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THE Pacific Islands Monthly

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

VOL. 2—No. 4. Registered at G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper SYDNEY: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1931. Subscription: Single Copy, 4s. Per Annum, posted, 45s.

Japanese Entomologist to Visit Fiji

MR. KUMITO, an entomologist of the Japanese Department of Agriculture, is due to arrive in Suva from Honolulu.

He will spend one or two weeks in Fiji, his special mission being to study insect life which is hostile to the growth of forest trees.

SOLOMONS' OLDEST INHABITANTS

From Our Own Correspondent.

TULAGI, Oct. 28.

The oldest white residents of the Solomons, in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Atkinson, of Faisi, go south by this boat on a much-to-be-regretted mission of health. Mr. Atkinson requires expert attention and it is hoped the tender care of Mrs. Atkinson will be rewarded.

Born in the Solomons in the days when white residents could be counted on the fingers of one hand, Mrs. Atkinson can relate tales of the most stirring adventure and early pioneering hardship. It is one of the heart-breaking phases of the depression that just when they required the best of health to help them over the economic straits, these staunch old pioneers have been singled out for Fate's unkindest kick—all health.



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ALTERNATIVE ISLANDS CROPS

Some Further Information

WORLD MARKETS FOR VARIOUS OIL-SEEDS

There is a keen interest among planters throughout the South Seas in the subject of planting new, quickly-maturing crops which will give them an alternative income when the demand for their staple products falls away. Many inquiries for reliable information about these crops have been received, and the following article has been prepared.

CASTOR OIL.

Particulars of castor oil, which provides a valuable lubricant, were given in our issue of September, 1931. Since then, inquiries have been received as to what market exists for this oil in Australia.

The Statistical Register of the Commonwealth Government shows that in 1929-30 over 12,000 worth of the oil was imported. Details were as follows:

From	Gallons	Value
British	31,004	£7,488
India	23,209	4,582
France	10,415	2,222
U.S.A.	15,822	4,757

Besides this oil, castor seeds were imported from India and Java and crushed at a mill, which has been established in Melbourne. The average price of the oil in Australia at present is 5/9 per gallon.

Not only does Australia provide a big market, but, by reason of the fact that it would be produced by cheap native labour in the islands, it could displace, favourably, compete, with the products of other countries on the world's markets.

SESAME OR GINGELY OIL.

Sesame, which was dealt with in our July, 1931, issue, is a hardy annual plant. The oil crushed from the seeds comes under the liquid oil class and thus competes with peanut and cottonseed oil.

Inquiries made in Sydney show that there is a very poor chance of a market being obtained in the Commonwealth for this oil. Prior to the war it was used very extensively here for margarine manufacture. In fact, the Pure Foods Act here, as elsewhere, stipulated that 3 per cent. of sesame had to be used in margarine as a "chemical indicator"—that is, in order to give margarine a distinct colour so that it could be easily distinguished from butter. During the war sesame oil was unobtainable in Australia and a substitute became necessary.

Queensland, however, was allowed, and now this has completely displaced sesame in Australia as an essential constituent of margarine. Cottonseed is marketed by the Queensland Cotton Board, in a fair average season there is just about sufficient for the market, and in a bumper season the market is flooded.

In the last two or three years, only a very small quantity of sesame has been imported—it is not actually enumerated among the imports into Australia.

An Australian authority on oils states that he would not recommend the growing of sesame in the Islands, if it was only with the idea of supplying the Australian market. However, a leading technical oil man, in touch with the markets of the world, considers sesame in altogether a different light. He is of the opinion that a world market awaits.

"MASSACRE!"

Newspaper Shrieks Over Papuan Raid

THE SUKIS AGAIN

IT was announced from Canberra, early in the month, that a radiogram had been received from Sir Hubert Murray, Administrator of Papua, to the effect that raiding parties of Sukis had come down from the upper regions of the Fly River and attacked villages on the lower part of the river, had killed some 17 natives and had the latter returned up the river with their loot.

It was stated also that Mr. Woodward, the Resident Magistrate at Daru, had gone out with a party to investigate the position, and it is assumed that he will send a punitive expedition up the river after the Sukis with a view to administering some sort of punishment.

This is a common occurrence in Papua. It must be remembered that only the eastern portion of the Territory and the coastal districts of the remainder are definitely under Government control. The whole of the huge area represented by the north-western portion of the Western



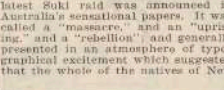
SUKI LOOK-OUT MAN ON UPPER FLY

Division is not under control and is absolutely untamed and primitive.

Within this region are scores of savage and treacherous natives who have supplemented their means of livelihood, when occasion demanded, since time immemorial, by raiding their more useful and better supplied neighbours. The Sukis, on the Upper Fly River, are notorious raiders.

White influence has succeeded in taming these raiders, but that there has been so few of them in recent years is a matter for wonder. It is probably due to the fact that whenever possible, the Administration sends an expedition against the marauders and prompt punishment is applied. Sometimes, however, this takes months to accomplish.

Islands people, therefore, viewed with considerable amusement the shrieking headlines with which the latest Suki raid was announced in Australia's sensational papers. It was called a "massacre," and an "uprising," and a "rebellion," and generally presented in an atmosphere of typographical excitement which suggested that the whole of the natives of New



A SUKI RAID

Guinea were up in arms and that half of the Administration officials had been scalped.

SEKIS IN THEIR PECULIAR TYPE OF CANOES

PRINCE THAKOMBAU

Sydney Student is the Direct Descendant of Famous Fijian King

STUDYING at one of Sydney's most exclusive colleges, with a view to taking the Arts course at Sydney University, and thence going on to Oxford or Cambridge, is young George



PRINCE THAKOMBAU

Thakombau, of the Royal Family of Fiji. His Apella is "Thakombau," but the old-style spelling is the better known.

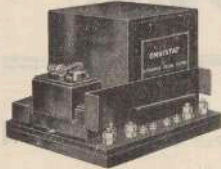
King Thakombau, great-grandfather of this young island prince, was a very famous man in Fiji between 1835 and 1870. When he first came into notice he was the supreme chief of the tribe of Bau, but he was rivalled in power by Mausu, a Tongan chief, who had become head of the Fijian confederacy of Lau. There was considerable fighting and turbulence in the forties, and Thakombau gradually became the supreme power, so that he became recognised as King of Fiji. There was much cannibalism at Fiji at this time, and Thakombau in his early days was noted as the greatest cannibal of them all. The literature of the second half of last century is full of references to "Thakombau, the Cannibal King." Later, he was converted to Christianity and was a good friend of the missionaries.

About 1858 the United States demanded £9,000 from Thakombau as damages for certain outrages committed on American citizens, and the King, being much embarrassed, decided to get out of his trouble by offering the whole Fijian Group to Britain. This was declined, so Thakombau presently offered the group to the United States. America, at that time was busy with her Civil War, and did not even reply. There was another 15 years of turmoil and then, in 1873, Thakombau did succeed in persuading Britain to take over the group. Thakombau thereafter settled down and became a highly respectable old gentleman, one of the trusted advisers of the British Administration, and lived for many years.

Thakombau sent his son, Joseph Thakombau, to Newington College, in Sydney, and his son in turn, the father of the present George Thakombau, was also well educated.

The present George Thakombau proposes to study law at Oxford and, also, Colonial Administration, so that when his time comes to follow his father as the paramount chief in Fiji, he will be well qualified to undertake his duties. He has an attractive personality and is a first-class athlete.

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Automatic Engine Control

For the first time in Australia the patented "Omnistat" Automatic Engine Control provides for the petrol engine that full degree of automatic operation hitherto only associated with the electric motor.

It enables a petrol engine to be started and stopped automatically in most certain predetermined conditions. It reacts itself for an indefinite number of cycles of operation. In the event of failure of any important part of the plant it controls, the Omnistat operates an alarm indicating that some attention is required.

A True Robot!

So varied are its applications, and so ingenious the way in which it performs, automatically, any or several of a group of related electric and mechanical control operations, that it is impossible to describe in the space available the versatility of this precision instrument.

Not only does it perform its function regularly, unobtrusively and automatically, but it reacts itself after each cycle of operations. Recent tests have shown that at the conclusion of 2,000 automatic engine-restarts the "Omnistat" in one was still functioning perfectly and unobtrusively.

Automatically Controls any Mechanical or Electrical Device

A most interesting illustrated brochure has just been prepared and is available to enquirers desiring fuller particulars of the possibilities of the "Omnistat" in its application to the control of internal combustion engines, particularly with automatic refrigerating, pumping and lighting plants.

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LESS UNREST

In Western Samoa

LEAGUE OF NATIONS' REPORT

A VERY brief summary of the statement made before the League of Nations by New Zealand's High Commissioner (Sir Thomas Willford), explaining the present condition of Western Samoa, was received in Sydney by cable on November 8.

Sir Thomas pointed out that the decrease of unrest in Western Samoa was partly due to the centenary celebrations of the London Missionary Society, which had occupied the natives' attention for some months.

The chiefs of the Mau, who had hitherto been the opponents of the Government, said Sir Thomas, were now attending the sittings of the Land Titles Commission, which was a striking change since last year.

Economic conditions in the Islands, he added, were recovering from the damage done by the recent hurricane and efforts were being made to find more varied sources of income. New Zealand was employing Samoans to an increasing degree as district officials.

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INCORRECT CHART

NIUA-FOOU ISLAND

WE are much indebted to Mr. F. W. Glover, F.R.S., of Samoa, for supplying the accompanying accurate sketch map of Niua-



THE ADMIRALTY CHART

It is noted that the village of Hanat (destroyed by the 1905 hurricane) is shown on the wrong side of the island.

Putou—the interesting place that is otherwise known as the "Tin-can Island," in the Tongan group. "The Admiralty Chart of Niua-Foou is incorrect," says Mr. Glover. "I enclose a photographic reproduction."



SKETCH MAP OF NIUA-FOOU

Altitudes in metres: Lake level, 35 metres above sea. Lake depth, about 50 metres. The shore consists of steep basalt cliffs, except in the region of Putu, where several pieces of beach exist as a result of the 1925 eruption, the craters of which are along the dashed line between the two marks X. The chart was compiled only from an eye-sketch, and as such is fairly good—and there was probably little time available to be spent on such an island by the crew of the survey ship. "I enclose a rough sketch map. The shape is based on a survey made by Mr. F. J. Fuller, of Vavau, and the details of height, etc., are from my own observations last year. The island is very picturesque—especially so to one who, like myself, has had the opportunity of travelling round the ridge and of visiting the islands in and the shores of the great crater-lake which forms its interior."

Cook Islands Trade

IMPORTS into the Cook Islands for the quarter ended September 30, 1931, totalled £15,506, compared with £22,450 for the same quarter in the previous year. The main supplying countries for the 1931 period, with the total value of the goods, were as follows:

New Zealand	£14,263
U.S.A.	1,947
U.K.	1,652
Australia	776

Exports for the 1931 quarter were valued at £20,187, compared with £27,158 for the same period in 1929. The bulk of the exports were shipped to New Zealand.

Tongan Bananas

Big Contract With New Zealand

ANOTHER LOSS TO AUSTRALIA

From Our Own Correspondent.

IT is now definitely stated that the Union S.S. Co. of New Zealand will send to our group every month a vessel for the direct carriage of Tongan bananas to the Dominion.

In anticipation of the arrival of the first of these ships, scheduled for early December, we learn that the Government has placed orders in New Zealand for a continued supply of crates—a supply commencing with a modest 2,000, and which it can reasonably be expected will extend to 10,000 a month by the middle of next year. It is predicted that the group will be in a position to actually fill 12,000 cases per month by the end of 1932; but these future shipments will, presumably, be controlled by demand. As a starter, we understand that the Tongan Government has accepted, for a short term, a satisfactory contract price offered by a Dominion firm of buyers.

It is worthy of note that, although the price submitted by New Zealand for empty crates was far in excess of quotes received from other countries, the Tongan Government wisely decided to import from the Dominion. Thus our fruit destined for the New Zealand market will be packed in New Zealand containers.

We cannot refrain here from charging the Commonwealth of Australia with a lack of foresight in the matter of its island policy. It is to be expected that, owing to Fiji's reciprocal agreement with New Zealand, Australia will gradually cease to interest that group to any extent.

Planting in Cook Islands

Big Domestic Crops

From Our Own Correspondent.

RAROTONGA, October 2. ON account of the poor returns obtained during the past season for fruit, and the resultant scarcity of money, heavy plantings of domestic crops have been made at Rarotonga.

Good crops have resulted, with an absence of disease generally.

Tomatoes, particularly, have been prolific, but, unfortunately, much of the fruit could not be got away owing to the lack of shipping.

The fruit steamer, the s.s. "Wal-pahi," withdrew her running this year earlier than usual. Large quantities of tomatoes had over-matured by the time the monthly mail-boat arrived.

Many fine crops of bananas are to be seen on the island, but again the low prices offered are poor inducement to the grower to keep the cultivation up to the standard desired.

FIVE MONTHS' DROUGHT

Rabaul Suffers

NEED FOR PERMANENT WATER SUPPLY

From Our Own Correspondent.

RABAU, October 30. RABAU is suffering from one of the driest spells on record, as the present drought is now well in its fifth month.

The heat has been terrific; whilst conditions, with clouds of thick dust, are most unpleasant. Very few houses have water in the tanks and recourse has had to be made to the few public wells scattered throughout the town.

Whilst residents of Rabaul are suffering from this abnormally dry spell, places within a comparatively short distance are enjoying fairly heavy and frequent falls.

Last year we experienced a dry spell, and it was rumoured at the time that the Administration would take steps to ensure a sufficient water supply to provide against similar droughts. Possibly this second and more severe visitation will bring the need for some such arrangement more prominently before the authorities.



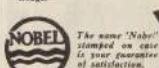
You can't buy a better cartridge for Pacific Islands use than the "Duxbar." Because it is specially loaded for Pacific Islands conditions.

Eley Duxbar

are a water-resistant smokeless powder cartridge that can be relied upon to give maximum satisfaction.

Velocity, pattern and penetration are combined so that the good shooter is always assured of a maximum bag if game is about.

Produced by the most modern scientific methods and loaded by an automatic machine that throws out any faulty cartridge.



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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1931

The PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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TAHITI'S CHINESE

Manchurian Trouble Upsets Plan for Exodus

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, October 8.

