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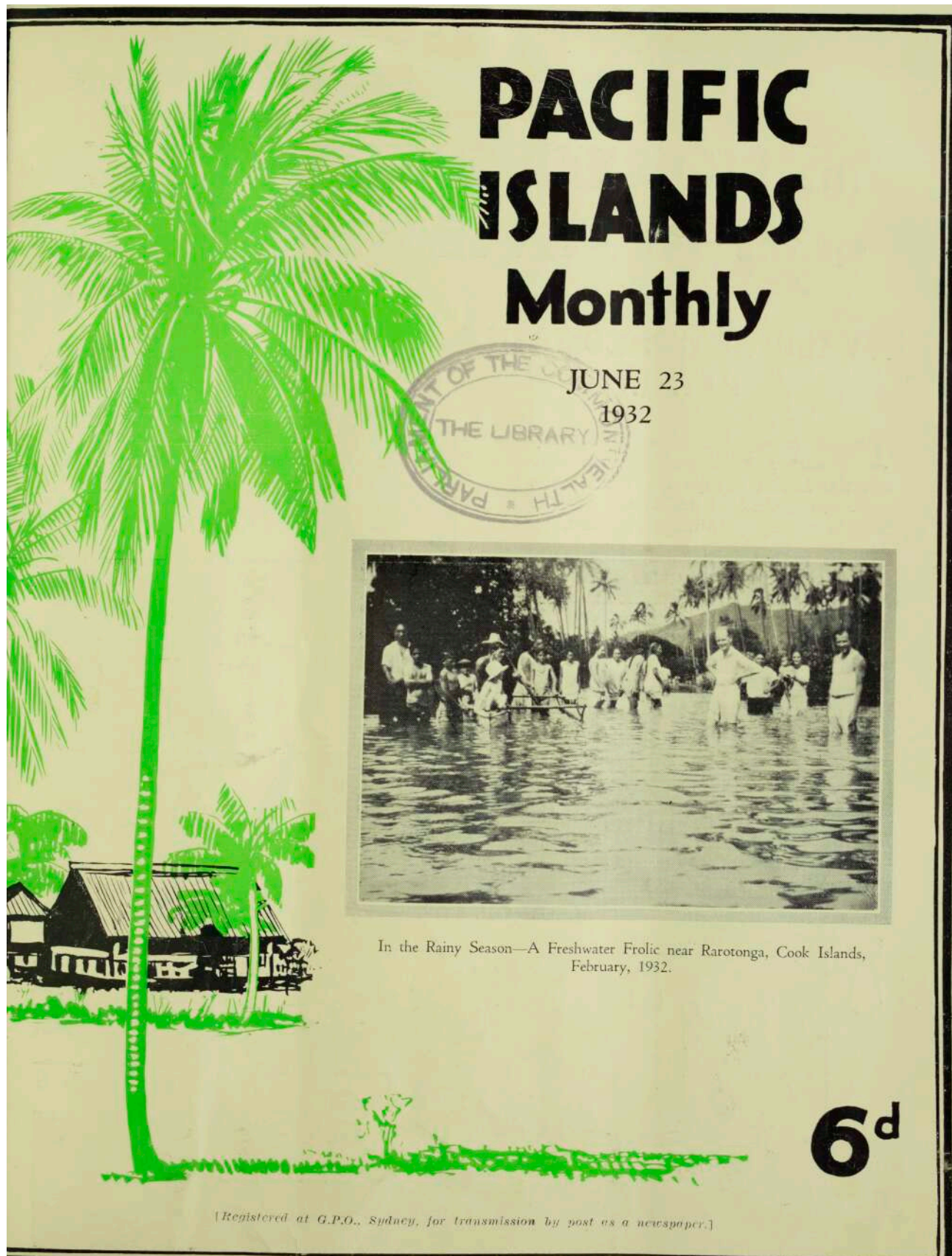
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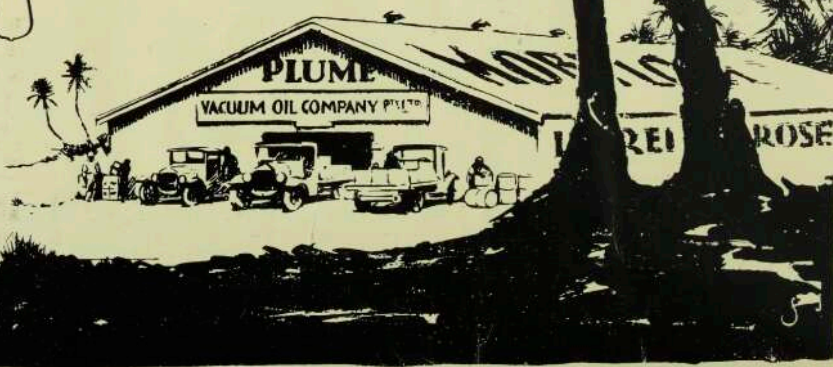
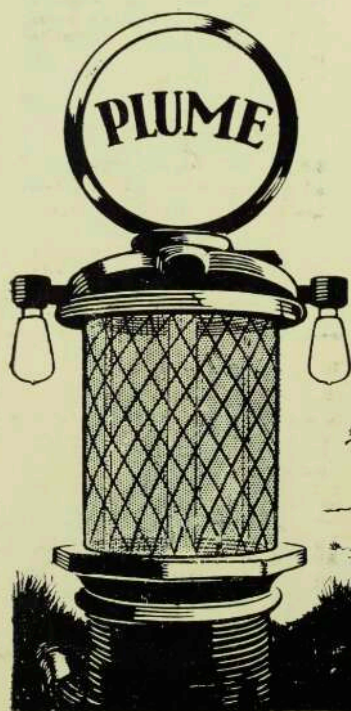
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June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

1

PACIFIC ISLANDS TRAVELLERS

PASSENGERS PER "MATARAM" FROM SOLOMON ISLANDS ON MAY 15: Captain O. Svensen, Miss G. Larsen, Mrs. L. Larsen, Miss M. Daly, Captain and Mrs. R. Newbiggen, Mr. W. Teomann, Miss A. E. Finn, Miss E. M. Murray, Miss R. P. Murray, Miss M. Frost, Mr. J. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. W. Farrant, Mr. C. C. Brady, Mrs. C. M. McKelvie, Mr. A. W. Musgrave, Mr. N. W. Dickson, Mr. E. D. Gates, Miss E. M. Ashley, Mrs. F. N. Ashley, Mrs. H. F. Tarleton, Mr. W. Heritage, Mr. C. J. Moxon, Mrs. B. A. Timms and child.

PASSENGERS PER M.V. "MACDHUI," WHICH SAILED FROM SYDNEY ON MAY 19 FOR PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEA PORTS: Miss V. Bignold, Mrs. Bignold and infant, Mr. H. H. Smith, Mr. Heath, Mr. G. E. Annmuller, Mrs. Annmuller, child and infant, Mrs. J. Tullock, Miss J. Snedden, Mr. J. Lord, Mr. W. L. Sansom, Miss I. McArthur, Mr. N. D. Lewis, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. C. Williams, and child, Miss Groves, Miss Miller, Mrs. L. Holden, Mr. Jukes, Mrs. Jukes, Mr. W. Sparks, Mrs. Sparks, Mrs. B. Manning and infant, Mr. G. Fulton, Mrs. G. Fulton, Miss E. Curtis, Mr. F. R. Cawley, Mrs. Cawley, Captain J. F. H. Houldsworth, Mr. A. J. Long, Mrs. Long, Mrs. H. J. Murray, Miss M. B. Abel, Mr. A. S. Lessey, Mr. J. W. Williams, Mr. L. V. Brosey, Mrs. Brosey, Mr. P. D. Good, Mrs. Good, Mr. L. S. Downs, Mr. V. Howie, Mr. S. G. Neal, Mr. L. A. Maguire, Mr. C. Anderson, Master L. Mocatta, Mr. C. R. Williams, Mr. F. T. Moates, Mr. P. T. W. Black, Mrs. Wildup, Miss L. E. Job, Miss R. Waldon, Mr. J. C. Hule, Mr. J. Richards, Mr. M. E. Blacket, Mrs. F. E. Kroenig and child, Mr. J. M. Smeeton, Mr. A. K. Grabowsky, Mr. F. P. Foley, Mr. L. C. Bowman, Mr. F. Bush, Mr. E. K. Lake, Mr. J. B. McLeod, Mr. A. E. Cannings, Mr. C. G. McDonald, Mr. H. Mook, Brother E. Wasner, Mr. Rigby, Mr. A. Barnes, Mr. Phillips, Mr. G. Scott, Mr. G. W. Skelly, Mr. J. G. Stephenson, Mr. J. Whittaker, Mr. G. R. Johnson, Mr. T. E. Pike, Mr. G. D. Smith, Mr. J. Lega, Miss M. McGearay, Miss Wyndham, Mr. A. McKenzie, Captain Phillips.

PASSENGERS PER S.S. "MATARAM," WHICH SAILED FROM SYDNEY ON MAY 21 FOR SOLOMON ISLANDS: Miss S. Marsden, Mr. J. L. Stokke, Mrs. Stokke and infant, Miss M. Higgins, Miss J. Radeski, Mr. F. R. Filose, Mr. W. Grainger, Mrs. Dicks and two infants, Mrs. K. A. Hay, Mr. H. A. Sykes, Mrs. H. C. Corry, Mr. C. C. Quintall, Mr. E. S. Quintall, Mr. J. C. Scott, Mrs. Scott, Mr. D. J. Rankin, Mr. W. Heritage, Mrs. Heritage, Mrs. Binskin, Mr. J. K. Buchanan, Mr. R. P. O'neaghe, Mr. D. Colley, Mr. W. H. Driver, Mr. W. O. Hobbs, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. A. A. Thomson, Mr. R. Mitchell, Miss J. Carlyle, Mrs. H. Carlyle, Mr. Hollingworth, Mr. A. Mitchell, Miss K. Little, Miss C. Nicol, Miss S. M. Courty, Mr. C. Bennett.

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PASSENGERS PER S.S. "MONTORO," WHICH SAILED FROM SYDNEY ON JUNE 5 FOR PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEA PORTS: Miss R. Hagan, Sister M. Pascal, Sister M. Cajetan, Miss C. Sherlock, Miss M. Humphries, Miss W. Shorney, Rev. F. Dopke, Mrs. Dopke, Miss King, Mr. W. F. Hill, Mrs. Baldie, Mrs. L. Hanson, Mr. Rowland Green, M.H.E., Mrs. Rowland Green, Mrs. Burrows, Miss Reeves, Miss H. Engeling, Mr. J. Barr, Mrs. F. Thomson and child, Mr. J. Levien, Mr. G. A. Asaunge, Mr. R. Rankin, Mrs. M. H. Corke, Miss K. Corke, Miss M. Stephen, Rev. E. A. Clarke, Mr. A. Lovell, Mr. W. R. King, Mr. J. Williams, Mr. Harper, Miss M. Hunt, Miss M. Brodie, Mr. G. Knight, Mr. A. D. Pedley, Mr. E. Fulton, Mr. J. D. Scurrah, Mr. N. B. Spence, Mr. J. H. Nicholls, Mr. W. Walker, Mr. Half-nights, Mr. F. J. Dechart, Mr. J. N. Hodge, Mr. F. J. Smith, Mrs. F. W. Clark and child, Mr. S. G. Neal, Mr. Shedden, Mr. A. Renton, Mr. V. Parkinson, Mr. R. B. Earl, Mr. C. A. Rigby, Mr. C. Hopkins, Mrs. M. M. Dugan, Mrs. M. Clements, Miss Long, Mr. A. Simpson, Mr. C. Johnstone, Mr. S. Mannix, Mr. J. Ashcroft, Mr. J. B. Kirtan, Mr. N. Jones, Mr. S. Atkinson, Mr. C. Mason.

PASSENGERS PER S.S. "MORINDA," WHICH SAILED FROM SYDNEY ON JUNE 9 FOR LORD HOWE ISLAND, NORFOLK ISLAND, NEW HEBRIDES PORTS AND AUCKLAND: Mr. F. Firth, Mrs. Firth, Mrs. E. Messer, child and infant, Mr. E. Messer, Mr. E. S. Carruthers, Mrs. Carruthers, Mr. H. Perry, Mrs. Perry, Dr. Jernyn, Rev. F. J.

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PASSENGERS WHO ARRIVED PER "MATARAM" ON JUNE 18 FROM SOLOMON ISLANDS: Mrs. M. I. Mumford, Mrs. H. Carlyle, Miss J. C. Carlyle, Miss M. B. Higgins, Mr. A. C. Hollingworth, Miss K. A. Little, Mr. B. Mitchell, Mr. A. Mitchell, Miss C. Nicol, Mrs. M. Fuller, Mr. J. G. Roberts, Mr. W. T. Paltridge, Mrs. M. I. Paltridge, Miss J. E. Radeski, Miss I. Parkinson, Mr. and Mrs. F. Maicher and two children, Mr. J. H. Keen, Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Lamond and two children, Mrs. D. A. Lotze, Miss M. H. Maltby, Mrs. M. Rankin, Mr. R. A. Robinson, Mr. W. Medway-Smith, Mr. B. A. Timms, Mr. A. H. Wilson, Mrs. A. H. Wilson and two children, Mrs. S. E. Wilson and infant.

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THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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The Pacific Islands Monthly

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SYDNEY, JUNE 23, 1932.

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THE FUTURE OF THE NEW HEBRIDES.

THERE is no reason, national, economic, or strategic, why France should wish to retain her hold on the New Hebrides. As an imperial proposition, there is more than one reason why Britain and France should quite amicably adjust their territorial differences between Africa, Asia and the South Pacific.

There are two great colonial empires in the world—that of Britain and that of France. The British Empire is scattered over the surface of the globe—an extraordinary mixture of territorial bits and pieces—but its administration, development and protection are quite practicable and reasonably simple, because of Britain's marine strength, and the existence of the British oversea dominions, abutting on every ocean.

The French Empire, on the other hand, consists mostly of large continental masses—slices of Asia and South America, and a very large portion of Africa. Except for Cochin China and the South Pacific Islands, the colonial possessions of France can be—and are—very efficiently administered from

FRENCH TERRITORIES IN PACIFIC.

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Paris direct, and may be protected by French military power, and the strength of the French navy in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Therefore, it would be to the advantage of the French Empire, and would strengthen France in a strategic sense, if French territorial interests in the Pacific were exchanged for interests which could be linked up with French possessions in Africa or Asia.

This is not the opinion only of this journal. It is the argument also of a brilliant French officer and strategist, Admiral Castex, and it is set out in the third volume of his notable work, *Theories Strategiques*. We find it quoted with approval by a writer in the January number of *L'Océanie Française*, which is the Bulletin of the Committee of French Oceania, published in Paris.

Admiral Castex has made a careful study of the problem of developing and protecting the great Colonial Empire of France, and he takes the view that some of the French colonies—and particularly those in the Pacific—are a weakness and a danger to France as, in the event of an international war in which France could not command the Pacific Ocean, they would all be lost, as it would be impossible to defend them.

The Admiral urges France to concentrate her colonising activities in as few continents as possible, and to exchange her colonial interests elsewhere for new lands—in Africa, if practicable. He makes an interesting summary of the position in the South Seas.

In the course of his argument, Admiral Castex asks what imperial need is served by France retaining her possessions in the Pacific. They are not required by economic interests nor in the interests of naval expansion. The acquirement of these Pacific territories, he says, was simply the result of rivalry between the Catholic missionaries of France, and the Protestant English missionaries of the London Missionary Society. Out of that arose the celebrated "affaire Pritchard," as a result of which the French admiral, Dupetit-Thouars, annexed the Society Islands in 1842, and the Marquesas, Gambier, Tuamotus, etc., in 1844. In 1853, Admiral Febvrier-Despointes, in somewhat similar circumstances, raised the French flag in New Caledonia, which became a penal settlement between 1864 and 1896. In later times, France took possession of Wallis Island in 1912, and became a party to the establishment of the Condominium in the New Hebrides.

Admiral Castex declares that these several Pacific Groups are of little, if any, economic value to France. Tahiti is French in title, but is American in regard to commercial affairs, and is a happy hunting-ground for American tourists and Protestant missionaries. What does not belong to American interests has been taken up by the Chinese. It is a beautiful and pleasant place to which to send French officials, and a favourite resort of writers and artists—but it is of little use to France. So far as New Caledonia is concerned, says this writer, there is no question about its mineral riches, but the discontinuance of the deportation of criminals, and the decision to make it a colony for French freed convicts, have created a serious difficulty in regard to labour supplies for the mines, and much of the earlier promise of this colony has disappeared. A happier note is found in New Hebrides, where there has been remarkable development; but this Group, says the admiral, "does not belong entirely to us, and Australia views with impatience our presence in that archipelago."

The admiral proceeds: "The possibility of successfully defending these Pacific possessions is quite evidently nil, owing to their distance and, owing to the naval effort that would be required to maintain communication with them by sea. They are at the mercy of the United States, and the Australian Common-

wealth, and of New Zealand, and their probable fate is clearly shown by what happened to New Guinea and Samoa when war broke out in 1914."

For this reason, urges the admiral, it should not be difficult to make a satisfactory exchange of these Islands' territories, which are very attractive to Australia and New Zealand, for territory in other parts of the world, which can be much more profitably developed and defended by French Colonial administration.

We could not state the case more strongly than it has been presented by this French officer. The New Hebrides and New Caledonia mean little to France, commercially or strategically, because of their distance from the Mother Country, and because they are not near or on the way to any other French possession. But the two groups are of much importance to Australia, because they are in close trading contact with the Australian territories, and because they form a part of that protective fringe of islands which stretch across thousands of miles of ocean, and interpose a barrier between Australia and the rest of the Pacific.

Much the same thing applies to French Oceania in relation to New Zealand; although New Zealand's interests in Tahiti are not nearly so extensive and intimate as are those of Australia in New Hebrides and New Caledonia. It was hoped that, when the Panama Canal was opened, France might have done something to bring about settlement and development in the Society, Tuamotu and Marquesas groups; but little has been done in that direction. The territories concerned would lose nothing, therefore, and might possibly gain, by a change of administration.

The only obstacle in the way of an amicable discussion of these matters between France and Britain, and a mutually satisfactory adjustment, is French national pride, and age-old suspicion of "perfidious Albion." We have before us, for instance, a copy of "Le Neo Hebridais"—that excellent French newspaper published in Vila—in which the editor spiritedly replies to our recent suggestion that it was time to consider the position and future of the New Hebrides. He sees the hand of the Presbyterian missionary in our recent article; he insists (what is quite true) that French interests are predominant in the group; and he reminds us that France is "courtously" accepting the £ sterling and the £ Australian in the group at par, and ignoring the fact that they are actually worth much less. This, also, is true; but we seem to recollect that Britain treated the franc with similar consideration when the exchange position was reversed some ten years ago.

All this, however, is beside the point. We must seek the big, imperial view—not the selfish, parochial one—and the big view has been very effectively presented by the French writer (Admiral Castex) from whom we have quoted.

June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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GENERAL WISDOM RETIRES.

General Griffith goes to
Rabaul.

IT has been officially announced that Brig.-General Wisdom, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., has decided to retire from the post of Administrator of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, which he has held since February 3, 1921, and that he has entered upon long leave prior to retirement. An acting Administrator has been appointed.

GENERAL WISDOM left Rabaul by the "Macdhuil" on June 13, and is due in Sydney on June 22.

Brig.-Gen. Thomas Griffiths, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., has been appointed Acting Administrator and is to leave Sydney by the "Macdhuil" for Rabaul on June 30.

General Griffiths is well-known in Rabaul. He held important administrative posts in the A.I.F. and was Commandant at Horseferry Road, in London, in 1918. Soon after he returned to Australia, he was appointed Military Administrator of the Territory of New Guinea and assumed duty there in 1920. He held office there until General Wisdom took charge under the Civil Administration in 1921, and, in that short period he gained an excellent reputation as a firm, just and capable Administrator. General Griffiths was ap-



General A. E. Wisdom.



S.S. "Malinoa," as she lay on the reef at Aoba, New Hebrides.

pointed Administrator of Nauru in February, 1921, and remained there for some years. Subsequently, he held executive positions in the Commonwealth service, and was a member of the War Pensions Appeal Tribunal, when asked to go temporarily to New Guinea.

Owing to the probable retirement of Sir Hubert Murray, Lieut.-Governor of Papua, and the retirement of General Wisdom from New Guinea, the opportunity is being taken by the Federal Government to review the whole question of administrative organisation in those two Territories. No hurried decision will be made. The objects which the Federal Government has in view, have been referred to previously in this journal, and are dealt with elsewhere in this issue. It will be seen that a problem of considerable magnitude has to be considered, and it is not likely that any hurried decision will be reached. In these circumstances, it is likely that General Griffiths will remain for some time at administrative headquarters in Rabaul. It is noted that General Griffiths is 67 years of age, and, therefore, is not seeking the permanent position of Administrator. The announcement that he is going to New Guinea for the present was received with marked approval in administrative and commercial circles interested in New Guinea.

General Wisdom's decision to retire immediately was not unexpected. He has had a hard and gruelling ten years in the Territory, during the change from German to British administration and from military to civil occupation; and his task has been complicated by the serious economic depression, which has affected all countries of primary production. The strain has been accentuated by the establishment in New Guinea of a new and very vigorous industry—gold-mining—which is likely to be a dominant factor in administrative considerations in the early future. General Wisdom had a severe bereavement last year, in the untimely death of his wife, and this probably hastened his decision to retire.

General Wisdom leaves New Guinea with the best wishes of all interests there. He has at all times shown himself to be a kindly, just man, who has carried out very difficult duties fearlessly and efficiently. He has met a certain amount of hostile criticism, but that was to be expected in the circumstances—and that fact never deflected him by a hair's-breadth from what he conceived to be his duty. He retires with an enviable record of administration in Australia's tropical territories.

MALINOA FINISHED.

To Become Hulk In Port Vila.

IT has been decided that it is impracticable to repair the Burns, Philp inter-island steamer "Malinoa," which ran on to a reef at Aoba, in the New Hebrides, during a hurricane in April; and which was afterwards refloated by the crew and brought to Port Vila.

Surveyors inspected the vessel at Vila, on behalf of the underwriters and the owners, and it was found that, although the captain had effected a really excellent "save," the structural damage done to the ship while on the reef was so great that it would not pay to bring her down to Sydney for repairs. She, therefore, became a "compromise total loss," and has been



Another view of the "Malinoa" fast on the reef.

abandoned. It is understood that she will remain in Vila harbour, for use as a hulk.

The "Makambo" is carrying out the "Malinea's" itinerary in the New Hebrides for the present. It is not expected that she will remain indefinitely in this service, as she is somewhat too big and expensive to run in inter-island work.

NORFOLK ISLAND TRADE.

IMPORTS.			
	From Aust.	From N.Z.	
March, 1931	£2,594	£1,229	
March, 1932	—	£1,201	
April, 1931	£1,365	£1,227	
April, 1932	£2,882	£1,437	
EXPORTS.			
March, 1931	£1,219	£1,316	
March, 1932	£1,430	£333	
April, 1931	£784	£1,485	
April, 1932	£1,010	£450	

FUTURE OF COPRA IS "OBSCURE."

AN interesting summary of the copra market, as seen by the London merchant, is contained in a recent letter, received by the editor from Mr. Roy Fischel, of Messrs. L. M. Fischel & Co., Ltd., 36 Mincing Lane, London. Mr. Fischel says:—

"The copra market here, after being firm at the beginning of the year, has become rather dull during the past month or so, and prices, as you are fully aware, have reacted to a large extent from the highest prices of the year.

"Kiln-dried South Sea is being offered in London to-day (end of April) for May/June shipment at £13/15/- to Marseilles, while for sundried South Sea there are possible buyers at £14/7/6 to London.

"The outlook generally is very obscure, and one finds it impossible to take any view of the immediate future. The great fall in all commodity and stock markets in America is continually affecting Europe to a great extent, and it is difficult to see when this depression in America is going to end. On the other hand, there are signs of slightly better times in England, and we hope, in the Empire as a whole.

"We have at last managed to balance our budget here by sacrifices of all sections of the community, and we think, if only some of the other countries—especially those who remain on the gold standard—were to be a little more helpful to the world as a whole, and not quite so selfish and money-grabbing, the world would soon turn round and we would have better business for all.

"Until this takes place we think it is left to the countries of the British Empire to work together for each other's benefit, and not for any one in particular. The writer feels that by doing this we should be able to keep our heads above water, and then wait until others come to their senses, and instead of being money-grabbing, try to be of service to the world as a whole."

MR. REG. HOCKINGS.

Death at Makassar.

THE death of Mr. Reg. Hockings, O.B.E., a very well-known identity of Torres Straits, occurred at Makassar, Dutch East Indies, on June 5, following an operation.

Mr. Hockings, who spent some 30 years in the East Indies and Thursday Island, was the founder of the Wanetta Co., one of the leading Thursday Island pearling companies. He was an expert in all matters relating to pearl shell and its recovery.

During the war, Mr. Hockings assisted the naval authorities in an advisory capacity, and was decorated for his services.

He was the owner of a plantation in the Celebes, and of recent years had spent most of his time between there and Thursday Island. At T.I., he acted as vice-consul for the Netherlands. Deceased was about 60 years of age.

"PAT," OF THE TROBRIANDS.



This is a portrait of Pat, the little daughter of that well-known couple, Mr. and Mrs. Lumley, of the lovely, but lonely, Trobriands, 180 miles north of Samarai, Papua. The photograph is by Arthur J. Vogan, for some years artist-correspondent of the "Illustrated London News" in Australasia. Mr. Vogan writes:—

THE beautifully-illustrated "Woman's Journal" (London) having as its cover picture this month a splendid coloured reproduction of the famous picture by Shannon, of Lady Diana Cooper, the most beautiful woman of her time, as a child, I venture to send you my photographic study of the most beautiful child I have met with in Australasia—during thousands of miles of travel as artist for the "Illustrated London News," or on scientific research work.

I offered this picture to the editor of the "Sydney Mail," but he said, as it was not a picture of an Australian child (Papua is not Australian to him), it was of no interest to his public. But the child struck me as being so like the subject of the above celebrated picture, that I wanted Australians to see what these lonely islands of the far north can produce: by parental care, the pure air of the S.E. trade-winds, and an ancient, aristocratic heredity.

When I saw this lovely child last August, I thought of Grace Crowell's "Prayer After Pain":—

How can he thank Thee, Lord, for the good grain
Who has not conquered the thistle, briar and weed?
How can he thank Thee for the sweet, wild rain
Who has not trod parched lands above dead seed?
How can he lift a grateful heart for peace
Who has not known some red-lit battlefield?
O Lord, how can he comprehend release
Who has not felt at last an old wound healed?

Out of earth's agony white flowers shine;
Above the old scarred fields wild grasses run;
Out of the crushed fruits of the sun comes wine;
Out of the night—the morning star, the Sun!
For every hour of pain that we have had
Even for these—Lord, help us to be glad!

The parrot in this picture is almost as well-known as the child. But not for similar reasons. Its colour is a screaming crimson; and its temper, and natural proclivity for demoniacal attacks upon inoffensive humanity, are such that no editor could possibly allow them to be adequately described—save in some scientific publication devoted to mental cases! "The Red Devil," as it is affectionately termed by all but its gentle little mistress, is a purely native product. In its fiery little self seems concentrated all the evils of an otherwise lovely and fruitful land of Eden, which was once the home of the old sun-worshippers, who brought their culture from Asia across the Pacific to New Caledonia and elsewhere. One of their ancient burial-pots is shown—the finest I have ever seen. It was probably made from clay obtained from Ferguson Island, eighty miles south of the Trobriands, or Kiririvini Islands. The dead were buried in the centre of the (then) fortified villages; and, later, their bones were dried and deposited in the pots in weird burial-caves, close to where the first arrivals from Asia landed—where the ancient paths cut through the coral "cheval-de-frise" of coral and sun-stones, are still to be found by the initiated.

ALSATIAN DOGS NOW PRO- HIBITED IN PAPUA.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PT. MORESBY, May 26.

RECENTLY, Alsatian dogs have been imported into the Territory of Papua. The Government, however,

think it inadvisable to import this type of dog.

In England a few years ago, there were several instances which proved this breed to be a serious menace, and the Papuan Government, fearing any such trouble, has now made an order prohibiting the importation into the Territory of these dogs.

June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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MORE CHINESE LEAVE APIA.

From Our Own Correspondent.

APIA, May 27.
ANOTHER batch of over 70 Chinese coolies was repatriated on May 26 by the French steamer "Ville de Verdun."

These coolies had been mostly out of work for a considerable time, and loafing about the streets, sometimes stealing poultry and foodstuffs, or living on their compatriots.

Many planters have dismissed part of their labour staffs, as the cocoa crop is picked and, as the lean season is coming, expenses have to be cut down to bedrock.

PHOSPHATE FROM CENTRAL PACIFIC.

IN the Senate, on May 12, Senator J. B. Hayes made enquiries regarding phosphates supplied to Australia for the year 1930-31.

