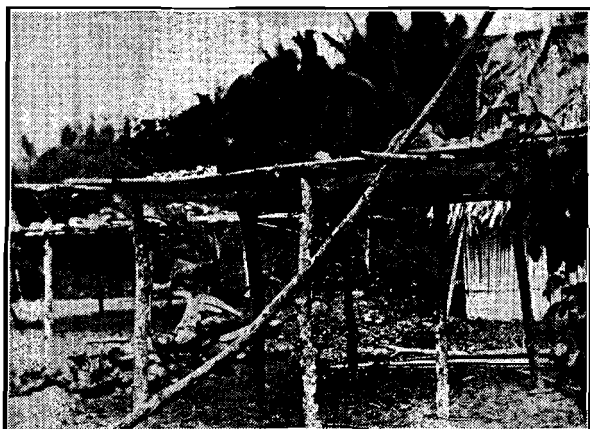


THE PAPUAN VILLAGER

Vol. 10, No. 2
February, 1938

Edited by F. E. WILLIAMS, Government Anthropologist
Published by the Government Printer, Port Moresby, Papua

Price: Two Pence
1s. per annum in Papua
2s. per annum, post free
elsewhere



Making Copra

The Price of Copra

Many Papuans are now making their own copra. Some of them make it a little at a time. They put it in a small bag of plaited coconut-leaf and carry it to the trader and get some trade or tobacco for it; some get sacks from the traders and fill them up—150 lb. or more—and of

course they get more pay; and some of them even send their own copra to the stores in town.

The Price Goes Up and Down

All of you who make copra and sell it must know that the price goes up and down. Sometimes you may get 10s. a bag; at another time 5s. a bag and so on. (In the good old days you

might even get £1^s a bag. But you don't do that now.)

When the price goes down some men blame the trader. They say he is playing a trick on them. But it is not the trader's fault.

The Whole World Makes the Price

The price is not decided in Papua. It is decided by the whole world, wherever copra is made and used. If there is more copra than the world needs this month, then the price is low. If, in a year's time, the world wants more copra than it can get, then the price will be high.

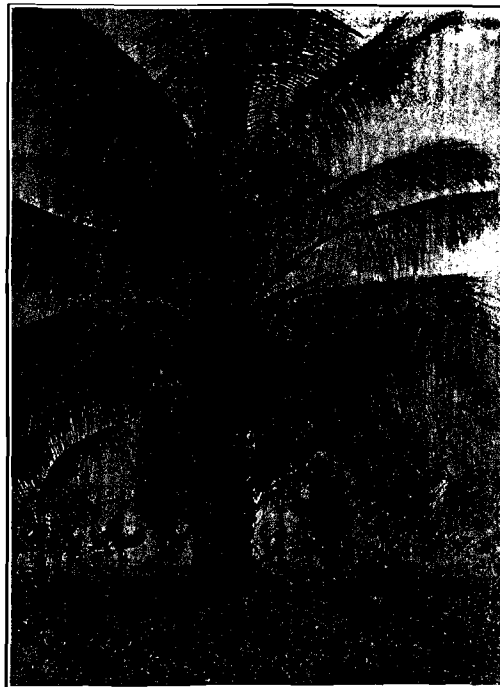
It is the same with other things. If everyone has chickens to sell and

only a few people want to eat them, then they will be cheap. But if everyone wants to eat chickens, and there are only a few to sell them, then they will be dear.

The traders look in the paper each week. We can tell you they are very anxious. And just now they are not very pleased, for they see the price of copra steadily falling. These are the prices for each ton in London over the last five weeks:—

Copra Prices

		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
14th Jan. ...	Sun-dried	12	15	0	Smoked	12	12	6
21st Jan. ...	"	12	12	6	"	12	7	6
28th Jan. ...	"	12	2	6	"	12	0	0
4th Feb. ...	"	12	0	0	"	11	17	6
11th Feb. ...	"	11	10	0	"	11	2	6



A Good Coconut Palm

A Woman Flies from Australia to Papua

For the first time a woman has flown a plane from Sydney to Papua. She is Miss Barbara Hitchens and she is only 23 years old. Her plane is a little Gipsy Moth with the pretty name "Felicity."

She had as a passenger Mr. Roberts of this country. He was coming back from leave in Sydney.

They had some rough weather coming up the Queensland coast; and the plane had to land on a little beach miles from anywhere. They spent some time there waiting for the storm to clear away. There was some nice drinking water there, and some oysters growing on the rocks. So they got a spanner out of the plane and smashed the oysters and ate them. By and by the rain cleared away and the plane got off again.

After a little stay at Cape York Miss Hitchens flew to Port Moresby. She had to cross many miles of open sea between Cape York and Daru; and after that she came along the coast of the Papuan Gulf. She landed safely in Port Moresby after 7 hours flying.

