

## NEW HEBRIDES.

**DISCOVERED** - 1660 by Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, famous Spanish navigator and one of outstanding explorers in Pacific.

**VISITED** by Chevalier de Bougainville in 1768. He proved Santos an island and not part of Australia, as commonly thought.

**1774-** Captain James Cooks visits islands.

**1884-** French missionaries established missions at Anaitome. Owing to native hostility had to evacuate to Loyalty Islands. 1897 another mission established at Port Vila.

**1895** - French officially took possession, establishing military posts at Vate & Malicolo.

**OCT. 24. 1887** French & English established conjoint sovereignty over archipelago.

**1902** - Condominium Govt. governed since inception.

**POPULATION** - mainly of Melanesians origin. In some island Polynesian strain noticeable.

**1878** - population (native) estimated at 200,000. By 1910 it had diminished to 72,000. Today not more than 40,000.

**WHITE Population** - 197 British, or under British protectorate. 750 French & 2300 Tonkinese under French protection. Germans, Swedes American and Canadians number 43, mostly under French protection.

**AGRICULTURE**- 85 French plantations, 18 English. Former develop coconuts & coffee; latter coconuts.

**SOCIETY** Francaise de Nouvelles Hebrides owns 1,830,000 acres - lots sold to French Colonists. Organised by an Irishman - State controlled.

**RELIGION**- Witchcraft. Medicine man influential.

**LARGER** islands are - Esparitua-Santo, Malicolo, Ambrym, Epe, Vate & Erromango. Sant 5520 foot above sea level, highest point.

**OF** volcanic origin.

**PORT Vila**, the capital, 328 miles from Noumea.

**LOYALTY ISLANDS** sixty miles south-west.

**CUSTOMS** - hot stones used for refined forms of torture. To curb adultery an application of a hot stone to offending part said to curb appetite. To ensure that fugitives do not run away a hot stone is secured to the leg behind the knee.

"THERE exists among the natives a sort of aristocracy, affiliation and mysterious graduation which they obtain by sacrificing pigs with huge teeth. The animals reared with great care; castrated, two upper teeth broken off, to allow rapid growth of corresponding lower teeth which attain great size. Fed by women, they are sacrificed after dancing & consecration rites. Whoever offers them as a sacrifice wins special distinction giving him influence and respect in the tribe. Long toothed pigs also useful in all manner of transactions."

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THE following is a translation of an entry in an autograph book made by a French soldier.

- " I like the Kiwi because he is a good fellow.
- " I like him because he is poor.
- " I like him because he must do everything with nothing
- " I like the Kiwi because he is like we French.

There it is.

In France the infantry are known as such, but French Colonial Infantry are called "Marines". This accounts for the number of road signs "Marines Francais" and for the number of French Soldiers seen wearing the anchor & cable insignia. (C.F.)

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**BOXING** is picking up again, though most of the enthusiasts have found the going too tough in this climate. Dave Holwell proves the most consistent attendant. The postponement of the sports was too much for the athletes - the last committee meeting decided to defer sports until later when training would be dispensed with.