

Air Service: Passengers and mail rates

	<u>Passengers</u>	<u>Air mail</u>
Suva - Fuaofuti	£ 14	1/2
Suva - Tarawa	£ 32	2/8
Fuaofuti - Tarawa	£ 18	1/6

Air Services: Suva - Tarawa, via Funafuti.

Leave Suva - 28th Aug. 11th Sept. 25th Sept. 9th Oct.

Leave Tarawa - 29th Aug. 12th Sept. 26th Sept. 10th Oct.

Air Service Suva - Tarawa costs approx £600 (NZ) per return trip. (13 in S.F. 4/8/2)

Annual Report in submitting the 1938 Colony Annual Report to the S of State (it was never printed) the Asst H.C. criticized the aggregate land area given in para 2 on the ground that Christmas alone is usually considered to be not less than 200 sq. m. He quotes F.O. Handbook No 149, "British Possessions in Oceania" where it is estimated as follows:-

"Gullait Islands - 166 sq. m.

Felice Islands - 14 sq. m.

Phoenix Islands - 18 sq. m."

Ocean Island is known to be 3 sq. m.; F.I. Ltd. est. Farming at 13 sq. m., & Washington at 5 sq. m., making a total (ex Christmas) of 219 sq. m.

For Christmas costs vary from 94 sq. m. (Pacific 12 Yearbook) to 313 sq. m. (Rougier).

It is considered that 128,000 acres, or 200 sq. m. is as useful an approx. as any.

Asst H.C. asked that a^{2d} para should be deleted in favour of:-

"The various components of the Colony are scattered over a rectangle of a million square miles, yet their aggregate land area is estimated to be only 219 sq. m., excluding Christmas Island, the largest coral atoll in the Pacific, which is believed to contain not less than 200 sq. m. in itself." 2 P. 433/40.

Area of Colony: See "Annual Report" above

Award to Tuitonga Herang: Presentation of - See under "M"

Alenama Lagoon: Entrance to. From Commodore Hill's report to the Sec, L.P.H.C. (copy sent to B.C.) it appears that maximum draft of any ship negotiating passage should not exceed 17 ft. and then only at top of high water. At any other state of the tide it should not exceed 11 ft. 6 in. The turning point in the channel is 175 ft. wide, situated where the strongest set of the tide is experienced.

During 1937-38 payments from Bambar Royalties Trust Fund were:-

Annuities to Bambaras = £4,340

Annuities to Landowners = 902

Bambar Services = 3,557

Total = £8,799

On est. annual output of 250,000 tons, position would be:-

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Royalty at 8½d = £8,854	Annuities - 388 adults at £8 = £3,104
Interest on Investments (1938) = 1,792	309 children at £4 = 1,236
<u>Total</u> = <u>£10,646</u>	Annuities to landowners = 902
	Bambar Services (1939-40 Estimates) = 2,643
	<u>Balance</u> = <u>2,761</u>
	<u>Total</u> = <u>10,646</u>

Prudential Fund payments at 2d would similarly amount to £2,083.

(F) Proposed future Agreement

In 1940 Mr A H Gaze approached Bambaras re acquisition of further 230 acres on following terms:-

(1) Cash payment of £175 per acre (to include payment for trees)

(2) Gross royalty of 1/- per ton drilled. 10d to Royalty Trust Fund & 2d to Bambar Fund.

(3) Prudential Fund to accumulate to £250,000, instead of £175,000.

(2) & (3) to be applicable to all lands mined after acquisition of new area even if held before acquisition.

Bambaras stated that they considered terms satisfactory but objected to small share which they demanded in form of payments from their funds. They asked Mr Gaze to advance their case for more generous scale of payments.

Coconut Trees. Except from R. L. Clute, "Practical Lessons in Tropical Agriculture", Book II.
(obtainable in 3 vols from Fiji Education Dept.).

"The Value of a Coconut Tree. A well-cared-for coconut tree begins to bear when about six years old, and it will be in full bearing at about twenty-five years. A farmer can well afford to give a tree the best of care, not only when it is young, but when it is bearing; for each well-cared-for tree will supply him annually with from forty to sixty nuts and will continue to bear for about eighty years. Some trees yield over two hundred nuts in a year." These conditions apply to the Philippines.

Trees should be in straight rows and at equal distances apart. They should be 10 meters apart, the planting holes 1 meter in diameter & 1 meter deep. If planted in squares one can get 100 trees to a hektar, if in triangles, 115.

Copra Storage Sheds: Capacity of Central (Figures supplied by W. Higgs, of Canteiro).

