

Edited by F. E. WILLIAMS, Government Anthropologist, Port Moresby

Clothes for Native Papuans

We have had a competition—"What do you think about clothes for Papuans," and in this paper you will see what some of your people have written. Most of the men who sent

in answers said that European clothes for natives were a bad thing. But, although they said this, it is true that more and more Papuans are wearing them. In fact it seems that Papuans are determined to wear European clothes.



A River Scene

GIBSON PHOTO

The Government long ago made a law about clothes for this reason :

Clothes are good to wear if they are kept clean and if they are taken off when they are wet, and dried before they are put on again. Otherwise they are bad, for they cause sickness and death. Some natives know how to keep their clothes clean and do not wear them when they are wet, but many others are foolish and wear them when they are very dirty, and keep them on, and even sleep in them, when they are wet. To protect these foolish men and women it is necessary to make a law about the wearing of clothes.



An Old Papuan in a White Man's Shirt

The Old Law

The old law was that you should wear a proper covering on the lower part of the body, but no covering at all on the upper part—unless you had permission. Permission was given to Armed Constables, Village Constables, Crown Servants, Mission natives and signed-on boys who had

a written permit from their masters. But village natives who wore clothes on the upper part of their bodies without permission could be fined or imprisoned.

The New Law

Now this has been changed. You are allowed to wear clothes on the upper part of your bodies—shirts, singlets, jerseys or coats.

But there is still a law about it :

No native shall wear any clothes in a dirty, insanitary or wet condition.

You know what "dirty" and "wet" mean. "Insanitary" just means unhealthy. So look after your clothes. If they are dirty, wash them ; if they are wet, change them ; if they are insanitary, burn them.

Remember that a law always carries with it a punishment. If you break this new law you can be fined or sent to gaol.

And do not rush off to buy a singlet just because the new law allows it. *The Papuan Villager*, and most Europeans in this country, agree with Aketi Isemia, George Scott and Bona Aiaia. They like the look of a brown healthy body far better than a dirty singlet, and even better than a clean singlet.

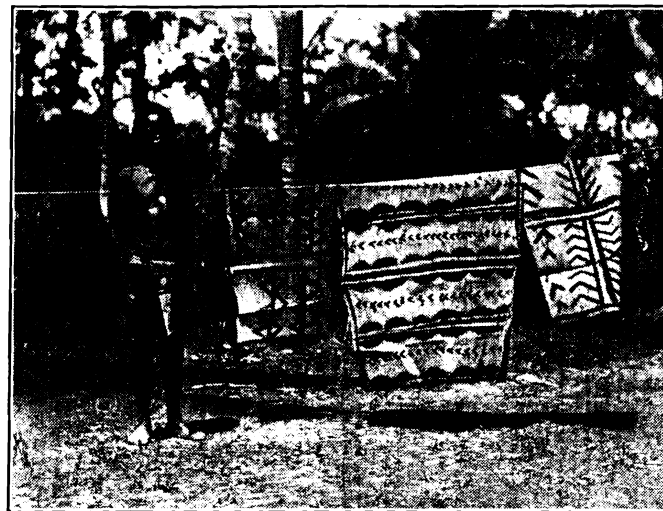
Anzac Day

The 25th April is a great day in the history of Australia. In 1915—26 years ago—the Australian soldiers landed on Gallipoli and began their fighting in the last war. They were then fighting against the Turks and the Germans, and they fought very bravely. They became famous all over the world as the Anzacs (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps).

Now we are in the midst of another war, and our Australian soldiers are fighting again quite near Gallipoli. But this time, we are glad to say, the Turks are our friends. It is against the Germans and Italians our men are fighting now.

Training Papuans in Medicine

Curing people who are sick and preventing people from becoming sick are among the greatest works of man. This is so because those who do these works must be always helping other



Some Papuan Clothes on the Line, Northern Division

They have once again covered themselves with glory. There are no braver or better soldiers in the world than our Australians. They have fought in the deserts of North Africa and beaten the Italians there. Now there are many thousands of them fighting against the Germans in Greece.

Australia is only a small part of the British Empire. But it will do its part in carrying on the Empire's war, wherever it may be. There are Australians fighting or training in England, Canada, Greece, North Africa and Malaya. And they will be as good soldiers as their fathers in the last war.

people, saving lives, and making others healthier and happier.