The questions asked by the Senator and the replies given were as follows:—
What is the number of tons of phosphates supplied by the Phosphates Commission to manufacturers in Australia during the year ended June 30, 1931?—393,000 tons (including 125,000 tons obtained from sources other than Nauru and Ocean Island).

What is the total price charged for same, f.o.b. at port of shipment?—Nauru, 19/6 per ton; Ocean Island, 22/- per ton. The total charge (including cost, freight and insurance) to manufacturers in Australia for phosphate supplied from other sources was 45/- per ton.

What are the freight charges on same, per ton?—Freight and insurance, 20/9 per ton on phosphate from Nauru and Ocean Island, plus 3/6 per ton to cover excess cost of phosphate from other sources.

KUKU

IT was nearing sunset, and the day-long walk had tired me and given me a headache, sore feet, and aching legs.

I had outstripped my carriers and was alone on the interminable stretch of dull, grey Papuan beach, a continuous wall of green foliage on my right hand, and on my left an endless, snarling line of mud-coloured surf. The setting sun shone directly into my eyes, and I longed fervently for Barima, my journey's end, where I should find a bath and a drink, and rest.

This was my first experience of the district, and, as I had encountered no sign of life for several miles, I was relieved to see a native coming down the slope of the beach just ahead of me.

He was old. His skin hung loosely over fleshless bones; his knees sagged, and he put his feet down delicately, as though doubting the strength of his legs. His only attire was a narrow strip of tapi-cloth, and a diminutive net-bag, its strap over his shoulder, nestled under his left armpit. He grinned at me, showing toothless gums blackened by lime and betel-nut.

"Kuku," he said.

I gave him kuku; the coarse trade-tobacco so dear to the native heart.

"Barima?" I questioned, pointing ahead along the beach.

"Barima," he echoed, with a grin, nodding his skull at me, and copying my gesture westwards.

"Kaila-kaila?" (Is it near?) I asked.

"Kaila-kaila," he repeated comfortably.

I turned to go on, and he fell in behind me. After a few hundred yards, he spoke again:

"Kuku," he said.

I gave him more kuku, which he stowed away in his little bag, and we went on for a couple of miles in silence.

We came to a wide creek flowing rapidly across the sand. It was too deep to wade and too strong to swim; and I looked at him inquiringly. For answer, he led the way out into the surf, and stood knee-deep, waiting for me. As I approached he laid a hand on my shoulder and indicated that I should turn my back to him. It dawned on me that I was to carry him through the creek.

I thought it out. It is well-known; the best method of wading through a strong current is to carry a weight. Obviously, he could not carry me. If there had been a boulder in sight, or a log of wood, I should certainly have preferred it to this unsavoury old skeleton as a burden. But there was nothing portable in sight. Also, it occurred to me that he knew where Barima was, and I didn't.

"All right, daddy," I said. "Crawl up!"

He scrambled on to my back, and I went ahead. The current was even stronger than it looked, and I could feel the sand shifting under my feet at every step. A skinny arm pointed the changing direction, and a senile voice shouted meaningless babble in my left ear as I struggled and staggered in the loose sand and rushing water.

I got across, eventually, and dropped my burden, not very gently, into six inches of water.

"Kuku," he said.

"Barima?" I countered.

This seemed to exhaust the possibilities of conversation, so he began again:

"Kuku," he cooed.

I broke off a piece and held it in front of him.

"Barima," I said firmly. "Barima, kuku."

A light, dim and wavering, broke over his sagging features. He turned and pointed a skinny arm backwards and upwards, across the creek which we had just crossed, throwing back his head to indicate great distance.

"Barima," he said, as he pointed. "Dau-dau." (It is a long way.)

I spent a luxurious half-minute in muttering some extremes of Australinisms; then I shrugged hopelessly and re-entered the snarling torrent. Half-way across, my feet were swept from under me. Eventually, as I tolled and floundered up the farther bank, I heard his voice again:

"Kuku!" he called plaintively. "Kuku!"

And I had an uncomfortable feeling that he was right!

—MOLLIE LETT.



A Cheery Group in the New Hebrides. — Madame Lancon (second from the left), formerly a Sydney girl, with friends in a cutter, near her husband's plantation, on Malekula, N.H.

U.S.A. Sloop Visits Nukualofa.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NUKUALOFA, May 21.

THE U.S.A. sloop of war "Lark," bringing the Governor of American Samoa and his staff, visited Nukualofa on May 2 and departed on the following day. The Governor was entertained by H.B.M. agent and Consul and the staff and ships' officers were motored to all the scenic spots on the island.

TROPICALITIES

THURSDAY ISLAND officials receive some weird letters occasionally. The following specimen was addressed to a certain department which has charge of natives' money, and from which supplies are drawn as required. The liberal allowance of the word "please" in the letter is typical of the local Islander, who is never more polite than when he is trying to get something out of the white man:

"Please, Mr. —, I wanting some money, please. Please, my father and mother got no tucker or blankets and I want to buy some for them. Please, Mr. —, wives and children are easy got, but fathers and mothers—NO."

STRANGE how the name of Lang can act like a tonic, in some circumstances! Taxpayers in the Solomons, for instance, used considerable ink and some strong adjectives not long ago in presenting their wretched plight—much money to pay out, a sheltered public service to support, a policy of laissez faire to combat, and so on. Then it was suggested that the Solomons might be removed from the British Colonial Office control, and handed over to Australia, to be administered along with New Guinea and Papua. Immediately, what a panic and scurry! "What!" cried the Solomon Islanders. "Be taken away from the kindly beneficent rule of Britain and handed over to that country of lunatic demagogues and bush-rangers! Never! Why, if that man Lang hears that we've got £60,000 or £70,000 saved up against a rainy day—the result of our good government—nothing will save our Treasury from his minions. Let Australian learn to govern herself, before trying to govern us!" And appreciative and even affectionate things are said about the Resident Commissioner, Mr. Ashley, whose term of office is drawing to an end.

All of which only goes to show how necessary it is to keep the Australian Islands administration clear of party politics, in every shape and form.

AS an example of the kind of nonsense that is published about the Pacific Islands, we reproduce the following paragraph. It was written by a recent visitor to Nauru, published in an Australian journal, and re-published in the Mid-Pacific Magazine (Honolulu). Members of the Stanley Expedition, particularly, will be interested in the reference to Rennel Island; while planters on Malaita will raise a loud cheer:—

A few days after passing Wreck Reef we came in sight of the Solomons, the first island we sighted being Rennel Island. It is densely wooded and very thickly populated. No white men have visited it since 1897, and the inhabitants still practice cannibalism. Next morning we passed between two of the largest islands, San Christoval and Malaita. We saw some of the natives on Malaita, but when our ship's siren was sounded, they turned and quickly bolted into the bush, evidently frightened by the sound. It seems strange to us that though these islands were discovered 400 years ago, cannibalism and head-hunting still go on, but so it is.

THIS scribe entered a city tea-room, and noted a table occupied by W. R. Carpenter, J. A. Carpenter and A. E. Barton. The latter, in his serious moments, is a well-known accountant.

"W.R." gave a "view-halloa." "Come here, Mr. Pacific Monthly," he cried. "Come and hear Barton's new method of preventing malaria."

I was all attention, immediately; and "J.A." pricked up his ears.

"What's this, Barton?" he demanded. "Another new drug?"

"No," said the solemn Mr. Barton. "This is simple. When you are in danger of malaria, you get some grease—dripping or butter will do—and you smear it evenly over the exposed parts of your face and hands."

"Sounds pretty messy," remarked "J.A." "What's the idea, anyway?"

"Well, you see, the old lady mosquito comes along, and tries to dig in her beak, but her legs slip from under her, and she can't get home any way. And so you don't get malaria. See?"

"J.A." eyes the criminal severely. "Some day, Barton, you will die in a nasty way," he said. "And it won't be from malaria!"

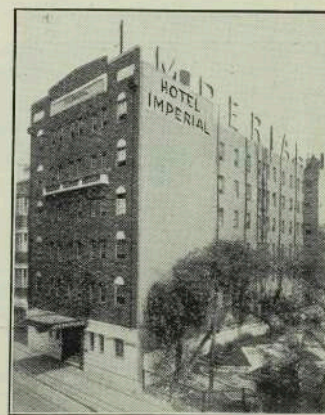
"W.R.'s" shout of laughter was heard in O'Connell Street, and they hurried in to put out the fire.

THE shipping companies of other nations continue to display a keen interest in the Pacific carrying trade—one result of the depression, which has sent the transport organisations of every country on the hunt for anything which will earn bread and butter. The Americans are now catering vigorously for Fiji and Auckland; the French are already calling at Suva on their run from Tahiti to Noumea, and are now suggesting that they may call at Apia also; the Germans continue to run their cargo steamer, the "Bremerhaven," from China down to New Guinea; and the Dutch recently instituted a new service, by which their vessel from the East Indies, via Papuan and New Guinea ports, calls at New Hebrides and New Caledonia before proceeding to Sydney.

WE hear, almost daily, of the registration of new companies to exploit some alleged source of great wealth in the Islands. We have referred, in this and previous issues, to a number of them; but still they come. The latest is Pacific-gold and Platinum, Ltd., with a nominal capital of £5,000, "to equip and despatch an expedition to investigate gold-bearing country in the British Solomon Islands." The directors named are D. Wentworth, F. E. Wade and G. E. Bray; and the company received a good deal of publicity because it was one of several companies recently registered in Canberra—a system now being followed to avoid the murderously heavy taxation in the various States.

AN example of New Guinea ingenuity was noted on a little canvas bag, containing 55 ounces of raw gold, received by Messrs. Burns, Philp and Co., Ltd., from the Morobe field the other day. The sender wanted to seal the package, but he had no seal—only wax. So he melted the wax into the tin-top of a beer-bottle, passed the string which bound the bag through the tin-top and the wax, and impressed upon it what appears to have been the triangular device on the top of a certain brand of tooth-paste. It looked most impressive—and it certainly served its purpose.

WHALE oil from the Antarctic is still an enormously disturbing factor in the world's copra market. Production has been reduced; but over-production was so marked in 1930 and 1931 that huge stocks were accumulated—much of which are still in existence—and the rate of production is still far greater than circumstances warrant. It is certain that, as the years pass, the Antarctic will be depleted of whales—just as all other oceans have been depleted—but that is poor consolation to the man who is trying to make his plantation pay in this present year of grace. The following is from a recent issue of the London "Times":—"The Whaling Companies' Association, excluding Unilever, Laboremus, Ltd. (says the Oslo correspondent of The Times), has reached an agreement limiting the coming season's whale-oil production to about 50 per cent. of the present capacity of the world whaling fleets. The total is expected to reach 2,000,000 barrels."



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June 23, 1932.

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ABOUT ISLANDS PEOPLE.

MR. ROLAND GREEN, M.P., accompanied by Mrs. Green, left for a trip to Papua and New Guinea by the Montoro, on June 8.

MR. J. A. CARPENTER, a director of Messrs. W. R. Carpenter and Company, Limited, returned to Sydney on the Nellore on May 20 from a tour of New Guinea.

REV. FATHER J. MCHARDY, S.M., who for the past three years has been engaged in Marist missionary work in the North Solomon Islands, returned to Sydney in May, and is now a patient in Lewisham private hospital.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. AMALRIC, commander of French troops in the Pacific Islands, and Madame Amalric arrived on June 1 by the Laperouse from Noumea to spend two months' holiday in Sydney.

CAPTAIN TRAMONTI, commander of the Messageries Maritimes steamer Laperouse, arrived at Sydney from Noumea in charge of that vessel on June 1 for the last time. With his family he left for France by the Eridan on June 7 to take command of a vessel trading from France. Captain R. Corenwinder is the new commander of the Laperouse.

MR. P. F. PARKES, a director of W. S. Tait and Co., Ltd., South Sea Island agents, of Sydney, Mr. J. O'Rourke, accountant of a New Caledonia chrome mining company, and Mr. N. Hagen, planter and business man in the New Hebrides, arrived in Sydney by the Laperouse from Noumea on June 1.

THE REV. G. H. AND MRS. EASTMAN, L.M.S. missionaries in the Gilbert Islands, who are on long furlough, left Sydney for England by the Ballarat on June 7.

REV. SUSIE J. RANKIN, missionary for the L.M.S. at Saroa, Papua, sailed for England by the Ballarat on June 7. Her husband, the Rev. R. Rankin, returned to Saroa by the Montoro.

LIEUT.-COL. ORDE LEES, a journalist representing "The Japan Advertiser," and formerly the correspondent in Japan for the London "Times," left Papeete by the Ville de Verdun. The Colonel has been making an extensive tour of the Pacific Islands, having already visited all the western groups mandated to Japan, the Philippines, Dutch East Indies, Borneo, Papua, New Caledonia, and several other important islands. He has become a regular reader of the P.I. Monthly, and has stated that, without its aid, it would have been almost impossible to make the necessary steamship connections as expeditiously as he has been able to.

CAPTAIN A. LISTON-BLYTH, who has been in Papua for some years as resident manager of the property of the British, Australasian and Pacific Development Co., Ltd., on the Palubana River, Delta Division, arrived in Sydney early in May on business connected with the company. The original plans of the enterprise embraced the production of sago, and power alcohol from sago and nipa palms; but activities have hung fire somewhat owing to the depression and consequent difficulty in obtaining capital.

MRS. ALLEN INNES, a well-known resident of Salamaua, New Guinea, is actively at work at the present time endeavouring to form an Islands Women's Association. It is proposed, if the movement is successful, to affiliate with the Country Women's Association of Australia. It is reported that Mrs. Innes is endeavouring to interest Mrs. Walstab, Mrs. Page and Mrs. Backhouse (of Rabaul), Mrs. Bunting (of Samarai), and Mrs. Lyons (of Port Moresby); and is endeavouring to get into communication with ladies resident in Fiji and Samoa, who might be interested in the idea.

MR. C. V. ALLOM has been recently appointed Inspector-General for Messrs. O. F. Nelson and Co., Ltd., Samoa. Mr. Allom was for over 30 years in the employ of Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co., Ltd., for which firm he was manager at Apia for six years, prior to his taking over the management of their branch at Sourabaya, Java. Before entering the service of Burns, Philp & Co., Mr. Allom had ten years' banking experience in Queensland.

MR. J. SCHROEDER, who left the Solomon Islands at the end of last year, after having been a resident there for over 28 years, has now taken up his residence at Kureelpa, near Nambour, in Queensland.

MR. J. H. L. WATERHOUSE, F.R.G.S., a well-known botanist, arrived from Bougainville recently. He will return to New Guinea by the "Macdhui" on June 30, and will go on to Bougainville, to resume his work for the Royal Gardens at Kew, London. He will also collect specimens for the Yale University School of Forestry.

Fire Destroys Apia Home.

From Our Own Correspondent.

APIA, May 21.
A FIRE destroyed the residential home of Mr. Y. Ah Ma, the director of the Union Garage Co., Ltd., at Lohopa, Apia, on May 15. The fire broke out at 10 p.m. during the absence of the owner and his family, who had gone to their country residence at Leauvaa. Though the outbreak was apparently noticed very soon, and the police appeared on the scene promptly, nothing could be done to save the house, which was prettily situated on the Gasease Stream and was a roomy, two-storeyed building in very beautiful surroundings.

TONGAN EXCHANGE

POSITION IS PUZZLING.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NUKUALOFA, May 1.

THE articles in the March number of the P.I.M., regarding copra prices paid in Rabaul to producers, has made local planters put on their thinking caps, and they are wondering where the difference between the N.G. price (£13/10/-) and the Tongan price (£8) comes in.

The rather vague explanation has been offered that it is due to the exchange, but as the exchange seems always to operate against dummy, whether a buyer or a seller, he is still very much in the dark.

The exchange question, as far as Tonga is concerned, is extremely puzzling. Cheques on Sydney banks sent to Auckland are debited with about 20 per cent. exchange, while Auckland cheques sent to Sydney are credited with only 4 per cent. (my own experience), so who is the lucky one who makes the rake off.

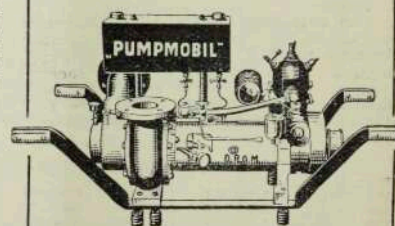
Drafts on Sydney are obtainable locally at par, but on Auckland they are unprocurable. There certainly seems to be a catch in it somewhere.

To make matters worse, the Government has decided to limit Post Office orders to £10 per person or firm on New Zealand, so the smaller traders are having great difficulty in transferring money to that country, but the big firms are taking it very philosophically, and no wonder.

Whether the prohibition is wise remains to be seen, but the position of the Government is a difficult one, particularly now that the banana shipments cannot be relied upon to produce funds in Auckland, as was hoped. The net result of the prohibition is that the general European public feels that the Government has acted inconsiderately and in a manner that may bring repercussions from New Zealand.

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FIJI'S STRONG TRADE POSITION.

RECENT reports disclose the extraordinarily sound financial position of the Crown Colony of Fiji.

There has just come to hand the Fiji Customs Department's summary of figures for the three months ended March 31, and in comparison with the same period of 1931, they disclose the following interesting position:

	First Qr. 1931.	First Qr. 1932.
Imports—		
Suva	£170,721	£105,514
Levuka	12,403	6,671
Lautoka	45,866	39,295
Total	228,990	151,480
Exports—		
Suva	68,650	74,486
Levuka	34,352	16,586
Lautoka	147,642	186,994
Total	£250,644	£282,066
Exports in Detail.		
Sugar	£148,239	£185,974
Copra	64,419	34,130
Bananas	11,541	22,646
Trocas	768	3,128
Other	25,667	36,186

This shows that the Colony has not only considerably increased its exports, but has also decreased its imports, so that its favourable trade balance for the three months under notice is approximately £130,000.

As the internal financial condition of the Colony is also very sound, it is surprising to note that the exchange between Suva and London is still unfavourable to Fiji. This only emphasises the view expressed in "The Pacific Islands Monthly" in May—namely, that there is a chance here for a shrewd financier.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REVIEW.

The Suva Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting recently, under the chairmanship of the President, Sir Maynard Hedstrom.

The President's annual report provided the usual exhaustive and valuable analysis of the Colony's trade. It was fully reproduced in the "Fiji Times," of April 29. The following is a summary.

The shrinkage in the Colony's trade, owing to the world depression, which became marked in 1930, was accentuated in 1931, owing to unfavourable seasons reducing copra and sugar production. The Colony's total trade in 1930, as compared with other years, was:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total. £
1927	1,223,303	1,997,374	3,220,677
1928	1,483,169	2,701,251	4,184,420
1929	1,468,609	1,775,998	3,244,607
1930	1,219,184	1,484,526	2,703,710
1931	929,514	1,000,187	1,929,701

Dealing with Government finances, the President said that the Colony's deficit in 1930 was £6,529, and it was estimated that the deficit for the financial year, 1931-32, would be £44,000. These deficits are being met by the Colony's surplus funds, which will thereby be reduced to about £143,000.

Dealing with the Colony's production, the President said that 1931, so far as the sugar output was concerned, was the most disastrous in its history. The industry suffered not only from the uneconomic low level of prices, but also from hurricanes and floods. The total sugar production was 67,939 tons, valued at £624,310, which was much below the normal production. Against this, however, it was reported that the 1932 crop prospects were excellent and it was expected that the 1932 production would be satisfactory.

There was a substantial fall in copra production in 1931. The quantity exported in 1929, the record year, was 33,226 tons. In 1930, owing to the unfavourable season, it dropped to 23,882 tons. There was a further fall in 1931 to 16,917 tons, worth £177,786. The price of copra during 1931, fell to the lowest rates on record. The prospects of the 1932 copra crop have greatly improved and there will be a substantial increase of production over 1931.

Banana producers suffered severely in 1930-31. Production has been as follows:—

Year.	Bunches.
1929	384,658
1930	169,044
1931	194,875

One case is taken as equal to two bunches.

Production is now back to normal and, if a market were available, 60,000 bushels (of 30,000 cases) could be shipped each month. Unfortunately, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands and Norfolk Island are competing with Fiji in the New Zealand banana market.

Hurricanes and floods in 1931 reduced the cotton production from the estimate of 750 bales to 260 bales. There were 822 growers, of whom 73 were Fijians and the remainder Indians. Sea Island was the only variety produced, but encouraging experiments are being made with Kidney-Sea Island backcross cotton, which compares well with Egyptian Sakels.

The pineapple-growing and canning industry is making excellent progress, but it is pointed out that the world market for canned pineapples has shrunk greatly, with the result that the Hawaiian packers have been unable to dispose of their output. This falling away in demand has grown the Fijian industry into a depression, and a considerable portion of its output was stored in Suva at the end of 1931, awaiting a remunerative market.

The dairying industry continues to make progress, and, despite damage

done by floods, the production of butter increased from 440,279 lbs. in 1930 to 490,055 lbs. in 1931. The export of butter was about 83 tons in 1931, compared with 45 tons in 1930.

The President, in a general summary of the position and outlook, says that the prospects for Fiji are distinctly better than they were a year previously. A large crop of sugar is assured and the market has been rendered definitely more favourable by the British Government's decision to give Colonial-grown sugar a substantial preference. This should enable the C.S.R. Co., Ltd., despite the bad times through which it has recently passed, to maintain its price for sugarcane to the growers. A substantial increase in the copra output was also expected, and, although no marked increase in copra prices was expected, it was anticipated that the rates would not fall again to the low levels of the June-September periods of 1931.

PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION.

ALTHOUGH the Pacific Islands' Association was launched only a few months ago, the membership is now over 60, and applications for membership are coming in by every mail. The committee is now giving serious consideration to the question of providing club-room facilities, and room for storing valuable books and records. It is largely a question of finance, and reports on the matter will be considered at the next committee meeting. New members include:—

G. Renton, Box No. 48, Rabaul.
H. A. Vaysey, Buka, New Guinea.
L. L. Bell, 74 King Street, Sydney.
J. W. Matley, Waigani Plantation, via Samarai, Papua.
Dr. F. J. Williams, Samarai, Papua.
R. J. P. Parer, Salamaua, New Guinea.
L. H. Ross, Wau, New Guinea.
A. W. McLennan, Rabaul, New Guinea.
A. A. C. Hall, Port Moresby, Papua.
M. C. Crocker, c/o. Department of Agriculture, Rabaul, New Guinea.
W. M. Middleton, Bulili, Madang, New Guinea.
A. Le Breton-mout, Wau, New Guinea.
M. Browne-Perkins, Potsdamhafen Plantations, Madang, New Guinea.
F. W. Burke, Guro Estates, Papua.
W. W. Currie, Vailala, Gulf Division, Papua.
Mrs. C. MacDonald, Vaiviri Plantation, Vailala River, Papua.
E. L. G. Thomas, Buka, New Guinea.
E. H. Chester, Lotorua Estate, via Port Moresby, Papua.

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THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

11

EARLY PAPUA.

An Old Newspaper and a Remarkable Coincidence.

THIS is the story of a somewhat remarkable coincidence.

A friend in Melbourne sent to the editor of this journal a copy of a newspaper, now defunct—The Australasian Sketcher, of December 16, 1885.

"In this newspaper," wrote our friend, "you will find an interesting account of how Sir Peter Scratchley, the High Commissioner of New Guinea, went to that island and hoisted the British flag at Maopa, the centre of the district of Aroma, on the south-east of New Guinea on October 30, 1885—thus formally taking possession of Papua."

"You will read of how the ceremony was delayed for a time as the officials demanded the removal of a row of

"By the way," we said, "in this same newspaper, there is an interesting account of an expedition sent up the Fly River in Papua by the Geographical Society of Australasia about the same time. It seemed to get quite a long way inland. Did you ever hear of it?"

Mr. Vogan looked very hard at the Editor. "Let me see the paper," he said.

Mr. Vogan carefully ran his finger down the column of the 47-years-old print, and it stopped at a name—"Mr. A. J. Vogan, of New Zealand."

We were suitably impressed by the remarkable coincidence and asked Mr. Vogan about the expedition. He described a furious war which he and another young scientist had had with the leader of the expedition, Captain Everill.

"Oh," we said brightly, turning over the pages of the old newspaper, "there is a woodcut of him here."

Whereupon, Mr. Vogan gave a kind of yelp. But it was not because he had sighted his ancient enemy. He was looking at the opposite side, which carried a full-page of sketches of natives, native houses, etc., made on the Upper Fly River.

"Those are my sketches," said Mr. Vogan. "I was the artist for the expedition. That gentleman, whose head you see there, had never before met a white man—and, while I sketched his curious, aquiline features, he carefully

examined my then youthful curves and was obviously wondering whether I would be more palatable broiled, stewed or fricasseed. It is over 40 years since I saw those sketches."

We have sent this interesting old newspaper to the Pacific Islands' Association for preservation among the records it is collecting.

Solomon Islands Treasurer Honoured by King.

From Our Own Correspondent

TULAGI, June 7.

IN the King's Birthday Honours List an I.S.O. was conferred upon our very worthy Treasurer, Mr. Frederick ("Pop") Johnson.

Mr. Johnson, if rumour is correct, has so successfully managed our budget that an apparent, substantial deficit of a few months previously will become small surplus at the end of the financial year. He has achieved this in spite of a fall of about £10,000 on the year's import revenue, and also without resorting to the usual Governmental practice of imposing heart-rending taxation.

Mr. Johnson served a number of years in the New Hebrides before coming to us in 1920 to untangle our finances. He is the second in our service to win distinction; the first being Mr. C. M. Woodford, the father of Government in the Solomons, who received a C.M.G.



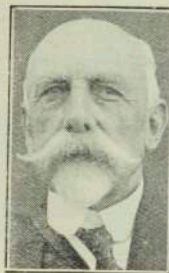
Sir Peter Scratchley.

Chinamen's skulls, which hung on a platform in the centre of Maopa, as holy relics of a bygone revenge; of how the natives hotly resented this suggestion; and of how they finally gave way.

"Two warships were present, the 'Diamond' and the 'Raven,' and 60 bluejackets and 30 marines were landed and marched to Maopa, distant some four miles from the coast. Thousands of natives attended the ceremony.

"You will also read of how Sir Peter Scratchley was seized with fever while off the north-east coast of New Guinea on November 21 and of how—although the steamer 'Governor Blackall' was rushed down to the Queensland coast with him—he died on November 30, near Cooktown."

That well-known Pacific traveller, Mr. A. J. Vogan, came into this office a couple of days later and we told him about the article in the old newspaper.



Mr. Vogan.

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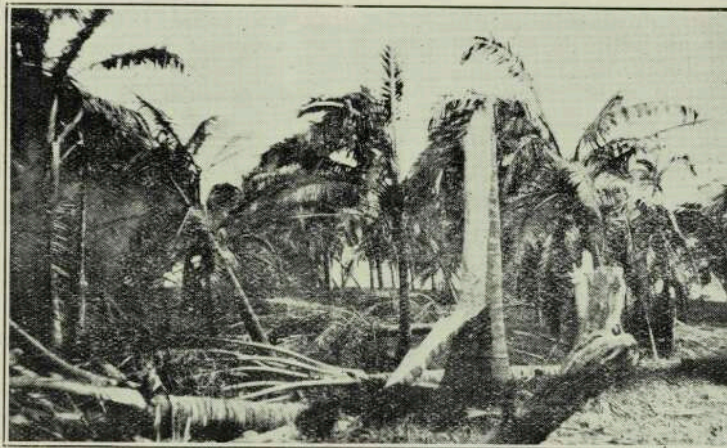
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THE HURRICANE IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.



What a plantation on Ambrym, N.H., looked like after the recent hurricane.

Anzac Day on Nauru

From Our Own Correspondent.

ANZAC DAY is always remembered on Nauru, and this year the day was solemnly observed. Children in all schools were addressed by their teachers, and after saluting the flag, were dismissed for the day.

At 12 noon, a short service was held at Administration Headquarters, where the police paraded under Mr. T. Cude, and were addressed by the Administrator. Many Europeans attended, and the simple service was closed by the sounding of the "Last Post."

In the evening, the ex-servicemen held a smoke night at the theatre. Mr. R. Truelove acted as secretary and Sisters Murray and Woods, ex-army nurses, attended. "Fallen Comrades" and "The Day We Celebrate" were fittingly honoured, and two minutes' silence observed. A suggestion of the chairman (Mr. H. Brittain), that similar functions be held regularly on Armistice and Anzac nights was discussed and a meeting will shortly be held to consider this.

Legal Commissioner for New Hebrides.

MR. PAUL CRUYL, first legal commissioner of the New Hebrides, reached Sydney this month by the Otranto.

Mr. Cruyl, who is a Belgian lawyer, is on his way from Belgium to Port Vila to take up his new position. This position is an interesting one. Mr. Cruyl's duty will be to replace the Court president or the public prosecutor, if they should be absent from their work.

Since the New Hebrides is a British and French Condominium, a Belgian has been selected for the position for the sake of impartiality. Mr. Cruyl's present appointment is for a term of three years.

WAR ON PENTECOST.

