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THE Pacific Islands Monthly

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

Vol. 1—No. 9

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FRUIT FOR N.Z.

New Duty on Bananas Proposed
PROBLEM FOR FIJI AND TONGA

AN item of considerable importance to planters in Fiji and Tonga is contained in the monthly notes issued by the Cook Islands Administration to growers, in March, 1931. It appears that the Cook Islands authorities have been making representations to the New Zealand Government on the question of giving protection to Cook Islands produce in the New Zealand market. The Cook Islands, as is generally known, is a dependency of New Zealand.

Apparently, the New Zealand Government is giving the matter attention. There has lately been a businesslike interchange of radiograms and letters between Rarotonga and Wellington.

It is officially stated that the proposals are:

That a duty of 3d. per lb. be imposed on foreign bananas.

A duty of 1d. per lb. on bananas from outside of New Zealand Territory.

Similar duties on citrus fruits from April to October.

It is not quite clear from this whether Samoa is to get the same treatment as the Cook Islands. But it certainly means that Fiji and Tonga, who send a good deal of fruit to New Zealand, will be placed under some disadvantage.

It really does appear as if the time has come when Fiji and Tonga should examine their position and see whether it is not possible to make representations to both the Australian and New Zealand Governments in a manner that will be noticed. Each Dominion is inclined to impose heavy tariffs against Fiji and Tongan fruit, with bad results to the primary industries of those island territories, and it is time that the other side of the picture was presented. Each Dominion is eager to obtain more overseas trade. The very considerable value of Fiji's import trade might be emphasised, for instance, and it might be shown that the effect of shutting out Fiji fruit is to also shut out trade with Fiji worth hundreds of thousands of pounds per annum.

PAPUA'S EXPORTS

From Our Own Correspondent.

PT. MORESBY, April 3.
Some of our products are now moving out rapidly, under the stimulus of the exchange position. Shipments in March, compared with March of the previous year, are:

	Mar. 1930	Mar. 1931.
Dess. coconut	54,542	57,704
Copra	14,573	6,932
Rubber	10,736	13,344
Sandalwood	222	244
Beche de Mer	60	102
Total, all products	£30,901	£27,600

BIG MOSQUITO TO EAT LITTLE ONES

Interesting Experiment in Fiji

From Our Own Correspondent.

SUVA, April 2.
A recent importation from Java is a colony of a variety of large mosquito, which has been found to prey upon the smaller mosquito which attacks humans. It is itself a non-blood eating insect.

This new mosquito was introduced by Mr. Payne, second entomologist of the Coconut Committee, who recently returned to Suva, after spending two years in research work in Java.

It will be a big step forward in the control of tropical diseases if this parasite proves to be a useful weapon against the Colony of the insects which introduce so much discomfort and danger to life in the tropics.

DEATH OF T.L. LEADER



Mr. T. J. Faragher, one of the best known men of Thursday Island, and prominent in the post trade, died suddenly on March 21. An account of his interesting career and sterling character will be published in next issue.

DESICCATED COCONUT

Embargo on Foreign Imports

HELPING ISLANDS TRADE

From Our Canberra Correspondent.

CANNBERRA, April 12.

THE prohibition of the importation of desiccated coconut into the Commonwealth, except from its island territories, is a matter of very great importance, as the trade is worth about £150,000 a year.

Commonwealth requirements amount to something between 2,000 and 2,500 tons annually—mostly for the confectionery trade. In the year 1928-29, the importations totalled 2,484 tons, valued at £111,330. Of this amount, 362 tons were supplied by Papua and 53 tons by the New Guinea territory, the balance being imported from countries which are now debarred from exporting to Australia.

There was a duty of 3d. per pound, but an exemption was granted in the case of Ceylon, that country being allowed to send us up to 25 per cent. of our requirements. But, as from March 3, Ceylon, along with other countries, has been made subject to the embargo, as the Federal Government is now convinced that the Islands are capable of providing all Australia's requirements.

In 1925, four Chinese were brought to Port Moresby to advise in regard to the preparation of the desiccated nut, a special plant for the purpose having been established at Galleway Reach in the Central Division, some 40 miles from Port Moresby. It was reported in The Pacific Islands Monthly of September last that desiccated coconut plants were then operating in Lindenbafen, Pondo and Pichhafen, in New Guinea; and at Olligili and Ahiloma, in Milne Bay, Papua.

FIJIAN RICE

Industry Makes Little Progress

From Our Suva Correspondent.

SOME years ago the Government bought a rice mill, in order to encourage the Indian farmer to grow that crop. The enterprise promised success for a time but gradually the industry drifted into the hands of Indians, who run small rice mills throughout the country. For a year or two the Government mill has been able only to work for a few months yearly.

Now it is reported that the Government has decided to sell the mill. Whether this will mean that the present duty upon imported rice will be removed, depends probably upon the agreement the Government makes with the purchasers of the property.

New Fokker Crashés

Mishap at Salamoa

Pacific Aerial Co.'s Loss

From Our Papeete Correspondent.

PORT MORESBY, April 8.

THE new Fokker monoplane, which arrived from Holland recently for the Pacific Aerial Transport Co., crashed at Salamoa, New Guinea, on March 18, and is reported to be a total wreck.

The plane was being piloted by Mr. Ray Parker, one of the pioneers of flying on the goldfields, and was carrying passengers and cargo between Salamoa and Wau. Fortunately, the occupants escaped with only slight injuries.

The Fokker was originally brought from Batavia to Port Moresby by the Le Maire, and was assembled here a short while ago by Mr. Parker.

The crash will prove a severe setback to the Pacific Aerial Transport Co. This organisation had been using a Junker plane until the arrival of the Fokker. The company is a local one and was only formed a few months ago.

Norfolk Island Bananas

Sales Tax Still Operating

From Our Own Correspondent.

CANNBERRA, April 13.

THE Federal Government, whilst recognising the injustice of levying sales tax on bananas entering Australia from Norfolk Island, has not yet taken steps to remove the tax. The islanders are being penalised simply because they are not an "integral part of the Commonwealth," as the Commissioner of Taxation explains.

The matter, however, has been noted for consideration when any amendment of the Sales Tax Acts takes place. But no amending Bill has been yet prepared either in regard to this or a number of other anomalies. The Norfolk Islanders may console themselves with the thought that they are suffering in only a small degree what the whole of Australia is suffering acutely.

HUGE FLOOD OF WHALE OIL

Now Definitely a Competitor of Most Oil Seeds

Effect on Copra Market of Recent Chemical Discoveries

By R. W. Robson, Editor of The Pacific Islands Monthly

The writer made special inquiries recently in London and Europe concerning the present position and future prospects of copra. This is the second article of the series in which his conclusions are summarised. Herein, the effect on the copra market of enormously increased whale oil production, and of certain chemical discoveries, are discussed.

LONDON, January 25.

THE several factors which have contributed to the present deplorable condition of the copra market, none is of greater importance than the development of the whaling industry by the Norwegians. There has been an enormous increase in production, while at the same time the successful application of chemical science has allowed the use of whale oil to be widely extended.

Consider these figures, which show the world production of whale oil, in barrels, during the last 20 years:

1910	322,000	1919	259,000
1911	405,000	1920	1,644,273
1912	464,000	1921	1,881,877

The year-to-year figures show that up to the outbreak of war production was increasing rapidly. During the war, the industry languished. But as shipping became plentiful again whaling was revived in the post-war years, and from 1922 onwards, production increased by leaps and bounds, until in 1929 and 1930 it began to profoundly affect the world demand for vegetable and animal oils and fats.

The exact figures for 1930 are not quite ready; but I understand the total production is not very far short of 2,000,000 barrels. This huge oversupply is likely to continue for the moment. A few days ago, one of the best-informed oil brokers in London told me that he calculated that the whale oil that would come into the market in 1931 would considerably exceed the 1930 total. The whalers are

at this moment very busy in the Antarctic, and only this week (on January 20) the following was published in The London Evening Standard:

"Wireless reports from the Antarctic announce that a catch of whales, producing over 163,000 barrels of oil, valued at over 5875,000, has been made by the Anglo-Norwegian Hvalfangst fleet for the first 14 weeks of the 1930-31 season, ended January 18."

This calculation of the value of the catch is evidently based on an estimated price of £35 per ton, which is ridiculously optimistic. But the report shows, clearly enough, that the flood of Antarctic whale oil is to continue for the present.

FALL IN MARKET VALUE

Therefore, the position is that just at a time when the world is economically sick, and its power to absorb foodstuffs and raw materials has correspondingly declined, the output of whale oil has quadrupled. In the circumstances the law of supply and demand may be expected to operate, so that the inevitable fall in prices will check excessive over-production. In spite of the development already referred to, namely, that chemical science has extended the usefulness of whale oil, the market value of the commodity has fallen tremendously.

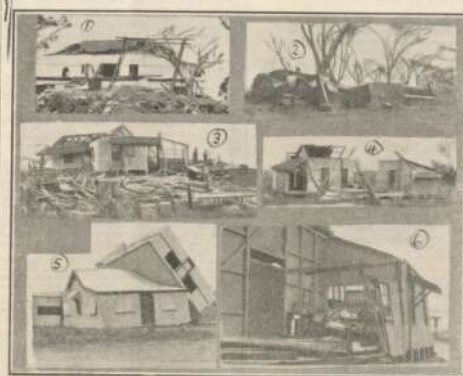
When, in 1924, the Norwegians began seriously to comb the Antarctic for whales, the European quotation for whale oil was between £30 and £35 per ton, and some fabulous profits were made. The price was held at around £30 until the end of 1926, and from then on it fell slowly. The average C.I.F. price for 0/1 quality was about £29 in 1927 and 1928; at the end of 1929 it was down to £26. During 1930, huge contracts were made on a basis of £25 per ton; and the whalers, in ever-increasing numbers, went cheerfully back to the south. In other words, it was perked only to stimulate their enterprise, what profits must they have been making at £30 and £31?

Calculations made here by oil brokers show that the net cost of oil to the average whaling company, provided they get a full catch up to the limit of their carrying capacity, is around £15 per ton.

Some two years ago, the Norwegian whaling companies formed a "conference"—or, brutally stated, a union—which might regulate the selling price of whale oil. Before the latter end of 1929, and early in 1930, this union was successful in selling a very large proportion of its catch at £25 per ton, and the Unilever combine—which is by far the biggest consumer of vegetable and animal oils in Europe—was deeply interested in this contract. But the £25 per ton rate did not hold in the free market. Before the first of 1931, whale oil of first grade was being sold to parties, not affected by the contract.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

THE RECENT HURRICANE IN FIJI



Great havoc was wrought by a hurricane which visited Western Fiji in February. The following photographs (the which are included in No. 9, A. E. Train) show a striking indication of the damage done at Laidaka. (1) The Laidaka, a small village, was almost completely destroyed. (2) The Laidaka, a small village, was almost completely destroyed. (3) The Laidaka, a small village, was almost completely destroyed. (4) The Laidaka, a small village, was almost completely destroyed. (5) The Laidaka, a small village, was almost completely destroyed. (6) The Laidaka, a small village, was almost completely destroyed.



