R. Rankin, who has since returned to Sydney.

Formerly a teacher at the British school, Miss B. Lancon sailed from Vila on the M.V. Lautoka. She plans to study veterinary science in Melbourne.

The engagement was recently announced of Miss Billie Love of Vila to Mr. Richard Kerr of Tonga. Miss Love is the daughter of Mr. L. Love, chief radio operator of Vila's tele-radio station, and of Mrs. Love. To celebrate the occasion, Mr. and Mrs. Love entertained a large number of friends at a cocktail party at their home.

Fire recently completely destroyed the Vila residence of Acting-Commandant of British Police, Mr. D. Freegard and Mrs. Freegard.

Cause of the fire is uncertain, but it is thought that electrical wiring in the ceiling may have shorted and ignited grass and other rubbish stored there by rats.

Mr. and Mrs. Freegard were home at the time. The fire gained such a hold that they had no time to salvage anything. With their children they watched, from a neighbour's verandah while all their possessions were consumed.

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BSI ENGLAND-AUSTRALIA TEST MATCHES

From Our Own Correspondent

HONIARA, Feb. 20.
A SERIES of cricket matches between former residents of Australia or England began with a local "Test Match" in January when England won by 132 runs to 100 in a very exciting game, the 232 runs being scored in three hours' play.

The matches are held on Sunday afternoons on the Police ground at Rove, about a mile from the main Honiara settlement.

The English team in the first game was captained by J. R. Wrightson and the Australian team by K. J. Angel of Sydney. The "Second Test" played early in February, resulted in a win for Australia. The Rove ground which is green turf with wooded hills in the background, is an attractive setting and the matches are well attended by European residents.

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Movie Theatres for New Britain Natives

From a Special Correspondent in Rabaul

SOMETHING new for the Rabaul district is the establishment by New Britain Entertainments of movie theatres for the natives of Matupi, Pila Pila, and Nunga Nunga. Rabaul natives have always been picture patrons—but usually by attendance at the local movie house on a special "Boys' Night," when films suitable for natives have been screened.

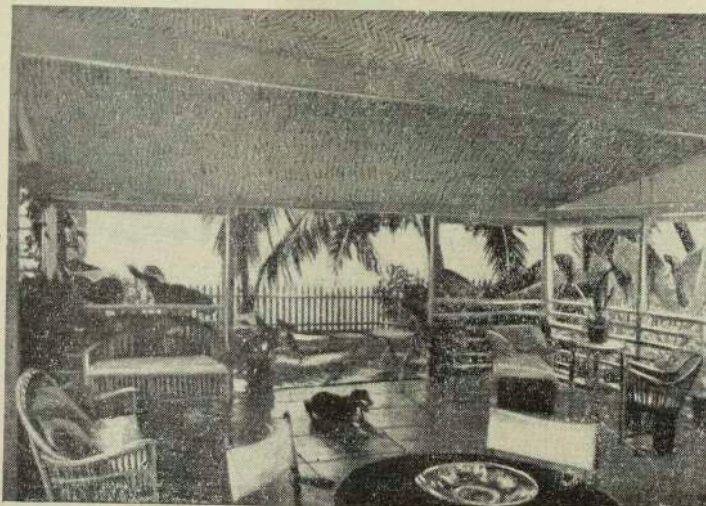
This is the first time that anyone has attempted to take the movies to the natives. The enterprise should do well.

Of course, the enterprise has not escaped without some local talk-talk. Some of the locals have wondered if it is a "good thing" to bring natives together in such a way—for fear someone gets among them with a bit of Communist propaganda.

The natives already have dozens of ways of getting together, with or without propaganda, and visits to their local picture show are not likely to do much additional harm.

Mr. A. L. B. Drew, an assistant mechanic in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, has gone to the United Kingdom on study leave. He will take a three months' course in automatic telephone practice and maintenance with the General Electric Company which is building the new automatic telephone exchange for Suva. He will spend the remainder of his leave in the General Post Office, London, where he will study the practice and working of telephone systems.

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SAMOA'S BANANA INDUSTRY IN DOLDRUMS

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, February 21.

WHEN, in 1928, Western Samoa began to export bananas to New Zealand, it was firmly predicted that the new industry would be the mainstay of Samoa's economy and would be very considerably expanded. A special banana carrier was purchased to cater for the trade and with ample transport available, well over 200,000 cases per year were forwarded to New Zealand.

Revenue from the new industry was of great help to growers, during the long years when cocoa and copra prices were low, and even during the war years regular banana shipments to New Zealand did not cease. Rigid inspection of the fruit in Samoa assured buyers in New Zealand of a uniform high quality and Samoan bananas had a good reputation on the New Zealand market.

During the post-war years, however, the situation has gradually changed. For a time it seemed as if the development of the new dried-banana (banana figs) industry by the New Zealand Reparation Estates and private enterprise would give an impetus to the banana industry, but after several years of flourishing existence, the dried-banana industry gradually faded out, the demand ceased altogether and the money invested in banana driers was lost.

Then the Maui Pomare was withdrawn from the Samoan run and put on the Cook Islands and Niue run and Samoa became entirely dependent on the limited space allocations of the Union Co's Matua for banana exports. The Government had encouraged growers to extend their plantations, as the New Zealand market seemed to absorb any quantity of Samoan bananas, but transport difficulties increased from year to year and growers who could obtain only a portion of the space required for their crop, and saw their labour wasted, grew tired of continuous disappointment and turned to cocoa and coconuts, encouraged by the high prices ruling for these products.

Only recently statements were made that New Zealand would be able to take all the bananas Western Samoa could produce. Such promises are valueless to the growers if they are not accompanied by a guarantee of fixed monthly allocations of space for a sufficient number of cases.

Failing this guarantee, it can safely be predicted that the banana industry is bound to fade out completely.

The determined efforts of the Fiji Government to increase banana production to some 400,000 cases per year is bound to increase competition in the New Zealand market. It has been suggested that the private company which has taken over the former Government monopoly for the import of islands fruit into New Zealand, has invested capital in the Fiji banana industry and is, therefore, not interested in Samoan bananas. Whether this is true or not, it remains a fact that New Zealand has a greater responsibility to safeguard the interests of her Samoan Trusteeship Territory than to give preference to Fiji bananas.

(EDITORIAL NOTE: The growing of Fiji bananas is in the hands of native Fijians. The projected increase in Fiji banana production has been organised and fostered by the Fiji Department of Agriculture without any guarantee from the NZ Government. Matua, which carries Samoan bananas, is also the only vessel regularly carrying bananas from Suva to NZ. It seems unlikely that the new NZ fruit importing company has any interest, financial or otherwise, in Fiji banana growing other than the natural desire to

supply customers in NZ with bananas which have been extremely scarce for the last 10 years. The Fiji Department of Agriculture's banana boosting policy has, no doubt, been based on the expectation that the USS Co's new ship, Tagua, will be on the Islands' run next year. There seems no reason why Samoan banana growers should not similarly plan ahead.)

Mr. O'Rourke, a New Zealand police officer, has taken over as Chief of Police, Niue, from Constable J. Flynn, who returned to NZ.

According to Mr. William Schleusner, a planter in the Popengetta district, Papua, who arrived in Brisbane on February 2, plantations near Higatura will eventually be worked again. His own plantation had at first appeared ruined, but he thought that it would recover within a few years.

Miss Joan Read, well-known radio personality of Sydney, was married on February 24 to Mr. Don Watson, of Fiji.

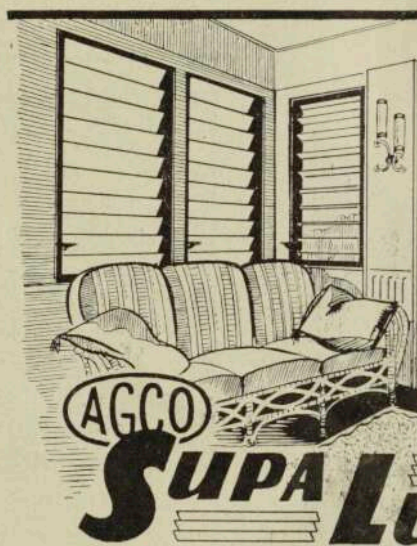
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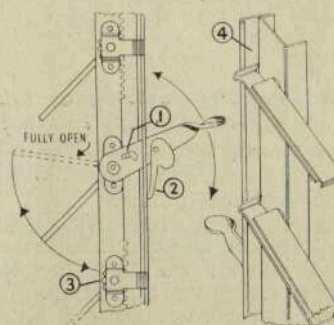
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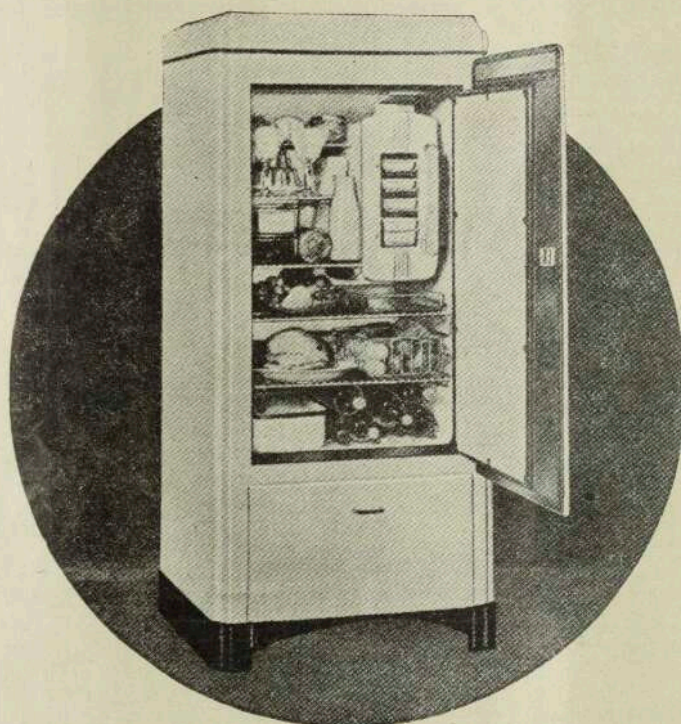
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Leeches Won't Like This Boot Polish Repellant for Jungle Pest

LATEST overseas research shows that the leech, minor pest of the tropical bush, can be repelled, just as can the mosquito and the bush moka, and in almost the same way.

These frantic creatures look like bike-tyre valves, come out in thousands on jungle tracks, attach themselves to damp footwear, and loop their way around until they find a suitable patch of bare flesh, where they attach themselves by a sucker. Usually they go unnoticed until they have had their fill and drop off, leaving a tiny, freely-bleeding puncture behind them. Of themselves, they do little harm, but they are repulsive little beasts, and, in the tropics, the small hole they leave can easily become infected and turn into a serious tropical ulcer.

When they attach themselves they inject a substance that prevents blood clotting, and it is not unusual to reach the end of a day's walk through the South-west Pacific Islands bush to find yourself with what seems to be half a boot full of blood. They are happy inside a boot, sometimes achieving their purpose by getting in through an eyelet-hole, but if they cannot find any territory to their liking, between sox and shorts, they will crawl even higher—sometimes with startling, if not embarrassing, results. If discovered they can be persuaded to release their grip by sprinkling them with salt or burning them with a lighted match.

Anti-leech research is a branch of the science that gave the Pacific forces in the last war the insect-repellant that helped

them to avoid scrub typhus (carried by tiny bush ticks or "mokas") and malaria (carried by mosquitoes). The clear mosquito-repellant which clouds plastic or unbreakable watchglasses, but does no harm to human skin is well-known now—most civilians have invested in a few tins, ex-Disposals—and rubbed on exposed skin usually keeps the insect pests at bay for an hour or two. The first repellent was dimethyl phthalate, later a variant, dibutyl phthalate, was found more effective.

More recently a British doctor in Ceylon found that when he made a boot polish of oil and wax with dimethyl phthalate added, he could walk through the leech-infested jungles of Ceylon and not a leech came near him. If it is dimethyl phthalate that does the trick, no doubt many residents of the South-west Pacific have already found it out. Those who have not may like to try it.

Why these compounds repel insects and/or leeches has never been explained. According to some users the repellent smells "like squashed mosquitoes." It certainly has little resemblance to the essences of M. Chanel, although most people prefer it to insect stings and their consequences. In the insect world, however, it must be a very big stench indeed.

P-NG PEARL SHELL EXPEDITION

AN attempt to find pearl-shell grounds in Papua-New Guinea waters, believed to have been fished by the Japanese pre-war will be made soon by Torres Strait pearl-sheller John Nolan.

Nolan expected to take the Crystal Star to P-NG from Townsville late in February. The vessel, which has just completed two successful seasons working from Thursday Island, is diesel-powered, 65 ft. long and fitted out with latest diving gear and plant.

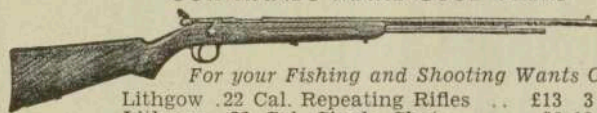
It is intended to survey the coast of P-NG from east to west and, although details have been gathered regarding the possible location of shell beds, it is hoped that local people will be able to assist with more accurate information.

The members of the crew are Captain Rae Fisk, Chief Engineer Joseph Schinkel, George Minns as Mate, and Sebasio Wallis and John Anderson. Nolan, the owner, will act as diver.

Some native seamen will be recruited in the Territory and if the survey is successful, natives will be trained as divers and divers' tenders.

Mr. W. V. Banting, Accountant-General, Fiji, has been appointed Deputy Accountant-General, Northern Rhodesia.

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MR. DULLES VISITS W. SAMOA

PRESIDENT Truman's special envoy, Mr. John Foster Dulles, paid a surprise visit to Western Samoa on February 21. Mr. Dulles was on his way back to Washington after Japanese peace treaty discussions in Japan, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand. He had been invited by NZ Minister for External Affairs, Mr. F. Doidge, to look in on Western Samoa to see how NZ-Samoan co-operation was working, and when

actually in flight in his special Constellation decided to do so.

He, with Mrs. Dulles and an official party, arrived at 8 a.m., were met by the Acting Administrator of Western Samoa, Mr. J. B. Wright, (Mr. Fowles is at Lake Success) and representatives of the Samoan people. A Kava ceremony was held in his honour and later the party was entertained by the pupils of local schools and at lunch at the Casino Hotel. In the afternoon they left for Honolulu.

W. SAMOAN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN APRIL

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, Feb. 21.

ELECTION of members for the Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa will take place end of April 1951 and new electoral lists are now being prepared and will be published beginning of March.

The last electoral roll, in 1948, contained a total of 1,014 names of Europeans eligible to vote. Every European over 21 years of age, man or woman, who has resided at least one full year in the Territory can vote for five European candidates. Of the 1,000 Europeans entitled to vote in 1948, 600 were men and 400 women; there were 150 full-Europeans on the roll, the rest being local-born Europeans of mixed descent. It is expected that the new roll will contain nearly 1,500 names, as Chinese residents have, since the last election, been granted full residential rights and "European" status.

Of the present five European elected members only two, Mr. E. F. Paul and Mr. J. Helg, are expected to stand for re-election. A number of new candidates have been mentioned but their names will be known only after the nominations close. While the 1948 election was fought more or less on party lines, as a contest between the Citizens' Progressive Party and the Labour Party, the new candidates are standing as individuals; 11 candidates contested the 1948 election.

It is expected that most of the 12 Samoan candidates will be newcomers to the Assembly. The Samoan members of the Assembly are to be chosen by ballot of the Fono of Faipule, the Samoan Parliament of 41 members. Samoan members of the present Assembly were chosen on request of the Fono of Faipule by the Hon. Fautua, Tamasese, Malietoa and Mataafa (since deceased).

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PASTURES IN N. GUINEA'S CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

What Are The Value of The Indigenous Grasses?

IN the highlands of Central New Guinea there are thousands of square miles of cool, pleasant, fertile grasslands, which may yet be regarded as suitable for the raising of stock, especially cattle.

