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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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RADIO TO PAPUA

Completing Pacific Network

New A.W.A. Station

THE opening of a new high speed wireless telegraph station at Port Moresby on March 19 by Amalgamated Wireless (Australia) Ltd. marked the establishment of direct communication between Sydney and Port Moresby, and the completion of another important unit in the wireless network, which now covers a large section of the Pacific Ocean.

The new station at Moresby is situated in the main street of the town, taking the place of the old station, which was located at Konedobu one and a quarter miles distant.

The equipment consists of a 5 kilowatt short wave beam feeder trans-



A glimpse of Port Moresby, the capital of Papua.

mitter, a 5 kilowatt coastal radio transmitter, a 50 watt emergency long wave-short wave transmitter, also modern receiving apparatus. An idea of the power of the main transmitter is given by the fact that it is of the same strength as broadcasting station 2BC, Sydney, or 2LO, Melbourne.

Three 110 feet tubular steel masts have been erected to support the special directional beam aerial for communication with Sydney over a distance of 1,750 miles.

The opening of the new Port Moresby radio station is in accordance with an arrangement made between Amalgamated Wireless and the Commonwealth Government, when Amalgamated Wireless took over the whole of the coastal stations of Australia, seventeen in number, also two in Papua and eight in the Mandated Territory.

In accordance with the agreement then entered upon, Amalgamated Wireless has modernised—and in the case of Port Moresby completely rebuilt and re-equipped—the whole of these stations.

Realising the development and importance of the various British island possessions in the Pacific and the enterprise manifested by other nations in establishing wireless stations on their island possessions, Mr. E. T. Frisk, managing director of A.W.A., suggested to the Right Hon. L. S. Amery, then First Lord of the British Admiralty, that Amalgamated Wireless take over from the Imperial Government all the wireless stations in the Pitian group, with the object of modernising and operating them as units of the Pacific network already operated by the company.

An agreement was completed between the Imperial Government and the company, and to-day these stations are equipped in the most modern way.

The wireless stations controlled by Amalgamated Wireless maintain communication between Australia, New

NEW ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED

For Western Samoa

From Our Wellington Correspondent

IT has been announced that Brigadier-General H. S. Hart, who commanded one of the New Zealand brigades in the War, has been appointed Administrator of Western Samoa, in succession to Colonel S. S. Allen.

General Hart, who has been practising as a solicitor at Masterton, N.Z., will take over his duties on April 3.

Death of Mr. H. F. Heycock

Well-Known Islands Identity

THE death occurred at Auckland on February 7 of Mr. H. F. Heycock, manager of the Levuka branch of Messrs. Burns Philp (South Sea) Co. Ltd.

Mr. Heycock was well-known in the Islands. He was accountant for Messrs. Burns Philp at Suva, in 1914, and from there went to the Levuka branch at chief clerk. In 1923 he was appointed manager at Makambo, Solomon Islands, and four years later was transferred to Levuka as manager.

He was proceeding on furlough to Auckland and Sydney, accompanied by Mrs. Heycock and their daughter, when he was taken ill. On arrival at Auckland he was conveyed direct from the ship to hospital.

When news of Mr. Heycock's death was received in Levuka, flags were flown at half-mast, as a mark of respect.

Deceased was born at Dunedin, N.Z. He was fifty-six years of age.

VOLCANO ACTIVE

In New Hebrides

ABOUT the same time as the disastrous earthquake in the Hawkes Bay District of New Zealand, last, a volcano 2,000 feet high, in Tanna, New Hebrides, became active.

Huge lumps of lava, some of the blocks being about 20 feet long, were thrown up, and fell back into the crater. No lava ran down the side of the mountain.

The noise of the disturbance could be heard a couple of miles away.

The volcano had not been active for some years.

Guinea, Papua, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Caledonia, New Hebrides and Hawaii.

The aim of Mr. Frisk in establishing a network of British radio stations in the Pacific is rapidly in course of realisation, and the new station at Port Moresby is a further link in making Australia the wireless centre of the Southern Pacific.

Interest in Canberra

From Our Canberra Correspondent.

Much interest was taken here in the opening of the new wireless telegraph station at Port Moresby.

The Prime Minister, Mr. J. H. Scullin, regards it as of the very greatest importance, and says that it will greatly facilitate the operations of the Commonwealth in Papua and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, whilst its importance from a commercial point of view cannot be over-emphasised.

This view is also shared by officials who have charge of the Islands section of the Prime Minister's Department.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Papua, Sir Hubert Murray, who was prevented from being present in Sydney at the opening, was represented by his official secretary, Mr. Leonard Murray.

FIJI EXCHANGE

Rates Now Revised

THE Fiji rates of exchange have been recently revised. The Bank of New South Wales notified the new rates as follows:

FIJI ON LONDON—Basis £100 London.
Telegraphic Transfer... £107 0 0
On Demand... 106 10 0
30 days... 106 10 0
90 days... 106 10 0

Telegraphic Transfer... £108 11 4
On Demand... 107 0 0
30 days... 106 10 0
90 days... 106 10 0

FIJI ON AUSTRALIA—Basis £100 Syd.
Telegraphic Transfer... £110 12 0
On Demand... 110 12 0
30 days... 110 12 0
90 days... 110 12 0

FIJI ON NEW ZEALAND—Basis £100 Syd.
New Zealand... £100 0 0
Sydney... 101 0 0

The effect of the premium on money coming from Fiji to Australia is that merchants in the Colony purchasing goods here receive £100 worth by sending £92.

PAPUA'S FUTURE

Views of Sir Hubert Murray

EXTENSION OF RUBBER INDUSTRY EXPECTED

ACCORDING to Sir Hubert Murray, Lieut. Governor of Papua, who is on his annual visit to Canberra to discuss administrative affairs, the rubber industry in the Territory is once again in full swing, now that the 40 per cent preference has been granted by the Federal Government.

Indeed, he is optimistic that a great extension in rubber planting will take place.

Coffee growing is another industry which Sir Hubert considers has good possibilities. He explained that, when he first went to Papua, coffee was being grown, but, owing to there being no bounty on the product, the industry did not extend. A bounty now has been granted on this, and development of the industry is proceeding.

Money Orders to New Caledonia

THE postal authorities have notified that henceforth money orders issued in Australia payable in New Caledonia will be converted at the rate of 90 francs to the pound.



A busy scene in Baie de Dore Harbour, Northern Manchuria. Screening and unloading Sora beans, ready for shipment.

COPRA IN THE DOLDRUMS

Factors Which Have Caused Low Prices

First of Series of Articles Dealing with Position and Probable Future of Coconut Planting

BY H. W. ROBBINS, EDITOR OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY.

London, January 25.

WHEN one sets out to "get a line on the future of copra," one is faced with some peculiar difficulties.

It is not a matter simply of talking with experienced merchants, discussing the probable consumption of copra products, and trying to make an intelligent forecast of a free market. If the trouble were merely that copra and its rivals were in huge over-supply, the situation would be easily summed up. But it is far worse than that.

Apart from the facts that there is general depression and that the copra market has been invaded in enormous quantities by various oil-bearing "seeds" (as they are called here), the really complicating factors are that the world market is now dominated by Unilever, one of the most powerful combines in the world; and that a very recent development of chemical science has deprived copra of certain advantages which it formerly held over its rivals.

In the course of this short visit to

London, I have called upon numerous brokers and merchants who handle oil-seeds and study the market carefully. I have had a look over the Baltic Exchange and the commercial sale-rooms; and, through the kindness of these gentlemen and various friends, I have gathered a mass of information which I shall try to co-ordinate for the benefit of the thousands of men in the South Seas whose future welfare is bound up with the future of copra. It is not possible to summarise this data, and my conclusions, in one article. In the course of a short series, published monthly, I shall give what information I have concerning the present condition of the copra market, the character and quality of other oil-seeds which are increasingly competing with copra, the serious effect and probable future of the new whole-oil industry; the history, present effect and probable future of the Unilever combine; and what (in the opinion of the London and German observers) is likely to be the condition of the copra industry in the future.

As the last-mentioned is likely to be the last article of the series, and our readers will naturally want to know what conclusions students of the market have reached, I will say at once that it is not expected that growers will for years, if

ever, again see prices very much over £10 per ton; but that there is quite a good future for those growers who can make a profit on a price over £10 to £11 per ton f.o.b.

We know that the primary factor in the buyers' domination of the copra market is the enormous over-production, first of copra and, second, of several oil-seeds and oils, which are in active competition with copra. But few people in the South Seas have seen the figures. After considerable trouble I obtained figures from Germany (which specialises in these kinds of statistics) and from one or two London brokers, which enabled me to compile the following table, showing world production:

	1925-26	1926-27
Copra	720,000	710,000
Palm-kernel	427,500	416,000
Ground-nut (Peanut)	1,550,000	1,575,000
Soya Beans	1,681,200	2,488,574
Walnut	1,473,200	2,024,620
Whole-oil (Sesame)	1,644,272	1,861,877

The 1930 figures, not available yet in detail, show the same upward tendency. I understand. No comment is needed—the thing speaks for itself. And this huge mass of oil and oil-bearing substitutes was thrown into the market just when the world, lethargic under an unprecedented economic depression, was reporting a decreased consumption of practically every commodity.

The wonder is that it has been possible to sell our copra at all, at any old price. Yet one London broker, only a few days ago, said: "While prices have been at ridiculous levels, every bit of copra that has come in has been sold. There are no great stocks of oil-seeds awaiting buyers in this part of the world." That, I think, is a very important point to remember when we come to a consideration of Unilever and the future of the market.

With regard to copra, here are some interesting figures showing shipments, in tons, from the various main producing countries of the world, in 1920 and 1929, as shown in the fine "Review" issued by Frank Peir and Co.:

	1920	1929
Philippines	22,144	179,018
Java	42,438	52,888
Mexico	46,922	52,889
Padang, Bantam, etc.	34,200	128,000*
Other Dutch E.I.	—	100,000*
Strait Settlements	112,430	186,112
Ceylon	66,044	151,453
Malabar	1,479	—
Total	240,607	650,240

*Estimated.

These figures, be it noted, do not include South Seas production. As a matter of fact—but I do not know why—none of the various compilers I gathered up in London and Germany take South Seas copra into their calculations. In one place I saw it vaguely referred to as "about 140,000 tons per annum." I believe it is a good

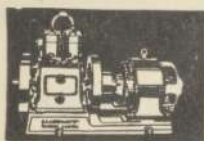
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World Rubber Stocks

LONDON trade reports state that stocks of rubber in all consuming centres are a depressing feature, and the estimated world stocks at the end of November amounted to 446,000 tons, as against 302,000 tons at the same time a year ago.

The increase in stock positions for 1930 represents a carry forward of roughly 150,000 tons, while consumption for the year shows a decline of about 110,000 tons.

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COPRA IN THE DOLDRUMS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

deal more than that. At any rate, all the market students, when estimating the world supply of copra, now put it at over 1,000,000 tons annually; so evidently the South Seas product comes into their calculations somewhere.

It is clear that in 10 years, copra production has much more than doubled.

Now let us glance at copra's more formidable rivals.

SOYA BEANS.

The soya bean, though one of the plants extensively cultivated in the Far East since the dawn of history, did not appear in London, as a source of vegetable oil, until about 1911. Then it came rapidly into favour, not so much on account of its oil content (which is only 15 per cent.), but because of the very high protein content of the soya bean oil-cake, which made it valuable for many purposes. But even its low percentage yield of oil represents, now that over 2,500,000 tons per annum of beans are shipped out of the East, 275,000 tons of oil in the bulk—quite sufficient to affect the world's vegetable oil market. For soap and margarine making, it is a rival of copra.

