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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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N.G. PLANTERS MEET

Year's Work Reviewed

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, August 30. THE Council of the Planters and Traders' Association of New Guinea held its annual general meeting last month, when a very satisfactory report was submitted.

The Association was founded in 1927 and now has a membership of 84 planters. The Council decided, in view of the unprecedented depression through which the copra industry is passing, to reduce the annual subscription to £3 3s., and the entrance fee to £2 2s. The Association continues to perform very useful work on behalf of the planting community, and has been instrumental in securing, in conjunction with the R.S.S.I.A., the suspension of payments on plantations purchased from the Custodian of Expropriated Properties.



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COPRA TAX

Reduced to 7/6 per ton

MORE RELIEF FOR N.G. PLANTERS

It was announced on September 23 that the Federal Cabinet had approved of a reduction of the Copra Export Tax in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, from 15/- per ton to 7/6 per ton.

No further particulars are available, but it is assumed, however, that the tax will remain at the lower figure so long as the European quotation for copra is at an unprofitable level, with the Australian exchange at 30 per cent., is anything under £13 per ton c.i.f.

There has been no indication as yet of how the New Guinea Administration proposes to compensate itself for this loss of revenue. The tax was formerly 25/- per ton; but during the past year, there were two reductions of 5/- each. The third fall, of 7/6 per ton, represents to the Administration a loss of revenue equal to 17/6 per ton on all copra exported—a very important consideration in the present difficult economic conditions.

It became known during the past month that the Administration officials had suggested to Canberra the refund of the export duty in necessitous cases only. The purpose of the plan, to doubt, was praiseworthy; but when those primarily concerned got down to an examination of the methods to be employed, many serious objections arose. Who was to decide which were necessitous cases? Was the provident planter, who had built up a reserve for a rainy day, to be penalised by having to pay the tax, while the improvident planter, who could be classed as "necessitous," was given special relief? However, the Canberra authorities soon decided that a discriminatory application of this form of relief was quite impracticable and the plan was abandoned.

Both the Planters and Traders' Association of New Guinea, and the Returned Soldiers' organisation, made very strong representations to the Federal Government. The matter was handled personally by Mr. Chifley, the Minister who assists the Prime Minister by attending to Pacific Islands affairs. Mr. Chifley has, during his period of office, dealt most sympathetically with requests from the Pacific Islands arising out of the present difficult economic conditions; and has displayed a comprehensive knowledge of Pacific territories' requirements generally. His prompt decision in regard to the Export Tax will be much appreciated.

First Edie Creek Wedding

THE first wedding to be celebrated on Edie Creek, New Guinea goldfields, took place early in August, when Mr. H. A. Bodger, accountant on the Edie Creek section, for New Guinea Goldfields Ltd., was married to Miss Edith Bennett, niece of Mr. V. L. Newberry, manager of the Day Dawn mine. Rev. F. Hughes, of Rabaul, performed the ceremony.

N.G. Patrol Attacked

Near Morobe Goldfields

A REPORT has reached Canberra that a New Guinea police patrol has been attacked by natives in the Upper Markham River district, which is near the Morobe goldfields. The patrol officer, Mr. H. L. Downing, was wounded in the thigh by an arrow and a native policeman was seriously wounded.

Police reinforcements have been despatched to the locality.

RUBBER'S FALL

From 12/- to 3d. per lb. in 20 Years

SERIOUS OVER-SUPPLY

Rubber, once regarded as the magic talisman of the wealth of the East, has been deprived of all its glamour. From a price of 12/- per lb. in 1910, it has now reached the record low figure of 3d. per lb. for Para and 2d. for plantation smoked.

This essential product has during the past 20 years fluctuated remarkably. At one time its cultivation was held to be a means of quickly acquiring great



A Native Rubber-tapper at work in Papua.

wealth, and investment in reputable rubber companies was much sought after. The price, after reaching its peak in 1910, dropped during the war, and after the war period, declined even more rapidly until crepe rubber fell to 5d. and Para to 6d. per lb. In 1922, the average price was 55d. per lb. Then Lord Stevenson's scheme, involving a voluntary restriction of output, was agreed to by most of the growers in the British Empire. The price rose to 4/8 per lb. by 1925. The Stevenson scheme, however, had to be suddenly abandoned in 1928, owing to the Dutch expansion of planting and output. From that year the price has gradually declined to its present depressed level.

POSITION IN THE PACIFIC

The main groups in the Pacific where rubber is being cultivated, are Papua—which has over 9,000 acres planted—Fiji, Western Samoa, and the British Solomon Islands.

When the price fell to 9d. in London in 1929, it was officially stated in Fiji that it did not pay planters there to tap their trees.

Nevertheless production continued in Fiji on a small scale and, for 1929, 6,855 lbs. were exported. Exports for previous years were:

1922	9,142 lbs.
1923	80,753 lbs.
1924	159,995 lbs.
1925	144,312 lbs.
1926	233,998 lbs.
1927	321,234 lbs.
1928	94,961 lbs.

Exports from Western Samoa for 1930 were 116 tons, valued at £9,655, as compared with 167 tons, valued at £17,268, for 1929.

Papua's annual production has remained around 600 tons during the

NORFOLK ISLAND FARCE

"Outing" Undesirables

A BREWER WHO SPOKE FRENCH

From Our Own Correspondent

NORFOLK IS., August 20. WE have recently instituted a new means of getting rid of undesirables, of whom, naturally, we have our share.

This method appears to be strictly legal, but leaves a nasty, unsavoury flavour in our mouths. Frankly, almost without exception this community wishes that other steps might be taken when the deportation of British subjects from a British territory is deemed necessary.

A month or two ago, a gentleman with no financial resources, inspired with a laudable desire not to come upon the parish, so to speak, brewed and sold a mild, light beer; and was declared an "undesirable" within the meaning of the Act.

To facilitate his expulsion he was called before the headmaster of the local State School, who holds university degrees, and required to pass a language test in French. Unfortunately, French appears to be more widely known among this class of delinquent than was imagined. The candidate passed with flying colours and is still upon the island, employed more honourably nowadays with a maltick and hoe.

Last week, another nominee for a free passage westward was put through a Danish test—he might have known French—at the hands of a Danish settler, with Government officials seated by to see fool play.

This entrant naturally made no attempt to coo with a language that he was probably hearing for the first time in his life; and with his wife and three children, he leaves us by this Sydney-bound Morinda. Two nights ago he was the guest of honour of a hastily arranged public farewell at the Rawson Hall. All his friends attended.

PILOT TRIST

Body Brought to Sydney

THE remains of Pilot L. J. Trist, who was killed when the aeroplane he was flying crashed near Wampat, New Guinea goldfields, while engaged on the goldfields transport service, were brought to Sydney from Salamoa, by the Maodui, on September 18.

The funeral, which was largely attended, was held on the following day, at Waverley Cemetery.

past five years. The exports, which in 1925 were valued at nearly £200,000, were last year worth only £30,000. Planters in the Territory seem to consider 7d. per lb. almost sufficient to cover out of pocket expenses. Therefore when the price continued its downward trend past this figure, many contemplated closing down.

Towards the end of last year the Australian Government imposed a duty of 4d. per lb. on all foreign rubber entering the Commonwealth. This, giving as it did a definite preference to rubber produced in Papua, allowed tappers to continue there.

The future of rubber remains obscure. Restriction of output throughout the world is undoubtedly necessary. As stated in a London trade report a couple of months ago, the only scheme of restriction that has a chance of being of any use is an international one. It would have to adjust supply to demand and allow the price to adjust itself.

It has been estimated that the world consumption of rubber for 1931 would show a decrease of nearly 100,000 tons on the previous year.

B.P. SERVICES

Another Revision

NEW GUINEA AND PAPUA AGAIN

CONVERSATIONS have been proceeding during the whole of the past month, between the Federal Government and Messrs. Burns, Philip and Co. Ltd., contractors for the Pacific Islands mail and passenger services, with reference to further rearrangements.

A general revision was brought into effect only recently; but the effects of the depression have been so severe that passenger and freight traffic has shrunk below even the most pessimistic forecast, and the shipping company's earnings have suffered accordingly. The position became so serious that, as indicated in last month's issue, a further revision has become necessary.

The Federal Government has finally approved of the rearrangement of the Sydney-Norfolk Island-New Hebrides-Auckland service, carried out by the Morinda, and the new timetable is published on page 18 of this issue. It will be noted that the Morinda will leave Sydney every five weeks on the following schedule: Sydney-Norfolk Island-New Hebrides-Norfolk Island-Auckland-Norfolk Island-Sydney.

It will be noted that an important development referred to in the August issue—namely, the inclusion of Noumea as a port of call in this service—has not taken place. It appears that several considerations enter into this proposal, the effect of which has been that the company has decided to hasten slowly. It can be stated, however, that the Noumea extension is still under consideration and will almost certainly be included in the Morinda's service when various difficulties, which now present themselves, have been cleared away.

The Federal authorities still have under consideration the rearrangement of the Papanua and New Guinea services. These, at present, are carried out by three ships—the Maodui, the Malaran and the Marima. The traffic has sadly decreased; and, at the same time, the residents of the various Territories are crying out for cheaper fares and freight, while the Federal Government wants to reduce the subsidy.

The company has pointed out that all this is impossible so long as it is necessary to carry on these services with three steamers, but it is understood that the company has advised the Government that, if the New Guinea and Papanua services are combined so as to permit the discontinuance of one steamer, it may be possible to reduce fares and freight and carry on a smaller subsidy.

There are very many points to be considered in connection with these services. If ships going to and from New Guinea are also to work the Papanua ports, it means that two or three days will be added to the voyage. That does not seem to matter very much to Papua, which will be the first Territory to be called at and the last to be left; but it does matter to the New Guinea Administration, which must make correspondingly larger provision for travelling expenses of its numerous officials between Sydney and the Territory. One objection from Papua is the fear that under such an arrangement, New Guinea will get the best of the available accommodation. There is also a difficulty about working the ports in the groups east of Papua, which have no medical officers to give pratique to through ships.

These are some of the numerous points with which the Federal officials and Messrs. Burns, Philip and Co. are now wrestling. In an attempt to rearrange the northern islands service, and at the same time maintain efficiency.

A decision, it is expected, will be reached within the next few weeks.

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Adherence to Present Schedule

Good News for Tahiti

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, August 13. IN connection with the reported discontinuance of the Messageries Maritimes service from France to New Caledonia, via Tahiti, it has been given out by the company's local office that there is to be no change in the present schedule.

Naturally, the local merchants are well pleased with the turn of events, and that their representations made through the Chamber of Commerce, have had the desired effect.

The discontinuance of this alternative route to Europe, for both freight and passengers, would have been a real disaster for Tahiti.

THE CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO

Scheme For Levuka

AT a recent meeting of the Levuka (Fiji) Chamber of Commerce, the president, Mr. Cyril King, stated that he, with several other members of the Chamber, had met Mr. P. A. Stubbs, of Melbourne, who had visited Levuka in connection with a scheme for the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco in that part of Fiji.

He said that Mr. Stubbs would be returning to Levuka and certain detailed information was requested by him. This was being supplied.

It was stated at the meeting that expert tobacco cultivation was undertaken on Ovalau many years ago by Mr. C. J. Sketcheley, and the reintroduction of this important industry would be most valuable to the community.

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BULOLO'S PROGRESS

Shown on Films

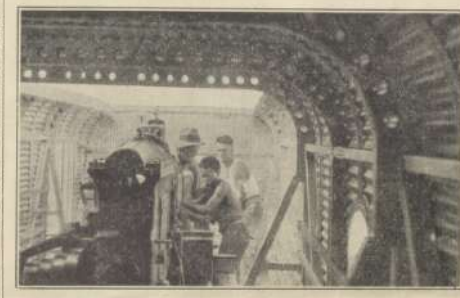
Mr. Waterhouse's Enterprise

EXTREMELY interesting moving pictures, showing the progress of Bulolo Gold Dredging Co., in New Guinea, from the "early days" of a few years back, up to the present, were privately screened in Sydney last month by Mr. L. V. Waterhouse, a technical director of the company. Mr. Waterhouse had taken the "movies" on his visits to the Territory during the last three years.

Aerial views were a feature of the films. Lac, Salamoa, Bulolo and many rivers, including the Markham, Francisco and Waitui, were seen, and the large audience was thus given a splendid opportunity of studying the topography of the rich New Guinea gold-fields.

The first pictures showed the Bulolo as thick jungle country. Then work was seen to commence on the clearing of the acreage. Trees were felled, the timber was burnt off and in a subsequent film the fine Bulolo drome was shown. Mr. Waterhouse explained that this drome represented good dredging ground and it would later all be dredged.

Back at Lae, the headquarters of Guinea Airways Ltd., the arrival and



The interior of one of the G31 dredgers in New Guinea, loaded with an engine for the Bulolo working

erection of a locomotive crane were seen. This crane now unloads the steel barges and runs on a line to the Lae drome, where it loads direct into waiting planes.

An historic event for the company was the arrival of the first G31 triple-engine Junker plane, which arrived at Lae by the M.V. Temeraire, direct from Germany. The landing operations and the assembling of the machine were shown and then the successful initial flight. The big plane, which has a wing spread of 100 feet, weighs nine tons when fully loaded. It has a landing speed of 85 miles per hour.

More recent films were screened showing the company's progress up to May of this year. The commencement of the building of the first dredge was seen and also construction work in connection with the hydro-electric project. It is expected that electric power will be available early next year.

"LOADING" THE KUKUKUKUS

An interesting sidelight of the films showed the six Kukukukus who were captured by District Officer Field, in connection with the murder of Heli-muth Baum, arriving at Bulolo drome, and the loading of them into the big G31 plane, which took them to the coast. This provided a humorous interlude. The fear in their eyes told how frightened these primitive kanakas were of this monstrous "pigeon." They were first chained in couples to a police boy, who led them towards the plane; and then they appeared to be lifted bodily into the cabin of the plane, as though they were so many bags of rice.

These pictures, taken by Mr. Waterhouse, have been already shown by him at Bulolo and Lae, and also before members of the New Guinea Club at Rabaul. They have been greatly appreciated wherever screened.

New Caledonia

PARLIAMENT OPENED — TONKIN-
ESE REPARATED — LIGHT FOR
NOUMEA

From Our Own Correspondent

NOUMEA, Sept. 4. ON 31st August, at 9 a.m., the Governor, Monsieur Guyon, opened the Parliament of New Caledonia. A guard of honour was provided by a section of infantry.

The Governor, in an able speech, dealt with various aspects of the present economic situation and outlined the activities contemplated to overcome the present difficulties and increase the importance of this French possession, so distant from the mother country.

TRADE FIGURES

The following figures show the downward trend of imports and exports in New Caledonia:

Year.	Imports frs.	Exports frs.	Total frs.
1929	185,000,000	99,000,000	284,000,000
1930	144,330,000	81,547,500	225,877,500
1931	141,727,800	80,680,000	222,407,800

INDENTURED LABOUR

The indentured labour employed is steadily falling in numbers, thus reducing the consuming and productive power of the colony.

Since March, 1930, 2,850 Indo-Chinese

(French subjects) have been repatriated, and 1,751 Japanese (Dutch subjects) have returned to their own country making a total of 4,601 coloured employees who have gone away. The total indentured labour now remaining is 9,934, made up of 4,082 Indo-Chinese and 5,851 Japanese.

COMPULSORY LIQUIDATION
A winding-up order was granted some little time ago in the matter of the Etablissements de Bechade, one of Noumea's largest trading firms.

A subsequent order by the Commercial Court has now fixed 1st January, 1932, as the date from which the liquidation is to function. The date had been provisionally fixed as 1st July, 1930, but in view of certain matters now brought forward by the liquidators the above order has been made.

"LA FLEUR D'ORANGER"
Two crowded houses witnessed this fascinating comedy, excellently played by enthusiastic amateur artists, in the Grand Theatre.

The artists included Mesdames Meny and Laubreaux, Mesdames Guyon and Verges, and Messieurs Colardet, Guyon, Rordorf and Beaumont.

ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR NOUMEA

One of Noumea's biggest drawbacks has been the poor illumination of the town by a weak gas plant.

The installation of the electricity will be a boon to all, and people will wonder how they managed to exist so long without this modern comfort. The hotels and certain other buildings have their small private plants, but they are really only a "drop in the ocean."

Good work has been done in connection with the erection of electric light poles in the streets, and the installation of private consumers' equipment. It is anticipated that current will be available for dwellings in about three months, although there will probably be further delay in connection with the street lighting.

It is quite possible that the electric lighting of the streets and public places will change the mode of life of the Noumea residents. At present, the streets after dark are lonely and deserted; but the change should bring the people out of doors and make the town a much more cheerful place in the evening than it is at present, and more typically French.

