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# THE Pacific Islands Monthly

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

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## TUNG OIL

### South Sea Experiments

#### FORDII OR MONTANA

A GOOD deal of interest has been evinced in the possibility of cultivating tung oil trees in the Pacific Islands, as a result of the article in the April issue of this journal, and we have had several requests for further information.

Mr. W. R. Carpenter advises that he is experimenting in New Britain with several scores of trees of the Fordii variety, which were obtained from the Botanic Gardens in Sydney. The trees are now about two years old.

Mr. R. C. Laycock, writing from Tulagi, Solomon Islands, early in March, says: "One of the companies has just brought in some tung oil (Aleurites Fordii) plants and seeds for trial. But as I tried some myself about 12 months ago, and they failed absolutely to grow on the best of soil, I rather fear that this species finds the climate too hot. Perhaps the Montana species would be O.K."

Mr. Laycock lays his finger on a point that was later emphasised in our article in April—namely, that it is unlikely that the Fordii species will grow well in a tropical, oceanic climate. In China, the Fordii flourishes in Central China, particularly in the Yangtze Valley, while the Montana species does well in the hot coastal districts of Southern China, Cochinchina and Burma. Fordii, therefore, should be suitable for cultivation in Australia and New Zealand, and possibly in the higher, inland altitudes of New Guinea; but as Mr. Laycock says, it is likely that Montana will do better than Fordii in the Pacific Islands generally. Fordii is the better oil producer, and therefore the better commercial proposition; but cultivation of Montana, if practicable, is also quite profitable.

## N. GUINEA MINING

### Mr. Dunstan's Investigations

From Our Canberra Correspondent

CANBERRA, May 12. MR. B. DUNSTAN, formerly chief Government geologist in Queensland, is still in New Guinea, continuing his inquiry into the goldmining conditions there. The object of his visit is to ascertain whether, in view of the special conditions, any amendment of the mining laws is necessary. The Papuan Government has asked that Mr. Dunstan's services be made available for general geological work when he has completed his investigations in the Mandated Territory, and it has been arranged that this shall be done.

Whilst there have been no gold discoveries of any importance in Papua lately, it is desired that Mr. Dunstan shall make some examination of the country and report as to its possibilities.

Before the war there was considerable activity in copper mining at Bootless Inlet, near Port Moresby—the Laloki Copper Mines. The works, however, were obliged to close down after the war, owing to the low price of copper, and the low prices which have since prevailed have rendered all efforts to revive the industry abortive.

## LEIPZIG TRADE FAIR

Child advice has been received from the authorities of the Leipzig Trade Fair, in Germany, by their Sydney representative, Mr. J. G. Brundage, to the effect that the Spring Fair, which opened at Leipzig on March 1, was a success. There were over 9,000 exhibitors.

Visitors were present from 56 different countries.

## Papuan Native Labour

### New Regulations

#### Mixed Reception Among Commercial Interests

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, May 2. THERE have been two regulations of the Government lately that have caused some comment amongst the planters, storekeepers and traders.

The first is, that guarantees for native labour contracts are, in most cases, not acceptable, and that it is now compulsory to pay native labour in advance, to ensure the native getting his payments, owing to the uncertain state of the different companies and plantations during the depressed conditions of the country.

The second regulation is that all natives are to be paid off in the districts they were recruited and to which they belong, and that no advances on their contracts are permitted while they are being employed.

These regulations are both in the interests of the natives, the second to ensure, the native his entire earnings when he reaches his home, amongst his own people, the first guaranteeing that he gets his money. These new laws have caused inconvenience. In the first place it has been hard to find ready money to pay a considerable number of boys their wages in advance and their recruiting and signing-on expenses at the same time.

In the second instance some storekeepers and traders have relied almost entirely on the purchases of natives before leaving their districts after the completion of their contracts.

However, it is hard to please everyone. The outside trader welcomes the changes. He now eagerly looks forward to "pay-offs" in his district.

Many natives are not entirely pleased with the regulations, especially those who do not wish to return to their homes to share their wages, and those who are disgruntled that no advances are allowed to them—while the new law prevents. Others, of course, are entirely satisfied and look forward to the cash they will get in their villages while the money lasts.

It is compulsory for a native to return to his village after a period of five years' service before making another contract. This is to ensure the consolidation and continuance of native village life, which, if broken up, would be disastrous to the Territory generally.

## COOK IS. WEDDING

### Reception at The Residency

From Our Own Correspondent

RAROTONGA, April 28. THE first European wedding for some time took place here on April 7. The contracting parties were Miss Nancy Ayson of Tairo, Otago, and Mr. A. Stevens of Rarotonga.

Miss Ayson came to Rarotonga to work in the field of education, and to the natives and Europeans she has become well known and well liked by all.

The reception was held at the residence of Judge Ayson, the Resident Commissioner, cousin of the bride. The Residency stands on a low knoll in a beautiful surrounding and commands a fine view. The bride and bridegroom were warmly welcomed with the best that tropical beauty could offer them. The bride looked charming in a beautiful frock of white georgette and lace.

Mr. G. H. Murray, Director of Agriculture in New Guinea, recently arrived in Sydney on leave.

## ISLANDS SHIPS

### Itineraries Still Indefinite

#### SCHEDULE OF PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS

NO finality has yet been reached between the Federal Government and Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd. regarding the rearrangement of Islands steamers, but it is expected that a definite decision will be reached shortly.

In the meantime, the new M.V. Mafud is sailing from Sydney for New Guinea on May 16, and her schedule is published in our shipping column. The next vessel to New Guinea will be probably the Marinka, and her sailing date will be May 30.

Regarding the Solomon Islands service, the Mataram will leave Sydney on her next trip on June 19. The succeeding trip will be made on July 18, but it is not known what vessel will be then on the service.

The Morua will leave Sydney for Papua on May 27. The next trip is scheduled for June 14, but here, again, the steamers for that trip is not known. For the Norfolk Island-New Hebrides service, the Makambo will depart from Sydney on the short trip on June 8. This vessel, or a substitute, will leave on the long trip on June 23.

The Makambo is at present undergoing overhaul in Sydney, and she will not be in commission again until the latter end of June.

## HONOUR FOR PETER

### Old Life-Saver From Solomons

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, May 2. THE Long Room in the Customs House recently was filled by officials and shipping men, gathered to do honour to the little old Solomon Islander named Peter. He has lived in Fiji for 40 years, and has been night watchman on King's Wharf for a number of years. During that time he has, all alone, saved the lives of two white men and one Chinese.

Following the second act of bravery, the Royal Humane Society's attention was called to Peter by the Secretary of State, and Peter was awarded the certificate and bronze medal of the Society.

At 11 p.m. on December 11 last, he heard cries and found a Chinese in the harbour, and two Europeans on the wharf vainly trying to catch hold of the drowning man. Divesting himself of his much-loved tunic, Peter jumped into the shark-infested waters and rescued the drowning man.

The Comptroller of Customs (Mr. J. M. Wilson), addressed Peter, who wore his medal, and said that the Governor had decided that a monetary recognition should be given to him, as a small reward in recognition of your brave act. Mr. Wilson concluded, "I am proud to be the head of the Department that employs you."

The address concluded with loud cheers and Peter's hand was eagerly shaken by the people present, all of whom congratulated him. It was a great occasion for Peter, who was moved to tears by the enthusiasm around him. He stood there, with a slight smile on his face, but never a word could be uttered. Like many another brave man, he believed in deeds, not words.

## Unilever and Copra's Future

### INTERNATIONAL COMBINE'S STRANGLEHOLD

#### Capitalisation Problem for South Seas Planters

By R. W. ROSSON, EDITOR OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY.

IN my first two articles, written in London in January, I dealt with two depressing and discouraging factors in the world's copra market—namely, the enormous over-production of all classes of vegetable oil seeds, and of whale oil; and the manner in which scientific discoveries and technical developments have allowed soap and margarine manufacturers to use, as substitutes for coconut oil, various soft vegetable oils and animal products which, formerly, could not be used in high-class goods.

In this article, I propose to give something about the most disturbing factor operating in the market—namely, the combination of buyers. The over-production of oil, and scientific progress, while unfortunate, cannot be resented—they are the natural results of commercial development and the law of supply and demand—and they will cure themselves.

BUT the Combine is in a different category. It is an artificial creation, a poisonous growth on the healthy body of trade, a sinister and cruel force designed to suck the life-blood out of private enterprise, and rob honest industry of its just rewards.

Most of the things which alarm the coconut planter to-day are of transient character—with other economic abnormalities, they presently will pass away. The Combine, I fear, is here to stay for some time—merciless in its purpose, and so strong that it can defy the strongest selling agent and the most determined Government. At the present time it is completely in command of the European market. Over-production, chaotic economic conditions, and buyers' weakness—all have given it a hold of the market from which it cannot easily be pried loose. I can see only one ray of hope in the situation—a possibility that the bludgeoning of the market will give small manufacturers a chance. That possibility is dealt with later on.

In a world of great combines, Unilever is among the most powerful. I have not the exact figures, but I know that they are startling. It dominates the soap and margarine making industries of Europe—few, if any, manufacturers of importance are now operating against it. Its operations extend over the whole world, and it controls almost every selling market—except possibly those in North America.

The growth of the Unilever Combine can be traced from developments before and during the war. Originally there were two big operators in the copra market—Tegen and Vandenberg, both Dutch. During the war, while the competing firms of the combinate nations were otherwise occupied, these two big concerns got together and bought a controlling interest in certain German mills.

After the war, a strong German organisation, the Helmer Combine, sprang up, and took control of mills in Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, and Switzerland. It fought the Dutch Combine, and competition was healthy. But the next move was bad—there came a Tegen-Vandenberg-Helmer combination, which gave them control of the margarine industry in nearly every country. They bought a mill in Latvia, a controlling interest in two big mills in Sweden, and, in the latter end of 1930, they got control of the Norwegian mills.

Meanwhile, the Continental organisation had linked up with British manufacturers—and so we obtain the famous "Margarine Union," controlling margarine manufacture and distribution throughout Europe, and in the East, too, buying for the mills of Britain, Scandinavia, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Czecho-Slovakia.

During this period Lever Brothers were creating in the soap making industry of Europe the same dominant organisation that the Dutch-German Combine had brought into being in the margarine business. Since their chief raw materials were the same, it was inevitable that the Margarine Union and Lever Brothers should come close together—either as friends or enemies.

To the discomfiture of the oil seed producers of the world, they amalgamated their interests. And this Unilever was born, less than two years ago.

OVER-PRODUCTION FAVOURS UNILEVER. No arguments or figures of mine are needed to show how Unilever can command the European copra market. Even in normal times, the concentration of so much buying power in the one organisation must have adversely affected sellers' interests. But, if all the high gods had combined to arrange favourable conditions for the advent of Unilever in the raw materials market, they could not have improved the position as Unilever found it in 1930. The phenomenal over-production of every kind of oil seed, and of whale oil, simply invited Unilever to pay what it liked for copra and all allied commodities. Unilever, naturally, took full advantage of its opportunity, and has established itself, firmly and permanently, as the most powerful factor governing the European copra market.

Unilever completely controls the selling price of copra in Northern Europe. The Marsella group of copra buyers is independent of the Combine, and provides the chief market for the South Seas product. But the Marsella market absorbs only 100,000 tons of copra annually, and the buyers there naturally

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.)



Shiphut of Peter, with Mr. Wilson, head of Customs Department (second from right), just after the presentation.

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## UNILEVER AND COPRA'S FUTURE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ally take advantage of the favourable prices created by Unilever operations. The American market is said to have maintained independence. But it was told in London in January that negotiations had been in progress between Unilever and some of the chief American consumers of vegetable oils.

The whole aspect of the coconut oil producing industry has altered in Europe. At one time a large proportion of the copra sold in Europe went to British mills. To-day, the London mills are crushing less than 1,000 tons per week. The work is being done in the Continental mills. The London brokers who deal in copra are now much reduced in numbers.

### PUBLIC DOES NOT BENEFIT.

The most significant fact about these developments was thus presented to me by a leading merchant in the City of London, who is a keen student of the copra market:

"Although prices of raw materials have fallen tremendously, and Unilever claims as justification of its demands that it has reduced overhead and production costs, the public has gained little advantage. The price of margarine (mild-Jarvis) is substantially the same as it was two years ago. Unilever is getting the difference between £28 which it paid for copra two years ago, and £13 (to-day) and, apparently, it is paying the difference to the amount involved in buying up all the retail crumbing plants and throwing them into the sea."

Here is a well known London copra broker's summary:

"There are only two big buyers here now—Unilever and the Co-operative and Whitehouse Co. The conditions have had a tremendous effect on the trade—we sell to a few combine houses now, where before we sold to many local mills. The chief Continental buyers are in Northern Europe and in France. There is a small demand from Italy, Spain and Turkey. The respective demands of soap-makers and margarine manufacturers for copra are just about 10-15."