More than a quarter of the area under cultivation in Manchuria is devoted to the soya bean, and most of the shipments are from Dairen and Vladivostok, though it is also grown in South China, India, Japan and South Africa. Before the war, and before the merits of soya bean meal had been recognised, the average value of the bean was £7/10/- per ton. In 1924-25 it was about £13 per ton, and it remained in the vicinity of £12/15/- until the end of 1929. Then came an enormous increase in shipments, with the result that the market, encountering over-supply plus depression, has declined to £6. This has been followed by a sharp decline in shipments from China, but it is reported that the Eastern crushers are working full time on the low-priced beans, and that the shipments to Europe of the oil, instead of the whole bean, have increased.

GROUND NUTS (PEANUTS).

The world production of ground-nuts has increased very rapidly since the war. They come mostly from all parts of British India, with very substantial additional shipments from Nigeria and Gambia (West Africa), China and East Africa; and because of their high oil content (40 per cent.) they are a formidable competitor of copra.

The average price of this product, in 1926, was about £21 per ton, in London, going at times to £23. This highly profitable rate naturally brought a tremendous increase in production, particularly in India and West Africa. At the moment, the best price offering in Europe is under £10 per ton.

PALM KERNELS.

The output of palm-kernels, which come mostly from the West African districts, from Cape Verde, in the north, to the borders of British South Africa, in the south, and from the East African districts just south of the equator (with increasing quantities from the Dutch East Indies), is controlled by units of the Unilever combine, and has decreased somewhat in recent years. The price sprang from about £20 per ton, in 1924, to over £40 in the post-war period. For several years, to the end of 1928, it kept around £30; but from 1927 in 1929 it began to drift. It was £17/2/6 at the end of 1929, and to-day is quoted at £10/15/-.

The palm-kernel produces 45 per cent. of an oil that probably is the nearest competitor of coconut oil in point of quality. Although palm kernels are valued at from 54 to 55 per ton less than copra, it must be remembered that the same palm-fruit produces also palm oil, which is taken from the pulp which surrounds the kernel, and which is worth about £31 per ton. This tends to make the oil-palm a profitable crop. But, curiously enough, palm oil is not a direct competitor of coconut oil.

Coconut oil is acknowledged to be the best vegetable oil for a variety of purposes, and for many things is definitely preferred. Other things being equal, manufacturers will use coconut oil. But as soon as the price rises above a certain figure—which they now fix arbitrarily, among themselves—they turn to one of the other oils, and come back to coconut oil when its price falls, or the price of the alternative oil rises. Generally, coconut oil is sought for margarine and better-class foodstuffs; and the other oils for soap-making.

petitor of coconut oil, while palm-kernel oil is.

LINSEED OIL.

Although linseed, produced in Argentina, North America, India and the Baltic regions, is not so directly in competition with coconut products, it gives 30 per cent. of a useful vegetable oil, and has been so enormously over-produced in recent years that it also has greatly influenced the whole oil-seed market. Argentina seems to have been the biggest factor in this over-production. Her average, from 1914 to 1920, was well under a million tons annually; in 1929-30, the crop was over 2,000,000 tons; but there was a decrease in 1930-31 and, as paint and linoleum manufacturers cannot use soya or other vegetable semi-drying oils to any extent as a substitute for the linseed product, the linseed prices tended to keep up, while all other vegetable oils had fallen. But there has now been a sharp decline to £3/10/- compared with £15 at the end of 1929.

WHALE OIL.

The effect of the enormous increase in whale oil production—mainly the result of Norwegian enterprise in the Antarctic—is well-known to all coconut planters. What is not so well-known is the probable future of this industry; and the likely effect of new



An oil-palm plantation in West Africa. The natives, gathering nuts, climb trees in the usual way, with the aid of ladders.

chemical methods in making whale oil available for new uses, by decolorisation and neutralisation. These things are so important that they will be discussed in a later article, in this series.

It may be noted, however, that in 1924, when 728,475 barrels of whale oil were produced, the market price was £25 per ton. In 1929, when the production had gone up to 1,661,877 barrels, the price was down to £25 per ton; and at this moment of writing, whale oil of first grade is on offer at £15 per ton. Many people believe that whale oil at £15 per ton is below production cost.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF OILS.

It is interesting to examine a list of the oil-seeds, in relation to their oil content:

	Value per ton in London, January, 1931	Oil Content, per cent.
Copra	£13 0 0	45
Palm-kernels	£10 15 0	45
Ground-nuts	£6 15 0	40
Linseed	£3 10 0	30
Soya beans	£6 0 0	18
Whale oil	£15 0 0	100

At one time, these various oils were respectively applied to and reserved for particular uses; but to-day, owing to greater technical knowledge and the application of chemical discoveries, the oils are increasingly interchangeable. The effect of this very important circumstance is seen in the close relation between oil content and price. If, in the opinion of manufacturers, the price of one oil is too high, they can turn to another.

Coconut oil is acknowledged to be the best vegetable oil for a variety of purposes, and for many things is definitely preferred. Other things being equal, manufacturers will use coconut oil. But as soon as the price rises above a certain figure—which they now fix arbitrarily, among themselves—they turn to one of the other oils, and come back to coconut oil when its price falls, or the price of the alternative oil rises. Generally, coconut oil is sought for margarine and better-class foodstuffs; and the other oils for soap-making.

PRESENT CONDITION OF MARKET.

The South Seas planter, looking over the foreign market, can make his own deductions. But here are the conclusions of a leading broker I personally interviewed in London. I may not give

Prominent Chinese Official

To Visit Solomon Islands

THE official secretary for the Consul-General of China in Australia, Mr. Djienbion Young, will sail by the Mataram on March 31 on an official visit to the British Solomon Islands, on behalf of the Consul-General, Professor Kwei Chih.

Early last year Mr. Djienbion Young visited the Mandated Territory of New Guinea with Mr. D. Y. Narine, who was representing the former Consul-General of China, Mr. F. T. Sang, to investigate the overseas Chinese affairs there.

The party returned through the British Solomon Islands, and Mr. Djienbion Young, who was then attaché to the Consulate-General, was ordered to station himself at Tulagi, and take charge of the Bureau of Overseas Chinese Affairs.

On October 4 he returned to Sydney to report on the conditions there. Later he was promoted to the secretaryship, which he is present holds.

He has a wide experience of the Pacific Islands affairs, for he has visited all the islands, with the exception of Fiji.

Assaults on White Women

New Guinea Menace

Drastic Action Necessary

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, February 10.

INDECENT assaults on white women are, unfortunately, becoming more prevalent, and it is apparent that more drastic action will have to be taken, if this menace is to be crushed.

"Calaboo" means little or nothing to the offenders, and, as an instance, a native only recently released from one year's imprisonment for assault on a white woman, was charged last week on three separate counts, all for similar offences. The offences were committed within two or three weeks.

The native was found guilty on all charges and sentenced in all to 4 years' hard labour and three whippings of 20 strokes each.

Two other cases came before the Central Court last week, and, in each case, the offender was sentenced to one year's hard labour and a whipping.

TONGA'S REVENUE

For the year 1929-30 the total revenue of Tonga was £12,000. This sum comprised: Customs, £41,000; Native taxes, £12,000; other branches, £34,740.

For the previous year, the revenue from all sources totalled £98,887.

his name, but I may say that he is one of Europe's shrewdest dealers in oil-seeds.

"There are no immediate signs of improvement, owing to the plentiful supplies of all available oil-seeds and oils, particularly linseed and whale oil. We expect this year about 1,600,000 tons more linseed, which will produce approximately 330,000 tons of oil, for which it will be difficult to find buyers. There appears to be an increase of 50 per cent. in whale oil coming forward—who is going to buy it?"

"In general, we are facing a situation where supplies of all oils and fats continue plentiful, while consumption is slow, on account of economic pressure everywhere.

"We cannot look for an immediate improvement; but we think that the size of the next crops will be effectively reduced—the present prices will have this reaction upon producers. Of course, a good many oil-seeds, in which cost of production does not play an important part, will not be affected in this way; but crops in which a definite outlay for cultivation is required will be reduced.

"Personally, I do not think there is any room underneath this market. We feel that prices to-day are on bottom—that they have reached a level from which no further fall is possible. We look forward, presently, to an improvement rather than a decline. But that must be entirely governed by economic developments the world over."

The next articles of this series will deal respectively with the serious effects and probable future of the new whale-oil industry, and the reaction upon the copra industry of the application of certain chemical discoveries to the refining of whale and other oils; the history, present operations, and probable future of the Unilever Combine; and what is now necessary in the copra industry if it is to be carried on profitably in the future.

New Guinea Gold

Yield Now Totals £835,856

Warden's Report of Operations

DURING the year 1930, £835,856 worth of alluvial gold, of an estimated value of £117,241, were discovered and exported from the Morobe Goldfields, Mandated Territory of New Guinea, as compared with £2,035,000, valued at £154,116 for the previous year.

This information is contained in a report just issued by the Warden.

"The decrease," continues the report, "was due to easily accessible alluvial claim ground at Edie Creek being worked out, whilst the surrounding area had been taken up as leases for lode mining, thus preventing any further prospecting for alluvial deposits.

"Even if such deposits were discovered it is extremely doubtful whether they could be worked by miners of limited means, with the water available at Edie Creek. To work them on a large scale would necessitate the installation of a hydro-electric plant.

"Towards the latter part of 1930, the production was assisted by the discovery of Black Cat Creek, and it is hoped that the alluvial gold from this creek and its parent stream, the Hittit River, will considerably swell the 1931 total.

"The New Guinea Goldfields Ltd. received a little alluvial gold from its tributaries, but the amount was insignificant when compared with what was produced by the former holders of the leases, the Edie Creek Pty. Ltd., in the previous year.

"The total gold exported during the period of the Australian Mandate now aggregates 397,361 oz. 16 dwts. of an estimated value of £335,856.

"This consists of alluvial gold only, and has been mostly won by alluvial miners. This total should be considerably increased in 1931, when it is expected that the subsidiary of the Placer Development Limited, the Buio Gold Draining Ltd., and the New Guinea Goldfields Ltd. will commence work on their huge alluvial deposits, whilst the latter company and the Day Dawn (New Guinea) Ltd. will have a mill erected capable of treating 100 tons and 20 tons per day respectively.

LARGE TONNAGES PROVIDED.

The three mining companies (New Guinea Goldfields Ltd., Day Dawn (New Guinea) Ltd., and New Guinea Development Ltd.), operating at Edie Creek, are all actively developing well-defined lodes and have already proved large tonnages of valuable ore.

The workings so far opened up are at, or near, water level and cannot be carried deeper with the existing appliances owing to the large volumes of water to be dealt with."

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THURSDAY ISLAND NOTES

Erection of Museum Delayed—A Bell With a History

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS., March 5. THE conditions of things, which everyone is pleased to call "financial stringency," has precluded any further progress being made for the time being with the scheme of erecting a Museum for Thursday Island.

Some time back, a committee with representatives of the Thursday Island Town Council and the local branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australia, was set up to go into preliminary arrangements, and had got as far as preparing to collect £400 or so with which to start building operations.

The collection of ethnological and other exhibits belonging to the Town Council is at present stored away; there are also valuable relics and curios which have been given to the R.G.S.A., and these will be incorporated when the Museum takes definite shape later.

Visitors to the island frequently enquire for various objects of interest contained in the above, one such being an old bell picked up on the Barrier Reef, which exhibits a double inscription, a somewhat unusual thing.

One side of it carries "Ship Sully A.D. 1867," and the other "Schneider's triumph 1847." Although considerable efforts have been made to discover the

lough in the Malabar in February. In addition to being the training place for Torres Straits Island clergy (of whom there are now six ordained) St. Paul's is the educational centre of the Torres Straits Mission, and includes a recently established hotel and High School for native girls.

