here, the Roman Catholics there, another Society there, and so on; whereas with us, after we have done the great work of opening up the south-east coast of New Guinea, and have penetrated further inland than has ever been done by any other party—as soon as we get friendly people round us, they come up and try to win our people away. There was once a time when the Roman Catholics had grand men, that could dare anything for the sake of the Cross of Christ, or for the Church, but I think that time has long since gone. In the Southern Seas, wherever we have formed small churches, they step in. In New Guinea, at the very place where I have been knocked on the ground, they have stepped in to take up our work. I cannot think that this is gentlemanly; I know it is not Christian. What I should say is this: How are those poor natives to decide which is right and which is wrong? Between the two stools they fall, and they will receive neither. What is to be done? I say, let us show by our intense anxiety that New Guinea shall be won to Christ and by pushing men right up to the front in the great fight we are determined to lead the New Guineans to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Do it now: now is the time.

**Source.** The Chronicle of the London Missionary Society, extract from a speech by the Rev. J. Chalmers given at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the L.M.S. in Exeter Hall on 12 May, 1887, pp.264-5.

### COLONIZATION SCHEMES, INDUSTRY, TRADE AND LAND DEALING: DOCUMENTS C79 TO C94

The lure of New Guinea as a source of wealth was an attractive one to Europeans even before the time of first contact. It was also persistent and certainly in the second half of the nineteenth century the idea that wealth could be won from New Guinea was the motivation behind the formation of a number of companies in the Australian colonies and in England. The prospectuses brought out by these organisations provide us with a statement of what the entrepreneurs knew or thought they knew about economic possibilities of the country. The New Guinea Company (Limited), floated in Sydney in 1867 (C79), subscribed to the enthusiasm of the Rev. John Dunmore Lang for the world of the Pacific in general and for New Guinea in particular.1 This enterprise was abortive but in 1871 Lang's enthusiasm helped the New Guinea Prospecting Expedition on its way.2 The wreck of the Expedition ship Maria on Bramble Reef in the Coral Sea abruptly ended the enterprise. (C80; C81) In England in 1876 the opposition of the London Missionary Society and the Anti-Slavery Society put an end to the ambitions of Lieutenant R. H. Armit and the Colonising Association Limited (New Guinea) to establish a model colony in New Guinea using imported labour from Asia as a work force. The debate which went on around the Colonising Association Limited concerned the effects on the indigenous people of large-scale European colonization and such debate was common in the 70's and 80's. The differing views were put forward by the commercial entrepreneurs and the missionaries who had at heart what they considered were the true interests of the people.

In fact with the exception of the expeditions sent to New Ireland by the Marquis de Rays, there was no large influx of Europeans into New Guinea. No one commodity of great value which could have attracted Europeans in large numbers was ever found. The discovery of gold in 1877 on the Goldie River near Port Moresby caused a minor rush but the initial promise was not sustained. Rather there was a sustained exploitation of various commodities at varying times over the nineteenth century, whales, bêche-de-mer, trochus shell, Bird of Paradise feathers, pearlshell, cedar and copra. With the exception of the whaling industry no large-scale organisation was required. Products from New Guinea contributed to the trade pattern of the Indonesian islands, and to the extensive and profitable trade of the Pacific Ocean.3 Until the entry of the German trading firm of Godefroy and Son into the Bismarck Archipelago in 1873, economic enterprise in New Guinea was in the hands of individuals or small combinations. The pattern of economic exploitation was influenced by the pattern of recognised sea-routes and the three areas of the

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3J. Coulter, *Adventures on the Western Coast of South America and the Interior of California: including a narrative of incidents at the King'smill Islands, New Ireland, New Britain, New Guinea and other Islands in the Pacific Ocean*, London, 1847, preface, pp. viii-xi
Vogelkop with Geelvink Bay, the Torres Strait and the south coast with the Louisiades and the Bismarck Archipelago emerge as places of economic importance. With the entry of the New Guinea Company into Finschhafen in 1883 we have what appears to be the beginning of economic activity on the north coast outside the earlier whaling industry.

Wherever there were accessible reefs in New Guinea waters bêche-de-mer was found. In demand in China as a foodstuff it probably contributed usefully, like the more important sandalwood, to maintaining a balance to the excessive import of China tea into the Australian colonies. In sustained contact between European and indigene it was a significant commodity because the bêche-de-mer entrepreneur needed to establish a treatment works on shore and to enlist the aid of local men for the processing of the product.

Copa trading also required sustained contact of European trader and indigenous producer. Such sustained contact is well documented for the area of the Gazelle Peninsula and the Duke of Yorks and New Ireland in the 1870s and 1880s. Here again the pattern emerges of advance along existing sea routes into this area, in this case with Hernshaim, and Farrell and Forsayth from Polynesia. Thomas Farrell and Emma Forsayth began their commercial activities in the Bismarck Archipelago by setting up a shipping supply depot on the Duke of Yorks. They then initiated a most important development on the shores of Blanche Bay when they ensured their own source of copra supply by securing land and laying down plantations. (C90) The copra industry here became the basis of a permanent European presence in the area.

Before the establishment of permanent plantations by Thomas Farrell and Emma Forsayth on the shores of Blanche Bay in 1880 economic activity between European and indigene revolved around trade. In this the products of a technological society were exchanged for the commodities produced or gathered by the indigene. Profits accruing to the European were generally attractive. Wilfred Powell in a detailed statement of trading possibilities in 1880 estimated the return on paid up capital would be something like 25 per cent and he arranged the products of New Guinea in order of importance as copra, bêche-de-mer, pearl shell, tortoise shell and fibre. (C85) By the 1880s trading was probably extended throughout all parts of the coasts and islands of New Guinea with a concentration on the areas of greatest population density, the Gazelle Peninsula and New Ireland, the Western Louisiades, the north-west, and the south-east coast.

Before the advent of government in 1884 in New Guinea land dealing was a matter between the European and whoever he could find among the local people who was recognisable as the land owner or land owners. The remaining documents (C92 to C94) in this section explain the process of land purchase by missions and individuals and show why in some places, for example, the Gazelle Peninsula, land alienation was a fairly rapid process around Blanche Bay before any government control was present. See also S. W. Reed, The Making of Modern New Guinea, Philadelphia, 1943, Chapter 3; C. A. Valentine, An Introduction to the History of Changing Ways of Life on the Island of New Britain, microfilm, University of Pennsylvania, 1958, University Microfilms Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, Nc. 3378.