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HUGE FLOOD OF WHALE OIL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

prices between the combines, at as low as £15 per ton, C.I.F. I am inclined to regard the generally accepted report that Unilever was caught with the £25 per ton contract for whale oil as a factor of great importance in the copra situation. Unilever, presumably, would buy whale oil at £15 in the free market, in order to get down its average expenditure on whale oil. But whether it did or did not so buy, it certainly would try to improve its average expenditure on raw materials by buying copra at the lowest possible figure. Either way, the copra producers would suffer. This awkward position in the whale oil market must have had a bad reaction upon the copra market in the latter part of 1930.

WHAT WILL WHALERS DO?

It is understood that the big contracts based on £25 per ton are ended, or about to end, and that the whaling companies are now faced with a price (£15 per ton) that is barely profitable. A definitely falling market, an enormous and increasing over-production. With the £25 rate finished with, and soap and margarine manufacturers no longer under the necessity of hammering down the price of oil-seeds in order to keep down their average costs, the copra market may get some relief and report some improvement. But whale oil developments must be carefully watched and studied.

Only yesterday, there came to hand from Norway a report about the efforts the whaling companies are making to stabilise their market. They are, at this moment, holding a series of meetings, and they are trying to get co-operative action to accomplish the following:

Keep whale oil production in closer relation to demand.
Arrange "close seasons" in the different whaling areas in turn, so as to prevent the herds falling below a point at which fishing might become unprofitable.

Arrange a scientific investigation of the value of the catches, so that whale products may be put to use other than the present—which are oil for margarine, soap, candles and cosmetics, meat for human consumption, cattle-feed, fertilisers.

In view of the very serious position of the whale oil industry, co-operative action along these lines may be expected.

CHARACTER OF OILS CHANGED.

Until a few years ago whale oil competition need not have kept the coconut planter awake at nights. In the fields where coconut and whale oil were competitive, whale oil was used only for coarser work. In comparison with coconut oil it had definitely an animal flavour, and qualities which placed it at a severe disadvantage. Coconut oil is naturally a hard oil, with a high melting point, which makes it an admirable material for many manufactured commodities. Whale oil, ground nut oil, and other oils which are now being over-produced are soft oils, and were comparatively useless for many manufacturing purposes. But all that is now changed.

Mr. W. J. Gilbert, present president of the London Copra-buyers' Association, thus summed up for me: "Whale oil can now be deodorised and neutralised. A great blow to copra came when they discovered the hardening process for soft oils. Up till then copra had the great advantage that

its melting point was so much higher than that of most other oils. In hot weather, commodities with a base of coconut oil remained where they were. But when they discovered the hardening process for soft oils, they were able to use many soft oils, where before they had little choice beyond coconut oil. This applies particularly to whale oil—these new discoveries have allowed whale oil to come into several processes and manufactures, out of which previously it was barred because of its softness and its strong flavour."

NEW MARKET CONDITIONS.

The natural qualities of coconut oil give it, for various important manufacturing processes, advantages over all other oils; and it is still definitely preferred by manufacturers. But it is no use blinking facts. And one outstanding fact is that manufacturers, by these new processes, call for whale oil and the soft vegetable oils as definite alternatives to coconut oil, and will so use them if thereby they can reduce production costs without impairing the quality of their output.

Otherwise stated, this means that coconut oil will be used generally only when its price puts it on an equality with whale oil and the soft vegetable over-produced oils from soya beans and ground nuts.

To get a hardened, refined oil from whale oil, one must add about £5 per ton to the whale oil price. To obtain a refined, deodorised coconut oil, about £15 has to be added to the copra price. It is not to be supposed that manufacturers will chop and change about from one class of oil to another, according to market fluctuations. Adjustments are far too carefully made, and processes far too delicately adjusted, to permit of quick alterations in the character of the material used. But if a factory moves reluctantly from coconut oil to animalised ground nut oil or to deodorised and neutralised and hardened whale oil, it is going to move back to coconut oil with equal swiftness.

Even though the price of coconut oil has come down to its competitors' levels. Over-production of all oils, at the moment, is enormous, and the market is correspondingly depressed. The world's economy is expressed mostly in its inability to buy—will pass consumption of these commodities will definitely increase, and prices will tend to improve. But copra will not go along happily in the future as it did in the past, practically making its own independent price. The value of copra, in the future, will have an exact relation to the production and market price of other oil-bearing commodities. So long as the world is receiving these floods of soya beans from Manchuria, peanuts from India and whale oil from the Antarctic, the buyer will remain on top of the market, and will nearly make his own price.

The question of whether copra can be profitably produced in competition with these other oil-bearing commodities; the extent to which re-capitalisation of coconut plantations is necessary; and the exact bearing of Trilever domination upon these considerations, will be discussed in the third article of this series, to be published next month.

SOUND TRADING

Burns, Philp (S.S.) Company
Makes Healthy Profit

IN view of the acute depression which existed in 1929, Shareholders in Messrs. Burns Philp (South Seas) Co. Ltd. were more than delighted in March, when they received the balance sheet for the year ended December 31, to discover that the company had made a net profit of £63,699.

This compared favourably with £42,108 made in 1929, and £55,546 in 1930. It meant that the company comfortably maintained its ordinary dividend of 5% per cent, and was able to carry £3,000 to its reserve, bringing the reserve fund total to the healthy figure of £48,800.

The report states that the value of all islands produce remained extremely low during 1930, and merchandise sales and shipping revenues declined owing to the curtailment of spending power in the Islands. The following shows the balance sheet figures:

	Year ended December 31	1929	1930	1930
Gross profit	£63,699	£42,108	£55,546	£63,699
Net profit	£63,699	£42,108	£55,546	£63,699
Dividend, 5%	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
Amount of div.	58,250	58,250	58,250	58,250
To reserve	19,000	19,000	5,000	5,000
Carried forward	8,453	2,771	1,410	1,410
LIABILITIES				
Capital	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserve fund	40,000	30,000	80,000	80,000
Creditors	87,244	80,001	87,104	87,104
ASSETS				
Cash	41,615	40,048	47,005	47,005
Properties and shipping	322,055	425,899	430,107	430,107
Produce in transit	220,034	217,512	240,050	240,050
Merchandise	139,016	139,016	139,016	139,016
Debtors	126,341	126,341	126,341	126,341

* Included in "produce in transit."

This is really a most creditable performance, and the directors of the company are to be heartily congratulated upon their excellent success. Trade in the Pacific Islands during 1930 was depressed to a far greater extent than indicated by the balance sheet figures. The directors' annual report, and if the disclosed profits had been half of that of 1929, it would have been no real complaint. It is evident that the directors had long vision, and made preparation for this slump a long time ago. The directors are Messrs. James Burns, Lewis Armstrong, Lord, Indict, Thordson, C. Amphen, Robert J. Macvicar and Joseph McHugh.

CHILIAN REBELS

Interesting Party in Tahiti

ESCAPE FROM EASTER IS.

From Our Own Correspondent.

TAHITI, March 26.

WE have had an interesting glimpse of some of the principals in a South American revolution that missed fire.

The schooner Valencia, recently launched from Steve Higgin's shipyard, returned on February 28 from her maiden voyage.

About the middle of January she departed on a mysterious charter to Easter Island, a remote spot some 2,000 miles to the eastward, with which Tahiti has had little communication since the Brander House flag disappeared from the Pacific, owing to the opening of the Panama Canal and political changes. It was given out on the beach that the Valencia was to pick up a French cinema company and bring them to Tahiti, en route to France.

Latterly, however, one knows not how generated, rumours spread around that there was more behind this voyage than had been made generally known. Consequently a large crowd assembled on the wharf and on the verandahs of the Bougainville Club when the Valencia berthed.

Closely escorted by local gendarmes, and in company with a Spanish interpreter, there stepped ashore four dapper gentlemen of exotic cut; and from the box of comments one at length formed the conclusion that these were no others than General Brado and his colleagues in the recent attempt to upset the Chilean Government.

The story goes that General Brado, even although a colonel of the army and a high legal luminary of Valparaiso, were escorted to Easter Island in a Chilean war vessel and placed in exile pending trial.

The war vessel having departed for the mainland, the Governor of the island apparently joined hands with the

revolutionaries and accompanied them to Tahiti.

The story, gathered in an interview with Senor Vicuna, a legal gentleman of the party, reveals a deplorable state of affairs in the Republic of Chili. Political dishonesty and corruption appear to be rampant there, and some thousands of the leading families have been oppressed and exiled, often without the formality of a trial. From his headquarters in the Argentine, General Brado and his colleagues planned a coup d'etat to upset the Government of President Benes. The movement was centred in the city of Concepcion, to which point the General and his party, crossing the Andes, journeyed by airplane. But the leaders there were not ready, and thus the scheme failed; and the party were taken prisoners. Luckily for them the troops were in sympathy with the revolutionary movement and refused to carry out the death sentence passed upon them, with the result that they were exiled to Easter Island. From there they escaped in the French schooner.

The General and his party are at present staying at the Hotel Diadem, Papeete, and it is understood they will leave for France on the next Messagerie boat.

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PAPUAN RESIDENTS' BEREAVEMENT

The death occurred on January 24 of little Richard Lewis Lett, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Lett, of Esia Beach Rd. Port Moresby. He was only 11 years of age; he died of rheumatic fever after ten days of sickness. Previously to that, he had been in excellent health. He was much loved, as a fine, manly little lad, and he was a member of the Boy Cubs and had won his first star. Richard Lett was the grandson of the late Colonel Andrew Horman, formerly Principal Medical Officer of Rabaul.

Much sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Lett in their loss.

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IN EASTERN POLYNESIA

A News Summary from Tahiti

From Our Own Correspondent.

PAPEETE, March 26.
CAPTAIN ANDY THOMSON, of the Cook Island schooner Tagua, which arrived in Tahiti for repairs towards the end of February, reports passing through a severe hurricane near the island of Akutaki on February 14. The vessel was swept by tremendous seas, one of which smashed and carried away the ship's dingy. Considerable other damage was sustained by the Tagua, and for some hours Captain Thomson, who has some twenty years' experience in these waters, despaired of winning through. A liberal use of all bags proved the salvation of the vessel and crew.

From his observations, Captain Thomson thinks that the centre of the storm passed close to the island of Manuae, which is privately owned by Mr. Bunting, a New Zealander largely interested in the Cook Island Trading Co. As all work has been closed down on this island for some months past, owing to the slump in copra values, there is no news available from this point. The Tagua leaves in a few days time on her customary trip through the Cook and Line Islands.

The price of copra, with which naturally everyone here is most intimately concerned, still remains lamentably low. Nevertheless, there is a slight improvement in value as compared with last month, and the market in San Francisco and Marseilles is apparently gaining in strength. As a result there is an increased hopefulness abroad, and a slight loosening up of purse-strings amongst the community in general. To-day's figures for copra on the beach is nearly one franc per kilo for bon-dry stuff, as against 75 franc at the end of February.