Thursday Island stirred in its long social sleep that usually follows the festivities of Christmas, and woke up the other night to give a very enjoyable farewell dance to Sister Hunt, who has resigned from the staff of the Torres Straits Hospital and leaves for the southern States by the Changote. The guest of the evening was presented with a memento of Thursday Island, in the shape of a neatly designed mother-of-pearl brooch, and a little speechifying was indulged in after supper and the opportunity was taken of referring to Mrs. F. Hocking's house given by the C.W.A. and Sister Hunt will leave with the knowledge that her many professional and social activities during her two years' service. This was followed two days later by an afternoon tea at Mrs. F. Hocking's house given by the C.W.A. and Sister Hunt will leave with the knowledge that her many professional and social activities during her two years' service.

The many friends of Mr. Bob Bruce in the Western Division of Papua will

N.I. Passion Fruit

Pulp of Excellent Quality

Examination by N.S.W. Expert

FOR a stored passion fruit pulp the flavor and appearance are excellent, and altogether the Norfolk Island packers are to be congratulated on their product.

This important announcement was made by Major G. I. Adeock, F.R.H.S., A.A.I.M.M., M.L.S. de L., Managing Director of Justine Ltd., Gosford, N.S.W., after an examination of a sample of Norfolk Island passion fruit pulp, which had been sent by the Fruit-growers' Association.

This follows on attention being drawn in these columns by our N.I. correspondent to the tremendous waste of passion fruit each season and the likelihood of a profitable industry being established in the marketing of the pulp. The Secretary of the Chamber of Manufacturers (Mr. Frank L. Edwards) became interested in the possibilities of developing the industry and, as a result, this sample was sent to Major Adeock.

In a letter to Mr. Edwards, Major Adeock makes the following comments on the sample of pulp which he examined.

Flavour.—For a stored pulp it is excellent. The bulk of the delicate aroma has been retained. The nearly all passion pulp there is a tendency for an apricot flavor to develop at the expense of the true passion flavor. The overcoming of this tendency, which is common to all pulp, would seem to be a subject requiring considerable research. This particular pulp has not been over-cooked.

Appearance.—The pulp is still adhering to the seeds and its colour is good. The seeds are evenly distributed through the mass. Frequently, owing to pasteurization being carried to an unduly high temperature the seeds become detached from the pulp and form an unsightly mass.

Consistency.—The specific gravity is in the vicinity of 1.180, and the sample would be described as good, heavy, even pulp. The weight and general appearance suggests that an examination for added water would not be necessary.

Time has not permitted for a test for added case sugar, but judging from the flavor I may say that the sample is 100 per cent. pulp.

Keeping Qualities.—It is, of course, not possible for me to comment on those at the present time. In the original sealed container

Conditions in New Caledonia

No Employment Available

A WARNING to Australians against going to New Caledonia in search of employment is contained in a letter received by the Prime Minister's Department, Canberra, from Mr. T. Johnston, the British Consul at Noumea.

During the last six months, states Mr. Johnston, a number of British subjects have arrived at Noumea from Australia in search of employment, and arrivals are becoming more frequent.

In view of the present depression in all local trades, there are in Noumea more than 500 Europeans without employment. It is impossible for British subjects to obtain employment.

"These persons," continues Mr. Johnston, "having insufficient funds on arrival, invariably become stranded and being very soon in distress apply to the Consulate for aid."

"I have been able to obtain temporary work for them in some cases with British mining firms, but in view of the local distress it can be understood that all employers prefer to give preference to New Caledonian residents."

Twelve agricultural leases were applied for on the Island of Bougainville during last year.

The packers are to be congratulated on their product.

As far as we are concerned, we would like to be put in touch with the best agent, and we think we could build up a trade in this if the price is at all favourable.

Before offering the pulp on a commercial scale, I would suggest the examination of it for foreign matter, as a cursory examination of the tin gave the impression that the latter of surface was not satisfactory.

Further reference to the subject is made in this month's newsletter from our N.I. correspondent.

TRINITY
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL
Melbourne

A Church of England Public School for boarders and day boys from 6 to 19 years of age. These separate boarding houses are beautifully situated in ideal surroundings on the crest of Kew Hill, the highest part of Melbourne. The school is approved by the University of Melbourne for the issue of Headmasters' Certificates. Easy arrangements made for boarders from distant parts. Strong Staff. Individual attention. Entrusted Year Book for 1931 from the Headmaster. FRANK SHANN, M.A., Dip. Ed., &c., K.E.W., E.A., VICTORIA.

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are other "Nobel" productions famous for reliability and effective performance.

The name "Nobel" is Your Sure Guarantee of Satisfaction



NEW BURNS, PHILP MOTORSHIP, "MACDUT"



Advice has been received by Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd. that the new motorship Macdut, is about to leave Glasgow for Sydney during the week ending 13 March. She also established a wireless record by communicating direct with Sydney. On the vessel's arrival here she will be immediately contacted for island trade.

belly's origin and some particulars of the ship which once carried it, its identity is as mysterious as when it was first discovered.

Possibly this may meet the eye of some roving seafarer or ex-South Sea adventurer, who may be enabled to yield the sought-for information; if so, the local branch of the R.O.S.A., which is working on the collection of information concerning old wrecks of Torres Strait, will be very glad to have it.

TORRES STRAITS SCHOOLS

The Aboriginal Department has been re-distributing the teaching staff in the Torres Straits schools for the forthcoming year. In accordance with the policy of the department, several of the schools are now in charge of native teachers. An inspector of the education department visits periodically for examination purposes and general guidance.

On the larger islands, European teachers are located. A new venture in the erection of cottage hospital buildings on the larger islands has been set on foot, but as far as provision has been made for training native nurses—on the lines of Samoa and Fiji—but this will probably be attempted later on.

PERSONAL ITEMS

The Rev. J. W. Schomburg, principal of the Anglican Native Training College at St. Paul's, Moa, returned from fur-

be glad to hear that he reached Thursday Island safely and is recovering in the local hospital from a severe attack of malaria. Mr. Bruce, who is close on 40 years of age, is no mean example of the old school, who do not allow the weight of years to interfere with their activities. He has spent some months wandering round Torres Straits, now roughing it among friends at his old home—Murray Island—and then dahling off to the Fly River country to visit and banish with the Government natives. It was while he was staying with Mrs. Cowling, at Milbu, that he became ill, but, shaking that off, he now talks of taking a trip to Scotland, which seems an easier journey than those he has lately undertaken in the wilds of Papua.

BIG RIVER BORES

Southern New Guinea Menace

From Our Thursday Island Correspondent

A CHARACTERISTIC, but dangerous feature of the large rivers that drain the south coast of New Guinea is the occasional occurrence of bores, a phenomenon that is held in great respect by natives and white voyagers alike.

Bores may be described as tidal waves rushing upstream against the flow of the river, and are caused by strong south-east winds forcing the sea into a wide funnel-shaped estuary, where it advances as a threatening flood, bringing grave danger to canoes and launches on the stream.

Bores are said to come only at low water, but they are not confined to times when the river is in flood. In Dutch New Guinea they are most often seen in June, but they also occur in August and September.

The size of the bore may be gauged by the noise of its advance, which may be heard as much as ten miles away. The practice in the Dutch Possession when faced with such an emergency in a small boat, is to turn and face the advancing wall of water right in the centre of the stream, avoiding the neighbourhood of the banks.

But at least one traveller in the Fly estuary, Papua, considers he owes his life to the fact that he was able to reach a small creek and get out of the main stream before the avalanche came. It is certain that a number of natives, voyaging in frail canoes, have lost their lives by being capsized by one of these visitations.

The bore may consist of one big wave or there may be a succession, the first always being the highest. Before its advance, the water seems to be drawn into it, so that in very shallow water a boat may ground just before the bore arrives, and disaster may follow.

Save up TWELVE PENNIES

and buy a chance to WIN £1,000

DIAMOND PENDANT



Read all this twice and see what 1/- may do for you.

2nd PRIZE

The second prize that your twelve pennies may bring you is a smart Pontiac Sedan Car. It would cost you £395 to buy. Surely you're not going to miss the opportunity of getting it for 1/-.

44 OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES

There are 46 prizes altogether in this Art Union, totalling £2,000 in value. Have your share. Send the coupon below for a ticket. But do it now before you forget.

FREE TICKETS

Sell tickets to your friends. For every five you sell, or buy yourself, we will give you a free one as commission. Think what this means; with a little effort you can give yourself a dozen or more free chances to win the £1,000 prize.

To be drawn under Police Supervision on June 10th, 1931

Mr. Wm. Epke, F.C.I.S., Hon. Secretary, Box 4246 V, G.P.O., Sydney. Enclosed please find STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE and Postal Note for _____ shillings, for _____ tickets in the R.P.A.H. No. 3 Art Union, and/or you may send me book of tickets, which I will hold in trust until I have disposed of them for the R.P.A. Hospital.

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MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS

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Works to all
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"PROSPECTING FOR GOLD"

A Book for the Tyro

WITH prospecting for gold so active in Australia, New Guinea, Papua and the Solomon Islands, Mr. Ion I. Idriess could not have chosen a more opportune time for the publishing of a book, entitled "Prospecting for Gold."

It is written with the object of saving the inexperienced prospector much labour, time and disappointment. Proved methods of seeking and finding alluvial gold and tin are explained.

The book should prove interesting to experienced miners as well, for it describes the different methods of working deposits throughout Australia and New Guinea.

This most useful work has been published by Messrs. Angus and Robertson, Sydney. It is obtainable for 5/- per copy.

A wooden shop, occupied by Mr. Hargrave, tobacconist, and owned by the Garrick estate, was gutted recently at Suva. The brigade, after a hard fight, saved the old wooden block.

"At Your Service!"**McILRATH'S Ltd.**

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The new "Instant Light" Aladdin is a handsome ornament and a real necessity in every home.

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SEE NEW STUDENT LAMP MODELS

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THE TONGAN ISLANDS

Road Upkeep Costly — Car Tax Appears Advisable — Banana Crops Suffer from Flying Foxes

From Our Own Correspondent

NUKUALOFA, February 30.

NO Government is kinder to motorists by way of taxation than the Government of Tonga.

On purchasing a car for private use, the buyer registers it for a fee of 2/6, and every year he has to renew the registration for that ridiculous fee. With the increasing number of cars, it is now discovered that they are "shaking the tar" out of the roads, and the Government is faced with the necessity of heavy appropriations not for new road construction—but for the upkeep of existing routes.

During the last two years the roads have been allowed to get into a dreadful state. Most other countries have imposed either an extra petrol tax, wheel tax, axle tax or H.P. tax, which, under a highway scheme, is earmarked for their roads. Tonga must follow suit sooner or later; for preference, let it be sooner, says the wise man.

Discussing the subject recently with an able motorist, who had just completed a bone-shaking ride in his car, he surprised his listeners by remarking: "Of course, the Government should stick a tax on cars, but one who can afford a car can afford a 'tenner' a year towards the roads he 'knocks about'." And this, mind you, from a car-owner!

As I am not now a car-owner, and as it is not my intention to buy another, I simply pass his suggestion on to the Government for action.

FLYING FOX MENACE.

One of the show spots of interest to tourists visiting Tonga is at the village of Kolovai, where there exists the

proaches Tonga for service to its people gastronomically, intellectually and spiritually.

"CABARET" EVENING.

A variation in the mundane round of social amenities has been conceived by a progressive section of our younger set. It takes the form of a "cabaret" evening, and so, once a month, the Public Victoria Memorial Hall is to be devoted to this modern form of amusement.

The opening night, January 30, disclosed the whole scheme to ticket-purchasers. Your correspondent, blundering in, found the body of the hall a mass of foliage and people, with here and there on the verandah a cute little table "surrounded by three trees." Being of a retiring nature, he selected the most retiring-looking table in the darkest corner, only to discover, after seating himself, that on the darkest side of the table was already seated a lovely blonde who quickly indicated that, although he was occupying someone else's seat, the cost of two glasses of ice drink only ran to a shilling.