- (a) Canteiro, at Butaritari - 1,500 tons;
- (b) Japanese firm, at Butaritari - 200 tons; and
- (c) Burns, Philp, at Tanawa - about 1,000 tons.

Copra Loading Rate Tanawa Mr. Snell suggests 2,000 tons a week as a maximum.

Cuttars for Co-operative Societies. Mr. Charles Whipping, Boatbuilder, Waleu Bay, suggests about £150 for registered ton as present day costs of building cuttars. This includes all fittings but not engine. A 16-20 h.p. engine should suffice.

He suggests purchase of second-hand cuttars might be cheaper. His brother, Arthur, has a craft of 27 registered tons, which carries 33 tons of general cargo or 20 tons of copra, and which he might be willing to sell.

The type of craft wanted is known as half-decked and was formerly much used locally. It has an open hold protected by coarings and a small engine room at the bow. This type should be cheaper than decked craft with cabins, etc.

Note. A vessel's cargo carrying capacity should be roughly the same as its registered tonnage.

Casualty Returns: Civilian and War. May now be discontinued, but a final composite return should be submitted in each case in due course to round things off.

Conchology - Collection and despatch to Suva of specimens of sea-shells from the Colony. No funds available and all contributions to be voluntary. Officers to keep a watch for good specimens.

Colonial Development Fund.

W.P.H.C. Allocation £750,000 over 10 years.

H.E. has provisionally allocated £500,000 to the B.S.I.P. and £250,000 to the G.D.E.I.C. (see S.O.S. to H.C. tel no 150 of 31.7.45).

But see H.C. to S.O.S. tel no 465 (Fiji) of 14.7.44, para 5(B) for inclusion of McQuate's colonial medical scheme and £139,200 for G.D.E.I.C. annually recurrent expenditure & £156,500 capital expenditure.

McQuate's medical scheme was put direct to C.O. of him & totalled £549,500 covering cost of hospital, quarters, medical vessels, etc for B.S.I.P. & G.D.E.I.C. (see S.O.S. to H.C. tel no 437 of 17.12.43 of which nearly was set to the G.D.E.I.C.) Details of the scheme see find by the S.O.S. to the Governor (Fiji despatch no 11 of 4.2.44) but again set out to the Colony - I have asked that this should now be done.

H.E. desires that I should push on urgently with preparation of all schemes required in Colony.

- (1) It will be necessary to have an overall picture of the complete Colony requirements for next 10 years to assess comparative importance & essentiality of each scheme & allot available funds proportionately. (See Fiji Report)
- (2) Each scheme should be prepared and submitted in usual way when ready (see H.C. to R.G. Sanghvi no 240 of 24.9.45 in H.C. C.F. 70/7/2)

Capital: Rebuilding of. H.E. has ruled that this should be considered War Replacement Expenditure. Also possibly H's Hospital.

Coastwatchers in Gallbat Islands: Illegitimate children of. See R.G. to H.G. conf no 65 of 11.6.45 & submit recommendations in reply to H.G. to R.G. conf of 16.5.45. In a minute I have recommended opening a P.O. Savings Bank Deposit Trust a/c for each child to be operated on later in order to give him a better education than his mother could afford. As regards land, he will have his "main acre" & if insufficient, his mother could no doubt arrange for his adoption as "voti" or "tibu".

Contingent and other decreased on Ocean Island. Question whether any formal effects can be
taken on the island. (see H. C. 3rd p. 2 to the U.S. of State of 10.95).

Dunfermline, Island. Provision was made in the 1938-39 estimates for the construction of 8
dunfermlines at a cost of £1,000.

In 1941 the Ag. R. G. reported that 12 dunfermlines had then been erected and material for
5 others landed on the islands & awaiting erection. Materials were still required for
8 further dunfermlines, 4 of which were then on order.

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Gratuities to members of the retire staff. (see summary No 379 of 10 10 45 from R.G. & H.G.) H.G. has requested particulars of what the approximate extra financial liability will be if gratuities are to be calculated on the whole salary.

The secretary is in favour of the introduction of a Provident Fund system and wishes that this possibility be investigated and reported on.

I am a bit dubious about increasing gratuity liabilities via financial liability, since they are really a form of recognition of past services and not necessary in order to provide for the future livelihood of the retiring official, who is in every case a landowner.

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Handicrafts Investigate possibility of establishing shop at Canton Island, and also one at
Suva. (Vadum is here).

Honours Recommendations to be called for from R. Co. on 15th August, replies to be in
by 15th Sept. (in case of New Year Honours) and on 15th Jan., replies to be in
by 15th Feb., (in case of Birthday Honours).

