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# THE Pacific Islands Monthly

THE ONLY JOURNAL CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND TERRITORIES AND GROUPS OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTH PACIFIC.

Vol. I.—No. 2.

SYDNEY: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1930

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## MINDS OF NATIVES POISONED

Contact With Lower Class Whites

### A NEW GUINEA PROBLEM

A WELL-KNOWN New Guinea planter has asked 'The Pacific Islands Monthly' to make an urgent appeal for stricter supervision over the visits of native "boys" to Sydney.

"These young natives are brought down here as servants—usually as attendants for young children," said the planter. "The consequences usually are very bad."

"These natives, while here, are allowed to mix on terms of equality with low-class whites, particularly white women, and they go back to the Territory with a high opinion of themselves. They have the minds of children, and they cannot distinguish between the different classes of whites. The maintenance of discipline in the Territory is thereby a serious problem."



A gallery of Madras, where native criminals are given quick dispatch. Rarely seen.

tem. The native is a child, and there is only one way to train the mind of the child against petty wrong-doing—that is, a quick application of the cane. But employers of labour are forbidden to touch a native. If he is impudent, or disobedient, or lazy, or a thief, we must convey him to the District Officer, and he may get a term in the calaboose. By this time, he has forgotten his offence—and he regards imprisonment as a joke, and a relief from work, anyway. The system is farcical.

"Incidentally, the same District Officer punishes us, by fine, if we handle the labourers roughly. It would not be so bad if they were gentlemen trained to exercise the powers of magistrates. But they are not. Of those who were holding office, not long ago, one was formerly a barber, one a railway porter, one a stonemason, one a cabinet-maker.

"This D.O. personnel is improving, however, and we might cope with the situation, if it were not for the constant poisoning of the natives by contact with low-class whites. Until recent years, we kept the natives in their proper place—we were firm, just and kind—and they respected us, and the necessary prestige of the whites was maintained. But when boys are allowed to associate with Europeans, and particularly with low-class white women, the discipline that is based on race prestige breaks down. And it is difficult to combat this kind of thing when our hands are tied in the manner described.

"One boy, coming back with ideas of equality, may contaminate hundreds of others; and then the danger to our white women becomes very great and real."

"People wishing to take nurses to Australia should be compelled to use female nurses. There is a probability of

## Nauru Saves Native Babies

From Our Canberra Correspondent

Canberra, Sept. 15.—The Baby Clinic experiment at Nauru has proved a great success, according to a report received from the Administrator, Mr. W. A. Newman.

This is borne out by the fact that in 1924 there were 20 deaths of native children under 1 year old out of 57 births, while in 1929 out of 46 births there were only seven deaths.

Incidentally, Mr. Newman mentions that the weather has been very stormy. Nine vessels were then drifting round the island, waiting for an opportunity to load phosphate.

## Gravely Disturbed

Commerce in New Caledonia

Indo-Chine Bank and Bechade

THE introduction of a new banking policy in New Caledonia has very gravely disturbed commercial conditions in the Indo-Chine Bank and Bechade, and it looks as if several Australian firms will be hard hit.

For very many years most of the banking business of New Caledonia has been in the hands of the Bank of Indo-Chine, and this institution gave easy and generous accommodation to its clients. As a result, the big merchants allowed almost unlimited credit to the planters and producers generally.

A few months ago, certain officials came out from Bank headquarters. A survey of the position was made, and the fact was found—all overdrafts must be substantially reduced. In view of the conditions that had obtained, the difficulty of quickly readjusting the position can be realised, and there were many appeals for "more time." The Bank, however, was adamant, with the result that some of the trading firms were soon in grave difficulties.

One of the largest firms got assistance from France, and appears to have survived the storm. A second-known generally as "Bechade"—appears to have been forced into liquidation. Its liabilities are in the neighbourhood of £250,000, but its assets are substantial.

There are really two Bechade firms—the parent company, Les Etablissements de Bechade (New Caledonia), and Societe de Bechade des Nouvelles Hebrides. The trading position of the New Hebrides concern, and this is what brought it into difficulties.

The directors of Bechade insisted that if they were given reasonable latitude they could meet all their liabilities. The Australian creditors—mostly Sydney merchants—were quite prepared to allow the firm to carry on. But the Bank refused any further assistance, and took legal action to force the firm into liquidation.

The Australian creditors held a meeting and decided to send Mr. P. F. Parker (one of the directors of Messrs. W. S. Tait & Co. Ltd.) to Noumea and Vila to ascertain the exact position and take whatever steps were necessary to protect their interests.

trouble with that system, too, perhaps—but it does not react upon the Europeans in the Territory. New Guinea authorities also should sternly prevent the white crews of visiting vessels fraternising with the natives—that, also, creates a difficult spirit among these conceited, truculent, yet childlike people.

The planter said he was not attacking the Administration so much as the system, which was tragically wrong. The officials, generally, recognised the need for discipline—but they were shocked at, on the one side, by the League of Nations, and badgered, on the other, by the missionaries, and were almost as helpless as the planters.

## NORFOLK ISLAND SERVICE

Important Discussions Proceeding

IT is probable that, in an early issue, The Pacific Islands Monthly will make an announcement of much interest to Norfolk Island.

The charming and tax-free Territory has been handicapped, for decades, by lack of an adequate shipping service. Messrs. Burns Philp & Co. Ltd. have been criticised—but they have provided the best service justified by the available cargo and passenger trade. Even if it was the poor old Makambo! But Norfolk Island is growing rapidly. It has outgrown the Makambo, and what the Makambo represents. Important discussions are proceeding—and, if the general financial position is not altogether too bad, an early announcement may be expected.

## Public Officers' Conditions

Papua and N. Guinea

SPECIAL INQUIRY BEING MADE

From Our Canberra Correspondent

Canberra, Sept. 15.—AMONG the passengers on the s.s. Montoro on her last trip to the Islands were Mr. P. E. Walcott, Commonwealth Public Service Inspector in Queensland, and Mr. J. L. Mulrooney, of the Prime Minister's Department, Canberra.

Mr. Walcott has been appointed a Special Commissioner to investigate conditions and salaries in the Public Service of New Guinea, and Mr. Mulrooney accompanies him as secretary. They are now at Rabaul.

A good deal of dissatisfaction prevails in the Territory, it being contended that the pay and allowances, and service conditions generally, are not as liberal as they might be. It is recognized, of course, that life in New Guinea has a good many disadvantages compared with the conditions obtaining in Australia, and it is the aim of the Government to make the public servants there as contented as possible, having due regard to the straitened condition of the finances.

Papua has been getting a Federal grant of £50,000 a year (recently reduced to £42,000), and New Guinea £10,000 a year. The latter grant, however, is not a subsidy, as in the case of Papua, for administrative purposes, but an amount set aside for use in the interests of the natives. New Guinea, in fact, has been standing on its own feet—paying its own way.

## "WILD CATS" AND GOLD-SEEKERS

Survey of New Guinea and Papuan Mining Enterprises

TOO MANY FINANCIAL ADVENTURERS BATTEN ON RICH AND PROMISING INDUSTRY

About three years ago, a light, blinding cloud appeared on the northern horizon over Australia. As the months rolled on, the cloud became larger and bigger, and gradually it broke into smaller and denser clouds. Then a storm blew up in all its fury. It fanned the clouds, and, just as they became lifted with a rush, many of them burst, and, with their bursting, many horrors were laid bare. In such a catastrophe, the only survivors may be described as Australia's 1929-1930 "Batteries" in New Guinea gold.

### NOW PRODUCING GOLD IN NEW GUINEA:

Various alluvial enterprises—small groups engaged in placer mining and sluicing.

### AT POINT OF PRODUCTION IN NEW GUINEA:

Upper Waini Gold Co. (Sluicing).

Day Dawn (New Guinea) Ltd. (Crushing).

### PREPARING FOR PRODUCTION IN NEW GUINEA ON LARGE SCALE:

Bullock Gold Dredging Co. (Dredging).

New Guinea Goldfields Ltd.

### ACTIVELY PROSPECTING LEASES, ETC. IN NEW GUINEA, ON LARGE SCALE:

Placer Development Ltd.

New Guinea Developments.

Guinea Gold.

Golden Chief.

### PROSPECTING IN NEW GUINEA, PAPUA AND SOLOMON ISLANDS:

Large number of small companies.

WITH the first news of gold strikes in New Guinea, in 1926-27, companies were formed and gilded prospectuses drawn up. When the fever was at its height, concerns with £30,000 capital were floated in less than 24 hours.

Most of these shows might be called "gilded gambles," but the gilt soon was worn away. Professional operators revealed in their opportunities. Amateurs, bearing of prospects, and backed with bright visions of outcropping reefs only awaiting the arrival of their companies' prospecting parties, ventured forth—to suffer rude shocks and shattered dreams.

The company promoter was in his element.

Hard-worked and wearied prospectors arrived in Sydney from out beyond Salomona. After trudging over rugged mountains they had found good areas and pegged out claims, and now they returned to Sydney to obtain monetary backing for working their properties. Immediately they were snatched up by the wily promoter, ready to foist anything on the public. New Guinea gold was in favour, so why worry?

A cool 18,000 2/6 shares would go to the promoter for floating the company—he would take no cash, the benevolent fellow! But he naturally regarded it as his right to see that in the course of the company's operations he would

have an opportunity to realise the value of his shares in good solid cash, or, if his lucky star was shining twice or three times their value. He would attend to that. What was the Stock Exchange for? And so it went on...

### MAT. CROWE'S WORDS OF WISDOM.

Another phase now presents itself. Among these miners were men from God knows where. Overnight they seemed to realise that they were born mining engineers, sent into the world to make some rich mineral discovery. So off they trotted. By various means they tested the first area they thought looked suitable and returned to civilisation with glowing reports. They seemed to forget what Mat Crowe, one of the Old Brigade, had said:

"Go off everywhere—but an awful lot of Papua mixed up with it!"

Wherever they got "colours" they "proved" values that were positively astounding.

### WHEN SHARES NOSE-DIVED.

One case that will long be remembered by speculators in Sydney was the Mt. Lawton fiasco.

In September, 1929, a Mr. Miller, officially the manager of Mt. Lawton (New Guinea) Gold Lands, returned to Australia, and in his first reports the gold on the company's area was estimated at £22,344,850, contained in 33,396,000 cubic yards of alluvial wash.

"Gentlemen," said Mr. Miller, "on the face of the figures given above, you still no doubt realise the extraordinary value of the claims pegged by us. I congratulate you on being the possessors of such remarkably valuable areas."

An option was taken over the leases by Placer Development Ltd., which company despatched Orinoro Explorations Ltd. to report on the property. In December, a radio arrived from the expedition sent by Orinoro, stating baldly that it was not necessary to proceed any further with the examination as the property was considered to be of no value.

(Continued on Page 2)



This aerial photograph gives a good idea of the wild and gloomy country in which the goldfields are situated. The closed space in the center is Waini Aerodrome. Edie Creek is in the ranges, its miles away (slightly to the right of the closed space which represents the aerodrome). This instructive region is half of gold.