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

Vanilla, a local product which formerly figured conspicuously in the export list, has gradually dropped from 80 francs per kilo for the green beans in 1924, to a mere 5 francs—a figure that scarcely pays the cost of bringing the flower to any nothing of general plantation upkeep. Business in pearl shell is said to be practically at a standstill also.

Naturally, the local merchants and European planters, with capital investments and paid staffs to take care of it, are feeling the effects of the present situation much more acutely than the generality of the native population. With the latter, there is no real distress, but a gradual reversion, as prices decline, to a purely native regime of fish and breadfruit and a curtailment of the white man's luxuries in the shape of wine, motor cars and cinema shows.

Unemployment, as it is understood in Europe, is unknown here. When things become really bad, there is at least enough to eat.

That the local Administration is hard put to it to balance its budget is apparent, and amongst other innovations may be noted an import tax of 10 francs per case on petrol, which recently came into force.

NEW HOLIDAY RESORT.

Mr. and Mrs. Pitcairn, proprietors of the Blue Lagoon Hotel, near Papeete, announce the fact that they are ready to receive guests on March 1. This energetic couple, who recently arrived from Los Angeles, have taken over a collection of bungalows about a mile out of town, thoroughly renovated same and installed modern improvements. The grounds are also assuming a most attractive appearance and a large and airy building over the water is nearing completion as a central dining and recreation room.

Mr. Pitcairn has also large plans for the filling in and reclaiming of a considerable area along the foreshore of the lagoon, which, when carried out, will add much to the natural advantages of the site. It is understood that the hotel will be run more or less in conjunction with the Pastel Hotel, on the neighbouring island of Moorea, and that a launch will be maintained for transport of guests. Mr. and Mrs. Pitcairn deserve all the success that is coming to them for their faith and enterprise.

TOURIST BUREAU ESTABLISHED.

Serious efforts are now being made to develop a tourist traffic to Tahiti, as a potential spur to prosperity. As a starter in this direction, a committee of influential citizens is working in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce.

Already a Tourist Bureau has been established on the wharf under Government auspices. Here disembarking passengers can find courteous assist-

ance in the hitherto difficult business, for those not speaking French, of passing through the Customs and meeting passport regulations, etc. This office is already appreciated and proving of considerable benefit.

NEW HOTEL?

If reports from New Zealand are true, several schemes are afoot, some involving large amounts of capital, for the promotion of a large, up-to-date hotel for Tahiti. Whether these will come to fruition remains to be seen, but certainly Tahiti is deplorably lacking in first-class accommodation facilities, and the provision of such is an essential preliminary to a desirable tourist traffic.

IMPROVED SHIPPING SERVICE.

The Compagnie Messagerie Maritime has recently opened its own office in Papeete, instead of employing an agent as before. The schedule for 1931 provides ten vessels a year between France and New Caledonia, with Martinique, Tahiti, Fiji and the New Hebrides as ports of call.

This will give Tahiti a considerable advantage over 1930 in the matter of passenger requirements; but, as it is said that M.C.M. will now carry over from New Caledonia what were formerly carried by the mining companies themselves, it would seem that we shall be worse off rather than better in the matter of space for export cargo. On the other hand, importers will find some compensation in that goods ordered from Europe will now arrive with much less delay than before.

ZANE GREY'S NEW YACHT.

The steel motor yacht "Fisherman" arrived here this morning after a sixteen days' voyage from San Francisco. At the order of Mr. Zane Grey (who spends much of his time fishing in these waters) this one-time three-masted schooner has been transformed into a modern pleasure cruiser, replete with every luxury. She is equipped with two 12-horse power Washington engines, capable of pushing her along at an easy 12 miles per hour, with something in reserve for emergencies, and has two Atlas engines for generators, etc. On deck there are seven power launchers, of varying size, the largest two of which are furnished with the latest chatter in wireless telephones for communication between themselves or with the parent vessel.

At present the vessel is manned by American sailors, but it is said that these are to be replaced by Tahitians when she finally leaves this port for the long cruise which is planned. The itinerary will include many points to the westward, until Madagascar is reached. In this locality, Mr. Grey anticipates getting to work amongst the monstrous sailfish reputed to exist there.

DEATH OF MR. MURNAU.

News came to hand recently by wireless of the death in California of Mr. Murnau, the well known cinema producer and director.

The deceased gentleman left Tahiti some months ago for Hollywood, in order to complete the sound effects for a death film picture he had been engaged upon in the Society Group for more than a year past. Mr. Murnau was a built him a luxurious home in the most native style of architecture on the most westerly point of Tahiti, at Punaiaia, and it was his intention to maintain a permanent establishment there. He was also the owner of the yacht "Ball" and considerable other property in the Group. He will be sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends, both European and native, and by his death the community here sustains a very real loss. A motor car collision between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles is stated to have been the cause of the fatality.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Edmunds for nearly a quarter of a century manager of the English ranch on Easter Island, passed through Tahiti recently en route to New Zealand. He expects to return after a few months and settle permanently in the Society Group.

Mr. Zane Grey and party, at present fishing on the south side of Tahiti, are meeting with fair success, but have not yet beaten Mr. Grey's record 1,000-pound swordfish caught in the same vicinity last year.

The many friends of Gouverneur Morris will be pleased to learn that he is making a satisfactory recovery from the injuries he sustained in an explosion of a gasoline tank while touring recently in California. Mr. Morris and family are expected to return to their home at Paea, Tahiti, in April next.

The death occurred on February 19 of Mr. Valentine Wilson, for many years local manager of the Pacific Coconut Products Corporation Oil Mill. Mr. Wilson was a prominent Freemason and an esteemed member of the Anglo-American community here.

400 MISSIONARIES PER MILLION

Rev. J. W. Burton's Survey
of Pacific

A useful and interesting missionary survey of the Pacific Islands has been written by Rev. J. W. Burton, secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society of Australia. It is published in book form by the World Dominion Press as one of its series of surveys.

In a foreword, the Survey Editor points out that nearly a million and a half of the total population of the South Seas are still unreached by the Christian Church, even in a region which has been regularly considered as a most successful missionary field. In the face of figures like these, the question as to whether missionaries are still required takes on a new significance. Too often, successes and consequent commitments in one part of the field have been allowed to obscure the vision of the needs of those parts still untouched.

Nevertheless a striking lesson of this survey is that relatively the Pacific Islands are numerously occupied, with 400 missionaries to every million of the population. India has only 17 and China to-day only 21 per million.

Mr. Burton thoroughly surveys the position of the missions in the partly evangelised and wholly evangelised areas. The present missionary situation is discussed and problems and difficulties exhaustively surveyed. Many valuable statistical facts are given.

EARTH TREMORS AT PORT MORESBY

On February 24 a severe earth tremor was felt about 12.30 a.m. some houses feeling the shock more than others (says our Port Moresby correspondent). It is reported to have lasted about 30 seconds, during which time furniture rattled and beds rocked. It was the most definite tremor that Port Moresby has experienced for years.

Since then there have been slight tremors, but of no moment.

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F. Russell, Noumea, N. Caledonia.

MURDER OF PAPUAN NATIVES

From Our Own Correspondent.
PORT MORESBY, March 12.
 THE murder of some mountain natives has been reported. They were of the Kuni tribe, and had travelled down to the coast to trade. They had money and a good deal of New Guinea "shells" with them.
 The murderers are thought to be Baijalia natives, who had worked for white people in Port Moresby and the motive of the crime was robbery. Arrests have been made and warrants sent for the arrest of others. The Baijalia and Deleia people fear reprisals from the mountain men, and the Government are sending police at once to the Kuni people to warn them against "pay-back." Mining parties and carriers will also have to be guarded. This affair might cause trouble amongst the natives in that district, but they will be assured of justice by the Government.

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 "Universal" Black Powder.
 "Kyblack" Black Powder.
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Wet-Proof Cartridges
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THE TONGAN ISLANDS

Agenda for Forthcoming Parliamentary Session

From Our Own Correspondent.
NUKUALOFA, March 3.
SESSIONS of the Tongan Parliament—the opening by Her Majesty Queen Salote, the deliberations and the results—are of little or no interest to the outside world but, to the Tongan mind, are of paramount importance to the welfare of their Kingdom in the South Seas.

From their point of view, the 31st session, which commences in June, will be probably one of the most important since the Kingdom has had responsible government.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COCOA INDUSTRY.

Undoubtedly, the most pertinent question, which will be asked of the Executive, is: "What have you done about cocoa?"
 The Council certainly did give an undertaking last session that it would push on with the establishment of this industry, but, as far as one can see, the only pushing that has been done into some obscure file somewhere or other. On the face of it, the Council seem to have been remiss, and there may be justification if the Assembly does really get annoyed about it.

MARKETING OF BANANAS.

With bananas, a lot has been done in the way of planting, but the "House" will probably want to know if any workable scheme has been formulated to get the fruit onto a market. It is to be hoped that a satisfactory answer will be forthcoming, and that the end of the year will see the commencement of regular shipments from our ports.

The method of storage on board ship is a matter which the Executive has perhaps considered. In past years, our bananas have been always packed in cases for export. The cost of these cases makes a considerable hole in whatever profits accrue. One reads that all consignments of banana from Atlantic tropical ports to Great Britain are on the stem. (A circular issued by the Empire Marketing Board states that the total banana imports into the United Kingdom for the first week in December was "a quarter million bunches.") Of course, the Atlantic ships may be specially constructed for the transport of bunches, but the local grower would like to be sure of this, as the cost of these cases has many a time, turned his profit into a loss.

As the little Kingdom is already "snowed under" with laws and regulations, it is not anticipated that the Judiciary will die up any more new ones this year, but the Penitents Bill held over from last session, must come up again.

A particular clause in this Bill gives the native civil servant (and European) opportunity of temporary transfer to other colonial services and, as he still requires a considerable knowledge of the outside world to fit him for the higher responsible positions in his own Kingdom, this outstanding feature may

pull the Bill through the "House" without much opposition.

Discussion of public works will assuredly take up a lot of time if rumour proves correct. Rightly so, too!

Why the Works Department has been pushing on with new road construction to the utter exclusion of the crying needs of existing roads, is a mystery. It is apparent that if something is not done, and done quickly, the metalled roads, which we viewed with pride a few years ago, will disappear altogether. The Government must, as a national urgent duty, revise its public works policy.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST NATIVE POLICE.

Gossip from the "kava circle" says that the "left wing" intends attacking the police system which obtains in Tonga to-day. It is said this Parliamentary party avers that the native policeman instead of being a counterpart of the time-honoured European "Bobby," has been, with a promise of promotion, gradually developed into an insidious, and particularly irritating spy; that natives—outside of the Police Department—are encouraged to act as "stool pigeons" with promise of monetary reward; that witnesses for the Crown are called from distant areas and held for days without means of sustenance, and without reimbursement; that public meetings have been held by the police at which people have been exhorted to come forward and give evidence against any of their fellows . . . and so on, ad lib.

