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THE Pacific Islands Monthly

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

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TIDAL WAVE

In Northern New Guinea

HOUSES WASHED TO SEA AND NATIVES DROWNED

FOLLOWING an earthquake a tidal wave swept northern New Guinea on December 24, and, according to reports so far received in Sydney, missions, trading stations and plantations were damaged. It is reported six natives lost their lives. The wave varied in height from four to 23 feet and reached inland for a distance of 300 yards. About 40 miles of the northern coastline were swept, and also the Western Islands, near Manus.

The first definite news of the wave was received by Amalgamated Wireless (Australia) Ltd., Sydney, from its station on Manus. It was as follows: "Steamer Duru, belonging to W. R. Carpenter & Co. Ltd., advises that an earthquake was felt on the morning of December 24, and that a tidal wave struck the Western Islands, at a height of eight feet at Awin, and four feet at Peleliu. Houses, cattle, etc., at Awin washed to sea, manager and boys escaped by climbing palm trees. Now living on beach. Authorities untouched; Hermite struck, but no information. Fate of Matty and Aila, and especially small, unprotected Ailson Island unknown. Direction of wave from south-east."

A later message received by the Prime Minister's Department, Canberra, from the Administrator of the Territory (General Wisdom) indicated that 40 miles of coastline in the vicinity of Madang had been also swept. The Sapra Mission Station and a trading settlement had been wiped out. It was reported as well that a trading station at Uluva was destroyed. Six natives lost their lives and three others were injured.

No word has been received as to how plantations along the coast fared. It would appear that those in the Western Islands have been damaged, although to what extent is not yet known.

These islands are entirely given over to copra production. The plantation on Peleliu is owned by a Mr. Bennett, and that on Awin by a Mr. Baxter. Those on the Anchor Islands are operated by Copra Plantations Ltd. The plantation on the Hermite, it is understood, was recently taken over by the Custodian of Expropriated Properties.

John Williams V. at Suva

To replace the steamer John Williams IV, in the London Missionary Society's service, the new auxiliary schooner, John Williams V, arrived at Suva in December. Under her predecessor, the new vessel will make Suva, and not Sydney, her base.

PAPUA'S GIANT PEAK

Patrol Officer Reaches Summit

(From Our Papua Correspondent)

PT. MORESBY, Dec. 23. MR. S. E. SMITH, a patrol officer, recently ascended to the great peak of Mount Victoria, over 13,000 feet, with a temperature below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

In his report, he gives a vivid description of his ascent and of the wonderful view of all the surrounding country.



The late Sir William MacGregor, the first Governor of Papua, who made the ascent of Mt. Victoria in 1911.

try from the top. He states the height of the summit is 13,175 feet. The natives living near Mount Victoria had never made the ascent.

Mr. Smith followed the route, as far as possible, of the late Sir Wm. MacGregor, the first Governor of Papua, who made the trip in 1909.

THE BELLATRIX

Arrives in Sydney from Noumea

THE French Sloop, Bellatrix, arrived in Sydney on December 31 from Noumea, in order to undergo her annual overhaul.

On entering the Heads she fired a salute in honour of the Commonwealth, and was repaid by guns from Middle Head.

Since her last visit to Sydney at the end of 1929, the Bellatrix has cruised to Tahiti, the Wallis Group, New Hebrides and New Caledonia. She is under the command of Captain M. Bataud.



A typical coconut plantation in the Western Islands, New Guinea. News has been received in Sydney that a tidal wave caused damage to plantations in this part of the Territory.

Society Wedding at Suva

Reception at Government House

(From Our Fiji Correspondent)

SUVA, Dec. 24.

A FAIR Irish colleen came all the way from the Emerald Isle to wed the Commissioner of Works of Fiji, Mr. W. Wise.

The wedding proved quite a big social event. The Holy Trinity Cathedral was filled as Sir Maynard Hedstrom led the bride up the aisle, amid a splendid show of native floral decorations. The bride, Miss Irene F. E. Swamy, looked very sweet in a gown of pale pink and white, the bodice of which was finished with some pretty Chinese embroidery, the skirt being of eggshell pink georgette. She wore a pink veil with a lovely bouquet of pink and pale green flowers. She was accompanied by Miss Doreen Armstrong and Mr. Trevor Johnson was best man.

The reception was held at Government House at the special request of His Excellency and later, the younger set met at the residence of Sir Maynard Hedstrom, at Tamavua, and dancing and more speeches passed a pleasant evening.

New Guinea Public Service

Mr. Walcott's Report

(From Our Canberra Correspondent)

CANBERRA, January 14.

MR. P. E. WALCOTT, Commonwealth Public Service officer in Queensland's Department as secretary of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, where he made a special investigation of public service conditions, has now furnished his report to the Government.

Mr. Walcott, who was accompanied by Mr. Mulrooney, of the Prime Minister's Department, as secretary, spent about three months on the work.

Mr. Beasley, Assistant-Minister, is now engaged going through the report, which contains a number of important recommendations. There is little doubt that most of the recommendations will be adopted, for they indicate directions in which considerable economies can be made without interfering with the efficiency of the service.

Encouraging Gold Seekers

Papuan Government Offers Subsidy

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Port Moresby, January 7.

GOLD mining lately has been regarded as a little more prosperous. Good reports have been received from Milne and Woodlark Islands and it is considering that now a combined effort should be made by everyone in general to send organised parties to search for gold.

The Government has offered gold-seekers £ for £ in subsidy on expenditure up to a payment of £250, and already a party has been formed and is going out to the Tauri River on those conditions.

The general public, on the whole, are rather doubtful of success awaiting gold prospectors, for enthusiasm has been somewhat damped of late by the conflicting reports that have been coming in.

But the economic position in the Territory would be so relieved if gold were discovered that every find is worth considering and exploiting to the utmost, especially now that the Government has offered such excellent terms.

The non-indigenous population of New Hebrides is on the last official report, 4,294, comprising 977 French, 369 British, 56 Asiatics and 6,396 Tongans and 30 Japanese labourers. The estimated native population is 60,000, evenly distributed throughout the group.

Need For Closer Relationship Between Territories

Plea for a Pacific Islands Association

A federation of the British island territories and groups of the South and Central Pacific is certain to come, though not in this generation.

In the meantime, for the purpose of consultation, so as to secure united action regarding many vital matters of common interest, the formation of a Pacific Islands Association is advocated.

LOOK at the list on this page. There are shown no less than thirteen different territories, all in more or less intimate trading relationship one with the other, and each under a separate and independent administration. The only attempt at co-ordination of administrative services is to be found between Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Colony, Tonga and the British section of the New Hebrides, which are more or less under the control of the British High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, who is also the Governor of Fiji.

In addition, there are shown in the list three other important territories, each under a completely independent administration. They are not in such close trading relationship with the groups of the South and Central Pacific, on account of the distances separating them from the latter, but to the extent of at least 80 per cent. of their interests—particularly the problems connected with administration, immigration, agriculture, etc.—are common.

Considering the remarkable diversity of interests and administrations, the Pacific Islands communities are very well governed.

This is the more notable because, with the possible exception of Fiji and Tonga, the parliamentary form of government is not in operation among the thirteen territories under review. While parliamentary government, in enlightened countries like Australia and Britain, is in a condition bordering on collapse, the red tape administrations of the South Seas are, for the most part, weathering the economic storm very comfortably. Therefore, we cannot ask for a movement directed towards federation, on the ground of present unsatisfactory administration.

IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS.

But, in the name of progress, we can urge a closer association between these islands territories. The Pacific Islands are growing up. They are no longer the Islands of Romance, the enchanted land "where life is different," the resort of idlers and world-weary artists.

In the last 20 years, under the impulse of copra production, aided by the extraordinary rapid development of the petrol engine, tropical hygiene and radio, the islands have become the permanent homes of many thousands of European families. White wives, enjoying complete health, are to-day living with their husbands in scores of regiments which, only a decade ago, were regarded as completely unsuitable for white women.

Fiji is almost a residential, both men and women. And this quiet, silent migration of Europeans to the South Seas has only just started. As soon as the world gets over its attack of economic indigestion, and normal conditions return, there will be a notable movement of Europeans to almost all of the rich, undeveloped, tax-free territories mentioned in our list. Therefore, it is not a time when we may examine the possible advantages of closer association between the islands groups and prepare the way for a much bigger settlement of white folk in these regions?

A REGULAR CONFERENCE.

If we look closely at the list of thirteen territories, we shall see that, except for New Caledonia (French), Eastern Samoa (American) and New Hebrides (Condominium), they are all British.

That simplifies matters considerably. Why should it not be possible to have a periodical conference of representatives from the several territories, held in a central place like Sydney or Auckland or Suva, for an exchange of views concerning scores of matters which vitally affect the common life of the communities of the South Seas?

Such a movement could be initiated among the British administrations, be-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

IN CLOSER RELATIONSHIP		
Territory	Now Held	Administered From
Fiji	British Crown Colony	London
W. Samoa	N.E. Mandate	Wellington and Geneva
E. Samoa	U.S.A. Territory	Washington
Tonga	British Protectorate	Canberra with British supervision
Norfolk Is.	Australian Territory	Canberra
Solomon Is.	British Protectorate	Suva and London
New Hebrides	Condominium	Paris and London
Gilbert and Ellice Is.	British Crown Colony	Suva and London
New Caledonia	French Colony	London, Paris and Geneva
New Guinea	Australian Mandate	Canberra
Papua	Australian Mandate	Canberra and Geneva
Cook Is.	N.Z. Territory	Wellington
NOT SO CLOSELY RELATED		
Society Is. (Tahiti)	French Colony	Paris
Hawaii	U.S.A. Territory	Washington
Caroline and Marshall Is.	Japanese Mandate	Tokyo

to the whole of the Pacific territories. Not included in the list at all, yet undoubtedly interested in all matters affecting the Pacific territories, are the vast, wealthy, populous groups of the Philippine Islands (American), East Indies (Dutch), Dutch New Guinea and British Borneo.

However, let us not wander too far afield—let us keep our attention to the thirteen territories of the South and Central Pacific, and see what might be accomplished by a closer relationship. How should we seek such a relationship? What formula should be advocated at this early stage?

NO POPULAR AGITATION.

At first glance it appears a hopeless proposition. Here are thirteen separate administrations, controlled independently from London, Paris, Washington, Canberra, Wellington and the League of Nations. Presumably, the nations concerned are not prepared to surrender any of their powers and privileges. Actually, they are well content to continue, undisturbed, as in the past—everything running according to established routine, without fuss or bother, officials jogging comfortably along, in well-defined paths. Who is asking for change? Why then, a sparrow inside the placid machinery?

There is no general demand for new forms of government—no charge of official oppression. As a matter of fact, taking them by and large, and con-

NEED FOR CLOSER RELATIONSHIP

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

cause they are more numerous; but there is every reason to believe that our French friends in New Caledonia, Tahiti, New Hebrides, as well as Americans representing Eastern Samoa and Hawaii, and probably Japanese from the Marshalls and Carolines, would join in heartily.

Consider the matters which could be discussed with mutual profit, just at the present time.

The bottom has fallen out of the copra market, and every planter, from

Papua to Tahiti, and from Tonga to the Philippines, is seeking an alternative, quick-growing crop to carry him through the lean years. Men from the different territories, bringing their knowledge and experience to a common centre, would provide information of incalculable value to the whole Pacific.

Another problem, which could be most profitably discussed just now, is labour. There is a demand from more than one territory that, since "big fellow boss" is taking it fairly in the neck in the matter of copra prices, and is likely to do so for some time to come, the price of native labour should be reduced, at least, for a time. This, surely, is a matter in which some attempt should be made to secure common action.

