

1934

Oleum Island

Dear Tom,

A very short line as I am in bed for one reason, & secondly the Hinawa is only staying here 5 seconds I believe.

I have been in bed now for a week with a poisoned leg & expect to be out again in about a fortnight. Damn & blast!

Mail just in & a long record from you & your wife. That bloody man pop should go & knock up all the numbering etc. Damn him! Glad the Tomatake thing went off OK. I'll do what I can when I can get out of bed, also you may be sure do my best re Hyson's application. I'll see Bailey personally about it, &

put everything else as well as I can...  
Don't believe a bloody word of anything about  
his being Joe's right hand man. He tells  
Joe has been drummed up to a T. Also I  
have talked into Joe about the increased  
volume of correspondence from Group this  
year & he thinks it's a big load. P.P.  
will merely get a kick in the pants if  
he idles. ∴ lets hope he does idle.

What a prize some old grand old  
into the bloody ditch with him. Now you see  
that what I said about the N.G. B'thai  
was in no way exaggerated. They're all  
Scum of the 1st water & he bought a  
bloody good Pagan job in there. Although  
Remember the N.M. at L. making is an R.C.  
I wish all R.C. N.M.s were like him.

Bob, I'm filling Barley all about the  
Tatanga deal. We'll need a lot for  
Guichard, damn his suit.

Glad you liked L. matter. There has  
nothing on it.

Now things news has plenty.

Estimate is all the way & no other way  
has been done since I've been here. The  
point is to shoot 'em to Bam & then  
show on "JW". Then work will start  
here.

(you're definitely needed at  
Lands Commission) etc is an Estimate. The  
that DGM is A.O. doing L.C. & M.O.  
work combined. Salary from D.A. <sup>note</sup> L.C.

Barley says he's tired you probably re-  
your movements as L.C. Apparently, mov-  
-ments of officers are as follows: -

When Staff goes in July - Skidmore to Tanaw

till Deane returns when Mrs to Elise. Mrs  
Jen on have July & I take over Elise for 6  
months - hooray! Meanwhile Mrs takes  
over C.A. G. from Jop, & then when K. returns  
to Finafuti, I take over S.G. from you.  
C.A.C. to be under you at Beer. Hunder  
cheers! I think he hates R.C. Hunder  
cheers still. English has gone on leave now.  
Mr. Clarke had a wonderful letter from Mrs  
Deane who has been in Baltimore where  
FHE's fiancée lives. This girl is apparently  
thoroughly sweet & charming & has plenty of  
£££. She asked Mr. Deane if she could  
have hairless evening frocks & beards  
pyjamas & O.D. & shorts for sports.  
Also she has a large & expensive humour  
ready for the marriage. - Help!!!

I have been on to Jers re C. Works  
law & he's going to deal with it soon -

I'm also out in a long hand re revision  
of J.R.'s printing out many of the fallacies  
which he chattered about at Betio. <sup>9 added to</sup>

Please thank your wife for hanging  
about my room & ask her to excuse  
me, but there's no time to write as the  
blast of front hopping in a few moments.

Please tell your wife re wrong  
numbering of telegrams, Eth does it all.  
So the old group efficiency has in no  
way diminished.

I drafted a letter to GAO telling him  
that H.H. ~~was~~ was quite at a loss to  
understand the non-printing of a  
landing because at Hawaii & the bloody  
were being up & fire 'em me! Threats  
big & will hunt I hope!

↳ an Ad's conference soon - ?? when  
J.R.'s away!

JCS has a very poor opinion of RC. <sup>He</sup>  
tough but it's the fault of all these bloody  
RC. Since I suppose. Mrs Clarke had a  
bigged letter from him the other day. He  
says "I am now deeply interested in  
anthropology & am reading many books thereon

I quite realise my ideas on Admin. have  
all wrong & that the natives have <sup>not</sup> been  
been handled properly!!! (Pacific Cheers!)

The more I read the more I am filled  
with admiration for Heron's policy &  
am convinced his outlook is the only  
correct one!!! The Missions have had  
far too much say hitherto & I hope it  
will be possible to formulate a policy  
with JCS, giving the natives a square  
deal!!! (Not exactly his words but  
very nearly, & the sense is the same).

Wonder what he'll do when he  
bumps the RCs here again.

I'm <sup>probably</sup> too much influenced by Mrs Clarke

Went on to Smith's in 1934. I thought the letter  
imposed on CPTC the absolute necessity of  
jump for striking to law & I think very happy to  
think he may be under your soon. I  
should be in S.S. about Xmas 1934 I  
think other we'll clean her up. Her nose  
last tooth will fall out.

Ortho flapstuffs for Thana & Talitaka on  
Ests, also £25 for repair of Telit. Home.

Blat - here's the boy to collect my  
letter - must send - with the bill with  
father & don't let Rev. Sodd get you down  
my kind regards to your wife.

JCS Mac

Remember of course, as Yours is now.  
Incidentally you remember case of  
Taimairaki Village, Abiang, who bought

piece in middle of village & woman <sup>corp</sup>  
ho - well JCS the forward place hundred  
- have to L.C. !!!!!

Please keep all sleep to yourself as  
JCS wishes it. Lys

Phao

London Mission,  
Rongorongo, Bern.  
Gilbert Islands,  
Central Pacific.

Dear Friends,

February 1934.

We have now been back at work here for some months, but they have been such very crowded busy months that although we have often wanted to write to you, other duties have been too pressing. Now the opportunity comes on a quiet Sunday evening, and we gladly avail ourselves of it.

First, we want to thank the many of you whom we met during our home furlough last year for all the hospitality and kindness you showed to us, which made our furlough a very happy one, and which helped us so much to give you in the Home Churches the information and encouragement we wanted to give you. Then we want to thank all of you for the splendid spirit of loyalty and consecration in which you are facing and meeting the difficulties of the time, and enabling us and our colleagues throughout the world to carry on the work which Our Master has entrusted to us.

As many of you know, we left England on Sept. 1st last year, and travelled across the Atlantic Ocean to Montreal; then across Canada to Vancouver, and from Vancouver to Suva, Fiji, where we arrived on Sept. 29th. Our little schooner "John Williams V" was lying alongside the wharf at Suva when we arrived, and she did look small indeed as viewed from the decks of the trans-Pacific liner on which we had travelled from Vancouver. To our regret we found the captain and some of the crew of the Mission ship were ill with influenza, and this delayed our departure from Suva. But the week spent there was a busy and a useful time. We had opportunities of meeting and getting to know our friends who compose the L. M. S. Ship Committee, and especially the Chairman, an ex L. M. S. Missionary, Rev. A. W. McMillan, who is doing fine service for the Government and for the Kingdom of God as Inspector of Indian Schools in Fiji. We were invited to lunch at Government House, and had valuable interviews on Mission business with His Excellency the High Commissioner and others.

We left Suva on Oct 6th, our little ship being loaded down to her marks, and leaving behind on the wharf a considerable amount of cargo, including, as we afterwards discovered to our great inconvenience, some of our personal luggage and goods which we had been told had been put on board. We had an uncomfortable voyage in rather unpleasant weather, but arrived safely at Bern on Oct. 17th. Our Colleagues and our people, teachers & boys & girls, gave to Mr Sadd & ourselves a very warm welcome. We had not found it easy to part from our own girl and boy in England, but the affectionate welcome of our big "family" here made us feel that after all we were "coming home." And indeed it is good to be back and at work again. Perhaps few of you realise how tired missionaries get of talking about their work when home on furlough. Much as we love to tell you of all you are by your gifts and prayers helping us to do for the Master's Kingdom, there is far more real satisfaction in "getting on with one's job" than in talking about it.

Some of you know that in June last the better half of us --- sometimes incorrectly described as the weaker sex --- quite unexpectedly had to undergo a serious operation in London. It was an anxious time, and for a while it seemed unlikely that we should be able to return to our work together. But in His goodness God made it possible: and although the long journey was very trying to the convalescent, she stood it on the whole very well. The last part, however, was the most trying: and the arduous business of unpacking, and of getting the house in order, proved the last straw. Some enforced rest, and the care and the attention of a friendly doctor who was happily on Bern for a few months but has now left, put matters right; and now in spite of all the efforts of the really weaker sex to prevent her from undertaking too much for her strength, "Our mother," as so many of the boys and girls call her, is taking up all her old tasks and seems as busy as ever.

Within two days of our arrival, the writer --- whose identity must have become evident by the last paragraph --- went off on the Mission vessel on the work of visitation of the Southern Islands, accompanied by our new missionary Rev. A. L. Sadd B. A., who had travelled out from England with us. With various calls at Bern to unload native food supplies and change our passengers, this took some four or five weeks. Then on Nov. 25th the ship left for the Northern District, taking back to his work there Rev. J. H. Spivey, who had been kindly taking my place at Rongorongo during my absence in England. At the same time Mr. & Mrs. Levett and their children left for their first long furlough in England, travelling to Ocean Island on the "John Williams V," & thence to Sydney on a ship carrying phosphate. Mr. Spivey went also to Ocean Island to meet his wife and children who were returning from Australia. Unfortunately, one of the children contracted measles on the voyage, and in consequence the whole family have been in quarantine at Ocean Island, and are still there. We gather from wireless news of them that the child has recovered, and that her Gilbertese nurse who took the infection and had a bad time, is now recovering. This has been a trying experience for our colleagues, who have our sympathy.

The "John Williams V" proceeded to complete the visitation of the northern islands with a party of workers led by Samoan and Gilbertese teachers. She returned to Bern on Jan. 10th, unfortunately with a case of chicken-pox on board. This led to rather serious quarantine difficulties, as the ship was carrying several native teachers and their families bound for other islands on the way to Suva. Our Mission wireless again proved its great usefulness, and enabled us with the cordial co-operation of the Government doctor who was here at the time, to make arrangements for the ship to proceed, and for the various parties to be quarantined at the islands to which they were bound. All this meant a good deal of extra work, but at last we got the ship away, and we have since heard she arrived safely at Suva on Jan. 28th, after a stay of several days at Funafuti to clean the engines &c. Our own Rongorongo party, about 20, from the ship, has been in quarantine here, but to our great satisfaction no further cases developed, and we have today been able to join together with them in giving thanks to God for His goodness.



One of the great events since our return was the opening of our new "Jubilee Memorial" Church at Rongorongo on Nov. 24th, just before our colleagues left for the north. Many of you have heard from us about the building of this new Church, and some of you saw our photographs of the building, the main structure of which was completed before we went home for our furlough. The interior was completed during our absence, and the simple but dignified building is now in use for our services, to the great satisfaction of all of us who have shared in the building. The Church is some 120 feet by 35 feet. It is built of reinforced concrete with a fibrolite roof, ceiled inside. The whole cost, some £1400, has been met by local contributions, rather more than half having been raised in 1920 when the Churches in the Southern Gilberts celebrated the Jubilee of the Coming of the Gospel to these islands. All the work of building was done by the teachers and boys of our School.

The late Rev. W. E. Goward, who founded Rongorongo, took a great interest in the building of this Church, which was the fulfilment of a long-cherished wish of his. One of his last acts from his retirement was to send a substantial gift for the provision of a Communion Table and Chairs. Friends in the Gilbert Islands and at home united to defray the cost of a handsome pulpit in memory of Mr. Goward and of his devoted labours here. The Pulpit, Communion Table and Chairs, were made in Suva of a beautiful hard wood known as Yaka. They now bear bronze plates with suitable inscriptions. Friends in Sydney presented a small but well executed stained glass window as their memorial tribute.

In spite of the serious economic difficulties here, we still have a full school. There are over one hundred boys in the Boys' High School, and nearly eighty girls in the Girls' School, while we have 35 Students in training for the Native Pastorate, and several wives in the Women's School. The children of the staff of Teachers and Printers form a Children's School which is useful as a training school for our students.

Many of our people are very hard up, and the few Scholarships kindly provided by friends in England are needed many times over. Copra, our only marketable product, has just fallen again to the unprecedentedly low price of £2/16/- per ton. In addition to this trouble we have had no rain on most of the southern islands for nearly two years, so there are very few coconuts available. Many of our scholars received only a few shillings from their families on the recent half-yearly visitation, and several received nothing at all. We are afraid several will have to go home without completing their three years' course, although the small sum of £3 to £5 per annum would enable them to carry through.

In the course of visiting the islands, we found the Churches for the most part standing well, but in some islands there is a wave of resurgent paganism due apparently in some cases to the impression that Government, because it protects pagans in the practice of their pagan ritual & magic, is in favour of the old pagan practices rather than of Christianity. Our teachers are doing their best to stem this tide, and better news is coming from some islands. One of the most encouraging features of the situation is the plucky way many of our teachers are holding on in spite of some privation, and in spite of the fact that we are no longer able to make up their salaries to the minimum of £10 per annum, -- many of them now receiving only a few pounds from their villages in these days of want.

On our Head Station here, we had the usual large gatherings of our people at Christmas and the New Year. We were able to give all our boys and girls, as well as the younger children, small Christmas gifts this time, thanks to the kind friends at home who made up parcels for us to bring back with us. Again we thank all of you who helped to make up these very welcome parcels.

As some of you know, we brought back with us a new Diesel engine for our Electric Light for our Church and School, and for power for our wireless transmitter. We are very glad to be able to tell you--and especially the few friends who generously helped us towards the cost -- that the new plant has been erected and is now in regular use. It was only just in time, as the batteries and self-starting apparatus of our old plant had entirely broken down, and the old engine was unequal to its job. At the moment of writing, the old plant is dissembled, and we are giving it as thorough an overhaul as is possible here without engineering facilities. Our radio installation has been improved by the addition of a small home-made short wave transmitter which a friendly European who was visiting Beru at the end of the year helped to construct out of spare parts we had. It is working quite well, and is making it possible for us to keep in touch with the Government doctor, and also with the Government officer at Funafuti in the Ellice Islands, where our Mission Ship enters and leaves the Colony.

Just before Christmas we had a visit at our Head Station here, from our new Resident Commissioner, His Honour J. C. Barley, who was on his way to Ocean Island to take up the duties of his office. Mrs. Barley accompanied him, and both took a warm interest in the work going on on our station, expressing appreciation of its practical and useful character. We were glad to have this early opportunity of meeting our new Commissioner and his wife, and we appreciate their friendly attitude towards the work of our Mission.

There is much more we should like to tell you of our many-sided work, of cooperation with Government in educational matters, of building of Churches and Schools, but this letter is already long. May we in closing share with you our joy that in the last few days several of our boys here have come forward to express their desire to follow and to serve Jesus Christ the Lord. This after all is the centre and focus of all our work, and we rejoice to be able to tell you your prayers are being answered: God is working in the lives of His people here, and bringing them into His Kingdom.

To you all at Home, in your many tasks for the Kingdom, we send greeting and good wishes. May this year bring a flowing tide in the affairs of the Kingdom of God, and in the interests of the dear old L. M. S., as well as in the economic life of the world.

Your friends in Christ's Service,

G. H. Eastman.  
W. H. Eastman.



RESIDENCY,  
OCEAN ISLAND,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

15. 3. 34

My dear Maude,

Once again I fear that  
circumstances are against me &  
I am faced with a positively  
staggering combination of ships,  
mails, new arrivals & departures  
that private letter-writing is a matter  
of practically physical impossibility.  
I was up last night to past 3 a.m.  
trying to straighten out the mess  
& the good ship "Minerva" is at  
present backing & filling off the  
foreshore waiting for the starting

pistol to give her the "Off" back  
to the group again. At any rate  
you will get your nails. I am  
sorry that the fresh stuff ex  
"Iriona" will not be available  
until tomorrow & I can't keep  
the "Nimanoa" standing by another  
day for the sake of a few cabbages  
& apples which, my wife tells me,  
represent the main items of her  
fresh food supplies.

