

C O P Y.

NATIVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

On the occasion of the High Commissioner's visit to Beru Island in August, 1931, he expressed himself as keenly interested in the efforts that were being made on that island to operate, under very adverse conditions, a native co-operative society. His Excellency was good enough to address the natives in the Government Maneaba on the subject of the legal conditions affecting co-operative endeavours of this nature, and the Government policy towards them, and he stated subsequently that he would be pleased to hear accounts of the future development of the co-operative movement.

2. Realising that if the native societies were not aided in the initial stages of their formation by local Administrative Officers, they would in all probability fall into many avoidable errors, I drew up a set of rules for their optional use, together with memoranda for the guidance of their scribes. These were sent to the Resident Commissioner on the 10th October, 1931 while I was acting in the capacity of Lands Commissioner, Ocean Island.

3. On my return to my District I was asked by the natives of Beru to assist them in placing their Society in a satisfactory footing. I endeavoured to do this in the few months that I was stationed in the Southern Gilberts and, when passing through Ocean Island before proceeding on leave, I reported to the Resident Commissioner that the Native Co-operative Society on Beru was progressing very favourably and that other

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islands in the Southern Gilberts were anxious to be given an opportunity of starting societies on the same method.

4. At Mr. Grimble's request I prepared a report on the progress of native co-operative societies in the Southern Gilberts District for transmission, together with his own report and my original letter, to the High Commissioner. Owing, however, to Mr. Grimble proceeding on leave shortly after the date at which my letter was received, he was not able to write his intended despatch.

5. I have the honour, therefore, respectfully to request you to forward my letters to His Excellency the High Commissioner, together with Your Honour's favourable comments.

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

9th January, 1933.