

The Purchase of Rabi Island for the Banarasa

H. E. Maude

So much correct information has been spread about, and sometimes written, on the subject of the purchase of Rabi Island for the Banarasa people that I feel I should record ~~and publish~~ the true ^{account} ~~story~~ before I depart from this life. No one else could tell the whole story because no one else knew it from beginning to end; and while some people knew bits and pieces they are all long since dead.

Ever since 1929, when I came to live in the group of islands called by the Gilbertese Timgama but by the Banarasa Abaririga, it had been a dream of mine that all the Central Pacific Islands that had got into the hands of Europeans should be bought by or for the island people of the area, most of whom lived on the low equatorial islands and suffered from over-population.

When I became a Lands Commissioner, and later Chief Lands Commissioner, I was fortunate enough to be responsible for ^{initiating} the purchase of 17 islands from European hands for the use of the island people: ^{eight} in the Phoenix Group and nine in the Line from the 1-Kinohiti; Nukuhiva for the ~~islands~~

Turakawa; Kerei for the Waitangia; Rossau (though
the New Zealand Government) for the Pukapukans; and lastly
Paki for the Banolans. I mention this fact to correct
the notion that Paki was an isolated ^{acquisition} ~~purchase~~ made
at the request of the British Protector Commission, with
whom I never met and discussed its purchase at any
time.

In 1931 and 1932 when I spent half a year
on Banua engaged with the Banolan Thuanai and 2 Thuanai
in the settlement of their ownership and boundary disputes,
seeing for the most part in the Tolwewa manakala, I
discussed the possibility of their buying a second
island for settlement by those who wanted to live on it.
Little interest was taken in the matter except by
Eri of Uva who felt that Banua was too full
of ghosts for the terrible drought and famine of the
1870's and that at least he and his family would
like to move to another where ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~new~~ ^{new} food
could be grown and better education obtained for their
children.

actually / the ^{British} ~~Basal~~ ^{Basal} ~~Prudett~~ ^{Prudett} ~~Committee~~ ^{Committee} had been running for
 long ago as 1914 ^{about} what was to happen to the Basals when
 the phosphate industry shut down with the exhaustion of the
 deposits, and in 1931 a Basal Prudett Fund was ~~formed~~
 commenced 'for the purchase of a future land'. It was
 not until 1940, however, that the Basals themselves ~~suggested~~
 suggested the purchase of Wakaya Island in the Fiji
 Group 'as a second line' / ① It is probable that this proposal
 was made on the advice of D. S. Kennedy, a ~~leader~~
 and later Administrative Officer ^{in the} ~~in the~~ ^{Great and Elice Islands} ~~in the~~ ^{Colony Service} /

at the time I was attached to the Western Pacific High
 Commission in ^{some} ~~some~~ ^{dealing} ~~dealing~~ ^{with} ~~with~~ ^{GEIC} ~~affairs~~ ^{affairs}, and
 arrangements were made with the Fiji Government to send
 two agricultural officers to investigate and report on the
 suitability of Wakaya for settlement. Their report ^{indicated} ~~indicated~~
~~definitely~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{such} ~~such~~ ^{fertile} ~~soil~~ ^{soil} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~there~~ ^{there} ~~was~~ ^{was}
 found to be shallow in depth and the water supply
~~was~~ ^{was} ~~inadequate~~.

The Basals were ~~informed~~ ^{informed} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~investigation~~ ^{investigation} ~~was~~ ^{was}
 made to find ~~the~~ ^{another} ~~other~~ ^{other} ~~island~~ ^{island} ~~available~~ ^{available} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~suitable~~ ^{suitable}
 for their purpose. As a result Peter ~~Ward~~ ^{Ward} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~offered~~ ^{offered} ~~Lewis~~ ^{Lewis}
 Parker Plantation Prop. 2td. offered to sell Rabi Island for the
~~redemption~~ ^{redemption} ~~price~~ ^{price} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~£~~ [£] ~~25,000~~ ^{25,000}. Investigation showed it
 to be very suitable owing to its ^{size} ~~size~~, ^{fertility} ~~fertility~~, ^{flourishing} ~~flourishing~~ ^{coconut} ~~coconut~~