Many thanks for your letter.  
I am glad that your disturbances  
at Jarawa are for the time being over—  
I haven't had a moment yet to



RESIDENCY,

OCEAN ISLAND,

GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

discuss affairs with Swinbourne.  
Cartwright reported here an hour  
ago. He seems to be just the  
right stamp of man we want  
to help build up a proper  
administrative branch of this service  
& I have hopes of P.A. really  
starting to whizz in the not too  
distant future. Re hands Commission,  
my somewhat embryonic scheme  
in the matter are being held up by  
lack of essential information. I  
hope to receive a full report from

Kennedy on the *Nimanoa's* return  
from Funafuti & I would be very  
glad if you could telegraph me  
the particulars I want about  
probable duration so that I can,  
if necessary, get a move on before  
it is possible for me to receive  
your written report on the subject.  
I am sorry that I cannot write  
more fully but time precludes  
& I have loads of things to attend  
to before the "*Nimanoa*" pushes off.  
My wife joins me in sending kindest  
regards to Mrs. Maunde & yourself  
& with all good wishes -  
Yours sincerely,  
J.C. Barley

Island of Tarawa,

11<sup>th</sup> March, 1974

Dear Mr Bailey,

Thank you very much for your letter which arrived  
by the last mail. It quite reassured us as to  
the reason for Noyi Suvulomua's visit. I made it quite clear to  
the Noyi that I would call any meeting he might desire  
or go with him up the island so that he could interview  
the natives direct but, after thinking it over, we decided  
that it would be inadvisable to call a meeting of the old  
men and so we went up the island to Alakoo and he  
talked with the Native Government there. Later we visited  
Bacta and Fito villages and gave Seregea who wished to  
see the film an opportunity of doing so.

We've been going at these Boards of Survey ever since  
the 'Invasa' arrived and, even now, we're afraid we have not  
quite finished the typing. <sup>as reported officially</sup> However, I can honestly say we've worked  
continuously since the ship came. Directly it goes we get on with  
the various reports you have asked for and finish the typing.

My great hope at the moment is Kailung siding in  
his resignation just at the critical moment, so I have to do the  
native typing etc a bit of the drafting. But I hope to train the  
one of the two natives at present in the office to take over  
this part. I do think Kailung has let us all down badly.

With regard to Henderson. Yes, I can certainly do without  
him until Noyi Suvulomua comes although he has been a great  
help and has co-operated wonderfully. He is <sup>leaving</sup> leaving for  
Alorua on Wednesday to settle up the two murder cases  
and the affairs of the island generally. That should take  
him several weeks and when he finally goes up to Patalua  
he will have the satisfaction of having that Alorua <sup>at least</sup> job  
to date.

I trust that Noyi Suvulomua will visit the area island

would "read" again after the story has. He has been writing  
a a pile of "Mystery Papers" ~~and~~ ~~which~~ ~~is~~ ~~being~~ ~~written~~  
the "old" ~~introduction~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~story~~ ~~and~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~being~~ ~~written~~.

I do ~~believe~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~other~~ ~~stories~~, ~~and~~ ~~of~~  
Tara, should be started as soon as possible. They have  
been ~~also~~ ~~written~~ ~~and~~ ~~made~~ ~~and~~ ~~I~~ ~~would~~ ~~if~~ ~~I~~  
may go read in the next bit of the "Mystery".

With kind regards to Mrs. B. and yourself  
for so long,

Yours truly,

With kindest  
regards from  
us both to Mrs  
Maude & yourself  
& many thanks  
for all your  
kindness to us  
during our stay at  
Tarawa —  
Yours sincerely,  
J. C. Barley

RESIDENCY,  
OCEAN ISLAND,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

20<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, '34

My dear Maude

Many thanks for your letter.  
I am sorry to hear that Mrs Maude  
has been unwell & hope that she  
will have quite recovered & have  
forgotten all about it by the  
time this note reaches you.

Regarding your suggestion concerning  
the Butaritari house, I must  
confess that I have not had a  
moment yet to ponder over the  
future policy of D.A. & disposition  
of A.O.'s etc. I have been going



all day & far into the night with  
a mass of private correspondence —  
the accumulation of 4½ months —  
many routine matters, requiring  
more or less immediate attention,  
& receiving a constant stream of  
visitors & callers at the office.

I am also struggling with a fairly  
lengthy report on my six weeks'  
tour of the Group & until I have  
been able to get this off my chest,  
I shan't have much time to think  
out the more important matters  
of State, including the affairs of  
District Administration. I am  
also awaiting a despatch <sup>in transit</sup> from



RESIDENCY,

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GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

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The H.C. concerning the latest developments at Fanning Island before I can come to a decision as to whether it will be necessary to find a relief for Baverstock. There are, as you may imagine, countless matters that have been awaiting attention or action for months & I shall have to take everything in its stride. I have not yet communicated with the H.C. about the Apaiang murder case, as I don't want to be told to go across & hear it before I can

see some faint glimmer of daylight at headquarters. The same applies to the Bern Wounding case.

The new Cadet, Cartwright, left England on the 'Mooltan' on the 12<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, so he won't be here for a few weeks yet. H.E. left Suva yesterday for Sydney & the Solomons, being due to return to Fiji on March 9<sup>th</sup>. We can't expect many final decisions concerning our fate in the W.P.A.C. during his absence.

I am sending per favour of Captain Singleton a small parcel containing a shirt, etc., that 'Valu' must have pilched on the 'Nimanoa'. Did you ever recover the book you were kind enough to lend me? I can't remember the name. Circular re Dancing is enclosed.



RESIDENCY,

OCEAN ISLAND,

GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

14<sup>th</sup> FEB. '34

My dear Maude,

Many thanks for your long letter of the 12<sup>th</sup>. with all the news which it contained. Unfortunately, ever since I received the "Nirianoa's" mail, I have been absolutely flooded out by an endless succession of telegrams, urgent M.P.'s, letters from the B.P.C., memos about unserviceable beds, rotting floorboards, etc., etc., that I haven't had a chance of extricating myself from the maze of giving serious attention to anything. I know that memories of your

Secretarial days will help you to realise the situation. You must have had an extraordinarily anxious & unpleasant time during the last fortnight or so &, although I am not writing to you officially on the subject until I have received your final report, I would just like to tell you privately that I think that you & Macdonald handled the whole situation excellently & in the true spirit of our good old British Service. I feel quite satisfied that things are now quiet & that you could have successfully coped with



a useful purpose, more particularly  
~~as~~ he is going to occupy himself  
in getting a few badly-needed  
Boards of Survey under weigh.  
It is difficult to tell you yet  
what my plans are for the future  
regarding D.A. I have devoted a  
good deal of thought to the whole  
question, but one is handicapped  
so tremendously as a newcomer by  
not being 'an incumbent' with past  
history, & also by the fact that one  
only apparently sees files dealing  
with District affairs when some sort  
of crisis arises — they are otherwise  
relegated to the bottom of the deepest



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pile of pending M.P.'s furthest way from the Secretary's table. As far as I have been able to formulate any sort of tentative scheme up to the present, it is roughly as follows:- Swinbourne to return to Tarawa from about the end of March till he goes on leave in August, you to proceed to S. Gilberts on handing over to Swinbourne, & Macdonald to go to Butaritari, if he is not already there. When Swinbourne goes, you will probably have to return to Tarawa ~~when~~ <sup>until</sup> ~~to~~ hold the fort until Armstrong's return, when I am thinking of



trying to get the old Land Commission functioning again under your aegis, leaving Armstrong & Macdonald to look after the administration of the Gilberts group between them. This is still purely tentative. I would ask you to treat it as confidential, though I do not mind your discussing it with Macdonald. I want you, however, to report officially, in connection with the Land Commission letter, memorandum already submitted (which was only put up to me 2 days ago when I specifically asked for it!), how long that you think the L.C. would take to complete its investigation in the Gilberts & roughly the length



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of time (or alternately the number of cases) which each Island would probably occupy. I believe that Major Swinbourne is putting up a lengthy minute against the necessity of a Lands Commission, & I still have an open mind on the subject, but everything has so far indicated that a whole-time Lands Commissioner with the necessary qualifications for the job is required. I do feel, however, that it should be one of the duties of a Lands Commission to demarcate & record the boundaries of every piece

P.S. Please let me know if you think that you could carry on without Macdonald during the next six weeks or so till Vrombourne relieves you at Tarawa. I would like to let him get away to Butaritari. J.C.B.

of land in dispute, & I would like to have an expression of your views as to the extent such a procedure would prolong the work of the Commission. I have had recent experience on Ocean Island of numerous boundary-disputes, despite the fact that you had investigated the whole land situation here as a Land Commissioner, but I realise that the conditions obtaining here differ radically from those in the Gilberts. I am afraid that I may have expressed myself rather badly in this letter but I am nearing the end of a very long day. My wife asks me to send your wife her kindest remembrance, & I hope that you are both fit & still enjoying life - Yours sincerely J.C. Barber



RESIDENCY,

OCEAN ISLAND,

GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

4<sup>th</sup> May, '34

My dear Maude,

Many thanks for your letter. I do not think that you need worry about having to return to Tarawa for the sake of relieving Major Swinburne for a few weeks prior to ~~his~~ Armstrong's return. I will fix up something somehow if there is likely to be an interregnum at Tarawa. I would be glad if you could let me know before you get away down to Beru a rough idea of your proposed plans

regarding itinerary, etc., when you are able to go ahead with the L.C. Things in the R.C.'s Dept. are as hectic as ever & it takes from 8 to 10 hours a day (Sundays included) to attempt even to keep level with what comes pouring in. The new commuted taxation scheme with the B.P.C. is at present in the throes of its birth-pangs & adds to the general turmoil. I hope with the valiant assistance of Macdonald, however, to start to see a bit of



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GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

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daylight in the course of another two or three months. Administrative affairs & problems in the Group are not being completely side-tracked in favour of importunate howls from the H.C. & the insistent pettinesses of B.P.C. & Ocean Island matters, but I have had to face such a devil of a pile of arrears of correspondence generally that I have not yet had time to set about a thorough revision of the whole position.

I hope that you are able to carry through your proposed tour of the N. Gilberts - I have left it to you, Swinburne to decide about the actual handing-over of the District.

I will let you know more about the Lands Commission when I have put things up in detail to the H.C. & got a reply.

Please give my kindest regards to Dr. Steenson. I may be able to get you across to Jabiteua in <sup>connection</sup> ~~connection~~ with Vaccination Campaign. All good luck & very kind regards to your wife & yourself - Yours sincerely,  
J.C. Barley



RESIDENCY,

OCEAN ISLAND,

GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

25<sup>th</sup> June, '34

My dear Maude,

Sorry that I could not give you a longer spin at Vabiteua but the "Fringers" are still after me & life continues to be a sort of jigs saw puzzle trying to fit everything into the general scheme of affairs. Cartwright got in yesterday on the "Nimanoa" & is straining at the leash to get down to you in the Southern Gilberts. I don't expect you will be able to hand over the administration of the District to him before the end



of the present month, but as  
your salary has been transferred  
to the Land Commission Note from  
the 1<sup>st</sup> July next, I would be glad  
if you would predate the  
handing-over statements to the 30<sup>th</sup>  
June, in order to regularize the  
position from an accountancy point  
of view & thereby avoid vituperations  
& the exchange of stupid acrimonious  
arguments with people called Auditors.  
I am happy to think that you will  
be safely under weigh with your  
Land Commission work in the  
filberts. If I were to be pulled



RESIDENCY,

OCEAN ISLAND,

GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

out from the scene of action  
tomorrow, I should have the consolation  
of feeling that I had been responsible  
for starting up again the old 'bus'  
which, in my short experience of local  
conditions, strikes me as carrying  
a heavier load of economic fate  
& part-up human emotions than  
any other factor or circumstance  
which enters into or affects the lives  
of those who have been entrusted to  
our care. You have a big job to  
tackle, one which is worthy of the  
best which a man can give to it,  
I have picked you for it in the

confidence that you will fulfill all expectations, not only of myself but of all those unhappy persons who have been waiting so patiently for years for the Government to come along & settle their difficulties. I hope to be able to make a break from this d.P. - infected little spot in another month or two & to discuss with you in the flesh the programme & the problems of your new 'Command.' I know that I can rely upon you to fix Cartwright the benefits of your experience in the Southern Gilberts, & to see him started off in his first responsible job in the Service along the right track.



RESIDENCY,

OCEAN ISLAND,

GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

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I have been somewhat overwhelmed in the social vortex of episcopalian entertainment during the last week & am beginning to feel rather weary on it. I can only work in matches of an hour or two between an endless succession of dinner-parties, luncheons, & Church Services, & I feel that my stock of suburban small talk will take many months to recover from the drain on its resources during the last few days. My wife is on the verge of collapse from cooking cream-puffs & stagons.

a permanent smile of welcome to  
all earnest Church-goers.

So you must forgive an  
abbreviated finale to these lines  
& Mr. Maude must forgive the  
absence of any communication from  
a very worn-out wife.

Wishing you the best of luck  
in your new Adventure & with all  
good wishes to you both from my  
wife & still unrepentant self -

Yours sincerely,

J.C. Barley



RESIDENCY,  
OCEAN ISLAND,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

22. 4. 34

My dear Maude,

As usual everything has come toppling in at the same moment. I have been absolutely inundated with mails for the last four or five days. I am pushing the "Nimianoa" off post haste to connect up with the "Rakua" hence this frenzied hurry. This is just a line to tell you that H.K. has approved of the inclusion of L.C. expenses in draft estimates & of my recommendation

that you should be L.C. of the  
Gilberts & Kennedy of the Ellice.  
I sent him a long wire & he  
fell in with everything to my  
surprise & delight. Major  
Swinburne will be going across  
to Tarawa with Cartwright by  
return 'Nimanoa', I want you  
then to do a spot of administrative  
work in the S. Gilberts. I can't  
tell you anything very definitely,  
but I expect the "Nimanoa"  
will have to lay up to carry out



RESIDENCY,  
OCEAN ISLAND,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

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essential engine repairs before she will be fit to proceed with you to Beru or Tabiteuea. If you don't want to be left at Tarawa for about a fortnight after handing over to Vuniboune, you may possibly be able to make ~~the~~ trip on the "Macquarie". Let me know what you can do.

I don't expect that the L.C. will get going until about August or September & it seems likely that you will have to come back to Tarawa in July to look after



the show again until Armstrong's return, I hope to be able to see daylight & to be able to spare Macdonald for the group again in a couple of months at latest.

Please tell Macdonald & also Dr. Young from me that I haven't had a spare moment in which to write to them. I have been going at very high pressure, hence this extraordinarily disjointed letter. The "Minerva" is due to sail in 10 minutes!

kindest regards to Mrs. Brande & yourself from my wife & self - Yours  
Michael J. C. Barley

Dear Mr. Bailey,

Thank you for your letter which was handed to me by Captain Singleton on the arrival of the "Imarua". We are very glad to hear that the High Commission has approved of the Lands Commission resuming its work and I am naturally very pleased to be allowed to have a crack at tackling the work on the Gilberts. I feel that it is a really worth-while piece of work and one directly to the benefit of the natives. Your decision to start the Commission again will certainly be received with acclamation from top to bottom of the Gilberts and I only hope I have equal to the job.

May I send you my detailed suggestions as to the itineraries of the Commission and the personnel of the native staff? I imagine that Ordinance No. 2 of 1927 will need to be repealed - it was never really workable, I believe - as it was only enacted to provide for the special case of the Resident Commission being also the Lands Commission.

