

SUBJECT FILINGS (1)

From Western Pacific High Commission Archives
and other sources

- (1) Labour Trade ~~(1870-1899)~~ - ⁴¹40 items.
- (2) Hawaiian-Fiji Relations - 8 items.
- (3) Western Pacific High Commission (General) - 2 items.
- (4) Native Laws: Central Pacific Islands - 6 items.
- (5) Naval Matters (General) - 3 items.
- (6) Biographical Data (by persons) - 18 items.

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LABOUR TRADE

~~1870~~ - ~~1899~~

Blackbirding: Beginnings of

The Sydney merchant J. B. Montefiore had suggested in 1838 that the traders of Chile and Peru would recruit slaves in New Zealand if they knew of the possibilities (P.P. 1837-8, (XXI), 680, 66-7); in 1842 David Langell, missionary in Tonga and Fiji, said that there was in existence 'a proposal to commence a traffic in slaves in Polynesia, by purchasing Feejeean captives, and selling them in some of the slave markets on the coast of South America' (Langell, "a Refutation of Charles Dellen's Slandorous Attacks on the Wesleyan Missionaries in the Friendly Islands . . .", 35). One 50 years earlier William Bligh had advocated the migration of Polynesian labour to Australia - as a means of civilizing the natives (Bligh, Voyage to the South Seas . . ., 80-1).

Newbury, C.W., cont'd.

by the French schooner, Forcade la Roquette, in the Gilberts resulted in an official enquiry by the Minister for the Navy, Admiral Galiber, which exonerated the administration but which terminated its financial aid to the recruiters. (Footnote: Archives des Colonies Oceanie, 34. Pothuau to Planche, July 25, 1878).

The dream of an agricultural colony faded: Tahitians were unwilling to part with their land; still less were they willing to work as hired labor - which planters were not wealthy enough individually to import from elsewhere."

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From Newbury, C.W., "Aspects of French Policy in the Pacific, 1853-1906". Pacific Historical Review, vol. XXVII, no. 1 (February, 1958), pp. 45-56.

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"A major problem which concerned the Navy and the Foreign Office from the 1860's on was the regulation and supervision of France's share in the Pacific labor traffic. Officially, a system of indentured labor in Polynesia and recruiting from the New Hebrides for New Caledonia was encouraged. In reality, the line between blackbirding and voluntary recruitment was thin. In the eastern Pacific, the interest of Paris in indentured labor was a reflection of the attempts of the local administration to turn Tahiti into a plantation colony. In the 1860's, the chief recruiter was the Polynesian Plantation and Coffee Company, financed from London. The company gave a lead to other planters by receiving permission and financial help from the administration to import Chinese and island labor.

The main features of recruiting policy in the French establishments themselves were use of administration schooners and financial subsidies to planters from the administration's Agricultural Bank. Conditions of indenture and employment were laid down by ordinance in March, 1864, and approved in Paris. (Footnote: Bulletin Officiel des Etablissements Francais de l'Océanie, 1864, 127). Women and children were allowed to accompany both Chinese and other immigrants; standards of housing, food, and clothing were maintained ~~at the~~ by official inspection; and repatriation was made compulsory at the planters' expense after the termination of seven year contracts in the case of the Chinese and three year contracts for Polynesians and Melanesians. Similar conditions were laid down for recruiting ~~from~~ from the New Hebrides to New Caledonia. In both areas, the administration was cautioned to keep clear of Peruvian slavers operating in the islands and to send a French immigration official with every schooner. The extent of French operations for Tahiti can best be illustrated by a table (Footnote: The table is compiled from the reports of officials at Tahiti in the Archives des Colonies, Ministère de la France d'outre-mer, Paris, Series Océanie 1-106: 35, 38, and 108; the Archives of the Ministère des Affaires Étrangères: Iles Diverses VII. Complete figures for the New Hebrides and New Caledonia are not available).

Newbury, C.W., cont'd.

INDENTURED LABOR FOR TAHITI AND DEPENDENCIES

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Tongareva</u>	<u>Cook Islands</u>	<u>Gilbert Islands</u>	<u>Tuamotu</u>	<u>New Hebrides</u>	<u>Hongkong</u>
1862	98					
1864		96				300
1865						693
1866	49					
1867			399	15		
1870			192		73	
1872			96			
1880			200		35	
1883			85			
1884-1892			197		133	

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Thus, between 1862 and 1892, some 1,668 Polynesians and Melanesians and 993 Chinese were imported on contract into Tahiti. Most of the Pacific Islanders were repatriated at the end of their term. The ~~Chinese~~ Chinese, however, after the collapse of the Plantation Company in 1872, either drifted to other islands, or became planters and traders on their own account, forming the nucleus of the large Asiatic population in the territory today (Footnote: By 1907 there were 459 Chinese in the French establishments. According to the 1951 census, their number has risen to some 6,665 - mainly by immigration from San Francisco and Canton in the 1930's).

Towards the end of the 1870's, two difficulties emerged from this policy which made the Ministry for the Navy hesitate to approve further immigration. Traders at Tahiti began to complain of commercial competition from Chinese settlers. Reports of abuses in the Gilbert Islands on the part of local schooners compromised official sponsorship. In 1878, the Minister for the Navy wrote to the Governor of Tahiti, disapproving of a plan to set up an Immigration Bank, backed by the Administration, with credit facilities for planters' hiring imported labor. In 1884, reports from British naval officers on the methods used

The China Mail: 16.3.1867.

CAPTAIN Fraber, of the Day Spring, from the South Sea Islands, has furnished us (Sydney Morning Herald) with the following particulars:- A small schooner from Sydney, on a trading voyage among the Islands, was at the Island Sandwich, or Fete (New Hebrides), the natives of which place concocted an atrocious scheme for the seizure of the vessel. The owner was anxious to get the assistance of some of the natives to work the schooner, and 10 were engaged who went on board, and she then proceeded to sea. The chief, however, had matured his plans, and on the fourth day out they rose on the original crew, supposed to consist of four white men, whom they murdered, and then brought the schooner back again to Fete; here she was completely stripped and the property duly apportioned; shortly after the schooner Sea Witch came in, and with the assistance of some natives from a neighbouring island, recaptured the vessel. There can be no doubt but that the unfortunate craft was the Mary Ira, Captain Unthank, of 16 tons, which left Sydney on 17th September, 1866, on a trading voyage among the South Sea Islands.

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B.C.S. - NA - Series 3. Consul to FO. Vol. 3: 1864-1879.

(1) Williams to FO, 9.12.68, no.22.

NATIVE LABOUR --- re the memorial sent to FO by Convenor and Secretary of the Synod of the Reformed Prespyterian Church in Scotland, Wms supplies following information:-

-- Samoans don't go overseas to work -- workers in plntns are imported from Niue, and are glad to come -- usual pay is \$5 per month in trade plus rations.

-- workers also come from Line Islands, Wms is told they come freely, but they only get \$1 per month plus rations -- they have to work from 6 to 6 -- system is akin to slavery -- but it doesn't happen on any British plntn.

-- kidnapping goes on in Micronesian area too, but as natives don't know names of the ships, nothing can be proved --- some atrocities, such as sailors driving nail thru hand of native as soon as he put hand on rail, to prevent his getting away.

-- Master of schooner Sea Shell from New Zealand was forcibly detaining some natives on board his vessel.

(2) Williams to FO, 12.1.70.

-- in reply to despatch of 31.7.69 (further queries on this subject), Wms says re labour:-

-- no more Samoans taken away, but many Line Islanders brought to Samoa, and these people are treated badly, getting little pay, hard work, etc. -- Wms knows of no British subjects who so treat these people, however.

-- as islands in unsettled state, the Samoan chiefs can do nothing for these people -- in past the planters and mgrs concerned wd not permit and Samoan interference re labourers, using threats of warships and punishment.

-- Wms thinks the Great Powers ought to appt Commissioners to visit the remoter islands to investigate treatment of labour, etc.

-- great opposition to any local enquiries by British Consul re this matter.

-- an armed vessel left Apia 3 days ago, for the Line, to get labourers.

PROGRESS REPORT
of the
Polynesian Labor Commission

The Commission appointed by His Majesty the King to enquire into and report on the Polynesian Labor system have the honor to lay before the Executive Council the following Progress Report of their proceedings.

Since the date of the first Meeting of the Commission on the fifth day of September fourteen meetings have been held and the following witnesses have been examined.

Finlay McLiver - Master of Nukulau
Frederick Freeman - Master of Swallow
Edwin Montleart - A.B. of Swallow
Frank Grant - Supercargo of Heather Bell
Henry Allen - Mate of Edith
William Scott - A.B. of Marion Rennie
Alfred Martin - Master of Wild Duck
G.R.B. ^Towson ~~(?)~~ - Solicitor
William Jones - late Master of Van Tromp
Leonard Boehm - Charterer and Supercargo of Mary Ann ~~CA~~
Christana and America.

From the evidence of these witnesses singularly corroborative in detail with but trifling exceptions the Commission gather the following facts.

- 1st. That Head money is paid in some instances but the practice is not adopted as a systematic rule.
- 2nd. That it is customary to enter into a written agreement with the Natives clearly defining the term of service agreed on.
- 3rd That the usual term is for three years but men have been passed for two and also five years.
- 4th That there is no difficulty in obtaining an interpreter on most of the Islands.

5th That comparatively few women have been brought that the majority of those had Husbands on board and where they have been unmarried they have been accompanied by some Relative and always provided with separate places to sleep in on board.

6th That drunkenness is of rare occurrence amongst the crew of vessels and is not seen amongst the Natives.

7th That they all come of their own free will.

8th That it is customary to give a present to the laborers when they engage and they give it to their friends or their Chief.

9th That the Chiefs have but little influence and do not force men to come away as laborers.

10th That the illtreating of Natives is a matter of rare occurrence not one of the witnesses being able to speak of such except from hearsay.

11th That they have full liberty and plenty of food and water while on board the boats.

12th That breaches of agreement have occurred - most flagrantly in the cases of Burt and Underwood Fiji and Captn. Towns Queensland

13th That the rate of wages paid in Fiji is about £3 per annum and in Queensland £6 per annum. Queensland is therefore preferred on the score of payment but Fiji as regards climate and food and that therefore an increase of the annual rate of wages would give Fiji a decided preeminence.

14th That the late outrages are in a great measure to be attributed to the cupidity, treachery and revengeful disposition of the Natives and to the impolitic plan of exposing trade as if on purpose to provoke attack.

That in the cases of the Murders of Captain Robinson, Welsh and Bradley no provocation had been previously given whatever - but it is surmised that the fact of having some men on board with whom the attacking party were at war caused the attack on the 'Swallow'. But no adequate cause whatever can be assigned for the attack on the Maria Douglas and the Marion Rennie.

In conclusion the Commission regret being deprived of the valuable assistance of E.B. March Esqr., H.B.M. Consul. He having signified his inability to attend in consequence of the arduous nature of his Official Duties.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

(Signed) James Morey

Chairman pro tem.

New Zealand Truth: 4.11.1922.

The blackbirding Dr Murray came from New Zealand and was educated in England. He went on an expedition hunting for Burke and Wills in Australia, returned to New Zealand in 1863 and practised in Invercargill.

He left New Zealand in 1865 for Australia. Was in search party looking for Leichardt, but deserted the party.

Dr Murray got the brig Carl in 1871. He took on four Australian passengers, Harry Mount being among them. George Heath was picked up at Levuka as a seaman; also Joe Armstrong as captain and Charles Dowden as first mate. Mount used to dress as a missionary.

The article continues with details of the September, 1871, 'incident', stating that Murray got off by informing on the others.

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Labour Trade in Samoa.

Excerpts from Report of Proceedings of Captain C.H. Simpson, of H.M. Ship 'Blanche' in Samoa, in despatch No.2 to Commodore Goodenough, dated Noumea, 3rd March, 1875.