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4On sandalwood in the China trade see Dorothy Shineberg, They came for Sandalwood, Melb, 1967, pp. 5-7

5S. W. Reed, The Making of Modern New Guinea, Philadelphia, 1943, p. 93

C79 European Settlement in New Guinea Is Contemplated, Sydney, 1867

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION
OF THE NEW GUINEA COMPANY (LIMITED)

I. The Name of the Company is 'The New Guinea Company (Limited).'

II. The objects for which the Company is established are:
1st. To trade with the natives of New Guinea and other islands of the Southern Hemisphere not yet colonised by Great Britain or any Foreign Power.
2nd. To develop by all legitimate means the natural resources of such islands and their surrounding waters.
3rd. To explore New Guinea and other islands aforesaid.
4th. To form a settlement or settlements in New Guinea or other islands aforesaid and to acquire territory therein by purchase or other legitimate means for the purpose of permanent settlement and colonisation.
5th. To extend to the natives of New Guinea and other islands aforesaid the advantages of civilization and education.
6th. To invest money in or upon the purchase or charter of ships, the purchase of stores, arms and ammunition, goods for trade or barter, the purchase of land and erection of buildings in New Guinea or any other islands aforesaid or else where in any portion of the British Dominions.
7th. To borrow money for all or any of the purposes aforesaid.

SOURCE: Papers of Rev J. D. Lang 1867-68, Vol. 23, Mitchell Library, MS. A2243, New Guinea Co. (Limited), Minute Book No. 1, May 1st, 1867 to ....
NEW GUINEA PROSPECTING EXPEDITION
PROSPECTUS

A co-operative Company formed for the purpose of Prospecting for Gold on the South-Eastern Coast of New Guinea

It having been satisfactorily proved that in the vicinity of Redscar Bay, and along the South Eastern coast of New Guinea, there exist very rich deposits of alluvious gold, an Expedition is now being formed to prospect that country, and will leave Sydney on Wednesday, 20th December, 1871.

The expedition will be composed of Eighty men, who will be required to subscribe the sum of ten pounds (£10) each to the general fund; and in order that none shall join, who do not intend faithfully to carry out their agreement, a deposit of One Pound (£1) is required from each member when his name is placed on the list; such deposit to be forfeited in case of non-compliance with the conditions of the agreement.

All moneys thus received will be paid into the Commercial Bank by the treasurer, when the sum in his hands exceeds £5; and no moneys will be permitted to be withdrawn from the fund without the signatures of the trustees of the fund being endorsed on all cheques presented by the treasurer for payment.

A Committee has already been chosen from among the members of the Association, who have elected a Secretary, Treasurer and Trustees, who are also members of the Association and every member who may subsequently join has the right to join the committee, or to be present at committee meetings, or to inspect the account and minute books of the association, with the consent of the chairman of Committees.

The Association is conducted on co-operative principles, no salaries (with the exception of a bonus to the Surgeon accompanying the Expedition) will be paid; but as all the subscriptions and donations paid to the fund will be expended wholly for the benefit of the members, so all the profits, including gold, land purchased from the natives, or trade of any kind, will be equally shared by the members of the Association before the vessel returns to Sydney.

Each member of the expedition will be entitled to a free passage to New Guinea and back to Sydney, with rations for three months and a-half, medical attendance, medicines, and ammunition; but if, as is expected, the sum raised by members of the Association is supplemented by contributions from merchants and others in Sydney, the Expedition will remain in New Guinea for five or six months, and a stock of Provisions will be laid in, sufficient for consumption during that period.

It is suggested that the attempt be made to conciliate the natives as much as possible; and stringent rules will be made to prevent members from spoiling the success of the Expedition by any unjust interference with the aborigines, or violation of their rights. By promoting and sustaining friendly relations with them, a constitution may be formed similar to that which has been so successfully initiated in the Fiji Islands, and by the purchase of large tracts of land from the natives a sure source of immense future profit will accrue to the Association.

Every person joining the Expedition will be required to provide himself with tools, firearms, and cooking utensils, tents, bedding etc., etc., at his own expense.

Miners in Victoria and Queensland who are desirous of enrolling their names, are requested to make early application, as those who have already joined are unwilling to be unnecessarily delayed, and as soon as the lists are filled the final arrangements will be made, so that the Expedition may leave Sydney on the day advertised.

At a public meeting held at the committee-rooms on December 1st, resolutions of encouragement, approval and proffering assistance were carried unanimously. The report of the meeting, as given in the SYNDY MORNING HERALD on the 2nd December, it is thought expedient to add to the prospectus:-

THE PROPOSED EXPEDITION TO NEW GUINEA—

About 150 persons interested in the above assembled last night at Punch’s Hotel, King Street. All present seemed well suited to carry out the undertaking—a great number being, evidently, experienced miners. Mr K. Greville, M. L. A. took the chair, and briefly introduced the Rev. Dr Lang to the meeting. He regarded it as one of the most important events that had ever taken place in the colony, and, if properly carried out, he had no doubt that it would lead to most magnificent results. The speaker then gave some valuable information respecting New Guinea, and hoped that those who proceeded there might put a ‘stout heart to a stern brace’, and not be downhearted with any little disappointments which might meet them at first. He also advised them to conciliate the natives, and wished them every success in all their undertakings. The following resolutions were then put to the meeting and carried unanimously. Proposed by Dr Lang, and seconded by Mr Reynolds—

That this meeting feeling satisfied that New Guinea is a desirable field for gold prospecting, regards with interest and approbation the attempt to organise an Expedition to prospect the south-eastern portion of the island. Proposed by Mr Campbell, and seconded by Mr Henderson—

That this meeting having been informed concerning the proceedings of the New Guinea Expedition since its formation, is convinced that the movement is bona fide, and that the affairs of the Association are conducted on most legitimate principles, and trusts that the scheme may be fully matured and brought to a successful issue. Proposed by Mr Polin and seconded by Mr Angel—

That, taking into consideration the benefits likely to accrue to persons engaged in business in Sydney by the discovery of gold-fields in New Guinea, advertisements be inserted in the daily papers, requesting merchants and others to contribute stores, provisions, medicines, medical comforts, arms, ammunition, tools, and any articles suitable for trading with the natives, for the general benefit of the Expedition; and that the Government be petitioned to give the Association some of the old rifles at present lying idle in the stores. A cordial vote of thanks was then accorded to the chairman, after which the committee proceeded to enrol the names of members.