Fighting Between Mission Boys and "Bushies."

From Our Own Correspondent.

NEW HEBRIDES, May 19.
AT Melsisi, Pentecost, there is a war between the "boys" of the Roman Catholic Mission and the pagan bush "boys."

The "bushies" broke up a church in the bush, belonging to the mission. For vengeance, 15 mission "boys," without the knowledge of the Père, went and attacked 50 "bushies," killing two and scattering the rest.

They are now waiting for the Resident to go and settle the trouble for them.

"LA VICTOIRE."

Wrecked at Mallicolo.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NEW HEBRIDES, May 19.
A WEEK before the April hurricane, a trading schooner, "La Victoire," was wrecked at Oonwah, on the east coast of Mallicolo.

Three years ago, "La Victoire" was the French Government yacht. She went on the reef in the Maskylins, a group of islands in the south of the New Hebrides. Some Japanese bought her for a mere song, and spent three months salvaging her, employing 150 natives per day for labour and blasting a passage in the reef for 2½ miles, enabling her to come out.

Since then, she has been again on the reef in the Maskylins, but without causing much damage. The Japs. used her for trading all round the group.

But "La Victoire's" last day has come. Having ten tons of copra on board and two of trocas, she went into Oonwah to pick up one ton from the natives. On leaving in the night, she struck the reef and quickly sank. No lives were lost. The hurricane, a week later, completely destroyed her.

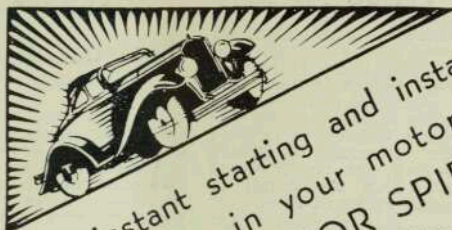
WEDDING AT MISIMA.

M. C. LEES, manager of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Co., Ltd., at Misima, Eastern Papua, was recently married to Miss Eileen Mulcahy, of Croydon, Sydney. The ceremony took place at the Government Residency. The bride was dressed in a frock of white georgette, cut in sheath effect, and flared from the knees, while the bodice was sleeveless and trimmed with pin tucks and a diamond buckle. Her veil of embroidered tulle was caught to the head with a circlet of orange blossoms, and extended to form a train. Mrs. Rentoul attended as Matron of Honour, looking charming in a beautiful dress of salmon pink moire, finished with a pretty bustle bow.

The popular R.M., Mr. Rentoul, gave the bride away.

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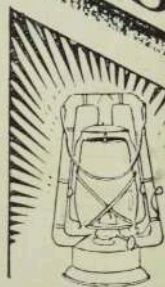
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NEW GUINEA AND PAPUA DISPLAY PANIC AT THE THOUGHT OF BECOMING BEDFELLOWS.

REPORTS to hand indicate an extraordinary amount of agitation in New Guinea and Papua, because of the alleged intention of the Federal authorities to "amalgamate" the two Territories.

The people of Papua say emphatically that such an idea is not to their liking. The Returned Soldiers' organisation in New Guinea became so disturbed over the so-called plan that they called a special meeting of Territory residents in Rabaul, on May 20, to consider the matter and make a strong protest to the Federal Government.

It would be interesting to know the source of this report about "amalgamation."

All that has happened—as indicated in the last issue of "The Pacific Islands Monthly"—is that the Federal Government has under serious consideration the plan of re-forming the administrative personnel of New Guinea, Papua, Northern Australia, Central Australia, Nauru and Norfolk Island, a special corps. The reasons for this proposal were set forth clearly in our last issue, and, from the point of view of efficiency and service, as well as the desirability of opening up opportunities for an attractive career for a good type of young man, it is difficult to see what possible objection there can be to the idea.

There is a further point to be considered, that Australia almost certainly will be asked, sooner or later, to accept added responsibilities in Pacific Islands administration. Without disclosing any secrets, we may say that the whole question of the future administration of the British Solomon Islands is under consideration, and some official announcement in regard thereto may be made at a fairly early date.

There is also the matter of the New Hebrides. That thorny subject is dealt with elsewhere in this issue, but it may be said that the present position of the Condominium demands the attention of both Britain and Australia. If it

is possible to make some rearrangement, whereby French pride and French commercial interests can be adequately protected, the obvious way out of the present impasse is to hand over the New Hebrides to British administration—and the task would fall, naturally, within the ambit of Australia's Pacific responsibilities.

The suggestion that territories administered by Australia should be amalgamated is palpably absurd—and could have been born only in ignorance. Papua is an Australian territory. New Guinea is a territory owned for the present by the League of Nations, which has been handed over to Australia, under mandate for administration. Nauru is in somewhat, though not exactly, a similar position. Norfolk Island is an Australian territory, but is not in exactly the same position as Papua or North Australia. The amalgamation of all these territories—apart from the fact that the mandates impose certain conditions—would not be practicable; but there is nothing at all to prevent the administrative officials being placed together in one corps, instead of being kept, as at present, in a series of watertight compartments.

There is a report in "The Rabaul Times" to the effect that "It would appear that New Guinea, whose finances are in a sound position, in spite of world-wide depression, would have the burden of carrying a Territory (Papua), which has had to impose a four per cent. primage tax." An examination of the two Territories does not show that one is very much better than the other. Figures quoted in the Federal Parliament the other day show that Australia has given grants totalling no less than a quarter of a million to New Guinea since she took over the mandate.

However, nothing is to be gained by following up that subject, as the question of amalgamation has not arisen, nor is it likely to arise.

ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Early Constitution Likely in New Guinea.

SEVERAL matters connected with the administration of the Territories of New Guinea and Papua demand the personal attention of the Federal Minister in Charge of Islands Affairs (Major C. W. C. Marr) and Major Marr had intended to visit the Territories by the "Macdhui," leaving Sydney on June 30.

So many Ministers will be absent from Canberra during July, however, that Major Marr found it impossible to arrange for his absence for five weeks, and had reluctantly to abandon his plan. It is very likely, however, that he will make a quick visit to the Territories in September or October.

The Minister wishes not only to discuss plans of administrative re-organisation with leading officials concerned; but he is also anxious to consider on the spot the whole question of a Legislative Council for New Guinea and the most effective steps that may be taken to stimulate the development of the Territories' natural resources. It is felt that since the Territories are so fortunately placed in regard to primary resources, abundant labour supply and light taxation, they will offer opportunities sooner than the more closely settled countries of Australia and New Zealand for private enterprise and the investment of personal capital once the economic depression begins to lift.

The present Federal Government seems to be determined to revive and encourage private enterprise in developmental activities during its term of office, whether in Australia or its Territories.

Ever since Australia took over the Territory, in 1921, there has been a demand for the appointment of a Legislative Council, or Advisory Council, through which the wishes of Territory residents may be presented directly to the Administrator. There is no machinery in existence now by which this may be done. The Administrator, within the limits imposed by the Federal Government, is a benevolent autocrat. It is a system that cuts right across the principles of democracy—but it has worked very well—and no one who has lived long in Australia has any faith in democracy, anyhow.

The appointment of a council with legislative powers probably will not be regarded as feasible in a territory held under mandate; but the creation of an Advisory Council at an early date may be taken as certain. The method of appointing that Council is the real problem to be settled. What is wanted is a Council representing the several interests—planting, trading, mining, missions and public service, for instance—rather than a number of men elected by the now indigenous population as a whole.

The matter is entirely open and will be settled by discussion; but we forecast a council eventually that will be so constituted as to represent particular interests; and partly nominative and partly elective, as in Fiji.

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THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

15

LEGISLATIVE WAR.

Is Fiji Council "Picking a Fight with the Governor."

THERE has been an interesting little squabble in Fiji between the Governor (Sir Murchison Fletcher) and the Legislative Council—interesting because it shows one of the difficulties of the Fijian system, which even now is under examination as a possible model for New Guinea.

The following report, written in Suva on June 2, was published in "The Sydney Morning Herald":—

There is strong feeling expressed in the streets at the action of the Governor in increasing the salary of a newly-appointed Secretary for Native Affairs from £800, as approved by the Government and the Elected Members when the Estimates were passed last October, to £1,000 without consulting the Legislative Council, contrary to the terms of the Letters Patent. The Elected Members regarded this as an affront, and their leader, Sir Maynard Hedstrom, moved a censure motion in the Council.

The Governor (Sir A. G. M. Fletcher) said he pleaded guilty to a certain discourtesy to the members, for he should have informed them when he received the cable from the Secretary of State; but the matter had escaped his memory. He therefore expressed his regret.

On a division in the Legislative Council there were six for and 15 against, all the official and native members voting by instructions against the motion.

The Elected Members have since had a conference, and are taking more drastic steps in the matter.

The non-resident of Fiji, knowing nothing more of the circumstances than are set out above, receives a distinctly un-

flattering opinion of the Fiji Legislative Council. The Governor appears to have been guilty of an oversight and an unintentional discourtesy; but he apologised, and that should have been the end of it.

It looks as if Fiji has reached the point when it wants a larger measure of definite self-governing rights, and a corresponding reduction of the Governor's power. It is a stage in the development of all democracies—though, if democracies could only see it, they are infinitely better off under the rule of a wise and benevolent despot.

But if Fiji wants more power for its Legislative Council, there is a method of procedure available, that is very different from the one apparently being followed—namely, "picking a fight" with the Governor—and which is much more dignified.

Eight Natives Killed in Papuan Massacre.

NEWs has reached Port Moresby of the massacre, on June 11, of six female natives, one adult male native, and one small boy in their gardens close to the Kemp Welch River, in the Central Division of Papua.

The bodies were badly cut about and battered by the raiders, who, it is thought, it will be possible to identify. One of the Kemp Welch women managed to escape from the attackers by diving into the river.

Rev. Harold Short, of the London Missionary Society, at Hula, was the first to receive news of the massacre.

He informed Mr. Cridland, Assistant Resident Magistrate, stationed at Rigo, who speedily left in pursuit of the murderers.

It probably will be found that this massacre can be traced to natives of the Kolari tribe, who live in the hills on the Lower Astrolabe Range. These people have extraordinary homicidal beliefs and they have been responsible for previous attacks of this kind.

K.L.G.

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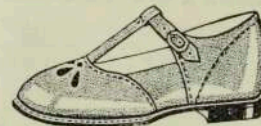
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Coal-Burners to be Laid Up.

THAT the small coal-burning steamers now used in maintaining the New Guinea inter-island services be laid up, and that their places be taken by two oil-burners, now under construction, was a decision recently arrived at by the directors of Messrs. W. R. Carpenter & Co., Ltd.

Two wooden vessels, each of 280 tons, specially designed for the New Guinea inter-islands trade, are now being built at Jervis Bay, in N.S.W., and they will be placed in commission before the end of the year. They will be driven by 200 h.p. Diesel engines, burning crude oil, and will have a speed of between 9 and 10 knots, fully loaded. They will carry a few passengers; but are being specially built for the Islands cargo trade. They will represent a very economical form of transport.

The present and continuing low price of copra has made it impossible for the firm to continue using the expensive coal-burners, which are employed chiefly in collecting copra from the plantations and bringing it to ports of shipment. Under the new system, the inter-islands costs will be less, and

copra will be concentrated at Madang, Kavieng, and Rabaul for shipment.

The new ships are of entirely British construction, and into their design—which, in many respects, is quite new—has gone much anxious thought and practical experience, gained by Messrs. Carpenter during long years in the Islands trade.

THE RABAU SLIP.

The decision to build two new vessels for New Guinea has made more than ever urgent the question of providing a slip in New Guinea, suitable for overhauling the inter-island steamers. At present, the vessels have to be sent to Australia.

Messrs. Carpenter & Co., some months ago, attacked the problem of finding in Rabaul Harbour a suitable spot for a large slip—well sheltered, and with a non-coral bottom. Coral is insecure, as it crushes under a heavy weight. For a time, it seemed that the only solution was to convey large pieces of sheet iron to Rabaul, and lay them on the coral floor, as a base for the slip.

Subsequently, negotiations were entered upon for the purchase of a suitable site on Vulcan Island, in Rabaul Harbour; and it is understood that these have been successfully concluded, and that the slip will be finally located there.

SUGARGROWING.

N.Z. Syndicate in Papua.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PT. MORESBY, May 26.

AN enterprising New Zealand syndicate is seeking land in Papua for sugarcropping.

Mr. Boilan, their representative, has inspected the Eastern and North-eastern Divisions and has recently visited the Brown River district near the Laloki. This he has turned down as unsatisfactory.

The Eastern Division by Collingwood Bay he found excellent, on account of the soil and rainfall, but it had already been taken up by another syndicate.

Mr. Boilan is returning to Papua shortly to seek other suitable areas.

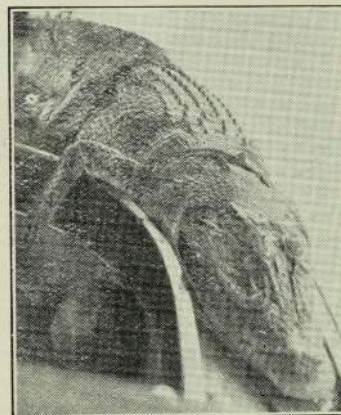
The output of dry rubber from the plantation of Koitaki Para Rubber Estates was 21,062lb.

CROCODILE SKINS.

Auctioned in Melbourne.

WHAT is believed to have been the first auction sale of crocodile skins in Melbourne, was conducted there recently by a woolhouse.

One hundred and eighty skins, all from Townsville, Queensland, were offered, and prices ranged from 6/- to



A typical resident of the tropical rivers, who may become a source of regular revenue.

27/- a dozen, which was a bargain line. Imported skins of this quality would range at about £5 a dozen.

Ninety per cent. of the offerings were bought by Geo. Pizzey & Son, Ltd., tanners of Fitzroy, a large buyer of crocodile skins for shoes and women's handbags.

This company imports almost all skins from India and the East, but Mr. T. Pizzey states there is a market in Melbourne for Australian crocodile skins, provided they were prepared and marketed properly.

COOK IS. WATER SERVICE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

RAROTONGA, May 22.

A CONSIDERABLE quantity of 6 inch water pipes have been arriving at Rarotonga by the mail boats from New Zealand.

It is learned that these pipes are to be used for replacing the present 3 inch pipes between the reservoir at the head of the Avatiu Valley and the settlement at Avatiu.

The 3 inch pipes will be then used to take the place of the 1 inch service between Avatiu and the Wireless Station (a distance of three miles).

This progressive undertaking is no doubt intended to improve the health conditions for the native settlers and others who reside along that stretch of the island. At present, the health conditions in the Cook Group are good—there has been no recurrence of the mysterious typhoid outbreak which faced Doctor Ellison on his arrival on the island last year.

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It is no longer necessary to lose money through waste products. With a **SIMPLEX DEHYDRATOR** you can dry pineapples, bananas, copra and other island products.

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CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

17

REV. F. J. PATON.**Devoted Missionary Returns to New Hebrides.**

REV. F. J. PATON, of the Presbyterian Church, whom the Sydney newspapers describe as "a brave and devoted missionary," left for the New Hebrides by the "Morinda" on June 9. He is returning to the missionary field, minus a leg, and at a fairly advanced age, because, as he told the reporters, "I have been away too long."

Mr. Paton is a member of a family which has done wonderful missionary work. His father was Rev. J. G. Paton, famous in the New Hebrides, to whose memory was erected the Paton Memorial Hospital, in Port Vila. His brother, now the minister at Deepdene Church, Melbourne, was another famous missionary. His nephew, Professor Paton, of Melbourne, has written the best available history of the New Hebrides, together with a summary of the political position there. It will be published shortly by Pacific Publications, Ltd.

Rev. F. J. Paton, while crossing a flooded stream in the New Hebrides (says Sydney "Sun"), cut his foot on a jagged rock, and the wound became septic. He persisted in carrying on, but eventually had to be treated at a local hospital. Stocks of anaesthetics having run out, the unfortunate missionary had to grin and bear an operation without them. He made little progress, however, and had to be taken to Vila in an open boat, lying in agony on the deck for the trip of several days.

Then he was brought to Sydney Hospital, where, after a long fight to retain the limb, it was necessary to amputate it below the knee.

As a former soldier (he was a padre at the front), Mr. Paton was given an artificial leg, and has been spending busy hours learning how to use it properly. Mr. Paton was a popular patient at Sydney Hospital, where his cheery personality, in the face of adversity, kept his ward always a bright and happy family.

To-day, he leaves again for his "parish"—mountains, dense jungle, fever-haunted swamps, head-hunters, and native superstition—because the "Morinda" is the first ship he can catch. "They need me," he says.

TAHITI MAIL SUBSIDY.**Withdrawal from Union Co. Rumoured.**

From Our Own Correspondent.

PERSISTENT rumours are afloat along the Papeete waterfront that the French Government intends to discontinue the mail subsidy at present given to the Union Steamship Co. for the carriage of mail matter to and from San Francisco and New Zealand.

Enquiries at the local agency of the U.S.S. Co. have failed to elicit any definite information regarding this important matter, but, in view of the deplorable decrease in Governmental rev-

enues, it seems not unlikely that there may be some truth in the reports.

Any vessel calling at Papeete is obliged to carry mail at a fixed rate per ton, hence the final clearance papers are obtained from the Post Office; up to the present the Union Company's vessels are the only ones that have received special consideration for carrying mail.

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DHOBIE ITCH**THE SOURCE of INFECTION**

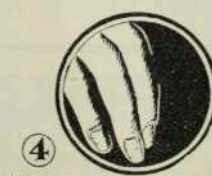
1
Dhobie Itch germ is carried in laundry done by natives.

4 symptoms of TINEA OR TROPIC RINGWORM

2
Scaly Ears.



3
Toe Rot.



4
Ringworm of the Nails.

- (1) **DHOBIE ITCH** . . . The characteristic signs are itch; red, creeping area, starting as a spot and gradually spreading.
- (2) **SCALY EARS** . . . Annoying Itch; Inflammation; Scaly Skin.
- (3) **TOE ROT** . . . Rotten thick white skin; inflamed cracks between the toes . . . unpleasant odour.
- (4) **RINGWORM OF THE NAILS** . . . Inflamed or septic cuticle; cracked and discoloured nails.

Infectious Dhobie Itch, Scaly Ears, Toe Rot, Ringworm of the Nails, Tropic Ringworm are all symptoms of the dreaded **TINEA**, a contagious fungus infection of the Skin. The germs are easily and quickly carried, but can be checked effectively by Antinea. "ANTINEA" is a modern specific treatment for Tinea or any irritating skin infections. "Antinea" is non-poisonous, harmless to the tenderest skin tissue . . . easy to apply. Just paint lotion on affected part with small brush supplied with each bottle—**NO BANDAGES REQUIRED**. . . Can be used with excellent results for Dry Eczema, Barber's Rash, Septic Cuts and Wounds, Warts, and Insect Bites.

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COST OF RUNNING A N. GUINEA PLANTATION.

[To the Editor.]

Sir, Your paper's March number includes an article under the heading, "Copra Profits."

The writer is happily placed, if his plantation is other than mythical. The average coconut plantation in this Territory does not produce anything like your correspondent's output. Trade nuts are generally not purchasable at 160 for 1/-. Permanent buildings and improvements, including hot air copra-drier, will cost considerably more than £1,000. Capital value will be, at least, double your figure. Your correspondent's example is not fairly representative, and his vague figures, with omissions, are necessarily misleading to your readers.

I have endeavoured below to furnish conservative figures, which may be taken to apply to the good average coconut plantation in the Territory of New Guinea. I can assure you that they will be found nearer the mark.

Basis figures, as used by the writer of "Copra Profits", will again be utilised; namely—area of fully bearing plantation, 200 hectares; units of native labour employed, 40; landed price for copra at Rabaul, £10 per ton.

Receipts.	
200 tons copra at £10	£2,000
Balance, being loss on year's operations	495
	£2,495
Expenditure.	
40 units labour at £14/1/6 p.a.	£563
2850 copra bags, twine, stencil, at 1/1	142
White man's salary	400
Repair and maintenance of buildings, drier (includes paint and depreciation)	175
Upkeep and running expenses of small boat or lorry (includes depreciation)	175
Insurance	30
Freight copra to Rabaul, 200 tons at 25/-	250
Plantation tools and replacement of necessary equipment	30
Office	10
Interest on capital value at 6 per cent. on £12,000	720
	£2,495

Here, for checking, are details showing my method of arriving at "Cost per native labour unit"—forty labourers being the number employed and indentures being for three year periods. Fifty per cent. are local natives, and balance recruited from Sepik River or district other than where employed.

	£	s.	d.
1/3 of 20/- being bonus given to natives entering into three-year contracts ..	0	6	8
1/3 cost of issue box at 10/-	0	3	4
1/3 sign on and sign off fees payable to Administration	0	2	4
1/3 cost of issue bowl and spoon at 1/- ..	0	0	0
1/- per month payable Administration as Education tax	0	12	0
1/40 cost of recruiting licence	0	1	6
7/- per month wages	4	4	0
Half ration of rice, 274 lbs. at 15/- per cent.	2	1	1
Half ration of native foods	1	7	6
Two sticks tobacco per week ration: 104 at 6/- per lb.	1	4	10
Calico—12 lengths at 8/-	0	8	0
Matches, 52 boxes at 10 for 4d.	0	1	8
Issue soap, 12 bars at 1/-	0	12	0
Fresh 8-h (dynamited), being cost of explosives—			
15 pkts dynamite at 12/6	£9	7	6
7½ tins caps—13/6	5	1	3
15 coils fuse—2/3	1	15	9
Licence	5	0	0
Insurance dynamite box	3	10	0

1/40 of	£24	12	6	0	12	3
Issue pipes or paper	0	2	9			
Blanket	0	3	9			
Xmas extra issues	0	2	6			
Medicines and attention	0	15	0			
Recruiting expenses, including passage money	0	10	0			
Returning home expenses, after completion of contract	0	10	0			
Cost per annum	£14	1	6			

Costs in various localities vary. This is considered to be an average cost. Where recruits are not available locally and are purchased from professional recruiters at £10 per head or upwards, costs are necessarily higher.

There is a loss of £495 for the year—not a profit of £400, as "Copra Profits" would have it in your journal. And it should be remembered that a plantation in its prime should be earning profits to counterbalance the inevitable decline in production sustained in the later years of any plantation's life.

How is the average planter able to keep afloat, if my figures are correct? "By personal economies"; "by not drawing the salary shown in the ex-

penditure column"; "by being one's carpenter, one's own mechanic"; "by exploiting every possible side of revenue, such as trochus-shelling, beche-de-mer, trade store, timber cutting, or the recruiting of labour for gold field employment"; "by foregoing long-needed holidays South."

We are a little tired of the catchphrase, "verandah planters," used in your journal. New Guinea planters are a fair representative body, and do not drink or idle more than members of other professions or communities. "Verandah-planting" ceased when black-birding and buccaneering became unfashionable.

I am, etc.,
G. B. EDGELL.

Manus, N.G.,
April 22, 1932.

EDITORIAL NOTE: We are much obliged to Mr. Edgell for forwarding his figures and calculations, which are a really valuable contribution to the whole vexed question of how best to conduct a coconut plantation in these difficult times. It is obvious that Mr. Edgell runs his plantation on business-like lines—he is a trained commercial man, with 12 years' experience of New Guinea, and he personally controls his five plantations in Manus. His figures make it clear that two things must be done for the average well-conducted plantation—copra must come up to at least £12 per ton, at the port of shipment, and capital values and interest must be cut by from 20 to 25 per cent. And there we are faced with the same old problem: Who is going to bear the loss? The United States agrees that the world cannot recover until the world's war debt to her is cancelled: yet she refuses to cancel one penny of her bond, because no one in America can see that he should bear any part of the loss.

SWEDISH SHIPS CALL AT PAPEETE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PAPEETE, May 20.

THE motor vessel "Iknaren," belonging to a Swedish company, recently brought a large quantity of lumber and gasoline to Papeete from Pacific Coast ports.

The "Iknaren" and other similar vessels owned by the same Company are now making more or less regular trips via Tahiti to Australia, from whence they proceed through the Suez Canal to their home port in Sweden with Australian cargo. They have a limited amount of passenger accommodation and are said to be very comfortable vessels.

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June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

19

Phosphate Commissioner WHITES AND NATIVES.

Inspects Nauru Workings.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NAURU, May 15.

THE British Phosphate Commissioner, Mr. Lodge, accompanied by Mrs. Lodge, has been visiting the island on a tour of inspection.

As this was the first occasion on which a British Commissioner has visited the island, a round of entertainments was provided, and Mr. and Mrs. Lodge entered fully into the fun.

On Saturday, April 30, the British Phosphate Commissioners entertained all European residents at a bridge evening, and, after supper, dancing was indulged in until the early hours. Mr. and Mrs. M. Thom introduced all guests and a thoroughly good time was spent. Mrs. Lodge presented the prizes won at the sports on New Year's Day, and both she and Mr. Lodge took part in the entertainment provided.

In honour of our guests, "The Naughty Wife" was again presented at the local theatre on the night of May 8. The characters in this play were excellently portrayed by Mrs. A. Lamb, Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. H. Brittain, Mr. E. Paul, Mr. S. Hill, Mr. H. Brittain, Mr. F. Harmer and Mr. S. Wright. At the conclusion of the performance, the players were heartily congratulated on the success of their efforts. A special word of praise must be given to the producer, Mr. E. Compton, who, with the assistance of Mr. L. Martin, also built and decorated the very fine stage settings and to Mr. E. Paul, who was responsible for the lighting effects.

A few evenings later, the Administrator, assisted by Miss Newman and Miss Heather entertained 50 guests at bridge and dancing at the Residency. Mr. Lodge was, unfortunately, unable to be present; but everyone spent a most enjoyable evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Lodge depart on the "Triona" on the 16th. We are sorry they are leaving, for their charming personalities will be greatly missed, and in their short stay on the island they have endeared themselves to all, and will be pleasantly remembered by this small community.

Annual Meeting of L.M.S. in Samoa.

From Our Own Correspondent.

APIA, May 20.

THE yearly London Mission Society meeting is in progress at Malua at time of writing, and large numbers of natives have gathered from all parts of Upolu and Savaii, as well as from Tutuila, to take part in the proceedings.

The participation seems, however, not to be as strong as in preceding years. Financial contributions are collected at the meeting, and the expenditure for school and mission work is discussed.

Many of the members of the church, however, have refrained from attending, owing to shortage of means, caused by the low copra price and the unprofitable banana shipments. It may be safely predicted that the revenue of the London Mission Society will suffer accordingly.

Records of Crime for New Guinea.

FURTHER information bearing upon the relationship between Europeans and natives in New Guinea was supplied to the Federal Parliament by the Prime Minister on May 23, as the result of inquiries asked by Mr. Roland Green.

It was stated that during the past two years 42 natives had been convicted of assaulting whites. Sentences of imprisonment, ranging from 7 days to two years, had been imposed, and in three cases a flogging had been ordered. In some cases, the natives were afterwards allowed to return to their villages; but, in this regard, each case was considered on its merits.

Eight Europeans had been murdered by natives in the past 10 years. Nine natives were sentenced to death for these crimes, and one to five years' hard labour. Eight natives, also, had just been arrested on a charge of murdering the prospector, Mr. Baum. None of those murdered were officials of the Administration. Two whites had been convicted of murdering natives, and four of manslaughter. One of the former was given two years' hard labour and one ten years' hard labour. The four convicted of manslaughter were thus punished: 1, year's hard labour; 2, £10 fine; 3, six months' hard labour and £50 fine; 4, fine of £500, or two years' hard labour.

In the past two years, 101 whites had been convicted of assault. In 20 cases, they were cautioned; in 77 cases, they were fined 5/- to £20; in one case, a fine of £200, with year's hard labour; in three cases, two years' hard labour.

Death of Samoan Native Official.

From Our Own Correspondent.

APIA, May 20.

ONE of the best-known and most conscientious native officials of the Samoan Administration passed away recently, when Asi Maatusi, chief clerk of the Department of Justice, died, in his 38th year.

Asi has served over 20 years under the German, N.Z. Military and N.Z. Civil Administrations and was well-known and respected by Europeans and Samoans alike. He had spent a few years of service in New Zealand, working there in the Government Survey Department.