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Information Service for Colony

(vide R.G.'s minute (A) on p. 12 of H.C. C.F. 32/3/8)

In this Colony it is proposed that:-

- (1) Every island, in time, shall have a wireless outfit of the tele-radio 3B2 type;
- (2) These installations shall receive, at least weekly, a news message transmitted from the parent (Colony) station; and
- (3) This news shall be supplemented by a locally-produced news sheet or newspaper with leading articles of general Colony interest, & a fair number of illustrations.

Already have an editor-producer for the news sheet, & work on it will be started as soon as the duplicator arrives.

The island tele-radios will, of course, be able to pick up the news broadcasting station, and operators will be trained to take down the news for the information of the people.

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"John Williams v" & grant of \$150 for carriage of rails. owing to the amended
License Act they pay only \$105 10.0 on their gross tonnage of 226 & thus make
a profit. Investigate & if so, address the H.C.

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Medical Affairs. Correspondence between I.G., S.P.S., and S.D.O., G.E.I.C. re.

I.G. has stated his view that following should be policy:-

"S.D.O., and through them the M.O., of the various Territories should have the right of direct correspondence with the I.G. in technical and certain personal matters. Questions involving policy, on the other hand, would be referred by them in the first place to the R.G., the latter possessing such correspondence as he considered necessary to the H.G. The H.G. would decide the I.G.'s opinion was necessary or not, but the I.G. would expect to be kept informed on major issues and questions involving the movements or conditions of service of medical personnel".

I.G., S.P.S., to Sec, W.P.H.C., No 15/1 of 16.5.45 in H.C. 2.P.
C.F. 82/7/21

Medal and Certificate for presentation to Tuitonga Nerang a teacher at Bengueru, Bena (vide H.G. to R.G. of 29.5.45), which enclosed letter from Mr Eastman from which a citation or short speech could be made out).

H.E. has written in F 36/1: "Pl. ask Mr. Naudé to make this presentation as soon as he can after he goes up to the G.E.I.C."

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(10) On basis of 1937/38 draft estimates B.P.C. taxation represents approx. 2/5 per ton on est. output of 360,000 or 16% of selling price of phosphate (15/- per ton)
5/7 per ton is paid to Finance Govt. for interest, redemption of capital, etc.
7/- per ton represents actual cost of production.

(11) O.I. phosphate sells at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ above 20mu owing to percentage of tricalcium phosphate being $2\frac{1}{2}$ units higher.

Phosphate Industry on Ocean Island: Notes from R.G. to H.C. Conf. of 12.6.37.
(Facts and figures were supplied by Mr. B.H. Gage)

- (1) Amt. of phosphate mined 1900 - 30.6.36 = 5,900,000 tons (approx.)
1900 - 30.6.20. P.P.C., Ltd, mined 2,300,000 tons from 223.47 acres
30.6.20 - 30.6.36. B.P.C. mined 3,600,000 tons from 114.92 acres.
- (2) Total area mined to 30.6.36 = 338.39 acres but part not fully worked out and will yield more phosphate later.
- (3) On 30.6.36 B.P.C. still held title balance of 153 acres of unworked mining land.
Est. contents 5,500,000 (approx.)
- (4) Mining land to be acquired est. at 270 acres, of which site & environs of Bakenikai occupy 40 acres. (Area is assessed on survey of retinal land above 170 ft contour, below which cableways cannot be operated & raising of phosphate becomes progressively more difficult and uneconomic).
- (5) Land at (4) est. to yield 5,500,000 (Bakenikai site & environs 1,500,000).
Not anticipated that question of disturbing village site will arise during next 25 years.
- (6) Land at (3) est. not to be worked out for 10-15 years from 30.6.36, but certain areas suitable for cableway operations will be exhausted in 7-8 years.
- (7) On est. output of 1,000,000 every 3 years considered main phosphate deposits (i.e. above 170 contour) will last 33 years. Est. lands below 170 contour will then be worked, but on very small scale.
- (8) Hitherto $\frac{2}{3}$ of Australian & N.Z. phosphate requirements have been met from Rona & $\frac{1}{3}$ from Ocean Island, but latter percentage must decrease. Rona has infinitely more extensive deposits & greater natural facilities for economic raising & shipping.
- (9) Also Rona a single self-contained administrative unit & taxation far less therefore lighter. i.e. average of about -/9 per ton as against 1/6 to 2/- per ton or 0.1.
B.P.C. contribute £15,000 to £17,000 per ton annually to Rona revenue with a tendency for taxation to decrease

(see on opposite page)

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Namunee: Rehabilitation. Hill's report shows following damage:-

- (1) Coconut trees - 31,493
- (2) Pandanus and bread fruit - 1,110
- (3) Almost all suitable building timber.
- (4) Gardens destroyed.
- (5) Old village will require rebuilding (though concrete walls and flooring require but little repair. Warehouse, mission buildings and Govt station are in fair condition).