Some time later, I drifted round the hall and came upon those serious folk who delight to pretend that Hope invented bridge after he had found every other game appalling. Unfortunately, I got roped in as referee to settle a terrible argument—and I don't know even now whether she was justified in calling two in a minor over a "no-trump" bid by her partner—but I got another ice drink out of it.

Then the music started and dancing commenced. The ladies' dresses were very beautiful and, to the eyes of a mere male, a revelation. Most of them



Flying Foxes clustered on the Sacred Trees at Hihifo, Tonga. Flying Foxes have been raiding fruit trees in the Group, causing much damage to crops.

original island colony of flying foxes. Although not protected by law, the natives of that district would assuredly give a sportsman an uncomfortable time did he but attempt to "pot" any of these bats. The quaint little beggars are "habitués" and according to the Tongans — Christianity notwithstanding — each flying mammal is the reincarnation of some departed soul.

And as long as the colony confined itself to the ironbark trees at Kolovai, nobody worried about them, but it is now noticed that they have so multiplied that, not only is Kolovai swarming with them, but the pests have spread and made habitation in all the other districts on the main island. Working silently at night they raid the fruit trees—bananas mostly—and with such increasing damage that planters are beginning to sit up and take notice.

A grower has predicted that at least one-fifth of his present banana crop will go down the throats of the chiroptera. It will be interesting to see whether the native Government takes steps towards their extinction, or, in deference to the "reincarnation" belief, allows them to multiply to the extinction of the banana.

TRADING STATIONS PLENTIFUL.

According to a New Zealand publication, a recent visitor to our island group gained the impression that Tonga "is simply bristling with churches." One wonders why the number of existing trading stations did not equally attract him.

Taking a village at random, a curious traveller discovered that it consisted of 15 homes, 4 churches, 3 trading stations, 3 schools and 3 bakeries. This last appears particularly extraordinary, until one realises that the native, having been persuaded, rightly or wrongly, that bread and buns are good for him, consumes probably three times the quantity that satisfies the European; moreover bread and buns are said to yield good profit.

If this is a fair sample village, it will be agreed that it is nearly unlikely that any country nearer ap-

were the "below the knee" style but a few, following the advice of some Parisian dictator of fashion, appeared in tangle-deep creations, and I got tangled up in one of them.

Still, no matter, the various designs and shades were very effective. I danced a lot and had some more ice drinks. I was happy—I think everybody was. It was a great night, and I think the "cabaret" ought to be open every night. I'd like to meet that blonde again.

MOROBÉ GOLDFIELDS

Comprehensive Map Published

FOR quite a time, there has been a demand for a comprehensive map of the Morobe Goldfields, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

Such a map has been now published by Messrs. H. E. C. Robinson Ltd., of Sydney.

Mining companies, prospectors and, in fact, everybody interested in this rich field will find the map invaluable. It shows the roads, tracks and air routes from Salamoa and Lae to the field. Also included are gold areas declared, aerodromes, native village, mission stations, anchorages, dredging areas, refueling areas, wireless stations and various other information.

The scale of the map—two miles to the inch—has allowed of very great detail being shown.

The price of the map ranges from 10/- on paper to 15/- on cloth, with spring rollers.

A native hospital has been established by the Methodist Mission at Siwai, Bougainville. There is a medical orderly—a native of the Solomon Islands—in charge.

The New Guinea Administration steam yacht, Franklin, has returned to Rabaul, after overhaul in Sydney. The Franklin towed a new schooner, which has been purchased by the Administration for work at the out-stations.

N.G. Soldiers' League

Good Work Accomplished

Relief for Planters

From Our New Guinea Correspondent

RABAU, February 10.

THE report read at the annual meeting of the New Guinea branch of the N.S.S.I.L.A., covering the past six months, deserves, in view of the extraordinary good work that has been accomplished, more than ordinary notice.

It is practically entirely due to the activities of the Returned Soldiers' League and to the representations made to the authorities in Australia that such material relief was granted to returned soldier planters during the latter part of last year.

The Custodian of Expropriated Properties has definitely written-off the interest for one year on the unpaid balance due to him—this alone represents a saving of approximately \$15,000. Further, the suspension of all payments in respect of instalments for the period July 1, 1930, to June 30, 1931, was secured.

The merchants have also agreed to reduce their finance rate of interest from 8 per cent. to 6 per cent., which is a very liberal concession.

The President of the Branch (Mr. D. M. Forsyth) visited Australia in the interests of returned soldier planters and reported that he has the assurance of the Federal Government and the Custodian that, should the price of copra remain at its present low level, the matter of an extension of the suspension of payments will be favourably considered.

The President also reported that the League has the assurance of the Prime Minister that, when the time comes for instalments to recommence, consideration will be given to the adjustment of prices paid by returned soldiers for their properties.

PROPOSAL TO FORM SUB-BRANCH

The New Guinea Branch of the N.S.S.I.L.A. is now devoting so much attention, and with a great measure of success, to the interests of their planter members that it is proposed to form a sub-branch to deal solely with matters affecting planters.

The local Branch of the League is anxious to erect a Memorial Hall in Rabaul, and for this purpose a fund was started a year ago. No great progress has been made in securing the sum required for building a suitable hall, chiefly due to the lean times through which we have been passing. A ball was arranged recently, which was highly successful and which will appreciably increase the fund.

The Administrator is very sympathetic to the project and has promised the support of the Administration to secure a suitable site.

The suggestion has been made that, if the Hall was used to house the local Museum, the Administration would supply a caretaker and undertake to keep the building in repair.

At the meeting, Mr. D. M. Forsyth was re-elected President, and Messrs. P. L. Plummer and R. A. Laws were elected Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year.

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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Methodist Missionary Society Annual Meeting in Sydney

THE annual meeting of the Methodist Missionary Association was held in the Conference Hall, Sydney, on February 3. The president-general (the Rev. F. Lade, M.A., of Adelaide) presided.

The balance-sheet showed that the accumulated deficit was £23,252. The income of the Society was approximately £3,500 less than for the previous year. The total income for 1930 was £28,077.

The Rev. H. H. Nolan, general treasurer of the Society, resigned owing to ill-health, and the Rev. W. E. Bonnett, M.A., was appointed in his place. Sir John Randles and Lady Randles, members of the Missionary Committee of England, were welcomed by the president.

SERIOUS FALL IN INCOME

At a meeting of the Board on the following day, the secretary, Rev. J. W. Burton, reviewed the financial position. He said that the fall in income was serious. In his 31 years' connection with missionary work he had never known it to be so bad.

"We ought to examine and overhaul, and, if necessary, scrap some things," he said. "There is a danger of starting too many new things."

EXPENDITURE REDUCED

On the recommendations of a large committee which had been set up to explore the matter, the Board later agreed to considerable reductions of expenditure in every district.

As a result of these reductions agents are to be withdrawn from several districts. In some cases those who are on leave will not return; in other cases agents now at work will be retired. Two European missionaries are to retire from the Fijian work in Fiji, and two from the Indian work there. Other districts will also suffer in the same way. In the meantime, staffs are to be re-arranged to make them as effective as possible.

The Board also agreed to a ten per cent. reduction in the salaries of all European workers. Thus, the workers had agreed to be forewarned. Some workers offered to carry on their work without salary. Generous offers were received to provide the necessary salary in some other cases.

SAMARAI GOLD DEVELOPMENT CO.

SAMARAI Gold Development Co. Ltd. has been registered in Sydney with a nominal capital of £2,000, divided into 600 shares of £5 each.

The company is to work for gold and other minerals in Papua and New Guinea.

The subscribers are: M. A. H. Cullack, W. J. Dellow, G. J. A. Moore, A. A. Turton, T. B. Macdonald, E. F. Hotchkiss and P. W. Turton.

On the Raboite River, Bougainville, between Aropa and Kietia, a ferry service has been established. This is preliminary to the construction of a bridge.

FIRES

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CHEMICAL
EXTINGUISHERS



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PAPUAN NEWS

Further Reduction in Plantation Costs — Local Timber Now Popular — Many Provision Orders Going to Sydney

From Our Own Correspondent

PT. MORESBY, February 19.

THIS month there is little to report on copra and rubber.

The London price for copra has been £14 12½ which, with most plantations means selling at a loss. Rubber has again fallen to 2½d per lb, and even the 4d duty added to this price does not make it sufficient to make things pay.

Further economies have been made everywhere, amounting to almost parsimony, so as to enable the plantations to be run at lowest costs.

Nothing much is heard of hemp and sugar, two new enterprises, either they are lying low, awaiting more prosperous days, or the tidal wave of depression has drawn them, too, into its depth.

EXPERIMENTS WITH MILLET

Millet is being tried by a couple of young men a few miles out of Port Moresby, by the Laloki River. Little is known of their venture, though it is reported that they are progressing in spite of many hardships. They are selling some grain locally, besides packing the straw for south, and except for their exceedingly rough bush cooks, finding life rather inconspicuously amusing, which, after all, is more than people do here.

ACTIVITIES OF PORT ROMILLY SAWMILLS

The only sawmill company in Papua, the Port Romilly Sawmills Ltd., has reported that this was done not so much from financial necessity as from a protection against other firms attempting to absorb it. It has now a working agreement with the Steamship Trading Co. Ltd.

These two companies stand out in Papua as being built up from small beginnings, and as having progressed in spite of every kind of difficulty, and without reserve capital upon which to draw during the early struggles.

The Steamship Trading Co. is one of

the soundest concerns in Papua financially, and its volume of business increases steadily, while Port Romilly Sawmills Ltd. has gradually overcome the local prejudice against Papuan timber, and has increased its turnover and widened its market year by year.

The arrangement between the two firms is likely to be of advantage to both and of benefit to the whole of Papua.

HOUSEHOLDERS ECONOMISING.

All householders in Port Moresby are economising to their utmost and find in most cases, that they simply cannot afford to patronise the local stores. There is no ill-feeling about it—it is sheer necessity, as they find that it is possible to live so much cheaper by ordering their groceries from south.

Many hundreds of pounds go in orders by every boat to Sydney retail establishments. The local firms should realise the position clearly before their trade has slipped from their hands, for the goods from Sydney arrive well packed and in good condition, and far below the prices in Port Moresby.

Life itself in Port has been very quiet and subdued, a lot of sickness and, in some cases, unhappiness, have occurred, owing to the weather, the heat and the bad times. The news from Australia is hardly reassuring to people who live so far from its centre, and who are dependent on its movements and whims.

HIS EXCELLENCY LEAVES FOR CANBERRA.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Hubert Murray, K.C.M.G., is leaving by this Mornia for Canberra to discuss affairs with the Ministers and departmental officers. His Excellency's intention is to be away only for a short time.

His Excellency and the heads of the different Government departments have had a very difficult task steering the country through these troublesome times.

is a particularly severe climb, as the latter is some 7,000 feet above sea level, whereas Wau is in the vicinity of 3,500 feet; and in order to overcome the difficulty of transporting goods, have been pressed into service and flights have been built in order to make their task more so.

Many tons of bricks also have been landed on the aerodrome at Wau and are being conveyed to Edie Creek to be used in the construction of furnaces. The freight on these bricks runs into many thousands of pounds, and it would be no vain boast to say that the cost per brick would exceed the outlay on similar bricks in any other part of the world. This class of work is beset with obstacles and is typical of the work that ever confronts the pioneers of a goldfield.

An excellent roadway is now in the course of construction between the two centres and on its completion the means of communication will be greatly improved.

New Guinea Goldfields Ltd., perhaps the biggest company of its kind in New Guinea, has larger interests at Edie Creek and has been instrumental in the preparation of the road. This company has been pushing on with its developmental work in a businesslike manner and seems to be doing it with a thoroughness that forebodes well for the future success of the field.

MODERN COMFORTS NOW AVAILABLE

Up-to-date requirements for the comfort and well-being of the staff have been provided, and the latter are happy in the possession of a modern refrigerator, which is always well stocked with the best meats from Australia.

A comfortable little hakehouse, presided over by a competent baker, is also a product of foresight and a decided acquisition to the community.

