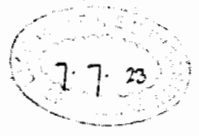


C.M.D.  
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A  
T H E S I S  
for  
the Degree  
of

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE,

in  
the University of Adelaide.

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by

R. W. CILLENTO, M.B., B.S. (Adel.)  
D.T.M. & H. (London).

November 1922.

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A  
T H E S I S

ON

" A CORRELATION of SOME FEATURES of TROPICAL  
PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, and THEIR APPLICATION to  
the TROPICAL AREAS UNDER AUSTRALIAN CONTROL."

by

R.W. CILENTO, M.B., B.S. (Adel.)

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INTRODUCTION.

The necessity for a vigorous  
scheme of development for the Australian tropics.

PART 1.

There is nothing to prove that, under  
certain conditions, the white race cannot live, thrive  
and multiply in the tropics.

PART 2.

Section One.

A discussion of these conditions.

Section Two.

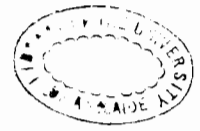
The problems of the new M.C. in New Guinea, and in Queens-  
land, with their solutions; and a short review  
of natives and native conditions.

Section Three.

Schemes for the development of New  
Guinea and Tropical Australia along the lines  
of Public Health.

CONCLUSION.

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INTRODUCTION .  
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The need for  
action.

The urgency of the need for action as regards the development of the tropical areas under Australian control, is best evidenced by a review of the situation not from an Australian standpoint only, but as part of one of the intricate problems of international politics.

The results of  
the War.

The war has revolutionized our social and political environment; we are brought face to face with the fact that problems unknown in the yesterday of our domestic quietude, when perhaps with too much complacency we turned the eye of speculation merely inward, have suddenly confronted us with compelling force and demand solution. Solution means more than fair dealing and scholarly examination; it postulates action.

Australia's  
changed  
status.

A few years ago, Australia was a distant outpost of an empire: today she is recognized as a nation with the responsibilities of government, and with colonies and outposts of her own.

In "The New World" (1922) Bowman<sup>(1)</sup> expresses well the unconscious tendencies to which the war gave expression when he says: " During the war we had the rare spectacle of devotion to the common cause of the empire, on the part of each one of the colonies and dominions, but, withal, a keen anxiety as to the political changes needed thereafter, to give the dominions a larger

larger/  
degree of independence ..... The natural political drift of a people in a new geographical environment is toward independence..... Great Britain lost the United States, but she never lost the lesson which the American Revolution carried with it, and her five self-governing dominions are now, in all practical respects, free independent, except as to foreign policy. The sole restriction is that they shall not have independent foreign relations.

"The Dominions make their own laws, impose their own taxes, and even decide how much they shall contribute for the defence of the Empire. Finally, the Peace Conference of Paris accorded to each of the Dominions, representation in the Assembly of the League of Nations, as if they were wholly independent states".....

Australia, a  
nation.

Australia has, as it were, come of age, and with the privileges of its new-found status have come responsibilities. The League of Nations, which in the fulness of time will audit our account, has entrusted to us the development of the territory formerly known as German New Guinea.

German New  
Guinea.

In 1884 Germany formally annexed the northern shore of New Guinea and almost immediately afterwards, the Bismarck (New Britain) Archipelago, and the northern Solomon Islands.

In 1883 Queensland, foreseeing the German design, had annexed the whole eastern half of the continental island of New Guinea, but the British Government disavowed the act, on the ground that a mere colony had usurped sovereign rights. Too late, when Germany had taken possession of the territories we now hold under mandate, the British Government yielded to popular sentiment and handed over to Queensland, or, rather to Australia,

To us has now come the administration of this former German territory, but under certain obligatory conditions; the details of our administration are to be matters of public knowledge and approval; it is possible, though extremely unlikely, that these lands may be returned to Germany, since, in word at least, they are held only in trust. Most important of all, is the recognition that, by Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, we pledge ourselves to the principle of the development and protection of the native population.