Whether the "stool-pigeon" force is as bad as it is painted, remains to be seen. Such little troubles are generally exaggerated. But if any such abuses do exist, the Government has been remiss in not taking steps towards reorganising its Police Department.

EDUCATION MATTERS.

The question of the methods employed in the teaching of the younger generation those of "reading, writing, and arithmetic" is said to be on the agenda. Quite recently, there was a revolt in the Government College against some ruling of the European Acting-Principal. He probably remembering the satisfactory results obtained by Napoleon with his "whiff of grapeshot," nipped the contumacious in the bud by promptly "firing" 64 of the more objectionable of his students and in so doing gained the deserved applause of the fellow men. Still, in justice to teachers and students, there must be an inquiry into the whole system.

For some years the College has been looked upon as more or less an incubus, and it is stated that a certain element in the "House" will propose the disbandment of the College and advocate the improvement of the Primary Schools to a higher standard of efficiency, even if it means abolishing certain of the existing schools to attain the desired result. Still, it is a sound enough, provided always that European teachers are an integral part of the Board of Control.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS CAUSE WATER SHORTAGE.

The continuous dry spell has developed into what seems to be a first-class representation of a drought, and the fruit trees are suffering in consequence. It is reported that the few tanks and cisterns in the country districts have run dry and that the natives have had recourse to the brackish well-water for all domestic purposes.

It is evident that the Kingdom is insufficiently provided with cisterns, and the Parliament will urge the Executive during the coming session to build more and obviate a recurrence of the present trouble.

It is worthy of mention though, that the Executive has decided to provide for the rationing of water from the main Government cistern in the following somewhat extraordinary terms: Allowance to Ministers of the Crown, 100 gallons per week; other Europeans, 50 gallons; natives, 4 gallons.

Now, this decision of the Executive has fomented a brand new controversy. Even if a Privy Councillor can vote himself a double salary, is he justified in assuming that he is entitled to drink twice as much, and bath twice as much, as the unfortunate proletariat? Parliament might wax sarcastic in determining this, for one must remember, it is a Tongan fetish that all men are equal in the sight of God! Did it happen to be a famine instead of a drought, would our stalwart Councillors enjoy a double issue of rations?

HURRICANES IN THE NORTH.
 Several times during the last three months the northern-most islands of our Kingdom have been getting a "dusting up" with heavy blasts of wind. From the extensive damage done in other Pacific Groups, it can be assumed that our Niuafoou and Koopele Islands have been on the fringe of several cyclonic storms.

From all reports, the damage done up north is not of a sensational nature, yet still sufficient to warrant the Gov-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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"WILD" EXCHANGE IN THE PACIFIC

Some of Maddening Problems Faced
by Pacific Traders

THE exchange position in the Pacific Islands is in a chaotic condition. Firms trading out of Australian ports to the various Islands Territories are faced with problems of the most complex and irritating character.

The position changes every day and, because financial adventures are watching developments eagerly, with a view to seizing chance profits, the managers of the big trading companies must exercise keen and unceasing vigilance.

MESSRS. BURNS, PHILIP & CO., for instance, through their different Islands branches are compelled to trade in the currencies of Australia, England, New Zealand, France, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga. When the Australian exchange catalogue shows the relationship of all the other exchanges, one to another, to shift about, until the position has become confusing beyond description.

To give some idea of the difficulties with which the "wild" exchange has surrounded South Seas trading, we have compiled the following summary:

NEW GUINEA AND PAPUA.

As these Australian territories use Australian currency, they have the same rate of exchange, in international trade, as Australia. Consequently, the producers there are equally with Australian producers, finding the overseas markets good and profitable, although it is comparatively difficult to purchase goods from overseas.

SOLOMON ISLANDS.

The position here is confused. The Administration issues a £1 note, which apparently is reckoned on a par with English currency values. But, because there is no regular bank in the protectorate, and money transfer facilities are provided by Australian trading institutions, the S.I. £1 note is actually kept on a par with the Australian £1 note. There is much English silver in the Group and, naturally, because 20 English shillings are worth nearly 26 Australian shillings in international exchange, there is much eagerness to export this English currency. But the S.I. authorities have placed a strict embargo on its removal from the territory, and, for trading purposes, no difference is recognised between English silver and Australian silver, of which a great deal also circulates in the Group. Therefore, so far as international trade is concerned, the Solomon Islands exchange is the same as that of Australia, and S.I. producers should be enjoying the same advantages in regard to overseas sale of their products.

NEW HEBRIDES.

The position here is one of great confusion and difficulty. There are circulating in the Condominium, as media of exchange, English silver, Australian notes and silver, and Australian notes and silver. There are practically no facilities for the transfer of credit between Australia and New Hebrides. The Bank of Indo-China operates in New Caledonia, and its agent in Sydney is the Comptoir National; and it is possible to transfer money through these two establishments to Noumea, whence it is sent in bank notes by post, to New Hebrides. Messrs. Burns, Philip (South Seas) and Co., who trade in New Hebrides, provide some transfer accommodation, by drafts issued in New Hebrides on the United Bank in Sydney—but, outside of their domestic trading requirements, these facilities are extremely limited.

Because of the confusing mixture of currency, the lack of means of transferring credit to Australia, with which so much trade is done, and the uncertainty regarding Australian currency values, it seems essential that something should be done at an early date to regularize the position in New Hebrides. It is highly important from Australia's viewpoint, that the problem be faced so that Australia can take advantage of the present exchange position to sell her goods in this small, but eager and profitable market. We understand that, in this regard, certain proposals already have been placed before the Condominium authorities.

FILII, TONGA AND SAMOA.

There is confusion here, also, because there circulate in these Groups, the Filian paper £, the Tongan paper £ (both nominally on a par with the English £), Australian notes, New Zealand notes, and English and Australian silver. The Australian currency, of course, is seriously depreciated; the New Zealand notes slightly depreciated—and one would need the mental agility of a Clippo money-changer to discover the correct relationship of one to the other, and of both to the domestic paper money.

In Samoa, the position is less confusing, because the Territory has mostly N.Z. currency (the notes of the N.Z. trading banks, and English silver), and the Bank of New Zealand operates freely there.

Many people, of course, are trying to get English silver away from these Territories, in order to avoid the high exchange rates; but the Governments are placing a strict embargo upon its removal.

TRADING CONDITIONS.

The export position, therefore, is that the producers of New Guinea and Papua, because they employ Australian currency, and of the Solomons, because

of the curious combination of circumstances, are getting the benefit of the Australian exchange. If they sell their copra, for instance, at the English price of £14.7.6, they receive well over £15 in Australian money (each English £ being now worth 25.9 Australian). Or, to put it another way, they can sell their copra as low as, say, £12 English, knowing that that is equal to £15 Australian. But, if they are going to retain that exchange benefit, they cannot buy goods from abroad. They must buy Australian goods. Payment for £1 worth of English goods requires 25.9 Australian.

But the producers of Filii, Tonga, Samoa, and, to some extent, the New Hebrides, are working on a currency that is much closer to English currency values and, so far as export is concerned, they are not getting such marked benefits from exchange. Their exchange, for all that, is at a discount of around 10 per cent, which appreciably helps their selling activities, but makes it difficult for them to buy from Europe or America. But the exchange position between those Territories and Australia ought to make it extraordinarily easy for them to buy from Australia. Apparently they need only put up about 255 English to purchase a credit of £100 Australian.

EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS.

The following exchange quotations gathered in Sydney, may be of use to our readers:

FILII—THROUGH BANK OF N.S.W.
Australia on Filii, on the basis of £100 Filii—buying, per cent, selling, £117.10, with commission is £105, for genuine trade transactions.

Filii on London, basis of £100 London:
Telegraphic transfer £110 8 6 £111 2 6
On demand 109 7 4 109 12 6
30 days 108 28 8 109 12 6
60 days 107 12 6 108 12 6
Filii on New Zealand, basis of £100, New Zealand—buying, £120, selling, £117.10.

WESTERN SAMOA—THROUGH BANK OF N.Z.
Exchange Australia, on Western Samoa, basis £100 Samoa—selling, £117.10, buying, per cent, selling, £117.10, with commission is £105, for genuine trade transactions.

Exchange, Samoa on London, basis £100 in London:
Telegraphic transfer £112 7 6 £113 2 6
On demand 111 7 6 112 2 6
30 days 110 12 6 111 12 6
60 days 109 12 6 110 12 6
120 days 108 12 6 109 12 6

NEW GUINEA AND PAPUA—THROUGH COMMONWEALTH BANK.
From Australia, on Rabaul and Solomon, £1 per cent.
From Rabaul on London, same as Australia on London.

THROUGH BANK OF N.S.W.
Australia, on Papua and New Guinea, £1 per cent, with minimum charge of 6d. per transaction, with minimum charge of 6d. per transaction, with minimum charge of 6d. per transaction.

Papua and New Guinea, on London, same as Australia on London, and vice versa.

POST OFFICE ORDERS.
The following are the rates for transfer of money by post office orders, per £100, through the General Post Office. All such transfers are limited to amount.

Papua, Maudslayi Territory of New Guinea, Filii, New Caledonia—rate, 3d. for each £ or fraction, with minimum charge of 6d. per transaction, with minimum charge of 6d. per transaction.

Storke Island—6d. for £3 or fraction; no restriction, same as elsewhere.

Solomon Islands; Gilbert and Ellice Islands; Tonga—No actual restriction, but an implied one; rate, 4d. for each £ or fraction, for first £50, and 3d. for each additional £, with minimum charge of 6d. Post office orders issued at discretion of post office authorities.

New Hebrides and Tahiti—No money order issue through post office.

Western Samoa and Cook Island—Small amounts can be transferred by Australian Post Office checks, New Zealand Post Office, but large strictly limited, at discretion of post office authorities.

CANNED PINES
Fiji Industry Booming

From Our Own Correspondent.
Suva, April 8.

THE packs of the two pineapple companies have come quite up to expectations.

The West Coast Pines Ltd. have made their first shipment per Tollyn to Europe, half of the 1,000 cases being consigned to London and half to Germany.

The pack of the Fiji Pineapple Co., at Wadua, Ovalau, has reached 17,000 cases this time, and the produce is being eagerly bought by firms overseas. Prices also have come up a little. The Fiji canned pine probably surpasses anything in the world.

PIONEER MISSIONARY



Rev. James Chalmers, affectionately known throughout the Pacific as "Zam-ate," was murdered by Papuan natives exactly 30 years ago—on April 8, 1901.

New Hebrides Note

Suggested
Way to Solve Acute Trade
Problem

THE currency problem in the New Hebrides has become so acute as a result of the exchange confusion (as explained in another article in this issue) that consideration might be given to the suggestion of a valued

It is suggested that the Condominium Government should collect and hold sufficient French and English banknotes to secure an issue of special currency notes for the New Hebrides. At present the N.H. Government issues a postage stamp in this form:

R F	GR
30 cent.	5d

This provides for the requirements of both French and British interests.

