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(New Issue).

EDITORIAL NOTES.

There have been many requests for republication of an Agricultural Gazette by Territorial residents and Plantation interests. It is gratifying to realise this can now eventuate.

It is with pleasure that this Agricultural Gazette, New Series, is presented.

The new issue will be Volume 8, No. 1, so that continuity with the old series of the New Guinea Agricultural Gazette is carried on.

The lapse of more than ten years to this issue since the publication of the previous Agricultural Gazette has been due to circumstances far outside the control of the Administration and the Director and Staff of this Department. Attempts have been made to meet the interim post-war need for publication of departmental information by reprints of articles for the public, whenever possible, and by publishing articles for local information on particular subjects.

The previous Director, Mr. G. H. Murray, was lost in Rabaul at the time of the Japanese invasion with many of his staff and that was a serious loss to the Territory. Only four members of the pre-war Department are still here in their official capacity. So in the special presentation of this issue special thought is given to past contributors.

It should be observed that in post-war years the name of the Department has been changed to Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries.

ORGANISATION AND STAFFING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, STOCK AND FISHERIES.

The staff of the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries has increased from about 22 non-native employees, prewar, i.e., 1941-42, to approximately, 100 personnel with a cadre of establishment of 172 positions, listed in the new classification of staff. There is a reserve of positions for other, mainly professional, appointments required to a strength of more than 200, to meet the future departmental requirements of this large Territory. This present organisation includes 1,500 native personnel (approximately) with an establishment of more than 2,000.

The Department is divided into six main divisions, namely:

1. Administrative
2. Division of Agricultural Extension
3. Division of Animal Industry
4. Division of Plant Industry
5. Division of Production and Marketing
6. Division of Fisheries

In addition, there is a Chemical and Industrial Section.

Owing to expanding development to meet the needs of a new country and because of the scattered nature and difficulty of communications in the Territory, a regional Departmental organisation is now envisaged with three main regions involved, later to be separated into sub-regional organisations.

The main regions are:

1. Papua
2. Mainland of New Guinea
3. Bismarck Archipelago and Solomon Islands (Bougainville and Buka Islands) of the Trust Territory of New Guinea.

The regions are to be further sub-divided on a physiographic and geographic basis, e.g., Central Highlands, Madang/Sepik Districts, Northern and Southern Papua, etc., etc.

The size of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea is 183,540 sq. miles or a total of 117,465,600 acres. The distribution of the areas is as follows:

Papuan Mainland: 87,786 sq. miles; Papuan Islands: 2,754 sq. miles; Total: 90,540 sq. miles.

New Guinea Mainland: 69,700 sq. miles; New Guinea Islands: 23,300 sq. miles; Total: 93,000 sq. miles.

The scattered nature of the Islands is demonstrated by the fact that the sea areas covered is from the Equator to 12 degrees South Latitude, and from 142 degrees to 156 degrees Longitude.

Pre-war probably 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. of the total area of the Territory was not under full administration control owing to the rugged nature of the country and difficulties of communication. These are being overcome by air transport. The whole area of both Territories is rapidly being patrolled and permanent Administrative posts established. The native population is in the vicinity of about 1½ millions.

The Territory of Papua and New Guinea Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries operates three main agricultural experimental stations, staffed by senior technical and auxiliary personnel.

The Lowlands Agricultural Experiment Station, Keravat, New Britain District; The Highlands Agricultural Experiment Station, Aiyura, Eastern Highlands District; The Lowlands Agricultural Experiment Station, Epo, Central District.

In addition there is the Plant Introduction and Quarantine Station at

Laloki, near Port Moresby, and minor experiment stations at Bubia, Morobe District, and Kapogere, Central District.

There are in addition agricultural officers and assistants of the Division of Agricultural Extension stationed in about half of the fifteen main administrative districts who operate altogether six district and sub-district agricultural stations. These stations mainly act as centres for extension and instruction in agriculture and stock raising. It is intended that this organisation will embrace all districts when suitable staff are available.

The Animal Industry Division operates five main Livestock Breeding Stations under both highlands and lowlands tropical conditions, where all types of livestock, including studs of five breeds of English and Asiatic cattle are kept. There are three subsidiary stations used mainly for livestock staging and quarantine.

The Division of Production and Marketing operates two commercial rubber plantations and a coconut plantation for purposes of studying marketing, cost of production, mechanisation and other problems and supplying bulk planting material.

The Division of Fisheries began work with a survey in the Naval owned vessel M.V. Fairwind. This was practically completed when this fine ship was tragically lost at sea with all personnel. This severe loss of experienced staff has greatly hampered the development of fisheries investigations and it is only now that steps are being taken to re-appoint staff.

The potentialities and resources of this relatively under-developed territory have not been surveyed, in any detail. For this reason much basic data is lacking, and the provision of a Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organisation Resources Survey Team has been arranged. A Soil Survey Section to work locally in liaison with the Resources Survey is now being organised within the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries. The development of local soil survey facilities, which are ultimately to be expanded into full land utilisation survey, has become necessary because this Department, once native rights have been decided, has proportionately the main responsibility of selecting and reporting on land suitable for settlement and determining best land usage patterns, rotations and economic areas. It must also assist other Departments to indicate native land requirements as a guide to land settlement authorities here. This work is co-ordinated with that of other interested Departments, such as Forestry; Lands, Mines and Surveys; and District Services and Native Affairs.