Then there is the ever present subject of pests. It is a matter concerning which planters, as a body, must maintain constant vigilance. A moment's carelessness may wipe out the life work of a hundred men. At the present moment, over in Java, a mysterious moth is playing havoc with the coconut plantations. New Guinea, where many hundreds of planters and the Commonwealth of Australia have enormous sums invested in coconuts, is next door to Java. Yet no one seems to know very much about the new pest, or whether it is a new pest, and apparently nothing has been done to keep it out of the Mandated Territory.

Remarkable work in wiping out insect pests by the introduction of other insects, has been done by the entomologists of Fiji, but no machinery exists for keeping other administrations regularly informed of these valuable discoveries in the realm of pest-control.

And so on. The list could be multiplied almost without limit, by any man familiar with islands life and conditions.

INTERESTS TO BE REPRESENTED.

We suggest that a body should be formed, to be called The Pacific Islands Association, and that there should be branches of the organisation, wherever desired, in any territory, group or island, and, if required, in Australia and New Zealand. Its main object should be the consideration and discussion of all matters of common interest to the islands communities, and the dissemination of information relating thereto, and, as part of this, it should endeavour to hold a regular conference annually, if possible, at which recommendations of some weight and authority might be formulated. So far as the constitution of the conference is concerned, it seems to us that care should be taken to give representation to the six main interests, namely:

1. The administrators.
2. The planters and producers.
3. The merchants and traders.
4. The educated natives.
5. The voluntary organisations responsible for educational activities.
6. The interests responsible for providing means of communication.

We suggest that each of these interests is deeply concerned with the future of the Pacific territories, and, in framing the rules of the Pacific Islands Association, care should be taken to provide facilities for the expression of the views of all of them.

We are tempted to essay the task of outlining a set of rules and conditions; but that, obviously, should be the duty of the many available men of wisdom and experience, gained in a lifetime of association with Pacific Islands affairs. The main consideration is that the association should be loosely-formed and wide open to permit the inclusion of all sorts and conditions of people and interests. It will not fulfil its purpose, for instance, if its constitution should remain wholly British.

NO LEGISLATIVE POWER.

It is not suggested that the association should have anything resembling legislative powers. It would provide machinery merely for discussions and for making recommendations. But it is obvious that, if it were conducted in a proper manner, it would receive the goodwill and support of the various Governments and islands administrations concerned not only because it would bring to a focussing point for the guidance of administrators the knowledge and experience of men from all parts of the Pacific, but also because it would introduce into Pacific Islands administration a factor of co-ordination, which is the thing that is conspicuously lacking throughout the several administrations to-day.

THE DEFENCE FACTOR.

Perhaps, before closing this article, it would be wise to mention another, and, maybe, the most insistent reason in favour of the formation of The Pacific Islands Association.

The territories of the Central and South Pacific are in the hands of

Britain and France, they are capable of supporting in comfort and happiness a very large population. The Europeans are in possession, and it is their wish that whatever population is carried there, in addition to the natives, shall be European. But, just over the Equator, looking out anxiously and hopefully for new lands which they may occupy, are the countless, swarming millions of Asia. Officially, they are being kept out of the islands. Actually, they are creeping in, creeping in an ever-increasing stream. Already in places they are an embarrassment.

It is of the utmost importance that here, at any rate, the French and the different British administrations should have a common policy, if only for defence reasons. Are the islands to be kept for the white race, as the administration is endeavouring to do in New Guinea? Or is there to be a limited infiltration of Asiatics, as in Fiji? Or is the indentured system of using and repatriating Asiatic labour to be strictly followed, as in New Hebrides and New Caledonia? Or are the Chinese trading classes to be allowed to become the dominant commercial class, as in the Straits Settlement? Or are the Japanese and Chinese to be permitted to swamp the natives, and outnumber the natives, as in Hawaii?

Surely, the answer to these questions ought not to be too long delayed—R.W.R.

Solomon Islands

Small Cargoes Arriving — Government Lifts Copra Export Duty

From Our Own Correspondent

TULAGI, Dec. 30.
REVENUE from imports into the Solomon Islands has not been materially affected until the last Mataran arrived, although it was the Christmas trip there was a falling off of about 300 tons of general cargo. The next trip promises to be even worse. The Government has earned the applause of all by lifting the 12-6 per cent export duty on copra, as from November 1 until the end of the financial year—March 31. This will cause a considerable loss in revenue.

AN UNFOUNDED REPORT.

Some ill-restrained and, it would seem, premature excitement was caused the other day, when some one or other gave the story a push that the Commonwealth of Australia was about to impose a most iniquitous tax on the finances of islands communities registered in Australia. An expert duty in country of origin. A few, but not all of the larger company managers ran round in small circles and proposed, if the report were true, to ask the Government, here to reimburse portion of the late and expected duty and thus escape the reported tax. The mail brought no word of the truth, so the excited ones have had time to cool off.

PLANTERS' AND COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION.

Our Solomon Islands Planters' and Commercial Association still endeavours to struggle along thanks to a few loyal spirits. The difficulties to a great extent are geographical, for it is not an easy matter to bring the interest and secure the unity of a small population so widely scattered. The main objects of the Association are to assist the Government in administering to the best advantage of all concerned; for, with the exception of the annual meeting of the Advisory Council, it is our only medium of having before the Government our collective views, and efforts in this connection should be, and probably are, appreciated.

UP-TO-DATE WHARF BADLY NEEDED.

It is at last beginning to dawn upon some of us what a short-sighted blunder we made a few years ago, when we opposed, almost to a man, the Government's proposal to build an up-to-date wharf with adjoining storage to accommodate overseas vessels.

Just what our views were at the time is now lost in the clouds of incredulity. Overseas boats are now coming here thick and fast, and have to put up with antiquated and expensive methods of loading, all of which, of course, has to be paid for by the producer. Alas, our chances of remedying our colossal error are now, to say the least, very remote, but the fact stands that, so long as ships are required to take our produce away to the world's markets, just so long is this improvement a burning necessity.

Norfolk Island exports to Australia during the year 1929-30 showed an increase compared with the previous 12 months, the value being £29,215 as against £26,877. Exports to New Zealand declined from £5,966 for 1928-29 to £2,595.

According to the Administrator's report for the year 1929-30, the banana is still the only product regularly exported from Norfolk Island. There was a further small increase in the output during the year, 25,707 cases being sent away.

COOK ISLANDS NOTES

Improving Passages in Lower Group

From Our Own Correspondent.

RAHOTONGA, Dec. 23.

SCHOONER communication with the Lower Group Islands has now ceased until after the hurricane season, and the Tiape Tapiro has already left for the Northern Group, while the Tagua is also sailing North.

The Government agents at both Atiu and Mauke have retired, and no agents are at present at these islands until new appointees arrive after the hurricane season.

The work of widening and deepening the passages in the reefs at the

mouth of the Utu tree is ground up and "kikau" (palm leaf) kits, filled with it, are towed through the stretch of lagoon desired to be improved. This poison acts as a narcotic on the fish, making them sluggish in their movements, and thus more easily speared by the wily native. Also, once the fish get a proper whiff of the narcotic, they come forth from their hiding places under the rocks in a desire to reach a stretch of unimpaired lagoon.

The "Utu" is taken into the lagoon



A Fish Drive in a lagoon in the Cook Islands.

Lower Group Islands has been undertaken by the Administration, and a month on this work has been put in at Mauke by Captain Willocks. He has now been transferred to Manuoa to undertake similar work there during the hurricane season.

RETAINING WALL AT AVARUA.

A retaining wall is under course of construction on the water front at Avarua. When completed there is no doubt this will be of great benefit in preventing the encroachment of the sea. During the hurricane of 1926 quite a large piece of the foreshore was washed away here, and further pieces have been steadily disappearing every time it is subjected to heavy seas.

The Girl Guides have been busy raising funds so that they could report a credit balance at the annual meeting, and, to this end, two dances have been held—both proved successful and the monetary gain was sufficient for present purposes.

A sensational burglary took place last month, when the premises of Cook Islands Trading Company were broken into and cash totalling £78 was stolen. The culprit was caught, tried before judge and jury, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

BOWLS NOW POPULAR.

The hot weather is now upon us and bowls are the order of the day. The green being well patronised every afternoon. A recent singles competition for a trophy was won by Mr. A. Barron.

Tennis is a "wash-out" on account of the heat, and swimming has come into its own—many youth Europeans and natives being seen disporting themselves in the briny in the cool of the evening. The wharf at Avarua appears to be the most favoured spot.

The Cricket Shield competition between native clubs has commenced and very keen interest is being displayed by non-players in the prowess of their district teams.

FISH DRIVES IN THE GROUP.

A fish drive on a rather large scale was attempted during the month of November, but the arrangements fell through and several small drives were held. They were not such a huge success, but all the natives present appeared to be satisfied with their "bags."

The poison used was the "Utu." TFE

just after the turn of the incoming tide in the early morning, and thus the tide itself helps to distribute the poison.

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Rhinoceros Beetle

The Keppel Island Outbreak

How Individual Effort Saved Tonga

(From Our Tonga Correspondent)

It was in the early months of 1922... Keppel's Island, or Niuaatutu, at the northern tail of our scattered archipelago and on the map about 170 miles from Samoa, had always enjoyed, along with its neighbour Nukunono, a fairly peaceful existence. But islands are situated far from the seat of Government, and laws, ordinances, regulations and suchlike had been very often repealed by the time the wandering cutter with the Government mails had arrived at that distant end of the group.

In fact, there were so many complications that the Government at length decided not to worry them very much with "red tape" so long as the inhabitants paid their head taxes each year into the treasury. It follows then, that they were a happier people than their brethren nearer the seat of Government, where the taxpayer had to stand up to all the requirements of the Government Gazette, requirements that always do seem to emanate from every country that has a Government.

It is true that belated reports from Niuaatutu would come to hand every now and again about some fresh eruption, but as far as Keppel's Island was concerned (not being susceptible to eruptions) it couldn't draw any attention whatsoever.

Until the early months of 1923... A visitor there at the beginning of that year found that the small boys had evolved a new game. They would catch some big-horned beetles that had apparently just taken up their abode on the island and, by tying a weighted length of cotton around the body of each scarab, see which beetle could lift the biggest load when freed from the hand.

It was a great game! The boy who owned the strongest beetle won the piece of sugar cane.

The stranger didn't enter into the spirit of the game at all, but, being of a curious turn of mind, he managed to seize a couple of these beetles and, after knocking them on the head, brought the remains to Nukunono.

THE DREADED RHINOCEROS.

And then, as far as sleepy Tonga was concerned, Keppel's Island was well and truly on the map. Like wild-fire, the "beach" knew that the Tongan group was assailed by the dreaded rhinoceros beetle—the deadliest enemy known to the copra producer.

Luckily, the Government, galvanised

into action, discovered a man who, whilst in Samoa, had made a diligent study of this particular pest. A thoughtful and energetic man who had ideas, and ideas which he would like to test.

Mr. M. Muller was packed off to Keppel's Island with instructions to eliminate the beetle. His salary was fixed at £400 per annum. The Government was again lucky in that Mr. Muller wanted to test out some ideas, otherwise he might have demanded a thousand a year, and in the light of results he was worth every penny of the latter sum.

MR. MULLER COMMENCES HIS TESTS.

Mr. Muller's first step was to isolate the island. Then, by a series of trials, he verified one of his ideas, namely, that the beetle could not fly further than a given distance without a rest (this exploded the prevalent supposition that the original female beetle had flown from Samoa—in fact, it has been pretty conclusively proven now that the beetle was deliberately liberated there by a person with an insatiable grudge against the inhabitants).

Then Mr. Muller got legislation through, whereby he could call on every able-bodied man on the island to "clean up" two days in the week.