To what extent have we in German New Guinea, and the New Zealanders in Samoa, so far justified the trust?

N.Z. and  
Samoa.

In Samoa, the New Zealanders, through the admitted slackness and inefficiency of certain members of their administration, were compelled to watch an epidemic of influenza sweep across their territory, destroying no less than 19.620% of the total population. In American Samoa, throughout the whole period, not one case occurred, and the report of the Samoan Epidemic Commission (1919)<sup>(2)</sup> gives full credit to the American authorities for the excellence of their precautionary measures, both before and during the epidemic in Western Samoa.

New Zealand profited, however, from her drastic lesson in preventive medicine, and the whole Medical Department was reorganized by the Samoan Health Order, made on February 7th. 1921, consequent upon an inspection of the Samoan Medical Services, made in the previous December by Dr. R.H. Makgill, of the New Zealand Department of Public Health. New Zealand has recognized, as all administrations must recognize, that all the problems of a tropical country are subservient to those of health, and, indeed, that all others depend directly upon these.

As Emerson so aptly said in his often-

Piniqida/

New Ireland, German New Guinea, from 1/10/17

to 30/9/18, during our rule, there were in a population of 9,600 people, 268 more deaths than births --- which means the extinction of the race in two generations. <sup>(3)</sup> This was a normal year, and in the period April - May 1919, in the same area, an epidemic reported as merely " a respiratory disease of regular seasonal occurrence among natives", though it differed in no respect from influenza and was reported by myself as such, affected 90% of the population and accounted in these two months for the death of 3% of their number.

Again in the island of Tabar, as a result of disease, there was, among 22 families, one solitary living child. <sup>(4)</sup>

Of what possible use is it to vaunt a set of Ordinances, providing for the welfare of the native as a labourer, when the whole race is threatened with extinction, the approach of which catastrophe is to be stayed (sic!) by an untrained and inadequate medical force.

Importance of the  
Medical problems.

The whole of the problems of the islands rest upon a medical basis and a delayed recognition of the fact will be an acceptance that comes too late. "We will show the world", says the humanitarian self-complacently, "that we at least, maltreat no native!"; yet, doubtless, to maltreat a native is less culpable, than, having deprived him of every means of self-expression--- his wars, his gods, and his habits--- only to make the most obvious efforts to conserve his health and to stabilize his race. Should the natives become extinct or negligible in numbers their place must be filled by Tamil or Chinese coolies, and apart from the cost of transporting these foreigners and the menace of their politics, the one impud with the non-cooperation ideas

often/

quoted aphorism: "The first wealth is health".

Australia and  
New Guinea.

To come nearer home, what of our own

administration of German New Guinea?

No amount of abuse of a former rule however faulty, will excuse laxity in its successor, though, temporarily, it may divert attention from its own shortcomings. The outstanding feature of the military administration as regards native health work was one of apathy and indifference: a tendency to carry on with any makeshift that would do for the time being; while the native school system, the native medical system and the progressive policy of the Germans were all allowed to sink into abeyance. Doubtless, this was a direct result of the uncertainty of the war conditions and of the need for a high degree of economy. Recently, much has been made of the New Guinea Ordinances, yet so far as they are reported in the papers they contain (with the exception of the abolition of flogging — which is still one of the penalties to which a white man is liable in Australia) no departure from the common law as used by the Germans, who claimed, not without reason, that their Labour Code was the most humane, the most advanced, and the most suitable set of native laws in existence.

If Australia is in earnest about the New Guinea problem it is useless to hide its head in the sands of a dead wartime propaganda, and refuse to face facts, however unpalatable.

The German wars against the Hereros in Africa reduced the population from 80,000 to 18,000 and aroused worldwide indignation, yet Harris states that the anarchy that is called the Anglo-French Condominium of the New Hebrides, has depleted the original population of over 6000,000 to roughly 63,000.

ideas/

of Ghandi, the other our "yellow peril", the wage demanded for most inefficient work is prohibitive to competition in the world's trade. If, on the other hand they can be preserved, and they <sup>can,</sup> if efficient steps are immediately taken, they can become one of the most important economic assets in the development of the islands.