"To my mind, the most reassuring argument, in regard to the future of your coconut plantations, is that much more than the vegetable oils are a valuable food, and that the coconut is the most useful of all the food crops. But, even when the world is in a position of economic depression, I cannot see how we can much control standing in the last decade for oil to regain control of the market, in our hands."

### SIGNIFICANT FIGURES.

Just as I write this, there comes to my hand a series of articles, written by Isaac Marcosson for The Saturday Evening Post, and surveying the world's economic condition. Two of his statements are, for my purpose, singularly apposite.

"I have, in these articles, emphasised the price-depressing effect of the enormous over-production of oil-seeds. It is a condition common to almost every common product." Says Marcosson.

"It may be interesting to note that, while world population increased by only 10 per cent. between 1913 and 1928, its production of foodstuffs and raw materials grew 25 per cent. Trade is 22 per cent. greater than in 1913."

On the subject of combines, Marcosson is emphatic: "A factor which bears directly upon... the new world economic set-up lies in the growth of the international trust. With close-knit international groups in a wide range of commodities from glue and glass to rayon and steel—there are more than 100 pooling arrangements in Europe. These trusts, all initiated and participated in by Germany, have succeeded because the element of politics has not been injected."

### What of the future?

Here (if I may recapitulate) are the chief factors which have brought about this depressed copra market:

1. A general inability to buy, the result of the world's economic condition. That is a temporary condition and will presently pass away.
2. Huge over-production of oil-seeds and whale-oil. That, also, is a temporary condition. The fall in prices the level of production cost, and below, will inevitably reduce production, and price-levels will swing back again.
3. The treatment of soft oils so that they may be used as hard oils, in place of coconut oil. This appears to be a permanent condition, and must be faced.

Margarine-makers now can, and do, use up to 70 per cent. of whale oil. It comes down to a question of price. To show a hard-meat reduced from 100 to 25 per cent. To get a refined, deodorized coconut oil from copra costs £12 per ton. In comparison, the same grade, out of production, whale-oil is £15 per ton. For comparison, the figure might be amended, this way:

|                         | Copra | Whale-oil |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Net cost of production  | £12   | £15       |
| Cost of refining oil    | 15    | 25        |
| Net cost of refined oil | 27    | 40        |

The report that Unilever now proposes to build its own whale-oil refinery in Antarctica, thus cutting out the Norwegian exporters from the European market, is significant and disturbing.

4. The domination of the market by the Unilever Combine.

It is apparent that Unilever plans to bring control of the market by balancing whale-oil against vegetable oil. This is easy, under the present depressed conditions; but it will not be so easy, once the economic pendulum swings back—as it inevitably will at an early date—and the world regains its buying capacity. Once let the market for oil-food products increase, and the Unilever manufacturers probably will have competition. They are buying their raw materials at less than half of what they were two years ago, and selling their products at the old prices, they are to-day simply inviting competition.

While Unilever is supreme and unchallenged, the outlook for the copra producer is not cheery. But if Unilever is vulnerable and can be attacked—and many well-informed men seem certain that Unilever will presently be challenged—the planter can take heart of grace.

### PROBLEM OF CAPITALISATION.

Meanwhile, it is clear that the real and immediate problem for the South Seas planters, particularly those in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea who are paying off expropriated plantations—is one of capital. Most of the plantations established in the last 10 or 12 years are on a financial basis more less fixed by the price of copra between 1920 and 1929—in other words, it is likely that for the most part, they represent a capital investment that is not now justified by their earning power.

It stands to reason that, so far as plantation properties generally are concerned—except in cases where planters had been sufficiently far-sighted to treat the 1920-29 period of prices as exceptional and not normal—there must be serious and far-reaching readjustments of values. Where planters have built up no reserve, to permit a writing down of values to meet the new conditions, much in the way of "paper assets" (values created by boom prices) must disappear and their disappearance must bring ruin to many hard-working men who bought their properties hopefully, but unwisely.

The position was admirably summed up for me in London by Mr. W. J. Gilbert, president of the Copra Buyers' Association:

"The problem for the coconut planter in the South Seas, I think, is one of capitalisation. I personally sold copra from the New Guinea and Solomon Expropriated plantations here in London, on behalf of the Australian Government, for £26 per ton. That was the price two years ago. To-day, that same quality copra is selling for £14 and £14/10 per ton. There may be some recovery, but it stands to reason, in view of all the circumstances, that the price is not going back beyond £20 per ton. It may not, for some time, improve much on the present rates. The position of those planters who established themselves on properties, on a basis of £25 or more for copra, is pretty clear. They must write down their property values and reduce production costs, so as to make a profit on copra at £10 to £12 per ton, on the plantation."

"I have heard discussions lately concerning what is to be the future 'living price' of copra on the plantation. Copra is now coming into this market from one country where the producers, by careful capitalisation and close scrutiny of costs, can sell at £10 per ton, to-day. After that the copra has to bear the cost of freight, insurance, handling charges, loss of weight and commissions. The fair average f.o.b. price for Singapore, and that region, is £12 per ton."

## SALAMOÁ TO WAU

### Need For a Road

### SAFE AND ECONOMICAL TRANSPORT

THERE is no doubt that a road is necessary from Salamoá to Wau, if the New Guinea goldfields are to be developed on economical lines.

Air transport has its limitations, especially in a country where flying conditions are so difficult and, at times, treacherous. Only recently, that efficient organisation, Guinea Airways Ltd., had three minor mishaps to single-engine machines, and the company found itself with insufficient planes to cope with the cargo loaded at Salamoá.

Of course, it is an accepted fact that triple-engine planes are safer than single-engine machines, but absolute safety cannot be expected. For instance, the three-engined Handley Page, owned by New Guinea Goldfields Ltd., crashed during unfavourable weather after eight months of splendid service.

Placer Development Ltd., before deciding on the transport by air of dredging machinery for Bulalo Gold Dredging Ltd., engaged an engineer to report on the possibilities of constructing a road from the coast to the field, and his estimate of the cost of the work was £250,000. It was then decided by the directors that triple-engine planes, each capable of carrying 7,000 pounds per loading, would do the job. Two Junkers were purchased at a landed cost of £65,000, and these are now both in New Guinea ready to commence transport work.

But for economy and safety, not only considering the companies, but also the many employees and individual prospectors on the field, a road is necessary. It need not be a paved or concreted highway, which would cost an enormous sum to construct. A cleared track would be sufficient during the present stage of development. Along such a route could be hauled stores and equipment by the use of some motive power, such as caterpillar tracks. Although the country is known to be of a very mountainous nature, it should be possible to discover a likely track.

At present the price of transport from Salamoá to Wau is around 6d. to 8d. per pound, making a pound tin of meat cost £8 on the field, as against 1/- on the coast, and so on. Overland transport would be far cheaper, and, even allowing for the cost of constructing a road, it should be possible at half the cost of plane transport. And what is more important, safety would be assured.

It seems an opportunity for some enterprising person, with a sound knowledge of the country and the necessary financial backing, to go ahead and blaze the trail.

## TRANSITION OF FIJIAN

MR. C. C. HENDERSON, M.A., has written a book which should be read not only by anthropologists, but also by everyone interested in Fiji. It is entitled "Fiji and the Fijians, 1811-1924," and in it he gives a complete history of the Fijians in the period of their transition from the old order of living to the new. In the course of special investigations in Australia, Fiji and England, Mr. Henderson has found large and important collections of original documents, which have helped him in the construction of the book. The author's object in preparing the work has been to tell about events in Fiji in the light of the Fijians and their customs, the way between the Fijians and the Christians and the work of the missionaries who resided in Fiji from 1811 to 1924. These three subjects have been expanded by Rev. Thomas Williams, Wesley Methodist minister, 877, in his journal, and Mrs. Mr. Henderson's studies.

The book is profusely illustrated. It is published by Messrs. Angus and Robertson, and the price is 25/-.

The number of foreign-going merchant vessels which entered Tonga during 1930 totalled 32, with a tonnage of 83,245. Warnings to visit the Group during the year were H.M.S. Dunedin and H.M.S. Laburnum.

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## PAPUAN NEWS

### Copra Position Improves—Promising Sugar Crop

From Our Own Correspondent.

**PORT MORESBY, April 18.**  
THERE is little to report in connection with the Territory's commerce. Rubber and copra remain about the same, though there is more activity in the sales of copra, owing to the favourable rate of exchange on London.

Planters and traders are sending in their available copra at every opportunity, and there is some activity and competition for freights from rival firms. Freight charges have been cut, and this has benefited the planters a little.

When possible, all copra is being shipped direct to European ports, by steamers under the agency of Burns, Philp & Co. The Paracombe arrived on March 25 and took a full complement of cargo. The storekeepers here arrange to give both to themselves and their customers the benefit of the rate of exchange, which seems to satisfy most of them, but not all.

#### CULTIVATION OF SUGAR AND COFFEE

The cultivation of sugar is progressing and further operations are well under way. The Territory is in line with interest in the operations of the Sargam Sugar Co. The Government has high hopes for the future of two new industries—sugar and coffee. There will be plenty of opportunities in this territory when conditions become more normal for energetic enterprise in these two lines for it has been realised that to rely on rubber and copra entirely for exports is unsatisfactory.

#### LADY MURRAY RETURNS.

Lady Murray returned to Papua with His Excellency Sir Hubert Murray, K.C.M.G., on the last Merindia, after an absence of several months, during which time she has journeyed to England and back.

Her reception by the ladies of Port Moresby was very warm and sincere, and many were down at the wharf as the Merindia drew alongside. The manner of the greetings, the flowers presented to her and the careful preparation of Government House can leave no doubt in Lady Murray's mind of the esteem with which she is regarded by the women of Papua, and the pleasure her return has given them.

Lady Murray will be accompanying His Excellency on a visit of inspection to Daru, along the west coast of Papua, and they will be leaving almost immediately by the Laurabada. His Excellency's yacht.

#### SPORTING ACTIVITIES.

Cricketers and golfers—cricketers especially—are most enthusiastic at present. Every Saturday cricket matches are played on the Oval and prove quite a good afternoon's entertainment.

The golfing season and tournaments will be opening in May, and with the cooler weather there will be great activity on the links, which are improving weekly. Many new members are rolling up.

Badminton is also very popular with both men and women in the town. It is played inside the Institute Hall, afternoons and evenings. A good deal of skill is needed in the game, and the mixed doubles tournaments in the evenings are quite worth watching.

To Badminton are added swimming and canoe racing. So it would appear that Port Moresby, on the whole, is not entirely backward in sports and pastimes.

#### PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

A number of residents are away at present from the Territory. Amongst them are His Honour Mr. Justice Gore

and Mrs. Gore, who are absent on leave, and also the Hon. A. P. Lyons, Director of Public Works. Mr. G. M. Turnbull, who has just returned, is relieving Mr. Lyons.

Mr. Ward Williams, the mining expert who has been examining Papua's prospects, has lately returned to Port Moresby from the mainland, beyond Yule Island.

In anticipation of cooler weather and brighter times a dance was held in the Institute Hall on March 28, and in spite of the heat and mosquitoes it was a considerable success, no doubt due to the excellent orchestra under the management of Mr. Hannam, the musical virtuoso of the town.

### T. I.'S "PEARL KING"

#### Sudden Death of Mr. Farquhar

From Our Own Correspondent.

THURSDAY IS., April 18.

THE sudden death of Mr. T. J. Farquhar on March 21 removes one of the outstanding figures of the Thursday Island, and deprives many people throughout the Pacific of an old friend.

Mr. Farquhar was undoubtedly a link with the past, and to men of his type a certain amount of romance always attaches itself on account of an adventurous career and associations with the days when Thursday Island

was not quite the minor peaceful spot to say the least. It is to-day.

Mr. Farquhar arrived at Thursday Island in 1893 in connection with the Queensland Pearling Co., and has been a prominent pearler ever since. Like most courageous men, he took risks in business at times and had his ups and downs, but in the main his shrewdness and capable management brought him success. He was essentially a lucky man and won through where a lesser man might have failed. He shone in the difficult art of pearling, being one of the chief local buyers, and many fine gems from Torres Straits passed through his hands.

In character he was marked by tolerance and good nature, qualities which made him a master man in dealing with natives, and there are many islanders who, having served him well, will regret the passing of an old "boss." His readiness to help white men in distress was well known, and he had a special bias in favour of returned soldiers, having lost his eldest son in the war.

He was constantly to be found in civic matters during his long residence and was instrumental in establishing the telephone on the island by giving a personal guarantee that at least 25 subscribers would come forward. Socially, too, he will be missed; his striking personality, stock of local lore, and his genial manner attracted attention amongst all visitors. Many a writer features "Tommy, the Pearl King," as he was called.