It is suggested that a currency note might be issued in the same fashion, varying on one side a mere value of 124 francs, and on the other £1. If the administration's powers allow this to be done, and it is done quickly, an enormous amount of trouble and confusion will be removed from New Hebrides trading.

MOTUAN ON THE AIR

Papuan Scouts Speak From Sydney

From Our Own Correspondent.

PORT MORESBY, April 8.
FOR the first time in history, the Motuan language of Papua was broadcast, when two Papuan boy scouts—Arna-Glavra and Lohia-Uda—who attended the Scout Rally in Sydney, in honour of Lord Baden-Powell, spoke over the new A.W.A. Radio service to their friends in Hahauahua, in Papua.

The surprise that was expressed in the village when they heard the voices from far-away Sydney can be well imagined. Indeed, some of the older Papuans were convinced that it was nothing less than "puri-puri," or white man's magic, and was quite inexplicable.

It is of interest that when Lord Baden-Powell addressed the Rally he made special mention of these two visitors from Papua. He said how pleased he was to see them and remarked on the great educational value such an experience would be to them.

Imports into Tonga for 1930 were valued at £146,305. Of this total 239,653 entered the Group through Nukunua, £17,200 through Haapal, and £41,443 through Vavau.

HEALTHY PINEAPPLE INDUSTRY



The rapid development of the pineapple industry in Fiji has been commented upon several times in this journal. The above snapshot shows the harvest crew of the "Meadow Brook" in plantation at Nadi. Left to right: Messrs. A. E. Chalmers, W. Jack, C. E. Bryant and Bokal.

Do Not Buy Australian Made!

Instruction for Fijian Officials

From Our Own Correspondent.

SUVA, April 8.

IT is reported, on good authority, that orders have been given to the various Government departments of Fiji to buy goods, as far as possible, in New Zealand and in Canada—but not in Australia.

This action is very difficult to understand. There is, of course, resentment here against the foolish and unreasonable tariffs which Australia has imposed against the products of Fiji. But as against that, our volume of trade with Australia is huge; a great deal of Australian capital is invested here; and, above all, there never was a time when—owing to the depreciated value of the Australian exchange—it was so profitable for Fiji to buy Australian goods.

It appears to be a matter worthy of the notice of the Commonwealth authorities.

BACK TO NORMAL

Fiji Cleans Up After Hurricane

From Our Own Correspondent.

THE work of cleaning up after the floods and hurricane, which brought such a trail of disaster in its wake to Fiji, is going ahead with energy.

The Government has shown an appreciation of the position by losing no time in cleaning up the wreckage and encouraging the natives and Indians to rebuild their homes. The roads and damaged bridges are also being brought back to normal, and the traffic is now being conducted as before.

Owing to the depression, and the decrease of exports, the Colony is finding it difficult to find money for all the work, and great economy is necessary to cope with the demands. Outside of the public works, for which loan money is available, few new public works will be possible for some time. The C.S.N. Co. has also made fine progress in repairing the serious damage done to its properties, and many carpenters are busy now rebuilding houses, repairing mill buildings, etc.

As an example of the damage done, chiefly by the floods, at Suva, it may be mentioned that, between the mill and store of Morris Ltd., the few more than 27 houses of Europeans and others were absolutely destroyed. The succumbence of the flood suggests a cloud-burst in the hills behind the settlement.

STORY OF STORM

WHAT HAPPENED TO
CIKOBIA

Little Cikobia lies away out in the ocean, some 30 miles from Udu Point, the most northerly end of Vanua Levu, in Fiji. There were four towns on the island. Two towns have churches, and there are several wooden buildings as well.

When the trading cutter left Cikobia on February 18, the island lay smiling under the tropic sun, the trees bearing plenty of food-stuffs, and the natives happy and contented.

When the vessel returned on March 9, fallen and stripped trees were all that could be seen. The island literally had been swept bare. The wooden houses were down, and not a single native house remained. One church had been blown off its foundation, and the other stood at a dangerous angle. The people were living on dried copra and wild tapioca.

The natives say that never before has the island had a hurricane which lasted so long. Only one death was reported.

It seems that when the second "blow" came, many were sheltering in the church, and when the hurricane looked like starting again after the first, the natives sought other refuge, all except one old man. After the storm had passed over, the people found that the church had partly broken up and outside, the old man was found folded in his mat, dead.

People of Port Moresby are indebted to Mr. Williams for giving them the opportunity of viewing these unique and grotesque ornaments. They have been placed in the local museum for general view.

NATIVE SECRETS

Anthropologist's Work in Papua

From Our Own Correspondent.

PORT MORESBY, March 10.

MR. F. E. WILLIAMS, anthropologist, is at the Papuan Government, a former Rhodes scholar (1915) and Balliol man, Oxford, has been very energetic in his inquiries into the customs, habits and traditions of the tribes in the different divisions in Papua.

Lately he returned from Kerema, in the Gulf Division, surrounded by the Morehead River, and crossed the Dutch border when getting in touch with the tribes in the Western Division. His recent trip up the Saki Creek was amongst natives of a particularly fierce and hostile character. Mr. Williams, however, is well acquainted with the ways of the natives, and his excursions into the more remote villages have always ended in amicable relations being established.

Mr. Williams has written the following: "Natives of the Purari Delta," in which district he spent many months, carefully recording the customs of these extraordinary primitive people of the Delta waterways; "Orakawa Magic"; "Orakawa Society," dealing



Mr. F. E. WILLIAMS.

with a north-east tribe of Papua. He is writing at present "The Social Organisation of the Kotari" (a hill tribe), and is engaged on a book in reference to the natives of the Morehead River.

The Papuan Villager, edited by Mr. Williams, a monthly paper, written for the Papuan native himself, is an entirely new line. It explains and teaches the natives their advantages and fosters in them a love for their country. It is well illustrated and the sales are increasing among the more educated natives. It has also a wide circulation amongst white people, and has created interest in other countries to quite an extent.

Mr. Williams brought into Port Moresby a large collection of 30 or so dancing masks, known as the Kava-Kava masks, obtained from the Kerema people. In the ordinary course of events they are burnt after the Kava-Kava have finished their dances and practices, as above all things, they must never be seen by a woman or she dies. Mr. Williams had them covered secretly in the dark from the villages to the boat. These masks are fantastic and weird in the extreme, of great height, and represent figures of sharks, alligators and pigs. It is a novel sight to watch the Kava-Kava dancing in their special season, along the sea shores of the Gulf of Papua.

People of Port Moresby are indebted to Mr. Williams for giving them the opportunity of viewing these unique and grotesque ornaments. They have been placed in the local museum for general view.

NEW TAURI FIELD
Disappointed Miners Abandon Operations

From Our Own Correspondent.

PORT MORESBY, April 8.

THE latest news from the new Tauri goldfield is far from encouraging and is causing disappointment to residents of the Territory, many of whom are directly interested in its development.

The experienced miners have decided to abandon operations and the field has been described by one well-known miner as "an absolute waste of time and money."

Prospecting parties have encountered a great deal of trouble with their carriers, who fear attacks from the hill tribes. Over 80 boys deserted from one party, leaving them with a mere handful to carry on their work.

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CULTIVATION OF TUNG OIL TREES

Growing Demand for Paint Ingredient Suggests New Industry for Islands Planters

In the search for new crops to cultivate as an alternative for sugar, islands planters might consider the nut, or the tung oil tree. The main product of this tree—tung oil—is each year becoming of increasing importance in the commercial world.

Trees are being carried out in New Guinea and the Islands, and the results of these in due course suggest that the tree is suitable for cultivation in selected localities throughout the Islands.

There are already considerable plantations in Queensland, N.S. Wales and New Zealand. More information about the actual cultivation of the tree under South Pacific conditions is needed, however.



A full grown tree of average size, in China.

THE oil, which is commonly called Chinese Wood Oil, is an essential raw material of present-day varnish manufacture, and its unique properties as a drying oil render it indispensable for certain types of varnish. It is also widely used as an ingredient of paint, and in the manufacture of electrical insulating varnishes.

The product was first introduced into Western Europe over 30 years ago and

was in greatest demand during the Great War, as it was essential for aeroplane paints and varnishes. To-day this oil constitutes one of the chief exports of China, and is worth approximately £2,000,000 per annum. There is keen competition for the oil and the price is maintained at a high level because all countries are dependent upon China for supplies.

The question of the cultivation of tung trees in the British Empire was taken up in 1927 by the Advisory Committee on Oils and Oilseeds of the Imperial Institute, London, in collaboration with the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, and the Director of the Research Association of British Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacturers. The Committee distributed supplies of seeds to many parts of the Empire, and results of trials are distinctly encouraging.

The cultivation of the trees in Florida, U.S.A., is successful. Over 500,000 are now growing there. In January,

the former, trials with the two species in America seem to support this. So far as is known, it appears that A. Fordii furnishes the best and most sought-for commercial oil.

EXPERIMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

Seeds of *Aleurites Fordii* were first sent to Australia in 1911. Experimental plots are now under cultivation at Penrith Hills, near Sydney, at Grafton, N.S.W., and on the Johnston River, Queensland, where Amalgamated Forests (Australia) Ltd. have planted some 6,000 trees on red volcanic and alluvial soils.

Results of experiments with the oil produced in Australia show that it is of equivalent quality to that obtained from trees grown in China.

Through the Sydney Technological Museum, plants and seeds for experimental purposes have been already sent to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. On the island of Malaita trees, which were planted in August of last year, certain selected situations, are doing remarkably well.

No seeds of the other species, *A. Montana*, have yet reached Australia or the Islands, but some are now on their way to the Curator of the Sydney Technological Museum.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TREES.

In China the trees seldom exceed 30 feet in height and have a trunk of about 10 inches in diameter; the spread is from 15 to 30 feet. Tung trees have a low branching habit of growth. The foliage is dense, the leaves being large, dark green and more or less heart-shaped. They are shed at the usual resting period for deciduous trees. The flowers are white, with pink centres.

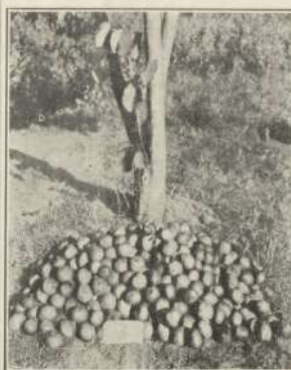
Both in China and Florida the fruits ripen at approximately the same time—October. When fully ripe, they fall to the ground and eventually break open from the base upwards into three to five segments, each containing one seed. These seeds are composed of a fairly thick, woody shell, externally of a warty appearance, enclosing a creamy white kernel.

Some young trees in Florida commence to bear fruit in the third year, though cropping on a commercial basis is not expected to be vigorous. In New South Wales the experience has been that a good crop of fruit, yielding oil of satisfactory quality, is obtainable in the fourth year.