Water power has been harnessed and sufficient light is generated for company requirements. Numerous other activities, coupled with an extensive building programme, simply exude the spirit of progress.

INCREASED GOLD PRODUCTION
Now that the three months' statutory exemption for the mining of leases has expired, preparations are being made by the numerous lessees for the maintenance and working of their claims, and an increased production of gold can be expected.

RECORD RAINFALLS
The enormous rainfall for the months of December and January is worthy of note. Records were not established both at Edie Creek and Wau, and the consistency of the falls was remarkable.

In December, the registration at Edie Creek was approximately 35 inches and averaged 80 points p.r. day, whilst Wau, though considerably less, had an imposing average of 80 points, which figure was subsequently exceeded by the registration in January, at an average of 57 points per day.

With the advent of February, the rainy season should once more recur, and the beautiful weather, of which Wau people are so proud, should once again be with us.

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FLANNELS

Foy's "No. 100" Flannel Trousers wear equal to 2 pairs of ordinary Flannels. New Flannel Trousers, called "No. 100" in size for every man and youth. 10 designs in selection. Flannel Trousers will wear equal to 2 pairs of ordinary flannel trousers and will keep their appearance. All seams are sewn with thread and all outside stitchings are sewn with silk. Write for patterns. Price pair ... **18/6**

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Light and cool. Made in Khaki Drill or Crash. Crown lined, strongly finished. All sizes. Price—Men's, 2/6; Boy's, 2/3.

SHIRTS.

Men's White and Cream Fajal de Luxe Sports Shirts, new two tone collar, one pocket, double sewn, ideal for sports wear. Sizes 14 to 18 ins. neck, 6/11 and 7/11.

Men's Cotton Shirts, attached collars, 2 pockets, superior quality Fajal de Luxe, in self colours, Blues, Greys, Cream and White. Sizes 14 to 17 ins. neck. Under-18 size value ... **7/11**

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1889

Pacific Islands Monthly

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Vol. I—No. 8. MARCH, 1931

Cost of South Seas Labour

ONE clear fact emerges from the economic investigations throughout which the world is passing—namely, the world is accepting new standards of values. This is affecting nearly everything—and more particularly is it affecting primary products, such as foodstuffs and raw materials. Truly everything that is produced in the South Seas has moved to lower price levels, and is expected to remain there. There may be some recovery; but not in this generation are the 1923-28 era.

Primary producers everywhere can carry on only by adjusting their production costs to the new levels at which they can sell their produce. All over the world, with blood and sweat and tears, the economic readjustment is going on. As soon as it is complete, the world will return to normal trading—on new standards of values—and our troubles will be over. Men everywhere can hasten recovery by facing facts.

In the South Seas, two fundamental things are necessary—a reappraisal of capital values and a rearrangement of labour costs. In respect of the Islands groups and territories, in the last decade, coconut plantations have been established, or bought, on a basis of value fixed by copra at £25-£30 per ton. At present, there is not one solitary industry that this price will return—the signs are all to the contrary. Plantation owners, sooner or later, must bring their capital values to accord with a copra price carrying a smaller margin of profit. It is a very big thought, which will be discussed at greater length in future issues of this Monthly.

The fact which must be faced promptly, and to which attention should now be given generally in the South Seas, is that labour must make a sacrifice, equally with capital. Labour, throughout the world, is being made to face the issue. In countries where there has been much organisation of the industrial community, there is much kicking and squealing, but the thing is inevitable—labour costs must be reduced, equally with capital costs. The adjustment is likely to be as difficult in the Pacific as it is among the white populations, because so much of the South Seas labour is under indenture, with the contracts controlled by the various administrators. It may not be easy to make the Melanesian labourer understand the need for reduced pay—yet no more difficult, probably, than trying to prevent the simple facts of economics from the noisy gentlemen of Sydney Trades Hall. In both cases, it has got to be

TROPICALITIES

Written for The Pacific Islands Monthly by Sam Sargent.

THE decision of the Ceylon Government to allow the Norwegians to erect a whale-oil factory at Galle has its funny side. It is the editor from Colombo. When the application was made, three months ago, the Ceylon coconut planters found it hard to contain their feelings. Copra had just reached new and ruinous levels, and everyone connected therewith knew that the chief contributing factor was the Norwegian and the oil from their infernal Atlantic whales. So when the gentlemen of the north said they would like to refine their whale products in Ceylon (probably because that country has cheap labour and no income tax) the planters saw "insult added to real injury, and almost spilt blood. If the exacerbated feelings of the planters should presently be expressed in a boisterous out Galle way, no tears will be shed in the coconut groves of Ceylon."

MANY friendly messages to folks in New Guinea were given to the editor of this journal, when in London by W. C. Harvey, now comfortably settled down there as buying agent for the big Carpenter organisation. The condition of the copra market naturally interested one who was so closely connected with the expropriated plantations; and when "alternative crops" were mentioned, he had some very practical comments to make. "I wonder why they do not try Mandilla hemp in New Guinea," he said. "It is one of the few commodities that still command a good market. It is grown quite simply from suckers, the same as pineapples, and is easily cultivated. I ought to do more with cocoa in the Territory—I inquired into cocoa possibilities there once, and was assured by experts that the break of the New Guinea cocoa was the second best in the world. And then there are pineapples. I have never tasted better pineapples than those grown near Rabaul; and, although pineapple cultivation is steadily extending, there seems to be no limit to the market. Fiji has proved the possibilities of that industry."

Sound advice. Coconut planting will remain the chief industry of the South Seas, no doubt; but there is no need for planters to go around with their hands while these far-reaching economic adjustments are taking place.

ARMED with an introduction from Major Olive B. Joske, who has been years preaching in Fiji the desirability of copra grading, the editor of this journal called upon Mr. W. J. Gilbert, president of the London Copra Association, and Mr. Gilbert took him through the Association's rooms and explained the machinery of the organisation. Because copra is subject to no system of grading, and arrives from a score of different countries, in a condition that varies as widely as the poles, the chief function of the Copra Association is to pronounce judgment concerning the quality of copra parcels. The Association conducts about 700 arbitrations per annum, affecting possibly 1,000 shipments, and representing last year over 75,000 tons—nearly 10 per cent of the whole of copra which reaches Europe. It is worthy of note that, out of all these arbitrations, there were only 8 appeals from quality decisions, and only two from contract conditions. The standard contract, drawn up by the Association, is almost universally used in copra transactions, and seems to work very well.

When Major Joske was in London a few years ago, he and Mr. Roy Fisher, a well-known oil-seeds broker, set most of the copra men together at a conference, to discuss the need for a system of grading. But nothing came of it. The buyers were quite interested and favourable; but

done. Labour will discover, eventually, that reduced pay does not mean a reduced standard of living—simply because all commodities are going to be cheaper.

Capital throughout the world has had a frightful "gruelling," and it is not fair to ask capital in the South Seas, any more than elsewhere, to bear the whole of the punishment of the economic readjustment.

IN AND ABOUT THE ISLANDS

Mr. E. Neelands, consulting engineer, will take up a position as surveyor with the Government. The bride's father, the late Mr. C. W. Harris, was at one time in charge of the Suva Harbour Works.

Captain S. N. McLean, of Ormiston Explorations Ltd., arrived in Sydney by the last trip of the Morinda. During the past 18 months he has been carrying out extensive prospecting for gold in Papua.

Sir Gould May, a noted London physician, and Lady May, returned to Sydney by the Naamora after a visit to Fiji. They left Sydney by the Narunda on their homeward journey.

The Rev. W. Green and Mrs. Green, Methodist missionaries in Fiji, were passengers by the Sierra, which reached Sydney on February 18. They will shortly take up ministerial work in Australia.

the difficulty seemed to be to get producers, working under such an infinite variety of conditions, to conform to any recognised rule or regulation. So since the mountain would not come to Mahomet, they brought Mahomet to the mountain. In other words, they have tried to make the Copra Association machinery cover a multitude of grades and conditions, so as to get some standard for reckoning quality and value. And it seems to work surprisingly well.

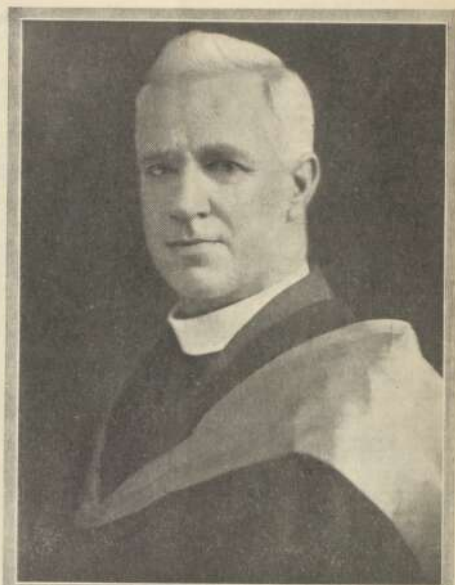
A SIGN of the times may be seen in the membership of the London Copra Association. At one time, when the market was free, and there were more independent brokers and keener competition, the Association was larger and busier than to-day. Now that the European market is controlled, firmly and irrevocably, by the Unilever combine, many copra brokers have either gone out of business, or turned their activities elsewhere. The Association still has over 140 members, however—40 of whom are Continental operators.

INTERESTING facts are supplied in the latest edition of The Papsan Handbook concerning the dedicated coconut industry, which is now being carried on successfully in that Territory. The industry was commenced in Ceylon half a century ago, and is now large and flourishing there. Carefully selected, well-matured nuts are necessary, and these yield, per 1,000, from 360 to 400 pounds of dedicated coconut. The nuts are husked and shelled and the white flesh is thrown into long, narrow tanks made of wood or concrete, into which water is poured. The next process is to grind the brownish rind, leaving the pure white kernel; this is accomplished by natives with the aid of speckle-stones, kept sharpened—at the same time the kernel is divided to let the coconut water escape. An expert native will shell over 1,350 kernels a day. The kernels are then returned to the water, which is sometimes treated with lime to restore the whiteness, as the air and sun discolour the kernels, and pieces of rind not removed are rubbed off with graters. After a thorough washing, the kernels are removed to the machine room, where they are treated according to the grade required. One machine will grade the kernels to a mass, the product being the grated coconut, used for curries and cakes. Other machines convert the kernel into chips, strings of three, and so on. The waste material is removed to the drying room, where it is placed in the desiccator and subjected to a temperature of 160 deg. F. It is then spread out on lead-lined tables and, after four discoloured particles have been picked out, the product is graded by sieves and affixed and carefully packed and pressed into lead and paper-lined tea chests. The dedicated coconut is then ready for export.

It is not generally known that some parts of the Central Division of Papua are well provided with suitable for the manufacture of earthenware pots and bricks. As a matter of fact, the natives manufacture their cooking pots and water vessels from the clay around Port Moresby. These, the natives trade in large numbers with the tribes in the Purari Delta, from whom they secure sea in exchange. No analytical work has been yet done on the clays, so consequently nothing definite can be stated concerning their real value to commerce.

A WELL-KNOWN Islands traveller, who for the past ten years has held the view that Asiatics will eventually control the destinies of the Pacific, says that after a recent trip around the Group, he is more convinced than ever that his opinion is correct. From his observations the Chinese were welcomed in the French possessions, because they were very successful in developing new territory. Another point which impressed him was the way that American firms had captured trade for all classes of goods in Tahiti. Although the consumption of the Group was comparatively small, Americans had made a study of the market, with the result that now few Australian products could compete.

Notable Men of The Pacific



Rev. J. W. Burton, M.A., General Secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society of Australasia

THE Rev. John Wear Burton, who has been general secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society since 1925, is a man of striking personality and outstanding gifts. The high regard in which he is generally held was forcibly illustrated only last month, when at the Methodist Conference in Sydney, he was elected President of the Conference for the ensuing year. This tribute was richly deserved.

