

Therefore, on their return home, they evidently relate all they have seen on the trip. The result is a greater effort on the part of the coastal people to beat the inland gardens. Their gardens are not the only things that benefit from their visits inland.

The competitions for native foods again caused keen rivalry. For the first time since its initiation, the coastal people secured most of the prizes. There has been no food shortage.

STATION GARDENS.

246. Eighteen tons of copra forwarded to Samarai realized £359. A slight increase in production is expected during the coming year. In addition to the making of copra, the nuts have been used for food.

OIL EXPLORATION.

247. A geological survey party from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company has been engaged on geological work in the district since February. Their active operations, so far, have been confined to the Cape Vogel Peninsula. Their work will be of immense value, and the publishing of their reports will be eagerly awaited. Their reports will, I hope, give some definite information as regards the oil possibilities of this district. I sincerely trust that their report will be favorable towards our Territory.

The Vogel (Papua) Petroleum Co. Ltd. have continued drilling operations. The drill is down over 1,000 feet.

GENERAL.

248. The caves near Dabora village, mentioned in last year's report, were further explored. I spent two hours in them, on one occasion, and was not able, in that time, to determine their extent. There are many stalactite and stalagmite formations, many of them being very pretty. With adequate lighting, I feel sure they would be magnificent.

249. The councillors are, on the whole, maintaining interest in their work, and the people are pleased to have them. Other than that "the councillors are all right," the village people will express no further opinions. It is very difficult to get any suggestions from the councillors, or to get them to discuss village or other matters.

250. Another matter I consider of much interest: When on my far inland patrol, I was talking to some of the natives. One of them made the following remarks:—

"It is another kind since the Government came. Before that we used to fight and kill our enemies, and they would also kill us whenever they could. We never knew when they might come and kill us. At night we would lie down to sleep. If a dog barked, a bird called, or we heard any noise, we would not sleep, as we did not know but that it was our enemies coming to kill us. In the day time, when at work in our gardens or elsewhere, we would run and hide until we were sure that the danger was passed, and it was safe to leave our hiding place. Because of this and because we only had stone axes, we did not have very big gardens, and often we went hungry. Since the Government came, we do not fight with our enemies and are not afraid at night when we hear any noise. We now have proper axes and knives, and we can cut the trees down more quickly and make bigger gardens, and so have plenty of food. The Government has been very good to us."

I asked him if he would not prefer the old days back again, and have one of their old fights. He said, "We liked our fights; but we were always afraid of our enemies coming and killing us. No, I would rather have the Government and no fights, because the Government is good to us."

NORTHERN DIVISION.

The whole of the Division has been patrolled, 13 patrols having been made in Buna, 8 Ioma, and 7 Wewak District. Most of the patrols were carried out in connexion with native tax-collecting and usual routine. On the patrol to the Chirima Valley sub-district, Mr. Cawley was successful in arresting a native who has been wanted on a charge of murder since 1916.

252. There were seven men dealt with and convicted by the Central Court—one on a charge of murder, one manslaughter (both Buna district), and five for causing bodily harm.

In his report of his patrol to the Chirima Valley sub-district, Mr. Cawley remarks how friendly the various tribes were, so evidently they are gradually losing their timidity. The Managalasi tribes are now well under control, and frequently a number of them pay a visit to the station. During a patrol in Huhurundi sub-district, at Haugata village, I witnessed the following:—

"A pregnant woman was sitting beside a man lying on his back. The man is called 'Poroga' (moaning snake man), and had been sent for on account of the woman's condition. His arms are thrown about, mostly semi-circular around his head, and he was calling out and moaning in an unintelligible jargon. His stomach was heaving convulsively, and his head was spasmodically moved from side to side. On inquiry I was informed that the woman was expecting a child, and the man had been sent for, he being the principal 'doctor' for these events. The object, as he says, is to take the 'devil' or 'snakes' from the woman's belly; otherwise to relieve her of the pains of labour. He takes the 'snake' or 'devil' away from the woman, bearing the pains of labour himself. He first takes the woman's hand, and gives her some 'medicine' called 'ongopa' (this is a creeper called 'joŋga') which is mixed with water and drunk by the woman. If the woman and child live, payment is made, but not otherwise. The 'Poroga' man tells the woman how many children she will have and the number of days before the child is born. This custom, I understand, originally came from the village of Ako, in the North-Eastern Division."

253. With the exception of Managalasi sub-district, the following is the reported births and deaths:—

Births—

Males	134
Females	119
Total	253, as against 277 for the previous year.

Deaths—

Adults.	Children.
Males. Females.	Males. Females.
60 56	25 28
Total	169, as against 209 for previous year.

In my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1926, I quoted the population of the Sebage-Anderi tribe. The census was first taken on the 12th November, 1920, and retaken on the 24th January, 1928. The population when first taken showed 323. The births were 43, deaths 47, transfers to other villages 91, and transfers from other villages 82, to the 24th January last, leaving a population of 310. The deaths in this period exceeding the births by 4.

See also pages 647 of this report.