As you suggested in your letter that I might be able to get to Bora on some ship other than the "Imarua" I have written officially asking whether I might be allowed to visit the Northern District on the "John Williams" and then go direct on to Bora. It seemed to me that you would prefer me to be doing <sup>some</sup> useful work on the two little isolated outlying islands rather than be waiting for a ship at Tarawa.

My wife and I are praying that you will not find it necessary to bring us back to Tarawa for a few weeks in July. I do hope that Major Samborne will not need staying on for the short time before Armstrong returns. He ~~is not~~ ~~be~~ ~~anticipated~~ ~~staying~~ ~~here~~ ~~until~~ ~~he~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~sent~~ ~~on~~ ~~his~~ ~~way~~ and did not appear to be very anxious to leave.

2  
1  
During we chanced having to move everything once again  
up here and then look again after a few weeks.

He has been making hard since the "Muzza" left for  
the Ellice at getting the correspondence up to date. There seems  
to be no end to it though of course its a nice fraction of  
the Ocean Island correspondence. Kalurua, who has taken the  
place of Kaolungy, will be an excellent clerk and interpreter  
in a short space of time if he maintains his present rate of  
progress but at the moment my wife is helping me with the  
typing. Kalurua is straight for the Banihi and only 16.  
Dardoull has been doing the sub-accountant work and  
concentrating on the rather Gullato as you desired. Unfortunately  
communications have been so bad that he was unable to  
get to his islands for any length of time. He has been  
making very hard indeed.

Everything has been going on smoothly in the Group  
of late. There has been absolutely no friction with  
either of the missions and no trouble on the islands since  
the Tanawa business was stamped on.

I am most anxious to get to Tatitenua, where there is  
a mountain of anera, as soon as possible. I estimate that the  
sloop on Bera will take some 10 days but after that there  
is no prospect of getting off the island unless the  
"Muzza" could be spared for a few days.

I am afraid this letter is all "old" but really I have done  
little but write official letters since the "Muzza" last left with  
the exception of a week at the beginning of this month which we  
spent with the Native Government at Abakoro, I hope to our  
mutual benefit.

With kind regards to Mrs. Bailey and yourself for us both,  
Yours sincerely,

only be able to expand their activities when they can sell their produce and, in particular, buy their trade goods in a competitive market.

5. It should be explained here that no suggestion is intended that either of the local firms are offering unfair terms to the natives. Indeed, the figure of £3 per ton for copra would appear to be reasonable, considering the present position of the market. As His Honor is aware, however, island after island is petitioning for the Japanese <sup>Bozeiki Kanda</sup> Navy to be allowed to trade with them, not from any preference for Japanese products, but simply because they are able to obtain a higher price for their copra from them and it is felt that no business can take place while their purchases have to be confined to a limited range of standard trade goods at non-competitive prices.

6. Even if no independent firm is willing to commence trading activities in the Gilbert Islands, a partial solution of the difficulty, which the native societies are experiencing, of buying the class of goods they desire at prices which will allow them a small profit on sale, can be provided by the proposed government Savings Bank. The societies will almost certainly insist their accounts in the Savings Bank and I would suggest that the Bank undertake to give drafts on Sydney in return for the societies' deposits in the Gilbert Islands and thus facilitate the purchasing of goods from the Sydney trading firms, to be shipped to the Islands by the recurring vessels, the s.s. "John Williams" or the leading steamers. The government would, in addition, be rendering a great service to the native community if inquiries could be made as to whether any firm of wholesale agents in Sydney would be willing to act as agents for the native & dependent societies in these Islands.

- 3920 69. Reef passage at Abemana, listing of 7<sup>th</sup> April
70. Telegraph Code, 1922 edition; certifying destruction of 8<sup>th</sup> April
71. Compensation for lagoon pits destroyed on Tarawa "
72. Police Nominal Roll for March, 1934 "
73. Process, Return of Number and Distribution of; for March, 1934 "
74. Shipping, Return of; for goods sailed 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1934 "
75. Passbook, Return of; for March, 1934 9<sup>th</sup> April
76. Travelling Diary, copy of, for March, 1934 "
77. McArthur, forwarding complaint from W. A. M. "
78. Abemana, request that B.P.C. should recruit at "
79. Sublime, request from Rev. Father, to supply certain lagoon 11<sup>th</sup> April 5/34
80. Mats, from made floor; for Residence "
- ✓ 81. Name changing, custom of. "
82. Gratuity to Te Kabobo of Tarawa, requesting authority to pay. " 90/34
83. Savings Bank system, views on inauguration of. " 100/34
84. Charts for local sale, requesting additional 12<sup>th</sup> April 99/34
85. Vital statistics available in Native Government Records. " 89/34
86. Character Rolls of recently enrolled Constabulary, forwarding " 39/34
87. Public works, return of the Progress of; for goods sailed 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1934. " 10/34
88. Native Passengers carried on m.v. "Kalam" to 31.12.33, forwarding list of. 13<sup>th</sup> April 4/34
89. " " License, m.v. "Kalam" 16<sup>th</sup> April
90. Board of Survey on Medical Dept. non-acceptables, Report of



GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER,  
OCEAN ISLAND.

7th March, 1934.

G. O.

No. 14.

Sir,

In continuation of the Resident Commissioner's letter No. 83 of the 28th September, 1933, relative to the supply of a collection of photographs of Gilbert Island subjects taken by Mrs. Maude and yourself, I am directed by the Resident Commissioner to inform you that the High Commissioner has been notified that the collection presented by you has been greatly appreciated by the Secretary of State, who has requested that an expression of his thanks may be conveyed to you.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary to the Government.

H. E. Maude Esq.,

Administrative Officer,

Southern Gilberts.

University Registry,  
Cambridge.

21 MAR 1934

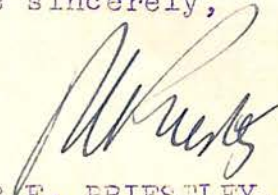
Dear Sir,

£3. 3s.

The sum of ~~£1.11s.6d.~~ is due from you in payment of the Administration Fee as a Research Student for the Michaelmas term, 1933, and the Lent term 1934.

I should be glad to receive this amount at your early convenience.

Yours sincerely,



R.E. PRIESTLEY,  
Secretary of the  
Board of Research Studies.

Cheques should be made payable to the  
Assistant Registry for Research Studies.

H.E. Maude, Esq.

Island of Beru,

Central Pacific,

2nd April, 1934.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 14th December, 1933, informing me that the sum of £1.11.6. is due from me in payment of the Administration Fee as a Research Student for the Michaelmas term, 1933, I enclose herewith the sum mentioned, together with an additional £3.3.0. in payment of the Administration Fees for the Lent and Easter terms, 1934, which should be due by the time this letter reaches you.

Yours sincerely,

H. E. Maude.

The Secretary of the Board  
of Research Studies,  
University Registry,  
Cambridge, England.



University Registry,  
Cambridge.

14 DEC 1933

Dear Sir,

The sum of £1.11s.6d. is due from you in payment of the Administration Fee as a Research Student for the Michaelmas term, 1933.

I should be glad to receive this amount at your early convenience.

Yours sincerely,



R.E. PRIESTLEY,  
Secretary of the  
Board of Research Studies.

Cheques should be made payable to the  
Assistant Registry for Research Studies.

H.E. Maude, Esq.

REGISTRY OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CAMBRIDGE

23 October 1933

Received of H. E. Daudé, Esq.

the sum of £ 3 : 3 : -

Administration - Lent and Easter Terms 1933 - Fees

Cynil H. Batchelor

for R. E. PRIESTLEY,  
Assistant Registrar (Research Studies)



University Registry,  
Cambridge.

16 JUN 1933

Dear Sir,

£3. 3s.

The sum of ~~£1.11s.6d.~~ is due from you in payment of the Administration Fee as a Research Student for the Lent and ~~year~~, Easter terms 1933.

I should be glad to receive this amount at your early convenience.

Yours sincerely,



R.E. PRIESTLEY,  
Secretary of the  
Board of Research Studies.

Cheques should be made payable to the  
Assistant Registry for Research Studies.

H.E. Maude, Esq.

REGISTRY OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CAMBRIDGE

8 day 1933

Received of J. E. Claude, Esq.

the sum of £ 1 : 11 : 6

Administration - Mich. Term 1932 Fees

Cyril H. Batchelor

for R. E. PRIESTLEY,  
Assistant Registrar (Research Studies)

Island of Beru,  
8th August, 1933.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 28th March informing me that the sum of £1.11.6 is due from me in payment of the Administration Fee as a Research Student for the Lent term, 1933, I enclose herewith the sum mentioned, together with an additional £1.11.6 in payment of the Administration Fee for the Easter term, 1933, which must be due by now.

The Administration Fee for the Michaelmas term, 1932, was sent under cover of my letter of the 20th March, 1933. As I am working on an extremely isolated group of islands where mails are only received some from times a year the delay in transmission of my fees was unavoidable and due to no fault of my own.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H.E. Maude.

H.E. Maude.

The Secretary of the Board  
of Research Studies,  
University Registry,  
Cambridge, England.

University Registry,  
Cambridge.

28 MAR 1933

Dear Sir,

£3. 3s.

The sum of ~~£1.11s.6d.~~ is due from you in payment of the Administration Fee as a Research Student for the Michaelmas term, 1932 and the Lent Term 1933.

I should be glad to receive this amount at your early convenience.

Yours sincerely,



R.E. PRIESTLEY,  
Secretary of the  
Board of Research Studies.

Cheques should be made payable to the  
Assistant Registry for Research Studies.

H.E. Maude, Esq.

Island of Beru,

20th March, 1933.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 15th December, 1932, informing me that the sum of £1.11.6. is due from me in payment of the Administration Fee as a Research Student for the Michaelmas term, 1932, I enclose herewith the sum mentioned.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed). H. E. Maude.

H. E. Maude.

The Secretary of the Board  
of Research Studies,  
University Registry,  
Cambridge. England.

University Registry,  
Cambridge.

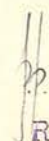
15 DEC 1932

Dear Sir,

The sum of £1.11s.6d. is due from you in payment of the Administration Fee as a Research Student for the Michaelmas term, 1932.

I should be glad to receive this amount at your early convenience.

Yours sincerely,

  
R.E. PRIESTLEY,  
Secretary of the  
Board of Research Studies *sm*

Cheques should be made payable to the  
Assistant Registry for Research Studies.

H.E. Maude, Esq.



June 1934

Ocean Island.

Dear H.E.M.,

What marvellous news. Cartwright is to go down under you at Beru. That will teach Pop where to get off. The Nimanoa hopped in last night 12 pm (Sat) and I understand sails on Monday at noon en route for that pearl of the Southern Gilberts - Tabiteuea, and so to Beru.

Well, now for some shop. The arrangements for distribution of officers as far as is decided at the moment is as follows. I think Pop will hang on at Tarawa until relieved by A.C.F.A. in August. A.C.F.A. takes over Northern and Central Gilberts. Steenson to go to Tarawa almost at once to take over from Young, who leaves the Colony for good at the expiration of his term. Carthorse to be A.O.S.G. and you L.C. I am to go to the Ellice in August to relieve Kennedy who will take short leave and then return as A.O.E.I. and L.C. combined. It does not matter his starting his L.C. work after the 1st July as he has been recommended by J.C.B. for confirmation in his post as A.O. and will draw his salary as an A.O. unlike you who are drawing it as L.C. Then when Kennedy returns to the Ellice, I take over the south from Carthorse and I presume he returns here for a course in the Treasury! The whole arrangements have been upset because Macpherson is to get 6 months extra leave to go home. Otherwise I understand he would have gone to Tarawa and Steenson would have gone to the Ellice and acted as A.O.

At present I am Acting A.O.O.I. and am doing all the Court work. It has been hell lately however for I have been in bed for a month with phlebitis. (probably spelt wrong - ask K.R.S.) It was the thing Turnbull died of the other day. As the European Hospital was full the Clarkes kindly had me down there and looked after me. Old Clarke used to sit by my bed and say "Its tough Mac, Freddie Turnbull was a strong man, but he went out to it, same thing as you have got too. You had better make your will" etc etc. However I am on my legs again now and hopping around.

There is plenty of A.O. work to do here if you look for it. I am getting to know them slowly though it is a slow job as they view all A.O.s with mistrust. You will I know be very sorry indeed to hear that old Eri has died of dysentery. A great pity. Barley had met him and liked him immensely. There was a tremendous funeral and all Banabans attended. I would

have attended too but I was in bed. All the Banaban schoolboys came over on the Nimanoa and there is no provision in the Estimates for the next year for their education as the Banabans want to see whether they have benefitted by it so far.

News from this crag. One of the Bentley sons has been here for some time now and goes on the next Triona. Harold Bentley is here with the E.L.Ls. Roger Greene has come back, but I expect K.R.S. knows by now. The Treasury offices are complete and the Treasury staff inside O.K. There was one really Gilbertian effort however. Having built the strong room there they hauled the safe down and found that the safe would not go in through the door of the strong room, so it all had to be pulled down. Good old Alf! I suppose you have heard all the new Estimates scheme by now. The B.P.C. are going to guarantee our revenue, ie pay nothing but make up the deficit in one lump sum. Sort of commuted taxation arrangement but they always balance the budget. No word of this please even to Carthorse as its rather confidential. No definite news yet of the members of the Advisory Council here, S.G.C. tells me the following will be on however, J.C.B. S.G.C. C.A.S. MAYNARD BLISS MURDOCH . Keep this under the old hat though.

Do you remember letter re rations, whether ration allowance or rations of "exotic foodstuffs" issued was best. Barley sent on ~~all~~ excerpts from letters from you and I and Kennedy and from S.M.O. and KRS. The A.Os were solidly for Ration Allowances and the M.Os for rations issued. Barley did not comment much in his despatch. The answer has just arrived from the H.C. and he says I notice there is considerable divergence of opinion on this , the A.Os plumping solidly for a Ration Allowance in cash and the M.O.s doing the exact opposite. I propose there that the present system shall be given a years extended trial and then another survey be made. HOORAY ! because Macpherson will be S.M.O. by then I suppose. Re name changing too. The first thing I did on my arrival here was to write in a letter as A.O.O.I. and sock it for all I was worth. Barley has written a wizard despatch and said that he has consulted his <sup>all</sup> A.Os , (You as A.O.C.G. and A.O.S.G. and I as A.O.N.G and A.O.O.I.!) and they are of the unanimous opinion that the custom is O.K. I think he recommends that there be no fee for changing or adding names but that people so doing must register the same under penalty of a small fine. A pity but I think it is really a victory for us. He could scarcely recommend less in view of H.Cs letter. Cannot remember any lore shop for the moment so I will go on later. I am trying to get some potatoes and onions on Monday morning

for you. I am also sending some papers with Carthorse for you both.

Oh yes. We have the Beershop of Polynesia with us at the moment, a fellow by the name of Kempthorne, and a very decent egg indeed. He was going on to Suva by the warship but the warship is not coming now as it has been delayed by docking arrangements. It will visit Funafuti only. So the Bish hops off on Triona in mid week.

Bit of a sod being shoved off to the Ellice for 6 months though I am very keen to go there, but it will set back my Gilbertese a lot, blast and damn. However I will plough on through the Gilbertese books I have, and am going to try and wangle a Gilbertese orderly down there.