inadequate /
 the Wakaya was
 definitely suitable /

① and always on the understanding 'that their rights to land on Ocean Island should continue undiminished'

plantations at Vunavuni, Suetolu and Naku, good fishing grounds in the vicinity and a suitable dry climate ^{for coconut} on the south coast (called on Naku). The reason for its low price was partly the depressed state of the copra market, but it was ^{felt} ~~estimated~~ by the Ceylon Treasury Department, now located ~~at~~ in Sydney, who conducted the negotiations on behalf of the High Commissioner, that Lulu's were not anxious to sell the island as the Japanese were ~~the~~ approaching Fiji and they feared lest the island might ~~fall~~ ^{fall} into Japanese control and consequently be as useless to them as their plantations in the Solomons, now behind the Japanese lines.

An option was ^{therefore} ~~apparently~~ taken and the Bauclans notified of ~~useless~~. They ^{see nothing} ~~declined~~, hence, to consider any island except Wabuya, ^{formerly} ~~under~~ the office of Kennedy who had been the administrative officer in charge of Bauca since September 1939 but was ~~transferred~~ to the Solomons Islands in June ⁱⁿ 1940. It is doubtful if either Kennedy or any Bauclan had actually seen either Wabuya or Roli; Staff ^{Smith} had conducted a detailed examination of them.

The High Commissioner decided to buy Wabuya as a waste of Pruditt Fund money and the Bauclans decided to consider the purchase of Roli as they did not want it. It seemed a ~~stupid~~

transferred

students but eventually a proposal was received by both
bodies agreeing to the purchase of both islands. As the
financial ~~details~~ ^{negotiations} ~~unpleasant~~ ^{unpleasant} communication with Basden closed
to operate in the Japanese occupying Bida /

The Trustees of the Volanga Estate refused the High
Commissioner's offer of £ F 5,000 for the island and decided
a sum 2 1/2 times that amount, which the High Commissioner
considered to be out of the question. So I was told
by him to cease my work in connection with the to find
~~an~~ an island for the Basdens as he regarded the
whole ~~matter~~ ^{situation} ~~of~~ ^{as} a waste of
time. He could not sanction the expenditure of their
capital in buying an island which was quite unsuitable
for their purposes and ~~they~~ he was unwilling to buy
an island which they did not want him to buy.

I was on friendly terms with Sir Henry Luke and was
actually living in Government House while in Fiji; but I
knew that once he had made up his mind only the
Basdens could change it; and they were out of touch.

So I ~~was~~ took up other work, but my mind kept returning
to this unique chance to obtain melting slabs. I ~~believed~~ ^{believed}

the Bankers would become for all time if only I could find a way to acquire it for them: but the option expired and there seemed no solution.

Perhaps it was Sir Titcomb himself who brought it about, for I had after heard both in the Billings and in Banker that she had a special affection for the Banker people. All I know is that one night I slept unusually soundly and when I woke ^{it} ~~the~~ was ~~open~~ quite clear what I had to do.

I waited until 6 o'clock that evening when I knew that Sir Harry would have stopped work and be enjoying the one pre-dinner drink which he allowed himself - and which always put him in a mellow mood after the day's run over. I headed out ~~at dusk~~ the door of his private room and was told to enter.

and what brings you here, Harry, at this unreasonable hour? He said the old ^{man} ~~man~~, always kind to the youngsters who had his collected. I replied that I had been worried about the Banker President Fund, that was invited in Sydney ~~to~~ in April ~~to~~ guarantee stock at a fixed rate of interest which would never, as far as I could see, ~~allow~~ enable the Bankers to buy anything worthwhile after the run was over.

Eventually

(3)

and me had told me that at last she had advised the Bankers to leave Arthur alone to do his own business.

But if we could spend £25,000 in buying Rabi - not for
~~them~~ then to live on for I accepted that was now out
of the question, but ~~just~~ as an investment - I was absolutely
certain that we could sell it again after the war for many
times that price. See Harry's letter agreed.