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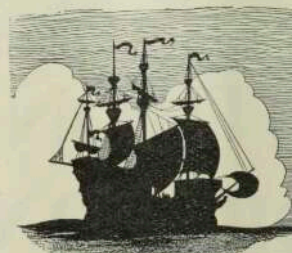
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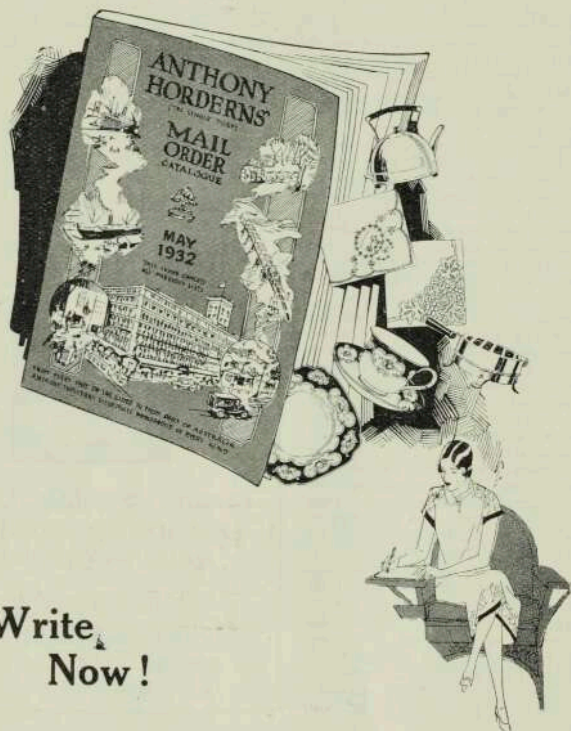
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Tahiti Becomes "Movie-Minded."

Amusing Sidelights of Fairbanks' Visit.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PAPEETE, May 20.

THE Douglas Fairbanks' movie show left for Hollywood on the last mail boat.

One of the last shots which they took starred one of C. B. Nordhoff's Galapagos turtles, which were presented to him by Gifford Pinchot, when the latter visited the Islands a few years ago. The turtle was attached to a sort of capstan bar and, as he slowly walked in a circle, the capstan raised water from a river by means of a chain bucket arrangement. In order to make the turtle walk a bunch of lettuce was suspended in front of his nose on a stick.

The whole story is a very amusing comedy and should do well, especially as all South Sea stories to date have been dramas (so-called).

One of the minor, but amusing, effects of the Fairbanks' invasion is now appearing in the form of the pyjama mania. Our wash-lady called at the house the other day to get the clothes, clad in a stunning Lido outfit and a total lack of self-consciousness.

SAMOAN PRODUCTS.

Prices Weaken for Copra, Bananas and Cocoa.

From Our Own Correspondent.

APIA, May 20.

THE copra price is down again, about £4/10/- per ton being paid at present to the Samoan native producer.

The native is further hit by the drop in prices for Samoan and other bananas in the New Zealand markets. For the next "Maui Pomare" shipment, only 2/- per case will be paid for bananas, which price is unprofitable to the European producer and not very attractive to the native.

Outlying districts of Upolu and Savaii, with high freight charges to Apia, will probably be cut off from shipping altogether.

Still, after all, we are a bit better off than Fiji, with 1/6 per case, and Tonga, with 1/- per case.

The cocoa market, which has kept up remarkably steady, so far, and which has benefited also by the high dollar exchange, has broken lately, and the local price has been reduced by £10 per ton this month by local buyers.

Fortunately, the cocoa planters had already disposed of the bulk of the first crop, which has proved a fairly good one, before the drop in price, and during the next few months comparatively small quantities will be delivered. By September or October, when the demand for Christmas business sets in, and our second crop starts, it is hoped prices will have improved again.

June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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COLONEL BENNETT'S DEPARTURE ENDS DISTURBED SITUATION ON NORFOLK IS.

WHEN Colonel A. J. Bennett, late Administrator of Norfolk Island, arrived quietly in Sydney by the last Morinda and disappeared unostentatiously into civilian ranks, there was ended a somewhat unfortunate chapter in the history of that remarkable Territory.

BY some extraordinary chance, the condition of affairs in Norfolk Island during the past couple of years escaped the attention of the Sydney newspapers—otherwise a "sensation" or two would have tickled the ears of the groundlings. But it may now be disclosed, in so many words, that a dangerous situation had developed; that the relationship between the Administrator and the people was one of growing antagonism and great bitterness; and that a position that was causing the Canberra authorities much anxiety was only relieved when Colonel Bennett consented to go on leave, and departed from the Island some

third are descendants of the Pitcairners and the remainder are mostly farming folk from Australia and New Zealand. They are not a difficult people to govern—but the right man must be governor, because he has autocratic powers, and this community, owing to its isolation, is self-centred, sensitive, and fussy—the sort that makes distressing mountains out of unintentional molehills. There is a large section of gentlefolk, who have been attracted to this place by its quietness and charm; and there is another section, curiously and childishly irresponsible, who require a strong, firm hand to keep them from petty crime.

The administration of Norfolk Island is not a difficult job—in fact, for the right type of man, it is a sinecure. But there must be strength, wisdom, firmness, justice and strict impartiality, combined with a human understanding of very human people. Unfortunately, for him, Colonel Bennett possessed few of these qualities in sufficient measure to admit him to a happy relationship with the people. At first, he seemed eager to make a success of it; but after a time he undoubtedly lost heart, and there followed a long period of drift which was bad for the little Territory, and very bad for everyone in it.

After a time, there developed an impossible situation. The Administrator practically shut himself in his residence, seeing few people, and admitting none to his confidence. His dislike of the people generally, if not real, was at least apparent. The people, of course, did not humbly bend their necks. Every farmer became an acidulated critic of Government House and everything connected with it. It was an impossible situation—yet it continued for nearly two years!

It is not our purpose to traverse the people's grievances. They had scores—some fancied, but many of them genuine. Government House, as a social force, did not exist. As an administrative centre, it functioned weakly. Those things might have been overlooked, if only it had given the Islanders a lead in commercial affairs—had assisted them to find new markets, and shown readiness to develop the Island's natural wealth. But Colonel Bennett seemed to have been completely disheartened, and to have lost all interest in Norfolk Island.

Canberra was not ignorant of what was going on. Letters poured in there by the score. But it was a very awkward situation for the officials and they sought the usual resort of worried officialdom—laissez faire.

Petty crime increased. Public affairs received so little attention that the people began to murmur loudly and, finally, to threaten. The administration of justice, in certain ways, became farcical. It is even whispered that a large number of the more decent residents

banded themselves together in a sort of secret society—with an obvious purpose.

Finally, there came the affair of the police. Queer things happened while a certain police official was in charge there. The officer was removed and Constable Fellowes was appointed—a good, conscientious man. He found himself with quite a job of work on his hands, and he went to it with a will. But matters were not satisfactory and, after ramming his head against a stone wall for a few months, Constable Fellowes' resignation went to Canberra.

There were swift developments—long overdue. Constable Fellowes has been asked to remain on Norfolk, pending the arrival of a new Administrator.

There was no demonstration when Colonel Bennett left—no social functions, no public farewell. The Returned Soldiers' Association, with which Colonel Bennett had maintained some relationship, arranged a dinner and social evening. Sixty were invited—twenty attended!

There was no demonstration—but copies of a kind of doggerel were posted in prominent places about the island on the eve of the official's departure, which expressed the people's joy rather brutally, insulted the Administrator, and made reflections on his personal habits. A copy has been sent to us. It is too crude for publication, but it leaves no doubt about the attitude of the N.I. democrats towards their departing Administrator.



Colonel A. J. Bennett.

time before the expiry of his official term.

We had known, for some time, that a serious situation existed on Norfolk Island; but as we knew, also, that the matter was receiving the anxious attention of the Federal authorities, we deemed it wise to leave the subject severely alone. It is not our purpose to embarrass Administrators by publishing sensational stories—even although the officials concerned may be gravely at fault—so long as we know that remedial action is being taken along the right lines. Now that it is all over, and a new Administrator has been appointed, it is possible to tell something of what has been happening.

Colonel Bennett, almost from the beginning of his term, showed himself temperamentally incapable of establishing amicable relations with the Norfolk Islanders. There are about 1000 people on the island—about one-

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WATERLOO, N.S.W.

O. F. NELSON AND NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The policy of your journal towards the vexed situation in Western Samoa has been a friendly and neutral attitude to both sides of the controversy, displaying a desire to be helpful towards the attainment of that long-delayed settlement.

There are, however, certain inconsistencies, errors and omissions in your leading editorial of May 19, which I feel confident your sense of fairplay will cause you to find space in your next issue for this letter, giving, what I consider, is the Samoan point of view.

On the one hand, you state:—

"The stolid, unimaginative, well-drilled New Zealanders, very conscious of their excellent good purpose and Governmental rectitude, were driven by Samoan sulkiness from irritation to resentment, and from resentment to a sternness that was close to brutality . . ."

and in the next paragraph you say that

"Too many unsuitable men were sent to Samoa from New Zealand . . . Far too many went to Samoa simply with the idea of enjoying a 'cushy job' in the pleasant, languorous surroundings of a lotus-eating land . . ."

Samoan readers will interpret your reference to "well-drilled New Zealanders" as men all specially trained and fitted for their jobs; whereas the second quotation given above is more in keeping with the actual position and forms one of the many complaints of the Samoans.

You say that "The Mau is making no effort to grasp New Zealand's outstretched, friendly hand" and that "General Hart is doing well in a most difficult, discouraging job"; but you make no reference to the friendly gestures made by the Samoans in their many letters and other communications to the Government at Wellington and the Administrator at Apia, to not one of which have they even had the courtesy to reply.



Mr. O. F. Nelson.

The obsolete poia fax still claims new victims, political prisoners are made to plant bananas for export to New Zealand; the law requiring the Samoans to get police permits before they may visit one another still stands unrevoked; neither have Orders-in-Council and regulations which have been found necessary by the Administration to depart from to placate the Mau been revoked. Other irritative tactics are fully described in the Samoan Petition, 1931, to the Three Powers.

Is it, therefore, any wonder that the Samoans still feel that in New Zealand's "outstretched, friendly hand" is concealed a sharp dagger? This cannot be said of the genuine, friendly gestures made by the Samoans which have so far been ignored by a "sulky" administration.

In your concluding paragraph you state:

"The immediate future seems to lie largely in the hands of Mr. O. F. Nelson, influential Mau leader, whose period of banishment will expire soon. If the New Zealanders show no vindictiveness, and Mr. Nelson is big enough to regard the future in terms of his country's good, rather than allow his judgment to be coloured by the memory of his sufferings and his hatred of officialdom, the name of Mr. Nelson may yet be written very large in the history of Samoa. Events in Samoa in the next twelve months will be very interesting and significant."

May I draw your attention to Clause 121 of "The Samoan Petition, 1931," in which a list is given of the many letters and communications sent by me to the Prime Minister at Wellington, also to Clause 117 of the same petition, giving details of my last petition to the New Zealand Parliament, all done in the effort to open up negotiations with the Government in the hope of an amicable settlement? To my petition, the parliamentary committee had no comment to make and to my many letters, purely formal acknowledgments were all that were received.

Though I was born in Samoa, of a Samoan mother, the Government still persists in classing me a European, and thus a "foreigner" in my own native country; dual citizenship has been established in American Samoa, but not in Western Samoa as yet. The New Zealand Government refuse to recognise me or my right to speak on behalf of the Samoan people, so whatever name you might give to the so-called gestures made to the Samoans, that "friendly hand" has certainly not been "outstretched" to me.

Written petitions and prayers have often been made by representative New Zealanders, and others, to the Government, to invite me and other Samoan leaders to a round-table conference in Wellington, but to all these, the Government have turned a deaf ear. So long as the Government maintain this uncompromising attitude towards me, it is not fair to blame me for their inability to pacify the Samoans. Neither

is it fair to expect the Samoans to discredit one of their own, who has spent his leisure and his substance in their behalf, in order to save the faces of their white rulers.

After all, the Government have used their authority to inflict severe punishment on me, for what they must now admit was at least partly due to their own bungling methods, and have not let up one iota on their persecution of me, and will not even now recognise me, so it is hardly human to expect me to press any services I might be able to render where they are clearly not wanted.

At the same time, my home, my business, my relations and my people are still in Samoa where my heart will ever be; I must naturally wish to return to Samoa; the Mandatory Government still holds the whip-end of the argument; and unless great changes come about in the near future, the end of my troubles is not yet.

I will, however, never sell my honour, my self-respect, nor the birthright of my people for my leisure, comfort, or convenience.

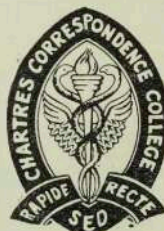
I am, etc.,

O. F. NELSON.

Auckland,

May 26, 1932.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—We were glad to pass for publication this courteous and well-reasoned letter. But our pleasure was tempered by other feelings when we read a copy of "The N.Z. Samoan Guardian" of June 9, wherein Mr. Nelson covers the same ground, in very different phraseology and style. There we are told, either directly or by inference, that the editor of the "Pacific Islands Monthly" is ignorant of his subject, somewhat one-eyed, and guilty of "word-spinning and rail-sitting." Mr. Nelson goes on to discuss the Samoan problem with a fury and aggressiveness which give no indication of a spirit of compromise. And without a spirit of compromise there can be no way out of the present impasse. That has been the tenor of our argument from the beginning. The trouble is that Mr. Nelson is preoccupied with the past, with its injustices and its failures. We are not concerned with the past; we are anxious only to deal with the position as it is, and see Samoa restored to its natural condition of peace and tranquillity. We have appealed to Mr. Nelson to be generous, to forget the past, and to use his influence with his fellow Samoans to bring them closer to the New Zealand Administrators, so that there may be a compromise, and a settlement, with honour on both sides. But



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THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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Mr. Nelson replies, savagely, that New Zealand is making no move towards compromise, and that "all the Mau knows of that mailed fist of New Zealand's is that it still has a stranglehold on the throat of Samoa, and is trying to choke the very soul out of the people there." And, again, "the New Zealand ostrich will not take its head out of the sand and face the facts." That is not being helpful—and it is not the language of compromise.

Has any real, sincere effort been made to bring the Administrator and the Mau together, since General Hart took charge? Apparently not. The Mau, according to Mr. Nelson, "wrote him most respectfully and politely explaining why they had not accepted the official invitation to welcome him, and setting out very clearly the conditions and terms on which they would meet and confer with him." But that is not the correct form of approach to a powerful and proud State. This frightful muddle cannot be cleaned up unless both sides meet in a calm atmosphere, with open minds, free from all "conditions and terms." Mr. Nelson can do more than any other man to help the Samoans out of their political troubles, but Mr. Nelson's latest contribution to the discussion only emphasises our view that Western Samoa is "a continuing disappointment."

PAPUA'S FINANCES.

REVIEW FOR 1930-31.

THE annual report of the Lieutenant-Governor of Papua (Sir Hubert Murray) for the year ended June, 1931, has been released.

Almost every item of revenue showed an increase compared with the previous year, also a decrease compared with the sum estimated. The total estimated revenue for the year was £158,056; the revenue received was only £134,918, while that received in 1929-30 was £149,265. The "slump" in revenue necessitated a great reduction in expenditure, which made a saving of more than £20,000, or nearly one-sixth of the total estimate. The estimated expenditure for the year was £158,056, and the actual expenditure was only £134,985.

Imports and exports decreased by £133,844 and £50,421 respectively. Imports were the lowest since 1915-16, and exports the lowest since 1923-24. The fall in prices accounted for the diminution in exports. The export of rubber showed an increase in weight of 22 tons and a decrease in value (£47,036 as against £50,640). Copra showed a decrease both in weight and value (9436 tons and £93,710, as compared with 11,693 tons and £176,485). The decrease in weight was due partly to the increased export of desiccated coconut, and partly to a decrease in native copra, owing to the fall in price.

Only most essential public works were carried out during the year, owing to financial stringency, states the report.

Copra Prospects in Tonga.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NUKUALOFA, May 1.

WITH the passing of the hurricane season, the coconut crop appears to be a promising one in the southern islands of the group.

The blow in Vavau has probably reduced their output considerably, and I hear that the people of Niuafoou will be on rather short rations for a time, as a result of the same hurricane.

PEARLING INDUSTRY.

Signs of Revival in Tahiti.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PAPEETE, May 20.

THE market for Tahiti pearl shell appears to be recovering to some extent and small shipments are being made to both New York and England.

As the result of representations made by the Papeete Chamber of Commerce, the Administration has decided to open the lagoons of Hikueru, Takume, and Raraka, all in the Tuamotu Archipelago, under the usual restrictions as to size of shell, and for a limited period only.

Both naked divers and machines will be allowed to operate, but the latter will have to wait till the natives have had a chance to clean out the shell in the shallower parts of the lagoons, where they can work most easily. The season will close when a maximum of 500 tons of shell has been secured.

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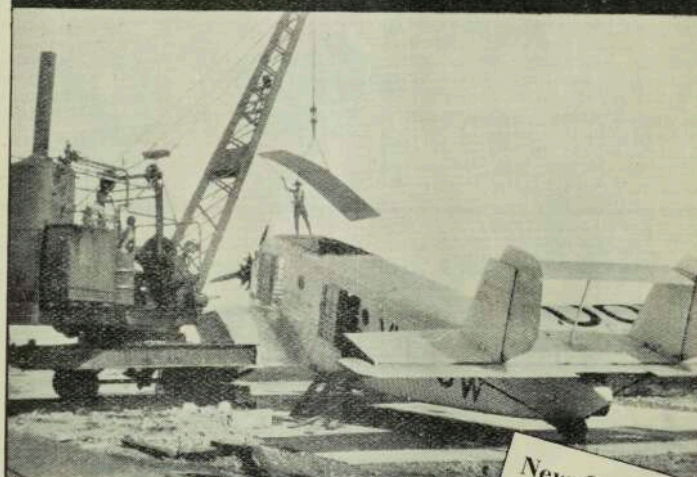
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NORFOLK ISLAND HAS ITS TROUBLES.

Captain Pinney's Big Task.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NORFOLK IS., May 25.

BY the "Morinda," to-morrow, homeward bound to Sydney, Colonel Alfred Josiah Bennett—for the past three years our Administrator—departs this island.

Several private entertainments have been given to take leave of him, but there has been nothing mooted in the nature of a public farewell.

Captain C. R. Pinney, late of Papua, takes up office as Administrator, and we have the most hopeful anticipations of his reign; but what this island really needs as governor or whatnot is a hardbitten retired police magistrate who would come and make and maintain a reputation for cold, calculating justice; who, having the law at his fingertips, would administer it without fear or favour; and who would be satisfied to have no friends, until he won us all as friends by the unswerving honesty of his purpose.

Such a man was Judge Herbert, who preceded Colonel Bennett, and lived amongst us only eight months, during which time he was handicapped by the illness that killed him in January, 1929.

His glance alone was sufficient to strike terror into the heart of the evildoer, while behind it was a depth of genuine kindness that encouraged those oppressed to come to him with

hope and confidence. How many hundred times, since he died, has it been said here, "If only Judge Herbert had lived . . . !" Those words are his monument on Norfolk Island.

PROGRESSIVE POLICY NEEDED.

If our administration were less costly, there would be a balance from the sum allocated each year for the upkeep of the island, for real and essential improvements; as conditions have been for three years past, at all events, it is scarcely an exaggeration to say that not £100 per annum has been profitably spent on anything that can be regarded as conducive to general prosperity and welfare.

Repairs and alterations have been made to the private residences of government officials and paint has been applied to public buildings at a wonderful outlay of time and money; but sheds on the wharves for the protection of incoming and outgoing cargo are still conspicuously wanting, and the lack of them is a most serious handicap to the progress and prosperity of the island. We have only one post office, too; set down in what is, to many people, the most remote and inaccessible corner of the island; to reach Kingston from the outlying districts entails the loss of a whole day, the expenditure of gallons of petrol on our winding up-hill-and-down-dale roads and endless hanging around and waiting for mail—the distribution of which is subject to the most arbitrary restrictions of hours and conditions.

If there were a sub-office situated somewhere in the centre of the

island—attached, as it may be, to one of the stores—where there would always be somebody to hand over mail at any hour of the working day, to take in parcels and sell money orders, it would be a blessing, a relief to the whole community. As it is, there are certain hours of certain days only, when—regardless of weather conditions—if we want our rare mail, incredibly precious to us in exile, we must render ourselves at the Kingston post office and, after securing our letters at the counter inside, stand in a patient queue beneath the scorching sun or drenching rain along the side wall of the building waiting for papers and parcels to be handed out through a doorway and a window.

Along this side wall there is not an inch of shelter—until recently there was—not even a guttering along the iron roof, and the water poured upon us on a wet day in a sort of continuous waterspout. That extreme of hardship has now been remedied, but we still scorch or soak and, in spite of repeated pleas, not even the sum of £5 has been granted for the purpose of erecting a simple shelter along that side wall.

It is this kind of contemptuous indifference on the part of well-paid officials, whose own mail reaches them immediately upon the arrival of the steamer as they sit snugly within doors, that arouses the deepest resentment in the breasts of the community, whose existence upon this island renders possible those well-paid, easy posts.

There are many other necessities and reforms of equal and increasing importance to the island as a whole that have, hitherto, been simply put aside and ignored month after month, year after year; and it is earnestly hoped that Captain Pinney will realise this state of affairs and meet public bodies and all sections of the community without delay, and make an attempt to lay out something like a constructive and progressive policy for his three years' term of office.

He will be a busy man if he takes in hand all that urgently needs to be done; but his reward will be in popularity and appreciation; and it will surely be a satisfaction to Canberra, in these times of financial stress, to know that money is being expended wisely and salaries paid out are being earned.

And, seeing that private suggestions and recommendations fall dead upon the doorstep of local officialdom concerned to give ear and consideration, here is a suggestion made to this correspondent of broadcasting in public print the feasibility of erecting buildings for the general benefit, at no more than the actual cost of the materials used.

There is no system of taxation by cash upon the island, but all able-bodied male residents between the ages of 21 and 50 years are called upon to give 15 days' service on the roads, which double and twist and turn in all directions. Many of these men are skilled tradesmen—builders, carpenters, plumbers, etc.

Why not use their 15 days per annum to keep in order existing buildings or to construct new ones, instead of turning them out upon the roads, with unskilled labour, to handle shovels and mattocks, that only call for strength and ordinary intelligence.



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PAPUAN SUGAR AND WILD CATS.

THE following appeared in "The Sydney Morning Herald," of May 21, 1932:—

Tropicane, Ltd., has been registered in Sydney with a capital of £20,000 in £1 shares, to cultivate sugar, tea, coffee, etc., in New Guinea and Papua. First directors: G. Macdonald, B. N. Missen, E. C. Ritchie, W. T. Hill, M. D. Davies.

Something seemed to strike a chord in the memory, so we looked through our records, and we found this cutting from "Companies registered," in the Sydney "Sun," early in 1931:

The New Guinea and Papuan Undertakings, Ltd.—Nominal capital, £20,000 in 20,000 shares of £1 each. The company intends to acquire mines, mining rights and metalliferous lands in New Guinea. Directors: G. Macdonald, E. C. Ritchie, B. N. Missen, W. T. Hill, M. D. Davies. Head Office, Sydney.

Thus encouraged, we sought information at the office of Tropicane, Ltd., which was also the original office of N.G. and P. Undertakings, Ltd.—namely, 17 Martin Place, Sydney. We were frostily received—they seemed to think we were in league with "Smith's Weekly," or the devil, or something.

However, we did ascertain that the general idea is the sale of bonds in a Papuan sugarcrowing enterprise, and we obtained a copy of a sort of prospectus. This optimistic, cheery document bore a strong resemblance to a copy of the prospectus of N.G. and P. Undertakings, Ltd., which was sent to us last year by a Papuan resident, with a covering letter couched in really shocking language.

Both prospectuses, compiled with a view to inducing people to invest in sugar-planting, have been written by a dreamer. Undertakings, Ltd., although described in the newspapers as primarily a mining enterprise, is really a bond-selling company, based on sugarcrowing. Tropicane, Ltd. is exactly the same sort of thing—in fact, it is the same concern under a different name.

These prospectuses contain much matter about the possibility of growing sugar in Papua—which no one has ever disputed—but nothing at all to show that practical men are behind it. The directors are comparatively unknown. MacDonald is a "company manager"; Ritchie is a "master baker, of Lismore"—which may be so, although a recent caller who said he knew Lismore well, had not heard of him; Missen is an "advertising contractor"—but not known to this writer, who has acquaintance with the majority of advertising men; Hill is a "company manager, of Brisbane"; Davies is a "company director, of Brisbane."

These may be very worthy gentlemen; but it is not a directorate which indicates any vast practical knowledge of the ticklish business of sugarcrowing and marketing. Their prospectus is loquacious on the matter of profits to be made by the purchasers of bonds, but disappointingly vague in regard to land cultivation, labour, planting, transport and marketing.

Papua is marvellously rich in undeveloped resources; with the result that a whole herd of "wild cat" companies have been prowling about the Territory, promising to produce sugar rubber,

sago, nipa spirit, hemp, and so on, and begging quite pitifully for "capital." A few people have been bitten, and lost their money; but the majority have smelt the unmistakable odor of the wild cat, and have re-acted accordingly. But the unfortunate thing is that the activities of the get-rich-quick company promoters tend to prejudice the perfectly genuine flotations.

We do not say that Tropicane, Ltd. is a wild cat; but we do say that, as far as we can ascertain, it has little to recommend it.

The only proposition based on Papuan sugar worthy of serious consideration up to date, is the Sangara enterprise, backed by practical residents of Papua—and it is not intended to float this until both sugar market and world-finance are in a more satisfactory condition. Our Port Moresby correspondent, in this issue, describes another sugar enterprise, backed by New Zealand capital, which seems to be in the hands of practical men, who are making a very careful investigation.

The investor who takes up Papuan "sugar bonds," without the most cautious inquiry, deserves all he gets—or doesn't get!—R.W.R.

ISLAND STAMPS.

New Papuan Series.

From Our Own Correspondent.

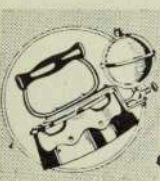
PT. MORESBY, May 26.
PHILATELISTS all over the world will be interested in the new series of Papuan postage and duty stamps, which are to be issued in the very near future.

Except for a few minor alterations in colour, and a few instances of surcharging, this will be the first change since the original issue.

For the different denominations, 16 designs have been selected from the large number submitted. All of these have been designed by residents in Papua, and each has reference to a different phase of Papuan life on to some other point of interest peculiar to the Territory.

Though the change will be interesting, the old stamps will be missed. They have been much admired and are very pleasing. The design represents a Lakatoi (trading canoe) standing out in relief against the harbour of Port Moresby.

One of the new series is a drawing of a Purari Ravo (Western Club House) against coconut palms, by the river bank, and the frame is a conventional Purari design. This is the most picturesque of them all.

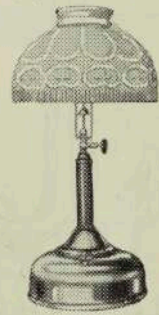


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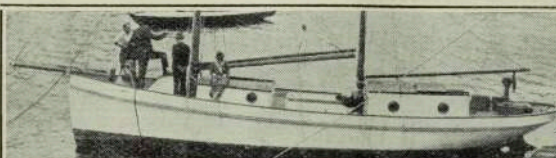
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WAU TO PT. MORESBY.

Permanent 'Plane Service.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PT. MORESBY, May 26.

THE Guinea Airways passenger 'planes still continue their flights to and from the goldfields to meet the Burns, Philp boats from Sydney and Rabaul every three weeks.

Early in the month five passengers were carried from the field to connect with the "Maedhu" from Port Moresby.

The Kila Kila landing ground near Port Moresby has been enlarged, and is now in excellent condition.

Arrangements are being made for a direct wireless service between Wau and Salamaua and Port Moresby, to obtain weather reports and to keep in touch with pilots. The company also hopes to establish an emergency landing ground in the mountains at an early date.

HOW FORTUNES WERE MADE AND LOST IN AND ABOUT NEW GUINEA.

(By Frank Reid in The Melbourne Argus.)

PERHAPS romance has gone from the tropical seas to the north of Australia, but there was a time—and not so long ago—when some of the most daring adventurers in the seven seas drifted to the little palm-clustered and coral-girdled isles which lie like a green necklace to the east of the New Guinea coast.

There they set up trading stations. Some prospered and retired to spend their easily earned wealth in gay cities; others died of fever; and not a few went down fighting against savages. They were brave and reckless men who carried their lives in their hands, and who knew that once they showed the slightest sign of fear of the dusky inhabitants of these coral specks their lives would flicker out as suddenly as a candle exposed to a sudden gust of wind.

The first traders to these islands mainly came from Melbourne and Sydney with ships laden with trade goods, which they bartered for copra, pearl-shell, and, occasionally, the valuable gems that lay within. Many of these men were the skippers of South Sea trading schooners, and experience had taught them how to deal with the treacherous islanders.

They would leave Melbourne or Sydney with perhaps £100 worth of the goods so much appreciated by the simple islanders—coloured prints, looking-glasses, bead necklaces, mouth organs, clay pipes, and vile smoking tobacco. Soon afterward they would return to their home ports with full cargoes of copra, coconut oil, tortoise-shell, bird of paradise plumes, curios, native weapons, and other odds and ends which, when sold in a southern city, returned the owner any amount up to £500.

Some of the skippers of these boats included in their cargoes of trade goods a couple of hundred dogs, usually homeless mongrels picked up in the streets of the cities. These were eagerly sought by the natives. They commanded more value in barter than anything else. Many of the animals obtained good homes; others were speedily included on the native menu. Their teeth went to the making of a necklace for a chief.