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Census of population of Samoan Islands. With reference to paragraph 4 of my sailing orders, I beg to enclose a complete Census of these islands just taken by a Mr Whitney one of the Members of the London Mission, and a ^{more} ~~most~~ detailed list of all Foreigners residing on the islands, taken by H.M. Acting Consul. In addition I have to state that the whole of the 475 imported laborers there mentioned, are from the Gilbert or Line Islands, and are employed on the plantation of Messrs Godeffroy & Son, German Merchants. I was unable to ascertain the dates on which each laborer was entitled to be sent back, more particularly as one of the principal punishments resorted to by this firm for breaches of the regulations adopted on their estate, is that of extra service; for many offences the punishment is one year's extra labor or a flogging - left (I was informed by the Manager) to the choice of the offender, who almost invariably chose the extra year's labor. Though such a system, left to the uncontrolled discretion of the planter, is liable to great abuse; I am of the opinion that the plantation of Messrs Godeffroy & Son, under the management of a Mr Brancker, an Englishman (to which I especially refer) is a model that might, with some few exceptions, be adopted on other plantations with advantage;

the laborers are kept cleaner and are far better housed than on their own islands; their food is ample, in fact unlimited; their hours of labor by no means excessive, it being principally task work, which they have generally finished by 3 or 4 p.m.; and the plantation is in a flourishing condition and pays well. There is, however, a dark side to the picture. The death rate among the natives is enormous. Mr Brancker informed me that at least one-fifth of the laborers died during the first year of service; but that for subsequent years it was not excessive. He accounted for this, by saying that, getting labor as he did, whole families would come, the old and infirm and the young children, as well as the able bodied; and that the two former classes could not stand the change of the life and climate. He also stated that their habits of early and excessive venery, commencing almost from childhood, and which he found himself powerless to stop, undermined their constitutions and increased the death rate, - very many of them dying from consumption brought on entirely from this habit. Mr Brancker informed me that he had not the least difficulty in getting labor, that his old hands were constantly returning to him; and, from personal observation, I can state that they appeared to look upon him as a friend as well as a master

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FIJI: LAND FOR INDENTURED LABOUR IN

Gov., Fiji, to S.S., No.140, 23.9.76: I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 88 of the 4th July, in which your Lordship refers to a suggestion made by Mr. Consul Layard to the effect that time-expired Polynesian labourers should be induced to remain in this Colony by grants of land.

2. I have already informed your Lordship that Mr. Layard has thought fit to remove the greater part of the official correspondence between the Foreign Office and himself, and I am therefore unable to judge by what reasons the proposal was supported.

3. The adoption of such a plan, if feasible, would no doubt be in some ways convenient; it would save money and would retain men in the Colony, but it is I fear, one from which it would be impossible to anticipate a satisfactory result.

4. The system of granting small allotments of land in lieu of return passages to industrial immigrants was one which I introduced in Trinidad with the best results. But there is an essential difference between the condition of Trinidad and that of this Colony. In the former island there are vast tracts of unoccupied and unclaimed land available for such grants. Here we have to deal not with an empty land but with an already settled country, almost every acre of which has a known owner and over which villages and gardens are more or less thickly scattered.

5. Even if, however, the preliminary difficulty that the Crown has but a very limited amount of land at its disposal could be overcome, there would be other grave objections to the grant of land to Polynesian savages. The foreign labourers here are not a class of persons at all likely to make good independent settlers. They are, for the most part, of far inferior intelligence to the Fijians, and wholly wanting in their at all events elementary civilization. It would, I think, be most undesirable to encourage the growth of an absolutely savage population in the Colony and in the midst of the natives. Their association with the Fijians could not but retard the advance in civilization of the latter, and I think that there would be great risk of collision between the new-comers and those dispossessed to make room for them. It has moreover been abundantly proved that the non-return of time expired labourers is one of the most fruitful causes of the difficulty of obtaining fresh supplies of labour. Were any large proportion of labourers, now here, to remain permanently in Fiji, it would probably become almost impossible to draw new recruits from the islands to which they belong and to which they had not returned.

6. I am therefore compelled to come to the conclusion that the plan is one which cannot, to any extent, be adopted, but I shall take advantage of your Lordship's evident opinion, that it is unnecessary in all cases to insist on the return of labourers, to permit re-engagements where they may seem to be really desired by both parties, provided the number of such re-engagements is not so great as to imperil the continuance of a supply of labour.

I have &c.

Arthur Gordon.

GILBERTESE LABOUR FOR HAWAII

A.H. Hoskens to Capt. Mist, 23.10.77: I have seen your papers and instructions from the Hawaiian Government and am satisfied as to the good faith and care with which it is intended to carry out the proposal to introduce labour into their Group from the South Pacific Islands. It will be my duty to report the facts, you have acquainted me with, to the Admiralty, but I see no reason pending instructions from home why any impediment should be put in the way of your recruiting, by our cruisers or a compliance of our regulations as to 'Licenses' &c to be insisted on, if it is carried out in a proper and ~~says~~ satisfactory manner.

Till otherwise instructed or reason given I shall consider your vessel on the same footing as those employed by the German House of Godeffroi; whose headquarters are at Samoa.

Jackson of 'Stormbird' to Gorrie, Ag. HC, 9.8.78: 'Stormbird' not now Br, having been transferred to Hawaiian ~~flag~~ Govt in June. Going to Rotuma & Line Is to get emigrants - about 100. Tonnage 131. I do not sail under a License but act in accordance with Instructions from President of the Board of Emigration.

Samuel G. Wilder to Capt G.E.G. Jackson of 'Stormbird, 5.7.78: "You will particularly kkeep in mind that the Hawaiian Government by its Board of Immigration, do instruct and order you to use no means in obtaining Immigrants that could in any way be construed to be otherwise than a just and honourable manner. You will not take on board any person whatever who does not of their own free will and choice so choose, having a full understanding of where they are going, the true meaning of the contract into which they are entering."

To avoid any conflct with any chiefs or people - render any service to missionaries - acknowledge the authority of the Ruler of any island, paying such dues or tributes as is customary.

Particularly desire Rotuma natives and especially the women. As far as possible bring equal nos of men & women.

Contracts 3 years from reaching Honolulu at wages not less than \$4 p.m. for women & \$5 for men. \$1 p.m. extra permitted for Rotumans.

No guns or liquor permitted as trade

Note: 'Stormbird' had trouble at Ponape on first voyage ~~and at~~ ~~over~~ over payment of harbour dues and at Niuafoou on 31.7.79 over purchase of coconuts.

Wilder to Capt Franks of Hawaiian schooner 'Mana', 12.11.78:
To go to South Sea Is to get labourers & immigrants. Equal
nos of men and women, with their children. Contract with each.
You can agree that all shall have good houses, shall be well
paid. Contracts 3 years \$5 for men 1st year, \$6 2nd, \$7 3rd;
women \$4, \$5 & \$6.

Proceed first to Rotuma, then Abamama, Tabiteuea, Nonouti,
Clerk's and Pleasant Island then Hawaii. Rotumans preferred.
"You can agree that these people shall all be returned home at
the end of the three years if they wish; yet it is our expect-
tation that they will remain here.

All acts to be just and honourable &c, as in letter to Jackson
of 5.7.78.

Wilder to H. Freeman, Agent of the Hawaiian Board of Immigration
for the South Sea Islands, 20.6.79: to make depot at Jaluit by
arrangement to be made with Mr Hershheim.

Haw Brig 'Hawaii' will go there direct 35 days after you sail
by which time it is hoped that you will have engaged at least
300 people. She will then return with immigrants and make
2nd trip for more. Hope she will make 4 trips in next year.

Capt Jackson to be under your orders. after which you should
return on 'Stormbird'.

Up to 50 people may be engaged for employment as sailors.

Wilder to Major James H. Wodehouse, 20.2.80: ~~Re~~ Re 18 men
allegedly illegally recruited at Futuna "I beg to say that this
Government will consider as a friendly act, the giving us any
information that may show our agents at fault." Requests
return of these people from Rotuma, where they deserted, at
expense of Haw Govt. "Again I beg to assure you that it is our
constant effort, to prevent any wrong of the slightest as regards
the South Sea Island Immigration." ...

"If our Agent has in any way done any act that bears a sign of
kidnapping, he has transgressed and disobeyed Orders and shall
be removed."

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Consul Wodehouse to HC, 14.6.80: In reply to letter urging Haw Govt to prevent recurrence of such proceedings as those of Mr Freeman, Haw Minister for Foreign Affairs states that F is no longer Haw Immigration Agent and his application for a license from Haw Govt to engage Poly labourers on his own account has been refused.

Wodehouse adds that Freeman sails in the 'Nicolas' Brigantine under the flag of 'Jaluit'.

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SS to HC, no.28 of 2.12.80 contains an FO memo on the 'Jaluit Flag' which, however, is only a series of quotations from Wodehouse, the Consul in Honolulu, re Hawaiian trade with Jaluit and nothing about the Flag.

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London Missionary Society - South Seas Letters

Box 35 - 1878

Tahiti

I. Jones, L. Green to Mullens, dated Papeete 6.2.78.

RETURN OF LINE ISLANDERS.---- "..... a decision taken by Admiral Serre to return the natives who were brought here from the Gilbert and other Islands 7 or 8 or more years ago as labourers on the Tahiti Cotton and Coffee Plantation which has so utterly collapsed as not to leave a penny for the duped shareholders in England. 203 of these Islanders embarked on board the French steamer ... on Saturday morning last."

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HAWAIIAN LABOUR TRADE

SS to Gov., Fiji, No. 18 of 5.3.78. Re arrangements made by the Hawaiian Government for procuring a supply of Polynesian labour.

~~Ty~~ Enc. Commodore A.H. Hoskins to Admiralty, 24.10.77.
Capt. H.W. Mist R.N. (Ret'd) arrd by last Pacific Mail steamer from Honolulu via N.Z. "instructed by the Hawaiian Government to make enquiry concerning, and if possible, arrangements for the procuring a supply of Polynesian labourers" for the Sandwich Islands. Showed credentials and requested Commodore to give such orders to our Cruizers as would facilitate rather than impede the object he had in view.

Labour being procured in view of the decreasing population in ~~Hav~~ Hawaii: "while the cultivation of the land, and especially of the Sugar plantations, was the immediate object of the proposed importation of labour, it was also desired if possible to make it a bona fide immigration, and by encouraging those who engaged to bring over their wives and ~~children~~ families to induce them to become permanent settlers in the Sandwich Islands." Enactments made for their protection, payment and return.

Hoskins pointed out (as Mist wanted a licence to recruit) that our regulations could not apply to Foreign vessels - recommended Queensland Labour Laws to his attention.

Mist then purchased the 'Storm Bird' formerly in the Queensland Labour Trade and fitted up in accordance with the regulations then in force, and placed in command a retired Navigating Lieutenant of the Royal Navy named Jackson, who has recently been residing in Fiji. Due to sail today (24.10.77) for Gilbert and Ellice Groups on her first labour cruise - from these islands the labour for the German house of Godeffroy in Samoa is principally drawn.

'Storm Bird' - Schooner of 94 tons.
Length 87.9 feet.
Breadth 22 feet.
Depth 7.7 feet

Built in Tasmania in 1870.

"I have given Captain Mist a letter which will protect him from interference on the part of our cruizers, pending further instructions from their Lordships, provided that no irregularities nor undesirable treatment of the natives by those on board her takes place."

Enc. At the suggestion of the CO, the FO then wrote to the Hawaiian Rep. in the U.K., E.W.P. Carter, Esq., requesting the co-operation of the Hawaiian Government in the regulation of the labour traffic (FO to Carter, 23.1.78). This referred to former abuses in Pacific labour trade ~~and recent passing of the Polynesian Islanders Protection Act~~

and "the immunity which in more recent cases had been sought from the operation of the Polynesian ~~Island~~ Islanders Protection Act, by the adoption by British subjects of a Foreign Flag." HM Govt. learn with satisfaction that there is some likelihood of the traffic as regards the Sandwich Islands being regulated in accordance with the laws in force in Queensland and seek the co-operation of the Hawaiian Govt. in the regulation of the traffic.

In his reply (31.1.78) Carter points out that "it is not intended to partake in any degree of the character of the 'traffic' alluded to. The main ~~desir~~ object of the Hawaiian Government is to secure a class of voluntary immigrant families who shall desire to make homes upon the Hawaiian Islands under the protection of our laws". Therefore selected gentleman of Honourable reputation was selected to carry out views of the Hawaiian Govt which were also communicated to the rep. of H.M. at Honolulu for communication to the British Authorities in the South Pacific. Sure they will co-operate to "guard the flag and good name of Hawaii from such abuse".