THE local trading schooner, "Pro Patria," was recently chartered by one of the Chinese for a voyage to China, and about 100 Chinese, discontented with present conditions in Tahiti, and finding it impossible to get home by way of America, bought tickets for the trip.

Much expense was incurred in altering the vessel in order to accommodate such an unusual number of passengers, and a huge dock house, resembling a Chinese pagoda, was erected alongside. Sailing day arrived and the Chinese all went aboard with their various domestic appliances. All was ready for sailing and the lines were about to be cast off, when the first news of the Japanese and Chinese trouble reached Tahiti, and the trip was promptly abandoned.

A good many of the local Chinese, particularly those who have relied on manual labour and the working of small properties on shares basis, have been put out of business by the present depression, and it was anticipated that several hundreds of these would have returned to China in batches of about a hundred at a time.

The Chinese market gardeners and small shopkeepers, appear to be holding their own in spite of bad times.

5 SYMPTOMS OF TINEA or TROPIC RINGWORM

EXAMINE YOUR TOES

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

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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 treat same. Tens of thousands who are suffering from these irritating skin diseases, "ANTINEA," the definite cure, will come as a blessing.

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"ANTINEA" is a specific preparation for Tinea or ringworm infection. The penetrative power of "ANTINEA" rapidly destroys the "Tinea" fungi, relieves discomfort, restores skin whiteness and cures normal condition. "ANTINEA" also relieves "DHOOBIE ITCH" Ringworm, Perimyctitis, Ringworm of the Nails and other similar skin troubles. "ANTINEA" will not harm the living tissues. Obtainable from all branches of Burns, Philp and Co. Ltd., W. R. Carpenter and Co. Ltd., and A. J. Swann and Co. Ltd. (Sole).



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NEW GUINEA NEWS

More Confident Feeling — Club's Enterprise

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAU, October 20.

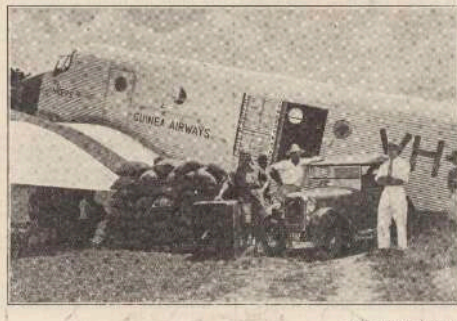
THE gradual rise in the price of copra, coupled with the reduction in the export duty, has given a feeling of renewed confidence. But, although the price has advanced appreciably, it is still far below the figure required to give the planter a fair return for his efforts and, at the same time, allow him sufficient margin to meet the instalments due to the Custodian on the purchase price of his property and the interest on the unpaid balance.

Rumours are rife that the exchange rate on London, at present standing at 11½ per cent., may be reduced in the near future. As the present rate represents a bonus to the planter of approximately 12/15/- per ton, it will be understood that the reduction will be a serious matter.

SERIOUS MOTOR ACCIDENT.

Mr. Barry Woodcock, a well-known planter and owner of Kakaia Plantation in the Kokope District, met with a serious motor accident on the Milneburg Road. In passing between the trees

UNIQUE AERIAL TRANSPORT SERVICE



This interesting photograph gives some idea of the kind of freight transport service which Guinea Airways Limited is supplying to the Milneburg Goldfields. In the interior of New Guinea, this big Junker plane has just arrived at the Wau aero-

drone, on the goldfields, from Lae, on the coast, and it has discharged, as part of its one load 1 Baby Austin motor car, 1 office safe and 28 bags of rice—a total weight of 5,242 lbs. (nearly 2½ tons).

Mr. G. E. Roberts, stores manager of Burns, Philp and Co. Ltd., of Rabaul, was accompanied by M.E. Macdonald and made the round trip to the airport.

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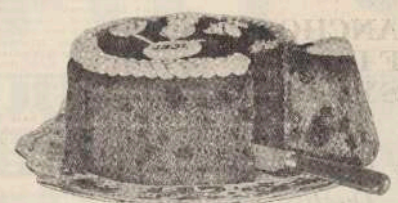
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ERADICATING PESTS

Solomons Problem

NUTFALL REDUCES COPRA OUTPUT

From Our Own Correspondent

TULAGI, October 20.

OUR own entomologist (Mr. Lever) has not so far run to earth the bug, reptile or coccinellid that causes Nutfall, which, according to a local authority, reduces our output of copra by fully 5,000 tons per annum.

It is a curious fact that plantations which have had probably thousands of pounds spent upon them in the matter of pest eradication and fertilisers, seem to suffer more from this complaint than those whose owners are unable to afford the luxury. If this is really a fact, it would seem that the coconut resents the pumpkins—at least, on certain lines.

No doubt, we are inclined to be over-fearful that a pest will spring up in a night and wipe out our industry, forgetful of the fact that it has been exposed to this possibility since Adam.

Certain it is that thousands have been spent on pests that are here to-day and gone to-morrow, so to speak. The chief danger seems to lie in eradicating new pests which may not be entirely confined to bugs.

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It is fitted inside the window and is simply rolled up when not in use.
It will outlast the old-fashioned fixed screen, because it is not directly exposed to the weather.
It is hidden from view when not in service.
It permits easy cleaning of windows.
It is suitable for box frame and casement windows.
It is supplied in standard sizes, from 18ins. by 3ft. to 36ins. by 6ft.
It is made in Australia.



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HIGHER TAXES

Planters' and Traders' Sacrifices

A correspondent who recently was in the Solomons writes:

The duty on tobacco, matches, beer and cigars has recently been raised; a poll or head tax of £1 has recently been enforced; and a new tax on firearms has just been introduced—while the Government are even trying to collect taxes upon firearms that are hung up as mementoes, such as old Sniders, and such like.

At the present time, in the Solomons, employment is very hard to obtain. Prices of produce have fallen but taxes have been increased, and the wages of natives have not fallen—except in the matter of recruiting fees. In the matter of tobacco issue to indentured labourers, the cost has increased.

There would not be such strong feeling against the new taxes if any attempt had been made to reduce administrative salary costs. But, while planters and traders have "taken it in the neck," the official class has suffered no sacrifice worth mentioning.

ECONOMY DEMANDED

Is There Over-staffing in N.G.?

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I beg a small space in your valuable paper, to suggest a few economical changes that could well be made in the administration of the district of Kavieng, New Ireland.

First, I would like to deal with the positions of "copra inspector" and customs officer. Both these officers are receiving about £400, respectively, per year, for working about 2 hours per day, with a little extra work on the few and far between busy days. These two positions could well be combined and worked by one man, who even then would by no means be over-worked.

I was working the labour line of B.P.'s some days ago, heading an overseas copra ship, and had the opportunity of observing the copra inspector and the customs officer. (Here follow details of a day in the life of the two officials, which need not be published. But it certainly does not appear that either gentleman need die at an early age from over-exercising.—Ed. P.I.M.)

The two positions of C.I. and C.O. could well be filled by one man of average intelligence, without overworking him at all. The firm of B.P. keeps a shipping clerk at the wharf all the time and he appears to do all the Customs work, bond, etc., while the C.O. is absent.

It is high time these matters were looked into. In the district of Kavieng alone there are nine civil servants—district officer, assistant district officer, police master, two clerks in district office, postmaster (which position could well be combined with that of the junior clerk in D.O.), copra inspector, customs officer and road master. The positions mentioned, of course, do not include the officers of the P.H.D., who do work hard for their salaries.

We civilians here in the Territory have to work very hard 10 hours a day, for a small return, out of which we pay high taxes to help pay the exorbitant wages of the public service.

I am not vindictive and have nothing against either the copra inspector or customs officer; but the case of these two officers is so glaring—and typical—that one cannot help noticing it.—I am, etc.

OBSERVER.

PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSN.

Support From Cook Islands

From Our Own Correspondent

RABOTONGA, October 20. THE announcement in the last issue of The Pacific Islands Monthly to head of a movement towards the formation of a Pacific Islands Association, with headquarters at Sydney, is regarded here as a step in the right direction.

Such an institution as is proposed will be of immense value to the peoples of the Pacific Islands in the various capacities outlined by the chairman at the preliminary meeting.

Constitution Adopted

The Pacific Islands Association was formally constituted at a general meeting held in Sydney on September 12.

The draft provisional committee, appointed at the first meeting some months ago, submitted the draft constitution, which was published in the October issue of The Pacific Islands Monthly. This was considered at length and a number of amendments, designed to protect the interests of Pacific Islands residents who seek membership, and who may not be able to attend meetings very often, were made. All those present formed themselves into the Pacific Islands Association, and the constitution as amended was formally adopted.

The following were appointed members of council and office bearers: W. Bruce Rainford, R. W. Robson, J. P. Fitzgerald, H. A. Ross, Rev. M. A. Warren, Dr. W. L. Calor, Jas. W. Balde.

It was resolved to defer for the present the appointment of president, vice-presidents, and of other councillors required to complete the full council of twenty, so as to give members residing in the Pacific Islands an opportunity of having a voice in the selections. A committee of six was appointed to make arrangements for increased membership.

ALTERNATIVE ISLANDS CROPS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

follows the placing of an embargo on imports from other countries as from March 2, 1931.

Previous to this, Ceylon was the largest supplier of desiccated coconut to Australia, the 1929-30 figures showing that Ceylon supplied 1,553,335 lbs. of a value of £91,897. The total value imported for the year was £105,794. Of this Papua supplied 149,735 worth and New Guinea £11,738. Since then, with the impetus provided by the Commonwealth Government, this industry has progressed rapidly. Plants are now operating at Lindenhafen, Ponde and Finshafen in New Guinea, and at Gilgilli, Galley Reach and Ahima, Papua.

As the output increases new markets are being sought. It was thought that Canada might provide a new market, especially in view of the recent Australian trade treaty. However, inquiries made of the Canadian Government Agent show that there is nothing in the Treaty applying to desiccated coconut. Desiccated coconut, sweetened or not, from the Pacific Islands, is only provided for under the British Preference Tariff, the duty under this classification being 5 cents per lb. The general duty is 4 cents per lb.

The Canadian market is mainly supplied by Ceylon. Imports for 1929, under the various groupings for desiccated coconuts were:

Sweetened or not, 2,104,825 lbs., of which 2,018,613 lbs. came from Ceylon.

Unsweetened, 34,625 lbs. all from Ceylon and Straits Settlements, N.O.P., 53,425 lbs. all from Ceylon.

COFFEE

The coffee growing industry has been little exploited in the British Islands, although of late, delicate steps have been taken to carry out planting on a commercial basis. Good grades of coffee have been produced. The market price at present is about £50 per ton, c.i.f., Sydney, for Java coffee.

Messrs. Abel Leman & Co., Sydney, are prepared to handle shipments for planters.

Altogether, Australia during 1929-30 imported coffee to the value of £184,557. Of this, only £379 worth came from the Islands, being made up as follows:

	Lbs.	Value.
New Caledonia	1,000	£20
Papua	1,000	200
New Guinea	100	1

The bulk of Australia's supplies came from the Dutch East Indies and India.

COCOA BEANS.

Australia provides a good market for cocoa beans. The price for the beans at present is about £32 per ton f.o.b. Sydney.

In the year 1929-30, Australia imported cocoa to the value of £256,740. British West Africa supplied £55,000 worth and the West Indies £74,000.

Although a fine quality cocoa is produced in the Pacific Islands, these groups contributed only £17,000 worth to the total Australian importation for the year. The Pacific figures were as follows:

	Lbs.	Value.
New Hebrides	100,000	£12,116
New Guinea	100,000	3,944
Other Pacific Islands	100,000	155

Western Samoa, where much cocoa is grown, does not figure at all among the supplying countries.

GREEN GINGER.

There is only a very small market in Australia for green ginger. In 1929-30, it was supplied exclusively by China, which country exported to Australia 160,285 lbs., of a value of £1,711. Ginger from China is subject to 10 per lb. duty. Ginger imported to Australia from Papua or New Guinea is allowed in duty free.

PEANUTS.

Peanuts are a prohibited import into Australia, even from Australia's Island Territories—New Guinea and Papua. Peanuts are now grown extensively in Queensland.

Therefore, other outlets would have to be found for crops from the Islands. Canada suggests itself, for in 1929 this Dominion imported \$54,651 dollars worth. China and United States supplied the majority of these peanuts.

Since that year, the Australian-Canadian trade treaty came into force, varying definite preference 1929 the Australian product. The exact text of the clause under the treaty is as follows:

193a.—Peanuts, green, in the shell or not further processed than shelled—free (that is free if coming from Australia).

The Canadian Government-in-Council, when satisfied Australia can supply Canada's requirements, may, by Order-in-Council, direct that there be substituted for tariff item 193a in Schedule A of Customs Tariff, 1907, and the enumeration of goods and the rates of duties of customs set

the following:

193b.—Peanuts, green, in the shell or not further processed than shelled—free.

British preference tariff: 4 cents per lb.

Intermediate tariff: 4 cents per lb.

General tariff: 4 cents per lb.

From and after the publication of such Order-in-Council in "The Canadian Gazette," tariff item 193a as it appears in the said schedule at the time of the publication of the said order shall be repealed and the provisions of tariff item 193b shall be substituted therefor.

Apparently, this means Australia will have 4 cents per lb. preference over peanuts from other countries.

AUSTRALIA'S PREFERENCE

TARIFF.

The following produce from New Guinea and Papua is allowed into Australia duty free under a preference tariff brought into effect in 1924:

Fruits, viz., Citronmeyer, Litchi, Loquat, Apple, Paddock, Rambutan, Avocado, Macadamia, Sapote, Sapodilla, Abiu, Star-apple, Langsat, Imbul, Rana, Durian, Jaboticaba, Guava, Rato, pap, seedling, Pomegranate, and Jack fruit.

Spices, viz., nutmeg and mace, cardamom, ginger, green.

Grains and pulse, viz., Bengon bean, Mito, rice, Coconuts, whole.

Coconuts, pressed and unshelled.

Seeds, viz., Kapok and sesame.

Scotch Seas planters, contemplating the shipment of any kind of oil-bearing products to the London market, and desiring first-hand information regarding the market, could write to any of the leading agents there who handle oil-seeds. The following are two addresses:

J. M. Fischel & Co. (1931) Ltd., 36 Mining Lane, London, E.C.3, England.
Faupe, Hattman & Co. Ltd., Holland House, Bury Street, London, E.C.3, England.

