

Tarawa Island,  
3rd January, 1945.

Dear Mr. Spivey,

Your letter of the 26th December was received yesterday. It is true that I have, in the process of time, gathered together most of the literature regarding the postal history of the Gilbert Islands but I'm afraid it would not be likely to be with me here: I cannot speak for certain but it would in all probability be stored in Auckland.

My collection of books, pamphlets, mss. on the Gilberts fills some 20 camphor wood chests and only one or two of them are with us here. These are stored at Bairiki and, when I open and go through them, I will keep an eye out for anything dealing with postal history: but, as I said before, there's probably nothing up here. Even if I find the material, however, it would consist of a hundred or more printed pages taken from various articles on the subject and how could you have them all copied and sent to your correspondent?

As all the literature on the subject is on file in England I would advise your friend to obtain a good work on the subject (say Harris' "Catalogue of Philatelic Literature"), copy out the references he requires on the Gilberts, join a good philatelic library and examine the literature himself at leisure. Then there are one or two experts on the subject of Gilbert Islands postmarks and their history, all of whom live in England (Grumbridge is one and the Rev. Iremonger another). He could get in touch with these men through any big philatelic society (I suggest the Royal Philatelic Society itself) or through a magazine such as "Stamp Collecting" (for which Grumbridge writes a lot on the Gilberts). These men know far more than I do (who am not even a stamp collector) about the subject and may possibly have information that I have not traced.

Yes, I'm sorry about the air service. It seems to have fizzled out temporarily (as I feared it would) partly owing to the lack of passenger traffic. However, your wife and children may be coming up in the "Awahou" on her return, I imagine. I know full well how miserable life is without one's family.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H.E. Maude.

Rev. J.H. Spivey,  
Morikao,  
Abaiang Island.

E.C.  
9.1.45.

Western Pacific High Commission  
Suva, Fiji.  
8th January, 1945.

Dear Keegan,

I am returning your memorandum on Cooperative Societies in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. I have changed the punctuation in one or two places, but only tentatively in pencil, as punctuation is a matter for each individual to judge for himself.

I agree with the memorandum in principle and suggest that you put it up officially at the first opportunity. I can promise you that I will give it any support that I am able.

I am also enclosing a copy of a memorandum on the same subject written by Cowell and should be grateful if you would return it in due course with any criticism you may care to make.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

R. J. Keegan, Esquire.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION,  
Suva, Fiji.

8th January, 1945.

E.C.  
9.1.45.

Dear Brownlees,

Thank you for your letter of the 20th November. I feel terribly contrite ~~for~~ not having replied to you before, but Vaskess's departure has upset all my private correspondence, not that I was much good at letter writing at any time. I think you are wise not to enact unnecessary wartime legislation for Tonga; after all if anything is required for some specific purpose, it could always be rushed through at short notice.

Regarding your query as to how you can get to Tahiti, I am afraid the prospects are not very hopeful. There is, I believe, a plane service to Bora Bora from Nadi about every 10 days or fortnight, but passages are hard to get unless one has some convincing reason for travelling. Once you've got to Bora Bora all would be plain sailing, as there is a small steamship leaving that island for Tahiti once a week - I think every Tuesday. I think you would like Tahiti if you could only get there: I have lived on over 60 islands and I must say that it is by far the best I have struck yet.

Her Majesty arrived this morning and Honor and I went on board to see her. She seemed to be in much better health than we had expected, and was as gracious as ever.

I do wish I could get over to Tonga but I can see no prospect. H.E. hopes to go, I believe, sometime during February or March, but nothing can be settled until he has had time to look round Fiji. I know you will like him very much indeed.

Rumour

- 2.-

Rumour says that you are not anxious to return to the Solomon Islands when you leave Tonga but I think that there is nothing on record to that effect. Possibly you feel that you would prefer a transfer to some larger Colony outside the Pacific? We will find it extremely difficult to replace you in Tonga as Administrative Officers with legal experience are few and far between.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE



PREMIER'S OFFICE,

NUKUALOFA, TONGA.

20th November, 1944.

Dear Maude,

Johnson has given me your letter containing a list of Gilbert and Ellice Defence Regulations, Finance and General. Naturally I read the list with great interest, but I must confess not with nearly the same enthusiasm as the paragraph in your letter describing the Paradise near Papeete. I had hoped to get up to Samoa for three weeks or a month but the changing of the Matua's route upset my calculations. I do not want to be away from here for more than four or five weeks so that my only chance of Tahiti would be by plane as Private Brownlees, Home Guard, or some such role. I should be most grateful if you could let me know what ways there are of getting there, particularly by air.

I am half-way through the comparative Legislation and hope to let the Agent and Consul have a report on it next week. Of course, our Wartime Legislation has always been hopelessly inadequate and we have had to face local difficulties by bluff and by blunder. I cannot understand why, when Defence Legislation became necessary, the Fiji Regulations were not adopted *mutatis mutandis*. It would have made things so much easier. Now the time has come when there is little if any need for Wartime Legislation - other than a control of supplies - in Tonga and consequently I shall recommend against any increased Legislation on the lines indicated. It is most useful however, to have on file the comparative tables you enclosed, since obviously there is always the possibility of the need arising for such Legislation.

We should all be very glad to see you down here sometime, and I hope that you will be able to avail yourself of the present weekly service. Needless to say I should be most happy if you could stay with me. The spartan fare of bachelordom would be most helpful to your figure.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*J. H. Brownlees*

Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.  
10th January, 1945.

Confidential.

Sir,

I have the honour to request that my name should be considered for appointment to the position of Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, in the event of a vacancy occurring at any time in that office. My application is submitted with all deference and in asking that it be forwarded, in due course, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies I sincerely trust that I may not be thought guilty of undue presumption: I feel, however, that owing to the distance of the Pacific area from Great Britain and the fact that I have been unable, owing to the war, to renew personal contact with the Colonial Office for over nine years, any claims that I may possess for such appointment may conceivably be overlooked.

2. In support of my application, I would refer briefly to my seniority and record of service in the Pacific. As regards seniority, I should state that I am, with Mr. James Judd of the Fiji Service, the senior Grade I Administrative Officer in the Fiji and Western Pacific Services (and the only Grade I officer in the Western Pacific), being on the maximum of £1,000 of the salary scale of this grade.

3. As regards my record of service, full particulars are no doubt on file in the Colonial Office. I would take the liberty, however, of referring to early work in dealing with

His Excellency

The High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

with the Onotoa riots, for which the then Secretary of State expressed his commendation; to the 1931 Census Report of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, which was described by Dr. S.M. Lambert, of the Rockefeller Foundation, as the most comprehensive issued by any Pacific Territory; and to specialized studies on such subjects as land customs and settlement and language, which led eventually to my appointment as Chief Lands Commissioner of the Colony and Chairman of the Board of Examiners in the Gilbertese language.

4. From 1937 until 1939 I was, in effect, adviser to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony Government on all questions of native welfare and progress, and had a principal share in initiating and embodying in legislative form a series of administrative and economic reforms which, had they not unfortunately been interrupted by the war, would have made the Colony one of the most advanced communities, from the standpoint of native self-government and social development, in the Colonial Empire. Attention is invited, in particular, to the Native Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 1940; the legislation reintroducing native inter-island navigation; the revised divorce legislation (based on native customary law); the Native Governments Ordinance, 1941; and the revised code of Island Regulations. It is understood that the Native Governments Ordinance, with its provision for Island Councils and Native Courts with extensive legislative, administrative and judicial powers, is being considered by more than one Pacific administration as the model on which to base their own administrative reforms.

5. Simultaneously with the above activities, I was engaged in working out and carrying into practical effect the Phoenix Islands Settlement Scheme: concerning

ing which the then High Commissioner, Sir Arthur Richards, was good enough to express strong commendation in his despatches to the Secretary of State. It is generally acknowledged that the colonization scheme has been an unqualified success and, at the conclusion of the war, it is hoped to undertake similar projects on a number of other uninhabited islands in the Central and Eastern Pacific, regarding which I have submitted, or am in process of submitting, detailed reports.

6. Having now lived for over 15 years in the Pacific zone, it is only to be expected that my interests and experience have progressively increased until they now include not only the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony but the whole Central and Eastern Pacific: from Fiji in the west to Tahiti in the east, and from Hawaii in the north to Pitcairn in the south. Within this region I have lived on over 60 islands, and have been fortunate enough to visit all the various Groups with the exception of the Marquesas and Tuamotus. The unique practical experience of comparative administrative problems and methods thus gained has been supplemented by the gradual acquisition of one of the largest private collections of books, pamphlets and manuscripts on the Pacific extant.

7. During the past five years I have been attached to the Western Pacific High Commission and have been assigned a variety of tasks in various parts of the Pacific, including the reorganization and modernization of the system of Government and code of laws in Pitcairn Island (where I lived for eight months) and a period of acting as British Agent and Consul in the Kingdom of Tonga, which led to my being requested by Her Majesty the Queen to report on the reorganization of the Tonga Public Service. It was as a direct result of the recommendations in this report that the Tongan Parliament approved the



approved the principle of staffing the senior positions in the service with seconded members of the Colonial Civil Service. Since the beginning of 1942 I have been, for the most part, attached to High Commission headquarters in Fiji (first as Acting First Assistant Secretary and now as Acting Secretary), in work which enables full use to be made of past experience, while providing exceptional opportunities for widening and increasing it. It has had the effect, furthermore, of demonstrating the particular interest which I have always possessed in every form of secretariat work (vide paragraph 4 of Sir Harry Luke's despatch No. 54 of the 13th July, 1942, to the Secretary of State) and an ability to stand up to continuous long hours of overtime without leave.

8. In submitting the above brief resume of my service in the Pacific I am only too conscious that it must, of necessity, appear somewhat egotistical. My record, however, will show that despite offers of Cadetships in Africa and other Colonies, I deliberately applied for appointment to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and that, apart from a period of service in East Africa necessitated by health considerations, I have endeavoured to remain connected, directly or indirectly, with this Colony. The Resident Commissionership, therefore, means for me the opportunity, for which I have been preparing throughout my service career, of assisting to promote the progress and development of this remote part of the Empire and the welfare and happiness of its inhabitants. The period of post-war reconstruction and transition lying ahead of the Colony is going to be no easy one and it would undoubtedly lessen the sense of bewilderment and frustration already apparent among the islanders if they could be guided by a Resident personally known and trusted by them, who has lived on every island, and visited every village, in the Colony, and who speaks their language and is familiar with the finer points of their customs and etiquette.

9. I should add in parenthesis that, from her first arrival in the Colony, my wife was in the forefront of all activities for the betterment of the islanders. She has a natural fluency in the Gilbertese language, and a great affection for the islanders and, whether as organizer and leader of women's societies and movements or as nurse or infant welfare adviser, she is known and respected throughout the Colony. The above facts are mentioned since, in isolated communities such as the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, an officer's success or failure often depends on the character and suitability of his wife.

10. In conclusion, I would respectfully request that, should my application for this position be under consideration at any time, reference might be made to the High Commissioners and other officers who knew me when I was serving in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and, in particular, to:-

- (a) Sir George Tomlinson, late head of the personnel branch of the Colonial Office;
- (b) Sir Arthur Grimble, by whom I was trained as a Cadet;
- (c) Sir Arthur Richards, who appointed me as Officer in Charge of the Phoenix Islands Settlement Scheme, with "carte blanche" authority, and who later nominated me for training at the Imperial Defence College;
- (d) Sir Harry Luke, who entrusted me with a number of assignments in various parts of the Pacific; and
- (e) Mr. A. Mahew, late Educational Adviser to the Colonial Office, who knew me as a delegate to the Seminar-Conference on Education in Pacific Countries

Countries in 1936 and was afterwards instrumental in my being offered the appointment of Director of Education in the Seychelles Islands.

I would also invite reference to various printed reports and papers for which I have been responsible, including:-

- (a) "Culture and Education in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands", published in 1936;
- (b) the Report on the Settlement of the Phoenix Islands, published in 1937;
- (c) an Historical Report on various Pacific Islands, published in 1940;
- (d) the Codification of the Pitcairn Island Constitution and Laws, published in 1941;
- (e) the Report on the Reorganization of the Tonga Public Service, published in 1942; and
- (f) various articles on administration or social anthropology in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, copies of which are no doubt on record in the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Acting Secretary to the Western Pacific  
High Commission.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

FIJI.

10th January, 1945.

Dear Maude,

As the "Margaret" leaves today or tomorrow, I am writing you this brief note, though I have not much to write about. The "Awahou" is due in on the 13th and she will, I expect, bring a good deal of mail.

The prospects of getting anything done in the way of building the new capital at Abemama are remote. As you know the P.W.D., Fiji, cannot take it on. Bent also will not be able to take it on, because the S of S has approved a commencement being made with the capital in the Solomons. Bent will therefore be fully occupied. It may, though, be possible to get him to the Gilberts but he cannot spare the time, if it means an absence from Sydney or the Solomons for several weeks. A possibility is that he might be able to get to Torokina and then fly from there to Nauru, or, - if he happens to be in Suva at the time when Colonel Voelcker and Dr. Buchanan fly to the Gilberts, - fly from Suva; that is of course if Voelcker and Buchanan do fly to the Gilberts. Buchanan has got to get up there some time before a new medical plan for the Gilberts can be prepared. Voelcker, who is the new Administrator Designate of Western Samoa, is anxious to spend two or three days with you. As he has a certain amount of pull with the R.N.Z.A.F., it would suit our book if he did get up. The idea would be that the plane would drop him and the rest of the party at Tarawa, go on to the Admiralty Islands and come back a day or two later en route back to Fiji. However, this is all very much in the air still.

Judging by a telegram that we received from the  
Secretary

H. E. Maude Esq., M. B. E.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

FIJI.

-5-

7. The S of S has approved the creation of a W.P.H.C. marine department with a marine superintendent at the head of it and two mechanical engineers, one resident in the G. & E.I.C. and one in the Solomons. Hill was originally after the job of marine superintendent but he has just come back from N.Z. where he saw the General Manager of Shaw Savill, his former employer, and is going back to them as soon as he finishes his naval work here. We are now considering Macdonald for the post. Both Hill and Vaskess recommend him strongly.

8. You may find Webster a bit disgruntled; he did not want to take up "Margaret" to the Colony and bring down "Maureen", but he was told that he had to. Now that the position regarding marine officers is slightly easing, we will be able to instil a little more discipline into them. As regards the mechanical engineers, we shall advertise for them in N.Z.. They are not easy to obtain.

Yours very sincerely,

*M. H. H. H.*

*Copy for Ag. Res. Commissioner,*

# TELEGRAM.

DECODE.

[CODE.....]

121X42-2 rms

**From: High Commissioner, Suva.**

**To: Resident Commissioner, Tarawa.**



No.....

(Date) Rec'd 4th February 1946

**Unnumbered.**

Personal mail on "Margaret" contains 3 personal letters from me to Maude. Please open No. 1 and No. 3. No. 2 should be handed to Mrs, Maude who should pass on to you paragraph 7 and paragraph 8 only of that letter.

**High Commissioner.**

SECRET.

SECRET.

Suva, Fiji.

17th January, 1945.

Sir,

1.1.45.

I have the honour to forward a Report on Nassau Island, in the Northern Cook Group, which I visited in September in order to investigate its suitability for the purpose of colonization by Gilbert Islanders. It will be noted that I have stated therein that the island is suitable for settlement and that it should support from 200 to 300 Gilbertese. In this covering letter, therefore, I am confining myself to a brief mention of certain facts connected with the island, leading up to my recommendations regarding its future disposal.

Price.

2. Messrs. Burns, Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, the present freehold owners of the island, have offered to sell it for NZ.5,000 and have stated that, unless they are able to dispose of it to some British interest, they propose to offer it either to the United States Government or to any interested United States company or person. I do not personally take the Company's threat to sell out to American interests very seriously, and suggest that it was made largely with a view to obtaining a price higher than the commercial value of the island warrants. As a result of a careful inspection I consider that Nassau Island may, in its heyday, have conceivably been worth as much as £5,000 as a coconut plantation; the last hurricane, however, has been a most disastrous one - copra sheds, labour lines, driers and the like have disappeared and all that now remains of the buildings and plant necessary to the efficient working of the plantation is a small 3-roomed Manager's house, worth possibly £400, and some 200 yards of rusting tramway of no commercial value.

3. As a copra proposition, Nassau can never, I suggest, be a commercial success under modern conditions.

His Excellency

The High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Suva, Fiji Islands.

Its

Its small production, which is believed to amount to less than 200 tons a year; its distance from the nearest copra exporting centres at Rarotonga (690 miles) and Apia (397 miles); and its bad loading facilities and absence of anchorage make it virtually impossible to charter vessels to lift the copra produced, except at unremunerative rates. It is not an accident, therefore, that no attempt is being made by the Company to exploit the plantation even at the present artificially high price of copra. In view of the above-mentioned considerations, I value Nassau Island at the present time at between £NZ.1,000 and £NZ.1,500 as a commercial coconut plantation: I do not consider that, even with the Manager's house, it is worth as much as £NZ.2,000 from a purely commercial point of view.

#### Historical Associations.

4. Recent researches into the legendary history of Pukapuka (an island with a population of over 700 Polynesians lying only 45 miles to the North west) by the Beagleholes and others demonstrate conclusively that from earliest times Nassau has been occupied and exploited by settlers from that island. Major E.H. Bryan, Jr., records that:-

"In early times Nassau was occupied by people from Pukapuka (Danger Islands). There are definite legendary accounts of intercourse between the two islands during about the 17th century. The people of Pukapuka believed that they owned Nassau, which they called Te Muku-o-Ngalewa, after a chief who defended the island against invasion by a warrior from Aitutaki named Tima. His name has been attached to a reef lying between Nassau and Pukapuka, now spelled Tema.

"According to Pukapuka accounts, contact between the two islands stopped 'at the time when the great conflict between the gods made sea travel dangerous,' and the island received the name Te Motu-ngao'ngao (deserted island). Occasional fishing trips were made to Nassau up to the time of white contact, but the permanent settlement died out. The

finding



finding of shell adzes and pearl-shell breast ornaments of Pukapuka design in an old grave on Nassau, uncovered by the tidal wave of 1914, helps to substantiate the traditions."

During my recent visit to Pukapuka I ascertained that the islanders still regarded Nassau as belonging to them and that they were eager to re-colonize it. Mr. Savage, the New Zealand Resident Agent on the island, was of the opinion that given an opportunity a number of Pukapuka families would be only too glad to settle permanently on Nassau.

#### Recommendations.

5. The above fact is mentioned not with any view to upsetting Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's title to the island, which is derived through a succession of owners from Mr. H.J. Moors (of Robert Louis Stevenson fame), who "squatted" on the island after its abandonment by the people of Pukapuka. It is however, suggested that the people of Pukapuka have a strong ethical, if not a legal, claim to Nassau and that in fairness to them no steps should be taken towards its acquisition until it has been definitely established that the New Zealand Government are unable to contemplate its purchase on their behalf.

6. The problem of Nassau is remarkably similar to that of Nialakita Island in the Southern Ellice Group, which was also the freehold property of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company, Limited, who again derived their title through the same Mr. Moors. Nialakita Island was claimed by no less than three islands in the Ellice Group - Vaitupu, Mukufetau and Mukulaelae - and, when it was ascertained that the Company's title was legally unassailable, it was purchased for £1,000 (the Company asked in the first place for £4,000), with a view to being handed over to the island able to make out the best claim to its ownership.

7. As I have frequently stated in the past, I feel strongly that the Government cannot afford to let a

single

single island in the Central Pacific zone pass into the hands of a commercial company if there is the slightest prospect of purchasing it on behalf of the inhabitants of the area. Population pressure in this region of vast seas and little land is steadily becoming more acute and an island like Nassau, which can support several hundred peasant proprietors in peace and comfort, should surely not be permitted to be used as a coconut plantation benefiting none but a few absentee shareholders?

8. In the event, therefore, of the New Zealand Government not being in a position to acquire the island on behalf of the natives of Pukapuka, I recommend that the Secretary of State should be requested to sanction its purchase as one of the future homes for the surplus population of the Gilbert Islands, and that the price to be offered to the Company should not exceed £NZ.1,500 or, at the most, £NZ.2,000

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

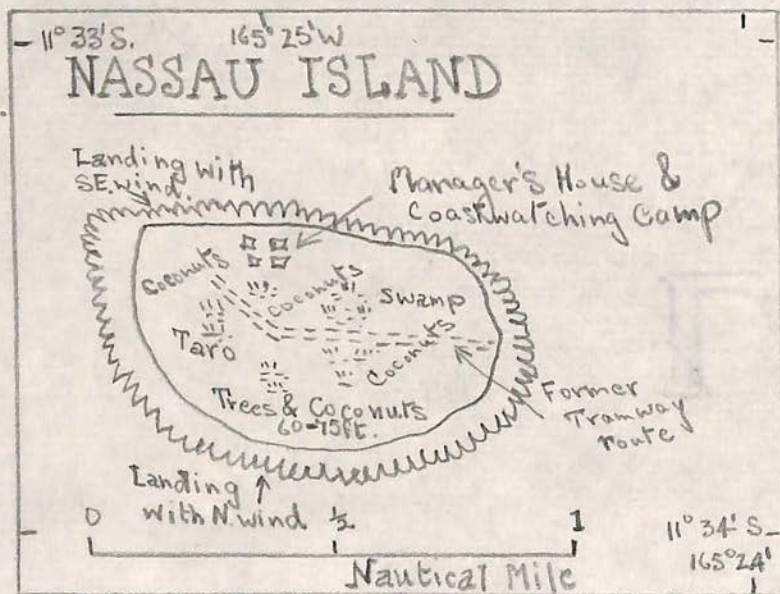
(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

Acting Secretary to the High Commission.

## NASSAU ISLAND.

I arrived off Nassau Island at 11 a.m. on the 24th September, on board the New Zealand Government Yacht "New Golden Hind". Owing to an easterly swell, however, it was not possible to land until the following morning, when I was able to spend six hours ashore while the vessel's crew were engaged in landing stores for the coastwatching personnel, who constituted the sole human inhabitants of the island. Though the time at my disposal was short, it was sufficient for my purpose and enabled all parts of the island to be visited, including the taro and swamp areas.

2. Topography - Nassau is a low, flat coral island approximately 300 acres in area: it is slightly oval in shape and about a mile long, east to west, by half a mile wide. The island is surrounded by the usual fringing reef, which averages approximately 100 yards in width and shelves rapidly to deep water. Though there is no lagoon proper, there are several areas of swampy land containing small pools of fresh water. The following sketch, adapted from a plan by Major E.H. Bryan, Jr., gives an idea of the island's main topographical features:-



3. Fertility and flora - While the flora of Nassau is virtually the same as that of the Southern Ellice Islands, the island is definitely more fertile than any part of the Gilbert, Ellice or Phoenix Groups. The beach-crest, particularly on the eastern or "weather" side, is fringed by "mao" bushes (*Scaevola frutescens*), with a bank of "ren" trees (*Messerschmidia argentea*) between them and the coconut palms which cover the entire interior of the island. Scattered among the coconuts one still finds isolated examples of the original arboreal coverage - "buka" (*Pisonia grandis*), "kanawa" (*Cordia subcordata*) and "ital" (*Calophyllum inophyllum*) - but the introduced "non" (*Morinda citrifolia*) is far more plentiful than any indigenous tree. The ground is thickly covered with the usual grasses and ferns, including the "metuapua" fern (*Polypodium scolopendria* ?) found only on "wet" islands.

4. Most of the trees and plants of economic importance to the Gilbertese were noticed growing in a semi-wild state, including taro and the banana: the former, however, was in very poor condition owing to the recent hurricane. Thickets of flourishing pandanus were seen but they were almost certainly of the non-edible variety. No breadfruit or lime trees could be found, though these are said to grow on the island if carefully looked after.

5. The main economic tree on Nassau is of course the coconut palm, of which it is estimated there are approximately 25,000 in bearing. Most of these were in good condition, without signs of "waisting", thus indicating suitable soil conditions with a regular and sufficient rainfall. Many of the palms had evidently suffered, however, in the last hurricane and probably as many as one in ten were dead, with their crests blown off the trunk. I was informed, furthermore, by Mr. J. Henry, the Resident Agent at Manihiki, that the termites which have ruined the Suwarrow Island palms (and are now obtaining a hold on Pukapuka) have also been found on Nassau. Though in the brief time available I was unsuccessful in identifying the true termite, as seen on Suwarrow, I came across numbers of palms dead or dying as the result of the activities of swarms of what appeared

to be ordinary ants.

6. Water supply - While the brief time ashore did not permit the digging and testing of wells, I am satisfied that the water supply will be found to be abundant in all parts of the island and fresher than that obtained from the average well in the Gilbert Group. Water tasted in the taro ground was brackish but drinkable, while authorities on the island record it as being "plentiful" and "fresh".

7. Fishing - Owing to there being no lagoon, the fishing is entirely reef or off-shore, as at Sydney Island in the Phoenix Group. The supply of fish, as is normal off an uninhabited island, is extremely plentiful: a state of affairs which does not, of course, continue indefinitely after settlement, but is an extremely valuable feature in the early years of colonization, when everyone is busy planting food crops and constructing buildings. Furthermore, from information obtained from the coast-watchers and on neighbouring Pakapuka, it appears that even the coral feeding fish are in no case poisonous, thus being a marked contrast to Sydney Island, where fish poisoning is the bane of the settlement.

8. Anchorage and landing facilities - There is no known anchorage off Nassau, though I have little doubt that a small schooner could anchor just off the lee reef in a variety of places: there would be no swinging room, however, and except during periods of prolonged steady winds it would undoubtedly be advisable to stand off and on.

The landing is not good. There are two preferred landing places: the best, which is normally in use during the period of southeast trades (from April to September), being in a small reef channel by the north-western point; while from October to March, when westerly winds may be expected, an alternative indent in the south coast may have to be used. The island is too small and too oval in shape, however, to afford a good lee shore and landing, particularly in boats with inexperienced crews, will always present a problem except during an unusually prolonged calm when the swell has worked down.

9. Suitability for colonization: - Nassau is considered to be a suitable island for settlement by Gilbertese. Its drawbacks consist of its small size, absence of lagoon, lack of an anchorage, indifferent landing, liability to hurricanes, and distance from other centres of Gilbertese settlement (Sydney Island, the nearest, being 550 miles to the north). All this, however, is in my opinion outweighed by its fertility, which should enable between 200 and 300 settlers to live in comparative affluence.

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

Acting Secretary to the High  
Commission.

Suva, Fiji Islands,

1st January, 1945.

E.C.  
17.1.45.

Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

17th January, 1945.

Dear Colonel Fox-Strangways,

I have been turning over in my mind our conversation at Christmas Island as to the desirability of changing the clumsy designation "Fanning, Washington and Christmas Island District" to the more concise, and at the same time accurate, term "Line Islands District". I note that you have long referred to the Line Islands District, as did your predecessors, and the Admiralty and United Kingdom Government always use the term. In this office, however, we are precluded from referring to the Line Islands, as the designation has never received official sanction.

Should you think the matter worth while, I suggest that you might drop us a savingram asking that the District at present comprising the three islands of Fanning, Washington and Christmas should in future be officially designated by Proclamation to be the Line Islands District, in accordance with present-day universal usage, both with the Americans and ourselves. I feel that the move should come from you as Resident Commissioner, as it is one of your Districts: your request would, furthermore, carry far more weight than anything I could put up.

Mr. Grantham is extremely pleasant to work for, and I know you will like him.

Yours sincerely,

*Seen*

WESTERN PACIFIC.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,  
SUVA, FIJI,

Confidential.

22nd January, 1945.

Sir,

With reference to Sir Harry Luke's despatch No. 54 of the 13th July, 1942, relative to the future of Mr. H.E. Maude, M.B.E., at present Acting Secretary to the Western Pacific High Commission, I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter from that officer applying for the position of Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, in the event of a vacancy occurring at any time in that office.

2. As the position for which Mr. Maude applies is held by Colonel V. Fox-Strangways, the letter does not appear to call for any comment on my part at present.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

(Signed) A.G. Grantham.

High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Conf.-10.1.45.



Mr. ~~Herristen~~, - Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to thank you for your kind words and I should like to thank the Directors very much for their gift. I feel that my husband has let me down badly on this occasion, I happily accepted the kind invitation to launch the Myrtle resolving at the same time that ~~my~~-husband he should make any speeches that might be necessary. Instead of this, however, he has succumbed to your Auckland climate and retired to bed with flu. and As he is consequently unable to be present to-night he has asked me to be sure to express on his behalf the appreciation of the W.P.H.C. of the efforts of all concerned in the construction of these five vessels. at what must surely be an exceptionally difficult time for ship-builders.

I feel I shall always have a warm personal interest in the "Myrtle"; not only because I christened her but also because she is destined to ~~serve~~ <sup>serve</sup> ~~up~~ <sup>up</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~down~~ <sup>down</sup> the ~~very~~ islands where I spent the happiest years of my life. It is a peculiar fact that as civilization has gradually penetrated to the little known and remote islands of the Gilbert and Ellice Groups, which this vessel is to serve, the position as regards inter-island shipping has steadily deteriorated. Old timers in these islands have told me that when they first arrived, in the latter half of the last century, scarce a week passed without the sails of some trading schooner appearing over the horizon. Those were the days of the small independent trader and schooner owner - of Bully Hayes and the labour trade. <sup>By the way</sup> Even when we first arrived in the islands some 15 years ago, however, the situation had <sup>been</sup> sadly changed and I well remember how in our first district - one of the remotest of the south seas - we were dependant for our sole communications with the outside world on the <sup>chance</sup> visits of ~~four~~ small inter-island ~~seeheners~~ vessels - one Government, one Mission and 2 trading. <sup>+ of these only the S.W. ~~remains~~ <sup>is still</sup> in commission</sup> Many a time my husband and I were left on some remote palm fringed atoll for months - we had no wireless in those days - wondering when some ship would take us off and where she would take us to.

The Myrtle and her sister ships are intended to serve a vast area of the Pacific - from Bougainville to ~~Christmas Island~~ <sup>Vanuatu</sup> ~~from Fanning to the~~ Santa-Cruz Vaniker Bellona, and ~~comprising~~ <sup>including</sup> the groups known as the Solomons /Santa Cruz, Gilberts, Ellice, Phoenix and Line Islands as well as many isolated outliers, such as Ontong Java, Sikiana, and Ocean Island. Their advent will enable each of the principle District Officers in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and BSIP to have his own vessel for administrative purposes while at the same time they will make possible the paying of more frequent visits by many other officers whose work lies among the people of the outer islands. The duties they are intended to perform will be multifarious - the bringing on of hospital patients, the settlement of disputes, the inspection of schools and many others. I wish the Myrtle in particular pleasant voyages and may the steady trade winds of the southern seas go with her on any a cruise among the romantic islands where her future work will lie.

Honor Maude

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION,  
SUVA, FIJI.

Personal and Confidential.

12th February, 1945.

E.C.  
12.2.45.

Dear Colonel Fox-Strangways,

I'm afraid that you are going to be extremely angry with me when you hear that I asked His Excellency whether Hill could stay here for a few days in order to assist me with some knotty files (chiefly legal ones) before moving on to Tarawa.

I do fully realize how hard pressed you are in the Gilberts and I would not have dreamt of making such a request were it not that I was feeling the strain last week of trying to do Vaskess' work as well as most of my own. As you know, Vaskess is a hard worker and in order to keep the correspondence up to date I have to keep at it from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7 days a week. Naturally I don't mind this but the continual writing work seemed to be affecting my eyes and I was afraid that I might have to knock off for a day or two, which would have been disastrous.

However Hill's assistance is enabling me to have an evening off once or twice, which makes all the difference, and as he should be back with you at the same time as this letter, or soon after, I am in hopes that you may forgive me.

At any rate things are up to date (or nearly so) and I am determined to hand over to Vaskess with a clean sheet, as regards arrears, if it kills me.

I go on leave by the first ship after his return - for 3 months.

With renewed apologies,  
Yours sincerely,

*Seeh.*

His Honour  
Colonel V. Fox-Strangways.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION,  
SUVA, FIJI.

19th February, 1945.

Dear Higgins,

With regard to your telegram of the 17th February to the Postmaster-General, I have consulted the legal authorities as to the best way in which Gugini could be helped. Apparently nothing can be done to prevent the depositions in this case being taken and forwarded to the Attorney-General here for consideration: we can only hope that the boy's defence will be such that the Attorney-General will be able to throw the case out and not recommend its proceeding to the Supreme Court.

I enclose a few notes prepared by Captain Hill of this office, who is a Solicitor, which may assist you in advising Gugini as to the procedure of the Court.

Hoping that all goes well,

Yours in haste,

H.E. Maude.

E.C. Higgins, Esquire,

Levuka.



*Alexander William George Herder Grantham*

High Commissioner.

C O M M I S S I O N .

By His Excellency ALEXANDER WILLIAM GEORGE HERDER GRANTHAM,  
Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of  
Saint Michael and Saint George, His Britannic Majesty's  
High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

To HENRY EVANS MAUDE, Esquire, Member of the Most Excellent  
Order of the British Empire:

GREETING.

WHEREAS by the sixth sub-article of the seventh article of the Pacific Order in Council, 1893, it is provided that the High Commissioner may from time to time by writing under his hand and seal appoint a Judicial Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner to represent him in the exercise of any of his powers, or during his absence from the limits of the said Order or from Fiji, with or without any limitations or conditions, and the Commissioner so appointed shall for the purposes for which he is appointed have and exercise the powers of the High Commissioner and shall be styled Assistant High Commissioner;

AND WHEREAS I intend to be absent for a short period from Fiji:

NOW THEREFORE in pursuance of the aforesaid powers in me vested by the said Order in Council I do hereby under my hand and seal appoint you, the said

HENRY EVANS MAUDE,

to represent me in the exercise of my powers as High Commissioner during my absence from Fiji, namely from the 22nd day of February, 1945, until such time as I shall return to Fiji or until other provision shall have been made for the exercise of the said powers, whichever event shall first occur, and to be styled Assistant High Commissioner.

Given at Suva, in the Colony of Fiji, this 21st day of February, 1945, in the ninth year of His Majesty's Reign.

By Command,

*Donald Kennedy*

Acting First Assistant Secretary to the  
Western Pacific High Commission.

No. *Personal.*



OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS  
COLONY.

Tarawa Island,  
4th March, 1945.

*Dear Maude,*

Quite honestly, what do you think of this effort? It strikes me as a very poor and scrappy-looking job.

For one issue a month, it is costing us round about £235. It seems to me that for this sum of money we could buy a duplicator and the necessary stationery, employ and pay a full-time clerk, and turn out locally a roneo'd sheet which would be more attractive than this mean-looking product. Of course, we should have to forego the pictures: but does that matter so much?

"Sail-ho" in its present form does not strike me as being much of a credit to the Colony.

I expect you are overwhelmed with work: I should like your views at your leisure.

Yours sincerely,

*J. Kathman*

H.E. Maude, Esq., M.B.E.,  
Suva.

P.S. This rag hasn't even got the Colony's name on it! maybe just as well.

*H.*

P.P.S. I'm trying about the translations: I am trying to find out who the Chinese was.

*H.*

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION,  
SUVA, FIJI.

Confidential.

5th March, 1945.

Dear Colonel Fox-Strangways,

Mr. Grantham told me, apropos of some conversation you had with him, to write and let you know that Cowell has not yet been confirmed in the Colonial Service. As a Cadet he is on 3 years probation from the date of his arrival in the territory to which he is posted (the 29th January, 1942) but the usual procedure is for the Cadet to apply to you as Resident Commissioner for confirmation any time after the expiration of this period, whereupon the application is forwarded to the High Commissioner with your comments and recommendation.

As I reported to you after my early three months experience of Cowell at Fanning Island, I do not consider that he has the right temperament for service in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and I feel that it would be better to get rid of him now rather than be saddled with a liability for years. He is keen and energetic, with a quick brain, and I believe would do quite well in the Fiji Secretariat and, particularly, in the Fiji Economic Warfare Office. If you wish, I will sound Fiji as to whether they would be willing to take him. (I'm afraid they would not agree to give anyone in exchange, except perhaps Bevington who would probably refuse).

Should Fiji not agree to have him then my own view (purely a personal opinion) is that you will eventually have to get rid of him: for his own sake, probably the sooner the better, if he's to find another job. In any case it would seem best not to confirm him  
until

- 2.-

until you are absolutely satisfied that he<sup>is</sup> going to prove a winner?

I'm loth to be so harsh in my remarks, especially as I quite like Cowell in his own orbit, but I know that you agree that the G. & E.I.C., least of all places, cannot afford any member of the team who persists in pulling at the wrong end of the rope. As you say in your recent letter, Cowell is too young and too fresh and I'm afraid he will remain like that unless sat on every day - and how can one sit on him when he's loose on his own in some district?

I might add that he antagonized us in this office on his way through to Funafuti firstly by losing his temper over a very trivial matter and then by sulking.

I don't seem to be able to get a passage by the "Matua", so may be seeing you on your forthcoming visit to Suva. Your wife was disappointed that you did not materialize with H.E.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

16th March, 1945.

Dear Colonel Fox-Strangways,

Vaskess has returned to duty once more so with a thankful heart I am again able to catch up with arrears of private and d/o correspondence.

You enquire, in a letter dated the 26th February, when and where the idea of a "fast 200 ton Colony ship" originated. As far as I can ascertain you were the first (in paragraph 18 of your memorandum of the 27th July, 1943) to specify a vessel with a speed of 18 knots and a cargo carrying capacity of 200 tons. Sir Philip, however, in his secret telegram No. 171 of the 23rd July, 1943, contemplated a 500 ton "Colony" vessel.

Indeed, I think that all along the line in Sir Philip's time it was contemplated that the main Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony vessel was to be a Colony ship (as well as being the Resident Commissioner's ship). Colony headquarters, as you know, were to be water bound - towards the end Sir Philip weakened to the extent of agreeing that it should be only "partially submerged" - and the Resident Commissioner, Secretary-Accountant, Cadet, and I take it all other officers of the service other than the District Officer's on their 60-footers and the Treasury staff at Suva were "to peregrinate in perpetuity around the archipelagos" as one big happy family.

The idea, I fancy, is still much the same as far as the ship is concerned except that, with the recognition that the Resident Commissioner will need to do a lot of travelling but that there will have to be a fixed Colony headquarters somewhere or other for the headquarters staff, the emphasis has tended to be on the Resident Commissioner's use of the ship; but it would, in effect, still be a Colony ship in so much as it will be used by other members of the staff besides the Resident himself.

Colonel V. Fox-Strangways,  
Resident Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

Hoping this is what you want,  
Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE



No. S.F. 21.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS  
COLONY.

Tarawa Island,  
26th February, 1945.



Dear Maude,

During his visit, His Excellency asked when the idea of a fast, 200 ton Colony ship (as opposed to Resident Commissioner's ship) had originated. The first I knew of it was the reference in paragraph 18 of my memorandum of 27th July 1943: though others may have raised it before that.

Yours sincerely,

*J. La Touche*

H. E. Maude, Esq.,  
Suva.

(See 143a  
in S.F. 194.)

c/- Western Pacific High Commission,  
SUVA, FIJI.

PERSONAL.

22nd March, 1945.

Dear Colonel Fox-Strangways,

Your copy of the wretched "Tero" has arrived. I quite agree - the thing is sub-standard and, I'm afraid, always will be as long as it is produced under existing arrangements.