In matters of sport he thoroughly deserved that typically Australian title of honour—"a good sport." He attended and supported every form of game on Thursday Island, and had been himself a noted football player and amateur sculler in New Zealand.

The firm of Farquhar Ltd. will be carried on by his only surviving son, Donald Farquhar, but the pearling game will be the loser of one of its keenest and brainiest followers.



### Norfolk Island

By a Settler from Overseas

O'H, come away from cities, oh, come away with me,  
Sell, say good-bye to old Sydney across the Southern Sea.  
If you're tired of old Sydney, and you're longing for a rest,  
I'll take you to the land I call "The Island of the Blue."  
A you it lies, untroubled, under long white cliffs deep  
Of the wide, blue Pacific where waves never sleep.  
They guard around this spot that is their home  
The tall and sturdy pine trees branching upward to the skies.  
It matters not which way you turn—North, South, or East or West—

And who can say one perfect is more fair than all the rest—  
There's "Handed Apple," "Fruit Lane," and "Lionel's Avenue."  
Here you'll find Philip Island "Giant the ocean's" every day.

The housewife with their paddocks where the quiet cattle feed  
Bring to your heart a sense of peace, of calm that is not dead.  
For, far away from war and strife, and pain and bitterness—  
The "Blue" is a haven where the soul is safe as in a cave.

So, come away from the cities, oh, come away with me—  
You never will regret it, for, no matter where you be,  
Whenever things seem all weary and life is losing sight,  
You'll never forget that once you found "The Island of the Blue."

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# Answer to Correspondent

C.A.S. (Sydney): We have pleasure in supplying you with the following information about Tonga. Only leased land is obtainable. After obtaining the consent of the chief in whose district the land is situated, applications are made to the Minister for Lands. In the case of Crown lands, application is made direct to the Minister. The average rental of leased land is 4/- per acre. Cocos has not yet been planted commercially, but individual trees seem to thrive well. Pisonia trees are not cultivated, but when sown on abandoned clearing and old ran patches, it grows profusely. There is no direct tax on Europeans, but they pay a general import duty of 12 per cent. ad valorem. Apart from Government Customs, there are no public utility or newspaper. English currency is used, but it is supplemented by an issue of Tongan Treasury notes. There are no banks, but money transfers can be made through the trading firms. Exchange rates in sympathy with the M.S. and P.M. exchange. The cost of living is about 20 per cent. higher than in Australia and N.Z. Brooming house charges vary from 2/- to 4/- per month. Ordinary labourers receive about 2/- per month and keep. Native carpenters are paid from 10/- to 15/- per day; and European carpenters 25/- per day.

# NEW GUINEA

## Notes From Rabaul

From Our Own Correspondent.

RABAU, April 20.

THE buildings for the new Native Maternity Welfare Centre at Malambanga, near the Balmindie District, are nearing completion, and the second Nursing Sister has now arrived in the Territory.

The new Rabaul Club building is showing good progress, and it should not now be very long before it is ready for occupation.

**NEW COMPOUND FOR NATIVES.** It has been proposed that a new native compound should be built at Rabaul, where all Government indentured natives may be quartered, thus keeping a great many natives out of the town area after nightfall.

This work cannot be commenced this financial year, however, as there are no funds available at present. But we have great hope that in the next financial year the work shall be gone on with.

## COPRA SHIPMENTS.

|          | 1930       | 1931       |
|----------|------------|------------|
| January  | 1,957 Tons | 3,462 Tons |
| February | 2,385 Tons | 4,482 Tons |
| March    | 2,343 Tons | 3,328 Tons |

Shipments of copra by the Nord-Deutscher Lloyd steamer Bremerhaven are now considerable. The trip to Bremerhaven took a full quota of cargo, and we understand that space for the next trip is fully booked.

## PLANTERS' APPEAL.

The Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League, Rabaul branch, has been in communication during March with the Commonwealth Government, with a view to having the present suspension of payments to the Custodian of Expropriated Properties extended for another year, owing to the continuing low price of copra.

The returned soldiers of the Territory have decided to form a Returned Soldiers' Planters' and Traders' Sub-Branch, which will be affiliated with the Territory of New Guinea State Branch. It is believed that such a move would be for the benefit of the returned soldiers interested in planting and trading, as these comprise 10 per cent. of the planters of the Territory. They would then have the support of the governing body in Australia, and any representations made to the Commonwealth Government would have the backing of that strong organisation.

## EDUCATION TAX OFF.

The Administration has notified the R.S. and S. League that the native education tax of 1/- per native per month, which is paid to the Government, has been waived until June 30, 1931. This concession is greatly appreciated by the returned soldier planters, as it represents in the vicinity of 3/- per ton on their copra.

## PERSONAL.

The Administrator, Brigadier-General Wisdom, recently returned after an absence of about three months in Australia, on official business.

Our popular and efficient medical officer, Dr. F. Brennan, with Mrs. Brennan and family, has returned after an absence of twelve months in Australia. During his absence, Dr. Brennan did a course in tropical medicine at the University of Melbourne.

Mr. E. P. Chinnery has returned after an absence of twelve months in the Chinnery carried out a very extensive tour and during the time he was away spent in Geneva on behalf of the Administration to advise the League of Nations on native questions connected with this Mandated Territory.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Carpenter, of Messrs. W. B. Carpenter & Co. Ltd., paid a short visit to Rabaul, per M.V. Templar, in April, and returned to Sydney by the same boat.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson, of Kokopo, have returned, after an absence of four months.

Mr. E. M. Grant, who has been absent on leave in Australia for the past six months, has returned to Rabaul.

Mr. G. T. Wells, of the Lands Department, is back again after a few months' leave in Australia.

Our Chief Collector of Customs, Mr. E. Featherstone, proceeded south by the St. Albans last week on leave.

## SOCIAL NOTES.

The Rabaul Maonile Lodge gave a ball last before Easter, in an endeavour to retain the "ashes" which they had won last Christmas, but Rabaul on this occasion were too good for the visitors.

On Easter Monday a dinner and dance were given to the visitors at the Rabaul Hotel, and in the Honour the Administrator presented the "ashes" to the Rabaul team.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Heron, of Tokovundum plantation, gave a farewell dinner party at the Wunawutene Hotel to Mr. and Mrs. E. Featherstone (Chief Collector of Customs) prior to their departure south on leave.

# FIJIAN FARMERS

## C. S. R. Co.'s Interesting Experiment

Favourable Comparison with Indians

From Our Own Correspondent.

SUVA, April 27.

ONE of the most important questions before the Fijian Administration for some time has been whether it was possible to induce the Fijian to become a settler, and settle down to fairly of purpose and cultivate the soil, as Indian farmers have been doing for many years.

Herbert, the Fijian has depicted settled employment. He has hired himself out for a 12 months term on plantation work, but even then, he sometimes gets tired, and without rhyme or reason simply clears out. He has never shown a desire to become a cultivator. He plants his little garden with sufficient foodstuffs to see him through the year. The plants are put in, usually, with a sharp stick, just as his forefathers did a hundred years ago.

In recent years, however, some attempts have been made to make him take up agriculture seriously. More recently the C.S.R. Co., with a sympathetic Government behind it, has placed Fijians on ten-acre lots of cane country. It was an experiment, which has been a failure. To-day, the Fijian has conquered prejudice and is making good.

In this connection, Sir Maynard Hedstrom, who recently has been touring the flood-stricken areas of Ba and Suva, and along the northern coast, gives his impressions, in a most interesting article, published in The Fiji Times.

In it Sir Maynard shows that the experiment is proving a success. First of all, the men work as labourers, and thereby acquire a good deal of knowledge of the growing of cane. When blocks of land become available, likely looking Fijian labourers are given, each, a ten-acre block. They till this land in compliance with the rules laid down by the company, and under the immediate superintendence of a European overseer.

Marriage is encouraged, as the married state gives a better guarantee for the men to work. The natives erect their own huts and form village settlements. It is hoped that, finally, each family will work on its own block but, for the present, groups of Fijians work on a sort of co-operative plan, although when the cane is cut and delivered, the payments are made direct to each tenant, for his own particular block.

It was heartening for Sir Maynard to see young Fijians working in the field. He saw a number of men, women and some children, planting out cane. The experiment had a bad beginning, because of the storms and floods, but they only served a good purpose by showing the mettle of the native. While the Indian farmer, who had been affected by the floods, sat back mournfully, and contemplated for say a couple of weeks the havoc done, the Fijian farmer tackled at once the job of rehabilitating himself. In many cases with a snarl and a laugh, it was all part of the plan to these children of Nature.

An amusing instance is given of the native's idea of the value of money. Last season, when the native farmers were paid for their cane, they paid half of the proceeds into the Government Savings Bank. When their crops were destroyed last February, and they were living on wild yams and ivi nuts, the overseer suggested that they draw the money, or part of it, from the bank for necessities. They frankly rejected the idea at once, SAYING "THAT THE MONEY HAD NOT BEEN THERE LONG ENOUGH. Questioned, the overseer said that the Fijian farmer was proving himself equal to the Indian cultivator.

# Death of Mother Superior

From Our Rabaul Correspondent.

The death of Rev. Mother Gerard, Superior of the Convent of the Sacred Heart at Vunapope, Kokopo, New Guinea, occurred recently.

She had been superior of the Convent for 30 years and was held in the highest respect and esteem, not only by the sisters, but by the hundreds of children who were in her care. She arrived in the Territory in 1886 and always took a leading part in the work of the Mission.

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## SAVING OF SUVA

Interesting Incident  
of 1914How "Dam Fool" Governor  
Scared off Enemy

In an article published recently in *The Cornhill Magazine*, Mr. Malcolm Maxwell (formerly private secretary to Sir E. B. Sweet-Escott, K.C.M.G., Governor of Fiji) describes a hitherto unrecorded incident of the war.

THE Australian fleet, so long a reminder to Suva people that the war was a reality and not a delusion, had left Fiji for New Guinea. The exquisite harbour of Suva resumed its tranquil appearance, its white reef glistening in the sun and inviting, so it would seem, not mighty battle-ships but vessels of commerce and peaceful trade to enter its passage— that strange natural gateway so common to South Sea coral reefs—while the mountains which, like dark sentinels of time, fringe the harbour shores, seemed to breathe once more of permanence and everlasting peace.

For me the absence of the fleet meant a certain respite from telegrams—telegrams to be dealt with at all hours, to be coded, decoded, re-coded by day and by night. It was a peculiarity of Fiji that the Governor was also Vice-Admiral of the Pacific waters, and as such all naval communications were addressed in the first instance to him, and on me devolved the task of decoding and re-coding many a lengthy telegram from the Admiralty to Admiral Patey, the Commander-in-Chief in fact. For the Suva population it meant a sense of being out of the war, the assumption being that the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, those dread eagles of Von Spee which hovered over the Pacific like a cloud, were

at a safe distance and occupied with other prey than us.

True, we still had the Sealark with us and her three-pounder and machine guns, but this protection, even as the trenches and with their departure the grim picture which they had made seemed like a dream. Social life went on as before briskly in the capital, and it seemed that we read the official bulletins of war news as snailshells and no longer as actors in the drama which was being played on a stage greater than Europe. Its footlights showing up such distant scenes as the Cameroons and Cocon Islands.

## A STARTLING MESSAGE.

It was, if I remember rightly, about 4 p.m. when I received and decoded a certain message from Apia, in Samoa. I took it straight to the Governor's office. I watched him closely, as I knew that its contents would—well, make him think. He read the decoded message quietly, calmly—no change of expression showed on his face, but I noticed that he looked tired, grey—what he read was roughly this:

That at 6 a.m. that morning Von Spee had put into the harbour of Apia with Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, that their guns had been trained on the town and the guns' crews had taken station.

That no shot, however, was fired, the enemy cruisers weighing anchor at 7 a.m. and making for sea, there after steaming in a south-westerly direction.

The message was signed by the Administrator and was for the Governor of Fiji's information, as Suva lay in the course of the enemy ships.

The Governor gave his orders immediately. To ring up the wireless with instructions that they were to concentrate on receiving or "picking up" messages and that, and as was inevitable—our end. But we would not mingle our countrymen in the havoc. Auckland, Wellington, Sydney—too

fire, ever swelling in volume, fanned and whipped by shrieking shells, the crash of explosives and the rumble of falling masonry. A town of almost voluptuous loveliness transformed into a spectacle of hideous ruin.

We waited anxious—more anxious as the moments passed and the grey light softened. Already the secret ciphers had been tried and their grave carefully concealed. Anxious eyes, too, below round the cable station looked out towards the ocean, eyes of men who must be the first to feel the shock of high explosives, soldiers who must face death without a blow, without resistance.