The expenditure on education by the F.I.G. Government for 1929 amounted to £46,824. Prior to 1915, it amounted to only £3,000, and since then it has gradually increased to this present figure.

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The PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

Page Five

GOLDFIELDS LABOUR

Generally Satisfactory

PROBLEM OF DISCIPLINE

It is estimated that there are now 1,200 native labourers employed on and about the Morobe goldfields. These natives have been recruited mostly from the Sepik and Markham Valleys and are generally of a good type. There are also a few Kavieng natives and a number have been brought from Rabaul to act as house servants. There are very few Dukas.

A strict system of inspection is followed, and it is generally conceded by the Administration that the native labourers are being well treated by the gold mining companies.

The problem of feeding these labourers is a serious one, because all goods have to be transported from the coast to the goldfields by aeroplane. However, in the past year or two, the companies have started very extensive gardens and plantations, where increasingly large quantities of native foods are being produced. The country in and about the goldfields, although very rough and broken, is also very fertile, and vegetables, etc., grow luxuriantly.

There is a good deal of anxiety on the part of the goldfield employers in regard to the maintenance of discipline among the labourers. The policy of the Administration, as pointed out in last issue, is to maintain discipline by a kind of moral suasion; no employer is allowed to inflict corporal punishment, the offending native must be brought before an administration officer and presented with, if guilty, be sent to goal, or, as it is termed, "given a spin in the calaboose."

This method of maintaining discipline among natives is regarded by employers with the contempt it deserves. These New Guinea tribesmen do not understand moral suasion, or anything of the sort, and official kindness is regarded by them as weakness. The result is that employers find it very difficult to suppress cheekiness and insolence, and there is no doubt that some of them have their own methods of enforcing white man's discipline.

On account of the lack of authority allowed to employers, there has been a great deal of desertion among goldfield labourers. Parties of eight or ten at a time disappear into the bush and make down towards Salamaua. When they are caught, they are solemnly reproved by the Administration and sent to the calaboose for varying periods. There is no such thing as permanent chastisement. The native quite enjoys the calaboose—regular food and not excessive work.

The employer receives him back eventually, cheekier and more undisciplined than ever. He receives no compensation for the loss of his man's services for two or three weeks or months, as the case may be.

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THE BELL APPLE

Luscious Fiji Fruit

SHOULD COMMAND WIDE SALE

THERE is no greater delicacy among all the tropical fruits that grow in the Fiji Islands, than the delectable bell apple.

As the name signifies, the shape of this fruit is not unlike a bell, as it hangs suspended from the vine. Originally introduced from the West Indies, it is now growing wild all over Viti Levu, and it is a prolific bearer. Though not intensely cultivated, it has been proved, when nurtured, to give a yield beyond all expectations.

The fruit closely resembles a passion fruit, as it grows under similar conditions, on a vine, and the flower is much the same. The fruit, itself, is exactly the same size as the ordinary passion-fruit; but, when ripe, it is of a rich yellow, with a soft, leathery skin, smooth, and like velvet. In its green state, it can hardly be distinguished from the passion-fruit.

The contents of this yellow case are identical with that of the passion-fruit; only, with the bell apple, the flavour is very much more rich, and sweeter, and more juicy. The flavour has more of the richness of the grenadilla, and is a fruit salad on its own.

So attractive are these little yellow pods to the eye of ubiquitous Indian boys that, even in their wild state, where the vines climb all over the trees, they are continually assailed, and are pulled off and eaten almost as fast as they ripen. It is a difficult matter to ever find a vine with fruit hanging from it.

This fruit is rarely seen in the Suva shops, on account of its scarcity, and has been selling in Suva for 5d. each. It is only gathered in its wild state, and the demand for it for local consumption gives some indication of its possible marketable value in Australia and New Zealand. If there is a demand for the passion-fruit, banana or the grenadilla, then the bell apple would excel, it readily obtainable.

It is a hardy vine, and grows in Fiji under conditions which suggest that under cultivation it would flourish. It is not a soft fruit, and, with proper care, should be suitable of being transported for a considerable distance from its tropical home.

although he has paid substantial money to have him recruited.

Fortunately the administration officers on the goldfields up to date have been broadminded, sensible men, who thoroughly understand New Guinea conditions; and they have assisted the employers of labour by co-operating with them in a reasonable way in maintaining discipline while, at the same time, conscientiously discharging their official duty in seeing that labourers are not harshly or unjustly treated.

The result has been that on the whole native labour conditions on the goldfields have been satisfactory. There has been a good deal of petty theft and much desertion; but, as against that, the great majority of the natives have behaved themselves and there has been no suggestion of offences against the few white women on the goldfields.

BANZAI!

Plan to Penetrate South Seas

ON JAPAN'S BEHALF

AN article, urging that the time has come when Japan should commence the commercial penetration of the South Sea Islands, with a view to paving the way to the settlement in the Pacific Groups and Territories of her large surplus population, is published in a newspaper called The New Freedom, a copy of which has been kindly sent to us by a Sydney merchant.

This is a weekly journal published in Honolulu. It is written in aggressive fashion, and its main purpose seems to be to attack American and British interests.

The writer, in fantastic fashion, urges Japan immediately to set about the establishment of a chain of stores throughout the Pacific groups, devoted mainly to the purchase of copra. It is suggested that, at the same time, factories might be established in Japan for the purpose of making soap and otherwise disposing of the copra from the South Seas.

It is suggested that Japan should commence operations at Suva, and at that point purchase all the copra and trochus available in the Fijian group. Says the writer: "In order to save both time and loss, it would be advisable to take advantage of the experience of white firms on the spot and, wherever they maintain a branch store, to follow suit."

The writer then expresses his belief that Japan should give similar attention in Papua, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, New Britain and the adjacent groups. All he says, offer good fields for Japanese enterprise; but every group should be occupied by Japan.

The article says that Japan, in order to properly control the South Sea Islands trade, should establish a special bureau, to function as a sort of central office, and a main function would be to assist all registered Japanese stores with a subsidy on all goods purchased by them. It would also attend to the adequate stocking of such stores.

An inter-islands fleet of at least 20 vessels, with a cruising speed of from 9 to 16 knots, fitted with Diesel engines, would also be necessary. There would be a certain number of vessels allotted to each group to maintain communication with the various branch stores; and it is suggested that three of the main ports, where vessels could lie up in hurricane seasons, would be Suva, Vavau and Port Vila. It would be necessary says this ingenious writer, to set up fuel stations at these ports, and storage or four tankers of moderate size would be required to supply the storage tanks of benzine and kerosene.

The article deals with the plan in detail. It is explained that each store must be managed by a well-educated Japanese, with a knowledge of the English language, and that each station must be equipped with wireless, capable of maintaining communication with Japan.

The writer concludes:—"Should the project be taken up in the usual thorough-going Japanese manner, there can be but little doubt that the white trader of the islands now operating in the South Seas would in a few years have to retire from business and leave a fair field for the Japanese and daughters of Nippon. Banzai!"

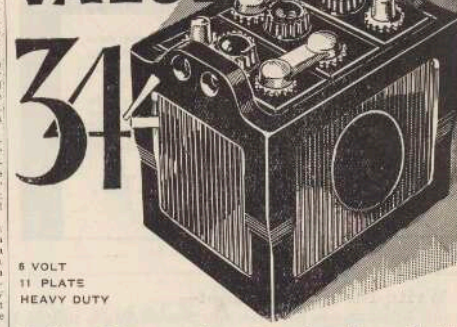
There is not much doubt that the article was written by a semi-lunatic, perfectly ignorant of conditions in the South Seas. It is amusing—and it is also interesting as an example of the kind of rubbish that may find its way into print, even in a place so closely connected with the South Sea Islands as is Honolulu.

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A Woman's Experiences in the Solomon Islands Earthquakes

Written for *The Pacific Islands Monthly* by Mrs. Kathleen D. Bignell, of Fulaokora, Ysabel, B.S.I.

THE earthquakes which have disturbed the equilibrium of the Solomons lately were felt more severely in some places than others. The mainland newspapers doubtless have been full of the news and we, who are actually in the islands, will not hear many details until the next Matarani returns from Sydney. The newspapers will be sure to describe wharves being destroyed, villages swept away, stores damaged, etc., but the more intimate details of every day life will be overlooked.

I would like to describe to you how it actually and personally affected me, an ordinary woman householder on Ysabel, owner of all the little household gods that help to make our lives happy and pleasant down here.

We live on a hill, overlooking the sea on three sides, with bush and plantation on the fourth. The house is large and rambling, and built of three-centimetre walls, roof, and European wood floors; kitchen and

gingerly entered the house. It is impossible to adequately describe the chaos. Not a thing was standing. Cupboard doors had opened and capsized all their contents onto the floor. China and broken glass, jars, flowers, water, ornaments, lamps, etc., all lay in a mudstained heap. We gathered up what was left.

I was not frightened to feel sorrow at the time. I was positively numb from the feeling of calamity. All my treasures and collections of years ruthlessly destroyed in one and a half minutes, and through no fault of mine.

The kitchen was worse than the house, because all the store-cupboard supplies had joined the general melee. Buns, jugs, tins of sago and tea capsized and screw everywhere.

We would pick up a few things; then another tremor would come and we'd all rush outside; and so on, till 12.30 p.m. Then, as business must proceed as usual, we ate a counter lunch, and we went down to the



The charming interior of the bungalow on Ysabel Island, B.S.I., wherein occurred the earthquake damage as described in the accompanying article by Mrs. Bignell.

bathroom of iron, with cement floors and large iron water-tanks outside. The household consists of my husband, myself, my daughter of 15, and a lady visitor and child.

On Saturday, October 3, my husband intended leaving for Tulagi at noon in our small launch "Tajia." Tulagi is 50 miles away, and it was necessary to go for mail and stores. We were about to sit down to lunch, which was ready laid. I was hurriedly finishing off a letter at my desk, my husband was in his office, and the others elsewhere in the house. It was an ordinary day of light wind and sunshine, though excessively hot, with a white mist hanging low.

All of a sudden the house gave a lurch, then shook violently. We all rushed outside onto the lawn. Margaret, my daughter, who had been in the kitchen, picked up the roof's little girl of 23 years and joined us. We could barely stand upright. The house was being heaved about and the noise of falling articles and furniture was appalling. I could see, through the window, the silver and glass falling off the table onto the floor—crash, crash and rattle! It was impossible even to think.

The sound of rushing water puzzled us for a minute. Then we realised it must be our water-tanks breaking open. All this time we were staggering about on the lawn. Like drunken people. The two cooks were lying on the ground, vomiting. The most wonderful sight of all was to see the great trees below us, twisting and bending like reeds, crashing down, from no apparent cause. That first shock must have lasted one and a half minutes. Then we

leaped to see my husband and the "Tajia" off. I had mixed feelings at being left on a rocking island, but as Margaret said, it was more than a compliment to our bravery and intelligence. So I leaped my shoulders and returned to our poor house.

The quakes continued, and we began to feel rather panicky once more; so we decided to leave the house to rock, and visit our neighbour, three miles away, and see how he fared. We changed into riding kit between shakes, got the ponies, who were wild with fright, and rode down.

Our neighbour had left his house also, and was writing in his leaf-built office, the idea being that leaf houses cannot fall. We were all pleased to see one another and exchanged "colanities." We asked him to return with us, as a man about the house in an earthquake is somewhat of a comfort. He rode back with us and fell off twice. I don't know if the earthquakes were repeated, but it caused a laugh and being a wonderfully good sport, he laughed with us and rode again. That evening, at about one and a half only, left from the wreck, until dawn lightened the sky. It was hopeless to try and sleep.

From Saturday till Tuesday we had no quakes—two severe ones at the start and one very severe one on Tuesday. Luckily, I still had my few belongings on the floor, so nothing more was broken. The damage to house and property works out at about £70 to £100. As Kipling suggests, we will have to "stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools."

COOK ISLANDS

Conditions in Group

From Our Own Correspondent

RAROTONGA, October 29.

IDEAL weather conditions have prevailed here for several months past.

Except for occasional light showers, there has been no rainfall to speak of. Very dry weather was experienced during the month of August, and by the middle of September the lack of rain had begun to make itself felt, particularly in regard to the island water service. The position was relieved by heavy showers over-night on Friday, September 25. Drought conditions have been felt at the island of Mauke, but recent rains have replenished the water supply there.

Except for a mild epidemic of influenza, which appears to have abated, the health conditions here at present are good. Dr. Ellison, Chief Medical Officer, has been unparagoned in the matter of medical attention, both locally and at the islands of the Lower Group.

Mr. C. R. Willocks returned to Rarotonga from Mauke by the schooner "Tara Tapora," on October 7, after carrying out blasting operations in connection with reef passages at Mauke and Mangaia. No information is available as to whether the work is to be continued.

Early in the year Mr. Linton, of the New Zealand Lands and Survey Department, proceeded north to the

islands of Penrhyn and Manihiki, to carry out survey work for Land Court purposes. There has been no schooner service to these islands for a month or two. Mrs. Linton, who accompanied her husband, is practically the only white woman at Penrhyn and Manihiki. Mr. and Mrs. Linton are expected back before the end of the year.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

The schooner "Tara" has returned to Rarotonga, from Papeete, calling at Mauke on the way. After unloading general cargo here she went across to Atiu and returned on the 11th with a cargo of oranges for the New Zealand market.

The schooner "Tagua" is expected to bring a further load of oranges from Mauke, for transshipment to the R.M.S. "Monowai," leaving here on October 12 for Wellington. No particulars are available as to the number of cases which are to go forward to New Zealand this trip.

END OF FOOTBALL SEASON

With the exception of the representative trials, the local Rugby season is finished. Owing mainly to superior combination and to the able boot of Piri Tapareti in putting goals from all parts of the field, Turapa ran out the losers of the "A" Grade.

The Turapa "B" team came out on top also and collected the Junior Cup after some exciting matches. Both teams are to be congratulated on their wins. The other teams in the series have their own idea as to what the result will be next year.

A representative team from Rarotonga is to try conclusions with a team from Atiu and possibly Atia.

BULLAREN VISITS PAPEETE.