# "WILD CATS" AND GOLD-SEEKERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Not only Mt. Lawson shares, but the shares in the many small companies which had pegged the land for miles around Mt. Lawson, in anticipation of a boom, nose-dived. Shares which earlier in the year had commanded attention at well over 10/-, dropped down to 2d. Thousands and thousands of pounds were lost.

What has happened to Mr. Miller, through it all? He went with Ormiston Explorations to check up the values on behalf of the Mt. Lawson Company. He then returned to Sydney, where he received financial backing from a well-known bookmaker for a further visit to Papua. But gold there was still hard to find. With two companions, he went inland from Yule Island and, after three months' prospecting, Mr. Miller again returned to Sydney. One wonders where he will turn his attentions next!

## SCIENTIFIC TESTING ESSENTIAL.

Mr. Miller, in a legal sense, has done nothing wrong. He gave shareholders in his companies "a run for their money." Persons who buy this class of shares are gambling, just as if they gambled on a roulette wheel. But Mr. Miller is a typical case. When such companies are being floated there should be some way of compelling the men who are directing or leading the enterprise to produce proof of technical qualifications and mining experience. The moral to be learnt from the Mt. Lawson tragedy and others is the inadvisability of accepting statements which are not supported by the evidence of men with the necessary qualifications, who are able to determine the

payable value of gold-bearing territory. Placer Development Ltd. and New Guinea Goldfields Ltd. provide examples of companies which have gone about things in the right manner. With qualified engineers they have tested or are testing areas in such a way as to leave no doubt. Shareholders in Placer, for instance, have been able to visualise that in their areas they have a commercial proposition where the product has been located with certainty before the commencement of major operations.

Even prior to the Mt. Lawson crash, some of the companies quickly formed on the wave of the boom were receiving disappointing support from shareholders. For the most part, they were "no liability" companies, which means that holders of scrip may forfeit if they so desire. Calls to provide money for further work were left unpaid and the companies' operations were so severely hampered that in some cases their field parties had to be withdrawn. Then all hope hinged on Mt. Lawson—and when that bubble burst, hope fled.

## SMALL COMPANIES IN DIFFICULTIES.

Some of the small companies are now just able to keep on with development work, while others have gone under. A few of the companies originally floated to operate in New Guinea have transferred operations to New South Wales.

Of course, it must be realised that in some cases it is not the fault of the company that the calls are not being paid. The general depression in making itself felt in mining shares, as in all stocks at present. With money tight, financing of further work is difficult.

Work on the Morobe gold fields, outside of New Guinea Goldfields, Placer, Bulolo, Day Dawn, and two or three smaller companies and a few groups of alluvial miners and prospectors, is practically at a standstill.

Even the free-lance prospectors there have not the funds for further exploration. Many of them have had leases taken over by New Guinea Goldfields Ltd. at good prices. But the purchase price has been paid for in shares in the company. These shares, of the nominal value of £1, are quoted unofficially on the Sydney Stock Exchange at around 4/-. At this price, miners who wish to sell find their properties at a greatly reduced value and naturally are at the present time reluctant to dispose of their holdings.

The gold is there, in large quantities. It is only a question of providing capital to carry on operations. Under present conditions the advantage lies with the big companies—there is little chance for individual enterprise—except of course in prospecting for new fields.

## COMPANIES AND THEIR OPERATIONS.

The following shows the positions of the various companies operating in the Mandated Territory and Papua.

**New Guinea Goldfields Ltd.** Capital, £250,000. Registered Office, 67 Yori St., Sydney.

This company, which has purchased many New Guinea interests and is associated with powerful mining organisations elsewhere, is putting in solid developmental work on its various locations. Because the productive field will not be reached for some considerable time, the shares are standing at a low level. It is expected in some quarters that the big London financial interests behind the organisation will sooner or later support the market. Those who should be in a position to know speak of the shares as an excellent purchase to look away at current rates. They are not officially listed on the Stock Exchange. They are quoted in the vicinity of 4/-. It should be made clear that this company is investigating and proving its ground—it has not yet got to the stage of adopting plans for big-scale operations, or ordering plant.

**Placer Development Ltd.** Capital, 500,000 dollars. Registered office 612 Pacific Building, Hastings St., West Vancouver, B.C. Sydney Office, Wingfield House, Angel Place, Sydney.

This company has continued to receive well justified attention. Change. It is quite in a class apart, with its large areas of proven ground. Factors of strength have been the complete success attending the flotation of the Bulolo subsidiary and the encouraging results from the testing of the additional areas taken up by the parent concern. Placer shares, which are of 5 dollars value, are quoted at round 41/- and would amount good buying. The latest official report, issued last month, states:

"Mr. W. H. Smith of San Francisco, and Mr. E. V. Waterhouse, of Sydney, technical directors, have sailed for New Guinea accompanied by Mr. J. D. Harris, general manager. The drilling of the large new area known as Bulolo has proceeded satisfactorily. Attention is to be given immediately to the geological and geophysical testing of the lease known as Arakoo, upstream from the Bulolo. During the visit to the Gold Coast, which is expected to be an extended one, it is to be given to the following up of gold opportunities, as well as to the acquisition of new staff. The new subsidiary has been decided on as a matter of general policy of the company in future operations."

**Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd.** Capital, 4,000,000 dollars; Registered Office, 612 Pacific Buildings, Hastings St., West Vancouver, B.C. Sydney Office, Wingfield House, Angel Place, Sydney.

Bulolo Gold Dredging is a subsidiary of Placer Development Ltd. The prospectus was issued in March of this year. Scrip has already been allotted. The company reported in August that a 15-ton laundrette crane, caterpillar tractor, and various other equipment have been forwarded to Bulolo. An immediate start is to be made in providing transport facilities at Bulolo, Lae, and with this in view two steel barges, each of 40 tons deadweight capacity, are being constructed. The first of these is to be shipped in sections in the month of August, and the second on the following trip. A contract for the construction of two dredge barge, with superstructure has also been let, and the first is to be delivered in December. Drilling equipment is also being forwarded by the next steamer. The preparation of the aerodrome on the Bulolo for the large planes is proceeding, and these planes are expected to be delivered in January, about the end of November. As regards construction generally, the company is so pressed up to the limit that it is

one fully paid 5-dollar share in Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd. for every share held will be distributed, and in addition there is a deferred cash payment of £20,000, besides £20,000 cash consideration. During the year 10,000 shares, or one share in Guinea Airways Ltd. for every five shares held in the parent company, were distributed. Another property in New Guinea is to be examined shortly.

**Sloan's New Guinea N.L. Capital, £25,000.** Registered Office, 97b Pitt St., Sydney.

Leases have been secured in Eastern Papua.

**Eastern New Guinea Gold Mining Co. Ltd.** Capital, £10,000. Registered Office, 96 Hunter St., Sydney.

The company has secured leases on the Gira River, Papua.

**Upper Watut Gold Co., operating in New Guinea.**

This company holds eight miles of leases on the Upper Watut, situated on the west side of Edie Mountain, and in addition ten miles of subsidiary streams. Two complete elevating plants with 10,000 feet of pipe line have been transported and landed at the company's aerodrome close to the main works. A race-track, six miles from the head of the pipe line to the elevators there is a fall of 220 feet. The race is roofed in several places to minimise interruption of producing operations. Water is now running at full capacity, and the company is a proprietary one and the shares are in only a few hands. It is understood that this company, which receives very little publicity, has reached the production stage.

**Golden Chief Extended Co. Capital, £25,000.** Registered Office, Commercial Bank Buildings, Margaret St., Sydney. Operating in New Guinea.

A report issued three months ago by Mr. Murray Scott, on the Golden Chief Extended Company's leases at Waa, New Guinea, states that his inspection of the seven leases held by the company proved that the area is extensively auriferous. Pitting in No. 1 lease disclosed a well-defined auriferous quartz lode dipping at 40 degrees from vertical, extending 300 feet north-east, and averaging 3 oz. gold valued at £3 per oz. Work is proceeding on No. 3 lease. Alluvial in the old river bed intersecting the property averages 4/- per cubic yard.

**New Guinea Options, N.L. Operating in New Guinea.**

It was reported three months ago that lode material had been located in the company's lease No. 6, carrying a little free gold.

**Akmana New Guinea Gold N.L. Capital, £20,000.** Registered Office, 107 Pitt St., Sydney.

The company's expedition has been withdrawn from New Guinea and an area taken up near Tumut, New South Wales.

**Ara Creek, New Guinea, N.L. Authorised Capital, £30,000.** Registered Office, 107 Pitt St., Sydney.

The company acquired from Papua Hydraulic Ltd. leases on the island of Milima, Eastern Papua. Last month it reported that all plant had been

transported to Ara Creek and the main items, such as trommel and generator, erected. The recently discovered new lode had been sampled and assayed over 23 feet, and found to contain 10 dw. 8 grs. gold per ton.

**Papuan Gold Syndicate Ltd.** Capital, £5,000, operating in Papua. Registered Office, 117 Pitt St., Sydney.

Mr. A. J. Lines, mining engineer, is at present in Papua several days' march from Port Moresby, investigating leases held by this Company.

**Milima Prospecting Ltd.**

This company has decided to wind up voluntary. The liquidator is C. A. Houston.

**Kaindi Gold N.L. Capital, £20,000.** Operating in New Guinea. Registered Office, 43 Collier St., Melbourne.

The management announced at the end of last month that there has been some delay in completing certain formalities connected with one of the leases included in the property which has been sold to New Guinea Goldfields

Ltd. The directors have, therefore, agreed to accept for immediate allotment 55,000 shares of £1 each in New Guinea Goldfields Ltd. The remaining 5,000 shares will be allotted to Kaindi under the terms of the agreement on completion of the transfer of the one lease referred to.

**New Guinea Gold Deposits N.L. Authorised Capital, £20,000.** Registered Office, Commercial Bank Buildings, Margaret Street, Sydney.

The directors have decided to close down all work in New Guinea owing to the depression, and have had to sell 3,000 of the shares held by the company in New Guinea Goldfields Ltd. to pay off labour and all liabilities. The company has agreed to take an option over three gold mining leases at Pambula, New South Wales.

**Guinea Austral N.L. Registered Office in Melbourne.**

The properties in New Guinea, which were examined on behalf of the company, were not taken over because it was reported the price asked was excessive. Other areas were examined during the year and were rejected. Sydney Austral has now formed Batavia River Gold N.L. to prospect an area at Cape York Peninsula, Queensland.

**Mt. Sisa Gold Fields (Papua) N.L. Operating in Eastern Papua.** Capital, £70,000. Registered Office, 43 Hunter St., Sydney.

Reference to this company is made elsewhere.

**Mt. Kaindi Gold Ridges N.L. Capital, £50,000.** Registered Office, 42 Hunter Street, Sydney.

This company has transferred operations from New Guinea to Mummel River, New South Wales.

**Papuan Gold Areas, Capital, £11,750.** Registered Office, Commercial Bank Buildings, Margaret St., Sydney.

Owing to the report of the mining engineer on leases applied for in Papua not being satisfactory, this company abandoned the leases and has obtained an option over an area at Pambula, New South Wales.