In missionary circles he is regarded as one of the advanced and progressive type. Mr. Burton has always taken the modern view in missionary enterprise, and, while emphasising the necessity for the evangelisation of native people, he feels that it is the duty of the missionary societies in co-operation with the various governments, to fit the people to maintain their positions in the new industrial development that is coming to them.

Mr. Burton believes that the development of every group must be necessarily through the development of its people. To have an alien civilisation forced upon the native race is one of the worst things that can happen to it. But if gradually the natives can be brought to introduce into their own new elements of another civilisation, without disrupting their own culture, this must be ultimately a real value to commerce.

Mr. Burton was born at Lasceny, Yorkshire, on March 7, 1875. At the age of 10 years he went with his parents to New Zealand.

Mr. H. H. Harbord, an old resident of Port Moresby, died there on March 1, from pleurisy. All Government offices and business houses were closed on the morning of the funeral, as a mark of respect.

Mr. J. A. G. D'Aiguat, who is very well known throughout the Islands, was a passenger for Suva by the Sierra, which left Sydney on March 7.

Mr. W. A. Newman, Administrator of Nauru, left that island by the S.S. Petersfield on February 18 on sick leave. He will spend a few months in Australia before returning.

Mr. C. D. Meares, private secretary to General Wisdom, Administrator of the New Guinea Mandated Territory, is in Canberra at present, but returns to Rabaul by the Montoro on March 26.

Dr. G. W. Pottinger sailed for Rabaul by the Marana on March 7, and is to be attached to the hospital medical staff there. Miss Mary Marrie, who is to join the nursing staff, also sailed by the same vessel.

Among the passengers who arrived in Sydney from the Guinea, by the Troja on February 25 were Mr. J. H. Bradshaw, of New Guinea Goldfields Ltd., Mr. J. C. Williamson, who has plantation interests in New Guinea, and Captain E. C. Bye, of Rabaul.

Pastor Carr, who has been in charge of the Bureala Seventh Day Adventist Mission Station, Oranaku, Fiji, for some time, is at present in Australia.

ents to New Zealand. He commenced preaching at 16 and was accepted as a candidate for the ministry at the Napier Synod of 1894. He stayed in New Zealand until 1902, and then left and became first superintendent of the Indian Mission in Fiji. He completed nine years' service there, and later was appointed conference foreign mission secretary for Victoria and Tasmania, which office he occupied for ten years. During this time he completed a university course, gaining his Master of Arts degree, with honours, in the School of Philosophy.

In 1922 he took up an ordaining position in Sydney, and shortly afterwards succeeded to the position of general secretary of the Foreign Mission Society.

Mr. Burton has become well-known for his literary work, which is of a high standard. His books include: Fiji to-day (1910), Call of The Paps (1914), Modern Problems of Missionary Work (1915), Snagpots in India (1921), Our Task in Papua (1929), A Missionary Survey of the Pacific Islands (1930). He is also editor of The Missionary Review, which position he has occupied since 1922.

He saw service as chief religious war director with the Australian Y.M.C.A., holding the rank of honorary major.

In 1902 Mr. Burton married Miss Florence Hadfield, of Christchurch, New Zealand.

The Rev. A. H. Scriven, Methodist missionary in Papua, was a passenger by the last Moerida to Sydney. He was accompanied by Mrs. Scriven and family. They will go to England later on furlough.

The Rev. F. R. Elder, who has been engaged in mission work in Papua for the Australian Board of Missions, reached Sydney by the Morinda on February 20, accompanied by Mrs. Elder.

Pilot F. N. Drayton, of Guinea Airways Ltd., is in Sydney on furlough. During the past 8 months he has done 728 hours' flying.

Dr. I. Hamilton Beattie has left Suva on a trip to England.

Mr. E. W. P. Chinsery, who recently returned from an extended trip abroad, and will shortly return to the Mandated Territory of New Guinea to resume his anthropological work, is at present in Canberra, where he has delivered illustrated lectures on his work to members of the Legation Club and the Returned Soldiers' Club. He has been invited to give a lecture in Sydney under the auspices of the Aborigines Board.

Messrs. A. A. N. Pentland, J. M. Bourke, and R. Holdsworth left Brisbane by the last Marana for New Guinea. They are members of a syndicate, which are engaged in gold prospecting in the Territory.

BIG HURRICANE STRIKES FIJI

Heavy Damage Over Large Area

EUROPEANS IN DEATH ROLL

THE worst hurricane in the history of Fiji struck Ba, Lautoka, Nadi and Singatoka districts at the end of February, and caused heavy damage.

It is reported that 160 persons, including four Europeans, were killed by the hurricane and subsequent floods.

Coming on top of the big floods in the Rewa district, near Suva, and the previous hurricane, which swept the Colony in November last, Fiji, of recent months, has suffered much loss.

As all communication was cut off between the affected area and Suva, it was not until a Government vessel from Lautoka arrived at the capital on February 26—six days after the visitation—that the first information was received.

On the same day, the Amalgamated Wireless (Australia) Ltd., Sydney, received the following radio from its Suva station:

"Hurricane and floods at Lautoka, Ba, Nadi, and Singatoka caused heavy death toll and great damage to property."

A report from Singatoka states that great damage was done and that a large number of Indians have been

drowned at Ba, including four Europeans. The town suffered severely. During the night the hurricane flood waters backed up by a big wind and also a rising tide, submerged and swept away 25 houses. Daylight revealed a terrible sight. From the mill down towards the post office, and also towards the Ba Hotel, only two houses were left standing.

The increase in revenue was due chiefly to the following: Import duties on ordinary importable goods, £2,025; mining receipts, £1,178; repayment of the Government plantations loan, £1,500; and sale of stores, £2,300.

The last-mentioned figure represents the value of stores issued by the Government Storekeeper in excess of his purchases for the year.

Against these increases, the following decreases occurred: Commonwealth grant towards expenses of the Administration, £8,000; and export duties, £2,825, due principally to a fall in the price of copra.

The balance of the trust fund (including loan and grant funds) amounted to £74,595.

Receipts under the head of Native Taxation Account amounted to £16,224. The expenditure under the head of Native Education Account is mainly devoted to missions, for schools and industrial training, and to the cost of instructional staff on native plantations. Portion of the Native Taxation Account is used to provide medical and hospital services for natives, in addition to the payment of family benefits.

The Auditor-General points out that provision is made in the Estimates for a transfer of £8,730 from the Insurance Fund Account to revenue for general expenditure purposes, and it appears probable to be a sound way of disposing of the surplus, which has accumulated in the account over many years.

The net profit from Government plantations for the year amounted to £99,124.60, a reduction of £1,520 compared with 1929-30, due almost entirely to the fall in price of copra and rubber. From the inception of this business, the total profits have been £28,611.

Reported missing. The big bridge over the Singatoka River was washed away. A new lighthouse, in course of erection at Turtle Rock, Nadi, was completely destroyed, while the Nakorokoro and Viti Islands lights were damaged.

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them as with the Indian population.

It has been estimated that the damage to Government buildings in Lautoka is in the vicinity of £3,500. So far, estimates of damage to other property have not been received. One report states that losses in the Singatoka district amount to £30,000.

The Governor of Fiji, in a telegram to the Secretary of the Colonies, in London, on March 5, stated that he had just returned from a tour along the north coast of Viti Levu and had ascertained that the deaths numbered 136, including four believed to be Australians. The damage to Government property was considerable, and roads and bridges had suffered. In four districts water supplies had been interrupted. Great damage had been done to private property and to Fijian and Indian crops, and many Fijian and Indian houses had been completely destroyed. Relief supplies had been made available at all centres. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company had suffered considerable loss.

On his retirement from that position, had practised in Perth as a surveyor. He was recently appointed by the Federal Government to proceed to New Guinea to inquire into and report upon the gold-mining conditions there, and he arrived at Salomona on February 6. A few days after arrival he contracted pleurisy, and at Wau pneumonia supervened, and death resulted.

It is not yet known what steps will be taken to carry on the work for which the late Mr. King was appointed. The matter is at present under consideration.

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The first news to come through from Ba was brought to Lautoka by a Fijian runner, who swam the flooded Ba River. He reported that the District Commissioner's house was blown away, together with its contents, the piano being later retrieved from a catfish.

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Islands Accounts

Auditor-General's Comments

Difficult Time That Calls for "Sound Economy"

From Our Canberra Correspondent.

CANBERRA, March 10.

IN HIS annual review of the finances of the Commonwealth, the Auditor-General, Mr. C. J. Crux, makes a detailed examination of the financial condition of Papua, and the mandated territories of New Guinea and Nauru.

PAPUA.

As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of £4,118 in the Papua revenue for the year ended June 30, 1930, and a decrease of £1,975 in expenditure.

The increase in revenue was due chiefly to the following: Import duties on ordinary importable goods, £2,025; mining receipts, £1,178; repayment of the Government plantations loan, £1,500; and sale of stores, £2,300.

The last-mentioned figure represents the value of stores issued by the Government Storekeeper in excess of his purchases for the year.

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SIR HUBERT MURRAY

Conference at Canberra

From Our Canberra Correspondent.

CANBERRA, March 12.

SIR HUBERT MURRAY, Lieutenant-Governor of Papua, accompanied by his official secretary, Mr. Leonard Murray, arrived in Canberra on March 2 for the purpose of completing his annual report and conferring with the Prime Minister and departmental officers on Island affairs.

He was the guest of the Governor-General, Sir Isaac Isaacs, and Lady Isaacs at dinner at Yarralumla, and visited the House of Representatives during the debate on the re-confidence motion moved by Mr. Latham.

Sir Hubert went to Melbourne on March 7 to meet Lady Murray, who has just returned from an extended visit to England, and they returned to Canberra on March 11.

APIA CARGO REFUSED

By Swedish Motorship

EFFECT OF UNION BAN

THE Swedish motorship Parakoola, which arrived at Auckland from Los Angeles last week, reported having refused an offer of freight at Apia, Samoa, including a large quantity of fruit, on account of the embargo of the New Zealand Seamen's and Waterside Workers' Union.

The union refused to handle intercolonial cargo carried by foreign vessels.

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TAURI GOLD

Many Prospectors Attracted

GOOD REPORTS FROM FIELD

From Our Papua Correspondent.

PORT MORESBY, Feb. 16.

All eyes and all hopes seem to rest on the success of the Tauri and Tivert gold finds and the plucky prospectors who have recently gone there so confident of success.

REPORTS are constantly arriving, in character, are, on the whole, distinctly optimistic.

Messrs. V. Hides and D. M. Johnston, two of the earliest ventures, report payable alluvial gold on Hides Creek in the Tauri district, and have applied for claims, and since their return, exceedingly good reports—rumours—have been received of yet better yields.

Six parties have already gone out. Another, known as "Maharaja Gold Syndicate"—to whom the Government has granted a subsidy, under certain conditions—has made all arrangements and is also leaving.

It is by no means an easy task for these ardent prospectors, for the present landing to the inland is 90 miles up the Lakekamu River, and from there a herculean trudge of five days through jungle and mountainous country, inhabited by the wily Kuku Kuku tribe, who unexpectedly harass the carriers and parties with a shower of arrows from all quarters—hardly a happy outlook for the average prospector, unless the results prove worth while.

Mr. R. A. Goodyear, a leader of one of the parties, writes most eloquently on the hardships and the tremendous expenses entailed for the prospecting parties, and suggests and hopes it would be possible to find a track via the Tauri River, which would reduce the present five days' journey from the river-head to three days.

He writes:

"Those who know anything of Papua need hardly be told that much money can be wasted about the beach at Kuku near the mouth of Lakekamu; or in going up river, or in wandering blindly in an uncharted and circuitous route in to this field. Every arrow carried is a blow to the pocket of the prospector, and in this field in this distant business means an additional cost to be met as actual prospecting in the likely locality."

He also makes suggestions which would prevent the delays and hardships which the miners had to suffer in the early days of the Bulolo rush.

