

THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

SOME FACTS.

DISCOVERED by Don Alvaro de Mendana in 1567 while on a voyage of discovery of South Seas in the interests of Spain.

BRITISH Protectorate proclaimed over South Solomons, including Guadalcanal, Florida, Savo, Malaita, San Christoval and the New Georgia Group in 1893. In 1897 a Resident Commissioner appointed - C.M. Woodford, known as "Father of the Solomons".

ADMINISTERED by High Commissioner for Western Pacific at Suva, carried by Resident Commissioner.

THE Group comprises of ten large islands and several small ones. The total land area is 14,600 square miles.

THE islands are mountainous, the highest peak being on Guadalcanal Island (or Guadalcanna, as one time called) which rises over 8,000 feet.

THE mountains are heavily wooded. On the northern side of Guadalcanna there is a long strip of flat made up of "Lalang" grass which grows to a height of eight feet. Subject to fires.

WHEN last census taken native population was 94,700 and white population about 500.

THE Chinese who number slightly less than the whites were first introduced by Burns Philips & Co. This alleged to have been end of white traders.

IN 1905 Lever Bros. established in islands. Sir. William Lever announced that there was no better speculation than in coconuts. "Consuls of the East" was his sales tip which resulted in terrific scramble for shares.

INDENTURED labour was for three years at £6 per year plus clothing, medicines, tobacco, "etc". The cost of "keeping" the native was somewhere round 20/- a month. At the end of indentured period native had to be returned home which cost anything from one pound to three.

62,300 acres of coconuts planted throughout Solomons.

RUBBER grown in several places, no more than 300 acres under cultivation

IVORY nuts, a specie of the Sage Palm, grown and used for manufacture of buttons. Considered best in world realised £26 per ton. Also Trochus shell industry, 450 tons shipped 1929-30.

TIMBER... a specie of kauri, a slightly poorer quality than N.Z. variety. Also specie of Queensland Maple. Sawmilling carried out on a small scale. Regulations prohibit milling; all timber had to be imported.

GOLD - geological opinion on presence of gold varied. In 1931 a Queensland botanist discovered mountain stream carrying gold. On publication of information a rush ensued. Australian Speculator Theodore obtained 750 square mile track to prospect.

CLIMATE - taken over a year at Tulagi meteorological station the mean of the maximum temperature was 86 degrees, while mean of minimum was 75 degrees. Average rainfall taken over twenty years at same station was 164 inches.

MOSQUITOES and sandflies - at times and places can be very bad. Sandflies, so small ordinary mosquitoes not affords no protection. Both insects at their worst at new and full moon.

CENTIPEDES - sometimes nearly a foot long; bite poisonous. Crocodiles plentiful and dangerous. Rarely attack a man with a gun.

NATIVE currency - Porpoise teeth - 10 to a 1/-; dog's teeth 6d each. Shell money - strung on twine; from 5/- per fathom to 20/- per fathom. Whales teeth - sound ones from 5/- to £5 according to dimension and perfection. There were other forms but Australian forms replacing the

SERVICES Section lads had broke rest Wednesday night as a result of Tommy Atkins losing two dollars at Housie. He shouted loud in his sleep, but the two dollar did not come back. It may not be generally know that Tommy rarely draws more than that sum each pay day. Very often he saves most of it and remits it home with the balance. Back in N.Z. he banked 5/6 day. In two years has not touched allotment. A record. No truth in rumour family name once Atkinstein, Atkininsky or Atkin-rubenberg.

THIS IS NOT A "HOMER."