**Day Dawn (West Extended) Ltd.** Capital, £10,000. Registered Office, 34 Pitt St., Sydney.

The company's area in New Guinea, on investigation, did not come up to expectations and it has withdrawn from the field of operations. It is understood that the company intends to go into voluntary liquidation.

**St. Aignan (New Guinea) Gold Lodes N.L. Capital, £20,000.** Registered Office, 43 Hunter St., Sydney.

This company has transferred operations to Lucknow, New South Wales.

**Mt. Lawson Extended (New Guinea) N.L. Capital, £40,000.** Registered Office, 43 Hunter Street.

Operations have been transferred to New South Wales.

**Bismarck Range (New Guinea) Gold Extended N.L. Capital, £11,500.** Registered Office, 42 Hunter St., Sydney.

The company has transferred operations to Lucknow, New South Wales.

**Oba River (Papua) Gold Co. N.L. Capital, £25,000.** Registered Office, Commercial Bank Buildings, Margaret St., Sydney.

Leases are held by the company on the Oba River, Central Papua, but at present no work is being done.

**Solomon Islands Gold Mining Co. N.L. Capital, £25,000.** Registered Office, Commercial Bank Buildings, Margaret St., Sydney.

Fourteen claims are held by the company near Kieta, Solomon Islands. Prospectors are carrying out development work.

## EASY FISHING

### In the Shade of the Sago Fronds

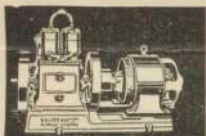
The natives of Uardo Lakes, off the Aramia River, Western Papua, have devised an ingenious way of catching fish.

Every day after the sun is well up, the women paddle out on the lakes in their weirdly carved and painted dug-out canoes to where reeds are growing around small floating islands. Here, placed carefully by the natives, and attached to grass by lawyer cane, are lengths of sago fronds, with the concave side down in the water. These fronds spruce fish to check shelter in their shade from the hot sun.

By the time the women arrive, the fish are sleeping underneath the fronds, and the natives obtain their haul by passing a circular net of coarse fish under each one. The twenty to thirty fishing canoes return to the village, by noon, with a hundred or more good-sized catches.

A method more common among the coastal natives in that locality is the use of "sard" or native dynamite, as it is known by the whites. Sard is a shrub, the root of which is pounded up and thrown into the pools among the rocks. The powder immediately turns the water milky white, and temporarily stupefies the fish, which rise to the surface and are gathered in by the natives. The "dynamite" does not affect humans.

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## Pacific Islands Monthly is Well Received

We acknowledge with grateful thanks, letters received from all directions congratulating us on the establishment of The Pacific Islands Monthly. We also acknowledge very welcome support in the shape of new advertising contracts. We are thus encouraged to proceed, in spite of the temporary depression, with our effort to assist and stimulate trade relations between Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific. Following are extracts from letters received:

Mr. Lewis Armstrong, general manager, Messrs. Burns Philp & Company Limited, Sydney:

"The first issue of The Pacific Islands Monthly was read through with a great amount of interest."

"The journal contains quite a lot of good and entertaining reading matter, with the addition of valuable information, all applicable to the Pacific Islands, and I have no doubt that so long as the high standard of the first issue is maintained your publication will be eagerly looked for each month by all subscribers."

Rev. J. W. Burton, M.A., general secretary of The Methodist Missionary Society of Australasia:

"I am very interested in the venture. I think the first issue is an excellent production, and it ought to meet a need, particularly in bringing the different island groups into some sort of relation. The trouble at present is that each group faces its problems individually, not realising how common they are to every other group. I hope the journal is a success."

Mr. U. R. Ellis, private secretary to Dr. Earle Page, M.P.:

"May I congratulate you on your enterprise in producing The Pacific Islands Monthly and its general make-up? I believe you have opened up a journalistically lucrative proposition which will be of untold value to Australia. It is remarkable that the Pacific has remained so long neglected from the Australian side, while the Philippines and Hawaii have been so swiftly developed commercially, and in a tourist sense. The tourist angle alone is one which must ultimately bring us untold wealth."

Mr. Harold James, East Brunswick, Melbourne:

"Being interested generally in the Pacific Islands, it gives me much pleasure to congratulate you after reading the first issue of the Monthly. I feel sure it is going to provide much-needed publicity for the Islands."

The Daily Mail, Brisbane:

"The first issue furnishes a great deal of useful information about trade prospects in the Islands, and contains also much interesting reading matter of a general character about the Pacific. Many of these island communities are without their own newspaper, and The Pacific Islands Monthly should find a considerable circulation in them, as well as amongst the business community of Australia."

Mr. W. A. Freeman, of Sydney, who is deeply interested in New Guinea developmental activities:

As a director of the Placer Development and Buldo Gold Crediting Companies, operating in New Guinea, I have been pleased indeed to receive the first issue of your paper. The name, The Pacific Islands Monthly, is, I think, well chosen. I have been much struck by the literary and journalistic merits of the paper, by the wealth of matter given, and by the general reach of the publication. In fact, it is one of the most interesting publications of the sort that I have ever seen. I shall be interested to see whether you can maintain the standard you have set. The amount of territory and interests covered by these island possessions and Governments, I find rather an eye-opener, and I feel sure that this will be the case with most people who read the publication for the first time."

Major Clive R. Joske, M.C. (Messrs. Brown & Joske Ltd., merchants), Suva, Fiji:

I congratulate you upon the first number of The Pacific Islands Monthly. May it increase with each issue in health, wealth and prosperity!

Mr. J. Horne (managing director, Messrs. Walter Horne & Co. Ltd., merchants and vice-president of the Suva Chamber of Commerce), Suva, Fiji:

I have read with great interest the first issue of The Pacific Islands Monthly, and I am sure it will find a ready sale, and will be read with great interest all over the Pacific, especially by people in the outlying islands. I wish you every success."

Dr. J. P. Thompson, C.B.E., general secretary of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Queensland):

"I have read your Pacific Islands Monthly with much interest, and hope your enterprise will succeed. There is room for such a publication if conducted on progressive lines."

Mr. F. S. Boyce, K.C., M.L.C., Attorney-General in the N.W. Cabinet, and a director of New Guinea companies:

As one who has some acquaintance with the field covered — I have been in New Guinea, Fiji, and Norfolk Island, though, of course, not for long — I appreciate the fullness of the information which the publication gives. Wishing you every success."

Hon. Henry Marks, C.B.E., Mayor of Suva:

I have read with much pleasure the first number of The Pacific Islands Monthly, and feel that such a journal, including in its influence the whole of the Pacific, should provide a medium of a closer union and a greater sympathy among the peoples of the Pacific. I wish it every success."

Sir Henry Scott, K.C., Member of the Legislative Council and Executive Council, of Fiji:

I have read with interest a copy of the first issue of The Pacific Islands Monthly. I have little doubt that the object of this much-needed journal will be achieved; that it will serve the interests of the Pacific communities by not only improving knowledge and communication between the various administrations of the Central and Southern Pacific, but will also convey to Australia and New Zealand reliable information concerning the Pacific Islands and their peoples. If the standard of the first issue of The Pacific Islands Monthly be maintained, I am optimistic as to the success I wish the publication."

Mr. Alan O. Mackenzie, of Suva (vice-president of the Suva Chamber of Commerce):

The proprietors of The Pacific Islands Monthly are to be congratulated on the high standard of their initial issue. This journal will fill a long-entertained want as a medium of exchange of inter-island news and, provided the high standard is maintained, its success and permanence will be assured."

Mr. David W. Ames, F.A.I.L., manager of the Pacific Insurance Co. Ltd., Suva:

I hasten to congratulate you upon your enterprise in publishing The Pacific Islands Monthly. This paper will embrace within its ambit all the

different administrations of the Pacific and should no doubt, in time have great influence in creating a greater harmony amongst the various islands communities. It will not be an easy work to establish this paper — at least that is my opinion — but it will be possible, and it will be well worth while. I congratulate you upon the general layout of the paper and character of the news provided."

The Advertiser, Adelaide:  
The Pacific Islands Monthly should prove a valuable publication to residents and traders of the Central and South Pacific."

Colonel A. J. Bennett, Administrator of Norfolk Island (through his private secretary, Mr. C. A. Leonard):

"The Administrator has read, with pleasure, the first number of The Pacific Islands Monthly. His Honour congratulates you on the attractive reading matter and appearance, and expresses his good wishes for continued success of so useful a publication."

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## "DESPISED"

## Pacific Trade and Australia

## IMPRESSIONS OF A FIJI RESIDENT

FIJI'S trade goes where it is best served. Australia seemed to despise the Pacific as being a small place, and never made the most of her opportunities.

This was told to a representative of the Pacific Islands Monthly by Capt. Frank Williams, an old resident of Fiji, who has been spending a month in Sydney. And, unfortunately, it is true.

Capt. Williams first went to the Islands in 1872, and during nearly 30 years he has seen Australia losing her grip of the valuable trade, until now much of it has been taken away by Britain, America and France. Giving good service and comparatively cheaper freights, the ships of those countries bring much manufactured goods, with the exception of perishables, and have home full loadings of Islands produce.

A six-weekly service to Fiji, from London, via Panama, is maintained by the Shaw Savill and New Zealand Shipping Co. In conjunction, goods from Britain arrive for nearly the same freight as from Australia, and each shipment comprises about 3,000 tons. The bulk of Fiji copra is sent to England by the "Clan" line. The vessels come out via Suva, calling at New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Fiji, Tanna, Samoa, Tahiti, and return direct via Panama.

The average loading by this line, in Fiji alone, says Captain Williams, is 3,000 tons, the cost of the freight comparing favourably with that from the Islands to Australia, with, of course, handling charges minimized.

Copra for the San Francisco market is taken by the American Matson line. The mail steamers call at Suva on their northward trips from Australia, loading about 400 tons per voyage, and the cargo boats call at Levuka on their way north.

The French Messageries line maintains a service via Panama. About 300 to 400 tons of copra are shipped each trip from Fiji for the Continental markets.

Vessels to transport sugar to England, Canada and New Zealand are chartered direct.

## COTTON GROWERS RUSH TO FIJI

Capt. Williams was interesting in his reminiscences of conditions of over 40 years ago. He said that, curiously enough, the population of Fiji was greater then than it is now.

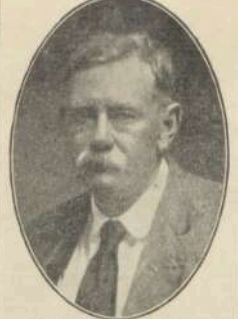
When the price of cotton soared so high, following the American War, people in Australia and New Zealand were attracted by the possibility of cultivating it in Fiji, and in 1898 the rush started. A couple of years later, white settlers numbered 7,000. However, although the cultivation of the cotton was fairly successful, the price dropped, and transport difficulties, which were evidently unanticipated, absolutely ruined any hope of establishing this industry.

Many of the disappointed settlers returned home, but a few of the more enterprising decided to experiment with sugar-cane cultivation. In 1878, the

first sugar mills were started; and since then the story of Fiji has been one of progress.