We waited and the grey gloom changed to pearly white with dawns of pink about the horizon. Thank God, the seas were clear! An hour passed, and then bright daylight—but no enemy was sighted, no German warship showed black against the skyline.

Suva was saved, so it seemed. But little was said. The taxi-drivers restored their fares of the night before to pleasant homes, dances became once more the evening pastime, once more there was calm, not again to be interrupted by an enemy's presence.

Some months later when Sturdee had cleared the Pacific and the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, with their gallant Admiral, lay at the bottom of the ocean, a German merchantman was captured, as she tried to round the Horn and slip out of the way of the British Fleet, and in the mail bag was found a letter from a young officer on board the Gneisenau. Only a paraphrase of the letter can be given from memory, but this is roughly what he wrote:

"At dawn we put into Apia intending to bombard the town, the flag of Britain now flying over Government House. We manned the guns, we trained them on the little capital—but did not fire."

"No, we thought of German hearts and German homes nestling there along the coral strand. We would strike the town and the town would be inevitable—our end. But we would not mingle our countrymen in the havoc. Auckland, Wellington, Sydney—too

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nothing, if possible, the approximate distance of the sender.

It was not long before an ominous message in an unfamiliar code was received, and I was busy at decoding it. The secret naval codes, the Civil codes, private codes between the flag-ships—Australian, French, Japanese—not one would fit it.

I told the Governor: "This, sir, must be a German message. The wireless people report that the sender was when the message was picked up about 250 miles away."

## IN A STATE OF DEFENCE.

That night the town was in a state of defence. The Sealark's men were at action stations, the Fiji Defence Force in the trenches, taxi-drivers did a rearing trade and charged exorbitant prices to drive the women and children (and less warlike of the men) to the interior and a place of safety beyond the range of German guns.

Suva was again in the war—really in it, it seemed now—but it was not till dawn that the reality would declare itself. For Von Spee would stand off till there was sufficient light to navigate the treacherous shoals and reefs which encircle the Islands.

At 5.30 a.m. the next morning His Excellency and I stood to. In the grey light of coming dawn we looked towards the south, where Beqa Island stands sentry and where the first smoke of the mail steamers bringing news from home is seen by many an expectant eye, but this time we were not looking for letters and fresh faces, the telescope was sighted for a different view—grim, cold, devastating.

What would the outline of two cruisers each with four funnels silhouetted against the pink of the dawn signify? It would mean death and worse than death: within the half-hour a peaceful town with red roofs peeping through the luxuriant green of tropic foliage, with but a handful of armed but harmless men, a crowd of weakling Indians, of laughing innocent Fijians, of refined and cultured Europeans, men of position and ladies of quality, would become a shambles, the pink of the dawn would turn to crimson, the crimson of blood, red blood, and the scarlet of tongues of flame, of devastating

dangerous a venture, they were too well protected.

"Suva, yes, Suva! there in her little outpost in the far Pacific Britain should feel the night of Germany, should hear the rumble of our Kaiser's thunderbolt. Anchor weighed, we turn and steam S.W. towards Suva."

"Right gallantly the two ships hurry on their grim mission, when lo, a message reaches us—it is in English, it is not even in code—Gott in Himmel, to the Admiral Australia! It gives us warning, the Australia is near."

"Damn fool of an English Governor he gives the show away. Yet, we thank him from the bottom of our hearts for his warning. So the British holiday with gushing teeth, is waiting for us round the corner—how nearly we have been bitten! Our Admiral, Von Spee, gives a merry laugh and signals his orders. Quickly we turn again and at full speed hasten to the north—towards Honiua and neutral waters."

A message had indeed been prepared on that fateful afternoon and broadcast by the Governor's orders into the winds of the night and over the face of the dark waters for whoever could, to pick up and to use as he thought best. It ran:

To Admiral H.M.S. Australia.  
Thanks for message. Shall expect you to-morrow at daylight."

## GOVERNOR OF FIJI.

A simple message in plain and simple English, yet not for English but for German ears, for, as His Excellency well knew, Patey with his ships was 2,000 miles away and beyond receiving range!

Von Spee might have laughed differently had he known. As it is, let us hope that he died in happy ignorance of the truth, for happier were the fortunate ones in Suva, saved from a terrible fate by an English Governor's "damn folly!"

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## Pacific Islands Monthly

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Parliamentary Representation  
of Pacific Territories

THE Commonwealth of Australia is  
responsible for the government of  
three large and important Pacific ter-  
ritories—namely the Mandated Territory  
of New Guinea, Papua and Norfolk  
Island. Measured by their trade  
figures, and by their annual budgets,  
they compare not unfavourably with  
the smallest Australian State. Federal  
decisions, and Federal officials, have a  
far wider application and far wider  
powers in those Territories than in  
Tasmania; yet Tasmania has a dozen  
elected representatives in the Federal  
Parliament, and the Territories have  
no representation whatever.

The Northern Territory, for a long  
time, was in the same position; but,  
after a lengthy period of agitation, the  
Northern Territory was given a non-  
voting representative in the Common-  
wealth Parliament. The fact that he is  
prevented by constitutional limita-  
tions from receiving a vote, does not  
matter very much; what is important  
is that he can, and does, place the  
views of Northern Territory residents  
before the House, when any matter  
affecting their interests arises.

New Guinea, of course, is in a dif-  
ferent category, nominally from  
Papua and Norfolk Island. Actually,  
it is in a very similar position. On all  
matters affecting the general policy of  
the Government of each Territory,  
whether under Mandate or not, it is  
the will of the Federal Cabinet, ex-  
pressed through the respective Admin-  
istrators, which is carried into effect.  
Local councils, mostly nominative,  
assist and advise the Administrators;  
and, on the whole, the system works  
very well—particularly in comparison  
with the chaotic mess which is called  
"popular government" in some of the  
Australian States. For the most part,  
the Administrators discharge their re-  
sponsible duties very fairly and effi-  
ciently—there have been remarkably  
few protests against their rulings.

But, from time to time, there arise  
trade and financial problems which  
affect the whole of the people in a  
particular Territory; and concerning  
which the voice of the people as a  
whole should be heard. We are now  
approaching such a period. The wide-  
spread readjustment of values is certain  
to create conditions in all the Terri-  
tories which will call for review of many  
important matters and concerning  
which Government authority certainly  
will be invoked; and it would be a  
great advantage to the Islands com-  
munities, and make for their peace  
and contentment, if some direct chan-  
nel of communication could be estab-  
lished between the people and the  
Federal Government. We hesitate to  
suggest any particular method—that  
ought to be a subject of discussion;  
but we do urge that consideration be  
given to the general principle, particu-  
larly as we are certain that a demand  
for something of the kind will pre-  
sently arise.

## TROPICALITIES

Written for The Pacific Islands Monthly by "Sam Sergeant."

ELSEWHERE in this journal are  
figures showing the imports and  
exports of Norfolk Island. N.I. is part  
of Australia—a Federal Territory. It  
is not large but it is highly productive  
—a rich and beautiful place with a  
peculiar charm for tourists. Its trade  
is valuable and, since the Territory  
is a responsibility of the Common-  
wealth, that trade should belong to  
Australia. But Australia is so indif-  
ferent about overseas trade that, actu-  
ally, much of Norfolk Island's business  
is going to New Zealand—half the  
exports and a third of the imports, as  
a matter of fact. N.Z. gives better  
prices and better service. Australia  
has been warned again and again that,  
through indifference, she is losing her  
valuable Islands connection. But one  
might as well hammer on a stone wall.  
Nobody cares.

THE importance of wireless to the  
Islands was emphasized during the  
recent floods and hurricane in Fiji.  
The Fiji manager of Amalgamated  
Wireless Ltd. (Mr. Parihar) showed  
entirely and ingeniously in providing  
radio communication with Lautoka,  
thus permitting the Administration to  
provide relief measures quickly and  
efficiently. A.W.A. is now experimen-  
ting with a wireless station at Lautoka,  
and it is such a boon that the arrange-  
ment is not much doubted that the arrange-  
ment will be made permanent. The effect  
of radio communication on the growth  
and development of the Islands of  
industry, during the last decade  
has been extraordinary.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rev. J. W.  
Burton on the journalistic enter-  
prise displayed in The Missionary  
Review of May 5. The lengthy graphic  
and well edited accounts of "The  
Hurricane and Floods in Fiji," and the  
numerous striking photographs of the  
devastation wrought in the several dis-  
tricts, not only make a striking story  
of courage and resource, but also pro-  
vide a valuable record of one of the  
most severe visitations in the history  
of the Colony.

OWING to the unsatisfactory prices  
for copra and the generally de-  
pressed conditions, purchasers of Ex-  
propriated plantations in New Guinea  
were granted a suspension of payments  
until the end of June next. The matter  
will then come up for further re-  
view. The Custodian of Expropriated  
properties, who has his office in Mel-  
bourne, is at present examining the  
situation, but nothing definite has yet  
been decided on. It can be stated, how-  
ever, that the Government is anxious  
to assist the planters to get on their  
feet again, and that no harsh mea-  
sures will be adopted.

## DISTRACTED SAMOA

## There Is No Spirit Of Compromise

Judge Lockwood, of the High Court of  
Western Samoa, on April 22, found O. F.  
Nelson, administrator of the Territory,  
under the British Administration Order  
act, and inflicted a fine of £20 in each  
case, and a total of £400. The charges  
were shown by the prosecution in with-  
drawal of the maintenance of Authority  
under the Maintenance of Authority  
Native Affairs Ordinance. The judge,  
however, said, "The offences com-  
mitted, it appears, consisted mainly of  
refusing payments from a native organi-  
zation called the Mau."

I HAVE no personal knowledge of the  
condition of affairs in Samoa.

All that I know of the protracted  
struggle between the New Zealand Ad-  
ministration (which functions under a  
"C" class mandate) and the Mau, I  
have learned from ex parte statements.  
The position is so difficult and critical,  
and the absence of unbiased informa-  
tion so marked that we of The Pacific  
Islands Monthly have left the whole  
subject severely alone. At the first  
opportunity, someone from this journal,  
as part of our policy of giving service  
to the Pacific communities, will visit  
Samoa and try and sum up the situa-  
tion there truthfully and fairly.

In the meantime, one cannot but  
be impressed by the fact that appar-  
ently every one of the few independ-  
ent commentators who have visited  
the Territory has attacked the New  
Zealand Administration. There seems  
to be no sign of a more amicable feel-  
ing between officialdom and the Mau—  
no suggestion of a more conciliatory  
spirit. There has been still another  
change in the Administration, and  
another Administrator has gone down  
there, making the fifth, since New  
Zealand took charge of the group.

Therefore, anyone who has been im-  
posed upon, O. F. Nelson, with his sug-  
gestion of sheer savagery, gives a most  
unpleasant impression. No doubt,  
O. F. Nelson is a very stubborn, per-  
tinacious, difficult man. In the eyes  
of the Administration, he is the world's

RETURNING to Auckland from  
Sava, after having been pilot for  
nine months for Mr. A. H.  
Marlow's Dornier flying boat, Mr.  
W. Man gave the newspapers an  
interesting interview. He said that  
Mr. Marlow found the seaplane  
doubtfully useful. It not only saved time  
in visiting his contract work in various  
parts of the group, but it also bucked  
up the native workmen tremendously,  
and they finished jobs much more  
quickly. A party working somewhere  
in the bush was afraid to go slow, be-  
cause the men never knew when the  
machine would appear over the tree-  
tops," said Mr. Man. Sounds like a  
tale from the far east—but it's an in-  
teresting theory, anyway.

THE effects of the Great War are  
passing slowly. An unnoticed item  
in the Commonwealth Government  
Gazette the other day, repealed the  
German Admissions Ordinance of  
1927, so that Germans may now enter  
the Territory of New Guinea on the  
same terms as any other foreigner who  
complies with the immigration laws.  
Previously, any German who had been  
a resident of New Guinea before May  
9, when civil administration was re-  
solved, could not re-enter the Territory  
without special permission.

AS there are many thousands of In-  
dian farmers in Fiji, and as In-  
dians usually bury their money in the  
ground, in preference to banking it;  
and as the recent hurricanes and floods  
shifted a lot of soil, and altered many  
landscape contours—it is said that the  
western districts of Viti Levu, after  
the storm, saw more frantic treasure  
hunts to the square mile than was ever  
before recorded in history.