NEW BRETON'S ASSOCIATION

A movement is on foot in Noumea to get together all people who hale from Brittany to form a social club. Residents of Breton descent will also be eligible for membership.

UNILEVER COMBINE

And Prices of Raw Materials

IN view of the interesting particulars regarding the amalgamation of the Lever Bros' interests with the Margarine Union, described in The Pacific Islands Monthly of May 14, it is not inopportune to bring to mind remarks of the Chairman of Directors of Margarine Union Ltd., at the extraordinary general meeting held in London on December 10, 1929, when the amalgamation of the two concerns was finally decided upon and the terms of agreement drawn up.

The chairman of directors was Rt. Hon. the Earl of Bessborough, who is now Governor-General of Canada.

After assuring the meeting that a 10 per cent. dividend would be maintained and that the amalgamation opened up "great prospects of increased efficiency and economies to the benefit of both the public and the shareholders, Lord Bessborough continued in this strain:

"Though raw material prices constituted a direct threat to the concern, the directors realised the necessity of a reasonable profit to maintain and expand the business. It was not until production must keep pace. Stimulation of raw material production demanded and received constant attention. Directors would support every reasonable demand for the establishment of reasonable and stable prices."

Just how far the directors have supported every effort for such an establishment is, of course, beyond our knowledge. So many contributing factors have been at work to lower the raw material prices that it is difficult to gauge whether Lord Bessborough's remarks were made in good faith, or with his tongue in his cheek.—Gordon Thomas.

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PAPUAN GOLD

Some Promising Shows

RESULT OF MISIMA CRUSHINGS

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, Sept. 8. GOLD mining has not provided any sensations during the month. Misima reports having treated 19,979 tons of ore for a gold recovery of 4,704 ounces, and 761 ounces of silver.

Values work out to £1,677 per ton of ore treated, and profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £3,629 net.

The Federation Mine, Woodlark Island, is going ahead. The four members of the syndicate, all local men, have put in a strenuous year re-timbering the old workings, removing vast quantities of mullock and renovating tram lines, and have built dams, houses and battery sheds. It is gratifying to learn that they are now on good gold and that prospects are bright.

A new discovery, as yet of unknown value, is reported from the Waria River by two miners from the Mandated Territory, who wandered across the Papuan border.

Mr. Mahony's Prospecting Syndicate has returned unsuccessful, though optimistic, from the Tivari River, and is trying to raise further capital for a second venture at the head waters of the same river.

Messrs. Reid and J. Miller, well-known in Papua, have returned to the Territory and are going out shortly on a prospecting trip to a locality unnamed. They have the financial support of a New Zealand company.

Mr. Dunstan, formerly geologist for the Queensland Government, is expected to return within the week from the Tauri goldfield, with his report on the district and its possibilities.

Mr. H. Garbutt, together with a police escort and patrol officer, Mr. Speedie, accompanied Mr. Dunstan to the claims and different findings on the Tauri and Tivari rivers.

PIONEER MISSIONARY'S DEATH

REV. ISAAC ROONEY, F.R.G.S., one of the oldest missionaries of the Methodist Missionary Society, died in South Australia recently. He went to Fiji in 1860 and remained there for 13 years. Shortly after his return to Australia, after this long term in the Colony, he proceeded to the island of New Britain, in New Guinea, and worked there for eight years.

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LONELY HILLTOP

Historic Graves

PLEA FOR A MEMORIAL

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS, Aug. 20.

IT is not generally known to passengers travelling through the celebrated Albany Pass, on their way to Thursday Island, that right up on top of Albany Island are a number of graves.

In the early days of the north, a settlement was made at Albany Island by beche-de-mer fishers; and in the early sixties, on the recommendation of Sir George Bowen (then Governor of Queensland) a port of refuge was established for castaway voyagers, which was a few months later removed to Somerset, on the mainland opposite. Those were the days when there were many shipwrecks, and when the islanders of Torres Straits bore a very unenviable reputation, a number of massacres being recorded.

The island had its own little graveyard on top of the hill, and amongst some of the earliest burials were two of the members of the ill-fated Kennedy exploring expedition, Messrs. Niblett and Wall, who perished on Cape York Peninsula in 1849. Their remains were brought across to Albany Island in the brig "Frank," which was searching for Kennedy and his men, and were interred there.

The burial service was read by a young man named Christopher Doyley Apin, who during his later career held the post of Collector of Customs and Surveyor General in Labuan, and was afterwards Government Geologist in Victoria and Southern Queensland. Twenty-six years later he was himself laid to rest beside Niblett and Wall; he had been appointed police magistrate at Somerset, and died while holding that office.

Another who lies on the lonely hill is Mrs. Mary Turner, who was the wife of one of the first medical missionaries to New Guinea, and died in 1878, at the age of 36.

Victims of the tragedy of the

THE GRAVES ON ALBANY ISLAND



The grave with the cross above it is that of Christopher Doyley Apin, a former P.M. and Government Resident, at Somerset, who died in 1878. Two members of the Kennedy exploring party are buried alongside. The grave with the railing is that of Mrs. Mary Turner, wife of Rev. N. Y. Turner, M.B., C.M., who died in 1878.

"Quetta," which was wrecked near by in 1890, are also buried alongside.

Apart from its particular association the spot has a definite historic interest. Some of the graves have memorial stones erected over them. In the case

with the memorial, and their preservation is a matter which ought to be taken in hand now.

The Thursday Island branch of the Royal Geographical Society brought up the matter at one of its meetings some time back, and it was then urged that steps be taken to mark off the spot and place thereon some form of monument which would indicate its historic importance. Relatives of some of those buried there have from time to time arranged to have the graves attended to, but there is no one on the island, and the cemetery itself is not always easy of access, although any monument on the top of the hill could be quite well seen from passing vessels. There was at one time a temporary erection in memory of the "Quetta" victims, but this has long since disappeared.

This may meet the eye of friends of those lying on Albany Island, who would like to get into touch in the event of a permanent memorial being erected.

DAY DAWN'S GOLD

Result of First Crushing

NEWS has been received in Sydney that as a result of a week's crushing, the mill of Day Dawn (New Guinea) Ltd., on the Morobe goldfields, treated 216 tons of ore, for a yield of 414 ounces of gold.

For some time, small crushings had been carried out, but this return is the first from a week of normal crushing operations.

It is expected that 1,000 tons a month will be now treated by the mill.

This crushing plant is the first to operate on the New Guinea goldfields and the initial results must be considered very satisfactory.

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FIJI CONDITIONS

Lower Costs and Cheaper Labour

EXCHANGE HELPS AUSTRALIAN EXPORTERS

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, September 2.
THE cost of living is decreasing in Suva, as elsewhere. Rice has fallen greatly in price. Whereas the planter paid somewhere about £22 a ton a little more than a year ago, it is to-day sold at £14 a ton for Australian rice, and £18 for Rangoon. The character of the Australian rice is somewhat different to that of Rangoon, and is not so popular amongst our Indian population. On the other hand, the Fijian, who likes to boil his rice into a glutinous mass, prefers the Australian variety.

It is really the exchange discount which prevails between Sydney and Suva which permits Australian rice to compete here. The Australian £ is worth only 16/6 in Suva, an odd state of affairs, but one of which Australian exporters have not been slow to take advantage.

Sharps have also come down in price considerably. This is a low-grade flour largely used by our Indian community for making chapatties, which, with them, take the place of bread.

A bag weighing 120 lbs. was selling a year ago round about 21/-, and is sold to-day at about 14/- or less, since very small Indian importers are being credited by his Sydney agent with the benefit of the exchange.

Thus the reduction in wages, which has taken place, is not being so keenly felt. Casual labour round Suva is plentiful to-day at 3/6 a day, whilst the semi-skilled type get about 18/- a week. Of course, they have to fend for themselves in regard to food and housing.

On a plantation, the copra cutter or the casual labourer receives 2/- a day and housing, but otherwise finds himself. Gangs of Fijian labour are signing on under 12 months' contract for £10 per annum and found, as against £18 to £20 of a year ago.

Intermarriage has been cut down 1/6 to 1/3 a bag by the subsidised B.P. steamer, but, in most cases, planters would experience little difficulty in securing freight at 1/- a bag.

The re-adjustment of present-day costs to present-day results is thus proceeding, but the process is a slow and painful one, both for employer and employed, and it speaks volumes for the good sense of the community that there has not been the slightest hint of labour troubles as a result.

In fact, Fiji is in as sound a condition as can be expected of any tropical country these days, and if our worthy administrators will only realise the absolute necessity for refraining from increasing overhead costs of living through the Customs House to any further degree, we shall pull through with flying colours.

THE NEW HEBRIDES EXCHANGE

Planters' Difficulties

COIN MAY NOW BE SHIPPED

From Our Own Correspondent

A New Hebrides planter writes as follows:
I note that you published the gist of my letter re credit facilities in the New Hebrides, and am very interested in the reply (as published) of the general manager of Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co. (South Sea) Ltd. He states, "Your correspondent is not correct. He can ship as much coin as he likes, either to or from the New Hebrides. There has never been any restriction or limit as far as Burns, Philp and Co. Ltd. are concerned."

My experience was as follows: After B.P. (South Sea) had shut down on giving drafts I approached the purser of the Makambo with regard to sending coin to Sydney. He told me that an Inspector of B.P. (South Sea) Co. had instructed him to under no circumstances was he (the purser) to accept money from residents of the New Hebrides for shipment to Sydney.

I intend now to make another application on the next trip of the Morinda, to forward some coin.

It is stated that "Drafts are made available by the company throughout the group for domestic and other approved transactions, at a maximum rate of 21 per cent." Just so, the domestic and other approved transactions are drafts for a remittance to send to one's family in Australia, or a draft to pay a newspaper subscription.

I state, and I challenge a denial, that drafts are not issued to independent traders by B.P. (South Sea) for trading purposes—except where (as I mentioned in my previous letter) drafts have been issued to certain French companies. It is now about 18 months since Mr. Brady, Inspector of the firm of B.P. (S.S. Co.) made a trip on the "Mallina" through this group, and he stated that there were to be no more drafts issued except for "domestic and other approved transactions."

The company states: "The local exchange and currency is a Condominium matter and Burns, Philp and Co. Ltd. are just as much inconvenienced as your correspondent." When I went to school I learnt that if you take like from like, like remains, but B.P.'s arithmetic works out as follows:

£10 Sterling	Less	4/- Sterling
Equals	..	£6 Australian currency

As they do not take the exchange into consideration, I fail to see how they are inconvenienced. It seems to me that it is only the planter who is inconvenienced. All B.P.'s (South Sea) billheads are now rubber-stamped with the following or similar captions: "All transactions to be in British Sterling, at our option," when they buy copra there is no option for the planter.

Copra prices are continually changing, and competitive—they are indeed, but mostly downward. As for being competitive—well, coins sold locally to French firms (which more when converted to Australian currency at current rate of exchange) than copra sold to B.P. and shipped by the Makambo, as in the latter case the planter does not get the benefit of the exchange. Excepting certain cases, where the Makambo has quoted a higher price (in francs) to French companies, the B.P. prices have been consistently lower than prices offered by French firms. On one trip B.P. were buying copra from the French at 1200 francs (over £12 Aus. currency) and at the same time offering the British planter £8 in Australian cash.

Unless Messrs. Burns, Philp make some arrangement whereby the planter gets the benefit of the exchange, the Makambo (or Morinda) is not likely to pick up much copra.

Later: Since writing the above, the Morinda has called, and the purser has informed me that there is now no restriction on shipping coin to Sydney at a rate of 1/- per cent, but that he is not authorised to issue any drafts.

We have heard, unofficially, that an amicable arrangement has been made between the Commonwealth Postmaster-General and Burns, Philp, but no one actually knows whether such arrangement has been made and what it consists of, as no one here seems to have any further knowledge of the matter.

P.A.T. CO.'S NEW FOKKER

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, Sept. 8

MR. Ray Parer is in Port Moresby again assembling a Fokker plane for his company, the Pacific Aerial Transport Co., which works between the New Guinea goldfields and the coast. This is a nine-passenger machine, with a 450 h.p. Bristol-Jupiter engine.

Mr. Parer expects to get away after the necessary trials, in a few days' time.

INFANT NATIVE WELFARE

American Woman's Fine Work in Fiji

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, September 2.
ONE of the interesting social services inaugurated in the last two years in Fiji has been that of Infant Welfare, which owes its inception to Dr. Roberts, the wife of the American Consul in Fiji.

Soon after her husband was posted here, she offered her services voluntarily and she was assigned the district around Suva. Her methods include the formation of women's committees in each native village and regular weekly visits.

This entails a certain degree of hardship on the doctor, who suffers considerably as times from the effects of illness contracted when she served as a Major in the Serbian army, in charge of hospitals during the War.

From this beginning the movement spread and was taken up enthusiastically by Sir Maynard Hedstrom, the Honourable Lady McOwan, C.M.G., at that time Secretary for Native Affairs, and by the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd., who made a grant of £2,000 a year, over some years.

European nurses have been employed to serve other districts, and in places such as Lau—the island group lying between Fiji and Tonga—the Native medical practitioners have formed women's committees and are carrying on the good work. In time to come the benefit will be seen in a stronger and healthier generation, and since the wealth of this Colony lies in the man-power available to till the soil, the movement should command the interest of planter, trader and civil servant alike.

Imports into Nieuw for 1920 were valued at £18,630, and exports £15,877. The figures for the previous year were, imports £19,107, exports £22,206.

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Legislative Council Sought for New Guinea

ACTION REQUIRED

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, August 30

Frequent comment is made that no action has been taken in regard to the appointment of a Legislative Council for this Territory.

As far back as 1926 an Act was passed by the Australian Senate for the establishment of a New Guinea Legislative Council, but owing to a dissolution of Parliament, the Act did not come before the House of Representatives.

It is felt that a Council, including nominated unofficial members, should be of assistance to the Administration and might, in many instances, considerably strengthen the Administrator's hands. An elected Council would certainly be more popular with many residents; but considered opinion is that this at the present time, would be both impracticable and inadvisable.

A nominated Council representing the various interests—planting, mining, commercial and missionary, would, if composed of men of sound views and with experience and knowledge of local conditions, be welcomed by the majority of residents. It is suggested, in order to partially meet those who demand an elected Council, that the Administrator should ask the various interests to submit names, from which he could make his selection.

In all probability, instances would arise where the Administration could not accept proposals of unofficial members, but it should be noted that in such instances, the views expressed by the unofficial members would be recorded in a manner which would make them available to Federal Members of Parliament. Further, there may be instances where the unanimous support by the unofficial members of Government proposals would be an influential factor in overcoming opposition in Australia.

It is hoped that a move will be made in the near future to pass the Act through the Federal Parliament and bring it into operation.

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GOLDFIELDS AERIAL SERVICE

To the Editor.

Sir—When perusing your June number I noted references to the aerial transport companies operating between the coast and the goldfields here, that may be misleading. So I would appreciate the publication of this letter.

A table of the companies operating the number and capacity of machines, at the moment of this writing, is given below:

	G. Airways	R.G.D.	P.A.T.	L. Holder	L. Shoppe
Machines owned	2	2	1	1	2
Machines serviceable	2	2	1	1	2
Capacity of each, lb.	500	5,000	1,200	1,750	300
Machines serviceable at present, but capable of repair	2	—	3	—	—
Machines completely lost or crashed	—	—	1	—	—

Included in the two machines repairable for the P.A.T. is a Fokker F VII due to arrive in Port Moresby on July 17 from Holland.

This reveals the present total carrying capacity of each company as follows:

Buloko Gold Dredging Co. (R.G.D.)	12,000 lb.
Capt. L. Holder	1,750 lb.
Pacific Aerial Transport (P.A.T.)	1,200 lb.
Guinea Airways (G.A.)	500 lb.
Capt. L. Shoppe	300 lb.

When the article was written Guinea Airways had an extra two machines serviceable, but, since then, one single-engine Junker W 34 crashed at the Wau. The following day their three-engine plane became disabled, which left them with two Moth planes to carry on the service.

Guinea Airways is referred to as the "premier" company. If it is meant that it was the first, may I quote also the following:

I was the first to buy an aeroplane for the service, and I was also first to form a company for aerial freightage to the Wau.

Referring to Mr. A. E. H. Evans' letter, I should like to point out that Capt. L. Holder is now freightage for Guinea Airways, at a sub-contract price.

I should like to congratulate you and add my appreciation of your useful and impartial publication.

I am, etc.

RAY PARKER.

WAU, N.G., July 3, 1931.

(We have published the above letter, as it was written, in order that we may remove any feeling of injustice from Mr. Parker's mind. The figures he gives, however, while possibly correct on July 3, may give a wrong impression. We understand, for instance, that some of the big Guinea Airways machines are now back in commission, and carrying on the normal service.)