## PROSPERITY AHEAD

Concerning the future of the Group, Capt. Williams was optimistic. Although the market for sugar and copra was still down, in his opinion there was not much to worry about.



CAPTAIN FRANK WILLIAMS

The Island was recovering from the effects of the terrific blow in November of last year, when the banana crop suffered considerably. The usual export of 10,000 cases a month to New Zealand dropped to 3,000 cases, and at present was at about the 5,000 cases mark. He considered that it would not be long before it again attained full strength.

The Government had adopted a progressive policy, and work was going ahead on roads. When these were completed they should prove an additional attraction to tourists. Besides the sugar and copra exports, two factories had been established for canning pineapples. New Zealand and Canada provided the markets for this product.

## SEAPLANE COMMUNICATION

Capt. Williams is convinced that seaplanes will prove an important adjunct in Islands' communication in the near future. A subsidiary mail service by seaplane has been established in Fiji about six months, and now a flying boat has been introduced. This is owned by a building contractor, who uses it on his trips around his various works on the different islands. With the success of these two machines, other planes are likely to follow.

Capt. Williams, who was accompanied by Mrs. Williams, returned home by the Moeraki on September 12. He is a partner in the firm of Williams and Coaling, stockholding and commission agents, of Suva.

## CENTURY OF MISSION WORK

## Native Teachers Honoured

## CEREMONY ON ONEATA BEACH

ONE hundred years ago, two native teachers from Tahiti were approved by the Revs. Wm. Cross and Nathaniel Turner, of the Methodist Church, and Rev. John Williams and Mr. Bart, of the London Missionary Society, to go to Fiji and attempt the work of the evangelization of the people there. They were joined by a third teacher, and early in July, 1830, they landed at Oneata Beach. There they lived and preached, and the work paved the way for the coming of Messrs. Cross and Carrell in 1835. The teachers' graves still remain.

The Fiji District Synod of the Methodist Missionary Society of Australasia decided to hold a service commemorative of the event, and it was resolved that the Lau annual meeting, for 1930, would be held at Oneata. Proceedings were opened by a brief speech by the High Chief of Lau, and, standing on Oneata Beach 100 years exactly after

## NEWS FROM NORFOLK IS.

## Crown Lands To Be Thrown Open

From Our Own Correspondent

Norfolk Is., Sept. 4.

IN this article your Correspondent had hoped to write with authority on the opportunities and prospects for new settlers on Norfolk Island, but the Government official whom she had hoped to tap was busy with the monthly audit, and could only promise an interview at a later date, when he will give facts and figures upon which all those interested may rely.

He did remark that there were still hundreds of acres of Crown lands to be thrown open within a measurable time to be secured by tender in 12-acre blocks on 21 years leases, at something like £1 an acre per annum.

But he also uttered the warning that here, as elsewhere, it is useless for hopeful souls to arrive without sufficient money to put into clearing and planting their holdings, to build a modest shelter, and to carry on with the store-keeper until returns begin to come in.

Bananas are down at present—but that means nothing particular, because everything all over the wide world is down, and they will go up again as soon as that English loan comes to hand. Bananas call for constant attention and persons taking up land here must be prepared to work long and hard, with periods of feverish activity when a seaman is due. But there is to play with at every sort of game—in the prettiest surroundings and under the most genial sky in the world.

## NEW STORES

It is a significant and cheering omen that the spirit of business depression in Australia can afford to let Messrs. Burns Philp Ltd., who opened a big store and shipping agency in Kingston two years ago, are putting up another large one a mile or so inland. They expect to open about the end of this month.

Also, Mr. A. E. Martin, well known in the business life of New Caledonia and New Hebrides, who brought his family here several years ago for their health, has just opened, with a flourish of trumpets, a bursting of balloons and the serving of free teas for three days, a new, big store on the site of his former small one in the district of Burnett Pine.

This new building is completely modern in its design, equipment and appointments, and would do credit to any suburb in any city. Long dark polished counters run from end to end; richly stocked shelves climb right into the roof; automatic high rock open to serve you with all staple commodities; you can clothe yourself from the skin up in the height of fashion, as we interpret it on Norfolk.

Our young Doctor Duke, suffering agonies from neuritis, has been forced to take a short holiday, and is at present on the high seas between here and Vila. Combining business with pleasure, as is his wont, he is acting as ships' surgeon on the Makambo—if there is pleasure to be found on the Makambo—while Dr. Lamara, of Sydney, also in need of a holiday, is carrying on for him during his absence.

## REMOVAL OF HOSPITAL

Our hospital, which visitors and ex-residents will remember as being situated in Kingston—the last one of that run of spacious mansions occupied in

the event, the chairman of the Fiji District unveiled the memorial stone erected to the memory of the teachers. He told the story, so far as it is known, of their arrival and work.

The Chief of Oneata, a grandson of one of the chiefs who sheltered and assisted the teachers on their arrival, then related some of the stories which had been handed down to him. He told of the well they dug and called "Silom," which still remains to this day, of the compound they built and called "Odan-aram," and of the progress of the church work at Oneata, and how it spread to the adjacent islands.

There followed messages and testimonies of thanks, in which other fields and other heroes were remembered, as were also the past generation of workers and the future servants of the Church in Fiji.

convict days by officials, and known as Quality Row—has been transferred up country, to what was Bishopscourt when the headquarters of the Melanesian Mission was here, and we had a bishop.

It is a beautiful old place, with surroundings that remind every exile from "Home" of a rectory garden in any country village. Smooth lawns over which fat thrushes hop in search of acorns—thick shrubberies—flat flower beds and a bath where all sorts of bright birds splash and flutter. It has been an expensive move, though well justified in the interests of patients, and money is being raised by all sorts of devices to meet a deficit.

## PERSONAL

Mr. Walker, supervisor of the Cable Station, is leaving us by this Marinsia for Southport, Queensland, and his place in being taken by Mr. Forrest, who was here several years ago. Mr. Forrest, it appears, was given his choice of Norfolk or Southport in which to complete his last six months in the Cable Service, and he chose Norfolk. We have nothing against him; but we do deeply mourn the loss of Mr. Walker. Not only has he proved a most efficient supervisor but, in his private capacity, he has performed a thousand kind actions during the few months he has been here. May the Wheel of Time and Chance bring him here again some day.

On Tuesday evening, Sept. 2, our theatrical company put on that very entertaining comedy, "The Family Upstairs," under the able conduct of Mr. Robert Jarvis, the young English actor, to whom I referred in my last letter. It is astonishing what that young man accomplishes with raw material and few rehearsals. It was really a remarkable performance all round, and Mr. Jarvis, himself, played the part of a middle-aged overdriven father of a family, to the admiration of this writer. He has seen professional performances and avoided amateur ones in many corners of the globe. Mr. Allan Wilkie is to be congratulated if, in his existing company, he has actors who can teach anything much to young Jarvis, who is only 35 years old.

## CARGO TO AND FROM N.Z.

Six months ago the New Zealand Government withdrew its steamer service from Norfolk Island, and settlers from that island had to wait for their mail to reach them via Sydney, while the cost of the trip home by way of Australia put holidays right out of the question for most of them. Six weeks ago after much writing and calling back and forth, between agitated exiles and well-wishers in the Dominion, the Hikuaran, a friendly, snappy little collier, less than 300 registered tonnage, and looking like an enterprising water beetle far from some rolled in to the Casuarine anchorage; bringing us a mail paid for at the lavish rate of one shilling per pound weight by the postal people, with groceries and what not, and evoking a cargo to pay for the trip.

Her captain, a curly-headed lad, with bright blue eyes and a daisy-cut expression, had previously visited us as master of a small yacht, that had cleared Auckland without the formalities of taking leave of the harbour authorities. He got into a little trouble on his return, but evidently not enough to quench his appetite for Norfolk Island bananas. On this recent and lawful venture he lost a little money, but made a lot of friends and, back in New Zealand, was able to interest capital to the extent of backing another voyage.

Last week he came in again, and this time took away 1,300 cases of oranges, bananas and early potatoes, together with the promise of every pound of produce that New Zealand growers can muster in support of a six-weekly service.

It is on the cards also, that after one or two more trips of the Water Beetle, she will be replaced by a steamer capable of carrying fifty passengers, calling every four weeks, and still skipped by young Captain George.

## PRAISE FOR MR. E. W. P. CHINERY

From Our Canberra Correspondent

Canberra, Sept. 15.

Mr. Herbert Brookes, Commissioner-General for Australia in the United States, forwards very appreciative notices of the lectures delivered there recently by Mr. E. W. Pearson Chinery, government Anthropologist in New Guinea. Various scientific bodies have written in the highest terms of the work he has done in the Territory, as evidenced in his lectures and reports.

Mr. Chinery was some months ago, awarded a Research Scholarship by the Rockefeller Foundation, and he is now travelling abroad. He attended the recent session of the Mandates Commission at Geneva, an advisory body of the Council of League of Nations, and was also the past generation of workers and the future servants of the Church in Fiji.



The Beach at Oneata, Fiji Islands, where the Religious Teachers from Tahiti landed, just 100 years ago. Photo by Courtesy of Missionary Review.



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## KILLING THE GOLD-LAYING GOOSE

## Federal Government's Extraordinary Tax on New Guinea Mining Industry

Written for THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY by W. A. Freeman, Chairman of Directors of Pioneer Development Ltd. and Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd.

I THINK that public attention should be directed to the action of the Federal Government in imposing a revenue tax of 10 per cent. ad valorem upon aeroplanes and mining machinery and parts entering the Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

One recognises, of course, that the New Guinea Administration and the Commonwealth Government have at the present time to solve financial problems of very great difficulty, and one sympathises with them in their efforts to balance their budgets. But it is necessary to point to the unwisdom of killing the goose that lays the golden egg—in this case, literally, the golden egg.

As has been pointed out by The Pacific Islands Monthly, New Guinea is a territory of great potential wealth. I believe that this region, over which we hold a mandate from the League of Nations, can be made of outstanding value, not only to Australia, but to the Empire. It is capable of development on a scale that now almost suggests a dream; and, so developed, it can provide an extensive market for Australian manufactures and foodstuffs, and employment for Australian labour.

At the present time, two large bucket dredges are being built in Sydney for the Bulolo Gold Dredging Company. As a matter of little economic importance in the world-wide slump in commodity values now ruling, they can be made to produce gold for the Empire and for Australia, and produce it now, and rapidly.

## STIMULUS OF GOLD

The Territory is of considerable area, and has on the whole a very fertile soil and wide variety of climate, and the very forefront of its natural riches is gold.

The world's history of the past 200 years shows that when gold in large quantities is discovered in any country, there follows extraordinarily rapid development of its other potential industries. To my mind, the discovery and opening up of the rich gold field in the mountains of New Guinea, in the environs of Edie Creek, will bring about, within the next few years, very quick exploitation of the capacity of this country to give us many varieties of tropical and sub-tropical products. It will also lead to the discovery of other parts of the Territory for gold and other metals.