Many people now are seeking information about the pastoral possibilities of these great valley systems. A question frequently asked is: "Is it possible to raise cattle on the indigenous grasses of the New Guinea Highlands? Or must these areas be planted with introduced grasses before suitable pastures for stock can be provided?"

There is some answer to these questions in an address given at a conference in India last year by Mr. W. Granger, B.V.Sc., chief of the Animal Industry Division of the Papua-New Guinea Department of Agriculture. The following are extracts:—

The extensive grasslands of the Territory apparently are artificial products of the native method of hunting, which involves burning whenever there is a dry season.

In lowland areas, and on the lower slopes, the dominant association of these grasslands is a mixture containing *Imperata cylindrica* (the grass known in Malaya as "Lalang," in the Philippines as "Cogon," and in New Guinea as "Kunai" or "Kurra-Kurra"), *Coelorachis rotboelliioides* and *Saccharum spontaneum*—the dominance of any one of the three varying with local environment variations.

Though palatable immediately after cutting and burning, this type of sward is a very fibrous and poor feed. On light sandy soils and well-drained slope areas, *Themeda australis* dominates, and provides open-range type grazing; but such a sward has a low carrying capacity and poor resistance to intensive use.

On level land at 5,000 feet altitude, and above, *Themeda gigantea* dominates. This is fibrous and of poor value. With judiciously controlled burning and some preliminary weeding, a palatable and nutritious sward of native fine grasses, principally *Poa* spp., *Sorghum nitidum*, and *Apluda mutica* can be induced. These grasses are very sparse in the original sward.

In country with rainfall above 100 inches, and a poorly marked dry season, clearing gives a sward of soft grasses in which *Paspalum* spp. (particularly *P. conjugatum*) predominate. Although this sward gives a fine bulk of palatable green feed, it is nutritionally inadequate without a legume or cereal supplement.

A number of useful legumes which have been introduced as plantation cover crops are available to introduce to this type of sward, notably *Pueraria* spp., and *Centrosema* spp. Valuable introduced grasses thrive under these conditions—for example, Para grass (*Brachiaria mutica*), which is outstanding, *Paspalum scrobiculatum*, *Axonopus compressus*, and *Digitaria* spp.

Among cultivated fodders for these conditions Pigeon Pea or Dahl (*Cajanus indicus*) grain and Sweet Sorghums, Sugar Cane, Cowpea (*Vigna catjang*), and Peanuts (*Arachis hypogaea*) are outstanding. Maize tends to be subject to excessive insect damage.

Supplementary feeding and foraging root and vine crops such as Sweet Potato (*Ipomoea batatas*), Tapioca (*Manihot esculenta*), pumpkins and melons (*Cucur-*

bitaceae), Mauritius bean (*Stizolobium* spp.), and Kengu (*Ipomoea aquatica*) is readily available.

In areas with a marked dry season, Guinea grass (*Panicum maximum*), Elephant or Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) and *Stylosanthes* spp., are most useful introduced fodders. Certain potential fodders such as *Leucaena glauca*, the rain tree (*Pithecolobium saman*) and Algoroba (*Prosopis juliflora*) can be readily grown. There is a need for storable cereals and pulses in such areas; and Maize, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts and Pigeon Pea are of importance.

At higher altitudes, certain temperate and sub-tropical grasses and pasture legumes can be established. Notable among these are:—

Grasses: Perennial Rye (*Lolium perenne*), *Phalaris tuberosa*, *Paspalum dilatatum* and Rhodes Grass (*Chloris gayana*); with Kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) giving good grazing cover on hungrier soils.

Legumes: White Dutch (*Trifolium repens*), Alsike (*T. hybridum*) and Red (*T. paratense*) clovers; *Lotus* spp., which seems to be better adapted to the rather generally acid soil conditions; and

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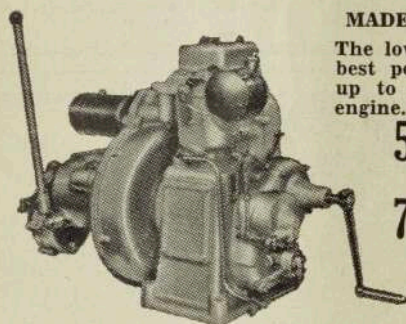
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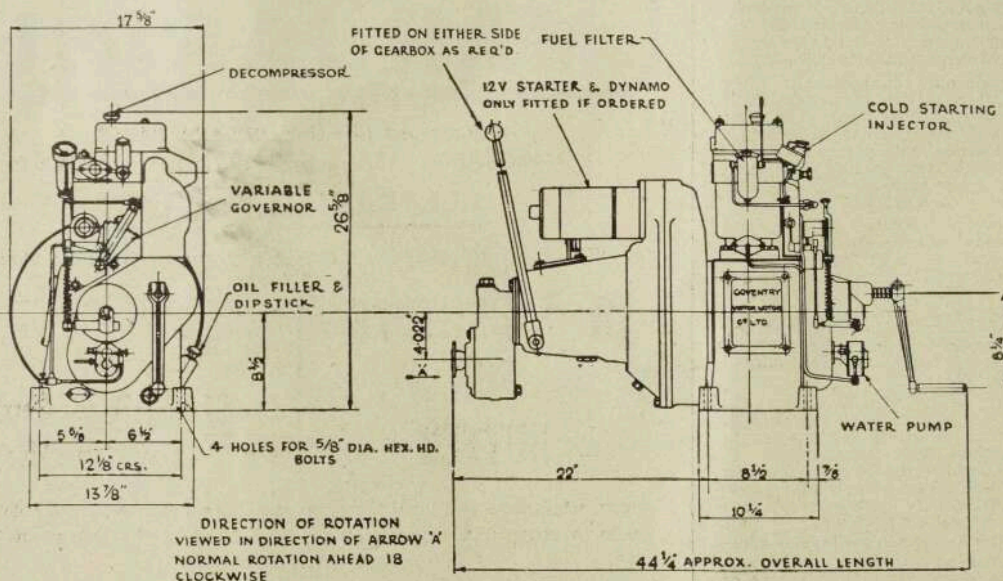
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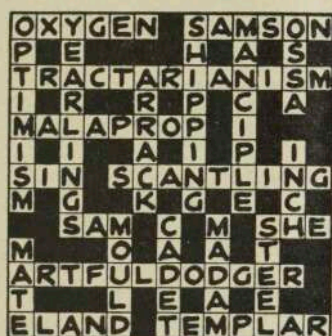
Lucerne (*Medicago sativa*), which is limited rather strictly by soil pH.

An important recent introduction which shows promise under a wide range of ecological conditions is Berseem or Egyptian clover (*Trifolium alexandrinum*).

Generally, we must develop pasture types and grazing and feeding patterns following more closely those of tropical countries than those of Australia.

That is the end of the extracts from Mr. Granger's paper. Experiments are under way in different parts of the Highlands. The indications are that a good proportion of the indigenous grasses in the Highlands, when specially treated, can be used as pasture; but, generally, its nutritional value is not high, and it should be steadily reinforced by the introduction of specially-selected grasses and legumes.

Crossquiz Solution from Page 54



ALL PRAISE FOR MORESBY

Lae Is Not Complaining, But—!

From Our Own Correspondent

LAE, Feb. 3.

REPETITION of the praise given to Administration Officials from Port Moresby for their work in the Mount Lamington disaster is not regarded by Lae residents as in good taste. There has been an almost complete lack of reference to the early and splendid work of Administration and Public Health officials from Lae.

The Lae District Commissioner (Mr. Niall) and a medical staff, were in the devastated area on the day after the eruption.

Without official request, the Qantas organisation at Lae transported to Popenetta the Native Labour Officials from Lae, and jeeps supplied from the Lae Transport Pool, and by private taxi company operating in Lae.

Until the Tuesday after the eruption, it was Lae, and Lae only, that took the initiative.

When Port Moresby officials arrived, and some enterprising newspaper scribe discovered that Mount Lamington was in Papua—and not, as earlier described, in New Guinea—the good work of the Port Moresby officials was publicised.

No one wishes to decry what those officials did; but it would have been appreciated here if the early initiative shown in Lae had been referred to in the welter of blah-blah that went on the air, referring to this and that official from the Port Moresby regime.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Corbett left Suva by air in February for a visit to New Zealand and Australia. Mrs. Corbett then intends to fly to London to join her daughter, Barbara, who is on holiday in the UK.

Inspector F. C. Moore, of the British Solomon Islands Armed Constabulary, left Honiara by Qantas aircraft on March 6. He served in the BSIP Defence Force during the war and afterwards undertook the reorganisation and peacetime training of the Constabulary in the post-war period, his enthusiasm and hard work establishing it on a firm footing in spite of supply difficulties and an acute shortage of trained staff. He has been transferred to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

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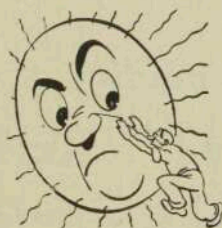
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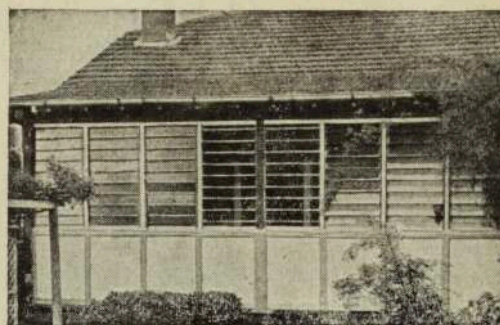
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Mr. S. Elliott Smith, who, in 1949, left Papua to take on the Deputy Commissionership of Native Affairs in Western Australia, is now back in Papua as Acting District Commissioner, Higaturu. He resigned from the Western Australian post soon after the Mt. Lamington disaster and sought permission to help in the rehabilitation of the area, where two of his friends, District Commissioner C. F. Cowley and Director of Native Labour W. R. Humphries, had lost their lives. Mr. Elliott-Smith was CO of the 1st Papuan Infantry Battalion in World War II.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Trotter, of Suva, Fiji, and their daughter Barbara were among the official guests at the Treaty of Friendship celebrations in Nukualofa, Tonga in mid-February. Mr. Trotter is Managing Director of Burns Philp (S.S.) Ltd.

A team of Australian and British Military experts visited Manus Island (NG), in February to inspect areas which might be suitable for testing Centurian tanks under tropical conditions. (The Centurian is a heavily armed tank of about 50 tons.)

EDIE CREEK MEMORIES

(Continued from Page 59)

It was Easter Monday morning at Wau and the town was en fete. The race meeting was set down for the afternoon. Poker and two-up had claimed their share of devotees around the pub, and the bar was doing a roaring trade.

The church bell commenced to toll, and Bill's old mates wended their way down to the church. A coffin had been made for Bill, and it lay there before the altar covered with the Union Jack. The pews started to fill up. There was still no sign of the parson.

Most of the congregation had not been in a church for many long years. Arthur Reynolds opened a prayer-book, got to his feet, and began a burlesque of a sermon, in a high-pitched, nasal voice.

Carried away by his own eloquence, Arthur did not notice the parson enter from the vestry and kneel down to pray. Arthur just carried on.

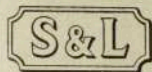
The parson glared at Arthur, but Arthur was completely oblivious of his presence. The tittering grew into laughter.

Then Arthur looked up and saw the parson kneeling there. "Ah, opposition, eh!" he exclaimed.

The parson got square for the indignity, however. After the church service was finished, he dismissed the police boys who, with their handcart, had been waiting outside to carry the coffin to the cemetery. "I think there are enough of us to carry our dear brother to his last resting place," he said.

We couldn't protest. The coffin weighed about a ton, and it was a very hot day. We had to carry it nearly a mile to the cemetery.

Old Bill would have enjoyed that episode thoroughly, although we couldn't see much humour in it at the time.



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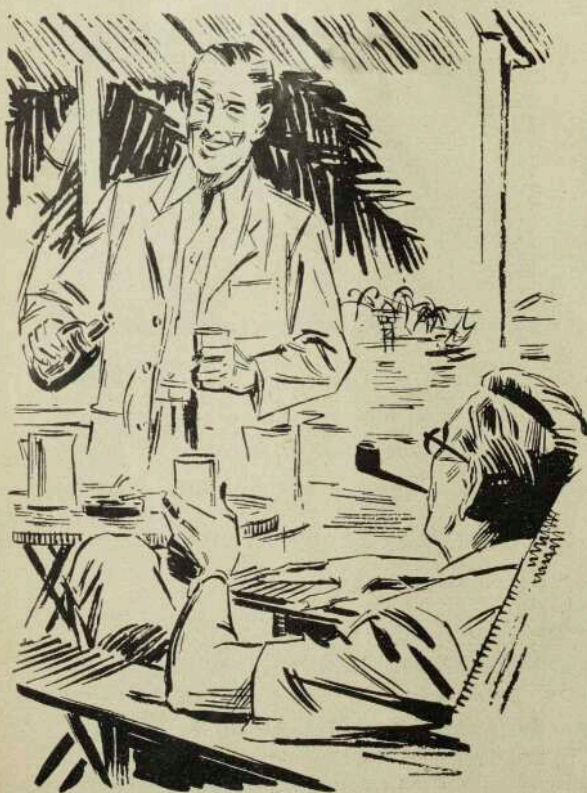
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AUSTRALIA'S NEW DOMINION

(Continued from page 57)

I think that the certainty of European settlement should be accepted, and planned for. A survey should be made to ascertain exactly what are the possibilities of agricultural and pastoral development by private enterprise; what must be done to protect the interests of the natives and give them security; and to see how to deal with the problems of providing local transportation, adequate communication with the coast, hydro-electric power, building materials, and so forth.

IN the past decade, the Administration has done an extraordinarily good job in bringing all this vast area under control.

It has been done by the progressive establishment of air-strips. The first air-strips were in the vicinity of Kainantu, close to the mountain barrier between the Markham Valley (which leads up from Lae) and the first of the valley systems, around the headwaters of the Ramu and Purari Rivers. There, an Administration post was placed alongside the best air-strip.

Then, step by step (or valley by valley) the Administration pushed its way westward. Patrols went out, climbed across the mountain barriers into the next valley, established another air-strip; planes came in with personnel and supplies; another Administration post was built up; and so on.

Selected Administration officials, as they went on from valley to valley, exercised the greatest care in making contact with the inhabitants; with the result that, practically without exception, they have gained the trust, goodwill and co-operation of the natives.

Wherever I went, I was impressed with the obvious good relations between the whites and the natives. Without exception, native headmen came smilingly but most respectfully to Mr. George Greathead, the experienced District Commissioner who is like an uncrowned king, ruling over this vast region; even the lines of native women, toiling along the tracks under incredible loads—they are the Highlands beasts of burden—recognised and greeted him.

Up on his lonely mountain-top farm, beyond Hagen, I saw Mr. Dan Leahy dealing out rough justice to natives who came to his door with their complaints, based mostly on local quarrels. Through his Pidgin-speaking kitchen-boys, who acted as interpreters, Mr. Leahy listened patiently to the stories, and either gave a decision, which was accepted unquestionably, or told them to go and see the Kiap (Assistant District Officer).

The Administration posts now extend far over into the west, beyond Wabag, between Hagen and the Dutch border; and into the south, beyond the Papuan border. There, a new station has just been opened at Mendi, at the junction of the Mendi and Menken Rivers, 18 miles southwest of Mount Giluwe (13,660 feet—the highest mount in New Guinea).

The headquarters of District Commissioner Greathead are at Goroka, in the broad Goroka Valley, 70 miles west of Lae—but separated from Lae by two or three mountain barriers which seem impassable. Westward of Goroka is the Kirigomin Range; and beyond that a series of mighty valley systems—the Chimu-Wahgi region—leading on to the Hagen valley systems. Thence one goes northwards into the Baiyer-Sepik system, westward into the Wabag system, southwards into the Mendi-Menken system, which leads on to Lake Kutubu and the Papuan gulf.