The Delcel ship, "Bullaren," arrived in Papeete, from San Francisco, on October 7, bringing general cargo as well as a large portion of the mail usually carried by the Union S.S. Co.

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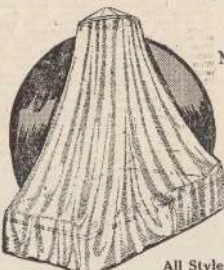
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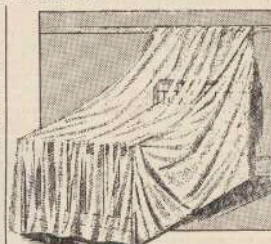
MOSQUITO NETS

HOOP STYLE MOSQUITO NETS. These Nets are well made, with ample fullness, strong hoop, and Calico top, and fitted with tapes ready for hanging. SINGLE BED SIZE, 90in. drop. In White Net. Six qualities.

9/11

All Styles of Nets kept in stock.

For Single Beds—	9/11	11/9	12/11	13/11	15/11	18/6
90in. Drop ..	13/9	14/6	15/11	16/11	18/11	21/6
For Three-quarter Beds—						
104in. Drop ..	15/9	16/11	18/6	20/3	23/9	25/11
For Double Beds—						
126in. Drop ..	18/6	19/11	21/9	22/9	26/9	30/9
140in. Drop ..	21/11	23/9	25/12	28/9	32/6	36/9
Single Bed Size, 90in. Drop, No. 7 Quality, Price, each ..	15/6					
Three-quarter Bed Size, No. 7 Quality, Price, each ..	19/6					
Double Bed Size, No. 7 Quality, Price, each ..	24/-					
Hoop Nets, No. 8 Quality, Dark Green, Fadoles, 17/11						
Single Bed Size, Price, each ..	23/6					
Three-quarter Bed Size, Price, each ..	29/6					
Double Bed Size, Price, each ..	35/6					
Single Bed Size, Price, each ..	19/6					
Three-quarter Bed Size, Price, each ..	25/6					



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DOUBLE BED SIZE, 160in. Drop, 23/6	25/11	28/6	31/6	33/6	39/11
THREE-QUARTER BED SIZE, 160in. Drop, 19/11	21/6	23/6	24/6	29/9	34/9

TERMS STRICTLY CASH. PRICES QUOTED ARE F.O.R. SYDNEY.

GRACE BROS LTD BROADWAY SYDNEY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1931

The PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

Page Nine



The landing station at Suva, Melauia, F.S.I., which felt the full force of the earthquake. The Matson Company's buildings (shown above) and wharf (on right hand corner) were severely damaged.

Drought Breaks in Tahiti

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPETE, October 8. THE long drought, which has afflicted Tahiti and the neighbouring islands for some months past, appears to have broken at last, and some nice rains have fallen during the past week. Nevertheless, the country is still extremely dry and much more rain is required to restore the brown hillsides to their usual greenness and set the watercourses flowing at normal capacity.

New Caledonian Sport

Enormous Herds of Deer

Chance for Riflemen

THE movement in the exchange (both Australian and sterling) during the last 12 months, has thrown away all New Caledonia's plans for building up a substantial tourist traffic between Australia and Noumea. But when the Australian returns a little of its value in French eyes, it may be that Australian sportsmen will recognize that in New Caledonia—the great Pacific Island which lies nearest to their eastern coast—there is a sportsman's paradise.

New Caledonia is literally overrun by Sumatran deer—a well grown species that provides excellent sport and a first-class food. Enormous numbers of these animals range over the New Caledonian coastal plains and uplands, and they do such destruction to plantations and pastures that the majority of the bigger planters and pastoralists regularly employ deer-killers, whose job is to keep the animals away.

Captain R. W. Tate (son of a former administrator of Western Samoa), who was recently a planter in New Caledonia, informs us that at a place near Bouloupari, Ouaninie, he saw not less than 60,000 head in one herd, in a huge incredible moving mass of deer. Not long ago, exasperated planters in Southern New Caledonia organised a drive, and thousands of deer were compelled to run across a narrow isthmus, on either side of which a shallow gully had been placed. In this way, thousands of animals were slain and numbers of natives were employed skinning them. Receipts from the sales of hides more than paid the cost of organising the drive.

The French administration welcomes and assists anyone prepared to shoot the animals and will provide them with free ammunition. There are hotels scattered throughout the Colony, but the ideal way to undertake the sport would be for a party of men to supply themselves with camping equipment and cars (which are to be had in Noumea) and spend a few weeks in the back country.

There is also excellent fishing in New Caledonia. Roquet, a salt-water fish, is caught freely off the coast; while the rivers are very well stocked with a good fresh-water fish called groyeux, running about 1½ to 2 pounds in weight. They are similar to the freshwater fish found in the streams of Samoa, and they will take a dry fly and provide magnificent sport.

Robbery at Mauke

Cook Is. Trading Co.'s Loss

From Our Own Correspondent.

ON the night of September 18, or early the following morning, the Cook Island Trading Company's store at Mauke (Cook Islands) was broken into and the safe and contents were stolen. The safe is said to have contained £88/4/8.

A back window of the store was forced and the storehouse door was left open. On September 19, the safe was found about a mile away by some women, washing in a lagoon swamp. The safe had been cut into several pieces, an axe apparently having been used. So far no trace of the thief has been found.

A TERRIFYING EARTHQUAKE

Solomon Islands Visitation

THE earthquake in the Solomon Islands between October 3 and 11, with attendant tidal waves, did most damage on Malaita and San Christoval; but the quakes were felt severely on the neighbouring islands of Florida and Guadalcanal.

The first and heaviest disturbance, apparently, occurred early on Sunday morning, October 4, and it seemed to centre off the south-east coast of San Christoval. The latter island was badly shaken and a great tidal wave shortly afterwards swept upon its south-east coast, submerging 14 villages and rendering 700 people homeless. No details are available, but it is estimated that 10 natives were drowned. Messrs. J. Doe and J. Wilson, of the South Seas Evangelical Mission, at villages 15 miles apart, were caught in the rush of water and carried inland, but both miraculously escaped.

The whole of the southern islands felt frequent tremors during the ensuing week, and on Saturday, October 11, there came another great shock, which centred near Suva, on Malaita. The Malaita Company's concrete wharf was completely destroyed, and most of its buildings (the majority being staff huts) were shaken off their foundations. Practically all European houses were damaged. Landslides occurred everywhere throughout Malaita. Some of the native villages, particularly Takakala, were damaged and a number of natives were killed.

Fortunately, the chief town, Tulagi, escaped most of the visitation, but considerable damage was done to buildings there.

The earthquakes at times were terrifying in the extreme. The whole country rocked, and it was impossible to stand upright. Trees fell, huge landslides occurred, enormous boulders came crashing down through the bush, and the bed of the ocean moved so that rocks rose and fell.

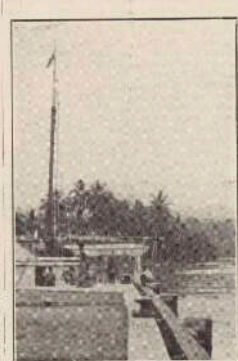
The houses of Dr. Fox at Pawa, on Ugi Island, and of Rev. Mason, at Pau, Malaita, were partly destroyed. The Roman Catholic School at Wainoni Bay, San Christoval was damaged. Water and sewerage services at the Government residence, Kirikiria, San Christoval, were destroyed.

At Tulagi, Messrs. W. R. Carpenter and Co.'s wharf was damaged and left in shambles. The wharf, which was the berthing of ships, the floor of Messrs. Burns, Philps' wharf store at Makimoko, situated. It is estimated that the harbour bottom at Tulagi has risen 10 feet. Similar coastal disturbances are being reported from all parts of the group. The salt water islands constructed by the natives of the Langa Langa lagoon, near Auki, were shaken down, and the natives thrown into the water.

Tulagi experienced a violent shock at 11.20 a.m. on October 19, which damaged the contents of the stores, and of the hotel kept by Mr. Masher. The quakes continued for 18 hours.

and were the worst since the Roman Catholic Church at Yasali was destroyed in 1924.

Mr. E. Palmer had a terrifying experience in his auxiliary schooner, *Mendana*, at Marauanga, off the south-eastern coast of San Christoval, at daylight on October 4. Suddenly he saw great landlides ashore and the water running back off the beach. Great rocks appeared above the water of the bay, and a tremendous submarine disturbance occurred around the vessel. The water rushed back ashore in the form of a great tidal



The Malaita Company's Wharf, at Suva, which was practically destroyed by the earthquake.

wave, boiled and rushed around the schooner, while patches of rock and sand appeared. The schooner miraculously got clear away to sea.

The Resident Commissioner left immediately for the more seriously affected portions of the group, and no official report of the damage has yet reached Australia.

Rabaul's Electric Light

Ready Early in 1932

From Our Own Correspondent.

RABAU, October 20. WE understand that Messrs. Danochue and Carter, consulting engineers, of Sydney, who sponsored the Rabaul and District Electricity Supply Co. Ltd., formed for the purpose of providing Rabaul with electric light and power, are well ahead with their preparations for the installation of the plant.

It is hoped that the current will be available in March or April next.

WHERE PEARLS ARE CHEAP

There is no money in the Trobriand Islands, that large group east of Papua, which has just been visited by Mr. A. J. Vogan, F.R.G.S.

"Payment," says Mr. Vogan, "is made in tobacco—and American tobacco at that! If Australian tobacco were used as currency, a great impetus would be given to Australian trade. As there is no sale just now for pearls or copra, there is no tobacco; and the natives will sell anything at any price to get it."

"I saw pearls in the Trobriands that, four years ago, would have fetched from £200 to £400 in London, sold for 2/- worth or 2/- worth of tobacco. As pearls will regain their position in a few years—or so I am assured by fashion experts—something ought to be done about it. Perhaps something will, but the Trobriands, although so fertile and populous, are far off the beaten track."

NEW GOLD COMPANY

N.Z. Capital Interested

Sluicing in Upper Waria, N.G.

NEGOTIATIONS have been completed between a New Zealand Syndicate and the Waria Syndicate of New Guinea to work and exploit six dredging and sluicing leases on the Waria River, which drains the Morobe goldfields country.

According to estimates only £24,000 will be required for this preliminary company to work the concessions. It is anticipated that later a bigger company will be promoted to carry on the work. Using only 15 to 20 heads of water pressure, it is estimated that the conservative value of fourpence a cubic yard will produce a handsome profit for the company for at least 35 years.

Mr. A. Morris Dunkley, of Wellington, N.Z., who visited New Guinea on behalf of the New Zealand syndicate, has stated that the Upper Waria contains auriferous terraces similar to the Shotover River in the South Plains of New Zealand, which, for many years was successfully and profitably worked. He considered that alluvial sluicing was the easiest, the quickest and cheapest method of mining in the world.

WHALE OIL

May Be Controlled by New Convention

A special League of Nations Committee of international jurists and experts met at Geneva on September 8 and agreed on the final text of a convention for the international control of the whaling industry. Most of the nations represented there immediately appended their signatures.

The object of the convention is to prevent the extinction of whales by wholesale, indiscriminate slaughter, such as has been going on in the Antarctic for some years. Such agreements usually are quite worthless; but if this one should be observed, it may have an important effect on the coconut planters of the world, as the enormous over-production of whale oil by Norwegian whalers in the Antarctic between 1927 and 1931 was one of the chief factors in bringing down copra to the calamitous prices which were ruling last August.



"STEAMER-DAY" ON PORT MORESBY WHARF, PAPUA.

PACIFIC SHIPPING WAR

Governments Take a Hand

Political Considerations

THE agitation against the Matson Line of steamers, which has been going on ever since the Americans announced the introduction of new liners, and which became more active when the Matson Line added Auckland to its itinerary, is now beginning to bear political fruit.

The first developments occurred in New Zealand, where the Prime Minister was repeatedly asked whether he thought it fair that this American subsidised line should be permitted to engage, without restrictions, in the traffic between the British countries of Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. The New Zealand Prime Minister side-stepped the question for some time. Obviously, he did not wish to be mixed in a dispute or struggle between the powerful institutions affected. He pointed out that nothing very much could be done to discourage the Americans, unless it were done jointly by the four Governments concerned—namely, Britain, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia.

However, there has recently been a further important development. A deputation representing the maritime unions has made very strong and urgent representations to the Federal Government of Australia, insisting that something must be done to check the expansion of the Matson Line. The arguments placed before the Government included the following:

- (1) The Matson Line is more or less directly subsidised by the American Government.
- (2) British ships are not permitted freely to engage in all-American maritime traffic.
- (3) British ships are not permitted to engage in the traffic between Honolulu and San Francisco.
- (4) The United States Government places its subsidies first and foremost for the Matson line into the United States of the primary products of Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

The deputation therefore asked why the powerful Matson Line should be permitted untrammelled to engage in the important maritime traffic between Fiji, New Zealand and Australia.

The Federal Government has announced that it regards the position thus placed before it as one of extreme importance; and it has given the impression that it is taking up the matter vigorously and at once with the British, New Zealand and Fijian Governments.

The Matson Line, for many years, has been growing steadily in strength and influence. It did particularly well in the boom years of 1924-1929, when the tremendous trade drive made by American manufacturers in Australia and New Zealand gave it a huge cargo business. It is now setting out to capture the passenger traffic, and two magnificent liners are shortly to come on to the run. The present itinerary is San Francisco, Honolulu, Pago Pago, Suva, Auckland and Sydney, and back by the same route. Development in regard to the Matson Line therefore, are of great importance to the islands groups of the Central Pacific.

If the four British Governments mentioned are to act jointly, in a policy of making the South Pacific Territory more or less of a close preserve for British shipping, it is likely that the Islands Territories, other than Fiji and Samoa, will be affected. The questions raised may possibly embrace the operations of the German N.D.L. steamer, *Bismarck*, and the activities in the out-ports of New Guinea have been a source of irritation to Australian-owned shipping companies. There appears to be no objection by British shipping companies against regular calls at main ports by steamers of foreign lines; but there does seem to be a very strong objection to foreign-owned ships engaging irregularly in the carrying trade as between British South Sea ports—and this is the gravamen of the charge made against foreign shipping companies in the particular cases under note.