In Australia, the Tasmanian, one of the most ancient of human stocks, is extinct; the Australian aboriginal is virtually so; shall it be so also with the Melanesian, the Papuo-melanesian, and the Micronesian of the islands? Before the first of our half-savage forebears turned his pale face from the Pamir of Asia to the west, and crossed the desert wastes to found our Aryan race these people had lived in their islands for possibly centuries. They met the shocks of countless invasions, were defeated, absorbed their conquerors, withstood now the woes of the vanquished, now the triumphs of the victor, for countless ages. Shall it be ours to blot them out in two generations more?

Need for a vigorous  
policy.

It can only be avoided by building up their physical constitutions, by curing the diseases white men have brought among them, by supplying them with some physical outlet to take the place of that natural gymnasium -- war -- which we have forbidden them, and by finding for them some means of self-expression. To do that we must find a point of contact from which we can build up their institutions on our lines to our level, rather than confront them with the impassable gulf that seems to lie between the height of our attainment and the low level of their own. In medicine and a rational industrial education we have the necessary bridge, and once they can be lead to cross it, the re-attainment of a self-respect---that potent psychological lever--- will relieve us of their weight, and simultaneously provide



asset;/ once lost they can never be replaced, and Australia fails in its treaty obligations.

The outstanding feature of the responsibility we have accepted is the seriousness of the native problem, and our national honour demands that we attack it without delay.

Japan.

There is a further spur to our ambition in this direction in the Japanese question.

The war has brought Japan 2,000 miles nearer to Australia, and to within a few hours of our furthest possessions. A short survey of her modern history is interesting.

Her rise.

Modern Japan came into being in 1853 as the result of the visit of Commodore Perry, demanding protection for American sailors. In 1868 the feudal system which had prevailed for centuries, was destroyed by one of the most remarkable and complete revolutions in world history, and a national spirit for world empire sprang up. 1870 saw the beginning of her first railroad, in 50 years she has built 8,000 miles, in 1872 military service became compulsory and universal; in 1890 Parliament met for the first time.

Her conquests.

It was in the midst of this 20 years of modernization that Japan first turned eyes of desire about her. In 1875 she got from Russia, the Kurile Islands, thus rounding out her domain on the north; to which was added later the south half of Sakhalin (1905), and she at present occupies the northern half also. In 1876 she seized the Liu Kiu Islands, that extend south almost to Formosa, and this latter, the richest of her prizes, she wrested from weak China as the result of the war of 1894-5.

As the spoils of her two wars, one with China, 1894-5, and the other with Russia, 1904-5, she

of/ Formosa), Port Arthur, the Liao-tung Peninsula, and paramount influence in Manchuria. She declared Korea independent of Chinese rule in 1895--- from 1895-1900 concession after concession was wrung from the Korean king by cajolery or open threat; autonomy was promised by solemn treaty in 1905 after the Russian War, but, in defiance of this promise the country was deliberately annexed in 1910; placed under a stern militaristic government which has proceeded, in its attempt to intimidate the Koreans, from severity to violence and even to the wholesale brutality said to be exercised at the present day.

Anglo-Japanese Treaty.

In 1902 England concluded a treaty with Japan--- the first example in history of an alliance between East and West on what were practically equal terms, and by her friendship made it possible for Japan to keep the fruits of victory over Russia, unhindered by any other European power.

Russian Treaty.

In 1913 Japan formed with Russia what was virtually an alliance, by which Russia acknowledged Japan's rights over the bulk of China, while Japan recognized Russia's special interest in Western China, especially in Mongolia and in Western Turkestan. Though, because of the present disorganisation of government in Russia this treaty has no present force, it is most interesting as another indicator of the persistent policy of domination and annexation Japan has shown to China,

World War.

The World War 1914-8 made little drain on Japan's resources, but immensely increased her status and powers.