Mr. Ryan was appointed Editor (he has about a dozen other jobs) but as he does not know a word of Gilbertese or Ellice Islands he naturally hoped that the work of translation, proof-reading, etc. would be done by the High Commission office. With the best will in the world, however, it was not possible for me to get the time off necessary for this and although Tofinga translated the editorial, it was only after strenuous protests from the Accounts side of the office.

The only system by which a creditable production might be turned out down here would be for you to send a native down here to act as compiler, translator and Editor: he could be attached to the office and no doubt plenty of other odd jobs could be found for him in connexion with the Gilbertese and Ellice Islands community here. I do not favour the idea, on the whole, owing to the fact that the man would be out of touch here with local Colony affairs and unable to prod the Districts into producing their quota of local "news and views".

The other alternatives would seem to be:-

- (1) to have the magazine printed by either the L.M.S. Press at Bera or the Catholic Press at Abaiang. The L.M.S., in particular, have done quite an amount of printing for us from time to time, and their own quarterly is quite a creditable effort. There is always the possibility, however, of some Catholics refusing to read it. Possibly each Press could produce it on alternate years?
- (2) your suggestion that the Secretary's office should take it over with a full-time clerk to look after the whole production. Probably this is the best solution, for a good Native Editor in touch with local affairs should be able to collect quite a number of items of interest to the community. Tione, one of my Lands Commission Clerks, used to be the Head Printer and Compositor at the L.M.S. Press and I believe has quite a flair for general editorial work: you would need, however, to restrain his tendency to fill his copy with unctious phrases which he learnt during his period with the Mission.

As to the pictures, I doubt whether they need necessarily be abandoned. I could (by arrangement with the Information Office) send you up, if desired, a 2 page

Colonel V. Fox-Strangways, "pictorial supplement" containing about 8 pictures  
Resident Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

with captions in Gilbertese and Ellice underneath each which could be inserted into the local production. Local pictures are, of course, especially appreciated and any photographs of events in the Colony could be sent down for reproduction either here, or if that is not possible, through a firm I know of in New Zealand. (They used to charge about a pound a page).

I have just heard that the "Movements Control Committee" have turned down my application for a passage to New Zealand. So I'm afraid my leave will not eventuate after all.

Yours sincerely,

*J. L. H.*

Western Pacific High Commission,  
SUVA, FIJI.

5th April, 1945.

Dear Colonel Fox-Strangways,

I have delayed replying to your letter of the 19th February regarding nominal rolls, as I have been trying without success, to trace a copy of the one I devised some years before the war and issued to all Governments in the Gilbert (but not, I think, the Ellice) Group. However, you would probably still find copies in use on some of the outer islands, I expect, and there were spares in my office at Berni. They were printed by the L.M.S. and no doubt they still have the proofs and specimen sheets.

They were part of a series I prepared - particulars of visits of shipping was another - in order to enable the Island Scribes to keep complete "source books" from which they could compile at a glance every item of information required for their monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual returns to District Headquarters. I remember, for example, that there was a 2-page form which, when filled in, contained all information required from each island for the Colony Blue Book, and also little booklets each containing 12 tear-off postcards, addressed to the District Officer; for sending in the monthly rainfall returns. The books, etc., were sent to the islands under cover of a Circular Native Governments (I'm afraid I can't remember either the number or date) containing instructions as to their operation. If this system of returns should have fallen into abeyance, it might be worth reviving.

The nominal roll sheet sent with your letter seems excellent and contains all that is required. The former ones were in bound books - one for each island - and were kept by the Island Scribe who made them up every six months. It was done twice a year since the printed "Return of Population and Vital Statistics" required from District Officers by District Circular No. 18 of 1927 was a semi-annual affair. It would seem that both the Island return to District Headquarters and the District return to Colony Headquarters could be made an annual event without any loss of efficiency and with a considerable saving in "paperasserie".

The returns were sent in to District Headquarters by villages, but to Colony headquarters by islands only; here again it might be of advantage to have village totals also on record in your office?

I see that in your remarks column you have "on Hull Island", "K.G.V. School", etc. One of my chief worries was the fact that Scribes would include in their population figures not only every-body on the island (including strangers) but also every-body considered to belong to the island but residing abroad. It was for this reason that the form for the Scribe's semi-annual return had separate columns for:-

Colonel V. Fox-Strangways,  
Resident Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

- (a) People belonging to the Island and resident in it.
- (b) People belonging to the Island but resident elsewhere.
- (c) Strangers resident in the island.

Each column being again divided into males over 16, females ditto, males under 16 and females ditto and the whole return being by villages. Rather cumbersome, but it did enable some check to be made and the Scribes, curiously enough, found it easier to prepare than a straightout Island Return.

While I think of it, as we never had any "Standing Orders" their place was taken to a great extent by:-

- (a) Circulars Districts;
- (b) Circulars Departments; and
- (c) Circulars Treasury.

Circulars Treasury were sporadic and never became a proper series but the Circulars Districts and Departments were first brought out in 1922 and form an unbroken numbered annual series right up to the Japanese occupation. They contain much that would, I imagine, be of value to your headquarters staff (precedents, instructions, etc., dealing with all aspects of District and Colony administration). I made a complete cross-index to Circulars Districts and Departments in about 1937 which was circulated to all offices. Copies of the Index and the Circulars should still be at Beru, I imagine, and might be worth while chasing up.

Sorry to send you such a rambling letter but I think it contains, besides much irrelevant matter, the information you want.

We've now been informed that we are to leave for New Zealand almost immediately so I'm afraid that I shall not be here when you visit this abode of bliss and peace in Kay. I'm very sorry as I did so want to talk about this and that.

For a week or so I've been engaged on recording views on post-war policy in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, for consideration by H.E. and yourself. H.E. told me that he intended to tear it to shreds and that, if anything was left, Mr. Vaskess and yourself could demolish it! However, no matter - as long as I've been able to say my piece I'll feel happy, regardless of the result. But I'm hoping you'll be gentle with my "swan song".

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

No. F. 6/2/4.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS  
COLONY.

Tarawa Island,  
19th February, 1945.

My dear

*Maude,*

Since coming to the Colony, and the Gilberts especially, I have been struck by how little we know of the numbers and distribution of the population. One can see from the Annual Reports that the population of such-and-such an atoll was say 4,000 in 1931; but there seems to be no tolerably recent accurate record, nor do we know in the least how many people live in each village.

Presumably someone has got nominal rolls of the villages; they could hardly apportion the landowners' tax without them; but I cannot hear of any, and am forced to the conclusion that the kaubures keep the records in their heads.

It seems to me that we ought either to start nominal rolls, or to resuscitate those which were in operation before. With regard to the latter alternative, can you tell me whether there were any such rolls, and if so, what they were like, and who was responsible for their compilation and periodic modification?

If there were no such rolls, do you see any objection to starting rolls? I enclose a suggested proforma, which to the best of my memory is what we had used for years in Nyasaland as a tax roll. It is supposed to be made up to date once a year. The remarks column is useful for keeping track of people who are working abroad, and might be supposed to be more than ever desirable after the war, as communications improve. You will see that each family is kept together as far as possible (that is to say, a man, his wife, and their children), a red line being ruled below each family or household.

Such a roll can be of great help with all sorts of vital statistical problems, as well as with questions of social improvement, supply, the labour potential, etc. In Africa, we made the Village Head responsible for upkeep, which was actually done (unpaid) by some little schoolboy friend of his. The rolls were never 100% accurate; but they did enable us to spot and remedy a condition of gross over-recruitment for the Rhodesian mines, among other things.

I should value your views.

Yours sincerely,

*J. D. Thompson.*

H. E. Maude, Esq., M. B. E.,  
Suva.

Nominal Roll.

.....Village .....Atoll.

...../...../1945.

Serial No.	Adult Males	Adult Females	Males under 16	Females under 16	Remarks.
1	Tem Boraia				
2		Nei Take			
3		Nei Maria			On Hull Island.
4			Beneuro		K. G. V. School.
5				Nei Rute	
6	Taoniman				F. I. P. 1944.
7		Nei Eritabeta			F. I. P. 1944.

(continued).

Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

6th April, 1945.

Dear Colonel Fox-Strangways,

I enclose copies of demi-official letters  
from and to the Reverend Father Choblet and myself,  
regarding Ten Tabuanaba of Nukantewa Village, Beru  
Island. Father Choblet was formerly the priest in  
charge of the Catholic Mission at Beru and is now a  
leper at Makogai and, as the point raised by him  
concerns local legislation, it may be as well to have  
a copy on record in Major Lloyd's office. It is not,  
however, of any importance.

From Rev. E.  
Choblet - 10.3.45.  
To Rev. E. Chob-  
let - 6.4.45.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

Colonel V. Fox-Strangways,

Resident Commissioner,

Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.



Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji,

6th April, 1945.

Dear Father Choblet,

I was glad to receive your letter of the 10th March and to see from it that you are still interesting yourself in the affairs of your former parishioners on Beru.

Alas, we have no system in the Gilbert Islands, as you have in France, by which bounties and relief from taxation may be given to the parents of large families. I can quite believe that it is really a matter of land, for that is at the root of most problems in the Gilbert Islands. You are well aware, however, that there is no surplus land in the Group which can be given to those possessing too little: would that there were.

The only assistance which can be afforded to Tabuanaba is to:-

- (a) advise him to claim exemption from Communal Works under section 10 of Island Regulation No. 4; that is, provided that he has "four or more children under the age of 16 years living with him"; and
- (b) suggest that he should have his name put down as a settler on the next island selected for Gilbertese colonization.

I do not know whether the Government will be recommencing Gilbertese Settlement schemes at an early date but the overcrowding on some of the islands will probably necessitate further colonization before long and Tabuanaba, with his eleven children, would appear to have a good claim for priority.

My wife and I both send our kind regards and hope that you and the Gilbert and Ellice community at Makogai are doing well. We hope to be able to visit Makogai later on in the year in order to see for ourselves whether there is anything that we can do to help them.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

H. E. MAUDE.

The Reverend Father E. Choblet,  
Makogai,  
Fiji Islands.

C.M. No. 11

# SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE COLONIES

Printed for the Colonial Office

April, 1945.

# SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE COLONIES.

## I. THE NEED FOR "SOCIAL WELFARE" IN THE COLONIES

1. It is one of the difficulties of vocabulary that certain words and phrases are capable of being used and understood both in a general and in a technical sense. In a general sense, "social welfare" is evidently the aim of any reputable Government and of every department of such a Government. Yet experience in the Colonies as in other countries has shown that there remains a group of activities which do not fall within the scope of any of what have been until lately the customary departments of Government, and which demand the services of staff with a special kind of training.

2. Even in countries at an advanced stage of development it is only comparatively lately that these activities, to which the term "social welfare" has come to be applied in a technical sense, have begun to be recognized as the proper concern of the State. Certainly until the last few decades the tradition in English-speaking countries has been to regard such activities, apart from an "iron ration" form of poor relief, as proper to be left to private charity and voluntary enterprise. In the older "settlement" Colonies the British tradition has naturally been followed. On the other hand, in those Colonies and Protectorates and other territories where an indigenous culture and social structure were already in existence when they were joined to the British Empire, the peoples had worked out their own methods of dealing with social problems according to the resources at their disposal, often with remarkable success.

3. In Great Britain during the last forty years there has been a growing recognition that the community is an organic whole whose health and vitality depend upon the well-being of all its constituent members and on the good relations between them. This has involved a great development of State social services; but it must not be overlooked that if the pioneer activities of the unofficial societies are now being progressively taken over by the public administration of the community, the recognition that something more ample and more consistent with the self-respect of the beneficiary than private charity is needed, is due in very large part to pressure from the very individuals and societies whose efforts are now being incorporated in a system at once more highly organized and more broadly based. Indeed, it may safely be said that it is not the elimination of voluntary effort but its integration with the official organization which affords the best prospect of healthy development. At any rate in Britain the progress of the last twenty years has been marked by a steady growth of intimate co-operation between the amateur and the professional in a wide range of social welfare activities and between volunteer groups, the great organized societies and the public departments.

4. This sense of communal obligation which is perhaps still something of a novelty in European countries and those which inherit the European tradition is no novelty in most of the African Colonies and Protectorates, in the Far East, and in parts of the Pacific where the people lived in closely organized groups usually linked by kinship, and accepting obligations of mutual support. But the contact of these peoples with industrial civilization has in many cases tended to break down this sense of communal obligation. The introduction of a wage economy has inevitably made for individualism and has made it possible for men and even women to avoid their duties as members of families or village communities. The supernatural sanctions which enforced the traditional moral rules have generally ceased to be effective in areas where European contact has been pronounced, and this has caused the collapse of ethical systems which often had genuine social value. In any case, moral

codes which served to regulate the conduct of members of small kinship units are no longer adequate in the case of peoples living in the large mixed communities that congregate in the new towns. Further, the growth of these towns and cities especially in the case of seaports, and the spread of industrialization have inevitably given rise to new social problems such as destitution, child vagrancy, prostitution, housing shortage, delinquency, etc., with which the simple traditional machinery has been unequipped to cope.

5. While, then, it is always dangerous to generalize with regard to so varied a group of countries and societies as are comprised in the British Colonies, it is fair to say that, although the historical causes differ widely, the general situation now is that these countries are all in a greater or less degree in need of the application to their particular problems of the new techniques of social welfare which have been worked out recently in more "advanced" countries.

## II. THE SCOPE OF "SOCIAL WELFARE"

6. The function of the State in creating and preserving internal peace, law and order is universally recognized, and this was necessarily the first task of the Colonial Governments. Next came the task of applying to Colonial problems the discoveries of science, with the double object of fulfilling the duty of trusteeship by promoting the well-being of the people, and of developing the material resources of the territories for the mutual benefit of the population and of the external world. Thus the last half-century has seen the establishment and growth throughout the Colonies of medical, agricultural, veterinary and forestry departments, geological surveys and meteorological services, along with the setting up of research centres and the conducting of specific investigations. In short, the organization of the natural sciences in their application to the needs of the Colonies is being taken in hand.

7. A parallel development has taken place in the sphere of education. Broadly speaking this was left to the Churches and to private enterprise until comparatively recent times. It is now recognized that the Colonial Government, as the organ of the community, has an ultimate responsibility for education at all levels. The establishment of public elementary and secondary education, though not yet available for more than a small proportion of children in the Colonies is now being reinforced by programmes for mass or adult education and for the development of facilities for University education.

8. Departmental machinery has already been created in the Colonies to deal with the subjects enumerated in the two preceding paragraphs. While these subjects all have more or less direct relation to the welfare of the society, they are outside the scope of "social welfare" as the term is employed in this memorandum.

9. The function of the "social welfare" worker may be described as three-fold:—

(1) To assume direct responsibility for certain types of service which are not covered by the existing professional departments and to encourage and help in their development.

(2) To assist the administration and the specialist departments in those aspects of their work which have a particular bearing on the welfare of the people, so that the latter may be attracted and persuaded to take full advantage of the facilities offered, and that the former may have available advice to assist them in adapting their services to the particular needs of a particular area or social unit.

(3) To encourage and to integrate with the general programme the work of Churches and voluntary bodies in these and similar fields; in particular to develop the social welfare activities of Native Administrations and of native organizations and societies, to encourage the development of voluntary organizations which provide scope for the activities, as full members, of indigenous persons, both men and women, and to promote their training in leadership.

10. The concern of the social welfare worker is so widely extended that the activities appropriate to him cannot be exhaustively catalogued. It may however be helpful to represent them as falling into four groups, notwithstanding that really the groups freely overlap.

A.—The promotion of community life and the use of the village hall or other community centre; music, drama, study and recreational groups for people of all ages as well as pre-vocational associations.

B.—Activities auxiliary to the work of specialist departments in, e.g., the promotion of cottage industries, horticulture, improvement of small stock breeding, and domestic management including diet, cooking, sanitation and house planning; encouragement of co-operative and other beneficial social movements.

In Great Britain such subjects as the foregoing are among the objects of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs, Scouts, Boys' Brigades, Pre-service Corps; of the Women's Institutes, Young Farmers' Clubs,\* Youth Councils, Mothers' Unions, and sports clubs.

C.—Activities undertaken for classes of the community who specially require care, the destitute, the aged, the physically or mentally defective, and for children who are handicapped or who require protection from an unfortunate environment. These activities also extend to welfare services for the sick and to the social aspect of the care of mothers and children.

Some of this work in Great Britain is of course by law enjoined upon Local Authorities whose work is also supplemented by special organizations which deal with mental health, the blind, the deaf, the crippled. There are also maternity and child welfare organizations and the service of the voluntary hospitals is amplified by their almoners' humanitarian work.

D.—Activities closely linked with Court work. These are undertaken on behalf of delinquent children and adolescents, prisoners and ex-prisoners, prostitutes and those in danger of falling into prostitution.

The organizations which promote these objects in Great Britain are probation services for adults and juveniles, approved schools, Borstals, residential hostels, remand homes, prisoners' aid societies, and various types of special homes for children.

II. Particular value is to be attached to the conception of the social welfare worker not only as responsible for certain important duties but also as operating on the fringe of other Government Departments and carrying on their activities outside the sphere of professional specialisation. For example, the organization of maternity and child welfare clinics, hospital services, etc., is proper to the Medical Department, but it is evidently within the functions of social welfare workers to encourage attendance at clinics or visits to hospitals and to co-operate in many ways with the medical services. Similarly, industrial welfare is properly the care of the Labour Department, but it would be impracticable and undesirable to draw a rigid line between general welfare

\* The "4 H Clubs"—an American counterpart of the British Young Farmers' Clubs—have been found a useful model for Colonial conditions.

services for employed persons and those for unemployed persons or persons working on their own account. It is therefore anticipated that social welfare workers will be expected to set up community organizations for the community in general, and indeed any idea of segregating the industrial labourer would run directly counter to the community idea. Nutrition is another example of a subject which is specialized up to a point. But when policy has been formulated and simple instructions have been issued about the best kind of food, it would be for the social welfare organizer to endeavour to secure observance of these instructions in the homes of the people.

12. The functions of the social welfare worker as described above are in part constructive and in part remedial; in part directed towards urban and in part towards rural problems. While most or all of the activities mentioned would no doubt be valuable in most Colonies, it would seem that in general priority should be given to the constructive rather than to the remedial aspects of the work. While, too, the problems of urban areas and especially of seaports are in many ways the most pressing and spectacular, the fact that the Colonial populations are predominantly rural must not be overlooked. Where the sense of community and machinery for its practical expression already exist the aim should be to encourage its development along lines which grow naturally from the traditional social organization; where these conditions do not yet exist or have ceased to exist, the need is to provide a foundation upon which to build. In either case, success depends upon enlisting the co-operation and enthusiasm of the people themselves; the part of the social welfare worker, as, in a slightly different field, of the Mass Education Officer is to inspire and to guide, bringing to bear on the problems of a particular community the technical experience which has been gained in other countries where similar problems have already been attacked.

### III. THE MACHINERY OF "SOCIAL WELFARE"

13. There can be no stereotyped pattern for the organization of social welfare work in the Colonies. As the social and political structure varies according to an immense variety of local circumstances, so must the organization be planned so as to fit into that structure. Many Colonial Governments have already felt the necessity of incorporating in the central headquarters of the administration an officer entrusted with the task of advising the Government on social welfare matters and of exercising a general supervision over social welfare work in the Colony, whether that work is done by existing departments, by specialist officials or by unofficial agencies co-operating with Government. In some cases it has been decided to recruit specially for such a post an experienced person from outside the Colonial Service, in the capacity of "Social Welfare Adviser". In other cases an officer of the existing administrative staff with a knowledge of the people and an aptitude for this kind of work, has been appointed "Secretary for Social Welfare" in the Secretariat. The choice between these alternatives or other suitable devices depends upon the local conditions and the availability of qualified persons.

14. A broad distinction may be drawn between those Colonies which are organized on the basis of provincial and district administration and those which are not. In the former, there is already present in the provincial and district administrative staff a body of officers who are in intimate contact with the people and are responsible for their welfare, and whose duty it is to co-ordinate the activities of specialist departmental staffs within the province or district. In these conditions the best lines of approach may be to provide the administrative officers themselves with opportunities of training in the principles of social welfare work and to supply them with skilled assistants and advisers who can give them technical help in discharging this

part of their responsibilities. In those Colonies, on the other hand, where a district administration does not exist, social welfare officers may be attached in an advisory capacity to municipalities or other local government authorities; or they may be attached to existing Government Departments or even appointed to exercise executive or administrative functions for particular purposes in a particular locality.

15. In any case, it is evident that the promotion of social welfare must be regarded as a task in which all available agencies, both public and private, should combine and collaborate. A natural way of achieving this aim is the establishment of Committees in which all concerned can take part. Many Colonies have set up such Committees both centrally and in provinces and districts. Some are wholly official in composition, others comprise both officials and unofficials. Experience will indicate as time goes on how such Committees can best be constituted and what terms of reference should be assigned to them so as to secure the best results in the circumstances of each individual Colony, but it is desirable that women as well as men should serve on them, and in suitable cases they may well include elected representatives from voluntary societies. The measure of the success of such Committees will be the extent to which they are able to enlist and develop the active co-operation of the people of the Colony.

16. For in the long run, the welfare of a society must be promoted by the society itself. Unless social welfare activities are intimately related to the life of the people and have their roots firmly embedded in the soil of the country, they will prove to be transient and ineffective. It is therefore of the first importance both to make use of any spontaneously formed local associations and organizations which may exist, and to ensure that to the utmost possible extent the social welfare services at all levels are staffed by members of the community which they serve. These staffs may be considered as falling into three main groups:—

(a) Social Welfare Organizers, concerned with advising the central Government on policy and with general responsibility for seeing that policy when framed is properly executed.

(b) Senior staff, serving in an advisory capacity at provincial or municipal centres, or attached in such a capacity to Native Administrations, in Colonies where these exist, or responsible for the supervision of welfare services in a province or large town.

(c) Junior staff, engaged in "field work" of various kinds in towns, villages and country districts.

17. Until training facilities have been fully organized, and Colonial people have had the opportunity of gaining the required experience by graduating through the third and second groups or in other ways, it may be necessary for the time being that the first group should be filled very largely by officers who are not of Colonial birth but have been selected either from the Colonial Service or from outside on the ground of special experience, knowledge, and aptitude. An important and indeed essential function of officers in this group will be to see that adequate opportunities for obtaining training and experience, whether in the Colony or if necessary elsewhere, are made available for Colonial candidates for service in all grades of social welfare work.

18. It will doubtless also be desirable in many Colonies for the present to reinforce the second group by means of external recruitment, or by arranging (as is already being done) for selected Colonial personnel to undergo a special course of study in the United Kingdom. The third group, however, should be capable of being staffed from the start by locally recruited personnel who have been trained in the Colony or at a regional institution.

## IV. THE IMMEDIATE TASK

19. The problems with which the social welfare workers have to deal are found everywhere and are growing in intensity and difficulty. They will not wait to be attacked by conventional or leisurely methods. They call for enterprise, enthusiasm and originality. Nor are they paper problems to be worked out at the desk or in the office, according to prescribed and stable formulae. They have not become fossilized in text books but offer scope for initiative and experiment. It is very far from the fact that the Colonies have everything to learn and nothing to teach. These again are human problems, needing to be tackled by human contact and with all the flexibility and variety of approach which the variety of human nature demands. Staff, therefore, staff of the right kind, with the right outlook and the right training, is the first and essential requirement.

20. But staffs have to be paid. Training costs money. Buildings and equipment cost money. While social welfare services can be relied upon to pay handsome imponderable future dividends in increased well-being and prosperity, they are immediately a cause of expenditure and not of revenue. Social welfare is a community effort and must be developed within the community, not imposed from outside. A self-conscious and self-respecting community will have the will and find the way to have the social services which it wants. Nevertheless, in the initial stages to undertake such services on any considerable scale, in addition to the existing Government activities, may well strain the immediate available resources of a Colony. These services are, however, eminently suitable for financial assistance under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, and applications for funds from this source are assured of a sympathetic reception.

21. The object of this memorandum has been to give concrete definition to the term "social welfare" in relation to the Colonies; to indicate in a very general way the need and the opportunities for development; and to open up lines of thought as to the immediate practical steps which can be taken to make progress and to eliminate delay so that, as far as may be possible, the means for dealing with social problems may keep pace with the growth of the problems themselves. It is hoped that this short and simple outline may be useful both in itself and as a general frame of reference to which it may be possible to relate a more detailed treatment, in subsequent memoranda, of particular aspects of the subject.



Auckland, New Zealand,

11th June, 1945.

Dear Mr Vaskess,

I am sending you herewith the first draft of my memorandum on G.&E.I.C. Post-war Reorganization and Policy, which you kindly agreed to have typed out in your office and returned for signature in due course. I have been through it once or twice and can think of no major changes. As your experience, however, is so very much greater than mine I would appreciate it if you would let me know should you see any obvious "howlers" or omissions. It represents, of course, my own personal views, as gradually built up during the last few years from the experience gained during my earlier service in the field, and I do not expect that anyone would agree to all the recommendations without modification or amendment.

I suppose that the memorandum (and its covering letter) should strictly speaking be marked "secret", as it contains several references to Sir Philip Mitchell's secret

H.H. Vaskess, Esquire, O.B.E.,

Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji Islands.

despatch of the 30th September, 1943. There is nothing secret about it, however, other than these references and I am hoping that it will be considered possible to regard it as an "open" memorandum. I mentioned the point to His Excellency before I left Suva and he directed me to refer it to you when sending the memorandum in.

I have not made an index as the memorandum seems to be conveniently divided into sections and paragraphs, which should make it easy to find anything required; furthermore, the effort is inordinately long as it is. But should it be felt that an index, or alternatively an "index to recommendations", would be an asset, I could prepare it in a day.

Rumour has it that Sir Cosmo Parkinson is at present in Fiji. Should this be so Mr Grantham might like him to glance at the memorandum before (or after) he visits the Colony - the fact that it had not yet been signed would not matter. There are, of course, a number of matters necessarily omitted but once the main policy, as outlined, has been decided on they will all fall into place without difficulty.

Honor is to christen the "Myrtle" tonight: Majors Holland, Wernham, and Wakefield will also be present and there will no doubt be much speechifying. What a frightful hour 8.40 is to launch any ship.

Yours sincerely,

Auckland, New Zealand,

June, 1945.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward a memorandum on Post-war Reorganization and Administrative Policy in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. Although, as stated in the context, the memorandum represents throughout my personal convictions regarding the policy to be adopted, I have been fortunate, particularly in the sections dealing with the ~~grad~~ gradual nativization of the Colony service and the devolution of powers to the local Island Councils, to be able to quote from recent pronouncements on Colony post-war administration prepared by Sir Philip Mitchell, K.C.M.G., M.C., whose four points of future administrative policy (quoted in paragraph 4) represent, in my opinion, a most felicitous summing-up of our aims. No apology is needed for quoting from such an acknowledged authority on Colonial administration, whose varied experience is so much greater than my own.

2. It will be noted that the memorandum deals for the most part with questions of administrative reconstruction and development. This is, I suggest, inevitable in a Colony

The Secretary,

Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji Islands.

containing virile and intelligent native races eager to take an increasing share in shaping their own destinies but whose potentialities for economic and commercial development are severely limited by a sterile soil and a remote geographical situation. It is difficult to see how the economic position of the indigenous population can be appreciably raised except through migration or employment in more favoured areas but, in the meantime, we can do much to promote their happiness and welfare and to fit them to face the complexities of civilized life in other parts of the Pacific by teaching them to stand on their own feet within the Colony.

3. I have deliberately refrained from attempting to ~~estimate~~ estimate the cost of administering the Colony along the lines suggested, as it would seem best to defer this until a later stage when His Excellency the High Commissioner has decided the extent to which the recommendations are considered worthy of adoption. Some assistance from the Imperial Government is, in any case, inevitable if the increased but none the less essential expenditure on communications, health, education and lands settlement is to be met. For many reasons however, it seems preferable that this should take the form of appropriations for specific purposes rather than a general subsidy towards the cost of administration. I suggest that application might be made through the Colonial Office for the

following grants: -

- (a) A free lump sum grant from the Colonial Development Fund to cover the cost of the proposed seven year programme of lands settlement and migration. No further subsidy should be necessary for this purpose and the cost of administering the newly settled islands would be more than adequately met from the increased taxation resulting from their settlement.
- (b) A similar grant from the Fund to cover the cost of constructing Colony headquarters, as in the case of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.
- (c) A repayable loan from the Fund (preferably without interest) to cover the cost of inaugurating the proposed Government Trades Scheme. This loan should, by increasing the Colony's <sup>total</sup> wealth and keeping it in the country, also prove of ultimate benefit to the revenue.
- (d) Annual grants to cover -
  - (1) the higher education of natives outside the Colony. This grant will, of course, result in decreased Colony expenditure on salaries, leave provision, pensions, etc. It should cease after ten years, when the normal revenue should be sufficient to cope with the small annual training programme necessary to provide for replacements.

(ii) the cost of maintaining communications. Adequate communications are vital to any effective administration and yet, owing to the unique geographical set-up of the Colony, the cost of providing and maintaining them is far beyond local ~~resources~~ resources. It may be that with the development of a commercial ~~seaplane~~ seaplane feeder service covering the Colony this cost may decrease, but one cannot yet rely on such a possibility.

4. It will be noted that the only permanent annual subsidy considered necessary is the grant to meet the cost of communications. If the Imperial Government is willing to provide this ~~sum~~ annual sum (probably not less than £30,000) it is felt that the Colony can, and should, provide the rest of ~~the~~ the recurrent expenditure required from revenue; including, for the next 15 years or so, the revenue obtained from the phosphate industry on Ocean Island.

5. It will be readily apparent that the European staff recommended represents the ~~of~~ irreducible minimum necessary for efficient administration and provides no surplus personnel for contingencies such as illness, leave, etc.: any such provision would, indeed, be clearly impossible in the case of departments so minute as those in ~~the~~ the Colony. The Fiji Government has, however, been generous in providing relief personnel in the past and there is every reason to anticipate that this generosity will continue in the future when the

majority of officers will, in any case, be obtained from them on short term secondments.

6. The most important section of the memorandum will, I think, be found to be that dealing with the suggested institution of a Council of Representatives. It is recognized that the more usual procedure would be to ~~advance~~ advance to the stage of a representative assembly by forming an Advisory Council in the first instance, followed later by a Legislative Council with gradually increasing non-official representation. The formation of an Advisory Council was, indeed, discussed in 1936 but abandoned owing to its manifest unsuitability for a purely native territory where it would have largely represented the sectional interests of a handful of European residents (missionaries and traders) rather than those of the indigenous population: had it been proceeded with it would, I suggest, have delayed rather than advanced the effective representation of the native races. Under the peculiar geographical conditions obtaining in the Colony I am of the strong opinion that the Government should commence with a fully elected assembly, with strictly limited and largely advisory powers, and gradually increase its duties and privileges as experience is gained.

7. On re-reading the memorandum I am naturally conscious of all that has been necessarily omitted for lack of space. Even in the present form, however, it errs on the side of length, despite the fact that several matters of subsidiary

importance have been deleted from the final draft. The ~~details~~ details of local administration can, in any case, be readily dealt with once the main lines of policy have been laid down.

8. While I think that it is clear from the wording of the memorandum itself, I should like to emphasize here that in no part of it is any reflection implied on either the past or present administration of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. Though certain recommendations may differ from those advanced before the war, both by brother officers and myself, this is only to be expected in view of ~~the~~ changed conditions. In particular, better transport facilities and increasing interchange of personnel with the Fiji Service enable a reduction in the number of European officers while deeper conceptions of our responsibilities towards subject races, due partly to the war, indicate the desirability of stepping-up the rate at which we are training natives to assume administrative functions.

I have, etc.,

Administrative Officer (Grade I),  
Western Pacific High Commission.

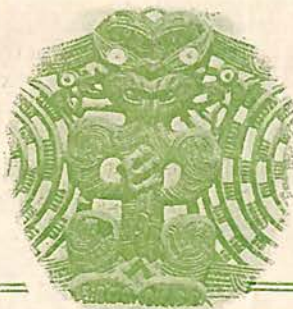


Notes for Typist.

- (1) Please re-arrange the sections in accordance with the "Arrangement of Sections" given at the beginning.
- (2) The page numbers in the "Arrangement of Sections" can only be filled in when the final typing is complete.
- (3) The public typist here has a passion for "-ise" rather than "-ize", whereas I prefer the latter form. I've changed most, where appropriate, but may have missed some.
- (4) Please indent the second and following lines of each enumeration: i.e., in (3) above the "m" of "most" should come under the "h" of "The". I couldn't persuade them to do it here.
- (5) May I have a copy of the final draft for myself, please?

THE

Polynesian  
Society INC.



C. R. H. TAYLOR, Secretary,  
Alexander Turnbull Library,  
Wellington, C.I.

A. G. BAGNALL, Treasurer,  
Alexander Turnbull Library,  
Wellington, C.I.

WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND

15 June 1945.

H. E. Maude, Esq., M.B.E.,  
19 Duders Avenue,  
AUCKLAND, N. 1.

Dear Mr. Maude,

In reply to your letter to Mr. Bagnall, from whom I have now taken over the secretaryship again, I wish to say that three copies of each of the relevant Journals have gone forward to you. I hope they have arrived in good order.

Now that I am back here, let me take this opportunity of thanking you for the courtesies that you and Mrs. Maude so kindly extended to me while I was in Suva.

I think you mentioned that you had a dictionary of Nauru that you were willing to exchange with me for the translation of Kramer's Samoa Inseln. If the offer still holds, I am agreeable and the volumes are here. Also I have taken a transcript of that journal of a voyage to the Gilberts, that you lent me. I have an extra copy for you, which you may be able to put to some advantageous use. Shall I post them to Suva, rather than encumber you with them in N. Z.?

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*C. R. H. Taylor*

Hon. Secretary.

C/o The Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji Islands.

21st June, 1945.

Dear Mr Tailby,

I should have written before in answer to your letter of the 27th March in which you mentioned that you had not received the Pitcairn Island stamps which I obtained during my last visit. My wife and I hunted everywhere but could not find them and so concluded that they must have been mislaid on the "Golden Hind", en route to you. However, on unpacking our suitcases on our arrival in Auckland on leave I discovered three envelopes slipped behind the torn lining of the pocket of one of them.

One of these envelopes is marked "Mr Tailby's stamps" and contains 3 of each variety up to and including the 1/-, unused; while the other two are postmarked envelopes with one set to 1/- on each. I presume, therefore, that these are indeed the missing sets. Unfortunately I tore up my list of orders when I had, as I imagined, filled each and so I am unable to check up whether yours is now complete or whether certain stamps are still missing. Would you kindly

let me know

W. Tailby, Esquire,  
Resident Commissioner,  
Cook Islands,  
Rarotonga.

let me know should any still be due and I will procure them through a friend on the island.

I am really terribly sorry to have made such a silly blunder and can only hope that all is now repaired.

You must have had a pretty poor spin while your Secretary was on leave: you really should have a Secretary to Government as your Number Two man. In both the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and the British Solomon Islands Protectorate the Secretary to Government is the pivot of the whole administration and I cannot think what the Residents would do without them. All routine matters are dealt with by them without reference, enabling the Residents to concentrate on the more important policy questions and travel round their territories.

We are really being braced up for a further tour in the tropics. I really think that Auckland is even colder than Rarotonga during my brief visit: we have record frosts every morning.

With kind regards and renewed apologies to Mrs Tailby and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

C/o The Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji Islands,  
21st June, 1945.

Dear Patterson,

I should have replied to your letter of the 5th December long before this but, as usual, I have been roaming around the Pacific, with disastrous results as far as my private correspondence is concerned.

I do most certainly believe that your scheme for returning to the Pacific with a view to writing saleable material on the islands and their people is a practicable commercial proposition, provided you have a flair for writing this type of semi-factual literature. Nordhoff and Hall have shown what can be done, and I would refer particularly to their first book, "Faery Lands of the South Seas", published by Harper and Brothers in 1921. Then there is Frisbie, with his "Book of Pukapuka" and "Mr Moonlight's Island", among others, and that lovely book by Clifford Gesshler called "The Road my Body Goes": all these authors are, by the way, Americans like yourself. The material for endless stories is still here, and it only awaits the craftsman.

I see that you propose fitting out a sea-going vessel and visiting the South Seas with a small crew. My view (a purely personal one, of course, as I cannot speak for any administration) is that you

Mr Harry E. Patterson,  
1426, Kelton Avenue,  
Los Angeles 24, California, U.S.A.

is that you would have no difficulty in visiting almost any island in the Pacific provided you entered each administrative unit at the prescribed Port of Entry with the necessary Clearance Papers from your last port, Bill of Health, etc., and provided your crew behaved themselves and caused no trouble with the natives.

I feel that the main Groups of islands, Tahiti, the Marquesas, Tuamotus (the principal ones), Cooks, Samoa, Fiji and Tonga, have been over-written already and that your best plan would be to visit the lesser known Gilberts, Ellice, and possibly Tokelaus, and the newly acquired Marshalls, Carolines and Pelews. Here you would have almost a virgin field, for little has been written on them during the present generation, at any rate. The little-known Austral Group would also be a fascinating area, but it has not been in the public eye like the first-named Groups. I should judge that there will long be a demand for factual and semi-factual stories of the islands which have been the scene of war operations against the Japanese.

A vessel (unless you can persuade someone to pay for its overhead expenses) is, of course, a terrible drain on any profits which you would make by writing and it would only enable you to produce comparatively brief accounts of the type found in the National Geographic Magazine. You could, of course, join in as a crew member with an existing organization such as Yankee Cruises, Inc., of Rochester, N.Y., who visit many of the islands. To produce the type of literature I have in mind, however, you would really need to combine, or follow up, your tour with actual resid-

ence in the islands. Only by living with the islanders would you be able to get the source material you need: people like Rasmussen of Penrhyn or Smith of Abemama (now in Fiji) could provide material for whole books if you could only get them to talk, but they will say nothing until they really know you personally. Then there are the older Missionaries, and the natives themselves.

Not long after we met at Nandi I paid a visit to my old haunts in the Phoenix and Line Groups and spent some time on Christmas Island. I then made a tour of the Cook Islands and caught a schooner at Rarotonga which took me down to Pitcairn and through the Tuamotus to Tahiti. We then visited several uninhabited islands off the beaten track and ended up, through Manihiki, Rakahanga, Pukapuka, Nassau and Suvarrow, at Aitutaki, where they sent a plane to fetch me back to Fiji. So I had quite a grand tour of the Eastern Groups, and enjoyed every minute of it. My wife and I are at present having a brief holiday in Auckland, but I am due back in Suva before long.

I hope that this letter serves to give you some material for thought, to go on with. Please let me know if there is any information you require at any time and I shall be only too glad to do my best to furnish it. Robert Louis Stevenson says somewhere that the "Laggard mails of the Pacific" never brought answers to his letters, but I promise you that they will in my case, though they may be delayed should I be away from headquarters.

Thank you very much for your kind offer to send me anything

I am short

I am short of down here. I will certainly remember it should I be in a fix at any time but at the moment, living as we are in New Zealand, we are well supplied with everything.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Maude.



24th June, 1944.

My dear Harry,

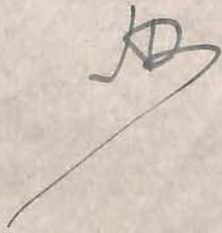
In case you might not otherwise see it let me call your attention to a highly interesting article on the Gilberts and Marshalls by Commander Morison, U.S.N.R., on pp. 32 to 36 of "Life" of the 22nd May last. You will particularly note the last paragraph in column 1 of page 34 and the top of the next column.