Barley is a splendid egg, and I have put in a long howl about revising the island regs. He says he intends to call a conference of A.O.s on the subject. So I said well Sir can we have the conference where H.E.M. is sitting as L.C because I will want some moral support. He roared with applause and said he would try and fix it somehow! But he is up to his eyes in work at the moment. This blasted B.P.C. taxation arrangement has taken so long to get through with the next years estimates. And my oath it is pretty tough, There are letters from the H.C. which arrived here in March 1932 which Pop did not answer. We thought when we were in the office that all the M.Ps were in Pops study but we were sadly out. One day when he had gone to Tarawa to clear up our mess re the pits trouble Barley strolled into his bedroom and found some 100 M.Ps under his bed!!! Now every mail we are getting howls "When may I expect..... dated ..... 1932. You cannot blame him for neglecting the Group at the moment with that sort of thing he must clear up Pops mess. Blast the latters soul! Cartwright told me a.m. that he had done nothing at Tarawa except type Inventory boards, and he said he told Barley this in a letter. When I got to Church parade this a.m. Barley came up to me and said "Well have you heard how the old man is?" So I said I did not know but that Carthorse had found him pretty trying and his work had been limited to typing inventories. He roared with applause and said "Has Cartwright told you how the Major discovered an uninventoried box of drawing pins, and nearly blew up? So I laughed and said "No! But beleive me he has the veteran SUMMED UP TO A T. Well snip held over Monday night, but I must end now. Very sorry no potatoes or onions available. Triona due in 3.0.p.m. today but I do not think Barley intends to hold Nimanoa for the mails.

P.T.O.

Well, I must fly. I have given Carthorse a little present to the Lands Commissioner. It was pinched from the office under E.L.Ls nose so tai karongoa. Carthorse is very keen on canoe sailing so I have told him to get a few practical tips from the old Constable, who has both the practise and theory of canoe sailing taped as far as I remember.

Well, my salaams to the wife, and I'm very sorry about the potatoes. No news yet as who recruiting officer will be. Nauru Chief is to do it early in August so Maynard said yesterday. I know Father wants the job but Maynard does not want to goto Tarawa first.

Nimanoa is due back here again fairly soon, as soon as K.R.S has taken over at Tarawa, Young will amble across here.

Well, ting ting and give old Giblets heell, and dont let the Rev. Sadd put anything over you, and best of luck on the Lands Commission.

Yrs,

*R. Macdonald*

*No time to read it though.*

Island of Bern,

July, 1934

Dear Mr. Bailey,

Many thanks for your letter which was duly  
forwarded to me at Tahitanea by Captain Singleton. We  
had a very long time indeed on Tahitanea in the course  
of which we walked a cycle for end to end. It is afraid that  
I did not have a minute to work out any  
details as to the Lands Commission while on the  
Island but once Cartwright is safely <sup>ensured</sup> in his new  
position I shall be able to concentrate on preliminary  
plans etc.

"Huaia" arrived unexpectedly on the 29<sup>th</sup> June  
but we guessed she was in a hurry and managed to  
get all our things on board before dark. Hence I  
was able to land and formally had as to  
Cartwright on the 30<sup>th</sup> June as you desired. We all  
like what we hear of him and he has certainly  
been working hard since his arrival at mastering the  
intricacies of his new work ~~very fortunately he does not~~  
~~appear to be too proud to ask for advice.~~

I took Cartwright <sup>yesterday</sup> to the first meeting of a  
Native Court he had seen and he seemed quite impressed.  
I shall have to spend two or three weeks putting him  
straight on things - even the simplest things we had when  
we had never been to a Native Court and never seen a  
Cash Surveyor or made out a receipt. Fortunately he does  
not appear to be too proud to ask for advice.

I was very glad to hear that you will be coming to the Gilberts in a month or two. I had intended to ask if I might go over and see you before starting but as if you are coming here it will, of course, be much better any way. On thinking things over carefully I don't really think it will be satisfactory starting the Lardo Commission paper until I have had an opportunity of discussing with you certain problems which arise, in order that there may be continuity from the start. A few hours conversation with you would, I believe, save months of delay and it should not take longer, as I would have all the points tabulated and ready for you should you decide not to come over. I should be grateful if I could visit you for a day or two.

I am not very anxious to commence the actual Commission work in Bern, although I told you in my telegram that it could be done, but it will take some time to do all the preliminary <sup>work in the case of the Gilberts</sup> little work, first with the Baratar Lardo Register, by which time Antwright should be able to manage without difficulty. I could then proceed to Anraal and work the Commission work from there, which would be more satisfactory as I would gain experience before any serious trouble is met, which will be here in Bern.

We thoroughly enjoyed our stay in Tolitona - they certainly are the folk of the Gilberts and

3

out a contrast after the mouse Ruthless. Whichever way  
my it being to leave the island. My eyes were  
thoroughly opened to the ~~unpleasant~~<sup>unpleasantness</sup> of some of the  
restrictions imposed on the islanders and I sincerely hope  
you will allow me to be present at the  
forthcoming a o' conference - we've been taking notes etc.  
on the laws for the meeting. In fact of chief way is  
that you may consider that my record at L.C. necessarily  
means my living touch with native problems other than  
those affecting land. ~~At all~~, but ~~perhaps~~ are of a kind

My wife has been ~~mean~~<sup>mean</sup> to write to Mrs  
Baird but with ~~packing~~<sup>packing</sup> all ~~unpacking~~<sup>unpacking</sup> and two extra  
for meals she has not had a moment. Catrington is  
staying with us for a week or so and the  
guy into the Doctor's house

~~For affairs to be settled~~

~~the three affairs to be settled to take so much  
the fact of the world as follows as quiet as  
ever though not believed by heretical authors of  
insanity or the fact of the Father.~~

Happy to see you here in the very near  
future,

Yours sincerely,



Montevideo 1<sup>er</sup> Juillet 1934

Messieurs et Madame,

Les Sœurs Yves et Julienne et le P. Chollet vous souhaitent la bienvenue et ont l'honneur de vous présenter leurs hommages; veuillez accepter ce petit présent de quelques bananes, c'est excellent après un long voyage et c'est un plaisir pour nous de pouvoir vous les offrir.

Votre, tout respectueusement,

Eug. Chollet  
no.

Taburui in Bem,

6<sup>th</sup> July, 1934.

Dear Father Chablot,

Many thanks indeed for the excellent bunch of bananas which you so kindly sent me shortly after our arrival and for the kind sentiments which accompanied the gift. I am sure you will excuse my apparent rudeness in not replying before for, as you will realise, we have been up to our necks in work trying to get as many letters written as possible before the departure of the "Kumara".

The Resident Commissioner has very kindly sent Mr. G. T. Cartwright to relieve me of the work of District administration in order that I may be able to commence the native lands settlement. It seems probable that Mr. Cartwright will act as Administrative Officer here for a few months until Mr. Macdonald, who is at present assisting Mr. Barley at Ocean Island, is able to come and take over the District permanently. I have not decided yet where I shall start the lands work - Mr. Barley is anxious that I should stay in Bem until Mr. Cartwright, who has recently come from England, has learnt his new duties, but I do not expect that will take long and I shall probably then start work on Anua.



My wife asks if you will please write her  
to the sisters and <sup>say that she</sup> hopes that they are both well.

With kind regards from us both,

Yours sincerely,

With reference to my letter No. 9 of the

Sir,

30th June, 1934.

Southern Gilbert Islands,

Island of Bern,

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

No. 66.

S. G.



Parawa  
10<sup>th</sup> July/34

Dear Mr. Maude

I developed your film pack & regret to inform you the whole lot were duds. I then developed some of the other packs which I had taken & found they were the same so I took out the undeveloped films & examined them under the ruby lamp & found that not only were they all stained as if damp or water had got at them but they were all buckled up & crinkled too. Under the circumstances I ~~am~~ can positively state that no one could have got any better results from them. I enclose two samples to show you how they were & you can see the films were much too old. A very good tip is if you are not going to use the films at once wrap them up carefully in waxed paper (rubbed with a candle) & then them away in a box of cheap dried tea. Every now & then taking out the tea & baking it dry & repacking; the tea takes up any moisture & preserves the films. Kind regards to Mrs. Maude & yourself.

Yours sincerely,  
W. A. J. C. C. C.

Island of Beru,  
Central Pacific.

16th July, 1934.

Dear Colonel Hodson,

I must offer you a thousand apologies for not having written for so long - I have been meaning to write for ages but I kept postponing it as I really did not know what was going to happen to me.

Soon after receiving the notification from the Board of Research Studies that I was admitted as a Research Student (which did not reach me until well into 1933) it seemed probable that I would have to be transferred to the Secretariat in Suva, Fiji, which would, of course, have meant the end of all my plans. Since then everything has been most undecided until May, when I was overjoyed at being given the permanent job of Commissioner for Native Lands. This was a result of my doing the Lands Commission on Banaba in 1932. My new position starts from the 1st July and I am to create, or rather revive, a Gilbertese Lands Commission, to consist of natives only, who are to sit on each island in turn under my aegis to ascertain and codify the correct native customs with regard to land inheritance, tenure and kindred subjects and then adjudicate on all land disputed in accordance with what we find to be the custom.

The job is really applying anthropological principles all the time as there is absolutely no written law on the subject and no interference is to be made with any native customs - we are simply to ascertain them and apply them to each case.

Obtain Obtaining this position will, of course, greatly facilitate my anthropological studies although I have never, since I became a Research Student, had to give them up in any way. Indeed, I have been fortunate during the last year in having been able to visit each of the 16 islands of the group at least once and have thus had many opportunities of comparing the social organisation on other islands with that obtaining on Beru.

As to my work - I have been very worried at discovering recently that I should send a formal certificate or report every six months stating that I am pursuing my course of research. I am not at all sure, however, what form this certificate should take - I have kept a record of my work since I became a research student and could, if you think it best, tabulate what I have done during each six months period, but I wonder if it would be possible for me to submit my certificates to you personally on my return home on leave - I am quite confident that I should be able to satisfy you that I have regularly and diligently pursued my research work. I do pray that my not having submitted formal certificates will not have nullified all the work I have done here but I only noticed that there was a clause about them this month on re-reading, for another purpose, the Regulations. I must throw myself on your clemency in this matter and, if you desire, or consider the Board must have, the certificates or reports now, they shall be made out at once in any form you prefer. Unfortunately, while the Board of Research Studies regularly notified me of fees due them, which fees I have duly paid, they never notified me that any certificates or reports were due from me. If my omission is a serious one I

sincerely hope that I may be permitted to rectify my error as I really believe I have some first class material for my final year at Cambridge. I am sure that I should be able to convince yourself or the Board, by my volume of notes and knowledge of the subject, that I have been "diligently carrying out my proposed course of research", but I am not at all sure what I must do from here to satisfy the provisions of the Regulations - 8 and 22 are the ones in question.

Since I last wrote to you I have been concentrating, naturally, on social anthropology and fighting a weakness that leads me to branch off into more mechanical and less fatiguing subjects such as material culture and the recording of technological processes. Among other things I have:-

(a) Completed a survey of the territorial divisions (Kainga) of the exogamous clans on Beru as they existed when the clan system was in its prime. (The fact that the Gilbertese clans were not only social groupings but also lived apart in separate clan districts does not appear to have been touched on previously).

(b) Made a study of the rights of property ownership possessed by the Gilbertese clans and in particular their peculiar rights over fishing areas in the lagoon and sea around the atolls.

(c) Completed a historical survey into the two main maneaba types in the Gilberts - the "Tabo-n te Bike" and "Tabiang" types - dealing with the legends of the first arrival of the maneaba builders, the actual building, the genesis of each clan and their entry into the maneaba, the allocation of clan sitting places and the rights and

liabilities of each clan.

(d) Commenced and partially completed the recording of the genealogical tables of the clans from the time of the creation of the world.

(e) Completed a study (on Tarawa Island) of the actual building of the maneaba - the architectural principles and measurements employed by the builders, the differences between the various types, the magical formulae necessary and the method of building from start to finish. I was fortunate in being able to study this important section of my work under Mautake of Tarawa and his father, who are acknowledged to be the finest master-builders in the Gilberts today. Mautake's father is the last to know the old magic ritual associated with the building of the maneaba and I at length prevailed upon him to allow me to record the whole process of building, including the secret chants and formulae.

(f) Continued work on the relationship system of the Gilbertese, including the reciprocal rights and duties of various relations, prohibited degrees in marriage etc.

(g) Traced and copied out every known reference to the Gilbertese or the Gilbert Islands and prepared a complete bibliography on the subject. (I did this during a short vacation in New Zealand during August and September, 1932. Most of the work was done in the Auckland Museum and Institute and the Turnbull Library at Wellington and I believe that we have now got our bibliography on the subject virtually complete. All the shorter references and articles we typed or copied out and nearly all the longer articles, books etc. have been purchased for me by Francis Edwards).



These are the main studies that I have been engaged on with a particular view to my thesis but I have been working on several other subjects more or less linked with the main theme, as I am anxious not to miss a chance of recording notes on any aspect of Gilbertese life for fear that another opportunity might not come.

I enclose copies of a monograph which we have recently published in the Journal of the Polynesian Society on "The Social Organisation of Banaba". Since writing it I have decided to give up preparing articles for publication while actually in the field as it interferes so much with the more valuable work which can only be done while actually living out here. However my wife and I have just sent in the first of a series of four articles on String Figures which, I believe, to be published in the near future. My own contribution to it is the introduction and a section on the magical significance of the figures. You will find an account of some of our activities at page 322 of the Journal of the Polynesian Society for December, 1932. I enclose an extract in case you or the Board might desire to see it.

Things are quite gay out here now that we have two new Anthropologists among the tiny group of Europeans in the Gilberts - both straight from work under you. I expect you remember P.D. Macdonald as he took a degree but I doubt if you knew much of A.L. Sadd, who was primarily a Theological Student. He is now out here and on Beru working as a missionary for the London Missionary Society and he assures me he took a course in anthropology under you. He's a most extraordinary freak at first sight but we both like him and he is

certainly fighting hard to get a few modern methods and ideas into the local mission.

I was fortunate in Macdonald being sent as my assistant for nearly a year. He lived with us and we all got along together excellently. Between us we ran the whole Gilbert Group from June, 1933 to this April and as naturally we both see eye to eye as regards administration we had continuity in policy in all 16 islands, based on the application of anthropological methods. The Acting Resident Commissioner at Ocean Island, being hopelessly incompetent, left us severely alone so there was no opposition, except for the Roman Catholic Bishop who sent in a complaint that the natives were being spoilt, immorality and filthy customs creeping in and I don't know what else. I have been accused of encouraging native dancing and games, with refusing to prohibit pre-marital intercourse and, worst of all, with refusing to punish natives who openly admitted being pagans! Previously, apparently, anyone who did not outwardly profess Christianity was liable to a fine or imprisonment. Needless to say I only kept the written law and refused to add laws of my own or those of the churches, and I smashed all the petty regulations made, quite illegally, by the Native Governments. Macdonald is a regular fire-eater and, with his staunch advocacy of native rights, has completely upset the worthy Ministers of the Roman Church. Luckily, now Sadd is amongst them, it takes a lot to upset the Protestants.

Mr. Barley, the new Resident Commissioner, is a splendid man and has exactly the same ideas as Macdonald and myself. We are to

have a conference at which a complete revision is to be made of the laws in order to make them somewhat less Western in concept and more adapted to the psychology of the natives.

I must not bother you with local gossip any further as I have an all-important point which I want to ask you about. I had intended coming to Cambridge for the 1934-35 year but I am afraid that it is quite impossible for me to obtain any leave until about December next year. Will it be all right if I commence my final (third) year towards my Degree in the Easter term, 1936? I have read right through the Regulations and can find nowhere where it says that the number of terms must necessarily be kept continuously. In fact Regulation 14 states that the Board may allow a student to submit his dissertation later than his twelfth term and rule 10 of the "Memorandum to Research Students" states that permission to delay the submission of a dissertation may be received and approved by the Board. I would naturally prefer to go on leave straight away but the Colony is so short handed that I haven't the faintest hope of being granted leave. Furthermore, I have only just been promoted to the Lands Commissionership and it would be most impolitic to press for leave at this moment. Actually of course, I shall be pursuing my studies all the time and could pay my fees as before.