Mr Harry raised his hand - the signal to stop talking - and
he sat still and thought; while I sat still and trembled. Finally
he said, 'all right, Harry, I've been to Rabi see them
one and I think you are fully right. You may buy Rabi
~~from~~ the Provincial Fund capital; but only as an investment ~~with~~
~~with~~ for resale and not as a possible future one for the
Boston people, or ^{ever} one of them'.

Mr. Lerner, the secretary to the High Commission, telegraphed Clarke, the
Treasurer of the G.E.I.C. in Sydney, to try and persuade Mr
Lerner to sell at the stipulated price despite the option
being expired, for we feared ~~that~~ ^{lest} we could ~~never~~ ^{never} be
too late. We need not be worried for Lerner was
delighted to sell and ^{gave} ~~sent~~ Clarke and his staff a
dinner party to celebrate the occasion.

And as Rabi was bought for the B. Caluso; ^{in March 1942} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~line~~
as a temporary investment ^{definitely} ~~and~~ ^{not} for resale by the B. Caluso.

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If this ~~was~~ ^{was} the position in 1942, why ^{then} are the
Bandara now in full freehold possession of Pabli
and regard the island not as an investment but, ~~soon~~
~~then~~ together with Banala, as their home?

When the Japanese occupied Banala, with the enormous
idea of restarting the phosphate industry, for export to Japan,
they ~~soon~~ soon found that ~~there~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~enough~~ ~~land~~
~~could~~ ~~be~~ ~~used~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~island~~ ~~to~~ ~~feed~~ ~~the~~
population of Bandara and phosphate labour.

So everyone, except a few left as workers, were taken
away: the Bandara to the Comber's and Tanawa in the
galleys.

When
after the war was over arrangements were made with the
BPC to ~~take~~ ^{the collection of} collect them, in charge of Kennedy, and
bring them to Tanawa, ^{at Bairiki} where a temporary camp had been ~~made~~
looked for their reception. They were not taken to
Banala because reports indicated that their villages had been
wrecked and there was nothing ^{on the island} ~~to~~ eat.

When they had settled in at Bairiki I called a
meeting of everybody on the ^{island} beach

Then we discussed what was best to be done in detail. I suggested that under the circumstances they might care to live on what was in effect their other island of Rabi, though bought as an investment, as a temporary expedient, and that after two years we would ~~take~~ ^{return} them to Basala at government expense if they so wished, because by that time it was calculated that the B.P.C. would have studied and opened their Trade Store and we would have been able to erect at least temporary accommodation for them while they ~~waited~~ ^{waited} opened their own lines.

If, on the other hand, they decided ~~that~~ that they would like to stay on Rabi then the island would be handed over to them as their own property for ever, without any effect ^{on} their ownership of Basala which would also remain their property and could be visited ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~visited~~ ^{visited} as often as they wanted and lived on ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~island~~ ^{island} ~~if~~ ^{if} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~wished~~ ^{wished} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~do~~ ^{do} so.

Finally, if they did not want to go to Rabi under this temporary arrangement I would make other arrangements for them to live with Gilbertese families on Tanuwa and, if

necessary, on other islands as well, until Banaba could be made ready for their reception.

The Banabans elected to reside temporarily on Rabi of their own free will, and before the two years was up I went ^{with} P.D. McDougal, who represented the Fiji Government, and after one day of discussion they held a secret ballot in which every Banaban man and woman put a stamped card which was handed to them and put it into one of two locked boxes on a table in a closed room surrounded by police. One box ~~was~~ had written on it: 'I want to return to Banaba to live'; and the other: 'I want to make Rabi my home for ever'.