BOTANIST'S WORK ON BOUGAINVILLE

MR. J. H. L. Waterhouse, F.R.G.S., F.R.A.I. is still gathering botanical specimens of Central Bougainville (Solomon Islands) Bora for the Royal Gardens, Kew, England, and incidentally to date has collected many hundreds of specimens—everyone complete with local native name, and notes on its use by the natives there, e.g. medicinal, magical, etc.

He has also found already that there are considerably over 200 named varieties of taro, the staple food of these natives. In between times he is doing some entomology, malacology, and anthropology—especially linguistics.

PACIFIC ISLANDS YEAR BOOK

READY NEXT MONTH

AFTER two years of preparatory work, the Pacific Islands Year Book for 1931 will be published about the end of October, and annually thereafter.

The Year Book is designed to meet a long-felt want. There is a constant demand for reliable information about the score or more of territories and

	G. Airways	R.G.D.	P.A.T.	L. Holder	L. Shoppe
Machines owned	2	2	1	1	2
Machines serviceable	2	2	1	1	2
Capacity of each, lb.	500	5,000	1,200	1,750	300
Machines serviceable at present, but capable of repair	2	—	3	—	—
Machines completely lost or crashed	—	—	1	—	—

groups in the Pacific, which contain independent administrations and which function, in matters relating to trade, industry, education, communications, control of natives, etc., quite separately one from the other. These various Pacific territories purchase in a normal year goods to the value of £5,000,000, and their trade is eagerly sought by many countries. Exporters and distributors everywhere want to know how to cater for that trade; and prospective settlers and planters want to know where to go—the Year Book is designed to tell them.

Accurate and comprehensive information relating to each group—history, method of government, names of administrators, nature of taxation imposed, details of Customs tariffs—is contained in the different sections of the Year Book; and it is all so arranged as to be of the utmost value to the officials themselves. The latest statistics—mostly summarized from annual reports and Blue Books—are included.

The Year Book is illustrated with numerous photographs and with clear maps of most of the principal groups. Orders may be lodged with any of the islands stores which sell The Pacific Islands Monthly; with any bookseller; or with Pacific Publications Ltd., 1111, 1113, 347 George Street, Sydney. Price (includes post): 5/6.

BULOLO'S PROGRESS

Success of Plane Transport

THE erection of the pontoon of the No. 1 Bulolo dredge, on the New Guinea goldfields, is something over 50 per cent. completed, and the construction programme generally is well forward, reports the Sydney secretary of Buloko Gold Dredging Ltd.

Adverse meteorological conditions of recent months have caused some lag in the transportation schedule, but the better flying season of the year is now being entered upon, and there has been to date no delay in carrying out the construction work.

The general manager, writing from the field under date of September 4, has advised that it appears that it is entirely practical to handle the freight with the airplanes in sufficient quantity to meet requirements, under favorable weather conditions. Up to September 12, a total of 765 short tons had been transported from the coast by the large machines. All machinery and material for the No. 1 dredge is now in New Guinea.

Boating, with native labour, for production on a small scale, has commenced on the Bluenose base of the Arnold leas.

The Bulwark drilling has been proceeding steadily. The reports and accounts presented at the annual meetings of both Buloko and Placer held at Vancouver on September 24 will be in the hands of the Australian and New Zealand shareholders during the first half of next month and subsequently printed reports of the proceedings at the meetings will be circulated to shareholders.

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EASTERN POLYNESIA

Visit of N.Z. Flagship—Raitea's Firewalkers

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, August 13.
 H.M.S. Diomedes left Tahiti on July 23, after a stay of several days in the group. Part of this time was spent at anchorage in the lovely bay of Openohu, island of Moorea, opposite the residence of Lord Hastings, where the officers were entertained with true island hospitality by Major Dou-

glas, the present tenant of the house. At Papeete, the July celebrations were extended for another day by Governmental decree, in order that the ship's personnel might have the opportunity to participate. In connection with the Diomedes' visit, it is worth noting that Admiral Blake, with the guests of Mr. H. Guédon, on a fishing expedition, succeeded in landing a good sized sail fish. For this he merited, and received, the congratulations of all our local sportsmen.

EXTENSION OF HOTEL TIARE
 In order to cope with an increasing number of visitors, M. Ravnek, the affable proprietor of the Hotel Tiare, has leased a large lot of land, and situated nearby, which formerly belonged to the Compagnie Navale et Commerciale de l'Océanie.

For many years the destinies of this hotel were presided over by the famous Lovaina, until she succumbed during the great epidemic of 1918, and she ran it in a way that no one since has been able to emulate. Many distinguished persons have sojourned here, including Somerset Maugham, Frederick O'Brien and a host of others, and they all paid tribute to the Lovaina, who created an atmosphere about the place that time has not been able to entirely dissipate.

Something of that lady's gracious genius still pervades the wide verandahs, where Papeete's cosmopolitan inhabitants still gather, as of yore, for 11 o'clock déjeuner, and linger on about their wine till 2 p.m. or later. For here one may choose a four-course meal for as little as ten francs, and have the wine and accessories thrown in for a few francs more.

The exterior surroundings of the hotel remain the same as 20 years ago. There is the ancient screen of coffee bushes laden down with berries, between the diners and the street, the same old garden of the same promiscuous blooms, and the same old breadfruit trees, from which, upon occasion, a ripe fruit crashes to the ground and immediately puts a stop to the burst of voices going on below. The serving women, brown and bouncing, carry in the viands from the same promiscuous kitchen; all this is as it was in Lovaina's day. It is true that an increasing number of motor cars hustle along the road outside, but that is all there is to remind us of the passing years. The rest remains.

Whatever the exigencies of a modern tourist traffic may demand in the way of hotels, one thing is certain, Tahiti's oldest hostelry will never kick patrons, for Papeete without its Hotel Tiare times. Mr. Ravnek promises to be a worthy successor to the lamented Lovaina, and everybody wishes him well in his latest venture.

STRANGE CEREMONY ATTRACTS TOURISTS

Four months ago an enterprising theatrical promoter from Chicago visited Tahiti with the idea of exploiting in America the ancient ceremony of fire-walking, but the stringent immigration laws in that country prevented the final realization of his plans. His preliminary efforts were entirely successful, however, in that he was able, with the help of some local experts, to convert the native tendency to revive the almost extinct cult of the "Umu ti," which since the advent of Christianity has been sternly repressed by the missionaries at a relic of heathenism and superstition.

Fortunately, there still exists in the island of Raiatea a middle-aged native last of an unbroken line of priests (Tahua) who refuses to renounce his ancestral gods, who carries with great dignity the knowledge handed down and carefully guarded through the ages, and who may be persuaded, upon occasion, to wield the sacred TI for the benefit of visiting white people.

Briefly, for space will not permit of a full description, the performance consists of walking barefoot across a pit filled to the brim with white hot stones and stepping out unharmed at the other side.

The Umu (oven) may be of any size. One this writer saw in 1914 and walked across unscathed, was fully 18 feet in diameter. Tons of firewood are needed to fill the pit and heat the volcanic stones to the proper degree of intensity. When all is in readiness the priest appears with his wand of sacred leaves, prepared with appropriate rites the day previously, and kept for a whole night in the temple (Marae).

In a long incantation he now invokes the ancient gods, the presiding evil, and the spirit who enacts the flame, waiting his wand the while from side to side. Any who please may now follow him across the flaming pit, but beware of looking backwards, lest the spell be broken and the feet get burned.

Scientists have so far failed to find a satisfactory explanation of this strange ceremony, which is naturally most impressive when performed at night. Victorian tourists who have been recently privileged to see it in Raiatea have returned to Tahiti well pleased, and expressed the opinion that this alone was well worth the trip.

LOST FISHERMEN

Cook Islands Incident

From Our Own Correspondent

RAROTONGA, Aug. 16.
 THREE native fishermen, caught in a gale off the reef at Rarotonga, were rescued on the evening of August 14, in exciting circumstances. An "all-night" fishing expedition, comprising some 20 canoes, set out off the south side of the island on the evening of the 13th. During the night a wind from the north-east came up with a heavy sea, strongly set towards the reef.

Povaru, who was watching the weather conditions, warned the party to return to the lagoon. A number of the fishermen paddled some miles with the current to the lee of the island and came in over the reef at Aorangi. Two canoes were capsized and the occupants injured.

Seven of the canoes proceeded in the direction of the Rarotonga passage, a fairly wide opening in the reef, near the fishing grounds. Five of these canoes reached the lagoon safely. Of the remaining two fishermen still outside, one, Mani, had become exhausted by his efforts to make headway against the current. The other, Ua, had to put back to assist Mani.

At midday two natives, Eteke and Potou Henry, put out in small canoes in the hope of overtaking Mani and working round to the lee of the island. From Ngalangia (which was receiving the full blast of the gale) Mr. Campbell, manager of the Cook Islands Native Association Ltd., and a native named Rennie, put out in a small outboard motor dinghy. They proceeded some distance but saw no canoes. At 4.30 p.m. the dinghy returned, after a perilous run. A dangerous sea was running. All along the south side of the island the massive breakers were curling in over the reef.

At about 1.30 p.m. word reached the Resident Commissioner, Judge Ayson, that native fishermen were in difficulties. His Honor promptly formed a rescue party. Makes Tinirau (Chief Ariki) placed his launch at the disposal of the authorities. Captain Thompson, skipper of the Tugua, and Mr. W. Bywater, their services. The engineer from the Tugua and three natives accompanied the party. Balise was taken aboard, also benzine and a supply of food, etc.

At about 4 o'clock in the afternoon the launch left the Avarua wharf. The evening was closing in. Visibility was poor. The weather showed no signs of moderating. Mani had by then been adrift for about 30 hours, and was known to be in an exhausted condition. Eteke and Potou Henry had disappeared out to sea, and Mr. Campbell and Rennie had not returned. About midnight, watchers in the vicinity of Black Rock (lee of the island) discovered the launch on the skyline, appearing and disappearing.

Eteke and Potou had found Mani's canoe and were evidently working in the launch. When found, Mani was lying in the bottom of his canoe with only sufficient strength left to steady it. Potou, who was one of the fishing party, was exhausted. Eteke had managed to lash the canoes together with his tackle and was making desperate efforts to reach the island before darkness came on. The launch shortly afterwards picked them up. The three natives who accompanied the rescue party dropped into the canoes and brought them in over the reef.

The search was continued. So far as the launch party knew, Mr. Campbell and Rennie were still missing. Finally a complete circuit of the island was made. But these two had come ashore at Ngalangia at 4.30.

The launch reached the wharf at about 8 p.m. Prolonged cheers greeted the rescue party. The exhausted fishermen were attended to. Mani's condition was not serious.

High praise is due to everyone who took part in the rescue work. Makes Tinirau, as the leader of the rescue party, deserves special mention. Mr. Campbell and Rennie took their lives in their hands in going out in a frail craft. Ua's action was praiseworthy. The attempt by Eteke and Potou, in the rescue of Mani, was a very gallant one.

MRS. W. CADZOW

Death of Estimable T.I. Resident

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY 18, Sept. 1.

A WAVE of shocked surprise and sorrow swept through the island when news came through of the sudden death, in Brisbane, of Mrs. W. Cadzow, wife of one of our best known townsmen, who occupies a leading position on the Wyben Pearl Company's staff.

The sad event occurred a couple of weeks after her little one had been born. The deceased lady was highly popular with a large circle of friends. Her musical talents were always at the disposal of entertainment organizers for all and sundry causes, and in many ways she will be much missed. The sympathy of the whole community goes out to the husband and his family of small children.

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COOK ISLANDS

Shipping Movements for Month

From Our Own Correspondent

RAROTONGA, August 14.

H.M.S. Veronica sailed for Apia on July 23, via Mangai, Atua, Alutaka and Palmerston Island. The Resident Commissioner, Judge Aynon, took passage by the ship to Mangai and remained there until August 3, when he returned to Rarotonga by the S.S. Waipahi.

A round trip of the four main islands of the Lower Group was made by the S.S. Waipahi, in July. A fair quantity of oranges was shipped to the Auckland markets from the other islands, but only a small number of cases from Rarotonga. The shipment from here comprised principally tomatoes. The local orange crop is finished.

The island schooner, Tagua, is at present working her way round the Lower Group. Her companion ship in these waters, the Tiare Taporo, leaves on the 16th for Papeete, calling at Alutaka, Atua and Manu on route.

SOUTHERN CROSS ARRIVES

An unfamiliar sail appeared on the skyline on the morning of the 12th. It proved to be the ketch Southern Cross, from Scotland, and not the Vanderbilt yacht, as was rumoured.

The sturdy looking little craft bears on her bow the initials of the Royal Clyde Yachting Club. She carries a crew of three young looking, adventurous men—Dunn, Penman and Shackleton. The ketch is meandering through the Pacific on a pleasure cruise.

BIENNIAL ELECTIONS

The biennial election for the European seat on the Island Council took place on August 5.

Two candidates were nominated, Mr. W. J. Wigmore (sitting member) and Mr. H. B. Everett. The majority of electors favoured Mr. Wigmore, who was returned by a fair margin of votes.

VISITORS TO GROUP

We have with us at present the following visitors: Mr. C. G. Ogilvie (Wellington), Mr. Burgess (Old Country), Mr. J. Browning (Auckland), Mr. Gelling (Okoire), and Mr. and Mrs. House (Waiganui).

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MARKHAM VALLEY

Rich Undeveloped Agricultural Region in New Guinea

Written for The Pacific Islands Monthly, By Henry G. Eckhoff, of Lae, N.G.

THE sleeping giant of the Pacific is the mainland of New Guinea, which stretches for 1,200 miles from tip to tip, shaped like some gigantic monster of past ages, with a corrugated backbone of range.

Whatever mineral riches may be found on the slopes of these gabled mountains, they are as a drop in a bucket, by comparison with the agricultural possibilities of this mighty country.

Several great rivers flow into the ocean in the British Division—the two largest of which are the Fly and the Sepik, both of which are navigable for hundreds of miles. But the most significant river is the Markham, so called to perpetuate the name of the late Sir Clement Markham, the famous

Right in this part of the interior, strange to say, are the finest coconut palms known to New Guinea. The nuts have been repeatedly brought in, as specimens of what coconuts should be. Yet the coconut is not supposed to grow far away from salt water.

Perhaps, some day, when the sugar lands of the world get worked out, or when the favour of new markets open up, this valley will produce its fair share of the world's sugar. Density of production should be assured—it is one of the homes of this valuable product. With no pest to destroy it, and acclimated from time immemorial, it is reasonable to expect high production.

Along the river, there is opportunity for rice-growing, as well as sugar, and



The Mouth of the Markham River, New Guinea

ous President of the Royal Geographical Society, whose geographical exploits were of benefit to the whole world.

Unfortunately, the Markham is not navigable. It merely flows over gravel beds in wandering shallows, which cut eccentric patterns on the valley when viewed from the air.

Situated at Lae, on the mouth of the Markham, is the busiest aerodrome of the Southern Hemisphere, handling more freight than any other drome in the world. Hence, the Markham may be viewed from the air by all those who care to take the trip.

As may be well imagined, the shallow course of the great river has contributed to vast alluvial flats, which stretch for miles and miles. Proceeding up the valley, tropical scrubs mark the first stage of twenty miles or so. Thence, the country opens up into grass lands—high grass matted above the head of the traveller, who bolts for lack of air draughts, with the sun's rays beating directly down.

For fifty, sixty and seventy miles inland, the gradual ascent is undiscernable, and the rich agricultural country stretches for miles to right and left, with never a break right into the Aitana district, where, at between 3,000 and 4,000 feet, the gentle watershed separates the Markham's headwaters from those of the Ramu. From each side great valleys come in, with the good land stretching up into the funnel-shaped entrances.

On either side of the valley, but blue in the distance, are the various ranges, and fifty miles up the Waiuti, a tributary of the Markham, lie the Eddie Goldfields.

For quite twenty miles up the Waiuti River itself, the agricultural country persists, and the native foods produced there are phenomenal in their growth. One tribe of natives subsist almost entirely on bananas, and the variety of this fruit is astonishing. There are red, green and yellow bananas—which never seem to ripen—and also acid-flavoured and sugar bananas.

In like variety is the indigenous sugar cane—stripped, green, purple, red, clove-jointed and long. In places it is trained to bamboo trellis-work. The natives do not grow large plots—simply a few square yards, stuck in haphazard here and there.

Almost all of this Markham Valley is arable land, and it is over seventy miles long and averages over ten miles wide. Some hundreds of thousands of acres are there, without adding the tributary areas. It is little wonder that the Administrator has tried unceasingly, to get this valley, with its enormous potential wealth, opened to traffic.

there is sufficient water to spare for that type of cultivation.

Stretching into the uplands is excellent coffee-growing country, in sufficient areas to glut all our markets.

Stock do not do well, however, without very close attention to the ever-living sores which characterise the mission-owned animals. These are the only stock in the country and they have reached such a pass that one horse-lover considered purchasing the animals, to put them out of their misery by destroying them.