A tall order this! The island consists of some 3,000 acres, and probably some 2,000 acres was in virgin state with centuries of rotting logs and decayed vegetation. But Mr. Muller said it had to be done, because old logs and decayed vegetation were the only kind of things the beetle liked to live in after gorging himself on the heart of the coconut tree.

SUCCESS AFTER SEVEN YEARS.

Well, it has taken Mr. Muller seven years.

To write of his experiments, his disappointments, his discoveries, his appeals to a misunderstanding native Government, his despondency when native magistrates and native chiefs definitely worked against him, and his own night-thoughts that he might fail in his undertaking would fill a volume.

It is sufficient to record that Mr. Muller successfully segregated the beetle and that he trapped the last known parasite twenty months ago, since when neither beetle nor larvae has been seen or discovered on the island. Mr. Muller has eliminated the scourge.

For his services to the country Mr. Muller has been placed on the permanent staff of the Civil Service, but it is doubtful if the Tongan native will ever sufficiently realise what this white man with certain ideas and a fixed purpose has achieved, and what the achievement has meant to the Kingdom's future.

Mandates Commission and Australia

Interview With Mr. Coleman, M.P.

From Our Canberra Correspondent.

Mr. F. E. Coleman, M.P., has lately returned from Geneva, where he attended the Permanent Mandates Commission, an Accredited Commonwealth Government representative. In this interview he tells of proceedings at the Commission and the impressions he obtained.

HE said at the outset that it would be a regrettable thing if the question of adequate representation at important international conferences such as those of the League of Nations were allowed to become the target of party political criticism.

Canada, South Africa, and the Irish Free State had gone so far as to establish offices at Geneva and appoint permanent accredited representatives with status there.

Neither Canada nor the Irish Free State possess mandates," said Mr. Coleman, "and to that extent at least Australia is more vitally concerned in the League of Nations policy if she desired to retain her mandates. My attendance before the Mandates Commission was a most interesting and useful experience. I was materially assisted by Mr. Chumney, Government Anthropologist in New Guinea, who happened to be in Europe at the time.

The Mandates Commission is composed of representatives of various nations, including Germany, almost all of whom have been distinguished colonial administrators. Questions are asked by each Commissioner, based upon the annual reports, and the examination is of a very searching character. Following the examination, a report is presented to the Council of the League of Nations, and finally a report is made to the League Assembly.

It is interesting to note that the Australian Government was commended for sending direct representatives on this occasion. Every incident and every utterance occurring in Australia or elsewhere about New Guinea are tabulated and recorded at Geneva and become the basis of inquiry or criticism.

There are two schools of thought, one of which regards the 'C' mandates as a permanent transfer of sovereignty, whilst the other (which appears to be in the majority) regards such transfer as temporary and subject to adequate and proper administration. It will therefore be appreciated that Australia must live up to the highest principles of administrative efficiency in regard to the New Guinea and Nauru mandates.

"One leading League of Nations delegate said to me: 'Of course, Australia does not really need the mandates, as she has already more than enough territorial responsibility.' I strongly protested against this viewpoint. I mentioned here as indicating that there is an

influential body of opinion in favour, apparently, of returning certain territories to their former owners."

QUESTION OF FORCED LABOUR.

Mr. Coleman went on to say that a matter of great importance, namely, the question of forced labour, was discussed at the International Labour Conference and a draft convention was agreed to abolishing in certain instances, and modifying in others, the right of recourse to this form of labour.

"Certain colonial Powers," he said, "raised strong opposition to many of the terms of the convention, and it appears unlikely that it will secure acceptance. Australia does not utilise forced labour. The New Guinea Act specifically prohibits it, although the mandate permits it for public services and it is availed of in Papua for community services in a modified and well-regulated form. In certain colonies, however, forced labour has led to gross abuses, and is only a form of slavery."



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FIJI PINEAPPLES

Development of Promising Industry

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, Dec. 24.

THE new year will mark the pineapple industry beginning to find its feet.

The reports from the two local factories, which are now busy canning, are most favourable, and in each case the pack will exceed the estimate. The fruit, despite the hurricane, is of first class quality, and new areas are being planted as quickly as suckers can be found.

The experimental plots which the Hawaiian people have planted are all looking well. So far nothing is known as to what steps the Hawaiian folk will take, but it is hoped that they will make a move before long. The conditions all favour successful pineapple growing and the fruit, when canned, is of exquisite flavour.

The industry holds out big hopes to the Colony of taking a very prominent place in our development.

It is stated in the annual report for the Territory of Norfolk Island for 1929-30 that the demand for land during that period remained brisk, and high prices ruled.

NEW GUINEA NEWS

Pioneer Missionary Retires—Murder of Mr. Edmonds—New Wharf at Malaguna

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAUL, Dec. 20.

THE prolonged dry spell, which caused a good deal of concern, has now left us and we are now receiving a fair share of rain with some heavy storms thrown in to make up.

As usually occurs after a dry spell, storms are accompanied by earth tremors, and we have experienced quite a few distinct and severe shocks some of which lasted several minutes.

Hard times have made householders watch expenditures with the result that numerous orders have been received by Sydney retail establishments for groceries, etc. This has given our local stores furiously to think and

have been greatly facilitated if the frontage had been 10 feet longer. A further drawback that has been discovered is that it was found impossible to work all batches of the Mentore simultaneously.

AFFPOINTMENT OF GERMAN CONSUL

A very popular appointment has been announced in the notification that Mr. Ernst Pastzsch will fill the position of German Consul for the Territory of New Guinea. Mr. Pastzsch has been a resident of this territory since 1913 and, since 1923, has been in business on his own account. One of Mr. Pastzsch's claims to fame is

New Aerodrome at Bulolo, New Guinea



Built by Bulolo Gold Prospecting Ltd., the Bulolo aerodrome, on the New Guinea Goldfields, was opened last month. A Gipsy Aircraft's Junior "plane" was the first to use the new landing ground.

strong efforts are being made to regain the trade that is now going to Sydney. One big Chinese store has been giving 10 per cent. discount for cash for some months past on groceries only, and has in consequence maintained sales, but some other stores have suffered.

Burns, Philip & Co. have taken the lead, and have not only materially reduced prices, but now give a 10 per cent. discount for cash in all departments. Carpenter & Co. announce special lines on which they give a 15 per cent. cash discount for a specified period only, other lines still being subject to the old 5 per cent. discount. Rivalry is keen to secure business, which is all to the benefit of residents.

One of our pioneer missionaries, the Rev. Dr. Filmer, who came to this country in 1880, has retired and left us in September last. Dr. Filmer founded several mission stations on the mainland, and finally settled at Saitberg, 3,000 feet above sea level. In 1904 he removed to Heidelberg, about five miles north of Pischhafen, the headquarters of the Lutheran Mission, with which organisation he was associated.

A traveller from Melbourne, has received a sudden check to his career, as for the next eighteen months he will be a working guest of the Administration in one of the Federal prisons. This man came to the territory as a travelling agent and, it is alleged, passed two worthless cheques on a bank in Victoria for goods received. Both cheques were dishonoured. In the meantime, he had left the territory, but the Government took immediate action and had him brought back here for trial.

THE KOLAI MURDER.

Last month the native, Ponia, was brought for trial before the Chief Judge on a charge of murdering Mr. D. G. Edmonds, manager of the Melanesia Company's plantation at Kolai. It transpired at the trial that Edmonds had habitually brutally ill-treated the natives employed on the plantation and had interfered with native women, some of whom were wives of the native labourers. The evidence was corroborated by the European manager of a neighbouring plantation.

The Judge in his summing up stated that the deceased by his gross brutality and interference with native women had got his labourers into a state of mind which would explain, and might almost be said to justify, the outbreak. This murder was a natural consequence of the persecution of the accused was found guilty of wilful murder. The Judge did not pronounce sentence of death, but ordered judgment of death to be entered on record. He expressed the opinion that mercy should be shown to the accused.

The miniature golf craze has spread to Rabaul. A course has been installed at the Rabaul Hotel and another is to be built at Winawatu Hotel. The latter still continues to enjoy exceptionally busy times, due entirely to the attention and courtesy shown by the management. Winawatu is quite the most popular resort in this district, and since its reorganisation is filling a long-felt want as a pleasure resort for residents of Rabaul.

On December 1 the new wharf at Malaguna was used for the first time. S.E. Montoro, with Captain C. Williams in command, captured the distinction. His Honour the Administrator was present. It appears that the task of berthing and loading would

Penal Sanctions

Will Existence Hamper Trade?

POSITION IN PAPUA

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, Dec. 20.

THE existence of penal sanctions in Papua may hamper that Territory's export trade, in view of the United States Congress having forbidden the importation of any produce from a country where penal sanctions are in force.

THE following memorandum by His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, Sir Hubert Murray, has been addressed to employers of natives in the Territory:

"INDENTURED LABOUR AND ABOLITION OF PENAL SANCTIONS."

"There needs to be a general movement for the abolition of what are known as the penal sanctions in legislation relating to native labour. It is urged that a contract of service is an ordinary contract and that breaches are as desertion and neglect of duty should be treated not as criminal but as giving rise to action for damages."

"Under the ordinance at present in force, desertion and neglect of duty are punishable with fine or imprisonment and it is contended that it is inadvisable to provide a penal sanction for a breach of contract and that the employer should be left to his civil remedy, that is to say, that the employer should bring a civil action against the labourer who deserts or is guilty of neglect of duty, and should only be allowed to recover the actual damage that he could prove."

The Papuan Government is of the opinion that it would be premature to do away with these sanctions, causing great loss to employers and great harm to the natives at this stage of the country's career, and advises employers to exercise tact and patience so that a good many cases may be kept out of court, for it is feared that anything like an abuse would be seized as an excuse for abolition of the sanctions."

Residents feel rather indignant at the high-handedness of the U.S.A. in dealing with affairs that are evidently beyond their scope and understanding.

For Papuans this measure is well nigh ridiculous and the natives would take full advantage of the loopholes it would present. There could not possibly be any recovery of actual damages in most cases.

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B.N.G. DEVELOPMENTS

Annual Meeting in London

(From Our Port Moresby Correspondent)

PORT MORESBY, Dec. 22.

AT the annual meeting of shareholders of the British New Guinea Development Co. Ltd., of Papua, held in London last October, the production of rubber during the last year was stated to have been 319,625 pounds. The cost of production was reduced to 7.7d. per pound f.o.b. and the average net sale price was 6.8d.

Copra production for the year was 2,244 tons.

The total revenues from plantations for the year amounted to £26,685.

The B.N.G. Development Co. is one of the biggest companies in Papua and is of long standing, being formed as early as 1910.

Thousands of acres—both of rubber and coconuts—have been planted successfully, and had it not been for the fall of the market, the company would be by now considerably financial, whereas, in the report, the chairman, Brigadier General the Hon. F. C. Stanley, regretfully states the accounts for the year show a net loss of £60.

There are not many residents in Port Moresby who remember the beginning of this enterprising company. The founders arrived somewhere in June, 1910, in the old Bentinck, a steamer especially chartered, and brought out from London with trade and all the embellishments of a colonial venture.



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Passion-Fruit Pulp**Opportunity for Profitable Industry****Solving Norfolk Island's Problem**

Written for The Pacific Islands Monthly by Mr. Frank L. Edwards, Secretary of the Chamber of Manufactures N.I.S.W.

THERE are tons and tons and countless tons of passion-fruit ripening upon Norfolk Island during the months of December, January and February . . . and half of it goes to waste . . . We lose half of our fruit each season," writes your Norfolk Island correspondent, in last issue.