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"STORMBIRD": RECRUITING BY

Jackson to Gorrie, 8.8.78: I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date requesting to know if I was recently under the British Flag attempting to recruit labour at the Line Islands: in reply I beg to inform you that about the beginning of this year I was in and about and did recruit labour in this same vessel under the British Flag, and that I took from the Eastern Polynesian islands eighty six (86) emigrants for the Hawaiian Kingdom.

The British Commissioner, Mr. Woodhouse, thoroughly approved of my system of getting these poor people to emigrate.

I beg to enclose a copy of a letter which was placed in my hands just before I left Sydney from Commander Hoskens.

I have &c.

George Jackson.

HAWAIIAN LABOUR TRADE

SS to Gov., Fiji, 'Emigration' of 14.8.78, forwards extract from report of Major Wodehouse, H.M. Commissioner and Consul General, Honolulu, to FO re activities of the British Brigantine 'Storm Bird'.

Enc. extract dated 17.6.78. 'Storm Bird' arr. 29th ultimo with 85 natives from Eastern Polynesia (23 being women).

Forwards detailed acc. of cruise of the 'Stormbird' & most important particulars of the instructions addressed to the Master by Capt. Hy. W. Mist, R.N., Immigration Commissioner of the Hawaiian Government.

Jackson recommends Rotumah where engaged 31 fine young natives as favourable field for immigration "the natives of that island being well disposed towards the Hawaiian race, and inclined to leave their homes and seek new ones in this group if sufficient inducements are held out to them".

"The Ellis Islands were visited by Capt. Jackson but no Immigrants could be procured there.

At Peru Island in the Kingsmill group 5 immigrants were engaged - at Sydenham Island 12 men and 10 women, and at Drummond's Island where the vessel remained 10 days Captain Jackson engaged 10 men and 4 women.

Drummond, Peru and Sydenham Islands will, in Captain Jackson's opinion be found excellent places for procuring labourers.

Hostility at Ponape - ~~2/3/78/10/78/78~~ fracas over failure to pay harbour dues.

No attempt anywhere "to take natives from the beach. They have, he says, been given to understand that upon all occasions they must come on board the vessel and these voluntarily tender their services, as he would not leave it in the power of any person white or coloured hereafter to say that coercive measures had been used to obtain immigrants or that unfair means had been used to bring them on board".

Recruited for 3 years with return passage to all who want. Most have gone to sugar plantations. \$5 p.m. with rations, & women \$4 p.m. with rations. Wages increased by \$1 p.m. 2nd year.

Receive same protection as is afforded by the Masters & Servants Law to contract labour and bound under penalty of imprisonment to serve according to terms of contract. Contract must be acknowledged by the Master or his duly empowered Agent and the Servant, before the Agent to take acknowledgements of contracts & the Certificate of Acknowledgement issued

HAWAIIAN LABOUR TRADE.

Where hours not stated in contract day's labour must not exceed 9 hours, after that overtime payable.

'Storm Bird' to be transferred to Hawaiian Flag, refitted and sent on another labour cruise.

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"STORMBIRD" IN GILBERTS.

Ag.H.C. (Gorrie) to S.S., 19.8.78: I have the honour to report that on my arrival in Levuka from Vanua Levu on the 5th inst. I found in port the Brigantine "Stormbird" flying the Hawaiian flag, and treated as as Hawaiian cruiser.

2. As I recollected her name in connection with some alleged kidnapping at the Line Islands I applied for the reports which had been received from the Labour Agents on board the vessels recruiting for the Fijian Government.

3. I found that the Master and labour agent of the Fijian recruiting vessel "Patience" had reported that the "Stormbird" commanded by Capt. Jackson after recruiting 13 natives at Miana one of the Gilbert Group, had landed a boat with an armed crew. The interpreter employed by the vessel informed the natives, who ran away, and thus the town visited by the crew was found empty.

4. On the approach of the "Patience" the "Stormbird" left. The mater of the "Patience" further stated that the "Stormbird" was flying the English flag.

5. I accordingly wrote to the Commander of the "Stormbird" asking whether his vessel had been recently in the Line Islands recruiting labour under the British Flag.

6. He replied that in the beginning of this year he was in and about and did recruit labour in his vessel under the British Flag and that he took from the eastern Polynesian Islands 86 emigrants for the Hawaiian Kingdom. He added "the British Commissioner Mr. Woodhouse thoroughly approved of my system of getting these poor people to migrate".

7. The Commander of the "Stormbird" further appended copy of a letter which Captain Mist who appears to be an agent or commissioner of the Hawaiian Government at Sydney had received from the Commodore of the Australian station. This copy letter contains the following passage: "I see no reason pending instructions from home why any impediment should be put in the way of your recruiting by our cruisers or a compliance of our regulations as to 'Licenses' &c. to be insisted on, if it is carried out in a proper and satisfactory manner" - and a postscript is added to the following effect: "Till otherwise instructed or reason given I shall consider your vessel on the same footing as those employed by the German House of Goddefroi whose headquarters are at Samoa."

8. I replied to the Commander of the "Stormbird" that I presumed from what he had stated that his vessel was still a registered British vessel, and that I should be glad to see his License to carry natives. I also asked him to be good enough to inform me when he intended to leave the port.

9. Having received no immediate answer to this request, and observing in the morning that the vessel was apparently about to sail, I came down to my chambers to take such measures as might be necessary. I there found Lieut. Moore of H.M. Surveying Schooner

"STORMBIRD" IN GILBERTS (contd)

"Alacrity" and his Sub-Lieut. Malan who had boarded the "Stormbird" on her arrival, and they assured me that the vessel now belonged to the Hawaiian Government.

10. The "Stormbird" was then under sail making for the opening in the reef, and with a fine breeze was soon out of sight.

11. About two hours after her departure I received from her Commander an answer to my second letter of the previous day. He stated that the "Stormbird" was not now a British vessel, having been duly transferred from the English flag to the Hawaiian Govt. in June last, and that a copy of his instructions was in the hands of Mr. Thurston the Col. Sect

12. I have since obtained and perused those instructions, both those from Capt. Mist under which the "Stormbird" originally sailed from Sydney, and those from Mr. S.G.Silder, President of Hawaiian Board of Immigration under which she is now sailing. The latter are addressed to "Captain G.E.G.Jackson, R.N., commanding H.H.M.Brigantine "Stormbird".

13. The last mail has brought newspapers containing extracts from the Honolulu Commercial Advertiser giving an account of the cruise of the "Stormbird". It will be there found that at the Island of Ponapi or Ponynapeete in the Caroline Group the Commander had a dispute with a native chief and having got him on board on a promise to pay him 16 dollars seized him and put him in irons and threatened him with a fine of \$ 500.00

14. This, according to the report, is what the Commander called a "stratagem", and their stratagem must have been used while the vessel was still flying the British flag. I am glad to see that by his existing instructions the Commander is directed thus: "should any unforeseen circumstances take you near Panope you will visit the chiefs with whom you had trouble on your first voyage and by assurances of regret that trouble between you occurred, and by presents to the chief and the wounded man or his relatives try and pleasantly settle the bad feeling. "

15. The wounded man here referred to had been shot by the Commander of the "Stormbird" when canoes came off from the shore with the view of obtaining deliverance of the chief who was retained by the Commander's stratagem.

16. It is I think greatly to be regretted that this vessel, which appears to have been practically the property of the Hawaiian Gov. when she left Sydney, should have been permitted to fly the British flag during her labour cruise.

17. If not really the property of the Hawaiian Govt. until delivered at Honolulu then I know of no provision in the Acts 35 and 36 Vic & 19, 38 & 39 Vic C 51 (Pacific Islanders Protection Acts) which could authorise a British registered vessel to carry natives without a license, and without her master's having entered into the bond required by those Statutes. The conduct of the Commander of

"STORMBIRD" IN GILBERTS (contd.)

this vessel on the cruize shows how little he was worthy of the confidence placed in him.

18. I have written to the Commodore with reference to the postscript to his letter to Capt. Mist referred to in para. 7, to ask what is the footing on which vessels are placed employed by the House of Goddeffroi. All British vessels are subject to the provisions of the Statutes above mentioned, and it is of more importance to enforce these provisions in the case of British vessels carrying natives to Samoa or elsewhere, than it is when they are carrying immigrants to our own Colonies.

19. The instructions from the Hawaiian Govt. seem to be designed with a view to a proper and humane system of recruiting. The object is not, as I have seen it publicly stated, to obtain by immigration a permanent increase to the population of Hawaii, but simply a recruiting of labour for short terms as in the case of Queensland and Fiji.

20. Such being the case it appears to me scarcely consistent with the customs of nations that this labour recruiting vessel should be sailing the Pacific as H.H.M. brigantine "Stormbird", claiming and receiving the privileges extended by courtesy to the armed ships of friendly Powers.

21. Had the mail arrived previous to the sailing of the "Stormbird", conveying the information already given as to the conduct of Captain Jackson at Ponapi, it would have been the duty of the H.C.'s Court to consider whether the wounding of the native on that occasion was not an unlawful wounding, making the British subject who did the act responsible to the law and there would have been a difficulty in knowing how to deal with a vessel of this description.

22. The acts which he may now do may be regarded as done on Hawaiian territory, but what he formerly did was under the British flag.

23. But whether it may be possible to make him responsible to the law under the Order in Council or not, there can be no question that the conduct of Capt. Jackson at the Island of Ponapi was ill-considered in the extreme. Although no sanguinary collision was the consequence of his "stratagem", it is clear that it was very imminent. Englishmen and the British flag will be looked upon in that island with suspicion and aversion for probably years to come, and the lives of others placed in jeopardy.

24. It is probable, I think, from the tone of the instructions that his conduct has been disapproved by the Hawaiian Govt. but it might not be unproductive of good if Capt. Jackson who signs himself as "Nav. Lieut. R.N. retired" should learn that his acts have not passed unnoticed at home.

"STORMBIRD" IN GILBERTS (Contd.)

25. His presence in Levuka was owing to the fact that he had taken passengers to Samoa from Honolulu, and from Samoa to Fiji, and it is unlikely he will return to Levuka.

26. As my acting appointment does not extend to the Consul Generalship which H.E. the H.C. holds under the Foreign Office, I have not forwarded any other despatch to that department.

I have &c.

John Gorrie.

GILBERTESE LABOUR FOR FIJI

H.
Rev. Turner to Consul Swanston, 21.9.78: In Nov, 1877, Mr/Meader, Govt Agent, and Capt Slammeysoun (?), master, both of the ketch 'Patience' made affidavits before Fiji authorities re practices said to be common among native pastors in Gilberts.

Turner examined allegations in Gilberts and found all pastors denied endeavouring to prevent labourers from shipping for Fiji, forcibly taking land ~~for~~ from the natives, opening chests of returned labour and taking fancied articles, and all other charges.

Pastors all evidently in favour of natives going to Fiji rather than Samoa, for they say that they are returned sooner and bring back more property with them, from Fiji.

H. Schultz, trader on Tamana for McArthur and Co. of Zuckalnd, denied all knowledge of practices charged and said that if ~~the~~ true he wld have known.

On Beru trader for Mr Peakham owner of 'Patience' gave Turner this note -

June 17th 1878

Sir,

As I am a resident on the island of Peru from the 11th of January 1878, I suppose it to be my duty to state that the statement which has been made against the teachers of Samoa taking things belonging to return labor, or cocoanuts or land per free, or stopping the natives from going to Fiji, must be wrong, as such has not come to my notice since I have been living here. As for the teachers I must say that I have not met with more hospitable and obliging people than ~~those~~ these are through all my travels.

I remain, respectfully,
Francisco Valleiro.

.....

LINE ISLANDS LABOUR FOR SAMOA: 1878-9

Consul Swanston to HC, 23.1.79: Return of Polynesian labourers imported into Apia in British velles from 23.9.78 - 22.1.79 :-

In Br Sch 'Mary Anderson' of Auckland - 23.9.78

Males	79 83	
Females	7	1
		84

In same vessel - 22.1.79

Males	79	
Females	7	
		86

All for Godeffroy and Sohn of Samoa

All passed before me and as always some who spoke Fijian could check re hiring, and treatment on board. Helathy and contented. Term of service - 4 years. On plantations well fed and housed.

Petty breaches of discipline are punished with stoppage of tobacco extra task work or confinement. For more serious wrong doing lash or extended service. For extra good conduct a reward given on expiry of term.