The Government hack seems to react to its condition, however, and some of the mules owned privately are rolling fat and sportive enough. There may, therefore, be hope for properly-tended cattle—sufficient to supply the local demand.

The port of Salamoa is twenty miles along the coast from the mouth of the Markham. Lae itself, though serving as a port, provides a doubtful anchorage at the best. But it is improving and may serve.

As may be guessed, the climate is in varying tones, from the coast to the mountains. In the higher regions, blankets are very serviceable at night.

It cannot be said that malaria is bad. One individual has lived in the Valley for five years, without becoming acquainted personally with the disease. But this may be owing to some form of immunity, as others have suffered.

The supply of native labour is one of the attractive features. These villagers can be seen actually looking for work, and they appear to want to get back as soon as they have been sent home (for it is compulsory in New Guinea for natives to proceed home before making fresh contracts). These Aitana appear to prefer some kind of employment and actually seek it for themselves.

The surrounding mountain tribes, however, are different, and have to be persuaded to try the venture.

The Valley has become a quiet and peaceful place since the advent of the mining industry, and no one will be bothered with the weight of a pendant revolver along the route.

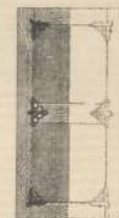
The mountain natives have made attacks lately, but that region is far removed from the actual valley, and fifty miles away up in the mountains. Thus, with a fairly willing labour supply, a fertile valley of enormous potentiality, and obviously easily developed transport, the Markham must some day 'arrive'. For the benefit of the natives, and on behalf of the Pacific colonisation, we hope it will be soon.

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25	12	33	1/4	42/	25	14	33	107/6	3/6
26	12	33	1/8	46/	26	14	33	118/	3/8
26	12	33	1/8	55/	30	14	33	138/	4/6
42	12	23	2/1	64/3	30	14	33	158/	5/3
48	12	23	2/4	73/6	42	14	33	181/3	5/3

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New Crops for the Islands

Castor Seed's Strong Claim INCREASING DEMAND FOR VALUABLE LUBRICANT

Six months ago, this journal brought before Pacific Islands planters the possibilities of tung oil cultivation. The result is that much interest is now being displayed in the prospects of establishing this industry throughout the Groups.

Now, through the courtesy of Mr. E. Cheel, Curator of the National Herbarium, Sydney, The P.I.M. is able to give information concerning other crops, which may prove profitable.

FIRST among these is the castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*). This must deservedly attract attention because the oil provides a valuable lubricant—as distinct from its use for medicinal purposes. It has been found that it is the best oil for machinery and is in growing demand for all aircraft engines.

The castor oil plant is ideal for islands cultivation. Mr. Cheel himself made an effort to introduce it into Fiji in 1914, for the specific purpose of carrying out experiments to discover the most suitable varieties for growing there. Unfortunately, the devastating pneumonic influenza which swept the Colony in the following year, interfered with his experiments. He has not heard anything further regarding those plants.

It is learned, however, from the official publication, "The Colony of Fiji, 1914-1920," that the castor oil plant now grows profusely on waste lands there, particularly in the dry zone. "Samples of seeds submitted to experts" it is stated, "have been reported on as first-class and rich in oil, but, so far, no attempt has been made to cultivate the plant commercially."

"POPPERS" AND "NON-POPPERS"

Mr. Cheel said that wild castor oil—a small-seeded form—is found scattered in various islands of the Pacific. Although this may yield valuable oil, it is rather difficult to collect the seeds, because it is one of the "popping" variety of plants. That is to say, the capsules, or husks, have a habit of bursting open and throwing the seeds out before the head of the cluster is ripe or mature. This means that a great many of the seeds are lost.

Mr. Cheel has now experimented with about 34 distinct varieties and he favours specially a red capsule variety and also the Eureka. The former is a larger seeded and larger bearing kind and, with the Eureka, the seeds are all maintained in the husks until they are ripe. The appearance of the seed of the red variety is not unlike a cattle tick.

The seeds yield from 48 to 50 per cent. of oil.

MODERATELY RICH SOIL REQUIRED

The plants of this variety grow six to eight feet tall and can be planted from eight to ten feet apart. It is as well to plant two or three seeds on each hill and then to eliminate the weak plants.

The plant needs moderately rich soil preferably near the sea coast. An ideal position is along the river embankments, in the rich silt, where the soil cannot be used for other purposes.

A feature of the crop, which will appeal to planters generally, is that a return is obtainable in seven to nine months after planting. The plant lives from two to three years, giving increasingly large crops after the first year.

The method for the collection of the seeds is for the whole bunch, as pictured, to be picked. These are then taken to a shed and spread on the ground, where they are threshed in order to release the seeds from the capsules. Each capsule contains three seeds.

In the early stages of the industry, these seeds would have to be shipped to Australia for milling. A plant to treat castor oil seeds is already established in Melbourne. At present this mill uses solely seeds produced in India and its requirements are about 2,000 tons annually—all imported, of course.

The first process is the decortication of the seeds—that is, the removing of the parchment shell from the kernel.

A photograph of a bunch of castor oil seeds (red capsules) reduced to half its usual size. Alongside are photographs of two of the actual seeds and, for purposes of comparison in size, a penny.

castor seed. The imports into the United Kingdom in 1924 were 23,000 tons, valued at £580,012, i.e., an average price of £25 per ton.

So far as is known no further steps have been taken with the cultivation of the plant in the Territory, though the report of the Director in 1924 was distinctly encouraging and the demand for the oil is ever-increasing.

Castor oil seeds are now being tried in Papua, with good hopes of success.

OIL-PRODUCING TREES
Another industry, which has much to recommend it, is the cultivation of the lemon-scented tea-tree (*Leptospermum citratum*) which is described by

'FLU IN N.G.

Heavy Toll on Goldfields

WORK HELD UP

AN influenza epidemic, which proved to be of a very serious nature, broke out on the New Guinea goldfields early in August, and work generally was held up at a fairly early date.

Although many of the whites on the field were affected there were no deaths among them. The natives, however, fared worse. It is unofficially estimated that 60 of the labourers died.

Conditions on the goldfields are now normal.

Where the visitation appears to have had disastrous results was up the Markham River, near the goldfields. It is rumoured—but not officially confirmed—that 25 per cent. of the natives in this locality died as a result of the epidemic.

The origin of the epidemic is not known, but it is thought by some to have reached the goldfields from Rabaul. As was stated in last issue, gastric influenza was raging in Rabaul early in July, and 400 indentured labourers who disembarked there were quarantined, and labourers working the cargo had to wear masks. The Customs officials and the wharf were also quarantined.

CASE ON TOFUA

Very strict precautions were taken at Apia, Samoa, this month, following a case of influenza appearing aboard the Tofoa, which maintains a service between Auckland and Samoa. The nine passengers who disembarked there were quarantined, and labourers working the cargo had to wear masks. The Customs officials and the wharf were also quarantined.

New Caledonian Cattle

Numbers Increasing

FREEZING OR CANNING?

From Our Own Correspondent

NOUMEA, Sept. 4.
THE pastoral industry is in rather a depressed condition.

It is estimated that at the present time there are some 3,000 head of fat cattle, surplus to local requirements. The problem presents itself as to the disposal of this stock.

A suggestion has been made that a freezing works be erected in New Caledonia and the cattle exported in this manner. Another proposal is that the pastoralists form a co-operative company to purchase or take over the meat canning works at Mireo, which have been closed for some time.

In view of the continued reduction of Javanese and Tongkinese indentured labour, and the reduced purchasing power of the people generally, the cattle in excess to the country's requirements are likely to continue to increase—subject of course to any severe drought conditions which might materially alter the position.

Mr. Cheel as a distinct species, yields from its leaves one per cent. of essential oil. Half of this oil is very similar to the citronella oil present on the world's markets for use as a protection against mosquitoes and other insects. The other half contains citronellol, which can be converted into citral, the basic principle of the finest odours in the perfumery trade.

The leaves of the lemon-scented gum contain similar properties.

The iron bark yields limonene, the technical name of an essential oil. This oil can be used in the manufacture of synthetic essence of lemon.

These trees now grow to some extent in India, Bulgaria and Italy. Here, again, as with the castor oil plant, the cheap labour conditions existing in the islands should enable the production of the oils on profitable lines.

The trees would have to be raised from seedlings: an ounce of seed, with careful handling, would give several hundreds of plants. They would require no cultivation. The first cutting of leaves is possible two years after planting. Leaves would then form again, and so there would be many crops during the life of the tree—15 to 20 years.

The production of the oil is very similar to that of eucalyptus oil. It is obtained by the distillation of the leaves in a still. The oil is then purified by the distillation of the leaves in a still.

Mr. Cheel considers that the world's markets would be at hand for these valuable oils, because the present supply is obtained mainly from lemon-scented grasses, which give an inferior quality of oil. In India there are at present thousands of acres under cultivation with this grass. To harvest it, it is mown down and then put through a still. Lemon-scented grass also grows wild in the Pacific Islands.

SISAL HEMP

Papuan Undertakings EARLY EXTENSION AT TAVAI

PREPARATIONS are being made by the Commonwealth Hemp Corporation Ltd. to undertake vigorous and extensive developments in sisal plantations in Papua, at a fairly early date.

This Corporation, early in 1930, took over the Papuan sisal hemp plantations Ltd. The latter had established two plantations 25 miles south-east of Port Moresby—namely, Tavai, which comprises 57 acres of freehold at the mouth of Tavai Creek, planted with coconuts, and 738 acres on a 99 years' lease, of which 500 acres are planted with sisal hemp, and Kilana Plantation, of about 1,538 acres, on a 99 years' lease. The latter property adjoins Tavai Estate and is described as eminently suited for growing sisal hemp.

The Commonwealth Hemp Corporation Ltd. has an authorised capital of £35,000 and it proposes to develop these properties by the usual kind of bond issue. In this regard it proposes to sell 10,000 bonds of £10 each.

Up to the present, these bonds have not been offered for sale and the company states that it will not sell any bonds until the company's capitalisation has been arranged to the complete satisfaction of the Directors.

The vendors have accepted full payment for the assets of the old company in shares in the new company, and the remaining shares are now being sold for cash. It is expected that at an early date capitalisation will be completed and that the whole of the company's authorised capital will be issued. When that is done developments in Papua will be commenced.

The old company was not very wise in its operations. Instead of planting extensively, it spent a great deal of money on a hemp decortivating plant, a packing plant, necessary power equipment and gear, and a very extensive range of bungalows, stores and buildings, etc.

The new company obtained all this property at a remarkably small per-

centage of its original cost. The new company, therefore, is in a very good position to commence profitable production as soon as planting is proceeded with on an extensive scale.

The new company has spent about £7,000 in maintaining the plant, buildings and gear, and further clearing the land and ready about 500 acres planted in sisal hemp. A much larger area of ground has been prepared for planting. There appear to have been some difficulties in connection with management and control in Papua, since the new company took over, but we are informed that all these troubles are now overcome.

The market value of sisal hemp fibre, like everything else, has fallen considerably. Early in 1930 it was quoted at about £40 per ton, and sisal hemp produced in Papua and brought to Australia carried a bounty of £8 per ton. The market price to-day, however, is down to £23 per ton, and the bounty is rather less than £6 per ton. Even at this price, however, it is considered that the production of sisal hemp in Papua would be a profitable undertaking.

being hurried. The position so bristles with difficulties, ranging from strained finance (the result of depression) to the sensitiveness and jealousy of officials, that one false step might easily lead to further disturbances. But it would be equally unwise to allow action to be too long delayed.

The Mau have been very busy preparing and signing a petition, addressed to the three Powers—Britain, America and Germany—who signed the old treaties with Samoa, in 1889, guaranteeing the neutrality, autonomy and independence of Samoa. The petition asks the Powers to come to the aid of Samoa, "because of the inhuman treatment of the Samoans by the N.Z. Mandatary, and the indifference of the League of Nations to the prayers of Samoa."

Obviously, nothing tangible is likely to result from this petition, which will only be transmitted automatically to the League of Nations; but it gives the restless Mau something to occupy itself with.

Developments connected with bananas have somewhat disturbed the natives. Formerly, the Samoans disposed of their bananas through either O. F. Nelson and Co. or the Government. The Government put on a whopping export duty and drove the Nelson firm out of the banana business. Then, when the Samoans brought their fruit to the Government, the latter carried out a very strict inspection, and 1,500 cases of bananas were rejected. Up to this point the proceedings were possibly defensible, but when instead of handing the rejected fruit back to the owners, as has been done always previously, the Government sold it at 66 per cent, to pay the coastal freight, there were loud murmurings. The indignant growers made representations to the Administrator; but he went off to the Tokelias. In the Yerokina, before anything was done—and there the incident ended—except that the Samoans concerned appear to be still angry.

N.G. Stamps in Demand
Sales Realise £20,000

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, August 30.
THE Administration is to be congratulated on evolving a novel scheme to increase revenue by the sale of a large quantity of official stamps, over-printed O.S.

As these stamps are used only by Government Departments, and in very small quantities, they are much sought after by philatelists, who immediately took advantage of the release of the stamps. Large sums have also been made of the new commemorative issues of postage, air mail and official stamps.

It is believed that a sum in the vicinity of £20,000 has been realised.

DEVELOPMENT

In New Caledonia IMMIGRATION FROM FRANCE LIKELY

From Our Own Correspondent

NOUMEA, Sept. 3.
UNDER the stimulus of loan money from France, a policy of vigorous development is expected in New Caledonia. Although all primary industries are depressed, the nickel industry is very busy and the mines are working full time.

As part of the large loan to New Caledonia by the French Government, 2,000 bonds, each of 1,000 francs, have been made available for subscription in New Caledonia and New Hebrides.

The loan, which is guaranteed by the French Government, is for a term of 50 years, and carries interest at the rate of 4 per cent. free of all taxation. The issue price in Noumea is frs. 901.80.

The Governor (M. Guyon) has discussed with the Chamber of Agriculture the proposal to increase population and production by the settlement on small blocks of New Caledonians and immigrants from France.

The Chamber of Agriculture has approved of the proposal generally and it now remains to estimate the financial requirements of the scheme and application therefor to the Paris authorities.

SULLEN SAMOA

But Not Hostile to General Hart

Mau Prepares Another Petition
From a Special Correspondent

THERE has been little change in political conditions in Samoa. Everything seems to be standing by, waiting for something to happen.

There have been no displays of hostility by the Mau towards the new Administrator (Brigadier-General H. E. Hart).

According to a Mau pronouncement, "seems affable enough and shows anxiety to meet the Samoans in a friendly spirit."

"But his kindly disposition and personality alone will not bring about better times for poor Samoa. The Mau, we are told, are prepared to wait patiently, if some-thing is to be done."

Meanwhile General Hart is wise in not being hurried. The position so bristles with difficulties, ranging from strained finance (the result of depression) to the sensitiveness and jealousy of officials, that one false step might easily lead to further disturbances. But it would be equally unwise to allow action to be too long delayed.

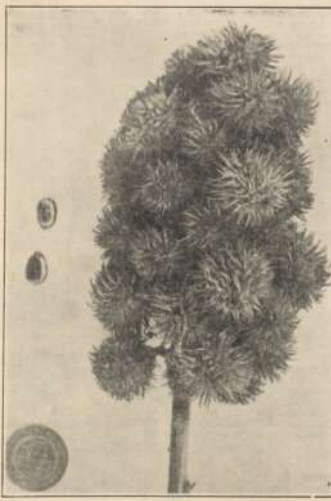
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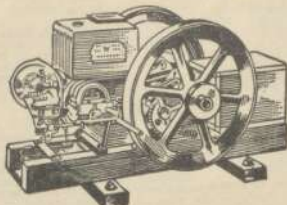
Sisal hemp being loaded into trucks in Papua.



A photograph of a bunch of castor oil seeds (red capsules) reduced to half its usual size. Alongside are photographs of two of the actual seeds and, for purposes of comparison in size, a penny.

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TAMING PAPUA

Slow But Steady Progress

Tribes Mixing Freely Under White Protection

(From Our Own Correspondent)
PORT MORESBY, Aug. 25.

IT is an accepted idea generally that the white man, by labour possession of a country owned by an inferior dark skinned race, has invariably robbed the natives of many of their privileges and customs and given them little in return as compensation.

Papua has often been cited as an example and there may appear to be justification in some instances, as in the prohibition of customs such as head-hunting and cannibalism, which the Government has felt it advisable to suppress.

The other side is worth considering before we accept the general idea. Every village or district in Papua, however small, had its safety zone, or "no man's land." Forty or so years ago, even Port Moresby's large native village, Hanabada, now a civilised community, was restricted in this way. There was little safety for the natives who wandered outside their village bounds unarmoured or in small parties, as any hunting party would attack them and drag them to their village or camp, where their fate would be as the tribal chief thought fit.