This late of waste is particularly galling just now in the midst of times so hard that actual cases of starvation are reported in the press. At the present moment (early January) while the Norfolk Island passion fruit rots, some of it is actually selling in Sydney stalls at a penny each.

Only this week, too, an American recently returned to Sydney after a trip to U.S.A., mainly to enquire about passion fruit pulp marketing possibilities—an eager would-be agent abroad for Australian canned passion fruit pulp could he but get it—has called upon me and given a glowing estimate of the huge quantities of pulp which it should be possible for us to dispose of in U.S.A. were we able to provide a continuous and uniform supply of the product attractively canned and packed, according to standards acceptable to the buyers.

THE U.S.A. MARKET

"I consulted the provisioning managers of a big chain of hotels," he said. "Some of these hotels feed five and six thousand people during the one meal hour."

Providers who cater on such a tremendous scale are naturally averse to find new foods and new markets for a clientele that is eager and willing to pay for them, but all I could get from them were promises that they would probably take several "tries" before they would be going to commit themselves.

To secure large scale distribution through the various chains of hotels and large grocery wholesalers houses, it will be necessary to satisfy their exacting specifications as to uniformity of product and to give a definite assurance as to supply.

"It is not an uncommon practice—in fact, it is the rule—for intending big buyers to see the factory and its management and follow out the whole of its processes; in the case of food-stuffs from the time the seed is planted till the finished article is packed and placed on the freight cars."

The Run-Kist Orange people specify how the crop is to be cultivated, irrigated, sprayed, pruned, picked and packed. The handling of passion-fruit will have to come up to the same rigid specifications if it is to succeed in the American market."

It is a fact, strange but true, that passion-fruit growing has not yet been successful in any but mere experimental plots in this country. This fruit which grows wild on the Australian coast and probably in many of the Pacific Islands, must, in our response to the most devoted attention in many districts in America. Here, surely, is our chance.

CO-OPERATION OF GROWERS NECESSARY

No technical difficulties hinder our putting and preserving the fruit; in fact, manufacturers have assumed me that the only deterrent to their passion-fruit preserving efforts on a scale larger than hitherto attempted has been the uncertainty of adequate supplies. Passion-fruit has been grown mainly with an eye to its sale as fresh fruit, and the pulp manufacturer has been expected to develop an industry on what is practically an unwilling source of supply. Growers only sell to him "faute de mieux," when fancy prices in the city markets are no more. It is not to be expected that big manufacturing business will result until such time as the growers recognise that they are producing not for the fruit shop but for the cannery.

Half-way measures will get us nowhere if this is to be developed as one of the primary industries of Australia. Given the quantities and due care in processing, there appear to be no reasons why passion-fruit should not soon be another exportable commodity.

Having one's judgment on the statements of your correspondent, it would seem that now is the time for a more seriously-based manufacturing effort, and as a step towards helping in the problem of the Norfolk Island growers, I have forwarded to each of my members likely to be interested in it, a copy of your correspondent's statement on this subject, and in addition I have sent copies to my colleagues in the Secretary of the Chamber of Manufactures in each of the other States.

But why don't the Norfolk Island growers arrange with an experienced manufacturer, who is a good technician, to visit them and advise them after an examination of their problem on the spot? The right man could be induced to make the trip, and he would take with him from the mainland a knowledge of marketing and of co-operative effort, both of which are essential to the success of the Islanders enterprise.

THE TONGAN ISLANDS**Storing of Copra Depresses Trade**

From Our Own Correspondent

NUKULOFOA, Dec. 20.

IT is amazing to learn that copra sold by the natives at the port of Vavau still realises £2 per ton more than Nukualofa offerings.

It is doubtless owing to this discrepancy that many Nukualofa natives, sensing that something is amiss, are storing copra in the hopes of a better price.

It has been storing up within the next fortnight, there is going to be a most frightfully depressing trading Christmas in Holy Tongatapu in this year of grace 1930.

PENSIONS BILL DELAYED.

It was certainly irritating to civil servants when the Legislative Assembly at its last session turned down the



A glimpse of Vavau's beautiful harbor.

straight-out cash price from some visiting vessel. As many of them have been now storing for five months, without recourse to the local market, this, in itself, rather tends to explode the idea subscribed to in certain quarters that the native is "oppressed."

As against this fictional "oppression" of the Native Crown towards its subjects, it is just stark reality that owing to the natives action in holding up their product, the trading community is suffering intensely from "depression."

It is no secret on the "beach" that if the local buyers (and traders in general) cannot induce the Tongan "Kau-tah" (company) to unload the copra

revised Pensions Bill, a Bill which, amongst its many beneficial clauses, gave them opportunity of transfer to the British colonial service on a reciprocal basis. Now, if all we hear can be believed, this scheme will come into force sometime in 1931, either as an Act or a Regulation. So do try and look happy, you servants of the Crown!

THE "OVERTAXED" TONGAN.

The overwhelming burst of prose; the bewildering, if fearfully careless, introduction of a hot-potch of figures, to say nothing of the dear little poem about a pig and a hen, all found together in the columns of P.I.M. No. 4, under the caption, "The Overtaxed

Dutch New Guinea**Its Slow Development****Vast Territory's Possibilities**

(From Our Thuring Island Correspondent)

EVERYBODY knows that the western half of the island continent of New Guinea does not belong to Britain, but it is a part of the magnificent island empire of the Dutch.

The columns of the P.I.M. contain many items of news from Papua and the Mandated Territory, but Dutch New Guinea is still a terra incognita, and reliable information of the country is hard to obtain.

We wonder how this huge territory would have fared under British rule with administrators like MacGregor and Murray to guide its destinies. As it is, the amount of colonisation attempted by the Dutch is inconsiderable, and they do not appear to show much interest in their possession or to encourage foreigners to do so either. Dutch New Guinea can wait!

Settlement has proceeded in the north-west (where a big German company operates at Manokwari) at Kai-mana and Fak Fak on the west coast, and at Merauke in the south. Special attention has been paid to the welfare of the natives round these places. The Dutch have prohibited the age-long custom of separating the sexes in the villages, and each Papuan family there lives in its own home; this measure is said to have improved the birth rate, but in spite of their rise, the Dutch, in this instance, are rulers of a rapidly vanishing race.

MERAUKE'S BRIEF FAME.

Merauke is one of the dearest of dead dogs, and yet, only ten years ago, predates from there and other parts of the country filled many a godown in Makassar and Ternate. It drew a lively crowd of Chinese and Malays from all over the archipelago to share in its greatest treasure—the bird of paradise.

In those days, Merauke was a busy place. Laurence was fitted up there for the perilous trips far up the rivers in search of birds, and rivalry in trade and the acquisition of skins sent the enterprising bird-hunters further and further into the unexplored interior. New Guinea was being opened up in spite of its nominal owners, and the flag followed the trader.

Cases and cases of skins were sent to Europe. There was the giant Bird of Paradise—Paradisea apodaca—often 17 inches in length to tip of tail and worth as much as £5/15/- in 1918 at the peak of the boom, and Paradisea minor from the north—both different from the smaller Paradisea regia of

British New Guinea. Work was plentiful and everyone had money to spend. And then, in 1926, the bottom fell out of this trade completely. To-day, in Merauke, birds that can only be sold for about 250 can be bought for three shillings; to-day scores of the old launches are lying in pieces in the river and every Hollandian's garden is decorated with rusty marine engines.

As for the other products of this vast territory, they are almost negligible. Copra from Dutch New Guinea has already been mentioned in these columns. Whereas a year ago the monthly K.P.M. steamer took 3,000 tonnes, she now only gets 300 or 400.

There are many places where sugar cane, tobacco and coffee could be grown, but they are lying idle at present for the best of reasons. Merauke grows most of the rice it needs and from the north comes diamond gum, used for making varnishes, but this product shares in the present era of depressed prices.

IS THERE GOLD?

The country has never been scientifically prospected and the mining laws do not encourage foreigners to come and find out for it is a punishable offence to wash a dish of earth for gold in our neighbour's possession.

Perhaps the Hollanders are wise in this respect. The country is not yet civilised enough to encourage a crowd of gold seekers, and it is certain that much bloodshed would result from such an influx in the present uncontrolled state of the mountainous interior.

THE DIGGOEL CAMP.

A recent enterprise in Dutch New Guinea is the establishment of a big communist camp, four days steaming up the Diggoel, one of the largest rivers in the country. Here four or five thousand malcontents from Java, Sumatra and Celebes have been interned for the safety of more law-abiding citizens. The rumour that this settlement has been broken up can hardly be correct, as large numbers are arriving by every steamer. The prisoners are well treated, given land and wages and every attempt at colonisation made.

The site is, however, very unhealthy, and the recent granting of many free pardons may have led to the rumour of its closure. While some of these political exiles are dangerous, many, versed in the use of bombs and machine guns, quite a number of them the writer has been personally acquainted, appear to be merely flashy and misguided youths who ought to be sent to some decent subjects of Holland.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that Dutch New Guinea offers no openings for white men at present and that the Dutch officials, in putting difficulties in the way of immigration, are in reality acting in the best interests of adventurous men, who would like to try their fortunes.

Tongan," has thrown the "beach" into a palpitating flutter of excitement, tinged with envy. I do not know what effect it will have on my Tongan friend, but he must come up to scratch and explain away that £70,000. For the present, I am marking him "Exhibit A."

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Our excellent British Consul, Mr. J. S. Neill, is, we learn, to vacate his post here for some three months. He has been appointed to a special commission which necessitates his departure to Fiji by to-day's steamer.

After a seven-year residence in Tonga, Mr. Stanley Rankin, our efficient dentist, has, for health reasons, found it necessary to shift to a colder climate. He and Mrs. Rankin were the recipients of many good wishes on the "steamer day."

The outgoing Tofua will carry, among its complement of passengers, Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Aidyn. A live-wire business man as Tonga manager for Messrs. Morris, Pledgman Ltd., and a keen patron of billiards, bowls and golf, he and his good lady are sure to be missed during the few months they will spend in New Zealand.

To practice here as our next Governor-elect, we learn that Mr. Frans Fransman will arrive next month from the Mandated Territory of Samoa. Mr. Fransman is not new to this group and many old residents will recall the popular "molar man," who has his shingle up in Nukualofa some sixteen years ago.

Mr. N. A. Pyne, genial Collector of Customs at Haapal, has, with his wife and family, sailed for Australia on a six months' vacation. Mrs. Pyne's health has been a source of anxiety for some time, and her numerous friends hope that a short stay in Australia will have beneficial results.

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AGRICULTURE AND CATTLE-FARMING

Bougainville Possibilities

VIEWS OF BOTANIST

Definite views of the agricultural and cattle-farming possibilities of the southern end of Bougainville Island, in the Solomons, are presented by Mr. J. H. L. Waterhouse, F.R.G.S., who returned to Sydney by the *Mataram* last month. He says he has been engaged collecting herbarium specimens on behalf of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England.

He considers that sugar cane, kapur, pineapples, limes and peanuts would grow successfully, for the soil is wonderfully rich and deep. The country is well-watered, which would make



MR. J. H. L. WATERHOUSE.

It is ideal for cattle-farming and pig-raising. Lack of shipping facilities is, in his opinion, the chief drawback. Another product which Mr. Waterhouse considers may be of commercial value is a species of wild banana which he found growing in thousands in the jungle. This plant reaches a height of 30 to 40 feet and has an excellent fibre. It is from a plant similar to this that the Manila hemp of commerce is obtained. He has written to the Director of the Royal Gardens with regard to the further investigation of this plant.

Mr. Waterhouse is a very well known throughout the various Island Groups. He has spent 22 years in the Pacific and for the greater part of that time was engaged on educational work for the Methodist Missionary Society. As a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland he is also interested in anthropology and linguistics. He has published a dictionary and other works in various Island languages.