After that she set off for Wau. But her plane was forced down at Auma in the Gulf Division and part of the under-carriage was broken. But she made her own repairs; and when they were finished she set off for Wau. Again she met trouble. She did not arrive in Wau, and everyone thought she had come to grief. But other planes went out searching for her, and now we hear she has been found with her plane in the bush behind Madang.

A Big Flying Boat

The Americans are building flying boats to cross the Pacific between America and New Zealand. They are making one to carry 72 passengers.

The Australian Cricket Team

The team for the Test Matches in England is as follows:—

Bradman (Captain), McCabe (Vice-Captain), O'Reilly, Badcock, Fleetwood-Smith, McCormick, Fingleton, Barnett, Brown, Chipperfield, Hasset, Barnes, Walker, Ward, Waite and White.

Rough Weather

The "Montoro"

There have been bad cyclones on the Queensland coast.

On her last voyage the *Montoro* left Brisbane in very heavy weather (the other ships stayed in shelter because it was so very rough). But out at sea her steering-gear broke.

She has an "emergency" steering-gear (that means a second which can be used if the first goes wrong). But this was also damaged, so the Captain told the wireless officer to send out a message.

It is very dangerous in a rough sea when you have no steering-gear. The ship rocked about in all directions. Waves broke over her decks and washed into the cabins. The passengers had everything wet and a great many plates and cups and saucers were smashed.

But the officers and crew were working very hard and at last the steering-gear was mended.

When the message went out, there was no ship near to come to the *Montoro's* help. But they heard it in Brisbane and were getting ready to send out a strong boat called a tug. But just when they were ready to do so, another message came to say that the steering-gear was all right. So the old *Montoro* went on by herself.

The "Midas"

The *Midas* is a ketch which the Papua Oil Development Co. brought from Australia to use in the Western Division. It was being taken back to Australia by Captain Stanton. But the weather was so bad that it took three and a-half days to go from Daru to Thursday Island. And when it got there the engineer (who must have had a lot of hard work to do) was so knocked out that he had to go straight to hospital.

Three Big Waves

Bathing on the beaches near Sydney is a great sport. Hundreds and hundreds of people go in together. They swim out a long way and then come in on top of the waves. They call it "surf-riding" because they ride the breaking waves (called surf) like horses.

But not long ago when the people were bathing there came three very big waves, one after the other. As they went back from the shore they carried 200 people out to sea and many of them could not get back.

Five people were drowned and many more would have been but for the "life-savers." These are strong swimmers who are trained to rescue the drowning; and they went out with lines to help the people who were in difficulties.

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Fishermen in Port Moresby Harbour

Capital of the Mandated Territory

Natives of this Territory often speak of the "Rabaul Government" when they mean the Government of the Mandated Territory. They will have to give up doing this. For the Mandated Territory is going to have a new capital. (The "capital" of any country is the town where the Government has its headquarters.)

After the big eruption, Rabaul is not thought to be a safe place. There are several volcanoes there; though they are asleep at present, they may wake up again.

So the Government is going to move to another place. Everyone is wondering where it will be. Some say Madang, and some say Salamaua, and some say Wau. We shall probably hear in a few months time.

As we have no volcanoes near Port Moresby we shall keep our headquarters there.

The Crocodile

A Woman Killed at Mei

Crocodiles (or alligators as some people in this country wrongly call them) are the fiercest and worst enemy of Papuans. Every year many lives are lost to these brutes, which are both cowardly and daring; cowardly when hunted, daring when hungry.

Only this week a woman of Mei near Kerema was with other women wading ashore from a canoe when a crocodile sprang at her. It seized her across the body and dragged her away to an awful death. We may guess that the crocodile was terribly hungry.

Readers will be very glad to know that the villagers found this crocodile. It was resting on a mud-flat, and they crept up and killed it. Sticking out of its mouth were the legs of the poor woman, who had been big and strong. Perhaps the crocodile had tried to swallow the woman before she was dead. In her terrible struggles her arms and body had stuck in its throat. The brute had to come on top, because with its mouth kept open it would have drowned under the water.

Killing a Crocodile in Borneo

The natives of Borneo capture crocodiles very neatly. They find out the pool of water where a crocodile is resting at the bottom. They then go up-stream a short way, cut a thick bamboo about one foot long and sharpen both ends. They get a fowl and fasten its feet to the bamboo; then tie a strong rope to the bamboo and send it drifting down-stream, until it comes to the pool.

The fowl starts singing out. The crocodile hears it and comes on top and snaps at the fowl, and the bamboo. The bamboo "stands up" in the crocodile's mouth, so that the brute cannot close its mouth, nor open it any wider. The watching natives haul on the rope, bring the struggling crocodile near them and kill it.

—R.A.V.

Native Contributions

Christmas in the Trobriands

On 25th December, 1937, we celebrated Christmas. In the Teachers' Meeting the teachers decided the rules about Christmas sports.