THE administration is based on air transport, and the air strips. There are some quite good roads in the valleys; but most of the valleys are ringed in by the impassable mountain chains. There are half a dozen sub-districts in charge of Assistant District Officers under DC Greathead's care; and each, in its isolated valley, or series of valleys, operates almost as a self-contained unit. Each ADO has a jeep or two; but there

is little inter-valley jeep communication. DC Greathead gets around his wide kingdom in a tiny hired plane. A day spent with him, skimming the mountain-tops, nosing down into isolated green valleys, chasing around the shoulders of 13,000 ft. peaks looking for stands of Hoop Pine, is an experience that this writer never will forget.

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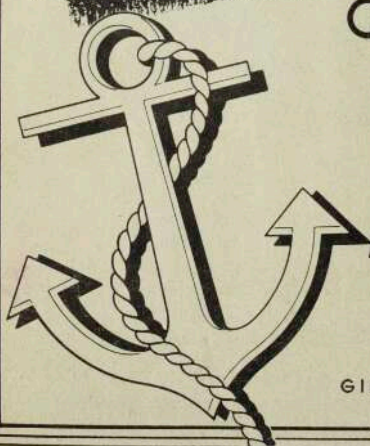
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at one. Fogs hang around at all hours of the day. Like all the works of human hands, plane engines are fallible. Yet one never hears of a plane accident in the Highlands. Touch wood!

The air transport companies—especially Qantas, Mandated Airlines and Bobby Gibbes' Aitape-based carriers—have done a really wonderful job in assisting the Government to put administrative machinery into this wide and dangerous territory. But a stage now has been reached when something more than passenger planes is needed.

The Highlands most urgently need trucks, road-making and earth-moving machinery, generators wherewith to harness the big streams which rush everlastingly out of the mountains, and heavy equipment generally. Such things cannot come in in little planes.

At Goroka I went for a walk. I found a road-making gang at work. Fifty natives, like a string of ants, were carrying gravel on bits of tin, cut from the tops of kerosene cans, from a creekbed a quarter-mile to a place where an overseer used his hands to spread the gravel on the jeep-track.

Rather staggered, I asked an official why this primitive system was followed. Being limited by the planes, they have difficulty in getting even the simplest road-making equipment. The rainy season was due; the jeep must run between the Government station and the air-strip; so, to avoid bogging, they got a trafficable road by using 50 natives and 50 bits of tin.

One day soon, Qantas are going to use Bristol freighters to fly heavy machinery into the Highlands, as well as pedigree bulls and prefabricated houses and motor spirit, and all the things which spell civilisation and progress. Then the life of an administrative official will contain fewer headaches.

But there can be no real settlement and development in the Highlands, on orthodox lines, until a motor-road connects this beautiful country with the coast—either at Madang or Lae. The problem of the road is discussed in another article. It ties in with the problem of the Markham Bridge.

THE only European interests which the Administration, so far, has allowed to enter the Highlands are the missionaries. Otherwise, only a selected half-dozen individuals have been admitted. Stations representative of most of the denominations are already established; and, to the extent that these organisations assist in the education and medical care of the natives, they deserve encouragement and assistance.

But, in my tour of the Highlands, I several times encountered wrathful men who declare that certain classes of missionaries are using all their influence with the natives to prevent the natives from selling land rights to European enterprise. This is something that should have official attention.

It is not the function of missionaries to decide matters of policy. While the opinions of some missionaries should carry weight when mundane affairs are under consideration, there are others who are so simple in character, and so completely unworlly, that they certainly should not be allowed to interfere in things of such importance as the disposal of land.

In the case of New Guinea, there are two or three considerations which must rate higher than native welfare when the future use of land is being dealt with. Of course, certain highly-placed persons in and around Port Moresby and Lake Success will foam at the mouth over such a proposition; but it is quite seriously advanced.

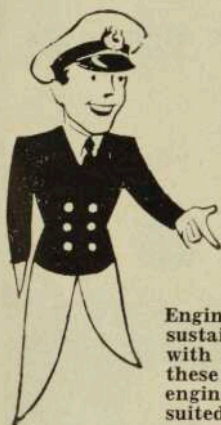
The future of the New Guinea High-

lands, in relation to New Guinea's development and Australia's defence, should be carefully considered and a policy decided upon, now, while the Highlands still are virgin territory. In connection with that, the representations of the missionaries should receive every consideration. But for the missionaries, at this stage, to take it upon themselves to try to keep European enterprise out of the Highlands, by opposing land transactions, is something that will not be tolerated, and must create bad feeling.

It is in the interests of everyone in the Highlands that the Australian Government should decide upon a policy soon—and say whether private enterprise is, or is not, to be permitted in the Highlands. But that is not to say that the Australian Government will do it.

The only positive policies we have had from Australia in relation to New Guinea came in 1945-6 from the Socialist set-up of the Ward-Murray regime, which produced mostly confusion and frustration; and in 1950 from the forthright Mr. Spender, which has been well and truly sabotaged by high officials who don't like Mr. Spender.

The NG Highlands, for years to come, probably will remain officially another Shangri-La—isolated, peaceful, cool and beautiful. Perhaps someone could get permission to build a big accommodation house in one of the more lovely places, like Mount Hagen, so that travel-weary people could go in and have a look at a region that really is unique.



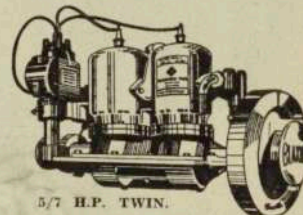
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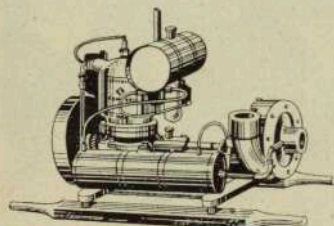
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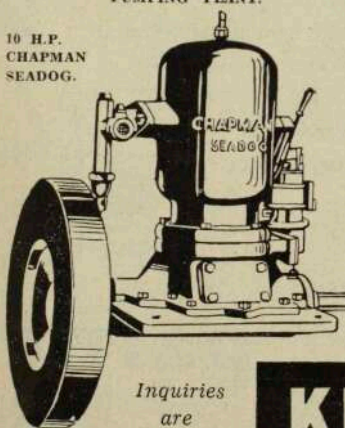


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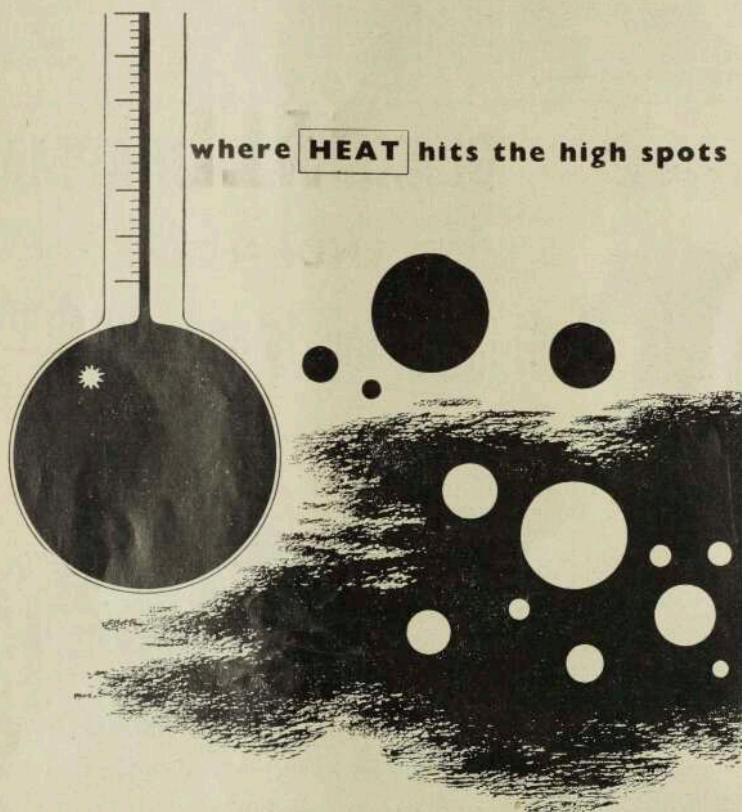
CONCERNING THE FATE OF "POOR MR. FRINGS"

THE article in January PIM, entitled "Poor Mr. Frings," has aroused considerable interest among old New Guinea residents.

A former District official, Mr. S. H. Chance, had recalled curious circumstances connected with the reported death of a German planter, Herr Frings in the Northwest Islands in 1921: and it was suggested that Frings did not die of black-

water, was not buried at Wuvulu, and that he could have escaped on a schooner which bolted from Kavieng to Hollandia with German civilians about that time. Mr. Chance said that Frings was very much like Dr. Goebbels, of later unhallowed memory.

An old planter, who wishes to remain anonymous, writes interestingly:



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KEEPS ON KEEPING ON

WHAT BECAME OF BIG PEARL?

THE "Master William" you mention as Brochardt or Burnhardt was indeed buried at Maty (Wuvulu), and his name was Wm. P. Leonardt—not the same man as W. A. M. Leonardt, a Bird-of-Paradise hunter who spelt his name with an H in the middle. As you remark, he was not enough of a Teuton to be liked by his "fellow-Germans."

Naturally so, for his German was imperfect, his appearance and manner un-Hunnish, and his origin Danish. I think he was from Laesen; his right name was Nielsen Ortoft. Perhaps Mr. Chance could supply the reason for his adoption of the name of Leonardt, and of a remote habitation amongst the enemies of his people, who had by no means forgotten or forgiven being stripped of their fairest province in Schleswig-Holstein.

The surmise that Frings may have survived and escaped may have some substance, for never after, at Wuvulu or elsewhere, could be found a magnificent pearl known to have been in the possession of Frings. It was said to be the finest ever found in New Guinea waters, and could well have financed both a passage to Hollandia and many subsequent adventures.

Frings, moreover, spelt his name as did Goebbels, "Josef," though I think the 'ph' spelling is more common amongst them. I have not heard, however, that he had a club foot, which he would need as a double for Goebbels. If by Chance you could establish this, then what a case you'd have!

As to the "escape," I had inclined to the theory of Bruno Grigat's Munitau, or to Schamburg's cutter—the name escapes me—rather than the Galatea as already too crowded; but it is an open question.

Someone was buried, someone who when sewn up in a blanket was not distinguishable in size from little Frings, and who had died of blackwater fever. If the grave were opened now, the skull at least would remain and if it proved Mongolian I should not be much surprised. All the Chinese employed in the Western Islands and the Ninigos were, I think, named Leong—there were about a dozen bearing this name, and the deceased, if a Chinese, would be one of them.

The site of the grave is not forgotten; it was well maintained by both the Germans and their successors, the Australians. It stands only a couple of hundred yards to the right of the bungalow at Agita, facing the sea, and used to be in a grove of casuarinas. The site is well known to all the natives on Wuvulu—that is, the people of the villages at Maty Agita, Maty Tumuvai, and Maty Watolla.

On this, Mr. Chance has made the following note:

"Very interesting—and a lot more about 'poor Mr. Frings!' I have heard of that big pearl; and someone, at that time (I have forgotten whom) hinted that the corpse may have been that of a Chinese. I know that Frings did not have a club foot—I merely said he was very much the style and build of the infamous and deformed Herr Doktor, who, to quote Punch:

Had such a puny form
He couldn't fill a uniform."

THE MAN WHO BURIED HIM

AND here is a note from Mr. Fred. P. Archer, of Jame Plantation, Buka, who once knew the NW Islands well:

Your article "Poor Mr. Frings" is interesting. "Poor Mr. Frings" bones have mouldered in the grave these many years at Wuvulu (Maty Isd.), and I know the grave well—under the Casuarina trees, with the white sea-swallows darting in and out among the branches. Not far off is the grave of "Masta Vill-yam" (William) who died before him.

The man who buried them both—made

the coffins and dressed them in whites and shoes, etc.—lies buried here on Jame. Faithful old Soma—he was an old-time Buka boy—accompanied the Germans out there when they cut the bush, and was one of the bodyguard. He has (to me) told the story of their sickness, death and burial many a time.

His daughter is married to my Boss Boy here, and attended the burial, and took part in the obsequies when "poor Mr. Frings" was laid away! I asked the lady how Frings died; and her reply — not printable, unfortunately — does indicate that blackwater was the cause of death.

Mr. Chance seems to see a connection between Frings and Goebbels. But Goebbels had a club foot and was misshapen, if I mistake not, and also had "Chest measurement of 36 and mouth measurement of 63" (Read in "Insanity Fair"), whereas Frings was not misshapen and was a quiet sort of man, according to the natives.

RELIEF FOR LAMINGTON REFUGEES

Lae is Critical of Fund Policy

From a Special Correspondent

LAE, March 3.

THERE is a good deal of strong feeling over the Mt. Lamington Relief Appeal, launched in Port Moresby; and, so far, only individuals, here and elsewhere, are contributing. Lae is doing nothing as a community.

There are two reasons for this—the past mismanagement of the war-damage compensation payments to natives, and resentment of the Administrator's insistence that there should be no appeal for the help of Europeans only, but that natives should share equally with Euro-

peans in any public subscription of relief.

Many people argue that, if the Government was able to find so much money, so easily, for payments to natives who suffered little if any damage in the war, it should be able to find funds for the natives who really did suffer in the eruption. This would leave the subscribed funds (nearly all of which come from Europeans) to be applied for the relief of Europeans.

Mr. S. A. Lee, Telephone Inspector, Fiji, has been promoted to Engineer (Telephones) Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Considerable progress has been made in the building of the new Anglican Cathedral in Suva, Fiji. Total length of the section now being built is 90 feet and the walls now reach to the top of the windows. When sufficient funds are in hand, a nave and a tower will be added to sections now being built.

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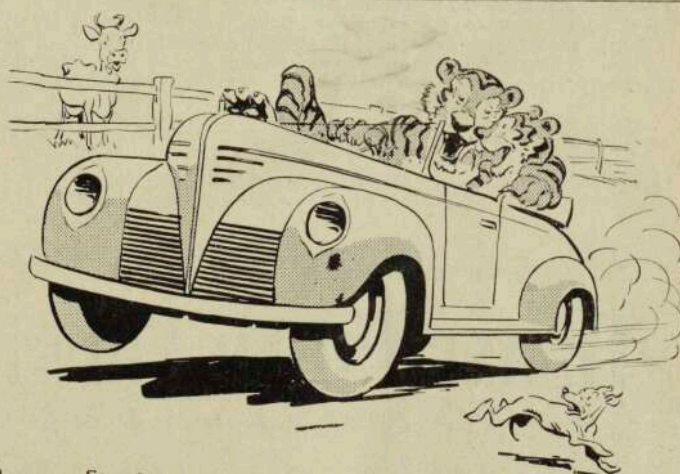
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NOTES FROM LAE

From Our Own Correspondent

LAKE, March 3.
SPORTING activities in Lae have advanced a step further by the formation of a Golf Club. Although the original Town Plan fixed the golf course on the site of the present airstrip and adjacent areas, a fresh site has been chosen and has received the approval of the authorities.

Work on the new course, which will commence with six holes, to be later increased to nine holes, will commence as soon as official permission is to hand.

In the meantime a temporary committee has been elected, to supervise the initial moves in the new venture. They are: President: Mr. H. R. Niall; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. H. Shannon and C. Beckett; Secretary, Mrs. E. Pollard; Treasurer, Mr. J. Goode; Committee: Messrs. F. Moger, C. Heavey, W. Robertson, L. Ashton, K. Noblett, W. Lamont and Mrs. Moger.

WORK is well under way for the sealing of the main road from the Butibum River to Milfordhaven Wharf, and at present has reached the business centre of the town. Considerable grading and levelling has been necessary to obtain a solid foundation, and screenings will be used as a final layer, after which the whole will be sprayed with bitumen. Unfortunately, lack of screenings supplies will retard the work, but if the present section can be completed it will greatly benefit the community, and particularly the motoring section.