Then came the traders who settled on the islands, mainly with the object of obtaining what the natives had to barter before the boats came and traded with them. These men erected palm-thatched stores and filled the shelves with cheap goods and vile spirits. It was foolish to introduce this rank rum and gin to the savages, who became murderous when they drank too much.

It is surprising how many of these island traders met violent deaths at the hands of the natives. At Weberhafen alone 14 traders were killed in less than two years. The total number done to death in New Britain was almost 100.

Captain Fergusson, one of the best-known traders in the South Seas, who was said to be able to handle natives better than any other white man at that time, opened a store in the Duke of York group, and was killed a week later. In 1883 a trader at Rabaul sent half a dozen men to open stores on the Hermit Islands, but they were all killed by the natives.

Then there were the men who made fortunes out of these trading ventures. The stories of their success often read like the wildest fiction.

One of these men was Captain Hersheim, the skipper of a South Sea schooner. He began in a small way on some of the islands, but gradually he extended his operations, placing men in charge of trading stores on half a hundred islands. Then he purchased a fleet of schooners to collect the goods obtained by barter at his numerous trading stations, bought large areas of land for a few shillings, and established plantations. Eventually he was the possessor of the largest trading enterprise in New Guinea waters, and he accumulated immense wealth.

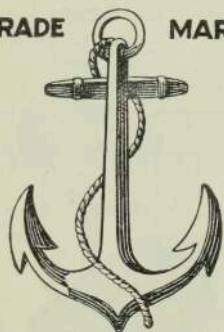
The trading ventures of Rudolf Wahlen are tinged with romance. It is no wonder that he has been called "the Aladdin of the South Seas." Thirty years ago he was a young German employed as a clerk at the headquarters of Hersheim and Co., at Rabaul. Then there came an opportunity for him to acquire for a little more than £200 the trading interests of his firm in the Western Islands. During the first year of occupation he cleared £4,000 from pearl shell alone. Supported by German capital, he purchased from the Government for a trifling sum many acres of the most fertile soil on several islands, the Governor, unaware of the facts, not considering them of any value. Later the Governor was astonished when Wahlen in one year alone obtained about 200 tons of copra from his native coconut plantations already in bearing.

In a few years Rudolf Wahlen was one of the wealthiest men in New Guinea. He owned the Hermit group, and on the crest of a hill on the island of Maron he erected a magnificent dwelling place. It is still standing. It is a great two-storied house, with a

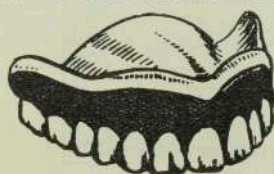
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DENTIST,

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June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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high tower. On each side there are broad stone verandahs with pergolas, stone balustrades, and decorations, cloaked in creeping vines. Inside are great rooms with French windows opening out on to balconies; electric light and water are laid on. There are a tennis court, a photographic dark room, and a garden, and the grass-grown paths along which Wahlen used to drive in an open landau drawn by two small ponies may be seen. Before the war the luxury in this magnificent residence outvalled that of Government House at Rabaul.

During one of his visits to his native land Wahlen married a Swedish woman of noble birth, and he acquired a fine estate in Germany. He was residing there with his wife when war broke out, and he did not return to the southern seas where he made his fortune. The magnificent residence, on Maron Island, with its 47,000 coconut palms, is now the property of two Australians, both of them returned soldiers.

Many Chinese also made fortunes out of trading on these islands. One of these men, who had previously been employed as cook for Captain Hersheim, eventually became the owner of the Rabaul post-office, a shipyard, several plantations, and a considerable portion of Chinatown in Rabaul.

The old-time traders are gone, and the graves of many of them are scattered about the islands, where they faced a thousand perils before they were killed or died of fever. The opportunities of making speedy fortunes are no more. To-day the native knows to a penny the value of anything he has to sell, and he gets it in good Australian currency. He has lost his fondness for such gaudy things as coloured prints or bead necklaces. He scans the pages of an Australian catalogue and orders his requirements as the white planter does. The modern native of these once savage isles is a very shrewd gentleman.

TE ARIKI TAVARE.

Old Chief's Death.

From Our Own Correspondent.

RAROTONGA May 22.

THE death has occurred of a respected local native chief, Te Ariki Tavare, a Mataipo, of the Takitumu tribe of Rarotonga.

Te Ariki Tavare had reached the ripe age of 70 years when he was gathered to his ancient fathers at Avarua on May 1, after a short illness.

The late chief is perhaps better known as the consort of Makea Karika Vaine, who resides at Rarotonga.

The funeral took place at Nikao and was conducted by the London Missioner, the Rev. Mr. Bond-James and his chief native assistant, Valke.

Amongst those present at the graveside were: His Honor, Judge Ayson (Resident Commissioner), Dr. Ellison (Chief Medical Officer—Cook Group), Mr. S. Savage (Registrar), and several other Administrative officials.

Of late years, the esteemed chief was often to be seen about the village at Avarua. He led a quiet, unobtrusive life, and retained a faithful adherence to the native custom of dress—the Pareu.



Not alone the wondrous fragrance of the Marechal Niel rose. And not the honeyed fragrance of the Sweet-briar. Nor the full rich odor of the old Red rose. And again, not the shy perfume of the Tea rose. Not one of these, nor of these alone. In "Ashes of Roses" Perfume, Monsieur Bourjois caught the elusive and joyous fragrance of a whole garden of roses, its spirit and its atmosphere. Because of this, "Ashes of Roses" is famous throughout the world. While fashions come and fashions go, "Ashes of Roses" remains constant, ever new and delightful, presenting ever afresh its sensations of joy.—Always an added charm to beautiful womanhood!

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The New Papuan

Modern Example of Evolution.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PT. MORESBY, May 1.

TO many people, the interest in Papua lies in its ancient lore and customs, rather than in its present-day conditions, for the Papuan of to-day they find strange and uninteresting, and say that the real Papuan character has changed; that he is no longer industrious, no longer honest and no longer even Papuan.

This is a mistake; but if the Papuan remains fundamentally the same as he has the last hundred years, his social habits, his honesty, loyalty, and many other things have undergone a complete revolution in the last 20 years; due entirely to his connection with Europeans and modern civilisation, and his strangeness is caused by the difficulty he finds in grasping events accurately, and to his inability to fall in line and remain there.

You can find the Papuan, whose ways and customs are as our pioneers knew them, but not near Port Moresby, or at least not in the districts which are prominent in the world of trade with white men. There he would have no place. You must seek him either in the remote villages along the sea coast, where he is almost untouched, or in the hills, far away from the beaten tracks, unknown to commerce and trade.

Newcomers, fail to understand the modern type, because they have in mind the tales they have read, which may have been true once, or never true at all, and which certainly, at the present time, are misleading and confusing.

The Papuan of to-day, with his veneer of education and sophistication, together with his traditions, must necessarily be a complex character, to be taken only half seriously, for he is as yet neither here, nor there—he is merely on the way, and it is hardly fair to judge him yet, or to condemn him for his shortcomings.

Many examples could be given of the Papuans' inability to grasp methods of justice and ordinary instances of every day life, as seen by our standards.

To give an idea, these instances are fairly enlightening:—

A native of the West Coast recently before a magistrate of the Western Division, demanded a bible, explaining at the same time that he had had a quarrel with a friend in a village and that he was "too much wild" and wanted to "make Court," but before doing so, it was imperative that he have the book, otherwise it was useless to make court. Puzzled, the magistrate questioned, and the man at length explained that he had watched white men in court. The white man, he said, always had his book. If he wanted to win, he had only to hold it, smell it, and say "My God" and "he win him case all right." He too, was anxious to win, for he was very angry with his friend. So could he please bring this book?

Again, a native, who had been impudent to his mistress was being reprimanded. He very indignantly explained that he had been working 12

years for white people and that he now knew them, and, was as a white man himself, so he could be rude to his mistress if he wished; they could not punish him.

So it would seem, in their confused efforts to understand the methods in which we deal out justice to them, that they are obsessed by old superstitions,

and by the age-old law that might is right.

It is inconceivable to all but a few of them that strength should be subordinated to impartial justice, and not used for its own profit, but to the maintenance of an ideal by which strength and weakness have the same rights and enjoy the same protection.

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June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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SAMOA AND "POLARITY."

[To the Editor.]

Sir,—Your sane and altogether admirable view of the Samoan trouble is refreshing after the balderdash generally written about it.

You very rightly say "too many unsuitable men were sent" there. In WHAT they were unsuitable does not, however, seem to be understood by that public responsible for the stupid error, which is my excuse for venturing upon a few observations based upon well-authenticated scientific facts.

Wherever I have travelled through the world I have invariably found that the man who is an example of the Eton boy's definition of a "gentleman" ("one who knows what Honour is, and acts up to such knowledge") is the natural and unstrained leader of his fellows. What we misname "politics," to-day, is an unnatural, and therefore unstable thing; and so does not follow the above rule.

Every old hand in the Pacific knows how the natives recognise a well-bred European; and the fact that our earlier development was almost entirely carried out by scions of good families is an argument in favour of this idea—though some of those "sons of a thousand earls" were somewhat obstreperous at times!

In the Eastern Pacific this is very marked, because the Asiatic civilisation which once obtained there and made stepping-stones of its islands across the ocean to America, was founded upon that ancient method of culture which gave Europe its "chivalry" and Japan its "Bushido."

In my first article in your paper I wrote upon the immense value of "the word of a white-man"; and in my sketch of the Hindoos, I showed how this same integrity of thought and word, which is the equipment of an English gentleman, had given India to our Race.

In certain Pacific Islands I have found that an Englishman, or Australian, is welcome, whilst folk of other brands are "defendu." I found the same thing amongst the Zulus, who for countless generations lived under the rule of "men entirely great"—a branch through Persia and Arabia, of the great race of trans-Himalaya, whose blood and customs we still find amongst the unconquered, knightly Tuaregs of the Sahara—whom one can read about in Andre Maurois's delightful book upon the great Marshall Lyautey, who gave Madagascar and Morocco to France by "gentle," noble means, instead of with the sword of the usual destroying conqueror.

Most of us recognise to-day that all Nature is ruled by similar laws. The growth of a crystal in liquid is practically on similar lines to that of a begonia-leaf in proper soil, as Sir William Lankester pointed out to us in our youthful days. An alum crystal, permitted to grow slowly, will gather in its own ingredients from the solution of mixed metals; and will form a larger mass than if hurried. Agitate the liquid; and you will get monstrosities—many peaked masses, instead of one normal form. The acts of the human-being result from brain activities; and our political experiments are therefore from the ganglia of grey-mat-

ter influenced by Nature's laws, just as was the crystal and the leaf.

All biology shows the same general laws to prevail: "electrical forces," "cohesion," "molecular force"—call it what you will! The physicist calls it "polarity"; and under its unswerving rule all things follow certain routes, unless disturbed, as was the abnormal crystal, aforesaid.

We can comprehend, then, how the Samoan aristocrats—of the sacred Te Ariki (which means in ancient Japanese, "the Elders")—being descended from a race that was civilised thousands of years ere India taught Egypt "how to walk"; and whose ancestors understood the teaching that Lao-tze gave to ancient China, and what Swinburn put before us in his famous words:

"Whoso takes the world's life on him
and his own lays down.

He, dying so, lives."

most naturally find their "polarity" very rudely upset by the crudely conceived, machine-made rules flung at them by military martinets and political demagogues, sent to rule over them by a democracy that "does not know its grandfather," so to speak; which smashes windows and has proved itself utterly incapable of ruling its communistic, peasant-bred minority, at times!

I am, etc.,

ARTHUR J. VOGAN.

Pymble, May 22, 1932.

NAURU'S ADMINISTRATOR.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NAURU, May 12.

THE Administrator (Mr. W. A. Newman) has now occupied his position for nearly five years, his term expiring in June of this year.

The British, Australian, and New Zealand Governments, have now invited Mr. Newman to remain for a further period of five years, but, as Mr. Newman was unable to accept the offer, he has consented to remain in his present position until the end of the year.

PAPUAN COFFEE YIELD.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PT. MORESBY, May 26.
THE yield of coffee at "Ellogo," Mr. G. A. Loudon's estate in the hills, has been extremely satisfactory this month.

Two tons of coffee beans were shipped by the last "Macdhui" for Sydney, and five tons a week at present are being pulped on the estate, in preparation for drying, packing and export.

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SHALL MR. COWLEY, OF TONGA, BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY?

From Our Own Correspondent.

NUKUALOFA, May 1.

PURPOSEFUL, and serious minded readers in Tonga must have felt pained, if not actually hurt, at the tone of a letter to the Editor under the caption, "Tonga's Economic Condition," appearing in the December P.I.M.

We are sure that each reader started off this article feeling that here at last he would get what he was waiting for—some concrete suggestions that would make for his betterment—some progressive policy, profoundly expressed and expounded—something not abstract, but solid and sure—something, in fact, that would rattle into his brain and give his intellect some scope to swing around in. I venture to say that, before he had finished the article, his intellect was swinging around alright, but without the necessary scope.

We suspect that every reader fell into the trap, as we did, and did not realise till near the conclusion of the letter that the whole was a grand burlesque.

We congratulate Mr. Cowley on having that very rare phenomenon—a sense of the ridiculous—a sense far more subtle than a sense of humour—and he has the happy knack of conveying that sense to paper.

We were not even suspicious when he spoke of giving £5 to singletless and poverty-stricken Tongans, though, goodness knows, we should have been, because £5 is five pounds, and Tongans, in the state described, are about as plentiful as snowballs in Hades. Then we reached his par. 4, where there is a lot of confusing talk about disrobing before the High Commissioner. We certainly should have taken a tumble here. But no! We read the paragraph over three or four times, forwards and backwards, scratched our head, and passed it as read.

Still unsuspecting, we solemnly gleaned all that stuff about the "booted and spurred bureaucracy" and "get off his back" and then, in a

blue funk, our eyes chased up the column to see, if by some mischance, we had got tangled up with some racing news. We think we started to feel there was a "catch" when we got to the paragraph stating that the Queen of Tonga said, "There are 1,200 taxpayers without a bit of land."

Here we sat up, because, as far as we recollected, Her Majesty had stated that there was plenty of land for 1,200 taxpayers who had apparently not availed themselves of the gift. (We would like to digress here and say that the Queen's statement did surprise us, because we had no idea that as mechanics, storemen, yardmen, carpenters, drivers, etc., the trade warranted so many—1,200 is a lot).

From there on, in his article, we began to get a glimmer of Mr. Cowley's leg-pulling tactics. These tactics were emphasised when we got to the statement that three small consignments of kumaras gluttled New Zealand. Just think over that and smile! We know that, right here, we felt an admiration for the writer, second only to our youthful worship of Mark Twain and Stephen Laycock. (I wonder if any other reader saw daylight at this stage).

Having got "en rapport," we found no difficulty, then, in finishing the article right down to the penultimate paragraph where the suggestion is made that the prosperity and posterity of Tonga is better catered for in a Government position than in the cultivation of the soil.

The final pronouncements concerning Charles and James of happy memory are really good. (By the way, there was another fellow called Pepsy living around about that time, and we would like to write a few of his historic pronouncements but, as space is limited, we let it pass).

Most readers will congratulate Mr. Cowley on "putting over" a thundering good hoax, and for those who do not incline to Mr. Cowley's levity in dealing with a serious subject, we would simply add "tuku aibe"

Energetic Cook Islanders.

From Our Own Correspondent.

RAROTONGA, May 22.

SOME two years ago, the native people of the village of Matavera set themselves the task of creating a full-sized football ground from a rough area on the roadside near the village.

The work was done by free labour and, as a co-operative undertaking, the scheme was a big one. Much of the levelling was carried out with the aid of a light railway and trucks.

From time to time a canvass was made of those interested in sport, the most welcome gifts being tins of bully beef and hard biscuits. The sinews of war were provided in this way.

The work has been now finished for some months, but the opening of the ground has been allowed to await the commencement of the football season.

On Wednesday, May 11, the villagers arranged for the ground to be formally opened in the presence of representatives of the leading sports body—the Sports Association.

The Resident Commissioner, Judge Ayson, who is president of this body, accompanied by the chief Ariki, Makea Tinirau (vice-president), warmly congratulated the villagers on their fine effort, and declared the ground open for play.

Mr. J. G. FOWLER, of the Papuan Administrative service, who is spending long leave in Australia, left Sydney early in June for Brisbane, where he will reside for three months before returning to Misima, Eastern Papua.

SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS IN COOK ISLANDS

From Our Own Correspondent.

RAROTONGA, May 22.

DURING the fruit season proper, which commenced in April, the Union Steamship Company provides two distinct services, which embrace the Cook Group.

First, there is the mail-boat service. The mail-boats maintain a four-weekly time-table. The boat going northwards from Wellington to San Francisco regularly calls at Rarotonga on the Saturday and the downward vessel from the States calls on the following Monday. From Saturday to Monday is known on the island as the "Boat week-end."

Secondly, there is a "fruit steamer" service to these islands from Auckland. This service is arranged, so that the visit to the islands falls about midway between mail-boat calls.

This year the Union Company has announced its cargo boat the "Kanna," as the fruit vessel to run down to the Cook Islands from Auckland.

The mail-boats touch at Rarotonga only—they do not make a call at any of the other islands.

The "Kanna" (if it conformed to past itineraries) would call at Aitutaki, Atiu, Mauke and Mangaia as well as at Rarotonga—the port of entry and clearance.

Two privately-owned schooners ply between Rarotonga and the group of islands mentioned—a distance of between 110 and 140 miles.

The two schooners visit the northern islands (Penrhyn, Manihiki and Rakahanga) perhaps two or three times during the year.

These services constitute our lines of communication between the islands themselves and New Zealand.

The fruit season is now with us, and at the commencement the outlook for the season has been damped by the cancellation of the "Kanna" of her first trip to the islands of the Lower Group.

It seems almost certain that her expected second visit will not eventuate. The Union Company's cargo boat "Waikawa," now on her way down from San Francisco, will, in all probability, call at Mangaia and Aitutaki and pick up fruit for Auckland.

If she does call, it might create a dilemma, because of the fact that the cargoes picked up by her will deplete the two islands of their shoeks without landing any for the next steamer that calls.

Both the schooners are away on a long cruise to the northern islands, returning to Rarotonga via Papeete. There is no means, therefore, of landing fruit cases at Aitutaki and Mangaia in readiness for a shipment of oranges by the "Kanna." Positions such as these are, to say the least, extremely tormenting for our local shipping representatives.

However, so far as Rarotonga is concerned, a fair quantity of space for fruit is generally to be had on the mail-boats.

"Makura's" Orange Shipment.

By the R.M.S. "Makura," which called here on April 25, remaining for two days loading fruit, some 13,300 cases of oranges went forward to New Zealand.

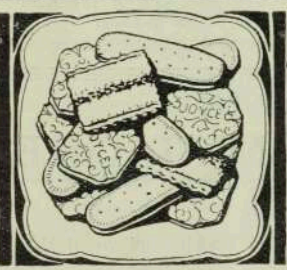
Growers were paid something like 4/- a case (fruit only), the gross return of which, for the whole cargo, represent a timely accretion to the very limited amount of spending money that lately has come into the island.

Advice posted up at the Administrative offices is to the effect that the shipment sold at from 11/- to 14/6 a case (portion unsold).

In print, the difference between the price paid to the grower and that received at the market end, would indicate that those who consigned direct had done well.

After allowing for wastage, and meeting all incidental charges up to the time the fruit is knocked down to the buyer, 4/- or 5/- a case for the oranges is about all that would come back to the consignee—as a maximum.

Oranges going forward per the R.M.S. "Monowai" on May 23 have had the benefit of a period of cooler and drier weather and will be firmer and sweeter possibly than the "Makura's" shipment.



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THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

31

SAMOAN SETTLERS' PETITION FOR LEASING OF REPARATION ESTATES.

A LARGELY-SUPPORTED petition has been despatched to the New Zealand Parliament, begging for the leasing out to local European settlers of the N.Z. Reparation Estates' cocoa and coconut plantations, at present run by the N.Z. Government under a management independent of the Samoan Administration.

In the petition, it is pointed out that the dissolution of the Estates will be to the benefit of New Zealand from a financial, as well as a political, view, will assist the Administration of Samoa in the effort to balance the budget. The example of Australia is cited, which has leased out all the ex-German properties in New Guinea.

Though the petition is supported by the commercial interests and the majority of European settlers, some of the European planters—lessees of the N.Z. Reparation Estates—have refused to endorse it, apparently influenced by the present general manager of the Estates, who, of course, is strongly opposed to the object of the petition. Consequently, there has been quite a lot of controversy over the matter.

It is, however, in spite of all opposition, believed that the prospects of success are good, and that a Board of Investigation, set up by the N.Z. Parliament, will go deeper into the matter, and verify the claims of the petitioners.

FRENCH STEAMERS FOR APIA.

Possible Extension by Messageries.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PAPEETE, May 20.

IN view of the withdrawal from service of the Union Steamship Company's "Tofua," and the almost complete inaccessibility of British Samoa for tourists, it is interesting to learn that, subject to the acquiescence of the authorities concerned, there is a possibility of the Messageries Maritimes Co. making Apia a port of call for their steamers on the run between Tahiti and New Caledonia.

The s.s. "Ville de Verdun" will call at Apia about May 27 on her westward run from Tahiti, which port she is scheduled to leave on May 20. The call in the present instance is for the purpose of repatriating about 3,000 Chinese, but if there seems a possibility of attracting freight and passengers, it is quite likely that Samoa may become a part of the M.M. regular itinerary.

New Guinea Cricket.

Rabaul Defeats Kavieng.

THE annual New Guinea territorial cricket test match between Rabaul and Kavieng was played at Rabaul during Easter, and resulted in the New Britain team retaining the "ashes."

The match, which is quite the most important cricket event in the Territory, is always watched with great interest by enthusiasts. This year's game was notable for the splendid second innings played by the visitors, whose batsmen, by their determined efforts, avoided an innings defeat.

Scores.—

RABAUL.—First Innings.	
Turner, c H. Holland, b T. Holland	22
Melksham, b Thompson	3
Heinicke, run out	1
Rundnagel, c and b Pickering	37
Archer, b Jamieson	11
Holmes, c Maxwell, b Jamieson	5
Cartledge, c Maxwell, b Jamieson	1
Hoskey, not out	22
Steele, b Jamieson	13
Phillips, c Pickering, b Thompson	17
Ewing, b Thompson	39
Sundries	16

Total 178

Bowling: Jamieson, 4 for 33; Thompson, 3 for 33; T. Holland, 1 for 39; Hatton, 0 for 31; H. Holland, 0 for 13; Pickering, 1 for 13.

KAVIENG.—First Innings.	
Pickering, b Melksham	1
T. Holland, c Turner, b Koskey	1
H. Holland, b Koskey	0
Maxwell, c Heinicke, b Koskey	6
Hatton, b Melksham	10
Thompson, c Melksham, b Koskey	0
Bell, b Melksham	1
Jamieson, c Melksham, b Koskey	0
Hoffman, b Melksham	2
Gordon, not out	1
Gilbert, run out	0
Sundries	2

Total 21

Bowling: Melksham, 4 for 10; Koskey, 5 for 9.

KAVIENG.—Second Innings.	
Maxwell, b Cartledge	3
T. Holland, c Phillips, b Cartledge	11
Hatton, b Rundnagel	44
Bell, c Heinicke, b Koskey	1
Pickering, run out	43
H. Holland, b Melksham	42
Thompson, c Heinicke, b Ewing	2
Jamieson, b Turner	7
Hoffman, b Turner	2
Gordon, b Melksham	3
Gilbert, not out	0
Sundries	11

Total 109

Bowling: Turner, 2 for 21; Cartledge, 2 for 39; Ewing, 1 for 9; Koskey, 1 for 42; Melksham, 2 for 25; Holmes, 0 for 17; Rundnagel, 1 for 5.

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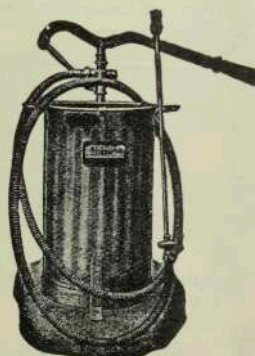


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BLIGH AND THE DARNLEY ISLANDERS.

Peep Into History of Well-known Torres Strait Island.

(By our Thursday Island Correspondent.)

THE modern Darnley Islander seems to have a natural objection to being "protected." But, truculent as he sometimes is, his conduct is mild compared to that of his forebears in the days of Captain Bligh, of *Bounty* fame.

Bligh made his second voyage through Torres Strait in 1792, as Commander of H.M.S. "Providence" his first was in the open boat in which he was set adrift after the mutiny, and he entered through the Barrier Reef, near its northern end, close to Darnley Island. He was accompanied by Lieutenant Portlock, in the brig "Assistant," and on Bligh's own ship one of the junior officers was that Matthew Flinders who still remains the premier explorer of our reef-strewn waters.

Bligh anchored off Darnley Island on September 4, and bestowed on it its very aristocratic name. But it was not long before he learnt the nature of the "Indians" whose solitude he had disturbed. They swarmed out in canoes to interview the men on the "Providence's" boats—which had been sent on in advance to find a passage through the reefs—making signs of friendship and holding out green coconuts for exchange.

The officer-in-charge disliked their appearance so much, that he started back to safety, what time the islanders did their best to cut him off. Finding themselves frustrated in this scheme, the natives openly prepared their bows by stringing arrows on them. However, the Englishmen got in first and a discharge of muskets sent the sallying party home.

That the Darnley natives of that day were skillful sailors is proved by the

following extract from Flinders' Journal:—

"No boats could have been manoeuvred better in working to windward than were these long canoes by the naked savages. Had the four (canoes) been able to reach the cutter, it is difficult to say whether the superiority of our arms would have been equal to the great difference of numbers, considering the ferocity of these people and the skill with which they seem to manage their weapons."

More amicable relations were established the next day, when the natives came right out to the two ships and bartered their bows and arrows for articles of iron, known to them as "Toree." The canoes, according to Flinders, were fifty feet long and made from a single tree. As the vegetation is sparse on Darnley, the logs must have been either procured from New Guinea or else been carried there by currents, as at the present time.

Before leaving this part of Torres Strait, Bligh named Nepean, Stephens and Campbell Islands.

A few days later the "Providence" was again in trouble. While passing through an opening in the reefs, near Warrior Island, the two vessels were directly attacked by seven canoes full of plucky but misguided natives, and the ships' guns loaded with grape shot had to be fired before the battle terminated.

Bligh's life must have been a stormy one, owing to his arbitrary character, reflected in the mutiny on the "Bounty" and in his deposition from the governorship of N.S.W.; yet it was not devoid of honours. He was personally thanked by Nelson after the battle of Copen-

hagen, and was successively created Rear and Vice Admiral after his departure from Australia. But he was of a breed that could never exist for any time in authority to-day. "A sea wolf; a brutal, intrepid, indefatigable man. All his words were words of wrath. All his orders were threats. All his threats were of the lash." Thus wrote a famous French naval surgeon of the man whose tyranny induced a mutiny—the man, too, whose pluck and endurance brought to a safe completion one of the most famous small-boat voyages in history.

Nine months later Darnley again became notorious. In 1793, two sailing vessels, "Hormuzee" and "Chesterfield," left Norfolk Island with the intention of traversing Torres Strait by a route not hitherto attempted. In due course, "Bligh's Darnley Island" was sighted, and there the two ships struck immediate trouble.

Bartering had been taking place between the visitors and the natives; and re-assured, no doubt, by the latter's friendly attitude, the chief mate of the "Chesterfield," another officer, and a passenger named Hill belonging to the N.S.W. Corps, went ashore with five seamen in a whaleboat.

On the fourth day of their absence a search was made, and Mr. Dell with two other boats went right round the island without finding any traces of the missing men. They were followed round the beaches by a large crowd of natives, who used every inducement in their power to get them to land. At Treachery Bay, indeed, it was found that a party was lying in ambush waiting for them to do so and, when this failed, hostilities broke out, resulting in the death of one of the natives.

On July 10, a strongly-armed party landed, and found some of their lost friends' possessions, but no other signs of them. In the huts they found human skulls and dried hands hanging up, and other marks of savagery. The Union Jack was first hoisted; and then retribution was exacted by the burning of 135 huts, 16 canoes, and the destruction of many gardens. This annexation of Darnley, which included all the neighbouring islands and the adjacent coast of New Guinea, was not attended by the people most concerned. They were hiding in the hills, and must have seen the two vessels finally sail away with great relief.

From information gained at Stephens Island, it was learned that Captain Hill and four seamen had been murdered on Darnley, but their bodies were never found.

Three of the party who had gone ashore escaped, however, and then started on one of those amazing small-boat ventures which seem to have been the final stage of many a shipwrecked party in Torres Strait. In this case, the survivors managed to get to their boat. They cut the rope and got away—without provisions, without a compass. The mother ships being five leagues to windward and, therefore, beyond their reach, these three intrepid men sailed westward through the Straits, and finally reached the islands of Timor Laut.

