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THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY, AUGUST 16, 1930

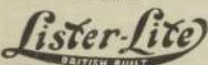


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The London Missionary Society's new steamer "John Williams V." will leave England in the middle of September for the Gilbert Islands, via Suva. The old John Williams, known these many years in every Islands port, will undergo permanent retirement.

THE MAGIC OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by simply operating a number of isolated stations in the Pacific, Britain could not hope to meet this competition. Fortunately, Britain saw the force of the argument; Mr. Plak's suggestion was accepted; and to-day A.W.A.'s Australian coastal stations are closely operated in conjunction with the wireless networks in New Guinea, Papua, and Fiji, where three large and many small installations are in charge of A.W.A. men.

SUVA-KABAU—PT. MORESBY

The radio station at Suva is a very important one. Not only does it handle all traffic with the three Fijian sub-stations (at Labasa, Savu, and Tavuni), which are placed outside the Fijian telephone and telegraphic services, but it also maintains communication with the main radio stations in Samoa, Tongan Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Caledonia and New Hebrides. None of the latter are under A.W.A. control, though working with A.W.A. in close co-operation and harmony.

The daily broadcast of weather reports from Suva has proved of inestimable value to shipping, and to residents throughout the Pacific, particularly in the hurricane season.

The second centre is at Bita Paka, near Rabaul, on the great island of New Britain, which is part of the New Guinea (mandate) administrative area. This station not only handles all telegraphic traffic between Sydney and New Guinea (now a very considerable volume), but also maintains contact with its numerous sub-stations throughout the territory—namely, Alifan, Madang, on the New Guinea mainland; Manus, in the Admiralty Islands, northwards of Rabaul; Kavieng, in the island of New Ireland; Kieta, in Bougainville, one of the Solomon Islands, which is included in the mandate; Bulolo and Salamona, on the goldfields in the interior of New Guinea. Rabaul Radio also has regular contact with the stations at Suva, in the Gilberts; Green Island (headquarters of the Gilbert and Ellice administration); Vankoro (in the Santa Cruz group, part of the Solomon Islands administration); and Tulagi (headquarters of the Solomon administration).

The third important Islands radio centre controlled by A.W.A. is at Port Moresby, capital of Papua. This station communicates with Samarai, at the eastern end of Papua, and with Townsville, Thursday Island and other Australian coastal stations. It maintains contact with the private installations of the oil-boring companies when operating in Papuan Territory.

WHAT A.W.A. IS DOING

The whole of this vast A.W.A. network, which 20 years ago would have seemed a fantastic dream, is being operated to-day with complete efficiency. The Islands residents are now in close contact with the rest of the world, sending and receiving messages in ever-increasing volume. They can receive at exceptionally low rates from Sydney a daily bulletin, summarising the news of the world.

It may fairly be claimed for Amalgamated Wireless, with its efficient plant, splendid personnel and ever-widening sphere of operations, that it will rank in the future with great firms like Burns Philp & Co. Ltd., Morris Hedstrom Ltd., and others whose activities have profoundly influenced the development of these Southern Pacific lands. Radio is changing the Islands from a semi-legendary region of adventure and romance into a home for prosperous, healthy and happy Europeanised communities.

OTHER RADIO NETWORKS

Up north, in the Caroline and Marshall Islands, there is a wireless net-

work operated by Japan, which holds these groups under mandate. There are stations at Truk and Ponape, administrative centres in the Eastern Carolines; at Palau and Yap, administrative centres in the Western Carolines; and at Angaur. There is a station at Jaluit, the chief town of the Marshalls, and at Saipan, administrative centre of the Mariana group (which is part of the Japanese mandate). Truk, Jaluit and Saipan maintain contact with Honolulu, but most of their traffic, of course, is routed via Japan.

The administration at Nauru (where considerable British, Asiatic and native population works the phosphate deposits) maintains a wireless station, which communicates chiefly through Rabaul, Suva, Oceania Island (headquarters of the Gilbert and Ellice administration) has contact with three succursals—Tarawa, in the Gilberts (operated by Burns Philp), Berau (mission station), and Oona (British Phosphate Commission).

Contact between the British Solomon Islands Protectorate and the wireless world is maintained via the wireless station at Tulagi, the administrative centre. There are also two privately-owned stations in the Solomons—one at Roviana, in Gizo, owned by the Methodist Mission; and one at Vankoro, in the Santa Cruz group, owned by the Vankoro Kauri Timber Company.

Communication with the large and flourishing French Colony of New Caledonia is maintained through the wireless station at Noumea. This magnificent island is equipped with 900 miles of telegraphs and 750 miles of telephone wires, so there is no need for radio sub-stations; but in the popular dependencies included by France in the New Caledonia administration—Islands of Pinel, Wallis Islands, Loyalty Islands, Futuna—there is plenty of use for radio sub-stations.

The station at Vila, the administrative headquarters of New Hebrides Condominium, is worked by a British and French operator. The bulk of the traffic is with Noumea, but there is also daily communication with Suva.

Radio communication is fully availed of in the wealthy British protectorate of Tonga. The main station at Nukunolo, maintained by a British and French operator, communicates with Suva and Apia. The sub-station at Vavau has been in existence for some years, communicating only with Nukunolo, and last year the Government ordered the installation of three more sub-stations.

WHAT NEW ZEALAND IS DOING

There is a fine, modern station at Apia, headquarters of New Zealand's administration of Western Samoa. There are sub-stations at three other centres on Upolu and Savaii, and at Fakaofo, chief town of the Tokelau Islands, now governed by New Zealand from Apia. A most interesting fact is that the operators of all these sub-stations are educated natives. Apia and sub-stations, in 1929, handled messages containing over 570,000 words.

In Eastern Samoa (American) there is a high-powered station in Tutuila, and sub-stations on the islands of Tau and Ofu.

New Zealand also makes full use of wireless in her administration of the Cook Islands and Niue. The station at Rarotonga communicates with Apia; and sub-stations in the islands of Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangaia communicate with Rarotonga. The large island of Niue, with its separate administration, maintains a station in direct communication with Apia.

Still further east, France maintains a radio network by which the outlying Islands of the Society, Paumotu and Marquesas groups are kept in contact with the administrative headquarters at Papeete, chief town of Tahiti.

GILBERTIAN REGULATIONS

How They Hamper Australia's Pacific Trade

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY has been established with two main objects.

The first is to provide the residents of the Islands communities with a summary of news of personal interest to them, and with a review of world events and conditions which are likely to affect them. It is not proposed, for instance, to supply residents of Fiji or Papua with Fiji or Papua news, but it is intended to make news of events in Fiji available to other communities in the Pacific who are interested in what is happening in Fiji.

The other purpose is to bring constantly before the public the numerous handicaps and disabilities which either retard the development of Australia's trade relations with the Pacific Territories, or make it difficult to hold our present connections.

There are numerous stupid and irritating regulations and laws, some Gilbertian in character, which have done much to cripple our trade in recent years, and which will be dealt with in detail by this journal in later issues. Here are a few of them.

The most notorious instance of the destruction of our Pacific Islands trade by stupid officialdom is the action taken by the Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners at the end of the war, when copra was declared a dangerous commodity. There had been one or two fires in copra cargoes; and the Harbour Trust Commissioners, with altogether insufficient data, imposed regulations in regard to the handling of copra in this port which added enormously to the cost of transport. Up to that time, Sydney was virtually the clearing-house for the South Seas copra traffic.

The result of the new laws was that a great proportion of the copra trade was driven elsewhere, and the loss to Australia, and to Sydney in particular, can be computed in millions of pounds. Although warned in most urgent terms by Pacific traders, the Harbour Trust held stubbornly to its regulations for three or four years. Then it surrendered—but by that time the damage was done, and the trade was gone. It is one of the greatest tragedies in the history of Australian commerce.

"SEEDS"

There is a regulation that when Islands produce which can possibly be classified as "seeds" is received, the consignee, before they can take possession, must obtain a certificate from the Department of Agriculture that the seeds are free from plant diseases and pests. This regulation applies to copra, for instance, and to cocoa beans. The regulation is a mere ridiculous formality, serving no purpose which can possibly be regarded as useful—yet it represents much waste of time and expensive clerical work.

There is a regulation that no shipment of canned fruits may go out of this port until the Customs Department has received at least two tins for "sampling" purposes. It is an entirely useless formality, and is now simply regarded as "a little present for the Customs officials." Islands traders say that they cannot remember one case in which a shipment has been condemned, otherwise interfered with as a result of an examination of the "samples."

Which Is the Best Lager

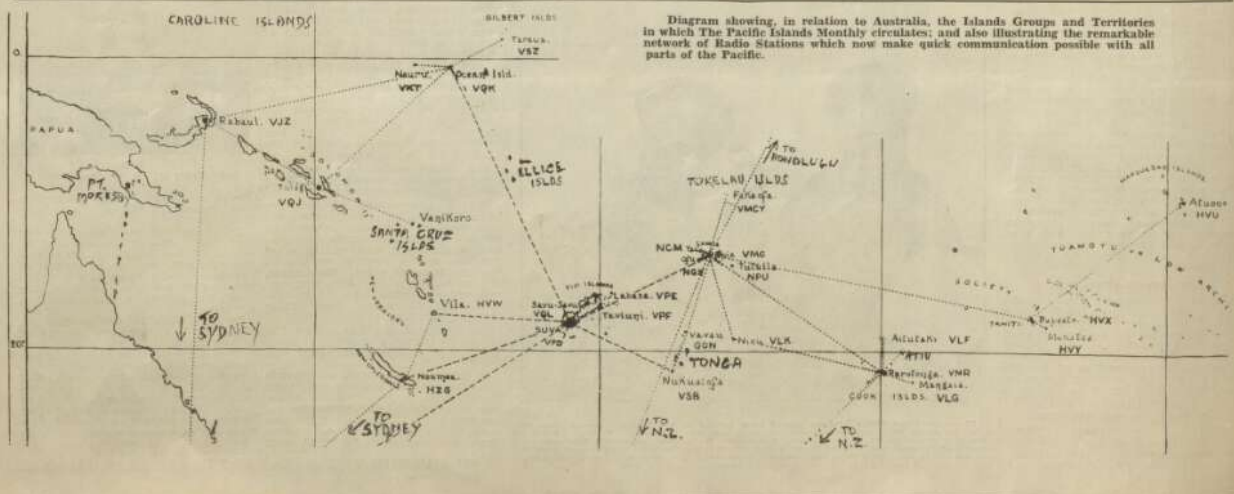
for Consumption in the Semi-Tropical Territories of the South Seas?

The Question was Discussed Recently in a Well-known Pacific Islands Club. Tests were Made. Australian Members were Consulted, and the VERDICT was Definitely in Favour of the Products of Australian Breweries.

And the Majority of Those who Voted for Australian Ales Declared Specially for

TOOHEY'S PILSENER

THE NEW LIGHT LAGER



IS EDIE CREEK ANOTHER RAND?

Great Development Awaits Only Solution of Transport Problem

ISLE DEL ORO—Island of Gold—was the name of New Guinea 300 years ago. That was when Alvaro de Saavedra, Commander of the Spanish Exploration Fleet, visited its palm-girdled shores in 1528. After him, it seems probable other explorers and navigators headed for this "treasure island," the glitter of gold serving as a powerful magnet to the venturesome.

On Germany annexing the territory in 1884, some prospecting work was done. It is on record that when the Great War broke out, Dr. Haber, the Acting-Governor, a mining expert, as well as a practical business man, was returning from the Waria River, after examining the possibilities of dredging the area.

Prior to that, three Australians—Bill Parkes, Jim Preston and Pat Crowe—had received the Bird-of-Par-

The goldfield at Edie Creek, in the almost inaccessible interior of New Guinea, was discovered in 1925. In two years, it produced £380,000 worth of gold. To-day gold is coming out at the rate of over £300,000 per annum. Yet, in the whole Edie Creek-Bulolo-Wau district, there are only a few hundred people, supplied by aeroplanes. What amazing developments shall we not see when, eventually, engineers solve the problem of connecting the new El Dorado with the coast by means of road or railway?

knew of the trials the gold-seekers would have to endure in that forbidding mountain range.

And those trials materialised, soon enough. The men must have possessed wonderful spirit to battle through as they did. Tired and footsore, they they toiled up the mountains to their goal, experiencing every kind of hardship.