I am very sorry to have to bother you with my troubles when you must be busy enough as it is but I am fearful of being struck off from being a research student through no lack of diligence in my studies but through my unwittingly transgressing some formality of the Board, owing to my peculiar and exceptional position at the very ends of the earth where I

8.

can obtain no local advice.

With kindest regards from my wife and myself and thanking you for the invaluable help and encouragement you have given us in the past,

Yours sincerely,

H. E. MAUDE

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

Island of Beru,  
Southern Gilbert Islands,  
22nd July, 1934.

Dear Captain Holland,

I must apologise for not having answered your letter before on the system of spelling Gilbertese. The delay was due to the quite abnormal pressure of work while I was at Tarawa, which left me with no leisure for any writing or thoughts other than those immediately associated with administration. However I hope that the following few notes on points which have occurred to me may not be too late and may prove of some use, although I am afraid that my knowledge of the Gilbertese language is too slight for me to be able to pose in any way as an authority.

2. Before proceeding to more detailed observations I must say that what seems to me to be one of the most important points in my discussion on the spelling of Gilbertese appears to be largely ignored by local writers on the language, that is - the necessity of the systems of writing, spelling, hyphenation or diacritical marks adopted for the Gilbertese language being, as far as possible, the same as those generally agreed upon by philologists for the use of related Pacific languages. After all Gilbertese is not an isolated language set down in the middle of the Pacific, but one in which almost every point of grammatical structure and most of the vocabulary is to be found in allied Polynesian and Melanesian dialects; it forms, in short, an interesting blend  
of Polynesian

of Polynesian and Melanesian languages, tinged with Malay, Polynesian words apparently predominating in the vocabulary and Melanesian constructions in the grammar. I would urge, therefore, that the rules now agreed upon by comparative philologists for the better known and more important cognate languages should be, in the absence of any special circumstances, adopted for use locally.

The use of the letters B and P.

3. The sound indicated by B or P is undoubtedly one intermediate between the English b and p. The sound varies to a remarkable extent, not only in different islands but also when employed by different individuals on the same island and even by the same individual on different occasions. I have more than once heard a distinct B (or P) used by a native when saying such words as "ba" or "bai" but, on requesting the enunciator to repeat himself before other Europeans, the sound is usually found to be completely changed. There is probably no other point in the Gilbertese language on which Europeans are inclined to be more dogmatic than this use of B or P. I have heard, at various times, advocates of each of the following schools:-

- (a) Those who hear a B,
- (b) Those who hear a P,
- (c) Those who hear a B or P according to the word enunciated. (For example, they hear "ba" meaning rock and "pa" meaning leaf or "bai" meaning thing and "pai" meaning arm.),
- (d) Those who hear a B or P according to the island of the speaker. (Usually P for a Northern and B for a Southern Gilbertese.)

These arguments have always appeared to me to be mutually contradictory and thus to furnish the true answer, that the sound is neither B nor P but intermediate. Dr. Bingham's

note, written as long ago as 1863, would appear to be as true now as then, "B represents a sound intermediate between B and P. In a few instances its analogy to B proper is seemingly quite marked, and in others to P, but in the great mass of instances no past experience has been able to decide certainly whether the sound be a soft sound for P, as sounded when no special effort is made to give it its distinguishing characteristic".<sup>1</sup>

Of other writers on the Gilbertese language, Hale, the first authority, uses both B and P. For example he gives "pu" for a conch shell and "piroto" for stomach, but "ibu" for a cup and "buruburu" for fur.<sup>2</sup> P. Latium Lévêque, in his study entitled "Vocabulaire Arorae" uses only the P<sup>3</sup> and his example has been followed by all later Catholic writers, notably Brother John in his recently published grammar<sup>4</sup> and the Roman Catholic Dictionary.<sup>5</sup>

4. As to whether the letter B or P should represent this peculiar sound, I should myself prefer P, as bringing Gilbertese into line with other Polynesian languages, since the letter P has been chosen, in every Polynesian language except Tongan, to represent what would appear to be a somewhat similar sound. Since, however, all the best literature in Gilbertese has been written using the letter B and the Catholics, who were the sole advocates of P, have now apparently come into line with the majority, (vide their quarterly - "Te Nutipepa" - for July, 1934), it would appear to be more advantageous that the now unanimous use of the

<sup>1</sup> Bingham, - "Outlines of Gilbert Islands Grammar". - 1922.

<sup>2</sup> Hale, H., - "Ethnography and Philology of the United States Exploring Expedition" - 1846.

<sup>3</sup> Lévêque, P. Latium, - "Vocabulaire Arorai (Iles Gilbert)" - 1887.

<sup>4</sup> Brother John, - "A Gilbertese Grammar and Vocabulary".

<sup>5</sup> Dictionary, English - Kiribati and Kiribati - English - 1931.

of the B should be retained and officially sanctioned than that renewal of discord should be invited in an attempt to enforce a perhaps rather academic point. In this connection I should like to quote the words of E.E.V. Collocott on the use of the B in Tongan, since they afford a remarkable parallel to the situation as regards Gilbertese. He states,

"B and P are both used by Mariner who was in the group at the beginning of the 19th Century, B alone is used by the English Methodist Mission, and P alone by the French Catholic Mission. Dr. Baker used both. The dictionary committee of 1918, which included representatives of the Government, and of the English and French mission bodies, decided, undoubtedly correctly, to employ but one symbol for a sound which it is sometimes difficult to distinguish as voiced or unvoiced. The practical difficulty of deciding whether it was to be B or P remained unsolved in the few meetings that were held. I have written B, not as an expression of my opinion that it is the better symbol to employ, but because it is used by far the most important part of existing Tongan literature. As a matter of personal preference I have come to think that if a fresh start could be made P would be the better symbol".<sup>6</sup>

The use of the letter P in incorporated foreign words.

5. I am strongly of the opinion that non-native words introduced into Gilbertese and containing, in their foreign form, consonants not found in the language, should invariably have these consonants changed to their nearest Gilbertese approximations. They should be written, in fact, in the manner in which they are pronounced by the Gilbertese, using the 13 letters in the language, and without employing a, to the Gilbertese, meaningless series of foreign symbols.

Fortunately, however, this is almost invariably done by most  
 writers  
<sup>6</sup>Collocott, E.E.V. - Supplementary Tongan Vocabulary". J.P.S.



writers in the language, France becoming Buranti, New Guinea becoming Nu Kini etc; the solitary exception to the virtually universal procedure being Mr. Grimble's rule in question, to the effect that foreign words introduced into Gilbertese, if they happen to contain the English symbol P, should retain that letter while not, of course, retaining its peculiar pronunciation. This arbitrary rule appears to be as illogical as it must be confusing to the ordinary native. We have agreed that the Gilbertese sound intermediate between B and P shall be represented by the symbol B. Why then, since the new Gilbertese word "Betero" is pronounced "Betero" and not "Peter" or even "Petero", should it be spelt "Petero"? Or why should "beba" be spelt "pepa" if it is pronounced "beba" and not "paper"? If it be retorted that "Petero" is an attempt to retain the original English pronunciation, surely the word should be spelt "Hite", and not "Petero", where the P is a meaningless foreign symbol, the E's are pronounced as A in "face" and the O is a euphonic embellishment. Presumably Mr. Grimble's rule should logically be made to apply to Polynesian words introduced into Gilbertese, such as "loupa", a plank or board, but this would appear to be quite impracticable. Actually, consonant-changing is a marked and almost universal feature of Polynesian and other Pacific languages and applies not only to words borrowed from related dialects but also to those taken from various European languages, and I would submit that nothing is to be gained by interfering with the accepted laws of consonant-change in the case of one arbitrarily selected letter.

The representation

The representation of the sound "Ng".

6. The sound written until recently as "Ñ" or "G" is undoubtedly a nasalised G and is pronounced exactly as "Ng" in "singing". Writers on Gilbertese have represented this sound in a variety of ways, Hale employs the symbol "Ñ", P. Letiun Lévêque, followed by all later Catholics, use G and Dr. Bingham, together with all the Protestant Mission have "Ñ". The sound is common to most Polynesian languages but, while in New Zealand and the Cook Islands it was represented by "Ng" from the beginning, in Samoa, Tonga, Mangarova and the Paumotuans the letter G was, at any rate until recently, the symbol employed. Modern philologists are all agreed, however, that the sound "Ng" should be represented as "Ng" and the method of writing it in the various Pacific languages is being gradually altered as circumstances permit, to conform to this rule. The following excerpt from a recently published work by Te Rangi Hiroa on Samoa will illustrate the change that is taking place:-

"The "Ng" sound is present but was unfortunately represented by the compilers of the alphabet as G. This usage has become official and is a source of confusion to those not acquainted with it. The important naval station in Tutuila through being written as Pago Pago is usually pronounced by the travelling public as Pay-go Pay-go or Pag-go Pag-go instead of Pango Pango. Even at this late period, the erroneous G should be altered to Ng. To facilitate comparison with other Polynesian dialects, the lead given by Handy in representing the Ng sound by the letters Ng will be followed in this work. It was done originally with the dialects of New Zealand and the Cook Islands and has given complete satisfaction."<sup>7</sup>

In my

<sup>7</sup> Te Rangi Hiroa (Dr. H. P. Buck), - "Samoa Material Culture"

In my opinion, therefore, the letters "Ng" should be the only ones employed for representing the sound "ŋg" and the use of the G or N̄ should be discontinued. This, however, has apparently now been done by both Missions<sup>8</sup>, so in this respect there is a most encouraging uniformity.

The use of a diacritical mark to indicate long vowels.

7. I am in thorough agreement with you that the use of this diacritical mark should be discontinued. As you state, it offends against simplicity, it causes endless trouble when typewriting, it will never be adopted by the ordinary native, who does not require diacritical marks as aids to correct pronunciation, and it has been arbitrarily selected, for no clear reason, from among the various marks used by philologists to indicate changes in vowel sound. The following diacritical marks for indicating vowel quantity have now been generally accepted as suitable for the use of students of Polynesian philology - (-), (^), (¨), (ˇ), (·), of which the one selected by Mr. Grimble indicates, "an inherently long vowel unaugmented by fusion, or a vowel not inherently long, but augmented by the enclitic effect of certain suffixes and particles, such as - a, -na and ra."<sup>9</sup>

If we must have diacritical marks to indicate vowel quantity let us have the whole system but, in actual fact, such signs were never meant for employment in ordinary writing but only for use in specialized studies written by comparative philologists.

The hyphenating

<sup>8</sup> Cf. Miss E.M. Pateman, "Te Oto-Rongorongo ao Tuaru te Taetae ni Kiribati" - L.M.S. 1934 and the Roman Catholic quarterly, "Te Nuipepa" for July, 1934.

<sup>9</sup> J. P. Stimson, - "A system of diacritical marks designed to facilitate the comparative study of the Polynesian languages". J.P.S. 1930.

The hyphenating of certain suffixes.

8. After giving the matter careful consideration I am afraid that I must still express myself as being utterly opposed to the use of hyphens to indicate suffixes. My objections appear to fall into the following two groups:-

(a) The hyphenation of suffixes is not a rule, so far as I can ascertain, in any other Pacific language in which suffixed parts of speech occur and it seems a distinct pity that Gilbertese should not conform, as far as possible, to the systems adopted for the use of allied and neighbouring dialects. Suffixed parts of speech are a common feature of Melanesian languages and are <sup>not</sup> unknown in Polynesia. For example the Polynesian language of Futuna in the New Hebrides has suffixed possessive pronouns as in Gilbertese, "tanau" - your father, "tanana" - his father, etc.<sup>10</sup> and the Melanesian Kwara'ae language has, in addition, the suffixed genitive "-na", corresponding to the Gilbertese "-n" or "-ni".<sup>11</sup> In none of these dialects, and there are many of them, has it been found to be advantageous to hyphenate such suffixes.

(b) I have found, in actual practice, that the use of the hyphen is a definite source of confusion to even the well educated native. Among Europeans, I have yet to meet any two who employ the hyphen in the same manner and, indeed, the question whether any given suffix is a distinct part of speech and, if so, how much of the word it comprises, involves, too often, such niceties of grammatical sophistry that few Europeans, and certainly no native, can hope to write correct Gilbertese as long as they are compelled to hyphenate.

To take

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<sup>10</sup> Capell, Rev.A. - "Some Curiosities of Polynesian Possessives". J.P.S.

<sup>11</sup> Deck, Norman C. - "A Grammar of the Kwara'ae language".

To take only one example, the simple word

"tangiriko"

meaning "love you". How should this be hyphenated? For the sake of example, one may safely take the word to be formed of three parts:-

- (a) The verbal root - tangir-,
- (b) The connecting vowel -i-,
- (c) The suffixed pronoun -ko,

It is clear that any hyphenation is dependent entirely on the nature of the connecting vowel and, as to this there are, so far as I am aware, three schools of thought among the experts on the language:-

- (a) The "i" is a preposition through which the action of the verb passes to the object. In this case we have three parts of speech - verb, preposition and pronoun - and the word should presumably be written,

"tangir-i-ko".

- (b) The "i" is the initial vowel of the pronoun. In this case we have two parts of speech - verb and pronoun - and the word should presumably be written,

"tangir-iko".

- (c) The "i" is a euphonic connecting vowel. In this case we also have two parts of speech - verb and pronoun - but, as in the case of other euphonic connecting vowels, the "i" should be suffixed to the verbal root and the word should consequently be written,

"tangiri-ko".

When experts on the language differ so profoundly, how is the ordinary native to master such an intricate subject?

- 9. I personally found the use of hyphens a stumbling

block

block in my endeavours to master the Gilbertese language and I have not met a single native with even an elementary grasp of the rules. You consider that "Native understanding of this particular use of the hyphen will come once the plan of the language is taught in the schools" yet, while I am sure that the system has been loyally and consistently taught at the King George V school, in spite of the fact that all my interpreters have been ex-students of that institution and men of exceptional intelligence, I have had to re-hyphenate every letter issued from my office. If, through all these years and with all their exceptional opportunities, the ex-students of Bairiki school have not been able to grasp the principles of correct hyphenation, what chance is there of an ordinary village schoolboy or schoolgirl ever obtaining the slightest idea of the subject.

10. I would urge that the simple rules laid down by Dr. Bingham as to the writing of suffixes, which have now apparently been adopted by both missions, should be adhered to by the government. Where there is virtual unanimity of opinion it would surely be foolish for us to stand out any longer as the unconforming party. I suggest therefore that:-

- (a) Suffixed possessive pronouns be in future written with the noun as one word, (including this use of -n or -ni and -ia),
- (b) Suffixed pronouns in the objective be written with the verb,
- (c) Compound words forming single concepts be written as one word for, as Dr. Bingham says, "why trouble natives to separate word in writing when the propriety of such separation is dubious?"
- (d) Every preposition should be written separately from other parts of speech even when forming compound

bound prepositions. (Subject to rule (a) ).  
 (Nako ia, mei rouia and i rouia form exceptions under certain circumstances).