~~The boxes~~ The boxes were unlocked and the cards counted in front of the Banaban elders as witnesses. There were 270 votes in the box to ~~remain~~ remain on Rabi and 48 in the box to return to Banaba. It was the most polite and orderly voting that I have ever seen: no man voted until every woman had ~~finished~~ done so and the proceedings were grave and silent, without bantering or joking. I stayed on Rabi for two further days so that those who had voted to return to Banaba could give me their names ~~over~~ to enable me to take them back. For all care. Indeed to be sure no would be contrary to the

costs of ~~the~~ all included & knew; she argued ~~was~~
for days on any point at issue but, once a
decision is made, except the opinion of the majority,
without question.

after 2/1/13

That is really all that is to say, and I'm afraid
it is not nearly so exciting as ~~the~~ some of ^{the stories} those
I've heard about dark dealings in the former Colonial Office
in London, with the BPC persuading top British officials
to trick the Bantus into leaving their homes ~~places~~ for
some reservable place where they would live in misery
for the rest of their lives.

~~I admit that I always wanted to find a lovely island
home for the Bantus and I discussed the possibility
more than once with my friend Sir Albert Ellis when
I was on holiday in Auckland, for we both ~~loved~~ the
Bantus ~~and~~ ~~we~~ ~~both~~ ~~loved~~ ~~islands~~ ^{and had the Bantus idea at least:} but neither of
us could think of one good enough for their home
and available - until I was lucky enough to find
Rubi, which seemed as ^{really} ideal as we could hope to
find in this world.~~

But even so I never - never once - heard anyone in the
Colonial Office, the British ^{Phosphate} Commission, the Western Pacific

I must admit ^{here} that I always ~~tried~~ ^{tried} to find a lovely ~~island~~ ^{island} ~~land~~ ^{land} for the Bandans. On holiday in Auckland I discussed the possibility ^{of old friend} with Sir Albert Ellis, for we both had the Bandan interests at heart and we both loved islands: but alas neither of us could think of one good enough for their home, and available - until I was lucky enough to find Rabi, which seemed as nearly ideal as we could find in this world.

But when I never - never once - heard anyone in the Colonial Office, the British Phosphate Commission or anywhere else speak of the possibility of the Bandans going to Rabi against their will. Such an idea was absolutely impossible and Sir Alexander Grantham, the then High Commissioner, and I could only suggest that with their knees gone and Banda temporarily devastated they might come to visit ^{Rabi} ~~the~~ ^{island} for a ~~short~~ ^{short} look - see. ^{later} they agreed I could only hope and keep my fingers crossed that they would like it and some of them at least decide to stay on, for they needed their own two islands instead of one, and could live on one or the other, or on both, just as they pleased.

The Purchase of Rabi Island for the Banabans

H.E. Maude

The British Government had been worried as long ago as 1914 about what was to happen to the Banabans when the phosphate industry shut down with the exhaustion of the deposits, and in 1931 the Banaban Provident Fund was commenced 'for the purchase of a new home'. It was not until 1940, however, that the Banabans themselves suggested the purchase of Wakaya Island in the Fiji Group 'as a second home'.

At the time I was attached to the Western Pacific High Commission in Suva dealing mainly with GEIC affairs and arrangements were made with the Fiji Government to send two agricultural officers to investigate and report on the suitability of Wakaya for settlement. Their report indicated that Wakaya was definitely unsuitable as such fertile soil as there was proved to be shallow in depth and the water supply was inadequate.

The Banabans were informed accordingly and investigations were made to find another island available and more suitable for their purpose. As a result Lever's Pacific Plantations Prop. Ltd. offered to sell Rabi Island for the ridiculously small price of £A25,000. Investigations showed it to be very suitable owing to its size (27 square miles), fertility, flourishing coconut plantations, good fishing grounds in the vicinity and a suitably dry climate for settlement on the north coast.

The High Commission declined to buy Wakaya as a waste of Provident Fund monies and the Banabans declined to consider the purchase of Rabi. It seemed a stalemate but eventually a compromise was reached by both parties agreeing to the purchase of both islands. At this juncture communication with Banaba ceased to operate on the Japanese occupying Banaba.