Many years later, however, in 1843, Blackwood and Yule, in the *Fly* and *Bramble*, came to a good understanding with the natives of Darnley—although the latter did show fight when pressed to help in the search for certain men of the expedition who had been lost along the Papuan coast.

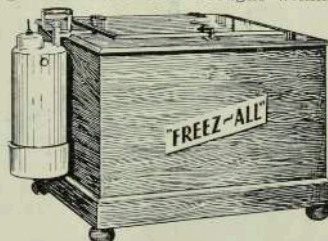
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THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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VALUE OF NEW GUINEA.

Gold Production and Total Administration Cost.

IN reply to questions, the Prime Minister of Australia stated, on May 24, that gold of the value of £1,149,333 has been produced in New Guinea from May 9, 1921, to March 31, 1932. During that period, gold of the value of £1,148,703 has been exported from the territory, all of which has been sent to Australia.

Asked what had been the cost of administering the Territory since Australia was given the mandate, the Prime Minister replied:—

Payments, other than loans, have been made by the Commonwealth Government in respect of the administration of New Guinea from May 9, 1921, to June 30, 1931, as follows:—

- (i) Grants totalling £65,000, to be utilised for the welfare of the natives.
- (ii) Bounties under the Papua and New Guinea Bounties Act, 1926, £3,817.
- (iii) Miscellaneous expenditure totalling £8,584.
- (iv) Portion of the annual subsidy for the maintenance of shipping services to several territories in the Pacific, including the Territory of New Guinea, estimated at about £160,000.

Petrol Bowsers Appear in Papeete.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PAPEETE, May 20.
MESSRS. A. B. DONALD have recently opened their new gasoline filling station on one corner of their property. It is of the most modern construction with two bright red filling pumps, an ornate little cottage and a flower bed. We have recently heard that the Societe Commerciale de L'Océanie is about to follow suit, with a station within a block of Donald's. A price-cutting competition on gasoline would be very welcome to our local drivers.

Record Copra Shipment.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PT. MORESBY, May 26.
THE Royal Dutch Packet vessel, "Van Rees," arrived in Port Moresby, on May 25, from Java ports. She had on board 180 tons of general cargo for this port.

This is her first visit to the territory. She proceeds to Rabaul, Noumea and Sydney. From Sydney she returns via Port Moresby to Java.

The "Montoro" arrived on May 25 from New Guinea and Samarai and the "Macdhui," on her way to Australia, is expected on the 26th and is leaving the same day for Samarai and New Guinea.

The "Pentor" cleared Port Moresby on May 18 for Batavia, Marseilles and London. Altogether 2,483 tons of copra were loaded from Papua, Port Moresby, and Samarai—a record single shipment from this Territory.

SOLOMONS' COPRA.

Reduction in Output.

From Our Own Correspondent.

TULAGI, April 30.

OUR Protectorate financial year, which ended on March 31, showed our year's output of copra to be 21,209 tons, which was a fall of about 2,400 tons on the previous year.

This is mostly accounted for by the low price prevailing, which effectively cut off native production (about 3,000 tons).

Besides this, many plantations showed a reduced output, which is charged up to nut-fall. The cause of this, by the

way, has not yet been definitely arrived at; though I understand that Mr. Lever (our entomologist) is of opinion that want of fertiliser and cultivation is mostly to blame. But while this would be true up to a point, it is hard to believe that such huge reductions of output, which have taken place on a few of the plantations, can altogether be charged up to this cause.

Mr. Coconut, who so largely feeds on sunlight and air, has been in existence and done his job for a large number of years, and many refuse to believe that he will suddenly "down tools" and go on strike unless he is given the dole, so to speak. Of course, he may have heard about Mr. Lang, in which case anything would be understandable. Pests everywhere come and go, or, as Mr. Stevens was reported last night as having said at Canberra, "boils come to a head and break and leave the system cleaner." So let us hope our coconut pest, together with Mr. Lang, is but a passing phase.



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NORFOLK ISLAND WANTS TWO MARKETS.

Morinda's Itinerary.

AN urgent plea for the revision of the Burns, Philp timetable, covering Sydney-Norfolk Is.-Auckland-Norfolk Is.-Sydney, has been received from Norfolk Island.

It is pointed out that the "Morinda" now proceeds Sydney-Norfolk Is.-New Hebrides-Norfolk Is.-Auckland-Norfolk Is.-Sydney. It is contended that this is not fair to the Norfolk Is. producers. They collect their produce and ship it to Auckland. Within five days, the "Morinda" is back again, en route to Sydney. The islanders do not get a chance, in that short time, to collect another good consignment. Then they must wait five weeks before the "Morinda" sails for Auckland on her next round trip.

But, they say, if the "Morinda" were to run Sydney-Norfolk Is.-Auckland-Norfolk Is.-New Hebrides-Norfolk Is.-Sydney, there would be a longer interval between the ship's departure for Auckland and Sydney respectively, and they could arrange their consignments more profitably.

At first glance, this is an eminently reasonable request. But a careful study of the proposed itinerary shows that it would at once open the way for the sale of goods to the New Hebrides by Auckland merchants. And Australia cannot approve of that. Australia subsidises this shipping service very substantially, in the hope that it will open the New Hebrides market to Australian exporters. It is, naturally, not Australia's policy to subsidise a shipping service for New Zealand's enterprising merchants.

However, the welfare and encouragement of Norfolk Is. producers are subjects of primary consideration; and the "Morinda's" itinerary is again under consideration at Canberra.

Another Sugar Plan.

For the Solomons.

A PLAN to grow sugar in the British Solomon Islands is being submitted to Sydney investors.

It is proposed to lease 10,000 acres of grass lands on the northern side of Guadalcanal, about 30 miles from Tulagi, and plant 1,000 acres in Queensland varieties of cane, as soon as possible. The new British preference on colonial-grown sugar is an important factor in the plan.

Mr. King, who has been a plantation manager in the Solomons for some years, is interested in the proposal.

Solomon Islands Attractive to American Millionaires.

From Our Own Correspondent

TULAGI, June 7.

THE Solomon Islands have suddenly jumped into prominence as a place of call for the yachts of American millionaires, with the result that almost every few weeks there is a palatial vessel anchored in Tulagi Harbour.

The most recent visitor was Harry S. Bissell (of carpet-sweeper fame), of La Crescenta, Cal., in his fine aux. Diesel schooner "Ariadne," a vessel of some 250 tons gross.

The party intends touring the Solomons and Java, and thence home, via Cape of Good Hope, West Africa, and Panama.

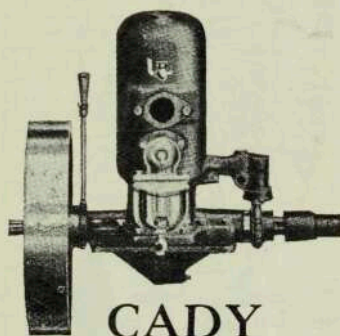
International Courtesies in Samoa.

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, May 2.

HIS Excellency the Administrator, and Mrs. Hart departed on Friday, May 20 by the U.S.S. "Lark" to Pago Pago on an official visit to the Governor of American Samoa. The party included several other Administrative officials.

A return visit by the Governor of American Samoa will be made on the King's Birthday. The party will attend the various sports and festivities planned for that day.



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THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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ASIATICS FOR SOLOMONS.

[To the Editor.]

Sir,—I note in the May issue of "The Pacific Islands Monthly," that Mr. Geof. Clift again comes out in advocacy of Asiatic labour for the Solomons.

Let's examine his arguments. He says, "Like many other Groups, the Solomons are in the unfortunate position of being wholly dependent on copra." Well! for the five years ending March, 1930 (the last figures at hand), our average annual exports showed £20,000 worth of shell, £13,200 worth of ivory nuts, and £6,809 worth of timber. All self-grown natural resources; surely not too insignificant to mention!

We have no bananas, pineapples, rubber, cotton, sugar, or coffee, but is this not a circumstance to rejoice over rather than lament?

If one only has toothache, he can give it his undivided attention to effect a cure or relief, but if he has cancer, rheumatism, hemorrhoids and meningitis, and a few other minor complaints thrown in to make good measure, it follows that recovery is likely to be somewhat delayed. Mr. Clift more or less agrees with this, when he says, "We hope that the rising price of copra means the end of the depression as far as we are concerned," and so it would be if copra held the price it was when he made this remark (about £17 per ton) but alas! even to hope for such a thing shows a lack of study of the world's maladies.

Why does the world (or rather its human element) so consistently ignore the laws of average and of supply and demand? Surely, it is not reasonable to expect caviare prices in this industry, while the average standard of living is so reduced!

The most important reason for imported labour can be only "to produce more." Well, then (pardon my Socratic tendencies) but how much better off will the Solomons, or the world, be if we increase our output a hundred-fold? Why produce more of a commodity that is already over-supplied? Surely, it is wiser to have the world's markets properly regulated rather than glutted, and so unable to return to the producer a fair margin of profit!

Then comes the argument that the Government would benefit because each Asiatic would pay £1 poll tax and that imports and exports would increase accordingly. Truly this is a crushing denunciation of the White Australia policy; for how ridiculously easy it would be for Australia to become affluent by flooding her shores with the overflow of the surplus populations of the northern countries?

Again, Mr. Clift says, "An intermingling between Asiatics and natives would improve the native race." This is a rather rash statement. If "The Pacific Islands Monthly" articles are at all reliable, to say nothing of hearsay, Solomon Islands labour is close to being the best for copra production in the Pacific. Where, for instance, will we find labour averaging a better daily task than 800 lbs. of green copra (gathering and cutting out) which is claimed on some of the better supervised plantations here? Would an intermingling of blood improve on this? Well, hardly!

The intermingling question, of course, takes us somewhat beyond our depth, though it is within the bounds of pos-

sibility that if the world goes on long enough, there will come a time when its whole population will blend into one huge family, but, for the meantime, it is a questionable policy to pursue, for, "Better the devil we know."

I am, etc.,

SOLOMONOO.

Tulagi, June 7.

Bulolo's Gold Yield.

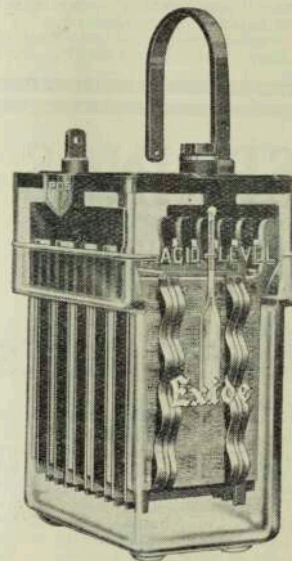
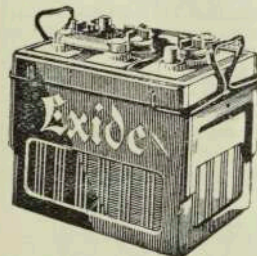
THE secretary of Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd. reports that the yield for the 28-day period ended May 23 amounted to 4,887 ozs. of bullion from 248,300 cubic yards, of an approximate value of 66,000 gold dollars.

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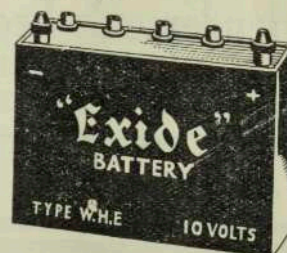
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SAMOAN PLANTERS MEET.

From Our Own Correspondent.

APIA, May 20.
THE annual general meeting of the Planters' Association of Samoa was held on April 30 and attended by 17 members.

The first annual report of the committee was presented and adopted, also the financial statement showing a satisfactory balance on hand.

The present officers of the Association, including the president, Mr. F. L.

A. Gock, were re-elected, as also was the previous committee of six members.

It was proposed that the Association endorse a petition to cut up and lease out the N.Z. Reparation Estates. After a discussion, the motion was defeated by 13 votes to 4.

Means and methods to fight the dreaded black-pod disease of the cocoa-trees were discussed, especially a suggestion to make use of blasting for the purpose, on which opinions were divided. It is hoped, that a mycologist from Fiji will be available for a short visit to Samoa to help planters in this and similar problems.

THE BANANA.

Its Behaviour and Diseases in Storage and Transport.

(By C. W. Wardlaw and L. P. Maguire, in the "Fiji Times and Herald.")

THE research dealt with in this publication was carried out by the authors at the Low Temperature Station, Imperial College of Agriculture, Trinidad, B.W.I.

Panama disease, which first appeared in Central America in 1903, has caused heavy losses in the West Indies, and has been responsible for the abandonment of thousands of acres of plantations. In view of the fact that the export of bananas from the British West Indies amounts to about £2,000,000 annually, the success of the research work indicated above is of great moment to the Empire.

The prevalence of Panama disease, to which the Gros Michel banana, the chief variety of commerce, is susceptible, has not only necessitated a study of the disease in question, but also the breeding of suitable immune or highly disease-resisting hybrids, and the selection of the most suitable varieties of proved immunity or high resistance. In addition it has been necessary to determine the precise set of conditions suitable to the successful transport overseas of each such hybrid or variety and to its subsequent ripening to an attractive colour.

The principal causes of wastage in banana shipments are due to main-stalk rot resulting from the attacks of various fungi diseases, and "finger dropping," which may be due to the advanced stage of main-stalk rot, to mechanical injury to individual fingers, or to late maturity.

The Gros Michel, Lacatan and Cavendish were found to be varieties of decided value. The earlier trials established the following facts: correlation between the conditions in respect of soil and climate under which the fruits were grown before storage and the behaviour in storage and ripening, excessive tenderness and susceptibility to bruising usually attributed to the Cavendish variety, and believed to necessitate its cratings were not confirmed, careful handling obviating the major objection of breaking off of fingers; and, thirdly, much of the irregular colouring up of fingers and premature ripening of lower hands was found to be due to fungal attack as a result of insect punctures or mechanical damage during harvesting and transport.

There is a wide range of maturity at which the Cavendish variety may be picked, so that it will stand, uncrated, the usual bulk storage conditions for as long as 18½ days. While on being ripened it has not the rich hue of the Gros Michel, the better and more vigorous bunches were extraordinarily systematised and attractive, especially before the onset of freckling, concomitant with late maturity in this variety. If these results are confirmed in later storage trials, a hopeful note may be sounded regarding the possibilities of

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the West Indian Cavendish as a substitute for the Gros Michel.

Experimental work on various fungi was carried out to determine the general behaviour of such infection on the banana under commercial storage conditions. Such infections were considered from the point of view of the rate of growth of the fungi at different temperatures and their parasitic behaviour, as determined by inoculation experiments.

As a preliminary, observations on the rate of growth of six fungi affecting the banana were carried out by culturing the fungi. In this manner the rate of growth of fungi at different temperatures was ascertained, an important consideration in connection with these investigations.

Inoculation experiments with various fungi were carried out to observe the effect of each fungus on the bunch.

It was found that wastage in banana cargoes or in stored fruit is due mainly to the activities of a number of fungi or moulds. These are responsible for an important downward rotting of the main-stalk, for "finger dropping" and the blemishing and rotting of fruit, i.e., infections may become established in the field or during storage. Rough handling of fruit, with the consequent bruising, greatly accentuates the amount of disease. Further, temperature plays an important part in the growth activities of moulds. Low storage temperatures curtail the amount of disease.

The next stage in the investigation was to consider the nature and incidence of diseases in large consignments of fruit during ocean transport.

For some years main-stalk rot has been prevalent in cargoes on arrival at the English port. It was found that the length of time that elapsed in ships before refrigeration of the cargoes encouraged the early development of main-stalk rot.

The authors recommend the following to reduce losses attendant on main-stalk rot. First, cutting stalks long—about 10 inches—when reaping bunches. Secondly, that after inspection at quayside the stems be fresh cut with a sharp instrument and thoroughly treated with vaseline. In this way the fungal organisms which have become established in the long interval between reaping and loading will be eliminated. Thirdly, commencing refrigeration as soon as possible after loading; and, fourthly, rapid cooling of the cargoes.

The use of brown paper in other countries has made it possible to ensure that the fruit shall arrive at its destination with the minimum of blemishes. The use of such bags, however, affects very materially the composition of the air around the fruit and the temperature of the fruit itself. These factors may affect the fruit considerably with serious consequences, especially when the ship is delayed. The danger from these causes was obviated to a large degree by punching holes $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch diameter, set four inches apart. A comparison of the condition of the fruit in bags so treated with untreated bags demonstrated that while over 60 per cent. of the bunches in the unpunched bags showed acute main-stalk rot, there was an incidence of six per cent. only in the corresponding punched set. Furthermore, cooling with the latter method was more rapid.

Bananas for certain markets are cut into hands and crated. This tends to uneven and more rapid ripening. As a result of investigation, the authors emphasise the necessity for careful selection of fruit at the correct stage of maturity; shortening as much as possible the interval between harvesting and transference to the cool-storage chamber; thorough pre-cooling of the whole bunch prior to cutting into hands and the application of vaseline for journeys of ten days or longer; rapid transference, in insulated conveyors if necessary, from the pre-cooling station into the ship's hold; the maintenance of a temperature of 50 degrees F.—55 degrees F. in the case of Cavendish and Gros Michel varieties; the complete change of the storage atmosphere at least once per day; the use of "dunnage" on crates, and the provision of vertical breaks in the cargo stacks, when these are large.

Samoan Administrator and Mau Members Meet at Social.

From Our Own Correspondent.

APIA, May 20.

THOUGH the Mau still declines steadfastly to meet the Administrator, and give up its policy of passive resistance and non-co-operation, this "die-hard" opposition apparently does not extend to social meetings.

At a recent dance, organised by the Seiaube Club, a women's society with only Samoan or Samoan-born members, the Administrator, General Hart, and Mrs. Hart were guests of honour, and were received by Mrs. Churchward (president of the Club) and Mrs. Faumuina (wife of the Mau leader).

Though the club is non-political, most of the club members are in sympathy with the Mau movement.

BAD STATE OF TONGAN ROADS.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NUKUALOFA, May 2.

Public attention is being forcibly drawn by the state of the roads to the primitive methods adopted by the Public Works Department of Tonga for road maintenance.

The singularly foolish idea that a coating of tar and sand will renovate a pot-hole road is ludicrous. The stone-crushing plants have been closed down during the last year, no new roads have been made and practically no re-metalling of the existing worn-out roads has been done.

The inevitable result is that the roads are rapidly deteriorating and a coating of sand and tar is absolutely useless.

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GUINEA AIRWAYS REDUCE RATES AND ANNOUNCE LARGER PROFITS.

THE balance-sheet of Guinea Airways, Ltd., which is the senior air transport company on the New Guinea goldfields, shows a net profit of £28,725 for the year ended February 29, compared with £22,077 in 1930-31.

Quarterly dividends absorbed £16,875. Depreciation allowed on aeroplanes, buildings, etc., is £15,000, as against £8,291 in the previous year. A transfer of £12,075 to reserve is made, the amount comparing with £2,500 a year earlier. The increased appropriation brings the reserve to £20,000, the object being chiefly to provide an adequate insurance fund for replacements.

The allocations amount to £28,950 or £225 more than the profit, and the carry forward is reduced to £145 from £370. The company's gross revenue is shown at £95,618, compared with £97,922 for the previous 12 months. Capital at £75,000 has been increased by £15,000 on the year. Sundry creditors are £4,808 lower at £14,595. Buildings, plant, aeroplanes, etc., are valued at £64,915, or £8,876 less than last year. Sundry debtors are £24,464, an increase of £8,527, and cash balances have risen to £20,171 from £155.

The directors' report stated that a reduction during the year in the rate of the quarterly dividend from 2/- to 1/- per share was deemed advisable and, at the same time, various economies were effected in administration and operating expenditure. Further savings in costs are to be made in the current year to accord with the policy of the Board to render air transport in New Guinea as cheap as the special local conditions will allow.

With this object in view, a considerable cut in freight was made recently. With careful management, it was hoped that the lower level of charges could be maintained this year without impairing the efficiency or further reducing dividends. If so, the average freight cost to the public during the five year life of the Company will not have exceeded 54d. per lb.

The Company's main operation during last year was the carrying in of two dredges for Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd. This work was completed in the allotted time and without mishap. The Company has contracted for the transport of two additional dredges for Bulolo. The report stated that during the year all world's records for air transport of freight were broken. The staff, under the management

of Mr. A. S. Cross, deserve the highest praise for this achievement.

Reference was made in the report to the death in January of Mr. C. J. Leven, who had been a member of the Board from its inception. Mr. Leven, it was stated, was rightly regarded as the founder of aviation in New Guinea and his loss would be severely felt.

SIR HUBERT MURRAY.

We are informed that, although Sir Hubert Murray, Lieut.-Governor of Papua, is coming to Sydney in August to attend a scientific congress, he will return to Papua in September, and will not, for the present, take the 10 months' leave recently granted to him.

It appears to have been wrongly assumed that his Excellency was taking this long leave at an early date, preparatory to retirement.

A LITIGIOUS TANGLE.

THE Port Romilly sawmill case still occupies

the attention of the Central Court, Papua. Application was made by the Company on February 5 for an injunction restraining the liquidator from completing the sale of the Company's sawmill for a sum which creditors and shareholders considered far below its value. At the resulting trial certain creditors and shareholders asked the court for a declaratory order that A. S. Fitch was never properly appointed liquidator; alternatively for his removal and an order for complete accounts as between him and the Company. Judgment was given on April 29 in favour of the plaintiffs, whose costs were ordered to be paid by the Company.

Since that date an application has been made to the Court by A. S. Fitch and others for the compulsory winding-up of the Company; and a counter-application by the Company, supported by a number of shareholders and creditors, for a winding-up under supervision. These applications, after three postponements, are at present set down for hearing on June 17.

There has also been an action by Fitch in the Small Debts Court for immediate payment of a sum due for native wages. A verdict was given for the plaintiff, and the case is to be further considered in the Central Court.

Writs were issued at the instance of a former employee of the Company, demanding specific performance by the Company of an agreement between him and the liquidator regarding the sale of the sawmill, and for payment to him of wages accrued but not paid during the liquidator's term of office. The Company admit his right to claim for wages in the liquidation, but resist his demand for specific performance on five separate grounds. Judgment in these two cases is to be given on June 17.

Application has also been made to the Court by the Port Romilly Co. for a summons calling Fitch to submit to a private examination on a matter of accounts as between him and the Company. The granting of the summons is held up pending the decision of other cases.

Mr. J. P. Guimane, of Townsville, is acting for Captain Fitch, and Mr. R. D. Bertie, of Port Moresby, for the Romilly Co.

Banana Prospects in Tonga.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NUKUALOFA, May 21.

THE banana prospects are not too encouraging. The April shipment of 3,900 cases just paid expenses, but as the price paid to producers was 1/- per case, they are not satisfied.

The s.s. "Karetu" took away 4,000 cases odd on the 20th inst. It is understood that the Government had an f.o.b. price of 5/- per case guaranteed by an Auckland firm for 3,500 cases. Presumably, the balance will be sold on consignment.

It is rumoured that the shippers of the various island groups are coming to an agreement with regard to the terms upon which they will dispose of their produce in the future. This is a good proposition for, though the Auckland buyers are eager to obtain fruit, the price realised by the growers is seldom profitable when sold on consignment. Some form of control to prevent flooding of the market is most necessary.

Everyone gets Hungry—it's the natural course of events.

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Brunswick Sardines, 1/4lb. tins ..	4d. tin,	3/9 doz.
Unification Pink Salmon, 1lb. tins ..	8/- doz.,	29/- case
Libby's Luncheon Beef, 12oz. tins ..	9d. tin,	8/6 doz.
St. George Pork Chops in Apple Sauce, 14oz. tins ..	2/1 tin,	24/- doz.
Globe Sheep's Tongues, 12oz. tins ..	1/- tin,	11/6 doz.
Nestle's Condensed Milk, 14oz. tins ..	8/6 doz.,	30/- case
Capital Wheat Biscuits, 12oz. pkts. ..	5 1/2d. pkt.,	5/4 1/2 doz.
Rosa Breakfast Food, 2lb. pkts. ..	5 1/2d. pkt.,	5/- doz.
I.X.L. Solpak Apples (no juice), 24oz. tins	1/0 1/2 tin,	12/- doz.
I.X.L. Cherries in Syrup, 30oz. tins ..	1/2 1/2 tin,	14/- doz.
Bourneville Cocoa, 1/2lb. tins ..	1/2 tin,	13/9 doz.
Kream Cornflour, 1lb. pkts. ..	7d. pkt.,	6/6 doz.
Eta Peanut Butter, 12oz. tins ..	1/4 tin,	15/6 doz.
Sydies French Beans, 16oz. tins ..	8d. tin,	7/9 doz.
Champion Ruby Tobacco, 2oz. tins (10lb. lots only) ..		7/1 lb.
Capstan Medium Cigarettes, round 50s. (box of 2000) ..		51/- box
Caustic Soda, 2lb. tins ..	1/6 tin,	17/- doz.
Selmore Toilet Paper, 5oz. rolls ..	2d. roll	1/10 doz.

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June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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ONE WAY OUT.

Mr. W. R. Carpenter Discusses a World Problem.

The following is a copy of a letter by Mr. W. R. Carpenter (head of the well-known Islands firm), which has appeared in a number of Australian newspapers. It is an interesting contribution to the most difficult problem before the world to-day.

IT has been apparent for at least two years that there can be no real progress towards the economic rehabilitation of the world until there has been a review of international debts and a general cancellation of the war debt obligations too hurriedly assumed by the various nations in the years immediately following the war. The latest news messages from Europe indicate that all the Chancelleries have now adopted this view, and at this moment there is pending an international agreement having for its basis the condition described by Mr. Neville Chamberlain on February 2—namely, "a general cancellation of reparations and war debts."

This is the obvious course to follow—for the debtor nations. But one must be reasonable and look at the situation also from the point of view of the creditor nation, the United States. America financed the war—and it was not a war of America's seeking nor one in which America was primarily concerned. American statesmen realise, just as clearly as do the Europeans, that the world cannot get out of the present impasse so long as the present position remains, and Europe is compelled to pay huge sums to America by way of war-debt principal and interest. But, say the Americans—and quite reasonably—why should Europe's liability to America be cancelled, thus placing upon the shoulders of the American people the whole financial burden of a war for which America was not responsible. It is apparent to the least intelligent that if America does not receive interest and repayments on her loans to Europe, she must make good the amount thereby lost by increased taxation of the American people. There is the situation that has defied solution by the world's economists ever since the depression settled down upon the world and made revision and readjustment imperative.

It is my opinion—and I think it is the opinion of many thinking men who are trying to see a way out of the most difficult situation that has ever confronted the modern world—that a solution which is practicable and which will represent fair treatment of the vital interests concerned is as follows:

1. Germany must not be allowed to escape altogether from her responsibility for the world war, and the subsequent crippling of the world's economic system.
2. The interests of the American nation which found such huge sums to permit the Allies to carry the war to a successful conclusion must be protected.
3. That the Reparations Councils should agree among themselves upon an amount which would fairly capitalise the amount of Germany's Reparations Debt to the Allied nations.
4. That the Allied nations should agree among themselves to abandon all further claim upon Germany for Reparations; and that they should collectively and individually assign all their reparations interest to the United States, as a means of cancelling an equal

amount of their indebtedness to the latter nation.

5. That all capital repayments of international debts cease for a period of three years and that only interest payments be made during that time.
6. That during the three years period all interest payments on international debts be kept down to three per cent.

The more one studies the situation, the more clear it becomes that this is the only possible solution. All the nations except the Central Powers in return for foregoing their reparations claims upon the Central Powers should be permitted to cancel their obligations for the same amount to the United States, so that they may be free to attack the vital problem of re-building their trade and industry. Germany's present liabilities to all the other nations would be consolidated in one definite debt to the United States; and the United States would not then be called upon to face the dangerous economic collapse which otherwise is represented in the world's insistent demand for "the cancellation of war-debts and reparations."

The above suggested solution is a business-like re-arrangement of existing debts and obligations. It would impose no hardships because the allied nations, theoretically at any rate, are already paying out in war-debts everything that they receive in reparations; and it would clear the way for the world's economic rehabilitation. Much, of course, depends upon what is going to happen in Germany within the next few months—but that does not alter the argument. If Germany is determined to repudiate her obligations under the post-war settlements, the ultimate loss is going to reach the American bondholders, either directly (under the scheme outlined above) or through the European nations (which, obviously, cannot pay America if Germany cannot pay them).

Fiji Seeks Lower Freights and Fares.

THE question of freights and passenger fares between Fiji and Australia and New Zealand was discussed at the annual meeting of the Suva Chamber of Commerce recently.

It was decided to urge upon the shipping companies that, in view of special circumstances, some concessions should be granted.

The following report is taken from The Fiji Times:—

A report was read, in the shape of a draft letter, from the sub-committee appointed (the president, Major Joske, and Mr. A. H. Marlow) to the Union Steam Ship Company, pointing out the losses to shippers of bananas and the need of a reduction in freight, to say 2/6 per case, and also commenting on the unduly high ratio of freights for general goods from New Zealand and Sydney.

Mr. Lawlor suggested that a similar letter be written to the Matson Company.