For delivery of food supplies, the prospectors had to rely on native portage, only obtainable at exorbitant prices. The natives themselves looked upon the 60-miles trek to the mountain settlement with dread. Apart from the tortuous track, there was the ever-present danger of marauding tribes sweeping down on them. Head-hunting was a recreation with the blacks in that region.

Some of the miners pegged rich claims, and quickly turned their trip to



A Junker aeroplane at the Wau Aerodrome on the goldfields. Natives can be seen unloading bags of ore from the machine. The wild, mist-shrouded mountains in the background give an idea of the nature of the country.

dis shooting permits from the German Imperial Government, on the understanding that the proceeds were to be spent prospecting for gold at Koranga Creek, a tributary of the Bulolo River, near Edie Creek.

In 1920, Australia took over the territory of New Guinea under mandate from the League of Nations. Prospecting went ahead with renewed vigour, but met with little success until Mr. William Royal, with a party of three white men, in 1925, came on an El Dorado, high up in the mountains alongside Edie Creek. The news of this first soon reached Rabaul. Then the race commenced. Loggers well past their sailing days and even native canoes were brought into commission for the trip to that low-lying strip of land—Salamao—the port nearest the almost inaccessible goldfields.

Prospectors in Australia, with vivid memories of Yukon and other fields, were quick to realise the opportunities of this tropic clime. As a result, the mail steamer for Salamao Bay was packed on each trip, even the open decks being used for accommodation.

SOME FORTUNES WERE MADE

The scene changes to Salamao, with its palms waving in the gentle breeze, seeming to express disdain of this invasion of their age-old solitudes. "Let them find out for themselves," they nodded to one another, as though they

good account. Others were not so fortunate. There was a certain amount of lawlessness, but the Government's representatives always held the upper hand.

On the field, one figure alone with the brilliance of a tropic star—Mrs. Mary Booth, the first white woman at Edie Creek. She had accompanied her husband there, and every day, after hard work at their claim, heroically performed the duty of nurse to ailing miners. Her personality, her devotion to the sick, and the fortitude she displayed during her two years' stay, won for her the admiration and affection of



A view of Salamao, the port of the goldfields.

all. For her noble, untiring work, she was recently awarded the Order of the British Empire, an honour richly deserved.

ENTER THE PLANE

The arrival of the first aeroplane at Wau, two years after the initial rush, revolutionised transport. The trip could now be made in thirty minutes, in place of that grueling ten days.

Statistics show what good work the aeroplane services have since done. Over 3,000 passengers have been carried, and £5,000,000 worth of cargo transported. The cost is heavy, the passenger fare from Salamao to the Wau Aerodrome being £5, and the freight 9d. per lb. The latter charge makes the price of food very high on the field. Rice, for instance, the mainstay of the natives' diet, is worth 1/3 per lb. Foremost among the companies operating aeroplanes in Guinea Airways Ltd. Its fleet now numbers four Junkers and two Moths, and two more machines are on order. About eight trips a day are made by this service alone.

DEVELOPING THE FIELD

It was not long before large companies identified themselves with the field.

Edie Creek, originally opened up as an alluvial proposition, is now being worked by New Guinea Goldfields Ltd., a £5,000,000 company, and an off-shoot of Russo-Asiatic Consolidated Ltd. Its option on the alluvial ground, previously worked by Edie Creek Pty. Co., has been exercised, and it is now systematically testing the area for sinking shafts and bores prior to production on a large scale. The company is also exploring several of the lodes on properties over which it holds options.

Another big company, Placer Development Ltd., has acquired alluvial rights on the Bulolo River, extending along its course for a length of ten miles and for a width in places of half a mile. This organisation has recently completed the formation of a subsidiary company, Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd., to work by bucket dredging, the Bulolo southern and central basins. It is stated that the estimated minimum yardage in the selected "dredging area" is 40,000,000, the estimated recoverable value of which is 2/1 per cubic yard.

To transport the two dredges necessary for operations, the company has decided to sectionalise all equipment, so that no piece will weigh more than 7,000 lbs., and to send it inland by trimotored, all-metal, Junker planes.

TRANSPORT TROUBLES

The only difficulty now in the way of steady development of this great New Guinea field appears to be transport. The 60 miles trek has been obviated by the aeroplane services. But there now enters the problem of transporting the heavy machinery to treat the ore.

The executives of Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd. are satisfied, however, that planes will handle all their plant. They point out, in support, that Guinea Airways Ltd. has already safely handled over the same route a greater gross tonnage than will be required in equipping their property.

New Guinea Goldfields Ltd. is faced with a bigger task, because of the size of the ore. The suggestion has been made that an aerial ropeway, followed by a tramway on the flat adjoining the coast, should be constructed for heavy operations; but in this respect no definite decision has been reached. The company still has a surveyor out in the mountains searching for a suitable track for the building of a road, which would overcome all the difficulties.

So far, most difficulties have been surmounted, and before long, no doubt,

A NEW RAND?

Referring to the future of the New Guinea goldfields, Mr. Leslie Urquhart, chairman of the Russo-Asiatic Consolidated Ltd., has made this encouraging statement:

"Since the opening of the Rand, no goldfield exhibiting such potentialities as that in New Guinea has been discovered."

Mr. Urquhart considers that the £580,000 of alluvial gold won by primitive methods during the first two years was a definite gauge of the possibilities of the field.

Last year, a German periodical, commenting on the account of a recently won from the Edie Creek field, published the following: "The result indicates that the hopes of the German Administration in reference to the future of the region were not over-optimistic, and shows, also, what a valuable possession we Germans have lost."

The Luck of the Pearl Diver

Some time ago one of the Torres Straits divers brought up an outline in pearl shell, and when it was opened one half displayed a large blister on its surface.

A blister, it may be explained, is a raised mass of nacre lying on the inner surface of the shell, projecting into the body of the mollusc. Occasionally, blisters are hollow and within the cavity a pearl of varying size may—or may not—be found.

This particular blister attracted attention by its size, and the shell was placed on the deck to be looked at, later. However, a peculiar accident befell it there. In some unexplained way, a heavy spar fell down across the shell, cracking it, and at the same time opening the blister.

Out ran a big pearl, and rolled, quite unharmed, to the deck, where it was secured, just as it was about to fall overboard.

The lucky owner sold it for £400 to a local buyer on his return to Thursday Island.

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Bulolo Gorge, showing the site for the hydro-electric plant, to be installed by Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd.

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THURSDAY ISLAND TOPICS

From Our Own Correspondent

THREAT TO PEARLING INDUSTRY — COPRA TRADE IN DUTCH NEW GUINEA — WHEN NATIVES SAW THEIR FIRST AEROPLANE — SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENTS.

Thursday 15, July 26.

THE first issue of The Pacific Islands Monthly will be eagerly looked for on Thursday Island, as it will bring local residents in touch with other island groups in a way that has hitherto not been attempted. This northern outpost of Queensland cannot properly be said to belong to "The Islands," but there are many points of resemblance, and the circulation of a paper dealing with the different parts of the Pacific ought to foster better knowledge of and closer relations with our neighbours.

Apart from this, the new journal will treat with a very interesting part of the globe, and one that makes its appeal to nearly all Australians. Its introduction should do much to induce our interested classes to visit these island paradises, to which T. I. claims to belong.

PERSONAL

There is a constant changing of officials at Thursday Island, and the latest is the transfer of Dr. C. R. Wilbur, who has been acting Quarantine Officer for three months, to a more important post in Brisbane. The post has been filled by Dr. Bevington, of Sydney, who arrived with his wife by the Marella.

The vacancy in the Roman Catholic presbytery, caused by the transfer of the Rev. Father Doyle to the south coast of Papua, has been filled by the Rev. Father Finch, who gave up his appointment as a teacher of philosophy in the Sacred Heart College, near Sydney, for work with the Sacred Heart Mission. Father Finch makes a notable addition to the clergy of the district.

SHELL OUTPUT RESTRICTED

The pearling industry, outwardly, is normal, though production is now restricted owing to a lessened demand abroad, and this has resulted in about 15 per cent. of the fleet being laid up. But the whole industry is, apparently, destined to undergo radical changes in its organisation, to an extent yet unknown, and with results that cannot be foreseen.

The present time of depression is fast a suitable one to disturb an industry which is of great service to the country. Worked as it has been for many years, it has been eminently successful, to-day the export of shell is of more importance to the Commonwealth than ever. Any drastic changes, even if they fulfil the ideas of enthusiastic politicians, may result in disaster to an important industry.

It may be said that the industries of the district are only in its infancy, though the pearling may decline. The fishing grounds, if not over-fished, are a permanent asset. In years to come, the methods of production may be very different to those of to-day, but this system should be only gradually altered.

Like many other Australian concerns, the raw material is exported and repurchased in the finished state, and all the profits of manufacture and the wages paid are placed in alien pockets, instead of in those of the Commonwealth. If the authorities endeavoured to start local manufacture of the shell, new avenues for white employment would be opened, and another export added which would be clear profit to Australia.

OTHER INDUSTRIES NEEDED

What this district needs is other marine industries, which could be worked quite independently of the pearling concerns, and which would give employment to small white capitalists and a certain number of white employees.

That such openings exist is undeniable. The canning of various edible marine products seems to offer prospects of success, if wise management and freedom from impossible restrictions were assured. But policies which insist upon advanced labour conditions on the one hand, and on preference to native fishing concerns to the extinction of the white owner, on the other, will not bring this desirable state of affairs about.

The settlement of white people in the Far North is a matter of national importance, and if it is to increase a more sympathetic and intelligent attitude to the peculiar needs of the district is necessary.

COPRA THEN—AND NOW

How are the mighty fallen! I have before me a newspaper cutting quoting the opinion of a Fiji coconut planter, in which he says: "A good copra plantation is better than most gold mines." But that was written 12 years ago.

To-day, a planter from New Guinea speaks bitterly of the coconut industry. Said he: "Talk about the Consols of the East! Why, to-day, the crop is hardly worth the gathering."

Readers of the P.I.M. do not want to have a subtle like this rubbed in—it is too serious for that—but they may be interested in reading about the production of copra in Dutch New Guinea.

The local price offered by Chinese merchants in Merak, the chief settlement there, is about 10/10—per ton. The cost of Dutch New Guinea is added with coconut groves, which are exclusively native owned, and, as may be expected, suffer from close planting and lack of care. Beach areas give the best returns. The soil is a sandy loam, with a big percentage of disintegrated coral, the rainfall is copious, and the growing season is very largely increased if better methods of planting were introduced.

There are usually one or two Chinese traders in each kampong or village, who more or less supervise the preparation of the copra. It is universally smoked-dried, and is of good quality, but it is usually sold as sun-dried. The copra is picked up by small Chinese-owned cutters, which bring it to Merak. From that centre over 200 miles of coastline are exploited in this way. There is no official inspection, but an export duty, at present about 5/0, is levied on the copra. There is only one possible avenue of export, which is the vessels of the big Dutch shipping company who control the trade of the Archipelago, and who, in the case of New Guinea, hold the sole rights to carry copra.

None of the copra from Merak comes to Thursday Island for transit, although it is only 150 miles away, nor does the Island get any share of the copra exported from the western division of Papua. The latter goes via Port Moresby, where handling charges are considerably less than the 10/- per ton exacted in Australia's northernmost port.

FOOTBALL PERISISTS

In spite of racial prejudice the nations of Europe have secretly a great respect for England, and occasionally it is openly expressed. I quote from the trade of the Archipelago, and who, in the case of New Guinea, hold the sole rights to carry copra.

Which is preliminary to saying that football still manages to keep going amongst a few enthusiasts on Thursday Island, but so few white players turn out that were it not for the keenness of the local coloured men the sport would be dead. This would be a pity, as there is no game like it to induce a healthiness of mind and body, especially for small tropical communities. However, matches are played by mixed teams.

THE SAILING SEASON

The sailing season is in full swing, and great interest is shown in the coming of the May Flag every Saturday. The open nature of the harbour, the strong tides and winds and humpy seas

make sailing a thrilling pastime in our small and heavily canvassed twelve-footers. The Alice Jean, Mystic and Icony are all in the running for the flag, while the other captains are just as enthusiastic in their efforts to win. A word of thanks must be accorded launch owners who place their launches at the disposal of club officials.

A club rule exists which forbids racing without an attendant launch, and the number of capsize, fully justifies this precaution.