MISS FLORA STEWART, younger daughter of Mrs. F. S. Stewart, of the Hotel Cecil, left Lae at the end of February and will be absent for about three months, during which she will visit the East and Colombo.

A wedding took place recently at the Lutheran Mission Chapel between Mrs. Joan Ellis and Mr. Roy Emmett (Installation Officer, Vacuum Oil Coy. Lae). Mrs. Ellis was attended by Mrs. Prudence Frank and the reception was held at the Voco Staff Mess.

Mr. Fred Rode, of the Forestry Department, Yalu, with his family, has left on a holiday trip to Colombo. With Mr. Leo Bowman, of the Commonwealth Bank, who has also gone South, Mr. Rode was the guest of the Lae Cricket Association at a send-off at the Hotel Cecil. Both Mr. Rode and Mr. Bowman represented Lae in cricket and other sports, and during the evening presentations were made to them by their respective Clubs. They received from Mrs. Stewart, who is a keen supporter of all sports in the District, suitably inscribed pewter mugs.

At the Lae hospital, on March 2, a son—John Wilson—was born to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Fernan.

Mr. Phil Lucas, with his wife and family is spending a holiday in Sydney—the first for many years. He is a partner of the cartage firm of Lucas & Ducrow.

Mrs. Bob Morgan, wife of the manager of Robert Gillespie's, is also holidaying South. Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins, of Edie Creek, have returned from South.

ACCORDING to Lae's Town Plan two blocks were set aside for Club sites. However, when the local Returned Servicemen's League protested to the authorities that the sites were too small for club rooms, they were allotted an area covering the original site and half the adjoining one, and at the last meeting of the committee, ground plans for a club building were submitted, and discussed.

The site is on the Terrace overlooking the town, and the plans, which have not yet been finally decided upon, provide for club rooms, bar, accommodation for 12, outside public areas for visitors, Manager's quarters, and a swimming pool. Most of the materials have been secured and a bulk store is in the course of erection on the site.

Members are looking forward to the completion of their own club rooms, as the League has carried on in Lae under adverse conditions.

A visit from the Federal President, Mr. G. W. Holland, and the General Secretary, Mr. J. C. Neagle in March, primarily in view of the recent amalgamation of the Papua & New Guinea branches into a State Branch, will give an added impetus to the League's activities in the Territory.

IF reports can be believed, the completion of the new wharf at Lae, is now only a "matter of time." Carried out by the Department of Works & Housing, the work has extended into a "matter of about two years," and while shortage of materials has delayed the project, day labour does not appear to be the cheapest method of carrying out large projects such as this.

Tenders have covered, or will cover, the construction of wharves at Madang, Samarai and Port Moresby, and the excessive time taken in completing the Lae wharf, apart from the labour costs, appears to be an argument in favour of tenders being called. It is now stated, but no official statement can be obtained in confirmation or otherwise, that the Department is to start on preliminary work on the Markham Bridge. This seems to be a waste of time and money in view of staff shortages and lack of plant.

It is understood that private contractors, with necessary plant, etc., are interested, but not as sub-contractors to the Department.

FOR many years past, private tipper-truck contractors to the Department of Works & Housing have received an hourly rate of 25/-.

Interim Orders—a firm order—issued by the Department, covering the hire, have always specified the rate at 25/-. Recently, without notice or warning to the contractors, the amount was decreased to 22/6, and payments effected at the new rate. When the matter was brought under notice of the Officer-in-Charge, Lae, he advised that he was quite unaware of the change until it had been brought under his notice by contractors.

From inquiries made it appears that the change was made by an official in Port Moresby office of the Department, based on some old formula in existence in

Queensland some years ago. An assurance has been given that the balance will be paid at an early date. However, as the most recent Treasury acknowledgments are based on 22/6 per hour, the outcome is awaited with interest.

MT LAMINGTON, still in a very active state, has been the cause of severe "shakes" in this area. A recent tremor lasted for just on one minute and

was the most severe one since 1945. In one home a refrigerator was moved six inches, sewerage pipes were broken, and crockery thrown about in an alarming manner. Natives fled in every direction, and the air strip was the gathering place for most of them.

THE final of the Levisen Trophy matches for this season will take place at Wau towards the end of March, the old rivals—Lae and Wau—competing. The

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final match of the home and home series between Lae and Bulolo resulted in an uninspiring win for Lae, who secured the greatest number of points for the season.

Wau, as the holders of the trophy, have the right of challenge. Before the year passes it is probable that an inter-island series of matches will be arranged between the Morobe District, Port Moresby and Rabaul.

Mrs. Flo Stewart has donated a shield for this competition, but travelling costs have been against fruition of the scheme to date.

LUXURY TOURISTS IN POLYNESIA

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, Jan. 30.

THE Norwegian liner Stella Polaris, carrying 140 luxury tourists, arrived here on January 28 and left on the evening of the 30th; and in the three days they enjoyed a native feast at Tautira, a reception at the Hotel les Tropiques, with native dancing and singing, and many other arranged entertainments; and they put in much time—and

money—in the dancing cabarets—Queen's, Col Bleu, Lionel's, Christian's, Lafayette, Lido, etc.

The liner had an extra day here, because there is measles in Tahiti, which meant that she could not call at Rarotonga and Apia. She is going to Bora Bora, Raiatea (French Oceania) and Pago Pago (American Samoa) before proceeding to Suva.

ONE DAY IN SUVA

SUVA, Feb. 8.

The Stella Polaris spent one day in Suva. The passengers were early ashore and, in fine weather, they visited local spots of interest, and saw a meke at Albert Park and a fine display of hibiscus at the Parish Hall.

AUSTRALIA AND N. CALEDONIA

From Our Own Correspondent

NOUMEA, March 1.

RECENTLY a party of five girls, aged 17 and 18, from the Melbourne Church of England Girls Grammar School, visited Noumea and stayed with French families. It is expected that next year a similar number of new Caledonian girls will visit Melbourne. This follows last year's visit to Sydney of a party of 15 Caledonian schoolchildren. It is also recalled that a New Caledonian, Roger Benebig, is at present studying at a Melbourne technical school at the invitation of the Australian Government. In return, the New Caledonian General Council is offering facilities for an Australian student to live and study at the College de la Perouse, Noumea.

Dr. A. S. Frater, Principal of the Central Medical School, has returned to Suva from leave in the United Kingdom.

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Norfolk Island News

PROCEEDS of the sale of liquor on this island amounted to £15,448 during the year ending June 1950—against an estimated sale of £8,500. No one will take credit for this great increase—local moderate drinkers blame the Works and Housing staff for being so thirsty (it seems to be a habit to blame W. & H. for everything hereabouts) but whoever is responsible, for a so-called dry Island (there is no pub, but we acquire it on a permit system) of 1,000 men, women and children, we are not doing so badly.

APROPOS of grog: One of the leading guest-houses here applied for permission to operate a "house bar" for a couple of hours each evening and, for a while, it seemed that their chance of obtaining it was good. But then the local clergy took a hand, and the Advisory Council now says "No."

MANY of the residents of this island have been here so long that they have lost touch with mainland cost-of-living increases—many have forgotten what salaries look like—consequently the newly-published list of salaries being paid to local administration staff has caused some raising of eyebrows. Most public servants have secured increases of from £20 to £50 per annum and the Administrator's salary has gone up from £1,250 to £1,650.

AT the time of writing (February 21) foggy conditions are prevailing and planes from New Zealand are four days overdue. Although there have been lengthy spells when planes could land with safety it is reported that shortage of aircraft in NZ causes trouble if schedules are in any way disrupted.

Some visitors now on the island are broke as the spending money allowed by the NZ Government (£7) is exhausted and guest-houses are having to give credit for board bills.

Foggy weather was experienced in late December and early January also and played havoc with our big cash crop, bean seed. About 60 per cent. of the seed was affected by the damp.

THE TB survey of the Island is now completed and the result is pleasingly satisfactory as all but a few have been found free of the disease. Bovine tests were also carried out with equally satisfactory results.

WORK on the Anson Bay road is proceeding apace and big cuttings and fills have wiped out some of the old hair-pin bends and are bringing the road up to modern standards. Coral sand is being used for surfacing material and the use of chains in wet weather will soon be a thing of the past.

Correction

IN February Mr. W. Hapi Love, who for the past 12 months has been attached to the SPC Anti-TB Team as radiologist, was in Sydney on his way back to his home in New Zealand.

In our December issue we published a photograph of the Anti-TB Team and described Mr. Love as the brother of the late "Captain Hapi Love," CO of the Maori Battalion in the Middle East during World War II. Mr. Love's brother was the CO of the Maori Battalion until he was killed in action, but his rank was Lieutenant-Colonel and his name was E. T. Love. We regret the error.

The Loves are a distinguished New Zealand Maori family. The senior members of the family, Mr. and Mrs. Hapi Love, Snr., have done a great deal of work for

their own Maori people. For this work Mr. Love was awarded the OBE. Family connections well known in the Pacific Islands are Sir Peter Buck of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, and Dr. E. P. Ellison until recent years chief medical officer of the Cook Islands.

Lieut.-Col. Love's wife, the late Mrs.

Takau Rio Love, was Makea Nui Ariki, Paramount Chieftainess of Rarotonga.

Mrs. N. M. Eldridge, who arrived in Brisbane from Port Moresby recently, said that a new river had formed near the Mt. Lamington volcano. Flood rains in the district had formed the river.

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CORAL SEA CYCLONE

Islands and Shipping Lashed

THE cyclone which struck the centre of New Caledonia with force on February 26-27 had formed west of the Banks group, six days earlier and moved slowly south-west. By February 25, it was in the neighbourhood of Pott Island (in the Belep group, to the north of New Caledonia). It struck the Colony in full force, between Hieghene and Houailou, on the following day, and raged across the island to the west coast, between Bouloupari and Tontouta. By midnight on the 27th it had moved across the Coral Sea to within 135 miles off Norfolk Island.

Considerable damage was done at places in NC. At Noumea, where a downpour of 156 mm. was registered, a few barges and a cutter were sunk, telegraph lines broken, and houses slightly damaged.

A cutter, which went aground at Port Despointes, belonged to natives of the Isle of Pines.

In the New Hebrides and Loyalty group damage was slight. SS Polynesian, which went aground at Port Sandwich, Mallicolo, later got off without damage. The Chungking did not put into Port Vila, but continued direct to Papeete. The Sagittaire, which moved out to sea at the cyclone's approach, later returned to Santo.

Tontouta airport, New Caledonia, and Santo, NH, were temporarily closed to traffic.

In Santo, one of the more monumental piles of old junk thrown away by the American forces caused a flurry. After being beached for some years and its sectional pontoon holed in many places, this battle-scarred 75-ton floating crane yielded to the high tide and winds and once more put to sea. Fortunately, it struck some old piles which diverted it to a reef where it stranded hard and fast.

Heavy damage was reported from Malekula Island. Several natives are reported to have lost their lives and several villages destroyed. At Aoba Island one launch was wrecked and another owned by Mr. Stan Breusch, was washed ashore.

THE Canadian-built, 7,000 ton Victory ship, Tantara, arrived in Suva on March 2 after a five-day battle with the cyclone. She had been blown 650 miles off her course and narrowly missed being wrecked off the Loyalty Group.

The vessel is owned by the Johnson Welton Steamship Company of Vancouver and was on her way from Brisbane to Vancouver via Honolulu in ballast after discharging a cargo of timber, newsprint and paper pulp. She ran into the storm when she was north of Santo. She fought the hurricane for the next five days during which no sights could be taken. When the first sights were taken on February 27, the captain found that he was 45 miles south of Mare Island in the Loyalty Group—650 miles off course. During the storm the ship had gone unharmed through the narrow gap between Uea and Lifa Islands and missed reefs by less than a mile.

When the blow was over she had insufficient fuel to make Honolulu and had to put into Suva.

BURNS PHILP'S Morinda was loading logs at Aneityum, New Hebrides when the cyclone's "precursory swell" began to roll into the usually sheltered harbour from the N-W and made loading uncomfortable. By the second day the ship was rolling so badly that considerable damage to the ship resulted when the 8-ton logs were lowered into the holds. Towards nightfall, when the swaying logs seemed likely to carry away rigging and winches, Morinda's master, Captain Brett Hilder, ordered loading to cease and he

put to sea. They ran into tremendous seas which continued as far as Norfolk Island where no call was made owing to the rough weather.

The ship was empty, except for the logs which were dislodged by the violent motion, and caused considerable damage to the ship. During the worst of the storm the vessel was hove-to while the crew tried to secure the logs. On reaching Sydney, Captain Hilder said that at times he feared for the safety of his ship, although possibly the most dangerous period was towards the end of loading at Aneityum.

Morinda went into dock in Sydney to undergo repairs sustained in the cyclone.

One of the directors of the Colonial Development Corporation, Mr. H. N. Hume, is to pay a short visit to Fiji. He will be accompanied by his wife. They will be in the Colony from March 20 to March 24. While in Suva they will be guests at Government House.

Sir Brian Is Still Governor!

EVEN the most careful editors can make "blues." That well-known compilation, "Whitaker's Almanack," for 1951, on page 777, says that the Governor of Fiji is the esteemed and respected gentleman whom everyone else regards as the Chief Justice. Sir Brian Freeston expects to retire from the Colonial Office service some time in 1951; but he still is very much Governor of Fiji.

Lord Rennell, 2nd Baron of Rodd, and Lady Rennell, will be in Fiji from March 21 to March 24 and while in Suva will be guests at Government House.

Mr. T. W. Davis, Collector of Customs, Suva, has been promoted to the post of Assistant Comptroller of Customs. He joined the Customs Department 28 years ago. On several occasions recently he has acted as Assistant Comptroller and Comptroller.

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MADANG NEWSLETTER

From Our Own Correspondent

MADANG, March 1.
MR. and Mrs. Tom Warburton have returned from leave in Sydney, both looking fit after their holiday.

The Government Secretary, Mr. S. A. Lonergan, accompanied by his wife, visited Madang as part of his Territory-wide tour to discuss policy with the District Commissioners.

Townfolk wonder just how much high-ranking officials see when they are hurried from place to place by plane and car. Do they get an opportunity, from the window of a car, to view the true state of

the roads, bridges, houses, power plants, water supplies, townspeople and existing conditions?

An ABC news item on Mr. Lonergan's trip noted that Mr. Lonergan was impressed by the Madang swimming pool, tennis court and golf course. As yet I have not seen anyone swim in this pool and, if after five years rehabilitation, Madang can show only a pre-war, repaired tennis court and an attractive golf course to a Government Secretary, it indicates confusion in policy somewhere.

Mr. Stan White resigned his post as electrician in Works & Housing and returned to England on the Teviot Bank. Mr. S. Baker has succeeded him at the Power House.

On the MV Malaita came Mr. Jock Mackay's niece, Mrs. O'Halloran and her two children from Scotland. They will make their home with him at Bogia.

Some curiosity has been shown in the first European building, post-war, being erected on the Lutheran Mission site on the Eastern end of Gragan Island (Kran- ket). It is a workshop. Later, a home will be erected on the site where the late Mr. Radke and his wife lived and worked for so many years.

ABOUT twenty people gathered at a meeting to discuss the raising of funds for the victims of the Mt. Lamington disaster. Mr. Groves, manager of the Commonwealth Savings Bank, was elected receiver of moneys.

Another reliable clerical man was lost to the Administration when Mr. Lou Meek resigned. He now has a position with Works and Housing Department.

After looking at the Government Salary gazette, one wonders if the Administration, in its long-range planning has decided that one department will administer the outstations. It is hard to see why accountants, trained clerical men or technicians, most of them married men with families, filling jobs as Customs Collectors, Chief Clerks, Treasury Clerks, Wire-less technicians, mechanics or inspectors, should receive less than the salary paid to numerous female teachers, in many cases, junior to them in the service.

DURING a short visit to Madang, the town planners, Messrs. Walker and de Molle, who have at different times, previously visited the township, were interviewed by a deputation of prominent residents, who submitted their various ideas for modifications of the latest town plan.