I took up other work, but my mind kept returning to this unique chance to buy an island for the Banabans. I told the High Commissioner that I had been worried about the Banaban Provident Fund, which was invested in Sydney in government stock at a low fixed rate of interest which would never, as

far as I could see, enable the Banabans to buy anything worthwhile after the war. But if we could spend £A25,000 on buying Rabi purely as an investment I was absolutely certain that we could sell it again after the war for many times that price. Sir Harry Luke agreed.

And so Rabi was bought for the Banabans in March 1942: purely as a temporary investment and not necessarily for settlement by the Banabans.

After the war arrangements were made with the BPC to collect the Banabans from their prison camps and to bring them to Tarawa, where at Bairiki a temporary camp was prepared for their reception. They were not taken to Banaba because reports indicated that their villages had been wrecked and there was nothing on the island to eat.

When they had settled in at Bairiki I called a meeting of everybody on the lagoon beach. There we discussed in detail what was best to be done. I suggested that under the circumstances they might care to live on what was in effect their other island of Rabi, though bought as an investment, as a temporary expedient, and that after two years we would return them to Banaba at government expense if they so wished, because by that time it was calculated that the BPC would have stocked and opened their Trade Store and we would have been able to erect at least temporary accommodation for them while they rebuilt their own homes.

If, on the other hand, they decided that they would like to stay on Rabi then the island would be handed over to them as their own property for ever, without any effect on their ownership of Banaba which would also remain theirs and could be visited as often as they wanted and lived on permanently by those who wished to do so.

Finally, if they did not want to go to Rabi under this temporary arrangement I could make other arrangements for them to live with Gilbertese families on Tarawa and if necessary, on other islands as well, until Banaba could be made ready for them.

The Banabans elected to live temporarily on Rabi of their own free will, and after two years I went there with P.D. Macdonald, who represented the Fiji Government. After some

days of discussion they held a secret ballot in which every Banaban man and woman put a stamped card, which was handed to them, into one of the two locked boxes on a table in a closed room surrounded by police. One box had written on it: 'I want to return to Banaba to live' and the other; 'I want to make Rabi my home for ever'.

When the voting was completed the boxes were unlocked and the cards counted in front of the Banaban Elders as witnesses. There were 270 votes in the box to remain on Rabi and 48 in the box to return to Banaba. It was the most polite and orderly voting that I have ever seen: no man voted until every woman had done so and the proceedings were grave and silent, without barracking or shouting. I stayed on Rabi for two further days so that those who had voted to return to Banaba could give me their names to enable me to take them back. No one came.

After this agreement I could only hope that they would continue to be happy there and decide to stay on, for they would then own two islands instead of one, and could live on one or the other, or on both, just as they pleased.

father and an Australian mother: next generation catnip helps me's
brain power.

As you will see it is essentially produced for the Galleries
who we hope will really understand and appreciate it. Of course the
publishers will sell to anyone but I do not anticipate more than a
dozen E. modern buyers, as there are few electron-artists in the Pacific area
and Owen still who selected the use of non-durability sources. Still,
if you would like to know they would ^{give a better idea of how} ~~like~~ ~~the~~
Galleries ^{lined} ~~thought~~ and thought them ~~to be~~ ~~the~~ ~~artistic~~ ~~the~~
~~but together anything else, later~~ Tagore Foundation ~~than in any other way~~
and be ^{intended and} ~~planned~~ at the same time.

I realized that you wanted to buy this book but

[Handwritten signature/initials on the left margin]

it has not been listed (this is done in Fiji) and in any case it
 should not cost us more than \$10 as we subsidize it to enable the
 students to buy it at a price they can afford. Tuzum Tradition was
 beautifully illustrated but by American University publisher at a price ^{at} which
 nobody could be possibly bought a copy, so we had to ask Kivote in
 Honolulu to arrange for the Union Foundation to distribute 100 free copies to the
 libraries, ~~schools~~ colleges, schools, organizations and the ^{leading} intellectual elite
 in the Gallatin world or nobody would be ever seen a copy.