EXODUS FROM HOSPITAL

The first plane to visit Torres Strait was one used by Captain Hurley during his expedition to Papua, in 1923, and the majority of spectators on that occasion were probably seeing one for the first time in their lives.

At the Thursday Island Hospital the patients, principally aboriginals, Papuans, and other coloured odd and ends, went mad with excitement on its appearance. Easy chairs and beds were vacated while their owners rushed outside to see the new "bird."

After circling round several times, the plane gave a last wave of its tail and shot off out of sight to take the water near the jetty. The crowd of pyromaniacs and cranks, who were gaped at it open-mouthed; then, with the single-mindedness of a mob of goats, followed by a small dog, followed it down the road, yelling and cheering. One solitary patient was left in the wards—he was unconscious!

The A.W.L. crowd returned, minus sundry bandages and poultices and resumed their aches and pains, prepared for a repast, which was withheld owing to the rarity of the occurrence.

Not long ago another plane, this time bound for the Edie Creek goldfield, in New Guinea, flew over, but it was not a white visitor to the island, hailing from the Cairns hinterland. He was a thoroughly interested spectator—but he confessed, later, that it was the first plane he had ever seen.

THE DIFFERENCE

Some countries are worth living in. A friend of mine has just been explaining about—but never mind where. "You see it this way," he said. "Over there the Government robs you all the time. But they shut their eyes and let you rob everyone else. Of course, in Australia, the robbing is all on one side!"

ENTERTAINMENTS

Most of the ladies are busy preparing for the annual bazaar in aid of the work of the churches, and several preliminary entertainments to help the various stalls have been held. Successful dances in aid of the respective "Work Stalls" were held at the Convent Hall and the Residency.

FANCY DRESS BALL

A fancy dress dance, in aid of the Roman Catholic Pet, was held in the Town Hall on July 25, and proved one of the outstanding events of the 1930 round of gaieties. It was evident that an opportunity to relax in fancy dress was exactly what was wanted, and it was simply rushed by everyone on the island.

Sister Hunt, on the staff of the local hospital, organised the entertainment, and was ably assisted with the decorations, music and supper by a number of helpers. The outstanding success of the evening was due to the remarkable excellence and variety of the fancy costumes.

The ladies' prize was won by Miss Burgess, representing an Oriental monarch. John Bull hopped off with a well deserved mention of the evening. Mr. G. Assange was greeted with roars of laughter, and awarded the prize for the most comic costume.

It is hardly fair to disclose the identity of the most striking characters. Some were strictly incog—if only for a time—and several mysteries were brought to light during the evening. Britannia and John Bull lent a patriotic air to the proceedings; Bradman was a "run-getter," and carried his bat through the innings; Monsieur and Madame Apache (a desperate pair); several Parsi Kings, in disguise; Bertie and Little Miss Muffet were in charming contrast to a disreputable-looking female in nurse's costume; Stags, muffs, red devil, Jeff and Matt, barometer, Old Times, Tankard, Malador—all were present. The masculine hit of the evening was provided by Charlie Chaplin, who gained a special prize.

The fancy sets were particularly good, especially a troupe of lads and lasses in brilliant scarlet, and a ruffish-looking Spanish set. Ah, me! Those Spanish ladies—how alluring; but their partners were so very fierce-looking. Mr. Neenan acted as M.C.

The International Jazz Band, mandolin, guitar and ukuleles rendered plaintive Hawaiian music, assisted by volunteers at the piano, and the opening march, with its host of galaxy-dressed revellers, gave a fine prelude for a serious-minded place like Thursday Island.

The last guest was removed in the ice-cream cart, under the supervision of John Bull, and the ball was declared at an end with three cheers for the organisers.

The financial results were very satisfactory to those concerned.

14th August, 1930.

LOST BY DEFAULT

Our Trade with N. Caledonia

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S
INDIFFERENCE

PROMINENCE was given by the newspapers recently to a statement by M. René Contal (manager of the Société de Nickel, of Paris), that high production costs in Australia were driving away to European countries, trade from New Caledonia worth £200,000 per annum to the Commonwealth.

THESE figures are exaggerated. The total value of Australian exports to New Caledonia, for ten years past, has not averaged much more than £250,000 per annum.

It has ranged between £200,000 and £400,000 each year.

But this trade, nevertheless, is extremely valuable and, as M. Contal has pointed out, the condition of some of it is precarious.

It is true that the nickel mines of New Caledonia are large consumers of coal, coke, machinery, and foodstuffs, and that Australia, whose mainland is only 800 miles from Noumea, is the natural market for the purchase of such commodities. In the past, the nickel-producing corporation represented by M. Contal has spent £75,000 per annum in Australia on these goods.

M. Contal says that it now has been ascertained that the required goods can be imported from Europe, more cheaply

TO KILL MOSQUITOES

After 16 months' work in the northern islands, Mr. C. E. Pemberton, an entomologist, arrived in Sydney, en route to Honolulu, with about 250 mosquito-killing insects, with which he hopes to reduce Hawaii's pests. The insects are themselves a type of mosquito, but are not blood-suckers, and in their larvae stage they devour the larvae of the common mosquito. Mr. Pemberton secured his specimens in the forests of New Britain, about 10 miles from Rabaul.

There is nothing new about this. It is only another example of the way in which some, discouraging story of Australia's trade connection with the Pacific. Here in the South Seas territories, right at Australia's front door, is a market which each year buys nearly £4,000,000 worth of goods. This takes into account only the islands named Australia—going no further north than New Guinea, and no further east than Samoa. Australia sells to that market only about £1,900,000 worth of her commodities.

That trade has been held for Australia, first, by her geographical position in proximity to the market; second, because the islands definitely want the goods which Australia has for sale; and third, by the efficiency of her commercial institutions such as Burns Philp & Co. Ltd., Morris Hedstrom Ltd., W. & A. Carpenter & Co. Ltd., Union F.S. Co. Ltd.

Apart from the payment of a few shipping subsidies, the Australian Government has done nothing to foster the Islands' connection. Actually, it has been held in spite of Australian officialdom. If Australia set out to capture the South Pacific markets, she could sell to these communities three-quarters of the £4,250,000 worth which they annually buy.

This French merchant has said, in emphatic fashion, that our commodities are too dear, and that trade worth anything up to a quarter of a million sterling is going elsewhere. Has the Federal Government said one word in reply or explanation? Has it ordered a prompt investigation of the position? It has not.

Yet anyone acquainted with the circumstances knows that that trade could be retained by Australia if real effort were made. The Government is preparing to send expensive commissioners to seek trade for us in America, and The East and Canada. It has virtually sacrificed Australia's primary industries to the secondary industries, as part of its deliberate economic policy; yet when a very good market for our manufactured as well as our primary products shows signs of closing up, this Government displays not the slightest interest.

It is notified from Thursday Island that the hetch "Goodwill," owned by Papan Industries Ltd., is for sale. There is no further need for her, because the Government has taken over all the interests of this company at Dugai, on Badi Island. Papan Industries Ltd. is an industrial missionary organisation.

NEWS FROM NORFOLK IS.

From Our Own Correspondent

IN 1930, we are a completely modern community, replete with wireless sets, motor cars, Ford lorries, a picture show on Saturday nights, a Literary Society where we partly read and partly act plays—some stuff to one another), a Bridge Club and, quite recently, a most creditable dramatic company—raw material, but whipped surprisingly into shape by a young English actor, temporarily retired from Allan Wilkie's well-known band.

We play golf on a very good course, and several tennis clubs challenge each other towards the close of the summer.

Six or seven stores compete for our custom—Burns Philp are building a second "up country." There is a very good private school, as well as the usual public one. Our hospital is well run, and in the charge of a young doctor, who hesitates at no sort of operation, and is destined to go far in surgery. We have two solicitors and three branches of religion. What more could life offer us anywhere?

Our population is between 800 and 900, of which roughly two-thirds are "Islanders," descendants of the Pitcairn folk—a little darker than you or me, but often with eyes blue as mine or yours—if yours are blue. We mix upon equal terms, thinking pretty well of each other, exult together over good prices for our produce, lament together when the bottom falls out of the market, or we hear that for still another term we are doomed to travel or to consign our fruit to Sydney by that well-known but little respected steamer, the s.s. "Makambo," that has plodded about the blue Pacific for uncounted years, and is surely due for honorable retirement.

Houses to let, and boarding houses, are dotted about the island; but an up-to-date, residential hotel, situated at Kingston, where our little administrative functions, our golfers swing their clubs, and we all picnic and swim on holidays and Saturdays, is badly needed.

There is a deleterious idea abroad that we are strictly teetotal, but that is not true. We are temperate by virtue of a spirituous liquor permit issued by the Administrator, and good for a limited amount per week, but we are not teetotal, nor do we wish to be. So don't spread that base rumour any further, will you?

On the whole, we are prosperous, particularly while good prices are obtaining for the produce we export—bananas, passion-fruit, oranges, lemon juice, and seeds. Canadian Wonder Beans and early potatoes. Plantations change hands as residents of several years feel the urge to go "home" or to wander further, and new settlers are attracted by what scant information they can glean as to our gorgeous climate and enviable freedom from taxation. New lands are being taken up on easy Government leases, fences and hedges are raising where they never rose before; the timber mills are busy among the pine trees, and on every summer day, from dawn till dark, lorries, piled high with cases, roar along our hilly roads and swoop down upon the jetty, beyond which the Makambo lies wearily at anchor.

H.M.S. DUNEDIN'S VISIT

Well, now you all know where we live, and how we live, and next month when you see the heading, "News from Norfolk Island," you will have some idea

An Introduction

Norfolk Island—a thousand miles east of Australia and a little lower on the map than Brisbane—is one of the most interesting and romantic islands in the world, brimming over with history from the moment of its discovery by an English naval survey ship in 1774.

Intersected by long, deep valleys, in which are iron ore, basalt, and granite, the island is covered by tall dark pine-trees that seem beneath the stars, to tower into heaven, it seems a great dead labyrinth the seven miles by four, because of its amazing road mileage and the fact that one can spend a long day getting from one end of the island to the other.

A hundred years and more ago these seventy miles of road were cut and graded by convicts, and the cliffs, and dotted in the way.

That was passed, and in 1855, by special decree of Queen Victoria, the island was handed for ever to the descendants of the famous Bounty Mariners. The latter had been discovered living in happiness and peace, but under frightfully overcrowded conditions, on the Pitcairn Islands, then remote from all the world, but now later right in the track of all shipping between New Zealand and the Pacific Coast.

For many years, the Pitcairn Islanders (as they are still called) lived on Norfolk Island, in an isolation almost as complete as on Pitcairn, except that whalers, American for the most part, got in, in the whaling season, for food, water and beef, killed and sailed from the wild cattle left behind from convict days.

Gradually, however, civilization crept in; the convicts were sent to the other end of their own appointed road, and used under instructions from Australia; a person, a doctor, a schoolmaster came, and settlers of all classes, and from all parts of the world, arrived, and the island began to flourish. The whaling boats and the whaling season, which, here, grows to passion and bears marvellously

of what you are going to read—Chronicles of Small Beer—and here is a sample glassful.

H.M.S. Dunedin is expected in at daybreak on Wednesday morning next, July 26, and the island is agog with excitement. It has been officially announced that only 15 officers and 50 ratings—whatever they are in the innocent minds of many of us—will be allowed ashore. All available cars are invited to render themselves upon the fifty upon arrival of the warship, in order that the officers and the "ratings," if they ride in motor cars—may take the air and view our island paradise from end to end. A football match will take place in the afternoon, when a local team will play against the ship, and some festivity will also be arranged for the evening hours. At midnight our magnificent visitor will leave for other Island ports and by courtesy of her commander, will carry a mail. At least we hope he will: we are going to ask him.

BOY SCOUT ARRIVES

The Boy Scout Movement has just reached our happy shores, and is raising like a postillion. Dressed in brand new uniforms, with whistles and knives complete, little boys, middling-sized boys and large boys, are galloping about the island performing, every day, some good deeds, and others not so good, as is the manner of boyhood all the world over.

The Administrator of New Guinea, Brigadier-General E. A. Wadman, is at present making his annual tour of the Territory.

Mr. J. G. Cardew, Commissioner for Native Affairs and Director of Education in New Guinea, is in Sydney on official business.