No attempt at instruction and women treated as chattels. Employer bound to return labour to homes. Wages \$2 p.m. for men and \$1 p.m. for women and boys.

During 1877 Mr Cornwall a Br subject imported in March on German Brigantine 'Olosenga' -

23 males	
21 females	44

and again in November in the Br schooner ('Flirt' from same islands

69 males	
58 females	
31 children (both sexes)	

Terms and wages as above and Mr Cornwall is under bond to feed and house them properly and return to homes.

.....

HAWAII: RECRUITING FOR

HC to Commodore Wilson, 12.8.80: Wodehouse states that Mr Freeman, discharged Immigration Agent of the Hawaiian Government, is now sailing the brigantine 'Nicolas' under the flag of Jaluit, whatever that may be.

I am not aware that any such flag has been recognized by Great Britain or that Mr Freeman can, by hoisting it, relieve himself of the obligations of a British subject.

Wodehouse says 2 vessels under Hawaiian flag, the 'Hawaii' & 'Stormbird' and one, the 'Hazard', under the American flag, but ~~license~~ licensed by the Immigration Board of Hawaii, had started from Honolulu for the purpose of recruiting labour. The last, at all events, was said to be going to the New Hebrides.

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CORNWALL'S LABOUR IN SAMOA: 1881

DC Hicks Graves to HC, 25.11.81: On Sept 1 Frank Cornwall informed DC he had no means of providing for labour and wld send them to Apia & throw them on DC's hands. Cautioned him against. On 4th left suddenly for Fiji. On 10th labour on Magia plantation complained of insufficient food, etc.

Lab found under control of Samoan overseer who recd orders from Samoan woman with whom C has been living for years - cotton ready for picking but being wasted thru bad management & unwillingness of labour to work on insufficient rations. Hetherington, solicitor for McArthur & Co in late action against C, agreed if appeal goes in their favor they wld take charge of labour pay wages and send them home at end of contract - labour to be first charge on estate.

Bailiff picked cotton and gained confidence of labour. Hetherington told to take out summons on behalf of labour against C for £900 maintenance, passages and costs (not one but H to do it) - Judgement given for plaintiffa. Livestock will realize $\frac{1}{2}$ amt and sale of some land remainder.

Labour Tabiteueans - nothing to eat but unripe bananas - not allowed coconuts (penalty 1 years work or flogging). Day before overseer stopped bananas and told labour to do no more work.

Overseer said acting under orders of Cornwall's woman - formerly had beef or salt fish (salmon) once week, kerosene and tobacco. No pay for 5 months. When rice given one saucer full for 2 men; salt salmon about the size of 2 fingers.

Tabiteueans (Tafitos) 53 men, women & children (incl 3 babies & 5 youngsters).

Conclusion - that labour, from appearance, have not suffered from actual want of food, but require (esp sick) something more nourishing than unripe bananas; and shd be allowed coconuts which they are accustomed to. Competent overseer wanted.

Court stated - "The Court also wishes to place on record its opinion that the defendent's conduct with regard to the plaintiffs, as shown by the evidence, in leaving them without proper supplies, and making no provision for sending them to their homes, is in the highest degree reprehensible, and most surely calculated to bring discredit on the flag, under which most of the plaintiffs were engaged."

.....

LABOUR TRADE

Under cover of a despatch Western Pacific - High Commission -
Despatch of the 26th February, 1882, the SS forwarded a report -

Western Pacific - Australian No.84: "Labour Trade in the
Western Pacific", by Commodore Wilson, R.N. This has a
paper by Baron Miklouhe-Maclay, the reports of Drs. Wray
and Thomson and pages of statistics relating to the trade
throughout the Pacific Islands, in New Zealand and the
various Australasian ~~territories~~ Colonies.

It will be necessary to consult this printed paper before dealing
with the labour trade in the Gilberts.

.....

See the 'Times' for Friday March 2, 1877, "Parliamentary
Intelligence - Kidnapping in the South Seas", referred to in
SS despatch No.27 of 22.3.77 to HC.

.....

LABOUR TRADE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC

SS to HC, circular, of 26.2.82: forwards a printed report by Commodore Wilson entitled "Labour Trade in the Western Pacific" (Australian No.84).

This contains some valuable statistics showing, inter alia, the number of natives recruited in the Line Islands for Fiji from 1864 to 1869.

See if it is obtainable in/ Australia. I think that I have seen it/ somewhere.

.....

LABOUR TRADE : HAWAII

H.M. Commissioner and Consul General, Honolulu, to FO 10.4.82.

"... 'Julia' carrying the Hawaiian Flag has been chartered by this Government and has sailed for the Gilbert Islands with 60 natives of that 'group' whose periods of 'contract service' on Hawaiian Sugar Plantations have expired.

In the opinion of Mr Bingham the Protector in these islands of 'Polynesian Immigrants' most if not all of them will elect to return to their homes at the expiration of their contracts. The 'Julia' will endeavour to 'recruit' about 60 more 'labourers' from the Gilbert Islands for the 'Kilawea' plantation.

I may here remark that the 'South Sea Island immigration' is generally admitted to be a failure, although an exception is made in favour of the people who have come here from the 'New Hebrides' and 'Solomon' Groups and the 'Planters Labour and Supply Company' recently established recommends that more of these labourers should if possible be brought here."

Well to watch immigration from these islands.

.....

Malden Island: Recruiting Labour at Nui for

1883

From: Campbell, A. J. "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds". Sheffield,
Powson & Brunsfield, 1901.

Part II, pp. 990-991. "Some years ago, I believe, the large species of
Frigate Bird used to breed on Malden Island, laying in June and again
in December. Two fine eggs belonging to this species, from Malden Island,
grace my collection, and were nearly lost in a great hurricane. Captain
Murdock, formerly of Messrs. Grace, Sumner & Co., was recruiting labour
at Nui (one of the neighbouring islands) for the Malden Island Quar-
ter Depot, in 1883. When he was on shore, a hurricane of terrific
violence suddenly arose. The mate, who remained on board in charge of
the barque, "Don Diego," although short-handed, immediately set
sail, bravely clearing the reef, and put to sea. A terrible night
followed; it blew "great guns", as old shell-bucks say. It was
doubtedly an awkward and desperate position. There was the good
Captain, an unwilling prisoner among savages, and his ship helplessly brought
to anchor, on the coral pavement at the bottom of the Pacific. But
judge his delight, when, after 3 days & 3 nights of fearful suspense, he
descried the white sails of his vessel on the horizon, beating in. Still

P.T.O

greater was his joy when he stepped on board and shook his notes
rough land again.

NANOUTI ISLANDERS: ABDUCTION TO TAHITI.

Commander Rooke, HMS "Miranda" to H.C., 17.6.86: I have the honour to report that while at Nonouti island, the natives requested me to ask Your Excellency to intercede on behalf of their people, who were carried away forcibly, at the King of Apamama's order, in a French barque to Tahiti in January 1884, and who have not yet returned; this I promised I would do for them.

As far as I can ascertain there are 85 of these natives still detained in Tahiti.

2. I also beg to forward herewith, a petition handed in by the native teacher at Funafuti island, which I promised to forward to Your Excellency.

I have &c.

E. Rooke

Commander & Deputy Commissioner.

TAHITI: ABDUCTION OF LABOURERS TO

Gov., Tahiti, to HC, 20.10.86: "Comme a vous-meme, il me parait de toute justice qu'a l'expiration tres-prochaine de leur engagement les indigenes de l'ile Nanouti soient rapatries a Nanouti et ceux d'Apamama a Apamama.

.....

TAHITI: ABDUCTION OF NONOUTI NATIVES TO

H.C. to S.S, No.35 of 24.11.86: Referring to Colonel Stanley's despatch No.22 of the 11th July 1885 with reference to certain natives of the island of Nanouti in the Gilbert Group, who were taken away as labourers, in a French vessel to Tahiti I have the honour to inform you that the native residents of Nanouti have petitioned me, through Commander & Deputy Commissioner Rooke, to use my good offices on behalf of their countrymen in Tahiti.

I have therefore addressed a letter on the subject to the Governor of Tahiti, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose, as also copy of a covering letter to M. le Comte de Montesquiou de Fezensac, commanding the French war vessel Decres, who on the occasion of a recent visit to Suva, kindly promised to be the bearer of my letter to the Governor of Tahiti.

I trust my action in this matter may meet with our approval.

I have &c.

John B.Thurston.

PS. Since writing the above I have received a letter from the Government of Tahiti, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose.

NEW MEXICO: RECRUITING FOR

HC to SS, no.30 of 15.9.91: transmits report by McKinnon, Govt. Agent of the Fiji labour schooner 'Eastward Ho' re proceedings of 'Tahiti', and Am vessel recruiting in G & E.

From information in Immigration Dept this is 2nd season during which these is have been visited by vessels purpoting to recruit labourers for New Mexico, but whose real destination is unknown.

.....

Information referred to C in C by HC letter of 15.9.91, who replied suggesting that HE shd communicate with American Consular Officer, in whose jurisdiction the islands in question are situated.

HC replied on 2.11.91 that he did not think that any U.S. consular authority had been established for islands in question, and C in C then countered by saying that coræspodence has been ford to Flag Officer in Command of the US Naval Forces in the Pacific for his information.

.....

RECRUITING BY 'EASTWARD HO'

Davis to C in C, Australia, 18.7.92: Tukaika aged abt 16 ~~was~~ signed on on board Fiji Labour vessel 'Eastwood Ho'. Father with other natives went on board 'told the boy to jump overboard and caught hold of the white man, who hit him. The other men with him held the crew, as they pointed firearms at them."

10 men concerned in attack fined \$50 each to be paid in copra to Brechtefeld who was to hand to captain of 1st man-of-war. 5% to B.

Tukaika taken to Fiji to fulfil engagement.

Report that woman Neian taken from Arorae against husband's wish investigated in Fiji. Woman said she was living with a blind man when recruited. He came off to ship but she refused to return despite Captain's orders as she was tired of him and wished to return to Fiji. Now living with another man and has a child. She was apparently a Tokelau Islander.

Govt. Agent on recruiting vessels.

.....

"MONTSERRAT": RECRUITING BY

Davis to C in C, 12.8.92: Whilst at Tarawa Island, in the Gilbert Group on 8th June, I learnt from Teroy, the Missionary, who had just returned from Maraki Island, that a foreign steamer was lying there recruiting labour.

2. I sailed the following morning for Maraki, where I arrived that night. Thinking it possible the steamer might have left Maraki, working South, I stopped off Apiang Island on my way, and sent a message to the King, informing him I was coming the following day, to hoist the British Flag on his Island. I warned him that natives of his island emigrating in foreign vessels to "Foreign" Countries, could not be protected by Her Majesty the Queen - informing him at the same time that a foreign steamer was now in the Group recruiting labour, and would shortly visit Apiang. I found lying at Maraki, a vessel which at first I understood to be under Costa Rican Colours but which proved to be the "Montserrat" of Corinto, flying the Nicaraguan flag. Having ascertained the object of her visit to the Group and having no instructions to prevent natives leaving of their own free will - I took such precautions as I deemed fit, for the protection of those natives of the Gilbert Islands who might decide to emigrate in the vessel. I at once informed the Master, that the Gilbert Islands had been placed under British protection and requested him before leaving the Group to let me have certain particulars concerning the natives he had recruited. This he promised to do.

3. Hearing that Peter Garrick, a British Subject, and trader on Apiang Island was employed on board, in some capacity, recruiting labour, I wrote to him, warning him that any infringement of Clause 9 of the Pacific Islanders Protection Acts of 1872 and 1875, would render him liable to be tried for felony, for each offence committed.

4. The same night the Master of the "Montserrat", and the Labour Agent - Mr. Ferguson - came on board. The latter informed me the "Montserrat" was under Nicaraguan colours, and asked me to inspect the vessel. He stated that he courted the fullest enquiry concerning the undertaking he had in hand, as every precaution possible had been taken to ensure the comfort of the 500 or 600 natives he hoped to recruit. The vessel's register tonnage was 850.