Some Europeans study, for a very long time, all about medicine and how to cure sickness. These men are called doctors. There are doctors in the bigger towns of Papua. These men are called doctors because they have spent many years studying in order to thoroughly understand their work.

People in Papua, away from the big towns, are greatly assisted towards better health by the Missions, but there are too many sick people

and not enough Missionaries to do all of the work. For this reason the Government has placed Papuan Native Medical Assistants on all of the Government Stations in order to help with this great work.

At present it is not possible for Papuans to learn all about medicine like the European doctors. Still, they can learn a little and by so doing be of great assistance to their fellow countrymen.

A training school for teaching Papuans something about the human body and sickness has been commenced at Divina Kovari in the Northern Division. The first course of training is almost completed.

The students are fourth and fifth standard natives from many districts in Papua.

There is a hospital at the training school, so the students can actually treat the sick people as well as write about diseases in their books.

Although these boys spend long hours at work and school they can always find time for football or cricket every day. They have learnt that exercise and fresh air are necessary for strong and healthy bodies, just as study and thought are necessary for strong and healthy minds.

Before long these new Native Medical Assistants will go to different stations in Papua. They will then be able to put into practice many of the things which they have learnt.

—Contributed.

Bombing Practice on Fisherman Island

Our fighting aeroplanes must have practice at bomb-dropping. It is like playing cricket—you can't expect to hit the ball with the bat if you don't have some practice. In the same

way our airmen could not drop a bomb straight on an enemy ship if they had not had some tries beforehand.

But in having their practice they do not drop the bombs on the ships in the Port Moresby Harbour. They have a special ground and try to drop the bombs on a mark. This ground is Fisherman Island, or Daugo.

The fishermen of Poreporena have to keep away from Daugo in the day time. The bombs used in practice are no doubt just play-bombs—they don't explode. But no one wants even a play-bomb to drop on his head.

China's Wonderful Road

The Chinese people have been fighting the Japanese people for four years now. The Japanese have taken a lot of Chinese land away and they have shown themselves as both greedy and grasping men. But they have not conquered the Chinese.

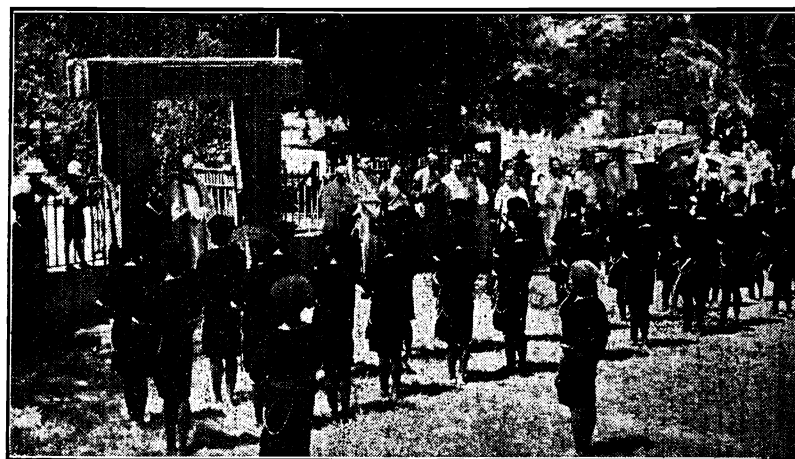
China is in some ways like Papua in that she has not many great railways and roads. When the fighting grew fiercer the Chinese people found that they needed more guns and materials to fight with. To get these they needed the road and the railway to bring in supplies. So the road was begun.

It had to run over high mountains and great streams. There were no machines to make it, but men, in number like ants, worked night and day to make the road that was to save their country. People who knew about such things said it could not be done. But it is done and finished, and now the Japanese attack it with bombs. But the men who made the road stay by, and as fast as the road

is bombed it is mended by those busy ant-men.

So well was it made and so useful it is that it is a famous road to-day. Everyone knows of the Burma Road. Look at your map and find China, and then to the South-West of China you will see Burma. The road runs between these two places.