Killing Koster's Curse

Thrips Aid Fiji Settlers

MESSRS. N. and R. Faddy, two settlers in Fiji, recently advised the *Polynesian Gazette*, Levuka, that the thrips liberated at Tallevu were doing great work in exterminating Koster's Curse.

They stated that two colonies of thrips were liberated and the have extended to millions and are spreading rapidly. The thrips can be observed eating the stem, and they kill it very quickly, but time will have to elapse before it can be ascertained whether extermination is completely effected.

These two settlers are of the opinion that the thrips are doing even greater work than was expected of them. "We are all very enthusiastic about them," they added, "and we think it will prove a greater miracle than the Leviana."

GOLDFIELDS OF NEW GUINEA

Information supplied by one who has been in close touch with the fields for past eight years.

PHOTOGRAPHS:
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SALAMATA
TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA

NORFOLK ISLAND TRADE

THE following are the Norfolk Island Customs figures for September, 1931, compared with the figures for September, 1930:

IMPORTS.			
	From Aust.	From N.Z.	
1930	£1,238 19 0	£2,379 5 0	
1931	£252 9 0	935 13 0	

EXPORTS.

	To Aust.	To N.Z.	
1930	£801 15 0	£801 0 0	
1931	808 9 0	850 10 0	

FRESH FRUITS—VEGETABLES

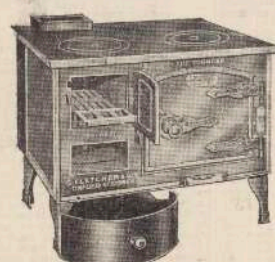
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THE SOLOMONS

Plea for Reduced Administrative Costs

From Our Own Correspondent
TULAGI, October 20.

THE annual Advisory Council meeting is timed to go off on October 28, when our four "good men and true," representing planters and settlers, will again endeavour to bring about reduced administrative costs as opposed to increased taxation, to meet a dwindling revenue.

This last trip, the "Montez" brought in only about 400 tons of cargo and 15 passengers, so something simply must be done to "balance the budget," and as the truth of the assertion that "you cannot get blood out of a stone" cannot be denied, it would seem that, outside of an unexpected boom in produce markets, administrative reduction is the one sane remedy.

Strange as it may seem, a section of the community really favours increased taxation, and suggests an income tax, but as it is true that "there is one born every minute" and "two married officers," it is always possible to find advocates of foot-warmer in budget, or some such pleasantry. Such a suggestion can only be taken as an ill-considered "twipe" at the creditor firms, whose balance sheets are about the only ones showing a credit balance these days, and it goes without saying that any handicap placed upon this industry must surely be passed along to their clients in one form or another.

The "Montez" is to be taken off the run after three last trips, but if we can retain the "Mataram" we will not think ourselves hardly done by. Please God and R.P., we are not to descend to, say, the "Makambo." News of a 16% improvement in the parity price of copra, due possibly to improved freight rates overseas, has been received with much thanks, and as the market seems on the mend, several planters have taken a risk, and ordered an extra tin of cigarettes.

INCREASED FEES ON GUNS

In furtherance of the amended regulation whereby we now pay a license fee of 10/- per annum, per gun, in place of 10/- for any number of guns, the Tulagi sleuths have been hot upon the scent of unlicensed arms or anything that looks like one, and those who did not make a practice of keeping up with amended regulations are apt to find themselves sentenced to the "utmost rigour of the law." It is to be hoped that the extra revenue derived therefrom will not be offset by a reluctance on the part of parents to import Christmas stockings for their children, out of fear that they may contain pop-guns.

HALF-CASTLE'S HEAVY SENTENCE

That "the law is a haas" may not be true in all cases; agreed; but the recent sentencing of a young half-caste woman to three years' gaol for breaking and entering a Chinaman's trade store during the owner's absence, is strongly felt to be an argument in favour of the assertion—especially in view of the circumstances surrounding this unfortunate's behaviour.

A half-caste deserves the sympathy of the community under any consideration—particularly a female, since she is more or less despised by both branches of her parental species. She is usually considered "fair game" by a certain type of "white" who is ill-overburdened with consideration of her well-being. If such sentences as the above were passed along to this class of individual, perhaps the ends of justice would better be served.

New Broadcast

At Townsville

With Pacific Radius

12

A NEW broadcasting station, which will serve many of the Pacific Islands, was opened at Townsville (A.W.A.) Ltd., on October 5.

The radius of the new station, which is known as 4TO, Townsville, will embrace Thursday Island, Papua, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, New Hebrides and New Caledonia, and it is quite possible that it will be picked up in Fiji and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

The inaugural programme was a very successful one. Mr. E. T. Fish, managing director of the A.W.A., gave a short address from Sydney, by phone, his words being broadcast over the air.

During the evening, congratulatory telegrams were received from listeners at Thursday Island, Pinders Island, Malak (New Guinea), Samarai (Papua) and other places.

Station 4TO is of the very latest type, having been designed and manufactured by Amalgamated Wireless, in accordance with the most modern principles. It principally consists of a length of 256.4 metres (1170 kilocycles) and has a power of 200 watts in the aerial.

News From Norfolk Island

Giut of Strange Eggs—H.M.A.S. Canberra Strikes Bad Weather—Big Fruit Shipment for Auckland

From Our Own Correspondent
NORFOLK IS., October 22.

IF all the hens on Norfolk Island went on strike for the next month and cackled not over a single egg, we should still have custards and cakes and so on, although with a faint, quaint taste, as though the cook had forgotten what she was making and had dropped in a casual scattering of hitherto sauces.

For this is the whaley bird scene, when from some unknown northern shore, the continuous plaintive arrival of a small, sooty seabird, known elsewhere, I believe, as the Sooty Petrel, heralds the appearance of schools of whales and sports of rily-poly porpoises and dolphins.

Uttering a hoarse and querulous cry, the birds make unerringly for Phillip Island, a bare, bright rock, a mile or so off shore, and there nest for a crowded month; and, day after day, when the weather permits, happy hands of pickers cross the wavy waters and return with thousands and thousands of egg-laid eggs. They are about the size of a plover's egg, with a greenish, creamy shell, blotchy with brown and grey, and they are excellent as omelette or scrambled eggs.

For this month, too, the whales frolic in huge innocence and safety, while island elders tell us of other days when their oil was a golden harvest of the sea and whaling was a staple industry. Rusty old try-pots still lurk in back yards, serving as emergency tanks or watering troughs for stock. But the whaling days are gone for ever, no matter how, proving, broaching, sounding, sending up tautening columns of breath-blown spray.

CANBERRA'S VISIT

At dawn on Saturday morning, October 2, our lonely waters were invaded by H.M.A.S. "Canberra," flagship of the Australian Squadron, homeward bound to Sydney, after a Pacific cruise. She intended to stay until Monday morning, but after the appointing weather throughout the weekend, a real gale arose towards midday, and the "Canberra" and the "Canberra" did not think it safe to risk our open roadstead through the night.

A great programme had been arranged and a very pleasant time was enjoyed by all who participated or entertained the various ranks, but on the whole the visit was not such a success as we had hoped, on account of the weather. The Commodore left behind a very courteous message of appreciation, but we felt we could have left a much happier impression of the island on this unit of the navy if the sun had shone and the sea sparkled as they usually do.

DEATH OF HIKURANGI'S MATE

Just as the little Hikurangi, from Auckland, dropped anchor off the Canoe landing, late on the evening of October 4, the mate, a middle-aged man with a wife and family, fell dead on the deck. He had complained of feeling unwell on the passage over and his dying young son, Captain George, had taken over his duties, in order to relieve him as far as possible.

Early next morning, our Government Medical Officer, Dr. Lawrence, went aboard and certified the death as a consequence of heart disease, and the Captain then steamed out beyond the three-mile limit and buried the body at sea. Some folk ashore thought it both heartless and extraordinary conduct, when we have a comely sailor and kind and reverent hands would have borne him to rest and strewn his bed with flowers. But, in the first place, a sailor almost invariably prefers to sleep for ever in the element he chose in life; and in the second, a funeral affair would

EUCRASIA BANISHES ALL DESIRE FOR DRINK

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1931

The PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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THURSDAY ISLAND PRAYS
TO FASHION GODS

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS., October 29.
TROCHUS shell prices have dropped again to a price that allows very little profit, and they probably will remain low until Japan and China settle their differences.

As an offset to this, beche-de-mer prices—chalk fish in particular—have risen slightly. A good deal of high quality beche-de-mer has been coming in lately, mixed lots fetching an all-round price of about £40 per ton—little enough when the expenses are taken into consideration.

There are rumours that new uses, or rather, old uses revived, are being found for pearl shell. Paris is said to be in favour of large buttons on its women folk. This fashion worked out very well for Thursday Island many years ago, and it is to be hoped history will repeat itself.

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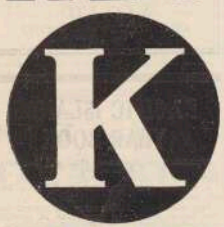
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FIJI PLANTERS

The Problem of Carrying On
PLEA FOR MORATORIUM

Written for The Pacific Islands Monthly, by
R. C. DAVY, Koroivua Estate, Fiji, F.M.S.

It's all very well to write reviews,
Carry umbrellas and keep dry shoes,
And say what everyone's saying here, etc.
(With apologies to "Laser")

IT'S all very well for those "Arm Chair Critics" to sit back in their swing back office chairs in Suva, and elsewhere, and boast of F.M.S. comparative prosperity. Where is it? I will admit that in some quarters it is not being felt so badly, but we are certainly "getting it in the neck."

Just like other countries. It is the planter community who are feeling the business depression and financial stringency. It is they who know how prosperous the Colony is at present.

With copra in the doldrums and a new low level in price (£45/- delivered in Levuka—our nearest market) there is "nothing left for father" after paying labour and shipping costs. Is this what is called prosperity?

Let those who criticise come and try it themselves. Although the cost of labour has been reduced, copra is not a paying proposition at present. Labour can be procured from 1/2- per day in 2/-, with and without food. In fact, the natives are glad of work at any price.

Nothing at present seems to take the place of copra, as it is a permanent crop and always coming on. Banana seems to be uncertain, as there is no knowing when the market will be started, when all those that have been planted start bearing. They all say "plant bananas," but if everyone plants, with the before mentioned result, down comes the price. At the time of writing good prices are being realised. Then, again, we are very near our hurricane season, which now commences in November, when they will be blown down. Bananas are very easily damaged, even in sheltered places.

There are numerous noxious weeds, viz. Pandanus, which we have to contend with. We have also uncontrolled animals, such as cattle, pigs, and mongooses, and in some places, dogs, which have gone wild. Cattle seem to get out of hand very quickly in this country if not properly dealt with. Pigs have been here since Captain Cook, and they are a great pest. In some places, and on some plantations, it is quite impossible to plant anything. Before root foods, such as yams, taro and sweet potatoes, are properly formed and ripe, the pigs clean up the lot. They are particularly fond of taro and sweet potatoes, and the taro and sweet potatoes are usually lost on the men.

The mongoose was originally brought in to destroy the rats; but now fraternise with them instead.

Wild pigs have also been known to husk coconuts and crack open the inside shell with their teeth, and eat the kernel. I know one plantation where it is quite impossible to leave any bags of copra on the ground. The bags will be ripped open and the contents greedily devoured.

Last, but not least, there is the damage by rats. We seem to have been treated to a plague of them recently. A small area of maize was totally devoured, while green, and they destroy sweet potatoes (kumalas) by the ton, by gnawing them hollow.

It is all very well also for the Government and others to say "grow other crops," "go in for other things." Yes—but how and where is the money coming from to do all this extra planting? We have no agricultural bank where we can get an advance.

Our only alternative is to go to the merchants, who make us pay to the tune of 8 per cent. per annum.

The Government does not offer very much help. In many cases, however, it has reduced leasehold rentals by a third, and less in some cases. This, of course, is some help, but the balance still has to be paid. With the price of our main product—copra—down to what it is, how are we going to manage? Where are we to obtain the cash to meet our obligations?

Why not declare a moratorium? Those with freeholds, in many cases, have heavy mortgages and interest to pay, or are in debt to the merchants at 8 per cent. per annum.

Whether there is any truth in the rumour that New Zealand is going to impose a penny per lb. import duty on our bananas remains to be seen. This would just about settle

DICK ROCHE IS LOST

Famous N.G. Pioneer

HERO OF MANY EXPLOITS

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS., Nov. 1.

THE news of the mysterious disappearance of Mr. Dick Roche from his coconut plantation in Dutch New Guinea reached Thursday Island during October in a cable from a friend in Dobo. The next announcement, "Dick Roche missing fifty days; hopeless," caused universal regret.

So far, no further details have reached us; and whether Dick perished in his launch at sea, or in the jungle remains unknown, though the latter solution seems the more likely.

Outside of Merauke, right up to the boundary of British territory, the south-east part of Dutch New Guinea, can hardly be said to be under thorough administrative control. The temper of the native tribes inhabiting this part of the country, round the Benschard River and Java Creek, which Dick was in the habit of visiting, is not definitely known, but the fact that adjoining natives belonging to the British side of the border have given trouble of late makes it almost certain that the whole of this region is inclined to be hostile to white penetration.

Dick has had several close calls during his travels in Dutch New Guinea, having had to make fighting retreats from savages who resented intrusion into their domains on more than one occasion. Also, we know the proverb of the pioneer that went once too often to the well.

Dick will be greatly missed by people of all classes, who welcomed his regular visits here. No more interesting, not to say romantic, personality than the kindly ex-bird-shooter and planter lived in this district. Possessed of the true pioneering spirit, Dick struggled against odds or unwinning of the years, in and about the unknown Dutch territory.

When Birds of Paradise commanded sales in Europe, he was one of the foremost and most venturesome of those who embarked in the trade—in fact, in 1914, when prices were dropping, he held the distinction of being the only licensed European bird shooter in the world. The wild country which that solitary white man explored, the unknown rivers he ascended, the many tribes he got into touch with (many of whom had never before seen a white man), his contacts against fierce savages and relentless Nature, his many thrilling adventures by sea and land—all the moving tale of his life in the wild will now be lost. Dick was urged, many times, to write the story of his later years and, indeed, it would have been worth the telling.

Dick Roche was well known in Port Moresby, whence he set off in 1913, in the company of Mr. Jackson, a former partner, to a life of toil and adventure in the western (or Dutch) part of the great island. He came of warm-hearted Irish stock in New Zealand.