It was decided that a meeting of residents should draw up amendments to the plan to be submitted to the District Commissioner.

Many Madangites wonder if the town planners have been close enough to be bitten by the millions of mosquitoes that inhabit the swamp area where they plan to dump the residents of Madang.

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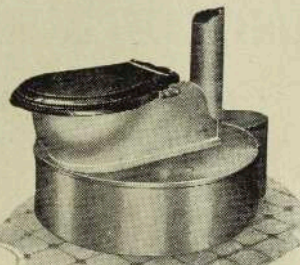
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Thousands of former sufferers from Asthma say that the very first dose of Mendaco brought them glorious ease and comfort, and that they slept soundly the very first night. Then their vigour returned and they felt healthier and stronger, and 5 to 10 years younger. The reason for this is that Mendaco acts in natural ways to overcome the effects of Asthma. 1. It dissolves, liquefies and removes the choking and intensive coughing. 2. It relaxes thousands of tiny muscles in your bronchial tubes so that the air can get in and out of your lungs. 3. It promotes body vigour, and stimulates the building of rich revitalised blood.

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News Notes from the Goldfields

From Our Own Correspondent

WAU, March 5.

THE Resident Geologist Mr. J. Thompson visited Gabenses in mid-February following a report of a phenomenon in the area. Mr. Thompson reports that the disturbance which deduced the hillside of all growth for about 5 miles square was meteorological rather than vulcanological.

Mr. Edwards, accompanied by Mrs. Edwards and young son Douglas have been visiting Wau in connection with this matter also. Mr. Edwards is the geologist from Port Moresby.

The Government Dentist from Lae, Dr. Alkazar, visited Wau during February.

The Government Secretary, Mr. S. Lonergan, whose HQ are in Port Moresby and his wife, accompanied by H. L. R. Niall, District Commissioner from Lae, visited Wau briefly early in February, returning to Lae by road.

The Catholic Church is now nearing completion and is being built on the pre-war site. Mr. L. Young is the contractor.

Mr. Ron Sagers, international cricketer, has been paying a brief visit to Wau and Bulolo.

The local natives are delighted at the recent innovation of "Boys' Night" at the local pictures. Pictures are screened in a building adjacent to the European Theatre.

VALUABLE METAL INDUSTRIES IN FRENCH PACIFIC COLONY

From Our Own Correspondent

NOUMEA, March 1.
THE Nickel Company's smelters at Point Doniambo, Noumea, which now employ 758 persons, is expected to produce 10,000 tons of nickel-metal per annum by 1952.

Of the present employees, 421 are Europeans, 156 Tonkinese, 146 Javanese and 35 are Melanesian.

New equipment is being installed. Stockpiling for war purposes should keep the smelters at full blast for a long time to come.

A Noumea paper reports that preliminary tests by Broken Hill of the 10,000 ton sample of New Caledonian iron sent to Newcastle by the Nickel Co. ship Quebec, have proved satisfactory. The next test will be to establish the "rolling qualities" of the steel obtained, and prove its suitability for industry.

It is recalled that before and after the last war Broken Hill technicians visited the huge deposits of the Plaine des Lacs, which the Japanese had started to exploit prior to 1942.

Broken Hill last year also sent a geologist to report on New Caledonian manganese deposits. This year small stocks are being built up at Nepoui and other places for export to Australia. The intention is to send 5,000 tons within 12 months.

Meanwhile, the Tiebaghi Company, which employs 511 people, is modernising its chrome mine plant; and improvements are also being effected at the nearby, French-owned, Chagrin mine. Other

chrome mines now being worked are of modest order.

At Pouembout on the west coast, the Nickel Co. produced 12,045 tons of gypsum in 1950, for use in its Doniambo smelters.

Mr. W. V. Banting has left Fiji for a short vacation in the United Kingdom prior to taking up his new appointment as Deputy Accountant General, Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. S. G. Holland, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, visited Fiji on his way back to NZ after attending the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London. He was accompanied by the New Zealand Secretary for Internal Affairs (Mr. A. D. McIntosh) and by his Private Secretary (Mr. K. M. Sleight). In Fiji he inspected the RNZAF establishments and consulted with the Fiji authorities on defence questions affecting Fiji in so far as they concerned New Zealand.

DON'T MISS THESE NOVELS

HARP IN THE SOUTH.—By Ruth Park. A best-selling novel and £2,000 prize winner in which courage and laughter in Sydney's slums triumph over the poverty and ugliness of the Darcy family's life. 12/6 (post 9d.)

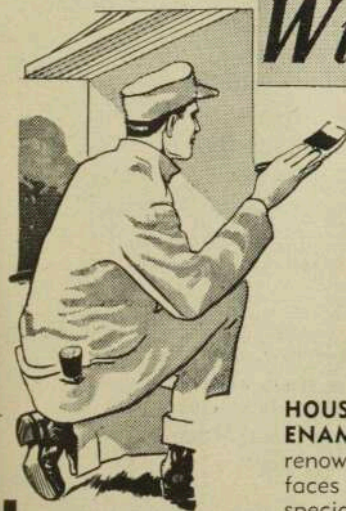
POOR MAN'S ORANGE.—By Ruth Park. Brilliant sequel to Harp in the South, this story reintroduces us to a world wherein squalor, beauty, laughter and misery mingle to form a rich and vital whole. 12/6 (post 9d.)

HIGH VALLEY.—By Charmian Cliff and George Johnston. An intensely dramatic story—also winner of a £2,000 literary competition—with a most unusual theme and a fascinating Tibetan setting. 12/6 (post 9d.)

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THE itinerary of the Canadian-Australasian liner "Aorangi" (17,500 tons) 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"			
Sydney (dep.)	Apl. 5	June 7	Aug. 9	Oct. 11
Auckland	Apl. 9-10	June 11-12	Aug. 13-14	Oct. 15-16
Suva	Apl. 13	June 15	Aug. 17	Oct. 19
Honolulu	Apl. 20	June 22	Aug. 24	Oct. 26
Victoria	Apl. 26	June 28	Aug. 30	Nov. 1
Vancouver	Apl. 27-May	June 29-July 1	Aug. 31-Sept.	Nov. 2-8
Victoria	May 3	July 5	Sept. 6	Nov. 8
Honolulu	May 10	July 12	Sept. 13	Nov. 15
Suva	May 19	July 21	Sept. 22	Nov. 24
Auckland	May 23-24	July 24-26	Sept. 25-27	Nov. 27-29
Sydney (arr.)	May 28	July 30	Oct. 1	Dec. 3

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Auckland	Mar. 15	Apl. 15
Suva	Mar. 19-20	Apl. 21-22
Nukualofa	Mar. 22-23	Apl. 24-25
Vavau	Mar. 24	Apl. 26
Niue*	Mar. 24	—
Pago Pago*	—	Apl. 26
Apia*	Mar. 25-28	Apl. 27-30
Suva	Mar. 31/Apl. 1	May 3-4
Auckland	Apl. 5	May 8

*Western Time.

Sydney—N. Caledonia— Tahiti

LINERS of the Messageries Maritimes maintain a service at about two-monthly intervals between Sydney, Vila (New Hebrides), Noumea (New Caledonia) and Papeete (Tahiti), en route to Marseilles, via the Panama Canal; and they return by the same route.

NEW CALEDONIA—NEW HEBRIDES

THE New Caledonian Government has subsidised and maintained the coastal shipping services. The East Coast, the West Coast, and the Loyalty Islands, under present conditions, receive 18 round trips per annum. The ships call at the following ports:

EAST COAST—Yate, Ounias, Thio, Nakety, Canala, Kouaous, Kua, Moneo, Ponerihouen, Hiharama, Poindimie, Wagap, Touno, Tipindje, Henghene, Tac, Oubatch, Pouebo, Balade, Pam, Arama, and return.

WEST COAST—Pouembout, Kone, Temala, Voh, Ounio Gomen, Kourac, Tangalou, Tiebaghi, Nehou, Poutme, Baaba, Belep and return.

LOYALTY ISLANDS—Mare (Tadine), Lifou

Chepenhe) Ouvea (Fajacou, St. Joseph) and return.

The steamer "Neo Hebridaïs" runs regularly between Noumea and Sydney, with occasional trips to the New Hebrides (mostly Anietyum). The owners are Societe Maritime et Maniere Hagen, Noumea. Sydney agents: H. C. Sleight, 704 George Street, Sydney.

The Messageries Maritimes motor-ship Polynesian sails from Sydney about every six weeks to Noumea, Vila and Santo (New Hebrides) and outports, with occasional trips to the Wallis and Futuna Islands. Details from Messageries Maritimes branch office, in Sydney, Noumea and Vila.

New Zealand—Cook Is.—Niue—Samoa

THE motor vessel "Maui 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).

Sydney—Papua— New Guinea

BURNS, PHILP LINE motor-vessels "Bulolo" and "Malaita" maintain regular services between Sydney and ports in Papua-New Guinea. "Bulolo" leaves Sydney, northbound, approximately every six weeks; "Malaita" every seven weeks.

"Bulolo" calls at Brisbane, Port Moresby, Samarai, Lae, Dregarhafen, Rabaul, Samarai, Port Moresby, Brisbane, thence back to Sydney.

The "Malaita's" schedule varies considerably. She calls at Port Moresby only occasionally, but usually calls at Samarai, Lae, Madang, Manus, Rabaul, Samarai, thence direct to Sydney—ports of call being in that order. Sometimes the order of calls is Samarai, Rabaul, Manus, Madang, Lae, Samarai. Intending passengers should check with Burns, Philp & Co., Ltd., Sydney, or Island branches.

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.

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On alternate Sundays (March 18, April 1, etc.), a second service is also operated, leaving Whenuapai at 9 a.m., arriving Norfolk at 12.55 p.m., departing again at 1.55 p.m., and arriving Auckland at 6.45 p.m.

FARES, single (in NZ currency): Auckland to Norfolk, £14; to Fiji, £31; to Tonga, £35/15/-; to W. Samoa, £39/10/-; to Aitutaki, £43/10/-; to Rarotonga, £45. Norfolk to Fiji, £19; Fiji to Tonga, £23/15/-; to W. Samoa, £13; to Aitutaki, £29; to Rarotonga, £31. W. Samoa to Rarotonga, £19; to Aitutaki, £16/10/-. Return fares less 10 per cent.

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Sydney—Queensland— New Guinea

Q.E.A. Ltd. operate regular services between Sydney and Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Rabaul, Bulolo and Wau via Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns.

This Service is known as the "Bird of Paradise" Service and DC3 Skymaster and DC3 Aircraft are used. The Skymaster aircraft leave

Sydney every Tuesday and Saturday at 9 p.m. and, making a night flight calling at Brisbane only, arrive at Port Moresby the following morning at 8.05 a.m.

The Skymaster arriving on the Wednesday connects with a DC3 from Port Moresby to Bulolo and Wau via Lae the same day, while the Skymaster arriving at Port Moresby on Sunday connects with two DC3s from Port

Moresby, one flying direct to Rabaul on the same day and the other flying to Lae.

A DC3 aircraft leaves Madang on Tuesdays at 3.45 p.m., nightstops at Lae and departs Lae at 7.10 a.m. on Wednesday to connect with the Skymaster leaving Port Moresby at 10.30 a.m. for Sydney via Brisbane, arriving Sydney at 10 p.m.

Two DC3 aircraft leave Lae at 7.10 a.m. on

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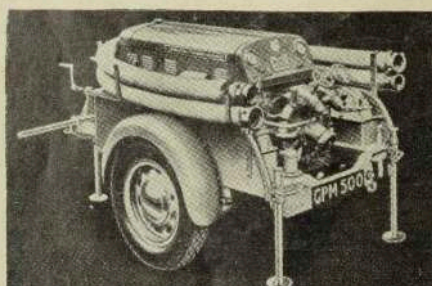
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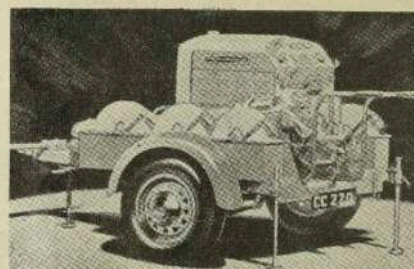
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Sunday to connect with the Skymaster leaving Port Moresby at 10.30 a.m. for Sydney via Brisbane, arriving Sydney at 10 p.m. the same day. DC3s leave Sydney at 8.15 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, calling at Brisbane, Rockhampton, and nightstopping at Townsville. The following morning they depart Townsville at 5.20 a.m., calling at Cairns and Cooktown and arriving at Port Moresby at 11.10 a.m. and Lae at 1 p.m. The aircraft which arrives at Lae on Tuesdays extends to Madang the same afternoon.

Return flights leave Lae at 5.45 on Mondays and Thursdays, departing Port Moresby at 7.35 a.m. and proceeding to Sydney the same day, via Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane (with an optional call at Rockhampton), arriving Sydney at 10.15 p.m.

The service leaving Lae on Thursdays, also connects with a DC3 leaving Wau the previous afternoon at 3.30 p.m.

Every Monday a DC3 leaves Rabaul at 7 a.m. for Port Moresby departing Port Moresby at 10.50 a.m. for Cairns and Townsville. The following morning it departs Townsville at 8.15 a.m. calling at Rockhampton and Brisbane and arriving Sydney at 5 p.m.

QANTAS SUBSIDIARY SERVICES IN PAPUA-NEW GUINEA-SOLOMONS

Qantas Empire Airways run the following subsidiary services in Papua, New Guinea, and British Solomons:—

A Douglas DC3 leaves Lae, New Guinea, every Saturday, and flies to Rabaul, and Kavieng, and returns to Lae; but every alternate Saturday the plane goes on from Kavieng to Manus, and returns via Kavieng to Rabaul (overnight) and returns to Lae on the Sunday morning.

In addition a DC3 leaves Lae every Friday morning at 6 a.m. and flies direct to Manus Island arriving at 8.20 a.m. This aircraft returns to Lae the following day departing Manus at 3.40 p.m. and arriving Lae at 6 p.m.

Every Wednesday a plane flies from Lae to Madang, and after arrival at Madang operates where and when required. This service is primarily for the carriage of native labourers and Europeans travelling on this service are always advised of the fact.

Every alternate Monday, a Qantas Catalina flies from Port Moresby, westward to Daru, via Yule Island, Kerema, Wana, Kikori, Lake Kutubu,

returning to Port Moresby, via Kikori and Kerema the same day.

Every alternate Wednesday, a Qantas Catalina flies from Port Moresby eastward (dep. 10 a.m.) and calls at Abau and Samarai before flying out to the Archipelagoes in the afternoon. Calls are made at Esa'ala and Losuia (where an overnight stop is made), and the following day (alternate Thursdays) at Deboyne Lagoon, before returning to Port Moresby, via Samarai and Abau.

Every alternate Monday, a Qantas Catalina leaves Port Moresby for Rabaul, via Abau, Samarai, Esa'ala and Losuia (New Britain); next morning (Tuesday) it flies to Queen Carola Harbour, Buka, Kietia, Buin (Bougainville) and returns to Rabaul with an optional stop at Inua, next morning (Wednesday) it flies to Talasea, Moewe Harbour and Jacquinot Bay, and returns to Rabaul (with an optional stop at Lindenhafen) and next morning (Thursday) it returns from Rabaul, via Losuia, Esa'ala, Samarai, and Abau, to Port Moresby.

Every alternate Monday a Qantas Douglas flies from Lae to Rabaul via Finschhafen and continues on to Honiara (British Solomon Islands), via Torokina, Vellalavella and Vandina remains overnight at Honiara; and returns to Lae the following day (Tuesday), over the same route.

Every Tuesday and Friday a plane leaves Port Moresby at 7.30 a.m., reaches Kokoda at 8.35 a.m., flies on to Higatura (Popondetta) at 8.55 a.m., and leaves again for Port Moresby at 9.5 a.m., reaching there at 10.15 a.m.