Mr. E. M. Bland, of the Shell Co. of Australia Ltd., left by the boat "Morinda" on a five months' business trip to the Islands. After visiting Papea, he will proceed to Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

Mission Ketch Lost off Papuan Coast



The mission vessel "Bromilow," owned by the Methodist Mission Society, was wrecked at Amphetia, near Samarai, Papua, recently, and seven natives were drowned. The Rev. G. F. Lassar and one native were rescued from a raft, after five days' exposure, without food or water, and two natives reached Samarai from the vessel.

The "Bromilow" was a wooden auxiliary ketch of 14 tons gross, and had been in service in Papuan waters since the boat was named after a famous missionary, Dr. Bromilow, whose death recently occurred.

The above photograph shows the Bromilow lying in Samarai Harbour.



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A JOURNAL FOR THE PACIFIC

LYING right at the front doors of Australia and New Zealand there are Island territories comprising over 200,000 square miles of mostly fertile land, and maintaining about 1,250,000 natives, 30,000 Europeans and 80,000 Asians.

These Islands are of particular interest to Australia because they offer an attractive field for European settlement, enterprise and the investment of capital; because, as they are developed, and settlement increases, and the natives become Europeanised, they provide a growing market for foodstuffs and manufactured goods; and because, as they comprise a vast semicircle of good ports and handy bases, paralleling our shores, their control by friendly powers is essential to the future safety of the South Pacific section of the British Empire.

That is the British Imperial viewpoint. But there is another—the interests of the Islands communities themselves. For a hundred years, they have been merely nations—transferred helplessly to this administration and that, as the fortunes of the Powers waxed or waned. But they have grown, and to-day they can speak forcefully and individually on their own account. Even as small units there are 17 independent administrations in the Pacific—they compel attention; but if they can get together, to speak as one association or federation on Pacific Islands affairs, no nation can afford to ignore them. These territories are growing, and a movement towards closer association, pawns in the hands of the great giving united action on matters of common interest, is inevitable—particularly among the British administrations.

The need for a journal that will serve the interests of the Pacific communities, while also giving Australia and New Zealand reliable information about the marvellous growth and wealth of the Islands, is apparent.

Mr. Ayson, Resident Commissioner at Rarotonga, had booked by the Tahiti; but he escaped that disaster because he became ill in Wellington, and had to cancel his passage.

TROPICALITIES

Written for The Pacific Islands Monthly by "Sea Serpent"

THE new racetrack built by the enthusiastic people of Rabaul, known as Lakunai Racecourse, is most picturesque, situated right under the shadow of Mount Mother and the towering ranges. One observer has said that, in its wild beauty, it is comparable to the famous Happy Valley Racecourse in Hongkong. One wonders whether these sylvan delights will soothe the savage bookmaker and lengthen the odds a little. There are some fairly good performers now located in Rabaul, being regularly trained for the occasional race meetings. An enterprising community—with Australian habits!

IT is reported that the Bremerhaven—German cargo-carrier, which comes down from the East and to the irritation of the established Australian firms, carries copra away from the New Guinea territory at "ridiculous" rates, left with a very small cargo on her last visit, and may not be seen again in those waters. These are hard days in the shipping business and, if the Bremerhaven is finished, there will be joy in Bridges and O'Connell Streets, Sydney.

What with German, Dutch and French steamers, to say nothing of British, Swedish, Japanese and American, these Island ports seem to exercise an extraordinary attraction for the ships of other nations.

THE decision of the New Zealand authorities to cut out the Norfolk Island call of the steamer Sir Maui Pomare, provoked much protest from Auckland shippers, who lost valuable trade. Norfolk Island products were found a satisfactory market for their goods in the Dominion—that section of them that is, whose goods are not affected by the cooking habits of the Pomare—also had a few words to say. But Sydney export houses viewed the matter with complete equanimity. The venerable Makambo will now carry a little more cargo out of this port. The Norfolk Island market has become quite a healthy one, and it will become healthier as the industrious producers of that fertile territory provide with improved transport to convenient markets.

SEAPLANES for the Islands! If one had dared say the beard of a prophet, one would say that 20 years hence, the seaplane will be the principal means of inter-island communication. Chafing planters and traders will fly to such centres as Suva, or Tulagi, or Rabaul, covering in an hour a journey that now may occupy a week.

Seaplanes are now running regular mail services between Suva and the smaller Fijian ports; seaplanes provide the only means of communication between the New Guinea goldfields and the coast; there was talk of a regular seaplane service from the Queensland Coast, via Samarai, to New Guinea—though nothing has been heard of that, particularly good for some time.

Air-travel for the Islands—what a slogan for an advertisement! If only the copra market would buck up, there should be a great chance for an aeroplane seaman in the Pacific. But under present conditions he would have difficulty in selling a planter the air that goes under a seaplane's wing!

WHEN it was announced that 75,000 nickel coins for the use of the natives in the Mandate Territory, had been minted in Melbourne, the hard-hearted planters of New Guinea roared.

In and About the Islands

Dr. E. J. Ryan, Medical Officer at Kavirua Hospital, New Hebrides, is in Sydney on leave. Owing to an attack of pleurisy, he has had to postpone his return to the Islands.

Capt. J. J. Ucan, of Rapopo Plantation, New Britain, is in Sydney.

Mrs. E. A. Wisdom, wife of the Administrator of the Mandate Territory, has been seriously ill here. She hopes to leave for New Guinea shortly.

Dr. T. Brennan, Director of Public Health, New Guinea, has been in Sydney for some months, taking a post-graduate course at the University, and is now going on long leave. He is accompanied by his wife and two daughters.

Mr. G. Ingels, who has been prospecting for gold in the Sepik River district of New Guinea, on behalf of the Northern New Guinea Gold Co., N.L., has returned to Sydney.

Mr. Travers Black, of Nakani Mining Co., Ltd., was a passenger to Sydney by the July "Montoro". His party of twelve was the first to visit Nakani since 1926, when four prospectors were spared to death by natives. Accompanying Mr. Black to Sydney was Mr. J. Thurston, a member of the prospecting expedition on that occasion, who escaped, after being badly wounded.

in unholly glee. They do not love the Administration, and they think the Administration has made an ass of itself. The coins are of the value of 1d. and 1d., and they have holes through the centre, so that the pocketless "coons" can string them around their necks. Quite a good idea—theoretically.

But say the planters, the natives have no sense of money values, and recognise no currency tokens except "marks" and "half-marks," as our shillings and pence are still generally known. They will not look at any other coin—twelve pennies mean literally nothing to them. Then, again, 1/- generally represents the lowest price of goods sold to the native—tobacco is four sticks 1/-, "buliamakau" 1/- a tin. Just imagine a big "pay-off" of labour with the new currency. The one-year indentured "boys" would each receive 1,440 penny coins, and would need the necks of elephants to stand the weight of their new wealth.

It is reported that the 75,000 nickels have not yet been issued, but are hiding shyly in some Government store. If the issue is not to be a dead loss, the best scheme would be to make the coins up into necklaces. They should be worth at least 6d. per string!

IT is a notorious fact that the great B.P. firm will not talk. It goes silently and calmly on its way, apparently indifferent to praise or criticism. So one can only speculate about what it would say, if it could, about the price of copra. There is little doubt that the cruel depression of copra prices is due partly, at least, to the operations of a combine, and that the combine has been tightening its grip for the past two years. There is much talk about other vegetable oils and whale oil; but the biggest factor in the situation probably is "a little understanding" among big European copra-buyers. B.P., within recent times, made a determined effort to beat the ring by diverting copra shipments from Europe to America; but when this temporarily checked the bears, it did not root them, and they seem to be again in command of the market.

If B.P. say nothing, it can be assumed they are doing a job. The copra market means too much to them, to allow them to sit with folded hands.

A NOTABLE old identity passed away recently in the person of a New Guinea settler, who had been building boats in Levuka for at least 30 years. He arrived in the South Seas about 1865, from Scotland, and wandered far and wide through the Islands before settling in Levuka. He was 85, and his numerous descendants made many valuable residents of Fiji.

Incidentally, Fiji is becoming noted for the longevity of its white population—four score years, at least, seems to be the allotted span there. "The longer you have lived in Fiji, the longer you live," seems to sum it up.

THE ingenuity of "pidgin"—particularly the variety employed in New Guinea—is a source of constant delight to me; and no Islands friend is more welcome than he who tells me a new one. I considered "House money game" to describe bank-notes, when they were introduced to Rabaul savages, pretty good; but when some natives refused to buy their first aeroplane recently, they produced a beauty—"Motor car belongum Jesus." An albatross it was, and the picture really is too funny to be hidden.

Notable Men of The Pacific



Sir Hubert Murray, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of Papua

OFFICIALLY, he is Sir Hubert Murray, Lieut.-Governor, lawyer, soldier, judge, author, traveller, student, and athlete. But he will be known always in the history of the Pacific as "Judge" Murray, the man who tamed Papua. When he was attached to the Papuan Administration, in 1904, the Territory was not a healthy place to travel in. Headhunters and cannibals were able to bring to an abrupt termination the career of anyone who ventured far from the European settlements of the southeast. To-day, white people move freely through the Territory, even into the remote region beyond the Fly River, without fear of attack. To "Judge" Murray belongs the credit of instilling fear and respect for the whites into the primitive minds of 275,000 savages.

John Hubert Plunkett Murray was not trained for Pacific Islands administration. Born in Sydney 60 years ago, son of that Sir Terence Murray, who was famous in N.S.W. public life, he was educated in Germany and at Oxford (Magdalen College). He gained many scholastic distinctions, and he became a noted athlete. He was, for a time, a amateur heavyweight boxing champion of England, and he was a crack cricketer. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1885, and engaged in legal practice in Sydney. He was appointed Crown Prosecutor, and acted several times as a District Court Judge.

His interests were manifold. He was a keen supporter of the N.S.W. defence forces, and in 1898 he was commander of the N.S.W. Irish Rifles. He volunteered for service in the South African war, and from that campaign he returned with a medal and four clasps, and the commission of Major in the Imperial Army.

In 1904, when he was 42 years old, and already had a distinguished record, Mr. Murray commenced a new and more brilliant career. He accepted office as Chief Judicial Officer (Judge) and member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Papua, under the Hon. R. F. Barton, Administrator, in September, 1904. He took charge of the administration 2½ years later, and in 1906 he was formally appointed Lieutenant-Governor. Thus, he was the first Australian Governor of the first Australian dependency.

Many qualities combined to gain for Judge Murray the esteem, respect and goodwill of the very critical communities of the Pacific. One is his abhorrence of "swank." He found himself faced with a difficult job of work—and he applied himself with a simple directness of method, a thoroughness and a

tenacity of purpose which made his ultimate success a certainty. He proceeded to "tame" Papua—and in a quarter of a century, by wisdom, moderation, firm but kindly discipline, and a human as well as a scientific understanding of the native mind, he has practically accomplished his purpose. The Territory is safe, and every year it is providing a home for more and more producers. When he took charge there were only 600 Europeans there, and the territorial trade was about £150,000. To-day, there are nearly 2,000 whites in the Territory, and the annual trade turnover exceeds one million sterling. It is a magnificent record. He has gone personally into every corner of this savage land—fighting in among the wildest, most treacherous tribes—and by personal contact has acquainted himself with every aspect of the life of his huge domain. He was awarded the C.M.G. in 1914, and raised to K.C.M.G. in 1925.

In one direction, Sir Hubert Murray has been subjected to criticism—and it is a matter of policy rather than a weakness of judgment or administration. It is held by many persons experienced in tropical administration that Australia's attitude towards the New Guinea aborigines is wrong—that to rate them, on European standards, as people with a high degree of intelligence and a sense of honour, and treat them accordingly, will have social consequences of a very serious character. That is the policy followed scrupulously by Sir Hubert Murray, and by General E. A. Wisdom, Administrator of New Guinea; but many of the Europeans in their territories condemn it bitterly, demand stricter discipline and, as evidence, point to the growing difficulty in controlling the natives domiciled in Port Moresby and Rabaul. It is a subject for future argument. However, Sir Hubert Murray's methods unquestionably have been wonderfully successful in taming the wild bushmen of Papua.

As was to be expected of a member of so brilliant a family this brother is Professor Sir Gilbert Murray, of Oxford University. Sir Hubert is a notable writer. He published "Papua" in 1912, and "Papua To-day" in 1928. The latter is regarded as a classic.