GOVERNMENT AWAITS DEFINITE INFORMATION

The Government advises that it has been decided not to send a Warden to the field until some more definite information is received as to the findings of payable gold.

However, Patrol Officer C. S. Speedie will be sent in to the camp at the field, relieving Patrol Officer H. Hiden. He will be accompanied by a medical assistant, probably Mr. H. O. C. Littlechild.

MEASURE TO RESTRICT PROSPECTORS

In the Executive Council on January 29, an order-in-Council was passed providing that any person desirous of entering the Territory for the purpose of prospecting for gold must satisfy the Collector of Customs that he has in his possession an amount of £200 in cash or approved credit before being allowed to proceed to the goldfield.

The Commonwealth Government has been advised of this measure and it no doubt will prevent a rush like the old Lakekamu one, when prospectors poured into the Territory, unacquainted with the conditions of the country, and without money or means, with the result that many fell by the roadside.

The Government has also restricted anyone entering the Territory seeking employment, unless they can give approved security to the Collector of Customs for a sum of £50.

COOK IS. COUNCIL

New Traffic Ordinance Introduced

From Our Cook Island Correspondent.

RAROTONGA, March 2.

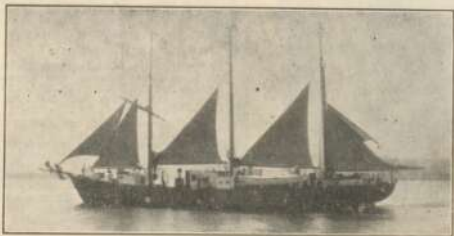
A NEW ordinance to regulate the motor traffic in Rarotonga was passed by the Island Council on February 20.

Laws in force in this direction were pretty old and had been made in patchwork fashion by different amendments to an old general traffic ordinance, and it was decided that, with the rapidly increasing number of motor vehicles, up-to-date laws for motor traffic should be made.

The only alteration in law is that all motor trucks are charged £1 more than at present for their annual licences. All drivers have now to be licensed.

The Island Council also considered and approved of the bringing in from April 1, 1931, of Stamp Duties Regulations.

JOHN WILLIAMS V.



The new U.S.S. Auxiliary Schooner, John Williams V., setting out from Suva on her first missionary cruise in the South Sea. Captain Hope Evans is in command. There are two other European officers and a crew of 25 Gilbert Islanders.

MR. H. S. KING

Death in New Guinea

CANBERRA, March 12.

THE news of the death of Mr. Henry S. King, at the Wau, on the Morobe goldfields, on February 21, was received here with feelings of deep regret.

Mr. King was formerly Under-Secretary for Mines in West Australia, and

on his retirement from that position, had practised in Perth as a surveyor. He was recently appointed by the Federal Government to proceed to New Guinea to inquire into and report upon the gold-mining conditions there, and he arrived at Salomona on February 6.

HANDLEY & LAWS
Plantation and Mining Agents
Manufacturers' Representatives
Company Local Agents and
Public Officers
RABAU - NEW GUINEA

KILLS Flies Fleas
mosquitoes
and all
insects
**STONE
DEAD**

MORTIN

NON POISONOUS
WILL NOT STAIN
MADE IN
AUSTRALIA

NOW DOUBLE STRENGTH
BETTER THAN EVER

Natural Steel Grey FERRODOR PAINT

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Is the Ideal Paint for Steel Structures of
all Descriptions, and for Galvanised Iron
Roofs, etc.

IT IS ELASTIC—so that expansion and contraction of metals caused by atmospheric changes, leave it quite unaffected.
IT IS ANTI-CORROSION—being physically incapable of absorbing more oxygen from the atmosphere.
IT IS NON-POISONOUS—making it safe in handling and for use on roofs where water is used for domestic purposes.
Used extensively by N.S.W. Government Railways and Public Works Dept. Hawkesbury and Nepean Railway Bridges now painted with Ferrodor.

**WILLIAM ADAMS & COMPANY
LIMITED**
Other colours obtainable 175 CLARENCE ST., SYDNEY Suitable for Iron and Wood

Look at Your Hat!

Everyone Else Does, But —
BE SURE IT IS A—D. & H.

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They're made to suit the most Delicate and Fastidious Tastes. In all the Latest Designs and Colours.



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PROSPECTING FOR OIL

Expenditure in Papua and New Guinea

From Our Canberra Correspondent.

CANBERRA, March 11.

THE following statement referring to prospecting for petroleum appears in the annual report of the Commonwealth Auditor-General, Mr. Currey: In addition to the amount of £100,000 previously appropriated under the Petroleum Prospecting Act 1929-30, a further sum of £10,000 was appropriated under act No. 8 of 1928 and transferred to Trust Fund—Petroleum Prospecting.

Of the total sum of £78,000 thus provided, the amount expended for the purposes of the Trust Account up to June 30, 1930, was £175,428 of which £29,194 was disbursed during 1929-30 in the following manner:

Operations of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, under agreement with the Commonwealth—	
Boring for petroleum at Puna, Papua	£8,428
Geological Survey of Papua and New Guinea	16,500
As mentioned in these columns in previous issues, keen competition between stores here has resulted in appreciable reductions in prices. In fact, goods have not been so cheap for several years past.	£24,928
Advanced to companies engaged in boring for petroleum—	500
Administration expenses—	5,260
Total	£29,194

Consequent on the cessation of the activities of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in respect of oil boring and geological surveys, a considerable quantity of stores and equipment has been handed over to the Commonwealth, but as the material is generally suitable only for the purposes for which it was purchased, efforts in the direction of its disposal have been unsuccessful so far.

NEW GUINEA NEWS

Benefits From High Exchange Rate — White Man Attacked by Native — Tunnel Hill Improved — New Golf Course Opened

From Our Own Correspondent.

RABAU, February 10.

THE truth of the saying that it's an ill-wind that blows no one any good is graphically illustrated in the case of the present abnormal rise in the rate of exchange, which, at the time of writing, is in the neighbourhood of £30 per cent.

Planters and traders are greatly benefitting by this rate, as the firms buying copra here are passing a great proportion of the exchange to the producer, with the result that the planter is getting to-day some £3 per ton more for his copra than he would have done had exchange remained normal.

This benefit could not have come at a more opportune time, for the planter has been struggling against adverse conditions for very many months past, and some could not have carried on much longer.

As mentioned in these columns in previous issues, keen competition between stores here has resulted in appreciable reductions in prices. In fact, goods have not been so cheap for several years past.

These two factors are assisting to put the planter on a fairly solid footing and will give many an opportunity to strengthen their positions. The big firms here are to be commended for their action in maintaining low prices.

A more hopeful atmosphere now exists about Rabaul, and even the most pessimistic of our planters find it difficult to maintain their usual hopeless attitude.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

A few days ago Mr. D. M. Forsyth had an exciting and most unpleasant experience. A native employed at a neighbouring house was accusing Mr. Forsyth's native servants of stealing his rice. As he chose two o'clock in the morning to stir his privations, and as they could be heard at least a quarter-of-a-mile away, Mr. Forsyth went out to clear the boy off his property.

The native followed Mr. Forsyth to the house and rushed on to the verandah shouting that he would kill the white master. Mr. Forsyth, closed with the boy, and with the help of Mr. Forsyth, who very promptly assisted, succeeded in overpowering him.

As it was an intensely dark night, it can be imagined what a terrifying experience this was, for it is apparent that the native had temporarily lost his reason.

Considerable damage was done in the scuffle, chairs and tables being overturned, glasses, ornaments and pictures being smashed. There is no doubt that both Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth had a very narrow escape, and yet, in the first instance, the police would only lay a charge of common assault, the maximum penalty for which is a fine of £2 or one month's imprisonment. The charge now has been amended, and it is probable that the offender will be eventually brought before the Central Court.

ADMINISTRATION'S GOOD WORK.

The Tunnel Hill, familiar to all visitors to Rabaul and over which one has to pass to reach the North Coast Road has been greatly improved lately. The tunnel itself had been considerably shortened, whilst the many dangerous turns on the ocean side have been straightened out and the road greatly widened.

The Administration have made a remarkably good job of the improvements, which were urgently needed in view of the danger the hill presented to motorists.

Several accidents have occurred on the hill, one of which was fatal, when Mr. Hiley, manager of the Bank of New South Wales, was killed some three years ago. The road along the north coast to Kabaira Bay is in very good order and is one of the finest 30-mile runs one could wish for.

Mr. Tom Garrett, of Vauxin Plantation, Kokopo, had a narrow escape recently, when his car overturned on the Kokopo Road and it is understood, somewhat less than three times into a gully. The fact that Mr. Garrett was driving a closed car is probably the reason why no serious harm came to the occupants.

GOLF POPULAR.

On Sunday, January 11th, the new golfcourse at Lalkanal was formally opened by His Honour the Administrator. Despite heavy rain some 60 to 70 people attended the function.

The course is laid out around the Lalkanal racecourse, and it is largely due to the energy and enthusiasm of Mr. E. Banks that such excellent results have been obtained. As the ground is covered with kumara and growing and very coarse grass — it has been difficult to make good fairways. But, even with this drawback, one can be sure of a sporting game, whilst the careless player is severely penalised if he drives into the rough, which, in this case, is very rough indeed.

Since the official opening, many new members have been secured, and it is

hoped that, in the near future, there will be sufficient funds available for the club to erect their own premises. At the present time the race club buildings are being used.

Appropriately enough, the competition for the longest drive was won by Mr. P. Cooke, the president of the club and general manager for Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd. in this Territory. The approach shot competition was won by Mr. Brownlie and the one-hole competition by Mr. Roberts, both members of Burns, Philp's staff. Mrs. Wisdom won the ladies' putting competition.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL.

The Rabaul Amateur Swimming and Surf Club held a carnival at Ruvuvu, near Rabaul, on January 24. Torrential downpours of rain in the morning threatened to mar the proceedings, but fortunately the weather cleared by one o'clock.

His Honour the Administrator and Mrs. Wisdom attended and presented the "Administrator's Cup" to the winning team in the relay race.

It proved a most successful day for Frank Vennings, of B.P.'s, who registered the remarkably good time of 241 seconds in the 50 yards free style championship. He also won the 200 yards free style championship and the 100 yards breaststroke championship, in addition to which he led the winning B.P. team in the relay race. Vennings comes of a well-known sporting family in Brisbane, his father being the leasee of the Brisbane City Baths, and his sisters have figured prominently in swimming contests in Queensland.

The 100 yards breaststroke championship was won by A. M. Crofton, of B.P.'s, the 30 yards backstroke championship by Challa, of the Administration, and the 30 yards handicap by Crofton, also of the Administration. In the ladies' events the 30 yards championship was won by Mrs. Betts, and the handicap over the same distance, by Miss M. Havett.

END OF RACING SEASON.

Rabaul Amateur Turf Club held a meeting for the Benevolent Fund on January 26. Although cloudy and threatening weather prevailed, there was a good attendance, and those who faced the elements were rewarded with an excellent afternoon's sport.

This meeting marked the close of the season, which has been very successful. Mr. W. E. Smith heads the list of winning jockeys, in spite of the serious accident that he met with at Kokopo races, which prevented him from riding at the last three meetings. Mr. Smith recorded six wins out of nine mounts. Mr. J. Mullaly, of Natava Plantation, came second with five wins in eleven mounts.

"THE BEST PEOPLE."

The Rabaul Amateurs gave an excellent rendering of the farce, "The Best People," at the Regent Theatre, Rabaul, this week. Three performances were given, all to record houses. The play was produced by Messrs. V. A. Garton and J. E. Savage, both of whom played leading parts. Amongst the ladies, Mrs. E. Banks and Mrs. A. E. Skidmore gave outstanding performances in difficult parts. These players

MT. SISA GOLDFIELDS

Result of Ballot

THE chairman of Mount Sisa Goldfields (Papua), N.L. Mr. W. D. Johnston, has advised that at an extraordinary general meeting held on January 27, and convened by Arthur H. Hill and others, it was decided to take a poll on the following resolutions.