It is generally held that the trees will reach full bearing by their tenth year, though records of individual trees seem to indicate that progressive production may continue after this age. The oldest trees in Florida are not more than 25 years old, and they still appear to be vigorous.

Chinese trees are said to yield from 1 to 8 or more bushels of fruit, according to the vigour of the trees.

As regards the yield of trees, a pamphlet on "The Production of Tung Oil in the Empire," issued by the Empire Marketing Board, states: "Records for a group of 109 trees nine years of age and over growing in Florida, showed that these trees yielded 5,000 lb. (approximately) of dried fruit, equivalent to over 1,000 lb. of oil, in each of two different years. On another plot of 19 acres, three-year-old trees produced 1,996 lb. of fruit, or 576 lb. per acre, equivalent to 115 lb. of oil."



A Fordii tree 5½ years old, with fruit.

1920, an oil-mill was erected at Gainesville, Florida, and this is the first complete plant to be assembled in America for crushing tung oil seeds.

TWO SPECIES OF TREES.

There are two species of trees from which the nuts are obtained; the scientific names being *Aleurites Fordii* and *Aleurites Montana*. The former furnishes the bulk of tung oil exported from China.

A. Fordii is a quick-growing, small tree which occurs in the warm, temperate parts of China, especially in the Yangtze Valley, where the Chinese grow small plantations on hill-sides on land unsuitable for ordinary cultivation. Here, the summers are warm enough for such crops as rice and giant millet, while when it is grown in the cold weather when slight frost and snow may occur on high ground.

The other species, *A. Montana*, extends from the province of Chekiang, in south-eastern China, to Tonkin, in French Indo-China, and the Shan States of Burma.

The presumption, therefore, is that *A. Fordii* is likely to thrive best in climates which are less tropical than those which favour *A. Montana*, and that the latter species may require a heavier hot-weather rainfall than

crushed by oil-crushers in much the same way as is practised with other nuts and to other firms using tung oil seeds. The expressed oil would be sold to the makers of paint and varnish and to other firms using tung oil. It is considered that the English pressed oil would be of lighter colour and of better quality than the Chinese product and, moreover, it would be of guaranteed purity.

"The oil would be readily saleable in the United Kingdom and would fetch a price equal to, or possibly a premium over, that of the Chinese oil, which was quoted at £59/10/- per ton in London in January, 1920." It has maintained its price during the past twelve months.

THE FUTURE OF TUNG OIL.

Naturally, before proceeding with the planting of tung trees on a large scale, it would be essential to know the likely demand for the product in the future. The question has been already raised abroad as to whether the larger quantities of oil resulting from the extension of the cultivation of tung trees in America and the British Empire will have the effect of lowering the price of the oil to such an extent that the cultivation will become unprofitable.

The general opinion is that with increased quantities becoming available, new uses will be found for tung oil, and these industries already employing this material will absorb greater amounts. The increased production will naturally tend to reduce the price somewhat, but it is considered that the reduction would not be so great as to render cultivation unprofitable.

As far as can be seen, there will be always a demand for tung oil, as it is a raw material which is essential in some industries—particularly the electrical trades and aviation. It should always command a price higher than that of linseed oil.

The fact that America, which imports 80 per cent. of the world's production, and whose annual consumption is 10,000,000 gallons—valued at about £2,400,000—realised the urgent necessity for domestic production many years ago and is making steps to produce oil for her own needs, shows the importance that she attaches to this crop.

In 1927-28, the first year for which individual figures are available, the imports of tung oil into Australia were valued at nearly £20,000, and each year a slightly greater amount has been needed for local use.

Note: The Pacific Islands Monthly is endeavoring to gather all available information about the cultivation of Tung oil trees, and will publish further articles as material becomes available. Meanwhile, we should be glad to hear from any of our Island readers who are interested in the subject, particularly about the progress of experimental plantations.

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New Guinea Operations

OIL SEARCH LTD. reported at the end of last month concerning its operations at Metapau, Mandated Territory of New Guinea, as follows:

Opening up by dynamiting the face of the recently disclosed reefs above the seaport in the Wapik River district has produced much valuable information. At one point penetrated to a depth of about 14 feet, with a wall made of 11 feet. The last four feet in which appears to be a dyke formation. Throughout this formation all joints are full of oil. The bedding planes cross this section and show freely running oil. This is apparently a dyke coming up through the sedimentary strata, where the oil is accumulating. This condition is met with in many of the producing strata of the world, and being in production in the vicinity of these dykes has produced many commercial wells.

Copra exported from Tonga during 1930 totalled 14,134 tons, which was valued at £109,000. Also included in the exports were: Fungus of a value of 103; hides, valued at £58; live stock, £45; and oranges, £19.

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The following are the most popular sizes:

H.P.	Cyl.	Sydney Island Prices	as Bond
3-4	2	£157	£39
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All the above, excepting the 3-4 h.p., include built-in reversing gear.

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AUSTRALIA

PAPUAN NEWS

Copra and Rubber Position—Provision Orders Cull Going South— Work on Tauri Goldfields

From Our Own Correspondent.

PORT MORESBY, March 11.

OWING to the high rate of exchange in London improving the local market value of copra, the planters are feeling more secure.

The local stores have made bonuses on the previous shipments of copra and are now making allowances for the exchange in London, on all new shipments.

The rubber position also is considerably relieved. The market on March 9 was 34d. per pound. To that must be added the 4d. bonus, and also the exchange, bringing the price approximately to 10d. (a little over).

Some while back a company here stated in its report that its cost of production had been reduced to 7.7d. f.o.b. and the average net sale was 6.6d. per pound. So, with the general economy that is prevailing in all directions, the rubber position in this country at the present state of the country's finances should not find cause for many serious complaints.

It has been commented upon by many who have been lately down to Australia, that Papua, though heavily indebted, does not realise the privations and miseries in other parts of the Commonwealth, and that though life here is not unenviable, it is not as bad as it is in other parts. Certainly, salaries have been reduced and severe economies have been made, but still we have unemployment and plantations are carrying on.

The Government salaries have also as yet not been reduced, nor have there been any dismissals, though it is difficult to see how they are to carry on.

PROPOSED ABOLITION OF LONG LEAVE.

The following circular was recently sent to each officer on the question of the abolition of long leave (six months) leave granted at the end of each period of six years' service, in addition to ordinary vacation leave).

His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, will be glad of your views on a proposal to abolish long leave. Any long leave due to an officer would be treated as leave, and also any proportion of long leave which an officer may have earned for his services in the date of abolition.

Theoretically, about 10 of our staff of 131 officers needed only because of long leave, and as the annual cost of long leave is £1,500, the annual cost of long leave would be £1,500. As the salaries of officers are £1,500, the annual cost of long leave would be £1,500. As the salaries of officers are £1,500, the annual cost of long leave would be £1,500.

There have been many vigorous objections to this suggestion, and the Public Servants' Association, it is said, suggested that the Government might possibly find means to save money by dismissing those officers eligible for a pension, while the remaining more junior officers carried on, with all their existing privileges. The Government intends to address each officer individually on the subject, and so far there has been no definite arrangement.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN PORT MORESBY.

The local stores complain that they are suffering inordinately—that there is no trade—and that people are ordering their stores from Australian firms. It is a pity that this is so. But the prices here are so high that the ordinary householder cannot afford to deal with them, and wherever possible orders direct from the Australian mainland. The trouble probably is that the local stores are unwilling to face the inevitable and sacrifice their dear-bought stocks.

WORK ON TAURI GOLDFIELD.

Little news has reached Port Moresby from the Tauri goldfield. Transportation to the field must necessarily take a good deal of time, and reports have come through from the coastal landing at Kukipi that several parties have had troubles with their carriers, owing to the fear the ordinary coastal native has of the hill tribe.

Several parties are trying to find a shorter track to Twisty Creek. In the Tauri district, where some prospectors are working, but little news has come through.

Mr. L. C. Shoppee flew in his Moth plane with a passenger, Mr. J. Jackson, from the New Guinea goldfields, over the gold area and landed at Kukipi, but very little information was obtainable there.

The Hon. J. G. Nelson and Mr. R. M. Bunting went through from Samarai on their launch "Lantile" for the Tauri, taking with them stores, provisions and carriers. It is likely they are setting up a store at Kukipi for mineral provisions for the parties coming to and from the interior.

New parties are being formed locally, and it is said that Mr. P. N. Davies

Government Storekeeper, who has put in 20 years' service, is retiring from the Public Service, and after a short holiday will return to his old post, expecting party. So it would appear that there is no lack of enthusiasm amongst the settlers here.

Mr. Ward Williams, the American mining engineer, has arrived. He is accompanied by Mr. B. Ailer, who has already prospected in this country. People will eagerly await their reports. Mr. Williams' trip on this occasion, it is said, is inland from the Melkoe district, on the mainland from Yule Island, up into the ranges near Bella Vista, on the Mondo Road, where gold has been reported.

PLANES ACTIVE.

Lately there has been a good deal of activity in the air. Mr. L. C. Shoppee has been flying to and from Samarai, New Guinea, from the landing ground at Kila-Kila, carrying passengers, and he has also circled round the Tauri field from Lae and the Eurorone country.

The "Fokker" plane belonging to the Pacific Air Transport Company has been assembled under the direction of Mr. Ray Parer. It has already taken off from Kila-Kila, and has been making trial flights over the town and hills.

Mr. Parer prefers Galley Reach, west of Port Moresby, for a landing ground. There is a large salt pan there, and he has used it for the initial trial landings and finds it satisfactory.

WATER SHORTAGE.

There has been little rain this season, the north-west season lasting only for a little over a month. We are again warned to be careful of water. The native gardens are suffering, the corn, pumpkins and bananas have not had a chance with least and lack of moisture. Some of the wells and springs are practically dry. This condition applies only to the dry belt around Port Moresby and villages in this district.

DEATH OF MR. HARBOARD.

On March 1 a very well known and respected pioneer died. Mr. A. R. Harboard, who had been suffering from pleurisy, had recovered, and had returned to his home. He had been a native of New Zealand, and had been a native of New Zealand, and had been a native of New Zealand.

Mr. Harboard was 80 years of age. He was born in Seaton, Cheshire, West Hartlepool, England, in 1850. He spent a long life of pioneering and adventure here and in Queensland, and when still a young man, was recognised as one of the leading mining men of North Queensland. He and Mr. Mulligan discovered the now famous Palmer goldfield. Mr. Harboard first came to Papua in the eighties, and prospected the Brown River, Cloude Bay and the Lakekuma on the original Lake Kuma run.

THE TONGAN ISLANDS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

ernment expending a few hundreds to put the affected districts back into their original habitable state.

GOVERNMENT VESSELS UNDERGOING REPAIRS.