How foolish it is, then, to place any handicap upon the rapid development of the gold industry. If the Commonwealth Government wishes to establish a source of rich revenue for the development and administration of the Territory it should subsidise rather than tax the eager private enterprise which is ready to spend money in the development of gold mining there.

Take the case of the two companies with which I am connected—namely, Pioneer Development Ltd. and Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd. We have raised the large sum of £400,000 for these enterprises, and the equipment, which we are purchasing and transporting to the New Guinea mountains, includes two large aeroplanes, and considerable miscellaneous machinery. I and my fellow-directors budgeted carefully—so much for the preliminary expenses, so much for plant so much for transportation, so much for developmental expenses, and finally, so much to meet the royalty tax of 5 per cent., which we shall have to pay to the New Guinea Administration on the gold produced.

## ESTIMATES DISTURBED

Now, just when our activities are well advanced, we have had imposed



MR. W. A. FREEMAN

upon us, without any warning, this new tax in the shape of Customs duty of 10 per cent. Frankly, it has gravely embarrassed us. Our capital has been raised, not only in Australia, but in Britain, the United States and Canada, and we submitted to these financial interests our detailed plans, which contained careful estimates, but which made no provision for a 10 per cent. duty. How then are we to raise money for the equipment of further production, and royalty paying, properties—are we to inform our friends in other countries that we unintentionally misled them in the case of the financing of the Bulolo Company, or are we to accuse the governments concerned of lack of faith?

We could not take the latter course, because up to the present we have had nothing but thoughtful consideration from the Administrator of New Guinea and from the Commonwealth Ministers in all matters relating to our operations in New Guinea.

Let me give one example of the difficulty in which we have been placed by this new tax. We are importing into New Guinea for the transport of our mining and hydro-electric equipment two very large aeroplanes, the landed cost of which, with spare parts, will be £65,000. This is absolute pioneer work involving us in much responsibility, apart from the cost in money, and it is pioneer work of value to New Guinea and to the development of outlying parts of the Empire generally. Yet, under this unexpected tax, we are faced with the necessity of finding an unbudgeted £6,500 in cash before we can land this pioneer equipment.

It seems to me that in imposing this tax, the authorities have overlooked one very important point—namely, that the New Guinea administration is to receive a 5 per cent royalty on the gross value of all our gold production. Our production of gold from the Bulolo property is assured, and the royalty payable will prove a rich and stable source of revenue for the New Guinea Administration.

From the Bulolo area alone, the royalties will amount to not less than £15,000 per annum for at least ten years; and there is a prospective further £15,000 to £20,000 per annum in sight from two other

areas now under investigation by us.

Surely, then, it is most unwise for the Government to impose this discouraging tax upon us, when, if we are encouraged to our enterprise, the revenue to be derived from our production may easily make the New Guinea Administration one of the wealthiest in the South Seas.

Let me repeat the argument that not only will the development of this gold industry return large revenue to the Government directly, but it will indirectly stimulate the growth of all industry—particularly primary industries—in New Guinea.

We have made urgent representations to the Commonwealth Government and to the Administrator of the Territory in this matter; and we confidently believe that, in view of the special circumstances, we shall be given relief in some form or other.

## "DESICCATED"

Industry in Papua and New Guinea

GOOD PRICE BUT LIMITED DEMAND

BECAUSE desiccated coconut is worth about five times as much as copra, there is an inclination throughout the South Seas to install desiccating plants. This system of production has been in operation in Lindenhafen and Pondo (in New Guinea) for about a year; and it is reported that a desiccating plant is operating at the mission at Alexia or Finchhafen.

The Agent-Governor of Papua formally opened a desiccating factory at Ahima, Milne Bay, Eastern Papua, on October 5, 1929; and the Ahima Desiccating Co. Ltd. has since been in operation. Gilligill plantation, also on Milne Bay, has had a desiccating plant at work for a considerable time. Both factories have been buying nuts from local planters at prices which remove any inducement for them to engage in copra-making.

High hopes were held out for this new industry. It was pointed out that desiccated coconut, made in Papua or New Guinea, would have a preference of 3d. per pound in Australia, under the Australian tariff. For the 12 months ended June 30, 1929, 235 tons, valued at £14,739, were shipped from Samarai to Australia.

The difficulty in relation to this industry, is that the market is comparatively limited. For the oil, etc., from ordinary copra there are almost unlimited uses. But the use of desiccated coconut is confined largely to the confectionery trade; and, in that connection, its consumption could be increased only by solid, consistent advertising.

## PLEA FOR GRADED COPRA

The copra produced in this part of the South Seas (writes our Samarai correspondent) suffers under the handicap that there is no classification. Bad and good copra is mixed and sold at one price. It has been suggested that legislation should be introduced upon the lines of the Fiji ordinance for the Inspection and Classification of Copra Exported, with the object of establishing a reputation for Papuan Plantation Copra on the London market.

A representative of one of the most important groups of crushers and margarine manufacturers in the world stated some time ago that he had definite instructions not to buy South Sea copra at any price. So it seems that the sooner legislation is introduced for the grading and marking of copra, the better it will be for everyone concerned.

## FIJI AIR MAIL SERVICES

A recent Fiji Royal Gazette gives the timetable of the Fiji Air Lines.

Regular services are flown from Suva to Lautoka, Savusavu, Tavunni, Labasa, and Lautoka.

A seaplane leaves Suva every Monday morning at 7 o'clock, arrives at Lautoka about 8.45, and departs approximately an hour later, returning to Suva about 11.30 the same morning. This is a vast change from the usual two or three days' journey by boat from Suva to Lautoka.

Messrs. Moseley and Wilson recently returned to Kila, Solomon Islands, after a long prospecting trip for gold in the hinterland of Bougainville. The result of the expedition is not yet known.

There were 933 Chinese and 145 Melanesian labourers in Western Samoa on March 31 last. The numbers of these indentured labourers did not materially alter during the year.



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## ECLIPSE AND ERUPTION

What Scientists May Encounter at Niuafoou Island

It was announced, in last issue, that scientific expeditions were being organised to Niuafoou, the most northerly of the Tongan Islands, to observe a total eclipse of the sun on October 21.

Niuafoou was chosen because it is about the only available land in the path of this particular eclipse. But the island, as previously explained, is sufficiently interesting in itself to warrant a visit. It is really the rim of a volcano that has sunk almost into the sea, but which is still smouldering and occasionally active. There is a remarkable mineralised life, and some queer flora and fauna.

In the following article, our Nukunono Correspondent indicates some of the risks that the scientists may encounter.

ONCE or twice in a decade, Maui—the slumbering god of the Pacific—turns over and, according to native tradition, the intensity of the resultant quakes depends entirely upon the stage of irritability he has reached during his uneasy and perpetual sleep in the ocean bed south of the Line.

About the middle of the last century, a tremendous quake on Niuafoou—our most northern volcanic island—was fol-

lowed by the opening up of the land from the crater rim to the sea, and a whole village was engulfed with considerable loss of life. Since then there have been less severe quakes from time to time but, until last year, was well advanced, there was no indication that Maui had reached a particularly venomous mood during his uneasy rest.

A traveller, in the month of June, 1929, spent several days on this volcanic rim that juts out of the ocean, and he became friendly with an ancient native

into that village and beat the molten lava by some fifteen minutes. There was no loss of human life, but horses and pigs, as well as household chattels, had to be abandoned by the panic-stricken inhabitants. A motor of the enterprise (Mr. E. J. Ubank) believed that payable gold would be found.

Mr. Ubank left Brisbane on March 14, and left Lae in the Mandated Territory, for his final exploration into Central New Guinea on July 17.

On receipt of the cablegram the company immediately took up a large area on leave.

Mr. Ubank was the man who pegged the No. 9 gold-mining lease—the Ubank Lease—on Edie Creek, in May, 1927.



A recent photograph of the sea of here that in 1829 wiped out the village of Fata, in the island of Niuafoou, Tonga.

lowed by the opening up of the land from the crater rim to the sea, and a whole village was engulfed with considerable loss of life. Since then there have been less severe quakes from time to time but, until last year, was well advanced, there was no indication that Maui had reached a particularly venomous mood during his uneasy rest.

A traveller, in the month of June, 1929, spent several days on this volcanic rim that juts out of the ocean, and he became friendly with an ancient native



Another view of the lava stream that overwhelmed Fata village. It will be noted that the Holy Cross, above the Catholic Church, survived the catastrophe.

who had survived the many upheavals of his time.

"My friend," said the traveller, "how is Maui's temper now?"

The old man pondered a moment.

"I think, white man," he answered, "that the angry god is no longer vexed with his people."

That old man, sitting on his mat, was no prophet.

On a night in July, a Tongan lad of the village of Fata, mounted horse, and journeyed with some stealth, we fancy, to a clandestine meeting on the outskirts of a neighbouring village. We like to think that the maid was very beautiful, for his return was delayed till long past the midnight hour. Approaching his home he was startled by a red glow from the mountain side high

A subsequent survey of the devastated area shows that some 2,000 acres of mostly productive land are now covered with from three to forty feet of volcanic lava, and the Government of Tonga, after sending a relief ship to the destitute, has allocated new allotments to the people on another section of the shaly ale.

We learn that an august body of scientists is due to visit Niuafoou in October of this year to view an eclipse of the sun, and we sincerely hope that all the conditions will be favourable. Yes we cannot altogether overlook the possibility that they may have more to report than the eclipse on their return to their native land—Maui might turn over again.

## In and About the Islands

Two European scientists, Dr. Spenser, an anthropologist, and Mr. Haedeg, an entomologist, are at present in the Solomon Islands. They are collecting and investigating in the interests of their respective pursuits, and have just completed a tour of the Buka district. They recently went on to Buin, accompanied by the D.O.

Mr. A. Gaud, district manager of the C.P.L. for Bougainville, Solomon Islands, is now on leave. He has completed 25 years' service with Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd., and during that time he has held positions in the Gilbert Islands, Marshall Islands, New Hebrides, Tonga and the Solomon Islands. Mr. Gaud was relieved by Mr. Allan Campbell.

Mr. Harry A. Rudder, passage manager for Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd., for 44 years, retired from the firm last week. At a gathering of his shipping friends, he was presented with a purse of sovereigns. Mr. Rudder joined the service of the Australian Steam Navigation Company (now non-existent) as passage manager 51 years ago.

Judge F. B. Phillips, of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, has arrived in Sydney from Rabaul on two months' holiday.

Mr. J. Mainka, a New Guinea planter, arrived in Sydney from Rabaul last week. He said that he had just sold the last of his plantations in the Territory. In his opinion, New Guinea was enormously wealthy in gold deposits and ideal for the development of coffee plantations. He remarked that the new Federal taxation was a blow to industry in the Territory.

Mr. J. W. Campbell, of Lihian, Buka, Solomon Islands, died in the Kieta Hospital on August 21. He was well-known throughout the Territory. He served in both the South African war and in the late war. Mr. Campbell was also associated with Major Odell in the expedition against the hostile natives of Komu, when he rendered invaluable assistance to the Administration by his local knowledge. At that time he was manager of Borken plantation.