During his recent stay in the Solomons he came across a very primitive race at Siwai, in the south-west corner of Bougainville. These people have an elaborate totem system and peaceful relations with most interesting rites. He found that for signalling they used wooden drums (toms) somewhat resembling the "lali" of Fiji.

On Bougainville Mr. Waterhouse was impressed by the excellent roads, which are maintained by natives throughout the coastal areas. Adequate bridges have been placed across the numerous streams and these also are kept in good repair. In many cases they are roofed, giving a picturesque effect.

Mr. Waterhouse expects to leave again for the Islands early this year.

Both the Lieutenant-Governor of Papua, Sir Hubert Murray, and the Administrator of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, Brigadier-General Wisdom, will visit Canberra early in February, when they will discuss affairs with the Assistant-Minister, Mr. Beasley, and departmental officers.

Mr. H. R. Greening was re-elected Mayor of Levea at a recent meeting of the Council.

Rev. G. S. Schinkfeld, who is attached to the Methodist Missionary Society in Samoa, is expected to arrive in Sydney this month on furlough.

Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Arthur arrived in Sydney from New Britain by the *Montoro* on December 22.

Mr. Colin Campbell, accompanied by Messrs. H. and C. Wyndham, left Sydney by cutter on December 26 for New Guinea, via Thursday Island.

Mr. O. Moon, formerly superintendent of Guinea Gold N.L., has joined the staff of Placer Development Ltd. and has sailed for New Guinea.

Dr. B. A. Sinclair, medical officer at Rabaul, arrived in Sydney by the last *Montoro*, on furlough.

Mr. L. J. Joubert, who was one of the testing engineers on the Bulolo property, Morobe goldfields, New Guinea, has rejoined the staff of Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd. He reached Sydney from Trinidad State by the *Serra*, on December 23, and later left by the *Temeraire* for Salama.

NATIVE DOCTORS

High Standard of Efficiency

PRAISE BY GOVERNOR OF FIJI

From Our Suva Correspondent

SUVA, Dec. 24.
I have often been brought into contact with the work of native practitioners, and I have heard those men spoken of very highly. Those that have gone before you have set a high standard. It is your duty to live up to that standard, and it should also be your aim to strive to improve upon it.

These encouraging words of encouragement were spoken by His Excellency at the second annual presentation of prizes at the Central Medical School recently.

This institution was originally founded in 1886 by the late Dr. Corney, under whose able management it has flourished, by which the work was furnished with excellent native medical practitioners, other island community sought to share in the scheme. Over three years ago this was arranged, and students came from Samoa, Tonga, Cooka, Solomons, and the Gilbert Islands. Today, there are 35 students, and all are doing splendid work.

Formerly the training of students was limited to three years but, in future, this will be extended to four, to permit of a period of six months in school and six months in hospital. The extra school time will enable students to get training in biology, and extra hospital training will allow the students to obtain midwifery experience.

The entrance examination for 1931 was held in November and 39 Fijians applied for 14 vacancies and 18 Indians for one vacancy. The standard last year was much higher than previously. Special reference was made at the gathering to the indebtedness of the Rockefeller Foundation representative in Fiji, who has an intimate knowledge of the medical conditions of each one of the island groups in the Pacific and whose advice and assistance have been invaluable throughout the year.

Special praise also was given to the tutor, Mr. B. W. Hoskins, B.Sc., and to the school to Dr. S. M. Lambert, the Rockefeller Foundation representative in Fiji, who has an intimate knowledge of the medical conditions of each one of the island groups in the Pacific and whose advice and assistance have been invaluable throughout the year.

Mr. Roberts was also thanked for his fine work in connection with child welfare and motherhood among the natives.

His Excellency spoke highly of the work being done by the school and of the value to all the Pacific Island groups of the training given in Suva. The result would be a greater efficiency and a much greater sense of security of human life among the native races, especially when epidemics appeared.

Developing Sago and Nipa Palms

New Industries for Papua

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, Dec. 23.
A NEW company has been formed, called the Pacific Australian Development Co., with a capital of £150,000, for the manufacture of sago in the Piaré Delta, Western Papua, the home of native sago here.

It is reported that the enterprise is to be an extensive scale, houses are to be erected near Kikori and machinery to be installed.

Some members of this enterprise have already arrived, and in a short time operations will commence.

GOOD OPPORTUNITIES.

Anyone knowing the Delta and the waterways of Piaré will realise the opportunities that await this com-

CONDITIONS IN PAPUA

Special Investigator Appointed

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT TAKES ACTION

From Our Canberra Correspondent

CANBERRA, January 14.
THE Commonwealth Government has selected a well-known mining expert of Western Australia to proceed to Papua and make a thorough investigation of present conditions.

This follows upon the criticism that has taken place in the Federal Parliament respecting Government policy, more especially in regard to the conditions relating to mining leases in the Territory.

In the middle of next month the Lieutenant-Governor of Papua, Sir Robert Murray, will visit Canberra, and the Government will then be able to go thoroughly into the whole matter with him.

In his last report, which was only recently printed, the Lieutenant-Governor states that the prospects of gold-mining in Papua do not look particularly promising, except in Milne Bay.

"A fair amount of gold," he says, "has been won from the Territory—about £2,000,000 worth—since the early days of the gold rush, and especially since the closing of the big mine at Milne Bay in September, 1925, the amount exported has been small."

So far, very rich deposits of gold have been found only on the other side of the main range and have all lain within the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, and though there has been of late considerable activity in looking for gold in Papua, the energy displayed in the search has been scantily rewarded.

It is understood that the expert who is going to New Guinea will investigate the position both in Papua and the Mandated Territory.

MANGANESE DEPOSITS

New Guinea Find

Mr. B. Rossi, an Italian civil engineer, who arrived in Sydney recently from New Guinea, has stated that immense deposits of manganese had been discovered almost alongside the goldfields, in the Morobe district of New Guinea.

As soon as machinery was available, these deposits would be worked in addition to the goldfields.

Mr. Rossi was of the opinion that there was a great future ahead of the Territory.

Mr. A. D. Robinson, of Oriomo Explorations Ltd., was a passenger to Sydney by the December *Montoro*, from Papua.

The prospects of a new and faster steamer have been before us for a long time, the inference being that when the new steamer was placed in commission we would benefit by a quicker service between the two main ports—Rabaul and Sydney—and a quicker trip would mean a cheaper trip, we might save a lot for a reduction in fares. Instead of this desirable improvement, we are offered a journey to the year 1929-30.

PROPOSED RE-ARRANGEMENT OF STEAMER SERVICES

TO NEW GUINEA AND PAPUA

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITIES

Following the article in the November issue from our New Guinea correspondent, concerning the proposed re-arrangement of northern steamer services, our Rabaul and Port Moresby representatives send further news on the subject.

The whole matter of the rearrangement of the services is still before the Commonwealth authorities and Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co.

From Our Rabaul Correspondent

AS anticipated, the proposed alterations in the itinerary of the New Guinea mail service is arousing considerable interest.

Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co. have made further alterations since the matter was last mentioned in your columns, and now propose to replace the *Montoro* with the *Mataram*, a much older vessel, and one with considerably less passenger accommodation. It is likely this proposal will meet with strenuous opposition.

It is further proposed to replace the *Mirani*, a new vessel specially built for the inter-island trade, with the *Makambo*. Judging by the comments made by your Norfolk Island correspondent, this vessel is entirely unsuited for inter-island work here, and this proposal also will be opposed.

In fact, residents at our outposts are likely to suffer very greatly if the present proposals are adopted. The advantages of a call by a mail steamer would be removed at several outposts, and low inter-island vessels, making anything from forty to fifty calls per trip, would be substituted. This would inflict severe hardships, especially on planters, who are having a desperate struggle to keep going.

A further point, and one that is quite inexplicable to most people, is the intention for the mail steamers to call at North Queensland ports.

New Guinea has no connection with either Townsville or Cairns and, if these ports are included, it is exceedingly doubtful if any appreciable amount of trade with these centres would result. It is safe to say that not less than five per cent of the cargo for Papua comes from either of these ports. The inclusion of these North Queensland towns, however, does not mean that the route would be lengthened, as the result would be to shorten the journey and make it more attractive.

The prospects of a new and faster steamer have been before us for a long time, the inference being that when the new steamer was placed in commission we would benefit by a quicker service between the two main ports—Rabaul and Sydney—and a quicker trip would mean a cheaper trip, we might save a lot for a reduction in fares. Instead of this desirable improvement, we are offered a journey to the year 1929-30.

SUGGESTION BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.

If we are to have any alteration to the existing schedule, the best suggestion made so far, and one which would give us the full benefit of a 14-knot vessel, emanates from an important Government official, who suggests that the new motor vessel should maintain the following five-weekly service: Sydney, Brisbane, to Rabaul, via quick-thence to Samarai, Port Moresby, Samarai, Salama, Madang, Kavieng to Rabaul, finishing Rabaul direct to Sydney (five days).

Papua would, of course, take exception to this, but it is pointed out that her requirements are far less than those of New Guinea and, further, that she would still have a direct five-weekly service from Australia by the *Mataram*. The following figures apply to the year 1929-30:

Passengers	Papua	N. Guinea	Total
From Sydney	491	1,250	1,741
To Sydney	492	1,253	1,745
Outgo (in total)			3,486
From Sydney	1,253	21,611	22,864
To Sydney	1,254	21,612	22,866

CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED BODIES.

The Administration caused a letter, setting out the proposals made by Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co. to the Federal Government, to be sent to the Secretaries of the Planters and Traders Association, the Public Service Association, and the local branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A., with a request for the views and comments of the respective bodies.

A combined conference was held and a resolution was passed protesting against the proposals and strongly urging that the present schedule be adhered to. The resolution emphasised that when any request for variation of the present contract or of the terms of future contracts were made, no concessions should be allowed which would penalise residents or planters living at outposts.

THE E. & A. SERVICE.

Advice has been circulated that the E. & A. Line intends to include Rabaul in its itinerary.

The circular stated that passengers might be carried between Rabaul and Chinese and Japanese ports, but that it was not the inten-

tion to cater for passengers or freight to and from Australia. No doubt the E. & A. Line has a perfect right to decide where they will pick up their passengers and freight, but it will be exceedingly galling to residents of this Territory to know that fast, well-equipped vessels will be leaving on direct runs to Australia, and that these boats will not be available.

It must be obvious that the object of the call of the E. & A. Line is to compete with the N.D.L. service, carried out by S.S. Bremerhaven. This vessel is maintaining a regular service between here and Hongkong, and has recently secured some valuable contracts for the carriage of copra. It is reported that the N.D.L. company are now considering replacing the Bremerhaven with a larger vessel (probably 4,000 tons), and that there is a very probability that the run will be extended to Sydney.

Papua Favours Combined Service

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, January 7.
A MEETING of commercial representatives and other interests was held in Port Moresby to consider the alteration of the mail service, providing for a combined service, embracing Papua and New Guinea and connecting with the Commonwealth.

The majority were in favour of the proposed service and considered that it offered many advantages over the present monthly service with Papua as a terminal. A letter to that effect was forwarded to the Government, with the request that the residents' views be communicated to the Commonwealth Government.

The assurance of the contractors to allocate proportional space and cargo accommodation, which would be adequate for the requirements of Papua, was accepted.

New Burns Philp Motorship

According to advice received in Sydney the new Burns Philp island liner *Macdui* was launched at Glasgow on December 23.