A code of rules for the guidance of members, and for the proper maintenance of law and order, are in course of construction by the committee. These regulations every member of the Association will be required to conform to when his name is enrolled; but it will be competent for any of the rules to be revised, amended or expunged, and fresh by-laws to be made at a future meeting of the whole of the Association, provided such revisions or amendments be desired by the majority.

The committee-rooms are at Punch’s Hotel, corner of
King and Pitt Street, Sydney, where the committee meet every evening at eight o’clock, to enrol members and transact the business of the Association. All communications addressed to the Secretary will be replied to as the committee may direct.

Donations of stores as enumerated above are received at Vandergryp and Campbell’s Offices, 98 and 100 Sussex Street, where the secretary will be happy to give any information required between the hours of 9 and 11 in the forenoon.

William H. Campbell, Secretary.


C81  The New Guinea Expedition Terminates in Disaster, Brisbane, 1872

OUR BRISBANE LETTER

TUESDAY, 5 MARCH

The news with reference to the ill-fated New Guinea expedition has, no doubt, been received in Sydney with even more regret than has been evoked here. The Maria, with her freight of hopeful adventurers, bound upon an enterprise which promised to have no inconsiderable influence upon the future commerce of Australia, struck upon the Bramble Reef on the morning of February 26. The letter which recently appeared in your columns from one of the party, dated when the vessel was off the South Solitary, on the 1st February, stated that ‘the greatest enthusiasm prevailed among the men.’ It is distressing to read that letter now, and then turn to the telegram, which was received by the Government yesterday, as the sequel.

Source: The Sydney Morning Herald, 8 March, 1872

C82  The Rev. George Brown Conjectures on the Effect of Entry of European Traders, Bismarck Archipelago, 1877

We are now busily engaged in building our house, and right glad will we be when it is finished, for we are far from being comfortable at present, in this small place, crowded as it is with goods and stores of all kinds.

Captain Mansell has certainly lost no time since he has been in port, and we have not had to wait a day for timber or anything else that we needed; our only trouble had been to find places to put the goods as fast as he has sent them on

Plate 64: The Wesleyan Methodist Mission House at Port Hunter, Duke of York Island, 1876

C83 Economic Change, New Britain, 1880

This has been a great copra season. More copra has been obtained from here this year than any year previous, and in consequence the native houses are full of trade. The only trade sought after now is muskets and rifles, powder and shot. These are becoming as plentiful now as spears and tomahawks were formerly, and at night there are guns let off to the right of us, to the left of us, in front and behind us and even while I am writing quite a nice little ball practice is going on a little way down the beach and yells of delight are heard as the balls ricochet along the surface of the water. Considering the vast number of guns at the command of the natives and the vast amounts of powder and balls bought by them, it is surprising to me they have not gone to great excess and tried to capture much of what has been exposed to their view by the over confident traders. The people are so fully supplied with every other article of trade that we can no longer get our food in Kambakarda for the articles of trade we brought down with us, because the people want Diwarra and Diwarra only. We have not any Diwarra, and we have to pay more for it than we did twelve months ago for our food. Having obtained the Diwarra its market value seems to fall at once, and we cannot purchase half the quantity of food a native can with the same amount of money. It will be well if this great influx of trade has not caused them to neglect their plantations for if food becomes scarce then thieving begins and out of thieving will grow fighting.


C84 Commerce and Trade in the Bismarck Archipelago, 1880

I have the honor to inform you that the trade in the above mentioned Groups is divided between two German and two English firms.

The two German firms are Messrs Godefroy and Messrs Hersheim.

The firm of Godefroy is in course of liquidation. The head station is at Meeko Harbour in the southern portion of the Duke of York Group and Mr Blum, a Dane by birth is manager. I do not know the number of their traders. They have, however two British subjects employed and a Norwegian subject, who is suffering from periodical attacks of delirium tremens.

During these attacks the natives complain that he fires his rifle at random in the village. I was requested to remove this man, being a foreign subject. I had however no authority, his station is Kabakadai close to the English mission.

Messrs Hersheim have their principal station at Matupi Island, Blanche Bay. Francis Hersheim is German Vice Consul for the Groups. The firm trades in New Britain, New Ireland and the Line islands sending their produce to Hong Kong. The firm originally established its head quarters Makada Harbour, Duke of York, but abandoned it for Blanche Bay for the following reasons.
1. The harbour was unhealthy.
2. They had established themselves on land previously purchased by Capt Ferguson.
3. The natives refused to work for them as Captain Hersheim had shot a native for stealing a cocoa-nut.

Messrs Cowlishaw, an English firm, manager, Captain Ferguson, head quarters abreast of the new island in Blanche Bay. They have five traders namely, Mr Embleton at Kiningunan, Mr Southwell, various stations—an old man of war's man. Surname unknown but known as Jack at Kabakabai, also two half caste traders at Kabakadai.

Mr Farrell represents a Sydney firm. He has engaged several of the Chundernagore colonists and probably has
about 8 traders. The head station is at Meoko, Duke of York Group.

With reference to the capabilities of the Groups, New Britain is remarkably rich inland, the soil being rich volcanic. Cotton seed in the ground sprang up quickly and the pods were plucked within seven months. New Ireland is a rocky island with no good harbours. It is said to be rich in copper.

The Duke of York Group consists of thirteen low islands with two harbours, Makada and Meoko. Of these I consider Meoko the best.

The Admiralty Group and New Hanover are now exciting the attention of traders and many are also going to the north end of New Ireland.

Some of the English traders also purpose working the Louisiades and Woodlark Islands.

The total number of traders in the New Britain, Duke of York and New Ireland Groups at the date of my departure was 39 of all nationalities.