5. Hearing that about 40 natives had shipped as labour from Maraki Island, that same night I sent word to the King to come and see me early in the morning, before he had any communication with the "Montserrat". When he came on board, he told me that about 40 of his people had signed to go away in the vessel - that they were all going of their own free will, and altho' he did not like their going, he could not prevent them. He also said that Mr. Ferguson had come to him the first instance, before speaking to the natives. I told him I had come to hoist the British Flag on Maraki and that the Queen could not protect any of the natives who emigrated in Foreign Vessels, or who left the Pacific. He assured me they all wanted to go. I then went on board the "Montserrat", taking the King with me, also Mr. Corrie - my interpreter. On my arrival on board, I told Mr. Ferguson that he must not assume that, because I came on board

"MONTSERRAT": RECRUITING BY (contd)

the "Montserrat", I in any way approved of his recruiting labour in the Group. On the contrary, I disapproved of it entirely but having no orders to prevent it, I should not disallow it. But, Her Majesty having taken the Gilbert Islands under her protection, it was my duty to look after the interests of her Subjects and I wished to hear from the natives them on board that they fully understood the step they were taking, and that they were all going of their own free will.

They all assured me through the King and Mr. Corrie that they wished to go and were satisfied with all the arrangements made for them.

6. The ship's Papers were mostly in a foreign language but Mr. Ferguson gave me an idea of the translation, and I have reason to believe they were correct. They were granted by William L. Merry, the Nicaraguan Consul General at San Francisco, on 23rd December 1891 and permission to recruit labour for certain Planters in Guatamala, (Eugene de Sabla) being one) was obtained from the Secretary of State of Guatamala, on 1st May 1891.

7. I enclose copy of the Labour Contract entered into with each native recruited, and the following additional particulars were given me by Mr. Ferguson, the remarks concerning the vessel and her accommodation are from my own personal observations.

8. For every native labourer landed in Guatamala, the Planter places \$30 in the hands of the Guatamalan Government, to ensure his return to his island at the expiration of his engagement.

Mr. Ferguson informed me that the labourers are engaged for 3 or 5 years. If for 3 years, the pay per month, without any deductions, is \$6 for males and \$5 for females. If for 5 years - males \$7, females \$6. Children between 12 and 15 years of age are not recruited without the consent of their parents. Children under 12 are free to accompany their parents.

The vessel carries a Medical Officer, Dr. McGettigan, M.D. of San Jose, California. The accommodation seems very good, and the provisions and clothing, all that could be desired. The vessel was fitted out at considerable cost, and in a very liberal manner. She carries several additional boats, and two life rafts, also a steam cutter. She took in at Nanaimo, British Columbia, 1400 tons of coal.

The mere fact of the vessel being a steamer reduces to a minimum, much of the discomfort to be found in sailing vessels employed in the Labour Trade.

9. On the whole, I am bound to admit that, having made a close scrutiny of the arrangements on board the "Montserrat", I have every reason to believe the natives will be comfortable and well cared for until landed in Guatamala. Of their treatment after that, of course, I can say nothing.

10. At my request, Mr. Ferguson gave me a bond for £6 per head, to return each native at the expiration of his term of engagement, to his proper Island. He promised to supply me with a triplicate copy of the "Labour Contract" of each native recruited and also agreed to other suggestions made by me, on behalf of the natives. Amongst other (remembering the loss of the "Tahiti" Brig last year, on her passage to Mexico) I insisted on the same amount being paid -

"MONTSERRAT": RECRUITING BY (contd)

if the native "died by shipwreck on passage - or other cause, not attributable to the native himself".

11. I subsequently ascertained that after my interviewing the natives on board - five, belonging to Maraki, landed - having decided not to go in the vessel.

12. It is now about eighteen months since the American barque "Helen W. Almy", recruited some 300 natives of the Gilbert Group, for employment on the coffee plantations in Central America. J.F. Luttrell - at present Agent at Butaritari for Messrs. Wightman Bros. of San Francisco was her Captain. He landed them at San Benito, and they were sent to plantations between that place and Tapachula.

13. Last year the American Brig "Tahiti" visited the Group, and recruited 400 more for the same destination. W.F. Ferguson, (now Labour Agent on board the "Montserrat") was her Captain. Encountering bad weather on the return voyage, the "Tahiti" put into Drake's Bay, Point Reyes, near San Francisco, for repairs. Here the Captain left her, and his place being taken by E. Erickson - the "Tahiti", on 8th September, proceeded on her voyage.

In November she was discovered off the Mexican Coast, on her beam ends, with her port rigging cut away, and, from the fact of her largest boat being still by her - it was only reasonable to suppose all hands were drowned.

In addition to the 400 natives - 100 of whom were children under 12 years of age - there were on board 20 white men, formerly traders in the Group, who had accepted engagements as overseers on the plantations to which the natives were going. It is not thought that any of these landed at Drake's Bay - consequently it is presumed they are all lost.

It is rumoured that an American Man-of-War also a steamer, have searched in vain for any survivors of the "Tahiti".

14. Frank Brewer and Juan Gandara, planters of San Benito, were the promoters of the importation of these labourers.

15. The people interested in the "Montserrats" present trip are, I believe, President Barillas of Guatamala, Eugene de Sabla of San Francisco, L. Samoya, Frank Brewer, Juan Gandara, Andrew Crawford of San Francisco, and Mr. Ferguson, the Labour Agent on board the vessel.

16. On 21st July at Nonuti Island when I last saw the "Montserrat" she had on board the following Gilbert Islanders from :
 from Butaritari 3 (intends calling here again on her return thro' the Group)

"	Maraki	34
"	Apiang	60
"	Tarawa	5
"	Maiana	71
"	Monuti	<u>95</u>

Total	<u>268</u>
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In addition to these, there were on board about 100 children under the age of 12, who are accompanying their parents. The following

"MONTSEERRAT": RECRUITING BY (contd)

traders - all British Subjects - have also accepted engagements, at from \$50 to 60 per month, as overseers on the plantations to which these natives are going:

George McG. Murdock	from	Maiana Is.
Peter Garrick	"	Apiang Is.
James J. Gleeson	"	Nonuti Is.

Also on board, was a Dane, Hans Jorgenson, whom I had ordered to leave the Group, being an undesirable subject and who had settled to go to Honolulu or Mexico in this vessel.

17. I have made private arrangements with Mr. Murdock, whom I have every reason to believe is a trustworthy man and who accompanies the Maiana natives for one year to send me, on his arrival at San Benito, an account of the voyage and later on, the full particulars concerning the work, treatment, and health of the natives under his charge.

18. All papers in connection with this vessel are attached.

19. In conclusion, I would add, that altho' as before mentioned, I have every reason to believe that these natives will be well cared for on the passage, tho' their treatment afterwards remains unknown - I most earnestly suggest that it would be a wise and just step to immediately forbid any further recruiting - particularly foreign - from these islands, over which Her Majesty has just established a Protectorate.

When it becomes known that, with the allurements of a well-fitted out steamer the Gilbert Group is such a prolific source of profit as a recruiting ground for labour, the islands will quickly become depopulated and when too late, it will be regretted that a better fate had not been reserved for these quiet, peaceful and interesting islanders.

I have &c.

E.H.M. Davis
Captain.

SAMOAN LABOUR TRADE

HC TO SS No.52 of 7.11.93.

Letter recd. from Cusack-Smith, D.C., Samoa, "stating that ~~it~~ has been verbally informed by the Imperial German Consul that it is not believed that the Deutsche Handels und Plantagen Gesellschaft will now find it necessary to recruit in the Gilbert Group."

HC to SS No.5 of 17.1.94.

Cusack-Smith sends application from the German South Sea Island Trading ~~Company~~ and Planting Company of Hamburg to be allowed to engage natives of the Gilbert Islands for their Vailele plantation in Samoa.

HC to SS No.16 of 13.4.94.

Cusack-Smith issues licence to this company to recruit 49 labourers in the schooner "Aele". "Neither the German Company nor the German Consular authorities have made any difficulty in meeting the requirements of the High Commissioner in respect of the regulations to be observed in recruiting native labourers at the Gilbert Island Protectorate." Mr Cusack-Smith also actively interested.

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Minute on File 189.85 (HC) re importation of labour Mc Arthur in Samoa by 'Myrtle' says "It may be noted that the Master of the Myrtle says he could have filled up for Fiji or Queensland but not for Samoa. This is an argument - not against Germans - but against recruiting for places outside of British possessions.

W.C. 5.11.85.

.....

NIULAKITA AND NASSAU: LABOUR

RC to HC, 5.3.94: when visiting Nukulaelae found some natives away working at Sophia, so asked Moors to give information re them when he visited Butaritari. Following was Moors' statement -

Moors to RC, 19 (?) Feb., 1894 "There are now on 'Sophia Island' four male and four female inhabitants; besides three or four children. The four males only are under pay, and none of them are engaged for any specified term. The wages of the men is \$5.00 per month, except the overseer who received \$10.00. Last month I visited the place remaining at anchor there three days. All were paid up to date and some about six months in advance. None of the people desired to remove from the island although I tendered them free passages to their respective homes. In order to encourage communication with the island, I have instructed the overseer there (Billey Rotumah) to present every ship that may call with a pig, some fowls and a turtle or two if he has them to spare. All I require in return is that the master of the vessel will forward to me any letters that the people may write and that ~~the people~~ he will send me a short note stating the condition of the island and its people as far as he could casually observe them. On 'Nassau Island' I have placed one white man and two natives of Puka Puka who are engaged for one year and who are to receive one half of the value of any copra that they make. These people, except the white man, were engaged with the consent of the king of PukaPuka whose names is signed as a witness to their agreement. On landing them on Nassau I found that they were both of them either very simple or not quite right in their minds. I intend to remove them both at the earliest possible moment and replace them with better people."

.....

H.J. MOORS: POLYNESIAN TROUPE

RC (Swayne) to HC, 5.3.94: Moors arrd Butaritari seeking permission to engage 15 Gilbertese to form part of the Polynesian troupe of performers he was organising for performing at the California Fair and possibly to appear in New York, etc. Wallis & Futuna Islanders also on board as object "to present as many types as possible and also that the entertainments may differ as much as can be."

3 years contract - \$12 pm when in troupe and \$5 pm when working in Samoa as labour, plus housing and food. Consul, Samoa, said that previous lot of Polynesians taken to Worlds Fair at Chicago appeared fully satisfied with treatment.

Swayne finally agreed, despite absence of HC's sanction, and in the end 7 men from Abaiang were signed on (one being a Nonouti man). "Mr Moors speaks the Gilbert language and is favourably known to many natives of these Islands."

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HC to RC, No.10 of 4.6.94: In any future case Moors, or anyone else, will have to apply to HC.

.....

GILBERTESE LABOUR IN SAMOA:

HC to Ag.DC, Samoa (Woodford), 28.1.95: "I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Cusack-Smith's despatch, No. 60 of the 14th of December, respecting the position of Gilbert Island labourers employed by the German Trading & Planting Co.

In the present unsatisfactory state of things no more licenses should be granted for the German firm to recruit labour in the Gilbert Group. I do not think it expedient to suggest to the firm that the agreements with the present labourers should be cancelled; but if such a suggestion should come from the firm you should agree to it, provided the labourers are properly paid off and returned home.

You will not issue any licenses to any persons in Samoa, British or foreign, to recruit Gilbert Islanders without previous reference to me. When any application is made the fullest particulars should be given, especially as to the nature and extent of the security offered for the payment of wages and return of labourers.

I have &c.

John B. Thurston.

GILBERTESE LABOUR IN QUEENSLAND:

HC to Gov., Queensland, 22.2.95: Upon my return from the Solomon Islands in November last I found Your Excellency's despatch No.4 of the 11th of October 1894 acquainting me that the labour vessel "May" left Brisbane on the 28th September last for the purpose of recruiting islanders from any of the groups available. Recent despatches from the Gilbert & Ellice Island Protectorates inform me that the "May" has visited both groups and recruited a number of men and women.

2. As this is the first time within my knowledge that Queensland vessels have proceeded to the Gilbert & Ellice groups for the purpose of recruiting I think it well to acquaint Your Excellency that to the best of my belief and experience the islanders in question are not suitable for working upon sugar plantations, and it is a reasonable presumption that they have been recruited for such work. I may also add that for many years past the Government of Fiji has not allowed such islanders to be indentured for service on sugar plantations.