Like many other distinguished men, whose lives have been filled with activity and interest, Sir Hubert Murray is a man of remarkably youthful appearance. Within the compass of one lifetime, he has had two fine careers. On present appearances, he is quite capable of carrying through a third, before age lays a withering hand upon him.—R.W.R.

Sir Murchison Fletcher, Governor of Fiji, and Lady Fletcher, left Sydney by the Ventura on August 9, for Fiji.

Mr. C. H. Parker, a missionary from Atehin of the island of Malakula, New Hebrides, returned here by the s.s. La Perouse on August 9. He is proceeding to Melbourne to attend a conference of Seventh Day Adventists.

Mr. E. P. Cohen sailed for Fiji, Samoa and Tonga on August 9. He represents over 30 Australian exporting

houses, and as he has been carrying their samples along the same track for over 30 years, he probably is the best known man in the South Seas. It is said of him that he has been courted by Samoans, lured by dusky princesses, admitted to the secret rites of Paganism, and eaten by cannibals, but his cheery smile still makes him a welcome visitor in the remote stores of Taviuni or Raikoke. He says he will write a book on his experiences, when he gets tired and retires—probably on present appearances about 1950.

PROSPEROUS FIJI

Increasing Population Means Growing Market for Manufactured Goods

In settlement, in production and in the establishment of secondary industries, Fiji has made marvellous progress in the past ten years. Like all countries, it is at present feeling the economic depression; but the following summary, by a leading merchant, shows that this Crown Colony remains comparatively prosperous, and is likely to enjoy further great progress in the early future.

THE business outlook in Fiji is somewhat uncertain, so far as the immediate future is concerned," said Major Clive B. Joske, M.C., managing director of Messrs. Brown & Joske Ltd., Suva, to a representative of The Pacific Islands Monthly.

"Fiji, like all other tropical countries, is suffering from the slump in the prices of tropical products."

"The two main articles of export are sugar and copra, in both of which there has been considerable world over-production. The third export, bananas, is temporarily under a cloud due to the destruction caused by the hurricane in December, 1929. The effect of that hurricane upon the production of bananas, however, soon pass, and it will not be long before the purchasing power of the Fijian in the banana districts is put back to normal by the maturing of new plantings."

"The state of the sugar market is well known. It is sufficient to say that the removal of British Preference would indeed entail serious consequences in Fiji, as well as in the West Indies and Mauritius—as has been clearly indicated by the reports of Lord Olivier and Sir Francis Watts."

"We are perhaps in a somewhat better position to face the lean years in sugar, through the passing of the system of large plantations, with white overseers, worked by Indian labour. This has been replaced by the system of estates into small blocks, leased to Indian farmers, who work in groups under the direction of Europeans. The sugar industry in Fiji is therefore on a more stable footing, as far as the actual production of sugarcane is concerned, than during the last era of low prices for sugar."

"On the other hand, the prices realisable for the sugar manufactured from the sugarcane, and which govern the amount which is possible to pay to the grower, are likely to remain very low for the next few years. Our annual production of sugar is round about 90,000 tons, so that the effect of variations in the price of sugar upon the purchasing power of the community can readily be judged."

"So long as the British Preference coupled with a reasonable price of sugar gives a reasonable return to the Indian planter, so long will they continue to prosper and to multiply. As their standard of living is improving with prosperity, also will their demand increase for the manufactured articles of other countries. The bulk of the cultivation of sugar in Fiji is done by Indians, whom a great deal of the purchasing power of the community is centred, and their requirements will grow from the major portion of our imports."

"Both European and Fijian producers of copra have been hard hit by the steep drop in prices. In July, 1928, the price of copra in London was £26/10—; in the corresponding month in 1930 it is £18. Fiji exports about 30,000 tons per annum, so that it may be said that the purchasing power of that section of the community which is interested in the production of copra, has fallen off by no less than £50,000."

"In time, the natural law of supply and demand will assert itself, and will

"Proper Puri-Puri Man"

Sorcery, or "puri-puri," as it is known by the natives, is now being stamped out by the Government of Papua.

A case occurred a short time ago in the Northern Division. A man of the Atingi district made a complaint that his brother-in-law had practised "puri-puri" on him, causing him to wander in the bush where he often had to pass the night. After some days of this, he reported the fact to the Village Constable.

The alleged sorcerer was brought before the Court for Native Matters; but the case was dismissed, because of the disgust of the complainant.

Later, the Court Interpreter discovered a leaf containing "sorcery medicine" on the court-room floor. The natives who attended the case were summoned, including the sorcerer, and, although he denied ownership of the medicine, some more leaves were found on him. A conviction naturally followed.

Thereupon the defendant stated that, by holding the leaf containing the medicine in his hand, he was sure to win his case. But because he dropped the leaf while leaving, the verdict on the second occasion went against him.

"He altogether proper puri-puri man," said the complainant, as he was leaving the court well satisfied with his brother-in-law's accomplishments in the art of black magic.



MAJOR C. B. JOSKE

reduce the existing over-production of oil seeds the world over. For the present, at least, those interested in copra must walk warily."

"On the other hand, there is no such thing as poverty in Fiji; whilst the cases of crime which are sufficiently serious not to be dealt with by the District Commissioner, and which go to the Supreme Court, average perhaps between 40 and 50 per annum in a population of 155,000. At the last Criminal Sessions, the Chief Justice was again presented, as on a recent occasion, with a pair of white gloves in token of the fact that there were no criminal cases to be tried!"

"The population is increasing rapidly, especially among the Indians, who form the backbone of the agricultural sector of the colony."

"There are thousands of acres of land lying idle and readily available, only requiring the hand of man to cause them to produce wealth. And as business in Fiji depends solely upon agriculture for its support, it seems only logical to suppose that a prosperous future is in store for Fiji."

"At any rate, it seems a far safer place than many other countries I could name."

17 INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATIONS

IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH PACIFIC

PLEA FOR MACHINERY FOR COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

In the Central and South Pacific, in regular communication with Australia and New Zealand, are the following Islands groups and Territories, each under a separate and mostly independent administration:

CROWN COLONY OF FIJI

AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY OF PAPUA

MANDATE TERRITORY (AUSTRALIA) OF NEW GUINEA, INCLUDING CAMPALEANG AND NORTHERN SOLOMON ISLANDS

MANDATE TERRITORY (JAPAN) OF KAROLIN, MARSHALL, AND MARIANAS ISLANDS

AMERICAN TERRITORY OF GUAM

BRITISH CROWN COLONY OF GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS

FRENCH TERRITORY OF NEW CALEDONIA

BRITISH AND FRENCH DOMINION OF NEW HEREBIDES

MANDATE TERRITORY (NEW ZEALAND) OF RAMOFA

AMERICAN TERRITORY OF SAMOA

NATIVE, extended jointly to British, Australia and N.Z.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE

BRITISH PROTECTORATE OF TONGAN ISLANDS

NEW ZEALAND TERRITORY OF COOK ISLANDS

FRENCH COLONY OR SOCIETY AND MARQUESESE IS.

AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY OF NORTHERN ISLANDS

AMERICAN TERRITORY OF HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, ETC.

These communities and administrations have very many interests in common; yet, between them, there is little consultation or communication. The Governors consult only with their respective headquarters in London, Paris, Canberra, Tokyo, Washington, or Wellington.

Territories may be next door to one another, but the channels of official communication is around the world.

There is no record of any conference ever having been held to consider their numerous common problems. It is not that the administrators lack enterprise—simply there are no facilities.

The obvious, necessary thing, of course, is a sort of Pacific Islands' Association, which would make it possible for competent representatives of all these island territories and groups to meet at regular intervals and discuss the numerous problems common to their development and progress. Here are a few suggested almost at random:

C.N.O. WITHDRAWS

From Central Pacific Trade

LINE PURCHASED BY MESSAGERIES

THE French Shipping Service, which has been operating between Noumea, via Suva, Java, Papua and New Guinea, is to be withdrawn. The Messageries service, via Panama, is to continue, however.

Efforts have been made by French shipping companies during the past two years to skin away some of the cream of the Islands trade by despatching vessels direct from France to Noumea, via the various groups. Over that period, the Messageries Maritimes and the Compagnie Navale et Commerciale de l'Océanie, under an agreement, have maintained a joint service of passenger and cargo vessels, by alternate sailings.

The Messageries steamers (Ville de Verdun, Ville de Strasbourg, Andromède and Antiope) have been leaving Noumea, via the various groups, and calling at Point-a-Pitre (Guadeloupe), Fort-de-France (Martinique), in the French West Indies; at Cristobal and Colon (Panama); at Papeete and Raiatea (Tahiti); Suva (Fiji); Vila (New Hebrides); and Noumea (New Caledonia). The return journey has been by the same route.

The other company, known popularly as the C.N.O., sent its steamers, Saint-Laz, Saint-Eloi, Saint-Roch and Saint-Augustin, from France, via Suva, every alternate month. Calls were made at Port Said, Colombo, Batavia, Sourabaya, Port Moresby (Papua), Salama and Rabaul (New Guinea), Vila (New Hebrides), and Noumea. The vessels returning over the same route.

Information has now been received in Sydney that the C.N.O. Line has been sold to Messageries, and the service, via Suva, will terminate with the present trip of the Saint-Laz, due to sail from Noumea this month. The purchasers intend using their newly

"Good Luck"

Mr. Maynard Hedstrom, in a message from Suva, Fiji, this week, says:

"I wish The Pacific Islands Monthly a long and vigorous life, and I hope that it will become a power for good throughout the Western Pacific."

acquired fleet in other parts of the world, evidently satisfied that one line can adequately cope with Fiji's share of the Pacific Islands trade.

Sydney shipping circles, the French service now being withdrawn, was considered a direct challenge to Australia, calling, as it did, at New Guinea and Papua. Australia's annual exports there are worth about a million sterling. Already a portion of Australia's valuable trade with New Caledonia has been diverted to Europe by overseas interests.

Relief Sought for Planters

Export Tax Reduced

Canberra, Aug. 15.

The steady fall in the price of copra has alarmed holders of Expropriated plantations in New Guinea, who bought at valuations fixed when copra prices were high.

Urgent representations have been made to the Commonwealth Government, with the result that the export duty has now been reduced from 20/- to 15/- per ton. It was reduced from 25/- to 20/- in October, 1928.

Other measures of relief are now under consideration. It seems obvious that if copra does not recover, the Federal Government must re-value the plantations. Otherwise, a large proportion of the newly-established planters will be wiped out.

AT THE HELM

Men Who Deal With Island Affairs

From Our Canberra Correspondent

THE Pacific Island territories, which come under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, are those of New Guinea, Papua, Nauru, and Norfolk Is. Colonel A. J. Bennett is Norfolk's Administrator, whilst Mr. W. A. Newman presides over the destinies of Nauru.

The Islands were under the control of the Department of Home and Territories, and the Pacific territories were taken on to the Prime Minister's Department, of which Mr. J. G. McLaren, C.M.G., B.A., is the permanent Secretary, with Mr. J. Strahan, C.B.E., B.A., L.B., and Mr. J. H. Starling, C.M.G., O.B.E., as Assistant Secretaries.

Mr. Starling who devotes his attention specially to the Islands, under the direction of Mr. J. A. Beasley, Assistant Minister for Industry and External Affairs.

These are the "heads." But the men who are probably the best-known to island residents are Messrs. J. R. Halligan, C. G. Garroch and J. Brack, who spend their days and very often their nights in wrestling with administrative and other problems connected with the Islands.

Mr. Halligan spent a considerable time with General Wisdom in New Guinea, and he has visited the Islands once or twice since then, travelling extensively through both New Guinea and Papua. Mr. Garroch also has a first-hand acquaintance with Islands settlers and native problems, having spent some years with Sir Hubert Murray.

SHEEP BY AIR

How Wau Got its Meat Supply

The aeroplane has brought a new town into existence—Wau.

Wau is on the edge of the famous rich goldfields at Edie Creek. Travelling overland from Salamoa, the port on the north coast of New Guinea, it takes nine days to reach Wau through broken and densely forested country. But the aeroplane, which maintains communication with these goldfields, do the trip every day in forty minutes.

The planes start from Salamoa, and land at Wau. Consequently, Wau has become an important terminus in the last two or three years. The warden's office and wireless station recently were moved from Edie Creek to Wau.