To-day, except in unexplored regions or among the most truculent tribes, the horror of these conditions has entirely vanished. Natives wander peacefully from district to district in safety, assured of the protection the white man's government affords them. This condition in itself raises the native to a higher level, which should compensate him for his former gloom and gruesome customs and give him a freer and livelier existence.

It is natural that, from time to time, these people revert to their former customs, and occasional raids are made on defenceless natives. The Government in these cases takes matters into its own hands and gives ample justice to the injured tribes, though, perhaps, not on the same lines as they would wish. Their former methods of reprisal could hardly be justified, and will no doubt take many years for them to understand the Government's methods, which leave them unsatisfied and wondering.

METHODS OF INTER-TRIBAL TRADING

In the Upper Purari River conditions of 50 years ago still prevail. Though they are gradually disappearing, the "no man's land" between the Ikeriki, a Delta tribe, and the Kuku-Kuku, a nomadic hill tribe, is a vast domain, many hundreds of square miles in extent, and through these people do not openly raid to the same extent as formerly, yet their methods of communication with one another are still crafty and secretive.

One very enlightening custom gives good idea of their watchfulness and of the suspicion with which they regarded one another. From time to time, for years past, parties of Korikis travel up the Purari River as far as they consider safe, which is the junction of the Purari and Varoe Rivers, their imaginary boundary. There they deposit trade goods in a deserted Kuku-Kuku hut.

They return later on to find, as they expect, their goods taken and replaced by trade of the Kuku-Kuku tribe. This is generally taro, native vegetables, tobacco and sugar cane. These they collect and deposit as silently and secretly as possible, not seeing one another nor holding any communication whatever—far too timid and suspicious of each other to risk a meeting or to make any advances.

Up to a few years ago this was the condition these natives lived under. It is now known that the nomads are shyly making advances and mixing at intervals, without hostility, with natives from the coast, employed on the rivers under white supervision.

This is due to the feeling of security the Government has given them and to the organised patrols into the interior by white officials, accompanied by native police.

Gradually, the feeling of security will spread, and within this generation it may be possible for all natives in Papua to mix freely without fear of their stronger neighbours.

Formerly, tribes more powerful than others had pushed their weaker neighbours before them into swamps and hidden water-ways to perish or to exist in privation, as in the case of the Delta tribes. Until the white man came there was little security in their existence.

Death of Rev. H. H. Nolan

THE following, from a recent copy sent by Rev. H. H. Nolan, who had been associated with the Methodist Missionary Society of Australia for 36 years.

Mr. Nolan entered the Ministry in 1890, and five years later proceeded to Fiji. There he was stationed mainly at Kadavu, Lomalaiti, Rewa and Ba, and did much valuable work. He left the Colony in 1897 and has been since attached to various circuits in Queensland and New South Wales.

SAMOAN RACIAL PURITY

Chinese and Melanesian Admixture

A GROWING PROBLEM

THE danger of the Samoan race being poisoned by an admixture of Chinese has been referred to already by The Pacific Islands Monthly. A writer (Mr. Westbrook) in a recent issue of a New Zealand newspaper, deals with the subject in vigorous fashion. The following are extracts:

The Chinese were imported to Samoa by the Germans, expressly for work on the plantations, and certainly not to work as mess boys, cooks and stewards. When the term of indenture had expired they were returned to China, but could, if they liked, remain on for another term. Some of them became so expert and useful to their employers that they signed them on again and again. The same vessel which brought a fresh batch back took with them a batch of time-expired laborers. The passage money each was 50 marks or £2/10/- per head.

Laws were made to keep the Chinese labour separate from the Samoans, as it not only bastardised the Samoan race by mixing with their women, but it distracted the coolies from their work. Colonel Logan (the first New Zealand military administrator, who governed the country after it was taken from the Germans), realised this and sent a lot of Chinese, who were having children by Samoan women, back to China.

Under New Zealand civil administration, the Administration or the N.Z. Reparation Estate has imported into Samoa Chinese mechanics to do all kinds of work in connection with the Administration and their former employers. They are keeping Samoans, half-castes and our Europeans, out of work, and putting the Chinese in competition against local mechanics. These imported coolies have no family or obligations in Samoa, and what they are able to save over and above their cost of living goes back to China.

The Germans were very particular in preventing Samoans from mixing with their black-boy and Chinese coolies, and would on no account permit intermarriage of this kind.

Under New Zealand's civil administration the German plantations are the property of the people of New Zealand. Samoan women are permitted to visit and live on these plantations, cohabiting with and raising children to the Chinese and Melanesian labour. The intermarriage of Samoans, who are a high type of Polynesians, with black-boys from the Solomon Islands, New Guinea and other places where the natives are of a different type altogether from the Samoans, look upon an utter disgrace. That the cohabiting should be permitted to take place on New Zealand property I look upon as more disgraceful still. The Chinese coolies are not permitted by law to marry their concubines. There will come a time when they are repatriated and returned to China. Who then is going to look after and father their children?

What is taking place has been brought to the notice of officials. Nothing has been done. The nominated taipu have never done anything about the matter.

The restaurant of the Casino, the Government hotel, was leased to a Chinese coolie. A Chinese woman has been permitted to settle in Samoa and start a business and has been given the lease of one of the New Zealand Government plantations; 141 Chinese coolies have been released in Samoa to compete with the inhabitants; 143 Chinese in the country are restricted settlers; 42 have been freed, engaging in trading, etc.; 101 are also called "restricted settlers"—these work on plantations or on their own ground—actually no difference in rights.

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ELEY "DUXBAC"

are loaded to meet Pacific Islands conditions. Eley and Kynoch Cartridges combine a high velocity, effectiveness at pattern and penetration that places them ahead of all others.

The name "NOBEL" is your guarantee of satisfaction. Nobel—Eley or Kynoch—it is NOT British made.

Wet-Proof Cartridges

Specially Loaded For Pacific Islands Conditions

T.I. SHIPPING

Death of Passenger Steamers

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS, Sept. 1.

A 5 yei, there is no regular passenger steamer put on to replace the Manabara, although the Manabara is on the run carrying cargo and a few male passengers. This means that lady passengers for Darwin have to wait for a month, until the Manabara makes her trip. With the E. and A. steamers not calling at Thursday Island now, the passenger sailings are somewhat restricted.

It has been suggested that, as the Japanese steamers make a regular monthly trail for freight and passengers to and from places outside Australia, exemption might be applied for to allow them to carry passengers for Thursday Island, from the south, or to allow south-bound passengers to travel from T.I. by these boats.

5 SYMPTOMS OF TINEA OR TROPIC RINGWORM



Highly Contagious

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

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News from Norfolk Island

Shipping Services and the Disappointing Tourist Traffic

From Our Own Correspondent

ON the evening of August 20, a fancy-dress dance was held at the Rawson Hall, for the purpose of raising funds for our little local hospital.

The new committee elected at a crowded public meeting had the affair in hand, and with the help of the Ladies' auxiliary, they made a most successful business of it. The hall was thronged—wonderful and most creditable fancy costumes were evolved—and somewhere round about £20 was realised. That doesn't sound much, perhaps, to larger and wealthier communities, but the tickets were cheap in order that everybody might afford to go, and also, times are hard here as elsewhere. Half-way through the entertainment, Mr. Wickstead, the new chairman of the Hospital Board, made a most effective speech, which was greatly appreciated by all who have the interests of our public institutions at heart. It is believed that the hospital will be most ably administered during the coming year.

It is reported that the Lady Morinda is revisiting her recently drawn-up itinerary and will only be seen making her stately way up Sydney Harbour once in every five weeks. Instead of more frequently, as was first arranged, it seems that since her initial appearance in our waters she has been running at a considerable loss and if there is one word not to be found in the bright lexicon of Messrs. Burns, Philp, it is the word "loss." So she proposes to make one round trip of her two distinct services and, on her next departure from Sydney will be outward-bound as follows:

Lord Howe—Norfolk Island—Auckland—Norfolk—Vila and other parts in the New Hebrides—Norfolk—Lord Howe—Sydney. It is possible that, in response to a recommendation by our Planters' Association, she may also call in at Noumea (New Caledonia) which lies not so far out of her course between here and the Hebrides. This inclusion would provide us with a possible market for fruits, vegetables, eggs and poultry and would only be a resumption of what was once a most profitable inter-island trade. All negotiations and arrangements.

Of course, are conducted with the utmost stealth and secrecy, and then burst upon us, supposedly, like a thunder clap. But things leak out and we are seldom taken completely by surprise, no matter what methods are employed. That famous wild duck, the canard, flies high and wide and handsome about the island; but the equally well known little bird dwells also with us, and truth falls from his beak.

But—as regards the Morinda running at a loss. Much of it is due, no doubt, to the fact that the banana market in Sydney is at such a low ebb that it is not worth our while to ship produce over, especially as we have a certain market in New Zealand and the choice of two steamers. But the disappointing traffic in tourists—from which we hoped so much, is undoubtedly due to the short-sighted policy of whoever drew up the table of fares between this island and the Dominion. I was told, on most reliable authority, only a few days ago, that a world-wide firm of tourist agents in Wellington reported a total loss of interest on the part of intending visitors since the passage rate became known. Previously, and while the proposed extension of the B.P. service to Auckland was under consideration, and fares were not yet fixed, endless enquiries were made and berths provisionally booked. That activity died upon a breath of horror and astonishment somewhere about the middle of June. New Zealand is very little better off at present than Australia, and her people must either renounce holidays altogether or limit them within the boundaries of their own land, if prohibitive rates are to be charged for such unambitious overseas excursions.

Even so, land is moving and buyers are coming in. Nothing can deprive us of our beautiful climate, our fertile soil, our equable scenery, and our society, drawn from all classes and all parts of the earth. Two golf courses, innumerable tennis courts, cricket and football, bridge and Mah Jongh (if that's the way you spell it,) swimming and picnics, all the year round. Island boarding houses, mainland boarding houses, catering to all tastes. No one could do better.

Murderer Returns Home

Despite Administration's Promise

N.G.'S PROTEST

To the Editor.

Sir,—At the beginning of 1925, the whole New Guinea was horrified by the atrocious murder of John Scott, at Ensa plantation, in Bougainville, by one of his labourers—Siken—a native of the Solus district, in Buika, an adjoining island.

At the trial of the murderer, certain evidence was brought out, purporting to prove that Scott had ill-treated his labourers and that there was a certain amount of justification for Siken's attack upon the deceased. The murderer received a sentence of five years' imprisonment. At the time when the sentence was promulgated, the natives of Solus were informed by the local representative of the government that on the expiry of the sentence Siken would not be allowed to return to his home.

A few months ago, however, the murderer arrived in his own village, having been repatriated by the government; and he is now looked upon by his countrymen as somewhat of a hero and idol amongst the young bloods of the community.

The local residents immediately petitioned the Administration, that the murderer should be transported to another district, as was originally decided at the time of his sentence. It was urged that his return to his home, which is in such close proximity to the scene of the crime, is a menace to the white community and detrimental to the maintenance of discipline amongst the labour lines.

Only two months or so after the repatriation of Siken, the manager of a neighbouring plantation was brutally assaulted by his labourers (many of them from Siken's village) and was only rescued by the timely intervention of his cook-boy and the later arrival of a police officer.

The policy forced upon the Administration by the League of Nations, to spoon-feed a race of natives who only just emerging, comparatively, from the cannibalistic, blood-jugstine stage, is so dangerous to the white residents that little faith or respect can be maintained towards the local Administration when they allow such conditions to exist.

It surely behoves someone to take up the cudgels on behalf of the isolated white residents, who live amidst a race of squalid, indolent and arrogant natives who can "get away" even with such offences as brutal murder, as in the case of the one-named Scott.—I am, etc.

MANDATEITE

New Guinea, July 15.

"Mandateite" certainly appears to have a justifiable grievance, if the facts as stated by him are correct. The light sentence passed upon the "boy" Siken must have been given only after a thorough weighing of the evidence in the case, which probably proved a certain amount of justification—though it is difficult to believe that provocation could be shown to justify a white man's death by cutting off his one remaining arm and stabbing him in the neck and throat.

But the question at issue, apparently, is the repatriation of the murderer after serving his sentence. If, as "Mandateite" states, the government informed the natives that he would not be repatriated, the Administration has made a serious mistake—first, in not keeping its word to the natives, and second, in endangering the safety of the local white residents by allowing a notorious character (whose notoriety is probably locked upon with pride by his fellow-natives) scope for spreading anti-discipline propaganda.

There are always two sides to every question, and it is difficult to believe the Administration capable of such action—or inaction. Any policy set down even by the League of Nations, must at least have due regard for the safety of the white residents.

AFRICAN PALM OIL

Mills Close Down

THE following, from a recent copy of a German oil journal (June 25, 1931) has a bearing upon the production of palm oil and palm kernel oil, which is a competitor of coconut oil.

Belgian Congo—Oil Industry: Compagnies Reunies des Raffineries du Congo Belge, and Savonneries-Lesieur Press, owners of large oil mills in Belgian Congo, have decided to close down part of their plant, owing to unfavourable selling prices for palm oil and palm nuts. These mills produce a total of 29,000 tons of palm oil. Huileries du Congo Belge made net profit of 19,200,593 frs. for the 18 months period ending in 1931 compared with 27,353,980 frs. for 1928-29.

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SEND P.O. 1/6 FOR 60-DAY SAMPLE. Money immediately refunded if dissatisfied. JEXYL is sent to you privately under plain cover. JEXYL LABORATORIES
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POSITION WANTED

MAN in vigorous middle age seeks position in islands. Has had lengthy experience at Pacific, Spanish, Mexican and Maori command at various vessels, with first-class record. Managed trading stations and plantations. Many years administrative service; has many excellent references. Will consider any reasonable proposition—commercial, administrative or military. Particulars from Manager, Pacific Islands Monthly, 247 George Street, Sydney.

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CINZANO ITALIAN VERMOUTH

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HALF THE OIL GOES MORE THAN TWICE AS FAR

AND YOU GET A
WONDERFULLY SOFT,
WHITE LIGHT

Professor F. A. Eastaugh, A.R.S.M., F.I.C., of the University of Sydney, recently conducted a series of comparative tests between the Aladdin Lamp and two ordinary centre-draught, open-flame lamps, taking Nos. 2 and 3 wicks, respectively. He states in his report, under heading, "Consumption of Kerosene"—

"The Aladdin was found to have consumed 54 grams per hour; the smaller centre-draught 104 grams per hour; the larger 200 grams. In other words, ONE HOUR OF KEROSENE WOULD LAST 55 HOURS IN THE ALADDIN LAMP, 30 in the smaller centre-draught, and 18 hours in the large centre-draught lamp. Worked out to candle power hours per gallon, the ALADDIN gave 4,251, the small and large centre-draughts slightly less than 1,000.

"These figures show that the Aladdin lamp produces light from kerosene more than four times as efficiently as the centre-draught lamps. Not only is this an advantage from the point of view of economy, but in hot weather a noticeably smaller heating effect will be obtained from the Aladdin lamp.

"The Aladdin lamp is simple in construction, easy to light and use, and is undoubtedly an improvement on the ordinary kerosene lamp.

The ALADDIN costs very little to operate. It burns common kerosene, which is the cheapest, safest and most generally used lighting fuel. By mixing 94% air and 6% kerosene vapour we get a blue flame which heats the mantle to a white glow, thus producing a perfect light on the smallest possible oil consumption.

SEND FOR OUR CATALOGUE.

ALADDIN INDUSTRIES LIMITED
ALADDIN HOUSE, 63 WILLIAM STREET, SYDNEY



Special offer to Pacific Islands residents: This large artistic Aladdin Mantle Lamp, complete with full equipment, securely packed, for £2/7/-, f.a.b., Sydney.

NEW GUINEA NEWS

Popular Returned Soldiers' President—Mrs. Wisdom Leaves for Sydney

From Our Own Correspondent

RAHBAUL, August 30. MR. D. M. Forsyth, one of the best known personalities in the Territory, who for some years past has been practising in Rabaul as an Accountant and company secretary, has decided to devote his attention in future to the management of his extensive plantation and land interests.

Mr. Forsyth is leaving Rabaul to reside at Gavi, his plantation in the Baining, New Guinea branch. No one could have worked harder or more energetically for the returned soldier, and Mr. Forsyth has the satisfaction of knowing that, in the majority of cases, his efforts have met with success.

It is largely due to his efforts that returned soldier planters secured relief, during these times of depression, from payments of both interest and principal on their plantations. Mr. Forsyth has, under pressure, consented to continue in his position as President of the R.S.S.I.A. here, so it is gratifying to know that the Association will still derive the benefit of his experience and advice.

It is understood that Mrs. Wisdom is now well enough to undertake the journey to Australia and she will leave for the Maedihul on September 12. General Wisdom is accompanying Mrs. Wisdom, also Miss Means, who arrived recently for the purpose of nursing Mrs. Wisdom.