Mr. M. Brodie said that 70 per cent. of the Sydney cargo was flour and sharps. He also pointed out that the passenger fares by the cargo boat (the Waipahi) were the same as had been charged by the Tofua. The fares and freights ought to be reduced.

As the drafted letter dealt largely with bananas, which did not affect Sydney, the committee was asked to re-draft the letter in two sections, one about bananas shipped to New Zealand and the other about general cargoes from Australia and New Zealand.

*After Thirty Years' Trading
with the Islands - - -*

AUNT MARY'S PURE FOOD PRODUCTS ARE STILL SUPREME

Only goods of the highest standard are packed under the "Aunt Mary's" Brand. All are specially manufactured and packed to meet Island conditions.

"DEFIANCE" BRAND CANNED GOODS.

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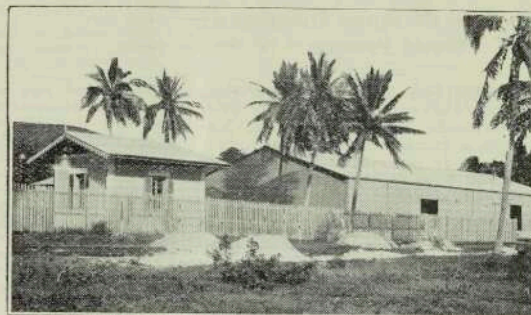
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POWER FUEL DISTRIBUTION IN PACIFIC.

DURING the past 20 years, two public utilities have been introduced to the Pacific Islands, and have revolutionised life there.

One is the internal combustion engine—the other is radio. They have both been responsible for removing the “deadly isolation” of the Islands.

The internal combustion engine has made possible the wide use of launches, of motor cars on all the bigger islands, and of power plants for doing a score of necessary things. The next big development in the Islands will be the wide use of aeroplanes: and the internal combustion engine, again, makes this possible.



Vacuum Oil Co.'s Office and Warehouse at Noumea, New Caledonia.

THE general and increasing use of internal combustion engines has created a great demand for oil fuel, and the need has been met by the oil companies, who have provided a most complete organisation for supplying the Pacific territories with spirit and oil fuel. The Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd. was the pioneer of this field; and the following is the story of its enterprise.

This company has given to the communities of the Pacific Islands practically the same facilities of bulk storage and quick distribution as are enjoyed by the people of Australia and New Zealand.

Twenty-five years ago, representatives of the Vacuum Oil Company, which was well established in Australia, came to the Islands with instructions to make a survey of the conditions, with the object of supplying a distributing organisation for petroleum products. In those days the planters relied upon various types of sailing vessels for the transportation of their products to main ports of transshipment. Inter-island trading had its dangers, its risks and its delays. The unavoidable missing of a steamer working to schedule was sometimes a costly business. But up-to-date engines on shore and on shipboard, with reliable fuel and oil supply, have removed those risks and speeded up the life and work

of the island communities, bringing them closer together and providing more of the amenities of life. Planters nowadays maintain quick communication by launch, instead of depending on slow and erratic sailing vessels.

Only recently an aeroplane conveyed a sick patient from a distant island to medical assistance in Suva. In Suva and Noumea, nowadays, hundreds of motor cars busily pass through the streets, while Indian and native police direct the traffic.

From the early days the Vacuum Company demonstrated its faith in the islands in a score of ways. It spent thousands of pounds on the purchase of land, and in building warehouses at all principal ports, believing that the future would amply justify the expenditure.

In 1928, kerbside petrol pumps made their appearance in several of the islands centres. To-day, age-old palm trees, that once waved their fronds above the war-canoes of the islanders' ancestors, now cast their shadows on this symbol of civilisation awheel.

Then, to widen the use of mechanical transport in the Islands, bulk supplies were inaugurated.

Vessels under both sail and steam were chartered to bring petroleum products direct to the Islands from America. In keeping with its ideals of

service, the Company always sought to make its products available as economically and efficiently as possible. One instance of this was the Company's decision, many years ago, to eliminate the freight charges incurred on its products by transshipment via Sydney, by putting in direct vessels from America.

This marketing innovation, which is still in force, removed a restriction on the use of automotive units throughout the Islands, because buyers of small quantities could thenceforth draw supplies from stocks on the spot.

In addition, it ensured delivery of packages with the minimum of damage. Loss through leakage of damaged containers, generally unavoidable with the methods of handling cargoes in island ports which then obtained, was another waste greatly reduced. Plantation owners have reaped the benefit of these savings because the price of petrol, as charged to them, became steadily less.

The bringing of ships to the islands with cargoes of petroleum products presented another boon, for when the chartered vessels discharged their oil cargoes they frequently lifted copra cargoes.

Branches and warehouses have been established by the Vacuum Company during the last 20 years at Suva, Levuka, and Lautoka (Fiji); Noumea (New Caledonia), Apia (W. Samoa), Rabaul and Lae (New Guinea), Samarai and Port Moresby (Papua). Warehouses at these places all carry adequate stocks.

News from Tahiti.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PAPEETE, May 20.

ON May 12, an impressive ceremony was held at the war memorial in honour of the recently assassinated President of France, M. Jore, the Governor of the French Colony, presided, and much feeling was shown by the populace, practically all of whom attended.

We regret to announce that on May 6, the delegate from French Oceania, M. Lemaire, died in Paris.

On Monday, May 16, the Association Hyppique gave the quarterly race meet. There were five races, both gallop and trotting, which showed a lot of class, especially in the sulky races. About 2,000 people attended and made a very lively afternoon of it. Fortunately, the pari mutuelle worked excellently and the betting ring was very hectic for each period between races.



Petrol and Oil Warehouse at Suva.

Cook Islands Have Many Sportsmen

From Our Own Correspondent.

THE British traditional love of sport is strongly manifest at Rarotonga. The number of young footballers may possibly number two or three hundred. There are four clubs constituting some twelve teams. Other clubs are to be formed this season.

In cricket, there are at least 18 native teams besides two European XI's.

Tennis has a big following. Any piece of ground available serves as a tennis court, provided only that it is of sufficient size.

All forms of sport—football, cricket, tennis, athletic events, boxing—are controlled by the Rarotonga Sports Association. European clubs are outside the Association. Everything related to sport on the island receives the support and patronage of the Resident Commissioner.

The European Tennis Club's grounds comprise four courts. There is a full-sized bowling green at Avarus, which is an acquisition to the island. At different times throughout the year the Europeans and native representatives come together in important matches at tennis and cricket. (There is no European football team.)

Having a greater number of players upon which to draw, and more spare time at their disposal for practice, native teams are more often successful than, not against European teams. It has been observed that, in sport, the

native temperament reacts slightly differently from that of the average European. To the native, defeat has something of the sting of humiliation—he is inclined to feel ashamed. At victory, particularly over the European, he is apt to be over-proud—might we say boastful, without wishing to deny him anything of the supreme pleasure which he derives from a win.

The longer experienced native players, whether at cricket, tennis or football, show an admirable trait of good sportsmanship. They wish only for a game played in the spirit of fairness, friendliness and good grace if theirs is defeat.

TENNIS COURTS OPENED.

The tennis courts at Rarotonga were opened for the season on Saturday, April 30, in the presence of a record gathering. The President, Mr. Townsend, spoke a few words to those present, and declared the courts open for play.

On the same afternoon Mr. D. Brown, President of the Bowling Club, addressed a similar gathering at the bowling grounds, which marked the opening of the club's third year of play. Mr. Brown intimated that there was just the chance of a bowling team, or possibly two teams, passing this way in June on their way to the Olympic games at Los Angeles.

Fire Destroys Tahiti Residence.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Papeete, May 20.

LAST Saturday, at midnight, the inhabitants of Papeete were awakened by the clanging of the fire alarm, and the whole town was soon flocking to the suburb of Farepiti, where a red glare lit up the sky, for, strange to relate, in a land of wooden houses, fires are by no means common here.

The scene of the calamity was the newly-constructed residence of M. le Judge De Rossi, a double storey building, very near the Blue Lagoon Hotel. Although the night was exceedingly calm, the house was a hopeless ruin before the fire brigade got to work on it, situated as it was some distance from the town. The cause of the conflagration is at present unknown, as the Judge, with whom we all sympathise, was absent in the country at the time. It is understood that the loss is partially covered by insurance.

Some Pertinent Questions from Tonga

Under the headings of "Things we would like to know," a Nukualofa correspondent, sends the following:—

When the Agricultural Department intends to appoint fruit inspectors that know something about the packing of bananas?

When the Government expects to appropriate some money for the adequate upkeep of roads in the Kingdom?

When all the Parliamentary Commissions that have been appointed will have their reports ready for "dumplings" to study?

When the growers in Tonga will learn to know that a "fall" banana means a better market price?

When the price of soap will fall and come into alignment with the drop in copra?

When the whales will be all shot off and whether the report is true that the "combine" cannot get the copra price any lower because the closing of whale factories has a tendency to "lever" it up?

When the Government will realise that if it reduces its luxury fee for telephones it will treble its subscribers?

When civil servants will appreciate the fact that they are appointed by the people for the

people and that a modicum of civility helps to keep them with the people?

When the copra buyers will be satisfied with less than £2 per ton profit on the signed, sealed and delivered product at European ports?

When the despatch boat will make an effort to keep to a time-table and quit the habit of leaving port before the advertised time of sailing?

When owners of motor cars who have laid up their vehicles since the new levy will discover that a laid-up car is a doubtful asset?

When oversea fruit merchants will give up trying to persuade us that they don't know what a "fruit ring" is?

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NOTES FROM THE SOLOMONS.

From Our Own Correspondent

I HAVE at hand the balance-sheet of one local copra-producing company, which turned out over 240 tons last year, yet showed a loss of over £500.

Other producers, I am told, mostly in the Gizo district, have suspended operations. There is a growing feeling—whether well-founded or not—that, in view of their published balance-sheets, the exporting firms, as a matter of policy, might, while copra is so low in value, reduce the margin between local and London price, in order to assist the producer to keep the wheels of industry turning.

VISIT OF MR. FULTON.

Gavutu, the Solomon headquarters of Levers Pacific Plantations, has been indulging in a new suit of clothes, so to speak, per medium of a lick of paint here and a dab of white-wash there, in honour of the visit of Mr. George Fulton (the Managing Director), who is accompanied by Mrs. Fulton. They came by the "Macdhuil" to Samarai and were met by the company's vessel "Kurimaru," in which they

will tour the Company's holdings in the Solomons, and, later, will return to Rabaul to meet the steamer for Sydney.

Gavutu, by the way, is somewhat noted for its mosquitoes and fish-ponds, to say nothing of being the most elaborately equipped centre in the Solomons.

ENTERPRISING PLANTER.

Tulagi at last basks in the sunshine of a very much needed dairy, poultry and vegetable farm of its very own, where the needy vitamins are now dispensed at a modest figure. "Be British" was certainly the slogan of its stout-hearted instigator, Robert Sim, who, when copra prices fell and he and his small family were faced with ruin, gave his coconuts a holiday, shifted his cows, etc., into Tulagi and dug himself in. After a great deal of hard work, he now feels confident of success.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

So far, nothing definite has been announced as to when our Resident Commissioner (Mr. Ashley, will leave on his well-earned furlough.

We are sorry to lose two very popular citizens by this "Mataram" in Mr. Bert Tims, accountant for Messrs. Burns, Philp, at Makambo, who goes a step up the ladder to the managership for this firm at Norfolk Island; and Mr. Robinson (Robbie), manager for the S.I.D. Co. at Perande who, I understand, goes to an inspectorship in New Guinea.

PACIFIC RECIPES.

LEMON MARMALADE.—Take 4 large, rough-skinned lemons; boil whole until tender; cut in half and scoop out centres; slice up very small; cover with water and boil half an hour; add cup of sugar to cup of fruit and boil till golden brown (average 4 hours).—K.D.B.

GUARD AGAINST MALARIA and its Attendant Ills.

The New Drug PLASMOQUENE

is a Preventive of Malaria that has been Tested and Proved by the Medical Profession.

If you are in doubt, ask your Medical Adviser about Plasmoquene.

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"EDGEWORTH" Extra High Grade Smoking Tobacco,

in 2oz. vacuum airtight Tins, and 1lb. Glass Jars.

"CUTICURA" Soap, Ointment and Talcum Powder.

N.G. Director of Agriculture Returns from Profitable Tour.

From Our Own Correspondent

RABAUL, May 21.

THE Director of Agriculture (Mr. G. Murray) recently returned to the Territory, after an absence of 12 months on long and accumulated leave.

Practically the whole of his furlough was spent as a sort of "busman's holiday," and, as a result, the Administration, the Territory generally and the planter should benefit greatly from his experiences and the valuable knowledge which he gained.

Being a great believer in the "personal touch," Mr. Murray, during this and previous periods of furlough, spent in a similar manner, has now personally visited every Department of Agriculture in the tropical world, with the exception of those of East and West Africa.

Too much credit cannot be given in these times to an officer like Mr. Murray, who, at very considerable personal expense, has the interests of his department, and those of the Territory so much at heart, as to undertake the trip which he did.

Mr. Murray speaks in most glowing terms of the treatment received, and the courtesies extended to him by every Department of Agriculture visited; during his stay in their Territories, an officer was invariably detailed to show him everything he desired to see, to take him over their experimental and research stations, and also to make the acquaintance of planters and inspect their properties.

During his travels, Mr. Murray conducted special investigations regarding the coffee, cocoa, copra, and coir fibre industries, of which he has told me much that will be of great value to planters in the Pacific Islands. A resume will be published in "The Pacific Islands Monthly."

PROPERTY IN SAMOA.

Big Depreciation in Value.

From Our Own Correspondent

APIA, May 21.

A SERIOUS drop in property values in and around Apia is indicated by the result of the sale by auction of a valuable property and residential home near Apia, recently.

The house, which was erected only a few years ago at a cost of nearly £2,000, with an area of about 9½ acres planted in bananas and coconuts, brought only £1,000 at the auction, one solitary bid only being received for the property.

There have been, and will be, quite a number of forced sales of bankrupt and other estates, and it is obviously impossible, for lack of demand, to obtain anything like adequate values for them. That the depression has not reached bedrock, as far as Samoa is concerned, is proved beyond doubt by notices of bankruptcies filed and the announcements of court sales of properties in practically every issue of the local paper.

June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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BURNS, PHILP, LTD.**Year's Profit Falls Only Slightly
Despite Economic Depression.**

DESPITE the prevailing economic conditions, Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co., Ltd., in their balance sheet issued on March 31 last, show that trading during the year had been satisfactory.

Accounts disclose a net profit of £292,407, which contrasts with £227,213 in the preceding 12 months, and £231,932 in the 1929-30 period. The company maintained its dividend of 10 per cent., which absorbed £150,000.

The gross profits from all sources amounted to £734,893, which, after deduction of salaries, expenses, taxation, depreciation, losses, etc., left a net balance for the year of £236,295. Out of this amount, an interim dividend of 1/- per share (on 1,500,000 shares) was paid on November 15, 1931, leaving a balance of £161,295 to be dealt with.

It was proposed to apportion the sum as follows:—

To payment of 1/- per share dividend .. £75,000
To Reserve Fund (making a total reserve of £925,000) .. £50,000
To carry forward the balance of .. £36,295

Addressing shareholders at the annual meeting, which was held on May 17, Mr. R. J. Nosworthy, Managing Director, said there were indications that, as far as merchandise sales were concerned, a gradual upward movement might be anticipated during the coming year. He added that, though every effort would be made to secure any good business available, yet it was necessary that this should not be done at the expense of making bad debts.

The past year, he went on, had presented many difficulties, which had been intensified by the world-wide depression. Nevertheless, he thought that shareholders should be well satisfied by the accounts presented to them. Undoubtedly an outstanding factor in the success of the company was the pursuit of the policy laid down by the founder of the company and consistently followed by the management. All the directors and responsible officers of the company agreed that the company's interests should be well spread over various parts of the world.

Cash turnover during the year was £8,832,646, against £8,946,563 for the previous year. The net profit on cash turnover was 2.292 per cent., compared with 2.353 per cent. in the previous year. Total net sales at £2,847,855 were £215,435 lower than in 1930-31. Towards the end of the financial year, however, there had been a slight upward movement, and the board was hopeful that this tendency would be continued during the present year.

Dealing with the balance-sheet items, Mr. Nosworthy pointed out that reserves were £58,575 higher, despite the fact that the insurance reserve was debited with some £20,000 as a result of the loss of the "Malabar." Stocks of copra held were shown at a higher figure than a year ago, owing to the higher values ruling during the latter half of the year.

Mr. Nosworthy apologised for the absence of the chairman of the company (Mr. James Burns), who is on his way to London on the company's business.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

The balance sheet showed:

Liabilities—Cash credits, £93,169 (compared with £55,692 at March 31, 1931); open liabilities, £1,529,943 (compared with £1,262,979 last year); fully paid up capital, £1,500,000; reserve fund, £875,000; insurance fund and sundry branch and other reserves, £485,802.

Assets—Cash on hand and at call, £129,882; property, shipping, property and investments, £2,934,548 (compared with £2,702,560 at March 31, 1931); merchandise stock, copra, and sundry produce (on hand and in transit) also shipping, consignment and other advances, £658,583 (compared with £572,419 last year); book debts and bills receivable, £891,380.

General Profit and Loss Account—To salaries, wages, general working expenses, general management, inspection and taxation, £392,760; to depreciation, bad debts, losses, £105,747; to balance profit and loss account, £236,295. By balance from 1930-1931, £33,888; by gross profits from all sources at all branches for the 49th financial year, 1931-1932, £709,915 (which is a decline of £72,255, compared with 1930-1931).

NEW GUINEA EXPORTS.

EXPORTS from the Mandated Territory of New Guinea for last December and January, compared with those of 10 years ago, are as follows:—

	DECEMBER.	
	1921. Tons.	1931. Tons.
Copra	2,249	7,505
Desiccated Coconut	—	122
Coconut refuse	—	19
Cocoa	17	6
Trocas shell	44	36
Green snail	28	25
Trepang	2	7
Massoi bark	—	6

	JANUARY.	
	1922. Tons.	1932. Tons.
Copra	1,923	2,111
Desiccated coconut	—	41
Coconut refuse	—	9
Cocoa	5	7
Trocas shell	18	21
Green Snail	80	1
Trepang	3	2

	Prohibited Exports.	
	1922. Tons.	1932. Tons.
Pigeon crests	1,015	—
Birds of Paradise	1,266	—
Ospreys	1	—
Cassowary feathers	32	—

NERVES

VINCENT'S APC

Tired nerves are the cause of Headache, Neuritis, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lumbago, Neuralgia. Get instant relief from all nerve pains by taking **VINCENT'S APC**. All chemists and stores, or direct from Vincent Chemical Co. Sydney.

GENUINE VINCENT'S APC

PINK POWDERS & TABLETS 1/6 & 2/6

DOCKERS SUN BRAND PAINT

Made expressly to keep a lustrous, full gloss finish against the varying conditions of moist weather exposure, and prevent the decaying ravages of rain and extreme heat by giving a long lasting protection to all surfaces.

SUN PROOF RAIN PROOF

"Stronger than the Weather"

W. R. CARPENTER & CO. LTD.
New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and all other South Sea Islands.

NEW GUINEA AND PAPUAN GOLD SHAREMARKET

The following gives details of shares of New Guinea and Papuan goldmining companies, listed on the Sydney Stock Exchange, with latest available market price:

Company.	Authorised Capital.	Shares Issued		Paid-up.	Market Price	
		Number.	Amount.		Buyer.	Seller.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	June 14.	£ s. d.
Akmana New Guinea, N.L. pd.	30,000	140,000	0 1 0	0 1 0	—	—
Akmana New Guinea, N.L. ctg.		360,000	0 1 0	0 0 7	—	—
Bulolo Gold Dredging Ltd.	\$6,000,000	765,000	\$5.00	\$5.00	2 10 3	2 11 0
Guinea Gold, N.L. pd.	50,000	50,000	1 0 0	1 0 0	—	—
Guinea Gold, N.L. ctg.		90,000	0 4 0	0 4 0	—	—
Mount Kalindi, N.L. pd.	50,000	160,000	0 4 0	0 1 3	—	—
Mount Kalindi, N.L. ctg.		80,000	0 4 0	0 4 0	—	—
Mount Lawson Blocks, N.L. pd.	48,000	140,000	0 4 0	0 1 0	—	—
Mount Lawson Blocks, N.L. ctg.		80,000	0 4 0	0 4 0	—	—
Mount Lawson Extended, N.L. pd.	48,000	140,000	0 4 0	0 1 0	—	—
Mount Lawson Extended, N.L. ctg.		80,000	0 4 0	0 4 0	—	—
Mount Sisa, N.L. pd.	70,000	120,000	0 4 0	0 4 0	—	—
Mount Sisa, N.L. ctg.		190,000	0 4 0	0 1 10 1	—	—
N. Guinea Developments, N.L.	40,000	643,800	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 0 0 1	0 0 1
N. Guinea Gold Deposits, N.L. pd.		20,000	0 2 6	0 2 6	—	—
N. Guinea Gold Deposits, N.L. ctg.		190,000	0 2 6	0 1 9	—	—
N. Guinea Gold & Osmiridium, N.L.	10,000	80,000	0 2 6	0 2 6	—	0 0 8
N. Guinea Goldfields, Ltd. pd.	5,250,000	4,055,186	1 0 0	1 0 0	0 5 1	0 5 2
N. Guinea Goldfields, Ltd. ctg.		375,000	1 0 0	0 1 0	—	—
N. Guinea Options, Ltd., N.L. pd.		50,000	0 2 0	0 2 0	—	—
N. Guinea Options, Ltd., N.L. ctg.		272,200	0 2 0	0 0 9	—	—
North East N. Guinea, N.L. pd.		90,000	0 4 0	0 4 0	—	—
North East N. Guinea, N.L. ctg.		140,000	0 4 0	0 1 0	—	—
Placer Development, Ltd.	\$500,000	80,000	\$5.00	\$5.00	7 7 6	7 12 6
Sloane's New Guinea, N.L. pd.		25,000	0 2 0	0 2 0	—	—
Sloane's New Guinea, N.L. ctg.	25,000	200,000	0 2 0	0 0 8	—	—

* Quotation not granted these shares.

WEEKLY FLUCTUATIONS.

The following shows weekly fluctuations for two of the main New Guinea concerns:—

	May 18.	May 25.	June 1.	June 8.
Placer D'ment., Ltd. b £7/12/6 s £7/15/-		b £7/17/6 s £8/4/-	b £7/12/6 s £8	b £7/12/- s £7/17/6
N.G. Goldfields, Ltd. b 5/4d. s 5/5d.		b 5/4d. s 5/5d.	b 5/4d. s 5/5d	b 5/3d. s 5/4d.

TONGAN RESIDENT MISSING.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NUKUALOFA, April 25.

IT is with regret that I have to report that Mr. G. B. Reichelmann, a member of the firm of Reichelmann Bros., has been missing since the afternoon of April 9, and, although his car was found near the cliffs of Hufagalupe no trace of him has been found.

The European population and several hundred natives were actively engaged on the search through the bush in that vicinity during the following week. Rumour on several occasions reported signs of his having been seen but nothing tangible has been found.

Popular Cook Islands Wedding.

From Our Own Correspondent.

RAROTONGA, May 22.

A NOTABLE social event occurred on May 3, when the wedding was celebrated of Miss Betty Forester (daughter of the manager of Messrs. Grove and Sons, Ltd.) and Mr. E. H. Townsend (manager, Messrs. A. B. Donald and Co., Ltd.).

Miss Forester, who has grown from childhood on the island, deserved well the favour of a beautiful summer sky for her nuptials.

Mr. Townsend, who stands high in the regard of his fellow men throughout all the archipelago—he is president of the Tennis Club, ex-president of the European Cricket Club and ex-captain—upon the occasion of his marriage was showered with expressions of congratulation and good fortune on every hand.

The local business houses, without exception, declared a half-holiday for the event.

The couple were married in the London Mission Church by the well-known London missionary, the Rev. Mr. Bond-James.

Mr. W. Tailby (Treasurer, Cook Islands Administration) acted as best man. The bridesmaids were: Miss Mavis Mooney and Miss Winnie Shearman, page attendants to the bride, Miss A. Forester and Master Ian Tailby.

After the ceremony, the wedding party and guests were received at the home of Mrs. and Mr. C. Mooney, where an excellent breakfast was served. Among the guests present were: His Honor Judge Ayson (the Resident Commissioner) and Mrs. and Dr. Ellison (Chief Medical Officer, Cook Islands).

The bride wore a dress of white georgette, with veil. Orange blossom and a bouquet of white flowers completed an ensemble of which the bride might justly feel proud.

JAVA BEANS.

Growth of Trade Between Papua and Australia.

WE have had further enquiries from Papuan planters in connection with the production of Java or Kratok beans, which grow prolifically in the Territory.

These beans, it is understood, are being offered to banana and sugar planters in Queensland and northern New South Wales, as a satisfactory substitute for Mauritius beans, which are imported from Fiji and elsewhere for use in the Australian plantations as a green manure. We are informed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. that the average price paid, f.o.b. Suva, for Mauritius beans, for the purpose stated, is £25 per ton. The cost of shipment to Queensland ports is heavy, owing to the necessity for transhipment at Sydney. Freight from Suva to Sydney is 55/- per ton.

On these figures, it is apparent that the business of producing these beans in Papua has possibilities. We understand one Papuan planter has already made a substantial contract for the supply of the beans to Australia and that he has already shipped considerable quantities.

Sports in Western Samoa.

From Our Own Correspondent.

APIA, May 20.

THE football season has now closed, and the trophies won by the various teams have been presented by the Administrator. The winning clubs are Lepea, Apia (two teams), Avele, and Marist (two teams).

The Apia Turf Club has announced its programme for the King's Birthday meeting on June 3, when visitors from American Samoa are expected to take part.

The King's Birthday sports will be started with a regatta in the morning, in which Faubasia and Paopaos will participate, and for which substantial prizes are announced.

The golf season was opened on May 7 by the Administrator, and some interesting competitions were decided on the first day of playing.

Bowling still attracts a good few enthusiasts, and the club has substantially gained in new and younger members.



Brunton's

FLOUR

ASK FOR IT

ESTABLISHED 1868.

June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

45

Market Quotations

Range of Prices.

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

COPRA.

London, Price on—	South Sea, Sun-Dried, Per ton c.i.f.	Plantation, Rabaul, Per ton c.i.f.
January 16, 1931	£14 7 6	£14 12 6
January 23	£14 12 6	£14 15 6
January 30	£14 12 6	£14 15 6
February 6	£14 5 0	£14 7 6
February 13	£14 5 0	£14 7 6
February 20	£14 10 0	£14 12 6
February 27	£14 12 6	£14 17 6
March 6	£14 17 6	£15 0 0
March 13	£14 17 6	£15 2 6
March 20	£14 17 6	£15 0 0
March 27	£14 10 0	£14 12 6
April 3	£14 10 0	£14 12 6
April 10	£14 7 6	£14 10 0
April 17	£14 5 0	£14 7 6
April 24	£13 15 0	£13 17 6
May 1	£13 10 0	£13 12 6
May 8	£12 15 0	£12 17 6
May 15	£12 10 0	£12 12 6
May 22	£12 0 0	£12 2 6
May 29	£10 17 6	£11 0 0
June 5	£10 5 0	£10 7 6
June 12	£11 5 0	£11 7 6
June 19	£10 15 0	£11 2 6
June 26	£11 15 0	£11 17 6
July 3	£12 15 0	£12 17 6
July 10	£12 2 6	£12 5 0
July 17	£12 0 0	£12 2 6
July 24	£11 15 0	£11 7 6
July 31	£11 5 0	£11 7 6
August 7	£11 5 0	£11 7 6
August 14	£11 7 6	£11 10 0
August 21	£11 2 6	£11 7 6
August 28	£11 2 6	£11 5 0
September 4	£10 5 0	£10 7 6
September 11	£10 12 6	£10 15 0
September 18	£10 7 6	£10 7 6
September 25	£12 15 0	£12 15 0
October 2	£12 0 0	£12 2 6
October 9	£12 15 0	£13 0 0
October 16	£12 10 0	£12 15 0
October 23	£12 17 6	£13 2 6
October 30	£13 10 0	£13 15 0
November 6	£14 0 0	£14 5 0
November 13	£14 5 0	£14 10 0
November 20	£13 10 0	£13 15 0
November 27	£14 5 0	£14 10 0
December 4	£14 5 0	£14 10 0
December 11	£14 5 0	£14 10 0
December 18	£14 5 0	£14 10 0
December 24	£14 5 0	£14 10 0
January 1, 1932	£14 10 0	£14 15 0
January 8	£14 2 6	£14 7 6
January 15	£14 7 6	£14 12 6
January 22	£14 15 0	£15 0 0
January 29	£14 15 0	£15 0 0
February 5	£15 7 6	£15 10 0
February 12	£16 7 6	£16 10 0
February 19	£17 5 0	£17 7 6
February 26	£16 10 0	£16 12 6
March 4	£16 15 0	£16 17 6
March 11	£16 2 6	£16 5 0
March 18	£15 17 6	£16 0 0
March 25	£14 17 6	£15 0 0
April 1	£14 10 0	£14 15 0
April 8	£13 17 6	£14 2 6
April 15	£14 10 0	£14 15 0
April 22	£14 10 0	£14 15 0
April 29	£14 15 0	£14 17 6
May 6	£14 0 0	£14 2 6
May 13	£14 10 0	£14 12 6
May 20	£13 17 6	£14 0 0
May 27	£13 0 0	£13 2 6
June 3	£12 17 6	£13 0 0
June 10	£12 10 0	£12 12 6
June 17	£13 2 6	£13 5 0

RUBBER.