U.S. Forces have left plenty of cement for (5), but there is little timber.

Namunee: Employment of Gullaited labourers in

H.C. to R. Co. No. 333 of 9.6.41 states that "I cordially welcome proposal to employ Gullaited labourers in Namunee so long as terms and conditions of employment are not less favourable than those laid down for employment within the Colony and the provisions of the Regulations are complied with, you are authorized to approve proposals provided that satisfactory undertaking is given for repatriation or expiration of period of engagement".

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Phosphate industry on Ocean Island: Length of

Latest information is Gage's statement to Sir Philip Mitchell in January, 1944, that "length of life depends on extraction being but is not less than forty and may be sixty years." H.C. to S.O.S. Secret tel No 25 of 31.1.44.

(165) in S.F. 10/4.

Phoenix Islands: District vessel for

See H.C. to S.O.S. Tel. No 125 of 10.6.44 (On H.C. file S.F. 10/4/2)

Are 60-footers large enough to service combined Ellice/Phoenix Dist.? If not, is it best to separate dists, build a second vessel for Phoenix, or build a large vessel for the combined dist.

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Patena Supply of fresh. Major Kennedy has arranged for the supply
by Carpenter of £3 worth of fresh vegetables (non-root) to be sent up
to the Bainski mess every plane. The plane people will take
up to 300 lbs. weight free or more than £3 worth can be sent
if desired.

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Sydney Island Lagoon write to A.O., Canton, re possibility of connecting lagoon at Sydney with sea and either pumping lagoon dry (22. v. v. v.) or else pumping salt water in from sea.

Sixty-fifters. If now Captain req'd (or for "Kiakia") try H. Simpson, who took the "Mary" up to the B.S.I.P.

Shipping Classification adopted for Govt. shipping in the B.S.I.P. (rule 1 in C.F. 46/15/4)

- (i) Central Administrative vessel
- (ii) Medical Department vessel
- (iii) District Administration vessels
- (iv) Harbour launches and boats; and
- (v) Trading vessels.

Secret Correspondence: Reference to in Open despatch

(1) The ref. in the open despatch would read; "with ref. to the proposal for a joint Fiji and N.P.H.C. Navie Dept for the control & management of Govt. vessels, I have the honor to inform you, etc."

(2) a 3rd p. 2 accompanies the despatch, as follows:-

"Western Pacific.

Secret

The H.C. for the N.P. Navie Dept has copies to the U.S. of State for the Colo and, with ref. to N.P. despatch 20 of the , on the subject of the action of a joint Navie Dept of the N.P.H.C. Territories, has the honor to state that the previous correspondence referred to therein will be found in para 3 of Sir P. 26, Secret despatch of the 6th June, para 6 of the S. of State's despatch Secret 20 48 of the 4th Dec, and para 6 of my Secret despatch of the 20th April."

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Tax Copra. (See Savings from H. G. to R. G. No 38 of 8.2.45).

This should be reviewed for financial year 1946-47, i.e. cut & delivered in July, 1946, unless R. G. considers that natives are not yet receiving a fair return as regards administration, medical, educational & other services & copra exports & trade profits have been reviewed. Position to be reviewed at end of 1945 & a further report submitted.

Telegrams. H. C.'s office complains no rectification is made of the number of any telegram cancelled. This should be done immediately to avoid enquiries from Sura by telegraph.

Taxation: B.P.C. Committed.

1938 settlement

(see Shuckburgh to Sir Arthur Richards of 21.2.38 for negotiations between W. A. H. Gage & Colonial Office)

Colonial Office urged :- (1) Normal claim of Govt to reasonable contribution to revenue by way of royalties
(2) Fact that phosphates are wearing asset with comparatively short life and that, as alternatives are lacking, Govt must look to industry to furnish means for building up a Reserve Fund, from which loss of revenue on exhaustion of phosphates can be made good.

Gage countered by denying the 0.1 costs are almost double known & listing at existing operations.