3. Presuming that the natives recruited by the "May" are intended for employment upon the sugar plantations of Queensland, and regarding the voyage of the "May" in the light of a new departure in the history of the Queensland labour traffic, I beg leave, as the officer under whose jurisdiction the islands in question have been placed, to express my regret that Your Excellency's Government has not afforded me an opportunity of expressing my opinion as to the suitability or otherwise of Gilbert Island natives for such employment, or for making any arrangements for the supervision of recruitment on the spot. In the initial Regulation made by me in October 1893 the possibility of natives being recruited for service in British Possessions was contemplated and its legality from the point of view of the local administration placed beyond doubt. But it was not contemplated that recruiting would be begun without previous communication with the High Commissioner.

4. It is probably within Your Excellency's knowledge that the Gilbert Islands consist of mere reefs and sandbanks elevated only some ten or twelve feet above the level of the sea. Beyond coconut palms, pandanus, a few low shrubs and stunted grass they possess no vegetation. The little soil that is susceptible of cultivation has been made by digging trenches in the sand into which is thrown all the decaying vegetable matter procurable. These trenches, which in some places extend for a mile or more in length, were made generations ago for the purpose of growing a coarse variety of Arum which is the only esculent root cultivated.

5. Native food is restricted to raw and dry fish, coconuts, pandanus, and the Arum in question. Of agriculture the people are entirely ignorant. They do little or no work, but pass much of their time in singing, dancing and drinking the fermented sap of the coconut.

GILBERTESE LABOUR IN QUEENSLAND: (contd.)

6. The transfer of a non-agricultural people from such a life as this, with its ease and "abandon" to the hard and regular work of a sugar plantation has in my experience resulted only in death to the labourer and loss and disappointment to the employer.

7. For light employment such as working upon coconut plantations or other easy and not uncongenial work they are, with careful management suitable. In light domestic work they may also be employed though their fiery temper and treacherous character has always to be borne in mind. There are but few Gilbert islanders in Fiji and they are employed on coconut or fruit plantations or in household service.

8. It did not occur to me when reading Your Excellency's despatch that the Gilbert Islands were included in the expression "any of the groups available" and I believe as already said that the visit of the "May" to the Gilbert Islands Protectorate may be regarded as a new departure, and one if my presumption as to their employment is correct not only detrimental to the islanders but likely to cause grave embarrassment in the administration of the new Protectorate, just established with, so far, a large measure of success.

9. I may state for Your Excellency's information that I have taken steps within the Protectorate to prevent any further recruiting of Gilbert islanders for employment in Central America, and although I have sanctioned one or two licenses being issued for the employment of Gilbert islanders upon cocoa and cotton plantations at Samoa I think it probable I must cease to do so in future for it has been pretty plainly admitted by employers in those islands that unless they are allowed to terrorise the islanders they are unable to make them work.

10. For these reasons I trust Your Excellency will move your Government to abstain from issuing any further licenses to recruit labourers in the Gilbert Islands for work upon sugar plantations. For any other employment such as I have indicated above, no objection exists to their recruitment under arrangements referred to below.

11. What I have said respecting the Gilbert Islanders inability to withstand the effects of regular and hard work applies even more strongly to the natives of the Ellice Islands. This group was well nigh depopulated some thirty years ago by Peruvian slavers and from a recent census I find the population of the eight islands forming the group even now barely reaches three thousand souls. The people a mild and inoffensive race differing in this respect from the quick tempered and savage Gilbert islander are only now beginning to take heart again.

12. As regards the Ellice group, I am of opinion with my better knowledge of the condition of the people in that group, that recruiting should be prohibited altogether. I am not aware of any of its natives being absent from their homes except the twenty seven (or whatever the exact number may have been) lately conveyed to Queensland in the labour vessel "May".

GILBERTESE LABOUR IN QUEENSLAND: (contd.)

13. I am of course unable at present to come to a conclusion whether the voyage of the "May" to the Gilbert Islands is to be regarded as an exceptional occurrence or whether it is the fore-runner of others. In the latter case it will be necessary to arrange that all recruiting ships report themselves at the office of the Resident Commissioner upon their arrival and departure from the group and that recruiting is done under circumstances (provided for by Queen's Regulation) which will not interfere with or embarrass the Government now established there. But before making any Regulations upon this point I will await the further information which Your Excellency will doubtless afford me. In conclusion I would add that under the administration established by me the Protectorate is self-supporting - that British and Foreign commercial and Mission interests are very considerable and that the general conditions of islands are totally unlike those of the New Hebrides or Solomon Islands.

I have &c.

John B. Thurston.

GILBERTESE LABOUR IN QUEENSLAND

HC to SS No.14 of 23.2.95. Had no ~~reason~~ reason to suppose that Q intended to turn to G Is. With redundant pop no objection to suitable employment of few 100 in any Br Col wanting them.

"But for these natives work on Sugar plantations is not suitable employment, nor is any other heavy work. To remove men and women who have grown up on calcareous sand banks without having done a days real work in their ~~lives~~ lives, and set them to hard, regular and incessant labour, in tilling the soil, or trashing cane upon a sugar plantation can have only one result and that is death." For this reason Govt of Fiji does not sanction emp. of Gs in canefields.

Q ship 'May' appears to have recruited over 50 in Gilberts and 27 in Ellice "To the almost depopulated islands of the Ellice Group the removal of any of its male population is both ruinous and cruel and should be stopped by law."

With depop in Solomons recruiting difficulties increasing and hence G & E receiving attention - but Gilbertese will make savage reprisals for any losses of his kindred in Queensland. True others have gone and been lost but nos are nothing to the 1,000 Q requires & will seek from somewhere when Sol supplies exhausted.

Ellice recruiting should be stopped on grounds of humanity. "It is nothing short of cruelty to carry off, even with their consent, any of the remnant left of its unfortunate people to what can only be to them a life of toil and misery."

.....

SS to HC (Thurston), 29.7.95: As regards the Gilbert and Ellice Groups you are already aware that the Queensland Government has recently decided not to recruit from these islands for the present.

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GILBERTESE LABOUR IN SAMOA

HC to SS, confidential, of 25.2.95. Unless German planters in Samoa prepared to concede right of British to protect Gilbertese labour consider no further licences shd be given.

When T visited Samoa some years ago informed by Ag. German Consul "that the labourers employed on the Company's plantations were easily kept in order by those who knew how to manage them, adding that South Sea Islanders were particularly susceptible of ridicule, of which advantage was taken. On my pressing the matter a little further, I was made ~~to understand~~ acquainted that one of the forms of ridicule resorted to was to put the labourer into an instrument which in China is known as the "Kangue". When this instrument encloses the neck of any person he is unable either to lie down or reach his ~~face~~ head or face with his hands. In a tropical place, such as Samoa, a person so situated is therefore tortured by the mosquitos and flies to a degree sufficient to drive him mad. I subsequently ascertained that ~~by~~ this instrument and the whip were the ~~ordinary~~ ordinary means adopted by the German managers to bring lazy or contumacious labourers into ridicule before their fellows.

6. From time to time information has reached me showing that very harsh treatment and even cruelty are occasionally practised upon the German plantations at Samoa upon the persons of the foreign labourers employed upon them."

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SAMOA: RECRUITING FOR

Ag DC Crurchward to HC, no.16 of 7.10.85: Visited Messrs McArthur's vessel 'Myrtle' arrd with only 8 labourers. Term 3 years - wages \$5 p.m. for men and \$3 for women. Part deferred until leaving.

For usual plantation labour such as weeding and making copra - no field work for 2 young girls.

Spacious dwelling house - good hospital house appd by Doctor. Dr Ross retained as dr. Food as near as possible in accordance with Fiji Regs.

"I was requested by the Master of the Myrtle to take notice that the two women from Apemama do not wish to be returned there but to their own island Nanouti from whence they were abducted by the last raid of the King of Apemama and not sent back when the rest were. The Master further informed me that the King demanded these women back threatening to detain one of the crew of the Myrtle who was there on shore if they should be taken away, but that on sending for the sailor he was permitted to leave without opposition. The Master also informed me that he could have easily filled up for Fiji or Queensland but could not persuade them to listen to service in Samoa.

Information from Official Log of Myrtle presumably refers to ship 'Brasileira' belonging to German firm in Samoa and then in company with Myrtle.

Extract from Log - 11.7.85 At 4 p.m. Nanouti Island. Thomas Reed A.B., David Tuxworth and the Master were pulling along the shore in a boat the natives attacked the boat with large stones. The boat got away without anyone hurt. They pointed firearms at us but did not fire. I got another boats crew and an interpreter and returned to the place. They said that they believed we were Germans as the reason they attacked us as the said Germans had taken three people by force that morning.

W. Ross Master
Tom S. Reed A.B.
David Tuxworth O.S.

Contract List

Name of Immigrant /// Saped / Teacup / Taupaka / Bandackey / Tolea / Tolea

Contract List

Name	Sapea	Teacup	Taubaka	Banduckey	Tolea	Tofea	Tauwaru	Tigeranga
Sex	M	M	M	F	F	F	F	M
Age	20	middle	middle	ab. 13	ab. 13	middle	m20	middle
Island	Nonouti	Non	Non	Non	Non	Non	Abemama	Abe
Period	3 yrs	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Date	\$5 pm	\$5	\$5	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$3	\$3
Wages	13/7	14/7	15/7	15/7	15/7	22/7	22/7	24/7

.....

Wm McArthur & Co, of Auckland, to HC reports that on 5.6.85 'Myrtle' had left for Gilberts to recruit 250 labourers for Samoa under license from Gov., N.Z. This is evidently the cruise that produced the 8.

On the previous recruiting trip Ag. DC Churchward had declined to give permission for the labour to land, "not having at the time the authority to take any steps in such a matter", i.e. he wld not recognize their arrival officially. Later, however, the HC told him to visit vessel on arrival with a MO and interpreter and ask if any complaints and ask if any complaints. Also to inspect houses and send report. Hence his letter above.

.....

GILBERTESE IN SAMOA

SS to Asst. H.C., confidential, of 19.12.95, transmits -

(1) Ag. Consul Woodford, Samoa, to FO, of 8.8.95.
Agrees with Thurston's opinion that no fresh licences be issued for recruiting Gilbertese for German plantations in Samoa - but unlikely that the Deutsche Handels- und Plantagen-Gesellschaft will apply to recruit any more as found so unsatisfactory that firm's manager informed Woodford some time ago, and again last week, "that it was his intention to return the whole of those now here early next ~~week~~ year".

"I know the Gilbert islanders well both as labourers here and in Fiji, as well as in their own islands, to which I paid a visit in 1884 or 1885. ... I consider the expatriation of Gilbert islanders at all justified only by the fact of the occasional scarcity of food to which they are sometimes subjected when at home."

Islands subjected to droughts of 3 - 4 years duration & consequent famine.

"I have no hesitation in saying that, of all the natives of the Pacific Islands that leave their homes as plantation labourers, the Gilbert islanders are the ~~worst~~ very worst, while, in my opinion, the Solomon islanders from the island of Malaita are perhaps the best.

In fact, if I owned a plantation, and had the opportunity of engaging a gang of these people free of all expenses of introduction, I should decline to accept them.

They are lazy, ~~sullen~~ sulky, and subject to occasional outbursts of passion ...". Change of diet necessary an additional objection.

"I consider them totally unfitted for field work under white control, or upon any plantation worked upon business lines.

There are two gangs of them employed by the German firm here. Fifty are at the Mulifanua plantation, about 25 miles from Apia, and fifty at the Vaialele plantation, about 3 miles from here."

Complaints received from both plantations - people can see him any time, in fact Vaialele gang occasionally visit unofficially on Sundays. Plantations considered as well suited as any for Gilbertese. Gang at Vaialele engaged on road-making without overseer nearly always found sitting down - manager says he has given them up in despair - they may work or not as they like, and he will be glad to get rid of them.

Vaialele labour well treated in comparison with Fiji plantations - admit to selling rice to Samoans - have unlimited coconuts. Br. residents in Samoa say general treatment of labour by Germans has greatly improved of late years.

No difficulty made by Manager of either plantation, or of the German firm, to W's exercise of Consular ~~jurisdiction~~ protection over Gs and every suggestion made apparently cheerfully accepted.

Enc.1 Woodford to Asst HC, 11.7.95. Vailele visited 19.6.95 as labour said insufficiently fed. No work done for 2 days. Looked very well fed - actually got more than legal rations & practically free access to coconuts. Two complaints made found unfounded.

German Consul-General asked if HC would allow Gilbertese to be under his inspection and control during employment. Replied that, much as would like to be relieved of the responsibility, though it extremely unlikely. Difficult for British official to do justice between employers and employed without giving offence to Germans.

