

PAPUA ANNUAL REPORTS 1927-28

(Mac)

#53 FOOTBALL - very popular in WEO - Mr. Patrol Officer Rich acting as referee

W.R. Humphries R.M. - in charge of (AD) Cape Nelson District

- 10 patrols of 131 days; assisted by Rich

- Rich found stone bowls on upper Barigi; natives say fill with water & used as mirrors, no other purpose - suspicious because wide-spread
→ swavery?

- see my pg. 79 for quote on plantations with embellishments

- Wosari good, Lako best

- copra now at most villages; traders paying £12/10 a ton (gets £18 - £19 ton at Samarai)

"In another five years, or even in less, the native will not only be able to pay his tax from the proceeds of his copra; he will be able to buy European goods of various kinds, and other things that he can very well do without. It is to be hoped that his gardens will not languish as a consequence, for want of attention."

Prices: £5 best plantation at Wosari

£5 best kept garden Kewansasap

" best kept village Marua

- confusion of natives as to purpose - some believe they will eventually "be paid"

Annual meeting of tribes at Cape Nelson at new year

VILLAGE COUNCELLORS - 104

- problem of confusion with VC, but generally authority taken is a good thing

Humphries had come from the bush; in comparison, he found life at Cape Nelson "dull, extremely dull"

- heard that there were few dances: Explained by councillors at Wangela (sign. "where most of the people are Christian") that there are too many deaths for dancing

- Football introduced in 1926 "With the object of providing the natives with some new interest in life, football was introduced in the Division, first, I think, in 1926." - keeping to most rules except offside

"At first I found the games surprisingly gentle, there was something lacking, there was no vim in the play as we Europeans understand it, one rarely saw a player get knocked down, and no one ever got even slightly hurt. I set about changing this, but soon found that it was not ^{an} easy job; the players continued reluctant (sic) to bump one another really hard, consequently the man with the ball was rarely troubled, and the play continued quite tame. I persisted and insisted, and now things are a little better; occasionally the man with the ball will get a knock, but we never see 'skin and hair flying.' That, I hope, will come later. The games must be rough enough to create excitement, to lift the people out of themselves for an hour or ~~two~~ so, otherwise we are only wasting time and money. To help matters I have issued the teams with different coloured sashes; a little ritual, too, is added. The two captains shake hands over the ball at the commencement of the game and again at the close, when the teams line up and give the

orthodox cheers. Linesmen with whistles and flags also add to the interest, drinks are served at 'half-time' and the winning team receives a small prize. People have come from villages up to 25 miles distant to see the games, so there is hope for them yet."

TAXES: 1,264 collected = £631 10s.

- ~~298~~ 298 Family bonus claimants

- Stats.: most NED under "general labour" - work in Cape Nelson, the Samarai (406 working).

This was the last year that Departmental Reports published!

1928-29

- bad year for copra.

1929-30

- subsidy to Anglican mission = £350 per year

1930-31

Copra 1925-26 £28 ; 1930-31 £15 → £11/2/6

1931-32 (?)

- reports as Humphries report of KITOLO (pg. 67 above)

1933-34

Humphries transferred to Newborn Division.

1934-35

Mr. Criddland ✓ - new R.M.? - copra still doing well;

congrats to F. Macdonnell - see also Mr. Peterson in Kosirara District of N.E.D.

1936-37

Miss Hullett of Naniu died after being bitten on hands and arms by her own dog with no provocation - to Samoa, died a few days after - Rev. Stephen Majorot of Waniigela at Ambasi - the "brat" in

An Outpost

- Bishop Newton retired from ill health; M. mutians that they were opponents on football fields of New South Wales more than 50 yrs. before
- P.V. Warrington Strong arrives
- Anglican church being built at Poguwa

1937-38

- * - Oxford Group into Kereri - worry about areas where not under Abel's control: apparently reports of North Eastern Div.
- Mr McKenna - patrol officer?
- problem of "silly" as opposed to "repulsive" customs; tolerated, ^{reports} cause inconvenience and serve "no useful ~~purpose~~ result": Crittland for N.E.D.: "These the young men are 'segregated,' before being married, in a house which is specially built for them. 'This house,' the Resident Magistrate reports, 'is completely closed in and has neither doors nor ~~with~~ windows. A covered passage way is built from the house to a latrine. Food is passed to the youths through a small hole in the wall by the parents. The youths remain in this house for a whole year, never once emerging into daylight; by this time their skin has become very light in colour. They are then tattooed and may marry."

Pige-killing "trend" (cult) reported in Wathia Division and
 from NE - checked by joint efforts of Mr. Mackenna ^(part of) and
 Cecil Abel - no details.

Aug. 30, 1982.

Sheet 14 - Land Matters

171/Abel's 14. - to Bishop from R.M.

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter
 of the 16th instant intimating that you have given
 permission to the people in the DADUMO section of
 UIAKU village to erect houses on that portion of
 the Mission site that adjacent to the land on which
 their present houses stand, because it seems to you
 that almost all the land they own as house sites
 has been washed away by the action of the sea."

- no other rights to the land.

Letter from Newton. Dec. 16, 1929

Letter of 20 Nov. 1916

- Macdonnell bought part of land in 28 Aug. 1916
 for 60 sticks of tobacco at Uicheu - may have
 paid 2p. Bynum mission asked for another
 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre - refused. - no reason given.

48. Criddle R.M. 1937.