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**C85 The Profits of Trade Estimated, London, 1880**

**MEMORANDUM OF THE POWELL TRADING ASSOCIATION, LIMITED**

This Association is projected, as its title implies, for the purpose of opening up a trade with, and developing the resources of the Islands of New Guinea, New Britain and the adjacent groups, which, up to the present time, have never yet been opened out for trading, but will be shown by the following Schedule to contain many articles of considerable market value, which may be obtained by barter or otherwise at a very small cost price to the Association.

These Islands have been visited and in part surveyed during a sojourn of seven years by Mr. WILFRED POPE, who has also acquired a thorough knowledge of the languages of the natives, whereby he is enabled to furnish minute details, particulars and calculations, with information of the most valuable kind upon their resources.

The following Schedule gives the products of the Islands, and their Local cost, compared with their market value in England, from which it will be perceived that large profits can be derived from this traffic, without greater risk than is incurred in ordinary trading operations.

**SCHEDULE OF PRODUCTS**

**TABLE** Showing the Market price of the Chief Articles of Trade, with the price paid for them in the Islands, and a description of the Articles as purchased.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTICLE</th>
<th>ISLAND PRICE</th>
<th>LONDON PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tortoishesell</td>
<td>4/- to 6d. per lb.</td>
<td>17/- to 15/- per lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearlshell</td>
<td>1/- to 6d. per cwt.</td>
<td>£9 to £5 per cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivory Nuts</td>
<td>8/- to 2/- per ton</td>
<td>£14 to £13 per ton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copra</td>
<td>£4 to £2 per ton</td>
<td>£18 to £15 per ton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandalwood</td>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>£30 to £15 per ton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beche de Mer</td>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>£120 to £60.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Trepang)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibre</td>
<td>£1 to 15/- per ton</td>
<td>£35 to £20.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponge</td>
<td>£3/- to 1/- per cwt.</td>
<td>Not yet in the market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird of Paradise</td>
<td>Plumes</td>
<td>Do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumes</td>
<td>2d. a plume</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrowroot</td>
<td>1/- to 6d. per cwt.</td>
<td>3d. to 13d. per lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginger</td>
<td>2/- to 1/- per cwt.</td>
<td>35/- to 30/- per cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutmeg</td>
<td>1/- per lb.</td>
<td>1/- per lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mace</td>
<td>1/2d. per lb.</td>
<td>1/6 per lb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIPTION**

Tortoishesell is obtained from the natives in exchange for a tomahawk, or beads, and sometimes for glass bottles; a tomahawk valued at 10d. will buy a pound of Tortoishesell.

Pearlshell is of two descriptions, the 'gold lip', and 'black edge', the former being the most valuable; both are obtained from the natives for an eighteen inch knife or a tomahawk per cwt., beads, red cloth, looking glasses, etc., buying smaller quantities.

Ivory Nuts are bought in large quantities, a six inch knife fetching 600 nuts.

Copa is the inside of the Cocoa Nut cut small and dried in the sun, it is bought from the natives in large quantities of three or four cwt. at a time, an axe will buy three cwt. The Copa is valued for its oil, which is greatly prized in the European markets, the refuse after the oil is extracted being made into oil cake for cattle.

Sandalwood is not obtained from the natives, but is cut by the crews of the trading vessels on the islands where it grows.

Beche de Mer, better known as Trepang, is sometimes bought from the natives in the raw state, but it is generally procured by a vessel especially fitted for curing it on board, also, supplied with all the appliances for obtaining it from the reefs where it is found. The Chinese market is the one it is generally sent to, and where the highest prices are obtained. There are large quantities lying on many of the reefs in the South Seas, which could easily be procured by a properly fitted vessel and developed into a large source of income.

Fibre is the bark of a tree that is prepared by the natives for their own use in making rope, nets, etc. Very large quantities can be bought from the natives for a few beads, tobacco pipes, or strips of red cloth. It is also used in England for making ropes, etc., and is considered by competent judges to be some of the best yet placed in the market.

The sponge has not yet been sold in England, but from samples obtained, it is considered to be equal to Turkish. It is bought from the natives raw in large quantities, who dive for it; when bought it is cured by the crews of the trading vessels, or at stations.

Bird of Paradise Plumes are bought from the natives in very considerable quantities, who at the season of the year when these birds visit New Guinea in flocks, cover themselves with green boughs and place themselves in the highest
trees, and on the birds alighting on the boughs of the trees
shoot them in large numbers with bows and arrows, and
collect their plumage.

Arrowroot is bought from the natives in large packets of
from 10 to 50 lbs. for a small quantity of beads or looking
glasses; they prepare it in a rough state themselves.

Ginger abounds in these islands, and is bought in im-
measurable quantities for a very little, a large basket full being
bought for a few beads, a little piece of tobacco, or a piece
of red cloth.

Nutmeg with Mace is collected by the natives from the
trees which grow in great abundance on the Island, and is
bought at the rate of 10 lbs. for a small knife.

The following articles have not yet been placed on the
market, and therefore have no price assigned to them:—
Ebony Wood, Camphor, Sago, Tanning Bark, Gum, Skins
of Birds, Skins of Animals, Sponge, Nutmeg, Mace.

Articles that will be considered of value to Science.

The great obstacle to the success of trading Companies is
the difficulty to find an efficient and experienced Manager
in whom confidence can be reposed to direct operations in
the locality. Mr. WILFRED POWELL having however
consented to undertake the duties of General Superinten-
dent, to conduct the operations personally, select trading
stations in the most advantageous positions, and take the
direction of the fleet of vessels of the Association (duties
which he is quite competent to discharge), no such difficulty
in this case exists.

The list of the before-given products sufficiently explains
the nature of the trade proposed to be carried on, it there-
fore only remains to describe in detail the suggested mode
of operation, give a summary of the outlay deemed to be
necessary, and showing the minimum profitable results
thereby to be obtained.

All the estimates, both of cost and quantity, are taken
at the lowest rates which can result to the Association, but
when the trade has become regular and known to the natives
(which only a few months will effect), the amount of
produce brought down to the stations will enormously
increase without greater expenditure being incurred
beyond the quantity of cheap goods for barter.

