

YAP.

YAP - native word meaning "The Land". This island one of Micronesian Group which came under Japanese control through Mandate. It consists of a main island with islands of Map and Rumung very close ringed in a lagoon thirty five miles long and five miles wide, girdled by a coral reef.

LANGUAGE - only a thousand words in Yap language. Natives - Kanakas.

CULTURE - up to outbreak of war Yap was regarded as most primitive spot in Pacific.

CUSTOMS - each native owns his or her own plot of land. Food grown on plot is strictly personal. No other native may touch a coconut that falls from palm tree.

FOOD - is gathered from each plot by cook and cooked in separate pots for each man and woman. The only persons allowed to eat out of same pot are mother and daughter. If there are, say ten people for a meal, the cook must gather from ten plots, cook in ten different pots on ten different fires.

WOMEN - 40% of women incapable of bearing children. Thought due to sexual irregularities - both sexes - This lack of fertility determines marriage system and sexual morality. A woman who bears an illegitimate child is greatly sought after - she has proved her worth. Sexual intercourse outside marriage bonds not disfavoured.

UNMARRIED - men live in what is known as "ALL MAN HOUSE". From time to time girls are recruited for use in establishment. Regarded as a religious and social mark of favour to be so chosen. When girl has completed her term, she is greatly sought after as a wife. She is well treated - except for nightly ordeal - in the HOUSE.

PROSTITUTION - in Western sense of the word unknown. Amateurs leave no opportunities for pro's.

YAP - girls taken to Tokio on visit give Jap Romeo's cold shoulder.

YAP - men likewise regard Jap system of prostitution with disfavour.

SNOBS - Yap has high caste system based on genealogy. Combs worn to signify rank. Length of comb degree of rank. Combs vary from three inches to four feet. Most severe punishment - to cut a man's hair off. Temporarily reduced to slave.

SLAVES - consist of conquered people and descendants. Have no rank. Are communally owned under authority of king. They have their own plantations and villages.

TABOOS - religious superstition dominates lives of people. In agriculture in particular. 24 hours before a man goes on a fishing trip he must have no associations with a woman. If going on a visit to another island he must refrain from cohabiting with wife for a month before trip and one month after his return.

BETEL NUT - islanders able to tell from stains on ground much same type of information U.S. Red Indians and Aussie Abos deduce from foot prints.

POPULATION - decreasing over years. One of few islands where it has not shown increase.

EDUCATION - since Jap control education - 50% children go to school - and health service pushed ahead.

YAP - H.Q. of International Cable system, 1920-22 Subject of friction between U.S.A. & Japan.

TRUK - not an island, but a constellation of 240 islets and about 70 islands surrounded by a loop of reef 30 to 40 miles in circumference. Some of deepest harbours in world reputed to be within loop.

MBN - do all cooking, tilling ground, household work. Cook all the food for week-end on Friday. Not yet taken to child bearing.

TRUK - regarded as the Singapore of Jap in Pacific. U.S. possession of Marshalls gives first foothold in Micronesia's "Asia's New Great Wall".

LANGUAGE - 3000 words.

SEE International Newsboard further details. How Japs regard Truk.

NEXT WEEK : GUAM.