Dragon DH84 aircraft operate the following internal services in New Guinea:—

Every Tuesday depart Madang for Goroka, Kainantu, Aiyura, Arona, returning to Madang at noon the same day. Calls as required for loading are made between Arona and Madang.

Every Thursday departs Madang at 7 a.m. for Wabag, Baiyer River, Mt. Hagen, with optional calls at Kerowagi and Chimbu, and returning to Madang at noon the same day.

Every Friday departs Lae at 6.30 a.m. calling at any or all of the following places as required. Nadzab, Kiaipit, Arona, Aiyura, Kainantu, Bena Bena, Goroka, Chimbu, Kerowagi, Kup, Nondugl, Banz, Minj, Mt. Hagen, Ogelbeng, Baiyer River, Wabamunda, Wabag.

Daily, except Wednesdays and Sundays, depart Lae at 3 p.m. for Bulolo and Wau, returning direct from Wau to Lae the same day, arriving at Lae 5.5 p.m.

Trans-Tasman Service Sydney—Auckland

TASMAN Empire Airways, Ltd., operate a flying-boat service between Rose Bay, Sydney, and Mechanics Bay, Auckland, with a fleet of four new Solent flying-boats each with a capacity for 45 passengers, in seven self-contained cabins on two decks. Full fresh-cooked meals are served en route. Average crossing time is 6½ hours.

Fares: £35 (A), £28 (NZ), single; £63 (A), £50/8/- (NZ), return. Passenger reservations may be made in Australia at any office or agency of Qantas Empire

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Trans Tasman Services Sydney—Wellington

TASMAN Empire Airways, Ltd., operate a regular flying-boat service between Sydney and Wellington with Solent flying-boats. Services depart Sydney at 10.30 p.m. on Tues-

day, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday; and depart Wellington at 11 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The fares are: £A35, £NZ28 single; £A63, £NZ50/8/- return.

Sydney—Norfolk Is.

Qantas run a DC4 Skymaster alt. Thursdays (returning same day) from Sydney to Norfolk Island. Fare, £25 single; £45 return.

(For Norfolk Island, see also under NZ National Airways.)

Sydney—New Hebrides

QANTAS operate a service to the New Hebrides with Sandringham flying-boats calling at Noumea, Port Vila and Espiritu Santo. Frequent non-scheduled flights are made, subject to the approval of the Governments concerned.

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.

B.C.P.A. services make regular connections at both San Francisco and Vancouver for onward carriage, via either New York or Montreal to the United Kingdom or Europe. The through fare from Sydney to London is £325 (Aust.).

The fares for the Pacific flight are: Sydney-Nandi (Fiji), £A57/15/- single, £A103/19/- return. Sydney-San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles or Vancouver, £A265/8/- single,

£A477/15/- return. Auckland-Nandi (Fiji), £NZ31 single, £NZ55/16/- return. Auckland-San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles or Vancouver, £NZ197/3/- single, £NZ354/18/- return.

Douglas DC6 aircraft carrying 48 passengers (seated) or 37 passengers (in sleepers) and a crew of nine are used on the service.

(During April additional services will be run, leaving Sydney each Friday at 11 a.m., and San Francisco each Tuesday.)

France—Indo-China— Aust.—N. Caledonia

THE French national airways, Air France, runs a monthly service between Paris and New Caledonia, and return. Stops are made at Damascus, Karachi, Calcutta, Saigon, Batavia, Darwin, Brisbane.

DC4 Skymasters are used in the service between Saigon and New Caledonia. Lockheed Constellations between Saigon-Paris, and Messageries Maritimes are agents in Australia.

Fare between Brisbane and Tontouta (Noumea) are £30/12/6 single, £55/2/6 return. Sydney-Tontouta, £37/10/- single, £63/17/6 return.

(Note: After some disruption this service is now back on regular 28-days schedule.)

Darwin—Netherlands New Guinea Service

THE service between Batavia, NEI, and Biak, Netherlands New Guinea, has been discontinued and a new service from Darwin to Biak and return has been inaugurated.

The service is run by the Netherlands Government, with DC3 aircraft, chartered from KLM Airlines. The service is run once weekly.

TOA Services

TRANS Oceanic Airways run the following Pacific services:—

SYDNEY-LORD HOWE IS.: A regular twice-weekly service with large four-engine flying-boats from Rose Bay. Fare: £10/16/- single; £21/12/- return. Free baggage allowance 44 lb. Excess baggage and freight rate 8d. per lb.

NOTE: Sydney-Moresby service expected to start in April.

SYDNEY-HOBART: The company now runs a thrice-weekly service direct to Hobart, Tasmania, from Sydney. It will be possible, therefore, for passengers to book from Moresby to Hobart, making an overnight stop in Sydney. Fares are: £12 single, £24 return.

Sydney—Noumea—Suva

THE following is the time-table of the Qantas Sandringham flying-boat:—

Sydney	dep. 9.30 p.m. alt. Tues.
Noumea	arr. 6.30 a.m. alt. Wed.
Noumea	dep. 8.20 a.m. alt. Wed.
Suva	arr. 2.30 p.m. alt. Wed.
Suva	dep. 6 a.m. alt. Fri.
Noumea	arr. 10.30 a.m. alt. Fri.
Noumea	dep. 12 noon alt. Fri.
Sydney	arr. 7.15 p.m. alt. Fri.

Intending passengers may book through Qantas offices in Australia, Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, in Suva; and J. Brock, in Noumea.

The fares for this service in Aust. currency are:—

	Single.	Return.
Sydney-Noumea	£37 10 0	£67 10 0
Sydney-Suva	55 10 0	99 18 0
Noumea-Suva	20 5 0	36 9 0

TEAL Flying Boat Service

Auckland — Fiji

WITH 45 seater Solent flying-boats, Tasman Empire Airways, Limited, operate a weekly Auckland-Suva-Lambasa and return service.

Aircraft depart Mechanics' Bay, Auckland, a half hour after midnight, each Tuesday, and operate to the following time-table:—

dep. Auckland	0.30 a.m. Tuesday
arr. Suva	7.00 a.m. Tuesday
dep. Suva	9.00 a.m. Tuesday
arr. Lambasa	10.00 a.m. Tuesday
dep. Lambasa	noon Tuesday
arr. Suva	1.00 p.m. Tuesday
dep. Suva	7.00 a.m. Wednesday
arr. Auckland	1.30 p.m. Wednesday

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Fares (Single): Auckland-Suva, £31 (NZ). £34/9/- (Fijian), £38/15/- (Aust.); (Return): £55/16/- (NZ), £61/19/- (Fijian), £69/15/- (Aust.).

Suva-Lambasa (Single): £4/10/- (NZ), £5 (Fijian), £5/12/6 (Aust.); (Return): £8/2/- (NZ), £9 (Fijian), £10/2/6 (Aust.).

Reservations may be made through TEAL (New Zealand), Qantas or TAA (Australia), NZNAC (Suva) or any leading travel agents.

N. Caledonia-Tahiti

TRAPAS (Societe Francaise de Transports Aeriens du Pacifique Sud-Noumea) runs a monthly service from New Caledonia to Tahiti. Western Samoa (Paleolo), Cook Islands (Aitutaki) to Papeete, where it arrives at about 11.40 a.m. two days later. One evening is spent in Nadi and one night in Aitutaki. The plane returns by the same route in the following week. Fare from Noumea to Papeete is 16,000 Pacific francs single, and 28,800 return. (142 Pacific francs equal £1 Australian.) While the plane is at Papeete it runs one round trip between Papeete and Bora Bora.

(This service was temporarily suspended in late November—but there is no sign of its restoration.)

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, Pischhafen, 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.

WAU HAS A BOARDING SCHOOL

Enterprise of Lutheran Mission

From Our Own Correspondent

WAU, March 5.

NOTHING more has been heard of the proposed Wau High School, the building of which was deferred last year by the Department of External Territories. But Wau is to have a boarding-school nonetheless.

The Lutheran Mission is spending approximately £40,000 on a co-educational establishment built on an elevated position on a lease purchased some time ago.

The two large dormitories, separated by self-contained matron's quarters, are capable of accommodating 40 children. Two teachers have already arrived—one from the United States, the other from South Australia—and have found well-planned quarters awaiting them. These two young women expect to start their teaching jobs on March 13 when there will be an initial enrolment of 19 children.

The school house is a large airy building containing two large classrooms which can be thrown together by opening folding doors, a library and a science room. Recreation and dining rooms, with all electric kitchen and laundry form a separate unit. The establishment has hot and cold water services and a sewerage system. Water comes from a 25,000 gallon underground tank.

Six guest rooms are to be built to accommodate the parents of the pupils. Parents are entitled to spend four to six weeks each year with their children in Wau's healthy climate and it can be imagined that this will be popular with coastal residents. The Mission intends to run its own dairy herd, poultry and vegetable gardens.

This ambitious undertaking now nearing completion is a monument to the industry of the Mission's local representative, Mr. L. Berendorff.

Mr. Terence F. Fenton, accompanied by his wife and three children, arrived in Fiji recently from New Zealand to take up an appointment as an Assistant Works Engineer (Development). He is the son of Mr. E. P. Fenton of Suva.

The Canadian cruiser HMCS Ontario will visit Suva from March 17-20. She is a Colony Class Cruiser of 9,000 tons. After leaving Fiji she will take part in exercises with the Australian and New Zealand fleets off the Australian coast.

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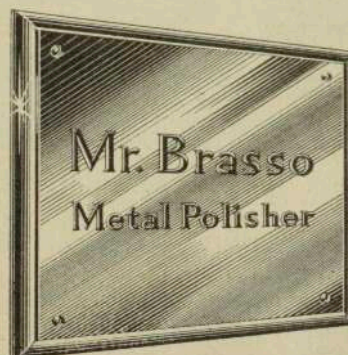
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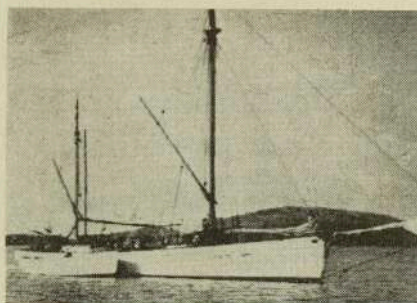
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40 FT. WORKBOAT, with 83 h.p. G.M. diesel. Remote control steering. One suit sails.

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We have available immediately, a splendid range of auxiliary and power craft ideally suited for Islands purposes. Let us know your special requirements so that we can send you photographs and details. Sea deliveries made by experienced crews to any point in the Pacific.

ARE LAMINGTON REFUGEES BEING MOLLYCODDLED?

Letter to the Editor

THE Administrator, broadcasting, said he was finding tremendous difficulties in the feeding of some 4,000 natives who have been displaced by the Mt. Lamington eruption. Presumably the good old Australian taxpayer is paying for it all.

Is it not time that someone introduced a little realism into this situation? Why should these Higaturu natives be kept indefinitely in the camps, in idleness? Why should Australia be asked to bear the cost of a disaster that is purely a New Guinea affair?

Those displaced natives are to be put into a new area. Why should not all who are capable of working be divided into two sections; one section made available on wages, to employers, who are facing a very definite labour shortage; and the other section to the task of preparing the new villages? That way, the refugee would be gainfully employed, and given some funds wherewith to start their new life.

One has every sympathy with all the victims of disaster, who must have help. But one may not forget that the first plank of the present Administration appears to be the Mollycoddling of natives.— I am, etc.,

OLD PLANTER.

Lae, 1/3/51.

SCIENTIFIC WAR ON FIJI WEEDS

FROM the Fiji Public Relations Office bulletin of February 21:—

The Fiji Government Entomologist (Mr. B. A. O'Connor) made a short visit to Brisbane recently to obtain a colony of a fruitfly, *Euaestha aequalis*, which breeds in the seeds of the Noogoora Burr, a weed which occupies considerable areas of alluvial soil in Viti Levu. This fly was originally introduced to Australia from Texas USA, and although it has had no significant effect on the burr in Australia it has been decided that it is worth a trial in Fiji where better results may be obtained under Fiji's climatic conditions.

During May, 1950, Mr. Alan P. Dodd, Officer in charge of the Biological Laboratories of the Department of Public Lands, Queensland, collected for the Fiji Department of Agriculture 100,000 burrs of which 30 per cent. were estimated to be parasitised by the fly. It was decided that the burrs themselves could not be brought to Fiji, owing to a slight risk that they might bring in with them the Australian cattle tick, which transmits fatal diseases of cattle. Hence it was necessary that the parasites, in the larval and pupal stages, should be dissected from the burrs in Queensland, and then brought to Fiji. There was no information as to whether the flies could successfully emerge from pupae which had been removed from the burrs, but there was no alternative but to try this method. It proved to be very successful.

A laboratory was made available, and the services of a number of Queensland University students were secured for the arduous task of dissecting many thousands of burrs. As a result 2,400 puparia and 1,400 larvae of the parasite were flown back to Fiji, where the flies are now emerging satisfactorily.

The main liberation of the parasite is being made in the Sigatoka Valley, and others may later be made at Nadi and at Ba.

25 YEARS IN PAGO PAGO

From a Special Correspondent

ONE of Pago Pago's most popular and interesting personalities, who this year will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his arrival in American Samoa, is Mr. Henry A. Zuberano.

From his home in Washington, DC, Mr. Zuberano arrived in Pago Pago on March 29, 1926, to be Clerk of the High Court and Assistant to the Secretary of Native Affairs.

He also has held various additional posts — Chief Customs Officer, Manager of Land Transportation, of the Print Shop, of the Island Government Farm and Assistant to the Attorney-General.



Henry A. Zuberano

When America entered World War II in December, 1941, Mr. Zuberano, a member of the US Naval Reserve, was called to active duty as a Lieut., and was later appointed a Lieut. Commander. He served as Assistant to the Captain of the Yard, United States Naval Station, Tutuila, and as Intelligence Officer and Chief Base Censor for Samoa. Subsequently, he became a member of the staff of Major - General H. L. Larsen, USMC, and, together with Col. Bales, made the original surveys and reports in connection with the stationing of Marines in Western Samoa, and the construction of the airfield at Faleolo. Later, he served on the staff of Major-General C. F. B. Price, USMC, who directed the Samoan Defence Group which, in addition to American and Western Samoa, also included Wallis, Gilbert and Ellice, Penryhn, Aitutaki, Borabora and the Tokelaus. This appointment necessitated frequent visits to these areas, as well as to Tonga, Fiji, New Caledonia and other bases.

In 1944, Mr. Zuberano was appointed to the staff of Admiral C. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief Pacific Ocean Area, for duty in connection with the Military Government programme. He was with the Sixth Marine Division in the Okinawa campaign, and later was appointed commanding officer of Military Government activities in the northern district of Okinawa. In June, 1945, he was Prosecutor for the Military Commission convened at Okinawa for the trial of Japanese war criminals. He was in Japan when the Peace Treaty was signed, visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki at that time, and was in Korea when the Military Government was set up there.

In 1946, Mr. Zuberano returned to American Samoa to resume his duties as Clerk of the High Court, and Registrar of Matal Titles and Land Titles. His work brings him into close touch with the Samoan people, by whom he is held in

affectionate regard, and his long association with them has given him a deep understanding of their character and traditions. Many Samoan leaders who have now passed on were well known to him—Mauga Moimoi and Tuilefano (two who signed the original Deed which ceded Eastern Samoa to the United States), Tufele Faatoia, Lelato Tanu, Tuitele, and Pele and Lutu (two former District Judges). He also has many friends throughout the other Pacific Islands, particularly in Western Samoa.

Cosmopolitan, collector of paintings and books—he has in his possession the first Samoan Bible printed at Malua, Western Samoa, and has a fine collection of books on Samoa—Henry Zuberano is fundamentally a man of simple tastes. He has always regarded Pago Pago as a perfect refuge from the rather doubtful joys of civilisation, and, even after 25 years, its quiet, informal pattern of life still appeals to him.

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Marsellie, France.