## GOLD FIND

Reported from Central New Guinea

LARGE AREA PEGGED OUT

NEWS has been received in Australia of the discovery of a new and rich goldfield in Central New Guinea.

A representative of Central New Guinea Exploration Co. Ltd., after three months' prospecting, came on the find, and his Company has already pegged out a large area. This Company is a Queensland Station.

The discovery was made by the well-known gold miner and explorer, Mr. E. J. Ubank, who has had considerable experience in New Guinea gold-mining undertakings.

The find was the result of several months of assiduous labour. The company was registered on March 14 to finance an expedition into a district of the Mandated Territory, where the promoter of the enterprise (Mr. E. J. Ubank) believed that payable gold would be found.

Mr. Ubank left Brisbane on March 14, and left Lae in the Mandated Territory, for his final exploration into Central New Guinea on July 17.

On receipt of the cablegram the company immediately took up a large area on leave.

Mr. Ubank was the man who pegged the No. 9 gold-mining lease—the Ubank Lease—on Edie Creek, in May, 1927.

## FRESH BEEF!

Stock Reaches N.G. Goldfield

HORSES EARN 30/- PER DAY

AEROPLANE pilots up in the New Guinea goldfields have found that mixed freights. When they arrive back in civilisation they are always ready to try their varying cargoes. The carriage of natives is quite common—even live sheep have made the trip.

But the problem of landing beef in estate condition has not been solved. That is one thing they admit. The tropical conditions have a way in the matter. Refrigerated aeroplanes have still to be built.

The distinction of transporting the first cattle to Wau, on the Morobe fields, belongs to Messrs. Simpson and Lamb. But the animals travelled "on the hoof." A few months back, the Mirani brought a mixed lot of cattle, horses and goats, collected from around the Territory, and landed them at Salama. The two residents named them drove the stock overland to Wau, via the Bougainville Mountains. The trip took many weeks, but only one horse was lost.

It was a red letter day among the goldfield camps when the first slaughtering of beef was notified.

A proud native, decked out in a pair of bull's horns, and with a placard on his back advertising the killing, strutted around among the huts. Orders were quickly received, and the first beef killed at Wau realised 3/6 per pound. At that price, it paid the owners handsomely.

So successful was the venture that Mr. Simpson has now set out from the case with a further mob of cattle. This time he is taking them from Madang, along the plains of the Rapa River, to the mountains. His arrival on the field is eagerly awaited.

The horses brought in are thriving on the pastures available. They were a poor-looking lot, suffering from tropical sores, but now they have picked up and are in good condition. A charge of 30/- per day is made for feeding them out to prospectors, and good business is being done.

The return of population for the British Solomon Islands for last year shows whites 461, aliens 236, natives (incomplete) 150,000.



The Ubank family, photographed just after they arrived at Wau, after their long trip. Mr. Ubank, with his horse, is in the background.

## NEW LAKE FOUND

In Bougainville

5,000 FEET UP—4 MILES LONG

A party comprising Patrol Officer Wards, Dr. Deland and Messrs. Kajewski and Pickwell, recently visited a little known lake near Buin, in Bougainville, Solomon Islands, and were successful in reaching the water's edge.

Previously, Patrol Officer Wards and Father Piondel, of the Marist Mission, had made the trip, and had been the first white men to view the lake, which is known as Lake Rurulu.

After two days' trek from the Buin Government Station, the party made a camp on small plateaus forming one rim of the lake, at an altitude of 5,230 feet. The water level of the lake is approximately 5,000 feet above sea-level, and is very deep. It is about 400 yards wide in parts, and about four miles long. The lake is forked, and it was not possible for the party to see where the forks led to. The banks are very steep, and, on the north side, a peak rises sheer out of the water to a height of about 100 feet. The scenery was magnificent, and much bird-life was seen.

Difficulty was encountered in obtaining native carriers for the trip, as Lake Rurulu is the subject for many curious legends, and the natives were afraid to visit its shores.

## ASIATIC RIOTS

BITTER FIGHTS IN NEW CALEDONIA

Savage fights between Tonkinese and Javanese labourers, employed at the Guieroum Mine, at Koua, in New Caledonia, are reported in a recent issue of Le Bulletin du Commerce (Noumea).

The trouble started when about 100 Tonkinese and 60 Javanese were sheltering from the rain under a big shed. A Tonkinese inadvertently stood on the foot of a Javanese, and in a few moments a general "dostight" was in progress. The Javanese energetically restored order, and the men returned to work.

But that night, in the camp, serious rioting began. The Javanese, on mass, attacked the huts of the Tonkinese. The Tonkinese, in turn, retaliated with stones and knives. Furious fighting ensued, the combatants using bottles, iron-bars, stones and, in some cases, revolvers. The foremen did their utmost to quell the riot. The Tonkinese, before the belligerent and menacing attitude of their adversaries, beat a prudent retreat. Four Tonkinese were seriously injured.

A week later, the Javanese again, at night, attacked the Tonkinese camp, and assaulted the inmates with bottles. The officials were better prepared, this time, and quickly intervened, and 38 Javanese were arrested. Eighteen fled into the bush, but were subsequently captured at Voh, near Tietia.

It would appear that while the use of indentured Asiatic labour may be a very good thing for developmental purposes in the Pacific Islands, it is not wise to mix your Asiatics.

## Word of Warning!

Unemployment in South Seas

From Our Own Correspondent

Suva, September 4.

IT would be well to offer a word of warning to men and women who think that the South Seas at present offer them opportunities of work, which seems hard to obtain in the Dominions.

So far as Fiji is concerned, there is no work available. At present there are over 200 unemployed in Suva alone, and every month, hands are being retrenched, leaving many destitute.

The position may be only temporary, but it does not warrant any man or woman coming to Fiji hoping to find work. Such a warning may save much privation and disappointment, later on.

## A QUEEN OPENS PARLIAMENT

Big Guns and Bunting

PICTURESQUE CEREMONY IN TONGA

From a Special Correspondent

Nukunono, Aug. 26.

LAST evening's tropical sky gave promise of a cloudless dawn, and so to-day, the promise fulfilled, natives were flocking at an early hour in the direction of Parliament House to view the procession, timed to leave the Palace gates at 10 o'clock.

Flags of every description gaily fluttered on the "beach" and, at her anchorage, well within the ranks of H.M.S. Dundee put up a brave show of bunting to honour the occasion. She is bunting her colours for the first time since the ship of war, and in visiting Tonga in her circuit, gives the natives of the Island Kingdom that longed for security which the cold print of their "Protection Treaty" with Britain could never achieve.

As the hour approached, Europeans and natives, and, mingled with the natives on the "maile," fronting the Parliament building, their tropical whites showing up in striking contrast to the bizarre colours adopted by the Tongans.

Suddenly the doors were thrown open, and certain gentlemen, native and foreign, passing between the ranks of Royal Guards, respectfully entered the precincts. These were Her Majesty's Ministers of the Crown, together with the elected members of the nobles, and representatives of the people. Twenty-two men in all, they will probably sit in session for some five or six weeks, discussing and reviewing the Estimates and new laws presented by the Executive Council for their approval or otherwise.

The Speaker of the House is worthy of note among these men. Short in stature, but with tremendous breadth and depth, I visualise in him the living reincarnation of his famous ancestor, that renowned fighting king of the northern islands, who sacked and burned the privates "Port au Prince" a century and a quarter ago. In this man is personified the real fighting aristocrat of the Pacific.

As the Palace clock struck the hour, the cannon boomed out the commencement of a 21-gun salute, and an array of amateur photographers pushed their way to the front of the throng. Then there was a stiffening of the ranks of the College students that lined the road from Palace to Parliament, and eager onlookers closed up in a mass at the entry-arch.

The Queen was on her way.

When the last gun had fired, the Royal car stopped before the archway, and Her Majesty Queen Salote Tubou, attended by her Aide and Royal pages, descended to the strains of the Tongan National Anthem. As she stood there in the glaring sunlight, with the rays flashing from her diadem, one could not help but reflect that this regal woman, carrying herself with conscious pride, was descended from a long line of warrior chiefs that had for generations been the over-lords of the greater part of the South Pacific.

As she ascended to the hallway, her bodyguard sprang to attention, and, shortly afterwards, her sharp, clear voice, speaking her address in the vernacular, was plainly heard by the eager listeners outside.

In a remarkably short time she reappeared, entered her car and, with a gracious smile to her subjects, was carried back through the Palace gates.

For the space of a year she will be seldom seen, but, nevertheless, it has been my privilege to see and hear Royalty address a Legislative Assembly in the Kingdom of Tonga, at the opening of the 30th session, in the year of our Lord, 1930.

## N.I. BANANAS

To Pay Sales Tax

AN AMAZING DECISION

Australian primary products, such as fruit, are exempt from Sales Tax, yet the tax has been made applicable to Norfolk Island bananas, notwithstanding that Norfolk is a territory of the Commonwealth.

This amazing situation was discovered on the arrival of the Makambo in Sydney at the end of August. It was brought on that trip 300 cases of bananas, valued at up to 20/- per case, and agents had to pay the tax of 21 per cent.

An agent of the Norfolk Island banana growers is in Sydney, and it is understood that he is making urgent representations to the Federal Government for the removal of the tax.

Reference is made to this subject in our leading article.







## THURSDAY ISLAND TOPICS

From Our Own Correspondent

**Demand for Trochus Shell — Missionary Trading Company May Discontinue — Can Our Turtles Be Canned? — Wedding in the Jardine Family**

Thursday is, Sept. 2.

COINCIDENT with the lessened demand for pearl shell comes a drop in trochus and beche de mer prices. The former is quoted at £50 per ton, and finds its sole market in Japan.

Trochus sales depend largely on the eastern exchange, Japanese buyers being very cautious and rarely venturing unless the exchange is in their favour. Buttock-making from the trochus is largely a home industry in Japan, and the shell is sold in small lots to individual makers.

So far, this year the trochus catch has been disappointing. This is said to be due to the unusually cold weather, which prevents the trochus from moving about for surface feeding, and incites it to bury itself in the coral. By the time that the diver, who can only stop down for less than two minutes, has found his quarry and broken into its hiding place, he is often forced to the surface for air.

Trochus is generally fished for at low water, and at this time of the year, when high tides are nocturnal, the divers can work all day. The trochus lugger carries about four divers, each manned by a Japanese, who supervises the work of the Malay or native skin diver.

The latest price quoted for chalk fish is somewhere about £30 per ton, which does not allow much profit for the firms who deal in it. In fact, it looks as if some of the boats will be laid up and more unemployment will result.

Some relief has been afforded by permission having been granted to continue working these subsidiary industries with the old Japanese crew for another twelve months. The present is a bad time to try experiments, which can only result in lessened efficiency and greater costs in production, and evidently the Commonwealth authorities have awakened to this fact.

## A NEW ENTERPRISE

A new boat-building and repairing company, financed by three well-known firms here, has been formed with a capital of £10,000, and operations will probably commence in October, under the management of Mr. Newman.