Wau, like all European communities, wants fresh meat; and it was not available on that primitive tableland. The problem was solved by landing forty sheep at Salamoa, whence they were conveyed by aeroplane to Wau. On last reports, they were doing well in their new environment.

FIJI NOW EXPORTS BUTTER

Cattle-Farming in the South Seas

AN interesting feature of Pacific Islands development is that cattle-breeding has been commenced in several of the larger Islands, and that the dairying industry has been actually established in Fiji.

Up until about 1922 Fiji imported annually butter of the value of about £12,000. Then it was found that the business of cattle-farming—introduced many years ago in order to provide



Indian-owned cattle on Sigatoka River, Fiji.

fresh meat and milk on the plantations—might be extended to dairying, in the Australian sense of the word. "Tins" butter factories were established at Kororua, at Waila (Bewa), and at Tumanua (Nanua). By 1927 those factories had overtaken the whole of the local demand, and 484 cwt. were exported. The annual value of the factory butter produced now in Fiji is over £20,000 and there are over 70,000 cattle in the group.

In the Solomon Islands—the least civilised and developed of all the nearer groups—there are some 15,000 head of cattle. Introduced first to crop the grasses in the coconut plantations, and provide the planters with milk and fresh meat, they have flourished and multiplied. It is possible that as settlement extends over these extensive territories, cattle-farming will become an important industry. Even on untamed Malaita, where settlement is retarded by the scarcity of the natives, there are some 700 cattle.

There are 5,000 cattle in the eastern section of Papua, while in the mandate territory of New Guinea, distributed through all divisions, there are over 14,000 head.

In the French territory of New Caledonia, which lies in the latitude of Rockhampton, only a few hundred miles from the Australian coast, cattle-raising is carried on on an extensive scale, and there are several canning factories.

ISOLATED NIUAFOU

One Day's Fame

IN PATH OF ECLIPSE

It is expected that a party of scientists, probably led by Professor P. W. Bridgman, professor of physics at Auckland University, will travel by a warship from New Zealand to Niuafof, in the Tongan Islands, in September, to observe a total eclipse of the sun on October 21. Niuafof is about 200 miles north by west of Vavau.

There are only two places in the Pacific where the eclipse will be seen, and the other is a tiny, uninhabited island. The expedition has been promised the active assistance of the Tongan Government, and probably will sail from Nukunono for Niuafof late in September. An American naval party from Pago Pago may also visit Niuafof.

Niuafof, which has a population of 1,100, (there are only half a dozen whites), will interest the scientists. It is really the cradle of an extinct volcano, and consists of a rim of high land, varying in width, and enclosing a mineral-water lake three miles long. It is wonderfully fertile, and produces the largest coconuts in the Pacific. The island is the home of the maiu, a strange, burrowing bird, remarkable for producing an egg of enormous size. It is a charming, but lonely and isolated island. There is no anchorage, and a landing is effected sometimes with great difficulty; so when the Fiji-Banana steamer "Is passing, a native often swims out with the mail. The natives are noted for their wonderful skin—the result of frequent bathing in the mineralised lake.



A typical Polynesian girl. This one posed for the camera in Apia, Western Samoa.

OPPORTUNITIES IN NEW GUINEA

Chances For New Enterprise and New Capital

BOND-SELLING COMPANY PUTS FAITH IN COFFEE

Shrewd and experienced observers believe that a period of great development and expansion lies immediately ahead of New Guinea and Papua, where enterprise is being stimulated by gold production. In this article, the potentialities of New Guinea are outlined.

In comparison with Australia, or any other country, the Territory of New Guinea has three things in its favour:

- (1) It has vast undeveloped resources, with amazing fertility and a heavy, regular rainfall.
- (2) It is free from the heavy taxation, and various other evils associated with over-government.
- (3) It has a large supply of cheap labour.

This Territory—which comprises one-third of New Guinea (virtually a continent in itself), the huge, fertile island of New Britain (500 miles long by 30 broad), and the smaller but equally valuable islands of New Ireland and Bougainville—offers opportunities for the investment of capital, and the enterprise of young men, such as are to be found in no other part of the world.

An hour ago, I talked about the Pacific Islands with a man who is clever and experienced, but tired—grey and bent under the weight of years. He said "the Islands are finished," and that New Guinea in particular is "wiped out." He is interested in copra, and measures everything in terms of that commodity.

I think that, in these times of economic stress, all the pessimistic old men should be rooted out of their executive chairs, and given a comfortable holiday somewhere, while the affairs of the immediate future are arranged by the younger men, to whom the future belongs. The world, certainly, is a little out of gear. But that only means it is a time for quick decisions, shrewd calculation, confidence in the future. It is no time for croaking and pessimism, for the buttoning up of pockets and insistence that everything is going to the "demition bow-wow."

Trade in the Islands is depressed. The price offered for copra at present is sheer murder. There is no doubt that greedy, soul-less corporations are reaching their tentacles through the Pacific, taking advantage of financial conditions to gather in the plantations that have been built on the sweat and hopes of industrious men. There is no doubt, also, that other big corporations are carrying hundreds of men who, otherwise, would have been completely wiped out by this slump.

But to say that the "Islands are finished" and that "this is the end of the copra industry" is absurd and ridiculous. It would be just as logical to say that we are witnessing the end of the wool industry, and the metal-producing industries, and the wheat-growing industry, and all the other industries which give us raw material and foodstuffs.

The Islands are suffering the same economic sickness that is being more or less patiently endured by all the other countries in the world. It is being more generally felt here, because the Islands are dependent upon one main staple product—copra—whose price has fallen to unprecedented levels. But it can be taken as certain that when the world gets back to normal trading conditions, as it will shortly, the Islands will return to normal trading, too. There are going to be minor readjustments of value. Substitutes have been found for copra, just as substitutes have been found for wool, but neither the coconut plantation nor the sheep-station is going to be wiped out in a month, or a year, or a decade.

People are inclined to let the drifting clouds obscure their vision of the solid mountains behind. The world's vast population is rapidly increasing. The average standard of living, everywhere,

One of the famous coconut plantations of New Guinea, established during the German occupation. Bought originally for a shilling, and carefully selected, it was valued, until the slump in copra, at more than thousands of pounds.



A TYPICAL PLANTATION IN NEW GUINEA

is getting higher. The growth in the demand for every variety of tropical product during the past fifty years is nothing to the growth that we shall see in the next half century. There may be spasms of over-production, with corresponding brief periods of depression—but it is as certain as the sunrise that the world will continue to want the rich oil of the coconut, the inimitable product of the rubber-trees, cocoa and coffee, pear and trochus shell.

ALTERNATIVES TO COFRA

For 20 years past, European effort in the Islands has been concentrated on the cultivation of the coconut palm. It is difficult to get detailed figures, but it is certain that the increase in the production of copra has been enormous. The same thing has been going

on in Malaya, Ceylon and the Dutch East Indies. Possibly the time has arrived when it is wise to suggest that further planting of coconut plantations should be undertaken, at least, with caution. There are a very large number of new plantations in all parts of the world.

Is this not a time when the other rich resources of the Islands should be considered? New Guinea provides various typical alternatives to copra. Although the production of copra, no doubt, will remain the staple industry, this rich and fertile territory is capable of vast production in other directions.

There is, for instance, the production of cocoa. Already several cocoa plantations have been established, and before long various planters in New Guinea will be producing on a fairly large scale. Cocoa flourishes in the rich volcanic soil—this has been amply demonstrated in Wita, off the north coast of New Britain, and also on the plantations in the Baining, not far from Rabaul. There is a good world market for cocoa, and the Commonwealth Government gives a bounty of £12/10/- per ton.

WHAT OF COFFEE?

There is coffee. Investigation has shown that large areas of land on the various islands of the Mandate Territory are eminently suitable to coffee growing, and there appears to be no reason why this region should not become a notable producer of coffee of the finer Arabian types. The consumption of coffee throughout the world is growing steadily.

A most interesting recent development is the acreage area of a large area on the Karavat River, in the Rabaul district, by a new company, entitled Islands Plantations Ltd., for the purpose of establishing a coffee plantation. It is a plan based on the bond-selling system made familiar in recent years by New Zealand timber-growing and flax-planting enterprises, and there seems to be no reason why it should not become the forerunner of a rich and important New Guinea industry. Three well-known New Guinea planters—Messrs. H. G. W. Hanson, V. R. Pennefather and H. J. Washington—are the founders of the company, and details of the plan are given in an advertisement in this issue. The company proposes to proceed with its planting operations on sound lines and, if this pioneering work receives from the Administration and other large New Guinea interests the sympathy and co-operation it seems to deserve, it may mark a new era in New Guinea development.

There also is kapok. This is a product for which there is a growing demand throughout the world. Kapok seed from Java was introduced in 1926, and distributed among about 60 planters. Some have achieved success in its cultivation and, on present appearances it is likely that this will become a large and profitable product of the Territory. The Commonwealth Government is seeking to stimulate kapok production with a bonus of 2d. per lb.

CATTLE-FARMING

The possibilities of cattle farming are not to be overlooked. There are now more than 14,000 cattle in the Territory, and the number are steadily increasing. Rich pasture lands have been discovered in the Lower Sepik Valley, about 40 miles from the river mouth. Aeroplan's flights have also disclosed excellent cattle country in the Markham Valley.

Up to the present, cattle have been pastured mostly in the coconut plantations, but there is now a tendency to open up country specially for cattle-farming, and the possibilities in this connection appear to be unlimited, par-

ticularly on the New Guinea mainland. Of course, pasture conditions are quite different to those in Australia, but that is only a matter of acclimatization.

Cattle farming is now an established industry in Pili and Noumea, and to some extent in the Solomon; and there is no reason why it should not be developed in New Guinea—particularly in view of the increasing world shortage of beef.

WHAT MAY FOLLOW GOLD RUSH

We have said nothing about gold or the numerous other valuable minerals (tin, copper, manganese, lead, manganite, monazite, platinum, etc.), which are found in such abundance throughout the Territory. The story of New Guinea gold is told elsewhere, all of the other mineral deposits may be profitably worked.

The history of gold discovery throughout the world shows, almost without exception, that the huge immigration brought about by the gold-rushes has been followed by tremendously rapid development of the other natural resources of the country—particularly agriculture and pastoral. This seems bound to happen in New Guinea. The wealth that is being dug out of the Morobe gorges will inevitably be reflected in the vast development of New Guinea's other natural wealth.

Of course, there are serious problems for the Administration. One has to do with labour. It is doubtful whether native labour, sufficient now, will meet all future demands. There are already those who urge the establishment of a system of indentured Asiatic labour.

It seems likely that, sooner or later, the Administration will meet a serious challenge in regard to its native labour policy. The opinion is growing throughout the Territory that the system of "pampering" the natives, and refusing to allow planters to maintain satisfactory discipline by imposing minor punishment, is leading to awkward complications. The subject is closely linked with the whole question of labour supply.

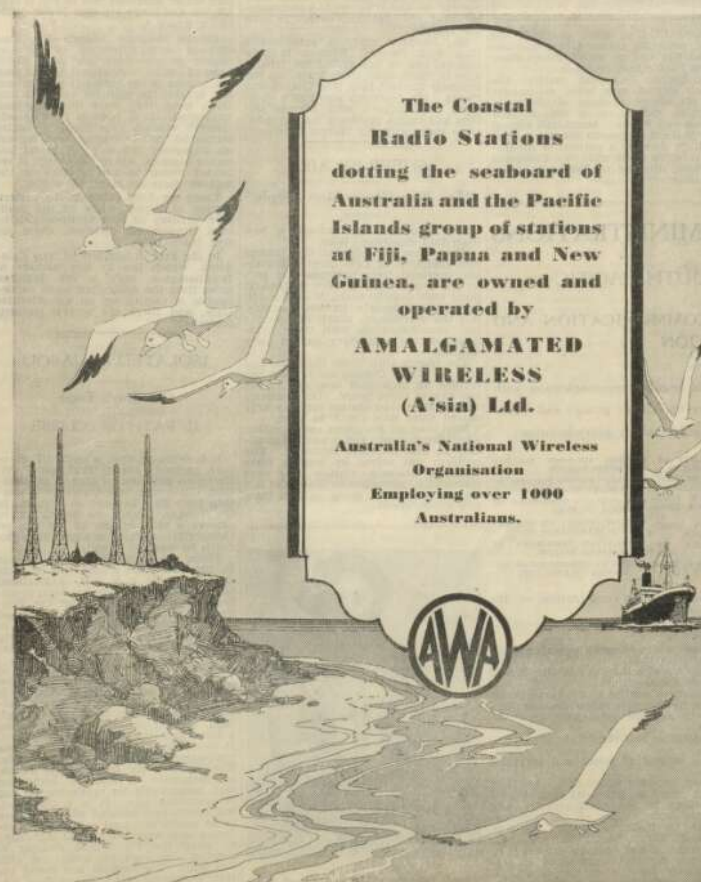
But that is a minor matter. The thing that interests Australia to-day is the fact that, despite temporary depression in the copra industry, New Guinea apparently is at the point of tremendous development and expansion, and is well worthy of the attention, not only of Australian investors, but of all Australian young men who are seeking a useful career under interesting and attractive conditions.