I have just been staying for 4 days with the Grimble in Grenada. He repeatedly spoke most warmly of you. I hope Honor is over her dengue and is really well again now and that both you and Alaric <sup>the</sup> Goth are in fighting trim.

I am flying home for consultations early next week and expect to be in England 'till some time in September. I can be got hold of there at the St. James's Club, 106 Piccadilly. Ronald Garvey is apparently not due to come out to these parts till the autumn, so I shall hope to see him and Pat in England.

Every good wish

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AD', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the signature.

C/o The Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji Islands,

23rd June, 1945.

Dear Sir Harry,

Thank you very much for your letter, written from the West Indies, which I received some months ago and should have acknowledged long before this. Unfortunately, Vaskess went on leave and all my private correspondence fell into the most hopeless state of arrears while I was endeavouring to cope with his work as well as my own. As you know, the work of the Secretary to the High Commission is no sinecure and requires long hours of overtime if the correspondence is to be kept up to date.

Yes, I had seen Commander Morrison's excellent article on the Gilberts in "Life". I am very glad to hear that Sir Arthur Grimble is well and remembers us not unkindly. We have, of course, the greatest admiration for him and all his work in the Gilbert and Ellice, and should like to meet him again.

Reactions to the new High Commissioner, Sir Alexander Grantham, are very favourable and we all hope that he will tackle the rehabilitation of the G. & E.I.C. and B.S.I.P. without delay. The Japanese left an aftermath of problems which are not easy to solve.

Sir Harry Luke, K.C.M.G.,

St James's Club,

106, Piccadilly, London.

We have not heard from Paddy Macdonald for a long time, though we have written to him. He is, I understand, due back in Fiji this month but as I am at present on leave in Auckland I have not heard whether he is actually coming or not. Local opinion in Suva considered that he would get a good position on transfer when he arrived in England on leave: I must say that I would not blame him if he did.

Life goes on rather monotonously at the High Commission although I have had some interesting travelling during the last year. Twice to Pitcairn; right through the Cook Islands from Tongareva to Rarotonga; Tahiti (at last) and Bora Bora; Caroline, Vostok and Flint. I wonder if I would now beat you on points in our island competition: I think not, as you have all the Melanesian islands to add to your score.

You may wonder, Sir, why I have never gone back to the G. & E.I.C., even for a short visit. I may say, in confidence, that it is our one great ambition to do so, but I feel that I could not fairly be asked to return now unless it is in a position where my experience can be of some real use. I have no desire to go back in a junior capacity where I should have to carry out policies in which I had had no voice and which past experience might indicate were contrary to the welfare of the Colony.

Colonel Fox-Strangways has never really liked the Gilberts, where he has had an exceptionally difficult spin, and is hoping that the Colonial Office will eventually relieve him of the job and enable him to return to Africa. I have applied officially

for the Resident Commissionership, if and when it should fall vacant, and my letter on the subject has gone forward to the Secretary of State. I feel sure that my application will have the backing of the High Commissioner but am still not optimistic that the Colonial Office will agree: I still remember your fight for Ronald Garvey as against Fox-Strangways himself! I discussed the matter with the Colonel when he last visited Suva and he considered that the position might well be given to some junior District Officer in Africa, who could be bribed into accepting it be the promise of a better position later on.

Anyway, I took the liberty of mentioning your name in my letter as one who might possibly be willing to give me a good mark or two if asked, and I should be most grateful for any assistance which you may be able and willing to afford me. As you know, I am not looking for personal promotion or power but both Honor and I have a genuine and deep affection for the people of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and I am absolutely confident that I have a contribution to make to their welfare and progress at the present time. I'm sure you'll agree that a senior and experienced officer whose heart and soul is in the job is preferable, as Resident Commissioner, to a (from a Pacific point of view) more inexperienced officer from elsewhere.

If I am unlucky in my hope of returning to my old Colony as Resident we must take it, I suppose, that the Colonial Office have no further use for us in the Pacific and will consequently apply for a transfer to some other part of the world: I think that this could not very well be refused under the circumstances,

but naturally we pray it will not be necessary. The High Commissioner kindly agreed to my submitting an exhaustive report on "Post-war Reorganization and Administrative Policy in the G. & E.I.C." which has now gone in and may help. On the other hand, if the Colonial Office do not like the views expressed, it may have the opposite effect.

We often wonder how you are these days. What an interesting life you must have in your new sphere, though we can't help wishing that you had stayed on in the Pacific. You might be amused to hear that Mr Alport Barker, of the "Fiji Times and Herald", was singing your praises the other day as being "one of the few Governors who was really interested in the Pacific".

Doris Nitingale and Nan Bennett are in Auckland at present, on their way to England. Their husbands are hoping to fly later and get transfers from the Pacific while on leave. Major Holland has retired from the Gilberts and is living in Auckland with his wife and daughter. He is, at heart, very sorry to leave and would be glad to return on a temporary basis.

With the exception of Wernham, there is no-one in the G. & E. Administrative Service whom you would remember. Apart from two young Cadets (Cowell and Major) all are temporary officers from New Zealand appointed for the duration of the war only. Some of them are good material, however, and may stay on.

Trevor Johnson is proving a very successful Agent and Consul in Tonga and is very happy there. He is most ably assisted by Brownlees, the Secretary to the Tonga Government, who should, however, be moving on soon as he has had a long spell. He is

most anxious not to return to the Solomon Islands, It is unfortunate that shortage of staff has so far prevented us from filling the senior posts in the Tonga Service with Colonial Civil Service officers and that the Government has perforce had to fall back on temporary New Zealand officers. I expect that the position will right itself in time.

Vaskess talks of retiring when he reaches 55 in a year or so, but whether he will actually take the plunge remains to be seen. I cannot, somehow, picture the High Commission without him. He has been very decent to me personally and mellows, I think, with the passing years, though he still works until late at night.

Honor and I expect to be able to take our long delayed leave to England in a year or two, if the work permits, and we do hope that we shall be fortunate enough to find you at home and have a long talk about the Pacific. My father died in 1943 but my mother is still living in Hants and we look forward to spending much of our leave with her.

You will be glad to hear that my health has been excellent since Honor came back to Fiji and I now feel fighting fit and capable of returning to the Colony for as long as I can be of service.

Honor and I both send our affectionate good wishes and hope that you are keeping in the very best of health,

Yours very sincerely,

C/o The Western Pacific High Commission

Suva, Fiji Islands,

25th June, 1945.

Dear Miss Pateman,

I know I should have returned Itaia's letter long ago, but as you know my correspondence got hopelessly into arrears when Mr Vaskess went on leave and I am only just commencing to catch up again. I've written 32 letters in 2 weeks so am feeling a bit brighter.

I imagine the whole business mentioned in Itaia's letter has long passed into the limbo of the past and forgotten: in any case it would be most unlikely to effect your relationship with the nuns, who have few contacts with the outside world.

Its really very cold in Auckland but we have a warm flat in Devonport and are quite comfortable - we're lucky to get a flat at all these days, as others have been waiting for months. Major Wernham is in at odd times; also Major Holland and several of the temporary officers appointed to the Gilberts, so we do not feel altogether estranged from the islands.

Honor says to tell you that her tapa bag has just arrived and she is delighted with it: it certainly is a marvellous idea, and well executed. She also wants me to thank you for your letter and is going to write.

How we envy you all up at Beru. I'd give anything in the world almost to be back again in the Gilberts, so long as it was not some junior job at Colony headquarters.

The Pages are down here now, en route to England, but as Honor has 'flu and Alaric chicken-pox (not badly) we have not seen them. They expect to get on sometime in July, I believe.

Please give our very best wishes to the Eastmans and say that we are still hoping against hope that one day we shall be allowed back in a position where we can do something to help the Colony and its peoples.

Hoping all goes well at Rongorongo,

Yours sincerely,



C\_O\_P\_Y.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS  
COLONY.

No. PF/G/65.

Tarawa Island,  
26th June, 1945.

Dear Brown,

I have been sent a copy of your letter of the 14th of April, addressed to Maude, in which you ask about the possibility of being granted an entertainment allowance. Had this been an official request you would I know have put the matter up to me in the usual way; but as you may wish for an indication of the position (and as I have been sent the letter, albeit without comment, presumably with the intention that I should deal with the matter) I am taking the liberty of giving you a reply now.

Frankly, I do not think that your post and duties necessitate an entertainment allowance. In the Colonial service, every officer is expected to do a certain amount of entertaining, and salaries are calculated accordingly. You will remember, moreover, that your salary was to be £500 a year 'all in'; and that afterwards, when it was represented that you would be an officer of the British forces on an atoll occupied by the Allies, you were granted the local allowance of £50 a year to assist you to live in a fitting manner. On a total salary of £550, you are better off than the District Officer at Fanning Island or the Assistant District Officer at Butaritari, who get only £420; and although the amount of entertaining which they find that they have to do is probably as great as in your own case, they get no entertainment allowance. I am afraid that I cannot recommend one in your case.

As regards the supply of liquor, your requirements will have to be met (as far as possible) from Colony allocations. I suggest that you send in to my office, as soon as you can, your estimated requirements for the next six months. We will then ask Keegan to do what he can to get some up to you. We are rationed for liquor; but you are certainly entitled to your share of whatever may be available.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Maude, for his information.

With best wishes,  
Yours sincerely,

(Signed) V. Fox-Strangways.

Captain R.O. Brown,  
Christmas Island.

Auckland, New Zealand,

30<sup>th</sup> June, 1945.

Sir,

27 .6.45.

I have the honour to forward a memorandum on Post-war Reorganization and Administrative Policy in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. Although, as stated in the context, the memorandum represents throughout my personal convictions regarding the policy to be adopted, I have been fortunate, particularly in the sections dealing with the gradual nativization of the Colony service and the devolution of powers to the local Island Councils, to be able to quote from recent pronouncements on Colony post-war administration prepared by Sir Philip Mitchell, K.C.M.G., M.C., whose four points of future administrative policy (quoted in paragraph 4) represent, in my opinion, a most felicitous summing-up of our aims. No apology is needed for quoting from such an acknowledged authority on Colonial administration, whose varied experience is so much greater than my own.

2. It will be noted that the memorandum deals for the most part with questions of administrative reconstruction and development. This is, I suggest, inevitable in a Colony containing virile and intelligent native races eager to take an increasing share in shaping their own destinies but whose potentialities for economic and commercial development are severely limited by a sterile soil and a remote geographical situation. It is difficult to see how the economic position of the indigenous population can be appreciably raised except through migration or employment in more favoured areas but, in the meantime, we can do much to promote their happiness and welfare and to fit them to face the complexities of civilized life in other parts of the Pacific by teaching them to stand on their own feet within the Colony.

3. I have deliberately refrained from attempting to estimate the cost of administering the Colony along the

lines suggested, as it would seem best to defer this until a later stage when His Excellency the High Commissioner has decided the extent to which the recommendations are considered worthy of adoption. Some assistance from the Imperial Government is, in any case, inevitable if the increased but none the less essential expenditure on communications, health, education and lands settlement is to be met. For many reasons, however, it seems preferable that this should take the form of appropriations for specific purposes rather than a general subsidy towards the cost of administration. I suggest that application might be made through the Colonial Office for the following grants. -

- (a) A free lump sum grant from the Colonial Development Fund to cover the cost of the proposed seven year programme of lands settlement and migration. No further subsidy should be necessary for this purpose and the cost of administering the newly settled islands would be more than adequately met from the increased taxation resulting from their settlement.
- (b) A repayable loan from the Fund (preferably without interest) to cover the cost of inaugurating the proposed Government Trades Scheme. This loan should also, by increasing the Colony's total wealth and keeping it in the country, prove of ultimate benefit to the revenue.
- (c) A grant to cover the cost of constructing Colony headquarters, as in the case of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.
- (d) Annual grants to cover -
  - (i) the higher education of natives outside the Colony. This grant will, of course, result ultimately in decreased Colony expenditure on salaries, leave provision, pensions, etc. It should cease after ten years, when the normal

normal revenue should be sufficient to cope with the small annual training programme necessary to provide for replacements.

- (ii) The cost of maintaining communications. Adequate communications are vital to any effective administration and yet, owing to the unique geographical set-up of the Colony, the cost of providing and maintaining them is far beyond local resources. It may be that with the development of a commercial seaplane feeder service covering the Colony this cost may decrease, but one cannot yet rely on such a possibility.

4. It will be noted that the only permanent annual subsidy considered necessary is the grant to meet the cost of communications. If the Imperial Government is willing to provide this annual sum (probably not less than £30,000) it is felt that the Colony can, and should, provide the rest of the recurrent expenditure required from revenue; including, for the next 15 years or so, the revenue obtained from the phosphate industry on Ocean Island.

5. It will be readily apparent that the European staff recommended represents the irreducible minimum necessary for efficient administration and provides no surplus personnel for contingencies such as illness, leave, etc.: any such provision would, indeed, be clearly impossible in the case of departments so minute as those in the Colony. The Fiji Government has, however, been generous in providing relief personnel in the past and there is every reason to anticipate that this generosity will continue in the future when the majority of officers will, in any case, be obtained from them on short term secondments.

6. The most important section of the memorandum will, I think, be found to be that dealing with the

suggested

suggested institution of a Council of Representatives. It is recognized that the more usual procedure would be to advance to the stage of a representative assembly by forming an Advisory Council in the first instance, followed later by a Legislative Council with gradually increasing non-official representation. The formation of an Advisory Council was, indeed, discussed in 193~~6~~<sup>5</sup> but abandoned owing to its manifest unsuitability for a purely native territory where it would have largely represented the sectional interests of a handful of European residents (missionaries and traders) rather than those of the indigenous population; had it been proceeded with it would, I suggest, have delayed rather than advanced the effective representation of the native races. Under the peculiar conditions obtaining in the Colony I am of the strong opinion that the Government should commence with a fully elected assembly, with strictly limited and largely advisory powers, and gradually increase its duties and privileges as experience is gained.

7. On re-reading the memorandum I am naturally conscious of all that has been necessarily omitted for lack of space. Even in the present form, however, it errs on the side of length, despite the fact that several matters of subsidiary importance have been deleted from the final draft. The details of local administration can, in any case, be readily dealt with once the main lines of policy have been laid down.

8. While I think that it is clear from the wording of the memorandum itself, I should like to emphasize here that in no part of it is any reflection implied on either the past or present administration of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. Though certain recommendations may differ from those advanced before the war, both by brother officers and myself, this is only to be expected in view of changed conditions.

conditions. In particular, better transport facilities and increasing interchange of personnel with the Fiji Service will enable a reduction in the number of European officers while deeper conceptions of our responsibilities towards subject races, due partly to the war, indicate the desirability of stepping-up the rate at which we are training natives to assume administrative functions.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,

*J.R. Maude*

Administrative Officer (Grade I.),  
Western Pacific High Commission.



Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji,

3rd July, 1945.

My dear Maude,

Your letter of 11th June, covering your Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony Post-War Reorganization Memorandum, safely received from Wernham on the 24th June. It has now been typed and I am sending you original and copies, both of the covering letter and the Memorandum, as noted in the margin, together with the original drafts of those two documents.

Original & 1 copy.

Original & 2 copies.

2. I have not had time more than to glance through the Memorandum, as I have been frightfully busy, but, from the hurried glance through, it looks O.K. to me. Comment will have to wait until I can go through it at leisure.

3. H.E. has not yet seen the Memorandum, but I have spoken to him and suggested that it should be printed. He agreed and instructed me to telegraph to Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company, Limited, Auckland, seeking a price for printing in New Zealand. This I am doing today - copy of telegram attached. The wordage is approximately 21,000. I am asking them to get into touch with you about the printing. The Government Printer here is snowed under with Fiji work and cannot undertake it.

3.7.45.

4. The second copy of the Memorandum which I am sending to you is for the Printer - if printing is undertaken in New Zealand. It seems advisable to treat the Memorandum as Confidential, at any rate for the present, so the prints should be so marked. 100 prints should meet our requirements.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Maude, Esquire, M.B.E.,  
19 Dunders Avenue,  
Devenport,  
Auckland,  
New Zealand.

DECODE.

COPY

# TELEGRAM.

[CODE.....]

87X45-4 rms.

From: Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission.

To: Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company, Limited, Auckland, N.Z.

No.....

(Date)

3rd July,

1945

Grateful if you will obtain quotations for printing in pamphlet form memorandum of approximately 21,000 words written by Maude, now on leave in Auckland. Particulars of printing required: quarto trimmed size 7 inches wide by 8 inches deep; type 10 point solid 36 ems pica 48 lines per page; saddle stitched no cover.

2. Please get into touch with Maude who will have copy of memorandum shortly.

Secretary, W.P.H.C.



# BURNS, PHILP & COMPANY LTD.

P.O. BOX 234  
AUCKLAND, N.Z.

HEAD OFFICE: SYDNEY, N.S.W.  
BRANCHES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA  
PACIFIC ISLANDS, AND AT  
LONDON

RHK:BWT

NEW ZEALAND BRANCHES:  
WELLINGTON, AUCKLAND  
NELSON AND  
PALMERSTON NORTH

6th July, 1945.

Mr. H. E. Maude,  
19 Duders Avenue,  
DEVONPORT. N.1.

Dear Sir,

Attached you will please find translation of message received yesterday from the Secretary to the Western Pacific High Commission, Suva, and we would be pleased to see you in due course in this connection.

If there is no hurry, I would like the matter held over for a day or two because Mr. Clark of Clark & Matheson Ltd. who does our printing, and is the man I would like to hand the matter over to for quotations, is away at the moment and is not expected back for a few days.

Yours faithfully,  
BURNS, PHILP & COMPANY LTD.

19, Duders Avenue,

Devonport, Auckland, N.I.,

29th July, 1945.

Dear Mr Vaskess,

I am sending herewith an original of the G.&E.I.C. Reorganization Memorandum, in case you are in need of it for any purpose. As you already have a copy or two in Suva I have been keeping the original for proof-reading purposes and intended to bring it back with me, but Burns, Philp have just telegraphed me to say that it may be printed in Suva after all so I am returning it post haste.

The printing firms here (or rather one of them, Clark and Matheson) took an infernal time quoting for printing the memorandum and in the end I had to go and fix it up myself or one would have got nowhere. Burns, Philp would not get alternative quotes, but went straight to a firm who obviously didn't particularly want the job, as they did nothing about it for a fortnight despite our urges. Of course, the printers here are also snowed under and very under-staffed.

I shall be glad to be back in Suva. I've finished nearly 100,000 words on the Central Pacific this leave - two

H.H. Vaskess, Esquire, O.B.E.,

Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji Islands.

monographs and the memorandum - but can always work better in the heat. We leave for the Esplanade Hotel tomorrow to await the "Matua's" sailing.

I had dinner with Sir Cosmo Parkinson on his way through to Wellington - he leaves New Zealand today for Australia.

Yours sincerely,

*J.R. Maude.*

19, Duders Avenue,

Devonport, Auckland, N.I.

3rd July, 1945.

Dear Mr Vaskess,

I enclose a copy of a newspaper cutting from the London "Sunday Express", sent to me from England, regarding the sum of £12,000 (or thereabouts) which should soon become payable to the half-caste son of the late T.C.T. Potts or his descendants. The original cutting has been forwarded to Colonel Fox-Strangways, but I thought that you might like to file a copy in case the matter crops up later.

Potts was Assistant Resident Commissioner in Telfer Cambell's time and lived partly on Tarawa and partly on Ocean Island. He was moderately eccentric and one hears many tales of his antics, but I never knew that he had a son although, no doubt, he lived with some local girl for a time (like everyone else in those days).

Yours sincerely,

H.H. Vaskess, Esquire, O.B.E.,

Secretary to the Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji Islands.

"Unknown" son of Tarawa.

Revealed by Will.

Forty-five years ago Mr Thomas Charles Twynham Potts came back from the South Seas to live a retired bachelor life at Grove Mansions, Fulham Park Gardens, S.W. Last December, Mr Potts died at the age of 89.

He left a will, published yesterday, in which he named his son "known as Charlie Boti, last heard of in the island of Tarawa in the South Seas".

General Potts, a brother, said: "I didn't know my brother was married, or that he had a son. Our lawyers will, of course, try to trace this Charlie Boti, although I don't suppose they can do anything until after the war."

Left £12,710.

"We never knew that he had a son", Mrs Wynch, a cousin and a beneficiary told the Sunday Express yesterday. "My cousin never mentioned him".

Mr Potts left £12,710, and after bequeathing certain shares to his cousin, Mrs Mary B. Eynch, of Birnan Ebford, Topsham, Devon, he left the remainder of his stocks and shares upon trust for his brother, Brig.-General Frederick Potts, of Imperial Hotel, Banrstable, for life, and then upon trust for his son, Charlie Boti.

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C/o The Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji Islands.

3rd July, 1945.

Dear Colonel Fox-Strangways,

I attach a newspaper cutting from the London "Daily Express", sent to me from England, about the tidy little sum of £12,000, or thereabouts, which should ere long be payable to the half-caste son of the late T.C.T. Potts, last heard of on Tarawa Island. Old Potts was Assistant Resident Commissioner in Telfer Cambell's time and lived partly on Tarawa and partly on Ocean Island: he was moderately eccentric and one hears many tales of his antics. Among other things he had a bee in his bonnet about the way in which the British Phosphate Commissioners (then the Pacific Phosphate Company) treated the Banabans, and he kept up a constant bombardment on the subject, both in Parliament and the newspapers, until comparatively recently.

I knew that Potts lived with a native girl (as did everyone until recently) but don't remember ever hearing of his son. However, Mautake would know, and if he's dead no doubt he has descendants who can reap the harvest. General Potts, who

Colonel V. Fox-Strangways,

Resident Commissioner,

Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

is presumably no chicken, cannot live for long, I imagine.

Talking of chickens, I've got chicken pox at the moment!

Yours sincerely,







# COOK ISLANDS MISSION

of Seventh-day Adventists

P. O. Box 31,  
Rarotonga,

Mr H. E. Maunde  
Western Pacific High Commissioner  
Suva, Fiji,

Dear Mr Maunde,

Greetings from the fair  
isle of Rarotonga! Since leaving Pitcairn  
last November we have travelled as follows  
- Rarotonga, New Zealand, Sydney, Perth  
Hobart, Sydney, New Zealand and I  
arrived here on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month to  
find your letter awaiting me. Mr Watson  
& the children hope to be here early  
next month - they were delayed by the  
advent of chickenpox just before sailing  
time so I came on ahead.

We shall much enjoy  
to work here I am sure - I will be  
principal of the Training School for our  
native workers for this group & at present  
we are in the middle of a building  
programme which will keep us busy till  
the new school year early next year.

I regret the delay in the purchase of materials for the new Pitcairn school & hope you have had a reply from the magistrate before my letter reaches you, as there are some questions on the questionnaire I cannot answer. However I shall do my best to answer what I can in the hope it will be of some practical assistance.

Please give Mr. Maunde our kind regards - while we have not met personally - we have heard much of her from various folk & feel we should enjoy her personal company with all the best wishes for the success of your work for the peoples of the Pacific.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Hutcheon

P.S. I am sending copies of your letter & the questionnaire to the magistrate on Pitcairn, Mr. J. Ward the school teacher who expects to leave New Zealand in October for Pitcairn & to the Aust. Union Cont. of S.D.A.s in Australia.

I hope all the well wishes bear fruit as you desire.

19, Duders Avenue,  
Devonport, Auckland, N.1,  
21st July, 1945.

C.R .H. Taylor, Esquire,  
Alexander Turnbull Library,  
Bowen Street, Wellington, C.1.

Dear Mr Taylor,

I enclose a copy of a lecture I gave recently on the Phoenix Islands and their Colonization. Would you be so kind as to glance through it and let me know whether it is suitable for publication in the Journal of the Polynesian Society? It would need, I think, slight changes in its format to turn it from a lecture into an article and also, for the sake of completeness, the following additions:-

- (1) an explanation as to why the Ellice Islands did not, in the end, form part of the scheme;
- (2) a note regarding the establishment of the Anglo-American Condominium on Canton and Enderbury and the reasons which led to the divorce of those islands from the settlement;
- (3) a brief note about the refraction of heat on Canton leading to the splitting of cloud formations and that, as a consequence, settlement would have, in any case, been a gamble until we had succeeded in establishing a green coverage over the island;
- (4) a selection of photographs illustrating the settlement (I understand that the Society pays for a certain number and the rest are on the author?);
- (5) certain statistical tables showing the stages of settlement, etc.; and
- (6) a map of the Phoenix Group, and possibly a further one showing its relation to the Southern Gilbert Islands homelands.

There has been a surprising interest taken in this unique modern experiment in race migration and this is the only account hitherto penned (or likely to be). I believe, therefore, that if you were willing to publish it as a separate reprint (like Nordhoff's "Off-shore fishing of the Society Islands") you would sell them without difficulty, and that among people who do not normally buy the publications of the Polynesian Society (thus acting as an advertisement). I can guarantee the sale of at least 100 copies among my own contacts.

Please don't blame me for the frightful typing of the mss. The public typist here charges 1/- a page and then produces an effort with never less than 7 mistakes to the page. Its partly my writing, of course.

Don't hesitate to say if the article (which I admit breaks new ground) is not considered suitable. I have an abiding affection for the Journal and would prefer anything I produced to appear there but in this case I anticipate finding no very great difficulty in getting it published somewhere or other. I would need, in any case, to get it passed by the Government and would require about 100 separates (or reprints, as suggested above) for which I would pay cash down.

By the way, is there any objection to my endeavouring to increase the membership of the Polynesian Society in the islands during the course of my wanderings (if I get some

spare time): this could be done, I suggest, by insertions, notes or advertisements in the local papers, and circulars or letters to those whom I consider would be likely to be interested. There would, of course, be no expense to the Society in any event.

The reason I make this suggestion is because the Society's membership in the South Seas is, I think, very much below what it should be. I have met people in all parts of Polynesia who are interested in the objects for which the Society stands yet who have never so much as heard of its existence. In 1931 (with the enthusiasm of youth) I made a small canvass in the Gilbert Islands and, as a result, sent in the names of 5 or 6 new members in a few months, but since then I have refrained from similar attempts; largely because the Society is naturally a rather conservative body and might well resent unauthorized attempts to increase its membership. A small notice in the "Pacific Islands Monthly", like that of the Polynesian Club, should, I think, have excellent results.

One final request. Might I please have (at my expense) two typewritten copies of:-

Trapp, Phyllis Burney. "Some Account of the Writings of Louis Becke: being a thesis presented for the Jacob Joseph Scholarship, 1931";

that is, provided that there is no rule against it. The second copy is required for the Lecturer on Polynesian Literature in the University of Hawaii, who already has another thesis on the same author. There is absolutely no hurry for the work - six

months time would do fine. Someone told me that Miss Trapp has married and lives in Wellington: perhaps she might have a spare copy and would be willing to part with it, thus saving the necessity for typing - I could have the second copy done in Suva.

How expensive this binding is getting. Whitcombe and Tombs want £37 for binding and titling 31 pamphlets!

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Maude.

P.S. May I have the colonization article back again in due course as I have to read it again to another Society?

Binding and Titling.

- (1) No. of items - 31.
- (2) In all cases where the item consists of a few pages only, a number of blank pages should be inserted after it, as well as the usual two or three before.
- (3) The lettering of the titles is shown on the yellow pages attached.
- (4) In two cases printed (or typewritten) title pages are required in addition.

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C/o The Western Pacific High Commission

Suva, Fiji Islands,

23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1945

The Editor,  
The National Geographic Magazine,  
Sixteenth and M Streets Northwest,  
Washington, D.C. U.S.A

Dear Sir,

Some months ago, at a party given by the Ambassador  
the conversation turned on the merits of an  
vue-Coural in Wellington, ~~a reference was made to an article by Sir Arthur  
Gaultle~~ entitled "Van Fomds its way to Gulliat Islands", which appeared in  
the National Geographic Magazine for January, 1943, ~~and an old resident  
in the South Seas my opinion was asked as to the correctness of the facts  
stated by Sir Arthur Gaultle~~ On being asked for an opinion I stated that  
while the article was both accurate and scholarly (as one would expect from Sir  
Arthur Gaultle), the illustrations which accompanied it were, in the opinion of those  
conversant with the islands, not up to the ~~same~~ high standard of accuracy which  
one has learnt to expect in the Society's publications.

~~An Army officer who was present told me that he was a  
former member of your staff and~~ An ex-member of your staff, who  
happened to be present, assured me that the utmost efforts were made by  
the ~~Society~~ <sup>Society</sup> editorial board to ensure absolute accuracy in both as regards  
the text and illustrations of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> articles, ~~and that you would welcome~~ <sup>and that you would welcome</sup>  
~~any criticisms and, if necessary, see released and, if found to be justified,~~  
acted upon. At his request, I am therefore, <sup>I am</sup> taking the liberty of forwarding

the following comments on the <sup>photographs which illustrate</sup> ~~illustrations~~ ~~accompany~~ Sir Arthur's article, ~~related to "the takes" from photographs by Dr Raymond A. Diller.~~

These illustrations are stated to be "from photographs by Dr Raymond A. Diller" and number 19 (excluding a ref). Only 17, however, <sup>relate to</sup> ~~relate to~~ ~~be taken~~ in the Gilbert Islands. Of these I would comment ~~on or less~~ on ~~or less~~ than 8, referring to them by their page numbers

- (1) Page 72. Is this not the same illustration contained on page 568 of the *Natural Geographic Magazine* for December, 1921, since it is stated to represent "a 'Nauru' Tofea" and to have been taken by ~~Dr~~ Raymond Decker Rhese? The Nauruans are, of course, racially quite distinct from the inhabitants of the Gilbert Islands.
- (2) Page 77. This ~~house~~ would appear to be a Samoan house on a typical raised platform. <sup>Among other points,</sup> ~~The~~ ends are rounded, whereas Gilbertese houses ~~are~~ have straight ends.
- (3) Page 80. This photograph would ~~seem~~, though I may be mistaken, <sup>to have been taken</sup> at Houma in Toga. It ~~is~~ would appear to be the shore line of a high "makatea" island.
- (4) Page 82. This canoe would not appear to be a Gilbertese canoe; but ~~rather~~ possibly from Tahiti: note the outrigger attachment and the shape of the stern. The netting ~~is~~ would seem to be wearing a Polynesian make, <sup>and not</sup> ~~rather~~ a Gilbertese lava-lava, <sup>while</sup> ~~whereas~~ the contents of the canoe suggest that ~~it~~ the photo is from the *Southwestern* or possibly *Southwestern* looks?
- (5) Page 83. I have only a minor criticism here, in as much as ~~two~~ the stringing of two out of the three masts would appear to indicate that they are of the modern type made for the tourist trade.

(6) Page 84 (bottom). Judging from the ~~blue line~~ <sup>blue line</sup> this photo would ~~appear~~ <sup>seem</sup> to have been taken on Ocean Island. I have seen ~~one~~ a raised coral beach of this character ~~in~~ in the Gullbats, which are essentially "low" islands.

(7) Page 88. This photo would seem to be either from Tonga or Samoa, to judge by the vegetation and the low "volcanic" worn by the men. The Gullbater lava-lava is a short kilt-like garment.

(8) Page 89. To judge by the ~~blue line~~ <sup>island in the background</sup>, this photo was taken in Nukunepitan lagoon in the Ellice Islands. The canoes appear to be the typical dug-out canoes of the Ellice (as against the plank-built Gullbater canoes) and the "woven mat seats" are floor and sleeping mats brought out for sale to the passengers on the schooner.

I have <sup>also</sup> heard the officer expressed that the photo on page 78 ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> probably taken on Ocean Island, ~~rather than~~ <sup>rather than</sup> would appear, from the hibiscus and the coral beach on which the girl is seated, to have been taken on Ocean Island. ~~There says,~~ <sup>There says,</sup> however, the hibiscus growing on one of the Gullbat Islands, though in 10 years residence ~~that I cannot recollect seeing~~ <sup>there are, however, a few hibiscus growing on one or two of the Gullbat Islands, though they are exceedingly rare</sup> ~~that I cannot recollect seeing~~ <sup>that I can certainly not suggest, that there</sup>

has been any intentional misleading in connection with these photographs, either on the part of Dr. Diller or your staff. It would, <sup>however,</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> seen possible, ~~if~~ <sup>if</sup> by contacts and suggestions as set out above are found to be ~~is~~ <sup>be</sup> substantially correct, that some of the prints in ~~what~~ <sup>the Society's</sup> ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> be an erroneous collection have got wrongly

might should due to so, my letter may serve to prevent any  
future errors of a similar character. I have lived on sea  
70 islands in the Central and Eastern Pacific during the last 15 years  
and I know how my own collection of photographs (of which several  
hundred are from the Gallit's) has a regrettable tendency to get ~~mis-~~  
~~mis-~~sorted

Yours ~~ever~~ faithfully,

H. E. Hensle

Bairiki  
Parawa

23 - 7 - 45.

Dear Mr Maude,

I am writing this letter to you in an endeavour to discover whether I am stay here in the Gilberts.

As you are aware I have been transferred from Treasury to Resident-Commissioner's office as Chief Clerk and I am liking the position very much however I hear, indirectly, that you contemplate bringing McKee to do that work and also a telegram that is rather confusing has arrived stating Miss J. Beddowes will be coming to do McEwen's work in the Treasury.

I realize you have more than enough worries without any small ones such as these but I know the Treasury will conform that my work was more than satisfactory and they rather hoped I would remain instead of English also in this present position seems to be making a tolerable list of things.

When I resigned my previous job to join the Government I was given to understand

that there was every chance of the peace being made permanent otherwise I would not have considered coming all this way just for a few months casual employment.

The position of Chief Clerk here is a particularly interesting one and there is so much to do, some must wait for your approval but a lot I have been able to get on with myself.

Lawell has gone to Butaritari for a month on hands compensation and while he is away I have taken over "Tero" which, with the help of his staff and an interpreter is managed to be produced. We have a Ellice edition now translated by Pacifica and Lawell is selling the paper for 2 a copy, using the revenue to defray odd expenses such as paying the Ellice Island translation. I will continue to do "Tero" while Lawell is in the Ellice but that will not be for some months as there does seem to be an epidemic of measles there just now.

You have probably gathered that I am interested in this place and that, quite frankly, I do not want to return to Fiji. These people have taken some time to get to know but with the help of Lawell & old Mantake I have become interested now to the point where my work has ceased just to a position from 5 to 4, but an all things

job.

At this moment I am building the eight houses for European staff. Te ba is hard to procure and under the English's already here, Mrs Walcot due in about 6 weeks and the new cadets coming there is a definite time limit. Pedro's staff is untrained and he complains hourly but in spite of it one house is almost completed & two others are in a state of construction.

Just now we have the two submarines in and Monday Biriki played them cricket winning hands down. An ex medical student, Toamanang, just returned from Fiji made 109 and was still batting when we declared for 6 for 190. I am afraid the submarine crews have had little time to practice these last few years and they feel like ninetens to our bowlers.

Mrs Protheroe, with the help of Mrs English & Mrs Eastman, was extremely kind and turned out a delicious tea for us all. Afterwards the officers entertained the team to dinner and then Kaichali & Pedro organized a batere in the manaba.

We are playing the submarines again this afternoon and Mr Roberts has watered down the strength of our team considerably - all the better players remaining amongst the spectators so I may dash out and help the other side by making a duck for ours.

The tennis court is now nearly completion and it is a great pity that we could not have had it finished in time but I may have to take any labour I have off and put them in to help hurry on these new houses, however when you return see, you should see a very fine court in playing condition.

A small item of interest, Mrs Brundell has had a Baby Grand Piano sent up from Fiji and when Reider had to go up to Butantani to escort in the sub. Bagnall thought it would be an excellent idea to send her the piano. Apparently Mrs Brundell is a rather fine pianist and so the huge thing was put onto the Margaret but two hours after she sailed Bagnall found another parcel addressed Brundell and on opening it found the confounded legs. We have concluded poor Mrs Brundell is either playing the piano flat on her stomach or else this particularly elegant piece of furniture is being supported on four 4" radius boxes. I might add too, there has been an ominous silence from Butantani.

This letter started in a rather discordant note but I hope you have found the latter half of some interest.

It is hoped you will be able to give the whole epistle a little thought as it does mean a great deal to me see. Once again I must apologize for worrying you about the whole affair.



but you are the only one who can  
- decide what is to be done.

Please give my regards to  
Mrs Maude and to Alric and I hope  
Sir, it will not be long before you  
all return here.

Yours sincerely,

Brian McEwen

No. F. 3/1/10.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS  
COLONY.

Tarawa Island.  
27th July, 1945.  
Recd: 2. 8. 45.

My dear Maude,

I am sending down to you, for your information, a recent effort of Cowell's, based on a stay of 2½ months on Tabiteuea. You will not agree with all of it but I think you will be interested.

2. Will you please let me have the report (our file 3/1/10) back when you have read it?

3. I am afraid that there is no doubt that, generally speaking, the Native Governments are in a bad way, and are governments only in name. To get them into any sort of shape is going to be a Herculean task. We are making a start now from the bottom: i.e. the financial possibilities.

When are you going to come up and see us?

Yours sincerely  
J. D. Hawthorne.

H.E. Maude, Esq., M.B.E.,  
Suva.

Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji.

7th September, 1945.

Confidential.

Dear Colonel Fox-Strangways,

Thank you very much indeed for letting me read through Cowell's lengthy epistle on Tabiteuea. As you say, there are portions of it with which I would find it difficult to agree but the whole report is such a praiseworthy effort that criticism is stifled. I only hope that Cowell's routine administrative work is on the scale of his written efforts and that he's given Tabiteuea a real shake up.

The one thing that is clear from the whole document is, again as you say, the bad state of the Native Governments, or at any rate some of them, as Hill's report on his last Ellice tour was more reassuring. I imagine that it will take a year or two of hard work to get the N.Gs. back to their pre-war state and that no forward movement (even the introduction of the 1940 Ordinance?) should be attempted until they are in good shape and order again. It will certainly be a tough fight and one which will depend so much on your having a sufficient staff of the right men.

My local knowledge of the Colony is by now so hopelessly out of date that I hesitate to criticize any portion of Cowell's report. The following brief notes are, however, offered for what they are worth:-

- (1) Lands Code. This would need long and careful consideration on the spot by the Lands Commissioner (either myself or whoever is finally appointed). A snap judgement based on insufficient knowledge would likely lead to confusion worse confounded; for example, the customary code adopted by Cowell (taken from "Hints and Instructions") does not apply outside the Northern Gilberts and would only confuse if applied to Tabiteuea. A single code would scarcely be possible for the Gilberts, although three (with their local variations) might do. Cowell suggests reference to Native Governments regarding a lands code; but, as a general rule, they know relatively little about land customs.
- (2) Adoption (and draft Adoption laws). Here again it would appear to be a matter of native custom for the Lands Commission. The question is exceedingly intricate, as customs vary from island to island.

May I state here my substantial agreement with your recent savingram on the Lands Commission. District Officers cannot do Lands work unless your active staff of D.Os. is not less than say 13, and in that case I suggest it is better to send some for specialized and intensive lands work and let

the

Colonel V. Fox-Strangways,  
Resident Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

the rest get on with Administrative work proper - hence the paragraphs in my reorganization memorandum suggesting one permanent C.L.C. and form temporary LCs.