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As for myself, having a painful morning cough, too—a few puffs of "Aspaxadrene" . . . and the result is simply amazing.

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(Signed) REV. A. D—.

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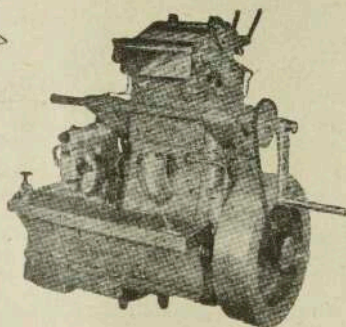
TYPE RJ2 DIESEL

20 b.h.p.
at 1,200 r.p.m.

Built-in reducing gear gives propeller speed of 700 r.p.m.
Direct injection, hand starting. Electric starter extra if required.

Overall dimensions

Length—48½ in. (1,231 mm)
Width—24½ in. (622 mm)
Height—43½ in. (1,108 mm)
Weight—1,456 lb. (660 kilos)



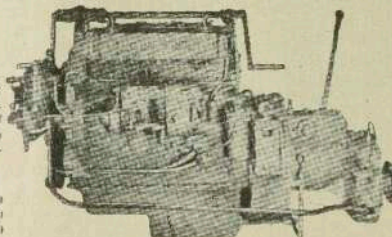
TYPE RTR4 DIESEL

25/30 b.h.p.
at 1,500/1,750 r.p.m.

Direct drive to propeller or with 2-1 reducing gear. Direct injection, hand starting. Electric starting extra if required. Also available with electric starting only if preferred.

Overall dimensions

Length—52 in. (1,321 mm)
Width—27 in. (685 mm)
Height—35 in. (889 mm)
Weight—1,100 lb. (499 kilos)



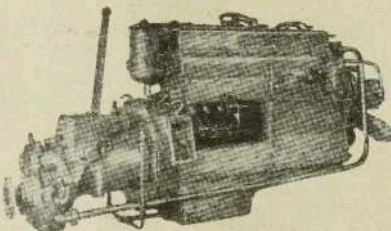
TYPE RTR6 DIESEL

40/65 b.h.p.
at 1,300/2,250 r.p.m.

Direct drive to propeller or with 2 to 1 reducing gear.

Overall dimensions

Length—62½ in. (1,589 mm)
Width—24½ in. (622 mm)
Height—37 in. (940 mm)
Weight—1,428 lb. (650 kilos)



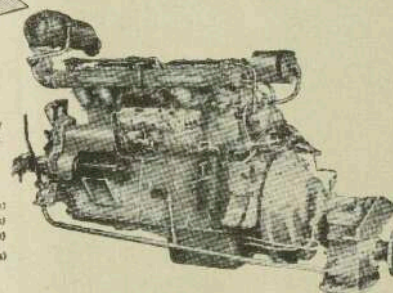
TYPE RNR6 DIESEL

60/90 b.h.p.
at 1,200/1,600 r.p.m.

Direct drive to propeller or with 2-1 or 3-1 reducing gear. Oil-operated reverse gear.

Overall dimensions

Length—85 in. (2,160 mm)
Width—28 in. (712 mm)
Height—54 in. (1,372 mm)
Weight—2,240 lb. (1,016 kilos)



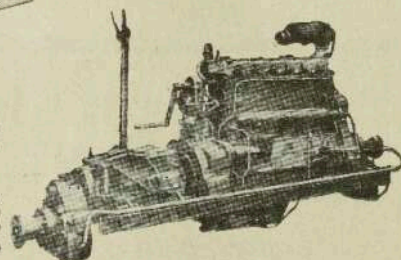
TYPE RL6 DIESEL

95/145 b.h.p.
at 1,200/1,800 r.p.m.

Direct drive to propeller or with 2-1 or 3-1 reducing gear.

Overall dimensions

Length—105 in. (2,660 mm)
Width—32 in. (816 mm)
Height—60 in. (1,527 mm)
Weight—4,060 lb. (1,841 kilos)



TYPE DB2

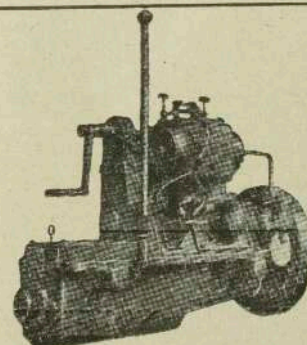
the famous "Handybilly"

Petrol Model—9 b.h.p.
Paraffin Model—7½ b.h.p.

Built-in reducing gear gives propeller speed of 700 r.p.m.

Overall dimensions

Length—38 in. (966 mm)
Width—21½ in. (546 mm)
Height—31 in. (789 mm)
Weight—672 lb. (305 kilos)



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Theatre Lae Has Town-Plan Troubles

MRS. N. VENNING and Mr. H. Starr, proprietors of the Theatre Lae, Lae, New Guinea, were in Sydney in March sewing-up new film contracts with all leading film distributors.

But although they have the exclusive Lae rights from the 14 leading companies, they have not, as yet, been able to get any satisfaction from Lae's town-planners just as to where and when they may build their permanent theatre.

The current town-plan, it is understood, makes provision for Lae's picture theatre on a site where the present hospital stands. The hospital is due for a move to new quarters also, but if the building of this goes according to the usual Territory schedule it may be a matter of two years or ten. In the meantime, enterprises—including the theatre—which have been allotted sites covered by the existing hospital evidently must sit meekly and wait.

Starr and Venning built their "temporary" theatre, on the flat, expecting that it would have to last two years. That was four years ago. They are ready and eager to build their steel-framed permanent theatre in the new town, as soon as their land becomes available—on the present hospital site or anywhere else that the town-planners graciously permit them to build. But they, like the rest of Lae's enterprising citizens, have got about as much satisfaction out of the Planners or the authorities as one expects from a monument of stone.

Life generally in P-NG has been a maze of frustration in the post-war years and a high percentage of it has been caused by the so-called town-plans—admirable in intention but in fact veritable iron-curtains which have prevented the quick and orderly rehabilitation of Territory towns and their commerce.

However, although Theatre Lae has not been permitted to move up "on top," patrons will soon be getting MGM films there at the same time as they are released in Australia. That is quite a change from the good old days "before," when a five years-old picture was considered good enough for Island movie patrons.

FIJIAN FIGHTERS IN AUSTRALIA

FIJIAN fighters in Australia are popular, and the fight crowds give them a good reception.

The leading fighter in the group is the light-heavy and heavyweight champion, Atunais Camaibau—or Henry Bray as he is known in Australia. In eight fights, against top-ranking Australian boxers, he has won five times. One of his recent fights was against Dave Sands, middle-weight, light-heavy and heavyweight champion of Australia, also British Empire Middle-weight champion and contender for the World's Middleweight Crown. Bray lost on a TKO.

Amongst other Island boys fighting in Australia at the present time are feather-weight Arthur Moore, who has had two fights, and two wins, and Jack O'Brien, a middleweight from the Ellice Islands. Another Fijian lad with the team is Eugene Wakeham, who does the massaging of the Fijian boxers and also helps Mr. Bert Anderson, their manager and trainer, as his chief second in their corners.

Mr. R. M. Taylor, Financial Secretary, Fiji, and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Garnett returned to the Colony in February after overseas leave.

A well-known old resident of the Territories left Sydney on the March Bulolo for a visit to Papua-New Guinea. She is Mrs. Lillian Millar, better known in the old days as Mrs. Bennett. When her husband, Mr. Toby Millar, went off for service in the Middle East in early 1940, Lillian became a VAD, and nursed in Australian military hospitals for three years. Later, she was an ambulance driver in Queensland for the American Army, and a billeting officer for the Netherlands Air Force. After the war, she was Liaison and Accommodation officer in Sydney for ANA, and in 1949 she joined with ex-serviceman A. R. Coventry in the establishment of a real estate and travel agency in North Sydney. In her inimitable way, she goes to much trouble to find flats or book travel for Territorians arriving in Sydney, and thus has created a valuable business.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Stephens, who have been holidaying in Brisbane, have returned to their home in Manus Island, NG.

DESTINATION OF THE ADMIRAL CHASE

THE well-known Islands freighter Admiral Chase, 3,000 tons, registered in Port Moresby under the ownership of Islands Transport (New Guinea) Co. Ltd., was held up in Sydney for three days when on the point of sailing for Indonesia, Singapore and the East with Australian produce.

The Australian Customs prevented departure until officials had investigated a report that the vessel was on the point of being sold to Chinese interests which might have some connection with the Chinese Communist set-up—with which we are actually at war. The ship was then given a clearance.

It was reported, on behalf of the owners, that a British firm was interested in the purchase of the ship. If the sale took place she would continue trading between Pacific Islands.

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Golden Wedding of Well-known NG Residents

A photograph taken on the occasion of the Golden Wedding of Captain and Mrs. J. Duncan, in Sydney, on February 9. Shown at left of photograph is Mrs. Jess Ross, who was down from Lae for the occasion (see Feb. PIM).

As a further celebration of the occasion, Mrs. Duncan gave a morning tea party at the New Guinea Women's Club, Sydney, on February 13. Thirty members were present. The President of the Club presented Mrs. Duncan with a set of teaspoons bearing the crests of the different Australian States.

Captain Duncan returned to the Territory on March 13.

FIJI INDIAN BARRED FROM NEW ZEALAND

Official Explanation Should Be Given

AN explanation from either the Government of New Zealand or the Government of Fiji seems to be called for in relation to the case of Chantra Pratap Sharma, 24, a Fiji Indian who has been studying in New Zealand, with a view to securing a degree in accountancy. Recently he has been attending Christchurch University classes and supporting himself by working for a Christchurch firm of accountants.

He has been refused permission to remain in NZ, to continue his studies, and the NZ Customs Department refuses any information.

If, as is understood, Sharma is a British subject, born in Fiji, he has definite rights and privileges; and the facts that he is of Indian blood, and that the Fiji-Indian community is a political problem for the British Colonial Office have nothing whatever to do with the case.

There may be several reasons why the further residence of Sharma in NZ is considered undesirable; but, until one or other of the Governments concerned gives an explanation, it naturally is assumed that the Fiji-Indian is being kept out on racial grounds; and that in the present circumstances of the British Commonwealth, would be a very bad thing.

PAPUAN SERVICE LOSES MR. W. H. HALFORD-THOMPSON

AFTER 40 years of "correcting" cannibals, evading arrows, and patrolling thousands of miles of Papuan jungle, Mr. W. H. Halford-Thompson says that he is returning home to Devonshire.

He arrived in Brisbane recently in the Bulolo from Port Moresby, on the first leg of his journey home.

In 1911 he went to New Guinea as a young patrol officer fresh from England. The first three years, he said, were rather an adventure, as his job was catching cannibals and "weaning" them from certain items on their menu.

Mr. Halford-Thompson told the Press he was the first white man to enter the then hostile Kikori territory, 200 miles west of Port Moresby.

Four years which he spent away from Papua from 1914-1918 were occupied in fighting Germans in the Cameroons, West Africa. For the last 20 years, which he described as peaceful, he has been an administration officer at Daru and Yule Island, 60 miles west of Port Moresby.

Now finished with New Guinea, Mr. Halford Thompson said that his main regret was that he was leaving his boy, Pete, whom he described as being a faithful servant to him for 15 years.

Twice in 40 years Mr. Halford-Thompson has visited England—once in 1914 to rejoin the Gloucester Regiment, and two years ago to "refresh memories of Devonshire."

DEATH OF MR. J. M. WILSON

WORD was received in Sydney on March 13 of the death that day in Fiji of Mr. J. M. Wilson, who retired some years ago from the post of Collector of Customs. He spent the whole of his official life in the service of the Fiji Customs Department. After he retired, he lived for some time in England; but, a couple of years ago, he returned to and took up his permanent residence in the Colony. He was widely esteemed, both as an official and as a citizen, and many friends will learn with regret of his passing. Two sisters—Mrs. Ria Wishart and Miss Jane Wilson—are residents of Fiji.

DEATH OF MRS. M. CARRUTHERS

MRS. MALIA CARRUTHERS, widow of the late Richard Hetherington Carruthers, died in Apia, Western Samoa, on February 19. She was 92. Her husband, who died 45 years ago, was, at the beginning of the century, one of the pioneers of the cocoa industry in Western Samoa.

Mrs. Carruthers is survived by one son, Mr. I. H. Carruthers, founder and senior member of the firm of I. H. Carruthers, Ltd., of Apia who now resides in Auckland and four daughters, Mrs. M. Jessop-Yandall, Mrs. W. H. Cobcroft, Mrs. C. H. King and Mrs. J. H. Bulcroft of Auckland.

The funeral at Tufuioa Cemetery was attended by a large and representative gathering. The Rev. P. Kightley officiated at the graveside.

Mr. E. Meier, who is an expert brewer, and the new general manager of the local Company which is preparing to make beer in Port Moresby for the Papua-New Guinea market, paid the Territories a visit in March. Mr. Meier was born in Hungary, and educated in Germany. He was connected with European breweries but, for the last 12 years, he has been in charge of breweries in Alexandria and Cairo, in Egypt.

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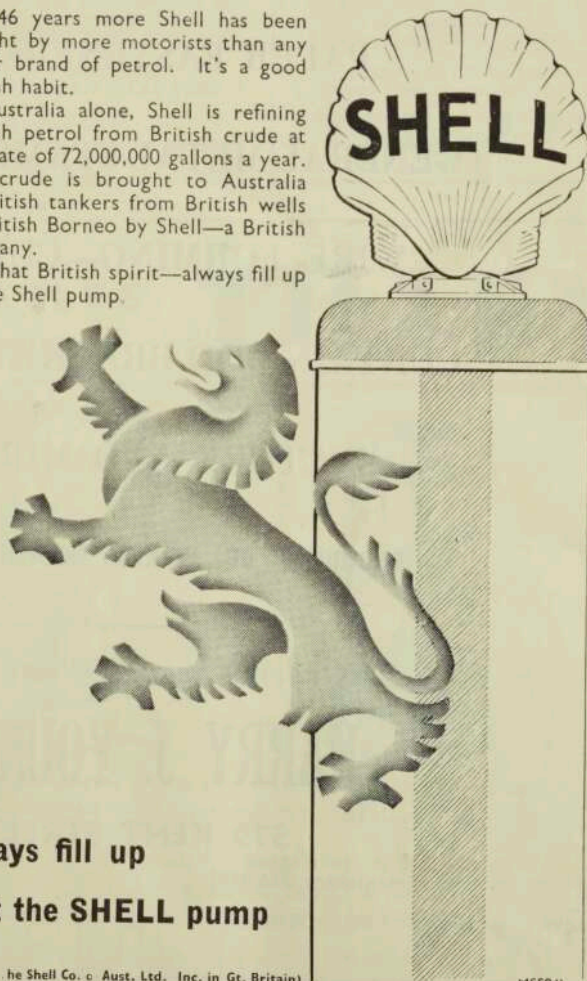
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COCONUT PLANTING CAMPAIGN IN FIJI

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, March 1
FOLLOWING on the successful banana planting campaign by the natives of the Southern District of Fiji, the Colony's Department of Agriculture has decided to do as much for the coconut-growing Fijians.

The aim for this year is 15,000 acres of new coconuts planted; but the plan does not stop there—it is hoped to encourage the Fijians to make regular plantings for each year for the next 10 years and at the same time to improve, by building better driers, the quality of their copra.

(Ed. Note: This plan to plant new coconuts is in contrast to the state of affairs in Papua-New Guinea and BSI where virtually no new planting has been undertaken since before the war.)

NAMING SUVA'S STREETS

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, March 1.
MANY streets in Suva and its suburbs, especially in newly developed areas, are still un-named. Recently a committee met to advise the Director of Lands on the selection of suitable names for streets in sub-divisions of Crown land.

Among the names recommended are those of former Governors and prominent citizens of the Colony. Fijian names have been recommended only when they can be easily pronounced by non-Fijians. They include the names of birds, fishes, flowers, trees and islands. It is intended to publish a list of the Committee's recommendations shortly.