Enc. 2 & 3. Willy of Nikunau alleges beaten by overseer. Manager states "neither the manager nor any of the overseers has any right to beat the labourers".

(2) CO to FO 19.11.95. Woodford's despatch referred to Thurston. General agreement that Gilbertese unfit for plantation work.

"Certain recruiting ships from Queensland recently visited the Gilbert and Ellice Groups, but the Queensland Government, in consequence of the representations of the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, has forbidden recruiting there for the present. It will also be seen, on reference to the letter from this Department of the 8th October, that all recruiting has been prohibited in certain islands of the Gilbert Group, and it may be added also in certain islands of the Ellice Group."

Because of above and ~~since~~ ivo scarcity of population in 2 groups, FO asked to sound if German Govt would object if all recruiting from both stopped. ~~Foreign~~ Supervision by foreign Consuls of labour inexpedient.

Enc. 1. Thurston to CO 16.10.95. "I do not take so extreme a ~~v~~ view of their bad points as Mr Woodford (and my experience of them is much greater than his), but I am satisfied that they require exceptionally considerate treatment, and that for work, in the European sense of the word, they are comparatively useless."

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GILBERT AND ELLICE LABOUR IN QUEENSLAND

S.S. to HC, No.1 of 3.1.96. Tr despatch from Gov. of Queensland enc. report from Health Officer at Rockhampton and another from the Inspector of Pacific Islanders at Bundaberg.

(1) Dated 21.10.95 from Dr F.H. Vivian Ross, ~~By~~ Rockhampton, to the Immigration Agent, Pacific Island Labour Department, Brisbane.

On arrival at Fitzroy River at night there was dense and cold fog - islanders therefore detained in the river on the steamer for several hours - next day at Immigration Depot all suffering from colds. On going to Yeppoon Plantation received treatment, but many developed bronchitis and a few pleurisy and inflammation of lungs. Later health improved - 13 had various complaints, including pregnancy - rest "are in good condition and appear bright and happy". "Plantation officials inform me that these islanders have so far been all very good tempered and easy to deal with. They are most men of good physique with big limbs but muscles are soft. So far have not proved good workers (easily tired) but are willing and improving."

(2) Dated 16.10.95 from H. St. Geo. Caulfield to Immigration Agent, Brisbane.

Last report dated 9.7.95. 'Lochiel' arrived 29.8.95 with 116 Gilbertese and Ellice Islanders (incl. one who had accompanied his wife home). 9 males & 1 female placed under agreement with Messrs. A.H. and E. Young, who are likewise the employers of ~~the~~ their countrymen - balance placed under agreements at Rockhampton and Ingham.

"Dr W.D. Thomas who attends at Fairymead informs me that in the matter of health they (so far) compare most favourably with any other group; if the health continues as at present there will be every reason for satisfaction."

"As a body they do not compare very favourably in the matter of work with the natives from other Groups, being inclined to take matters too easily, I have no doubt but that in course of time they will become more responsive in the matter of giving an adequate return **FOR their wages which are much higher than the ordinary new arrivals.**"

Educational. They still continue to take an interest in the schoolroom classes and every endeavour is made to encourage them in regular attendance.

Inspection. During the past quarter I have had three opportunities of inspecting them and found all quite contented there being no cause of complaint, on one of these visits I paid them their half year's wages and gave them to understand that they might

Gilbert and Ellice Islands labour in Queensland

~~BANK~~ bank a portion in the Savings Bank which they did not do; however they will probably do so next pay day."

Number now in District. Of the arrivals ex 'May' 23.1.95 there are now 70 including 10 females and by the 'Lochiel' 10 including 1 female.

1 man ex 'Lochiel' died in hospital shortly after arrival, and 2 are now awaiting return to their homes, having been rejected on arrival as unfit for work.

(3) John B. Thurston, Clifton, England, to CO dated 10.12.95, re above. "I am without information as to what has been done since I left the Pacific in respect of intended Regulations for the supervision of the Labour Traffic in the Gilbert Group, (at the Ellice Islands recruiting should be strictly prohibited) but I trust that the 'Lochiel' has not ignored the local administration as represented by the Resident Commissioner at the Protectorate.

The report of Mr. Caulfield under the heading "Work" is very much what I expected, and from my long experience of the people I cannot share his views that in the course of time they will become more responsive in the direction he indicates, for they are not fitted for continuous work."

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GUATEMALA, RECRUITING FOR

- (1) Friend (Nov., 1892), p.82, details recruiting methods, contracts, etc., taken from the San Francisco Examiner for Oct.15, 1892. Conditions in Guatemala.
- (2) Friend (Sept., 1896), p.71: Returned islanders' stories.

GILBERTESE IN GUATEMALA

SS 6t Asst. HC, No. 48 of 28.12.96 tr. despatch from H.M. Charge d'Affaires at Guatemala to FO :-

" Confidential
No. 259

Guatemala, November 19, 1895

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 47 of the 10th October, and inclosure, with reference to the Gilbert islanders employed in this country, and am communicating with Mr Z Gleeson; meanwhile, I have the honour to make known to your Lordship the details already within my knowledge.

Last April Mr Gleeson called on me, explaining that he had, some three years ago, come to this country with a number of Gilbert islanders who, together with himself, had signed contracts to work on the coffee plantation of a wealthy Guatemaland family.

Mr Gleeson showed me the various contracts, which were all in proper form, and stipulated for the return of the islanders to their homes by the employers at the expiration of the term for which they were employed. At that time, Mr Gleeson made no complaint to me of any injustice or ill-treatment on the part of the employers, who, he informed me, had so far acted up to the terms of the contract, but stated that he feared lest, at the expiration of the term of years, they would try to evade the obligation of returning the islanders to their homes. I informed Mr Gleeson that if his suspicions proved correct, and the employers did not carry out this part of the contract, he had only then to inform me, and I would see that the islanders obtained their full rights. At that time, Mr Gleeson left all the contracts (each labourer having a separate one) with me for safe custody, but about six weeks ago he again called to take the contracts away; on this second occasion he made no complaint to me, and I again assured him of the full protection of this Legation in the event of any attempt at breach of contract on the part of the employers. Since this time I have neither seen nor heard anything more of Mr Gleeson and the Gilbert islanders. Mr Gleeson informed me of there having been great mortality among the people, but did not ascribe this as due in any way to want of care on the part of the employers.

I have, etc,

J. Frederick Roberts.

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HAWAII, GILBERTESE LABOUR IN

- (1) Friend (Feb., 1892), p.15, reports on Gilbertese labour at the Pohala Plantation at Kauai.
- (2) Friend (Aug., 1901), p.121, on the two settlements at Lahaina and Honolulu.
- (3) Friend (Oct., 1901), p.139: indigent Gilbertese on the Kahili shore; their removal.

- (1) On 13.7.65 Board of Immigration gave permission to Messrs. Hoffschlaeger and Stapenhorst to import Caroline Islanders by their ship 'Pfeil' to work on plantation of Capt. Makee on Maui.

Board said that they would see with pleasure an attempt ~~to~~ made to import a class of laborers of a kindred race to the Hawaiians. Pres., Board of Immigration, to Messrs. H. & S., 13.7.65.

20 men and 3 women, with 2 children, were brought.

- (2) 1867 - Permit to introduce 50 Marshallese. Board of Imm. to Capt Pease, 7.1.67.
- (3) Many firms and individuals offered their vessels to recruit in the Gilberts, in reply to an advert in the 'Gazette', ~~incl.~~ incl. H & S (see (1) above) with the 'Pfeil', who said that they had been trading there for cocconut oil for several years but gave up as unprofitable about 2 years before.
- (4) On Dec. 19, 1868, applicants were informed that proposed expedition was abandoned.
- (5) In letter to Henry English, Agent of Board, Feb.13, 1869, President of Board said (re labour to be recruited in the Cook Islands): "The Board is of the opinion that you should avoid, if possible, making contracts to return Emigrants, but if they insist upon it, you may endorse upon the back of the contract, a stipulation " providing on behalf of the Board of Immigration for a free passage home at end of contract.
- (6) From 1870 correspondence it appears that labour was imported from Pukapuka but proved useless. They would not work and several died. Others wandered round the streets of Honolulu. English was asked to interview them and report. Virtually every one wished to return home. On 12.7.70 there were returned per schooner 'Ansie' 20 to Pukapuka, 1 to Atiu and 2 to Borabora.
- Pukapuka labour
- (7) On 5.6.71 S.G. Wilder visited /with Capt. English (28 men, 21 women, 20 children). All wished to return home despite bribe of \$30 if they would forego rights and freedom to work for anyone at any wages. They said that others would come in their place. Wilder to Board, 5.6.71.
- (8) Muster Roll of H.H.M's Brign. 'Stormbird' (2nd voyage) shows:-

LABOUR FOR HAWAII, cont'd.

1	recruit	from	Samoa.
3	"	"	Rotumah.
6	"	"	Nikunau.
50	"	"	Beru.

Most had wives with them (who are included in above total) and children (who are not). Wages \$5, 6 and 7 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd years.

The Nikunau labour was recruited on 7-12.9.78, and the Beru all on 14.9.78 (evidently a good recruit).

- (9) The N.S.W. Marine Board paid £150 passage money for the 4 Maiana women returned by the 'Stormbird', one of whom died en route off Niutao. Webster, Consul, Sydney, to Min. of For. Relations, 18.7.78.

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GILBERTESE IN HAWAII

Pacific Commercial Advertiser (weekly edition) for June 7, 1884 (p.6): Report of the Inspector of Immigrants.

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South Sea Islanders

I am of the opinion that the introduction of South Sea Islanders as a means of re-population, has proved a complete failure; those who have been brought here are an inferior race to the Hawaiians, and have, at the expiration of their contracts, with few exceptions, been returned to the islands from which they were brought, at a large expense to this Government. While there cannot be any objection to the Planters' Labor and Supply Co., or to private individuals bringing South Sea Islanders (under Government Regulations) to work on plantations, and returning those who wish to return at the expiration of ~~the~~ their contracts, I could not recommend the Government to aid in their introduction.

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HAWAII: GILBERTESE IN

The Friend, vol. 59, no. 8 (August, 1901), p.121.

Work Among the Gilbert Islanders in Hawaii

There are two settlements of Gilbert Islanders in the Territory which are specially provided for by this Board, with pastoral care by those speaking their own language; one is located at Lahaina on the island of Maui, and the other is in this city.

Pastor Lutera, who has spiritual charge of the colony at Lahaina, is a man of large experience with this people. During several years of residence in the Gilbert Islands as a missionary, he acquired a fluent use of their language and had his sympathies thoroughly enlisted by them. In 1891, on account of the failure of his wife's health, he returned to Hawaii, and ever since, with the exception of a temporary pastorate at Napoopoo, Kona, Hawaii, and a short period of nervous trouble and mental aberration, following his wife's death, he has been a faithful worker for the Gilbert Islanders resident here.

His first work was done at Pahala, Kau, where, in addition to his other duties, he tenderly cared for about forty Gilbert Islanders. For three years since his recovery he has been caring for the colony at Puunoa, Lahaina, where there is a church building set apart specially for their use. This structure when allotted to them was in great need of repair, later it became untenable. Lutera then set to work to raise money for the necessary outlay of rebuilding. About \$100 were collected, additional lumber was bought and he and his people took down the old structure and put up a new one in its place. Much credit is due to this little company of Christians for what they have done. During Mr Lutera's illness, when he was considered insane, his title to the order of the ministry was taken from him, but it is our opinion that the time as fully come when it should be restored.

Our other mission to this people is located in this city, quite a colony of them are living on the sea-wall on the east side of the harbour, where they have built a rude structure for purposes of worship. Charles Isaiah, A Samoan, a resident of this city and married to a Gilbertese, has for some time been a leader amongst them. Last November he was commissioned by us to be our missionary to them. He is a capable man and has done good work. He reports a congregation of seventy, about four-sevenths of whom are women and girls. They attend ~~Kawai~~ Kawaihāo Church Sunday mornings and in the afternoon they have their own service, with Isaiah as leader.