Finally, Gage agreed to :-

(1) Annual payment of £20,000 p.a.	= £100,000 for 5 year period
(2) Royalty on 300,000 tons in 1938/39	= 7,500
(3) " " 250,000 " " other years	= 25,000
(4) Initial cash payment ($\frac{1}{2}$ of refunded B.P.C. during 1936/37 & 1937/38)	= 12,500
(5) Leasing taxation (as before)	= 25,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>= £170,000</u>

(a) at f.o.b. price of phosphate ex Ocean Island of 14/- per ton, this = about 20% of the gross income of the industry.

(b) Leasing out leasing taxation (not a direct charge on output), average payment for ton = 2s. 3d., and for these might be added the payments to the Baramba funds.

Notes :- (1) Although Shuckburgh asked for our proposals for building up a Reserve Fund & presumed that the object was to build a fund of such dimensions that the interest would provide, when the phosphate is exhausted, an amt comparable with the income at present derived from the industry, Varkess reported on 14.5.38 that he had made no headway with the scheme. Shuckburgh urged that no time should be lost in establishing a separate fund, apart from Colony's normal reserve, which could begin to accumulate at compound interest against day when phosphates cease. Varkess intended to transfer portion of Surplus Funds to form nucleus of Reserve Fund.

(2) In any post-war settlement should not B.P.C. committed taxation be assessed to bear percentage of gross income of industry as at (a) above, i.e. 20%.

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War Replacement Expenditure see Capital: Rebuilding of.

Mr Conell
 (of RUSSELL'S name and rank)
 Authenticated

Please let me know
 what to increase £2.15.0 to
 £1.12.0 ?

SELL
 24.11.45

2 15.0
 3
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2 15.0

62.5 %

71.875 % 6 9 3

There is no Fijian Col. Index but
 Fijian wages are treated as the same
 as Indian

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1945.

THE F

Government Notice

Cost Of Living Of Indian Workmen.

Date	Town of Suva & Environs		Viti Levu exc. Suva	
	Index Number	Percentage Increase over August, 1939	Index Number	Percentage increase over August, 1939
August, 1939	100	—	100	—
1st January, 1944	173	73	215	115
1st April, 1944	171	71	200	100
1st July, 1944	169	69	200	100
1st October, 1944	173	73	197	97
1st January, 1945	173	73	198	98
1st April, 1945	166	66	186	86
1st July, 1945	164	64	186	86
1st October, 1945	166	66	186	86

COMMENTS

SUVA—There is a rise of 7 points in Food and a fall in Clothing of 19½ points. No substantial change has occurred in the other groups since the previous quarter.

COUNTRY—A rise of 4½ points in Food is offset by a drop of 17 points in Clothing and 38 points in Kitchenware. The rise in the Food Group is due to the increased cost of sharps and ghee and would have been greater but for a fall in the price of rice.

Dated this 1st day of October, 1945.

STUART REAY,
 Commissioner of Labour.



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Wage Rates and Term of Contracts - G & E. I. C.

(a) Present Labourers on Fanning and Washington Islands

(i) 2 year indenture term

(ii) Rates of pay - £21 for the first year (£15.0 p.w.)

- £27 for the second year (£25.0 p.w.)

with a War Bonus of £6 for each year (10/- p.w.)

(see letter No. C.F. 15/7 of 20.5.44 from Sec, W.P.H.C. to B.P.C. - copy with R.C.)

(b) G & E. Labour Corps

Privates' pay is £2.50. + all usual benefits + war pension concessive.

R.C. has stated that he is anxious to avoid competition for labour between B.P.C., F.I.Ltd, and the Labour Corps & that the idea of a War Bonus is to enable the maintenance of the basic scale unaltered for the present - (R.C. to B.P.C. No. F/24 of 10.2.44)

(c) B.P.C. Indentured Labour on Ocean Island

£1.12.0 p.w. with rations, quarters & lighting & a bonus of 8/- p.w. for satisfactory work (1938 figures from Annual Report)

(During 1938 B.P.C. employed average of 460 natives and 665 Chinese, 153 were accompanied by wives & children)

(d) B.P.C. Casual labour on Ocean Island received (1938) 4/- per diem without, or slightly less with, rations or quarters.

(approximately 60 Banabans were employed as day labourers during 1938 - Annual Report)

(e) Fanning and Washington Islands (1937 recruit)

(i) 3 year indenture term

(ii) Rates of pay - £15.0 p.w. for 1st year

- £110.0 p.w. for 2nd year

- £1.16.0 p.w. for 3rd year & thereafter

In 1937 Messrs F.I. Plantations, Ltd, requested permission to recruit 2/3 rds married & 1/3 rd single labourers, instead of 1/3 rd married & 2/3 rd single. W-Barly stated that he was unable to trace origin of established precedent, which had existed since about 1920.