Some villages near the Mission Station (about 3 or 4 miles away) came to Oyabia early in the morning. At 10 o'clock we gathered in the church. Four native teachers then gave the people a talk about Jesus Christ's birthday. After that we came out from the church. On this day we were happy. We received our Christmas presents in the church.

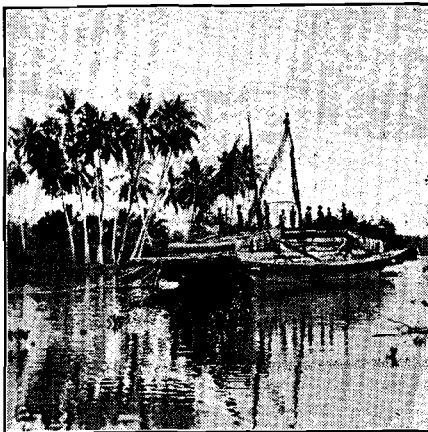
A Christmas Play

A few days after, on the Wednesday, we had our Christmas sports. A thousand people in our island came for Christmas sports to Oyabia.

At 11 o'clock we gathered in the church and the students acted a play about Jesus Christ in the manger. There were 4 boys for the shepherds and one girl for the angel; also some of her friends too: Joseph and Mary with their son, and Herod with his councillors and priests and scribes. Also Three Wise Men, and three little children from Bethlehem. We made it like they make it in Australia sometimes on Christmas Day. After we finished that we came out from the church.

We Have the Sports

Early in the morning all of us got ready the food and pigs which we put in the ground-oven until the play was finished. Then we got ready the food for the people to eat. We killed one cow and six pigs. We had a big feast to remember Jesus Christ's birthday.



A "Lakatoi" in the Gulf Division

When the people had finished the feast we started to run races and jump high, and jump long, wood-chopping, the greasy pole, spear-throwing, swimming, and also some other events which we made for the people to have a good time.

About Football

After that we got ready for football. On one side were the students and the medical boys at Losuia, and on the other were the signed-on boys. We had a proper game because 11 were on both sides. In the first part of the game we kicked one goal. Then in the next game we made one goal more. Afterwards we kicked a third goal. But the signed-on boys did not kick the ball through their goal. The people gave us a clap and made a big noise. By and by they all returned to their homes. They were all happy because of Christmas.

The Dance at Losuia

On Thursday, 30th December, some village men prepared for the dance. Most of the villages got ready their feathers and ornaments, then they came to Losuia. Each village started its dance, one after the other. After the big dances they made small dances, three men representing mother and children, or birds or animals. We call it *Kaisawaga*. It looks very good.

We have many dances in our island. Some villagers make a dance not like our dances,

but like a Thursday Island dance. One village made it like a Mailu dance and they also made other different dances.

By and by Mr. Hall gave the prizes to councillors of villages. All policemen and councillors made a feast for the people. Everyone was happy and that night some of them returned to their homes and some more the next morning.

Good-bye all of you Papuan Readers and a Happy New Year.

May God Bless you all.

[By Anitonio Lubisa, pupil teacher, Oyabia, M.M.S. This article wins the 5s. prize.]

Cricket at Kerema on Christmas Day

On the happy Christmas Day and on 27th December, a cricket match was played at Kerema.

Kerema won the toss and decided to bat. It is a pity that Kerema made only 105 runs, the innings taking about quarter of an hour.* Yokea went on to bat and at one time they had 5 wickets for 35. Then a dark cloud covered the west and there was a sprinkling of rain. This troubled the Kerema bowlers in delivering the ball. Yokea made 96 by 12.30 p.m.

At 2 p.m. Yokea sent out their fieldsmen and let Kerema go on batting. I wondered if Kerema could reach their score of first innings. But the batsmen were all out for 85. Yokea must have seen that they could reach this easily as the score was very poor. Daylight ended and we arranged to continue the match on Monday.

Just before Yokea arrived at Kerema all the Kerema players and others bought a pig, some bananas, etc., from the villagers for the visitors. So on Sunday afternoon the pig and bananas were cooked and served up for them. After that the visitors came and sat round the table where we served the foods. When they finished, their captain stood up and said, "Dear friends, we were all very pleased and we say thank you very much indeed for all the food since Friday. We are departing on Monday and the day we arrive at Yokea I shall tell our friends what we have seen here."

After his speech Yokea gave three cheers to Kerema and everyone of them said, "Thank you very much for a happy Christmas." And

then the Kerema players also gave three cheers to them.

On Monday morning at 10 a.m. we were all on the field and let Yokea take its second innings. They were all out for 96 again, in two hours. Karukuru is the wonderful bat of Yokea, he was blocking every ball which would have dismissed him. He said his eyes were opened and saw the ball as big as a football when the bowlers delivered it. Feariloi was the best Yokea bowler.