Week-day services are also held. Twenty-three of this company of Christians are members of Kawaihāo Church and are regular attendants at its meetings. Eight children have been baptized and the Sunday school numbers about 50. This community, though living in poverty, is industrious. The chief industry is hat-braiding. Out of their small earnings they have made generous contributions to Kawaihāo Church and to their brethren in Lahaina for the church building newly raised there, and have also contributed to this Board. Our missionary to them should be liberally supported and encouraged in his good work. For many years this people has had the affectionate supervision and care of Dr and Mrs

The Friend. Work among the Gilbert Islanders in Hawaii.

Bingham, who now, in their impaired health, cannot do what they have done in the past.

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HAWAII: GILBERTESE LABOUR IN

The Friend, vol.LXI, no.11 (November, 1903), pp.6-7.

A Brief Sketch of the Immigration and Emigration of the late
Gilbertese Colony in the Hawaiian Islands

About the year 1878, there was considerable consideration given by the Legislature of the Hawaiian Kingdom as to what might be done, not only to check the decrease of the native population, but to increase it. It was thought by some that if ~~it could~~ there should be imported into these islands fresh stock from the South Sea Islands and especially from the Gilbert Islands, by amalgamating with the Hawaiians some thing might, in this way, be done to secure the desired end.

There was also need of laborers for the plantations, and the Hawaiian Board of Immigration, a bureau of the government, decided to make the experiment. Vessels were either purchased or chartered and sent to the Gilbert Islands. The first vessel to sail was the "Storm Bird", in command of the famous Capt. Jackson. She returned with 85 immigrants on May 29, 1878. In the course of three years she made six voyages, arriving at the end of her last voyage on April 20, 1881, when the government gave up the experiment of importing more, there having been made in the mean time by its other vessels nine voyages in all, making a total of about 15 arrivals, by which there ~~are~~ were imported into these islands by the government some 1300 or 1400 Gilbert Islanders, (including some children) for a term of three years and then to be returned to their homes at the expense of the government.

In the fall of 1880 I was invited by the Hawaiian Government to act as "Protector of South Sea Immigrants". At that time the Gilbert Islands had not been taken possession of by the British Government, and they had no consul to look after their interests. With the approbation of the American Board of Foreign Missions (of which I was then and now am a commissioned missionary), I undertook the work of seeing to it that the terms of the contracts were complied with. The survivors of the first company to arrive were offered a passage home on June 21, 1881. Most of the company accepted. From time to time, as the terms of contract expired, the government gave the people the opportunity to return. In the course of time some ten companies numbering about 900 individuals had been returned to their homes. Many had died before the term of their contracts had expired. Not a few decided to run the risk of returning at a later date. The government had done its duty. About one year after the last company of immigrants had been imported into these islands, some of the planters on Kauai asked permission of the Board of Immigration to visit the Gilbert Islands in search of laborers. They were permitted to do so on condition of their returning them to their homes after the expiration of their term of service without expense to the laborers. Between January, 1883, and October 14, 1884, more than 400 Gilbert Islanders, in several companies had been imported into these islands by planters on Kauai. Only on one occasion was an opportunity offered to all these companies, save the last, to

Hawaii
Gilbertese in ~~Amara~~ - A Brief Sketch ...

return to their homes and that was before the fall of 1887, before the term of the last company had expired. Many of ~~the~~ them could not avail themselves of it because, while they had been waiting for an opportunity, they had re-shipped on other plantations for two years, and were not able to go when finally the opportunity was offered them.

The last company waited sixteen years for an opportunity until they were taken on the "Isleworth", October 19, 1903, with many others of previous arrivals. More than half of this company had died before this present opportunity came.

While I write these lines the happy company of nearly 200 Gilbert Islanders are speeding on their way to their own native lands. It is probable that the Gilbert Islands will be reached on ~~the~~ Thursday, October 29.

Let me once more thank the kind friends who made it possible for these lonely strangers among us to reach those shores for which they have so long sighed.

They will find that during their absence of from nineteen to twenty-five years great political changes have taken place in the Gilbert Islands; that they are under the beneficent rule of Great Britain; that wars and intemperance have been suppressed; that murder, adultery and stealing are punished; that the people are compelled to keep the peace and keep their houses in good repair, that their villages must be kept clean, their paths in good order, that the children are expected to attend school. Of course much of evil will be found to exist, but, on the whole, I think that they will be happier there than here. Here, no one owned a foot of land. They belonged in the slums. In their own country numbers of them will again become landholders, being such when they went forth to procure clothing and other comforts which their land did not produce. Many of them, while in this country, became Christians. For years the Board of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association has cheerfully employed two missionaries, Rev. M. Lutera and Mr C. Isايا, to look after the spiritual interests of the Gilbertese resident at Lahaina and Honolulu, and they have labored among them with much success.

They will find churches established in their own islands and in some instances pastors of their own race settled over them. They will find many native teachers, more or less at work, , who have been educated at Kusaie. Even the youth and children who so recently left us, (being but a small part of the company) will be more content as a rule to abide among their own people than to be strangers here working among Japanese on our plantations, or making a precarious living by fishing or braiding hats in our midst. They will find that they have all returned to a climate far more salubrious than that of the Hawaiian Islands, where they may hope to escape the ravages of tuberculosis, which has been carrying off so many of their number here, even among the young. We think they are wise to avail themselves of this splendid opportunity to return to their homes for \$1000. Most of them were distressingly poor. It cost them eighteen dollars to bury their dead. Only thirty-eight out of the whole number had any deposit in the Savings Bank. The deposits of these thirty-eight (of whom

Gilbertese in Hawaii - A Brief Sketch ...

I was trustee) amounted to \$1,771.30, but \$536.05 were held by two men. The remaining thirty-six had an average of \$34.31. Those thirty-eight paid towards the expense of the return of the company \$621.70. The passages of themselves alone, at five dollars each, would have been but \$190. Surely they were disposed to help their countrymen.

May the Lord reward them and say at the end, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto Me."

H. BINGHAM.

October 27, 1903.

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GILBERTESE LABOUR: RETURN FROM HAWAII

Hawaiian Annual, 1904, p.206.

EXODUS OF GILBERTESE.

Practically the whole colony of Gilbert Islanders of Honolulu and Lahaina, some 220 in number, took advantage of the opportunity which presented itself to them to return to their coral island home in October last, by the S.S. Isleworth, as ^{that} the vessel was getting ready for her return to the South Seas.

Notwithstanding the short notice and lack of funds among a majority of these people, through the personal efforts of Rev. H. Bingham, Mr. J.T. Arundel, British Consul W.R. Hoare, C.L. Wight and others, funds were provided and all arrangements were satisfactorily carried through so that they departed, as above stated, October 17th, (i.e. 1903)

"POMARE": Cruise of the brig: 1880

DIARY kept by J.Degreaves "Hawaiian" Govt. Immigration Agt.

From Honolulu to South Sea Islands on a Labour Cruise.

H.M. Brig "Pomare". Sailed July 26th 1880. A.M.Tripp. Master.

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At Jaluit. Thursday Sept 2nd 1880

Commenced discharging cargo. Fresh N.E. winds throught and passing rain squalls.

4p.m. H.M.Barque "Hawaii" came to anchor. Capt Whitney Master reports 47 Recruits on board all well. Capt Whitney also report having heard of the Brig Hayard at Appamama 100 recruits on board. The reason for the Barque not having recruited more labour is that "Mr Bingham" of Honolulu Mission has sent the schooner "Morning Star" through the group conveying letters to the natives, and also to Mission teachers stating that the people that has left their homes to Immigrate to Hawaii are all dying and many sick also that they have to work very hard and nothing to eat, therefore advising the natives not to ship in the Barque or Storm Bird as Immigrants to Honolulu. The consequence is that for a time Immigration is stopped among these Islands.

"POMARE" Cruise of the Brig ; 1880

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Wednesday Jany 12th 1881

Moderate N.W. wind and fine weather.

3.40 a.m. Mr Cameron, Secd. officer's watch on deck at that time I went on deck myself, and in conversation with Mr Cameron I remarked that the island we expected to sight at daylight was called "Nanouti" or Bishop's Island and asked if there was a good lookout forward at the same time had a good look round myself, I could see nothing on the horizon. Mr. Cameron remarked there were two men on the look out. I then sit down on the tanks the fore part of the poepe talking when I heard a rumbling noise, and remarked to Mr. Cameron I thought the cook was hauling the beef cask forward. Scarce a minute when the vessel grounded on the reef time 4.20 a.m. the helm was put hard down and head yards thrown aback. Capt. Tripp being then on deck the vessel being hard and fast. Clued up all sail, lowered the boats immediately at this time we could see the land about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the Port beam vessell heading $NE\frac{1}{2}E$ land bearing North, Run the kedge out astern, and set taughts tide ebbing got the boats alongside put the woman children and fifty men two boxes bread and kegs of water and went on shore with them so much lightening the vessell. I found the natives on shore very impudent and inclined to be hostile, I left two muskets with the recruits. 10.20 came on board Capt. Tripp then filled 7 water casks and rafted them alongside and started the tanks about 2364 Glls of water leaving for use 5,000 Glls. This quantity eased the vessel 2 ft in draught. 11a.m. I went on shore again to see if the recruits were all safe. the natives still impudent I told the men to keep together and not get scared. returned again to the ship 12 noon till $\frac{3}{4}$ I had hove the

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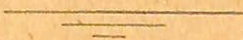
"POMARE" Cruise of the Brig : 1880

vessell considerable astern and still heaving brought home the kedge and run it on the starboard quarter 2p.m. hove up the kedge made sail and stood for an offing. Hoisted the water casks in, and went on shore two boats to fetch the people off. I see great excitement on shore and hastened their. The Natives had attacked the recruits stripping the women naked and tearing their beads from their necks and threatening to knife them, certain our timely arrival in the boats saved them I fired a few shots and drove them away, for punishment I burned 4 houses I do not believe any of the Natives were seriously hurt. 5p.m. returned to the vessell all safe.

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On the vessell grounding the pumps were sounded no water and still continue the same to 8 p.m. The copper is considerably off and some damage to the rudder she did not labour heavy during the time she was aground.

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GILBERTESE LABOUR IN HAWAII

Hawaiian Almanac and Annual for 1904, p.206:

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GILBERT ISLANDS

LABOUR TRADE

Miss Leeson has forwarded the following items on shipping contacts between Fiji and the Gilbert Islands (including Nauru) taken from the first ~~issue~~ year of issue of the Fiji Times - it is not clear from her letter whether or not she has been systematically through the whole of the first year:-

(1) 24 Sept, 1870. Ketch Jupiter from the Line Islands, 20 Sept. Left Tarewa (Gilbert Group) Aug. 22. In search of labour visited Oaitepu, Speiden, Auirai, Onotu, Clark's, Byron's, Drummond, Nauouti, Woodle, Maina and Tarawa Islands. She brings 44 labourers; one native of Drummond Island died on 27th Aug., having been ailing for some days. The Jupiter proceeds to Nandi with her passengers.

(2) The Magellan Cloud is only 12 days from Clark's Island, having been absent from this port three months; she brings 57 labourers. The day before arrival one of the hands died of consumption, the funeral service was read by the Captain, Mr Emberson, the charterer, accompanied the vessel and seems glad the trip is over. He reports labour very scarce. (H. Emberson & Co. were merchants and commission agents, Levuka).

(3) 1871 Jan. 7. The Oriti arrived, 5 Jan, from the Line Islands, she has been away from here nearly four months, and has been very unfortunate, bringing only 23 labourers, mostly women.

(4) 1871 Jan. 27. Waiiau cutter, left for the Line Islands. She left Pleasant Island on the return journey, on 13 Apr, with 21 labourers.

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GILBERT ISLANDERS IN MEXICO

Missionary Herald, 1891, p.88.

"A striking instance of the wide reach of missionary work has just come to our knowledge, connected with the coming of Micronesian Islanders from Arorai, one of the Gilbert Group, to work on a coffee plantation at Tapachula, Mexico. These islanders stipulated in their contract that they should be protected in their religious worship and that they should be allowed to observe Sunday as a day of rest. Mr Flint, of San Francisco, has sent us a copy of a letter from the agent of the Mexican Company, in which he says that these Gilbert Islanders are using the Sabbath as a day of rest, though it is a day of work among the Mexicans, and the agent promises to build for these people a house of worship. It is a notable fact that the men who a few years ago were wild savages ~~span~~ should now come among Roman Catholic Mexicans to exemplify in a much better way than do these nominal Christians the power of the Gospel of Christ and the sanctity of the Sabbath."

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