"By bounties and subsidies to the Japanese mercantile marine, the gross tonnage increased from 255,000 tons in 1896 to 2,300,000 tons in 1919. Between

in/ value. In the same period her imports from Asia, increased 63%; from America 252%; from Europe they decreased 61%. From India she received 38% more goods in 1917 than in 1914, and she exported thither nearly 400% more. In the Philippines, Japanese exports and imports more than double<sup>d</sup> during the war. The Australian and New Zealand markets were deluged with Japanese goods --- clothing, hardware, chemicals, jewellery, toys, silk and cotton cloth, electrical machinery, porcelain ware, and even hats and buttons. "( In the pearl button industry she practically established a monopoly.) "Eastern Siberia and China are commercially dependent on Japan, and Korean trade is now almost exclusively in the hands of the Japanese... "(Bowman)<sup>(5)</sup>.

As regards territorial advantages she has gained for an indefinite period Kiao-ghow, and during her occupation of the Shantung Peninsula .... the economic key of China --- she placed there 20,000 Japanese to control the trade and to act, should occasion serve, as a pretext for intervention at some later date. Peking and the north of China live under the shadow and in the power of the Japanese, while all the gateways of the north are sentinel-  
ed by the Japanese fleet.

Thus she stands, a menacing figure in the very heart of the Chinese commercial realm, with an organized and powerful government and a highly developed industrial system. Strategically, she is the conqueror of China, as, indeed, she demonstrated by the notorious Twenty-One Demands, which involved the virtual surrender to her of China's sovereignty.

Japan's Progress in  
the Pacific

Of even greater importance to us is Japan's progress both naval and economic into the Pacific Ocean.

of/ her preparation, she contented herself with the consolidation of her island territories from the Kurile Is. to Formosa. From Formosa to the Philippines was but a step, and today, Japan by peaceful penetration has a grip of iron on the Philippine trade. Not only so, but steady colonisation has resulted in one third of the population consisting of Japanese nationals, while by an identical policy she has practically acquired Hawaii, where Japanese form half the population.

Such penetration will assuredly be followed sympathetically by the home government, and made the basis for claims of racial equality, and in case of successful war, for territorial control. (Bowman, op. cit.)

Colonisation.

Japan fully realizes what we do not, namely, that the nation that will colonize the tropics will be the nation that will keep them, and although, unlike ourselves, she is a country where on account of cold only one-sixth of the land can be cultivated, her nationals face without qualms, the countries we seem to dread, and live and thrive in them.

The Naval Position.

Before the war Japan was excluded from our vicinity by Dutch, German, and American interests; and even so was regarded as an unduly close neighbour. The German has gone and the Japanese thrusting a long arm right to the equator have seized and hold Jaluit, which is equidistant from Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. The war has brought her 2,000 miles closer, and our equatorial possessions march cheek by jowl, while her island empire fringed the coast of Asia for 3,000 miles. The Marshalls, Marianne, and Caroline islands have given her a belt right across the Pacific, in close connection with the cables, and her strategic victory has practically pushed America from the Northern Pacific, and totally disorganized the "One-Step-Plan" . . .

Aleutian Is.,/

Changed Value of islands.

Guam, Samoa, and Hawaii -- on which her

naval strategy was based. Islands, formerly of importance as coaling and naval bases, have sprung into assets of the first importance for use as the ideal point d'appui for the aeroplane and submarine warfare of the future. For this their numerous seaways, channels, lagoons, and atolls with their easy defence and the difficulty of enemy discovery and access make them peculiarly suitable.

Furthermore, they are very readily freed from disease, and are admirable centres for economic penetration.

This then, is the second of Australia's problems in her new-found nationhood. By the terms of the mandate we are forbidden to fortify our new tropical territory, but the necessity to occupy it and to develop its resources is obvious, if we wish to retain it, or (which is as important and, indeed equivalent,) to attract the share of tropical trade that is our right. Rabaul is the natural half-way house for Australia, China, Japan, and the Philippines. Already the Dutch port of Macassar, not half so well situated is threatening to become a world emporium, and a developed Rabaul would be a wonderful asset to the whole of Australia. which indeed it would bring ten days nearer the markets of the great ports of the East.