ENTERPRISING PLANTER

It takes more than the present conditions to depress some of our younger planters. Mr. Oscar Rondahl, of Mokuurapua Plantation, about 27 miles from Rabaul, in the populous Kokopo District, has installed a complete cinematograph at his home for the entertainment of his friends and neighbours. Not only does Mr. Rondahl secure films from the Rabaul Picture Theatre, but he makes himself a large number of films of local interest.

Mr. Rondahl took up flying when in Australia recently, and we believe returns to complete his training at the end of the year. In all probability, Mr. Rondahl will have the distinction of being the first of our planters to use aviation as his means of transport between Rabaul and his plantation.

POPULAR CHINESE DEPARTS

A well known and highly respected member of the Chinese community, Lee Tam Tuk, generally known as Ah Tam, left last month for China, for an extended stay. Ah Tam has been a resident of this Territory for 40 years and during that time has acquired several plantations and built up an extensive business.

Some 18 years ago, Ah Tam's wife died at his plantation at Mala, in New

Ireland, and Ah Tam has now taken her remains to be interred in her native land. Before leaving, Ah Tam disposed of his interests to a syndicate of three of his compatriots, for a sum of about £40,000.

Mr. C. T. Wee, until recently manager for Ah Tam and one of the syndicate referred to above, has been appointed Honorary Chinese Consul for New Guinea by the Chinese Nationalist Government.

AMATEUR THEATRICALS

Thanks to Mr. C. B. Ayia, residents of Rabaul have been treated to another production by the local Amateur Dramatic Society. On this occasion the comedy, "Aren't We All?" by Frederick Lonsdale, was staged. The play selected needs skillful acting and the company are to be congratulated on the good results obtained.

The cast included a number of players who were making a first appearance and although it is appreciated that aspirants should be given a trial, yet many of the audience would have preferred to see no longer based in the local favourites who have appeared in previous plays.

The outstanding performances were those of Mr. Ayia, who, as Lord Grenham, had a part that came naturally to him and to which he was able to do full justice, and Mrs. W. Jenner, who played the part of Lady Printon admirably.

In the smaller parts the performances of Mrs. H. H. Page and Miss Roma Bryant are worthy of special mention. A feature of the production were the really beautiful frocks worn by the ladies, of which were made locally and which were quite equal to those worn at any metropolitan production. The play was well attended and it is believed was a financial success.

"Tilly of Bloomsbury" is to be Mr. Ayia's next production, and it is pleasing to know that such old and tried favourites as Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Stoddart and our star elocutionist, Mr. Pat Savage, will be in the cast.

PERSONAL

Mr. E. Chester Gifford, Accountant at the Commonwealth Bank, leaves next month, on the completion of his term at Rabaul. Before returning to Australia Mr. Gifford is making a trip to China by the E. and A. Line. Mr. Gifford is well-known and popular, partly due to his unfailing courtesy at the Bank and partly to the fame he earned in his able handling of the parts allotted to him in several productions of the local Amateur Dramatic Society.

Mr. R. L. Kennedy, formerly medical officer to the Melanesia Co. Ltd., leaves on the Maedihul, for a holiday in Australia. Mr. Kennedy intends to return to the Territory early next year.

Tung Oil Culture

Success in New Zealand

BRITISH FIRMS INTERESTED

A RECENT issue of the Auckland (N.Z.) Chamber of Commerce Journal states that in New Zealand the tung oil industry is a new development, which should be very useful to the Dominion.

The cultivation of the tree is bringing poor gum lands into cultivation and is introducing a new and entirely different exportable product of great value. The pioneer New Zealand company growing the trees has had for two or three years several hundred acres of tung oil trees planted at Katikapakapa and other companies are starting in other parts of North Auckland. Experts have stated that the new trees are doing remarkably well and that the conditions in New Zealand are exceptionally favourable.

English varnish makers are interested financially in some cases—in the New Zealand plantations, because of the prospect thus afforded of securing a regular supply of high quality oil. Recently, a letter was received by the pioneer company in New Zealand from a firm in Germany, inquiring if it could purchase an interest in the company, so as to be assured of supply.

The trees referred to are no doubt of the Fordii variety. Experiments have been carried out with this tree in various islands of the Pacific, with so far as is known, mixed results. Efforts are now being made to get planters to try the Montana variety, as this is considered, by some experts, to be better fitted for tropical cultivation. It seems that Fordii furnishes the better and most sought-for oil, but

with careful cultivation and preparation, the Montana oil might prove just as valuable. Or perhaps, as has been suggested by Mr. E. Cheal, Curator of the National Herbarium, Sydney, the two varieties (Fordii and Montana) might be grafted and thus a very suitable tree for islands cultivation be obtained.

British buyers are eager to get supplies of good quality tung oil, produced within the Empire, and any efforts made to establish plantations in the Pacific would seem to be well warranted.

SIX MORE MURDERS

By Domara Natives

Effect of Death Sentence Commutation?

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, Sept. 8. WITH regard to the commutation of death sentences, commented on in the leading article in the July number of The P.I.M., six more murders are reported from the Domara district.

The victims, five women and one male plantation labourer, were members of the same tribe as the convicted murderers whose sentences were commuted some months ago.

This is evidently the result of Canberra's interference with matters of which they know nothing; and Sir Hubert Murray has the more than doubtful satisfaction of being in a position to say "I told you so."

Two natives have been arrested in connection with the murders, and it will be interesting to see whether the ineptitude of the Commonwealth Cabinet will go so far as a second reprieve.

EXCHANGE

Sterling Off Gold Standard

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SOUTH SEAS?

SYDNEY, September 22.

YESTERDAY, with dramatic suddenness, it was announced that England had abandoned the gold standard. In other words, the Bank of England will no longer hand over one gold sovereign in return for one English bank note for £1.

To-day, the whole of Australia is speculating as to what this means in relation to Australian business conditions. The reaction on Australian trade will give some measure of the probable effect upon future trading conditions in the Pacific Islands.

There is much argument about it and about. Some hold that Australian international exchanges will not be altered—that it will still cost 30 per cent. to convert £100 Australian into £100 sterling. If such quotations are to be given in terms of gold sovereigns that may be correct. But, if future money quotations are to be given in terms of English pounds (which, presumably, will still carry the title of sterling) and English pounds are to be no longer based on gold, then it seems certain that there will be an adjustment of the existing exchange rate between Australian currency and sterling.

Presumably, the dollar and the franc will remain on their present gold basis—that is to say, 486 dollars and 123 francs to the gold sovereign. That seems certain, indeed, because the U.S.A. and France, between them, hold most of the world's gold. Already, even to-day, a review of the gold situation shows sterling at an average discount of 20 per cent. in relation to gold. Let us suppose, for the sake of easy figures, that the discount settles down at 10 per cent. That is to say, the international exchange is against sterling (the English pound) in relation to gold, to the extent of 10 per cent. Let us suppose, also, that the discount of the Australian pound in relation to gold remains at 30 per cent. on the world's bourses there may be some of international trade, the exchange between Australian currency and English currency, stated in terms of pounds, will in future be 40 per cent. instead of 30 per cent. If English currency is to be at a discount of 20 per cent. on the world's bourses, there may be only 10 per cent. between the English and Australian pound.

The effect of this, of course, will be that it will be correspondingly difficult for Australia to sell in England. Where last week England had to put up a little more than £70 to buy £100 worth of Australian products, under the new condition of exchange at 20 per cent. she would have to put up 130 or more. In other words, people selling Australian products, or selling in Australian currency, would have to get 10 per cent. more for their products from the English markets, in order to receive the same amount as previously in Australian currency.

The other side of the picture, of course, is that it will be 10 per cent. easier to purchase goods from Britain.

However, that relates only to trade with Britain—and in that lies the comforting feature of the situation, as the Pacific Islands are concerned. The main product of the South Seas—copra—is sold mostly in France, Germany and the U.S.A. It is quite unlikely on present appearances that there will be any alteration in the Australian and South Seas exchange rates, so far as they relate to those countries. If there is to be any change it will probably be represented by a larger discount of Australian currency. Therefore, the opportunities of selling copra in the future will be at least just as good as they have been in the past. If copra sales are to be made through London, then copra prices will rise proportionately to the alteration in Australian exchange.

If there was any chance of the Australian exchange rate falling in relation to countries outside the Empire, the copra prospects would be exceedingly bleak. But the contrary appears to be the case.

The whole position at the moment of writing is exceedingly confused and complicated. It is very difficult to read the probabilities—but, taken by and large, they appear at the moment to be on the whole in favour of the Pacific Islands producer and trader.—R.W.R.

SELLING AGENTS WANTED

COMMISSION AGENTS, with connections in South Pacific Islands, required. For sale: 100 tons of copra, 100 tons of kauri gum, 100 tons of kauri oil, 100 tons of kauri resin, 100 tons of kauri turpentine, 100 tons of kauri varnish, 100 tons of kauri paint, 100 tons of kauri glue, 100 tons of kauri soap, 100 tons of kauri paper, 100 tons of kauri cloth, 100 tons of kauri furniture, 100 tons of kauri machinery, 100 tons of kauri tools, 100 tons of kauri weapons, 100 tons of kauri food, 100 tons of kauri clothing, 100 tons of kauri housing, 100 tons of kauri transport, 100 tons of kauri communication, 100 tons of kauri entertainment, 100 tons of kauri education, 100 tons of kauri religion, 100 tons of kauri politics, 100 tons of kauri economics, 100 tons of kauri science, 100 tons of kauri technology, 100 tons of kauri art, 100 tons of kauri literature, 100 tons of kauri music, 100 tons of kauri drama, 100 tons of kauri film, 100 tons of kauri television, 100 tons of kauri radio, 100 tons of kauri telephone, 100 tons of kauri telegraph, 100 tons of kauri post, 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T.I.'s Tourist Trade

More "Boosting" Wanted

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS, Sept. 1

TOURISTS are not travelling in such numbers as before, but T.I. still finds a good many passing through and a number who stay awhile to explore the beauties of the north or enjoy the delight and excitement of the fishing. There are some who come up periodically, year after year, finding that the climate is just what they need.

So far there is no local organisation in existence to encourage tourist visitors, or assist them to make the most of the "romance of the North," however, and in this way the island loses.

And down south there is a lamentable ignorance concerning this part of Australia and the north generally, which needs a little more "boosting" from this end, before the place becomes known as it should.

Administrative Changes in Cook Islands

From Our Own Correspondent

RABOTONGA, August 14.

MR. A. A. Luckmann, late Commissioner at Niue, is expected to arrive within the course of a few days to take up the position of Resident Agent at Apia.

Captain Vellenovetz, the present Resident Agent there, proceeds to Maunabo to succeed Mr. J. Dyer, who is retiring after a number of years' service as the chief official at that island.

HEAD THROB

WHEN your head throbs after shopping, house work, or business, get quick relief (1 to 5 minutes) by taking

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Genuine. 12 packets 2/3 each. 24 packets 4/6 each.

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Motor Engineering Requisites generally

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RABAU - NEW GUINEA

EXTINCTION OF WHALES

Enormous Over-Production of Whale Oil Must Soon End

We hope that our readers are not becoming weary of whale-oil articles. But the importance of the subject cannot be exaggerated. So long as the enormous over-production of whale oil continues, so long will prices be depressed.

The following are extracts from a most interesting article by Dr. Travis Jenkins, published recently in The Sydney Sun, in which the world position of the whaling industry is surveyed, and the point emphasized that the complete extinction of the whales is threatened. Either that, or the present frightful slaughter of whales must cease. In either event, the outcome will be relief for the coconut planter.

ABOUT 8 different species of whale have been successively slaughtered in masses for commercial purposes, and in each case a few solitary survivors roam the seas where formerly schools of thousands were met with. Some of the earliest enterprises lasted for a century or more, but with the development of the modern machinery of slaughter a few years are now sufficient to reduce a species to vanishing point.

The earliest whalers of whom we have any record were the Basques. They hunted the Biscayan whale near the coast and in the Bay until it became shy and scarce.

The Basques followed the whales to Norway and Newfoundland, but the fishery was declining rapidly when the discovery of Spitzbergen (then known as Greenland) led to its revival for another species, the Greenland whale. This creature was found in abundance in bays and inlets of Spitzbergen, and for about 25 years a bay fishery was carried on and every summer a town was established for the boiling down of the oil. The whales eventually left the bays and were followed by the whalers right up to the ice-floes. This fishery, though carried on by sailing boats and with the primitive harpoon, eventually died out owing to the scarcity of the whales.

AMERICAN INDUSTRY

The next phase was the development of the American whale fishery. This, the Basque and Spitzbergen, originated as a coastal and inshore fishery.

Later, the American whalers entered Behring Straits and there attacked the bowhead—a variety of the Greenland whale, which is therefore circumpolar in distribution. The Americans killed hundreds of thousands of whales, with the result that they gradually became scarce. This fact, combined with the discovery of petroleum in 1859, led to the decadence of the greatest of all whale fisheries. Towards the end of the nineteenth century whaling was apparently dying out and it was only the invention of the harpoon gun, by a Norwegian, Svend Foyn, that resuscitated the industry. This gun, invented in 1860, does not appear to have been in general use until about 1880, from which time modern whaling dates.

WORLD-WIDE ACTIVITY

The coastal fishery for finners began in Pinmark, Tromsø and Iceland. In 1895 there were 29 steamers off Pinmark and 16 off Iceland engaged in the slaughter of finner whales, and any stragglers of other species which they might encounter. In Pinmark alone 13,491 whales were killed in 27 years.

Whaling was also carried on from shore stations in Japan, Korea, West and South Africa, Australia, Tasmania, North and South America, Spain, and finally in the Antarctic.

In 1912 there were 60 Norwegian companies at work over the seas of the world, with 157 whaling steamers equipped with the harpoon gun, 11 transport vessels, and 37 floating factories. 30 land stations and nine gun works, with 13 factories for the preparation of canned whale-meat and cattle-food products.

This year one South Georgian company paid a dividend of 100 per cent.

FACTORY SHIPS

The radius of whale-killing based on land stations is obviously limited by the necessity of towing the carcass ashore to be cut up, but with floating factories, entirely independent of land stations from the beginning to the end of the season, the whale can be followed to its most remote fastnesses and there slaughtered without mercy. Neither the immature nor the pregnant female is spared.

Attempts were first made in 1903 to utilise an oil-burning apparatus on a small steamer. In 1904 a steamer of this kind operated at Spitzbergen; her

oil-carrying capacity was 5,000 barrels. The earliest vessels of the kind that went to the South Shetlands were from 2,000 to 4,000 tons, and could produce 300 barrels of oil a day. In the season 1910-11 the size was increased to 6,000 tons, with a daily production of 400 barrels.

After the war came the exploration of Ross Sea and the shortness of the season there made larger factories imperative. The first Ross Sea whaling expedition 1922-24 consisted of a 12,000-ton steamer with five whale-catchers. About this time the custom of feeding alongside gave place to cutting up on board.

"APPALLING FIGURES"

The most modern whaling factory is a ship of 22,000 tons, 530 ft. long and 77 ft. beam, with a slip astern along which the whales can be bodily hoisted. Seven killers provide the daily supply of victims. The productive capacity of this monster is 2,500 barrels a day, and her carrying capacity 125,000 barrels.

Her actual production in 1929-30 was 110,434 barrels, or nearly one-sixth of the entire Antarctic production of 1929-30. Her catch was from 1,200 to 1,400 whales. She captures more in two days than the original floating factories of 1904 were capable of carrying away after a season's work. And this vessel is only one of many.

In 1929-30 Antarctic waters yielded 1,181,891 barrels, being 66 per cent. of the world production. In 1929-30 Antarctic waters produced 3,352,448 barrels; the total world-production is not yet known. The imagination stands appalled at such slaughter.

The blue whale, most valuable of the surviving species, shows unmistakable signs of diminution. The average length of this species in the 1920-27 season was 83.20 ft.; in 1928-29, 80.68 ft. As the minimum length at which the southern female blue whale becomes mature is 77.5 ft., it follows that the supply is now only maintained by the slaughter of the immature.

No species of whale has yet been known to recover from over-baiting.

OIL WORTH 14,363,950

What, then, of the future? In 1927 a Committee of Experts was appointed by the Council of the League of Nations to prepare a provisional list of the subjects of international law, the regulation of which by international agreement would seem to be most desirable.

The exploitation of the products of the sea was included in a questionnaire addressed to the various Governments adhering to the League of Nations.

Obviously, one of the most important matters to be dealt with is the ruthless slaughter of whales which now goes on in their last place of refuge—the waters of the Antarctic. Existing treaties do not deal with the question at all.

More than 15 years ago, Dr. Charcot, who saw the slaughter of whales in the Antarctic, addressed a communication to the French Colonial Ministry drawing attention to the danger of the extermination of these finner whales.