We have been working at ~~presently~~ further building and
 publishing 'The Book of Baaba' for the Baabans, now mostly on Rakia
 Island in Fiji so as to give them everything we know about the
 pre-Abolitionist culture and history of Baaba, as they are ~~being~~
~~forgetting~~ he asked for this ~~for~~ which before it disappears. It will

(The rest you a copy of the book)

includes a few cultural notes by your father ^{and} and with those
 when these appear ^{we} he has finished ^{our} fight against time to
 get everything ^{fully} into ^{order} before we died, which was ^{was}
 the true understanding with Lady G. noble when the mass of papers
 was handed over to us, I'll send you a copy of the book when it.

Before writing I should add that the original ^{Goble's collection} ^{of} ^{papers},
 legends and oral traditions, mostly in Gallese, ^{over} ^{manuscript} ^{has} ^{been} ^{compiled}
 see manifested in 1964 by the Pacific ^{Manuscripts} ^{Project} Bureau (PMB 69)

and may be obtained from the secretary of the Bureau, ^{at} ^{the} ^{University} ^{of} ^{the} ^{South} ^{Pacific}
 Auckland National University, Box 4, Colerna, A.C.T. 2600, Auckland.
 I enclose a ^{copy} ^{of} ^{the} ^{list} ^{of} ^{titles}, ^{of} ^{the} ^{manuscripts} ^{which} ^I ^{had} ^{read} ^{at} ^{the}
 time.

How and Why was Rabi Island bought

H. E. Maude.

So much incorrect information has been spread about, and one time written, on the subject of the purchase of Rabi Island for the Banaban people that I feel I should record and publish the true story before I depart from this ~~world~~ ^{life}. No one else could tell the whole story because no one else knew it ~~from beginning to end~~ ^{from beginning to end}; and while ~~many~~ ^{several people} knew bits and pieces they are all long since dead.

1 ~~it had ~~always~~ been a dream of mine, that was ~~not~~ ~~at~~ ~~all~~ ~~likely~~ ~~that~~ ~~all~~ ~~the~~ ~~Central~~ ~~Pacific~~ ~~Islands~~ ~~that~~ ~~had~~ ~~got~~ ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~hands~~ ~~of~~ ~~Europeans~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~bought~~ ~~by~~ ~~or~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~island~~ ~~people~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~area~~, ~~most~~ ~~of~~ ~~whom~~ ~~lived~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~low~~ ~~equatorial~~ ~~coral~~ ~~atolls~~ ~~and~~ ~~suffered~~ ~~from~~ ~~over~~ ~~population~~.~~
~~As a result I had been fortunate enough to be responsible for the purchase of the eight islands of the Phoenix Group for the ~~Philippines~~ ^{Kiribati}, of which Owen, Mura and Nukunono were colonised before World War II; ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~recommend~~ ~~successfully~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~New~~ ~~Zealand~~ ~~Government~~ ~~that~~ ~~Mason~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~bought~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~people~~ ~~of~~ ~~Pudapuka~~, ~~its~~ ~~former~~ ~~owner~~.~~

2 I ~~was~~ ^{was} attached to the Western Pacific High Commission in Suva which called me to buy Kiva ~~island~~ ^{island} for the Tuvans



at an anti sale and available for the Trulvas for
Buna Philp.



recommending the purchase of the Hawaiian Islands over Flint and Caroline Islands and their similar settlement of Gallatin. At the same time a successful recommendation was made to the New Zealand Government that Tasson should be bought for the people of Pukepuke, its own land owned. ~~Recommendation~~ of these recommendations I am glad to learn that Christie, Fanning and Washington have now been bought ^{on independent} by the Republic of Hawaii and are in process of being settled, while I have long hoped that Flint and Caroline will follow when communication improve and over-population gets worse.

My efforts at island buying for the ~~islands~~ ~~on the~~ Central and Eastern Pacific for the benefit of the ~~islands~~ ~~islands~~ themselves are noticed here to refute the charge ~~allegation~~ that I bought Pali was an isolated case ~~made~~ and not for the benefit of the Basalans but at the instigation of the British Phosphate Commission who were said to be anxious to get rid of the Basalans from Green Island. The ~~most~~ ~~strong~~ protest 'to keep the look of the Basalans' has been ~~in~~ ~~order~~ ~~to~~ ~~discredit~~ my notices.

