

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 "G" 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 "noria" meaning "see him" to be written "nor-ia"; 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 am kawa; ara-ia I-Matang; uma-ni Beia te uma aei; 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 se e raoiroi: aomata aika a raraoi.

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

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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 raioi" and "Aomata aika a raraoi". 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,

F. G. L. HOLLAND

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 any 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".¹

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.² P. Latiun Lévéque, in his study entitled "Vocabulaire Arorae" uses only the P³. and his example has been followed by all later Catholic writers, notably Brother John in his recently published grammar⁴ and the Roman Catholic Dictionary.⁵

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

1 Bingham, - "Outlines of Gilbert Islands Grammar". - 1922.

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

3 Leveque, P. Latiun, - "Vocabulaire Arorai (Isles Gilbert)" - 1887.

4 Brother John, - "A Gilbertese Grammar and Vocabulary".

5 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".⁶

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

⁶ 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 now 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 "Bitu", 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 "loupapa", 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 "N", P. Latiun Lévéque, 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, Mangareva and the Paumotaus 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."⁷

In my

⁷ Te Rangi Hiroa (Dr. H.P. Buck),- "Samoa Material Culture" 1930

In my opinion, therefore, the letters "Ng" should be the only ones employed for representing the sound "Ng" and the use of the G or Ñ should be discontinued. This, however, has apparently now been done by both Missions⁸, 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 - (-), (^), (°), (~), (·), 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."⁹

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 specialised studies written by comparative philologists.

The hyphenating

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Cf. Miss E.M. Pateman, "Te Oto-Rongorongo ao Tuan te Taetae ni Kiribati" - L.M.S. 1934 and the Roman Catholic quarterly, "Te Nutipepa" for July, 1934.

⁹

J.F. 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 system adopted for the use of allied and neighbouring dialects. Suffixed parts of speech are a common feature of Melanesian languages and are not unknown in Polynesia. For example the Polynesian language of Futuna in the New Hebrides has suffixed possessive pronouns as in Gilbertese, "tamau" - your father, "tamana" - his father, etc.¹⁰ and the Melanesian Kwara'ae language has, in addition, the suffixed genitive "-na", corresponding to the Gilbertese "-n" or "-ni".¹¹ 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

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

¹¹ Deck, Norman C. - "A grammar of the Kwara'ae language". J.P.S.

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 dependant 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 proposition 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

pound

pound prepositions. (Subject to rule (a)).

(Nako ia, mai 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.¹² 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 M, B or K in certain words it can be indicated by a 2 as in "mwenga", O a home, or "bwanarina", - 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

¹² 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. Latiun Lévéque 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 "karevereve". 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, bwe, Betero, beba, boki, boti.
- (2) Long Vowels. Kan, kawa, tobibi, kai, takakaro, man, katoka i aon te taibora.
- (3) Suffixed Possessive. Barau, tenua okina ni karaoaki, e reke kaim naba.
- (4) Suffixed Objective. Neria, anganai, i buakoia, iriko, nakoiu.
- (5) Suffixed Genitive. I an, ia aram am kawa, araia I Matang, umani Beia te uma aei, i nanaia aomata.
- (6) Single Concepts. Aontano, aonaba, kauniwae.

(7) Apostrophe. Mane, bai.

(8) Personal Pronoun. Te aomata ae e raioi,
aomata aika a raroi.

Yours sincerely,

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

Education Department,

Tarawa. 2nd 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.H.L. Holland.

Superintendent of Education.