Proceeding via Panama, the vessel is expected to reach Sydney at the end of April, and will be immediately commissioned for Island trade. The *Macdui* is a single-screw vessel, with a length of 140 feet, a beam of 31 feet and a moulded depth of 25 feet. She will accommodate 146 first-class passengers, and special attention has been given to ventilation, the thermotonic system being installed. The propelling machinery consists of an eight-cylinder single-acting four-cycle engine of the Burneiss and Wain type, built by J. G. Kincaid and Company, and a Buchi super-charger has been installed, giving the vessel a sea speed of 14 knots.

All cargo appliances and steering gear will be electrically driven.

Mr. E. W. P. CHINNEY

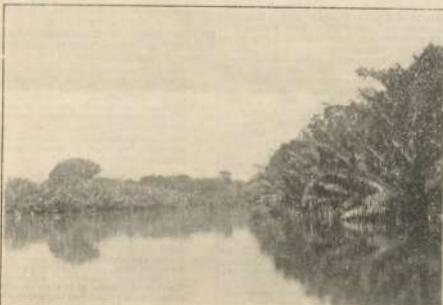
Returns From Abroad

MR. E. W. P. Chinney, anthropologist to the Administration of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, returned to Sydney on January 13, by the *Somora*, after an absence of 11 months during which he visited Europe and the United States to study human biology on a Rockefeller research fellowship, and later went to Geneva to advise Mr. P. C. C. M. P. at the discussion on the discharge of Australia's mandate in New Guinea.

Mr. Chinney, in an interview, said among many lectures given by him was one at the centenary of the Royal Geographical Association, in London. He found the keenest interest everywhere—particularly in the United States—in Australia's methods of handling native problems.

He intends to return to Rabaul in March.

Mr. G. V. M. Turner, LL.B., of Sydney, has been appointed to the position of legal assistant attached to the Crown Law Office in the Territory of New Guinea. Mr. Turner sailed for Rabaul by the *Montoro*, on January 6.



Nipa palm growing on the banks of a river in the west of Papua.

Governing of The Tongan Group

How Admiral's "12 points" Conflict With Constitution

(From Our Own Correspondent)

AWAY back in the middle of the last century, we find traces of an endeavour to build up some system of Government for the Tongan people. The Wesleyan missionaries, realising that the Gospel could only function with law and order, made a bold and worthy attempt to found a quasi-constitution; but, although they had the loyal support of George Tupou I, it was not until 1875 that the King, directed by the powerful personality and acumen of Shirley Baker, produced the real Constitution which is

the "foundation of the legal and administrative system" existing in Tonga to-day. The main features of the Constitution may be summarised:

All men in the Kingdom are to be free for ever, and no person shall serve another against his will. There shall be but one law for chiefs and commoners, and all men are free to practice their religion. It shall be lawful for all people to speak, write and print their opinions, and the Bataka they shall be saved in Tonga for ever.

To continue our summary, it may be said that, according to the Constitution the "business of Government" in minor

matters is vested in the Premier and his Cabinet; in major matters it is carried to the Sovereign in Council, and the whole is reviewed by the Legislative Assembly in session once a year. Now, it is this "business of Government" to which we will give our attention. The Constitution is quite clear and easy reading, but since its inception in '75 a complication has crept in.

THE FIRST TREATY

A Treaty of Friendship with Great Britain was drafted in 1870, and duly ratified in September, 1881. A further Treaty, more clearly defining the position of His Britannic Majesty's Agent and Consul in relation to Tongan affairs, and appropriating to a certain extent the original Treaty was ratified in 1901. This last is the standing Treaty between the little Kingdom and her powerful protector.

For our purpose, Article 3 of the Treaty is the only one requiring attention. It reads:

Her Majesty will appoint a suitable person to act as British Agent and Consul in Tonga, who will be the authorized medium of all communications between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Tonga. And His Majesty the King of Tonga, his Agents and Representatives to conduct such negotiations in the interval affairs and administration in Tonga where the interests of British subjects or foreigners are not concerned, but will at all times be ready to advise the King of Tonga in any matter as to which they wish to seek his advice, and exercise the jurisdiction vested in Her Majesty by Article 3 of this Treaty until such time as other arrangements may be made by Her Majesty in that behalf.

This is all in order, but now we come to a most disturbing factor in this "business of Government." It would seem that during the four years following the signing of the Treaty, the finances were allowed to get into a fearful state; in fact, the Government must have "gone to the dogs" to such an extent, that on a bright January morning in 1905, Commander Douglas Wilkin, of H.M.S. Olin, hopped ashore and had a sharp interview with His Majesty of Tonga.

THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT

We do not know exactly what happened at that eventful meeting—it would doubtless be interesting reading to one could get access to the archives—but we have before us on page 711 of the Tongan Law Book the extraordinary "12 Points" which His Majesty signed "without reservation." The whole twelve are abrupt in the extreme, and much so, that one cannot but be tempted to conjure up somebody with a double-barrelled run or an outside axe; but for our "business of Government" we pick the only section which has caused continuous trouble since Wilkin put it there. It reads:

The British Agent and Consul to be consulted and his advice taken. There you have it! How do you, gentle reader, construe these extraordinary twelve words of the "12 Points"? What was in the worthy Commander's mind when he put them there? Were they inserted temporarily, and for the specific purpose of securing an early stable Government—after military—were they meant to stand in contravention of the Treaty for all time?

A CONSUL'S DILEMMA

In view of the fact that these twelve words do seriously infringe the excellent Treaty, and in view of the second fact that within a decade Great Britain had appointed a Chief Justice and an Auditor-General to the Tongan Kingdom at the request of the Tongan Sovereign, and in view of this third fact, that since their appointment the little Kingdom has probably the most stable Government in the world, with no national debt and a Treasury surplus of £150,000; many men, not unqualified to offer an opinion, have stated that even if Wilkin meant this second point to stand, it should now be eliminated; not only for the peace of mind of the reigning monarch and her councillors, but for the peace of mind of any new Consul who finds himself between the devil and the deep sea. And what is his position?

If he adheres by the Treaty and something particularly unusual happens, under Wilkins' Point 2 he is liable to be "matted" before the Western High Pacific Commission. If he adheres to Point 2, he is not only infringing the Treaty, but has thrust upon him a plenipotentiary power over Sovereign, Legislative Council and Cabinet—a power which is not vested to the highest of the high in a Crown Colony, much less an allegedly self-governing little Kingdom. Consider this! One man and the destiny of 26,000 natives!

Possibly, some day, some member of Parliament in the "old country" will find Tonga on the map, and then, out of curiosity, start asking questions. If his curiosity only leads him to a solution, one way or the other, I venture to say that I know of a Consul and an Island Privy Council that will acclaim him. And the certainty of his name going to posterity is there if he can only decide between the Treaty with Great Britain of 1901 and Wilkins' "12 Points" of 1905.

If the Treaty stands, then we have a Government according to the Constitution; if the Treaty is subversive to the "12 Points" then, to save a lot of unnecessary expense, eliminate a costly Assembly and an equally costly Ministry that cannot function in the shadow of the "12 Points" and have a straight-out one-man Government.

There has to be a decision sooner or later. Let it be sooner, for the good of the little Kingdom and the "betterment of Government"—the country never needed it more!

PAPUAN NEWS

Good Market for Desiccated Coconut—Rubber Plantations Again Producing—Successful Coffee Growing—Rain Badly Needed

(From Our Own Correspondent)

THE price of copra is still low, and the plantations, not able to avail themselves of the desiccated coconut factories, are still having a thin time. It would appear to be an excellent opportunity for yet another factory to open and avail itself of the good sales of desiccated coconut in Australia, due to the revised tariffs.

Rubber plantations are getting into their old swing now the duty is in force, and by exercising strict economy they hope to make a profit above their expenses.

PAPUA'S PESTS.

So far there have been no complaints here of pests entering from Java ports. We have our own pests unique to Papua, and a little time ago we were paid a visit by a scientist, examining and investigating our own particular diseases, pests and parasites.



Rubber workers on a Papuan plantation. Production of rubber has been resumed now that a bounty of 4d. per pound has been granted by the Commonwealth Government.

peculiar to rubber, coffee, as well as coconuts and their different treatments. Coffee has been suffering from the mealy bug pest, but effective measures have been taken and it has been kept in check by constant supervision.

Promising reports have been heard of the coffee up in the hills, where the conditions are ideal, and it is expected to be a successful enterprise. The newly-formed Sugar Company "Saras" is reported to be planting coffee as a side line. This is in the east of Papua.

"LE MAIRES" IMPROVED SERVICE.

There is little to report in the way of change of enterprise in this territory. Inquiries of the residents were pleased to read that a new timetable has been made up for 1931 for the R.P.M. steamer Le Maire, providing for five voyages a year instead of four. Also, Lae and Salamua, New Guinea, are to be included as ports of call if conditions inducement offers. The company hopes to improve the service still further as the trade increases, and is rumored a steamer is likely to run from Sydney to Java, calling at Port Moresby en route.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETS.

A short meeting of the Legislative Council of Papua will be held this month. Among a few Bills to be brought down at this session is a Bill to enable deductions to be made from the salaries of Government officials.

The Bill is not an enactment to make deductions from the salaries of Government servants, but merely a measure

of inspection. He is very pleased with the excellent results of this economic enterprise and with the natives' handling of the timber.

WITH THE "DISCOVERY."

A former resident of this Territory, Mr. A. M. Stanton, is now chief officer of the "Discovery," which has just left here for the Antarctic. He has many friends here who will follow his movements with interest, for he held the position of master of the Vanapa, then belonging to Messrs. Houlton Bros., and he also one time took charge of the "Queenscliffe," a local coastal boat calling in at all the trading ports. It will be interesting to learn how Mr. Stanton is able to stand the difference in temperature and whether malaria will affect him, for it usually attacks the system after an extreme change of climate.

Little has been heard of mining lately, though there are a few miners steadily trying out their luck near the old Lae goldfields. The Tungsten seams deserted the experienced miners calling it unprofitable.

Social life is exceptionally quiet, most people seem intent on going south, away from the heat and dryness of Port Moresby. Never has the country looked so barren and dry. Since June there has been practically no rain and there is likely to be a shortage of water. Even up in the hills, they have suffered from a slight drought, and there is a fear of bush fires.

The interest in golf is waning slightly, owing to both the extreme heat and the renewed interest in cricket.

GERMAN CLUB RABAU

Questions in Federal House

IN the House of Representatives recently Mr. Yates, M.H.R., asked the Acting Prime Minister:

- (1) Has a permit been granted and license given to a German club in Rabaul?
- (2) Does the House allow of this club, together with others, to remain open all day, while the licensed hotels in Rabaul must be closed within prescribed hours?
- (3) Will the Minister state the regulations governing (a) clubs in Rabaul, and (b) licensed hotels in Rabaul?

The Acting Prime Minister replied:

- (1) Notice of hearing of an application by the German Club, Rabaul, for a club or association license was given in the New Guinea Gazette of March 15, 1931. I have no information as to the result of the application, but inquiries will be made of the Administrator.
- (2) Under the Intoxicating Liquors Ordinance, 1921, there may be granted to any club or association, approved by the Administrator, a license in a form similar to an hotel license, but containing the conditions that no intoxicating liquor shall be sold outside the premises of the club or association, nor to any person other than a member of the

MISSIONARIES FOR NEW GUINEA

A PARTY of 12 missionaries, 11 of whom are Germans, and the other Dutch, sailed for New Guinea by the Monrovia on January 6.

The Rev. Fathers Bender and Oberreiter, of the Congregation of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, are bound for the Vicariate of Rabaul. Rev. Dr. May and the Rev. Father Lebert, of the Society of the Divine Word, will go to the Prefecture of Central New Guinea, Aitape district, and Rev. Fathers Boehm, Herget, Pasternack, Brothers Bonillus, Symmetus, Bonifaz, Aleuin and Agnellus, of the Society of the Divine Word, to the Vicariate of East New Guinea, Madang, and Wiwaki districts.