WOT—ANOTHER RESEARCH SECTION!

Letter to the Editor

IF, with a new Minister for Territories, there is to be a review of Territories Administration, there should be an investigation of an extraordinary set-up which recently has appeared in the Department of External Territories, Canberra.

It is called the Department's Research Section; and its job seems to be to conduct research into the various matters which presumably have baffled Departmental Secretary Halligan, Administrator Murray, and the Territories corps of Experts headed by the Director of Planning.

The Research Section seems to comprise about half a dozen researchers, who have dug themselves in comfortably, and have the usual little staff of typists and clerks. It appears to have been in existence over a year, and it is said to have been created when the Australian Public Service Board, on Prime Minister Chifley's recommendation, forced Mr. Halligan to organise a research service.

When it is remembered that the South Pacific Commission was formed at Australia's instigation; that the Commission now maintains a highly expert Research Council which concerns itself with the problems of the Pacific Territories; and that most of the Papua-New Guinea Departments already have research men, the Canberra set-up appears ridiculous.

Why was it created, what does it do, and how much does it cost?

I am, etc.,
AUSTRALIAN TAXPAYER

Sydney.

Mr. and Mrs. Mal Creed, of Port Moresby, accompanied by their two children, are holidaying in Warwick, South Queensland.

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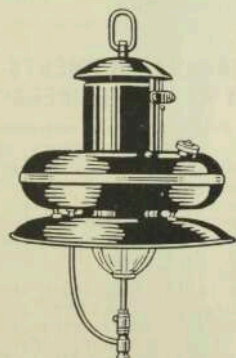
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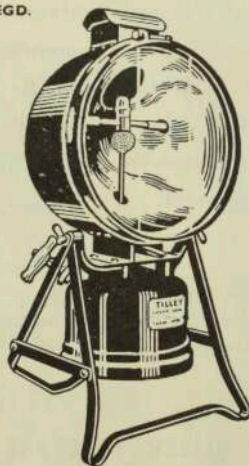
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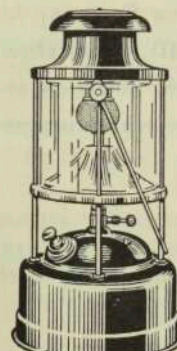


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ISLAND INDUSTRIES NOW MAKING COOKING OIL IN FIJI

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, March 1.
TO a growing extent, Fiji copra is being used locally for manufacturing purposes. Soap, coconut oil and coconut meal have been made for many years by Union Soaps Pty., Ltd., and more recently Island Industries, Ltd., have entered the field with the manufacture of margarine in addition to oil and meal. Island Industries has recently put three new products on the market. They are cooking oils, designed to meet the needs of the Indian population of Fiji. Much of the cooking oil now used in the Colony is imported from overseas.

Island Industries, Ltd., is a subsidiary of W. R. Carpenter & Co. (Fiji), Ltd.

FIJI CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES REVISION

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, March 1.
IN February circulars were sent to all Fiji Civil Servants giving details of the new salaries and salary scales and conditions of service resulting from the revision which follows the report by Mr. E. Mills last year.

Some salaries, notably those of senior officers in the Medical, Education and Prisons Departments are still under consideration.

Except in special circumstances officers are required to accept or reject the new salaries and conditions of service before April 15. The new terms will be retrospective to January 1, 1950. Leave and passage grant conditions are not included in the present option as it was recommended by Legislative Council that the new conditions should not apply to serving officers unless they receive substantial promotion. As the question of the future of the Provident Fund for Fiji civil servants and the possibility of transferring it into a pensions scheme is still being considered, pensions and retirement conditions are also excluded from the present option.

FIJI BANANA SHIPMENTS HIT BY NZ WATERSIDERS' STRIKE

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, March 8.
SHIPMENT of bananas from Fiji was held up in early March owing to the prolonged watersiders' strike in New Zealand. The fate of other bananas shipped by the Matua is unknown—presumably they were not unloaded in Auckland.

About 14,000 cases which should have been shipped by the Sierra, on March 6, were held back and bananas were selling locally at 2/- per bunch. On March 7, Mr. A. B. Ackland and Mr. L. F. Garnett flew to Auckland to discuss the whole matter with importers and the New Zealand authorities.

The Institut Français d'Océanie, attached to the Office de la Recherche Scientifique Outre-Mer, has its headquarters at Anse Vata, Noumea where work was started in 1948. Six laboratories have been established and research is carried out under the following heads: Ecology, biological oceanography, phytopathology, entomology, ethnology, geophysics and forestry.

Australia's Nightmare :: Jap Colonists in New Guinea

RESIDENTS of the South Pacific Islands, especially those who experienced the horrors of the invasion in New Guinea, Solomons and Gilberts, will not like some angles of the Peace Treaty talks now going on between the United States and Japan.

It is felt that the time has come to officially end the war with Japan. The completion of a Peace Treaty has been cunningly prevented for years by Russia, as part of her plan of obstructing and embarrassing the Western Powers. Now, however, the Treaty will be completed, whether Russia likes it or not. America proposes that a re-armed Japan shall be the first line of her Pacific defence against Red Asia.

Naturally, Japan is agreeable; but her politicians are preparing to make the shrewdest possible bargain. In return for co-operation with United States against Red Asia, the Japs want—

- The return to them of the small groups of islands immediately southwards of Japan—especially the Ryuku and Bonin archipelagoes—and the Kurile chain, to the northward.
- Permission to transfer a large number of Japanese (some reports say 5 millions) from the home islands to New Guinea, for permanent settlement.

The Americans seem inclined to look with favour upon both demands. The small groups of small islands referred to really belong to Japan, and there will be no objection to their return. But the nations interested in the South Pacific—especially Australia—are unwilling even to consider any plans for Japanese migration into Melanesia.

New Guinea, next to Greenland, is the world's biggest island. New Guinea is capable of great commercial exploitation and development. New Guinea could carry ten or twenty times its present population of 14 million—and it is unlikely that the natives will multiply quickly. Japanese would be the ideal colonists for this huge tropical island—industrious, ingenious, enterprising.

But how can Australia, already fearful of Asia's thousand million hungry people, tolerate the thought of introducing millions of Asia's most aggressive race into the island that, hitherto, has been regarded as Australia's natural barrier against Asia? Australia has been very "jittery" lately because there is a possibility of Japanese settling in Western New Guinea, just across Torres Strait. Indonesians would be far less a formidable foe than Japanese.

THE Americans, thinking only of their plan of building up Japan as **THEIR** barrier against Asia, will try

to persuade the Australians that the Japanese now are reformed—that they may be accepted in New Guinea as trustworthy neighbours.

No Australian who saw the Japanese, between 1920 and 1940, spying out every island and reef in the South Pacific, or who remembers the horrors inflicted by these sub-human beasts upon our soldiers and civilians in Burma and Ambon, Tol and Tarawa, or who has read the evidence being slowly accumulated at this moment in the war criminal trials at Manus, will ever accept the Japanese as trustworthy allies or desirable neighbours.

This may become a lively and very embarrassing issue. The Japanese archipelago already is woefully overcrowded, and the people, with typical Asiatic fecundity, are increasing at the rate of probably 2 millions per annum. Japan's number-one problem is how to make proper provision for the feeding of her 90 million population. There must either be enormous oversea trading and importation of foodstuffs and raw materials (as before World War II); or emigration.

Maybe, if the Muscovite did not threaten to destroy Western civilisation, and Japan were not needed to take a place in our defences, Japan would be left to solve her own problems in her own way. She forfeited all claim to our help and consideration in "that moment of infamy" when, in the dawn of December 7, 1941, she struck at Pearl Harbour. Unhappily for all of us, she cannot be left alone, or kept unarmed.

But even the logic of the Cold War cannot induce Australians to look with tolerance upon the proposal that Australia shall have Japanese neighbours in New Guinea. So, what?—R.W.R.

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ISLANDS cocoa prices are usually based on the ruling rate for Accra cocoa (West Africa), quotation for which early in March was £315 Stg., c.i.f. (equivalent to £393/15/- Aust.). Quotation supplied by Colyer Watson Ltd., Sydney.

Pacific cocoa beans were quoted (sellers) nominally on the Sydney market in March at:—

New Guinea: £340-£350 Aust. per ton, ex wharf.

New Hebrides: No supplies available in Sydney at present.

W. Samoa: Sydney agents reported early in March that Samoan cocoa prices had fallen

slightly—to £280 Samoan (£A350) per ton. (Samoan currency equals Sterling).

TROCHUS SHELL

Nominal Sydney quotations in March were: Thursday Is., £220 per ton, f.o.b.; New Guinea, £235 per ton, c.i.f., Sydney; Solomon Is., £255 (a parcel sold in February at this price is believed to have been the highest f.o.b. Sydney price yet obtained for BSI shell); Fiji, £P90 (£A101/14/-) per long ton on the beach at Suva; New Caledonia, approximately 14,000 francs per ton, Noumea.

COFFEE

Nominal quotations are:—

New Caledonia: Production exported to France at above normal rates (equivalent to £A450 per ton for Arabica, £A400 for Robusta).

New Guinea and Papua: Nominally £375 to £425 per ton (c.i.f.), according to quality.

VANILLA BEANS

Papeete merchants recently quoted 325 francs per kilo for French Oceania vanilla beans.

Recent price for Tahiti beans quoted in Sydney (by J. C. Merrillees Pty., Ltd.) was: White Label, 12/6 per lb., c.i.f., Sydney.

RICE

Price of rice shipped from Sydney to Islands ports is fixed at: £50 per ton White and £54 per ton Brown. The price comes up for revision on May 1, 1951.

GREEN SNAIL SHELL

A nominal quotation in Sydney in March was at £150 per ton, c.i.f., for f.a.q. shell.

PEARL SHELL

By a term contract between the Otto Gerdau Company (USA) and the majority of Torres Strait pearlers, TI shell prices were fixed in 1949 (for three years) at: Sound grades £A325 per ton, f.o.b., TI; "D" grade, £A225; "E" grade, £A125—all plus bonuses.

The 1950-51 Torres Strait pearling season reopened in May. Purchase price for the independent pearlers' output, after negotiation with overseas buyers, was finally set at approximately: £A580 per ton for Sound grades, £A465 for "D" grades and £A340 for "E" grades.

COPRA

Papua - New Guinea.—Production Control Board's fixed price, delivered to ship's slings or ANGPB warehouses, as from March, 1951: At main ports, Hot-air Dried, £54/5/- per ton (at Kokopo, £52/17/6); Smoked, £53/12/6 (at Kokopo, £52/5/-). Official price (as from March, 1951) for Papua-New Guinea copra sold in Sydney to crushers: Hot-air Dried, £74/10/-; Smoked, £73/17/6. Australia has a 9 years' contract with Britain for the disposal of all Territories' copra surplus to her own needs, and the above prices are based on the British MOF rate of £53/15/- Stg. per ton.

Fiji.—From January 1, 1951: £53/15/- Stg. (£55/5/- Fijian to planters) per ton, FMS. Fiji has a 9 years' contract with UK Ministry of Food for all copra exported.

New Hebrides.—Price at Vila and Santo is £95 Aust. per ton.

Western Samoa.—Producers in 1951 will receive £45/11/- Samoan (par with Sterling) per ton, f.o.b., Apia. This price is based on an MOP rate of £53/19/- Stg. per ton, less £5/7/11 Samoan Export Duty and £3/0/1 Copra Stabilisation Fund.

Solomon Is.: Producers receive £A51 per ton, f.o.b., for copra shipped from Honiara or Yandina ports (based on £53/15/- Stg. MOP price). Fr. Oceania.—Papeete merchants recently have paid 9,350 Pacific francs per 1,000 kilos for Tahiti copra (about £70 Aus. per ton).

RUBBER

Sydney trading firms use the London and Singapore day-to-day quotations as a basis when buying Papuan rubber. Overseas prices in early March again rose to record levels. The rate on March 5 for No. 1 grade RSS (sellers) was: Spot: Nominally 73½d. Stg. per lb., c.i.f., London (equivalent to 91½d. Aust. per lb.); Singapore, RMA No. 1 (sellers) 229 cents per lb., f.o.b.

ISLANDS MINING SHARES

	Aug., 1939.	Feb. 1.	Mch. 1.
Emperor Mines ..	b9/11	s9/-	b7/6
Loloma ..	s25/6	b27/-	b28/-

NEW GUINEA			
Bulolo G.D. ..	b124/-	b50/-	b61/-
Enterprise of N.G.	b27/6	b5/-	s10/-
Guinea Gold ..	b13/3	b1/8	b2/3
N.G.G., Ltd. ..	b1/10	b1/3	b2/4½
Placer Development	b68/6	b178/-	b195/6
Sandy Creek ..	b1/5	s1/-	b4d.
Sunshine Gold ..	b6/5	b7/6	s8/-

PAPUA			
Cuthbert's Misima	s16/6	b3d.	b4d.
Mandated Alluvials	b3/8	b1/-	b1/6
Oil Search ..	s3/11	b3/9	b3/8
Oriomo Oil ..	b5/-	s2/2	s2/1
Papuan Apinaipi ..	b4/11	b1/6	s3/6

Price of Gold.—Commonwealth Bank of Australia's fixed price for gold bought in Australia and Islands Territories is: Fine oz., £A15/9/10; Standard oz., £A14/4/-.

Exchange Rates

THE following exchange quotations show the rates existing in Sydney in mid-March:

FIJI			
Through Bank of NSW and Bank of New Zealand:—Australia on basis of £100			
Fiji: Buying, £A111/2/6; selling, £A113.			
London on basis of £100	London:—	Buying	Selling
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Telegraphic transfer ..	111 2 6	113 0 6	
On demand ..	111 2 6	113 0 6	

WESTERN SAMOA			
Through Bank of New Zealand:—Australia on Western Samoa on basis of £100 Samoa: buying, £A123/12/6; selling, £A124/10/9.			
Samoa-London on basis of £100	London:—	Buying	Selling
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Telegraphic transfer ..	100 7 6	101 10 6	
On demand ..	99 9 3	101 10 6	
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 on basis of £1 Samoa (telegraphic transfer): Buying, 2.7991 dollars; selling, 2.7586 dollars.			

PAPUA-NEW GUINEA
Commonwealth Bank of Australia (branches: Pt. Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Madang) and Bank of New South Wales (branches: Pt. Moresby, Lae, Rabaul) quote an exchange rate between Australia and Papua-New Guinea of 10/- per £100.

FRENCH PACIFIC COLONIES

Post-war, the franc, instead of having the same value in all parts of the French Union, was given different values in different Colonial Groups—Group 1 (Metropolitan France), France, North Africa, West Indies, French Guiana, Group 2 (African francs): All African Colonies, Madagascar, Reunion, St. Pierre, Miquelon, Group 3 (Pacific francs): New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Fr. Oceania. Exchange values, in francs, at present are (nominal only, subject to daily fluctuations):—

	£ Stg.	USA Dol.	£ Aust.
Group 1 (Metrop.)	981f.	349.20f.	777f.
Group 2 (African)	490	175	888
Group 3 (Pacific)	178.37	60	141.76

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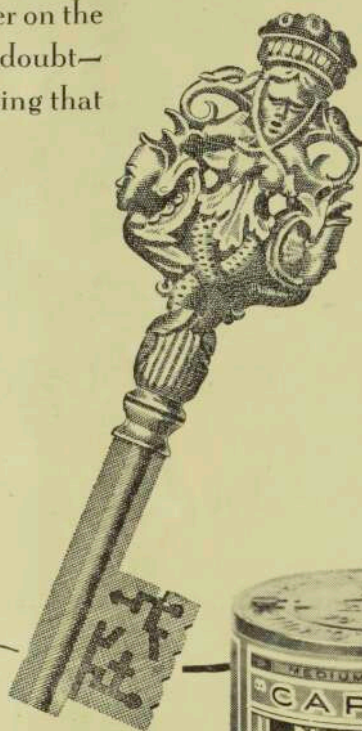
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