As you know, I have no control over my assignments but I see no reason from a health point of view why I should not be able to spend a year training the new C.L.C., when appointed. But he should, I suggest, be selected as soon as possible; in the first place as an L.C. and then promoted when he really knows his job and his assistants have arrived? I honestly do not believe that I would stand much chance of surviving the normal life of an L.C. again - living in native huts, without proper food or medical attention, under conditions of isolation far greater than those of any D.O. - but a year or two of codifying, recording customary laws and training a younger man is quite a different matter, and I am naturally only too willing to do anything which the Government considers to be in the best interests of the G.A.E.I.C.

As regards a few of the many other points mentioned by Cowell:-

- (3) Village Sites and Village Planning Regulations. I think these Regulations contain the germ of what is possibly the solution to the thorny question of village and extra-village housing and siting. I would suggest, however, that they require detailed re-casting and amendment before enactment, as a trial, on one or two islands?
- (4) The kaubure's request for pay. This request must surely have been brought up by the Tabiteuean Bowi to every new R.Gr. and D.O. over the last 20 or 30 years. Fortunately it used to be confined to this island and Banaba.
- (5) Murdoch's ruling, in paragraph 40. This ruling regarding the Government ownership of houses was repealed, unless I am mistaken, by Grimble in 1926 or thereabouts. The Native Government, however, have always stuck to it, despite instructions.
- (6) Beacons. These seem to have fallen down in most places during the Japanese occupation and I imagine that a "beaconing tour" only awaits the necessary shipping. Heyen's "Sailing Directions" shows the locality and form of each beacon and should prove invaluable to whoever undertakes the work.

I have, unfortunately, been laid up with some germ ever since you passed through here and running a continuous temperature. H.E. has warned me that I will probably be required to act for you while you are away on leave and the main thing that worries me is frankly the question of health. I understand (possible wrongly) that the R.Gr. has to live a sort of barrack life on Betio with the Americans; if this is so, I doubt if I shall be able to last out for very long. I am confident that my health would be quite up to the normal life of an Acting R.Gr., even at a temporary headquarters such as Bairiki or Aboakoro, and including all the travelling, but only provided I have my own home and stick to my own diet as advised by the doctors (its rather peculiar). Hence I am hoping the Government will be willing to make an exception in my case, if I'm to go, and permit my wife and private food stores to accompany me.

I fear that you will consider me terribly namby-pamby over this but I know from bitter experience that though my spirit is willing my body is weak and I have perforce adopted an essentially quiet way of life which enables me to keep good health and work hard but which cannot be broken with impunity. As you know I have twice been carried out of the Gilberts more or less on a stretcher and once it took 15 months of hospitalization and two operations to patch me together again.

One thing I would assure you, Sir, is that if I am to act for you during your leave you need have no fear of my putting personal views into effect in any case in which they may (and I suppose there must be such cases) conflict with your policy. I imagine that from the headquarter's records and the Secretary's memory a good picture of your views on all important matters will be obtainable, and I have now been acting so long for so many people (about 7 years of it) that I have become if anything too used to thinking and working along lines set by others. H.E. and you will have, no doubt, settled the major questions of policy and the others can await your return.

I hope that you had an enjoyable trip to Noumea and the Solomons, but fear that you did not.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

Tarawa,  
Gilbert Islands.

9th September 1945.

*Har Mande,*

I hate to bother you, but I have no one else to worry now that my wife has departed from Suva; and I should be most grateful if you could do one or two things for me.

1. Officers shop, Nasese. Ask them to keep a greatcoat for me; height 5'11", weight 145 lbs, chest 36"; (I think, I hope.)
2. Officers' shop, Nasese. Ask them for a cap, field service serge, size 6 $\frac{7}{8}$  or small 7.
3. Officers' shop, Nasese. Ask them for a decent-looking pair of brass or gilt crowns. I think they have some that are not too frightful. If they have stars to match, then 2 prs. of stars also; but I fancy that all their stars are 'New Zealand bottle-tops'.
4. Officers' shop, Nasese: OR Old Government Buildings (I'm not sure which). Ask them for 6 inches of medal ribbon, Pacific Star. I doubt if it has filtered out to Fiji yet.
5. Narotam. Ask him to complete the three pairs of khaki drill shorts he is making for me, and send them up jut put. I am falling through all my shorts.

I am afraid that this is rather a formidable list, but maybe it won't take so long really.

I had a grand 5,000 miles' trip for nothing; it really was great fun, especially a cocktail party at Noumea, where the lovelies truly did say oo, la, la, to my intense interest and amusement, and a little upset coming into Kwajalein, when we had lost our hydraulics and were plunged into some alarm and despondency as a result. I returned in the Admiral's private R4D; boy, I could do quite a lot of roughing it in that aircraft; sound-proofed, chart table, adjustable light, beer for the minion, private intercom with pilot, considerable deference (everyone stands to attention till you say Carry on), and coffee or fruit-juice every 20 minutes or so. A prophet from the Sullivans gets a lot of honour in the

Marshalls!

Now we are standing by for that gem of the Pacific, Pinnacle Island. I am pretty sure we shall be late for the fair, but no doubt we shall turn up just the same. Wakefield is nearly beside himself (whatever that means); you would think he was taking over the Ruhr or something. When I think of how he is going in, and how we came in to Tarawa...! Well, who says the British don't learn by their mistakes?

And, I dare say, we shall have a hard job now to convince the Pinnacle Islanders that Rambi is really the El Dorado that it isn't.

I hope that you are well, and that your wife is much better by now.

Yours sincerely

V. D. Hathaway.

---

E.C.  
24.9.45.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION,  
SUVA, FIJI.

24th September, 1945.

Herewith my report on our efforts to get you the "articles of uniform and equipment" mentioned in your letter of the 9th September.

- (i) The greatcoat. There are absolutely no greatcoat (of any size or shape) in the Officers' Shop. Apparently they had a consignment on order, but cancelled it when the war ended. I have now written to Colonel Magrane asking him if he could order one up from N.Z. by telegraph - the written word often results in action with Major Prentice's outfit, but verbal requests seldom.
- (ii) Field service cap. I have handed a size 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  to Major Dickes for personal delivery to you.
- (iii) Brass or gilt Crowns. I selected the best looking pair out of a rather poor choice and gave them to Major Dickes with the cap.
- (iv) Stars. Absolutely all stars in stock are "New Zealand bottle-tops" and of a rather foul type (or so I thought), so I am not sending them.
- (v) Pacific Star ribbon. Colonel Magrane did his best to hunt up some, but none has reached this part of the world. Give us another year or two.
- (vi) Shorts. I put the fear of God into Narotams and they are to be ready within an hour. I will thereupon hand them to Major Dickes for delivery. Narotams asked me to let you know that they have a bush shirt ready for fitting. If you'd just drop in any day they assure me it wouldn't take more than a

Colonel V. Fox-Strangways,  
Resident Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

few



few minutes!

I'm afraid you will be rather disappointed at the meagre result of my efforts. I did sweat some, however, and saw Colonel Magrane personally, stressing the necessity of your having these things pronto (Major Prentice is so consistently disobliging). He put a Capt. Kernode in charge of operations with orders to scour the shop and camp for each item: so I think if there'd been any to beg, borrow or steal you'd have had them.

I wonder how you liked the Pacific Blister? I can quite imagine poor Wakefield having twins on the way: he is very much of the worrying type, though I shouldn't talk, being worse myself.

Wonder when you'll be coming down this way? I can imagine you're rather loth to leave the Gilberts just when everything seems to be coming to a boil with the change over to a peace-time footing.

You must be more than usually inundated with work at the moment but if you should have a spare minute I should be most grateful for a note on crockery, cooking utensils and linen, etc. I have been told that the Government sent up a supply of at any rate crockery and glass and am naturally anxious not to fill my 60-lb. suitcase with anything not absolutely essential.

Both Honor and I have recovered and are moving about again. Must have been the shock of learning of yet another temporary secondment. I guess you're like me and sigh for a job where one could settle down for ten years and feel nobody can shift one.

Hoping that you're feeling fitter than the evening you rushed through here en route to Noumea,

Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

24th September, 1945.

Dear Colonel Magrano,

Sorry to bother you again but I wonder if it would be possible to order up Colonel Fox-Strangway's greatcoat from New Zealand by telegraph (all at our expense, of course)? In case it is, the particulars he sent us are:

Height	5' 11"
Weight	145 lbs.
Chest	36"

It now transpires that the Colonel will ~~not~~ in all probability be calling in at Suva en route to the States so could pick it up. I'm afraid that if we can't find him one somewhere he'll catch his death of cold once he strikes the Northern Autumn.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

Colonel J. P. Magrano, C.B.E., B.D.,  
Officer in Charge, Administration,  
Fiji Military Forces,  
Suva.

Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji.

1st October, 1945.

Dear Colonel Magrane,

I am returning the cap Capt. Kermode got for Colonel Fox-Strangways the other day, as he has sent it down again by plane.

As you probably surmise, what I know of such things could be written on a postage stamp, but the Colonel states that the cap we sent him is not a :-

"Cap, Field Service, serge, size  $6\frac{7}{8}$  or smaller  
7";

but a "Cap, Service Dress".

Would you therefore be so kind as to return it to stock and, if possible, let me have an authentic Field Service cap, size  $6\frac{7}{8}$  or small 7, in replacement? Colonel Fox-Strangways describes it as a "small fore-and-aft business" and I'm told by others that it commonly rejoices in the name of a "cheese-cutter".

There are pitfalls in this military business which I had never surmized.

Yours sincerely,

Colonel J.P. Magrane,  
Officer in Charge of Administration,  
Fiji Military Forces.

61/12

Administrative Headquarters,  
Fiji Military Forces,  
NASESE.

3 Oct 45.

Dear Maude,

I'm sorry that a mistake was made - the cap sent for Colonel Fox-Strangways was a "Cap-Service Dress" and NOT a "Cap-Field Service".

Unfortunately, there are no caps F.S. of the right size in Ordnance, so I'm afraid we cannot oblige. We will cancel the transaction regarding the returned cap.

Yours sincerely,

*A. H. Sheppard*

*H. E. Maude Esq. M.B.E.  
c/o W. P. H. C.*

Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji,

6th October, 1945.

Thank you for your two letters, which arrived by last plane. I returned the cap to store and had it cancelled off the bill: they were unable, however, to give me the "fore and aft affair" which you wanted. Colonel Stafford got on the job this time, but was no more successful than Colonel Magrane.

Your overcoat is due any time now. Shall I send it up, just in case you get a direct plane to the U.S.A., or keep it here? You must be pleased that you have not got to spend a month on an infernal lecturing tour, after all.

We are expecting Sir Albert and party by the plane which brings you this. Amazing how the old man stands up to all this travelling at his age. H.E. came back from the Solomons on Friday so will be able to see him on his way to New Zealand: he'll probably be here overnight as they don't seem to fly much by night on that route. I don't know when H.E. goes to Australia but imagine that it won't be long.

Thank you for the information about crackery, etc. We will send a minimum amount up by the "Awahau", since we are keeping on our house here and banking on not being away for more than six months at the outside.

I was gratified to hear Major Dickes' view that "he and I" were to run the Colony "as never before": I'll bet it would be if he had anything to do with it! We hardly saw him when he was here, as although garrulous he is not particularly sociable, but had him to a meal just before he left with a

view to pumping

Colonel V. Fox-Strangways,

Resident Commissioner,

Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

view to pumping him as to conditions of living, procedure, etc., at Tarawa, concerning which we are naturally extremely worried since we know so little of Army life and etiquette. He certainly talked for three hours without stopping and gave a fine resume of how the place was to be run in future but until receiving your letter we had gathered that he was to do the running. Hence the pleasant surprise when I learnt that I was to assist.

However, you know present plans regarding Dickes. We still await a telegram from the S. of State, though H.E. has had a d/o letter which suggests that things are still in train. I wish to goodness they'd get a move on so that we could send Ackland up: I think you'll like him (if we are lucky enough to get him; failing which, I would suggest Fuller).

I believe Lever Bros. are being given notice to quit Rabi, which means that Crabbe, the Manager, will be out of a job. He has the reputation of being a good copra man and might do for Christmas Island, where he is anxious to go? Please let me know should you want him as he is naturally worried about his future: he would not, however, be available for a month or two.

You must be enjoying life immensely being towed hither and thither ~~of~~ the palace of hygiene the "Kiakia". H.E. was really annoyed about the muddle over sending the tail-shaft up and called for a proper enquiry; in which the Navy blamed the Air Force and the Air Force blamed the Navy, and the net result was nil.

Nettie McArthur goes back by this plane, at her own earnest request. Her health has greatly improved and I think she has had reassuring telegrams which make her anxious to rush back and get the house prepared for Dr Rose. He's coming out by air, I believe.

Yours sincerely,

No. Personal.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS  
COLONY.

22nd September 1945.

*Mr. Randa,*

Thank you for your letter. Unfortunately I have not got it by me at the moment, but I will do my best to answer some of your queries as I remember them.

I was glad to read your postscript, and feel that all will now be well. I have not yet heard when the gent in question is expected back from leave, but no doubt we shall get a telegram soon. He seems to be taking his time.

As regards your coming up to act for me while I am on leave, I will say first that you should dismiss from your mind at once all idea that I am the sort of person who keeps, from the security of his club window in St. James's, a long-distance and jealous eye on the conduct of affairs in the post he has left. Apart from the fact that you, with some 8 years' service in the Colony and much more in the Pacific, may be expected to know more about things Gilbertian than I do, I hold the view that all flesh is as grass, and the man who is doing the job should be given an absolutely free hand to do it as he thinks best. So whatever you do or don't do will not worry me in the very least. I hope that this statement will relieve your mind on the point at issue.

Next; as regards your life up here. I live in what for a bachelor beachcomber is a comfortable enough shack on Betio. It is hard by, and mixed up with, American fales, but that does not disturb me. On the other hand it would not, on account of its proximity to other officers' shacks, be suitable for prolonged residence by a woman. It would be quite possible for you and your wife to live in another house that we have ( a Labour Corps shack) on the south coast of Betio; the only disadvantage would be that you would be the other side of the air-strip, and would have to commute rather a lot. Or if you chose, you might live on Bairiki; I do not do this myself, as I have always felt a definite necessity to stay on Betio and gnow the flag. If the Americans leave, however, this necessity will of course vanish.

I have my own mess, which feeds also Rberts (or whoever is doing Secretary) and the Labour Corps company commander. We usually have several transients too and are seldom less than 5 to meals. I have my own cook, who used I think to work for you; his name is Uria and he came to me from Beru. There is no reason why you should not have food cooked as you wish. I have made arrangements to have a separate mess for myself only (and possibly the Secretary) if and when we manage to winkle the clams out of Bairiki and set them up here, which is most desirable from the point of view of general efficiency. So I think that, with the knowledge of the Colony which you and your wife possess, you should be happy. I do not for a moment think that my wife would be happy up here, but that is a different pair of shoes, and beside the point! (She, like myself, feels with Mr. Crosby 'Give me land, lots of land, and the sunny skies above; DON'T FENCE ME IN'.)

I think it would be an excellent thing if you could come up here for two or three weeks before I go; that would make the hand-over much simpler for me, and might possibly assist you too. You could stay with me. or we could get you a 'room out', as you preferred, and I do not think that the catering would present much difficulty.

The surrender at Nauru passed off without incident. I am now really enjoying 'the blessings of the land' after 10 days in the Kia-kia. We expect to take off for Ocean about the 30th of September. God knows when I am going to get through all the shattering arrears of work here; everything seems to be piling up on me, and I feel that the bins were allowed to pack up too soon.

I see that H.E. expects to be in Suva from the 5th to 13th of October, and that after that he will go on a visit to Australia. I had hoped to come down to Suva in the aircraft of the 23rd of October; the next one will be on the 6th of November and might be running it a bit fine if I have to be at Norfolk Yard on the 15th. I have sent a S/T to enquire on what days the RAFTC aircraft leaves Nandi for America; if you could hurry up the reply I should be most grateful. I will settle dates finally when I get the information.

Must stop now and attend to some less congenial business. I hope that I shall see you soon.

Yours sincerely  
F. Cunningham

P.S. Osborne - that nice fellow - is the latest 'nerves' case. The Sullivans get them all in time. Whether is it better, to go to hospital when one goes crazy, or to walk about and do your job and be a danger to navigation as I fear I am?

J.



No.....

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS  
COLONY.

25.9.45.

Dear Maude,

Thank you so much for all your trouble over my kit. I think you did wonderfully well. I hope that Magrane has telegraphed for a greatcoat; I may as well die well wrapped up.

I am sending back the hat, as it is not the sort I wanted. That is Kermode's fault; the modern young soldier often does not know the difference between a 'cap, Service Dress' and a 'cap, Field Service'. It was the latter - the small fore-and-aft business - which I wanted.

The air-craft has come up, and there is no shaft for the Kiakia. It is really too bad of Hill, and there seems to be some shattering inefficiency somewhere between him and the PWD. He had promised to put it on to-day's plane. So now we are still immobile; how the United Kingdom representative will get to ~~Mauru~~ I know not, but of course the CANF will not be worrying. I would be glad if you could let HE know what has happened, as I may not have time to write to-night.

*Ocean*

Do not bother about crockery, etc. Come up yourself first and see what we have. Lady Grantham will tell you that we have a fairly decent cave, bury, or whatnot, and life is not so grim really. There is damned little on charge to me - my officers have most of it in the other mess - but we get by and there is enough to give dinner to 10 persons which is about all we ever require. I have some linen etc too.

Never a dull moment. Dickes not only fought violently with the (particularly nice) N.Z. aircraft crew, but also antagonized a lot of my officers by a detailed account of the new deal under Messrs Maude and Dickes. Apparently the Colony is to be run as never before. I just thought that you might wish to know that you have a hell of a lot to live up to! Personally I am profoundly thankful that it is to be you and not me.

Come up as soon as you can.

With best wishes, and renewed thanks for your efforts.

Yours sincerely  
P. D. Thompson.

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No.....

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS  
COLONY.

11th October 1945.

*My dear Maude,*

Thanks for your letter of the 6th, and for your trouble over my small chapeau and greatcoat. I would like to have the latter up here as you suggest, just in case of accidents.

The news that I have not got to go shooting off my mouth on subjects of which I know very little is most welcome.

Aren't you being a bit optimistic? I shall be surprised at myself if I don't manage to tear off 6 months IN the U.K.! I am only hoping that it is not me that is the optimist.

I really wouldn't worry too much about crockery, etc. I feel sure that you can get enough up here to rub along with, if you don't mind anchors all over your plates, that is. As to the conditions of Army life and etiquette, there will be little of the former left by the time you arrive, while the latter has never been exactly noticeable on Tarawa. It was nice to see Walcot and Haslam or Dallas or whatever his name is in white suits to-day. Did you hear the story about our Major Dickes? He came over to Betio to lunch one day; it was hot, and at the end of lunch Lloyd said in his breezy fashion, 'Well, Sir, I think three quarters of an hour steady sack drill for officers now?' I said yes of course. Dickes laid on a face of horror, and hastily said 'Oh, I don't think I could, Sir; you see - that is - I mean, I have a bad foot and the doctor told me to rest it!' You can imagine with what screams of delight this gem was greeted. Poor Dickes; the only time I have seen him at all crestfallen. I suppose he thought it was shoving bayonets into sacks, or something.

That tail-shaft business was a poor do, indeed. That is the sort of thing which does not endear the Western Pacific to me at all at all. I hear that Hill has been appointed Marine Superintendent; a cheery look-out for us. We could have got Phipps, I think; what a difference.

I am told that Nettie has had another think, and has stayed in Suva; a good thing from our point of view, as it will be much better if she gets married down there. I am glad to hear that she is better in health.

Sinclair wants to go to Christmas Island, so I doubt whether we shall want Crabbe.

Our Guadalcanal boys should be back to-morrow; a welcome ending to an unfortunate chapter. I still have bitter regrets when I think of what the Gilbert and Sullivan Labour Corps might have been, and what in actuality it was; and in my position it is of small use to be able to say 'I told you so'. A failure like that is best passed swiftly into the limbo of forgotten things.

Sir Albert seems very happy, and Bisset says that his stay in Tarawa has given him a new lease of life. At the moment, he is just knocking off another book; has done 30 odd chapters on this tour, and hopes to complete the whole by the time he returns to Auckland! You should have seen him going up the side of a big transport, on a rope ladder, at Ocean. A remarkable fellow, and most charming.

It's all very well for Sir Alexander to be opposed to long handings-over; but this one will be only such time as we can spare between 1630 one day and 0530 the next! I will do what I can to write some adequate handing-over notes; for the rest, Dickes will keep you straight. I imagine that I shall come to Fiji by the aircraft of the 7th November. Till the 6th, then -

*Yours sincerely*  
*J. W. Thompson*

PERSONAL.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION,  
SUVA, FIJI.

22nd October, 1945.

I hear that you are due to arrive in Fiji on the 17th November and that I am thereupon to set sail on the "Kiakia". The commissioning date of the U.S.S. "Tarawa" keeps on getting postponed and the general opinion down here is that she never will be commissioned. There is no foundation, I think, for the idea bar the fact that the Americans are reported to be cutting down their aircraft carrier strength to one-third.

At the last minute Nettie said that she had received a telegram from old Rose saying, "Stop and I'll be with you in a fortnight": so she stopped. We expect Rose any day now, although its curious that the C.O. have ignored two telegrams asking when he's leaving and all we are going on are his messages; or, in point of fact, what she tells us are in his messages. It would certainly be much the best for them to be married here and not go upsetting affairs on Tarawa.

Dr Buchanan is very insistent, I understand, that Nettie should be retired from the service on marriage. He considers that the position of the N.M.Ps., etc., at the hospital would be intolerable, as they would never know whether they were dealing with the Matron or the wife of the S.M.O. As you know, Dr Buchanan has asked for 3 M.Os., a European Matron and ditto Sister at Tarawa and another at Funafati and two full-time medical vessels. All excellent, I suppose, but one wonders where the money is to come from. The C.O. have sent us a fairly clear indication (you will have got a copy direct) that the U.K. is in really difficult financial straits (and will continue thus for the next few years at any rate) and that we shall shortly be asked to cut down all round.

Kennedy will take this up to you. He is very keen on the Rabi business and has done an excellent job on it to date. I believe that you will find he is just the man for work of this type (provided he keeps off the bottle, as he has done now for the last six months or more).

My wife will presumably not now be coming up to the Colony, as I am to go on the "Kiakia". A nuisance, as we'd made all arrangements and got rid of our house here for six months. However there is nothing for it and she may be able to get a passage to New Zealand.

I'm afraid that there's a whole pile of our stores on the "Awahou" - its too late to cancel them now - and I would be most grateful indeed if you could ask whoever deals with these things to store them securely against my arrival.

There's several cases

Colonel V. Fox-Strangways,

Resident Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

There's several cases of drinks (but, alas, only one of whisky) which I have managed to extract from the local firms, and sufficient food of all kinds to keep us going for at least 3 months. As we were uncertain what the food position was like we thought it best to be quite independant and get everything necessary. But what a price - especially with double duty and, I presume, a fairly heavy freight charge. We'd certainly be bankrupt if we had to act for long.

About your greatcoat - they've just sent it up by air from New Zealand and Major Kennedy will deliver it to you. However, I'm afraid that you may be disappointed again as it strikes me as an O.R. greatcoat and not an officer's. I rang up Major Prentice about it and he said that no other coat is available in N.Z. and that an officer's coat has to be measured and fitted on the person by a tailor. You will know whether there is anything in this or not but, in any case, you will (if you are coming down this way) have time to get one made by Narotam. Failing that, I think that Kennedy has a coat which he can lend you.

Honor and I are praying hard daily that the next plane will still be able to land at Tarawa on the 6th November, in which case everything in the garden will be lovely. I gather that the Americans will still be there in mid-November so it may be they could manage just one more plane. We can guarantee a full load. Can you fix it?

Please excuse the typing of this letter. I had it all typed out hours ago but on re-reading it I found it so libellous re the doings of Commander Hill that I have had to re-type it again at 10 p.m.

Anyway, until the 6th there or 15th here,

Yours sincerely,



THE RESIDENCY  
TARAWA  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS

23rd Oct. 1945.

My dear Maude,

Why worry about libel? So much more instructive when everybody calls a shit a shit. We all know tht they exist; and, as one of our local wits says, "Well, sir, you can't make a Commodore out of a Stevedore, can you?". I believe he has something there. Z

I have written to you about my coat. I think it just on a par with all I have experienced about the Fiji forces. They never had difficult conditions to deal with. As infantry, I spit upon them;

As administrators, more so. The only regular soldiers they have, they muzzle. Magrane is a temporary soldier, and has no idea of regular thought. Stafford knows; but of course is not allowed to say. I spit upon them. They should know better miles better, than they do;;

All of which points to my greatcoat. I don't care if I don't have one; it's a small matter if I get sick through being too pansy to stand the U.S. winter. But to think that those desk soldiers, who haven't strained a muscle, can just laugh it off - NO, Sir. Thank God the days of Philip Mitchell and the Dogshooters' paradise, are gone. I would like to have just one week in command of those Fiji Boy Scouts - I would be sacked after that. Wonderful victories in the Solomons, my bottom. Propaganda for the world, Yes.

Well, there we are, Maude. Read it  
and say, "The old man's cracked up".  
He has, too. I know that I'm crackers  
now, But no more than many R.C.'s  
have been. WHY? Because the  
Western Pacific Office has no touch  
with us. You will never ~~get~~ efficiency  
or contentment here until you realize  
that.

There we are. I've talked to  
much - "Sam, you made the pants too  
loong" - but who cares. IT'S a poor  
heart that never rejoices.

Au revoir a Tarawa.

L. D. Thompson

Tarawa.

23rd October 1945.

My dear Maude,

I am a selfish man, so personal things bulk large. You have been more than kind about getting me a greatcoat; now it has come up. It is an OTHER RANKS coat, and worse than that. It barely clears my knees. I don't suppose that either the Fiji forces OR the N.Z. Forces care a damn about my coat; but I do. I have got to go through the U.S. in uniform and, up here as Britain is, I should like to look rather more than a Greek trader's ~~feet~~ cook's mate. Would you PLEASE wire to New Zealand at once (maybe to Burns Philp or anybody who can help) "Send earliest air mail officer's greatcoat height 6 feet chest 38 inches". This damned thing that I have been sent up is just a God-damned abortion and I would die of cold sooner than exhibit it in the U.S. So, if you want me to live (who does?) get me another coat, and BOY, get it fast.

Now that is off my chest. Well, if the "Tarawa" is never commissioned, it won't worry yours truly. I am crackers now, and I know it + a little longer and I shan't know it, and that is where Hell will pop.

Why can't your wife come up with you in the "Kiakia"? Mine would with me.

I will give orders for your stuff to be looked after when it arrives. We have an ideal place to store them next door to our mess.

I don't know any reason why the plane should not come up on 6th Nov. and have told Steel so. He says he will do what is possible. I shall expect you and your wife then. Tell her that she may be greeted with whistles, but that will be an earnest of her welcome. Telegraph me if you are going to make it.

Nettie; better that she should stop. Boy, hold her. As to her future, Buchanan no doubt has the answer; anything you say, big boy. I loathe doctors so much that, all cowardly, I avoid them as much as I can. Bloody ju-hu men. Trades Union too. We can do without them. It takes very little intelligence to be a doctor; why do we pay them these phenomenal pheels?

I grow bitter.

Kennedy has arrived, and I grow more bitter.

Au revoir, Maude. You have an Augean stables to clean out; a terrible heritage to live down; a big, big job. I have done my best to clean things up, but I cannot pretend that they are anything but in a mess. The moulding of the Sullivans is in your hands.

Au revoir

V. Robinson



**CONFIDENTIAL**

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION,  
SUVA, FIJI.

Confidential.

10th August, 1945.

No. C.P.F. 15.

Dear Maude.

His Excellency has asked me to let you know that Colonel Fox-Strangways will be leaving for the United States next month and going on from there to the United Kingdom on leave; and His Excellency proposes that you should act as Resident Commissioner during Fox-Strangways's absence. So you should come prepared for a six or eight months tour in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in the very near future.

I am expecting you back in the next "Matua", but have nothing definite yet as to when she is likely to arrive here - am hoping it will not be long after the middle of the month.

I trust you have quite recovered from your infantile disease - possibly Mrs. Maude is now down with it, but I sincerely hope not.

I will be most interested to learn if you are able to get the Printer's proofs of your Memorandum checked before you leave Auckland - I am afraid that you have been having rather a busman's holiday, what with that Memorandum and other things; and altogether not much of a holiday. But the fine bracing winter of Auckland will perhaps have done all of you the world of good - even if it only serves to emphasize that there are worse places than Suva, or the Gilbert and Ellice Islands!

We have been having quite a lot of wet and stormy weather since you left, and it has at times been quite cold. It seems now to be clearing up after a stormy bout that seems to have been pretty general as some of our small ships have had to seek shelter both to the South and to the North.

With kind regards to Mrs. Maude, Alanic and yourself.

Yours sincerely,

H. V. Maude, Esquire, M.B.E.



29.8.46.

Dear Mander,

I have perused your scheme with interest, with great interest.

2. Needless to say, as your pupil, I am in accord with nearly everything. Your scheme, I am certain, is the correct application of the British principles of trusteeship to the F. & S. I. C.

3. Nevertheless, in actual practice, I feel you must fall between two fires. In my view H.M. Govt. must (a) realise the true <sup>(future)</sup> poverty of the F. & S. I. C. and resort to the most elemental administration, as per Telfer Campbell's boast that he could rule the colony with 12 <sup>armed</sup> policemen; or (b.) Government must realise that if it desires to maintain the F. & S. I. C. as a British possession, then it must also pay for the necessary services. If it is strategically or morally necessary to keep it, then we must pay to keep it properly. If we are not prepared to pay the maintenance commensurate with our ideals, then let's give it to the U.S.A. or someone who will spend the money.

4. I do not think you realise the immense expenditure involved in the schemes you outline, & the scheme in general. I am of the opinion that there will be very little saving, say £10,000, on pre-war expenditure. Once phosphate is finished there will be no hope of carrying on, on internal revenue.

5. As you know, in early 1942, I wrote a long letter personally to Sir Harry Luke, on our

domestically in 50 years administration  
in the 80's. In that I brought the whole  
thing down to a poor & raggedy  
financial policy on the part of the home  
government.

6. I repeat, your scheme is not only  
excellent, it is workable; but it is only  
workable if funds are provided from  
abroad. Your scheme should not begin to  
be implemented until the financial crisis  
there has worked out in detail and  
government - because a failure in any  
one part (though not of funds) will result  
in, at least, a partial failure of the whole.

7. To give an example: The <sup>Scott</sup> <sup>1913</sup> P.V. 2  
could not <sup>not</sup> undertake the work you suggest, but  
perhaps (and I mean perhaps) not  
again, for at least 30 years your maintenance  
of roads, roads, etc. could not be left to  
rather semi-skilled mechanics. To attempt  
to do things without the proper training, knowledge,  
and communication generally, is to throw the  
book on fields & the whole machine.

8. Your para. 44 is a key point; but this  
and you can show the whole scheme.  
You para. 56, I am satisfied from personal  
experience, is unworkable, especially at the  
present. I agree, the government job is made  
entirely - in this connection, I am certain  
that neither contract in type is simply due  
to the early settlement of the funds.

to the early settlement of the funds.

## Local Shipping Programme of Requirements

### Notes on Mr. Vasson's Memorandum

- (1) Separation of Govt. from Trading scheme shipping - all agreed.
- (2) District vessels are for Line Islands ideal but could be dispensed with if no colonization (note my notes on a Medical Administrator). If colonization of Southern Line Islands then large vessel required.
- (3) Security for certified navigators agreed to, subject to provision that we should commence training of natives at earliest opportunity.
- (4) Medical Dept vessel - as a matter necessary pending consideration by Medical Authorities.
- (5) Central Admin. vessel. Freedom of range - desirable if possible.  
Cargo capacity - reduction from 100 to 40 tons agreed.  
Accommodation - 8 Co. cabin must have settee capable of being turned into good extra bed (He will after travel with his wife). Room for 4 European & 4 native should be sufficient but 10 deck passengers too low.
- (6) Security for specially designing ship - agreed. Despite弊 of earlier delivery of second-hand vessel.

MEMORANDUM.

Local Shipping required for Government purposes in the  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

Your Excellency,

As directed, I submit the following views on the question of the shipping required in the post-war period for Government purposes in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

2. Such requirements, as I see the position, will be:-

1 Central Administrative ship for the use mainly of the Resident Commissioner;

1 Ship for Medical Department;

3 District vessels;

a number of harbour launches and boats; and

1 (or 2) Inter-island trading ship (or ships) for Government Trading Scheme.

3. Trading Scheme Shipping. Present indications are that pre-war commercial and trading conditions are most unlikely to return; and as they were bad in many respects, due to local circumstances, and were not in the best interests of the natives, it seems important that the Government should proceed with the proposal to organize a permanent Government Trading Scheme. To be successful, any such Scheme must have its own shipping, with adequate cargo and passenger capacity for the trade, and under its sole control. Such ship (or ships if more than one is found to be necessary) would of course be available for freighting Government cargo and stores on a commercial basis and should relieve strictly Government shipping of any necessity, except in case of emergency, to transport such stores. This question of Trade Scheme shipping, however, is one which will no doubt be dealt with in connexion with the proposals for the establishment of a Government Trading Commission; but it is important to bear it in mind in considering the various types of other Government shipping required.

4. Harbour Launches and Boats. The Colony now has sufficient of these to meet essential requirements, and may have a surplus when the Labour Corps is demobilized.

5. District Vessels. Possible requirements are -

1 For the Gilbert Islands;

1 for the Ellice and Phoenix Islands; and

1 for the Fanning Island District (shortly to be called the Line Islands District).

The Colony has at present two 60-foot vessels in this category, the "Margaret" and the "Maureen", and the 40-foot "Nautaka". One 60-footer will be required full-time for the Gilbert Islands, which cover a large area and are thickly populated; and possibly the "Nautaka" will be required also for that Group to assist with the nearer

islands

islands within her capacity.

6. It may be practicable for one 60-footer to do the work required in both the Ellice and Phoenix Islands, as they are small in numbers and population; but the two Groups are separated by some 500 miles of open sea. This should not, however, present any very great difficulty as the 60-footers are seagoing craft with competent navigators, and alternate tours of the two Groups should meet normal requirements. It might be difficult to justify the expense of separate vessels for each Group.

7. With regard to the Fanning Island District, comprising Fanning, Washington and Christmas Islands (with possible extension later to include Flint, Caroline, Malden, Starbuck, etc., if Gilbertese settlement of any of those islands is decided upon), the long distance from the rest of the Colony makes it most desirable that a vessel should be allocated full-time to that District.

8. Because of the long distances and the low-lying nature of the coral atolls of which the Colony consists, and the swift and varying ocean currents in the area, it is essential that all inter-island vessels in the Colony should carry competent navigators. Doubts have been expressed whether the 60-footers are large enough in view of the heavy gales which spring up at short notice during the westerly season (from November to March) and the lack of adequate shelter to which the vessels could run when caught in such storms; and for these reasons in the interests of safety it would probably be wise to provide rather larger vessels of up to 80 feet in length - but the extra size would involve greater expense initially and in the annually recurrent costs of operation and maintenance. I suggest that this question of the adequacy of the 60-footers and whether a larger type of vessel should be supplied for the work should be allowed to stand over until experience of the operation of the "Margaret" and "Maureen" has made the position clearer.

9. Failing the "Kiakia" being available for District Administrative work - see paragraph 12 below - then a vessel will be required for the Fanning Island District; and, in that event, it seems necessary to settle the question of the adequacy of the 60-footer type before any action is taken to build or otherwise acquire such vessel. I would suggest, however, that a slightly larger vessel might well be ordered either for the Gilbert Islands, in view of the heavy amount of work in that Group, or for the Ellice and Phoenix Islands, in view of the distance between those two Groups; and that one of the 60-footers be then allocated to the Fanning Island District. There are sheltered anchorages both at Fanning and Christmas Islands inside the lagoons with sufficient water for a 60-footer; and the distances between the three islands at present comprised in the District are -

Fanning to Christmas	-	160 miles.
Fanning to Washington	-	75 "
Christmas to Washington	-	235 "

The three islands lie in a straight line.

10. Ship for Medical Department. The "Kiakia", a 64-foot motor vessel, ketch-rigged, was built in Hong Kong shortly before the war for the use of the Medical Department in the Colony. She is now employed in the Colony on general Government inter-island work.

11. The question has been raised of the provision  
of a

of a Medical Ship for the Colony to combine transport for the Medical Officers and the Department generally with the work of a floating hospital, laboratory and dispensary - in effect the headquarters station of the Travelling Medical Officer. The whole question of Medical Services in the Western Pacific is, however, now under consideration by the Medical Authorities and the provision of otherwise of such a ship will no doubt depend upon the resulting decisions which may be arrived at. Those decisions may, however, affect the question of the type of ship to be provided as the Resident Commissioner's Central Administrative vessel - dealt with below.

12. If it is decided not to provide such a Medical ship, then it seems necessary that the "Kiakia" should continue as the Medical Department vessel for transport of staff and supplies and tours of the Medical Officer. Otherwise she would be available for allocation to a District for Administrative work and would make up the full complement of District vessels required.

13. Central Administrative Ship. This will be the most important unit required; and it is essential not only that such a ship should be provided but that she should be of a suitable type and adequate for the work. On this will depend largely the measure of success of the future administration of the Colony. With this in view I strongly urge that Administrative and trading requirements should be kept entirely separate. They cannot successfully be combined from the point of view either of Administration or Trade, and in any consideration of this matter we should disregard the present passing phase of war-time shipping difficulties and shortages and plan for future peace-time normal requirements - especially as the war is now over and by the time the ship is ready to be put into commission we will no doubt be well over the present phase.

14. The Central Administrative vessel required is a well-found sea-going one of sufficient size to provide reasonably comfortable quarters on board for the Resident Commissioner and a small number of European and Native Officers travelling on administrative work and on transfer between Districts where the distances are too great for comfortable travel in the smaller District vessels. It is therefore necessary that the ship should have a certain cargo capacity for the transport of Officers' effects and also for the carriage of a limited quantity of urgently required stores, such as medical supplies. But, as indicated above, it would be a great mistake to endeavour to make a cargo carrier or trader of such a vessel. With a properly organized trading scheme in operation and running its own vessel, or vessels, the trading in, and freighting of trade goods and Government supplies to and from, all parts of the Colony should be the concern of the trading organization which should be able to carry out such work efficiently and without recourse to the assistance of the Resident Commissioner's administrative vessel.

15. There are very good reasons against the use of this vessel for trading or cargo-carrying. Firstly, it is important that the dignity and prestige of the Central Government should be maintained at a high level, and this would be impossible in an atmosphere of rattling winches and shouting labourers swarming over the vessel unloading cargo and loading copra with cargo punts and canoes all round the ship whenever she anchors; an atmosphere permeated with the smell of copra - a continuing discomfort which would remain always with the ship, whether at anchor or at

sea, as well as the inescapable corollary of swarms of the harmless but unpleasant little copra bugs everywhere on board, crawling over one's clothes and bedding and dropping into the food and drink.

16. Secondly, while visiting an island the Resident Commissioner or other Senior Officer would require the undivided attention of the members of the Native Government and officials, and the people would be occupied with the ceremonial inseparable from such a visit. But these people, including all native Government members and other officials, would either be required for working the cargo or would want to attend to their own trading affairs. This difficulty could no doubt be met by keeping the hatches closed until the Resident Commissioner, or other Senior Officer, had completed the ceremonies and business of the visit, after which he could withdraw into seclusion while the cargo and trading side of the visit was being attended to. This might well entail considerable delay and discomfort, especially at the islands where there is no sheltered anchorage and goods have to be taken ashore, and copra brought out to the ship, over the reef in canoes or surf-boats, and the speed of the work would depend upon the weather.