The use of the apostrophe to mark a lost vowel  
(or Consonant)

11. I am against the use of any diacritical marks to indicate loss of vowel or consonant sounds except in specialised philological writings and, perhaps, dictionaries. Three marks are now generally used in this connection, the apostrophe (') to mark the loss of a vowel, the inverted comma (‘) to mark the extinction of a consonant with the hamzah (glottal closure or catch) and the inverted semi-colon (;) to mark the extinction of a consonant without the hamzah.<sup>12</sup> As in the case of the long vowel sign, however, these diacritical marks are not meant for ordinary day to day use. As you say, its use has virtually died out in the case of most words; where it is still strongly heard after H, B or K in certain words it can be indicated by a w as in "awenga", - a home, or "bwenarina", - a paddle. (The Roman Catholic Mission apparently prefers to represent the sound by the letter U). The same objection applies to Dr. Bingham's use of an inverted apostrophe to indicate the aspirate in foreign words beginning with H.

The omission, when writing, of letters dropped in speech.

12. With all due deference to Dr. Bingham's scholarship and experience, I am in favour of the rule, "omit nothing in writing". Few would deny that omissions, even though marked by an apostrophe, are a source of no little confusion to the ordinary English reader as well as to the comparative philologist. Apart from this fact, however,  
 if the

<sup>12</sup> Stinson, *ibid.*

if the native is to be taught to omit dropped letters he must also be taught the rules which Dr. Bingham devised to cover such omissions. These rules are no less than seven in number, of which the first contains four exceptions, and I would submit that it is not possible to teach village children such a mass of regulations. I quite believe that it must be easier to teach children to read if the vowels dropped in speech are also omitted in writing but this advantage must surely be more than counterbalanced by the difficulty that would later arise in teaching them to write, at any rate with correctness.

The use of the letter V in Gilbertese.

13. I should like to touch on a point omitted in your letter - the use of the letter V in Gilbertese. Dr. Bingham omitted the V in his Gilbertese alphabet consisting of 13 letters while P. Latium Lévêque used it throughout in substitution for W. Brother John considers that W and V are used indiscriminately one for the other. It might be a point worth considering, however, whether the W and V sounds are not really separate in Gilbertese, each having a distinct and fixed use. The Gilbertese alphabet, if such be the case, should consist of 14 letters and such words as "karewe" and "karewerewe", meaning "sweet" would be written, as they appear to me to be pronounced, "kareve" and "kareverewe". To my surprise I have found several natives, including an ex-Bairiki student, spontaneously using a V when writing certain words, which would appear to indicate that, to them, the V represents the sound in question more accurately than the W.

The order of



The order of the Gilbertese alphabet.

14. A further point not mentioned in your letter would seem to be of some importance - the order of the letters in the Gilbertese alphabet. Dr. Bingham's monumental Dictionary follows the rule of most Polynesian vocabularies of that date and places all the words commencing with a vowel before those having consonants, this order being first fixed by Dr. and Mrs. Bingham in the second Gilbertese Primer, published in 1865. The procedure, however, has not found favour with philologists and is gradually becoming obsolete. Even in the case of Gilbertese its use has never been adopted by the Catholic Mission. I would suggest that, in future, the order of letters as in the English alphabet should be used in all government publications.

Examples.

15. As requested, the following words and phrases have been re-written in accordance with the opinions expressed in the course of this letter.

- (1) Use of "B" and "P". Abaiang, rabakau, buoka, hwe, Betero, beba, boki, boti.
- (2) Long Vowels. Kan, kawa, tobibi, kai, takakaro, man, katoka i aon ta taibora.
- (3) Suffixed Possessive. Barau, tonua okina ni karaaki, e reke kaim naba.
- (4) Suffixed Objective. Noria, anganal, i buakoa, iriko, nakoiu.
- (5) Suffixed Genitive. I an, ia aram an kawa, araia I Matang, uani Beia te uua aei, i nanola someta.
- (6) Single Concepts. Aontano, aonaba, kamiwae.

- (7) Apostrophe.    Mane, bai.
- (8) Personal Pronoun.    Te aomata ae e raioi,  
aomata aika a raroi.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

Education Department,

Tarawa. 22nd September, 1934.

R. C.

No. 78.

Sir,

With reference to paragraph two of my letter No. 27 of the 27th March, on the subject of Gilbertese spelling, I have the honour to forward, attached hereto, copies of the replies therein mentioned. A summary of the opinions expressed is given below.

Enclosure 1-7.

2. "B" and "P". The following are in favour of using "B" exclusively: Mr. Eastman, Miss Pateman, Mr Maude, Mr Murdoch, Father Berclaz. The last-named gentleman would retain "P", however, for those foreign words beginning originally with that letter. The following favour the use of "B" and "P": Dr Young, Father Vocat.

"N". "G". "Ng". There is consensus of opinion for "Ng".

"Stroke over Long Vowels". The following are in favour of the mark: Mr Eastman, Father Berclaz. The following are against the mark: Miss Pateman, Dr Young, Mr. Maude, Mr Murdoch, Father Vocat. Miss Pateman, however, is inclined more than decided, and Mr Murdoch would

The Secretary

to the Government,

Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony,

Ocean Island.

would like the duplication of certain vowels.

"Hyphens". Again there is consensus of opinion. This is against their use.

"Apostrophe". The following favour the mark: Mr Eastman, Miss Pateman. The following are against it: Dr Young, Mr Maude, Mr Murdoch, Father Vocat. Dr Young and Father Vocat, However, advocate the substitution of "w". Father Berclaz did not enter an opinion here.

"Personal Pronouns". Mr Maude favoured the inclusion of personal pronouns. Mr Murdoch and Father Berclaz did not deal with the point. Dr Young was sympathetic with both sides. Mr Eastman, Miss Pateman, and Father Vocat were against their use.

3. It can be seen from the foregoing that the balance of opinion is for the Gilbertese language to be written with "B" exclusively; with "Ng"; without hyphens to indicate suffixes; without the stroke over long vowels; and without the apostrophe to show an obscure sound. There is greater unanimity than I had anticipated, and the prospect of securing a uniform method of spelling Gilbertese is distinctly hopeful.

4. I would now request His Honour's permission to my drawing up a set of rules based on the five points mentioned in the preceding paragraph, giving effect to the balance of opinion, and to my then tendering the rules to the Mission for acceptance.

5. Mr Maude, to whom I feel special thanks are due for his documentation, has brought up two fresh

points -

points - the use of the letter "V", and the order of the Gilbertese alphabet. But I think that it would be better to achieve, if we can, what has been prepared, before proceeding to any enlargement. Mr Maude's points might well be included in another step to be considered on a day, I hope, that will not be far distant.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed). F.G.L.Holland.

Superintendent of Education.

Tarawa.

22nd January, 1934.

Dear Mr Maude,

I have resolved to write to those with a close knowledge of Gilbertese to request views on the system of spelling of the language. It has been suggested that the language experts should be called together to discuss the question of spelling, but such a meeting would be hard to arrange. I am taking it upon myself therefore to attempt to serve the purposes of that meeting, first by writing a circular letter.

2. You will be aware that Mr Grimble, late Resident Commissioner, laid down certain rules for the spelling of Gilbertese in Government departments. These rules may be seen in practice, in the book containing the "Island Regulations," copies of which have been widely read. The rules are as follows:-

- (a) The letter "B" to be used in all native words instead of "P", but the letter "P" to be used in non-native words incorporated into the language, as Petero for Peter, pepa for paper, and so on.
- (b) The sound variously used and represented by the letter "O" or by "N" to be written "ng", as bong, tang, and so on.
- (c) Long vowels to be indicated by a stroke over the letter thus - k̄an, k̄awa, t̄obibi.
- (d) Hyphens to be used to indicate suffixes which, considered as parts of speech, are distinct and different from the words to which they are suffixed. For example "barau" meaning "my hat" to be written "bara-u"; the word "norla" meaning "see him" to be written "nor-la"; and the word "n" or "ni" to be separated by a hyphen in such phrases, as "bati-n tamaroa" and "bai-n ikawai".

3. In

H. E. Maude, Esq.,  
Tarawa.

3. In the background of these rules was the hope that in time they would be adopted by the Missions, and would thus receive full local sanction. This desire for a single method of spelling Gilbertese seems little nearer becoming a fact than it was before the rules were penned. There is even a cleavage of opinion in official circles concerning the rules. It is essential therefore to start a movement having for its goal, uniformity in the spelling of Gilbertese.

4. In the reply which I hope to receive from you, I should be obliged if you would use the following words and phrases for illustrative purposes.

- (i) Use of "B" and "P" : Abaiang, rabakau, buoka, bwe, Petero, pepa, boki, boti.
- (ii) Long vowels : Kan (near in space or time); kawa (a village); tobibi; kai, (a crane); takakaro; man (custom); katoka iao-n te taibora.
- (iii) Suffixed Possessive : bara-u; tenua oki-na ni karaoaki; e reke kai-m naba.
- (iv) Suffixed Objective : nor-ia; angan-ai; ibuako-ia; iri-ko; nakoi-u.
- (v) Suffixed Genitive : Iaa-n; ia ara-n an kawa; ara-ia I-Matang; uma-ni Beia te uma sei; inano-ia aomata.
- (vi) Single Concepts : Ao-n-tano; ao-n-aba; kau-ni-wae.
- (vii) Apostrophe : M'ane, b'ai.
- (viii) Personal Pronoun : Te aomata ae e raioi: aomata aika a raaai.

5. I venture now to give my own ideas as to the writing of Gilbertese. The word "venture" is used to indicate an attitude without pretence to intimate knowledge on the subject. I must confess, however, to some anxiety to have my ideas supported.

6. The pervading principle in the reduction of Gilbertese to writing should be simplicity. To me it seems most unpractical to insist on complications as the marking of distinctions in similar sounds. The native does not need them to be indicated, and the few white folk who study the language do so in no superficial spirit, and quickly gather the different values attaching to a letter.

7. Taking the rules noted in paragraph 2, I make the following remarks: Rule (a): Though there are distinctions in the native pronunciation of "B" and "P" these vary in different islands. The distinctions are not sufficiently regulated, nor are they definite enough to merit the use of both letters. Rule (b): This rule is not in need of comment, as it has been adopted as far as possible by both missions. Rule (c): This rule offends against simplicity. Its use is attended with difficulty on the typewriter. It stands alone as the one mark to indicate variation in sound. If there are to be signs for different values of the same letter, then let us have a system, Failing that, no marks at all. I am definitely against this diacritical sign on the score of its difficulty in use and of its isolation. Rule (d): There seem to be few supporters of this rule. Yet it has a great deal to commend it. The hyphen in "bara-u" or "iaa-n" is very much a mark of grammatical structure. It unlocks separate parts of speech, and thus seems to remove a complication. It surely is leading to simplicity to show that two words are being used. Native understanding of this particular use of the hyphen will come once



the plan of the language is taught in the schools.

8. A certain use of the apostrophe was not included in Mr Grimble's rules. This is in words as "m'ane" and "b'ai". The apostrophe, as you are well aware, is used to indicate a "w" or "oe" sound. This sound may still be heard, sometimes most plainly, yet its use seems to be rotting out. It was probably heard more commonly in Bingham's time. I am for the removal of this mark of punctuation.

9. Then there is the matter of the personal pronoun between the relative and the verb or adjective, as in "Te aomata ae e rairoi" and "Aomata aika a rairoi". Though the pronoun coalesces with the relative in speech, it should be shown in writing.

10. To conclude, I beg that you will in your reply stretch the limits of concession, in the hope of furnishing with others enough common ground to create standard Gilbertese. It would be most helpful, if you would mention acceptable alternatives to your own favoured views on the points raised in this letter.

Yours very truly,

*H.M. Holland.*

Dear Mr. Bailey,

Thank you for your letter brought by Mr. Boardman. We are indeed delighted to hear that you will be coming down to Bern in a few weeks now. I don't think that I have anything very worrying to discuss with you - just matters concerning natives and lands which I should be glad to have your decisions on.

I have sent the secretary various letters on preliminary matters connected with the Commission. In my opinion its success will depend, to a large extent, on the permanent native staff and for a start, at any rate, I don't think one could better the men I have proposed.

For most of the last month he has been cramming <sup>law</sup> ~~part of~~ my brain feels absolutely addled. I do hope it will be possible for me to sit my examination before starting on lands work proper, as it would not appear possible to do really useful work while one's energies have to be so helplessly divided between two quite separate pursuits. I tried to study law while on the Lands Commission at Ocean but my brain was absolutely bogged out after a day's wrangling on land disputes and on Mr. Gumbles' advice and the Director's orders I gave up all other work while on the Commission. I know that if I conscientiously try to make a success of the Lands Commission - and I am so anxious that it will be so - I have got to give up all my time to it and not just a stated number of hours per day and the estimates of time <sup>required</sup> at each island are based on that assumption. So if I could sit for my law before starting on the first island I should be most grateful - if necessary, and it could be arranged, I am prepared to have a shot any time after ~~say~~, the middle of September. Perhaps the C.S.C. would not mind seeing the papers up a little earlier as there's no chance of me showing them to any other candidates. The trouble with me is that I appear to be chronically



incapable of recalling any details of law for more than a week or two  
and, whereas I've begun to feel fairly confident of passing he's been  
transferred to one job where he had no spare time and consequently  
forgot it all again. He read through <sup>all</sup> the set books at least four  
times ~~since~~ since leaving England. The last month he read  
through the whole syllabus again and completed a detailed  
study of Torts - at present he's half way through a study of Contracts  
and the Pacific Code in Council. That leaves me of Evidence  
and Criminal Law and the Advances and K.R., I think. With  
regard to the advances he's rather worried as I have none and  
Centwright has left for Tahitenea with his set.

I think you will be pleased with Mr Centwright's work  
on Bawa. He's been helping the Native Co-operative Society a good deal  
and has got the Volunteers wonderfully smartened up and drilled.  
He's very glad that he is to go and stay on an outlying  
island - I had been advising him to do so for some time and he told  
me that when he gets a bit more confident in Galleitese he must  
go and see his people in their villages. The Galleitese are a  
funny crowd - they won't go to a <sup>general office</sup> unless they know him and the  
only way to get them to know me and cast off their rather  
unde reserve it to go to them in their own villages.

I am sending you in a separate parcel on two articles I  
found some time ago - I must apologise for the delay but we  
wanted to get them bound here. Even now they have not been  
bound <sup>quite</sup> as we wanted.

It has been a joy to see McDonald again in the flesh - and  
as keen on everything as he ever was.

My wife and I are both hoping that you will be able to  
spend several days with us on Bawa and that you are already  
feeling better as a result of your short visit to Tarawa.

With kindest regards to Mrs Bagg and yourself for so long,

Yours sincerely,

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

2nd August, 1934.

Gilbert & Ellice.

No. 159.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No.56 of the 20th February, relative to the order of precedence of officers of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony Service, and to forward a list of the various officers in what would appear to be a suitable order of precedence.

2. If you concur in the order of precedence shown I am prepared to approve its adoption in the Colony.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) M. FLETCHER

High Commissioner.

His Honour  
The Resident Commissioner,  
Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

COPY.

Enclosure in Gilbert & Ellice despatch  
No.159 of 2nd August,1934.

-----

Gilbert and Ellice Islands  
Colony.

List of Officers in proposed Order of  
Precedence.

--

Resident Commissioner,

Bishops (by courtesy),

Members of the Advisory Council,

Senior Administrative Officer,

Treasurer,

Senior Medical Officer,

Superintendent of Education,

Administrative Officers, in order of  
appointment,

Heads of Departments, in order of appointment,  
including the Secretary to Government.

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RESIDENCY,  
OCEAN ISLAND,  
GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

10<sup>th</sup> Aug., '34

My dear Maude,

Thanks very much for your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> July. I hope the h.c. preliminaries are getting along alright. I have had no word yet about the approval of the Estimates by the Secretary of State — the H.C. has passed them O.K. — so I am enabled to authorize you to start getting together your staff or to set about the job properly. I will let you know as soon as any glad tidings come through.