Natural advantages of Rabaul as a harbour.

Our national safety then demands that we attack this problem without delay.

Enhanced economic importance of the tropics.

As a corollary to the above, is the third factor in the urgency of the immediate colonisation of our tropical areas -- that of national prosperity. The emphasis has up to the present been laid upon our obligation to New Guinea, but this aspect affects Queensland quite as intimately.

As a result of the war, the Commonwealth

Our War  
Debt.

Commonwealth/ has incurred a huge debt, which is colossal if thought of in terms of population. The methods by which such debts are being met elsewhere are mainly:

(1). By increased production by (a) greater amount of work; (b) greater efficiency of work.

(2). By developing important resources of raw material, where the return is great for the outlay, as it is in tropical countries.

(3). By subsidising industries such as agriculture, grazing, etc, either by outside assistance or by inside aid, and so preparing for subsequent industrial expansion as opportunities develop.

Meeting the difficulties of the

War Debt & the unemployment problem

resources, then,

rehabilitation of our revenues, and the protection of our

In the development of our tropical

new challenged interests, while it offers further a chance of solution of part at least of our unemployment problem and the unemployment problems of Great Britain, and America. There are, at present, thousands of men, perhaps a quarter or fifth of the unemployed, who are employable, and who require only an opportunity to become splendid colonists. Especially is this the case with the younger members. These men now, and for some time, must be kept at the public expense --- a dead weight on the national finances. Their employment offers an opportunity to utilize their cost not as the dole of charity, as at present -- once given, forever unproductive -- but as a capital outlay destined to furnish a splendid and permanent return. A fraction of the money that must be spent in doles, and lost through the ways of crime that is always a feature of periods of commercial depression, will establish a colony of these men on the fruitful soil of Australia's tropics to be the basis of a permanent Australian

Asset./

"White Australia".

Indeed, in our "White Australia"

policy, we definitely have committed ourselves to some programme of development of our tropical areas by white labour, and there never was a better opportunity to collect the material and to make the experiment.

Not only so, but as Northcliffe said when in Australia, the problem is far more urgent than it appears to the average Australian. The swarming masses of the Orient --- China, for example has an annual birthrate equal to our whole population--- cannot, if they would, view our empty million of square miles, with the same indifference with which we do; and in the past, we have more than once found that British statesmen have not seen eye to eye with us in our ideals.

What hope is there, that, in the future we will persuade either the one or the other by a programme of wind, which proves its sincerity by not one forward step.

It will take more than one generation to set in motion the huge scheme that will make Australia populous and safe. There is, on the other hand, no man daring enough to prophesy that within even one generation we will not be called on to face the most deadly aggression either by peaceful penetration or by actual war.

Australia's obligations

We have been granted nationhood and

it is our bounden duty to accept the proud responsibility and to strengthen our frontiers. Neither arms, nor warships, fortresses, nor squadrons of aeroplanes, can compare in defensive value with the importance of a population rooted in the soil.

"It is merely a few acres of snow", said the French King, as he signed away Canada to the British Realm; "It is merely some few square miles of sunscorched desert", some Australian Louis might say, if in a hundred years nothing more had been done for our tropical areas.

areas/ (xiv).  
than is ~~accomplished~~ ~~accomplished~~ at present.

We are fighting today a more bitter, more silent, and more important war, than the Great War of 1914-18. For it, we were able to call a nation into arms, to vote immense sums that will burden us for generations, and it was gladly done to safeguard our world and an ideal. The blaring of the triumphant bugles that ended the clash of arms, sounded the call to an Economic War that will last out our time.

Can we not summon to our aid, that same national enthusiasm, and some few millions, not for unproductive struggle, however noble and idealistic, but for the constructive experiment that will permanently colonize tropical Queensland, and will make a great commercial asset of German New Guinea?

Our honour, our safety, and our prosperity demand it; we have declared it our intention by our "White Australia" policy; the opportunity is at hand; why, then, should we pause?

Our path being so obvious, it but remains to follow it.

London.  
5/5/22.

R.W.C.

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