17. I think the foregoing should at least give pause to any idea of combining administrative and cargo-carrying work in one vessel. It would result in delay and inefficiency on both sides and discomfort and loss of dignity and prestige on the Administrative side. To combine the two in one vessel would mean a ship of considerable size and consequently greater draught (which would prevent her entering some of the lagoon passages) and more expensive to maintain and operate; and the extra expense, both capital and recurrent, would be difficult to justify in view of the doubtful nature of the advantages and the obvious disadvantages. The expense entailed is an important factor and cannot be ignored (our funds are limited and there are many urgent calls upon them) and might well prove the deciding factor even if there were no objections on other grounds.

18. My idea of the most suitable type of vessel for the work, having due regard to the question of expense, is one of the general type and size of that planned as a Medical Ship for the Solomon Islands (see plans 1c to 1f in C.F. 46/13 attached) with such alterations or additions as may be necessary to include all essential requirements. Those requirements, as I see them, are as follows:-

- (a) Speed. Economical cruising speed of 12 knots;
- (b) Range. 5,000 miles range without refuelling or re-watering;
- (c) Cargo Capacity. 40 tons for ship's stores, Officers' personal effects, and urgent Medical and other supplies;
- (d) Accommodation. In addition to that required for Officers and Crew:-
  - 1 large single-berth cabin, with bathroom attached, for Resident Commissioner;
  - 1 office cabin for Resident Commissioner;
  - 1 Double-berth cabin for Europeans;
  - 2 Single-berth cabins for Europeans;

1 Bath-room and lavatory for Europeans;  
2 Double-berth second-class cabins for Senior Native Officials;

1 Bathroom and lavatory for Native Officials;

2 Sick-bays (1 male and 1 female) for urgent medical cases;

Accommodation for 10 deck passengers, including bath-room and lavatory; and

1 Saloon of adequate size for dining and other purposes.

(e) Equipment: -

Refrigerator of adequate capacity for ship's requirements and for carriage in addition of small quantities of supplies for District Stations visited where Europeans are stationed;

Galley, with oil-burning range, adequate for all on board;

Radio installation;  
Electricity generating plant;

Boats: Small launch, capable of being used for towing, passenger boat, and adequate life-boats;

Winch, motor, for lifting anchor and working derrick;

Derrick of adequate lifting power; and

Nautical equipment complete in all respects - life-saving, navigational, signalling, anchoring, steering, galley, saloon, etc.

(f) Draught. This will depend largely on the type of ship decided upon.

19. The foregoing differs somewhat from the Resident Commissioner's specifications set out in 176 herein and Mr. Maude's on pages 3 and 4 of C.F.46/12/14 attached. The following covers the various points of difference:-

(a) Speed. I have not suggested any reduction of the 12 knots advocated both by the Resident Commissioner and Mr. Maude as such a speed would be very useful at times; but it will mean much heavier and more expensive engines, larger engine-room, and heavier consumption of oil and fuel, with consequential all-round increase of cost; and, on the ground of expense, this speed might have to be cut to 10 knots.

(b) Range. In view of the long distances in the Colony and the very few islands at which fuel and water will be available, and in the light of experience in the past, I think that anything less than 5,000 miles would be inadequate at times and that it would be wise to provide for

reserve



reserve tank capacity if only for emergencies.

(c) Cargo Capacity. I have ~~been~~ dealt above with this question of carrying cargo in this vessel.

(d) Accommodation. For much the same reasons as I have advanced for not making a cargo transport of the ship, I consider that we should not make a passenger carrier of her. For normal purposes accommodation for four European and four senior native officials should be adequate, and to provide for more would add unnecessarily to the size and cost of the ship. Too many passengers on board would not be in the best interests of the Resident Commissioner's work and position while on tour.

I do ~~not~~ think, however, that the ship would be incomplete without provision for the proper transport of urgent medical cases, especially if a separate Medical Ship is not to be provided; and for this I have suggested two sick-bay cabins.

For reasons which I have stated above and earlier in this memorandum (against making a cargo transport of the ship), I am strongly opposed to the provision of deck passage accommodation for any considerable number of natives. I know there is always a lot of natives seeking passages to other islands, but I do not think their transport should be catered for by the Resident Commissioner's ship - this should be left to the trading vessel or vessels; and I certainly do not think that the Resident Commissioner's ship should take part in any way in the transport or repatriation of labour. I have suggested provision for 10 deck passengers, and this should be sufficient for the orderlies and servants of the Resident Commissioner and other officers travelling in the vessel and possibly a few police or other native officials whom it may be necessary to carry from time to time.

The Resident Commissioner proposes one large and one small day-cabin for Officers; Mr. Maude proposes a reasonably large cabin for the Resident Commissioner with office furniture or a separate office and a large day-room for the senior officers. I have proposed one large cabin and an office cabin for the Resident Commissioner and a saloon of adequate size for dining and other purposes.

(e) Equipment. The Resident Commissioner proposes a derrick to lift 4 tons. I doubt whether such a heavy lift will be required, but it might be very useful to have this power for other purposes than the ordinary working of the ship.

Boats. The Resident Commissioner proposes a towing launch and work boats. I propose a small towing launch and a passenger boat, in addition to normal life-boats. The work boats will not be required unless the ship is to be a cargo-carrier.

(f) Draught. Both the Resident Commissioner and Mr. Maude propose a maximum draught of 15 feet. I have referred to this in paragraph 17 above; but this

seems

seems to be a question that will be governed largely by the type and size of vessel decided upon.

20. I disagree with Mr. Maude's estimate on page 3 of C.F.46/12/4, of the amount of work any such vessel could do in a year; and I have more than once referred to this tendency to over-rate what a ship could do in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. Allowing for weather, the time necessary for proper maintenance attention, and unavoidable delays from other causes, I am quite certain that the ship would be hard put to it, to perform the work that Mr. Maude mentions in a full twelve months.

21. Finally, I would strongly urge that the ship should be designed and built to the requirements of the work in view. Second-hand vessels, even if something could be found approximating to requirements, are usually unsatisfactory, and a strong objection to a second-hand vessel is that part of the "life" of the ship is already gone and the annual cost of maintaining and repairing a ship increases progressively every year. The total economical "life" of a ship can be reckoned at 20 to 25 years, after which she reaches the stage at which it is more economical to scrap and replace than continue to repair.

(Signed) H. Vaskoo

Secretary, Western Pacific  
High Commission.

23rd August, 1945.

Tarawa,  
12 September, 1945.

Dear Mr Maude,

His Excellency was good enough to spend a few minutes discussing lands compensation matters while up here and on mentioning that I should welcome the opportunity of speaking to you on the subject he suggested that I should write to you demi-officially asking for your help.

As we have been very rushed for the last few days it seems better that I should forward you a copy of a memorandum which I have submitted to His Honour but on which the latter has yet had no time to act. My chief worries are connected with mapping equipment - pages 13 and 14 of enclosure and I am wondering if you could possibly spare the time to find out if any of the items recorded can be obtained in Suva? I am informed that you will soon be coming up here as Acting Resident so that decisions on the program I suggest may well be your worry; may I tell you that I am longing to get on with the job and that if transport facilities and equipment can be arranged we should be able to get the work done reasonably quickly. The difficult question of course is to know what to do with those Natives whose losses have reduced them to starvation level; there are some "foreign" landowners on Tarawa living at other islands whose land might be taken over by Government for "equivalent compensation" at rates set out in my memorandum, but I think it will be necessary to fit many of them into any colonization scheme that you may have in mind. However this point may well wait until you have time to attend to it up here?

The other matter concerns the figures for coconut life and output and I think in this case we should check against the Fiji Agricultural Department's records in case my estimates bring forth ribald laughter in London. These figures are:

- A. Length of time between planting and first productivity: the Natives and I have agreed on 10 years.
- B. Average output per tree over 60 years @ 45 nuts.
- C. Use of 60 years @ above output figure as fair estimate of value of a tree.

Other matters such as organization shall have to be left over until decisions are given but in the meantime I intend to carry on work with my Committees and then ask that payments to the members be made retrospectively.

May I express the wish that we shall see you up here very soon now?

Sincerely yours,

Leid Corbin.

1a

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

MEMORANDUM

From: Lieutenant T.R. Cowell, at Tarawa,

To: Secretary to Government, G.E.I.C., Tarawa.

F. 2/1.

12th August, 1945.

War Compensation: Native lands and property:

Reference:

Resident Commissioner's S.F. 14 - 4th April and previous correspondence.

④ in 2/1

2. The following sections of my earlier correspondence are revised and incorporated in this memorandum and are therefore no longer valid -

Notes on Lands Compensation:

All sections except 1 and 2.

① in 2/1

L.P.I. 28th March:

As a general outline this memorandum still stands.

② in 2/1

13/45 2nd April:

Sections 1 (vii) and 2 (iii).

③ in 2/1

3. The last subsection 2 (iii) of my 13/45 2nd April - appointment of a "Lands Commissioner under Section 3 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1922". An important aim of the administrative machine submitted to His Honour in this memorandum is to establish direct authority so as to avoid conflicting opinions and "bottle necks"; the appointment of the Officer in Charge Compensation as Assistant District Officer, Gilbert Islands District, will hardly fit these requirements, particularly when the Ellice work is undertaken and the scheme subject to the different ideas of the District Officers might easily grow too involved in conflicting opinions to be administratively fluid. The best solution seems still to be the appointment of the Officer in Charge Compensation as a Lands Commissioner bound by terms of reference to the assessment of Rentals and War Damage.

4. The triangular nature of the work, by which it impinges on the duties of the District Officer and the Lands Commission, leads me still to submit that discussions with the Chief Lands Commissioner are advisable, and, while it would be of infinitely greater value to conduct such discussions locally, if this is impossible, then a visit by the Compensation Officer to Suva is worthy of consideration, for unless close co-operation is established, the end of the whole scheme may be interminably delayed by unsettled lands disputes.

Le.

To facilitate Secretariat reference the following list of matters upon which His Honour's decision is required is submitted:

1. May the Compensation Officer be appointed a Lands Commissioner, or failing this appointment may direct access to His Honour through the Secretary to Government only be authorised ? Covering memorandum paragraph 3.
2. May an early opportunity be given to the Compensation Officer to discuss problems with the Chief Lands Commissioner either at Tarawa, Funafuti or Suva ? Covering memorandum paragraph 4.  
Page 10. 1.(2)
3. May, if a visit to Suva by the Compensation Officer is not permitted, all agricultural figures given in rental assessment be checked by the Fiji Agricultural Department ?
4. May, if a visit to Suva by the Compensation Officer is not permitted, other and speedy arrangements be made to obtain a minimum of mapping equipment ?
5. May information be given if the figures submitted have to be sent to the Secretary of State ? If so a check against the Fiji Agricultural Departments records of Coconut growth are essential.
6. May immediate authority be given for the establishment of the Special Councils and Investigation Committees ? Page 9.
7. May the services of a Clerk and Interpreter be made available at once ? It is becoming increasingly difficult to organize this work without clerical help and only the courtesy of the District Officer and the Treasurer has so far enabled me to have an interpreter and to use typewriters, and both of these Officers urgently need the services of all their Native Staff. Page 12.
8. May authority be given now to employ Native Members of the Lands Commission ? The one at Tarawa is needed urgently as now work of assessment can be done until his services are available. Page 12.
9. As soon as discussions with the Chief Lands Commissioner have taken place and equipment obtained may opportunity be given for short visits to all islands affected so that Councils and Committees may be established.

The following program of work is envisaged provided His Honour will be able to confirm the scheme outlined in accompanying memorandum:

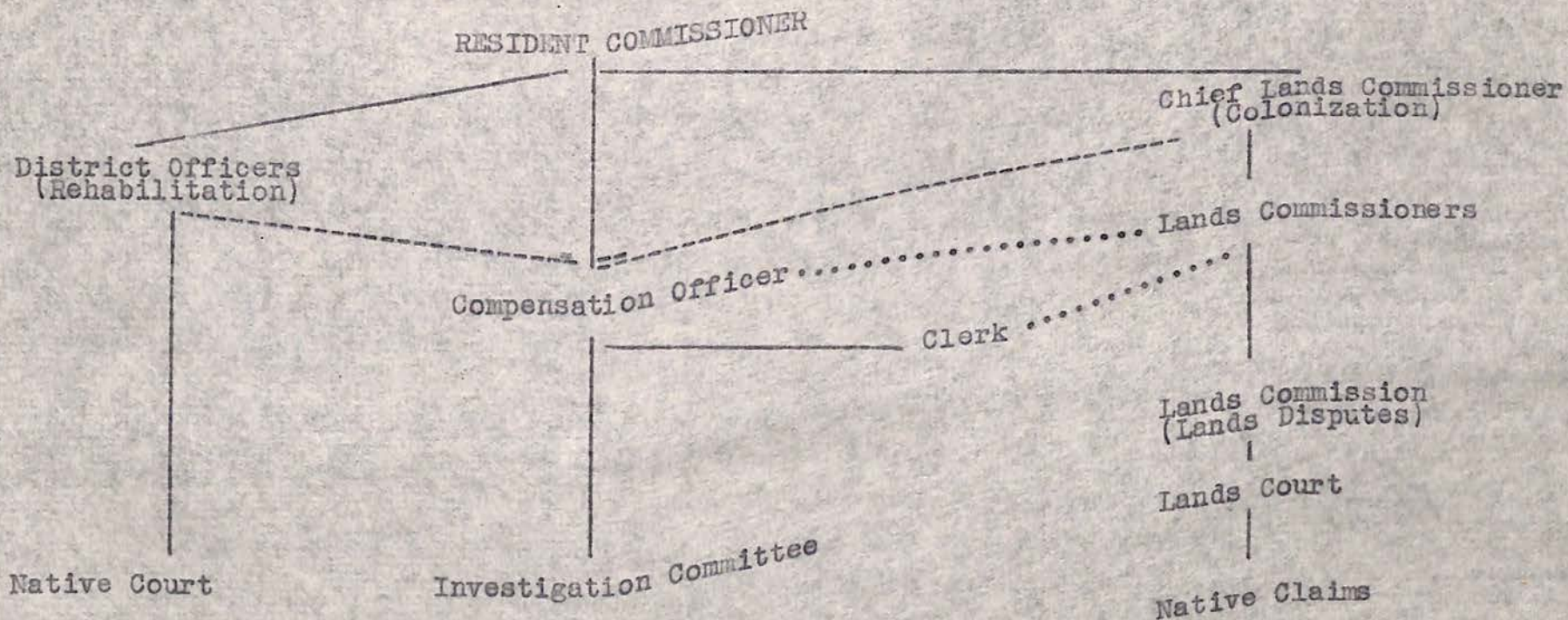
A. TARAWA: TIME: Approx. one month's duration:

1. Publication of revised table of Bairiki Landowners including complaints.
2. Interviews with any Bairiki Landowners who wish to see Compensation Officer.
3. Marking of Bairiki into Rental Classifications.  
(The above work will be done from Bairiki Headquarters)
4. Registration of all claims for damaged land by Special Council after sitting of September Court at Abaokoro: it is estimated that this work will take two days and is provisionally scheduled to start on 7th September next.
5. Circularization of Native Governments of Abaiang, Marakei, Maiana and Abemama to find which Natives of these atolls hold land on Tarawa which they may wish to rent to Government in connexion with scheme of equivalent compensation.
6. After completing claims investigation at Abaokoro the Investigation Committee to conduct inquiries at Bairiki: provided the organization suggested is approved there seems no reason why this inquiry should not be completed by the middle of September.

B. FUNAFUTI AND SUVA:

1. Visit to Suva by Compensation Officer (provided Chief Lands Commissioner cannot visit Colony) and to obtain equipment.
2. Stay of two weeks in Ellice Islands: it is understood that Funafuti may shortly be closing down and the opportunity of starting the scheme here and at Nukufetau before air communication ceases seems worth taking: if at all possible a visit to Nanumea would also be undertaken.  
(It is difficult to say how long the above program may take but even if Nanumea were included and assuming that aircraft can still land there total absence should not be more than 6 weeks).
3. On return further areas of Tarawa could be investigated and while the Investigation Committee is working the Compensation Officer should visit both Abemama and Butaritari.

ORGANIZATION:



LEGEND:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Direct Authority within Compensation Scheme
- ===== Direct Authority in other Departments
- - - - - Channels of liaison and advice
- ..... Unavoidable overlapping of duties
- ..... Eventual post of Clerk to Lands Commissioners

RENTAL ASSESSMENTS RATES:

1. LAND:

Data:

Reasons for Acceptance:

A.	Average annual nut yield over 60 years	45	Figures accepted by Funafuti and Tarawa Natives.
B.	Price per 1000 coconuts	15/-	Pre-war Tarawa figure: tests show that about 7000 coconuts are used to make 1 ton Copra, therefore return equivalent to production of 1 ton Copra @ 15/- per 1000 is 105/-: Labour value @ 45/- a month is also saved.
C.	Number of economically productive trees per acre	72	Based on planting distance of 27 feet: a maximum figure of productivity per acre.
D.	Number of years from date of planting to first productivity	10	Accepted at Funafuti and Tarawa by Natives.
E.	Value per acre per annum	48/-	A maximum rental figure based directly on productivity.
F.	Value per tree per annum	8d.	A maximum rental figure based directly on productivity.

2. BABAI:

Annual rental per 60 square feet

8d. An area of 576 square feet (24' x 24') was marked off on ground and Natives asked value of pit of same area in terms of coconut trees: average of 20 replies was 9.6 trees: adapted to nearest whole numbers gives value of 10 coconut trees to pit area 600 square feet or 60 feet per coconut tree (see F. above).

3. HOUSING:

(24' x 16').



CONSOLIDATED RENTAL AND COMPENSATION TABLE:

Designation:	Classification:	Unit:	Annual Rental: £	Restricted Compensation: £	Outright Compensation: £
Land: Good coconut Moderate coconut Poor coconut/pandanua Barren	"A"	Acre	2 - 8 - 0	24 - 0 - 0	1444 - 0 - 0
	"B"	"	1 - 16 - 0	18 - 0 - 0	108 - 0 - 0
	"C"	"	1 - 4 - 0	12 - 0 - 0	72 - 0 - 0
	"D"	"	12 - 0	6 - 0 - 0	36 - 0 - 0
<u>Pits:</u> Babai		60 sq.ft.	8d.	6 - 8	2 - 0 - 0 N.G. Tarawa suggest (2) good & bad.
<u>Housing:</u> Living Eating		24' x 16' 12' x 8'	15 - 0 7 - 6		5 - 5 - 0 2 - 2 - 6

RENTAL ASSESSMENT RATES:

3. HOUSING:

(24' x 16'):

Date:	£	Reasons for Acceptance:
Pandanus: 360 linear feet @ 4d per fathom Thatch : 250 @ 2d per thatch String : 20 lbs @ 6d per lb. "Te ba" : 1000 @ 5/- per 1000 Labour : 1 month @ 45/- per month	1 : 0 : 0 1 : 5 : 0 10 : 0 5 : 0 2 : 5 : 0	Basic Government buying rate Tarawa  Rate arbitrarily fixed at .33% 1000 coconuts. Basic Colony Labour rate  Total cost £5 - 5 - 0.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RENTAL AND COMPENSATION:

1. LAND:

A.	Annual rental (maximum) per acre of coconut land	£2 - 8 - 0
B.	Period from date of planting to first productivity	10 years.
	therefore, provided tree can be replanted Compensation per acre equals annual rental x 10	£24 - 0 - 0
	and, since bearing life of tree @ 45 nuts per annum is 60 years, Compensation per acre on land rendered uncultivable equals annual rent x 60	£144 - 0 - 0

2. BABAI PITS:

A.	Annual rental for 60 square feet of pit area (equals rental for 1 coconut tree)	8d.
B.	Compensation for 60 square feet of pit area (equals annual value of 1 coconut tree x 10)	6 - 8d.
C.	Compensation per 60 square feet of pit area (if land is no longer usable) equals annual rental x 60	£2 - 0 - 0

3. HOUSING: (24' x 16'):

A.	Compensation value per house 24' x 16'	£5 - 5 - 0
B.	Rental value (if occurring) equals one seventh Compensation value (average life of thatch 7 years)	15 - 0

9

Organization:

1. Aims:

- A. To avoid conflicting authorities and "bottle-necks" by placing the Compensation Officer in direct contact with His Honour.
- B. To establish an organization which can work simultaneously on all six islands once initial instructions have been given to staff.
- C. To use an existing Colony structure: the Lands Commission has been chosen as the duties are interdependent.

2. General Scheme of Work:

- A. Investigation Committees and Special Councils to be established on all six Islands:
- B. The Compensation Officer will establish a deadline for the registration of landowners and lands disputes in affected areas:
- C. The Compensation Officer will survey all affected areas and sub-divide them into lands classifications: each classified area will be plotted on a scale map and the area ascertained: from the area the rental value will be established.
- D. The Investigation Committees will record individual holdings of coconut trees in areas designated by the Compensation Officer treating disputed areas separately: rental will be allocated by the Compensation Officer in proportion to trees owned: for the purpose of assessment pandanus, breadfruit and "te bero" will be counted two to one coconut tree.
- E. Unless agreement can be reached, rental for disputed areas will be held until the Lands Commission settles disputes.
- F. The Special Councils sitting after the conclusion of the monthly Bowi will hear Native Claims for compensation in areas delineated by the Compensation Officer.
- G. The Special Council will adjudicate on claims and the Compensation Officer will allocate according to proportionate tree losses.
- H. The Special Council will hear claims under the following heads:
  - a. Loss of trees without owner being destitute.
  - b. Loss of garden (babai) pits.
  - c. Loss of property, housing etc.
  - d. Loss of trees and resultant destitution.

FURTHER NOTES:

1. Equivalent Compensation:

It is conceivable that some Natives will have lost so much land as to make them either permanently or temporarily destitute.

There are two methods of dealing with these cases:

- (a) Settlement under some colonization scheme; and,
- (b) Rental by Government for use of destitute Natives of land areas of equivalent productivity.

It is recommended that,

- (a) Full information of any present or future colonization scheme envisaged by the Chief Lands Commissioner should be made available; and,  
(b) Registration of all landowners on each of the affected Islands who are not normally resident on these Islands, with a view to the ascertaining of their willingness to rent land to the Government. This work will entail the most careful scrutiny of all Lands Registers and checking by the Lands Commission: a rough guide may be obtained by circularizing all Native Governments asking them to make early inquiries if any owners in this category live on their islands.

2. It must be made clear to Natives that "equivalent compensation" would debar them from monetary compensation from the date that land is made available to them. If temporary destitution only has been caused the rent by Government of compensatory land will cover the ten year period from the date of access to destroyed lands to first productivity of the replanted trees. If permanent destitution has occurred option should be given for such Natives to participate in any colonization scheme or failing this, Government could purchase compensatory land at the outright compensation figure.

3. It is recorded that an unofficial inquiry made a year ago found many ex-Betio residents willing to settle at Fanning Island, a fact verbally conveyed to the Secretary to Government.

2. Housing Compensation:

It is recommended that Housing compensation rates submitted, based not upon equivalent cost under Government's reconstruction scheme but upon actual cost to the Native householder, should be approved, but that payment of compensation should be conditional on the rebuilding of property according to specifications of type and time. In this connexion I would refer to Appendix No. 1 of my report on Tabiteuea and would again cite the appalling living conditions of Tekaman village as an example of uncontrolled village planning.

3. An example of the allocation of rentals:

Land Area "X":

Estimated area	4 acres
Rental classification	"A"
Rent payable	£9 - 12 - 0. (192/-)

Report of Investigation Committee:

Landowner A	150 coconut trees		
Landowner B	90 coconut trees		
Landowner C	70 coconut trees		
Disputed Land B/C	20 coconut trees	Total trees	330

Allocation of rental by Compensation Officer:

Landowner A	$\frac{150 \times 192}{330}$	equals	£4 - 7 - 4
Landowner B	$\frac{90 \times 192}{330}$	equals	£2 - 12 - 4.

Landowner C	$\frac{70 \times 192}{330}$	equals	£2 - 0 - 8
Disputed Land	$\frac{20 \times 192}{330}$	equals	11 - 8

4. Rental Rates:

As Agricultural land varies in productivity an arbitrary and comparative scale based upon a maximum of 48/- per acre rental per annum (which figure bears direct ratio to productivity) has been devised: its adoption for all Colony rentals excepting Ocean Island is recommended.

(For details please refer to Consolidated Table page 5).

5. Registration:

The registration of landowners and lands disputes promises to be one of the most difficult and tedious of the duties to be performed, and the proper completing of it essential both to this scheme and future Lands Commission work. As the work must be done before any allocations may be made it seems advisable to confer with the Chief Lands Commissioner so that the one registration may cover both Lands Commission and Compensation requirements. The early reorganization of the Lands Commission itself will greatly facilitate the completing of the Compensation Schemes and if a close liaison can be established both duties might be considerably shortened.

6. Recommendation:

As stated before in letters to His Honour the advantages of the advice of the Chief Lands Commissioner are overwhelming, and while the presence of the latter here in the Colony where discussions could be conducted with the District Officers concerned would be invaluable, if this suggestion is impracticable then the visit of the Compensation Officer to Suva is recommended.

Staff and Costs:

Provisionally the Staff required for the administration of the scheme is set out hereunder:

<u>Title:</u>	<u>Duties:</u>	<u>Pay:</u>
Compensation Officer (Mr. T.R. Cowell)	Officer in charge of scheme	as under Head V of current estimates:
Clerk & Interpreter (Tana)		as under Head XIII of current estimates
Native Members of Lands Commission (6)	Members of Investigation Committees and Special Councils	No provision in estimates: rate suggested £24 per annum in Gilberts and £18 per annum in Ellice.
Temporary Officials (Chiefs of Kaubure)	Members of Investigation Committees	No provision: suggested £10 per annum in Gilberts: £6 in Ellice:
(Two selected Officials per island)	Members of Investigation Committees	No provisions suggested £5 per annum in Gilberts and £3 in Ellice

It is possible that extra clerical help may be necessary, but as it is aimed to keep administrative costs to a minimum this will only be asked for in extreme need.

Equipment:A. Maps and Mapping Equipment:

Item:	Description:	Quantity:	Suggested Source:
Maps	U.S. Surveys of Butaritari, Tarawa, Abemama, Funafuti, Nukufetau and Nanumea	2 each	U.S. authorities
Map x case	Waterproof	1 only	Lands Dept. Suva
Mapping Table	Plywood: folding	1 only	Local
Tape, measuring 100 foot		1 only	Lands Dept. Suva +
Mapping Instruments	Dividers, protractor, Squares, rulers	1 set	Lands Dept. Suva ✓
Mapping Pens		6 only	Suva
Indian Ink	Black	2 <sup>2</sup> 6 bottles	Suva
	Red, Blue, Green, Orange	2 each	Suva
Pencils	HB black	1 dozen	Suva
	2B black	1 dozen	
	HB indelible black	$\frac{1}{2}$ dozen	
	HB indelible red	$\frac{1}{2}$ dozen	
	HB indelible blue	$\frac{1}{2}$ dozen	
	HB indelible green	$\frac{1}{2}$ dozen	
Tables, Mathematical	Logarithmic and Trigonometrical	1 set	Lands Dept. Suva ✓
Drawing paper	Cartridge	50 sheets	Lands Dept. Suva ✓
Graph paper	26" x 21": 1 inch square subdivided tenths	50 sheets	" P.W.D.?
Tracing Paper	26" x 21"	50 sheets	" ✓
Pins,	Drawing, brass head	100 only	Suva
Tape, cellulose	1 inch	1 roll	Lands Dept. Suva. X



B. Office, Portable:

Stationery Cabinet	U.S. Field Desk	1 only	U.S. Authorities
Typewriters	Portable	2 only	? ?
Typewriter Ribbons	Red/Black	6 only	Suva
Typewriter Rubbers		3 only	Suva
Followers	Foolscap	2 reams	
● Crown Agents	Foolscap	1 ream	
Crown Agents	8½" x 8"	2 reams	
File Jackets	Foolscap	50 only	
Ink	Waterproof Blue/Black	1 pint	
Clips	Gen	100 only	
Record books	Foolscap: ruled	6 only	
Rubbers	Pencil	3 only	
Notebooks	<i>Survey Field Book.</i> Field or Surveyors	12 only	FMF or Lands Dept. Suva.

C. Islands:

Note books	Field or Surveyors	48 only	FMF or Lands Dept. Suva.
Registers	Native Lands Commission (Fees and Forms) Regulations 1940 - Forms A and B	12 each Govt.	Govt. Printer, Suva.
Records Books	Foolscap	48 only	

Paper,	Foolscap ruled	2 reams
	8" x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " ruled	4 reams
Ink	Blue/Black	6 pints
Pencils	HB Black	6 dozen
Rubbers	Pencil	1 dozen
Rulers	12" steel edge	1 dozen
Envelopes	O.H.M.S. 5" x 4"	300
	9" x 5"	300
Paste	Bottles 1 pint	6 bottles
Penholders	Wood	1 dozen
Nibs	Relief and fine	6 boxes each.

Preliminary Survey Bairiki:

<u>Land Classification:</u>	<u>Approx. area</u>	<u>Approx rental</u>	<u>Total Rental:</u> <u>ANNUAL:</u>	<u>Remarks:</u>
"A"	16.5 acres	39 - 12 - 0		Pre-war rate for rent of area occupied by King George V School estimated @ 25 acres was £3 - 4 - 0 per acre. This rental is excessively high compared with majority of rents in group and was probably established before compulsory powers were given to the Crown for land requisition under Ordinance No. 4 of 1940.  The figures in this estimate should be considered approximate only as I have no instruments to work with.
"B" 1.	12.0 acres	21 - 12 - 0		
2.	9.5 acres	17 - 2 - 0		
3.	7.0 acres	12 - 12 - 0		
4.	7.5 acres	13 - 10 - 0		
5.	3.0 acres	5 - 8 - 0		
"C"	20.0 acres	24 - 0 - 0	133 - 16 - 0	

# G. H. ROBINSON

ISLAND MERCHANT & AGENT  
IMPORTER & EXPORTER

TELEPHONE : BW 4575  
G.P.O. BOX 3317  
SYDNEY

51 MACQUARIE STREET  
SYDNEY

15th September, 1945.

H. E. Maude Esq.,  
c/o The High Commission,  
SUVA, Fiji.

Dear Mr. Maude,

I have received your cable asking if we can supply all your stores as before, and can assure you that we shall be pleased to do so. My Island business has been re-established since my return from service, and we are already supplying clients in other groups of the Pacific, and we hope that this connection will extend as the Islands become more settled in the future.

I was very glad to hear from you again and hope that Mrs. Maude <sup>and you</sup> have been well through the trying times that have been experienced in the last few years. I do hope that you will find the Gilberts in an habitable condition, and if there is anything we can do or supply from here to assist in this direction you can be assured that it will be a pleasure to us.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

  
Gerald H. Robinson

17

The Secretary, Western Pacific High Commission.

Motor Cycle for Resident Commissioner.

Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

With reference to paragraph 18 of my Reorganization Memorandum, regarding the necessity of speeding of the work at Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony headquarters by the use of any practicable aids to efficiency, I should be grateful if His Excellency's sanction could be sought for the purchase of a motor cycle for my use as Acting Resident Commissioner.

2. Owing to the Japanese occupation, the Native Administration in the Gilbert Islands would appear to have retrogressed to a serious degree and it will be necessary, for some time to come, for the Acting Resident Commissioner and administrative staff to make strenuous efforts to pull things back to normal pre-war standards, as a necessary pre-requisite for farther advances.

3. With this end in view, it is essential that in my visits to outlying islands I should not confine my work to local Government headquarters but should, as far as time permits, make a personal tour of all villages. In the past, as an Administrative Officer, I was accustomed to perform this duty by canoe or bicycle, taking several days (if need be) over the tour. With the reduction of staff to a minimum it is, however, essential that every mechanical aid towards increased efficiency should be taken advantage of in order to save unnecessary loss of time in travelling which, in the Colony, has hitherto totalled up to a really outstanding figure.

4. It is not contended that every village in the Gilberts can be reached by motor cycle, but quite two-thirds can, and on several islands a complete tour of every inhabited centre could be made in an hour or two (as against a full and exhausting day or more by any other means).

5. Enquiries have resulted in my securing an option on two second hand motor cycles:-

- (i) an "Ariel" at £75; and
- (ii) a "B.S.A." at £65.

Both have been passed as mechanically in good order by Messrs Suva Motors, Limited, who tested them on my behalf. For the work required, I recommend the B.S.A., which is less of a high-speed job, easier to repair from a mechanical point of view, and has better tires.

6. There is no need for me to emphasize that, under the conditions obtaining in the Gilbert Islands, the motor cycle would not be used for social visits or indeed for any other purpose than the strictly official one of increasing my mobility, decreasing waste of time, and enabling the visitation and inspection of villages which I should not otherwise have an opportunity of reaching. I suggest that, under modern conditions, it is important that not only the Resident Commissioner but also other inspecting officers (such as the Administrative Officer in charge of the District) should have mechanical transport and in the event of this

application being approved I intend to use the machine now applied for to test out my view in actual practice and, should the cycle prove to be a real time and energy saver, to submit further applications to His Excellency in respect of those other officers.

(Fiji G.O. 132-136.)  
(Fiji G.O. 118-128.)  
7. I should add that the system often adopted by the Fiji Government of requiring officers to purchase their own motor cars or cycles (with or without a Government advance for the purpose) and then granting them a mileage allowance at a fixed rate, would not, in my submission, be suitable for application in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, on the grounds that:-

- (i) vehicles in the Colony, if required at all, would be used 100% (or virtually so) on Government work; this statement would, however, require modification should future headquarters be located on an island large enough for motoring;
- (ii) petrol and oil would, in the absence of private firms, have to be provided by the Government and accounting would be unnecessarily complicated if it had to be purchased by the officer and the cost then claimed back as a mileage allowance;
- (iii) certain officers who should have mechanical transport might refuse to purchase a car or cycle and thus waste Government time and money by unnecessarily slowing down their work; and
- (iv) the majority of motor cycles have no mileage indicators.

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

Suva, Fiji,

17th September, 1945.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

Tarawa,  
18th September, 1945.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit for your opinion a draft Native Lands Code applicable to the Gilbert Islands.

2. While at Tabiteuea I had the opportunity and the time to listen to numerous lands complaints and as my work as Compensation Officer was certain to bring me into contact with such complaints it seemed no waste of time to attempt to record some of the facts that I learnt and to try to weave them into a pattern of procedure which might simplify the work ahead. As I have stated in all my correspondence on the subject of War Damage Compensation I believe that my work and the duties of the Lands Commissioners are inextricably united and I have no doubt that the early presence of a Lands Commissioner in the Gilberts would be of great help in bringing my work to a speedy conclusion. I have also frequently stated that my appointment as a Lands Commissioner would be advantageous in the long run in that, while for the present I could confine my attentions to Compensation, I could start the compilation of new Lands Registers, a work which I am now in fact doing so as to obtain lists of Landowners. At the same time I am compelled to record all Lands Disputes so that records may be available for the Lands Commission speedily to settle those disputes which may hold up payment of compensation. It seems rather improbable that the work of Compensation will be finished under a year after the organization has been approved and by the end of that time it will have been impossible for me not to have gained a general knowledge of Lands Affairs in both the Gilberts and Ellice, and as it is my intention to place most of the work upon Native Committees there is strong possibility that I may have time to settle by conciliation many disputes arising on lands subject to Compensation. This possibility of my acting as a conciliator will of course depend upon how efficiently the Committees work but it does seem upon how that if the opportunity occurs the settlement of some disputes will be of general advantage to the Colony.

3. With these ideas in mind I considered it worth while to attempt to codify those aspects of Lands problems with which I became acquainted at Tabiteuea, and it is sincerely hoped that support may be given to my contention that in view of the close alliance of my work and that of the Lands Commission the time spent has not been wasted.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

*Laid Cowh*

Cadet Officer.

The Chief Lands Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

Bairiki, Tarawa,  
15th September, 1945.

This draft of a Native Lands Code is submitted as an attempt at establishing a procedure rather than as an effort to record Native Customary titles of lands transfer, and those parts dealing with such titles are mainly an amplification of Sir Arthur Grimble's notes in Chapter VII of Instructions and Hints. The draft has been thoroughly discussed with the Native Government of Tabiteuea and with the Senior Officials of the Governments of Nonouti, Maiana and Tarawa, all of whom appear most willing to accept modification of custom in the interests of a codification which will clearly set out a course that they may follow. Approval and advice has been also sought and given by Lieutenant Bauro Ratieta, Clerk and Interpreter Ikamawa, and Native Medical Practitioner Bakoa Tewei.

Probably the most cogent criticism to be made is that the Code deals only with Lands aspects of the much wider problems of Adoption, Minors, Bastardy and Destitution, yet while the codification of law in these matters is necessary, there seems no reason to suppose that cross-references to particular items in a Lands Code would complicate the structure of coded law on these matters while providing the Native Governments with a consolidated guide to Lands procedure and law.

In Ordinance No. 3 of 1940 provision exists for the recording of Native customary titles of Lands transfer, but it is suggested that in its proposed method of application many years might pass before investigations are sufficiently advanced to permit codification to start: it is therefore submitted that a more practicable solution, without in the least diverging from the policy of the Ordinance, lies in the introduction of a general code establishing procedure, regulating transfers and legalizing the more common and widely spread customs; and then, as experience is gained amendments and additions applicable to whole or parts of islands may be introduced. While the principle of addition and amendment must be admitted it is thought that too great attention to local variation may well result in complications almost as obstructive to rapid settlement of disputes as at present, and it is therefore urged that the principle should be followed only in interpretation that such additions and amendments before being accepted must fit into a codification simple enough for future Native Lands Commissioners to follow, understand and administer throughout the group as a whole. It is inconceivable customs from island to island are more estranged from each other than were those in other lands which by amalgamation and rejection have now codified and generally applicable laws, and if the future is to bring centralization of Government under the Natives themselves it is suggested that this policy should be aimed at in the Gilbert Islands.

It is not my intention however to stress this aspect of the draft; my aim is to offer a procedure which may simplify by record the difficulties of the present and future. It is conceived that the duty of any citizen lies to the State as well as to the family, and that this duty demands his helping to obviate the difficulties of lands transfer; it is suggested therefore that public declarations of intention should be compulsory to every landowner in the interests



interests of better administration of the Colony's most difficult problem. Secondly I have tried to place the burden of work on the Native Courts so that experience may teach them full responsibility to their people; the Lands Commission would become a Court of Appeal and the Lands Commissioners temporary teachers to guide the Courts through their period of tutelage.

Although it is not intended here to discuss the details of Lands Transfer Titles it seems pertinent to dwell briefly upon the puzzling state of them. In discussions on various administrative matters with Natives it has been found that custom and past instructions of European Officers have become inextricably mixed so that they are difficult to differentiate: a case in point is contained in Sir Arthur Grimble's Hints and Instructions. Here the order of reversion under the title of "te Toba" is set out through the eldest descendant in the male line of the transferor: creditable information says that this order was agreed upon in consultation between Sir Arthur and the Native people. Is this order of reversion a return to some almost forgotten custom or is it an alien introduction conforming to the old English law? I cannot find the answer here although general opinion can recall no ancient custom, but whichever interpretation is correct the amendment altered an existing order without antagonizing the Natives. That the Native Governments and strict custom have no strong affinity is natural in that tradition is now overwhelmed by the onerous duties of the Court, and after hearing the Native Magistrate of Tabiteuea seriously recommend that Government should take over and then re-allocate all land I venture to suggest that practical politics would now enlist a great majority of Official opinion in favour of a reorganization of Lands custom, if that reorganization ensured a simplification of present difficulties.