At the British Imperial Conference in 1923 one of the speakers, alluding to the wanton destruction, urged the British Empire to adopt regulations; but this is impracticable since whaling is carried on on the high seas, and the equipment of floating factories makes a land base no longer necessary.

Meanwhile, the terrific slaughter goes on. In the dependencies of the Falkland Islands 14 companies (three British and 11 Norwegian) massacred 13,514 whales in the 1928-29 season. The landed value of the oil being 14,363,950. Enormous fortunes are made out of the life-blood of one of the most interesting and harmless creatures of the universe.

RATS WORRY PENRHYN

A campaign against rats is in progress on Penrhyn Island, one of the northerly islands of the Cook group as these rodents have been causing much damage to the coconuts.

Recently, 2,000 traps of the break-neck variety were distributed to the 400 natives on the island, and war has been now declared in earnest.



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English Vegetables

Thrive in Torres Straits

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS, Sept. 1.

THERE is a general impression that English vegetables will not grow in the north, but a visit to one of the islands adjacent to Thursday Island, in the Torres Straits group, would dispel that idea.

At St. Paul's, Mos, the other day, the writer was shown fine specimens of cabbage, bean-hearts and large, which would do credit to any southern garden, and beans in several varieties, tomatoes, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, endive, etc., were all thriving well. Certainly the making of a garden entails a good deal of effort and careful attention, but the benefit of being able to have fresh vegetables more than compensates.

Mr. W. Turnbull, of Hicks Island, on the east coast of Cape York Peninsula, is another who has had good success with his gardening operations, even to the production of English potatoes. He has grown some remarkably fine tomatoes.

Lately, experimenting with the paw-paw, he turned out quite a decent white wine; but some few days afterwards discovered that it had become transformed into vinegar of good, sharp flavour. Whether it would have commercial possibilities has not yet been tried, but there would seem to be an opening in that direction.

GROWTH OF MOROBE

Population Exceeds
Madang and Kavieng

IMPETUS OF GOLD MINING

From Our Own Correspondent.

RABAU, August 26.

WHAT a growth is pictured within the short space of about seven years with the advent of gold mining in the Morobe district.

Now, we read in our newspaper that a social and dance or a bridge afternoon has been given at Salama, and of similar functions at Bulolo, Edie Creek, etc.—names unknown in 1924.

Mining interests generally have become very active, many re-organisations and changes have taken place on the Koranga Creek, the Bulolo River and Edie Creek. Concrete great and small are producing and working with much energy.

The little town of Salama and Wan, with the three largest settlements, Lae, Edie Creek and Bulolo, in the Morobe District, each has now a larger European population than the townships of Madang or Kavieng, which represent the seaports and centres of the most thickly planted districts in the Territory.

Madang and Kavieng are (excluding the town and settlements in the Morobe district) already referred to next in size to the capital town of Rabaul and its suburb Kokopo.

Salama has now a first class hotel, numerous houses, Government offices with a fairly large staff, stores from which almost anything can be purchased and a very busy branch of the Bank of New South Wales.

Now let us look back in retrospect seven years. Salama, which is on a narrow isthmus of land, was planted with a few coconut, new arrivals camped in tents how and where they could, preparatory to their long and arduous trip inland, and there was then no Government official stationed there.

The only method of proceeding from Salama to the goldfields was via a series of native pads, which from several aspects were highly dangerous. The journey took weeks, with all the discomforts and risks imaginable. Now, with several aerial transport companies operating, it can be done in about an hour.

Bulolo consisted of a few camps scattered in the dense scrub or tropical jungle, which surrounded each tent, and the total European population was about six miners.

There has been a truly wonderful change in a short space of time.

THURSDAY IS. NOTES

Electric Light This Month—Shell Industry Quiet

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS, Sept. 1.

THURSDAY Island is, like most other places, very quiet just now. The engines for the electric lighting scheme have arrived and have been installed in the recently-completed power house. It is expected that the light will be switched on some time in September.

In the shelling industry, owing to the restricted amount agreed upon at the beginning of the year having been won by most of the boats at work—the quantity being about seven tons per lugger—there is now the question of what the boats will do for the remainder of the season. Some of the divers announce their intention of returning to Japan to engage in fishing, which they consider would be more profitable. Troche is maintaining a fair price, but the shell is becoming scarce and some of the boats come in with very little, although, apart from the fact of there being less shell to pick up, there is also the point that July and August are the cold months of the year, when troche likes to get beneath the stones, and the swimmers find it more difficult to pick it up. There is a rumour that there will be shortly restriction put upon gathering any shell smaller than three inches, so as to give the troche patches time to recuperate.

Nothing is doing in copra, but some parcels of husked coconut are being shipped to buyers south.

A number of boats are working beach to beach, one firm is sending away a quantity of chalk fish, which, being of lower price than other varieties, is generally not given a great amount of attention.

Low prices and restricted output have had a natural effect upon the Torres Straits Islanders who engage in marine industries and whose fleet of 30 odd cutters and luggers is worked under the direction of the Aboriginal Department; but these are people who have gardens which they can go back to and work for the maintenance of their families. Of late years this productive side of Island activity has been to a certain extent neglected, owing to all available men and boys being sent out for boat work, thus entailing absence from home for the greater part of the year; but this year the people residing on the fertile islands have put in much more time in their banana and sweet potato gardens. Some of the Islanders, with an eye to business, grew a quantity of fine tomatoes for sale, but as these were brought in to Thursday Island only produced an offer of 1d. per lb., they have decided that the industry is not likely to be a flourishing one.

There is not much doing in the sale of pearls either. Buyers are ready to do business only where really large and good pearls are concerned; smaller pearls are therefore held by various people awaiting sale, but without much prospect of anything doing for some time.

MELBIDER AGAIN IN COMMISSION

The Government ketch, Melbider, has now had her broken propeller replaced and is once again on the run. She left this week on a tour of the Torres Straits Islands, taking with her the Protector of Aborigines (Mr. C. B. Buxton) on official duties, and the Acting-Inspector of Schools (Mr. J. Western) who is examining the various native schools in the islands.

STOLEN LAUNCH RECOVERED

The stolen launch mentioned in a previous issue, which was seized by some adventurers and brought up from Cairns and then on through the Straits in an effort to get away to Dutch territory, has been discovered in Dutch New Guinea and is being held by the authorities.

The principal in the affair will be probably brought across to Australia shortly. Two of the men who had been put ashore at Naghir Island, in Torres Straits, and were later brought in to Thursday Island and arrested by the police, are now awaiting trial.

BOATBUILDING ENTERPRISE

The recently-started boatbuilding company, known as the Port Kennedy Engineering Company, is finding itself kept busy, which is a very welcome sign. It is a European organisation and the white boatbuilders have introduced some new and practical ideas.

The venture is worthy of all success; a considerable sum has been laid out in up-to-date machinery and equipment, and the slips are giving local young men employment and opportunity of taking up both the engineering and boatbuilding work as a practical profession. The company is turning out keen-built dinghies, a new departure in place of the usual silky-oak, which has hitherto been used.

IN THE CAUSE OF CHARITY

Owing to the depression, which not to have effected to a large extent as far as the collection of anything connected with religious objects, so far as Thursday Island itself is concerned. Entertainment, dances, etc., in connection with the few local churches, continue to be well patronised. The annual Memorial Service, organised by the parishioners of the Anglican Cathedral parish, was held on August 23, and the night being an ideal one.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Several changes are taking place in the official and commercial part of the community. The manager of the Queensland National Bank, after a three years' term, goes to Brisbane. Our postmaster, Mr. G. Jackson, has notice of transfer. The wives of both these gentlemen are active C.W.A. members and will be missed in that connection. Mr. Shaw, manager of the National Bank of Australia, is also amongst the batch who left by the Glengate at the end of the month, but he is going on vacation only and returns later on; he is being relieved by Mr. Dixon. The Bishop of Carpentaria, accompanied by Mrs. Davie, recently completed a visitation of the Torres Straits islands, in the mission boat, Herald.

Mr. Oswald, the new manager of the Queensland National Bank, arrived in the Triton on the 27th, reports Mr. Jackson, who has been transferred south.

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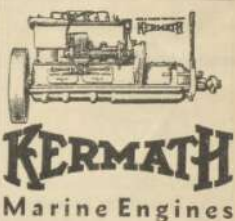
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PAPUAN NOTES

All Industry Quiet—Experiments with Castor Seeds and Tobacco—Distress Among Natives

From Our Own Correspondent

PORT MORESBY, Sept. 8. INDUSTRIAL affairs in Papua are stagnant. Rubber at 2½d. lb., even with the assistance of the Australian preferential duty and percentage of exchange, hardly justifies plantations in continuing operations, and copra at 11½/8 is in almost as bad a position. Dedicated coconut is up against saturation in the Australian market, and we have no other industries of any magnitude.

London's Elago Coffee estate is increasing its shipments to Sydney and local sales are well maintained.

Preparatory work is going ahead in connection with a small tobacco plantation and a small castor oil proposition, near Port Moresby. It is eloquent of the depressed condition of agriculture in Papua that two such small concerns should attract the attention that they do.

We hear little of the Sangara Sugar Co.'s progress towards flotation. Local sympathy is strongly with the company on account of its local character and the scrupulous honesty of the prospectus, and it is sincerely hoped that it will go ahead and prosper.

COTTON'S FLUTTER

The London price for cotton (38d. per lb.) recalls the time, some years ago, when the high price offering induced a fever of cotton planting in Papua. Dozens of small syndicates took up land in suitable and unsuitable positions, apparently without

much regard to the nature of the soil, drainage, rainfall, or the peculiar requirements of the crop. Many established plantations devoted a portion of their area to it or interplanted it with rubber or coconuts. A very few tales were shipped and the industry died out as quickly as it was born.

DEVASTATING DROUGHT

Coupled with the drought, which is very severe, exceptionally heavy winds have caused a good deal of distress among the natives of the central division. Gardens are devastated and many villages are reduced to almost starvation point.

The Government is making the utmost of the opportunity to instil into the native mind the advantage of self help and initiative. Relief is not being given indiscriminately, but natives are being enabled, by means of loans for trading purposes and similar measures to retrieve through other channels what they have lost in their gardens. This has been always the policy of the present Administration, and an instance will show its efficacy.

The Hansabada people have been suffering, not only in common with all central division natives from the effects of drought and strong winds, but also from the decrease in lucrative employment in Port Moresby. A short time ago they approached the Government, through their village council, with a request for a loan to finance a trading expedition to the west. The loan was granted from the Native Taxation Trust Fund, and a few weeks later was repaid with 16 per cent. interest voluntarily added.

SHIPPING

The Mataram arrived in Port Moresby on September 3 with few passengers and little cargo. On her previous trip south, in August, she shipped: 1,099 cases dedicated coconut; 1,356 packages rubber; 27 bags coffee; 34 packages sandalwood; 12 bags shell.

The Le Maire, the K.P.M. steamer, arrived from Rabaul on August 12, and left for Java ports on the same day, loading from here only 13 tons of copra. However, the Alpbank had taken the main stock in July (7,237 bags) for European ports, under the agency of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Co.

Recent visitors to the New Hebrides, from Sydney, were Messrs. C. J. Sullivan, F. Frow, G. Herr and Eisen.

Too Good to be True Millions for Papua

Imperial Sugar Co.'s Great Plan

IF there is any truth in a report which is agitating industrial Sydney today (September 13) Papua should give three hearty British cheers, for it may mean the dawning of an era of, at least, free expenditure of money in the Territory.

It appears that there is in Sydney a gentleman named Mr. Philip J. Mond, who is planning commercial and financial operations of extraordinary magnitude. He has: (1) Registered the Britannia Insurance Corporation in Sydney, with a capital of £12,000,000; (2) registered the Britannia Bank in Sydney, with a capital of £100,000,000; (3) taken over Papuan Rural Products Ltd. from the promoters, with a view to reorganising it as Imperial Sugar Industries Ltd., with a capital of £500,000 and an ultimate bond issue of £15,000,000.

Mr. Mond sounds too good to be true; and Sydney is still gasping under the magnitude of his figures and plans. But the various important people who have met him declare that his credentials are quite satisfactory, and "Smith's Weekly"—which is certainly no respecter of persons—after an "investigation," acknowledges that the worst it can find out about Mr. Mond is that he apparently is not related to Lord Melchett (formerly Sir Alfred Mond, a London public man and millionaire). It is not proved that Mr. P. J. Mond ever claimed to be Lord Melchett's relation; it was assumed that he was because of his unusual name and his association with millions.

Meanwhile, while everyone is trying to find out whether Mr. Mond and his millions are real or simply a maddening dream, we may give some particulars of the scheme that interests Papua.

Papuan Rural Products Ltd. was formed some little time ago and has been described as "one of the flotations of W. J. Beckitt"—a gentleman well-known, for a time, in the Sydney newspaper industry. His name does not appear on the directorate in the original prospectus, however. The company had a nominal capital of £25,000 and was offering to the public 40,000 bonds at £20 each.

The company was formed to exploit the natural advantages of Papua for growing sugar cane and the manufacture of sugar and its various by-products.

The company—on the assumption that a sufficient quantity of bonds would be sold to justify a start—"selected" 20,000 acres of sugar-land, four miles inland from Wainiela, south of Koroit Point, Collingwood Bay, in the North-east Division of Papua. Nothing much was heard of the bond-selling proposition, between the time the company was formed, in April, and August, when Imperial Sugar Industries Ltd. came into being. It was then announced that the new company was to be of the financial dimensions stated above and that the acreage for sugar-planting was to be 350,000 acres! Some idea of the size of the project may be gained when it is stated that the Colonial Sugar Refining Co.'s plantations, in Fiji, have a total acreage of 80,000. In the booklet issued by the new company it is stated that the first bond issue is to be 130,000 bonds of £30 each (£3,900,000), of which 65,000 bonds, representing £1,950,000, have been subscribed by British investors, leaving 65,000 to be offered to Australian investors. It is announced that 6 per cent. interest is to be advanced annually on all paid-up bonds, until the first sugar harvest is sold, and that "a 100 per cent. guarantee is to be given for seven years from September 1, 1931, against loss of capital on paid-up bonds."

The board of directors of this new company comprises:

P. J. Mond, gentleman, London (chairman).
W. Cunningham, company director, Moosman, Sydney (managing director).
Seymour H. Warner, sugar mill director, Cairns, Queensland.

Dr. D. Guthrie Hunter, Eastwood, Sydney.
Leslie J. Thompson, M.B., Auckland, N.Z.
P. Warford-Mein, gentleman, Toorak, Melbourne.

"It is a collection of respectable names in Australia and New Zealand; and all those gentlemen must have satisfied themselves concerning the London end of the huge undertaking."

We have not attempted to traverse the new company's highly optimistic prospectus. It points out, with the flamboyance usual in prospectuses, that Britain imports 3,700,000 tons of sugar yearly, of which over 1,000,000 tons is not Empire grown; that Britain grants from £3.5 to £4.14/- per ton preference for Empire grown sugar; that Papua is one of the most suitable countries in the world for sugar growing and is destined to be the future "British Cuba." The fact that there is huge over-production of sugar in the world, it does not dampen the company's enthusiasm.

There is the story. The Papuan scheme is part of Mr. Mond's magni-

cent plan; and concerning that, even the perspicacious "Smiths" confesses itself baffled and awed. So far, Mr. Mond has not been faulted. There is money about somewhere—one does not register hundred million pounds companies in Sydney for 6½d. But it DOES look too good to be true.

Anyway, if only a tithe of it comes to pass our friends up in Papua may turn their money cheerily in their pockets and go out and do obeisance to the new moon.—H.W.R.

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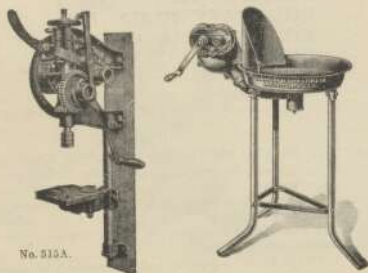
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NEWSLETTER FROM FIJI

New Zealand Squadron's Visit—Round of Functions—Colony's Financial Position

From Our Own Correspondent.

SUVA, Sept. 3.
 FOR THE past 10 days or so, the New Zealand Squadron of the Royal Navy has been at anchor in Suva Harbour.

The squadron consists of the *Diomedes*, a 6,000 ton cruiser, and the two old mine sweeping sloops of the Flower class, the *Veronica* and the *Laburnum*. The *Diomedes* flies the flag of Rear-Admiral Blake, a genial personality who has made himself very popular during the short visit. In this ship are two distinguished officers in Commander Crutchley, V.C., D.S.O., and Lieutenant Commander Bremner, D.S.O., D.S.C. Both of them won their principal decorations for gallantry in the raids of Zebrugge and Ostend.