It is now proposed to form at once THE POWELL
TRADING ASSOCIATION LIMITED, with a Capital
of £50,000 Shares of £10 each, of which it is proposed to
call up only £5 per Share. Any further Capital that may
be required will doubtless be obtained by the issue of
Debentures, which would form a first charge on the prop-
erty of the Association.

Directly the Council of the Association shall consider
that sufficient Capital has been received to carry on
the business effectively: including therein purchase of
the vessels and other expenditure, it is proposed that
Mr. WILFRED POWELL should forthwith proceed to
Australia, and, on behalf of the Association purchase a
steamer of about 200 tons, other small vessels of about 50
tons each, and a barque of about 400 tons, fitted with an
apparatus for curing of Beche de Mer. To this latter vessel
will be attached a tender of about 30 tons. The small
vessels will be freighted with coal on proceeding to the
islands, and with provisions for three months. The barque
will be provisioned for eighteen months for herself and the
tender, and then at once dispatched by the Superintendent
to the best localities for Beche de Mer, which are well known
to him.

The ‘trade’ (or barter goods) will be shipped from the
Colony on board the steamer, together with the materials
and provision for the trading stations. This steamer will
also convey at first: only five of the small trading vessels from
Australia and drop them at their different places of desti-
nation amongst the Islands, whereupon they will each be
at once assigned a boat. Frame houses having been pur-
chased in the Colonies, one will be left with the master of
each of the small vessels to be erected at spots previously
denoted by the Superintendent, also leaving him with one
or two traders, who will live in such houses and collect the
produce for the vessels.

The Superintendent proposes to call about every three
months at each of the trading stations. A boat sufficiently
large to travel considerable distances will be left at these
stations in charge of the traders, (where deemed necessary)
as the traders will not confine themselves to trading
immediately in the vicinities, but will open up trade for a
radius of, say 30 miles from their stations.

The small vessels after landing the coal, will cruise
about from point to point, purchasing all the native produce
to be obtained.

The crews of all vessels will be paid wages, excepting
the crew of the 400 ton barque engaged in the curing of
Beche de Mer, who will be paid according to the amount of
produce obtained by that vessel, each man according to
his separate lay, as arranged by agreement.

The traders can be engaged either in part wages and
part percentage on the produce they may obtain, or solely
by a percentage on the quantity of produce.

The ‘trade’ and provisions will be charged to the traders,
freight paid, at the cost price paid for them in the Colony,
where purchased, such amount being deducted from the
wages due to them.

The Superintendent will see to the careful disposal of
the first five small vessels convoyed down to the Islands,
and will then return to the port of starting and convoy two
more of the small vessels, which in the interim from his
first start will have been bought and fitted for sea.

The Superintendent will specially take command of the
steamer at all times, and will be accompanied by able and
experienced assistants, acquainted with this particular
trade, who in the event of any accident or illness occurring
to the Superintendent, will be competent to take up his
duties, so that no delay would be caused by such event.

All the vessels and steamers will be insured to the full
amount, and thus every precaution will be taken to reduce
risk or loss to a minimum.

It must be borne in mind that the profits will not be so
large the first year, as when the trade shall have been
regularly and firmly established, the annual expenditure
as in all cases, being greater the first year, the masters of
the trading vessels having to learn their positions and the
traders to arrange their method of proceeding.

There will be a head station for receiving all produce
collected on one of the Islands, situated on Torres Straits
and in the new line of traffic of the steamers about to be
run straight to London from Brisbane via Torres Straits and
Suez Canal. This will enable the Association to ship all
produce considered desirable for the London Markets
straight through to England.

The station being also on the very site of the Pearl
Fisheries, the Association will have a very good opportunity
of purchasing pearl Shell from the fisheries on the spot,
and shipping it at once to London.

The prices estimated in this pamphlet may safely be
relied on being at the lowest London market quotations.

Having now explained the principal features of this
undertaking, it only remains to show the amount of outlay required and the year lucrative results of such, to demonstrate that with an efficient council to guide its course, the association will meet with complete success.

SHIPPING AND HOUSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Steamer, 200 tons, and Provisions</td>
<td>£4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barque and Provisions</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Tender, 30 tons</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Trading Vessels</td>
<td>3,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Boats, £40</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Frame Houses, £30</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arms, Ammunition</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£11,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£12,200</td>
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ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canvas, Boats, Sails &amp;c</td>
<td>£50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading materials</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coals—450 tons</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions, Slops, &amp;c</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance of Vessels</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freights, Charges on Goods, Brokers’</td>
<td>3,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission, &amp;c., in London</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£7,000</td>
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WAGES &c

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traders</td>
<td>£400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super-Cargo</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Seamen (Natives)</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Stokers (Chinamen)</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cook</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Steward</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Boy</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Masters, &amp;10 per month</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Seamen (Trading Vessels) £4 per month</td>
<td>1,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£4,612</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Directors’ Fees, Office Expenses, &c | £3,000

SUMMARY STATEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£7,000 Merchants’ Account</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,612 Wages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000 Office Expenditure</td>
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ANNUAL INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tortoise Shell, 1 ton 15s. per lb.</td>
<td>£1,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Shell, 20 ton £3 per cwt.</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivory Nuts, 50 ton £13 per ton.</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copra, 600 ton £15 per ton.</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandalwood, 20 ton £15 per ton.</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beche de Mer, 100 ton £60 per ton.</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibre, 50 ton £20 per ton.</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponge, 1 ton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 Bird of Paradise Plumes, 10s. per Plume</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrowroot, 3 tons, 13d. per lb.</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginger, 5 tons, 30/- per cwt.</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutmeg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£21,079</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>£21,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlay</td>
<td>14,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit</td>
<td>£6,467</td>
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After making ample allowance for all charges on goods, and for the ordinary current expenditure of the Association, and estimating the value of the produce at the lowest market prices, it will be seen that a return of something like 25 per cent. per annum on the proposed paid up capital will be the result of the year’s operations.