London Price on—	Para Per lb.	Plantation Smoked, Per lb.
November 6	3½d.	2½d.
November 20	3½d.	2½d.
December 4	3½d.	3½d.
December 11	4½d.	3½d.

London Price on—	Para Per lb.	Plantation Smoked, Per lb.
December 18	4½d.	3½d.
December 24	4½d.	3½d.
January 1, 1932	4½d.	3½d.
January 8	4½d.	3½d.
January 15	4½d.	3½d.
January 22	4½d.	3½d.
January 29	4½d.	3½d.
February 5	4½d.	3½d.
February 12	4½d.	3½d.
February 19	4½d.	3½d.
February 26	4½d.	3½d.
March 4	4½d.	3½d.
March 11	4½d.	3½d.
March 18	4½d.	3½d.
March 25	4½d.	3½d.
April 1	4½d.	3½d.
April 8	4½d.	3½d.
April 15	4½d.	3½d.
April 22	4½d.	3½d.
April 29	4½d.	3½d.
May 6	4½d.	3½d.
May 13	4½d.	3½d.
May 20	4½d.	3½d.
May 27	4½d.	3½d.
June 3	4½d.	3½d.
June 10	4½d.	3½d.
June 17	4½d.	3½d.

COTTON.

Good Middling.

London Price on—	Per lb.
November 6	4.67d.
November 20	4.55d.
December 4	4.86d.
December 18	4.85d.
December 24	4.88d.
January 1, 1932	5.01d.
January 8	4.94d.
January 15	5.10d.
January 22	5.20d.
January 29	5.16d.
February 5	5.23d.
February 12	5.30d.
February 19	5.65d.
February 26	5.51d.
March 4	5.49d.
March 11	5.27d.
March 18	5.20d.
March 25	4.87d.
April 1	4.49d.
April 8	4.36d.
April 15	4.66d.
April 22	4.68d.
April 29	4.46d.
May 6	4.27d.
May 13	4.24d.
May 20	4.23d.
May 27	4.17d.
June 3	3.86d.
June 10	3.81d.
June 17	4.07d.

OTHER ISLANDS PRODUCE.

Nominal prices for other Islands produce quoted in Sydney on June 14, from two different sources, were:

(a) Trochus shell, No. 1 grade .. £63
Trochus shell, No. 2 grade .. £56
Trochus shell, No. 3 grade .. £49

(b) Trochus shell, No. 1 grade £62/10/-
Trochus shell, No. 2 grade £55/10/-
Trochus shell, No. 3 grade £48/10/-
Beche-de-mer, high grade .. £200
Beche-de-mer, lower grade .. £30
Cocoa Beans .. £25 to £34
Ivory nuts .. £10/10/-
All quotes are f.o.b., and on the Australian f.

Thefts in Samoa.

Two Arrests Made.

From Our Own Correspondent.

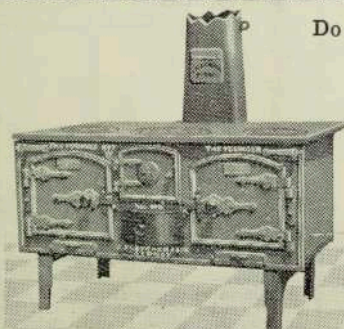
APIA, May 20.

SOME of a series of burglaries and thefts in the plantation district south of Apia were cleared up, when the police arrested two half-caste brothers, Hans and Martin Schwaiger at their plantation dwelling at Falemanga. The police found some stolen property and firearms at the place.

The evidence was not complete and the police have not succeeded in connecting the arrested men with the thefts of large quantities of dried cocoa beans, which had occurred at various plantations during the past few months. For having stolen property in their possession, the brothers were convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment each.

A few days ago an unsuccessful attempt was made to break into Burns, Philp's store. One of the large show windows was partly smashed, but the burglars were apparently disturbed when at work and did not succeed in removing any of the contents of the show window.

The increase of crime may be caused by the growing unemployment in the Territory.



Do you know that the Famous "YOUNGER" STOVES AND RANGES

made with extended Firebox specially for Long Wood fuel, are Self-Setting and, provided sufficient Flue Piping is attached, can be used in almost any position.

The No. 7W. "Younger" Range can now be supplied fitted with Legs, as per illustration. Ask for quotation for this range also illustrated Catalogue and Price List for both Single and Double Oven Stoves.

Younger Stoves are Widely Used Throughout the Pacific Islands.

G. FLETCHER & SON — 50 Oxford Street, SYDNEY.

Exchange Quotations

The following exchange quotations, gathered in Sydney, show the rates existing in Sydney on June 17:—

FIJI—THROUGH BANK OF N.S.W.

Australia on Fiji on the basis of £100 Fiji—
buying £112/7/8, selling £113/2/6.
Fiji on London, basis of £100 London:

	Buying.	Selling.
Telegraphic transfer ..	£110 0 0	£111 2 6
On demand	109 13 9	111 0 0
30 days	109 7 6	110 17 6
60 days	109 2 6	110 15 0
Fiji, on New Zealand, basis of £100, New Zealand—buying £99, selling £101.		

WESTERN SAMOA—THROUGH BANK OF N.Z.

Exchange Australia, on Western Samoa, basis £100 Samoa—selling £113/2/6, buying per Samoa on Australia—selling par, buying £113/2/6.
Exchange, Samoa on London, basis £100 in London:

	Buying.	Selling.
Telegraphic transfer ..	£109 15 0	£111 7 6
On demand	109 2 6	111 2 6
30 days	108 13 9	110 17 6
60 days	108 6 3	110 12 6
90 days	107 18 9	110 7 6
120 days	107 11 3	110 2 6

The above is only a nominal indication. The exchange between Apia and Suva, Apia and New Zealand, Apia and Sydney, and Apia and London, is constantly altering.

NEW GUINEA AND PAPUA—THROUGH COMMONWEALTH BANK.

From Australia, on Rabaul and Salamoa, £1 per cent.
From Rabaul on London, same as Australia on London—25½ per cent.

THROUGH BANK OF N.S.W.

Australia, on Papua and New Guinea, £1 per cent, premium each way, equivalent to commission of £1 per cent.
Papua and New Guinea, on London: Same as Australia on London, and vice versa.

NEW CALEDONIA—THROUGH FRENCH BANK.

Drafts, Sydney-Noumea and Noumea-Sydney, are on the basis of current rate of exchange on Paris, less 1 per cent, either way. Business is handled mostly by the Comptoir National, in Sydney, and the Bank of Indo-Chine, Noumea.
On June 17, when the Australian £ was nominally worth 74 francs, £100 Australian would purchase a credit in Noumea of 7,200 francs.

The rates between Sydney and Noumea are not made direct, but depend mostly on the Paris-London telegraphic rate, which fluctuates constantly. It is usually much cheaper to transfer a large sum than a small sum between Sydney and Noumea, as the large sum can be made the subject of a cable to Paris, and its transfer arranged at a fixed price, while the small sum takes the chance of the market; and the banks, of course, guard themselves against loss.

POST OFFICE ORDERS.

The following are the rates for transfer of money between Sydney and Pacific Groups through the General Post Office. All such transfers are limited in amount.

Papua, Mandated Territory of New Guinea, Fiji, New Caledonia—rate 3d. for each £ or fraction, with minimum charge of 6d.; remittances strictly restricted to small amounts for business purposes, at absolute discretion of post office authorities.

Norfolk Island—6d. for £5 or fraction; no restriction; same as Interstate.

Solomon Islands, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Tonga—No actual restriction, but an implied one; rate, 4d. for each £ or fraction for first £6; and 3d. for each additional £, with minimum charge of 9d. Post office orders issued at discretion of post office authorities.

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

Western Samoa and Cook Islands.—Small amounts can be transferred by Australian Post Office through New Zealand Post Office; but issue strictly limited, at discretion of post office authorities.

PRODUCTS OF THE SOUTH SEAS.

Further Fall in Copra Prices.

FIGURES published elsewhere show that copra prices declined steadily during May and early June, and only rallied on June 18, when there was a recovery of about 10/- per ton.

There is no exact explanation of this fall, and the continued unsatisfactory position, beyond the fact that there is much fluctuation of sterling in relation to gold, and the further fact that all commodity prices are at a calamitously low figure—and must remain low until the world patches up its international credit system, which has been at the point of collapse for nearly two years.

The world's consumption of vegetable oil seeds has fallen in sympathy with its reduced purchasing power, so that, although there has been reduced production, the market is still glutted with vegetable oil, oil seeds and whale oil. Exchange is jumpy, and buyers operate cautiously. Everything is in their favour; they can afford to let the sellers carry the stocks, buying what they want when they like, and at their own price. There can be no improvement, while the world remains in its present appalling economic condition. The only bright spot in the prospect is that the world is now desperately at work, patching up its currencies and trading systems.

It is worth noting that Unilever, Ltd., in 1931, made the same net profit as in 1930—the British Co. made £1,750,000, and the Dutch Co. £3,000,000. The concern is paying 8 per cent. (on a gold basis, which is equal to 10 per cent. in

Britain) and is carrying £1,850,000 to a special reserve, to write down the value of whale oil stocks. Lever Bros. Ltd. (most of whose stock is now held by Unilever, Ltd.) has a capital of £60,000,000, and made a profit of nearly £6,000,000. The other associated companies, Van Den Burgh and Jurgens, also made big profits.

C.W.A. Activities on Thursday Island.

From Our Own Correspondent.

THURSDAY IS., May 20.
THE Country Women's Association may now claim to be one of the permanent institutions of Thursday Island, and there was a large attendance at the annual meeting, held on May 18.

The Association takes a definite place in the Island's social and philanthropic activities, the latter aim being fulfilled not only in a general and open way for the benefit of all, but in the quiet and unrecognised relief of many distressed families.

The members had a progressive programme placed before them, which included the addition of a big verandah on the Rest Hut on Prince of Wales Island, as soon as finances permit, and the holding of "Mutual Help" meetings, when each member has undertaken to teach another some useful domestic or artistic novelty.

Mrs. C. E. Sinclair, who is well-known as a leader in many public social functions, was elected president for the year, and her predecessor, Mrs. H. N. Hockings, took over the duties of secretary.

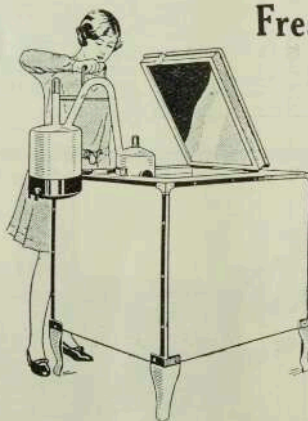
Fresh Food! Cool Drinks!

The Beaumont Refrigerator
operates on
KEROSENE or BENZINE.

Special Features:

1. Costs about 1d. per day to run.
2. Has no movable parts to get out of order.
3. One heating a day gives refrigeration for 24 hours.
4. Freezing unit weighs about 32lbs.
5. Every freezing unit guaranteed 3 years.
6. No installation costs.
7. Can be operated by a child.
8. Specially made for tropical conditions.
9. Keeps food fresh indefinitely.
10. Operates efficiently under all weather conditions.

The Beaumont Refrigerator brings efficient refrigeration to homes that have no Gas or Electricity. All that has to be done is to heat the Chemical Container for a short while each day over a Primus or similar stove. The inside measurements of Model "A" are: 19 inches high, 20½ inches wide, and 22½ inches deep, with a capacity of 5 cubic feet. White seamless porcelain enamel interior, stainless steel fittings, nothing to wear out, nothing to be renewed. Refrigerating unit manufactured in accordance with the latest specifications recently imposed by the Queensland Government. Absolutely ideal for isolated homes. Write for full particulars, prices and copies of testimonials. 3 YEARS' GUARANTEE.



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Distributors for Mandated Territory of New Guinea and Solomon Islands: W. R. CARPENTER & CO., LTD. — For Papua: B. N. G. TRADING CO., LTD., Port Moresby. — For New South Wales and Queensland: WESTCOTT, HAZELL & CO., LTD.

June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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Shipping Services in the Pacific

Sydney—Papua—New Guinea Service.

	Maedhuil.	Montoro.	Maedhuil.
Sydney	June 30	July 21	Aug 11
Brisbane	July 2	July 23	Aug 13
Townsville	July 5	July 26	Aug 16
Cairns	July 7	July 27	Aug 18
Pt. Moresby	July 7	July 29	Aug 18
Yule Is.	July 30	Aug 1	Aug 19
Samarai	July 8	J. 31-Aug 1	Aug 19
Woodlark Is.	July 10-12	Aug 3-4	Aug 21-23
Rabaul	July 10-12	Aug 5-6	Aug 21-23
Kavieng	Aug 5-6	Aug 11-12	Aug 21-23
Lombren	Aug 5-6	Aug 11-12	Aug 21-23
Lorengau	Aug 5-6	Aug 11-12	Aug 21-23
Lae	July 14-15	Aug 25-26	Aug 27
Salamaua	July 16	Aug 9-10	Aug 27
Madang	Aug 11-12	Aug 29-30	Aug 31
Kavieng	July 18-19	Aug 15	Sep 1
Rabaul	July 20	Aug 15	Sep 1
Soraken	July 21	Sep 1	Sep 2
Suma	July 22	Sep 2	Sep 3
Teopasina	July 23	Sep 3	Sep 4
Ariguan	July 25	Aug 15	Sep 5
Rabaul	July 27	Aug 17	Sep 7
Samarai	July 28	Aug 18	Sep 9
Pt. Moresby	Aug 1	Aug 23	Sep 12
Brisbane	Aug 3	Aug 25	Sep 14
Sydney	Aug 3	Aug 25	Sep 14

(Subject to alteration without notice.)
Calls at Finschhafen, Alexishafen, Lindenhafen and Pondo optional.

Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd., Agents.

Sydney—Rabaul—Hongkong.

	Tanda.	Nankin.	Nellore.
Hongkong	June 3	July 2	July 30
Manila	June 6	July 5	Aug 2
Rabaul	June 14	July 13	Aug 10
Brisbane	June 20	July 19	Aug 16
Sydney	June 22	July 21	Aug 18
Melbourne, dep.	July 1	Aug 1	Sep 2
Sydney, dep.	July 13	Aug 13	Sep 10
Brisbane	July 15	Aug 15	Sep 12
Rabaul	July 23	Aug 23	Sep 20
Manila	July 31	Aug 31	Sep 28
Hongkong	Aug 3	Sep 3	Oct 1

E. & A. Steamship Co. Ltd., Agents.

Papuan Inter-Island Services.

S.S. Papuan Chief (Steamships Trading Co., Ltd.) makes regular round trips from Port Moresby to Kapa Kapa, Abau, Baibara, Samarai, and back by same route; then Port Moresby to Hila, Yule Island, Kukipi, Oroko, Kikori, Daru and back via Oroko, Yule Is., and Hila—full trip occupying about one month.

The m.v. "Nusa" (Steamships Trading Co., Ltd.) holds the Papuan Government's contract for carrying mails and passengers on the north-east coast of Papua. The "Nusa" connects with all southern mail steamers at Samarai, and runs to the following time-table:—

	Jan.	Jul.	Aug.	Aug.
Samarai	21	13	4	24
Punipuni	21	13	4	24
Baniara	22	14	5	25
Tufi	23	15	6	26
Buna	24	16	7	27
Mambare	—	18	—	29
Buna	25	19	8	30
Tufi	27	21	10	1
Baniara	29	23	12	3
Samarai	30	24	13	4

N.G. Goldfields' Service.

Aeroplanes, conducted by Guinea Airways Ltd., and other companies, leave Salamana and Lae two and three times daily for Wau, and other centres on the Morobe Goldfield. The aerial services are the only means of communication.

Wau—Port Moresby.

A regular aeroplane service is now maintained by Guinea Airways Ltd., allowing passengers to and from the goldfields to connect with the steamers at Port Moresby.

New Guinea Inter-Island Service.

S.S. Maiwara (Burns Philp & Co.) makes regular round trips from Rabaul to New Ireland and Bougainville ports.

S.S. Mirani (Burns, Philp & Co.) makes regular round trips from Rabaul to New Guinea mainland ports.

S.S. Duris, s.s. Durour, m.v. Durambah (W. R. Carpenter & Co., Ltd.) make sailings from Rabaul every two or three weeks to various ports in the Territory.

Saigon—Java—Noumea Line.

Per S.S. Van Rees.

Saigon	July 12	Sep 13	Nov 12
Batavia	July 16-18	Sep 17-19	Nov 16-18
Samarang	July 19	Sep 20	Nov 19
Pt. Moresby	July 28	Sep 29	Nov 28
Samarai	July 30	Oct 1	Nov 30
Rabaul	Aug 1-2	Oct 3-4	Dec 2-3
Vila	Aug 8	Oct 10	Dec 8
Noumea	Aug 10-12	Oct 12-14	Dec 10-13
Sydney	Aug 16-18	Oct 18-20	Dec 17-20
Pt. Moresby	Aug 25	Oct 26	Dec 27
Batavia	Sep 5-7	Nov 5-7	Jan 6
Saigon	Sep 11	Nov 11	—

Royal Packet Navigation Co. Ltd.

Sydney—Norfolk Island—New Hebrides—Auckland.

Per S.S. Morinda.

Sydney	June 9	July 14	Aug 18
Lord Howe	June 11	July 16	Aug 20
Norfolk Is.	June 13	July 18	Aug 22
Vila	June 16-17	July 21-22	Aug 25-26
Bushmans	June 18	July 23	Aug 27
Malo	June 19	July 24	Aug 28
Tangca	June 20	July 25	Aug 29
Second	June 21	July 26	Aug 30
Aoba	June 24	July 29	Sep 2
Norfolk Is.	June 27	Aug 1	Sep 5
Auckland	J. 30-Jy. 1	Aug 4-5	Sep 8-9
Lord Howe	July 3	Aug 7	Sep 11
Sydney	July 5	Aug 9	Sep 13

(Subject to alteration without notice.)

Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd., Agents.

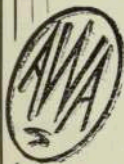
The population of the Gilbert and Ellice Island Colony on June 30, 1930, was 31,810, comprising 30,852 natives, 732 Chinese and 226 Europeans.

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Noumea—New Hebrides Service.

Per S.S. Laperouse.

Sydney, dep.	July 16	Aug 20	Oct 8
Noumea	July 20-23	Aug 24-27	Oct 12-15
Chepenche	July 24	Aug 28	Oct 16
Vila	July 25	Aug 29	Oct 17
Sandwich	July 26	Aug 30	Oct 18
Sarmettes	July 26	Aug 30	Oct 18
Norsup	July 27-29	Aug 31-3	Oct 19-21
Santo	July 30	—	Oct 22
Banks	July 31	Sep 4	Oct 23
Epi	Aug 1	Sep 5	Oct 24
Vila	Aug 2	Sep 6	Oct 25
Chepenche	Aug 3-6	Sep 7-10	Oct 26-29
Noumea	Aug 10	Sep 14	Nov 2
Sydney, arr.	Aug 10	Sep 14	Nov 2

Messageries Maritimes Co., Agents.

New Hebrides Inter-Island Service.

S.S. Makambo (Burns, Philp (South Sea) Co., Ltd.) connects every 5 weeks at Vila with a.s. Morinda from Sydney, then proceeds on southern trip, calling at the islands of Efate, Erromanga, Tanna, Anietyum, and returns to Vila—trip occupying 7 or 8 days. After 2 or 3 days at Vila, departs on northern trip, calling at the islands of Efate, Mai, Tongoa, Epi, Panna, Ambrym, Malekula, Abba, Malo, Santo, and returns to Vila—trip occupying 25 to 28 days. Vessel extends to Banks Group every second trip, equivalent to about every three months.

Solomon Islands Service.

Per S.S. Mataram.

Sydney	June 29	Aug 6	Sep 14
Brisbane	July 1	Aug 8	Sep 16
Tulagi	July 6-8	Aug 13-15	Sep 21-23
Makambo	July 9	Aug 16	Sep 24
Gavutu	July 10	—	Sep 25
Shu	—	Aug 16	—
Aola	—	Aug 16	—
Rere	—	Aug 16	—
Kaukau	—	Aug 16	—
Rere	—	Aug 16	—
Teneru	July 10	Aug 17	Sep 25
Lunga	July 10	Aug 17	Sep 25
Kookoom	—	Aug 17	—
Mamara	July 11	—	Sep 26
Domma	July 12	—	Sep 27
Lavoro	July 13	Aug 18	Sep 28
Yandina	—	Aug 18	Sep 28
Banika	—	Aug 18	Sep 28
Loabie	—	Aug 18	Sep 28
Ufa	July 13	—	Sep 28
Faia	July 13	—	Sep 28
Y. Pepsale	July 13	Aug 18	Sep 28
Kaylah	July 14-15	—	Sep 29-30
Meringe	—	Aug 18	—
West Bay	—	Aug 19	—
Somata	—	Aug 19	—
Marobo	—	Aug 19	—
Rendova	July 16	—	Oct 1
Kenelo	—	Aug 20-21	—
Hathorn S.	—	Aug 20-21	—
Vila	—	Aug 20-21	—
Stanmore	—	Aug 20-21	—
Gizo	July 16	Aug 22	Oct 1
Ragga	—	Aug 22	—
Faisi	July 17-18	Aug 23	Oct 2-3
Gizo	July 19	Aug 24	Oct 4
Tetipari	July 19	Aug 24	Oct 4
Russell Group	July 20-21	Aug 25-26	Oct 5-6
Mamara	—	Aug 26	—
Tulagi	July 22	Aug 27	Oct 7
Brisbane	July 27	Sep 1	Oct 12
Sydney	July 29	Sep 3	Oct 14

(Subject to alteration without notice.)

Burns, Philp & Co., Ltd., Agents.

Solomons Inter-Island Service

S.S. Mitaro (Burns, Philp (South Sea) Co., Ltd.), maintains a regular service.

French Eastern Pacific Service

By ships running between Dunkirk and Noumea, via West Indies and Panama Canal. From Panama—

Papeete	July 7	Aug 18	Sep 23
Raiatea	July 8	Aug 19	Sep 24
Suva	July 17	Aug 28	Oct 3
Vila	July 20	Aug 31	Oct 6
Noumea, arr.	July 25	Sep 5	Oct 11
To Panama—	—	—	—
Noumea, dep.	Aug 9	Sep 20	Oct 26
Vila	Aug 16	Sep 27	Nov 2
Raiatea (opt.)	Aug 27	Oct 8	Nov 11
Papeete	Aug 28	Oct 9	Nov 12

Messageries Maritimes Co., Agents.

Sydney—N.Z.—Fiji—Hawaii.

Honolulu	June 29	July 27	Aug 24
Suva	July 8	Aug 5	Sep 2
Auckland	July 11-12	Aug 8-9	Sep 5-6
Sydney, dep.	July 16	Aug 13	Sep 10
Sydney, dep.	July 21	Aug 18	Sep 15
Auckland	July 25-26	Aug 22-23	Sep 19-20
Suva	July 29	Aug 26	Sep 23
Honolulu	Aug 5	Sep 2	Sep 30

Union S.S. Co. Ltd., Agents.

Sydney—N.Z.—Fiji—Samoa—Hawaii.

Honolulu	June 9	July 7	Aug 4
Pago Pago	June 14	July 12	Aug 9
Suva	June 17	July 15	Aug 12
Auckland	June 20	July 18	Aug 15
Sydney	June 23	July 21	Aug 18
Melbourne	June 27-28	July 25-26	Aug 22-23
Sydney, dep.	July 2	July 30	Aug 27
Auckland	July 5	Aug 2	Aug 30
Suva	July 8	Aug 5	Sep 2
Pago Pago	July 9	Aug 6	Sep 3
Honolulu	July 14	Aug 11	Sep 8

The Oceanic Steamship Co., Matson Line, Agents.

Auckland—Fiji—Samoa—Tonga.

Per S.S. Walpahi.

Auckland, dep.	July 9	Aug 6	Sep 3
Suva	July 14-15	Aug 11-12	Sep 8-9
Nukualofa	July 18	Aug 15	Sep 12
Hanapai	July 19	Aug 16	Sep 13
Vavau	July 20	Aug 17	Sep 14
Apia	July 21-23	Aug 18-20	Sep 15-17
Suva	July 27-28	Aug 24-25	Sep 21-22
Auckland, arr.	Aug 2	Aug 30	Sep 27

Union S.S. Co. Ltd., Agents.

Ocean Island—Nauru Service

British Phosphate Commission, 16 Spring St., Sydney, sends boats irregularly.

Fiji Inter-Island Service.

S.S. Malake, 736 tons (Burns, Philp (South Sea) Co., Ltd.). Makes frequent trips from Suva to Lautoka, Ellington, Labasa and Levuka, with passengers and transhipment cargo; also to other island ports whenever inducement offers. S.S. Adi Keva (Fiji Shipping Co., Ltd.) makes regular trips from Suva to Levuka and Lautoka, round trip occupying three days.

M.S. Sir John Forrest (Fiji Shipping Co., Ltd.) makes regular trips from Suva to Levuka, Savu, Nabouwalu, Baulalai, Lekutu, Dreketi, Raduri, Labasa, and return by the same route round trip occupying about 9 days. M.S. Adi Rewa (Fiji Shipping Co., Ltd.) makes regular trips from Suva to Ba and Lautoka, round voyage occupying four days.

New Zealand—Samoa.

N.Z. Government steamer Maui Pomare (mails, passengers and cargo) carries on a regular service between New Zealand ports and Western Samoa.

Sydney—Fiji Service.

The Karetu will leave Sydney on July 1 for Fiji, and will call at Lautoka, Suva and Levuka. Union S.S. Co. Ltd., Agents.

Samoa Inter-Island Service.

A.S. Makoa, 250 tons (Burns, Philp (South Sea) Co., Ltd.). Operates from Apia and connects regularly with Pago Pago, Wallis and Futuna, Tokelau, Swain, Nasau, Puka-Puka and Phoenix Groups.

Gilbert and Ellice Islands Service.

M.V. Ralum, 368 tons (Burns, Philp (South Sea) Co., Ltd.). Operates from Tarawa (Gilbert Islands), and connects regularly with all islands in the Gilbert and Ellice Groups.

Sydney—N.Z.—Cook Is.—Tahiti.

Papeete	June 18	July 16	Aug 13
Rarotonga	June 21	July 19	Aug 16
Wellington	June 27-28	July 25-26	Aug 22-23
Sydney	July 2	July 30	Aug 27
Sydney	July 7	Aug 4	Sep 1
Wellington	July 11-12	Aug 8-9	Sep 5-6
Rarotonga	July 16	Aug 13	Sep 10
Papeete	July 18	Aug 15	Sep 12

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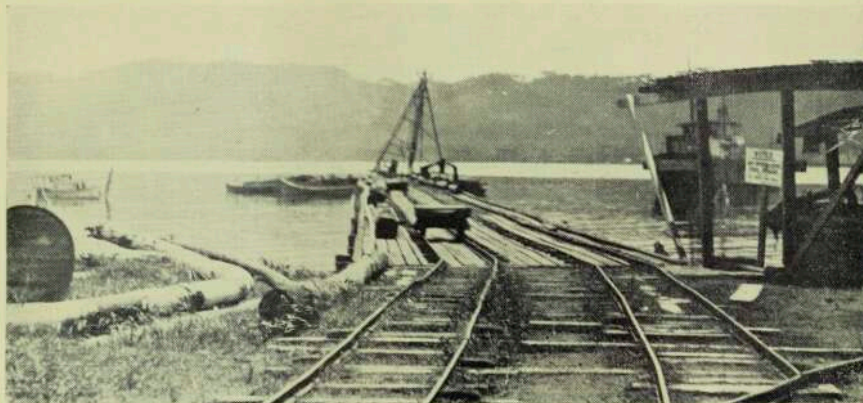
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June 23, 1932.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

iii.



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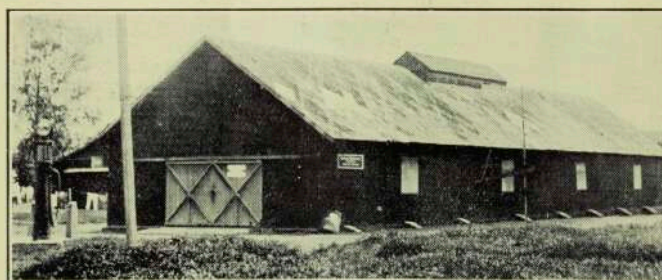
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