Draft Native Lands Code:

Part I - General Procedure:

Authority of Native Lands Court:

1. The Native Lands Court constituted under Section 17 of Ordinance No. 4 of 1941 shall transact all business connected with Native Lands transfers; except that,

(b) the Resident Commissioner may by Proclamation published in the Gazette exempt any person, persons, institution or company from any or all of the provisions of this Code.

Legality of Conveyances:

2. Except when Section 1 (b) applies no conveyance of Native Lands shall be legal unless proved before the Native Lands Court in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

Interpretation:

3. For the purposes of this Code the following interpretations shall apply:

"Landowner": that person whose name is registered in the Lands Register against any particular and named land; in any case in which registration of the name of a landowner has been omitted from the Lands Register, only a Lands Commissioner shall be able to designate the landowner and shall cause the name of the person so designated to be entered into the Lands Register.

"Interested Parties": those persons who are the transferee and transferor together with the direct descendants of the transferor, or in the event of no direct descendants of

the transferor those persons adjudged by the Native Court to be next-of-kin of the transferor.

"Next-of-kin": the Native Court on each Island shall draw up a list of the recognized degrees of relationship according to Native customary use of the Island which shall contain details of the customary order of relationship down to the second degree. If in any case there arises a next-of-kin outside of this customary degree the Native Court shall give a decision to the Native Lands Court defining the next-of-kin, but such a decision shall be restricted to the succeeding degree of relationship and shall in no case extend to more than one degree of relationship in the customary sense of the word. Such decisions by the Native Court may on the recommendation of a Lands Commissioner be accepted as precedents establishing a rule, and the Chief Lands Commissioner may, by Proclamation in the Gazette, declare such rule a part of this code in respect of any particular Island or Islands, District or Districts as defined in Ordinance No. 3 of 1940.

Validity of Conveyances:

4. No conveyance of Native Land shall be valid until entered in the Lands Register and signed by the alienator, the Native Magistrate, the Chief of Kaubure and a Lands Commissioner.

(b) In the event of a division of a

deceased's estate the entry in the Lands Register shall be signed by the Native Magistrate, the Chief of Kaubure, a Lands Commissioner and all persons who have received lands under the division of the said estate.

(c) Title to any land so recorded and signed shall be accepted as legal proof of possession and ownership.

Entries in the Lands Register:

5. No entry shall be made in the Lands Register without the authority of a Lands Commissioner: a Lands Transfer Register shall be kept by the Native Member of the Lands Commission appointed under Section 4 of Ordinance No. 8 of 1924 for each Island, in which shall appear a record of all alienations of Native Land approved by the Native Lands Court: all entries in the Lands Transfer Register shall be signed in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of this Code, and when signed by a Lands Commissioner shall, on his authority, be transferred to the Lands Register.

Duty of an Alienator:

6. No alienation of Native Land shall be permitted, except when Section 1 (b) of this Code applies, unless the alienator appears before the Native Lands Court and publicly declares the intention to alienate such lands publicly indicated before the Native Lands Court.

(b) In the case of a sick person

unable to attend the Native Lands Court a written declaration witnessed and signed by two Kaubure shall be accepted as evidence of the alienator's intention, such declaration being read in Court and preserved for record by the Lands Commission Member.

(c) The above section in no way relieves a transferee from the duty of attending the Court session at which the declaration is publicly read.

Registration of an  
alienation:

7. Any alienation shall be entered in the Lands Transfer Register and signed by the alienator, or, if the provisions of Section 6 (b) above apply, shall be signed by the Kaubure witnessing the declaration of the alienator, by the Native Magistrate and the Chief of Kaubure.

Period of Probation:

8. A period of three months from the date of the declaration shall be allowed to elapse before the transferee may take possession of any land alienated to him, and during this interval the alienator may rescind his declaration.

(b) A rescission of a declaration of alienation must be made before the Native Lands Court in the presence of the transferee, either by the transferor, or, if the transferor is sick, by a written rescission witnessed and signed by two Kaubure and publicly read in the Court.

(c) If the alienator should die before this probationary period has

elapsed, the heir to the alienator may, according to his wishes, confirm or rescind the alienation provided the full provisions of Section 6 above are complied with: if the heir of such an alienator desires to confirm the alienation, possession may take place at the end of the three months probationary period commencing from the date of publication of the original declaration of alienation.

Complaints:

9. Any complaint arising out of any alienation shall be lodged in writing with the Native Lands Commission Member at least one week before the transferee is due to take possession of the land; except that,

(b) in any case in which the complainant is unable to lodge a complaint within the specified time, the Court, at its discretion may admit the hearing of such complaint as if it had been made within the above specified time limit, provided that no complaint shall be permitted after the expiry of twelve calendar months from the date on which possession falls due except with the prior approval of a Lands Commissioner.

Court procedure on receiving a complaint:

10. The Court on receipt of a complaint shall order all interested parties as defined under Section 3 of this Code, or as defined by Native Court order under the said section, whichever shall be applicable, to appear before it, and if

any doubt exists as to the legality of the alienation, the Court shall declare the land to be in common ownership (i buobuoki) and shall register the amendment in the Lands Transfer Register. The dispute may then be referred to the Lands Commission for settlement.

(b) If the Court considers the transferee's claim is legitimate it shall protect the transferee in possession and the onus of further action shall lie with the complainant.

(c) In any case in which no transfer is involved but that the ownership of the land is in dispute the same procedure as laid down in the two immediately preceding subsections of this Section shall be followed and the onus of action in appealing against the decision of the Court shall still lie with the complainant.

(d) Any Native who wishes to lodge an appeal against the decision of the Court shall register the appeal during the first visit of the Lands Commission to the Island after the Court decision has been made known, and the registration of such appeal shall be made in accordance with the arrangements prescribed by the Lands Commissioner visiting the said Island. Default by a complainant to register an appeal during the first visit of the Lands Commission after the decision of the Court

has been made known shall, except under special circumstances approved by the Lands Commissioner visiting the said Island, debar the complainant from the right to lodge an appeal.

Procedure in respect of  
illegal transactions:

11. No form of Lands transfer not recorded in this Code, nor in approved amendments or additions to this Code, nor any transfer conducted other than according to the provisions of this Code or approved amendments or additions thereto, shall be permitted nor shall any title to land so obtained be accepted as evidence of legal ownership.

(b) In any case in which ownership is claimed through a transaction other than according to the provisions of this Code, or if any complaint is raised on account of any such transaction, the Court shall instruct the alienator to amend the transaction in accordance with the provisions of this Code, or if the alienator is dead shall treat any lands so involved as an intestate estate.

(c) The preceding subsection shall not be read as applying to transactions arising before the promulgation of this Code except in so far as Section 35 is applicable.



Part II - Customary Titles of Lands Alienation:

12. Native Customary Titles of Lands Alienation permitted are set out in this part of the Lands Code.

"Te Toba":  
(Gift of Adopter to Adopted):

13. Gifts under this title appear in the form of "aba n natinati" (gift to an adopted child) or "aba n tibutibu" (gift to an adopted grandchild).

Evidence needed to support alienation:

(b) Any lands alienation under this title must be supported by evidence of adoption recorded in the Adoption Registers

Issueless death of recipient:

(c) Should the line of the person adopted become extinct, any land alienated to this person shall revert to the alienator, or if the alienator is dead, to the eldest direct descendant of the alienator in the male line, or, if there is no direct male descendant, shall revert to and be equally divided among any direct female descendants of the alienator.

Inheritance of revertible land through female descendants shall occur only through the nearest direct descendants of the dead alienator, thus while descendants of the first generation are living claims of descendants of subsequent generations may be filed only through those descendants of the first.

(d) Should any such land revertible to the alienator and the alienator should have no direct descendants, such land

shall be treated as an intestate estate, provided the alienator has made no legal provision for the distribution of such land.

Alienation by recipient illegal:

(e) The recipient of a gift of land under this title may never alienate any such land.

"Te Kuakua":  
(Gift to caretaker of sick person):

14. Before any alienation under this title is permitted it shall be necessary to prove that the next-of-kin of the sick person deliberately refused to attend that person during sickness.

Conditions limiting alienation:

Provision for review:

(b) Any alienation awarded by the Lands Court under this title shall be subject to review by a Lands Commissioner, but the onus of laying a complaint shall lie with the next-of-kin of the alienator.

Protection of rights of inheritance:

(c) If the person adjudged by the Native Court to be next-of-kin of the sick person is absent from his home the following protection of rights of inheritance shall apply:

Absentee next-of-kin:

(i) such next of kin shall, by letter through the Office of the Native Magistrate be informed of the illness of his relative and shall be requested to return to care for such relative on the penalty of forfeiting his right to claim against an alienation under this title; except that,

Inability to return:

(ii) if such next-of-kin is unable to return through illness or inability to obtain a passage to his home island a letter signed by the Native Magistrate

of his island of residence shall be admitted as proof of such inability to return through circumstances beyond his control. In these circumstances no award of "aba ni kuakua" shall be made until such next-of-kin shall return to his home Island.

Precedent and award:

(iii) to obtain the proportion of land which should in these circumstances be awarded to the caretaker, the first three recorded cases on each Island shall be accepted as a precedent and the Chief Lands Commissioner may at his discretion frame legislation incorporating the details of these awards and declare them as establishing a rule which may be incorporated in this Code as applicable to that Island or any part thereof.

Special cases of inability to return:

(iv) If the next-of-kin holds any Public or Mission appointment or is indentured as a labourer and by reason of such appointment or indenture is unable to return to care for a sick relative, any grant of "aba ni kuakua" shall be restricted to one piece of land and one garden pit. A written declaration by the employer of such a person countersigned by the Native Magistrate of his Island of residence shall be accepted as proof of special inability.

Deliberate refusal:

(d) If the next-of-kin deliberately refuses to return to look after a sick relative and has no special ties to prevent

his return, the Lands Court shall ascertain the name of the next-of-kin after him and shall rule his refusal as a denial of further interests in any grant of "aba ni kuakua" made. In any letter addressed through the Office of the Native Magistrate the Lands Court shall state the time interval authorised by it before which the absent next-of-kin should return, or present or cause to be presented through the Office of the Native Magistrate details of any special inability which prevent his return. Any written records arising out of these provisions shall be carefully preserved by the Native Lands Commission Member.

Grant to Strangers:

(e) On no occasion, until all kin so designated by the Native Court shall have refused to look after the sick relative, shall a gift of land under this title to a stranger be permitted.

"Aba n Akoi":  
(Gift in return for service rendered):

15. This is a general title for the conveyance of any alnd in return for a service rendered to the alienator, and if any dispute arises out of its grant and within the specified probationary period, the Lands Court shall refuse to permit the alienation, unless such alienation is directly within the family of the alienator in which case it shall still be subject to the approval of a Lands Commissioner under the provisions of Section 4 of this Code.

Application of Title:

(b) No land may be alienated under this title which should properly be alienated under

other customary titles and if any doubt exists the Lands Court should refuse to grant the conveyance.

"Kao ni kibakiba":  
"Bururu n rakaraka":  
(Gifts by husband to wife and  
vice versa on marriage:)

16. Provided no complaint is made within the probationary period either of these alienations may be permitted, subject to the usual confirmation by a Lands Commissioner under Section 4 of this Code.

"Ba n uri":  
(Gift from Adopted to  
Adopter):

17. Except in so far as Part III of this code is applicable, an alienation under this title may be permitted subject to reference to a Lands Commissioner in the event of the lodging of a complaint within the probationary time limit.

"Aba ni marai":  
(Gift by parents of an  
adopted child to adopter):

18. Provided no complaint is made within the probationary period an alienation under this title may be permitted by the Native Lands Court, except that the full conditions of Part III of this code (Section 21 (ii)) must be complied with.

"Aba n natintama":  
(Bastard inheritance):

See Section 22 of this Code:

"Aba ni maiu":  
(Basic inheritance):

See Section 31 of this Code:

Part III - Minors' Estates:

Contracts with Minors:

19. Any child under the age of 16 years shall be regarded as a Minor, and no contract bearing any relation to any transfer of land owned by such a child shall be legal; except that,

(ii) the gift of "te ba n uri" may be granted provided the Lands Court is satisfied that no coercion has been used by the intended recipient.

Administration of Minors' Estates:

20. The lands of any minor shall be administered on the child's behalf by the parents or the adoptive parents, but in the latter case any adoption must be supported by the evidence of the Adoption Registers.

Adoption:

21. Any child whose adoption is recorded in the adoption registers shall have the same rights of inheritance as any natural child of the adoptive parents; except that,

(ii) in the event of the division of the estate of the adoptive parents any lands alienation to an adopted child under the title "te toba" shall be taken into account by the Lands Court, and the inheritance of the adopted child shall be restricted to a share in any other lands of the adoptive parents only after equality in ownership has been attained by the natural children of the adoptive parents.

(iii) For the purposes of simplification of procedure the Lands Court will entertain no claim connected with Adoption unless the full provisions of the Laws of Adoption have

been complied with.

Part IV - Bastard Inheritance:

Support of a Bastard:

22. If a man is adjudged by the Native Court to be father of a bastard child the Court shall inform the Lands Court of the declared identity of the father, and the Lands Court shall by order alienate one piece of land together with one garden pit for the support of the child: this award shall be known under the title "te aba n natintama".

"Aba n natintama":

Land of Bastard as a Minor:

23. Any land alienated under this title shall be held in trust by the mother until the child reaches the age of sixteen years. The provisions of Part III of this Code are fully applicable to any alienation under this title.

Bastard's right to Mother's land:

24. A bastard child shall have the same rights of inheritance to his mother's land as any legitimate child of the mother's.

Legal adoption of Bastard by declared father:

25. If the man adjudged by the Native Court to be father of the child legally adopts the child no such gift of land shall be made, or, if the grant has been made, such land shall revert to the father.

Legal adoption of bastard by other parents:

26. If a bastard child is adopted by other parents the provisions of Part III of this Code shall apply to any land owned by the child under this title.

Reversion of award:

27. Any award of land under this title is subject to the same conditions of reversion

as is "te aba n toba" should the recipient die without issue.

Part V - Intestacy:

Division of Estate:

28. In the event of intestacy the relative of the dead landowner shall file a claim for the settlement of the estate before the Lands Court which shall divide the land in the following manner -

(i) the eldest male descendant, other male descendants according to age, then female descendants according to age shall signify their wish to be entitled to one piece of land plus one garden pit; and,

(ii) when all have had a choice the order of choice shall be reversed: this procedure shall be followed until distribution of the estate has been effected.

(iii) if there is disagreement between the members of the family the Lands Court shall make an interim award and shall refer the complaints to the Lands Commissioner.

(iv) in the distribution of such land no such land may be distributed outside of the family, as defined by the Native Court ruling, without the permission declared before the Lands Court of all members of such family.

Probationary period:

29. Three months from the date of any such division of an intestate estate by the Lands Court, the holder may not be disputed in possession of such land awarded to him



unless a complaint is registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of this Code.

Onus of complaint:

30. The onus of laying any complaint before the Lands Court or the Lands Commission shall lie with the dissatisfied party and in the latter case shall be laid during the first visit of the Lands Commission to the Island.

Part VI - Maintenance of Children:

Protection of rights:

31. No child of a landowner shall be left destitute:

(i) Any child of a landowner may, on the death of the landowner, appear before the Lands Court and claim protection from destitution.

(ii) Before making any award from the estate of the dead landowner the Lands Court shall first ascertain what land is owned by the claimant, and if no land had previously been alienated to him by the dead landowner, or if no compensatory land has been received from any other source, the Court may make an award to be known under the title of "te aba ni maiu".

"Aba ni maiu":

(iv) This award shall be limited to the grant of one piece of land and one garden pit from the estate of the dead landowner, and shall be awarded in such manner that all beneficiaries under the division of the estate of the dead landowner make equal compensation to the claimant.

(v) Any awards granted under this title shall be referred to the Lands Commissioner for confirmation.

Part VII - Land Exchanges:

Procedure:

32. Any direct exchange of land must be performed before the Lands Court in the presence of all interested parties and the transfer entered in the Lands Transfer Register, signed by the contracting parties, the Native Magistrate and the Chief of Kaubure.

Restriction on possession:

(ii) The contracting parties shall not take possession of the lands exchanged until a period of three months has elapsed after the signing of the agreement before the Lands Court: the provisions of Section 8 of this Code are fully applicable to land exchanges performed under this Part of the Code.

Complaints:

(iii) Any complaint against the agreement shall be registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of this Code.

Validity:

(iv) Section 4 of this Code is fully applicable to transactions under this Part of the Code.

Illegal contracts:

(v) No transfer of land for money or for any property other than land shall be permitted without the prior consent of a Lands Commissioner, who shall refer the matter to the Resident Commissioner in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of Ordinance No. 4 of 1940.

Part VIII - Boundary Disputes:

33. If any dispute arises out of lands boundaries and the disputing parties are unable to reach agreement either outside of or before the Lands Court, the Court shall make an arbitrary settlement which may be referred to the Lands Commission during its first visit to the Island after the decision of the Lands Court has been given by either complainant.

Part IX - Garden Pits and other Property:

34. Garden pits shall be subject to the provisions of this code and shall be interpreted as one and the same in meaning as Land.

(ii) In any instance in which a Garden Pit is dug on the land of another owner with that owner's permission such pit shall remain the property of the person who dug it or caused it to be dug, and of his heirs and successors indefinitely.

(iii) The onus of proving that permission had been obtained from the landowner shall lie with the owner of the pit.

(iv) The onus of proving that any special area had been delimited shall rest with the landowner on whose land the pit had been dug, and the only irrefutable evidence acceptable by the Lands Court shall be a

written agreement signed by both contracting parties before the Lands Court.

(v) In the case of breadfruit, pandanus or any other plant which requires no special care, labour or attention, such plant shall remain the property of the planter only so long as he remains in actual possession of the land on which the plant is growing.

Part X - Powers of the Lands Commission to settle disputes in accordance with the provisions of this Code:

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35. By order of a Lands Commissioner the Lands Commission may effect settlement of any dispute or complaint in accordance with the provisions of this code and any powers given to the Native Lands Court by the provisions of this Code shall at the same time be vested in the Lands Commission. Nothing in this section shall prevent the settlement of any dispute or complaint by the Lands Commission in accordance with the provisions of this Code the origins of which have arisen before the promulgation of this Code.

Notes and Discussion:

Part 1 - General Procedure:

1. The exemption paragraph (b) is designed to exempt all or any part of the British Phosphate Commission - Banaban Lands transactions.

2. To place the duty on the Native owner of appearing before the Native Lands Court if it is desired to alienate land so that accessible records may be kept.

3. The Native Government of Tabiteuea and later the Native Magistrates of Nonouti, Maiana and Tarawa agree that the registered landowner is owner of land in his own right and that the family have no customary claim except through his expressed wishes and in the case of intestacy. It would seem better to have relationship degrees drawn up although the following list appears to be acceptable both at Tabiteuea and Tarawa: perhaps it is general throughout the Group.

Landowner  
Son of Landowner  
Grandson of Landowner  
Eldest Brother of Landowner  
Succeeding brother according to age  
Sisters or Landowner irrespective of age  
Son of Eldest Brother  
Sons of other Brothers  
Sons of Sisters  
Grandson of Eldest Brother  
Grandsons of other Brothers  
Grandsons of Sisters

It is thought that the number of cases not covered by this list will be small but to cover the eventuality provision is made for a declaration of consanguinity by the Native Court which at the discretion of the Chief Lands Commissioner may be added to the Degrees recorded above. In any case where "interested parties" or "next-of-kin"

become involved in a Lands Dispute it is envisaged that the "next-of-kin" living will be restricted to the senior member according to this list so as to reduce interminable argument.

Once this position has been clarified this Section of the Code may be re-written to include more specific detail.

4.

5. The Lands Transfer, compiled in the same style as the Lands Register, is designed to obviate errors in the Lands Register and to keep the latter unutilated and legible.

6. Public announcement of an intended alienation should provide any prospective complainant with opportunity of registration. A written declaration by a sick person should obviate much unnecessary argument in Court.

7. Please refer to 5 above.

8. At Tabiteuea I found that Native owners were in the habit of declaring an alienation and then rescinding it at a later date. The rescission appeared often due to a change of conduct by the recipient towards the transferor and as the transferor was often an elderly person it seems reasonable to include a "probationary period" to protect the rights of elderly landowners who make gifts thoughtlessly or under persuasion. As a decree "nisi" provides a probationary period in divorce under our law so does a similar period seem satisfactory in Lands transfers, partly as a protection of rights and partly as an opportunity for the registration of complaints. The alternative of making a lands

alienation before the Lands Court inviolable presupposes a state of education and mental development still unattained by the Village Native.

9. The provision for a written complaint may appear an unnecessary hardship for the Village Native yet its advantages, in giving the Lands Commission Member time to call all interested parties and "next-of-kin", and in providing an initial list upon which the Lands Commission may work on reaching an Island, seem overwhelming.

Provision is made also to cover the registration of a complaint by a Native who happens to be absent from his Island at the time of the alienation and is unable to return before three months have elapsed.

10. An enlargement of the procedure laid down in Chapter VII of "Hints and Instructions". Provision at (d) ensures that the Lands Commission's work is kept reasonably up to date and not complicated by age old complaints.

11. A regulating section which applies to transactions conducted after promulgation of Lands Code.

12.

13. The main argument in support of the interpretations of Native Customary titles of this Section is that they have been agreed upon in general by the Native Government of Tabiteuea and by the Native Magistrate and Chief of Kaubure of Tarawa.

In the main they are only enlargements of Chapter VII of "Hints and Instructions". For reversion under the title of "te toba" please refer to covering letter.

14. Perhaps the most difficult title to deal with. It is thought that the procedure outlined should give the Lands Court a general guide though possibility there are many loopholes which I have missed. Subsection (iv) is an innovation but one which seems necessary as the Colony Native Staff increases in size.

15. This seems to be a general title of transfer and is believed used by a doting elder to the young. However I can see no objection to its use if the transfer is directly within the family of the alienator? Subsection (b) is designed to prevent the circumvention of the strict provisions surrounding the grant of "aba ni kuakua".

16. This title is, I am told, infrequently used nowadays but there seems to be little objection to its use provided the Lands Commissioner still has final say.

17. It seems possible that the distinction between "te ba n uri" and "te aba ni marai" (or the ni ni marai) is almost forgotten. So far as I can discover no customary reversion is attached to either title. The gift of the former is restricted by the conditions governing lands transfers by minors.



19. An effort to protect children.

20+21. Further safeguards.

22+27. This is a codification of existing procedure at Tabiteuea and seems equally acceptable at Nonouti, Maiana and Tarawa. The only innovation appears to be in the allocation of a Title of Transfer. I have some doubts as to the correctness of Section 27 but the Native inform me that this reversion is practised: has Sir Arthur Grimble left any notes on this matter as it is bound up with his work on "te toba".

28+30. Again a codification of existing procedure at Tabiteuea plus the provision for probationary period and for the registration of complaints with the Lands Commission.

31. While at Tabiteuea I found a case in which the father of two children had died suddenly of fish poisoning. At the time he was living with his daughter and left all his land to her: the son complained but neither I nor the Native Court could find any legal basis for altering the will of the father. Unless this tendency is stopped the growth of a destitute class will be unavoidable and this Section is included to try to prevent this coming to pass. It is definitely not Customary but has the approval of the Native Government of Tabiteuea and Native Magistrate and Chief Kaubure of Tarawa.

32. Mainly the application of other parts of the Code to actual transfers plus a provision that land may not be exchanged for other property. At Tabiteuea I found one example where a canoe had been exchanged for land much to the dislike of the landowner's heir: it is suggested that such transfers are counted as "leases" and to discourage their use that the Resident Commissioner's approval is made both expensive and necessary.

33. This Section is weak but I have had no experience in the matter and hesitate to enlarge upon it at this stage.

34. Codification of existing custom at Tabiteuea and agreed upon by Native Magistrate, Chief Kaubure and several Natives of Tarawa.

35. No comment.

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BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

35

THE LIBRARY

October 1, 1945

Dear Mr. Maude,

It is always so pleasant to hear from you. I have shared your letter with Kenneth, and shall share it with Dr. Buck when he comes back after a little battle with flu. In the same mail as your letter of July 3rd was one from Mrs. Maude, dated June 22nd. La! La! I hope the mails can improve soon. That's only a week apart, but both letters reached here during my vacation, the first three weeks of September!

What a trip you have had. I read your itinerary to Sam Elbert, and he said a little jealously, "He's been to more islands than I have." Sam Elbert is now Lt. Cmdr. Elbert, and he has been translator with the Navy Intelligence during the war, stationed in Samoa for two years, then sent to Majuro, in the Marshalls, to help make up a little vocabulary for that area, and soon he is to go to Truk or some island in the general vicinity. I hope these vocabularies will get into print. There is talk of it.

But your trip must have been wonderful. I wish you had taken a day (?) off- air travel is so fast!- and come up here just to cheer us.

Thank you for seeing to it that the "Native Medical Practitioner" reached us. It was only the last issue that was missing and it has arrived.

Of the "Transactions and Proceedings of the Fiji Society of Science and Industry" we have three issues, - 1938-39 to and including 1940-1941. I shall be most grateful to you if you can get our name on the list. In return would the Annual Report be acceptable? All BM publications on natural history go to the Department of Agriculture, those on anthropology go to the editor of "Na Mata". The Fiji Museum makes its own deal for what it wants as it appears, or later. The Governor's Office gets publications on Fiji.

I still have funds of yours to the amount of \$16.00, and have just sent off an order to the San Francisco News Co. for three books, - Hall's "Lost Island" and two by Frisbie, "The island of Desire" and "Amaru" both 1944 or 1945. (PHB thinks Lost Island is a little maudlin. He had a chance to talk with the engineer from Borabora, and the picture was not so sad.)

I should like to have the WPHC Public Service Reorganization Report and the one for Tonga; Heyen's "Sailing directions for the Gilbert Is." and the Leprosy Survey of the BSI. I received a set of the Fijian leprosy reports, etc, Makogai, etc. Send anything that you know should be here, and send with bill when that is necessary. Thanks.

Best regards,

*Margaret Pittman*

To Mr. H.E. Maude,  
c/o Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

October 1, 1945.

Dear Maude,

Miss Titcomb passed on to me the news of you people, which has enabled me to keep track of you. Now that I am out of uniform and busily back at ethnographing, I have been trying to pick up the old threads and to reestablish my anthropological world.

That you have been visiting over such a terrific range so recently makes me wish you were coming here, so that we could learn what you saw and learned. Were you able to pick up any material of interest to us in your visit to eastern Polynesia?

I do not know what the financial status of the Bishop Museum is, but I would like to recommend that you come here with your Pitcairn adzes and work up a study of them here. Could you get away for three or four months to do this?

My flying trip to the New Hebrides just gave me an hour at Fiji, but I was thankful for the marvellous view of the group as we flew over it in the C-54. I was able to make one real trip into the interior of the island of Esperitu Santo and had my first contact with truly primitive living people. I shall prize that experience the rest of my days.

Let's hope that ethnological work opens up on a good scale with ample funds and that you can participate.

Faithfully yours,

*Emory*

Canton Island 7th October 1945.

Your Honour,

There is very little apart from routine matters which have been taken up in official correspondence to talk about this month - it has been fairly quiet.

No further reduction in strength of troops or naval personnel although there is very little in the way of air traffic and even R.A.F.T.C. have reduced to one plane each way per week.

Dr. Knoelly presented me with a large quantity of field dressings and shell dressings together with some wool, bandages, gauze and adhesive tape - I've advised the S.M.O. (is he back yet by the way?) and have divided the material up for distribution to the islands.

I also received several thousand cases of "C" ration which will do us here for many months to come - so much stuff that I had a lot of fun finding places to store it - also received a large supply of fowl food for the hens and chickens and now they want to give me all their weevily flour - I propose to take it and let the Native staff have it, they can sort out the weevils in their own time.

Two boats have been put up on the hard - one is an old bowser boat - they have both been given to me and I think that I can persuade them to put an engine in <sup>the latter</sup> and it will do very well for work around the island - the "Nei Take's" engine is not strong and if she runs into any rip, especially after taking out the trash cans she can only come in very slowly against the current. The two other boats which were given to Lt-col Huggins are still here also.

Travel facilities have been difficult again this month (September) and the trip to ~~Gnondaga~~ was put off but I hope to get down there this week by plane.

The filing is finally finished - I shall send you a copy of the completed Index but I am still going through each file and re-numbering the minutes which takes time - I have re-organised the post-office and dug out the correct Mail and Registered Letters Books which had not been used for some time.

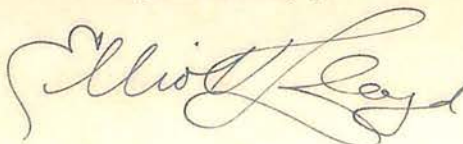
I have completed the estimates for next year with the exception of the Good Conduct Badges for the police - I wired the O.C. Armed Constabulary on the subject last week but have had no reply yet - officers don't seem to realise that when I ask for a reply by telegraph I hope to get one by telegraph and I never ask for such unless I consider it essential. With communications the way they are I don't expect to get any more direct mail from Tarawa and we'll be back to mails via Suva and Nadi only I think.

Nothing else to report, sir, I am particularly fit and keep the weight down to about 157 lbs although I have found that I am using my spectacles practically constantly for office work and reading.

No chance of you coming down here, I expect, I do wish you could come and see me here before I go to Suva.

We were thrilled to hear Ocean Island on the air the other day - also someone calling the "Maureen" - you are getting quite up to date.

Obediently,



Copy.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

SUVA, FIJI.

10th October, 1945.

Dear Gent,

Thank you for your letter of the 26th September. I enclose three copies of Maude's memorandum. I am in agreement with it as a statement of policy and, subject to modification on points of detail, I consider that it should be worked to. I shall, however, be addressing you officially on it in due course. When doing so I shall probably not go into great detail, as we don't want to get tangled up in the trees when we should be looking at the wood. I may even combine it with our general despatch on our plan for post war development in connexion with a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. The time for detail is when dealing with specific aspects of development and applications for grants for particular services, e.g. medical.

Yours ever,

(Signed) A.G. Grantham.

G.E.J. Gent, Esq., C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.

Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji.

18th October, 1945.

Personal.

Dear Captain Roberts,

I was glad to get your letter of the 6th October and to learn from it that you are still interested in the Colony and its inhabitants. You are fortunate in having had experience of both races: both have their sterling qualities, and shortcomings, and whether one prefers the Gilbertese or Ellice Islanders appears to be largely a matter of one's own temperament.

We have an application from you on file here asking for a permanent appointment either as an Administrative Officer or in the Education Department. It is dated the 25th April and the Resident Commissioner replied to you by letter (also on file) stating that it was improbable that any permanent appointments in either Department would be made during the war and suggesting that you should re-submit your application, if you so desired, on a P/1 form.

This was done by you on the 17th August and duly forwarded to us. No action has, however, been taken on it as yet since it is complicated by another application made by you on the 27th July for appointment as a Civil Affairs Officer in the Far East. This was forwarded to the Adjutant General, Army Headquarters, Wellington, on the 15th September but no reply has as yet been received. I imagine that no action is likely to be taken as regards your possible employment in the High Commission Service until it is known whether you are leaving us for the Far East or not?

In any case, I hope to have an opportunity of meeting you personally on my way through to Tarawa and we shall no doubt have an opportunity of discussing the question of your future service in detail, should it not have been settled in the meantime.

The next few years should certainly be a most interesting period in the Colony's history, though the gradual change-over to civilian conditions and the development of native institutions is likely, I imagine, to prove far from easy.

Hoping to see you before long,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

H. E. Maude.

Captain R.G. Roberts,  
C/o The District Officer,  
Funafuti Island,  
Ellice Islands.

C/O THE DISTRICT OFFICER,  
FUNAFUTI,  
ELLICE ISLANDS.  
6 OCTOBER, 1945.

DEAR MR. MAUDE,

IT IS WITH SOME HESITATION THAT I WRITE YOU, BUT AS YOU WERE SO KIND AS TO GIVE ME ADVICE, WHEN YOU WERE IN AUCKLAND, CONCERNING MY DESIRE TO JOIN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, I FEEL SURE THAT YOU WILL OVERLOOK ANY PRESUMPTION ON MY PART.

NEARLY TWO MONTHS AGO I FORWARDED TO HEADQUARTERS AT TARAWA, AN APPLICATION FOR AN APPOINTMENT AND HAVE NOT, AS YET, HAD ANY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR REPLY. H.E., WHEN ON HIS LAST VISIT HERE, ASKED ME WHAT I INTENDED DOING NOW THAT THE WAR IS OVER AND THE LABOUR CORPS IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING WOUND UP. HE WAS INTERESTED TO HEAR OF MY DESIRE FOR SERVICE IN THE COLONIES AND MADE A NOTE OF IT, SAYING HE WOULD REMEMBER IT ON HIS RETURN TO SUVA.

IT IS PERHAPS POSSIBLE THAT THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN DELAYED OR MISPLACED SOMEWHERE, AND MAY I THEREFORE, PRESUMING ON YOUR PREVIOUS KINDNESS, ASK YOU TO ASCERTAIN FOR ME WHETHER MY APPLICATION HAS REACHED THE W.P.H.C. OFFICE? I SHOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD DO THIS.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE WILL BE, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, MANY CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS COLONY, IN WHICH I AM VERY INTERESTED, AND FOR THIS REASON I AM PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS NOT TO MISS ANY OPPORTUNITY.

YOURS SINCERELY,

  
.....



C/o Western Pacific High Commission

Suva, Fiji.

20th October, 1945.

*My dear Trevor,*

Many thanks for your letter of the 4th. We stand by in readiness to leave for the Gilberts at short notice but the Colonel's leave keeps getting postponed in an aggravating manner: it is dependent on the date of commissioning of an aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. "Tarawa", in the States and somehow they keep on postponing the business. Meanwhile, what may be the last plane for the Gilberts leaves on the 23rd and Honor refuses to travel the all-sea route.

Woodbridge and I had a lively time in Queen Street and I learnt all his troubles. For some reason he wouldn't have a drink but insisted on sticking to me like a leech, so I missed out too. Distinctly eccentric.

I wonder if you could do us a good turn by obtaining from the Tonga Government the plans and specifications of the schools which Parsonage had put up at Hunga and Noapapa. He has recommended them as suitable for copying for Pitcairn Island where we are anxious to erect a new Primary School for 50 children. We would let you have them back early: I understand that the schools cost about £1,000?

You must have a fine time with all the fun and games in Tonga these days: V.I.Ps. by the plane-load. I see the Chief Justice (wife and servant) intend to go over when I made the recommendations re the abolition of the office of C.J. in Tonga the idea was very largely to save unnecessary expenditure. It was agreed that one of the Resident Magistrates in Fiji (on a salary of say £750) would come over and polish off the work. But if the C.J.C. is going to insist on doing it personally there will be little enough saved, since his salary is presumably near £3,000 in Tonga currency, and his plane passages an extra. Sooner or later I imagine the Tonga Government will kick at the Fiji Govt. sending a £3,000 p.a. man to do a job which could equally be done by a £750 p.a. man, or am I wrong?

Best of luck with your Centenary - I don't know why, but it is always known as "Trevor's Centenary" in this office!

*Yours sincerely,*

(Signed) H.E. Munde

Trevor Johnson, Esquire,  
H.B.M.'s. Agent and Consul,  
Tonga.

4<sup>th</sup> October.

BRITISH RESIDENCY,  
TONGA.

My dear Harry

I would have written before to welcome you back to the Fold had I not been told that you were off almost at once to the G. & S. But Mrs Jackson told me you were not going for some weeks yet.

From all accounts you had a pretty grim leave, one way & another, but Woodbridge wrote & said you & he had celebrated V. I. Day together in the City. I like to picture you & he throwing empty beer bottles about Queen St. Don't you agree that he is one of the strangest of human beings? He certainly does a good job of work. But is strange.

You will enjoy a spell of acting as R.C., strenuous though I expect it will be.

Fox - S. with I imagine wangle a transfer.  
Harry Luke used to affirm that the  
G. O. S. was your spiritual home, so  
maybe you will want to stay on there  
permanently. The unfortunate Varkiss.  
He used to write prayers for the moment  
of your return to the Lura Office.

We have this terrific Centenary  
Beans ahead of us in December.  
What a picnic it will be.

I do hope Honor is quite fit again.  
And good hunting in Darawa.

Yrs.  
Ireneat Jernood.

Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

22nd October, 1945.

My dear Cowell,

I am at last able to reply to your letter of the 12th September, which has been perforce held up an unconscionable length of time for a variety of reasons which I can explain better when I arrive (if I arrive).

18.10.45.

Firstly, about the coconut life and output, I enclose a letter from the Director of Agriculture, Fiji, which may be of value. In the Philippines a well-cared-for tree begins to bear at about 6 years old and will be in full bearing at about 25 years. Annual bearing is about 40-60 nuts and the trees continue to bear for about 80 years. All these figures for volcanic islands have, however, very little relevance as regards low islands (particularly those in the equatorial dry belt) and I think your own are nearer the mark.

Your figures re babai pits seem very low. I shouldn't care to dig a pit to sea level and line it, etc. for anything like the sums quoted by you, but probably I have got hold of the wrong end of the stick. I shouldn't have thought babai pit areas and coconut tree areas had anything in common: one is so very much more valuable per sq. ft. than the other.

Re living houses, are not your figures again on the low side? I see from a recent savingram that the D.O. estimates that "the cost of native materials to rehabilitate one household is £9" not including labour, whereas your figures (even including, cook house, bath house and bareaka) would appear to be considerably less.

The rest of your memorandum seems on the right lines as far as I can tell, but much of it concerns policy matters which fall within the province of the R.Cr. so I cannot very well comment on it (though tempted to!). No doubt he'll have given you all necessary decisions on the various points before he leaves.

As regards the supplies mentioned by you, we've had the devil's own time getting them and most were finally obtained from a consignment which Burns, Philp only opened up

T.R. Cowell, Require,  
Tarawa Island.

this  
(Over)

this morning - hence the rush. There's still some to come next opportunity, as they havn't arrived here yet. I can't send a list of what's been sent as everyone's rushing round here and it's obvious we won't be able to leave the office before midnight in any case.

Hoping to be able to see you soon, when we can no doubt discuss your problems (if any by then) in full detail.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

H. E. Maude.

Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji.

27th October, 1945.

Dear Dr. Murphy,

Your letter of the 5th October has just come to hand and I hasten to reply to it. Unfortunately, however, I must perforce disappoint you as regards my writing the British Polynesia portion of the geographic section of the Rynesian Science Survey. I had fully intended producing it: indeed, I had already commenced the work, which would have covered not only the Ellice Islands and Pitcairn but also the Phoenix and Line Islands, which I know fairly intimately.

The High Commissioner for the Western Pacific has now, however, directed me to proceed immediately to the Gilbert Islands to take over the administration of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony for at least eight months and I am accordingly leaving forthwith for Tarawa.