C86 The European Community, Duke of York Group, 1880

The schooner Sea Rip, Captain Southgate, arrived yesterday from a trading cruise to New Britain, New Ireland and Duke of York Island. We learn from Mr. T. Farrell who arrived by her, that civilization is evidently making rapid progress in these islands. Only a short time ago traders’ houses could only be seen at very wide distances apart, but they are now much more numerous, and the natives are well supplied with their requirements. Trading competition is very keen. Godeffroy’s company is the longest established firm, and their head station is at Meeko Harbour, from whence they ship all their produce to Europe. It is situated on the south side of Duke of York Island, midway between New Britain and New Ireland. There is a good passage on both the east and west side; the average is from five to seven fathoms inside the harbour. It is a beautiful sheet of water, completely land locked, and capable of sheltering a fleet of ships. The firm of T. Farrell and Co. of Sydney have their head station at the same place, and they are the first to commence a trade with Sydney since it was abandoned years ago by Captain Ferguson. The German firm of Hernsheim and Co. have their principal station at Matupi New Britain, and this is the second eldest firm in the group. During the last few months Captain Ferguson re-commenced trading here and opened a station at Port Hunter. The largest amount of traffic appears to exist at Meeko. The natives on the whole are not bad, but they never miss an opportunity.
to steal. Two naturalists live at Meoko, Dr. Finch, a European collector and Mr. Clissmith for Godfrey's firm. Mr. Farrell bears out the statement that Likiliki Bay is a most unsuitable place for the Marquis de Ray's new settlement. Several of the new settlers continue in the employment of traders, but many of them returned to Likiliki. It was reported that the new colonists were negotiating with Captain Ferguson to take them to Sydney. The immigrants were willing to give their planting machinery in return for their passages. The Rev. G. Brown who has played a conspicuous part in connection with the colonists, has employed twenty three of the settlers, and fourteen were employed by four different people. No further arrival of immigrants has taken place at Likiliki. Captain M'Lauchlan was said to be in ill-health and was only remaining in the fever-stricken region in order to fulfil his promise to the Marquis de Rays. Great complaints were made of the water at New Ireland, and the country consisted of nothing but sandstone rock. New Britain is much more highly spoken of as a place suitable in many respects for colonisation, as it possesses some most fertile valleys.

Source Sydney Morning Herald, 22 September, 1880, p. 7

C87 Trading by Thomas Farrell, Duke of York, 1881

Emma Forsyth, a Samoan-American, and Thomas Farrell, an Australian, came to the Bismarck Archipelago from Samoa. As trading partners they settled on Mioko Harbour in the Duke of York Group in 1879 and established a depot for the supply of ships using the St George's Channel shipping route. (C1 to C4) Farrell also engaged in inter-island trading and in labour recruiting for the Samoan plantations. In 1881 Farrell organised the expedition which carried out action against the Utuan islanders following the murder of the German naturalist, Kleinschmidt (Part 2 Introduction). Farrell took a prominent part in the arrangements by which the last of the colonists from Port Breton were repatriated to Sydney in 1882. (C105)

In 1882 the partners together with Richard Parkinson (husband of Emma Forsyth's sister, Phebe) began to buy up land from the indigenous owners along the shores of Blanche Bay, New Britain. (C90) Plantations were established on extensive land holdings on the Gazelle Peninsula. A headquarters was set up at Ralum near Kokopo. From here what came to be the extensive trading and plantation interests of the partnership were administered. Farrell died in 1886 and his property in the Archipelago was bequeathed to Emma Forsyth and carried on thereafter by her and relatives as E. E. Forsyth and Company from Ralum. In 1908 the properties owned by this Company were 70,000 acres of which 8,000 acres were under cultivation producing copra, rubber, siala hemp and other products. In addition to properties on the Gazelle Peninsula the Company owned land in New Ireland, Buka and Bougainville and various islands including the Fead, the Sir Charles Hardy, the Carteret and the Tasman Groups.


As was suspected, Mr. Farrell sells his wares at a very high price. He has large boats which continually make the crossing between Meoko and Sydney (850 leagues).

The boats go laden with copra and return with charcoal and other goods.

Mr. Farrell sells this charcoal and produce to the ships travelling through the St. George Channel and manages to sell them what he wants without fear of competition.

Not only does he trade in copra, tortoiseshell and pearls but also in natural history collections. You can see in his shops along side grocery items, bolts of sailcloth and ready-made clothes, innumerable bottles arranged methodically in which rare fish and snakes of every species are steeped in alcohol. Every journey which his schooner makes to Sydney means that these precious specimens are rushed to scholars there or even to English museums together with arms, native decorations and the rare bird feathers. All this is worth gold in our part of the world and only costs him some sticks of American tobacco, handfuls of imitation pearls or trading muskets at 7 francs 50, and these generally explode in the Kanakas' hands while they are using them. So it is all profit for the lucky Master of Meoko.

I should add here that the Papuans do not know how to
use metal money and in their negotiations with the whites they only will accept one of these three means of payment: tobacco, arms or imitation pearls.

C88  The Copra Trade, Bismarck Archipelago, 1881

As regards the copra trade there is a great deal obtained from New Britain and I suppose there is no richer cocoa-nut bearing country in the world. I have spoken to old sea-faring men about different places and they have all said that New Britain surpasses all they have seen elsewhere for copra.

But like all good things it is rushed, overcrowded. There are now no less than five large firms established down here, each of course getting their share of what is to be obtained. Yet an enterprising man getting his trade at the best hand and employing good honest men, would do well here. If I were to turn trader, with my present experience, I could make, in the copra season, a good handsome sum of money. I know one man who in six months obtained on one station alone 75 tons of copra in less than six months. Deducting cost of trade and (at say £2.10.0 or £3.0.0 at the outside per ton) then freighting there would yet remain to him a profit of from six to eight pounds per ton.

But all this requires some little outlay at first and I gather from your letter that your brother's visit was not to be for the purpose of establishing a permanent trade here but simply for what he could pick up and then away. In that case I would say do not come.

Established traders take all that can be obtained and any chance vessel gets very little indeed.

However if he be willing to risk a visit let him bring the usual trade tobacco—about 2) sticks to the 1 lb. fantail hatchets, beads, whites and reds being the most desired, blue only occasionally asked for—knives of different sizes and any other trade which his experience may suggest but the things I have mentioned are absolutely necessary especially the tobacco. It is as well perhaps that he should know that the people here do not make the copra and then sell it to the traders but simply bring the nuts and the latter cut them up for themselves, thus increasing to a considerable percentage their own expenses and trouble.