With the exception of Fathers Bender and Oberreiter and Brother Bonifaz, all of whom have spent about 30 years on the New Guinea mission-fields, the missionaries are making their first visit to the territory.

Club or association. The hours during which the club or association may remain open for the sale, supply or consumption of liquor are the same in respect of all classes of licensed premises.

(3) The Intoxicating Liquors Ordinance 1921-1924.

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Papain from Cook Islands

Favourable Analysis Obtained

(From Our Harbours Correspondent)

RAKOTONGA, Dec. 20.

THE Imperial Institute, London, has reported very favourably on the samples of papain forwarded by the Administration for analysis.

The report states that the quality of the papain is above the average and it should realise a premium over the current market prices of the ordinary Ceylon grade. It is suggested that a commercial shipment of 1 and 1/2 cwt. be sent forward for trial.

It is pointed out in the report that the market is a comparatively small one, and any attempt to develop the industry should be made through brokers or merchants in London.

The question of preparing and forwarding a commercial quantity to London will be accelerated if they are prepared to purchase the papain from the growers and market the commodity as recommended by the British Institute.

Well-known Papuan Identity

Mr. Robert Boyd, the discoverer of St. Agman goldfields in East Papua, came to Sydney by the last Murrumbidgee on his way to New Zealand.

Mr. Boyd, who had not been south for 15 years, first settled on Milne Bay in 1914. After years of prospecting, he was successful in finding gold. He now has a plantation, but still retains an interest in goldmining.

CHINESE CARPENTERS' WAGES

Reduction of 25 Per Cent.

Move by Solomons Administration

(From Our Own Correspondent)

TULAGI, Dec. 20.

The rumour that Chinese carpenters in Government employ are to be reduced in wages by 25 per cent. has been well received by those who understand the position of affairs, and the move shows the keen sense of observation of our authorities.

ILL-JUDGED competition some few years ago raised wages to such a point that it became as cheap, say, to have a boat built in Sydney, as in the Solomons—a frightful state of affairs in view of the high cost of Australian labour, materials and machinery. In spite of nothing of the high freight and import duty of 125 per cent.

Naturally, the Solomons became the El Dorado of Chinese mechanics or near mechanics, as nine-tenths of them can only be said. They have been paid far above their value for years, and 25 per cent. is not a penny too big a reduction; especially in these days, when most of us have been reduced considerably more.

It is now up to the companies and individuals employing this class of labour to follow the good example set by the Government, and help to reduce costs generally.

On being told of this proposal, one Chinaman asked, and not without a measure of reason: "Are the local stores going to reduce their goods by 25 per cent?"

Without going quite so far as that, one feels that, in these cold water days, champagne profits are still asked, and that not enough attention is paid to reducing "overhead." Worse still, one sees evidence of certain lines being reduced in Australia without a corresponding reduction here. One sees two men on high wages doing the work that was done some years ago by one on a much lower scale. All these factors have to come back to "scratch," and the firm that gets back first is the firm that will win the appreciation and support of all concerned.

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COLONY OF FIJI

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Mr. and Mrs. WASTALL PROPRIETORS

OUR FIJIAN NEWSLETTER

Suva's New Mayor—Effect of Hurricane—Good Rains Reported—Punjab Population Increasing

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, Dec. 24.

THE most important event during the past few weeks was the election of mayor in succession to the Hon. Henry Marks, who has held the position with great success for five years.

The new council consists of four old members and four new ones. Cr. Alport Barker, who has been deputy-mayor for the past year, was proposed by Cr. Johnson, while Cr. J. F. Grahame (who was a new councillor, but who had been mayor previously for three years) was proposed by Cr. Terry. The election resulted in Cr. Barker being elected by 5 votes to 3.

The new mayor is the proprietor of The Fiji Times and Herald and a member for Suva, or the Southern Division, in the Legislative Council. The Mayor has always been a keen worker in public matters, including the Suva Show, Planters' Association, football and in other matters. He showed, while deputy-mayor, an activity which impressed everybody. Among his recent activities was his persistence to get a bridge across the Rewa river, which has been agreed to, after five years or more agitation.

HURRICANE TOLL

The hurricane, which hit parts of the Colony on November 23, caused a great deal of damage. It was most unfortunate that Fiji should have to suffer another disaster, just as it was recovering from the dual hurricanes of last year. The storm seems to have struck the northern part of the Yasawa Group, and hitting the north coast about Penang, and Nanami Island, slanted off at a tangent and then recurved down, hitting Ovalau and Moturiki, then going south-east over Ovalau and south to south-east.

In all, some 12 to 14 vessels were wrecked, including some mission launches. The mission which suffered most was the Catholic Mission, whose stations at Cavadi and Loreto, on the island of Ovalau, were considerably damaged.

The Government was perhaps the greatest sufferer, as the Customs House and Post Office at Levuka were



A snapshot of Loreto. The hurricane caused much damage here.

wrecked, in so far as the concrete foundation, which was a breakwater, was washed away. The wooden part of the wharf was much damaged.

SUGAR CENTRES ESCAPE.

Suva escaped, as did all the big sugar centres, except Penang and Ellington. At the former the mill roof was partly blown away and other damage done. At Ellington the C.S.R. Co. had a lucky escape from heavy damage, as the big shed was full of bagged sugar, awaiting shipment. One end of the store was stripped partly of the iron and a good deal of sugar wetted, but this has been shipped to be reconditioned, so the damage will not be great. Ba, Lautoka and Labasa, with Nausori, escaped.

The weather is not too satisfactory yet, and fears are expressed that it may have another visitation. Every body hopes that these pessimists are very much out in their calculations. Fiji has quite enough to shoulder, without another hurricane.

The worst feature for many planters was the wholesale destruction of

bananas. The plantations had shown signs of recovering from the storm of December last, and the new fruit was just coming in. Now, all the work will have to be done over again and planting commenced afresh.

TAHITI MEMENTOES.

It is a far cry from the scene where the Tahiti foundered, and it is interesting to note how the ocean currents run. Some little time ago parts of the wireless office of the ill-fated ship were picked up on the beach of a Tongan island. Now another find is reported further away, at the small island of Onesta, in the Lau Group of Fiji. Some traders saw, and picked up, a lifebelt with the name Tahiti quite legible on it. This wreckage must have drifted 1,200 miles from the scene of the disaster.

SUVA MERCHANTS' CLOSE CALL. For the second time within a month Mr. Hanson, managing director of Jung King Loong Co. Ltd., has had a close call. On the first occasion he narrowly escaped drowning when his ketch was hurled across the reef during the hurricane on November 23.

Last week he was going down the Dredge River in a small boat when the engine backfired, and in a moment the cabin was a mass of flames. There was nothing to prevent him from getting out, but his suit was torn open and blankets and good suits of clothes were taken and forced upon him. After a long struggle the blaze was extinguished. The party was assisted by Mr. Bull, a planter, who lent his launch to tow the disabled craft to safety.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

The extreme cordials was to the fore when the M.M. Ville de Verdun brought to us M. Guyon, the distinguished Governor of New Caledonia, who has been visiting France in order to raise a loan to promote greater facilities in Noumea Harbour. He was entertained at luncheon by the Suva Chamber of Commerce during the short stay of the steamer in port.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

Every day for the past fortnight has been taken up with prize-givings and His Excellency and Lady Fletcher have attended some of these. The reports show that good progress has been made, and a feature has been the great keenness of the Indians, who are paying increasing attention to education, especially for their girls. The schools are now closed for the holidays. As we obtain our teaching staffs from the Government schools from New Zealand, many of the teachers have left for the Dominion.

A POPULAR A.D.C.

Very great regret is felt at the announcement that Captain Sir Wilfred Graham-Moore, Bart. A.D.C. to His Excellency, has resigned and is leaving for England. His wife left the Colony some time ago.

During his stay here Sir Wilfred endeared himself to many by his genial bonhomie and, among others, who will miss him, is the Suva Amateur Dramatic Society, of which he was the successful producer and leading actor.

SUVA'S SANITATION.

In a hot climate like this, sanitation is a most important matter. The several epidemics in Suva in recent years have drawn special attention to the need of closer investigation. This has resulted in finding that the sewerage system (which was laid by Government engineers) is in a bad state, with many leaking pipes. The Municipal Council, which has lately taken over the service at a considerable cost, is now engaged in the heavy task of relaying the whole service in solid concrete, as should have been done at the beginning. Then it was found that many water mains in the city were also leaking badly, and this must have seriously affected the sanitary conditions of the town. This also has been remedied, and the prospects are much brighter for less sickness in the hot months. So far, it is gratifying to know that no infectious diseases have been reported this month.

WELCOME RAIN.

The best Christmas box has come in the shape of good general rains. The fall in Suva is over four inches, and in the country good falls are reported. Mr. Duncan reported that 3.81 inches have fallen at Mua, on Tavuni, and other stations report good rain. The country has suffered badly during the past year from lack of rain. Most coconut palms are now dried nuts, owing to the drought. This will surely affect yields considerably for some time. Owing to the low price of coconuts, many small planters are trying minor crops, such as Mauritius bean, to help pay expenses.

PUNJABI FESTIVAL.

The number of Punjabis in Fiji is increasing greatly. This fact was specially apparent to the public when they flocked into Suva for a church ceremony to one of their gurus, or spiritual guides. The Punjab appears to be well behaved and, in some way or other, must be able to find work. It

has been noticeable for some time that they are quietly pushing out Fijians as labourers in heavy work about town and on the wharf.

PERSONAL.

The Mayor of Suva, Cr. Alport Barker, has been given six weeks' leave of absence and has left on a holiday for New Zealand. Cr. W. H. Johnson has been appointed deputy-mayor.

The Town Clerk of Suva, Mr. S. G. Davey, has left for a nine weeks' holiday in Sydney after a strenuous season of hard work. His place is being taken by Mr. Carroll, from Haekehaia, Sydney.

Mr. M. Brodie, managing director for the Pacific Bleuch Co. and Union Soap Ltd. (which took over the business recently of the Pacific Oil Mills Ltd. with their soap works), is going to Sydney for a well-deserved holiday for three months. His place is being taken by Mr. Carroll, from Haekehaia, Sydney.

A warm welcome has been given to Captain Hope-Evans, of the new M.M. auxiliary schooner John Williams V, which reached here on Tuesday. It is, by the way, typical of the man that he sailed from Panama that he would arrive here on Tuesday, and he did so. He was welcomed at a community singing at St. Andrew's Church on Tuesday night. Two reunions have taken place since the vessel has arrived. Mr. H. Bowling, first officer, and Captain Mullins of H.M.C.S. Pioneer at the pictures and found in him an old pal. Then the second officer met a Customs officer at the wharf, and discovered in him an old schoolfellow.

A new arrival who will reach Suva tomorrow by the Niagara, will be Dr. H. Bowling, first officer, and Captain Mullins of H.M.C.S. Pioneer at the pictures and found in him an old pal. Then the second officer met a Customs officer at the wharf, and discovered in him an old schoolfellow.

During the month Mrs. H. E. Snell passed away. She was a daughter of the late Mr. Eastgate, a stipendiary magistrate, and wife of Mr. H. E. Snell, now secretary of Morris Hedstrom Ltd., and lately a District Commissioner in the Fiji Civil Service. Lady Hedstrom is a sister.

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News From Norfolk Island

Attractions for the Tourist

From Our Own Correspondent

NORFOLK ISLAND, Dec. 28. WITH the promise of a much better steamer to replace the old Makambo, from Australia, a regular passenger service from New Zealand and the persistent rumour of a first-class residential hotel to be erected shortly at Kingston, where our attractive golf course lies beside the sea and our best bathing beach is situated, we live in hope of a renewed and continuous influx of visitors from both countries.