Mr. Roche's relatives live in Gore, Southland, New Zealand, and the editor of The Pacific Islands Monthly, who hails from the same town, tendered them his sincere sympathy and a tribute to one who was truly a pioneer of the Pacific.

the industry, with bananas out of the field of operations.

Things appear anything but encouraging and the planters' lot is not as easy as many think it is. So much for "prosperity." We are in a deep hole and in a very bad way, and unless help is forthcoming in some form or other, it will be an utter impossibility to carry on under the present circumstances.

The banks and firms should make a start in reducing their exorbitant interest charges and food prices. Commodity prices here have not been considerably reduced, and the retail price of essential produce practically remains the same. The price of soap should be reduced proportionately. Someone is benefiting from the low prices we receive for our copra.

The Government have been very hard pressed, but have done a lot in alleviating distress in many quarters. There is still quite a lot to be done, though. With the drought and the series of hurricanes and floods we have experienced, coupled with the business depression, our lot is not a happy one.

The finances of Fiji may be in a very sound condition, but we are certainly passing through one of the worst periods in history. When one reads overseas financial reports and finds that one bank made a profit of 31 millions, and a certain company paid 40 per cent. dividend and have had a "bad year," one wonders if it is not all for the shareholders, at the expense of the producer and planter.

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NEWS FROM NEW CALEDONIA

From Our Own Correspondent.

NOUMEA, November 4.—THE export tax on copra, exported from Wallis and Futuna Islands, has been increased as from September 1, 1931, to 45 francs per ton, or 10/- sterling. The old rate was 12.50 francs per ton, or 10/- sterling. It will be seen that an anomaly has been rectified.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON LEAVE

It was recently announced in the Conseil-General that no less than 20 Government officials were on leave at the present time in France.

Although the actual cost of maintaining them abroad is not available, it makes one think that some effort should be made to reduce expense of this nature by increasing the percentage of New Caledonians employed in

the Government service, and also insisting on holidays being taken either in New Caledonia, Australia or some of the neighbouring Pacific Islands.

LOAN FROM PARIS

There has, unfortunately, been a delay in receipt of the first instalment of the big loan to be accorded by the French Government to the Colony. Cahiss sent to Paris, asking for the money to be made available, have not so far received a reply.

It was anticipated making a start with the work on the Iles de la Moselle on the first of October, and by this means solve the local unemployment problem. Unfortunately, this object has not yet been achieved.

On the recommendation of the Governor of New Caledonia, Monsieur

Henri Segnart, Consul-General for Belgium, at Sydney, has been awarded the decoration of Commander of the Order of the Dragon of Annam.

PARIS COLONIAL EXHIBITION

In view of rumours having been circulated that the New Caledonian natives now taking part in the Colonial Exhibition at Paris were not receiving fair treatment, the Governor took the matter up with Paris.

As the result of the inquiries made it would appear that, generally speaking, the natives are satisfied with their treatment and are actively taking part in this great French Colonial demonstration. The few who are not satisfied with conditions at Paris will probably be repatriated this month.

NEW CALEDONIA'S ANNIVERSARY

September 24, 1931, was the 131st anniversary of the taking of possession by France of New Caledonia.

The usual celebrations took place. The attendances were rather less than usual, although the various functions were favoured with very fine weather. The gymnastic society gave a good demonstration and during the morning ten crack riders took part in the bicycle race. There was also foot racing and public games in the square. The Fanfare Scolaire gave a concert in the evening.

The celebrations on the following days, Saturday and Sunday, included a football match, a ball at the Town Hall, and also a large party for the children.

LEGION OF HONOUR

The popular Mayor of Noumea, Monsieur Varrier, was recently decorated by the French Government as a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, and in this connection has been receiving congratulations from his numerous friends.

NICKEL EXPORTS

For the half year ended 30th June, 1931, the exports totalled 2,432 tons as against 3,337 tons for the first half of 1930. In all 325 tons were shipped during the month of July last.

VISIT OF THE "CANBERRA"

Last month, Noumea received a visit from the Australian warship, "Canberra," with Commander Holbrook on board.

The Municipality and local citizens were at great pains to make the visit of the Australian sailors an enjoyable one and social functions of all kinds were arranged. The men had a splendid time and enjoyed their stay ashore enormously. Included in the sports were several games of football. The Noumea players were too good for the visitors.

CHROME EXPORTS

During the half year ended 30th June, 1931, 17,798 tons of chrome ore were exported as compared with the total of 19,289 tons for the first six months of 1930.

BOAT RACES.

These races took place on the last Sunday in October and were favoured with good weather, a large gathering and good racing. The Governor and his daughter, Mademoiselle Guerin, were present, together with members of the Conseil General and other well known citizens.

The boating events were all captured by horses from the New Caledonian Meat Co., Ltd., the Grand Prix and Vitesse races being won by Mico.

THE ANDROMÈDE.

News has been received from France that this ship, which has been well known on the line from France to New Caledonia and belonging to Messagerie Maritime, has been sold into foreign hands and will no longer be seen in the Colony.

LANDS COMMISSION.

The Lands Commission recently carried out a tour of inspection along the west coast. The Commission consisted of Messieurs Barot, Chief of the Lands Department, Verges, veterinary officer, Pakidini, of the Conseil General, and Lafleur, representing the Returned Soldiers' Association. The tour of inspection covered approximately one week, and a good deal of useful work was done by these taking part.

ECONOMY COMMISSION.

The Governor has instituted a commission to go into the question of the possibility of making economies in the administration of the Colony. The following have been appointed members of the commission: Messrs. The Secretary General (President), Deros, Poupin, Cane, Reverce, Varin, Dupont and de la Vaisserie.

NEW CALEDONIAN RICE

France's Retaliation

MINISTERS' FATUOUS STATEMENTS

As an indication of the apparent hopelessness of persuading the Federal Government to take any sort of intelligent interest in Australian trade with the Pacific Islands, we quote the following from Federal Ministers of November 7:

Mr. ARCHIBALD PARKHILL. Having regard to the fact that the French authorities in New Caledonia have imposed an import duty of 44 francs on Australian rice, is resolution for the Commonwealth tariff matter, does the Minister for Markets propose to make representations to the French Government with a view to its removal?

Mr. HARKER MOLONEY. The situation of the rice market in Australia is a very serious one. It is a matter of fact that the French authorities in New Caledonia have imposed a tariff of 44 francs on Australian rice. When one considers the fact that the French Government has no right to impose such a tariff on rice imported from Australia, it is a matter of fact that the French Government is in the wrong.

Mr. FORDE. I read in the newspapers the statement that such a tariff was imposed in New Caledonia, but there is no evidence that it is a tariff. It is a matter of fact that the French Government has no right to impose such a tariff on rice imported from Australia, it is a matter of fact that the French Government is in the wrong.

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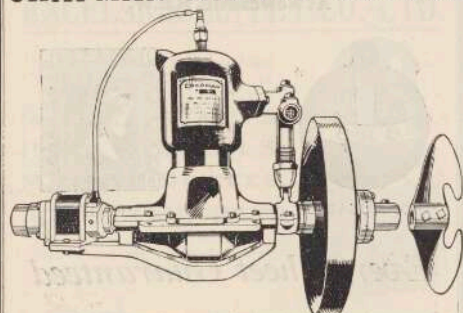
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and five on Saturday, making a working week of 56 hours.

The number of Fijians employed as artisans is comparatively small, but is slowly increasing. They are mostly carpenters, boatbuilders, marine engineers and fitters. Carpenters and boatbuilders get from 7/- to 12/- a day, marine engineers 14/- to 18/- per month (according to the size of the vessel) and food fitters on inter-island vessels 14/- per month. Fijian master of a vessel 14/- to 18/- a month.

Very few Fijians are employed as domestic servants. Native cooks get from 14/- to 16/- a month, and houseboys and waiters 12/- to 14/- with food and quarters.

The Indian labourer standard wage in Suva is 2/4 a day, and in country districts 2/- to 2/6. Wages are apt to vary markedly with price of foodstuffs in the locality. Skilled Indian agricultural labourers are paid 1/- a week of 54 days, with a bonus for a full week's work. Mill wages range from 16/- to 21/- a week, with higher rates for special employment. For domestic servants, wages range from 12/- a month for gardeners, 14/- to 16/- for indoor servants. Car drivers earn 18/- a month and upwards.

Europeans are employed as road overseers, lorry, crane and steamroller drivers, fitters, machinists, motor mechanics, blacksmiths, bootmakers, etc.

No fixed rate is paid to skilled workmen, the rates being from 14/- to 20/- a day, according to the proficiency displayed. Half-castes are employed as boatbuilders, house carpenters, blacksmiths and fitters. The following figures give an idea of the wages paid to the various classes of workmen.

Carpenters and fitters, 3/- to 20/- per day, depending on the nature of the work. Blacksmiths, 8/- to 20/- per day. Skilled Fijians employed in the boatyards are paid from 1/4 to 1/6 per day.

Mechanics (including motor mechanics, fitters, drivers, blacksmiths, etc.), 10/- to 20/- per day. Apprentices (locally European and half-castes), 4/-, 6/-, 8/-, 10/-, 12/-, 14/-, 16/-, 18/-, 20/- per day. Lorry and steam roller drivers (locally European and half-castes), 14/- to 20/- per day. Motor mechanics (locally European and half-castes), 14/- to 20/- per day. Road men (Fijians), 4/- to 6/- per month. Road men (Indians), 4/- to 6/- per month. Average wage 1/- per month.

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AUSTRALIAN NAVY MEN

Praise From Fiji

From Our Own Correspondent

SUVA, November 2. VISITORS to the port of Suva recently, included H.M.A.S. Canberra, which came here on her way back to Australia from the New Hebrides.

We do not see ships of the Australian Navy very often in these waters, though in pre-war days Suva was always included in the Australian station. The Canberra is quite one of the biggest ships we have seen here for some time, and her complement of 750 Australians succeeded in imparting a lively appearance to the town.

Perhaps our Australian friends will forgive us if we say that before the arrival of the Canberra our pleasure in her approaching visit was mingled with a certain degree of apprehension as to how the Australian representative would react to the influence of the very orderly behaviour of Royal Australian personnel of ships of the New Zealand Squadron, so it is no mean compliment to the ship's company of H.M.A.S. Canberra when we say that it is a universal opinion in Suva that it is of them behaved themselves in the most exemplary manner possible.

One of the striking features was the way in which the traditions of the British Navy seemed to be perpetuated in the best manner possible in the Canberra. This was particularly noticeable in the courtesy which the various sailors detailed for the duty, the so-called parties of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Indians, Chinese, Fijians, etc., and the ship on the days when she was open to visitors.

Suva has the happiest recollection of the visit of the Canberra—and its excellent concert party—and hopes that the town will be regularly included in future in the itineraries of the H.A.N. ships.

NEWS FROM MAUKE

MAUKE (Cook Is.), Sep. 24. BOAT passage has been blasted through the reef at the principal landing, and this should be of help when fruit is being taken to the reef. The passage is 10 feet wide and 255 feet long. The work was carried out by Captain Willocks, late harbour master at Suva.

The island has been without a good all of rain for several months, and everything is very dry.

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NEWINGTON COLLEGE

New Headmaster

Mr. P. R. LE COUTEUR, M.A., the recently appointed headmaster of Newington College Boys School, Stanmore, N.S.W., is a native of Victoria.

From Melbourne University he was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship in 1905, and the same year proceeded to Oxford. From that year of training he went to Bonn University, Germany, to study under the leaders of the new investigations in the psychology of thinking. He is a Master of Arts of both Melbourne and Oxford, and in 1931 was appointed from



MR. P. R. LE COUTEUR.

as candidate to take charge of the Department of Mental and Moral Philosophy in the University of Western Australia, Western Australia, from which, after three years, he has come to take over the headmastership of Newington.

Mr. Le Couteur is not only brilliantly equipped on the academic side, but his accomplishments in the realm of sport. He has been particularly successful in the game of golf, and is a keen sportsman. He has been a member of the Australian Golfing Union, and has won several titles. He is also a keen swimmer, and has been a member of the Australian Swimming Union. He is a very popular figure, and is expected to bring a new era of progress to the school.

Many youths come from the Pacific Islands to this famous school.

Fancy Dress Ball

On Thursday Island

From Our Own Correspondent.

THURSDAY IS., October 13. THE fancy dress ball held on September 22, in aid of the Roman Catholic Charities bazaar, proved a great success. The entertainment of this sort, which was so happily inaugurated last year, has caught the public taste.

The party was very large and as most of the participants wore a gorgeous costume, the usual tuxedo and white tie was a sight to be seen. The dancing was in three parts, and the first part was a very charming one, with "Lancers" and "Vivats" being more popular. The second part was a very charming one, with "Lancers" and "Vivats" being more popular. The third part was a very charming one, with "Lancers" and "Vivats" being more popular.

A number of prizes were given, the two best dressed ladies (both very effective) and the general opinion was that the decision was a very hard one. A prize winner of last year added considerably to the amusement of the evening by actually living up to his reputation as a popular comedian.

Some will not permit of mentioning the many other excellent costumes, but the popular verdict was that a better evening could hardly be imagined.

We commend this form of entertainment to any island community that wants living up to the high type of copra would be forgotten in such cheerful surroundings.

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NATIVE DEBTORS

In New Guinea

FURTHER ASPECTS OF GROWING DIFFICULTY

Written for The Pacific Islands Monthly by Gordon Thomas.

A SHORT article appeared in the August issue of The Pacific Islands Monthly dealing with native debtors in Papua and comparing conditions in that Territory with those in the Kingdom of Tonga.

The Papuan correspondent should congratulate himself that he is not responsible in Mandated New Guinea, where the trading firms have no claim whatsoever against native debtors.

A native may have obtained monies or goods in advance on the promise of copra or shell to be delivered and, in the event of his failure to meet his obligations, the white man is unable to sue any legal steps for the recovery of the debt rather is he making himself liable to a charge of illegal trading.

It is common knowledge that the extension of credit to natives is generally practised throughout the South Seas. In fact, in many cases, there would be little trading done at all were it not for the credit system.