I do not believe it will pay your brother to come here on a visit simply. If he should still be desirous of coming here and with the intention of commencing trading operations don't let him forget that there are already five trading firms here and the competition is becoming very keen, only as many as eight and in some cases fifteen cocoa-nuts being obtained for one stick of tobacco. He knows whether that price will pay him. If he thinks so then I for one will be glad to see him and forward his interests with the natives as far as I can because I think his conduct towards these poor people will be of a more Christian kind than is generally shown them by some who are here.


C89  Thomas Farrell and his Traders, New Britain, 1883

When the time was ripe for Farrell to make use of us he sent us to New Britain to a place called Ravaline where he had a bamboo hut. The man in charge of the boat, which was only an open boat, was a Russian who spoke French and also a little native. His name was Rosenthal, a young fair-haired fellow. He brought us to the place and gave us a few instructions how to handle the business. He stayed for a couple of days and then left us, with the understanding that we were sufficiently conversant in the way of buying cocoanuts from the natives for trade goods such as beads, hardware, tobacco in stick called twisted tobacco imported from America, 6 sticks to the pound. Also fire-arms were sold to the natives.

At first things seemed very strange but we managed to act as we had been told and the method was to pay one stick of tobacco for a number of cocoanuts ready shelled and ready to cut. For a gun we would receive so many hundred cocoanuts. Clay pipes were (also) a great trade (item) with them especially those that represented a nigger head or something else. The more fancy it was the better. But the most usual clay pipe in those days was the one with a ship in full sail. Calico was also an article of trade but not much. The natives were thoroughly naked men and the only covering they had was on their neck and arms and only those near the Mission wore loin cloths. In one instance I saw a young girl who had a loin cloth on, and when she came to sell her goods to me, before coming, she took off her loin cloth which is called lavalava. She did this quite unconsciously, simply as a matter of habit.

Farrell after a little while supplied us with an open boat rigged with a mainsail and a jib. It was about 20 feet long but with a fair beam so as to stand the sail. With this boat we were able to move about and get more cocoanut. Not far from where we were there was a German trader called Goeman who was about five miles further on the coast called Ralum. This trader was one of the survivors of the Chander Nagar who was left at Likiliki with a lot of colonists by the Chander Nagar which cleared out and left them. These had to make shift and drifted to the mainland of New Britain and to Moiko and were distributed by Hernshein and Farrell to the different trading stations on the coast of New Britain, New Ireland and outside islands and (they) were doing the same thing as we were doing.

The principal article of produce we were buying from
Agreement which he had to sign on the point of a revolver. We (were) threatened by a man who was no better than a pirate who when he wanted traders forced them. He threatened us to be left among the natives to do the best we could. We did not know the natives then so it was a very serious threat in our eyes. One day he even told father that he would take me away from him.

On those grounds father did not stay on Farrell property and after a couple of weeks we started to buy a piece of land at Kokopo and built a house there better than the hut we were in. When it was completed we shifted into it.


C90  A Planter on the Shores of Blanche Bay, New Britain, 1886

Our plantation is getting on well. I have 210 acres under cotton and cocoanut trees and 30 acres planted with various plants on a trial: 5 acres under coffee, 5 acres under rice, 10 acres under millet (Broomkorn?) and 10 acres as general botanical garden with all sorts of knickknacks. Last year our Plantation paid its expenses and had a surplus of 473 pounds Sterling. This year and further on will be better still. I do not exactly believe that we will make large fortunes but we will at least make a very good living. I only hope the German Company will buy us out and then we will be all right. We have bought large tracts of land in New Britain and it is not agreeable to them it seems to have us here. They have tried hard to overthrow our titles and get a sort of land investigation afloat but it did not come to anything as all the natives invariably agreed that they had sold the lands to us. But I dare say they will by and by try new dodges.


C91  Economic Prospects for New Guinea, Sydney, 1886

As far as the immediate prospects of New Guinea are concerned, it would be rash, and could only lead to disappointment, to anticipate a quick settlement of white population on the island. Immense areas of grazing and agricultural land are available, but until the discovery, in really payable quantities, of the precious metals brings the prospector and the miner—always the pioneers of a large population—to the spot, and thus provides a market for the grazer, these areas are not likely to increase very fast. Although the cocoanut is in parts very plentiful, still, compared with the immense groves of this tree to be seen in the Loyalty, Hebrides, or Solomon Islands, the quantity appears insignificant. Milne Bay is the one exception. There the trees are numerous and well grown; still they are not there in quantities sufficient to stand a very large export at present. Tortoiseshell is comparatively scarce, although in time the quantity found will certainly increase as its value becomes better known to the natives through the operations of traders.

The prospects of the Beche de mer trade are favourable, and, as the natives become more settled, a large trade is likely to be done in this staple in the neighbourhood of Cloudy Bay and Aroma. At present the natives of these parts are treacherous, and fishing by white men is a dangerous pursuit. To the east of the group, among the Engineer and Louisiade Islands, there is also a large quantity of fish, and anyone going there with a proper outfit of boats etc., would certainly do well.

Sago is in practically inexhaustible supply to the eastward of Motu-Motu, and should become a most important article of commerce in the near future, while in the same neighbourhood the land is well adapted to the growth of rice.

Nutmegs, valuable gums, rattans and cedar are also large and important items in the internal economy of New Guinea. Quantities of cedar have already been exported, and although, as a rule, the size of the timber has not proved as large as that found in North Queensland, yet the quality leaves little to be desired, and the timber exported has realised good prices in both the Sydney and Melbourne markets.

Nor does there seem much doubt but that minerals will shortly tend to add largely to the trade of New Guinea.

Of one thing all those who have visited New Guinea are convinced, namely that the portion of New Guinea to the west of Port Moresby will be the more important in the future. It may not develop quite so rapidly at first as the eastern end, but, having much greater natural resources,
it must ultimately take the lead, the more so as it abounds in good-sized rivers, the great natural highways of a newly-opened country.

In conclusion, there seems little room to doubt the great importance this new addition to the Empire must in time assume—importance to which the new steam communication must greatly conduces.