Mr. Bremner was in the Admiral's motor boat and was delighted to meet in Suva Mr. L. R. McGinley, whom he described as being one of the best mechanics who had served with him in the C.M.B.'s. According to him, a large proportion of the mechanics in the C.M.B.'s came from Australia and New Zealand, and by reason of the exceptional danger and discomfort of the work, there was a remarkable bond of friendship between officers and men.

Naturally, Suva has had a gay time. The ships of the New Zealand Squadron regard Suva as their base in the Pacific, and, after the difficult and tortuous navigation amongst the other island groups, they look forward with relief to the safe and comfortable anchorage of Suva.

Amongst the various functions in honour of our naval visitors, was a luncheon given by the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Club, with Sir Maynard Hedstrom in the chair. The Chief Justice, Captain Maxwell Anderson, C.B.E., R.N. (Retd.), gave the toast of the naval guests and as an ex-naval officer and a contemporary of Admiral Blake was free to indulge in some humorous chaff, which was promptly returned with equal vigour by Admiral Blake, much to the joy of the men at commerce present.

After saying he thought he had safely hit the Chief Justice to mid-off, the Admiral in more serious vein gave some details of the police work of the squadron. The *Diomedes*, on her present cruise, has steamed over 5,000 miles, visiting over a dozen ports. The sloops had each done something like 7,500 miles. The *Laburnum* visiting 21 ports and the *Veronica* 13.

It was indeed of great interest to Suva business men to have the Admiral describe Suva as the focal point in the South Pacific and a place which he said was destined to increase vastly in importance in the future. He spoke in glowing terms of the New Zealand personnel, whom he said, numbered 10 per cent of his ship's company, and to whose endurance and cheerfulness in the recent troubles in Samoa he paid high tribute.

The Governor, Sir Murchison Fletcher, who had just returned from his Island cruise, and the Chief Justice of Eastern Samoa, the Hon. F. T. Wood, were amongst the guests.

MANY SPORTING FIXTURES

The sporting fixtures included a veritable whirl of golf, football, tennis, water polo in the new baths, etc. Two fixtures of rather more than usual interest were the matches arranged by the Suva Ladies' Rifle Club and by a group of polo enthusiasts. In the former, a team of Suva ladies scored precisely the same number of points as the team from the *Diomedes*, which included such eagle-eyed persons as the Admiral himself, his Commander and his Captain of Marines, whilst one of the ladies had the honour of obtaining the top score of the match.

The polo match took place on the beach at Suva Point, at low tide, and resulted in a win for the navy by 4 goals to 2.

It was the versatile Admiral who was responsible for the commencement of polo in Suva, since the game was unknown here until his visit last year. His parting gift on that occasion of a couple of polo sticks to one of the local police officers created interest in polo and on Sundays nowadays round the necks of protesting ponies.

The Governor, Sir Murchison Fletcher, who is also High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, has been spending a couple of months touring the constituent parts of the High Commission.

The *Laburnum* (Captain Hotham, D.S.C.) has been responsible for his transport, and there is no doubt that his visit and the local knowledge thus acquired will prove of such benefit as is possible in these days of depression, to the settlers of other groups.

He visited the Solomons, New Hebrides, Santa Cruz, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, and Rotuma.

On his return to Suva he was plunged into the difficulties surrounding the reparation of the Budget for 1932, which will be presented to a meeting of the Legislative Council some time in October. In his absence, an Economy

Committee, under the Colonial Treasurer, has been hard at work, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the mountains will not bring forth a mouse.

The expenditure of the Colony in 1930 was approximately \$650,000, but the year closed with a small deficit of \$6,000 odd. For 1931 revenue and expenditure were expected to balance at about \$600,000. It seems fairly certain that the estimate of revenue will not be reached, and we are all wondering how the gap is to be bridged.

The last statement of assets and liabilities of the Colony shows a surplus of £150,000 odd, and the expected deficit balance on this year's accounts might be very properly written off against this surplus.

As to 1932, further taxation appears inevitable, unless very drastic economy can be effected, including a re-adjustment of salaries and leave concessions amongst civil servants. In recent years social services have been largely extended and even the temporary cessation or diminution of them would prove a retrograde step.

Papuan Affairs

Native's Realisation of Position

From Our Own Correspondent.

PORT MOHESBY, Sept. 8.
PAPUAN residents are very conscious of the world-wide slump. But there has been, to date, very little real hardship.

Plantations have been obliged to pass dividends and to make heavy calls on their reserves, but there have been no strikes.

Two of the local stores have reduced wages a little and have suffered a considerable loss in trade owing to their inability to compete with the prices of goods imported direct by the consumers from Australia. But they are still going strong, and presumably they are doing well out of their more regular customers.

The public revenue shows considerable contraction, due in part to the reduction of the subsidy from the Commonwealth, but in greater measure to the falling off in Customs revenue. But civil service salaries have not been reduced, and a prime tax of four per cent represents the sole additional burden on the public.

These conditions compare very favourably with those obtaining in any other part of the world, and the sense of restriction which is common to all residents in Papua is likely to do far more good than harm.

The character of the natives has changed very considerably in the more settled districts. Up till two years ago they were inclined to look upon their employers as possessed of unlimited wealth, with inexhaustible supplies of sugar, liquor, money and other desirable commodities at their command.

It was a common occurrence for a native, paid off with £60 to £100 for his year's work, to spend the whole of that amount within a day or two on a big feast for his relatives and friends.

Economy on the part of employers, and a wise restraint exercised by the Administration, have taught them that resources are not limitless, and that payment is not merely a matter of goodwill, but a fair consideration for value received in labour or in kind.

Broadcasts for Islands

New A.W.A. Service

A NEW broadcasting service was commenced last month by Amalgamated Wireless (Australia) Ltd., for the purpose of supplying a regular weekly programme for world-wide reception.

The broadcast suitable for reception in Papua, New Guinea, Fiji, New Caledonia and New Hebrides is the one on Sundays, from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. (Eastern Australian standard time).

The transmissions are carried out through the 35 kilowatt short wave transmitter at Radio Centre, Penman Hill.

The total European population of Papua, at June 30, 1930, was 1,325—only a slight increase on the previous year.

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PRODUCTS OF THE SOUTH SEAS

Prospects of the Copra Market

THESEK is no improvement in the copra market, and more need be looked for until the world begins to recover from its present period of intense economic stagnation and can resume its normal expansion like a normal market.

The improvement in the general situation will not be long delayed—simply because, if it is, there will be a general economic collapse throughout the world, with results which almost baffle the imagination. The world's financiers have suddenly awakened to the situation and now they are trying frantically to do what ought to have been done a year ago—namely, restore to the world the gold now tied up in a useless mass in America and France, and without which the world's system of international trade and exchange cannot function. It is becoming every day more plain that among numerous contributing factors, the main cause of the world's depression are the accumulation of gold in U.S.A. and the denaturation of silver, which is the basis of Asiatic trade. To-day, with world-trade virtually paralysed under their eyes—the result of the inability of the world's people to exchange and consume—and with sterling (the foundation of the world's financial system) actually tottering around their ears, the world's financiers are displaying a frightened, but most commendable, haste, and we may expect to see important steps taken before this year is gone.

In the meantime, these other factors contribute to the continuation of a situation which is reflected in desperately low prices for copra and numerous other primary products. There can be no movement towards recovery in

Europe until the British general election is past and the issue of tariff or no-tariff is decided. That issue directly affects the purchasing power of Europe. The second point is contained in a report issued by Fests Rittmann and Co., London, on August 12, to the effect that vegetable oil stocks in America are at a record high figure, showing an increase of 12,000 tons of oil compared with 1930, while the incoming cotton crop is giving an additional 40,000 tons of cotton oil. This is likely to weaken the demand from America for copra for some time to come. The third factor is, of course, the continued excess of whale oil in the market. Certainly, Antarctic production has fallen away enormously, but the whaling fleets and fishing factories are still in being, standing idle, simply awaiting consumption of accumulated stocks before resuming their activities. The largest whaling fleet factory ever built left the Belfast shipyard on July 7 for her initial trials. She can accommodate 300 men and carry 25,000 tons of whale oil. She is going to Norway, to be laid up until July, 1932.

Copra producers need not look for much improvement in the market for some months yet. The only remaining feature about the present situation is that it cannot remain as it is—it must either improve, or smash. We think that a general improvement will become manifest in 1932. The world will wait, but not sit—and a great deal of it—presently. In the meantime, the wise producer will restrict production as far as is reasonable, and try to keep his plantation in good order. It is a period of tightening the belt and hanging on. The whole world is in the soup together.

Exchange Quotations

The following exchange quotations, gathered in Sydney, show the rates existing in Sydney on September 14.

Fiji—THROUGH BANK OF N.S.W.

Australia on Fiji on the basis of £100 Fiji—buying £117/10/-, selling £118/5/-.

Fiji on London, basis of £100 London:

Telegraphic transfer £120 10 0 £111 7 6
On demand 100 2 4 111 17 6
30 days 100 12 3 110 17 6
60 days 100 18 4 110 12 6
90 days 100 18 3 110 8 8

Fiji on New Zealand, basis of £100, New Zealand—buying £99, selling £101.

WESTERN SAMOA—THROUGH BANK OF N.Z.

Exchange Australia on Western Samoa, basis £100 Samoa—buying £118/10/-, selling £119/5/-.

Exchange Australia on Samoa—buying par, selling £118/5/-.

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Market Quotations

Range of Prices

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

COPRA		Plantation, Sun-Dried, Bulk	Per ton c.i.f.
London.	Price on	Per ton c.i.f.	
January 2	214 0 0	214 0 0	
January 18	214 7 8	214 12 8	
January 25	214 12 8	214 18 0	
January 26	214 12 8	214 18 0	
February 6	214 5 0	214 7 8	
February 13	214 5 0	214 7 8	
February 20	214 12 8	214 17 6	
February 27	214 17 6	214 18 0	
March 6	214 17 6	214 18 0	
March 13	214 17 6	214 18 0	
March 20	214 17 6	214 18 0	
March 27	214 10 0	214 12 8	
April 3	214 10 0	214 12 8	
April 10	214 7 8	214 10 0	
April 17	214 5 0	214 7 8	
April 24	213 10 0	213 12 8	
May 1	213 10 0	213 12 8	
May 8	213 10 0	213 12 8	
May 15	213 10 0	213 12 8	
May 22	213 10 0	213 12 8	
May 29	213 10 0	213 12 8	
June 5	213 10 0	213 12 8	
June 12	213 10 0	213 12 8	
June 19	213 10 0	213 12 8	
June 26	213 10 0	213 12 8	
July 3	213 10 0	213 12 8	
July 10	213 10 0	213 12 8	
July 17	213 10 0	213 12 8	
July 24	213 10 0	213 12 8	
July 31	213 10 0	213 12 8	
August 7	213 10 0	213 12 8	
August 14	213 10 0	213 12 8	
August 21	213 10 0	213 12 8	
August 28	213 10 0	213 12 8	
September 4	213 10 0	213 12 8	
September 11	213 10 0	213 12 8	
September 18	213 10 0	213 12 8	

HIDEHILL		Plantation, Bulk	Per ton c.i.f.
London.	Price on	Per ton c.i.f.	
June 5	414 0 0	414 0 0	
June 12	414 0 0	414 0 0	
June 19	414 0 0	414 0 0	
June 26	414 0 0	414 0 0	
July 3	414 0 0	414 0 0	
July 10	414 0 0	414 0 0	
July 17	414 0 0	414 0 0	
July 24	414 0 0	414 0 0	
August 1	414 0 0	414 0 0	
August 8	414 0 0	414 0 0	
August 15	414 0 0	414 0 0	
August 22	414 0 0	414 0 0	
August 29	414 0 0	414 0 0	
September 5	414 0 0	414 0 0	
September 12	414 0 0	414 0 0	
September 19	414 0 0	414 0 0	

COTTON

Good Middling		Per lb.	Per ton
London.	Price on	Per lb.	Per ton
June 5	414 0 0	414 0 0	
June 12	414 0 0	414 0 0	
June 19	414 0 0	414 0 0	
June 26	414 0 0	414 0 0	
July 3	414 0 0	414 0 0	
July 10	414 0 0	414 0 0	
July 17	414 0 0	414 0 0	
July 24	414 0 0	414 0 0	
August 1	414 0 0	414 0 0	
August 8	414 0 0	414 0 0	
August 15	414 0 0	414 0 0	
August 22	414 0 0	414 0 0	
August 29	414 0 0	414 0 0	
September 5	414 0 0	414 0 0	
September 12	414 0 0	414 0 0	
September 19	414 0 0	414 0 0	

OTHER ISLANDS PRODUCE

Nominal prices for other Islands produce quoted in Sydney on September 14, from two different sources.

Per ton	
(a) Trochus Shell, No. 1 grade	500
Trochus Shell, No. 2 grade	550
Trochus Shell, No. 3 grade	450
Beche-de-mer, high grade	£200
Beche-de-mer, lower grade	from 230
Cocoa Beans	250
Ivory Nuts, nominal, no market	212
(b) Trochus Shell, No. 1 grade	£81/15/-
Trochus Shell, No. 2 grade	£55/7/6
Trochus Shell, No. 3 grade	£44
Beche-de-mer, high grade	£260
Beche-de-mer, lower grade	from £30
Cocoa Beans	£250

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

N.G. Goldfields Ltd.

Progress for August

'Flu Hinders Work

NEW Guinea Goldfields Ltd. have advised that the following progress report for August has been issued by the Mining Trust Ltd., consulting engineers for the company.

During the month all work was hindered by a serious outbreak of influenza, from which at one time over 70 per cent. of the native labour force was incapacitated. Health conditions on the field are now normal.

Development: Location 3, the west drift was advanced 117 ft. to a total length of 1,047 ft. The average assay was 535 dwt. gold and 18 oz. silver per ton, over a width of 20 ft. The full width of the ore has not been exposed.

Location 8, No. 2 level, the drift was advanced 58 ft. to a total length of 1,114 ft. The average assay was 64 dwt. gold and 18 oz. silver per ton, over a width of 47 inches.

Location 22, No. 1 drift was advanced 81 ft. to a total of 817 ft. The average assay was 14 dwt. gold and 18 oz. silver per ton, over a width of 23 inches.

Plant erection: Satisfactory progress has been made with the erection of the power plant. Clearings for transmission lines to the plant and to the site of the new plant have been completed, and poles for the line to the station have been erected.

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ANZAC DESIRES PEN-FRIENDS

MR. J. R. MUNHO writes from Anzac Hill, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, Queensland, to say that he would like to see the book.

MR. J. R. MUNRO writes from ANAC HOSPITAL, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, Queensland, to say that he would be corresponded with any letter to the Island. Mr. Munro, who was a sergeant with the Royal Australian Air Force, is still suffering from tropical anemia, but is now recovering and has been removed to Lane Pine, Gallopall. He states that some of the returned men at the hospital have started collecting postage stamps and would appreciate any sent along to them.

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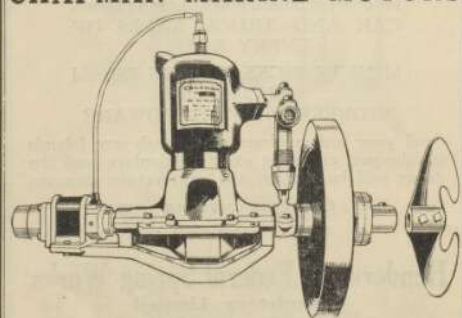
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Fiji Inter-Island Service.

T.S.E. Makatea (Burns, Philip (South Sea Co. Ltd.) makes regular fortnightly trips. Under Government contract, as follows: Long Trip, 1,036 miles, Suva to Leruka. Tavuni Coast, Buca Bay, Devo, Nahi, Koloma and back by same route, occupying about 10 days. Short Trip, 860 miles, Suva to Leruka, Cicla, Manago, Loma Loma, Tavuni Coast, Savu Lani, Leruka. Suva, occupying about 3 days.

T.S.S. Malaka (Burns, Philp (South Sea) Co., Ltd.) makes frequent trips to Levuka, Labasa and Lautoka, with transshipment cargo from Suva.

A.S. Makou (Burns, Philp (South Sea) Co. Ltd.) makes bi-monthly trips from Levuka to Fenuafuti and trades with all islands in the group.

R.R. Ad Nava (Fiji Shipping Co. Ltd.) makes regular trips from Suva to Levuka and Lau.

M.S. Sir John Forrest (Fiji Shipping Co. Ltd.) makes regular trips from Suva to Levuka, Savu Savu, Nakhonawatu, Baniabadi & ...

return, Drekett, Radner, Labasa, and return by the same route, round trip occupying about 3 days.

M. S. Andriew (P&O Shipping Co. Ltd.) makes regular trips from Suva to Ba and Lautoka, round voyage occupying four days.