The new enterprise expects to carry out repairs at a lower cost than that of existing boat slips, run by Asiatics. Public opinion is strongly in favour of this innovation, and a good measure of support will doubtless be given the new firm.

## PAPUAN INDUSTRIES LTD.

Papuan Industries Ltd., an organisation formed in London in conjunction with the L.M.S., with a distinct philanthropic aim to help the natives, seems to be gradually lessening its activities, and may eventually disappear.

The big store at Badu, the headquarters of the Pacific Islands in Torres Straits, has been sold to the Queensland Aboriginal Department, but the late manager, Mr. Harmon, will continue in advice under the new owners. Two of the firm's plantations, both situated on the Fly River, are, I understand, up for sale, and both, in the words of a neighbouring Papuan planter, offer good livings in the way of copra and trade to an energetic man.

Papuan Industries will not cease operations without regret on the part of those who know them. Though their objects have been misunderstood by a few, there is no doubt that they were worthy ones, and that the company has lived up to them. The organisation has been helpful to its white neighbours, and has conferred many benefits on the natives of Torres Straits and Western Papua.

## TURTLE SOUP

Word has been received on the Island that a company has been formed in Sydney and Melbourne for the purpose of turning out the vast resources of turtle soup, in association with the well-known American firm of Heins.

Definite particulars are lacking, but a representative of the new company is said to be shortly visiting Thursday Island with a view to starting operations.

With this new enterprise — at least proposed, if not actually in existence — we may believe that our marine resources are not to be entirely neglected. There is room for hope, and T.I. like many other small communities, has a wonderful vitality of its own.

## PERSONAL ITEMS

We have to record with regret the death of a very old identity, Mrs. Marion Thomas, who was the first matron of the local hospital. Mrs. Thomas, who was a personal friend of John Douglas, and well known to all the early residents, carried on her work in the institution for three years single-handed. She received her professional education at the well-known Edinburgh Infirmary, whence so many famous medical men have come, and had a fund of interesting stories

about the old-time doctors under whom she trained.

Mr. A. E. Harvey, manager for the Papuan Industries Fly River plantations, had to return to Victoria for health reasons, after a dangerous attack of blackwater fever. He was a well-trained tropical agriculturalist, with experience in Borneo and the New Hebrides. He will be missed by many people in Western Papua.

Mr. C. G. Vidgen, a grandson of Frank Jardine, the planter of R. M. Somers, was recently married to Miss Lynch, of Innisfail, in Brisbane, and married with his bride by the Chaplain. A very pleasant wedding home, which took the form of a song evening, was given by the bridegroom's parents in honour of the young couple, at which nearly fifty guests attended. It is noteworthy that most members of the Jardine family have made their homes round Torres Straits or in the not far distant Arco group, where Mr. Chum Jardine is engaged in pearling and copra ventures.

The old Jardine homestead at Somerset is still in the hands of the family. Cocoons have been extensively planted there, on an area of 750 acres, and a hundred feet or so above the sea, on an underlying granite formation. The palms bear very freely, and Somerset may claim to be the most productive coconut plantation on the mainland of Australia. Vessels passing through Albany Passage, in sight of Somerset, still salute as a tribute to Mr. Jardine's successful efforts in saving many lives at the time of the Quetta disaster.

## VALE, JACK BRUCE

The remains of the late Mr. Jack Bruce, who died in Sydney last year, were interred at Murray Island during August. No more fitting resting place for faithful Jack Bruce could be found.



The crew of Jack Bruce on Murray Island. The ship was in a boat on the great antiquity.

for his name is inseparably connected with that remote and picturesque island lying out on the Barrier Reef. For over 35 years Mr. Bruce laboured among the Murray Island people, as government representative and teacher, and his work there remains as one of the finest examples of devotion to duty in the annals of Torres Straits. The party that went out to Murray Island in the Government vessel Melbair included a brother and nephew of the deceased, the masters of Thursday Island, and a few old friends.

## IMPRACTICABLE?

Closer Association Between Administrations

The suggestion made in the last issue of The Pacific Islands Monthly, that there should be a closer association of Pacific Islands administrations, for consideration of numerous problems of mutual interest, is referred to by Sir Maynard Hedstrom, of Suva, in a letter to the editor.

"With regard to your suggestion under the heading 'Seventeen Independent Administrations,' says Sir Maynard, 'I am afraid I must say that in my opinion geographical difficulties at present render the suggestion impracticable.'

"There is some communication and some co-operation between Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, and the Crown Colony of Gilbert and Ellice Islands — particularly in medical and educational service — but any rapid extension to other island groups would be impracticable."

## COOK ISLAND NOTES

From Our Own Correspondent

Rarotonga, August 14.

The Laburum sailed on August 3 for Niue and Pago Pago, after spending two days here.

Prior to her arrival in Rarotonga, she had called at Pukapuka, Rakahanga and Penrhyn in the Northern Cook Group, the Society Islands (Papeete), and at Hervey Island, in the Lower Cook Group.

From the latter place, she brought Robert Dean Frisbie (author of "The Book of Pukapuka," with a further book coming out this year) to Rarotonga. Mr. Frisbie, who is an American, had been spending some months on the Islands of Manua and Tu-ai-tu (Hervey Islands) as the guest of the owner manager, Mr. J. A. Bunting.

## AMERICAN YACHT IN PORT

Mr. Templeton Crocker, of San Francisco, in the yacht Zaca, with three guests on board, arrived at Rarotonga on August 1. The yacht had spent some time in Papeete and had called at Borabora on her voyage to Rarotonga. The vessel anchored fairly close to the Laburum, and with the heavy swell running her captain carried away, and the had ship her cabin. Later, she managed to get a rope on to the Laburum, and swung there all night and most of next day. Mr. Wm. O'Brien, wharfinger for the Union Company, took a lighter out, and managed to pick up her cable and anchor.

About 7 p.m. on August 2 the Zaca sailed for Suva, via Aitutaki. This vessel left Aitutaki again on Wednesday, August 6. She is to travel up through the Straits Settlements and Suez Canal to be in the Mediterranean for the season in February, and will then go across the Atlantic.

## WIRELESS SETS USEFUL

There are at present 8 wireless receiving sets on this island, and more coming along. From about mid-day until 7 a.m. concerts are received over the wireless from America, Australia and New Zealand.

The incinerator has been closed on the Taylor Plantation comprising 50 hectares approx. in two leases, one with 4 years and one with 25 years term, and the property, together with dwelling house, is up for sale by public auction on August 25.

## LATE SIR MAUI POMARE

The following is a copy of a public notice issued by the Administrator:

"The ashes of the late Sir Maui Pomare will be brought ashore on arrival of the R.M.S. Makuru on Monday, 18th August, and taken to the Palace, Tapuapuatea, where a large will take place according to native custom."

"All European friends are respectively invited to attend."

Sir Maui Pomare was cremated in California, and Lady Pomare travelled to New Zealand with the ashes by the R.M.S. Makuru.

## QUICK HELP FOR TAHITI

When advice was received through Samoa of the helpless condition of the Tahiti, 450 miles south-west of Rarotonga, the A.S. Tagua, which was lying in Avarua Harbour, and was the nearest vessel in the vicinity, was prepared immediately for despatch to the scene. She had just come in from the northern side. She was quickly unloaded, and filled with provisions and oil, and then left port. The Tagua was 32 miles from Rarotonga, when she was recalled by wireless, following news that the Tofua, Penrhyn and Ventura were on their way to the Tahiti's assistance.

## SERIOUS FRUIT LOSSES

The fruit report on a.s. Waipahi shipment this month shows: Oranges, approximate percentage waste fruit, average—Rarotonga, 10 per cent.; Aitutaki, 6 per cent.; Atiti, 11 per cent.; Mauke, 3 per cent. The condition of the balance was good. The average prices were 6/6 to 10/6. Tomatoes, good condition, brought 3/6 to 7/4. These prices are not payable.

On the July trip of the Tahiti from San Francisco to Wellington 16,000 cases of fruit were despatched from here. This was the largest shipment for the year. Unfortunately, the vessel met with very heavy weather en route to New Zealand, and according to wireless reports between 50 per cent. and 70 per cent. of the fruit cargo was lost. By the a.s. Waipahi on July 30, two fruit inspection parties were sent to the islands for the remainder of the season. Mr. Binfield going to Mauke, and Mr. Notstage to Atiti.

## Cheaper Transport For Copra

When Reduced to Oil Form

Mr. B. B. Wilshire, of Sydney, who has had some connection with commerce in the Pacific, expressed the opinion in an interview recently that the tariff imposed on products arriving in Australia from Fiji, Samoa and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea were responsible for islands' trade being lost to Australia.

Sydney, he said, was at one time the depot and clearing-house for all the produce of the Pacific. Then copra was made dutiable, and submitted to certain restrictions by the Harbour Trust Commissioners, who declared it a dangerous commodity. Handling costs also increased and, gradually, the volume of

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trade decreased, until now it had been practically all diverted to England, the Continent, and the United States.

While discussing copra, Mr. Wilshire mentioned that he was in Manila a couple of years ago, he had observed that the export of copra in the raw had almost ceased. It was being ground down and despatched in the form of coconut oil, first in drums and casks, and then, when the quantities increased, ships fitted with tanks carried the oil in bulk. This method of export was now used throughout the Philippines and Java, and he considered that the time would soon come when producers in the Pacific Islands would adopt this process. Minimised talk in freight

was a great advantage, another being the recovery of the by-products—fodder, desiccated coconut, etc. Summing up the trade position, Mr. Wilshire stated that if Australia wished to make the most of her opportunities in the Islands, the following would be necessary:

- (1) Better transhipment facilities in Sydney.
- (2) More liberal tariff towards Islands produce.
- (3) Cheaper transport of produce — Government subsidies for shipping would be essential.
- (4) Supply of Australian foodstuffs and manufactured goods at reasonable cost.



## OUR FIJIAN NEWSLETTER

How Experts Are Conquering Pests — Need for Pacific Islands Convention — New Fish Arrives in Fiji

From Our Own Correspondent

Suva, Sept. 4.  
THE Department of Agriculture and the Coconut Committee, established by the Government, are doing splendid work, which is of special interest to all planters in the Pacific.

The Department is doing everything it can to provide parasites or other means of controlling or destroying those noxious plants which have been gradually spreading through the islands of the Pacific, and becoming a serious menace to successful settlement. Set-

ters cannot afford to be hampered by noxious weeds, as in spite of reasonably cheap labour, the lot of the average planter just now is hardly a happy one, owing to very low prices for all primary products of the tropical areas.

Our scientists have already obtained a thrip, which, it is hoped, will control the *Cydia hirta* (or Koster's Cume), and a wasp which should exterminate the apple borer, and they are trying experiments for the eradication of the coconut scale.

A reference was made in the first number of The Pacific Islands Monthly concerning what the Malayan fly may do when it has exterminated the Levana moth. It would die, for it feeds upon no other insect, and the only worry of our scientists now is how to preserve the fly (*Pygoclypeus*), when the supply of moths is low, as has happened here more than once. The parasite certainly does not become itself a nuisance, when its main work is completed.