THE Seullin Government's tariff  
schedules are now being debated  
in the House of Representatives. Not  
the least important are the timber  
duties. They have already been the  
subject of protests, notably by South  
Australian and Western Australian  
members. Representatives of firms  
which have established plants in the  
South Seas Islands, have been hard-  
hearted and, have made very  
strong representations to the Minister  
with a view to the lowering of duties  
on these logs. But it is not likely that  
the Government will agree to any re-  
duction, as it is contended that  
Queensland is capable of supplying all  
the kauri and cedar required by Aus-  
tralia. It is considered that 80 per  
cent of the Government's supporters  
will vote for the timber schedule as it  
stands, and any amendments will be  
of a minor character. It is only  
another example of the way in which  
Australia's tariff-made politicians con-  
sidered in spite of their trade and grow-  
ing evidence of their foolishness, to  
close the door against overseas trade.

## Notable Men of The Pacific



Photograph shows Brig.-General Hart, with his wife and  
two daughters, in April, just before they sailed for Samoa.

Brigadier-General H. E. Hart, D.S.O., C.B., C.M.G.,  
C.D.G., Administrator of Western Samoa.

NO one will envy Brigadier-General  
Hart the job which he has accep-  
ted as Administrator of the Man-  
dated Territory of Western Samoa; but  
everyone who knows him will wish him  
the best of good luck, and express an  
sincere wish that he will succeed in  
restoring tranquility to "the Ireland of  
the South Seas."

Because of New Zealand's outstand-  
ing success in the administration of  
the Cook Islands, the embarrassment  
and difficulties which the Dominion  
has experienced in carrying out its  
mandate in Western Samoa, stand out  
sharply by comparison. The haggard  
New Zealand Government has now  
made four attempts to find an admin-  
istrator who could persuade the Samo-  
ans to become a peaceful and happy  
people—Col. R. W. Tail, C.M.G., was  
there from 1920 to 1923; Major-General  
Sir G. S. Richardson, C.B., O.M.G.,  
from 1923 to 1928; and Col. S. S. Allen,  
C.M.G., D.S.O., from 1928 to 1931.

Little is known about General Hart's  
life as an administrator, but he was  
a most successful, efficient and popular  
soldier, and is reported to have a per-  
sonality and temperament which en-  
abled him admirably for his new position.  
What is needed in the Samoan ad-  
ministration is not so much an admin-  
istrative experience or high titles, or  
decorative orders, as a sympathetic  
understanding of this very sensitive  
section of the Polynesian race, com-  
bined with unusual firmness and  
strength of character. There has been  
plenty of "backbone" in previous ad-  
ministrators, but hardly enough under-  
standing—so that we have had either  
latitude amounting to weakness on  
the one hand, or much talk of "Prus-  
sianism" on the other.

Mr. Hart was born in the Wairapa  
district of New Zealand, in 1862, and

except when he has been away on active  
service, he has spent most of his life  
in Christchurch and Masterton where he  
has carried on practice as a barrister  
and solicitor. He has taken a keen  
interest in public affairs, but is known  
mostly for his outstanding services to  
the volunteer military organisation,  
with which he has been closely iden-  
tified for 30 years.

As a very young man Mr. Hart serv-  
ed for two years (1900-1902) in the  
South African War. On the outbreak  
of the Great War in 1914, he joined  
the Wellington Regiment as major, and  
saw much service in Egypt, Gallipoli  
and France. In 1916, he was appoint-  
ed to the command of the 1st In-  
fantry Battalion. Among his fellow officers he  
was a warm favourite and was regar-  
ded by the rank and file with unusual  
affection and respect. He never spared  
himself—he was found always at the  
point of danger—and the comfort and  
well-being of his men were among his  
first considerations. He became noted  
for the skill with which he directed  
his troops in battle, and the fact that  
which he controlled them behind the  
lines. When he was given command  
of the famous Rifle Brigade, he was  
regarded as an excellent appointment;  
and the manner in which he handled  
his Brigade at Le Quesnoy—one of the  
notable exploits of the war, in which  
the N.Z. Division achieved its final  
and most spectacular success—earned  
him special notice. He became Brig-  
adier-General in May, 1917, and was the  
first N.Z. territorial officer to attain  
such a rank. He was mentioned in  
despatches no less than five times, and  
the number and quality of his decora-  
tions are sufficient indication of what  
the High Command thought of his  
services.

## In and About the Islands

Mr. James Burns, chairman of direc-  
tors of Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd.,  
will be a passenger to New Guinea by  
the Macduff, sailing from Sydney on  
May 16. He is doing the round trip.

Mr. Edward Mitty, hon. treasurer of  
the Melbourne branch, R.S.S.I.L.,  
which is the largest branch of the  
League in the Southern Hemisphere,  
has been appointed a Justice of the  
Peace for the Territory of Papua. He  
is well known to the legal profession  
and carries on business as a law  
stationer, etc., at 143 Queen Street, Mel-  
bourne.

Rev. G. S. Shinkfield, who is chair-  
man of the Samoan District of the  
Methodist Missionary Society, has  
returned to Samoa after furlough.

Miss D. Colheart leaves Sydney by  
the Macduff on May 16 and will again  
take up her work among the Chinese  
at Rabaul. Miss Colheart has been  
spending holidays in Tasmania.

Rev. L. M. Thompson arrived in  
Sydney from Fiji, by the Sierra, on  
April 30, and has now proceeded to  
Victoria. Since 1916 Mr. Thompson has  
been specially interested in educational  
work among the Indians of Fiji.

Dr. and Mrs. E. G. Sayers and  
their two children are due to leave  
Sydney by the Matarua for the  
Solomon Islands, on June 7. They  
are returning to the Missionary Hos-  
pital at Honiara.

Dr. D. S. Davidson, anthropologist of  
the University of Pennsylvania, left  
Sydney by the Sierra on May 8, for  
Suva. Dr. Davidson had been doing  
research work in Australia on behalf  
of his university.

Mr. R. T. Rutledge, of the Colonial  
Sugar Refining Co., sailed by the last  
trip of the Sierra for Fiji.

Father Trillot, who has been with  
the Roman Catholic Mission in Fiji  
for 37 years, was burned to death at  
Nankiols early this month. Native  
saw the Presbytery fire, and on enter-  
ing the building discovered Father  
Trillot lying in a pool of flaming oil  
him.

Mr. F. Larges, general manager of  
Societe Francaise, New Hebrides, ar-  
rived in Sydney by the Ormonde on  
May 8, after spending a holiday in  
France.

## TAX BURDENS ON GOLDFIELDS

Killing the Goose that Lays Golden Eggs

(To the Editor.)  
Mr. Freeman did not go far enough when he wrote under the above heading. What about the man who finds the gold? The prospector has now to pay into the Administration two years' wages, for each boy, before he can sign him on, plus his fare home. With issue and signing on fees this amounts to about £18 per boy, and as he requires ten boys, he has to have £180 to pay into the Administration before he can go out to look for gold, or work it if he knows where it is.

Until recently he had to pay £30 per boy to the recruiter, but they are now a lot cheaper. But that is useless to him, if he has to find another £180 to remain idle for two years when it could be put to a lot better purpose. It would keep him in the bush a good many months, looking for gold, as it did the men who found Eide Creek and the Bulah.

There are a large number of men on the field now, who are out of work. Many know where there is payable gold, and there are others who are willing to go out and look for it; but, owing to the action of the Administration, they are unable to work, though willing to do so. This seems a bit strange, when we understand that Australia is doing its best to find work for the unemployed, and we are administered from Australia.

Let the Commonwealth pass a Bill that every employer has to pay his employee two years' wages in advance, and see if the Government will last 24 hours in power.

The reason given for this action is that so many men are going south without paying their boys off. But Administration and Expro. Board officials were the chief offenders. Now, if the men employed in Rabaul who forget to pay their houseboys, but not the miners.

The miner is a speculator, gambler and a sport. He works with his boys and looks after their interests more than the white-collar-and-black-tie man of Rabaul.

If it were not for the gold there would be no Rabaul now, owing to the bottom having dropped out of copper. It was the miner who found the gold, and it is the miner who goes into the bush and brings the wild native into a state of semi-civilisation—not the Administration; the miner who stands all the hardships and opens up the country, and finds the gold for Australia to pay the interest on the money it owes.

I am, etc.  
A. L. BRETTON MOUNT.  
Wau, Salomae, New Guinea.  
March 20, 1931.

## NATIVE DEBTORS

Vicious System in Tonga

Amendment of the Law Desirable

(From Our Own Correspondent.)  
NUKUALOFA, April 25.  
LEADING business men have lately expressed dissatisfaction with the Debt Law, and the facilities granted by the Government for the introduction of "mushroom" trading stations throughout the group.

In perusing statistics, it is certainly interesting to note that the number of trading stations and bakeries operating in the Kingdom has nearly tripled in 15 years. As there has been no perceptible increase in population during that period, and even allowing for the country's increased prosperity, it appears that the number of stations to-day is excessive.

A surplus of small stores in the villages is a constant and indefensible inducement for the native to plunge into debt. He never thinks of to-morrow—sufficient unto the day is his motto—with the result that he runs up a score with all the little shops in his town.

The time comes when the traders require payment, and the native finds he cannot satisfy their demands. The trader who gets early promptly sees him and follows the summons up quickly with a distress warrant. The debtor comes home one day and discovers his goods and chattels sold up, and his wife and family come back to mother. He sets about getting a home together again, only to discover that trader number two, awaiting his opportunity, has pointed on him with another distress warrant. Again he is sold up, and so the regrettable process goes on, from year to year, until probably some six or eight small traders have received satisfaction.

The remedy? Amend the debt law at once, so that a native must pay in good cash (or produce) for his goods. Then we can be assured that the number of "mushroom" stores, which at present flatterly batten on the natives, will drop by half at least, and Dummy will have a home for his wife and family that he can call his own. The complaints of the well-established concerns are justified, and members of the Tongan Parliament would do well to render aid for the future well-being of their countrymen and countrywomen.

## "PITCAIRNER" DEAD

Link with Bounty History

NORFOLK IS. MOURNS

(From Our Norfolk Is. Correspondent.)  
NORFOLK IS., May 4.  
SLOWLY are those few stalwarts who provide the direct link between historic Pitcairn Is.—the original home of the Bounty miners—and Norfolk Island, passing away.

Mr. Seymour Buffett, of Steel's Point, one of the six remaining Pitcairners, died on May 1, aged 83 years, and thus another well-known figure has been removed from our midst. Mr. Buffett was only eight years of age when his section of the Bounty crew's descendants were transferred from Pitcairn to Norfolk, three-quarters of a century ago. He was a descendant of John Buffett, who, with John Evans, joined the Pitcairn community in 1818 from the visiting ship, *Sirius*.

He was a charming, handsome, courtly old man, with a wonderful store of reminiscences and tales of old days.

His funeral, in the quiet old cemetery on Norfolk Island, was largely attended, and all the old hymns and "spirituals" were sung.

## COOK IS. ORANGES

New Season Commences

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

RAROTONGA, April 28.  
ACTIVITY is again showing itself in several directions concerning the orange season. The first pickers disclose a good crop—possibly not so heavy as last year—with fruit in the orchards at medium grade.

The Acting Director of Agriculture, Mr. Boucher, has returned from an extended trip to South Africa and Australia. His propositions for improved cultivation and thoroughly careful packing have been placed before those concerned.

The native here is inclined to maintain the orange, which he is free to dump his oranges hola-bola into cases than he does now under the ideal propounded by the Agricultural Authorities. He knows nothing of the value of what he is up against the foreign crop, does he best to deliver 100 per cent, perfectly sound fruit, uniform in grade, quality and appearance.

But the native grows harder than he is given credit for, and all things being equal, does his best to meet the refined tastes of the consumer, or the distributor, or whoever is the mysterious individual commanding size, quality and colour to which oranges are to be grown.

## Appeals for Economy

Position in Tonga

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

WE learn that the Tongan Chamber of Commerce has again sent a Memorandum to the Tongan Government, urging the Executive to drastically retrench in all departments of the service.

On the other hand, it is whispered that a movement is on foot in Government circles to petition the Chamber of Commerce and urge the curtailment of certain imports which are said to be in the nature of luxuries and which the native would be happier without during a time of stress. The list is said to contain such items as silk, silver gramophones, motor cars, powder, pulis, allos, satins, cashmere, lipsticks and those hundred and one ephemeral nick-nacks so dear to the native feminine heart, once she has been taught that the use of them uplifts her to a sphere where she might even become persona grata whether the Chamber's memorandum or the proposed appeal to the Chamber will alter matters worth a row of pins. We know that dummies will still continue to pay, in much the same old way.

It is extremely problematical, though, whether the Chamber's memorandum or the proposed appeal to the Chamber will alter matters worth a row of pins. We know that dummies will still continue to pay, in much the same old way.

## New Shipping Line?

Australia to East

Possible Extension of Trade

THURSDAY IS., May 4.  
DIRECT rail communication between Canton and Paris will be shortly opened, if the disturbed state of affairs in China will permit of the running of trains.