The two Government despatch vessels are laid up for complete overhaul. With a view to keeping the expenditure within the limits of the Kingdom, the necessary repairs are to be effected here by local mechanics with native labour. For the next three months, inter-island "trippers" will gain the experience of conditions that obtain on native cutters, and it may be, they will then view with less disdain the appointments of the State vessels, when they are once again in commission.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

The Hon. Garfield Bagnall (Tonga Minister of Finance) and Mrs. Bagnall, with their adopted son, have returned to the Kingdom. Apart from his official position, Mr. Bagnall is a keen agriculturist and has an excellent plantation on our main island.

It is a pleasure to report that Mr. J. M. Masterton, our British Vice-Consul, who, through illness, has been for some months past, unable to attend to his official and social duties, is now well on the road to recovery. Together with his Consular position, Mr. Masterton is well known as the popular president of the Nukunala Club.

Medical Superintendent L. A. Andrews, of the Haapai district, has left on a well-earned six months' vacation. Probably the most popular medico that Haapai has ever had, he has, since his appointment, taken a serious interest in an intensive warfare against the ubiquitous mosquito and has done much to improve health conditions in our middle group.

We learn that Mr. J. Trotter, manager of Busu, Philip's Haapai branch, in Fiji. A returned soldier and one-time education officer in the Tongan Civil Service, Mr. Trotter has for 10 years devoted himself to commercial interests in our group.

"ISLANDS" MINISTER

Mr. Chifley's Interest in N.G. Planters

From Our Canberra Correspondent.

CANBERRA, April 13.

FOLLOWING on the recent rearrangement of portfolios in the Federal Cabinet, the work relating to the Pacific Islands territories, which comes under the Prime Minister's Department, is being performed by the Minister for Defence, Mr. J. B. Chifley. Mr. Chifley was formerly in charge of it.

Mr. Chifley has shown a particular interest in the welfare of the planters in the New Guinea territory, and discussed the position at length with the Administrator (General Wisdom) during the latter's recent stay in Canberra.

Many of the planters are in financial difficulties through no fault of their own, and the matter of rendering assistance where possible to them is under consideration.

The Minister also discussed the affairs of Papua with the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Herbert Murray, during the latter's visit to the capital.

Another visitor to Canberra has been Mr. W. Newman, Administrator of Nauru, who is on three months' leave.

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Nathan & Co. Ltd., Auckland. Price:
Cloth board, 6/-; paper cover, 4/-.

MINING IN N. GUINEA

CANBERRA, April 13.
SOME time ago, the Federal Government
appointed Mr. H. S. King,
formerly Under-Secretary for Mines in
Western Australia, to proceed to New
Guinea to investigate and report on
mining conditions in the Territory, but
unfortunately, on arrival there Mr.
King contracted pneumonia and died
after a short illness.
The Government has now appointed
Mr. B. Dunsman, up till lately Govern-
ment Geologist of Queensland, to take
up the inquiry regarding the mining
industry.

Beef Cattle in New Caledonia

Export Trade Planned

Growth of Pastoral Industry
In South Seas

AN interesting development of
the growing pastoral industry
in the South Seas is the announce-
ment, made in our advertising col-
umns, that the New Caledonian
Meat Co. Ltd. is prepared to sell
cattle on the hoof to other Islands
Territories.

The New Caledonian cattle provide
high quality beef and they have been
the basis of a considerable beef-can-
ning industry in New Caledonia during
the past decade. It is claimed on their
behalf that they have become accli-
matised to conditions in the South

THE BREMERHAVEN

Disturbing Factor in N.G. Trade

The N.D.L. steamer, Bremerhaven,
continues to run between New Guinea
and the Far East, providing freights
and trading in copra and other pro-
ducts at rates that are beyond the
best that can be offered by the regu-
lar trading companies.

The latter express resentment that
this unfair competition against them
should be allowed to continue. It is
believed that the Bremerhaven is spe-
cially subsidised and has the benefit
of very cheap labour, while the trading
companies are subject to the heavy
costs imposed by Australian conditions.
The Bremerhaven offers tempting rates
for copra—but the trading companies
unlike the Germans, have to finance
against copra shipments. The Ger-
mans give no service, while the services
provided by the trading companies
have done a great deal to help the
New Guinea community through the
depression. There are likely to be
interesting developments.

JAVA PEST

Official Reply and
Explanation

Puzzling Export Figures

HAVING communicated with the
Government Department of Agri-
culture in Java, the Sydney office of
the Royal Packet Navigation Co. (Hol-
land) which is interested in the steam-
ship service between Java and New
Guinea, challenges the accuracy of
articles in our November and December
issues about the danger of a coconut
pest spreading from Java to New
Guinea.

This Journal urged that strict pre-
cautions be taken against the danger
of the pest being conveyed from Java
in cargo.

The letter from the Java Department
of Agriculture, dated 26th January, is
quoted:

"The Pacific Islands Monthly, when
speaking about an insect pest in coco-
nuts, refers in all probability to 'Bruch-
artia', of which there occurred a few
light cases in Java during 1930.

"However, this infection is well under
control and methods to check it are
invariably effective.

"The Pacific Monthly states that this
pest has not actually been combated
for a long time, and further that 'the
Dutch entomologists have found no in-
fection as yet to check it.' Both statements
are untrue, as we repeat this pest is of
very small importance.

"The reason why the export of copra
during 1930 was only 10 per cent. of the
quantity exported during 1929 must not
be found in a shortage of production,
but entirely adverse market conditions,
which induced growers to dispose of
their coconuts on the local market.

"We think that only if infected cocon-
uts were shipped in their green husks,
or else if green palms were transported,
there might be a possibility of convey-
ing 'Bruchartia' from one place to
another. However, we are given assur-
ance that the steamer engaged in the
Java-Port Moresby-Rabaul trade does
not carry any such coconuts or palms,
and, in our opinion, it is impossible to
convey these insects in ordinary mer-
chandise.

"Provided the interests concerned
prohibit the import of green coconuts
or green palms, there need exist no
fear that 'Bruchartia' is introduced
into their territories.

"During 1930 no other coconut pests
occurred in Java."

The returns issued by Faure Blatt-
man & Co., London, show that Java,
in 1929, exported 10,218 tons of copra
(or coconut oil converted to terms of
copra), and in the same period of 1930
the total was 31,441 tons. Of copra,
apart from coconut oil, the exports
were 58,888 tons in 1929 and 7,364 tons
in 1930. That enormous decrease in
output is not shown by any other
country which exports copra in quan-
tities. If growers had, to an increasing
degree, disposed of their products lo-
cally, the export of coconut oil should
have increased. Instead, it declined
from 49,935 tons in 1929, to 34,077 in
1930.—Ed. P.I.M.

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(Note the Chart.)



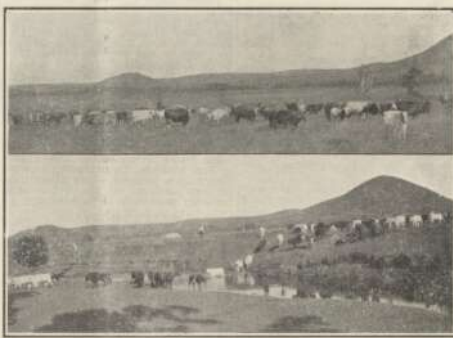
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Office No. 1, 213 George Street, Sydney.



Scenes on the Mueo Cattle Station, in New Caledonia, showing some of the herds which are now
being offered for sale in other parts of the Pacific territories.

Seas, and are comparatively free from
liability to tropical diseases. The com-
pany believes that there is a market
for these cattle in New Guinea, the
Solomon Islands, New Hebrides and
possibly in Fiji. The main problem is
transport, and the company is pre-
pared to discuss this matter with pro-
spective purchasers.

An article published in 1929 by M.
Legras, Editor of the Bulletin du Com-
merce, Noumea, stated that in 1928 a
census showed 60,000 cattle in New
Caledonia, but it was believed that
there were not less than 90,000. Prob-
ably the number is much greater than
that because the 47,000 people resident
in New Caledonia consume over 14,000
head of cattle, and at least another 2,000 head
are taken by the canning works. A total
of over 16,000 hides were exported from
New Caledonia in 1928. As the natural
increase of these cattle is about 12 per
cent. per annum and the herds appear
to be increasing rather than decreasing
it is calculated by some that there are
more than 100,000 head of cattle in the
Territory. The herds are increasing
rather more rapidly now than usual
because the depression and the repatriation
of Asiatic labourers have reduced the
consumption of beef, while the seasons
have been very favourable to cattle-growing.

There are two canning companies
operating in New Caledonia—the New
Caledonia Meat Co. Ltd., an Australian
concern, which has large works and an
extensive area of high-class grazing
country at Mueo, in the north-west,
and another company (French) which
operates in the opposite direction. The
Mueo factory is closed down at pre-
sent, but the other works are still
carrying on operations. The Austral-
ian company has been making efforts
to improve the breed of cattle in the
Territory and has imported a good
class of Australian bulls. The latter
company also is breeding on its
pastoral area a very good class of
light horse suitable for racing, hack
work and light carriage work.

It is interesting to note that there
are now at least 15,000 head of cattle
in the Solomon Islands and large num-
bers in the Mandated Territory of New
Guinea. They are mostly in demand
for grazing in coconut plantations, but
in an increasing number of cases land-
owners are building up herds on suit-
able pastoral areas with a view to
carrying on cattle-farming as such, in-
stead of merely running the cattle as
an adjunct to the plantations. It has
been said, for instance, that there are
areas on the mainland of New Guinea
particularly in the region of the
Markham Valley, which are eminently
suitable for cattle-farming.

The pastoral industry in Fiji has now
attained large proportions and dairym-
ing has increased to that extent that
Fiji not only supplies all her butter
requirements, but now is also an im-
portant exporter of butter.

Personal Notes From Fiji

By Our Suva Correspondent

We had Mr. James Burns in Suva
recently for a few hours. He met
several of the leading people and made
a very favourable impression. His
company, Messrs. Burns, Burns, Philp (South
Sea) Co. Ltd., has its fine new building
well on towards completion.

Mr. Thomas Horne, who recently vis-
ited Sydney, comes back with praise
for The Pacific Islands Monthly, which
he says should play a very useful part
in the development of the Western
Pacific.

His Excellency the Governor paid a
visit to the districts most stricken by
the recent floods and hurricane, and
made himself personally acquainted
with the local conditions. He travelled
in H.M.C.S. "Pioneer."

Sir Maynard Hedstrum returned on
Thursday from a visit to Sydney of
several weeks' duration.
Mr. T. H. C. Taylor, entomologist to
the Fiji Coconut Committee, has left
on his vacation to England. At the
conclusion of his holiday he will prob-
ably proceed to Java, with the object
of securing some more parasites to cope
with diseases of local plantations. Mr.
Taylor has been most active in helping
to eradicate coconut pests.

Dr. Lambert, the special representa-
tive, in the Pacific, of the Rockefeller
Foundation, has gone for his regular
vacation. He recently visited New Zea-
land, and it is reported that the visit
was in connection with developments in
the Foundation's work in the Cook and
other islands.