The economic change which has come about in the native life during recent years makes him dependent to a large degree upon the local trader for cash and goods that are often required for unexpected events—death, feast, tax collecting, etc.—when copra supplies are not always available for barter. Credit, at such times is given in good faith and in the interests of the native. In the islands, there are stipulated times for cutting copra or fishing shell, and credit is often extended to enable the native to purchase those things which his customer-phases from the primitive savage has made necessary, where previously they were luxuries to be obtained only in times of affluence.

The average native recognises these debts as a first call upon his produce; and there is a very high degree of honour amongst them, which compels them to discharge the debt without equivocation. Unfortunately, there are some natives who find their number is increasing with the amount of their contact with civilisation who contract the debts with little intention of ever liquidating them; and in some cases with a knowledge that the trader has no legal recourse for their recovery. Other natives are often in a position to pay off the debt, but have no intention of doing so, with the result that the trader may be paying 5 to 8 per cent. interest, which could be decreased if his native debtors, from whom he receives no interest, would pay him higher.

It is contrary to the rudiments of fair play for the trader to make use of force in the past and covered all these bad debts, are but dreams of a distant past to the present-day trader. As native sophistication has been, so have prices fallen.

The present position in many places is that the trader is confronted with numbers of small debts contracted by natives prior to the advent of copra who cannot, or do not desire to, understand that twice as much copra is now required to meet a debt contracted when copra prices were higher.

The argument is advanced that if the trader is such a fool as to make advances to natives, when he knows full well that he has no avenue to recover, then he must grin and bear the consequences.

There is the other side of the question: If the native is to be allowed to have the advantages of civilisation, then he must also be prepared to accept his responsibilities as a civilised individual, and not shelter beneath a protecting law for primitive and unsophisticated natives. There is ample scope here for the missionaries to exert their influence by impressing upon their converts to moral responsibilities pertaining to civilisation. Native missionaries are by no means exempt from being numbered amongst the delinquents when it comes to store debts.

When a native receives the favour of goods or cash from a trader, and voluntarily agrees to make payment by a certain date, there should be some machinery whereby he can be forced to carry out his agreement. Otherwise, it is encouraging the dishonest practice of evading legitimate responsibilities and is liable to have a detrimental effect on the character of the future generation.

The idea of not recognising the necessity of granting credit to natives is ridiculous, and only shows gross ignorance of this time-old Islands practice. The principles and practices of commerce are universal, and whether it be a case of the large combine and the merchant, or an island trader and a native coconut-grover, the same.



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Electric Light For T.I.

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS, October 20

Electric lighting is now an accom-
plished fact on Thursday Island and
the streets are now sufficiently, if
somewhat dimly, illuminated.

The inauguration of the service
took place on October 8, at 8 p.m.,
the current being turned on by the
Mayor, Mrs. Curran, in the pres-
ence of a large number of citizens.

Owing to changes in the staff at the
outlet, the service has so far been
discontinued at midnight, but on the
arrival of Mr. Patridge, the Coun-
cil's newly-appointed engineer, an all-
night service will be given. So far,
complete satisfaction has been shown
by consumers, and there is every in-
dication that the undertaking has
been well planned and will give per-
manent good results.

A COUNCIL FOR NEW GUINEA

Why Is Nothing Done?

PROVISION NEEDED FOR
FUTURE

Written for The Pacific Islands Monthly
by Gordon Thomas.

THE need for the establishment
of a Legislative Council—either
nominated or elected (the latter
for preference)—for the Mandated
Territory of New Guinea, as men-
tioned in the September issue of The
Pacific Islands Monthly, is one of the
Territory's most urgent require-
ments.

It is difficult to understand the
reason for the continued shelving and
the procrastinating policy which has
been adopted both by the Common-
wealth Government and the Adminis-
tration of the Territory. The Terri-
tory's administration should welcome,
during these times of stress, the co-
operation of the various sections of
the community, who naturally would
be represented on such a Council.

A glance at the Pacific Year Book
and any other collection of trade sta-
tistics of the Pacific—will readily
show the extent of New Guinea's
trade, and its large commercial, agri-
cultural and mining activities, which
exceed many of the island groups
which already have the privilege of
a Legislative Council.

There have been big questions at
stake in the Territory which have
given rise to varied expressions of
public opinion. The normal channel
for these expressions should have
been on the floor of the Council
Chamber, where authorised represen-
tatives of the white community could
discuss their views, together with
officials of the Administration. This,
however, has been impossible for two
very good reasons: first, there was
no Council Chamber in which the dis-
cussion could take place; and, secondly,
there were no representatives.

The result was that when vital
questions affecting the immediate
welfare of the people arose, it was
left for such organisations as the
Planters and Traders' Association, the
Returned Soldiers' League and the
Miners' Association to organise inde-
pendent publicity campaigns in order
that their views might reach the legis-
lature in Australia who hold, to a
great extent, the destinies of New
Guinea in their hands.

The proper channel for such ex-
pression of opinion is through a prop-
erly constituted Legislative Council
and not from protesting and
complaints. It is not surprising, then,
that those who are smarting beneath a feeling of in-
justice, and at the same time, with
the Administration, with an unfriendly
eye. Such channels, as a means for
grievance-venting, are too apt to be-
come infected with the Bolshevik
virus, and once that is implanted in
a country's blood it is difficult to
say where it may end.

If it ends
New Guinea has had many weighty
questions to face, and in some
are questions of more weight to be
faced in the future. The eyes of the
world are already focussed on the
Territory as one with colossal min-
eral possibilities. Give the Territory
every chance, therefore, to show its
ability to be guided by legislators
whose actions will be above suspicion,
and open for the scrutiny of the pub-
lic. There can be no surmising or
grumblings (or at least not so much
from the people if their own
nominally elected representatives are
numbered amongst the legislators).

When the present crisis of the dis-
organised copra market is past there
will be many adjustments to be made.
Commercial, social—and sharks—
must be avoided and dealt with; trade
combinations may need watching and
preventive measures taken; adequate
public services must be maintained;
and these matters can only be sat-
isfactorily dealt with by the united
forces of the various interests of the
Territory assisted by the Adminis-
tration with expert advice gained from
years of experience.

The Commonwealth Government
would be well advised at this juncture
to "bring forward" that long-
postponed file of papers, that has
been shelved when the late Government
retired from office, dealing with New
Guinea and its Legislative Council
and mark it "For Action—Urgent."

'Flu in Solomons

Deaths Among Natives

From Our Own Correspondent

TULAH, October 20.

INFLUENZA, or kindred complaints
have been taking full of the natives
for some time, but probably not
more so than is or has been the case
in Sydney or Melbourne.
A number of whites, too, have had
their turn. Reports as to the number
of deaths resulting from the illness
are somewhat conflicting, but it is safe
to say that there has been a fair (or
unfair) number.

Tourists for Torres Straits

Fascinating Islands Practically
Unknown

Queensland Minister Is
Enthusiastic

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY IS, Oct. 15.

FOR more than fifteen years, no
Ministerial inspection has been
made of the native settlements in
Torres Straits, but last month the
Queensland Minister (Mr. Peterson)
paid a visit to fifteen stations.

"I had no idea that Thursday Is-
land was surrounded by such beauti-
ful marine scenery, the view from
Garrison's Hill being magnificent,"
said Mr. Peterson. "The numerous
islands, coral beaches and blue and
green waters held us spellbound."
The Minister is writing with develop-
ing interest will be forthcoming, and
all that is necessary. Adjacent in-
lands lend themselves to the making
of golf courses, bowling greens, etc.

Suitable launches could be made
available to convey tourists to fishing
grounds, reef trails and numerous
marine beauty spots. I know this all
means money, but somehow sufficient
enterprises will be forthcoming, and
when that day comes, the tourists
from the cold South will realise what
they have missed.

"For a start, I think the Chamber of
Commerce is moving in the direction
of advertising their territory more.
Even now the hotel accommodation is very good
and if an initial effort were made to offer
Southern tourists certain facilities at a
reasonable cost, I am sure a number
would be induced to come. These would, later,
become good advertisements for the Torres
Straits, and thus gradually Thursday Island
would come into its own. The people there
have shown enterprise in providing a good
water supply and for reliable power to
electric light service."

The islands are most picturesque,"
said Mr. Peterson. "The beautiful coconut
palm groves, the fringing mangroves and
lagoon, the white sand beaches, the
native life and the view from the
beach are all wonderful. The climate
is different at every island and
each has its own charm. Good
accommodation has been provided, some of
the islands being the property of the
Government, and others of private
owners. What appealed to me most was the beau-
tiful and healthy appearance of the
people. I sincerely hope these native sites will always
be preserved, despite the fact that they are
receiving."

These islands, particularly Murray Island,
are a great asset to the Territory. They
are not only for marine and land beauty,
but they are a valuable source of the
men and women who live there.

The people all seemed happy and
well. The islands are a great asset to
the Territory. They are not only for
marine and land beauty, but they are
a valuable source of the men and
women who live there.

What a pity all these beautiful islands
are unknown from a tourist standpoint. With
Thursday Island as a base, no better holiday
could one have than to wander at leisure
through these beautiful places.

I am of the opinion that we in the
South do not know nearly enough about
Thursday Island, and those adjacent to it.
There have been, of course, many
visits, but they have been for business
and expediency, there is no reason why
Thursday Island should not become the source
of much that is manufactured from pearl
and other products.

To secure this, it will be necessary to
have Government transport and no doubt
some awards. With suitable skilled labour,
Thursday Island could be made for
tourists. The islands are a great asset to
the Territory. They are not only for
marine and land beauty, but they are
a valuable source of the men and
women who live there.

Mr. Peterson's remarks are encouraging
at a time when local enterprise is
lagging. Probably a hundred travellers pass through
Thursday Island every month; and some of
these could be tempted to spend the few
hours that are allowed before they are
expelled from the port instead of aimlessly
wandering around, unobserved and at a loss
to find out the spots of interest. Any plan
to improve matters in this respect must
necessarily be on a small scale at first.

Cars, or even motor-cycles, could pick up pas-
sengers at the ferry, visit the Quetta estab-
lishment, local shops and peering stores, and
then drive round the charming military road
to the back of the island, where small motor-
buses could meet them. From here, there
are plenty of opportunities for sight-seeing.
Following by a private launch, could be
indicated in, and a return could be made
by the launch to the vessel. The trip would make
a memorable day, and the return would
be no longer to be able to complain of hav-
ing nothing to do. Such day trips could be
advertised in the newspapers themselves, before
arrival of Thursday Island, and no doubt

TAHITI YACHT CLUB

Determined Effort to Keep Afloat

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPETE, October 3.

AN extraordinary general meeting
of the Tahiti Yacht Club was
held last week, to consider fi-
nancial problems brought about by the
prevailing lack of funds.

The club, which occupies very com-
fortable quarters on the coast port-
land of the Papete waterfront, has
had a hard struggle to keep afloat
during the past two years, and has
had to rely to some extent upon the
generosity of visiting yachtsmen in
order to make ends meet.

The balance sheet presented at the
meeting revealed a much better state
of affairs than was generally antici-
pated, and a concerted effort is now
being made to keep the organisation
alive. A ball is to take place in the
club premises shortly, and an in-
novation, which will help popularise
the club and, incidentally, assist fi-
nances, is a provision for the entrance
of regularly introduced visitors on
payment of a small fee.

The ship's officers would co-operate.
Mr. Peterson speaks of more distant
voyages around the Straits, to means that
many residents have never visited, and
his enthusiasm will be shared by those who
follow his example. But to enjoy such a
tour it is necessary to be a good sailor and
all of us are not gifted in that respect.

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Plantation Discipline

How to Treat Natives

Experienced Official's Observations

Written for The Pacific Islands Monthly, by W. J. Fisher, "Rahaul," Sava.

I HAVE been much interested in the article published in your paper dated October 23, under the heading "Undisciplined Natives," emanating from Capt. Milton. As an old planter in Fiji, he has my sympathy; for the planters here have passed through similar trials regarding plantation labourers.

When I arrived in Fiji, in the late twenties, the position between the Government, the planters and their labourers was much the same as at the present time in New Guinea; and a few remarks on the subject from me may not come amiss, for the guidance of planters in the latter place.

The remarks of Capt. Milton on the ineptitude of some young Australians, when placed in positions of authority, applied equally to some of

the cadets sent out by the Colonial Office to Fiji. Much depends on the personality and breeding of the man and whether he has common sense in dealing with his fellow man, be he black or white. And to keep one's temper is essential. The calm, deliberate man, who avoids impulsive action, always scores against his opponent. A stoney eye is a most potent weapon.

Many planters in Fiji passed through the same disabilities as those complained of by Capt. Milton; and any unwarranted interference with labourers, and encouraging frivolous complaints, which might interfere with the authority of their masters, when reported to the proper authority in the administration of the Government, was promptly remedied—and the offense was not repeated. Rumpus district officers got no sympathy from the Governor, when the matter was promptly placed before him and a good case stated. He might not be removed—for policy—and the Governor might not express his opinions to the planter on an over-zealous young officer. But it would be found that the latter would, if he had any good sense, in future avoid repeating an indiscretion.

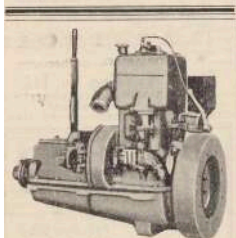
The planter, if he is to maintain discipline, must be to a certain extent, when dealing with a semi-savage or a low class of labourer, a law unto himself—and that applies to this day even in Fiji. But, as your informant states, the better disposed labourers, who have been treated fairly will not support the scamp in giving information that may injure a good master.

Patience, firmness, and discretion, will always carry the planter or overseer through, but nagging and indiscriminate punishment will have the opposite effect. Properly fed labourers are always amenable to discipline and they deserve the respect and the backslapping at his discomfiture, for I have found that there is always a certain amount of civility, even among the people described in your paper, with whom we were familiar in past days, when thousands of labourers were recruited from Melanesia and as far north as New Ireland.

Compulsed by late J. Ferguson, O.M.G., of Ceylon, and revised, rearranged and brought up to date (1931) by C. Driscoll, B.A., editor of Ceylon Observer. A complete guide to the cultivation of the coconut. Published by Ceylon Observer Press, Colombo. Copies for sale by Pacific Publications Ltd., Union House, 241 George Street, Sydney. Price: 10 Rupees (15/- Sterling; 25/- Australian).