This seems likely to open up new opportunities for trade in Australian goods, especially in the southern part of China, and an increase in the export of perishable goods, such as fruit, butter, meat, etc., is expected to occur. As it is, all the cargo between Australia and the Far East seems to be one way only, and that the right way for Australia.

It is to be seen from this account that rumours of a new shipping line have reached Thursday Island. The route will be the usual one between Hong Kong and Australian ports. Thursday Island being a port of call, unless the E. and A. Line returns to its old run when the new line will be devoted to Rabaul. It is said that an emissary of the new line has already proceeded to a Mediterranean port for the purpose of inspecting two vessels that the company has under offer.

Although this news is unconfirmed, it seems within the range of possibility.

## Seaplanes for the Pacific Islands

Fiji's Ideal Conditions

Wide Use of Planes When Depression Lifts

INTERESTING facts concerning the development of aviation in Fiji were given to the New Zealand Herald by Mr. W. Man, who recently returned to Auckland after nine months' flying in Fiji. During that period, Mr. Man was pilot of the three-seater Bomber flying-boat belonging to Mr. A. H. Marlow, the well-known Sava building contractor.

Mr. Man said that conditions in the Group were almost ideal for machines of a suitable type. Land-locked waters abounded on every coast and many of them contained beaches of good hard sand upon which a flying boat of seaplane could be hauled up. He did not find that the hurricanes were a drawback to aviation, as there was always fairly good warning of their approach. A larger white population would stimulate aviation in the Pacific, but he was convinced that when the depression lifted and trade developed, flying boats and seaplanes would be widely used by the present population.

The Fiji Government was very anxious to develop aviation, but any plans it had were shelved for the present owing to lack of money. For the same economic reason Mr. Marlow had dismantled and stored the flying-boat until times improved.

Mr. Man spoke highly of the flying done under difficulties by Mr. Chalmers, a Sava collector, who imported a Moth aeroplane some time ago, but later shipped it to Auckland and disposed of it.

There were too few landing grounds in Fiji for land machines to be of much use, he said, and but for most of the towns and settlements were on or near the sea.

Private advice received during the month indicates that several prominent officials of the Cook Islands Administration are being retrenched. The Resident Agent, Mr. E. C. Villenoweth, whose appointment expired on April 9, has not been reappointed, but will be replaced by Mr. Luckham, lately Resident Commissioner at Niue. This represents a substantial fall in salary for Mr. Luckham.

## Whale Oil Glut

Norwegians Alarmed

Unliver to Operate in Antarctic

A CABLE from Oslo, published in the Sydney Sun on May 9, stated that consternation had been caused in whaling circles in Norway by the report that the Unilever Soap Syndicate would send out its own whaling fleet to the Antarctic to procure the 50,000 tons of oil needed in 1932. The president of the Norwegian Whaling Association has stated that the announcement that Unilever needs only 50,000 tons meant that the whole of the Norwegian fleet will be idle next season, as the present unsold surplus is 70,000 tons.

## Abolition of Cook Is. Dept.

Native Affairs Department May Control

N. Z. Government Economy

(From Our Cook Islands Correspondent.)

RAROTONGA, April 28.  
LISTENERS on the air recently reported an announcement by NZA (Wellington) of the New Zealand Government's intention, embodied in a Bill before the House, not to retain the Cook Islands Administration as a separate department, but to hand the work over to the Department of Native Affairs.

So much to the good if something can be saved on "overhead," but it is hoped that a policy of cheese-paring will not follow, to the detriment of the native people of the group. Visitors coming down from the States on the main steamer en route to the Dominion and Australia, get their first view of the New Zealand flag at Rarotonga. The native people here are distinctly on the up-grade, but their means of education and medical attention are not up to the mark, they will certainly go back and the flag will not fly so proudly over the group as it does to-day.

Private advice received during the month indicates that several prominent officials of the Cook Islands Administration are being retrenched.

The Resident Agent, Mr. E. C. Villenoweth, whose appointment expired on April 9, has not been reappointed, but will be replaced by Mr. Luckham, lately Resident Commissioner at Niue. This represents a substantial fall in salary for Mr. Luckham.

## Canoe Racing Commences at Port Moresby

(From Our Port Moresby Correspondent.)

CANOE racing is one of the chief sports of the younger men in Port Moresby, and the season is now about to open.

The harbour, while extremely beautiful, with hills sloping gradually to the waters edge, has the advantage of being almost completely land-locked and is additionally protected by a coral reef lying approximately a mile and a half to three miles from the mainland.

The racing season begins early in May each year and continues until September, when the south-east trade winds begin to die down. Native canoes and crews are used, with native-made European sails, one or more white men taking charge to certain and control the crew.

As many as fifteen canoes have been known to start, under varying handicaps, and there is a great deal of excitement and betting among both Europeans and natives. The course varies from time to time, around harbour bays and local islands, and it is amazing to watch the skill of the natives when swinging round in the sudden gusts which sweep through gaps in the hills at various points on the course.

Formerly the canoes and sails were owned by small syndicates and the expenses of the outfit and crew were pooled at the end of the year. They were found to be too unsatisfactory and expensive, for the Papuan, like most natives, is an inveterate swindler, and exploited the white man for untold extras until, in desperation, he rebelled. The canoes are now native-owned and the native captain and crew are paid a fixed sum per race for their services and for the use of the canoe. The

white men supply the sails and rigging, which become the property of the natives at the end of the season.

A silver cup was presented to the club by Lord Forster on his visit to Port Moresby in 1929, and other trophies, all hotly competed for. It is a beautiful sight to watch the

canoes racing, with their sails and rigging, which become the property of the natives at the end of the season.

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canoes racing, with their sails and rigging, which become the property of the natives at the end of the season.

## NORFOLK ISLAND TRADE

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The following figures are provided by courtesy of Captain Stopp (Collector of Customs):

|             | Imports    | Exports     |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Month       | To         | To          |
| March, 1930 | Australia  | New Zealand |
| March, 1931 | 2,139 12 8 | 2,424 15 9  |
|             | 2,084 5 0  | 1,228 15 0  |
| Month       | To         | To          |
| March, 1930 | Australia  | New Zealand |
| March, 1931 | 2,139 12 8 | 2,424 15 9  |
|             | 2,084 5 0  | 1,228 15 0  |

## THE COOK ISLANDS

Ancient Customs Revived at Native Crowning Ceremony

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

RAROTONGA, April 27.  
THE installation of Vaitiki Kaituku as chief of the Nipantangia village took place on the 26th inst.

Ngantangia is credited with the distinction of being the actual spot from which the canoes departed from Rarotonga, which resulted in the landing of the handful of Polynesian people in New Zealand, to establish the great Maori race.

A large number of Europeans were invited to be present at the crowning. In honour of the occasion the Commissioner, at 10 o'clock, called it "a day" for all Government offices.

The proceedings were marked with the etiquette of the native people and the courtesy for which the Polynesians are noted. The chief's attendants, dressed in their ancient native costumes, struck a note of old tribal times. The chief himself, three aside his European garments and appeared in a ceremonial robe fashioned in native style. The garment of a somewhat Mayan cut made from the bark of the bread-fruit tree beaten out to the thickness of brown paper, and notched at the edges and ornamented with small square holes neatly snipped out in a manner resembling somewhat cross-word puzzle designs. A sangle of small yellow beads thrown across his shoulders and chest and with his ornamental spear grasped in his right hand, the chief came forward to the sacred ground to be crowned with the simple garland of leaves, the lawful assurance of his title.

Thanks were expressed by the Resident Commissioner for the privilege given to Europeans to be present at the function. Reference was made to the long title (700 years) and to the modernising that the Polynesians had attached to the rank would be fully recognised by the New Zealand Government.

## SPEED BOATING

An item of some interest locally was the appearance in the lagoon of a motor speed boat. With the idea of fulfilling a desire to circumnavigate the island at high speed, Mr. J. McFar-

lane, of Ohio, Cincinnati, transported his speed boat to Rarotonga in a broken-down state. Due to the absorption of moisture, the boat could not be served together until complete shrinkage to their original state had taken place. After the boat was split the owner opened out the engine headed for the open sea, and circled the island a distance of perhaps 30 miles. The stunt was not without risk—a breakdown in the works and the craft would have been hurled on the reef. Mr. McFarlane is the first person to tackle such a proposition here.

## POSTAL CHARGES

Disappointment is felt here at the severity of the new postal charges, which were introduced on 1st March. The restriction on the weight of parcels to 11 lb. combined with the increased rate for postage, is a complete knock-out to the posting of fruit from the island in cases as hitherto.

It is understood that steps have been taken by the local administration to see what can be done to improve matters.

## PROMINENT GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL RETIRES

The services of a valuable officer of the administration have been lost by the retirement on superannuation of Mr. Reid, Director of Agriculture and the Chief Public Works Officer of the Group. Solid pioneering work has been done by Mr. Reid during his 20 years' service here. Apart from his practical work on water supply, fruit grading and packing, etc., Mr. Reid has handed on to the planters, both European and Native, a fund of knowledge on matters pertaining to local agriculture. The matter of proper grading and packing of fruit for export, it is a terrible job to impart into the native mind the importance to him in the long run these measures; but Mr. Reid, backed by the administration, has made great headway here in the direction of the successful marketing of perishable exports from the island.

**ZERVON PAIN POWDERS**  
are a wonderful  
**PAIN KILLER**  
safe, sure, speedy.  
TRY THEM FOR  
**DENGUE and MALARIA**  
1/2 lb and 2 1/2 a box  
all chemists, or  
post free from  
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GROCERIES, PROVISIONS AND STORES  
Of all Descriptions  
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Special Attention Given to Orders from Pacific Islands and all Goods Specially  
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- POWDER SHEEP DIP.**— For the destruction of external parasites on sheep.
- CATTLE DIP.**— For the destruction of Cattle Ticks. Also for Lice and Mange on Cattle and Horses.
- MILK OIL FLUID.**— For general disinfection of premises, Ships, Launches, etc.
- HEALING OIL.**— For the antiseptic treatment of cuts, wounds, etc. on humans and animals.
- ARSINETTE.**— For the destruction of all leaf-eating insects infesting trees and plants.
- KATAKILLA.**— For the destruction of all sucking insects infesting trees and plants.
- ALBOLEUM.**— For the destruction of all Scale insects infesting trees and plants.
- PULVEX.**— A non-poisonous dusting powder for the destruction of Fleas, Lice and other parasites on Dogs, Cats, Poultry, etc.
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- FLY KILLER.**— For killing House Flies and Mosquitoes.
- BOILER COMPOUND.**— For removing and preventing rust, scale and corrosion in boiler pipes, etc.

Enquiries in respect of the above are invited from Planters, Cattle Owners, Storekeepers and all Island Residents.

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26 CLARENCE STREET - - SYDNEY - - N.S.W. - - AGENTS

## New Equipment for Loading Phosphate at Nauru



Black by courtesy The Commonwealth Engineer.

The British Phosphate Commission, which is working the phosphate deposits on Nauru and Ocean Islands, has recently completed the construction of a new loading plant at Nauru. The total cost of the undertaking was about £250,000. The accompanying photograph gives a very good idea of the installation.

WHILE the deposits are the richest in the world and are readily accessible, there has been always difficulty in loading the excavated material on to overseas vessels, owing to the fact that there is no harbour or natural anchorage at either Nauru or Ocean Island.

When the deposits were first worked the phosphate was loaded into boats

at short timber jetties, just overhanging the edge of the encircling reefs, and the boats were towed out to the steamers and discharged. This method of transport and loading was naturally slow and laborious.

An improvement was later introduced with the construction of large cantilever jetties, extending from the beach and overhanging the deep water at the reef's edge. Conveyor belts running in galleries on these jetties transported the phosphate to the end of the cantilever portion, where it was discharged into lighters, which were towed out by launches to unload into the steamers. This method was a great improvement upon the previous one, but it still

involved double handling and occupied a considerable time. The expeditious loading of vessels has been always an important factor because of the danger, particularly between the months of November and March, of unfavourable weather, arising while a vessel is offshore, causing much delay and endangering the vessel.

It was in an endeavour to overcome the existing disabilities that the Commission took the bold step of installing the new loading equipment and, according to the March issue of The Commonwealth Engineer, this plant

appears to have afforded the final solution of the problem.

The new transport and loading apparatus consists of a system of storage bins, belt conveyors and swinging cantilever cranes, which load direct into overseas vessels, thus saving a great deal of time and labour.

The new equipment has been, so far, installed only at Nauru, for the heavy capital expenditure necessary is only justified by the larger output from the Nauru deposits.

The Commission working the phosphates is controlled by the British, Australian and New Zealand Government. Each year the production from Nauru alone exceeds 500,000 tons.