HEALTH CULTURE FOR THE PACIFIC

Among the various classes of business practitioners who have recently turned their attention to the possibility of obtaining a larger Pacific Islands connection, a notable example is that of Mr. Alfred J. Britton, who conducts an Institute in Sydney for the development of health and physical culture.

Mr. Britton is easily the leader in Australia in this class of enterprise. He has not only made a scientific study of how to keep healthy the man engaged in sedentary occupations, but he has also let the world know about his establishment by extensive advertising; and he has been able to give really valuable service to the large numbers of men who have taken up his course.

Mr. Britton is particularly interested in Pacific Islands residents. His course, which can be effectively imparted by mail, probably would assist white residents of the Pacific Islands very much in maintaining their health under what sometimes are trying climatic conditions. Apart from health considerations, the physical culture taught by this Institute is of a pleasurable and interesting character.



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EXIT LEVUANA

End of a Fijian Pest

MALAY FLY SAVES COPRA INDUSTRY

ONE of the most important and interesting developments in the South Sea in recent years is the success which has attended the efforts of the Fijian administration to get control of the coconut pest, the purple moth, known as *Levuana*. By this success, a menace to the chief industry of the Pacific has been removed.

It is sixty years since this insect was first noted in the large island of Viti Levu, where its attacks on coconut palms were found to be so serious that the production of copra was impossible. The result has been that, while all the other islands of the rich group have produced copra, worth not less than £500,000 annually, Viti Levu has had to look to sugar and other crops for revenue.

During many years, while the pest was confined to the main island, the authorities sought methods of checking it, but nothing of moment was achieved. Suddenly, the moth appeared in the island of Ovalau, between Viti Levu and Vanua Levu—whither meant



A glimpse of Suva, the capital of the flourishing colony of Fiji. This place, with its tropical beauty and equable and healthy climate, is destined to be the popular winter resort of Australians and New Zealanders.

that the other islands and therefore the whole copra industry were threatened. It meant, also, that if the pest could reach Ovalau, it might get across from Fiji to other South Sea groups.

The Fijian entomologists speeded up their work. They had introduced from the Federated Malay States, with the greatest difficulty, a fly with the impenetrable name of *Physomyia* *ficaria*. At first, this creature did not appear to like its new home, and languished. Then, very quickly, it began to multiply, and by the end of 1926 war against *Levuana* began to enter a new phase.

By the end of 1927, so rapidly did the fly operate, the ranks of the moth in the words of Sam Weller, had begun to "visibly shrink." The defoliation of the coconut palms by the pest in the affected areas of Viti Levu and Ovalau has now been markedly reduced, and there seems every reason for believing that the end of the *Levuana* moth is within sight, and that the copra industry can be established at last in Viti Levu. It is all in time with the great prosperity which Fiji has been enjoying.

Other parasites, calculated to cause *Levuana* a certain amount of excitement and distress, had been discovered in Java; but in view of what the Malay fly had achieved, they were not called into the conflict.

The only source of anxiety in Fiji now concerns the future activities of the fly. What will it attack when it has wiped out *Levuana*?

Do You Want This Journal?

THE Pacific Islands Monthly will provide you with a reliable summary of all that is happening in the Central and South Pacific Islands. Particularly will it give you early information about trade, settlement and industrial opportunities. If you wish to keep in touch with developments in these rich and growing territories, fill in and post this form:

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OUR FIJIAN NEWSLETTER
RAPID GROWTH OF INDIAN POPULATION

From Our Own Correspondent

THE population of Fiji is curiously divided. There are over 4,000 Europeans. The native population numbers 90,000—and the natives, of course, are largely the landowners. The Indians, brought in originally to work the sugar plantations, are now 65,000. They are largely engaged in agriculture, and are rapidly overhauling the native population. And there are 1,000 Chinese.

The Indians are now a power to be reckoned with in the Colony's economy. They have in many cases become wealthy, and all the motor cars (some 700), are driven, and mostly owned, by them.

The Chinese have mostly driven the Indian storekeepers out of business in the country districts, and have slowly but surely capturing the small trade of the colony.

With the dissolution of Brodriak Ltd. there are now only two European main trading concerns in Fiji—Burns Philp (South Sea) Co. Ltd., and Morris Hedderley Ltd., who have branches in the chief country towns. Besides them,

held at the residence of the Chief Justice (Captain Anderson, K.C., R.N.)

Sir Henry Scott, K.C., who has been laid up for some time, suffering from blood-poisoning, has resumed business activities.

His Excellency, the Acting-Governor, Mr. Islay McOwan, O.M.G., who has been ill with throat trouble, is once more back on duty.

On the motion of Sir Henry Scott, K.C., Mr. William Lambert Davidson has been admitted to the Fijian Bar. He has practised in New Zealand. It is understood that Mr. Davidson will practice at Labasa, the big sugar centre.

RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES

For forty years or more during their life in Fiji, the Indians have left their religious differences (which are the cause of so much trouble in India) at home, and the Colony has been free of religious strife. But the spirit of discord which is penetrating into all corners of the world has at last reached us, and there are reports of trouble among Indian cane-growers on the Rewa River.

Hindus will not work under a Mohammedan, or vice versa, and, meantime, business stands still.

Still, the thing that makes an Indian "sit up and take notice" is his pocket, and some £5,000 worth of cane is in jeopardy. It is believed that the need to save the cane-money will dominate all other considerations—at least, for the time being.

A GOVERNMENT WITH A SURPLUS!

While financial troubles are being reported from all over the world, it is refreshing to hear of a country that is living within its income, and whose budget shows a credit balance. Such is the happy position of Fiji, whose Treasurer has shown a credit for the past four years, and converted a former debit balance of £200,000 into a credit of over £150,000. On top of this, so good is the credit of the Colony, that the Government is committed to a loan expenditure policy running into nearly half a million.

The first big job will be the extension of the main road—the inland road, so that when the connecting links are finished, a tourist will be able to travel by car, over 150 miles of excellent road, amid the most lovely scenery, combining coastal and reef beauties, with the grandeur of mountain peaks and deep verdant valleys, full of flowering bush and majestic timber.

Other public works will follow, and much progress can be looked for in Fiji during the next three years.

NAVAL COURTESIES!

The visit of H.M.S. *Dunedin* was the occasion of a good deal of interest among Suva citizens. It appears that the Deputy-Mayor, in the absence of the Mayor, who was abroad, attended by the town clerk, called upon the ship, and the commanding officer, Mr. Blake, also made a formal call. To neither of these public officials did Commander Blake see fit to accord a return call. Neither were they invited to any function on board the warship during her week's stay.

The injury was aggravated by a belated call from the Commodore's secretary, prior to leaving, to say that the Commodore did not know of the visit—although both visitors were duly personally introduced, and chatted with the naval gentleman. Further, the Colonial Secretary arranged a big picnic to the men of the ship, and the event proved a great success.

HURRICANE'S SILVER LINING

The Rev. R. L. McDonald, chairman of the Fiji Methodist Mission, has just completed 1,100 miles by water in four weeks, in the small schooner *John Wesley*, visiting the Yasawas and the Lau groups.

In the latter, at the island of Onesa, a special dedication and centenary service was held to commemorate the centenary of the landing of the three Tahitian native missionaries, who prepared the way for Rev. Mr. Cross and the Rev. Mr. Cargill, five years later.

Generally, Mr. McDonald found that the late hurricane had had a beneficial effect by improving the land. At the Yasawas, the land was silted by the flying spray, which swept over the highest hills, and on the Rewa it was improved by layers of silt, which manured the land.

The mission is taking steps to improve the general elementary education of the natives by grouping the village schools into district schools, with a higher standard of teaching.

Although on the island of Onesa, the natives would not be able to earn their tax money, owing to drought, the outlying native population generally was in quite a happy and prosperous condition.

ISLAND PLANTATIONS LIMITED
NEW GUINEA

DIRECTORS:

H. G. W. HANSON, Esq.,
Owner, Same Plantation,
Namatua, New Guinea.

V. B. PENNEFATHER, Esq.,
Owner, Tolua Plantation,
Kopaka, New Guinea.

H. J. WASHINGTON, Esq.,
Owner, Kabara Plantation,
Rabaul, New Guinea.

Particulars of Profit-Sharing Bonds
Now Offered for Sale

ISLAND PLANTATIONS LIMITED has been formed with a nominal Bond and Share Capital of £216,500, for the purpose of acquiring land in New Britain, 32 miles from Rabaul, and establishing a Coffee Plantation. The whole of the Share Capital necessary to allow the Company to function and carry out its obligations has been subscribed. It has acquired 3,500 acres of first-class coffee land, and Bonds are now being offered to the public.

There are three series of Bonds—"A," "B" and "C." It is the issue of "A" Bonds, limited to 2,000, which are now for sale, at £20/10/- each, cash or terms. Approximately 1,000 acres of the estate are to be transferred to Trustees on behalf of the "A" Bondholders—that is, each Bondholder will own half an acre of the plantation. "B" and "C" Bonds, representing further divisions of the estate, are not yet for sale. The Company will commence operations with that portion of the estate represented by "A" Bonds.

The Company makes itself responsible to the Trustees appointed by the Bondholders and enters into guarantees that it will faithfully discharge the following obligations:

It will transfer to the Bondholders of "A" Bonds the ownership of approximately one thousand acres of suitable land.

It will plant the estate with coffee and bring it to the production stage (approximately 3 years).

It will fully equip the estate with proper transport facilities, plant and machinery, and all the necessary buildings.

It will act as Managing Agents for the Bondholders after the actual stage of production has been reached.

It will definitely contract with the purchasers of the first 1,000 Bonds of "A" issue, if the latter desire it, to re-sell the Bonds in December, 1932, at a premium equal to 10 per cent. per annum on their face value. In other words, during the three years of planting and preparation, before production is reached, purchasers of the first Bonds are guaranteed 10 per cent. per annum on the amount they have invested.

It will pay half the amount received from the sale of each Bond into a Trust Account, to be operated jointly by the Bondholders' Trustees and the Company, in accordance with stated conditions, as a guarantee that the Company will carry out its undertakings.

The Bonds carry a Death Benefit. Should any purchaser die before his Bond is fully paid for, the Bond will be regarded as fully paid up and transferred accordingly to his legal heir.

The land is to be planted with Robusta Coffee, a species thoroughly tried, tested and proved to be profitable. Statistics show that it will yield from 10 to 15 cwt. of coffee per acre per annum; but in all estimates of profits only 10 cwt. per annum has been allowed for. There is a steady growing market for coffee. It is also calculated that there will be no production in the first three years after planting; half-production in the fourth year; three-quarters production in the fifth year, and full production in the sixth year. These are highly conservative estimates, as a Coffee Plantation, favourably situated and skilfully managed, as this one will be, should be in full production in considerably less than six years.

RETURNS

Investment	Estimated to Return per Annum
1 Bond, £20/10/-	= £2/10/-
5 Bonds, £100	= £10
10 Bonds, £200	= £20
20 Bonds, £400	= £40
50 Bonds, £1,000	= £100
100 Bonds, £2,000	= £200

If you are looking for a profitable investment for your savings, or a few endowment for your children, fill in and post this form. It places no obligation upon you—we shall simply supply you with full particulars.

The Secretary,
ISLAND PLANTATIONS LTD.,
205, Market Street, Sydney.

Please forward the particulars of your "A" Series Bonds, which you are now offering for sale.

Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Date: _____

PLANTING AND TECHNICAL

As regards the planting and technical side, the Directors have been fortunate in being able to retain the services of Mr. H. G. W. Hanson, Plantation Owner, of New Guinea. He will direct the planting operations, and will see that a careful upkeep of the plantation is provided; he will advise his co-directors, all of whom are planters, owners and men of practical experience, in matters of planting policy, and will indicate the most up-to-date and scientific lines on which to proceed.

The following are extracts from the report by Mr. George Murray, Director of Agriculture in New Guinea: "I consider the land acquired by the Company is ideal for coffee cultivation. The soil at the Kabara is a deep volcanic loam, well drained, and should produce good crops of coffee."

"Coffee now growing on this property is flowering at eighteen months from time of planting."

"I consider the Company's land is ideally situated as regards transport by motor road and water."

"There is not the slightest risk of damage to the plantation by fire or floods."

"I consider Mr. Hanson has the practical knowledge necessary for the planting and developing of the Company's plantations."

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES.

The establishment of a Coffee Plantation in New Guinea has several peculiar advantages. The land and climate are eminently suitable; there is an absence of the heavy taxation which is now being experienced in Australia; there is plenty of cheap native labour; and there is in Australia alone a huge market for the product. Australia, in 1929 imported 2,600,000 lb. of coffee. Coffee from foreign countries is subject to a duty of 3d. per lb. Coffee grown in New Guinea is admitted into Australia free.

This is one of the most attractive investments of this kind ever offered to the Australian public. The Directors invite anyone interested to make the fullest investigation of the detailed information, which they will supply in a handbook.

AIR SERVICES

Inaugurated in Fiji

RUNNING MAILS TO OUTER PORTS

REGULAR aeroplane communication between the more important centres in the Fiji group was inaugurated recently.

There was great excitement in Lautoka on July 18, when the seaplane "Adi Lagi," piloted by Captain Fencou, arrived at 8 a.m. from Suva, on its inaugural, mail-carrying trip. About 1,000 Europeans, Fijians, Hindus, and Chinese assembled at the wharf about 8 a.m., to welcome the unusual visitor. The natives were convinced that the plane was either a god or a devil-ship, otherwise they could not have travelled from Suva in 75 minutes. Amid the shrieks of the excited Fijians, the plane took off again before 10 a.m. for Ba, and back to Suva.

Soon after 10 a.m., on the following day (the 19th), a wild clamour among the natives in Levuka announced the arrival of the plane at Ovalau Island, and it came gracefully to rest at Vasa (in Levuka Harbour), thence being towed to King's Wharf. It brought the District Commissioner (Commander W. Burrows) as its first passenger. A little later it flew over to Koro Island, 40 miles away, with Mr. C. H. Hopewell, and landed him at his plantation (Matana), and returned to Levuka. It returned that evening to Suva, with a Levuka mail.

On Thursday the plane flew from Suva to the island of Wakaya, north-east of Levuka, with Mr. Wise (Commissioner of Works), and returned to Levuka. The following day, it flew over to Vana Levu, landed mails at Laka, and returned to Suva via Wakaya, where it picked up Mr. Wise.

The machine used is a Moth biplane, equipped with floats, and the successful inauguration of this service shows the important part that aeroplanes are likely to play in the development of these rich island groups of the South Seas.

COOK ISLANDS NOTES

Maori Chiefs Visit the Track of the Ancient Migration

From Our Own Correspondent

Rarotonga, July 20.

BY recent mail steamer we received a visit from a party of N.Z. Maori chiefs who spent the week-end here meeting our Rarotongan Maoris. According to the New Zealand press, the party came down to try and establish relationships with our Maoris. It is established tradition (both here and in N.Z.) that it was from Rarotonga that the Maoris went to New Zealand (about 800 years ago). The language is practically the same. Their time here was spent mainly in teaching, though they had an opportunity of seeing the fruit packing sheds in operation, the schools, hospital, and one of two native plantations. The party was accompanied by Mr. H. R. H. Balneavis, Private Secretary to the Minister of the Cook Islands, and Masters H. and H. Ngata (2), and Miss Hana Ngata.

It was originally intended that the Hon. Sir Asipirana Ngata, N.Z. Minister of the Cook Islands, would visit the island, and that the party would accompany him, but he was detained in N.Z. on account of the political situation there at the time, and the party came on without him.

By the same steamer Judge H. Carr (N.Z. Native Land Court, Gisborne) arrived to relieve Resident Commissioner Judge H. F. Ayson for three months, the latter leaving for New Zealand to undertake some special Land Court work for the New Zealand Government. Mr. S. J. Smith (Secretary of the Cook Islands Department, Wellington, N.Z.) recently stayed a month here. During this time he paid a visit to the Lower Group Islands per s.s. "Wai-pahi," and managed to stay a week at Mangaia, connecting with a schooner from there back to Rarotonga.

Mr. A. F. Scherer, headmaster of the Avarua School, has retired, and returned to N.Z. In addition to his ordinary duties, Mr. Scherer had acted as Superintendent of Schools for the past two years. His place was filled by the transfer of Mr. A. McKenzie from the Aitutaki School, to be headmaster of Avarua School and local Education Officer. A male assistant has also been appointed to the Avarua School (Mr. C. E. Taverer), in order to relieve Mr. McKenzie of some of the routine work, and allow him to devote more time to the general work of all the schools.

DEATH OF MAUI POMARE

News of the death in California of Sir Maui Pomare, K.B.E., C.M.G., came as a great shock to the people of Rarotonga, where he was well known and very popular. Sir Maui passed through on May 24 by mail steamer on his health-recreating visit to California, and it is thought he was too ill to come ashore a great many of his friends went out on board to see him. He died in California on June 27. He had been Minister of the Cook Islands for 16 years.

On his retirement, at the termination of the Reform Government in December, 1928, the people of the Cook Islands presented him with an illuminated address. This was made locally by Mr. Wm. McBirney, of Avarua, planter. It was signed by the leading Europeans and natives. Here is a small photograph of it.

The Pure Fruit Products Company are at present working at full pressure, canning orange juice, lemon juice, lemon peel, etc., for the N.Z. market. This co. was formed on the strength of the experiments of Mr. F. V. Senn on the preservation of orange juice.

Last year a Bowling Club was formed in Rarotonga, and ninety and surely

the green has been got in order. At present a top-dressing is being put on, and it is hoped to open the green soon. H.M.S. Laburnum is due at Rarotonga in August, and the Sports Association has decided to put an Association team against the warship. Although the natives do not now play Soccer—much preferring Rugby—it has always been found possible to get a team to score a win against the warship, every time they have played.

GOOD FOR THE LABOURERS

Quite a stir was caused early in the orange season by the people of Avarua taking all the labour away from Avatua at the rate of 6/- per day.



The Needle, a rock on the summit of one of Rarotonga's mountain peaks, familiar to all travellers between Wellington and San Francisco.

"They had so many oranges they didn't know what to do," so they came in and took all the Avarua labour they could get at 4/- per day, instead of the usual 4/-, to help them pick.

That district has had a very heavy crop of oranges this season—the packing shed at Avarua has averaged over 6,000 each boat—more than twice the number handled by any of the other packing sheds. This has occasioned a lot of night work at the shed, in order to get the fruit graded and packed in time.

The younger and more agile Europeans have taken to climbing the pre-



Address to late Sir Maui Pomare. See Letterpress.

erious peaks of this island. They surmounted Te Kou (1850 ft.), one Sunday, and on another occasion went right across the island, up the Avarua Valley and past The Needle.

EXPEDITION AT AIUTAKI

At present, in Aitutaki, there is an American Expedition, investigating the marine life there, and taking moving pictures of same. It is the Challenger-Stuart Expedition (Mr. P. M. Chancellor and Mr. Norton Stuart). Mr. Chancellor is either a millionaire or millionaire's son, and has taken up this work as a hobby. Mr. Stuart is the business man of the combination.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Do you want any information about the Pacific Islands? If so, send your questions to The Editor, Pacific Islands Monthly, Lagar House, Wynyard Sq., Sydney; and an answer will, if possible, be published in the next issue of the journal. In writing, please supply a non-de-plume to which our answer may be addressed—otherwise we will use your initials.

The compilation of The Pacific Islands Year Book, containing most of the information about the Pacific Islands, which is now in demand, is practically complete, and will be published at an early date. In the meantime, we shall try to meet requirements through this column.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

E.R. (Newcastle): The trade of the Marshalls and Carolines has gone almost completely to Japan, since that nation took over the Mandate in 1919; and there is now very little communication between Australia and those groups. We have Japan's annual reports to the League of Nations on these groups, which you may see if you care to call at this office.

J.L. McC. (Sydney): Generally difficult to obtain. The policy of most of the administration is to protect the native titles to land. If you could give more exact indications of your requirements, and what locality you favour, we might help you. Have you considered Norfolk Island?

W.R.D.: We are not quite sure, and have written for the information.

S.L. (Sydney): Companies registered under some of the Islands administrations certainly escape a good deal of heavy taxation, compared with Australian registration.

W.N. (Parramatta): Thanks—may use if space permits. There are useful statistics, dealing with New Guinea, in a folder entitled "The Golden Islands," just issued by the Department of Home and Territories, Canberra.

IN DUTCH NEW GUINEA

The Lure of The Unknown

From Our Thursday Island Correspondent

THE man in the street does not know much about Dutch New Guinea, which I recently had the privilege of visiting.

It may occur to him that the country is largely peopled by cannibals, and of the interior this is still true. However, there is no danger in this respect along the seaboard. A road runs for ninety miles west from Merauke, crossing many rivers in its course, and along this, regular patrols are carried out by the Dutch officials.

The country might be described as crude; it has an unfinished appearance which suggests that Providence lost interest in it before completion. There are swamps of mangrove, swamps of ti-tree, and swamps of grass. In addition, there are areas which might be called "Just Swamps." The jungle is often knee-deep in water, and is traversed by a mass of creeks. Crocodiles and mosquitoes abound.

Apparently not a very attractive country, and yet like other parts of the great island continent of New Guinea, it has a tremendous fascination for men of a roving disposition. It is the unknown that lures! What the unexplored parts of Dutch New Guinea might bring to light is the bait, gold the prize. The mountainous interior must be most interesting.

It may not be generally known that Thursday Island provides fine sport for duck-shooters. Several parties have been out recently in the Jardine Swamps, making the journey by motor-boat.



A charming picture of Suva, capital of New Caledonia, and the other allied French territories. It is not generally known that Suva is the nearest Pacific Islands town to Australia.

MURDOCH'S

Greet the Call to

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The Alan Fairfax "Autograph" Bat

The Highest Grade Bat possible to produce. 59/6

"SUPER GRADE" 35/-
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 "College Driver," a size 6 Boy's Bat. Club or private Bat. A quality seldom seen in the size

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An excellent Bat for hard wear. All Cane Handle. Made by Cobbett & Sons, of London. 21/-

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14th August, 1930.

This Complimentary Copy of the Pacific Islands Monthly will give you some idea of the character and purpose of the journal.

Divided, with few means of communication between Groups, Territories and Colonies, controlled by a dozen different Administrations, the residents of the Pacific Islands suffer under many disabilities, with few means of securing redress. United, the Island Territories of the South and Central Pacific are quite powerful and important enough, now, to make their voice heard in Canberra, or Wellington, or London, or in any other capital.

This journal hopes to provide the Pacific Islands with a means of securing unity of expression and action; to let the world know something of the wonderful progress that is being made in the different Groups; to keep up a constant agitation for redress of genuine grievances; to broadcast information about the unique opportunities offered to capital and enterprise in these rich, tax-free, undeveloped lands; to assist Australian and New Zealand exporters in strengthening their Pacific trade relationships; and last, but not least, to supply Islands residents with a useful summary of what is happening in other parts of the Pacific, and in the Pacific trade generally.

If there is any way in which we can assist you, as one interested in Pacific Islands development, please write to us. In any event, we should be very glad to have your opinion of this journal, and of the purpose behind it.

If you wish to receive the journal regularly, kindly fill in this form, and either lodge it with one of our agents, whose names are printed in the paper, or post it direct.

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Lisgar House, Wynyard Square, Sydney.

Please send me the Pacific Islands Monthly for a period of months from receipt hereof.

Herewith find sum of, being subscription at rate of 6/- per annum, post free.

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