It sounds a very good idea starting  
off L.C. proceedings at Anzac &  
gradually working up through the  
front from south to north. I hope  
at any rate to be able to discuss  
the whole position personally with  
you at Bern in the course of the  
next few weeks or, should  
unwelcome contingencies make me  
revise my plans — & you know  
what life is like here at H.Q. —  
I will certainly arrange to bring you  
up here for a few days for a



RESIDENCY,

OCEAN ISLAND,

GILBERT AND ELLICE IS. COLONY.

2

general discussion before you start the machinery buzzing. I will also try to see that you remain in touch as far as possible with matters of native administration in the Colony during your period of secondment as a hardy Commissioner. I fully realize how you feel in the matter & also how much you can help me in dealing with the multifarious problems which, alas, are crying for an early settlement or solution. I hope, however, that I shall



be able to contribute something towards  
cleaning things up, if I am given  
sufficient time to cope with the  
situation.

I am penning these few lines  
in the throes of somewhat violent  
neuralgia — I have just been  
very sick over the end of the veranda! —  
so you must forgive the brevity of  
this scrawl & its illegibility. My wife  
& I are both looking forward to  
meeting you & Mrs. Brande in the near  
future (Doc. Steenson is at present making  
ale in the Island Room) & in the meanwhile, all  
good wishes from us both — Yours, Vicerally,  
J. C. Barley!

Bariti 27 août 1934

Chez M<sup>o</sup> Maude.

Veuillez dire à M<sup>me</sup> Maude que le contenu du sac était en bon état et merci de la part des bœufs et de moi-même. J'ai trouvé dans le bois un terrain inculte, mais bien exposé pour y cultiver quelques plantes, et ai la rigueur y construire un "kome" pour mes vaches. Je désirerais l'enregistrer, puis-je m'adresser à vous ou attendre le retour de M<sup>o</sup> Cartwright? Dans le cas où vous pourriez l'enregistrer vous-même, auriez-vous la bonté de venir un jour quelconque le mesurer!

Merci et au revoir.

Votre tout dévoué

Guy. Choppin

P. S. Je vous envoie quelques bananes, mais elles ne sont pas de première qualité. Cette fois-ci, le rizime n'est pas arrivé à maturité.

Dear Father Chillet,

Thank you for your letter and for the bananas, they were much appreciated. With regard to the question of the land lease which you desire to have registered I am afraid that the matter must await the return of Mr. Cartwright from Tahiti as he is attending to matters of this nature. I hear that Dr. Steenson who, as you probably knew, went on a short visit to Ocean Island, has returned to Tarawa. Mr. Banley paid a short visit to Captain Holland at Baiiki and has just returned to Ocean Island on the "Kumara". Hapi Sunbome has returned from Narakai where I expect he was dealing with the recent trouble there - he should be going on leave this month as I believe Mr. Armstrong is back by now.

I expect the "Kumara" within a fortnight with Mr. McDermald, who will take charge of the Ellice Islands while Mr. Kennedy is on leave. I think that is all the "news" I have heard recently.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

# London Missionary Society.

Roforofu Training Institution,

Beru, Gilbert Islands. Via Sydney N. S. W.

Aug 23rd 1934

Dear Mr. Maude,

Herewith I send your lot of bound books. I am sorry some of them have been here so long, and hope that has not inconvenienced you. As I told you, I was informed that all had been given me from the Printing Office, and it was only after you mentioned that you thought some were missing, and I had had a hunt made, that these turned up in a cupboard waiting for their covers. Our men seem to make a ridiculous fuss about getting the titles right, and although I insist on seeing a proof of every one, even then they mess up some of the covers and I have had to do them over again. I notice that one of these is not really up to standard, and if you like, I will have it done again.

I enclose an account for these, also for the books from the Store, and I am including the two copies of "BABO".

I am very much intrigued by the titles of several of these books, and should immensely like to read some of them, if you are willing. But at present I have hardly time to breathe. Until Mr. Levett and Jupeli return, I am afraid I should not be able to find time for reading them, but if I may borrow some of them later on, I should be very grateful.

I ought to have joined the Polynesian Society some years ago. I was on the point of doing so when I was transferred from the Cook Islands, and I never took it up again. Have you by any chance a list of their reprints especially those relating to the Gilberts, some of which I should like to get if possible?

Your two letters are to hand today with pamphlets &c to be bound. I am putting these in hand according to your instructions. We are very pleased to have these orders if we can execute them to your satisfaction, as they all help to "support our local industries".

We shall be pleased to make the FILES for you, with open tops and opening sides, but I am afraid we have no spring clips ~~on~~ anything of that sort which we can fix inside. We have never gone in for this as a commercial line, but merely make them for our own Mission use. I hope the absence of clips will not prove a difficulty. We find a strip of cardboard useful sometimes for keeping papers in the files straight. I am sending you herewith a few samples of cloth. Will you please select which you prefer for the covers of the files, and return same to me, so that we can use that cloth. I can do red or blue or grey or black if preferred, but the cloth samples sent send to me the most suitable we have.

Re cards for small index. Please select from samples sent which card you prefer, either white, thick ivory, or thinner, or coloured. The heavy white is the dearest but there is very little in it for a small quantity.

We will do Mrs. Maude's little price tickets with pleasure, but will you tell her we can do her 200 while we are about it for practically the same cost as 50, so unless she prefers to have 50 only we will run off 200. I take it that both the cards for the index and the price tickets are to be same size as specimens sent?

Kaotan te Ota, we will see what we can do. We cannot always raise back numbers, but probably we can find those required to make up two vols 1933 and 1934.

Yours sincerely,

G. H. Eastman.

By the way, I have duplicate copies of William Gill's "Gems from the Coral Islands, date about 1856, and of Wyatt Gill's "Jottings from the Pacific" 1885, both of which are, I think, out of print. I do not know whether you already have these or are wanting copies. If you are wanting copies I am quite willing to do a swap with you for some of your duplicates on Gilbert Islands subjects.

*one vol. to follow tomorrow.*

London Missionary Society,  
Gilbert Islands Mission.

No. 7.....

Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 1934

Date Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 1934

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Dr. To The London Mission Press.  
Beru, Gilbert Islands.

August 22nd 1934 193

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Oto Rongorongo 6d	Mary Slessor	3d			9
Two copies "BABO".				3	-
				14	3

Dr. To The London Mission Press.  
Beru, Gilbert Islands.

February 19th 1934 1934

To stitching sheets, Binding in Cloth and Printing Titles and where needed Title pages also Fifty Two Volumes as under		Binding	Titling		
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27th August, 1934.

The Acting Director,  
Department of Agriculture.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the method adopted by the natives of Fiji for curing tobacco is somewhat crude and the product is fairly potent.

The leaves are harvested at a time when they have just commenced to change colour. They are stacked in heaps systematically, sacking being placed above and below the stack, and leaves are turned daily.

When the colour has become a brownish red, they are twisted into rope and then hung up in a bure (preferably one with a fire in it where the tobacco rope will be well smoked) to dry. The drying process usually takes two or three months and when dry the tobacco rope is wound into a near ball known locally as an "Uma".

In order to keep them from drying out, these Umases are usually wrapped in a banana leaf or wet hessian until such time as they are ready for use.

---

The process for curing tobacco adopted at the Cotton Experiment Station is as follows:-

1. Terminals are removed from plants before flower buds appear, and all side shoots are nipped off daily.
2. Plants are harvested at a time when lower leaves become mottled and show signs of turning colour.

3. Plants are cut level with the ground and conveyed to the drying house care being taken not to bruise them.
4. They should be hung in a cool dry thatched house <sup>as</sup> made/air tight as possible all doors and windows being closed.
5. Each plant is hung separately and care taken that adjacent plants do not knock against each other. This process is continued until the mid-rib is thoroughly dry.
6. The leaves are then taken off, stacked and pressed, a covering of thick sacking being placed over them. At this stage it will be necessary to turn each leaf every day for three weeks while fermentation is taking place.
7. This having been done the mid-rib is removed from each leaf and leaves are tied together in bundles of about 24 and again pressed for a period of six weeks, the longer the better. They should be turned every second week.
8. The tobacco is then ready for sale and may either be twisted into "Umas" or sold as it is. Should the leaf be found too dry for twisting it may be hung out in the dew for one night.
9. If a particularly dark and strong tobacco is required, the leaves may be trodden or bruised before the mid-rib has been removed.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) Ross R. Anson,

Cotton Specialist.

Empire Cotton Growing Corporation.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

Island of Beru,  
Southern Gilbert Islands.  
12th September, 1934.

Dear Captain Holland,

Once again I must apologise for my tardiness in answering your two letters on Gilbertese history. However, as you know, nothing could be done in the hurly-burly of District Administration and since then I have been steadily collecting my wits and endeavouring to cram law at the same time.

With regard to the "Short History" for school use which you sent me. It is a most excellent summary - necessarily, I suppose, very condensed. On working through it I found myself writing what amounted to a new history of my own on somewhat different lines so I have desisted, for reasons which will be clear later, and confined myself to such modifications as could be, if you like them, inserted into the text without completely altering the structural plan of the essay.

1. The section on Ancient History I have not touched. We all have our own theories on such matters but Mr. Grimble's are likely to be more correct, being based on a unique knowledge of Gilbertese tradition.
2. The paragraph on the European discovery of the islands would appear to be almost ~~accurate~~ condensed resulting in an unintentionally inn picture of

picture of the early visits. I enclose a few suggested paragraphs which appear to me to give the minimum detail consistent with accuracy. In any case I have always felt that every child should have an opportunity of knowing when and by whom his island was first brought into contact with the questionable blessings of European civilisation.

Should you consider my draft suggestions unsuitable the following alterations should be made in the one enclosed by you.

- (a) Byron did not sight any island other than Nikunau.
- (b) Captains Gilbert and Marshall discovered only Abemama, Kuria, Aranuka, Tarawa, Abaiang, Butaritari and Makin.
- (c) The statement that "Captain Gilbert gave his name to the Group" is liable to misinterpretation. It was the Russian navigator, Krusenstern, who first named the Group after Capt. Gilbert, in 1824. Capt. Bishop of the "Nautilus" called it the Kingsmill Group.
- (d) I believe Maurelle was a Spaniard as his name, Don Antonia Maurelle, would suggest. I am not absolutely certain however.
- (e) It was Captain De Peyster, not Porter, who discovered Funafuti. Are you sure he was an Englishman?
- (f) Commander Wilkes never visited the Gilberts, though it is commonly supposed he did. He stayed in Samoan waters and sent two of his fleet, under Captain Hudson, to the Gilberts.

3. I can think of no alteration to the three

paragraphs on

paragraphs on missionary activities. I commenced to expand this but found that if it is to be dealt with in any detail it would need 5 or 10 pages.

4. I enclose a slightly enlarged paragraph on the rather obscure and difficult subject of "black-birding". The depredations of these folk have been somewhat exaggerated by modern writers, particularly as regards the Ellice Group. Heaven knows, however, the figures are bad enough, about 5,000 from the Southern Gilberts and 600 from the Ellice.
5. The remaining three paragraphs are excellent. I enclose, however, a paragraph on "Whaling" as requested and one on "Trading and Commerce" which is a subject which you have omitted, though it is not, I think, without its importance.

Now as to the second letter. I agree that a monthly journal is a dream for the future and not a practical possibility. In the present economic state of the Colony I do not believe 50 copies could be sold, and we should all be slaves to the thing. There are no monthly mission papers as Mr. Grimble states in his letter - "Kaotan te Ota", which is quarterly, is in a very bad way. They welcome articles on secular subjects and are always badgering one to become a contributor.

On reading your letter at Tarawa I imagined that you wanted a history of technical processes and I had decided with regret that I was incompetent to attempt the work. Since then, however, I have been approached by representatives of both missions to produce a "Gilbertese history" for ordinary village children and promised to

have a shot at it if, and when, I pass my law exams. On re-reading your letter, however, I believe I misinterpreted you and that the whole thing could be combined.

I am, therefore, enclosing a rough draft scheme for a suggested booklet to be entitled "A Gilbertese History, for use in Schools" for your consideration. It would be about the size and form of Mrs. Eastman's "Kavakinan te Ataei" and be printed and published at as cheap a price as possible. The central idea of the work would be to endeavour to inculcate in the modern generation a pride in "things Gilbertese" and the ancestors of their own race, and help to break down that curious apologetic inferiority complex which causes them to prefer a shoddy, second-hand, European thought or object to one emanating from their own culture. It would, I think, be wider in scope than a pure history book and would, I believe, be the sort of book you are thinking of.

I am very grateful to you for suggesting that I might undertake a work of this nature and, should you approve of my idea, I should be most happy to attempt it.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

### Blackbirding.

"Blackbirders" raided the Ellice Islands and the Southern Gilbert Islands, from Beru to Arorae, between 1860 and 1875. The earlier ships took the people to work on the plantations in South America and Tahiti and few ever returned to their islands. Later the ships took them to work on the sugar plantations in Fiji where they were better treated and usually sent back again after they had worked for a few years. Captain Palmer was sent by Queen Victoria in 1869 to enquire into this bad trade, and in 1870 and 1875 two laws were passed (the Pacific Islanders Protection Acts) which put a stop to the activities of the "wan ira."

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### Whaling.

About the year 1830 the Gilbert Islands began to be visited by ships looking for whales, and for the next forty years a great number of whalers visited the islands each year. The whaling men used often to live ashore while boiling down the whale blubber and one of their old villages can still be seen on the north point of Kuria, while many of their huge iron boilers are still used, for storing water, by the people of Kiebu on Makin. The first Europeans resident in the Gilbert Islands were deserters from the whaling vessels and so, while in 1840 there were only 7<sup>1</sup> Europeans living in the Gilbert Islands, by 1860 there were many more

<sup>1</sup>  
Butaritari = 1. Kuria = 1. Beru = 3. Nikunau = 2.

many more Europeans living here than there are now<sup>2</sup>.

By 1870, however, it was becoming hard to make a profit out of these cruises and the number of whaling ships visiting these islands became steadily fewer, although the last occasion on which a vessel visited here was as late as 1904.

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European Discovery of the Islands.

It is believed that the famous Spanish navigator De Quiros sighted the island of Makin as long ago as 1606, when crossing the Pacific and, indeed, it is most probable that some of the northern Gilbert Islands were sighted by the Spanish ships which visited the Caroline and Marshall Groups in the 16th and early 17th centuries.

However the first definitely known discovery of a Gilbert Island was in 1765, when Commander Byron, who was in charge of a British Naval Expedition of discovery, sighted Nikunau from the "Dolphin". He had dealings with the islanders, who came off to him in sixty canoes. The next visit to these islands was not made until 1788, twenty three years later, in which year the two English navigators, Captains Gilbert and Marshall sighted the Group while on their way from Sydney, in Australia, to China. After discovering Abemama, Kuria and Aranuka, they sailed past Maiana in the night without seeing it and the following day sighted Tarawa and Abaiang. From Abaiang they went north and, missing Marakei, discovered Butaritari and Makin. At first the Gilbert Islands were called the Kingsmill Group but later they were called after Captain Gilbert, who  
discovered so

<sup>2</sup>  
e.g. Banaba = 17. Kuria = 25 etc.



discovered so many of them.

Eleven years later, in 1799, Captain Bishop discovered Nonouti and Tabiteuea on the brig "Nautilus", and in 1809 Captain Patterson sighted Arorae and Maiana from the "Elizabeth". Marakei was discovered in 1824 by the French Admiral Duperrey when on a voyage round the world on board the "Coquille".