## News and Notes from Tonga

### Absurdities of the Liquor Act—Tongans' Hunger for News—Breaking of Drought

From Our Own Correspondent

NUKUALOFA, April 28.  
DIRECTED, as it is to the Europeans resident in Tonga, and being diametrically opposed to all the principles of British justice, Section 76 of the Liquor Act in the statute book is probably the most iniquitous clause in the whole of the country's laws.

It reads, inter alia: "If it appears to an inspector of police that the quantity of liquor purchased by any person (European) is excessive having regard to such person's reasonable needs, he shall report the matter to Cabinet and the Cabinet may place such restrictions as it thinks fit upon the person referred to." The inspector can also demand from the then British Consul a statement in Tonga his books, so that he can check up all liquor purchases by Europeans.

It appears that this section has been in the statute book since 1922. That it got there without protest from the then British Consul is astounding, but very recently it has been brought surprisingly to the notice of the man in the street that the whole wording of the clause can lend itself to abuse. (That it also offers opportunity for "graft" is painfully obvious.)

First of all, the question naturally arises: What constitutes a man's "reasonable needs"?

Does "reasonable needs" depend upon what the native police judge the average European body can absorb without doing harm? Or do the police consider that a man's capacity for holding liquor can be determined by his income?

What we do know is that the police court records can give us no assistance. In fact, the only prosecution for drunkenness in Tonga, for five years as far as we can gather, related to a visiting sailor (with a weak stomach, and without income) who was found asleep under a coconut tree.

If "reasonable needs" is based on income, we say that no Government is justified in restricting any law-abiding citizen until that citizen has had an opportunity of showing the Government what his income is. What does a native policeman or any other kind of a policeman know of a man's private resources? And after all, why should the policeman worry, if the citizen has broken no law?

Again, if "reasonable needs" is based on bodily requirements then we arrive at a psychological problem. We know a man who, for 40 years, has been known as a "bottle a day man," and another who gets a pain in the head if he takes more than one "nip." Both gentlemen are ten years beyond the allotted span and both are in astonishing good health. I venture to say that here is a problem beyond any kind of a policeman.

What has brought this astounding clause to the notice of the European public is a recent intimation by the Government that a business man (without any semblance of a trial and without any given reason) has

been restricted by the Cabinet. The gentleman in question, in remonstrating against this decision, pointed out that he has never been drunk in his life and has never been before the court on any charge of infringing the Liquor Act.

British residents are naturally curious, now, to see the outcome of a proposed appeal to the British Consul when he returns to Tonga. If no relief can be had in that direction, then it behoves each European on the beach to see to it quickly that he keeps "well in" with our stalwart body of native police.

### WIRELESS PRESS NEWS

The message, and hopelessly uninteresting, official Press News which comes through the ether to Tonga, and which, in the past, has been accepted in the nature of a joke, has now, apparently, stirred inhabitants up to a stage of resentment.

It is said that while local amateurs with their sets were receiving and disseminating momentous news about the New Zealand earthquake, and the proposed partition of New South Wales, the official Press, through the Government wireless station, went into ecstasies over such things as a three-legged calf in California and Phalaris' chance in the next race.

The official Press is translated into the Tongan language for the benefit of the Tongan people, with the knowledge that, in reviewing an account of events from day to day, the Tongan will, in absorbing this news, gain a comprehensive idea of those world affairs which will tend to broaden his mind and outlook.

Naturally enough, the Tongan, being always curious about Australian and New Zealand happenings, cannot understand why important information seems to be withheld from him. An enquiry elicited the fact that, although the news of the quake was immediately known at the wireless station, some convention with Marconi or Amalgamated Wireless made it impossible to distribute the news until it had gone through certain other overseas stations, thus entailing a delay of some twelve to sixteen hours. One can readily perceive our distress if news of an approaching cyclonic storm were withheld until the terms of some convention were complied with.

In any case, the Tongan seems to new view the wireless station with some distrust. He persists in the notion that, as the taxpayers contribute some £2,000 per annum for "wireless," he should get better service in the way of world-wide news. He knows that an extra receiving set was installed two years ago at a cost of some £300, for the specific purpose of getting in daily touch with the Rugby station. After the installation Rugby news came through splendidly for a couple of weeks and then abruptly ceased. The reason seems shrouded in mystery. It is said that some "dead cock" suddenly developed somewhere in the ether between Rugby and Tonga. Still, the Tongan is hard to convince, and he now argues that, if this atmospheric disaster is permanent the station does not require a staff of four operators.

At the sum total of "Press" averages about 10 lines daily, and the telegrams (in and out) probably a round dozen per diem, there is, without conclusive evidence to the contrary, no reason why the wireless department should not suffer some retrenchment.

### GOOD CROP PROSPECTS

The dry spell which unaccountably heralded the new year and subsequently began to cause uneasiness to

planters, broke down completely on the third day of March. The rainfall for this month, to the great joy of all, has now risen to twenty inches.

The fruit trees (particularly banana) have taken a fresh lease of life, and prospects are rosy indeed for excellent crops at the end of the current year.

### AN UNWANTED SAILOR

The s.s. Lake Galewood arrived from overseas on March 22, with a cargo of lumber and oils for Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd.

Her departure from Nukualofa was delayed 24 hours, owing to one of the crew making a break for the bush. The native police eventually dug him out and led him, protesting, to the local lock-up.

In the end, as nobody seemed to want him in Tonga, he was handed back to the ship's master and the vessel proceeded to our northern ports, en route for Suva.

## 5 SYMPTOMS OF TINEA OR TROPIC RINGWORM



Perhaps you have inflammation, or skin cracks between the toes, tiny dry skin which becomes scaly, accompanied by an unpleasant and characteristic odour. These are all definite symptoms of "TINEA" or "TROPIC RINGWORM." This disease is very prevalent in all Tropical or Semi-Tropical climates.

### Highly Contagious

This disease is highly contagious and may spread to other parts of the body—head, ears, arms, hands, legs, etc.—if immediate steps are not taken to check it. To the many thousands who are suffering from these irritating skin diseases, "ANTINEA," the definite cure, will prove as a blessing.

### For Itchy Itch Use "Antinea"

"ANTINEA" is a specific preparation for Tinea or ringworm infections. The penetrative power of "ANTINEA" rapidly destroys the "Tinea" fungi, relieves discomfort, restores skin wholeness and ensures normal condition. "ANTINEA" also relieves "CHOBIE ITCH," Ringworm, Permethia, Ringworm of the Nails and other similar skin troubles. "ANTINEA" will not harm the living tissues. Obtainable from all Bure, Philp & Co. Ltd. Stores.



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**ANTINEA DRUG CO.**  
WINGELLO HOUSE,  
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Postage, 3d. extra.



## Islands-Bred Cattle For Sale

The New Caledonian Meat Co. Ltd., Noumea, New Caledonia, invites applications for the purchase of Fat Cattle, on the hoof. These Cattle, bred from New Caledonian herds, by stud bulls specially imported from Australia, are thoroughly acclimatised to Pacific Islands conditions. They are of medium size and provide high quality beef. They are eminently suitable for stocking plantations or pastoral areas in the South Sea Islands.

**LIGHT HORSES** of good quality, suitable as hacks, also For Sale.

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Or to  
F. Russell, Noumea, N. Caledonia.

## News from Norfolk Island

Record Shipment of Bananas—Irritating Postal Regulation

From Our Own Correspondent.

NORFOLK IS., May 2.  
ON April 24 we sent away, per S.S. Hikurangi, our record shipment of bananas to date, 2,800 cases consigned to Auckland and already sold at a stated price per case for three grades.

A week previously we shipped 1,540 cases to Sydney, gambling, as we always must do where Australia is concerned, on the condition of the market. Prices were splendid while we were packing and while the old Makambo plodded homeward, but they fell with a thud just about the time the berthed and, as only too frequently happens, we realised just about enough to cover the actual cost of freight and labour.

We shall be fortunate if a scheme, now under consideration in New Zealand, materialises and we are once more assured of a regular service and an alternative market to Sydney. We should still be glad if Messrs. Burns, Philp would run a tourist service between Sydney and Auckland, via Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, but as regards freight and mail, we should be better satisfied to have a small steamer plying direct.

**SUCCESSFUL RACE MEETING.**  
A week or so ago we held a race meeting—intended to take place on Easter Monday, but postponed on account of the long-delayed rains, which

decided to set in on that day and lasted until the island was nearly washed away and we were sick of the sight of heavy grey skies and the sound of rushing torrents.

The meeting was held in "Nobbe's Paddock," and everyone went and nobody won anything, but everybody had a good time. The sea shone blue and silver beyond the cliffs, the sun was bright above us and the air was soft and warm.

One of two confidential bodies laid the odds among their friends, but, officially, all betting was transacted with the tote, a small and amateur enclosure where one executive wrote upon a school blackboard the names of the same half-dozen horses for every variety of event, and two others, seated at a kitchen table, issued quaint tickets in exchange for silver coin.

For we are an impoverished and unsophisticated community, and we bet in shillings and half-crowns.

The most exciting race was the Ladies' Bracelet, ridden exclusively by women, here, ride marvelously, and the most sporting race of the day, was won by Mr. "Tot" Chapman, a local sportsman and half-crown. The most exciting race was the Ladies' Bracelet, ridden exclusively by women, here, ride marvelously, and the most sporting race of the day, was won by Mr. "Tot" Chapman, a local sportsman and half-crown. The most exciting race was the Ladies' Bracelet, ridden exclusively by women, here, ride marvelously, and the most sporting race of the day, was won by Mr. "Tot" Chapman, a local sportsman and half-crown.

**REGISTRATION OF OUTWARD PARCELS PROHIBITED.**  
We suffer many disabilities in the transaction of business overseas, being severely rationed in the matter of steamers and, also, on every alternate visit of the Makambo, have to wait our return mail within an hour of the receipt of letters.

Recently, an additional handicap has been imposed. From the dusty archives of the General Post Office in Sydney—I suppose it is the Sydney office—has been resurrected an aged ordinance prohibiting the outward registration of parcels from Norfolk Island, and the terms of this ordinance have been transmitted to the office here with instructions to enforce them.

It is obviously an imbecile and one-sided regulation, because by every mail we receive registered parcels in quantities that may be described in the words of a lady I know here as "by the galore," and the treasures that are taken to deliver them safely might be presumed to carry outward-bound parcels with equal care. Also, we are still permitted to register letters. The registration of parcels in packets, automatically transforms it into "first class mail matter," with precedence over less important parcels, and a guaranteed degree of safety. Surely we may be allowed this assurance of speed and official consideration when posting, as many of us regularly do, right across the world.

## GOLD IN PAPUA

History of the Fields

Yield Approaching £2,000,000

From Our Own Correspondent.

PORT MORESBY, May 2.  
THE history of mining in Papua is interesting. As far back as 1894, in the first annual report, there is a mention of 375 ounces of gold being exported.

The next yield of gold was in 1899, when the Louisiade rush occurred in the S.E. Division (Milne Bay and the Murus field (Woodlark Island) rush in 1894 yielded between them over \$200,000.

Later came the Gira, Milne Bay and the Yodda rushes—1898, 1899 and 1900 respectively. The Yodda was of outstanding importance. The three fields were very profitable and yielded some where near \$200,000.

The Keveri and Laloki (Astrolabe) came next (1904, 1906), but were of minor importance compared to the former enterprises, the results reaching well under \$200,000.

The old Lakekuru rush in 1909 was in the district of the new field of today, which was re-opened by the Government in 1920. The Tauri and Tiveri are in its bounds.

The total yield of gold in the territories since 1894 is approximately £2,000,000. It has involved the work of nearly half a century and goodness knows of how many lives!

## GOVERNMENT COMPETITION

Protest from Papua

(To The Editor)

Sir,—Possibly a little ventilation in your paper might remedy the grievances of people who have spent their lives in the Territory of Papua.

At the present time, like the rest of the world, the people here are suffering from the terrible depression and, naturally, this is felt the more keenly with a Government which does not represent them in any way—numbers being nominated only by the Lieutenant Governor.

The Government competes with them and very often causes them grievous loss. At the present time this Government is swimming, notwithstanding that there is a mill in the Territory which has recently gone into liquidation. The Government vessels ply and carry cargoes, causing shippers grievous injury. All magistrates, now, are traders, and have to collect copra, etc., without doubt they use the powers that are vested in them to stop the trader from making a living. It must be remembered that many of these traders have developed some of our best plantations, which are the only assets this country has, to carry on to-day, is it right or fair, in a country like this, that all business should be interfered with by those who are assured of their salaries each month and a pension at the end of twenty years' service, with copious leave? Many men here, old residents, are at the present moment entirely without work and, in many cases, without homes. Surely people who have no vote, and are white, need as much protection as Brown Brothers.

I am, etc.

Port Moresby,  
12th March, 1931.