Once more let us advise all who wish to see lovely scenery, exquisite vegetation, unknown lands, strange races, and stranger customs, to visit New Guinea. It is easily accessible, the expenditure of time and money required is small, and the ordinary traveller, scientist, or botanist, or the commercial man, seeking fresh outlets for his capital and his energies, will all find much to bewilder, amaze or interest them; and should this very slight and hasty sketch of the trip induce others really competent to follow in the same track,

and give a lengthy and exact description of the beautiful journey, the writer will feel that, slight and inexact, hasty and unscientific, as this little account is, it will not have been utterly wanting in its purpose—nor have failed to do some slight good to lands it attempts to depict, lands which will ever recall pleasant memories to those who had the good fortune to visit them on this occasion.


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**C92 A Land Dispute, New Britain, 1879**

Kabakadai,
Friday, January 16th, 1879
Nothing of any importance has occurred today with the exception of a slight misunderstanding with the natives about the boundaries of our land. One man claims a small patch upon which I was erecting the fence, but as I was fairly within our very distinctly defined purchase lines I declined to remove my fence. This caused a little excitement amongst them, but I remained firm at the same time telling them that I would consult Mr. Brown about it seeing that he marked out the boundaries when the purchase was affected.

Last night they wanted the fence to go in another direction but I would continue it according to our lines. When I went to look at it this morning I found that during the night they had taken the fence up and planted it where they wanted it to go. I pulled it up again while they looked on and made them replace it in its old and right position. I would not quarrel with them over a few feet of ground, but they must be given to understand that when they sell us anything they have no further hold upon it.

**Source:** Methodist Church Papers, Rev B. Danks, Daily Journal, New Britain, 1878-1882, Mitchell Library, MS. Meth. Ch. 616, listed at A2015; entry for 16 January, 1879, pp. 12-13

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**C93 Land Dealing by the Sacred Heart Mission, New Britain, 1882**

The construction of our house proved to be very hard work, the friendly Kanakas giving us but little help. Aside from the fact that the men do not hold work in high esteem and leave it all to the women, they are not very dexterous. It may be that some keep aloof owing to the hostile influence to which I referred, but I can venture to say without slandering our friends, that they are somewhat capricious; at times coming to our assistance in numbers too great, whereas on other occasions scarcely any of them come near us.

Despite the many drawbacks and after a world of trouble, all three of us maiming ourselves a little, our ‘Monastery’ was nearly completed, when we learned that the land whereon we were building did not belong to Tolitoro, and was owned by the English company of which Mr. Farrell is the representative. The latter offered to sell the land for 1200 francs, but without any hesitation we determined to vacate the place, having previously had occasion to notice a number of things that are objectionable in this locality. At this juncture however, and most opportunely, Providence sent to us a director of the company who resides at Meoko, and this gentleman gave orders to Mr. Farrell not to disturb or annoy us in any way, and allow us to remain where we were until we found a piece of land that suited us.

I purchased a new site which is situated towards the centre of the beach, not far from the village of Kingiounan. Mr. Mouton, a former coloniser of Port Breton, lives near by, and the Kanaka chief, of the firm, sold me the land. We bought about six acres on which there are bread-trees, cocoa trees etc. etc. The land along the sea shore is level, and back of this plain there stands a hill on which we propose building our house and chapel. The whole property far from costing 1200 francs was given to us for an old gun and ten ‘brasses’ of divara. Divara is the currency of the country and consists of small bleached shells, circular pieces of coral and mother-of-pearl strung with bird-seed. A ‘brasse’ is equivalent to one franc or thereabouts. The Kanakas do not prize gold or silver, being totally ignorant of the value of either one.

A/c of goods paid for land called Funakivu at Kabakada
To Toharebere for land and trees.
One axe 9/-, 1 Tomahawk 3/-, 4 lbs tobacco 6/-, 1 shirt 5/-,
24 yards print 12/-, two boxes caps 2/-, three knives 2/3,
2 flasks powder 3/-, 2 fantail hatchets 2/-, 3 boxes matches
and 3 lbs white beads 4/6. Total £2.9.3.
Tobaining, Tokiupa, Tauramong, Tohilok, Toluaina, the
following was given for their share in land and trees—they
divided it.
1 fantail hatchet 1/-, 3 doz. pipes 3/-, 7½ lbs tobacco 10/6,
five knives 3/9, 30 yards print 15/-, 1 flask powder 1/6, 1 box
caps 1/-, 5 boxes matches 10d, 3 lbs beads 4/6. Total £2.1.1.
Total for purchase of land £4.10.4.

Paid for plantation on grounds Toharebere for 300 Bananas
2 yards print, 1 knife 9d, 1 flask powder 1/6, 1 box caps 1/-,
1 lb tobacco 1/6, 12 pipes 1/-. Total 6/9.
Talet. 125 bananas. 1 cloth 1/-, 1/3 flask powder 6d, 1 lb
tobacco 1/6, 12 pipes 1/-. Total 1/6.
Tangau. 50 bananas. 2 yds print 2/-, 8 pipes 8d, 1 lb tobacco
1/6. Total 2/6.
Tohilok. 50 bananas. 2 yds print 1/-, 8 pipes 8d, 1 lb tobacco
1/6. Total £2.1.1. Total cost of plantations £3.7.5.

Source: Methodist Church of Australasia: Department of Overseas
Missions Papers. Letter book, April, 1881 to August,
1884, ML MS. Meth. Ch. O.M. 41. p. 401

THE FREE COLONY OF NOUVELLE-FRANCE:
DOCUMENTS C95 TO C106

In a period of two years between September, 1879
and the end of 1881 some eight hundred people,
French, Belgian, Italian and German, left Europe
to sail to Nouvelle-France. This was a free colony in
Melanesia with its centre at Port Breton, formerly
Port Praslin, on the southern tip of New Ireland.
(Plate 56)

The scheme to create the free colony was the work
of Charles Du Breil, entitled the Marquis de Rays, a
French adventurer. He first announced the scheme in
1872, and a company was floated in Marseilles and
subscriptions solicited through advertisement. Port
Praslin, renamed Port Breton, was chosen as the first
site for settlement within an extensive territory of

PLATE 65: The territory included by the Marquis de Rays in the Free Colony of New France, 1880
Drawn by E. Ford