This article, therefore, is frankly tourist propaganda, and it is hoped, will catch the eye of many a holiday-maker, who is wondering how and where he can spend his time and money to the best advantage.

Years and years ago, in a very different part of the world, this writer read a wonderful description, by some wanderer about the Pacific, of this little magic isle. He spoke of small sweet grapes growing in secret valleys, of the eternal roar of surf rolling in upon the encircling reef, of the tumbled prison ruins, relics of the cruel convict days of a hundred years ago that lay grey and harsh beneath the sun, and of the enchanting race that lived, sufficient unto themselves, within the blue boundaries of the sea. The sea still frets upon the reef; the prison ruins—cold, narrow cells, still reeking of humanity, grime and misery, the rough bulk of the stone-built gallows, and half a wheel that was the headmill, rotting in the twilight of a semi-subterranean cellar—still litter Kingston shore; the happy, hospitable islanders still live their simple life only moderately complicated by contact with the overseas settlers, who are here in their hundreds now digging and ploughing and planting by day and by night, dancing, playing bridge or listening in with their wireless sets to the restless world so far away.

There is a charm about our island that is difficult to express; an atmosphere, a something different from every other place. One cannot put it into words, but there it is. Of the actual tropics, beautiful and sensuous, one sickens in time; but "Norfolk" mingles tropical charm with the calm reasonableness of the temperate zone. The summer is very hot but cooled by the breezes that blow over endless leagues of sea; the winter is warm and a joy to visitors from colder climes. A wood fire in the evening is a luxury and a concession to habits formed in other lands.

Every bright flower blooms all the year round—given sufficient rain—every kind of vegetable does well in all but the four hottest months; coffee grows, and pawpaws grow, though they are rather poor specimens after the luscious globes, squeezed with lemon and sprinkled with sugar, eaten every morning for breakfast in the real tropics.

In the deepest depths of the deepest valleys sugar cane grows, but not commercially; and, on land neglected trees, oranges, lemons, figs, peaches and hard, sweet pears hang and are to be had for the picking. But the grapes are gone.

Five days in the week we work hard and harder, many of us, than we have ever worked before—but on Saturdays, unless the steamer is in and we have

to slay away our produce, we play. We play golf and tennis and cricket and football, and we go for picnics to Emily Bay and Anson Bay and to sweetly named Bambaras.

And on Saturday evenings we go to the weekly pictures, silent on the screen, but loud with laughter and appreciation in the body of the hall.

HIGH CLASS THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES.

And at present and for so long as our clever young English actor stays with us we have real, professional theatrical performances every few weeks. A box plan is opened at two of the stores and seats are eagerly reserved by a public to whom even that simple preliminary is a novelty. And on the night every cat and lorry on the island, bulging and brimming with players, rushes over the dark or moonlit roads, with their sentinel pines reaching into heaven, and parks outside the public hall at Longridge. It is useless to arrange any private entertainment for that evening; everybody will be dressed in their best and away to the theatre.

We thought nothing done by amateurs could beat our first three shows, "Mr. Pim Passes By," "The Family Gossip," and "The Money"—all three comedies, and more, excellently put on; but our very last, "The Charley's Aunt," that wouldn't at Charley, the pride of London and Paris, be supposed to land suddenly and see his name plastered outside our country store (our simple country stores) has left us open-mouthed outside our country store, wondering at the devotion of life as it apparently is lived in cities.

We "waited for the Bus" with Malasia Day we sat for hours tightly gripping our benches, through the horror of "The Monkey's Paw," we witnessed the big eyes the broadcasting of a wireless programme from a radio station, and, personally, I shall never forget again in this life the beauty of a single broadcaster. We compared the modest honeymoon conduct of 1899 with the brazen boldness of 1930; we underwent a dozen shattering experiences with only the space of "blackout" between them in which to draw our breath.

And the life and soul of every sketch was Bobbie Jarvis. He played every character actor taking shape within his energetic young body, and, some day, when he is crowding theatres in the biggest cities in the world, still dreaming on our little island, shall remember him with pride and Bobbie will cast his mind back and tell tales of us that will bring tears of laughter to the eyes of his audience.

BEAUTIFUL MRS. PITTE.

To return to those hopes of tourists we are best advised to leave the visitor should leave without having climbed our Mount Pitt, a thousand feet high and rising like a giant, still in the centre of the island, with bush-clad slopes falling away on every side to the sparkling sea.

There, upon the topmost grassy peak, one surveys with the eyes of the mind the kingdoms of the earth, while actually viewing nothing but a vast expanse of water; a waste unbroken by sail or smoke stack. It makes one feel incredibly small and lost and lonely, as though disaster had overwhelmed all the rest of the world and left us sole survivors upon Arrat.

Half way up the mountain, at the junction of two wandering, leafy roads, is situated "The Mountain Store," with its swinging signboard and with the scent of new lumber, chocolate, cheese and light, hot bread. Only recently built, and intended primarily for those tourists of whom I have been speaking, it was quaintly opened and advertised by the holding of a monster auction sale, to which everybody, with anything to sell, contributed. We bought some envied articles from our neighbour and sold her something on which she had long had her eye; and a marvellous, superlative afternoon tea was carried round by Mrs. Hopkins, whose oven particular venture this is and whose husband runs a very popular store down in Burnt Pine.

At "The Mountain Store" the pick-nicker can stop and buy all the materials for his lunch and, on the way down again, call in for tea and home-made scones and cakes; and, if he is a reader, he will walk around the turn of the wide verandah and into the Little Book Club at the far end. There he will find a small but modern and up-to-date library with books in it that he really wants to read.

Imports into Norfolk Island for the year ended 1929-30 were valued at £46,776. Of this amount, £34,600 worth came from Australia and £12,173 from New Zealand. The imports for the previous 12 months totalled £35,894.

Thursday Is. Topics

Shipping Prospects

From Our Own Correspondent

"THURSDAY ISLAND, Dec. 31. IT is a good thing to take one's head out of the icebox, knock off studying the thermometer, and look round at the many charming gifts of Nature during this dreary month of December.

The most striking natural feature of the month is the flowering of the Poinciana, which turns our stately, iron-roofed village into a thing of beauty. The hillside and waste places of the island blaze with the scarlet blossoms, and behind them the bright young foliage ventures out in anticipation of refreshing showers. This lovely tree, the Flamboyant of the Pacific and the Golden Mohur of India, adapts itself

cattle, pigs, and even coodles, are removed before treatment of the area.

FROM SUVA TO T.L.

The secretary of the Royal Geographical Society reports the finding of a sealed bottle at Moa Island, on October 21, 1930, which had been thrown overboard from the American steamer, Golden Bear, in lat. 14 deg. 45' N., long. 178 deg. 21' E. (west of Suva) on February 6, 1929. Moa is situated in lat. 19 deg. 50' N., long. 142 deg. 50' E.

"QUETTA" MEMORIES

The Quetta Wreck "evening" held recently under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, elicited some interesting facts in connection with that marine tragedy of the nineties.

It may be recalled that the Quetta, while on a voyage from Brisbane to London, struck an uncharted rock



"Friday Island"—a sunset view from Thursday Island

well to our climate, as it sheds its leaves during the long spring droughts, holding itself in reserve for a glorious burst of colour just when it is most needed.

There is great beauty in the sea and sky, too, at this season of the year. Great white clouds, the argosies of the moon, mount into the pale blue sky from every quarter, and beneath them the sea, as still and polished as a lake, reflects their shining whiteness. They are the promise of the rains, that life-giving tropical springtime that never fails to come in its due season.

Ashore, in the island streets, there is a quickening of dead bones, and the shops burst into a semblance of Collins Street, with their windows gay with Christmas goods. An influx of youths and children from distant islands stare at it spellbound. To us, with our memories of Sydney and Melbourne, this dreary scene rankles rather, but to these little darters, looking at it for the first time, shabby old T.I. becomes a place of wonder and a veritable Aladdin's cave of treasures.

And the nights of December—when the scent of flowering shrubs fills the air—are the climax of the moving year for the stars shine brighter, the moon sails in a greater way, than at other seasons. Away on the hillside rises the best of drums in the romantic music that comes from the island, and the cutters at anchor—ones that sound like the music of the spheres—hold in their rich harmonies poignant memories of the savage days of old.

And the night grows old, sea, sky and shadowed hill sink into an exquisite silence, trembling with promise of the tropic day to come.

REPORTED EXTENSION OF COASTAL SERVICE

Living in the far North of Queensland is an expensive luxury. When the resident of Cairns, which is only 40 hours steaming away, wants his wife and family to have a change to Brisbane, he only has to put down £14 for a first-class return ticket by coastal vessel. But here we have to pay £29 for a journey only 80 hours longer.

It is rumoured that the big coastal steamers, which at present stop at Cairns, are going to extend to Thursday Island during the tourist season, and if they do, Thursday Island will have an excellent opportunity to prove to Southerners what a splendid holiday there will be further cause for rejoicing. This rumoured scheme is undoubtedly due to the difficulties and high cost of foreign travel, and many people who cannot afford to go abroad may avail themselves of the opportunity to visit Torres Strait in search of sunshine, during the coming winter.

FIGHTING THE JAVA PEST

Mention of a new disease in coconuts in Java, was made in a recent number of the P.I.M. An East Indian planter tells me that much damage and loss has resulted from it. So far, however, the pest has not made its appearance east of Celebes. The remedy that is being used in Java is proving very effective and is an instance of the use of modern scientific methods in agriculture. Affected plantations are treated with a poisonous gas (its exact nature he could not say, but it may be allied to cyanide) which is strained on to the trees from low flying aeroplanes. Every living thing,

near Cape York, on the night of February 20, 1930. A scene of horror followed, as the vessel sank in less than four minutes leaving 250 souls aboard to their fate in the water and of these no less than 133 perished.

The Quetta Rock as it is now called, situated some 25 miles south-east of Thursday Island, sprang into notoriety as a result of the wreck. The rock was marked on the charts many years previous to the tragedy, but its position was doubtful and, after the visit of the Queensland Government's steamer Paluma, which was sent from Brisbane expressly to determine its exact site, it was removed from the chart as non-existent, as the expedition found no traces of it. Thus does Fate play with the lives of men. The Quetta, steering direct over the hidden danger, was following a course that had been decided upon as perfectly safe. By an ironical chance, the same vessel came to carry out a new survey after the wreck, and with the correct bearings in their possession, the rock was found. The ill-fated Quetta was located some 200 yards away in deep water.

At the meeting, the Lord Bishop of Carpentaria read extracts from the log of the Government steamer, Albatross, stationed at Thursday Island, which was despatched to the scene of the wreck immediately after the receipt of the news on the island, but it fell to the lot of Mr. H. G. Vidgen, a son-in-law of Frank Jardine's, to supply some personal reminiscences of great interest.

The most notable figure among those who assisted in the rescue work was undoubtedly the late Mr. Frank Jardine, the pioneer of Cape York, who lived at Somerset, the nearest point of the mainland to the scene of the disaster.

The "Quetta evening" marked the final meeting of the Geographical Society for 1930, and was attended by many visitors, who listened with great interest to the amazing tales that were told of this appalling tragedy.

Colonel A. J. Bennett, Administrator of Norfolk Island, sailed for N.I. by the Makambo, on January 3. During six weeks spent in Australia he conferred with the Federal authorities at Canberra concerning administration and other matters.

Rev. J. A. Crump, who served for ten years as a Methodist missionary on New Britain, has died at Blenheim, New Zealand. His outstanding work in New Guinea was the starting of mission plantations at Ulu.

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