## Tonga's Constitutional Difficulties

(To The Editor)

Sir,—It is surely taxing the mental capacity of your readers to ask them to read an article, the exasperating twelve words of the 12-points imposed by Commander Wilkins, in 1925.

May I invite them to a far easier task—namely, a summary review of your Correspondent's article on the subject, which means nothing and points nowhere.

Consider that these "12 words which so seriously infringe the excellent Treaty" were subscribed to by Tubou the Second, a quarter of a century ago. This is far longer than any existing Minister of the Crown has been in office. The net result is—vide your Correspondent—a "little kingdom with probably the most stable Government in the world, with no national debt, and a Treasury surplus of £150,000." "Consider this: One man and the destiny of 25,000 natives."

In view of the results claimed by your writer, it is surely hardly taxing the credulity of your readers to expect them to sympathise with the position that underlying these avails any obscure politician in the Old Country who will "out of curiosity start asking questions, which will lead him (the politician) to a solution," which your Correspondent hopes may be soon "for the good of the little kingdom," "the betterment of Government," because "the country never needed it more."

Comment is unnecessary. It will be interesting to see how your Correspondent extricates himself from the dilemma on which his obviously illogical article impales him.

I am, etc.

TOGA MAATOGA.  
Nukunono,  
2nd March, 1931.

## RADIOING CYCLONE WARNINGS

Willis Is. Operator Returns

AFTER spending six months on lonely Willis Island, Mr. F. R. Snape, wireless operator of Amalgamated Wireless, returned to Sydney on May 6. Willis Island is a patch of sand on the edge of the Coral Sea, 250 miles from the Queensland coast. The wireless station was placed there by Amalgamated Wireless to enable warnings to be given of cyclones approaching the Australian mainland.

Mr. Snape said that during his stay on the island a curious disturbance known as a "line squall" occurred. This is a small rotary storm, having a whirling velocity of about 100 miles an hour and a forward movement of about 40 miles an hour. This particular squall missed the island by about 100 yards, which was lucky for the wireless aerials and buildings.

## Experienced Man Available

A man who has been in the service of a Pacific Islands Administration for over 10 years as Resident Agent, with a first-class record, is being retired on June 28, for reasons of economy.

He holds an ordinary Master's Certificate, was 17 years in the service of one shipping company, and was in charge of several of their island steamers for 10 years. During that period he was involved in an accident or two.

This man, who has an extensive practical knowledge of island conditions, and is capable of organising and directing any enterprise, would be prepared to enter into negotiations with any Administration or trading firm, with a view to an engagement in any part of the Pacific, from about August next.

Letters in first place to:  
ISLANDS TRADER,  
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Cable House, 101 George Street,  
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## Norfolk Island

M. B. Blake, Builder

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All Building Material Imported.

Large, Well Equipped Workshop.

First-class joinery and Furniture turned out.

When in need of builders' hardware, plumbing and electrical goods, paints and painters' material, tank and tank fittings, etc., obtain our quote.

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Conditions Make No Difference

Rain or shine, heat or cold, conditions make no difference if you use

**"Duxbac" Wet Cartridges**

Specially Loaded for Pacific Islands conditions

—With Smokeless Diamond Powder.

They can be absolutely relied upon to give satisfactory performance.

**"Grand Prix" "Universal" "Kyblack"**

Smokeless Black Powder

Those are three lines that any sportsman can use and be sure of good shooting, because they combine high velocity, effective pattern and low recoil as in no other brand.

**"The name 'NOBEL' is your Sure Guarantee of Satisfaction"**

**NOBEL**

## PRODUCTS OF THE SOUTH SEAS

## New Low Level Price for Copra

THE Unilever Company, operating on a market that is enormously over-supplied, has been able to bring the price of copra to a new low level during the past fortnight. The latest quotation is appalling, and represents a definite loss for the majority of coconut planters. The only ray of sunshine, so far as the South Seas are concerned, is that producers in Papua, New Guinea and the Solomon are getting the benefit of the depressed Australian exchange.

Although everyone has known that the buyers are completely in control of the market, with all that that means,

the latest quote for copra has given most students of the market something of a shock. Experts, discussing the price of copra with the editor of this journal in London in January, were quite sure that "there is no room under the present quotation." But, since then, the average price has fallen by from 30/- to 20/- per ton!

The conditions which have brought about this state of affairs—particularly the enormous flood of whale oil—have been fully discussed in the last two issues of this Monthly; and further information on the same subject is given in the article of pages 1 and 2.

## Market Quotations

## Range of Prices

The Pacific Islands Monthly makes a close check of the prices quoted for island products during each month, including the last available quotation before going to press.

| COPRA       | South Sea, Sun-Dried, Per ton S.F. | Plantation, Sun-Dried, Per ton S.F. |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|             |                                    |                                     |
| London      |                                    |                                     |
| February 13 | 14 5 0                             | 14 7 6                              |
| February 20 | 14 10 0                            | 14 12 8                             |
| February 27 | 14 12 0                            | 14 17 8                             |
| March 6     | 14 17 6                            | 15 0 0                              |
| March 13    | 14 17 6                            | 15 2 8                              |
| March 20    | 14 17 6                            | 15 5 8                              |
| March 27    | 14 10 0                            | 14 10 0                             |
| April 3     | 14 10 0                            | 14 12 8                             |
| April 10    | 14 7 6                             | 14 10 0                             |
| April 17    | 14 5 8                             | 14 7 6                              |
| April 24    | 13 15 8                            | 13 17 8                             |
| May 1       | 13 10 0                            | 13 12 8                             |
| May 8       | 12 15 8                            | 13 17 8                             |

## RUBBER

| London   | Price on | Fars | Plantation |
|----------|----------|------|------------|
|          |          |      |            |
| March 20 | ---      | 44d. | 31d.       |
| March 27 | ---      | 45d. | 32d.       |
| April 3  | ---      | 45d. | 32d.       |
| April 10 | ---      | 45d. | 32d.       |
| April 17 | ---      | 45d. | 32d.       |
| April 24 | ---      | 45d. | 32d.       |
| May 1    | ---      | 45d. | 32d.       |
| May 8    | ---      | 45d. | 32d.       |

## COTTON

| London   | Price on | Per lb. | Apl. | Shipments |
|----------|----------|---------|------|-----------|
|          |          |         |      |           |
| March 20 | ---      | 5.52d.  | Apl. | Shipments |
| March 27 | ---      | 5.71d.  | Apl. | Shipments |
| April 3  | ---      | 5.85d.  | May  | Shipments |
| April 10 | ---      | 5.85d.  | May  | Shipments |
| April 17 | ---      | 5.47d.  | May  | Shipments |
| April 24 | ---      | 5.49d.  | May  | Shipments |
| May 1    | ---      | 5.39d.  | June | Shipments |
| May 8    | ---      | 5.38d.  | June | Shipments |

## OTHER PRODUCTS.

Nominal prices quoted in Sydney on May 12 for other island produce were:

|                            | Per ton              |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Trochus shell, No. 1 grade | £72                  |
| Idito, No. 2 grade         | 61                   |
| Idito, No. 3 grade         | 50                   |
| Beche-de-mer, high grade   | 200                  |
| Idito, lower grade, from   | 30                   |
| Cocos beans (nominal)      | £32 10/- to £33 10/- |
| Coffee, parchment          | 56                   |
| Ivory nuts                 | 14                   |

The above prices are quoted on the Australian £ and are L.S.B. Sydney.

## B.P.'S SPLENDID RECORD

Profit Maintained for 1930-31

A FURTHER indication of the wisdom and efficiency with which the affairs of the South Seas trading companies are conducted is furnished in the annual report of Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd. Although the operations of this particular company are world-wide, a very important section of its business relates to its trading in New Guinea and Papua, and the shipping lines which run between Australia and those Pacific territories.

The company showed a profit for the year ended March 31 last, of £258,888, as compared with £256,000 in the previous year. This figure, considering the fact that practically the whole of the year under review was noted for chaotic economic conditions and extremely reduced commodity prices—affecting shipping services as well as general trading—is really remarkable. The directors simply say, "The operations as a whole have given a result which may be regarded as satisfactory." The surprised and gratified shareholders may be expected to express their sentiments in much stronger language.

The directors, with their usual foresight, are taking no chances so far as the current year is concerned. They have recommended that £75,000 be added to the reserve fund, making a total reserve of no less than £75,000—a tremendously strong collateral backing for the subscribed capital of £1,500,000. They also are carrying forward a balance of £33,888.

The loss of the new M.V. Malabar, which occurred only two days after the termination of the financial year, is not included in this year's accounts.

The facts and figures speak for themselves. There is no need for the planters and traders of the South Seas to worry overmuch, so long as the big trading companies, which give them such substantial backing, are conducted in this efficient and successful manner.

The directors of the company are: Messrs. James Burns (chairman), R. J. Newberry (managing director), Lord Incheape, Lewis Armstrong, Joseph Mitchell, W. A. Mackay and F. E. Gordon.

## Thursday Is. Notes

## Electrical Installation to Commence

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS, April 21.

WORK will commence soon on the erection of the power house in Upper John Street, and this will be an important step in the establishment of Thursday Island's electric light service. Some of the poles will be delivered shortly and the engine is expected in June.

Mr. Kemp, an independent engineer, has opened up business in Thursday Island for the purpose of installing domestic services, so that everything points to an early completion of the whole undertaking. What the light means in the way of convenience and ultimate economy will be only discovered when it is in use, but the Mayor and Council are to be congratulated on their progressive action and the very favourable terms they have arranged. It should be remembered by our grateful citizens that the work thus voluntarily performed by various members of the council has been very considerable.

## SPORTING DOINGS.

The Aquatic Club opened its season very auspiciously, not with a race, but with a subscription dance, which the members' wives and lady friends helped to make a success.

The Club has wisely realised the tightness of local purse strings and cut down the entry fees for races to half the former rate. Trophies are now substituted for cash prizes, which is a distinct advantage, bringing more honour to the winners and establishing more firmly the amateur status of the club.

The Sports Club has been reorganised and will start on a new lease of life under the guidance of Mr. H. M. Green, the newly elected president. The objects of the club are most praiseworthy and its progress will be watched with interest by all who know the value of active sport in promoting good comradeship and health in small tropical communities.

It is to be hoped that the Club decides upon the formation of a keen disciplined football team, which has been conspicuous by its absence for some years past. Two competing teams, principally composed of coloured lads, would be found for matches, varied by an occasional ship's company. Barriers between the white and coloured races in matters of sport are now completely broken down in most British tropical possessions, and inter-racial matches are productive of much good. The coloured men who have kept Rugby going here for the last

couple of years show a good deal of talent and a very sporting spirit in all their games.

The new Sports Club opened with a cricket match against a team from the Malabar, and the hope this enjoyable game will be the forerunner of many others.

## STRANDED ON A REEF.

The steamer Temple Pier, on route from Hong Kong to Newcastle, passed the port at daylight on March 10 and stranded on Piper Island, 100 miles south, later on the same day. The vessel was fortunate enough to float off on the high tides then prevailing and proceeded on her way apparently undamaged. The vessel did not engage a pilot at Thursday Island.

## PEARLING VETERANS VISIT T.I.

Two pearling veterans, both inseparably connected with the prosperity of the industry and the district generally, have paid us a visit lately—Mr. R. Hockings and Mr. Herbert Howden.

Though neither of these gentlemen are resident here, they make frequent visits to their old home and seem to cherish an affection for the island. There is something of the "Wongai" in the legend runs that he who eats the fruit of the Wongai tree must return to Torres Strait, discernible here, and neither seem to have lost their liking for the fishing and shooting excursions, which are such a feature of life on Thursday Island.

## AN OLD TALE REVIVED.

One of those stories of buried treasure that first arrived in Australia along with MacArthur's merino has come to life again, and is to have another run for its money up this way. It had its origin in the disappearance of certain governmental funds during a scrap in a South American State over a century ago. The "original plans" of the site of eventual disposal of the treasure—invariably located on the Alice River, a tributary of the Mitchell—have been sold up and down the world the last 50 years.

Now they have changed hands again, possibly at a reduced price on account of the depression, and the new owner, who has implicit faith in his purchase, is coming up to Cape York Peninsula by car in May to start operations.

The "original plans" of the treasure are being held by a local man who happened to be holidaying in Sydney told him everybody had come along with the treasure on the Alice. He just went on with his dream and asked the man from the Mitchell if he could get him some boys to help in the unearthing of the treasure.

"Sure thing," said the northerner. "I can get a very big party that dug up the site 15 years ago for a Yank who came along with the same plans as yours."

TROCHUS ON THE UPGRADE.

Large consignments of trochus are awaiting shipment to Japan and the price of this commodity is again on the upgrade at about £58 per ton, which is, however, less than this time last year.



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