1. That the company by ordinary resolution might remove any director at any time and appoint one in his place.

2. That a director shall resign when so requested to do by ordinary resolution.

The poll has been taken, and the scrutineers, one of whom was Mr. Hill, have forwarded the result to the chairman. There was a majority against each resolution, of in round figures, 2,400 votes.

This, added the chairman, amounts to a vote of confidence in the directorate.

During last year, an Assistant District Officer was permanently stationed at Buka Passage, Bougainville. Arrangements can be now made for the despatch of drafts to Sydney and Rabaul from there, thus saving the trip to Koro where, previously, all business was done.

were admirably supported by the remainder of the cast.

Rabaul certainly possesses a number of first-class amateurs, and the performances that they have given during the past twelve months would be a credit to any big city. A feature of this last production is the scenery, which is exceptionally beautiful and reflects the greatest credit on Mr. James Hope, who was the scenic artist. The proceeds of the performance are to be donated to the local sporting bodies.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Mr. C. S. Fletcher, Studebaker's factory representative for the Far East, called here on S.S. Nellore, en route for Sydney, where he is to take over the duties of factory representative for Australasia. Mr. Fletcher was very interested in a Studebaker touring car owned by Mr. Tex Roberts, which has done no less than 280,000 miles over New Guinea roads, and is still in service for hire work.

Mr. Britten, a well-known official in the Rabaul District Office, was married to Miss I. Hutchinson, of Sydney, on January 16, at St. George's Church, Rabaul.

Mr. J. Twycross, the popular manager of Amalgamated Wireless Ltd. in New Guinea, has left with his family on a holiday to Australia. Mr. Twycross' position has been temporarily filled by Mr. J. Allan, the sure intermediary at the wireless station at Bita Paka.

The position of legal assistant to the Crown Law Office, which has been vacant for several months, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. G. V. M. Turner, LL.B., of the New South Wales Bar, who arrived by the Montoro on January 14.

Mr. R. A. Laws, of Messrs. Handley & Laws, general agents, Rabaul, leaving in March for a round tour of the Pacific, including San Francisco and Los Angeles. During his absence, the business of Handley & Laws will be in the care of Mr. F. Robertson, formerly manager of the merchandise department of Campbell & Co., Rabaul.

NEW GUINEA WEDDING



THE wedding of Mr. Hedley J. Owen, of Karoro Plantation, Mandated Territory of New Guinea, and Miss D. Paine, of Melbourne, was celebrated recently at the Catholic Church, Rabaul.

The reception was afterwards held at the Rabaul Hotel.

The honeymoon was spent in touring the outposts of the Territory in the Marinka.

Miss Paine is a cousin of the famous aviator, Mr. Ray Paine, who is at present engaged in flying on the New Guinea goldfields.

World-Famous MARINE ENGINES at New Low Prices



Marine Engines

are the highest grade and have by far the largest sale of any Marine engine in the world.

They are made in all sizes, from 3-4 h.p. to 225 h.p., 1 to 6 cylinders, and are suitable for every class of work or pleasure boat.

We are the Sole Distributors for Australia and the South Pacific Islands, and keep very large stocks of engines and parts in Sydney.

Owing to the general depression, and with a desire to reduce our stocks, we are offering these engines at prices hitherto unheard of for this class of goods.

The following are the most popular sizes:

H.P.	Cyl.	Sydney Prices	Island Prices ex Bond
3-4	1	£68	£39
6-8	2	£157	£85
8-10	2	£167	£92
20-25	4	£264	£141
15-40	4	£380	£203

All the above, excepting the 3-4 h.p., include built-in reversing gear.

All engines are fitted with BOSCH high-tension Magneto and Impulse Starters.

All prices include packing and delivery on Board Steamer Sydney. In bond.

MIETZ Crude Oil Marine Engine

Hundreds of these engines are used by the U.S. Government for Lightship Service, where absolute reliability is required. There is nothing better made in this type of engine. They have been in the market for over 30 years and have received dozens of medals and awards for their excellence.

AN ASTONISHING OFFER.

Particulars are as follows:
10 H.P., 2 cylinder, heavy duty. Bore 1 1/2 in., stroke 6 1/2 in., revs. 550. Crankshaft 1 1/2 in. Weight net 115 lbs. Fitted with reverse gear. Automatic feeder and four food lubricator. Very fine governor. 20 in. three-blade propeller. Built boat up to about 35 ft. Will run on crude oil or kerosene.

PRICE for Engine as above, with propeller and spares (F.O.B. Sydney, in Bond value) - - - - - £185

This is £100 under value.

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How Fiji Is Facing the Depression

Interview With Sir Maynard Hedstrom

FIJI, like other tropical colonies, is facing a rather lean period, but its resources are very largely undeveloped, its Government has been sound and sane, and, when the present depression is passed and producers have adjusted themselves to new conditions, there should be a return of a reasonable measure of prosperity.

THIS was the opinion expressed by Sir Maynard Hedstrom, Managing Director of Messrs. Morris, Hedstrom Ltd., and president of the Fiji Chamber of Commerce, who arrived in Sydney by the last trip of the Sierra.

He said that the year 1930 had not been a very prosperous one for Fiji, owing to the low price of the two staple products—sugar and copra—and owing also, in a lesser degree, to the diminished production of bananas caused by the heavy storm and floods at the end of 1929. In 1930 the export of sugar was 80,976 tons, as compared with 72,775 tons in 1929; the export of copra was 22,433 tons, as compared with 33,326 tons in 1929.

The revenue collected through the Customs House for 1930 was £230,096 as compared with £269,532 in 1929. Sir Maynard said that it was not expected that this year would show any improvement over 1930—the revenue to be collected through this source was estimated at £238,130. The total revenue for the Colony was estimated at £262,688 and the expenditure at £222,541. This showed an estimated deficit of £16,852 to be met from surplus funds.

To bridge the gap between revenue and expenditure, additional Customs duties had been imposed.

He stated that unless prices for tropical products improved, Government finance would offer difficult problems during the next two or three years. For 1931, the estimated Government expenditure was equal to more than 50 per cent. of the total estimated value of exports. Primary producers were passing through a very difficult time and further taxation could not be viewed with equanimity at the same time reduction of public services would be difficult to arrange.

Sir Maynard explained that the sugar industry was still the mainstay of the Colony. Its continued production, however, was only rendered possible by the measure of preference extended to Empire sugar by Great Britain and Canada. There still remained the anomalous position that, while Fiji sugar was shipped to those two countries the requirements of New Zealand were imported from Cuba.

For some years Fiji had granted preference to Empire goods—this preference being approximately 15 per cent. on the invoice value of the goods. The most noticeable effect of this preference, he said, had been to transfer a certain amount of trade from the United States to Canada; it also had some effect in encouraging the importation of goods from Great Britain rather than from the Continent.

EXTENSION OF ROADS

He considered that road development in Fiji had been very slow, but considerable progress was anticipated during the next three years. It was intended to raise a loan for the completion of the trans-island road connecting Suva with Lautoka. A further section of road was to be constructed on the south-western side of Viti Levu and a large bridge was to be erected over the Rewa River. The Empire Development Board had agreed to assist in these under-

Adventurous Crossing

From T.I. to Port Moresby

Capt. Liston-Blyth Safe

From Our Paper Correspondent.

PT. MORESBY, Feb. 10.

CAPTAIN LISTON-BLYTH, manager of transport for the new company, which is developing sapo and nipa in the west of Papua, has had adventures lately worthy of de Rousmeau.

He was reported to have left Thursday Island in a small launch on January 20 for Daru, Papua, with a crew of two natives.

Later, the crew of the David Pitt reported that they had seen Captain Blyth's launch thickly miles from Thursday Island on January 21, travelling between the islands of Nagi and Msa. in difficulties and broken down. Previously, the Aramia had made a trip to Thursday Island and back to Daru



SIR MAYNARD HEDSTROM

takings by granting the colony a sum estimated to be sufficient to pay interest on the loan for three years.

THE PINEAPPLE INDUSTRY

It was generally agreed, said Sir Maynard, that the most hopeful prospect for the near future was the development of the pineapple canning industry. Two small factories were now operating and turning out a very high grade of fruit. The Hawaiian Pineapple Co. Ltd., of Honolulu, had an option over two blocks of land aggregating about 65,000 acres. They were now carrying out experimental operations.

Colonists were hopeful that this industry, which has been so prosperous in Hawaii, may be established in Fiji, where conditions for the cultivation and canning of pineapples are at least as favourable as in Hawaii.

Fiji Trade Relations

As a matter of interest, he mentioned that the Government had recently appointed a committee to consider the possibility of improving trade relations with other portions of the British Empire.

This committee found that, according to the trade returns for 1929—the latest year for which the figures were available—imports from foreign countries amounted to 121 per cent. of the whole, and exports to foreign countries amounted to about 71 per cent. of the whole. Included in the imports from foreign countries were petroleum products, which could not, under present conditions, be bought within the Empire. After deducting the value of these, the imports of ordinary trade goods from foreign countries amounted to 9 per cent. of the total.

The committee expressed the opinion that this position was satisfactory from an Empire trading point of view and that it would be inadvisable to take any further action.

without sighting or hearing of the missing launch. The Aramia supposed that she had put back to Thursday Island, but on the Aramia's arrival there, it was found not to be the case, and that nothing had been heard of her. No trace of the launch was discovered on the Aramia's return trip to Daru.

Thursday Island was advised at once, and the David Pitt from Daru left immediately in search.

Later, the Papuan Government received advice that on January 24, the missing launch had sheltered at Nagi, when the chain parted, and one of the crew had swum ashore and returned by a passing lugger to Thursday Island on January 30, reporting the launch being in a disabled condition and drifting in a south-easterly direction.

Up to February 5 no news of her whatever had come in and grave fears were entertained for Captain Blyth and his crew of one, owing to the bad weather prevailing, which prevented any further search parties going out. The ketch Melibedy had already returned to Thursday Island reporting no trace of the launch.

PORT MORESBY REACHED

To the amazement of the people in Port Moresby, on the evening of February 6, there appeared inside the reef a disabled launch under jury-rig, signalling for help. Captain Blyth and his missing crew had arrived!

They had had a miraculous escape. Wild days had been experienced, during which the launch had been at the mercy of the stormy waves.

Captain Blyth is to be congratulated on his feat of bringing the craft safely to Port Moresby. The native crew, it is reported, became quite out of hand and untractable.

Beche-de-Mer Fishing

The Industry at Torres Straits

From Our Thursday Island Correspondent

THURSDAY IS, March 5.

THE two minor marine products that contribute to Thursday Island's wealth—beche-de-mer and trochus shell—are likely to supersede pearling as the main source of industry until the market for M.O.P. looks up, and it is satisfying to know that work in these departments will go on in spite of the slump.

Lungers engaged in this class of work are fitted up to prepare either kind of product, both requiring boiling, and beche-de-mer curing by smoke in addition.

The whole length of the Barrier, from its lonely northern tip at Bramble Cay down to the southern extremity, which is below the tropic of Capricorn, is ransacked every year by the indefatigable Japs, in charge of the fleet. Besides the main reef there are countless smaller ones, including the famous Warrior Reef, which has yielded so much treasure to the total export and also many parts of the mainland beaches give a fertile yield.

The demand for beche-de-mer is always steady, but the price fluctuates in sympathy with the exchange between China and Australia. The recent drop in the Hongkong dollar naturally resulted in a fall in price, but a slight recovery in the former is recorded, and the dollar is now stationary at 21 to the pound sterling.

Some changes in the organisation of the fishing industry are recorded this year. Only three Japanese are allowed on each lugger, and, as these will be fully occupied with the hauling and navigating, more responsibility will be thrown on the native divers, who are notoriously lazy, unless watched.

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