The Colony is much the poorer by
the withdrawal of several of the best
known Methodist missionaries, owing
to the depression, which has caused the
Methodist Board of Missions to curtail
their activities somewhat. One of the
most valuable men is Rev. L. M.
Thompson, M.A., who has done splen-
did work as a member of the Board
of Education, and also in connection
with mission work among the Indians
and at the Training College at Davu
Levu. Another is the Rev. Mr. Cham-
bers, whose preaching was very highly
esteemed.

Mr. C. B. H. Nott, who has been ac-
cused of merely running the cattle as
an adjunct to the plantations. It has
been said, for instance, that there are
areas on the mainland of New Guinea
particularly in the region of the
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PRODUCTS OF THE SOUTH SEAS

Copra Market Continues Dull

THIS copra market continues to see-saw within a limited circle, and at the moment the selling price has swung down almost to the lowest figure recorded. If the indications of the past 12 months are any guide it will now begin to swing the other way for a few weeks.

The market is extremely hard to forecast. Messrs. L. N. Pichel and Co. London, writing to Messrs. Brown and Joske, Suva, recently, placed their finger on the most curious fact of the situation when they said: "The general depression continues, but at the same time all the copra over here seems to be readily consumed at a price." That is a thing that no one seems able to explain—all copra that reaches Europe goes quickly into consumption and there is no marked accumulation of stocks.

Copra, as well as rival oil seeds, con-

tinues to reach the European and American markets in very large quantities, but already there are suggestions that the tremendous fall in prices in the past year is having the natural effect, and that production is steadily decreasing. Only very bold men venture to forecast the copra market—but it would not be surprising if the figures within the next three months indicate that the general price level for copra is moving to a somewhat higher plane.

However, South Seas planters in trading contact with Australia, who are getting the benefit of the Australian exchange position, have no reason to complain at present.

Whale oil production, which is now a most important factor in the fixation of copra prices, is dealt with elsewhere in this issue.

Market Quotations

Range of Prices

The Pacific Islands Monthly makes a close check of the prices quoted for islands produce, and it regularly publishes the range of prices during each month, including the last available quotation before going to press.

	COPRA		Plantation	
	South Sea	Sun-Dried	Sun-Dried	Per Ton S.I.F.
London				
February 13	14 5 0		14 7 6	
February 27	14 10 0		14 17 6	
March 6	14 12 6		15 0 0	
March 13	14 17 6		15 0 0	
March 20	14 17 6		15 0 0	
March 27	14 17 6		14 12 6	
April 3	14 10 0		14 12 6	
April 10	14 2 0		14 12 6	
April 17	14 5 0		14 7 6	

	RUBBER		Plantation	
	South Sea	Per lb.	Sun-Dried	Per lb.
London				
Price on				
March 20	4s. 6d.		3s. 6d.	
March 27	4s. 6d.		3s. 6d.	
April 3	4s. 6d.		3s. 6d.	
April 10	4s. 6d.		3s. 6d.	
April 17	4s. 6d.		3s. 6d.	

	COTTON		Plantation	
	Good Middling	Per lb.	Sun-Dried	Per lb.
London				
Price on				
March 20	8.5s.		8.5s.	
March 27	8.5s.		8.5s.	
April 3	8.5s.		8.5s.	
April 10	8.5s.		8.5s.	
April 17	8.5s.		8.5s.	

OTHER PRODUCTS.

Prices quoted in Sydney on April 16 for other island produce were:

	Per Ton
Trochus Shell, No. 1 grade	680
Idito, No. 2 grade	45
Idito, No. 3 grade	35
Beche-de-mer, high grade	200
Idito, lower grade, from	50
Cocoa Beans (nominal)	30
Coffee, Parchment	56
Ivory Nuts	11

The market for all grades of trochus shell weakened considerably during the month. Sales of cocoa beans were also made at reduced rates. The market for beche-de-mer, coffee and ivory nuts remained steady.

PEARLING INDUSTRY GOES ON

But With Reduced Personnel

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS, April 9.

THE news that the pearl-shelling industry is to continue during 1931, though in rather an enfeebled form, was received with general relief.

The quota of shell allotted to the two principal Australian producing centres, Thursday Island and Broome, is 1,500 tons each—Darwin's share being not yet decided upon, though likely to be in the neighbourhood of 1,200 tons, which is a just proportion for the number of boats employed. There is not likely to be much difficulty in disposing of this very diminished output, despite the fact that stocks overseas are still unsold. But, naturally, the general business of the Island will suffer somewhat in consequence.

The cost of production will probably be considerably reduced for the 50 odd luggers engaged. Only 1 diver will be needed in each boat. The newly introduced engine power will be used very sparingly, and wages will be cut down.

Nearly 200 Japanese have left Thursday Island this year, to say nothing of some very familiar faces among the Malays. Added to this, new regulations are now coming into force which will drive the New Guinea boys, with cooking pots, war drums and sores complete, out to sea. The waterside will shortly be quite a blank without its crowd of alien "Walk-abouts."

MORE SHIPPING AT PORT MORESBY

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, April 8.

OVERSEAS vessels visiting Port Moresby have been lately more numerous. Besides the monthly Moresby there has been the Carmo, the Le Havre, the Parramatta, and the Le Maire.

The Carisso and Le Havre are oil carriers and called with supplies for Papua, on their way to Australia and Pacific ports. The Parramatta, which is under the agency of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Co., loaded copra for direct shipment to Europe. The Le Maire, a Dutch Royal Packet steamer, is maintaining a three-monthly service between the Dutch East Indies and the Western Pacific.

With so much shipping the wharf and sheds are liable to become congested, and improved conditions would be necessary on the waterfront if any additional vessels were to visit the port.

NOTES FROM NEW GUINEA

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, March 24.
IT is gratifying to learn that the administration, for some months past, has been taking steps to combat the serious menace of malaria by natives against white women and children. Natives who have been previously convicted of charges of this nature have been deported to their villages for periods of three to ten years, and in certain instances for life. The District Officers of the localities have been advised of the nature of these natives, with copies of their records. Such natives are not permitted to sign on again for work with Europeans.

As a result, many natives in employment in private houses have been removed. It is amazing that, although full reasons are given, the removal of these natives was strenuously opposed by some employers. It is to be hoped that the Administration, keeping on with the work which will have a salutary effect on natives, at the same time considers the minds of the European population here.

GERMANS BUYING COPRA

The agents of the Nord-Ostsee-Linie have offered to ship copra to Hamburg by their vessel, Bremerhaven, which calls here every six weeks from Hong Kong and to pay shippers the gross proceeds, less 2½ per cent commission (which covers all charges in Europe) and £3/4-/- freight. Hamburg copra appears to be slightly cheaper than London. As an instance, £15/10/- gross was realised recently at Hamburg for the above charges and export duty, plus exchange at £10 per cent, realised a net amount of £13/5/-. The above date the local Rabaul price was £16/7/4. The disadvantage is that shippers do not get the proceeds of their produce until it is actually sold, and shippers are unable to take advantage of the offer at the present time.

Reference is made elsewhere in this issue to the Bremerhaven's activities.

A POPULAR BASKET

Mr. Arthur Hamilton, manager of the House of New South Wales at Rabaul, will be the Master of a well-earned holiday of about four months. Mr. Hamilton has over the branch of his bank from a staff of three to one of eight, a comparatively short time, and has spread branches at Salamoa and Kavieng, both of which are centres of great public consumption. As a leader and an individual, Mr. Hamilton is held in the highest regard by all with whom he comes in contact, and it is gratifying to learn that his holiday will be arranged for his return for a further term. This is an unusual course, as the custom is to do not return after completion of their term, and can be taken on the day of the side manner in which Mr. Hamilton handles the difficult conditions that rule here. Mr. Hamilton is being relieved by Mr. C. H. of Head Office, Sydney.

OPENING OF THE W.A.C. CLUB

On the night of February 23, Mr. J. A. Christopher officiated at the opening of the Club at Rabaul. The proceedings took the form of an inaugural ball, attended by over 200.

A well known and somewhat historic building, formerly Whitehouse's Store, has been beautifully fitted out by W. R. Carpenter & Co. and given to their staff as a club room. Mr. R. B. Perriman, manager of the firm in this Territory, presented the health of the

patron and founder of the Club, Mr. J. A. Carpenter, who responded with a fine speech on "Loyalty."

Other speakers were: His Honor Judge Wainia (Acting-Administrator), Mr. J. B. Holmes (Chief Magistrate) and His Honor Judge Phillips.

NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC.

Owing to the financial stringency the Administration is not carrying out any new works, but already there are suggestions that the tremendous fall in prices in the past year is having the natural effect, and that production is steadily decreasing. Only very bold men venture to forecast the copra market—but it would not be surprising if the figures within the next three months indicate that the general price level for copra is moving to a somewhat higher plane.

However, South Seas planters in trading contact with Australia, who are getting the benefit of the Australian exchange position, have no reason to complain at present.

Whale oil production, which is now a most important factor in the fixation of copra prices, is dealt with elsewhere in this issue.

RABAU CLUB

Since it was founded the Rabaul Club has occupied quarters which, in military times, were the officers' mess. As these premises have now been found unsuitable as the club rooms it was decided by the club to purchase a site of freehold land at the back of the town, adjacent to the Recreation Reserve. The President (Judge Wainia) and committee have decided to submit the matter of Rabaul to its associate members, and to make the club the social centre of Rabaul.

The present estimate of the new club buildings is between £3,000 and £4,000. The architect is Mr. V. O. Greenwood, and the contractor the Bay Lo Company Ltd.

COPRA EXPORTS

	1930	1931
January	1,287	1,883
February	2,281	4,908

SCHONBERG NATUP

The Matupi was left for some weeks and great anxiety was felt for the safety of the crew. After an adventurous voyage, in which it drifted many hundreds of miles from the Tasmanian to the Dutch New Guinea coast, with a broken down engine, broken steering gear, and a leaking hull, the schooner, which had been received from Adelaide that the Matupi is on her way to Rabaul, under sail.

PERSONAL NOTES

Recent arrivals from Australia have been Mr. B. McEllison, of the local firm of McEllison & Clark; Mr. J. A. Carpenter, managing director of Messrs. W. R. Carpenter & Co. Ltd., who is on a brief visit of inspection; Mr. Bernard Hall, formerly with the firm of Allen, Allen and Hensley, Sydney, is in the staff of Broken and Pinner, and Mr. P. A. Holmes, Acting-Secretary for Lands.

A heavily send-off was accorded Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Greenwood on their departure for Australia. Mr. Greenwood was again last seen, manager for Burns, Philp and Co. Ltd., at Rabaul—a position that he relinquished to his son, Frederick, for the territory. A large number of farewell parties were arranged for their hour. Mr. Greenwood had had an exceedingly difficult task during the past months of depression, but that he handled it with great tact is obvious to the eyes in which he was held by both the staff and clients of his firm. He will be greatly missed here and many express the hope that he will return to the Territory.

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