Nothing could be further from the truth. From the Oct 1931 to March 1932 I worked ~~with~~ in Toluwana ~~Village~~ Village (and all over Basala on Boundary Disputes) on a ~~boundary~~ ~~disputes~~ ~~adjudicating~~ the Lusho Disputes of the Basalans. During these six months I grew to know and love the Basalans of that day. We sat on the floor around

the sides of the Talweva muncaba and all the proceedings were
 in Gilbertese and ~~the~~ the points noted by me in a notebook
 book on a board between my knees. The decisions were of 4,000
 in strict accordance with Bandan custom and that is what we
 mostly talked about. Two of the 16 ^{electd} Commissioners were women
 and one of them, Nei Teuria, knew more about Bandan custom
 than anyone else on.

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8



① Ever since my appointment to the Administrative service of the Gilet and Elliot Islands Colony in 1929 ...

~~My~~ my first chance to do something towards the practical application of this dream came in 1931 when in preparing my report on the census of the colony I emphasized the ~~serious~~ ^{serious} ~~condition~~ ^{condition} ~~being~~ ^{being} ~~caused~~ ^{caused} on some Gilet Islands by the ~~increasing~~ ^{increasing} ~~over-population~~ ^{over-population} and advocated the purchase and settlement of the uninhabited Phoenix Group ~~Islands~~ for settlers of Giletes with sufficient land ~~to~~ ^{to} maintain them on their own islands.

This ^{suggestion} ~~idea~~ was taken up by the High Commissioner on the Western Pacific in Fiji, ^{on} ~~the~~ ^{value} of Burns Philp's ~~offer~~ ^{offer} ~~plot~~ ^{plot} ~~lands~~ ^{lands} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ the ~~islands~~ ^{islands} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~frustrated~~ ^{frustrated} ~~of~~ ^{of} the government and in 1938 I commenced to settle the three northern islands of Uva, Manua and Makurao.

~~During~~ ~~the~~ ~~World~~ ~~War~~ ~~II~~ ~~I~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~able~~ ~~to~~ ~~continue~~ ~~my~~ ~~work~~ ~~as~~ ~~intended~~ ~~in~~ ~~my~~ ~~plan~~ ...

During World War II all colonization activities were suspended as the Japanese occupied the Gilet Islands. ^② ~~In~~ ¹⁹⁴² ~~I~~ ^{was} ~~able~~ ~~to~~ ~~examine~~ ~~the~~ ~~matter~~ ~~con~~ ~~cerning~~ ~~the~~ ~~islands~~ ~~and~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~result~~ ~~recommended~~ ~~the~~ ~~purchase~~ ~~and~~ ~~settlement~~ ~~of~~ ~~Christies~~ ~~Islands~~ ~~and~~ ~~Washington~~ ~~Islands~~ ~~by~~ ~~Giletes~~ ~~and~~ ~~in~~ ~~1944~~ ~~I~~ ~~made~~ ~~a~~ ~~similar~~ ~~examination~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~northern~~ ~~islands~~ ~~resulting~~ ~~in~~ ~~a~~ ~~final~~ ~~report~~

Dear Rosemary,

At long last we are able to send you the ~~copy~~
'Anthology of Gallican Oral Tradition', which ^{uses} all but a few
~~Gallican~~ items on Basque culture. Altogether there are approximately 100
traditions in the book but some are by other collectors.

It is the first publication we have ever done from
ception to a field camera-ready text on our own Olivetti
word-processor in our tiny ^{study} ~~office~~ in the Retriquet village but
so far we have found few mistakes though we are still keeping
our fingers crossed.

If you had to come to the scene when it proved
beyond my strength (we are both on the eve of 90) and then she got
interested in the traditions and no less in the novel ones things we can
do with a word-processor after years on an electric typewriter. And
she was assisted by Marga, a superbly capable girl with a Bergoli