The remaining three Gilbert Islands - Beru, Onotoa and Tamana - were discovered in 1827 by Captain Clerk on the "Francis", and Banaba was first sighted from the brig "Ocean" in 1804.

The Ellice Islands were discovered between 1781, when the Spaniard, Maurelle, sighted Nanomea and Nanomanga, and 1825, when Nui was seen by two Dutchmen. Funafuti was discovered by Captain De Peyster in 1819.

In 1841, the "Peacock" and the "Flying Fish", two ships belonging to the United States Exploring Expedition and under the command of Captain Hudson visited many of the islands and mapped and charted the reefs and anchorages round them. It is on the work done by this Expedition that the charts used by the navigators of to-day are based. Two Englishmen were taken off the islands and from their accounts we can learn what the Gilbertese of that time were like.

---

#### Commerce.

At first the only reason Europeans came to these islands was in search of whales but in about 1850 the first trading ships arrived and a flourishing industry was soon started in

started in the Gilberts - that of the making of coconut oil. In those days the ships did not buy copra as they do now, but only the oil after it had been pressed from the copra with a "taukai". Later, however, a German named Weber started to buy the copra and sell it to be pressed in machines and soon this was found to be the best way.

By 1860 most of the trade in the Group was in the hands of a Sydney firm whose manager, named Randall, had great power and influence throughout the Gilbert Islands. He had resident European traders on nearly every island and visited each in turn himself. Besides coconut oil a good deal of "beche de mer" was sold in those days, the slug being split open, dried in the sun, and sold in bags to the traders.

Soon after that time several other firms began to trade in the Colony, including two American Companies and one German. When On Chong and Co., came they took over the interests of many of the old smaller companies and, after the war, the German company, and so gradually nearly all the trade of the Colony has come into the hands of On Chong & Co., and Burns, Philp & Co., Ltd., the latter firm having arrived soon after the coming of the Flag.

---

Panti. Nukka 7<sup>th</sup> October 1934

Cher Monsieur Maude

Je vous remercie bien cordialement des nouvelles que vous nous donnez, car Batu devient de plus en plus une solitude. Je ne sors que pour mon ministère le dimanche et ce n'est plus comme dans l'ancien temps, où je visitais Bongorongo et Sababim Batu. Après mon internement et en vieillissant je deviens quelque peu misanthrope par force.

Notre jardin est un peu pauvre à l'heure actuelle, nous n'avons plus de graines; voici quelques bananes, qui, je l'espère, vous feront plaisir.

Les Sœurs offrent leur bon souvenir à M<sup>me</sup> Maude et veuillez lui présenter mon respect.

Votre tout dévoué

Eng. Choblet

Island of Beru,  
Gilbert Islands,  
Central Pacific.  
16th October, 1934.

Dear Mr. Fisher,

I have been meaning to write to you for some time and when I got a copy last mail of your excellent article on material culture from the Oruarangi site my conscience was stirred. When I arrived back from leave I had to act as Secretary to the Government till May last year and then had all the Gilbert Islands to look after - three districts - so I was frantically busy. Three months ago, however, I was made Commissioner for Native Lands so I am much freer nowadays. We start in a few weeks time to commence work on one of the Southern Islands and will gradually work up the Group as the lands get settled, spending from three to six months on each island.

Owing to the pressure of work we were unable to start any anthropology until July but since then have managed to do a good deal - mostly material culture. When are you coming up here to stay with us? On the Lands Commission we live by ourselves on the outlying islands, where there are no other Europeans, so you would find plenty of useful and original work to do. Life, of course, is extremely primitive but, on the other hand, costs nothing, so if you can ever get six months or so off from Museum work, do come.

I am sending a few articles to the Museum in case they are of any use to you. I'm afraid none of them are very spectacular but it is usually the less spectacular stuff that a museum lacks. I have instituted a Card Index system to maintain order in our collection of Material Culture and enclose duplicates of the relevant cards, as it always seems  
to me

to me that much museum stuff is rendered less valuable than it might be through the absence of descriptive matter. I have just heard that a ship is arriving any minute so I shall have no time, I'm afraid, to write to Mr. Archey. If he wonders what the parcels are you might apologize and explain.

By the way, I should be very grateful for photographs of anything I send down to you - in fact, photos. are often more valuable to me than the objects themselves. We might do a deal for our mutual advantage that way!

Write and tell me if there is anything special you want from this part of the world and I'll try and obtain it. We're engaged in collecting shells which we'll send down to Mr. Powell next mail with luck.

With kind regards from us both,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. MAUDE

Island of Beru,  
Gilbert Islands,  
Central Pacific.

17th October, 1934.

Dear Mr. Skinner,

At last we are back again at Beru and, as we have recently received additions to our staff, I have a reasonable amount of leisure. Since I last wrote to you I have been stationed at Tarawa in charge of two, and sometimes three, districts; in fact some 27,000 out of the 34,000 in the Colony. Hence I had absolutely no spare time but was reduced to work, and more work, from morning to night.

We have great additions to the cause of ethnology up here as our new Cadet, Mr. P. D. Macdonald, is straight from Hodson at Cambridge, having obtained Honours in Anthropology. Our new missionary at Beru, the Rev. A. L. Sadd, is an anthropologist too, having also studied under Hodson. Both are excellent men in every way and we hope that they will produce great stuff in the near future - both have joined the Polynesian Society, in fact they asked me to propose them almost as soon as they arrived here. I had Macdonald with me for a year at Tarawa and between us we shared the Gilbert Group - as Kennedy was in charge of the Ellice there was a united anthropological front.

In July I was made made Commissioner for Native

Lands for the Gilbert Islands (Kennedy for the Ellice) so I have been relieved of all Administrative duties, which is a great blessing. Since then we have been at Eeru preparing for the coming Lands Commission and in about a fortnight's time we propose to start the real business on one of the Southern Islands and then gradually work up, spending from three to six months on each island. This should give us a unique chance of doing some useful work in anthropology. Up to July I could do practically nothing, with the exception of a week's work on the types and principles of construction of manebas. Since then, however, we have done a good deal, but nearly all in material culture - I find that, possibly because my wife is so keen on it these days, I am gradually giving up social anthropology for material culture.

We've been working recently on Fish Lures, and endeavouring to prepare a paper on their classification, as made by the natives themselves, based on a collection of about 200. Their classification is really most exact and might well be adopted, I suppose, for museum purposes. In the first place they have five main divisions based on the material used, pearl shell, clam shell, a black shell, a large conch, or stalagmite. These have about 17 sub-divisions according to colour, about 7 of shape and 3 of thickness. I wonder if an article on the subject, with an adequate number of illustrations, would be of use. The only difficult part up here would be the photography.

Many thanks for your two letters. I should have replied to them long ago but everything was so abnormal until July. We have sent Mr. Andersen two parts of our String Figure series and hope they will be published before long as it will help us in finishing the series to see how the first one looks.

I am very sorry to hear how badly the Society is doing financially and wish I could help more. I've enrolled five new members altogether and can find no more in this sparsely inhabited Colony. We could send an article or two now but I imagine that, since you already have two of our's in hand and the Journal is being drastically cut, to send more would not help.

I am sending a few more anthropological specimens, together with some descriptive data. I'm afraid we have not really got under way yet in overhauling our collection but I am making a start by classifying the material on a Card Index system. I'll send more as we get going once again.

We've been sorting clam shell adzes recently and wondering how to classify them. Do you think Kennedy's measurements and classification in his book are really of use for clam shell, as opposed to stone, implements? Unfortunately the Gilbertese have not used them for some



time now and are rather vague as to the functions of the various types.

With very kind regards to Mrs. Skinner and yourself from us both,

Yours sincerely,

FROM T. C. HODSON,  
ST. CATHARINES COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE.

25th October. 1934.

My dear Maude,

You are forgiven and we shall be able to put matters right in a few days. I sent your letter to the secretary of the Board of Research Studies and he allows me to accept your letter as evidence of your progress but adds that a report for next year would be advisable. I take into account your published work which is sound and on good lines. If you delay your dissertation over the 12 terms permission to do so will be required but there is not likely to be any difficulty. I have his letter here and will put it in your file.

Your job as Commissioner for Native Lands is delightful as it will involve you in just what is wanted, a careful study of the relations actual and theoretical and ideal of the living people with the land on which and by which they live.

I remember MacDonald very well indeed and am sure he will do well. Tell him I am reporting on him to his tutor-Wordie. Remember me to Sadd who in his own field of work is likely to be of great use.

We have 34 this year for various work and there are ICS and Colonial Probationers. Dribeg is on the staff and his two books-the Savage as he really is (Benn6d) and At home with the Savage are very useful.

You should read Hunger and work in a Savage tribe as it shows how the food interest permeates all social activities and organisation.

As to <sup>coming</sup> ~~among~~ here, it will be all right if you commence your final year in Easter 1936 but you must send in an application to the Board of Research Studies. When you will be safe. I hope to be here in 1936-I must retire in 37 but have been ill lately. I lost over 2 stone in the Long Vac.

Love W. H. H. H.

Yr. T. C. Hodson:

CURATOR:  
PROFESSOR W. BENHAM, F.R.S.

TELEPHONE 18-174



UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM  
KING STREET  
DUNEDIN, N.Z.

22nd November, 1934.

H.E. Maude, Esq.,  
Island of Beru,  
GILBERT ISLANDS.

Dear Mr. Maude,

Thanks very much for your letter of October 17th and for the cards descriptive of the four Gilbertese pieces which you are presenting to us. We look forward to their arrival at a later date.

We were all three of us greatly interested in your news and compiled something in the nature of a romance or novel supposed to depict the adventures of yourself and Mrs. Maude and the dog (which, however, is not mentioned in your letter), the whole imaginative conception being considerably influenced by Stevenson's book which we have lately been reading aloud. - I was delighted to hear that the prospect of a thorough-going ethnographic survey of the Gilberts is likely to be realised, and especially that it will be the result of English work and organisation. I do hope that it will be possible for the Journal of the Polynesian Society

to publish it all. Congratulations on your new appointment. I was keenly interested in what you have to say about material culture. With regard to Kennedy's classification of the Ellice Island adzes, I think that is much the least successful part of his book. The truth is that the shell adzes had so long gone out of use that the natives could give him no information from the functional angle. The only possible line of approach was therefore typological. But the Ellice Island adzes are extraordinarily poor on this side. I think the only profitable way of dealing with them would be for someone who had a thorough knowledge of all the adze types of, say, Tahiti or New Zealand to work over the tokis of the Ellice Group, indicating relationships wherever any evidence was available. I do not know anything about the adzes from the Gilberts, but am inclined to think that they will be typologically more interesting than those that Kennedy had to deal with. I would suggest that you collect and use every scrap of information you can get from the natives, and that on the typological side your classification be made as simple as possible. At the present time there is only one typological study from any part of Polynesia, so far as I know, and that is my treatment of the adzes of the Chathams. This is now somewhat out of date though still, I think, likely to be useful in view of the lack of

published data from other areas. I have a classification of the adzes of New Zealand in hand but not yet completed. It will probably reach the Bishop Museum in manuscript form in the course of the next six months, but it is not likely that it will be published for some time after that. - I must stop now. Good wishes to both of you from all three of us.

Yours sincerely,

H. D. Skinner

The mail that brought your letter brought a note from Kennedy in which he said he hoped to be in H. C. almost as soon as the note. We hope he will be able to stay with us. -

Our collections expand steadily, and we are now planning new galleries and a large auditorium, having opened bank accounts for both. - The section that is developing most rapidly is that from the Cook Islands, which is now fairly representative

H. D. S.

"Matanterawa"  
Butaritari,

Nov. 29th 1934.

Dear Mr. Maude —

I suppose you  
southerners have given up all hope  
of seeing the "Macquarie" again!  
However, more cheerful news has  
come to hand and life for us is  
assuming a brighter appearance.  
A radio from Sydney informed us  
that arrangements were in progress  
for a ship to leave Sydney not  
later than early December. If the  
charter is fixed, and we sincerely  
hope it will be, the "Mac" should  
resume her slow — but more or less  
steady — excursions around the  
group in January. Co. incident with  
the receipt of this telegram was the  
arrival of the "Rahim" — further  
good news, for Donovan accepted  
our drafts in settlement of outstanding  
accounts, and extended us further  
credit. This was splendid news, for it  
meant that the old concern is still

Sound, in fact more so than before, for B.P.'s have refused our paper for nearly six months. Prior to the arrival of the "Rahum" we were in a very bad way. No money, no stores, no food, no credit, no coal, and, almost, no hope. Our credit had been stopped by the Japanese firm, we had had no sugar, milk, butter, vegetables, fruit or any variety of food, for over a month. Our bread was sour, made of mouldy flour 18 months old, and we were literally living on fish, caught by the ship's crew, sausages and rice. During the week before "Rahum" came in the rice was finished, kerosene all gone, and only one tin of navy biscuits was left! We had no money or tobacco to purchase eggs or chickens, so you can see that the "relief of Dalchong's" did not come too soon! We are now full of food and hope, and as cheerful as can be.

It was fortunate that my wife

was able to leave before our lean period of little hope and less food set in — we had to sell the piano to obtain passage money. Sounds like something out of an old melodrama, that! She arrived safely in Melbourne, and after a short holiday, went on to Newcastle. Have not heard from her yet — there are lots of mails for Butaritari, and we've had two ships in, but unfortunately the bags were put aboard the "Mimansa". She is calmly running Coconut excursions between Banaba and Kuria, while we sit here watching the ships come and go, waiting for our letters. Forbes, from all accounts, is a fine chap, energetic and capable, and courteous withal. I am looking forward to meeting him. Our plans, of course, hinge on the "Macquarie's" movements. We are hoping to have our holiday next year — after that things are uncertain. Shout's times be hard in Sydney, I shall return to the Gilberts,

but it is no too far ahead to be able to say what we will do.  
So, that's the end of this spittle. My kindest regards to  
Mrs. Board, and hoping to be able to give you a kiss between  
stands in imminent — with best wishes, yours sincerely  
Sam May



CURATOR:  
PROFESSOR W. BENHAM, F.R.S.

TELEPHONE 18-174



UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM  
KING STREET  
DUNEDIN, N.Z.

1st December, 1934.

H.E. Maude, Esq.,  
Island of Beru,  
GILBERT ISLANDS.

Dear Mr. Maude,

Your gift of material reached us safely and was of very great interest. I hope that some day you will be able to let us have some fish-hooks and adzes by way of exchange in addition to what you have sent already.

Yesterday I was at a demonstration of string games given by Mr. W.G. Aldridge, Director of the Technical School here. He is looking forward with keen interest to the publication of your figures as he regards the Gilbert Islands as the most interesting section of the world from the point of view of string figures. He is especially anxious to get in touch with you because of the chance which may perhaps still offer itself in your islands of getting the psychological background. He will probably write to you after the publication of the first instalment. If I know Johannes at all, that will not be long delayed.

We often think of you two and wonder what you are

doing at that precise moment, and try to fit in an accurate land and seascape as a background to your activities. It would be great if we could get a trip on some luxury schooner, travelling up from Fiji to the Ellice Islands and then on to the Gilberts. However, there are other things which seem to be more likely than that! Is there any chance, I wonder, of your visiting Otago again?

Our united regards to you both.

Yours sincerely,

H. D. Skinner

The string of shell discs is exactly like a much shorter string on a pearl-shell pa-kasoa [typical Ellice pendant] which I purchased in Sydney twelve years ago. I have classified this as Ellice on the basis of Kennedy's pendants, found in the course of excavations. But Kennedy thinks such discs were never made in the Ellice group. Were pa-kasoa made in the Gilberts, I wonder. - The fan is interesting too, typical Gilberts and yet quite like Samoa and Niue. - Our cordial thanks.