For Kerema, Dago Morea made the most runs and got the most wickets. The game was won by Yokea by 2 runs. Speeches were made and each team gave three cheers.

The Yokea team was hurrying to go back to their village, as they had to make a big feast there on New Year's Day. So they departed the same day.

[By Dago Morea, native clerk, Kerema, G.D.]

*(This must be a record for fast scoring, unless there has been some mistake.—Ed.)

Christmas at Delena

A Letter from a Delena Schoolboy

My dear friends,

I shall tell you about our Christmas. On Tuesday morning, 21st December, about 9 o'clock we all went to the schoolroom. *Taubada* and *Sinabada* gave presents to all the small schoolboys and girls, to the men and the women. Good presents they gave them, and we were made very happy.

Tuesday afternoon there was no school because of holidays. The three Government *Taubadas* came to Delena and we saw them with our *Taubada* and *Sinabada* on Monday about 12 o'clock.

The same afternoon the Mission boys and the Delena people came to cricket at the Mission and we played until sunset. *Sinabada* called the girls and said 5 girls were to take chairs and put them down under the mango trees, because the sun was very hot. The Government men came and sat down on the chairs. That afternoon the three Government men went back to Kairuku.

On Friday, 24th December, about 7 o'clock in the morning the bell rang and the Mission boys and girls, women and children, went to *Taubada's* house and had prayers there. *Sinabada* spoke to the women and girls and

told them to cook our food. They made two small platforms and put the food there and then made a fire. The men went to fish in the sea and they caught one big fish and other small fish.

On Saturday morning early the bell rang. All the Mission boys and girls and women and children came into the Church to service. When this was finished *Taubada* spoke to all of us and said, "All our schoolboys and girls come up here and I will give you each a cup of rice."

The Delena men and those from Paukama brought presents of wallaby and fish to help the Mission. *Taubada* and *Sinabada* gave presents to them also, half a bag of rice and 1 lb. tobacco.

with his son Vernon Guise, to meet his brother on his arrival at Samarai from Port Moresby.

We left Wedau by canoe the same night that Edward had chosen for us. We paddled across from Qarara to Laronai that night, helped by a land breeze. This made it very easy and much quicker. We arrived at Laronai Mission station by one o'clock that night and we all went to Mr. Buckland's house to see if there was any mail for Samarai for us to take with us. Mr. Buckland told us to wait there until next morning. So we spent the night there and in the morning he gave us his mail and after that we continued on the Cape Frere. The south-east wind was blowing strongly and we were very much afraid of it.

COMPETITION

Write what you know about the Cassowary—Where does it live, what does it eat, what does it do? How do you hunt for it? What do you do with it when you have caught it? @ Five Shillings for the Best Article @ ANSWERS MUST REACH EDITOR BY 15th MARCH, 1938

On Saturday about 8 o'clock the Delena and Paukama men cooked the rice and bananas and wallaby and fish. When they had finished cooking they served up our food. They told all the Mission people, boys, girls, women and children and the teacher and his wife and children to come and get the food. Not the village people, only the Mission people. They were made very happy because there was plenty of food and each one took his share of what was left over.

Then two of the boys went and got the cricket things and the football too. The big boys played cricket and the small boys got the football. They finished their game at 5 o'clock.

Now I stop here, dear friends. Good-bye. God bless you all,

[By Aeava Aia, L.M.S., Delena schoolboy.]

A Voyage to Wamawamana

Dear Readers of *The Papuan Villager*,

I am very pleased that I can tell you all about our voyage from Wedau to Wamawamana.

Well, I am going to start my scribbling now.

On Friday night, Edward Guise (a half-caste) chose two men and me to go to Samarai

The waves of the sea rushed against us, so we went into a little bay at Marabulavi. It is only about a mile away from Laronai and we arrived there at 7 a.m. and stayed until sunset. We tried to get out from the bay in the evening but the sea was still very rough, the waves rising even higher. So we spent a night there.

Next morning very early, about 3 a.m. when the sea went down we started off again. We went round a lot of points before the sun rose. We came to Topura at 6 a.m., daylight here, and stayed a quarter of an hour to have some breakfast and then went on to Wamawamana, where we arrived about 7 a.m.

Next morning two of our friends went to Giligili then on to Samarai carrying the mail bag with them. They left us at Wamawamana, at the Mission station.

They returned from Samarai on Wednesday night by the Giligili launch. The same day we left Wamawamana and crossed over wooded country to the East Cape and went to Giligili, and the two parties met that day at Giligili. We friends met together and spent the day and night at Moses Pupuka's house.

[By Cecil Baurela, Anglican Mission, Dogura.]

Printed and published for the Department of the Government Secretary by WALTER ALFRED BOCK, Government Printer, Port Moresby.—8742/9.88.