You will, I know, appreciate that it is quite impossible for me to complete the promised survey, deprived of all my books and manuscripts and under the constant necessity of travelling round the Colony, which consists of 37 widely scattered islands. Apart from this, however, the pressing problems of post-war reconstruction facing the Colony will necessitate my having to expend all my energies on official work and will certainly leave me no leisure for private writing.

I am not only personally disappointed at not being able to complete this survey but also extremely apologetic for having let you down at such a late date. As a Government official I have, however, no option and I can only suggest that the work be entrusted to Dr. Edwin H. Bryan, Junior, of Honolulu, who knows the published literature on the area for better than I do.

With renewed apologies,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. B. MAUDE

Dr. Raymond S. Murphy,  
Professor of Geography,  
University of Hawaii,  
P.O. Box 18,  
Honolulu, T.H.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

P. O. Box 18, HONOLULU 10  
TERRITORY OF HAWAII

October 5, 1945

Dr. Evans Maude,  
Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

Dear Sir:

This letter is by way of introduction. I joined the staff of the University this fall and Stephen Jones, who is to remain at Yale, and Colonel Coulter, who is still in the Army, have asked me to take over the editing of the geographic section of the Polynesian Science Survey.

As I understand it, you are preparing papers on the Ellice Islands and Pitcairn. Will you please send your contributions direct to me here. I hope that we shall be able to get all our material together by the end of December.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond E. Murphy,  
Professor of Geography.

REM/vb

DUPLICATE

Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

29th October, 1945.

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Thank you for your letter of the 21st August, forwarding the copies of Hale. I enclose a cheque for £4.1s.3d. and many thanks for undertaking the business.

I should have written before but all my careful plans for the next year or so have gone to pieces through my being transferred to act as Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, for at any rate the next eight months. I had intended, as you know, to settle down comfortably in my old job as First Assistant Secretary here and get on with my Pacific historical interests; the first thing I was going to do was to alter that lecture on the Phoenix Islands for publication in the Journal; also act as publicity agent for the Society in the Central Pacific.

Now, however, everything has been messed up and I'm off to Tarawa on the 6th November, by the last plane before the service folds up with the final departure of the American forces. Not only will I be buried beyond the last outpost of civilization (as represented by Suva!) but the very pressing problems of post-war reconstruction in the 37 islands that comprise the Colony will leave me, I fear, without the slightest hope of doing anything but work for a long time ahead. Anyway, I'm bound to admit that I love the Colony and should find the work very interesting.

My wife and Alaric are to come with me: the first European woman (bar missionaries) and child to live in the Colony since the beginning of the war with Japan. Everything will, of course, be extremely primitive as there are no European houses left, or any other of the amenities of civilization.

Come up and see us some time?

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

C. R. H. Taylor, Esquire,  
Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library,  
Wellington, C.1.  
New Zealand.





ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
"THE LIBRARIAN,  
ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY,  
BOWEN STREET,  
WELLINGTON, C.1."

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY,

WELLINGTON, C.1.

21st August 1945

H. E. Maude Esq.,  
19 Duders Avenue,  
Devonport,  
AUCKLAND. N. 1

Dear Mr. Maude,

Under separate cover, I am sending the copies of Hale that you want. The cost has gone a little ahead of what I expected - £4. 1. 3, (reduced after a bit of haggling with the Railways Dept.!) but I don't think it could have been improved on much.

With kind regards,

yours sincerely,

*C. R. H. Taylor*  
Librarian.



In your reply please quote

T.L. 3/1



CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
"THE LIBRARIAN,  
THE ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY  
BOWEN STREET,  
WELLINGTON C. 1"

THE ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY,  
WELLINGTON C. 1,

25th July 1945

H. E. Maude Esq.,  
19 Duders Avenue,  
Devonport,  
AUCKLAND. N. 1

Dear Mr. Maude,

Your letter of 21st and accompanying paper on the Phoenix Islands arrived safely. I am most interested to read this and am very sure that the Polynesian Society should publish it. I return it in the meantime, and when you have made such amendments as you suggest, and your lecture needs are fulfilled, I should like to have it again to submit to the Council of the Society. They will meet again in about 5 or 6 weeks. I should be glad to give it all support, and am pretty confident I can get the concurrence of the rest of the council.

I have been away again - to Nelson, overhauling the Cathedral Library - or I should have had your Hale copying done, but I have now arranged to go ahead in the next day or so.

Your proposal for proselytizing on behalf of the Society is a very handsome one, and I know we should be only too glad to add to our numbers. I have recently been projecting a few publicity schemes, though not on the same lines as you suggest. I should be pleased to supply you with printed data for the purpose when you return.

I am following up the thesis on Louis Becke, and will let you know if a spare copy is available, and/or the cost of copying.

Re binding. I believe you would do better to send your binding to England - say Chivers at Bath (if they're still going, and I believe they are) where pamphlet bindings, indeed all such work is merely a matter of shillings.

With kind regards,

sincerely yours,

*C. R. H. Taylor*  
Librarian.

Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva, Fiji.

29th October, 1945.

Dear Colonel Coulter,

I was very glad to get your kind letter of the 26th July and to see from it that you are still interested in this remote part of the world. I sincerely hope that we may have an opportunity of meeting once again: possibly you may be coming out here in due course on further geographical surveys? I have had the pleasure of reading your "Fiji: Little India of the Pacific" several times - indeed, it always forms part of my small working library - and wish we had more of such studies for the other island groups.

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have written to Dr. Raymond H. Murphy of the University of Hawaii in explanation of the final blow which prevented me from writing the promised essay on the human geography of British Polynesia. You will, I am sure, realize my utter inability to complete such a work a week's journey from the nearest books and while immersed in the thousand and one problems left to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony as a legacy from the Japanese occupation. Indeed, I know that you would agree that it would be unfair to the natives of the Colony were I to divert my necessarily limited energies from the pressing problems of their future welfare. I only wish I could show and discuss with you my blue-prints for the future of the Colony, as they are interesting and so far towards realization of the administration and early self-government. Unfortunately, as happens with most of my printed reports on Pacific affairs (this is my eleventh to reach publication) someone comes along and marks it "Confidential".

I had got along fine with the beginnings of the promised survey and having to throw in the sponge is very disappointing, apart from being a "let down" for the Editors of the publication which I hate to think of. My great ambition remains (as it was when I saw you last) I spend a long leave at one of the American Universities and produce a thesis for Ph.D. on the Central Pacific area. If you know of any University that would consider such an idea you might let me know, as I am due for accumulated leave shortly and should like to carry my dream into realization if its still possible.

My wife and Alvaro - aged 7 - are also coming to Tarawa with me and will be the first European civilians (bar a few missionaries) to land since the Japanese occupation. We hope to settle on a capital for the Colony somewhere in the Gilbert Group (instead of on Ocean Island, as formerly) but have not decided on the island yet. Meanwhile we'll have to "make-do" in native houses.

With kind regards from us both,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. R. WOODS

Colonel J.W. Coulter,  
3725 R St., NW,  
Washington 7, D.C.,  
United States of America.

DUPLICATE

3715 R St., N.W.  
Washington 7, D.C.

26 July 1945

Dr. Evans Maude  
Western Pacific High Commission  
Suva, Fiji

Dear Dr. Maude:

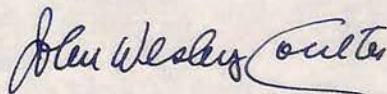
It is a number of years since I had the pleasure of discussing with you the affairs of Pacific Islands. I did meet your wife in Honolulu not long before I came on active duty in the Army and we had a pleasant conversation on the campus of the University of Hawaii. I am glad that you continue to have opportunities to pursue your interest in anthropology.

The inclosed letter from Dr. Jones is one he sent me to read before sending it on to you. It has to do with a project which is an appraisal of scientific work done in Pacific Islands to date. It is an estimate of the quantity, quality and range of research publications and unpublished manuscripts in each field of science. Dr. Jones is enlisting your help in an appraisal of the contributions to human geography. He has suggested an outline in his letter which is quite good and I hope you will have time to do something along the lines he mentions.

I hope our ways may cross again in the not distant future. For the past four years I have been in the Army, and I am hoping that it will not be too long before I get back to university work again.

With kind regards for yourself and Mrs. Maude.

Yours sincerely,



JOHN W. COULTER

DUPLICATE

Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

29th October, 1945.

Dear Dr. Jones,

In reply to your letter of the 25th July, which incidentally only reached me recently, I enclose a copy of a letter to Colonel Coulter (with sub-enclosure to Dr. Murphy) explaining the unexpected blow to all my hopes of completing the promised survey. I can only hope that you will understand that the fault is not mine.

You ask in your letter about Tonga. The only person I can think of who might undertake the work, and would certainly do it satisfactorily, is Dr. Ernest Beaglehole of Victoria College, Wellington, New Zealand. He is not a professional geographer - I think he'd describe himself as a sociologist - but he has lived in Tonga and is interested in its problems. You might look up his book entitled "Pangai: A Village in Tonga": Vol 18 of the Polynesian Society Memoirs. Alternatively, if you cared to try Great Britain, I feel sure that Dr. Raymond Firth, Palace Chambers, 9 Bridge Street, London, S.W.1, would either do it himself or find you someone who could make quite a good job of it.

As regards the Ellice Islands, I suggest either Dr. E. H. Bryan, Jun., or Major D. G. Kennedy, c/o The Western Pacific High Commission, Suva, the author of "Field Notes on the Culture of Vaitupu, Ellice Islands". Major Kennedy is, however, at present engaged in the practical problems of a scheme for settling the Ocean Islanders (dispossessed by the Japanese) in Fiji and might well be too busy for some time to come. For Pitcairn, how about Dr. Shapiro (the author of the best study on the island)?

With my apologies,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

Dr. Stephen B. Jones,  
Associate Professor of Geography,  
Yale University Institute of International Studies,  
New Haven, Connecticut,  
United States of America.

YALE UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

July 25, 1945.

Dr. Evans Maude,  
Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji,

Dear Sir: Yours of June 29th has arrived. Major Bryan wrote us a piece on the Phoenix and Line islands, but the Ellices and Pitcairn are still to be done, of those which you say you are willing and able to tackle. I wish you would include Tonga, too, but if you don't feel that you can, I won't press the matter.

What we want is something brief and compact. The islands do not need to be described fully. It would be sufficient, for example, to say that "the climate is fully described by So-and-so in his journal published in 1876". The main thing is to inform the users of the handbook (who would be research men or administrators of universities or research funds) that such information is available as a foundation for postwar work. Reference to unpublished material is useful, also, though we could not expect anything like complete coverage of unpublished sources, even from professional geographers with unlimited time.

I would include under "human geography", first, purely descriptive accounts. Where should one turn to find accurate descriptions of the islands and of the general pattern of life upon them? When the description begins to be essentially ethnographic, and turns to artifacts, ceremonies, and the like, I would say it ceases to be human geography, although if there is a clear relationship to natural conditions or if there is an important map, it should be listed. There is no harm in duplication.

The next topic that I would consider is population. What can be said, and what has been written, about the distribution of population in the group, both on a descriptive or statistical basis or in terms of the reasons for its distribution? Is there anything on population changes during history? Have population maps been made? I would include references to the official censuses as well as to studies (if any) based on them. This may edge over into demography, but again, there is no harm in duplication.

Next, I think the question of settlement site should be considered. What sorts of locations have been the sites of settlement, and why? Has there been a change since the old days? Are there any publications on this topic.

Next would come the question of land-use. Here I would draw the line when the studies left the general aspect of "What parts of the islands are used for what, and why?" and became specialized analyses of soils and plant diseases, unless, of course, the latter are essential to the answer of the former question. Sea-use probably also should be included.

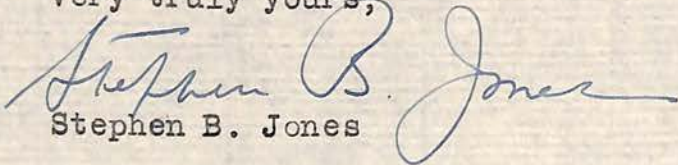
Then there is economic geography. Has anything been written about the industries, trade connections, and the like? What sources of

data are there? There also it should not be too difficult to decide where the line between economic geography and straight economics lies, and again, duplication would not do any harm.

Do those five general headings give you an idea of what is contemplated? We don't expect or want an encyclopedic account of the islands. The purpose is to indicate to prospective researchers or to administrators of research funds what has been done, what could be done, and perhaps what unpublished material awaits attention. Critical comments on work that is deficient in some respects would be desirable. The whole thing need not be longer than 3000 words and might be much shorter if the available information is scanty.

The only paper so far received is Major Bryan's, so that there is still considerable time. I doubt if we have everything assembled before next spring, though I had rather set next January as a goal. If you do not feel that you can handle the material on Tonga, do you know anyone who could? I know of no geographer who has ever been there. Col. Coulter would be the best man to work it up from library sources, but he is more than busy as general chairman of the project.

Very truly yours,

  
Stephen B. Jones

YALE UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

May 9, 1945.

Mr. Evans Maude,  
% British High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji,

Dear Mr. Maude:

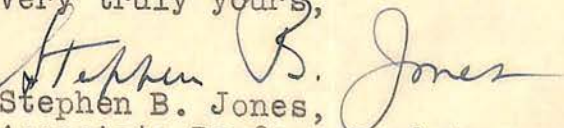
This is to ask if you ever received my letter of last December, asking if you would contribute a short paper on the human geography of the British Polynesian islands, for a handbook being compiled by the Smithsonian Institution. In view of the slow and irregular mails to the Pacific, it is possible that my letter went astray.

The handbook is being compiled primarily for the benefit of scholars, administrators, and others who may be interested in resuming scientific work in Polynesia soon after the end of the war. It will not be an encyclopedia of Polynesia, but rather in the nature of a summary, review, or critique of what has been done, together with a statement of what should be undertaken in the near future and a bibliography of the significant contributions. It is estimated that an individual contribution to this handbook will not exceed 3000 words in length.

Wesley Coulter has asked me to secure contributions on human geography. The exact definition of "human geography" is being left to the individual contributors, but obviously it lies somewhere between anthropology and physical geography, perhaps overlapping on both. Studies in which location and distribution factors are important, in which effective use is made of maps, or in which the relation of human and natural factors is well brought out, might be included in human geography. The fact that you are not a professional geographer should not matter in the least.

Coulter and I feel that you are better able than anyone else of our acquaintance to handle the British Polynesian islands, from the Pitcairn group to the Ellices. I am hoping that George Jobberns, of Christchurch, will undertake New Zealand and its dependencies, and we have a promise on the French islands. Coulter and myself probably will handle the American islands. This division of labor by nationalities may not be scientific, but it seems practical. It seems to me that this need not be a work of great labor, since the amount of significant geographical material on most of the islands is not very great, and the length of each contribution necessarily is short. I hope you will be able to write one for us.

Very truly yours,

  
Stephen B. Jones,  
Associate Professor of Geography



Department of  
Agriculture



6/LD.  
No. 249.V18/4

Suva,  
Fiji,

1st November, 1945.

Dear Sir,

I hereby certify that I have today examined one brown and white dog, and I have found it to the best of my knowledge and ability free from any contagious or communicable disease.

I hereby authorise the export of this dog from the Colony of Fiji and its import into the Colony of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

This export and import must take place within one month of the above date.

Yours faithfully,

Acting Senior Veterinary Officer.  
for Director of Agriculture.

H. E. Maude, Esq.,  
Western Pacific High Commission,  
SUVA, FIJI.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
FIJI.

14. XI. 45.

My dear Maudie,

I hope that your period of settling-in has not been too arduous: I fear that Buteo and Tarewa and the Colony generally probably look rather different from the places you knew when you were last in the Colony.

About Lloyd. I like it not, but we take (a) the Honolulu trip. He told me that he was getting headaches: that the local doctor advised him glasses: and that the local doctor (who of course knows naught of Fiji)

1117

advised him to go to Fort  
Sheffer. That the P.A.A. said "Come  
"on if you're coming - maybe no  
"more chance for some time" - so  
he finished the gun, not waiting  
for any telegram, and went.

Now there was no real urgency  
about it. He had had his old  
glasses for 5 years, and these  
headaches, to my knowledge, had  
not come upon him suddenly.

Speaking from memory, I think  
that it is C. R. 51 which applies.

Now (b) his visit down here.  
There was nothing which he could



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
FIJI.

not have settled by telegram with  
you. His actual conference with  
me lasted 1 hr. 20 mins., and  
then could have been concluded  
during my stop of 3 hrs. at  
Canton on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

I am afraid he is a chancer,  
and one of the sort that cannot  
be trusted when it is alone. I  
wish we could get rid of him,  
but we are so short. His integrity  
is not sufficient for our purposes.  
I am usurping your prerogative to

the extent of writing him an  
official letter (copy to you): I do  
this only because of the time  
factor: Heaven knows when  
I'll get another mail.

It was too bad about  
Carter. But H.F. would not  
see the side of the Colony  
being black-listed by the  
Seaman's Union: and of course  
he is right. The real blame  
devolves on the clever boys who  
first said these ships were  
suitable for the Gilberts. But  
of course they were so clever



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
FIJI.

that they did not need to consult  
the P.C., or even to see the Colony  
letters.

Well, you will be unable to read  
this, I expect: I've lost my thick  
pen, cannot use a thin one. I

hope that all four will visit you;  
please give my salams to Findley,  
Rushmore, & Stanley if they are still  
there. Kind regards to your wife  
and yourself, and good luck.

Yours sincerely

J. R. Thompson.

Personal.

Tarawa Island,

14th November, 1945.

Dear Sir Alexander,

The "Kiakia" will be leaving in a few hours, so I am taking the opportunity to write a few unofficial lines in case there may not be another opportunity for some time. I have not yet got into the swing of things but first impressions may have some value as being unclouded by irrelevant detail.

Colonel Fox-Strangways was very kind to us during our brief period together and extremely helpful with his frank comments on local personalities and problems. I do not think, however that any point would have been gained by prolonging the handing-over for a further day, as he was able to give me a broad outline of things during the course of the evening, which we spent for the most part driving round and round the island. Detailed advice would have necessitated a stay of several weeks and, as the situation changes so rapidly with the transition from military to civil administration, it might not have been relevant for very long.

There is one point, Sir, which appears to me to be absolutely basic to any future progress in Colony administration, and that is the question of the location of Colony headquarters. I have been amazed at the number of matters, covering every aspect of Colony affairs, which are being held up indefinitely owing to the necessity for awaiting a

His Excellency

Sir Alexander Grantham, K.C.M.G.,

Government House, Suva.

decision on this one point.

I must confess, for example, that I found it difficult when in Suva to understand the lack of emphasis on native development since the re-occupation. My only wonder now is that the natives ever enter into the picture at all: in five or six days I have hardly seen or spoken to one.

I came up here with a determinedly open mind on the location of future headquarters, but I am absolutely convinced now, both from personal observation and discussions with all senior officers, that headquarters should and must be at Abemama: probably on no other subject will you find such unanimity of opinion. Betio would be unthinkable and Funafuti, while preferable, has numerous disadvantages. I am certain, Sir, that you will make no mistake in accepting our advice to decide on Abemama, and you will certainly have the heartfelt thanks of all your officers in the Colony.

I naturally discussed the question with Colonel Fox-Strangways and found his present preference for Tarawa (shared by no-one else) to be based on a feeling that if it were not made Colony headquarters it might be taken over by America. Personally I can see not the slightest substance in this argument: if the U.S.A. want Tarawa the question will be settled between Washington and London totally regardless of whether Betio houses a District Officer and Trade Scheme Manager or whether it has a Resident Commissioner in addition. In any case, if the Americans took over Tarawa (which I don't believe they will) the more we build here the more loss later on and the more to remove to Abemama.

My present intention is that as soon as the existing American set-up leaves (they are waiting for a vessel at the



moment) the District Officer, Gilbert Islands, and his staff will move over here with the Supply Officer (soon to be the Trade Scheme Manager). The Secretary and myself will simultaneously move into their vacant houses and offices (actually I shall take Dr Rose's prospective quarters) at Bairiki, where we shall constitute a real (though still temporary) Colony headquarters. As the Colonel no doubt informed you, the Americans will be leaving the usual "Token Force" of 50 men and 3 officers here; as at Funafuti, Nukufetau and Butaritari. The senior officer will, however, be a Captain and I feel strongly that the Resident Commissioner should not continue here as a sort of footman and general factotum to him, to the neglect of the rest of the Colony.

I'm afraid you will consider that I am writing too bluntly to you, Sir, but my remarks are not meant in any way to be a criticism of the Colonel, who did wonders during a most awkward and trying period. The situation has, however, completely changed (or will do so in the course of the next few weeks) and we are all impatient to leave a purely war-time set-up and get on with the work of civil administration. Morale here is low and I believe that only one thing will act as a pick-me-up: a telegram stating that Abemama will be the future headquarters of the Colony. We can then all wake up and start making enthusiastic plans for a real forward movement.

Everybody has been most kind to us personally: particularly the old Colony officers who might well have been expected to resent my arrival. We found on landing, much to our surprise, that the Atoll Commander would not hear of my wife living on Betio (he was very nice about it); so she is perforce living in Nettie McArthur's house on Bairiki,

with Mrs Ramsay. Apart from that (which was stated to be due to the presence of negro troops), he has been most kind and co-operative.

These permanent "token forces" (which, I understand, are to be relieved every six months) are going, I'm afraid, to create nasty problems and innumerable small "incidents". The men will have absolutely nothing to do and it is too much to expect them not to get into trouble with both the administration and the natives on the twin bugbears of drink and women.

Kennedy is finding that the persuading of the Banabans is a bigger job than he anticipated: so many have contracted "bush" marriages locally and will not leave without their husbands and wives (often already married).. However, Reiber has accepted my offer of a position as Master of the "Maureen" and Kennedy has just left for Abemama in order to pick him up: I'm very pleased, as he's just the type of man we want for this type of craft.

As far as I can ascertain at present, the presence of a "token force" here means that re-fuelling facilities will be continued indefinitely, so a Catalina can presumably come up whenever required.

Before closing may I take the opportunity of thanking Lady Grantham and yourself most sincerely for all the kindness you showed to us when in Suva: we are naturally still feeling somewhat nostalgic for the place where we lived and worked for so long,

Yours sincerely,



In your reply please quote

T.L. 3/1



CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
"THE LIBRARIAN,  
THE ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY  
BOWEN STREET,  
WELLINGTON C. 1"

THE ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY,  
WELLINGTON C. 1.

H. E. Maude Esq.,  
Western Pacific High Commission,  
SUVA. FIJI.

14th November 1945

Dear Mr. Maude,

Your letter and cheque of 29th ultimo, arrived safely. Official Receipt is attached. I am sorry - to the extent that you are - to know of your departure for the Gilberts once more. I know too, however, that both you and Mrs. Maude thoroughly enjoy the life, so there are many compensations.

I have your list of "wants" however, and will try to supply a few of them as opportunity occurs. I take it that the address at the High Commission will continue to find you.

If there is anything in which I can be of service, please be sure I shall be glad to know and to do anything in my power.

With kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Maude -  
and Alaric,

sincerely yours,

*E. R. H. Taylor*  
Librarian

BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

35

November 15, 1945

Dear Mr. Maude,

I have this day sent the two books to Mr. Archie Reed of Ra, Fiji. You still have \$13.67.

How you do move around! I know that going to the Gilberts must have been a keen wish on the part of both of you, and I am so glad it is a wish fulfilled now. Your report will be most interesting, - nine months from now. You see I give you only a month to spare to let us hear from you. I suppose you have a radio that keeps you in touch with the world, but it is good to be detached from the rest of this none too clever "civilization" for a while. What will become of us? Why aren't we perfectly frank? Why don't we just call this next age "Sliding Backward"?

Do keep fit, - all of you. My best regards to Honor and Alaric.

Sincerely,

Margaret Inkam

Mr. E. E. Maude,  
Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

P.S. I suppose you won't get this until you come "out"

YALE UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

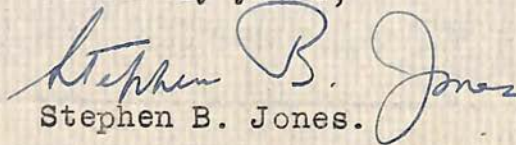
Nov. 15, 1945.

Dear Mr. Maude:

Yours of Oct. 29 reached me yesterday. I have sent the names of possible contributors on to Dr. Murphy. He will be sorry you cannot continue with the project.

I note in your letter to Coulter that you may be spending some time in this country. If you should be in this section, I hope you will get in touch with me. Possibly you may find that Yale is a suitable place for your proposed study. In any case, I should be delighted to renew acquaintance.

Sincerely yours,

  
Stephen B. Jones.

Mr. H. E. Maude,  
C/o The Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION G-2  
WASHINGTON

19 November 1945

Mr. H. E. Maude  
Western Pacific High Commission  
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mr. Maude,

I have your letter of the 29th of October and was pleased to hear from you. I am interested in your plans for a Ph. D. thesis on the Central Pacific area and shall be glad to look into the opportunities for doing it at some of our universities. If you will send me your curriculum vitae, I will make a copy of it, and, in the course of my inquiries will send one each to departments which might be interested. Include in it the courses you took in your university work, so that a university can have this information in view of suggesting graduate courses. It is quite possible that you would be granted a fellowship for such work, which, in addition to leave pay, is always a consideration. For a fellowship, your application would have to be in at least six or seven months before fellowships were decided on. However, I could take care of that for you, making out the application and signing it on your behalf.

I am not returning to the University of Hawaii, but have accepted a position as Professor of Geography at the University of Cincinnati. I shall begin work on February 1. My ties have become close to the mainland since I was married. I have now two daughters, one four weeks old.

Thank you for your kind words about my book on Fiji. There is a favor I would beg of you in this connection. I would like to accumulate materials from Fiji which would help me in a revision of this book at some future date. It is likely that the recent war has had an effect on the situation there. It will be difficult for you to keep track of what materials are available in Fiji. If, however, you have a friend there who would send me a list of newly published materials or others that are available I would appreciate it very much. If it is necessary to buy any of them, I shall forward the amount to whatever agency is concerned. There may be articles in the "Fiji Times Herald" which would be important and, if someone who reads the paper



WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION G-2  
WASHINGTON

would pick them out, and send them to me, I would be very grateful. I don't know just when I shall have the opportunity of getting back into the Pacific again. I quite appreciate why you have to give up work on the Pacific Research Project.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Maude. Hope to see you sometime on the mainland of the United States.

Yours sincerely,

*John Wesley Coulter*

JOHN W. COULTER  
Colonel, GSC, AUS



The Treasurer.

On browsing through the Colony Ordinances, I see that I have committed an offence against Ordinance No. 3 of 1919 by importing a dog without a Licence issued by an Inspector appointed under Section 2 (1)! Can you tell me whether any such Inspectors have, in fact, been appointed? If not, I should be glad of your advice as to the most appropriate officers to appoint: presumably the various Customs Officers.

S.W.M.  
20.11.45.

Y. H.,

I'm afraid your predecessors have been guilty of grave negligence - to the best of my knowledge inspectors have never been appointed! I think it wd. be better to appoint medical people; they are about the only people who could assert without fear of contradiction that a dog was suffering from rabies and/or other diseases. And they board vessels on arrival from overseas ports.

2. You might care to hold a very secret Court and savagely sentence yourself under section 7 of the Ordinance? Captain Roberts has a revolver, (as yet unpaid-for and unlicensed), should you care to take action under section 6.

S.W.M.  
22.11.1945.

PS., I have a very incomplete set of Ordinances and it may be that Ordinance 3 of 1919 has been repealed in part or wholly.



The Residency, Tarawa Island,

23rd November, 1945.

G.H. Robinson, Esq.,  
Island Merchant & Agent,  
51, Macquarie Street,  
Sydney, N.S.W.

Dear Mr Robinson,

I attach a letter from my wife (who is living on another islet in Tarawa) enclosing an order for a shipment of groceries and other goods. I am writing personally to ask you to do your utmost to see that this order gets filled in its entirety and that the various items enumerated by my wife are duly tinned prior to shipment.

Should you not be able to get these articles we shall be absolutely sunk, as there are no trading firms in the islands any longer and we would inevitably starve. In fact, so serious is the position that my wife intended the order to go to McIlraths, who have recently filled complete shipments (including 2 tons of rice) for the Mission at Beru; but you have always done us so well in the old days that I am taking the

risk and relying on your being able to pull the same strings that they do. I should certainly not like to change unless its absolutely imperative.

Life is very different in the Gilberts these days and not nearly so pleasant, and I'm afraid that it will be a long time before things settle back into the old, easy pre-war life. Actually we have all (including my small son) been ill through lack of suitable foods so I suppose our ideas are jaundiced just at present. Also I don't care much about being in charge of the Colony (as I am at present) not being of an ambitious turn of mind.

By the way, I remember sending you a cheque (about £20, I think) to open an account on behalf of Robert and Hilda Young, of Pitcairn Island. When I was last on the island, about a year ago, they told me that they had received nothing from you despite enquiries, so I refunded them the money. Can you please place it to my credit, or do you need a letter from Robert, which would take about a year: perhaps a

District Office,  
Ocean Island.  
23rd November, 1945.

Dear Mr. Maude,

I regret that circumstances did not permit my proposed visit to Tarawa and at the moment your visit here seems problematical, so I am taking the liberty of a personal letter.

An official report has been submitted separately. In places it may sound somewhat disgruntled but there appeared to be no other way of truly portraying the position and many things are omitted or understated. However, I assure you things are progressing very well here and all are in good heart.

I have worked everyone hard and for my own part have done the various reports and so on by sitting up till midnight to leave the day free for other work.

I feel a Police officer is needed here, at least for several months, to run the detachment, assist with the work of the 10 labourers and be generally useful. While Mr. Ramsay is helpful with odd jobs, he accepts no responsibility outside his own work, with the result that all the minor problems of everyone fall to me as well as dealing with major issues. You know the problems only too well, and the typical queries such as :-

Wireless - The receiver won't work.  
The charging plant has stopped charging.  
Medical - I need an assistant for an operation.  
We have no light for emergency operations.  
Police -

What are the patrol areas now ?  
Some of our rations have gone bad. And the usual host of others, quite apart from organising and running my own office staff, station hands etcetera who, while keen, are untrained.

It naturally falls on me, not only to supply all the necessary equipment and the accounting records required, but also to teach how to use and set them up.

None of the jobs are in themselves difficult, but the accumulation of them, in addition to personally checking everything, supplies, furniture, equipment and so on becomes rather onerous.

Discussions with the B.P.C. and the general organisation of the Government station alone represent a good deal of work.

Please do not interpret this as merely a bemoaning of my troubles as this is not intended, and all is running smoothly.

However, a practical police officer such as Capt. Grant is the type of man needed now. Someone who can in addition to his routine job, do running repairs on vehicles, supervise plumbing and electrical work, and on his own initiative salvage the wherewithal. Mr. Ramsay, is not accustomed to such <sup>work</sup> and the bulk of it again falls to me.

If such an officer cannot be spared, I can continue alone but I feel it does not permit of the progress that should and could be achieved here, as well as placing an undue strain on myself.

As to my own future here, I should like to discuss matters personally with you. I am due for leave, but am quite happy to forgo that until I am satisfied I have well accomplished the job

which I

which I originally came here to do. Briefly, I am interested in staying permanently but have not applied officially pending discussion with you. If I am not to stay, I would prefer to see the job through here to my own satisfaction, and then not return after leave.

Meantime, there is no urgency about the position and you need have no worries as far as the District here is concerned.

*Yours sincerely,*

*R. J. Sakpina*

DIRECTOR:  
GILBERT ARCHER

P.O. Box 27. NEWMARKET  
AUCKLAND. S.E.1. NEW ZEALAND



AUCKLAND INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM  
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

28th November, 1945

Mr. H. E. Maude,  
Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva,  
FIJI

Dear Mr. Maude,

I received your letter some time ago announcing that you were sending a parcel of Pitcairn Island adzes for deposit in the Museum. I delayed replying until the parcel came to hand. It has now arrived safely, and contains 39 specimens, many of which are of great interest. I note that they were given to you by Mr. A. E. Fuller, and will see that they are marked with an "F" in order to distinguish them from the other adzes in your collection.

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on your appointment as Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands - an appointment which you richly deserve. I can imagine how pleased you will all be to get back once again to the Gilberts.

Many thanks for sending the adzes along. With kindest regards to Mrs. Maude and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

*V. F. Fisher*

Acting Assistant Director

VFF/PCB

FUNAFUTI.

30TH. NOV., 1945.

DEAR MR. MAUDE,

YOU WILL HAVE GATHERED FROM MY TELEGRAMS THAT I AM LEAVING HERE TOMORROW. I HAD HOPED OF COURSE TO HAVE YOUR APPROVAL BUT AS I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE AT OCEAN FOR A SHORT SPELL I SUPPOSE YOU WILL NOT HAVE RECEIVED MY TELEGRAMS. AT ANY RATE, I DECIDED THAT YOU WOULD EXPECT ME TO GO BY THE KIAKIA AS IT SAVES THE GOVERNMENT AT LEAST THE COST OF A PLANE TRIP FROM APIA TO SUVA AND INCIDENTALY MEANS MY DEPARTURE ONLY 4 DAYS EARLIER THAN AS ARRANGED WITH THE COLONEL. SO I DO HOPE I HAVE NOT TRANSGRESSED IN ARRIVING AT THIS DECISION.

THE REAL OBJECT OF THIS LETTER IS TO THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR THE ASSISTANCE AND KINDNESS YOU HAVE SHOWN ME. MY STAY IN THE COLONY HAS BEEN A MOST HAPPY EXPERIENCE AND CERTAINLY AN INTERESTING ONE. WITHOUT APPEARING TO BE DISLOYAL TO ANYONE I COULD ONLY WISH THAT YOU HAD BEEN RESIDENT COMMISSIONER BRE THIS. AT PRESENT I DO NOT KNOW DEFINITELY WHAT MY FUTURE MOVEMENTS WILL BE. I AM TO DISCUSS MATTERS IN SUVA BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS, NOW THAT I AM LEAVING, I KNOW THERE WILL BE MANY TIMES WHEN I WILL LONG TO BE BACK HERE. THESE ISLANDS AND THE PEOPLE SEEM TO GET INSIDE ONE.

WITH THIS MAIL YOU WILL RECEIVE A LETTER CONCERNING YOUR MEMORANDUM. I FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO SAY VERY MUCH FOR I WOULD ONLY HAVE BEEN REPEATING YOUR IDEAS. I RATHER WONDER THOUGH IF, IN SUPPORTING YOUR CASE, I HAVE BEEN ~~XXXXXXX~~ TOO FRANK IN EXPRESSING MYSELF. IF SO, I HOPE THOSE THAT OBJECT WILL FORGIVE ME. I COULD SAY, IF THE CAP FITS, LET THEM WEAR IT. APART FROM ALL THIS, HOWEVER, I DO HOPE THAT YOUR PLAN WILL GET UNDER WAY AND I WILL BE VERY INTERESTED TO HEAR HOW MATTERS PROGRESS. OF COURSE, IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR THE PEOPLE OR FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN NEW ZEALAND IT WILL BE A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE ASKED AT ANY TIME.

I RECEIVED A VERY KIND NOTE FROM MRS. MAUDE IN THE LAST MAIL. I SUPPOSE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE SETTLED IN BY THIS TIME. I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THINGS GO WELL WITH YOU AND THAT YOU RECEIVE THE BACKING YOU DESERVE. MY BEST WISHES TO YOU AND MRS MAUDE.

YOURS SINCERELY,

*Alan R. Hill*

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.



Ref 6/1.

No. 51.

District Office,  
Ocean Island.  
4th December, 1945.

Dear Mr Maude,

You will no doubt have a copy of the demi - official letter dated 18th October, '45 written by Colonel V. Fox-Strangways to myself.

As the official matters raised therein have now been discussed with you and the necessary arrangements made, there would seem to be no point in a detailed reply.

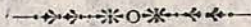
No action will be taken in the absence of a further communication from you.

May I take this opportunity to express appreciation of your recent and most helpful visit.

Yours sincerely.

*W. S. S. S.*

# London Missionary Society.



Rongorongo Training Institution,

Beru, Gilbert Islands.

Via Sydney, N.S.W., or Suva, Fiji.

.....Dec. 5. th..... 19 45.....

H.E. Maude, Esq. O.B.E., M.A.  
The Residency,  
TARAWA. G. & E. I. Colony.

## Personal.

Dear Mr. Maude,

Amid many pressing claims on my typewriter, not to say time, I feel I do want you to know how very pleased we are to hear you and Mrs. Maude are back again in the Gilberts, and to give you our welcome. We hope that the appointment, which we understand is at present temporary, may in the near future become permanent, if our late Resident should be transferred elsewhere as we gather he has applied to be.

We are sorry we have no boy with sufficiently good knowledge of English whom we could with any confidence recommend for that interpreter clerkship you so kindly offered. During the Jap occupation English rather languished here not unnaturally, as the Japs were hostile to English being taught. So there is a lot of leeway to make up in that direction. I expect you will have to use one of the more experienced boys you already have for this Lands work, and try out a beginner in one of the other departments where good knowledge of English is less essential. We have a BANABAN BOY, Jobi Mataio, who might suit for that if wanted. He is restless here, and may be going off with the Banaba recruit. If he should be asked he might be willing to try to meet the need as a clerk, but neither he nor we feel he is quite equal to working as clerk interpreter for the Lands Court work.

I am genuinely sorry that the first official letter our D.C. has had to address to you is on one of the old troubles with the R.C.s. But we want in this matter to strengthen the hands of the Administration to stop this unfair pressure being brought to bear on the Native Governments. It had to be done strongly years ago, as you may remember. There is evidence that it was prevalent during the Japanese occupation period, and at Tabiteuea it has cropped up again.

We are very glad that the Gilbertese and Banabans have been released from the Japs at Nauru and Kusaie. We understand that Major Kennedy would like to take down with the Banabans to Rabi their Gilbertese teachers with whom they are familiar, and who have shared in the trials of recent years with them on Nauru and Kusaie. It seems to us a good plan. Rusia has come here, and wishes to return to Ocean Island for a time at any rate. He was, after all, less the teacher of the Banabans in their villages than the other men were, as his work lay chiefly with the Labour Boys of the B.P.C. We have sent a radio message to Major Kennedy in response to messages from him through Mr. Spivey and Rusia, and we hope it will be in time for him to arrange as may seem best for the future of the Banaban people on Rambi. The L.M.S. has an old standing agreement not to commence work in Fiji among the Fijians, as this was left years ago to the Methodists. But we feel this case is different, as we are merely going to an isolated settlement with our own L.M.S. people from this Colony at their wish, and not opening work among Fijians.

We shall hope you may be able to visit this part of the Colony ere long, when we may have opportunity to talk over some of the present problems,

With all good wishes, I am, Yours sincerely,

*G. Eastman.*



Betio, Tarawa Island,

7th December, 1945.

Dear Sir Alexander,

I have just got back from Ocean Island where I had a most useful 6 days during which I was able to satisfy all outstanding questions with Mr Gaze to our mutual satisfaction. Everything went, I think, smoothly and Mr Gaze appeared only too anxious to meet the Government in every way possible: would that the Ocean Island Managers were always like him, though I'm bound to say that Mr Bridges was on his best behaviour throughout my visit.

I was especially pleased with the minimum wage rates agreed upon, as they were several shillings more than I had hoped for, especially after the Government had refused to allow the Commission to increase wages at all earlier on in the piece - Gaze kept rubbing it in, with a twinkle in his eye. The new rates will mean an increase in the natives' income of between £20,000 and £30,000 a year, depending on the number recruited!