A year and a-half ago the *Chinampa* was anchored near the village of Sevirimabu. It was about 8 o'clock in the evening and a strong flood tide was running. This strong tide made the *Chinampa* drag her anchor. Just when this happened a canoe was coming alongside with five passengers. The ship hit the canoe and turned it over. Three of the people managed



An Anzac Day Parade at the Memorial Gates, Port Moresby

GIBSON PHOTO

Burma is British, and China is our friend and we are helping her by sending her supplies along the road, and we wish her good luck in her war. America too is her friend and we are all fighting the same battle. We are all fighting for freedom, which means we all want to be free to choose and do what we think is best.

Boudana's Medal

A number of Papuans have received medals for bravery in the past. Now there is a new one. He is Boudana of Mabadauan, Western Division.

to get aboard the *Chinampa*, but two small boys were carried away up the river.

It was a dark night and the sea was rough; but Boudana, one of the *Chinampa's* crew, dived straight into the water. He swam after the two little boys and caught them and held them up. They were carried away several miles, but he stuck to them till the ship's dinghy came along, fifteen minutes later, and rescued them.

For this brave deed Boudana was given the Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society. It was presented

to him this month by Mr. Murray the Administrator when he was visiting Daru. Mr. Murray told him that he had brought great credit to all Papuans.

Drilling at Kariava

Many of you have seen the Armed Constables drilling on the Parade Grounds at the Government Stations. Now we hear that the A.P.C. (Australasian Petroleum Co.) is drilling at Kariava, up the Vailala River. But they are not drilling with rifles, right turn, left turn, and all that sort of thing. They are doing drilling of another kind.

Some of you have drilled holes in rocks in order to blow them up with dynamite. You work away at the rock for hours and hours until you have made a hole a few inches deep. Well that is the kind of drilling they are doing at Kariava, only the hole is already 899 feet deep and it may go down thousands of feet further.

It is done with very heavy machinery. The A.P.C. have had to take 3,000 tons of material from Port Moresby up the Vailala; and they have had to make a road $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long from the river-bank to the top of the hill where they are making the hole.

There is a big staff of men at Kariava. They are all working very hard, and we all hope that as the big hole goes down they will "strike oil."

A Blind Girl's War Work

A blind Papuan girl has learnt to knit and she knits so well that she has made two long scarves for the

British soldiers. Her name is Georgina and everyone who lives in Hanuabada knows of her. She was taught to knit by Mrs. Ure, the wife of the L.M.S. Missionary.

Georgina is very proud of her two big knitting jobs. A piece of paper is pinned on to each scarf, her name and address, and she hopes that the soldiers who receive them will write and thank her.

Homing Pigeons

You all know the pigeon (*pune*) of Papua. It is a big fat bird and very good to eat. But there are other kinds of pigeons which the white men keep for pets. They make little houses for them in their gardens; and they feed them every day; and they let them fly about when they want to. They are not afraid of losing them for these pigeons always come home again. That is why they are called homing pigeons.

If you put one of these homing pigeons in a box and take him a long way away and then let him loose, he will fly up into the air and go straight back to his house. Nobody knows how he finds the way, but the pigeon gets there every time.

In this way homing pigeons have been very useful in war time. Some of them are taken from their homes to the battle front and kept there in boxes. Then when the commander wants to send a secret message he can write it on a tiny piece of paper and tie it to a pigeon's leg. He then lets the pigeon out of the box and off it goes in a straight line for home.

Before we had wireless and telephones this was a very common way

of sending war messages. Even now, when the air is full of wireless messages, the pigeon is still sometimes used. He is a good postman, and he lets out no secrets.

The Kangaroo that Went Bathing

Not long ago a white woman, who had gone to one of the big Sydney beaches to bathe, was surprised to see a large kangaroo in the water. At first she thought it was a shark; but then she saw it was an "old man" kangaroo, and that he was fighting for his life in the big waves.

The poor animal was very tired when it got out. But we are glad to say it was not too tired to escape later on into the bush.

It was thought that the kangaroo had probably been chased by dogs and that it had gone into the sea to escape them.

Poreporena First Aid

You know that the Girl Guides, when they marry, become Rangers. They have learnt many things as Guides and now as Rangers they have taken up new work.

They are learning, with Mrs. Ure's help, to become useful Red Cross workers. Just now they are having lessons about broken legs and arms and how to give help or "First Aid" to a sick or wounded person. Later they will be given more lessons in bandaging by Mrs. Molloy, who used to be a nurse at the hospital.