COCONUT PLANTERS' MANUAL

Compiled by late J. Ferguson, O.M.G., of Ceylon, and revised, rearranged and brought up to date (1931) by C. Driscoll, B.A., editor of Ceylon Observer. A complete guide to the cultivation of the coconut. Published by Ceylon Observer Press, Colombo. Copies for sale by Pacific Publications Ltd., Union House, 241 George Street, Sydney. Price: 10 Rupees (15/- Sterling; 25/- Australian).



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Planter Convicted of Theft

Sabine's Sentence

Remarkable Case in New Guinea

From Our Own Correspondent.

RAHAUL, Nov. 1.

A CASE that aroused considerable interest was the charge brought by the Crown against J. B. Sabine, planter of Gumanu Plantation, Kokopo.

The charge was one of stealing 10/- from a native by threats; but allegations of serious offenses against the Native Labour Ordinances were also brought into the case. The prosecution alleged that in 1928 Sabine, who was then on a recreating trip and travelling from Rahaul to Madang on S.S. Montoro, came in contact with nineteen natives who were also travelling on the Montoro, from Kavieng to Salamaua. These natives had been recruited by a Mr. Kitchner and were being sent to Messrs. Pryke and Joubert, to whom they were under a three years' contract. Sabine is alleged to have told the natives that Salamaua was a very unhealthy place, and induced them to desert at Madang. After remaining there for some time they signed on to Sabine under assumed names, and sent to work on his plantation at Kokopo, near Rahaul. The disappearance of these natives was reported to the authorities, but all trace of them was lost.

In July of this year the contracts made with Sabine expired, and the natives were taken to the District Office at Kokopo to be paid off. It is alleged Sabine did his utmost to induce the natives to sign on with him again and threatened if they did not do so to report them to the District Officer for their desertion three years ago. On their return to the plantation, after being paid off, Sabine and his assistant demanded from certain of the natives a payment of 10/-, which it was stated and which he made contracts at Madang and which it was understood was to be repaid on the completion of the contracts.

One native, Papa, reported this to the District Office, with the result that the disappearance of these nineteen natives in 1928 was then cleared up, and proceedings were immediately instituted against Sabine. The Chief Judge (Mr. Justice Wansell) in a lengthy summing-up, commented on the seriousness of the case, found Sabine guilty, and sentenced him to eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of £400; or, if the fine be not paid, a further term of eighteen months, with hard labour. This, in effect, is the maximum penalty for the offence of which Sabine was convicted.

The case aroused considerable local interest, as Sabine is very well known and has been an exceptionally successful planter. Some people are of the opinion that the sentence was too severe, and lesser sentences imposed by the Rahaul Court, for what might be regarded as more serious offences, have been quoted.

But, against that, it is pointed out that the really serious nature of Sabine's offence is not the theft of another man's labour and of money from the labourers; it lies in the lowering of the white man's prestige among natives who already are difficult enough to control. The Judge very strongly commented on this aspect of the case. Sabine had ten previous convictions against him for breaches of the Labour Ordinances, etc.

DISTURBANCES IN THE FAR WEST

From Our Own Correspondent

THURSDAY, 18, Oct. 23.

Meagre but authentic news of trouble among the natives of the Morobad River in the Far West of Papua, between the Fly River and the Dutch border, is to hand.

The A.R.M. of the western division set out on his usual patrol there towards the end of August, but he encountered so much hostility that he was forced to send to Daru for reinforcements. These were duly afforded by the arrival of the R.M. from Daru, and from latest reports a return to normal peaceful relations followed. The A.R.M. will, however, it is stated, remain in the district till the trouble, whatever it is, dies down.

The tribes in question are probably those living very close to the Dutch border and well to the westward of the dreaded Tugeri people, who were once the bulwark of that division. It is probable that Mr. Dick Roche met him and somewhere in the vicinity - near the same river, but there may be no connection between the two events.

Such occurrences are likely to become more unknown in the near future, as white influence extends. The writer can vouch for the contentment and well-being of natives nearer Daru, and along the Fly River estuary. It is a pleasure to visit the Villages thereabouts, to note the general happiness of the people and to find them offering a warm and hospitable welcome to white strangers.

HINDU TEACHER IN FIJI

On his arrival at the Lwal Temple (Fiji) on September 23, 1931, Pandit Ramchandra, Sanatan Dharma preacher, was welcomed by the Hindu community of Nadroga, and on the same day a Sanatan Dharma Sabha, which the young men joined in large numbers, was established.

There was a huge gathering of Indians at the same place on October 1 to hear the Pandit, who spoke for three hours, giving musical recitations from the holy books Gita, Ramayan and Mahabharat. He laid stress on the need for unity which, he said, must exist between various sections of the Indian community in Fiji if they desired progress.

The Pandit's lecture was praised by those present, especially the narration of that portion of Mahabharat which deals with Prince Abhimanyu. Hardeo Maharaj, who presided, thanked the Pandit for his lecture and hoped that he would make a long stay in the district, so that the Hindu community might benefit by his wisdom.

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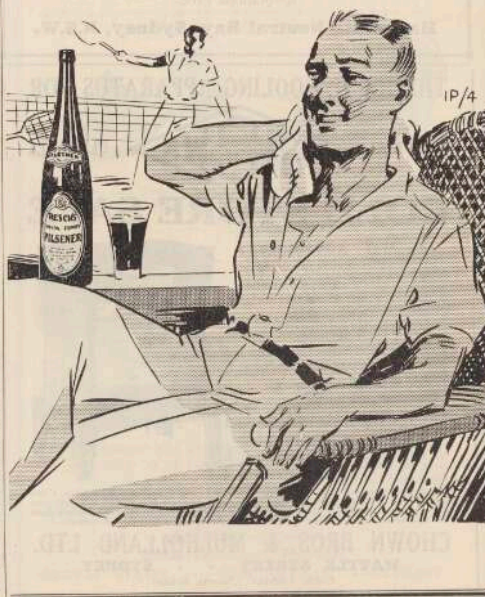
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AN ISLANDS RECIPE

A lady, resident in Yasul, Solomon Islands, sends the following Pacific Islands recipe:

NOARLI NUT PIE

Pastry cases, 1 cup sultana, 1 cup currants, 1 cup raisins, dates, etc., 2 eggs, sugar, nuts (fresh), 1 cup sugar, 2 eggs, beaten.

Put fruit, nuts, etc., through large-sieved sugar, or chop; add eggs and a few drops of almond essence. Fill pastry cases, cover with top of pastry and bake 30 minutes.

Asiatics in Fiji

Interesting Experiment

INDIANS' ECONOMIC VALUE

The development of the Crown Colony of Fiji by four distinct races—namely, Europeans, Fijians, Indians and Chinese—is one of the most interesting features of South Seas administration and is being closely watched because of its definite bearing upon the future of the Pacific Territories.

It is the policy of the Powers, which hold these Pacific Islands, to encourage the education of the indigenous races; but where that is not possible, the question of establishing a new race in the Islands—particularly an Asiatic race—becomes one of primary importance. That the Fijian settlement of the Indians in Fiji as peasant farmers also has a direct bearing on the policy of Britain, therefore, to reserve the lands where an indigenous race is decreasing for settlement by white people, or should Asiatic immigration be encouraged, is of great importance.

The annual report for 1930 of Sir Murchison Fletcher, Governor of Fiji, contains interesting sections bearing upon this important question. In regard to population the Governor shows that the movement of population in Fiji, between the censuses of 1921 and the end of 1930, has been as follows:

	1921	Estimated 1930	Percentage
Europeans	1,373	2,078	50.8
Half-breeds	2,748	3,110	11.2
Fijians	14,470	19,012	81.1
Indians	1,364	1,823	33.3
Chinese	822	1,400	61.1
Others	180	1,197	81.2

Further analysis of population statistics shows that the Indian birth-rate and the Indian birth-rate per 1,000 have increased in the last few years, but the fact remains that the Indians are now only 17.0 per cent. in numbers than the Fijians, and their natural increase is more than twice as rapid. The death-rate among Fijians is only slightly less than the birth-rate, whereas the death-rate among the Indians is 12.3 per thousand, compared with a birth-rate of 34 per thousand. The number of marriages registered among Fijians is almost stationary, whereas the number of marriages among Indians has increased steadily from 174 in 1925 to 1,924 in 1930. The significance of these figures need not be emphasised.

FIJIAN AS FARMERS.

The Fijians are employed as labourers to only a limited extent. Under their tribal customs, supported by British law, they are all landowners and they remain essentially an agricultural people dependent for their livelihood upon the cultivation of their own lands. They are skilled agriculturists and, although they generally use the simplest instruments, their planting operations are very successful. The Governor makes this interesting note:

"Apart from their agricultural pursuits many of the better educated Fijians occupy administrative and clerical positions in the Government service. Some have qualified as native medical practitioners and others as native stipendiary magistrates. Others are employed as clerks and shop assistants in several of the large or business houses. A few own and conduct their own stores and a considerable number earn their living as mechanics, engineers or seamen on inter-island vessels or as carpenters and artisans."

THE C.S.R. PLAN.

Agriculture remains the main occupation of the Indians. More than two-thirds of the Indians derive their livelihood from the sugar industry under the share farming system of operation devised by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. The company's farm settlement scheme, for stabilising the Indian population on the land and thus ensuring a dependable supply of sugar cane, has been remarkably successful. The company's farm tenants hold 31,860 acres. Indian farmers now supply nearly 80 per cent. of the sugar cane crushed at the company's mills.

In addition, the Indians in Fiji have settled down successfully to other occupations. There are over 1,000 Indian storekeepers and 734 licensed motor drivers. The driving of motor transport for hire in Fiji is now largely an Indian monopoly.

Generally speaking the Indians have settled down very peacefully in Fiji; they make industrious peasant farmers and their activity has added enormously to the per capita productivity of this prosperous colony. The demand for repatriation has dwindled remarkably. In 1926 1,180 Indians were repatriated; their own wealth, and since then the figures have been:

1927	977
1928	924
1929	546
1930	502

THE CHINESE

The Chinese in Fiji, while comparatively small in numbers are also

THE HIGH HAND IN NORFOLK ISLAND

That Dictation Test

To the Editor.

Sir,—Your correspondent's article in "The P.I.M." for September, headed "Norfolk Island Farce," dealing with the deporting of so-called untrustworthies, would be amusing were it not so inaccurate.

I am the undesirable, "delinquent," or what you will, who was compelled to undergo a dictation test in French, and who "unfortunately," as your correspondent would have it, passed with "flying colours."

Whether I passed with flying colours, I know not; but, as I am still polluting the otherwise pure Norfolk Island air, I take it that I was not altogether unsuccessful.

Insofar your correspondent is quite correct. But I did not have to undergo this test for making and selling a "mild, illicit beer." There was no charge whatsoever against me when I was called upon by the Powers that Be to pass a dictation test. (I might mention, by the way, that our local constable had received written authority to go and "forcibly arrest" without a need of a warrant, should I fail to put in an appearance.)

My premises were searched during my absence and some bottles taken away which might have contained, or anything else, until proved by the Government analyst in Sydney to contain alcoholic liquor. But, three days after this search, and before the samples taken away had even been sent to Sydney and, therefore, before there was any charge against me, I was compelled to submit to the indignity and humiliation of a dictation test in a language with which I "unfortunately," and by mere chance, happened to be familiar.

I might mention that I am also conversant with Spanish, Hindustani, Afrikan Dutch, and two African native languages.

As an ex-officer and, I trust, a gentleman, of the British and Indian Armies, with a good record of 21 years' war service, I submit that I was most unfairly treated, and that the procedure to my deportation on my conception of British justice.

It was not until two months later that the Government analyst's report came back, and I was further punished by being fined £10, or three months, for being found in possession of liquor containing over 23 per cent. of alcohol.

Quite 60 per cent. of the "mainlanders" here brew their own beer, and if the same procedure was applied to them, and if they were not cognisant of any European language but English, then Messrs. Burns, Philp, would not be so kind as to accommodate the "Morinda" in order to make room for the exodus of banished "undesirables!"

I respectfully suggest that your correspondent should have made more of the facts before sending them up for publication.

I think, in fairness to me, that you will publish this letter, and thank you in anticipation of such courtesy.

I am, etc.

MAGNA EST VERITAS.

Although the accounts furnished by our own correspondent and by "Magna Est Veritas" differ in a few details, they are agreed on the main facts, which suggest that the man in question was treated in an extraordinarily high-handed manner by the Norfolk Islands Administration. No doubt, there is another side of the story—the official side—which we have not heard; and if there is a law relating to liquor, no matter how absurd—it must be administered. But this Norfolk Islands method of applying a sudden, far-fetched dictation test, in order to get rid of persons whom someone dressed in a little brief authority considers "undesirable," is about the most ridiculous thing we have ever heard in connection with Islands administration. It savours more of South American republicanism, or the medieval practices of Mediterranean potentates, than of modern government. N.I. should not rest until the liberty of Sir Maseley's subjects there is freed from this kind of threat.—Ed. P.I.M.

Increasing rapidly. They are mostly storekeepers and tradesmen, and generally speaking, are very good citizens.

Attracting Tourists

Tahiti's Bold Bid

Abolition of Tax on Foreigners

From Our Own Correspondent

PAPEETE, October 3.

A NEW regulation, of considerable importance to the tourist visiting Tahiti, was promulgated in the Journal Officiel of October 1. By this enactment the "taxe d'immatriculation" and the tax on passport visas, hitherto imposed on foreigners entering the Colony, are abolished, from January 1, 1932.

From that date foreigners will also be exempt from the residential tax for a period of two months after their arrival. If they elect to remain longer than two months, however, they become liable to pay the residential tax amounting to 500 francs (about £7 in Australian money) which will hold good for one year; renewal will cost 25 francs per annum. Thus one of the most irritating restraints upon the visiting foreigner is removed.

Credit for the above achievement is largely due to the efforts of the "Syndicat d'Initiative de la Colonie de Tahiti" and its energetic President, M. Pere Rouger. This body, which was formed recently, has for its chief object the organisation of the Colony from a tourist's point of view, the attraction of strangers and the rendering of their stay in Tahiti easy and agreeable.

Correspondence has been established with various tourist agencies abroad, and a certain amount of publicity is afforded locally by the publication monthly of The Tahiti Tourist Guide, the first copy of which was issued in September. This is distributed gratis on board the mail steamers. The Syndicate is to be congratulated on the good work already accomplished.

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