The latest importation is a wasp, which is believed to be fatal to the *Landiana* plant, which, as is the case in Australia and many other islands, is becoming a serious pest.

The work that is going on here is of first importance, and must prove of great value to all island communities.

### ISLAND CO-OPERATION

The suggestion, offered in your first number, that an attempt should be made to organise some sort of round-table conference among the governing authorities of the various Pacific Islands, is one which deserves careful consideration. There are many matters which commonly affect most or all of them.

There is, for instance, the control of noxious animals, insects, weeds or plants.

At present, the shipping trade between, say, Fiji and the Solomons, is discouraged in every way because of the fear of the malarial mosquito being introduced, while new precautions are now in force in respect of all shipping coming to Fiji from Samoa, owing to the presence there of the dreaded *rhinoceros beetle*, which is not yet located in this colony.

Then the question of native labour is one which must in time be faced, if the supply of labour is to be maintained, and if the progress and welfare of the native is to be regarded as of primary importance.

Postal and radio communications are other subjects which call for concerted action, along with air mail services. The means of communication, at present, present many paradoxes, and there is at times unnecessary overlapping, which a conference might straighten out. The idea is one well worth following up.

### HEALTHY FINANCE

While the colony is suffering, like every other community, from low world markets and necessarily depressed business conditions, the general financial position is extremely healthy. This is owing to a strict conservatism during the past few years in the Treasury.

The last returns show the assets of the Colony to be £88,517, while the surplus of assets over liabilities is £119,572—a very satisfactory position.

### A QUEER FISH

He was not a specimen of the genus homo, but a fish—a real fish. He is known elsewhere, but up to last month had never been found in Fiji waters. He is well described by Zane Gray in one of his books, and is known as the Sail Fin.

It is also remarkable that, when two Tokelau fishermen hooked him on a

small line near Suva Point, and fought him to a standstill three miles away, a few days later, having flown from Suva, he landed at Levuka, and landed one near Wakaya.

The former fish was 12 feet long, and the latter 18 feet. Both had large sail fins along their backs measuring about 3 feet by 3 feet; and each had a bony sword—about 21 inches long. They were black in colour, and fought strongly all the time.

Their presence in Fijian waters is regarded with considerable interest by all sportsmen.

### HE DESERVED A MEDAL

When our air-mail plane, the Spartan, owned and flown by Captain Fenton, M.C., landed recently in Levuka Harbour, it ran into an iron rail, set up on a coral patch as a beacon. The plane was badly damaged, and went out of commission. Happily no one was hurt.

To the surprise of everyone the plane arrived in Suva, seemingly all right, after it looked "a regular foot of brick."

When seen by your representative at Korovou, two miles out, at its hanger, it looked "a regular foot of brick." When another airman saw the machine, he exclaimed to Captain Fenton: "Man, you deserve a medal!"

The two axles were broken, and had been temporarily stayed by being lashed to two galvanised iron pipes. The front steel strut, which was broken badly, had been opened, and some hardwood inserted, and the whole shod up with wire. Two wires had been strained alongside to give greater strength. The floor of the rear of the fuselage, which had been ripped open, and was patched with three-ply board, screwed on. Part of the tail of rudder was tied with string.

It certainly looked casual, although really very stout, but no official would have passed the plane as "air worthy."

It was a really prime deed by a brave, yet cautious man.

### N.Z.'S PRIME MINISTER

The passage through Suva by the Hon. G. W. Forbes (Prime Minister) and his delegation representing New Zealand, en route to the Imperial Conference, was made the occasion for some mild festivities. The Prime Minister was welcomed on board the Aorangi, on arrival, by the Mayor (Hon. Henry Marks, C.B.E.), and Captain Sir William Graham-Moon, A.D.C., on behalf of the Governor. There was a civic welcome, and the speakers in addition to the Mayor and Mr. Forbes, were Sir Thomas Sidey, Sir Maynard Hedstrom and Sir Henry Scott, K.C. The visitors were later entertained at luncheon at Government House, where the Prime Minister had a long chat with His Excellency.

### OBITUARY

Captain Hugh Clark, who has resided in retirement in the Colony, for the past six years, died on August 30, in his 81st year, leaving a widow and one son, who is a member of the Pacific Cable staff.

won both the Moresby Cup and the Samarai Handicap with Lady Eclipsa.

## PAPUAN NOTES

### Growth of Industries

From Our Own Correspondent

Port Moresby, Sept. 9.

IN spite of the general depression in Papua, the average settler is taking things fairly calmly — perhaps the calm of despair. Plantations and houses, though heavily hit, are still carrying on, hoping vainly for a rise in prices; fully prepared to trench still further and to stand by and see things through.

### SISAL HEMP

The one outstanding item of promise seems to be sisal hemp. Its market price has risen lately to £36 per ton. Javai Plantation, Rigo district, lately taken over by a new company, has quite reasonable hopes of making out of a forsaken and deserted proposition a considerable success. Labour conditions are more reasonable, owing to natives finding it difficult to obtain work, and willing to work for smaller wages.

The Sangara Sugar Company, a fairly large company, recently formed, in the N.E. division, near Baniaga, is regarded by experienced men of long standing to be well worth considering, and well able to compete in the world's markets, in cost and production, when on its feet and in full working order. However, this has yet to be proved.

Coffee is another new enterprise in a smaller way. Started lately in the hills north of Port Moresby, the reports are very promising, and it is said to have every chance of becoming, with its small bonny, a successful proposition. If sugar and coffee prove successful, as well as sisal hemp, the gloom will be lifted a little, for rubber and copra are dead, and oil and sold seem as illusive as ever. Copper, some time ago, was an overwhelming disappointment.

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Annual Turf Club Meeting and Ball were a complete success, though fewer horses were entered, and the attendance was not so large. Sir Hubert and Lady Murray put in an appearance on both occasions, and were very interested in the races. Mr. F. B. Godson

won both the Moresby Cup and the Samarai Handicap with Lady Eclipsa.

The Samarai cricketers and athletes recently paid a visit to Port Moresby, challenging them to sports and cricket. They beat Port Moresby badly in the sports events, but in cricket they were easily behind. Port Moresby recovered the shield. Sport plays a big part in the lives of the residents of Port Moresby. Besides the Cricket and Club Tennis, Aquatic and Golf Clubs have many devout followers. The Golf Club has a beautiful 18-hole course, and a safety valve for many depressed spirits — with the help of the 19th hole at the Papuan Club on the homeward green.

Lady Murray has made a considerable difference to social life among the women in Port Moresby. Since her marriage and arrival, her gracious and charming personality have won many friends. Captain and Mrs. Finney (the daughter of Sir Hubert Murray) have been her guests, and during their visit Lady Murray gave an at Home, and for the first time for many years Government House was the scene of much gaiety. The guests dancing until midnight. The main rooms, lounge and verandahs were decorated with finely shredded coconut palm leaves, hanging from the ceilings in fringes, presenting an extraordinary effect of tropical splendour and liveliness. Lady Murray must be congratulated on the success and originality of the evening, and the pleasures of her guests.

On August 12, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Hubert Murray, opened the London Missionary Society's new school — Lawes College — at Fife Bay. The buildings comprise a church, two houses for white missionaries, a native teacher's house, and eleven houses for married couples and a hospital. These buildings will give a fair idea of the splendid work covering many years of the L.M.S. in the Samarai district.

In the midst of all our troubles, we receive news that Rear-Admiral Evans, on board H.M.A.S. Australia, accompanied by the H.M.S. Duke of Cornwall, arrived in Port Moresby on September 11. The excitement and pleasure of seeing them has cheered us all up, and already arrangements are being made for their entertainment.

### ON ADVENTURE BENT

Suva had a visitor on August 30 during the few hours in which the "Totus" was in port. In Mr. Hector Macquarrie, the rising author, who has books, "We and the Baby," is already in its third edition.

Mr. Macquarrie was a passenger in the ill-fated "Totus" and with a companion, Mr. Matthews, was off on an "all round the world" trip, taking with them a motor car, which went down with the ship. Undeterred, they are off to Auckland to buy another kit and another car, and will travel home by the "Makura." They propose to return by car through Siberia.

Mr. Macquarrie was A.D.C. to our late Governor, Sir Cecil Redwell, and was very popular in Suva.

### NOTABLE INDIAN DEED

A notable figure passed away ten days ago at Penang, one of the sugar ports, in the person of Badri Maharatna, who was for years a member of the Legislative Council, nominated to represent the Indian community. He came here as an Indian, having run away from a high-caste college in India, in search of adventure. He was intensely interested in education, and for years maintained a school at Penang. He was also a member of the Board of Education. He retired when the Indians obtained the franchise. He has two sons in the Fiji Civil Service, and he was the first Fiji Indian to send his children abroad for their education.

### STERN WARNING AGAINST PESTS

A very welcome visitor for a day while passing through on the Niagara, was Mr. Charles Judd, Director of Agriculture in Hawaii. He was entertained by our Director of Agriculture, and driven round to see some of the Indian settlements. He said he strongly urged the necessity for the most determined preventative measures against the importation of plant pests and diseases, and he gave the excellent advice that "when in doubt burn the consignment." Hawaii had realised too late the need for the most careful control of imported plant matter, and that it was suffering from that neglect.

Mr. Judd agreed that Fiji would be unwise to import pineapple suckers from other countries, in view of the fact that the Colony is at present free of any diseases that attack pineapples. He also offered to assist in exchanging maps to provide funds for developing a big 641c. lode, carrying good payable values, which has been opened up.

### SEVERE WATER SHORTAGE

The whole colony is still suffering from drought, and feed is becoming scarce. Notices are advertised locally asking residents to be careful in using water in Suva, and all water for garden watering is prohibited. There is only 21 days' water supply for Suva, and rain is urgently needed. A slight fall occurred on September 5.

## MOUNT SISA

What Is Position On Misima Is.?

### SHAREHOLDERS ASKING QUESTIONS.

THE latest report issued on August 11st of Mt. Sisa Gold Fields (Papua) operating on the Eastern Islands has not come up to the expectations of some shareholders. Following it, a further call has been made to provide funds for developing a big 641c. lode, carrying good payable values, which has been opened up. This call makes the shares paid up 1/6.

The rich ore exhibited at the trial crushing at Haddfield's works in Sydney and shareholders to believe that when the small Hammy crushing plant, purchased by the company, was erected, rich crushings could be anticipated. It was expected that gold would be won in December of last year. To date, the result of crushings has been only about 95 ounces of amalgam.

Now comes news of the developing of a further lode, which, it has been stated, could not be economically treated by the present mill.

The questions that shareholders would like answered are:

- (1) Why has not the rich ore been developed, as promised in the company's prospectus?
- (2) Is it advisable to push on with further development of the low grade ore, as against putting through the richer ore, and making the return from that pay for the development of the lower grade thus avoiding making calls for such a time as the present?

The board now states that it intends sending a mining expert "of high repute" to examine and give an independent report on the value of the property.

When is he going, and who is he?

Net revenue for 1928-1929 for the British Solomon Islands Protectorate totalled £79,935. The expenditure over the period was £31,832.

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