Native Contributions Clothes for Papuans

The Papuans must have clothes because clothes are good things and they are very useful. We must use them as the white men brought them here to be sold, and everyone must have and use them. We must use clothes just as we eat European food, such as meat, salmon, etc. We must use clothes as the Government gives them to policemen, native councillors, medical boys, native clerks, or *ramis* for prisoners. We must have clothes because the white man made them for everyone to use.

But, if a Papuan has no money to buy clothes, and no money to buy soap to wash them, he had better use the native grass *ramis* that are easy to wash without soap.

The proper place for wearing our clothes is from the waist to the knees. It is very good and looks very nice to cover the waist and knees of a Papuan. It does not matter, a calico or grass *rami*.

Do not wear trousers, shirts, shoes, hats, because they belong to Europeans. It looks funny when we wear the white men's styles. It's very easy for them to laugh at us.

Do not cover the upper part of our bodies and the part from the knees to the feet. Let the body be beaten by the winds or fresh air to make it strong. There is nothing to be ashamed of in our own native styles. The white people like to see our bodies, our healthy bodies.

Some of us do not want to attend services in churches on Sundays when they have no coats, trousers or shoes. God doesn't want clothes I suppose, but He likes hearts, especially pure hearts. If our native *ramis* and our calicoes are clean, then it is quite enough for Sundays.

Only Papuans who have money should wear clothes, because only they can buy soap for washing. The best thing is to have a change of clothes every day. We cannot have healthy bodies if we only wear clean *ramis* or clothes one day and have them dirty the next. Don't miss washing your clothes and body frequently. Don't dress carelessly.

If a Papuan has no money to buy soap he must not wear clothes but rather use native *ramis*, because dirty clothes cause sickness. It is bad too to dress up too much for it will

make the Papuan's body look pale. That is why many of us Papuans have consumption or tuberculosis, in my opinion. Dirty clothes spread diseases and unclean clothes contain germs in quantities, since it is usually warm and moist, and therefore favourable to their life.

I am sorry that others are using and wearing European styles such as trousers, hats, etc. Please wait for a little till our children understand how to keep clean.

[By O. Aketi Isemia, L.M.S., Daru. This wins 5s. prize in the Competition.]

The Friendly Sun

Common sense will tell you that the sun and rain make the flowers grow. Both these give the necessary nourishment to the plant and soil. Would you cover up a young betel-nut palm or some other plant from the rays of the friendly sun? If you would, do you think the plant would grow up strong and healthy? Like the plants the sun gives this very same "tonic" to our bare bodies. So each time we are clothed more than necessary we lose the benefit of the God-given sun on our naked bodies.

So by putting this little bit of knowledge into practice we will not only be a healthier and happier race but will make Papua smile on us her "Children by Nature."

[By George Scott, Yule Island Catholic Mission.]

Thoughts About Clothes

Dear Readers,

I am writing a few of my thoughts about the wearing of clothes by Papuans. My people do not like to wear clothes all the time. They like to wear a bright singlet and *lavalava* sometimes for a feast; but if they wear clothes all the time like white people we do not like it and call those who wear them "Manillas." I do not think our people should wear clothes because they do not understand properly. If they had plenty to wash and change it would be all right. But they have not. Sometimes they will put a lot of clothes on and the next day they will leave them all off. In this way they get cold and sick.

Our old men like to have a shirt or singlet to wear to keep warm, and the old women like a piece of cloth or blanket to fold round them. I think they need something like that

to keep them warm. But for the others I think that unless they can wear them all the time clothes are bad for them.

In our school we are only allowed to wear *lavalavas*. Some boys bought shirts once with their money, but our Missionaries would not let them wear them. So they put them away in their boxes. In my village of Karai the people do not like European clothes. They like their own Papuan clothes. They think they should keep to their own way and custom. I think the Government is very wise not to allow our people to wear clothes. It knows what is best for them and this shows that it cares for our people. That is all I can tell you now so I will close my letter.

Your Reader,

Bona Aiaia, St. Joseph's School.

MONEY!

What do you
do with your
Money? Do you spend
it all?

What are the best things to
buy with it? Do you save
any of your money? Do you
hide it in a pot or put it in
the Bank?

Send your answers
to the Editor before
25th JULY, 1941

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