The only question in which Gaze allowed himself to criticize the Government freely - "off the record", of course - was our treatment of the Banabans. He said that he had no doubt in his own mind that the Banabans, if the point was taken to the Courts, would succeed in gaining full rights over their funds; they had until recently always been given to understand (as he had himself) that they were the owners of the under surface rights and he could not see that any change of policy instituted late in the day (by Sir Murchison Fletcher) could deprive them of these rights. He added that they were no fools and he had little expectation of their agreeing, while

His Excellency

Sir Alexander Grantham, K.C.M.G.,

Government House,

Suva, Fiji Islands.

their agreeing, while on Rambi, to any settlement which would have the effect of separating them from their funds (either accrued or prospective). I smiled but said little: time will tell if he's right.

I am sending Your Excellency a savingram on the discovery of Kabunare on Ocean Island: one of the most remarkable experiences I have ever had. He was bleached white with lack of exposure to the sun.

I hope that it will be possible to send you my report on discussions with Gaze by this mail, but this brings me to the point (a rather serious one for me) of the chronic over-work and understaffing in this office. The Secretary, native staff and myself work from 8 in the morning until 10 at night virtually every day (including Sundays); this is normal and I do not complain. On the last two nights, however, I came back to fetch things at 11 p.m. and found most of the staff still at it. And yet it may take up to 3 days to get a message coded or decoded, and all other branches of the secretariat work are in the most distressing state of confusion. The Secretary is so over-worked that he does not know if he is coming or going, while the rest of the staff (bar Sapoa) are untrained boys who just don't know what to do or how to do it.

The position was all right in the past, when we had Bauro, Penitala, Tiriata and at lease one European cadet, and it will be all right again in the future, when a proper native staff has again been built up. But just at present, and as a temporary measure, I do feel that we must have a European Office Superintendent or else face the inevitable breakdown in health and efficiency on the part of the staff. Mrs Ramsay would have been ideal, but  
of course she

of course she was not allowed on Betio (like my wife) and has now, in any case, gone to join her husband on Ocean Island.

While on the subject of women and Betio, the Atoll Commandant has just received a telegram which indicates that the permanent Garrison Forces here will probably be accompanied by their wives and families! So presumably our own wives will then also be permitted on the island. Life, however, would be pretty grim, as the 55 officers and men, with their families, will require the best part of Betio and we would have to tuck ourselves away as best we could in odd corners. However, as you know Sir, I see little hope for the Colony as long as we hang on here as appendages to the Americans: the solution seems to me to be Abemama, and that speedily.

I hope that Your Excellency will permit me to come to Suva for a day or two by plane should it be possible. I have by now a fairly clear picture of what conditions are like in the Colony and what should be done, and a few hours talk would clear up weeks of worries. I am still suffering a bit from the shock of discovering what the state of affairs really was and I am anxious, as a consequence, not to convey the impression that the Colony is falling to pieces. We can, I think, hold the bits together all right for some time to come, but I fear that solid progress must wait until we are settled in at Abemama, the new Cadets are installed, the Treasury reorganized and the Trade Scheme functioning.

The repatriation and movement of the Banabans, Gilbertese and Ellice Islanders has gone very well so far. The numbers involved were over 1,500 (quite an order for us to cope with), yet in no case has a B.P.C. vessel been delayed an hour. The disembarkation here (estimated by Wernham to require 5 days) was done in 5 hours with American assistance. So I end, Sir, as I began, on a cheerful

on a cheerful note.

Yours sincerely,



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
FIJI.

7th December, 1945.

Dear Maude,

Thank you for your letter of the 14th November. I certainly do not think that you wrote to me at all bluntly and even if you did I should welcome it. One of the objects of these personal letters is that you can tell me exactly what you think. As you probably know, I use my discretion as to whether I send copies of these letters on to Gent at the Colonial Office or even show them to Vaskess. If there is anything in them that I think they should not see then I send them a copy of the rest of the letter. I hope therefore that you will continue to give me your candid opinion, both officially and unofficially.

I have minuted on the pertinent file that a telegram is to be drafted to the S of S recommending that Abemama should be the capital. Sir Harry Luke wrote to the S of S in 1941 making this recommendation but the war broke out and no reply has been received. Also in forwarding a copy of your letter to Gent I told him that I was going to recommend officially that Abemama should be the capital.

I have drafted a despatch to the Secretary of State forwarding a copy of Hard's Memorandum on education. I think that it is an excellent piece of work and when you next write to Hard you might tell him so. It will probably buck him up. I disagree with him on the subject of making the King George V school into a secondary school and I do not think that it should go  
beyond

H. E. Maude Esq., M. B. E.

beyond the intermediate stage and am so informing the S of S. I have, however, ended the paragraph with the following:- "Should experience show that I am incorrect in my opinion that the King George V School should remain as an intermediate school there would be nothing to prevent its development into a secondary school later on, but at present this should not be attempted". You can also tell Hard this. I am ~~plumping~~ plumping for the retention of the post of Director of Education and before you get this letter you will probably have received a telegram from me asking if you agree that Hard should be recommended for the post. He may not be ideal, but the devil you know is better than the devil you don't know, and just now when good men are so exceedingly scarce, I fear that if we try to get any one from outside, we would be landed with a dud who would not even have the advantage of a knowledge of the Colony. I may say that in coming to this decision I have been very much influenced by the clear understanding, as shown by his memorandum, that Hard seems to have of the educational needs of the Colony.

I am glad that you are soft pedalling on dollar expenditure. It is, of course, very tempting when these "bargains" are offering, but unless and until Washington ceases to be so Shylock-minded we have got to save every dollar we can. In your telegram regarding American equipment at Funafuti you said that you were proposing to indent for kerosene refrigerators on the Crown Agents. I suggest that you make enquiries in Australia first. When I was there at the end of October I went into the matter and found that they are in production and have come down very much in cost. You will certainly get quicker delivery than if you were to order from England.

You have probably received a copy of our telegram to the S of S on the subject of the "Viti". The Borneo administration has enquired if they can buy her. We have therefore put the proposition up to the S of S and asked him if he considers that it would be better for the Gilberts to buy her and use her as the Colony's headquarters vessel or whether we should let her go to Borneo and get an entirely new ship for the Gilberts.

Vaskess is wilting a bit. The work seems to be piling up and, as you know, Keegan is a pretty weak sister as the number



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
FIJI.

one assistant. Also we have got to send him (Keegan) off to Rambi. Things seem to be in a bit of a mess there, owing to the fact that they do not seem to realise that Rambi is part of Fiji and therefore is subject to building regulations, etc..

I hope that you are not working too hard nor worrying about the fact that you have not yet got into the swing of things. I should have been very surprised and even suspicious if you had said that you had. After all, things have changed a good bit since you were there and are changing all the time. You will, I know, come out on top of it all right.

With kindest regards to you both,

Yours very sincerely,

*M. Hunt*

P.S. Hill (Funafuti) has just been in. He says that he understands that Bauro is not admitted into the officers' mess at Bairiki. I think that he must be mistaken, for I have never heard of anything so scandalous. Penitala is even a member of the American Officers' Club at Funafuti.

I know that you agree with me on this point, and so am content to leave it to you to put things right (should Hill be correct) when and how you consider best. If need be you can say that it is an order from the High Commissioner. *h.*

No.....

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS  
COLONY.

Tarawa Island,  
13th December, 1945.

The Chairman,  
Board of Trustees,  
Fiji Museum.

Dear Sir,

In view of the fact that my present period of absence from Fiji appears likely to be more prolonged than usual I feel that I must, with regret, ask you to be so good as to accept my resignation from the Board of Trustees.

I am afraid that I have not been of much value to the Museum during my period on the Board, owing to my frequent absences from Suva, but I can assure you that my interest in the Museum's activities will not cease with my resignation and I hope that you will not hesitate to let me know should there be any way in which I can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



M.J.F.  
10.9.46.

Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

10th September, 1946.

Dear Wernham,

I enclose a copy of a letter from Trafford Smith which reached me recently: it had evidently wandered up to the Gilberts and back again. I saw Mrs. Cartwright when I was in England and promised to do my best to see if anyone knew what effects her son had with him in Ocean Island before he died.

As it is still uncertain if and when I'll get up to Tarawa, I wonder if you'd make any enquiries you can on Mrs. Cartwright's behalf. What is wanted is a list of articles and estimated values compiled from the memories of those who visited him in his house at Ocean Island. I suppose Bastin and yourself would be the only Europeans now left in the service who remember Cartwright before the war but there should be several natives.

Sorry to bother you on this matter when you must be flat out,

Yours sincerely,

H. E. Maude.

D. C. I. Wernham, Esquire,  
Acting Resident Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

Western Pacific High Commission,  
Suva, Fiji.

10th September, 1946.

Dear Dr. Verrier,

Trafford Smith has written from the Colonial Office on behalf of Mrs. Cartwright, who wants to know the value of her son's effects in order to put in a claim for compensation.

Among other things, Trafford Smith mentions a "very valuable" Leifa camera with all sorts of gadgets including telephoto and wide-angle lenses, angle view finder, filters, tripod and the like. He says you handled the apparatus and would be the man to give us an idea as to its value.

Can you help by quoting a figure (I realize it would be only an approximate one) and do you by any chance know of any other personal effects with Cartwright on Ocean Island?

With apologies for troubling you,

Yours sincerely,

*H.E. Maude.*

H.E. Maude.

Dr. W.L.I. Verrier, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Seventh-day Adventist Mission,  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands,  
13<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1945

Dear Mr Maude,

It was an unexpected pleasure to receive your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> October & enclosures on our arrival here from Pitcairn by the new Golden Hind on the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month.

First of all, in reply to your letter, I hope before long the long expected school building materials and plan will reach Pitcairn and the building erected in spite of the present shipping difficulties. The pupils were rather skeptical about its erection in their generation but I told them I felt sure it would be an accomplished fact in the new year. I hoped it could be erected during the school vacation thus not cutting into the school year more than necessary.

As Mr Ward will be my successor it would seem very fitting for him to supervise the erection of the building as he taught for so long before in the old school. I would have liked to help erect it - however it would seem more fitting that Mr Ward do so.

Thank you also for your assistance in ~~helping~~ to the matter of Mr Watson & others being allowed to visit passing ships to purchase stores etc. As you may have heard amendments to the law were made giving her the same privilege as the men which subsequently was of material benefit to us and we are sure will be to others also. We felt the views of the islanders needed broadening in these & other matters not only for the benefit of "strangers" but for their own good also.

I personally appreciate very much the gift of the books for reading which have been purchased & I hope will arrive safely as it will help to meet a great need. I only hope the boys & girls will read them. Reading is not one of their strong points but I have tried to cultivate a taste on their part for it with what material I had.

You will be interested to know that a good supply of text books, exercise books etc and tools arrived last August on the "New folder Thuid" - apparently sent by the agents of the High Commissioner & I rather wondered at your reference to the fact that you hoped to secure such tools in the future. The only tools needed which

3

apparently could not be supplied at the time were planes - a very important item in woodwork or carpentry.

Unfortunately the situation has arisen, as I have explained in my report to the Hyl Commissioner (which you may see, that the number of boys at school has so <sup>been</sup> reduced that at the end of the first term next year there may be only three of suitable age to benefit (above grade 2) so I suggested that the class include those who have left school up to say the age of twenty. For reasons I need not detail here I was unable to get this idea going before I left.

When the medical needs of Mrs Watson and our dear little girl made it necessary to consider leaving before long, and the uncertain shipping conditions for passengers - including the Panama business, made such passage problematical I decided to make inquiries to which you refer and to make a long story short Fiji & Naval Control Wellington advised us we could leave on the new Golden Hind if we were prepared to sleep in the hold & provide our own bedding. So we decided to accept - & here we are awaiting passage on the Anau Pomare - we expect next month. Travelling conditions of on the

4

"Mind were such we decided to stop off here and travel the rest of the way to New Zealand on the 'Pomare'."

We had the unexpected pleasure of meeting Pastor Stratford from our headquarters in Australia here. I understand that he and you have corresponded over the years and he hoped to see you in Fiji shortly. However from your letter it looks as though you may miss seeing him unless he catches you before you leave for the Gilbert Islands or have returned before he leaves. He was anxious to see you - however - I guess it will all work out in time. As you may have heard the Adventist Church is planning to start work in the Gilbert & Ellis groups so you may meet our representative there - Pastor Howe by name. I do not know just when he will arrive but am sure if you are there you will be very happy to give him any needed advice or assistance. I went to college with him in N.Z. & Australia.

Mr Watson joins me in good wishes for the continued success & happiness of your wife and self.

P.S. Sydney Christian died on the Golden Hind on the way to Pitcairn. We "explored" his bunk later

Sincerely yours in service  
for humanity  
Donald H. Watson

(over)

I forgot to say <sup>5</sup> Ball Mrs Watson and I enjoyed our work on Pitcairn in spite of the difficulties & problems and feel we have possibly learnt more than we taught. The following brief statistics may be of interest -

8 funerals - Old Mr Cooze, Sanford, Ira, Sedelia, David, Rhoda, Ada, Sydney

4 births (all illegitimate) to Lorena, Norma, Charlotte, Merle and another possible - Joyce

4 baptisms - Jacob, Clarence, Rudley, Clinton.

We shall be very pleased to hear from you at any time - our immediate future address will be

1) The W. H. & J. Conf of S. D. As,  
2) Esplanade Rd. Mt Eden  
Auckland. N.Z.

To time of writing we do not know just what our future work will be or when we shall be stationed. With the compliments of the season & wishing the blessing of the great Father of humanity on your labors, I am

P.S. I had nearly overlooked the suggestion of the High Commissioner re the further training of Pitcairn young people. I think the idea an excellent one but which will now have to be left as far as my part is concerned to the Board

in learned for after thought of in order to read the page

of work the idea also <sup>5</sup> success & peace there here if not better than I know the possible candidates as well as who will

Tarawa Island,

30th December, 1945.

Dear Sir Alexander,

I was very glad to get your letter of the 7th December and to feel that you were not too dissatisfied with the first month's work here. I hate to say it, but things seem to be going a bit better of late: the natives are beginning to get down to copra making, goods are arriving, and our three vessels moving about at a smarter pace with their holds not quite so empty, and signs of the orderly routine of peacetime are appearing (somewhat dimly) on the horizon. The reason I rather fight shy of admitting this is because every time I feel a bit optimistic, some frightful spanner bounds right into the middle of the works.

One of the worst spanners was Abemama. I hope that you didn't think too poorly of my telegram reporting the change of feeling: I am certain that it was a genuine (and recent) change of view, despite Clarke's attempts to prove that he had always considered Betio the only possible choice. I am personally still of the same view as before, though willing to compromise with public opinion to the extent of admitting that there are areas on Tarawa around Molyrix Field which would do as well. In any case I felt that I was in honour bound to let you know of the present "popular front" on the subject as it is led by the two senior officers of the Colony, and I should not like you to have heard later and felt that I had deceived you. My wife confirms that

His Excellency

Sir Alexander Grantham, K.C.M.G.,

Government House,

Suva, Fiji Islands.



wife confirms that when we arrived public opinion was virtually unanimous in favour of Abemama and that the change over has taken place during the last few weeks, led by Clarke, Wernham and Dickes (no-one else really counts except Hard, who is still pro-Abemama).

A personal analysis of the reasons behind the change are as follows:-

- (a) A genuine conviction that for convenience of ordering stores, etc., headquarters must be alongside the Trade Scheme centre. From a personal standpoint, officers have a feeling that the Trade Scheme will keep a large stock of everything they require here and that many, if not most, of the complications of life in this Colony will be ironed out if they can just pop along to the corner store for their daily requirements.
- (b) A feeling that the Americans are going to stay permanently on Betio and that life will consequently be far more "civilized" there than anywhere else in the Colony; with the Americans providing electric light, laid on water, refrigeration, air conditioning, hotels, air services, etc. It is pathetic how some have learnt to rely on the Americans for everything they need.
- (c) The personal considerations of Clarke, who is anxious to preserve the present day easy mess-room existence until he retires and is consequently averse to any women being permitted to return or any decision being made which might involve the changing of the status quo.

(d) Wernham's desire

(d) Wernham's desire to have Colony headquarters wherever the District Officer, Gilbert Islands, is stationed: we have discussed this point, and "agreed to differ".

Anyway, Sir, I am delighted that Bent is to come in a few weeks and that we are to go ahead with plans and preparations at a rapid rate, despite opposition. Now that you are aware of their being other views, I do not worry about them any more. Personally, I rather think that despite double handling and increased charges and breakages, the farther the Trade Scheme is removed from the dead hand of bureaucratic interference the more likely it is to be a success and that if the Resident Commissioner is on the same island as the Manager he will be for ever trying to interfere in details much better left to the man in charge: hence I am not alarmed at one being on Abemama and the other on Betio.

I was able to let Hard make a tour around the Gilberts (or most of them) on school inspections and collecting children for Londoni. He has been in here recently and we had several long talks. I agree that he is an excellent man and now that his wife is to be left in England I can certainly recommend him as Director of Education without reservation. I still rather dislike the grandiloquence of the title but it pleases him and costs no-one anything.

I am very glad that you brought up the question of Bauro's status, as it raises questions I had wanted to mention but felt I shouldn't. The fact is that in this matter, as in

matter, as in so many other questions concerning the future of the Colony and its administration, I am up against a stone wall with the two senior officers, Wernham and Clarke. I am not suggesting that their feelings towards me personally are antagonistic but they both genuinely feel that all (or shall I say most) of what I am aiming at is wrong in principle and practice: naturally their views are listened to with respect by junior officers, though I have had many hints that they are far from being shared by all.

As a consequence I have no-one except Honor with whom I can confide or consult, and it is this feeling of isolation and frustration that has tended to make our stay here not exactly a happy one. Clarke and Wernham are entitled to their viewpoint on natives, it is a genuine conviction and honourably held. At the same time one feels that cross purposes in administrative ideals and practice are rather time and energy wasting.

My solution, Sir, is as follows. Nothing will make Wernham treat Bauro other than as a superior native clerk (even his appointment as an Assistant A.O. was not considered worthy of gazettal). Furthermore, Wernham has had such a tough spin since the war that he is now practically past work and nothing that we can do will make him bestir himself. Therefore, on Brundell's arrival I would propose to leave him under Wernham for a fortnight or so to learn district work and then transfer Wernham to Beru to reopen (for the time being) the Southern Gilberts District - I have written in officially about this and will refrain from

will refrain from reiterating the arguments here. On Wernham's departure from leave I would like to place Bauro in charge of the Southern District to give him confidence, see how he shapes (he has had no sort of a chance yet) and get the Colony generally used to natives as District Officers.

As to Clarke, I really am afraid that he will have to go. I am not referring to the example set the younger officers regarding the matter of drink (we have had a proper show-down about that in which, in return for his apologies and a definite promise of reformation, I have said that I will not take official action "until the next time"), but to the fact that he does so little work that, as Dickes once put it "if he retired we could reduce the Treasury staff". He has been down here for three weeks working on the Estimates and I cannot consider that he has done more than a week's honest work all the time.

It can, of course, be argued that with Dickes going we should be wise to hang on to Clarke for dear life, as the only man with local experience, but one wonders if Treasury work isn't much the same everywhere and whether local experience is really necessary in that particular Department? If you could give us a good Treasurer, Sir, I'd say let's allow Clarke to retire on pension without further delay (as soon as Dickes has left and the new Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer have arrived). A clean sweep would enable the new man to put some much needed reforms and efficiency methods into operation ~~with~~ without opposition and with a clear field to do what is necessary.

As regards Bauro

As regards Bauro himself, I naturally agree with your viewpoint strongly, but would like to move slowly, for the sake of Bauro himself. I have mentioned your views to Clarke but was quite unable to move him; he even stated that it was, in his opinion, wrong that Yam had ever been accepted by Europeans in the pre-war days on Ocean Island, and asked me to represent to Your Excellency that the issue was now dead and buried as far as Bauro was concerned, as he was no longer a Lieutenant and the mess no longer a military one. He also considered that it would not be in Bauro's interests to invite him to the mess owing to the danger that he might get intoxicated. Anyway, Sir, I hope that you will agree that for me to make a definite issue of it at Bairiki would just at present make it very embarrassing for Bauro himself: he understands the position and is, of course, invited to the Betio mess when he comes over and was invited to my wife's Christmas party. With the departure of Clarke and Wernham and Bauro taking over temporary charge of a District things will, I'm sure, right themselves without any scenes or unpleasantness - especially as Roberts informs me that the New Zealand officers do not share the rigid colour bar complex of the senior staff.

I hope that the High Commission office is not wilting as a result of an increase in telegrams from here (only a slight one). It is not only due to the fact that I am still feeling my way and anxious not to do anything contrary to Colonel Fox-Strangways' policies (so far as I can ascertain them) without approval but, above all, to the fact that the

fact that the fortnightly air service is no more and therefore much that would normally go by surface has now to be telegraphed.

One thing on which we are all agreed upon up here is the desirability of extending the Nauru plane service to Colony headquarters. I must say that it seems a more practical scheme than the proposal to run an artificially created service all the way from Suva. However, I have written in fully about it: Gaze is keen.

Stores and shipping are our main bugbears at the moment. I may have told you how we found the "Awahou" being sent from Beru to Funafuti to pick up one safe for Canton Island (which proved to be on board all the time)! The vessel has just returned from Fanning Island and yet one learns that the Government staff there require further rations almost immediately. The "Awahou" was to tour all round the Phoenix without an ounce of stores for the islands on board, at a cost of several hundred pounds, and a second ship was to be sent almost immediately to take stores round the same route. These are the things we are trying to straighten out and I shall have definite proposals ready, with this end in view, by next mail.

You mentioned Mr Vaskess in your letter. I should hate to think that any degree of over-work could possibly affect his iron constitution but if it does, I do hope that you will not overlook my plea to be tried out as an Acting Secretary. I only ask for a trial, as it is the work that I have always loved and always will and if I can't make the grade I ask for no favours: I would expect, and deserve, only to be cast into outer darkness. In actual practice the position is a good deal

if not in theory the position is a good deal senior and more responsible than that of Resident Commissioner (especially an Acting one) and would probably go to someone senior in service to myself. However, as I have already mentioned to you, Sir, it has long been the ultimate ambition of my life and I have absolute confidence in my ability to satisfy you and, after all, Mr Vaskess was my age when he got it.

Honor gave a really quite successful party at Christmas for all British and American officers: at least I imagine it was, for everyone refused to leave and the old Colonel gave a speech with tears in his eyes saying how sorry he was to leave us all. We were sorry to say good-bye too but I must admit that the Americans cause a large proportion of our troubles. Drink and women are their besetting sins - they have so demoralized the native nurses at Abaokoro with their drink and dance parties (European dances, of course) that Dr Rose has now got to sack all but two or three. If and when they leave we shall be able to reduce our administrative staff almost immediately.

The westerlies have been coming from the east this year: a most peculiar phenomenon but Reiher (Master of the "Maureen") says that it has happened before. Reiher has proved a great success and runs around the islands in a way that no European certificated master would dream of. He's perfectly content with his accommodation, salary and wants no watch-keeper or other assistant. We are now all very pleased with the "Maureen", which is doing a great job of work, and want to keep her. But the 60-footers must have local masters.

Poor Nettie McArthur comes down by the ship that  
brings this letter.

brings this letter. She seems to have got stage fright at the last minute at the thought of the complications that might arise if she married Dr Rose and stayed on here and, as a consequence, developed an obsession that the natives were laughing at her. She says that she will never return to the Gilberts though she still, I understand, intends to marry Rose.

I'm afraid that I've been far too long-winded,  
as always,

Yours sincerely,



Headquarters Housing Requirements - P 4510A Medical Personnel

1.	<u>Resident Commissioner's Department</u>		<u>Sq. ft.</u>
	(1) Resident Commissioner		8,400
	(2) Secretary to Government		2,145
3.	<u>Treasury Department</u>		
	(3) Chief Accountant		2,145
	(4) Accountant		2,145
	(5) & (6) Clerks and Customs Officers - 2		3,412 (1,706)
2.	<u>District Administration</u>		
	(7) Cadet and Relieving Officer		1,706
4.	<u>Medical Department</u>		
	(8) Senior Medical Officer		2,145
	(9) Medical Officer		2,145
	(10) Sister		1,000 (?)
5.	<u>Education Department</u>		
	(11) Director of Education		2,145
	(12) & (13) Education Officers		4,290 (2,145)
			<hr/> 31,678 <hr/>

		sq ft
6	<u>Wireless Telegraph Department</u> c. hd.	31,678
	(14) Chief Wireless Officer	2,145
	(15) Wireless Officer	1,706
7	<u>Lands Commission</u>	
	(16) Chief Lands Commissioner	2,145
(8)	<u>Public Works Department</u>	
	(17) Mechanical Engineer	2,145
(9)	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
	(18) and (19) Visiting Officers and Transit Quarters - 2	2,145
		1,706
		<hr/>
		43,670
		<hr/> <hr/>

B Senior Subordinate Staff

- (1) Assistant Secretary ✓
- (2) Clerk and Customs Officer ✓
- (3) Dispenser and Clerk ✓
- (4) Senior Island Medical Practitioner ✓
- (5) Postmaster ✓
- (6) Senior Wireless Operator ✓
- (7) Foreman of Works ✓
- (8) Foreman Mechanic ✓
- (9) Government Storekeeper ✓
- (10) Senior Stenographer - Typist ✓

10 at 802 sq ft = 8,020 sq ft

c. Senior Subordinate staff

- (1) Secretariat - 6
- (2) Treasury - 3
- (3) Wireless - 5
- (4) Lands Commission - 2
- (5) P.W.D. - 4
- (6) Visiting Officers - 4

24 (estimate)

24 at pay 750 = 18,000 sq. ft. (est)

D. Officers

- |     |   |       |
|-----|---|-------|
| (1) | Secretariat                                   | 2,000 |
| (2) | Treasury, Customs and Post Office             | 3,500 |
| (3) | Mechanical Engineer                           | 1,000 |
| (4) | Government Offices :-                         |       |
|     | (a) Senior Medical Officer and Medical Dept.  | 3,500 |
|     | (b) Director of Education and Education Dept. |       |
|     | (c) Lands Commission                          |       |

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10,000

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E. Wireless Station

(1) Wireless Station	880
(2) Transmitter Building	704
(3) Engine House	304
	<hr/>
	1,888
	<hr/>

F. Power Station

(1) Power Station	2,500
	<hr/>

Offices

- (1) Secretariat
- (2) Treasury, Customs and Post Office
- (3) Mechanical Engineer.
- (4) Government Offices :-
  - (a) Senior Medical Officer
  - (b) Director of Education & Ed. Offices.
  - (c) Lands Commissioner.
- (5) Wireless Station

Personnel accommodations

- (1) Clerk and Customs Officer - (1)
- (2) Professor and Clerk
- (3) Wireless Officer
- (4) Government stockholder
- (5) Assistant secretary
- (6) Stenographer - Typist

STAY EON

FOR THE MERIT & CIVIL  
SERVICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSION



NOTES FOR NEWLY-APPOINTED OFFICERS  
ON CONDITIONS IN THE  
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

1. General.

The Colony consists of some thirty-three scattered islands. The total land area of these is only about 250 square miles: but they are dispersed over some 2,000,000 square miles of sea. It is well to grasp this fact firmly at the outset: for every phase, activity, and aspect of life in the islands is governed by the question of communications. The absolute necessity of doing everything possible to improve and fully to utilise sea, air, land and radio communications in the islands, and between the islands and the outer world cannot be exaggerated.

2. Communications. As a result of the war, communications have been disrupted, and are not yet fully restored. It is probable that within the next year or so they will take the following shape:-

Sea. British Phosphate Commissioners' steamships from Melbourne to Ocean Island once every four to six weeks.

High Commission ships, Fiji to Colony, once every eight to twelve weeks.

High Commission ships available for touring officers within island groups.

Air. There is at present no regular air service either to the Colony or within it; though aircraft of the main United States-Australia service make a stop at Canton Island in the Phoenix Group. There are airstrips at Christmas Island, Canton Island, Funafuti, Nukufetau, Nanumea, Abemama, Tarawa and Butaritari, though some of these are not at present regularly maintained. Several of the islands have lagoons suitable for seaplane landings.

Radio. Regular communication is maintained Tarawa-Ocean Island, Tarawa-Funafuti-Canton Island, and Tarawa-Funafuti-Suva. A number of subsidiary island stations exists, and it is the aim of the administration to arrange for every island, in time, to have its own wireless station. A knowledge of radio is valuable to an Administrative Officer.

3. Housing.

Except at Ocean Island and Canton Island, European officers will be housed for the next two or three years in buildings of semi-permanent local manufacture (usually a pandanus-leaf thatch, walls of split palm-fronds or pandanus-leaf mats, and plank or cement floors). These houses are cool and comfortable, and excite the envy of visitors to the islands.

A certain amount of essential furniture is provided free: and simple furniture can usually be made by local carpenters. Officers should take linen, crockery, cutlery etc. Electric light is provided at Ocean Island, Tarawa, Funafuti, and Canton Islands; but officers should take a couple of oil lamps for use when travelling. Refrigerators are provided by Government, either in messes or to officers individually.

4. Travelling.

Travelling will usually be done in High Commission and Colony ships. Island travelling involves frequent embarkations and disembarkations in native canoes, often through surf: articles such as expensive watches, cameras and other things which may be ruined by immersion in sea

water should be guarded accordingly.

Inter-island travelling involves comparatively long voyages out of sight of land. The currents or sets, in these seas are strong, variable and quite unpredictable. For these reasons, as well as because of the fact that landfalls on the low, small atolls are difficult, and that many islands have no ship anchorages at all, navigation in the Colony is incomparably more difficult than it is in, say, the Solomon Islands. A knowledge, however elementary, of navigation will stand a travelling officer in good stead.

Almost all islands have adequate "transit quarters" which are maintained by government for the use of travelling officers. Mosquito-nets should always be taken.

Travelling usually gives plenty of opportunity for fishing: heavy kingfish, barracuda, tuna, etc. can be taken with a trolled feather lure near the reef, when approaching or leaving an island. A short note on fishing in the islands is attached.

Land travelling is normally done on foot or by bicycle: there are "Jeeps" and trucks on some islands, but the scope of these is limited by the frequent "passages" or channels which divide the usual atoll into its various islets.

There are no horses in the Colony.

5. Climate.

Taken all round, the climate is delightful and healthy. There is usually a breeze to temper the heat of the sun, while the rain, when it does come, is heavy and of short duration. Mosquitoes are troublesome on some islands. Cuts or scratches from coral should be carefully dealt with, as they are very apt to turn septic. There are no snakes and practically no poisonous insects or reptiles. Much of the scenery is superb.

6. Food.

In spite of refrigeration, fresh meat and vegetables are still hard to obtain on some islands (communications again). But quite a lot can be done to make the available native fruits and vegetables into palatable dishes: while pigs, ducks, and chickens thrive, and fresh fish of one sort or another can always be procured. The United States garrison on Christmas Island maintains a small herd of dairy cattle.

7. Clothing.

Ordinary tropical clothing should be taken: no warm clothes beyond an extra sweater (for use if one is flying or gets chilled in a shower) are needed in the Colony.

While the Colony is not a dressy place, it must be remembered that though the native will see nothing wrong in a European wearing only a pair of shorts while out in a boat, or on the reef, etc., the said native likes to dress suitably on formal occasions: and on visits to the Island Government, the maneaba, etc., officers should always be well turned out.

8. Servants.

Good cooks and house boys are available, but are sometimes hard to get at short notice (communications). Almost any islander, if taken fairly young, can be trained to be a good servant. The average small household can be run by one cook (£2 - £4 and rations) and one house boy (£a.10s. to £2. 10s and rations). Laundry work is easily arranged.

9. Recreation.

Island golf-courses have suffered from the war, but will no doubt be restored in time. There are hard tennis courts at Ocean Island, Christmas Island, Tarawa and Funafuti. The natives are extremely keen on cricket and (possibly to a lesser extent) Association football. Boating (paddle, sail or power) is always available.

The Ellice or Nikunau type canoe is designed primarily for paddling, and is the only kind to use through a surf: it will sail quite well with a soldier's wind. The Gilbertese canoe is designed primarily for sailing, and is not used through surf; nor will it paddle well. But under sail it will knife along, the outrigger just clear of the water, at 12, 15 or even 17 knots: the sensation must be very close to that of gliding. The Gilbertese canoe is a work of art, and its owner regards it rather as a trans-Frontier Pathan regards his rifle. A Gilbertese recently voyaged in one of these canoes from Ocean Island to the Admiralties; owing to stress of weather the 1,300 mile distance took him 7 months to cover; but he "made it", and lives to tell the story. Bathing is excellent in some places; in others it can only be calssed as fair, owing to limitations imposed by coral reefs or sharks. But some of the bathing-beaches are far more attractive than the famed Waikiki Beach of Honolulu.

There is nothing to shoot: but a miniature rifle will often provide good fun: the islanders are all keen to learn how to shoot.

10. Conclusion.

The Colony is at a most interesting stage of its evolution. The islanders are keen, amiable, and highly intelligent: they can be taught to do almost anything. No one going to the Colony (which was among the first to appoint natives as administrative officers) need fear that he will be wasting his talents on "backward races": man for man, most islanders will be as good as he is. They are extremely anxious to learn, and to improve themselves and their islands. One word of caution is perhaps necessary: not all of the white man's so-called "improvements" are, in fact, blessings; considerable thought is necessary before we introduce innovations which may alter, however slightly, the admirable way of life which the natives have evolved for themselves.

Thus the Colony offers an interesting and very well worth-while career to any young officer. Remote it certainly is: little is known of it in England. But with improvement in communications, some of this isolation will disappear, and there will come a fuller realisation of the attraction of the islands, and of the intelligence and worth of some of the most loyal and likeable people in the Empire.

Three Ashes.

16th May, 1945.

Fishing in the Gilbert and Ellice  
Islands Colony.

General.

The Gilbert, Ellice, Phoenix and Line Islands afford sea fishing which may or may not be the best in the world, but is almost certainly better than that which any other British Colony can offer. There are dozens of different kinds of fish; broadbill, marlin, shark, tuna, dolphin, sailfish, grouper, barracuda, kingfish, bonito, horse mackerel of many kinds, snapper, sea bass, flying fish, mullet, rainbow runner, rays, milkfish and bonefish. Fish can be caught at any season of the year, and at practically any time of day or night. They are taken by trolling, drifting, bottom fishing, and spinning: small fish are often caught with a rod and a tiny feather lure like a trout set fly. Fish may also be had by spearing, trapping and netting.

Native  
Methods.

The natives are accomplished fishermen. Keeness and skill in fishing do much to gain their confidence and respect. They are enthusiastic and unselfish: always ready to go out, always ready to show how fish can and should be caught, always ready to learn. The average islander by the time he is eight, knows as much about catching fish as the average British angler of eighty. Quite understandably, the native fishes strictly for the pot: the sooner a hooked fish is killed, the better he is pleased. He will good-naturedly tolerate the white man's odd ideas of light tackle, and playing a fish for sport: but in his heart he considers that they are sheer folly, which of course they certainly are when sharks are about.

If you are wise, you will ascertain and observe the native customs and tabus regarding fishing. Once he sees that you are not too proud to be taught, the native will take pains to show you fishing that will be as interesting and exciting as any in the world. You may go miles out to sea in a small canoe and, as your narrow craft rises and falls on the long Pacific swells, try to stand up in it and swing aboard six or eight-pound bonito, hooked on a twelve-foot bamboo pole, short line, and pearl-shell Polynesian lure. Or you may have to negotiate great curling booming surfs in the same frail craft, paddling furiously to beat the toppling crest before it smashes down in foam and thunder on you and your canoe. Or fish along the reef at night when the tide is flooding and you never know what you will see next in the luminous, phosphorescent water or when you will step into the next pot-hole. You may go out, again by night, with flaming palm-leaf torches, to net flying fish (if you do not overbalance and fall in); or you may join in the harvesting of a fish-trap, when the shallows are choked with frantic quicksilver, and the water is beaten to foam by the rocks, clubs, and splashings of excited, yelling islanders. Fishing in the islands is seldom dull.

Tackle.

At present, tackle is hard to get. However, you can usually procure rough handlines, and hooks, from the island trade stores: though you should not depend on this. The water and climate of the islands are hard on tackle, and all gear must be carefully looked after. As regards rod- and line fishing,

- (1) Expensive big-game rods and reels do not always perform so well, when used out of a native canoe, as when they are fished out of a fast "party-boat" with well-fitted swivel chair, etc. off Santa Catalina;

- (ii) Reels must be of good design and material: English sea reels all too often seize up, or burn out;
- (iii) Lines should have a good margin of strength, as they perish so quickly;
- (iv) Wire should be stainless, and straightened so as not to unlay the line when one is trolling;
- (v) Hooks for all big and medium fish should be of good quality, and "straight" (not "snecked" which makes the lure spin when trolled.)

Suggested outfits are:-

- A. Big game fish. The heaviest rod and reel you can handle: not less than 400<sup>y</sup>. of at least 39-thread line. Such an outfit is probably best purchased in Australia or New Zealand.
- B. Medium fish. (20 to 70 lb.) A rod with 12-oz. to 14-oz. tip); 6/0 to 9/0 reel and 300<sup>y</sup>. of 18 thread line.
- C. Small fish. (Up to 20 lb.) A 3/6 or 7-foot salmon spinning rod: 1/0, or light surf reel, and 200<sup>y</sup>. of 9-thread line.

Most of the trolling is done with feather lures: these can be made up locally. As regards wire, Malin's "Stabrite" is good, in strengths from 80-lb to 480 lb; or for the smaller fish, Henderson's "Alasticum" in strengths of 14-lb. and 20-lb. The following are usually impossible to obtain locally:-

Pliers  
Swivels, and connecting links.  
Reel oil.  
Wire.  
Reel lines, reels, rods.  
Gaffs.

The writers, after some exciting but expensive experiences, uses hand-lines for fish of over 50-lb. or so, reserving rod and light tackle for the smaller lagoon fish. The natives accomplish wonderful feats with hand-lines, frequently taking sailfish and small marlin; while in 1945 a 14-foot broadbill was taken on a hand line by a New Zealand Officer and six Gilbertese off Butaritari. It must have weighed 800 to 850 lbs.

But the smaller species (and particularly that king of fishes, the bonefish) should be taken on the rod if possible. On the light tackle described above, a five-pound bonefish will rip off 100 yards against all the pressure you dare put on: you will not believe this until it happens to you.

Besides fish proper, you can have fun with lobsters, crayfish, turtles and suchlike: the sport is usually nocturnal and almost invariably hilarious.

Sport, of one kind or another, is always available. And it is sport in a splendid climate and beautiful surroundings. The scenery is incredibly lovely: the colours of sea and sky range through every shade of blue and green, the indigo of the ocean so deep that it is almost black, the lagoon streaked with lapis and peacock-green and jade and emerald. There are beaches

of dazzling white sand; and the water off the reef may be so clear that you can see your anchor in eighteen fathoms. You may sail over a sparkling lagoon at 15 knots, or go ashore on little, uninhabited islands where the ferns are waist-high, and the sea-birds as tame as though they had never seen man. The sun is burning hot, but there is always a steady trade-wind to keep things cool: while if, by chance, you should get soaked and chilled in a sudden rain-squall, you need only go overside to warm yourself, for the average water temperature is over eighty degrees Fahrenheit.