

Paradise of Savagery



New Guinea Woman and Baby.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

Perhaps it is logical enough that less should be known about the largest heavily inhabited island in the world—New Guinea—than about the smaller and more easily traversed lands of the sea, especially since it lies, like the neighboring continent of Australia, near the antipodes of the western world, far from the beaten track.

This island has come into notice recently through the action of the League of Nations in giving to Australia the mandate for its northeastern quarter, formerly a colonial possession of Germany. It is probable, too, that it may be one of the subjects of discussion when the problems of the Pacific are taken up in Washington.

Except for a fringe of a few widely separated settlements and mission stations along the coasts, New Guinea (or Papua, to give it its native name) is a paradise of savagery. Probably in no other area of equal extent in the world has civilization made so light an imprint. In the interior of the great island heads are hunted as in smaller regions elsewhere, cannibal feasts are held, savage dialects are spoken, and there is practically no contact with and no knowledge of the outside world.

Origin of Papuans Unknown.

The origin of the "oriental negroes" of Papua is an unsolved problem to ethnologists. On most of the islands to the east and north and toward Asia, straight-haired, relatively fair Malays are found. But the Papuans are black, woolly-haired negroes like the natives of the far-away Guinea coast of western Africa. It was this resemblance between the inhabitants of Papua and Guinea that gave the island its more common name among westerners. Though the Papuan race is distinct, and though large numbers of the pure stock exist on the island, the negro strain has also been mixed with Malayan blood, resulting in numerous racial gradations.

The natives of the southeastern part of the island may be said to hark back to the days of their arboreal, pre-human ancestors, for they live in rude leaf and straw-thatched hovel which they construct in trees. Though this custom of tree-dwelling is not followed to any great extent in other portions of New Guinea, the natives of the island all seem determined to live well off the ground. The favorite habitations throughout a large part of the country are constructed on high piles. On the protected ground beneath these structures the culinary operations are usually carried on. Many of the buildings are long, narrow communal affairs, housing a score or more of natives. In many cases these habitations are merely dark tunnels, but in others they are divided into compartments. Clothing bothers the Papuans but little, but they give much attention to painting and tattooing their bodies, and to bedecking themselves with neck, nose and ear ornaments.

Odd Native Customs. There is very little furniture in Papuan dwellings to be shifted about by the "lady of the house" on cleaning day. Important among the few movables are hard narrow wooden blocks, scooped out to fit the neck—"pillows" which would hardly appeal to westerners as substitutes for their soft down-filled cushions.

Some of the tribes near the coast have a passion for bathing, so great that they impute a love of the water to the spirits of their departed tribesmen. To facilitate "spirit bathing," surviving relatives and friends carefully construct and keep open paths leading from each grave to the sea.

When they are not dining on choice cuts from some enemy tribesman, Papuans eat in the main a prosaic enough diet of bananas, yams, sago, breadfruit and the meats of various animals and fish. But as choice tidbits, some of the tribes eat certain insects and the meat of the world's

largest clam. The shells of these huge bivalves often weigh 500 pounds, and the meat alone 20 pounds.

Religiously, New Guinea is a mixture, just as it is politically. Mohammedanism has a slight foothold on the west coast, due to the contact of the tribes there with the Mohammedans of the islands extending off toward Asia. Christian missions are located at intervals along the coast all around the island, but the number of natives so far Christianized is small. On some of the tiny islands lying in the strait between New Guinea and Australia entire communities of Christians are to be found. Throughout most of the huge island, however, paganism is rampant, the natives propitiating supposed evil spirits and the forces of nature.

Because New Guinea is so far from countries with whose size we are familiar, we are likely to consider its extent rather vague. If the island could be laid down along our Atlantic coast we would soon appreciate its vastness. It is approximately 1,500 miles long, and would reach from the southern tip of Florida to the northernmost point on the coast of Maine. Its 400 miles of width would cover two-thirds the distance of Bermuda. The area of the island is close to 300,000 square miles, and it is supposed to have about 1,000,000 inhabitants.

History of the Island.

New Guinea was discovered more than half a century before Australia was first sighted; but while the latter has come to have a population of 5,000,000 white people, and is the seat of an important, modern Christian government, the former is still almost the undisputed domain of savagery. The Dutch laid the first claim to territory in the island, but confined their operations to the western end. In 1884 the British established a protectorate over the southwestern portion of the country, and the Germans annexed the northeastern part the same year. The three countries agreed on boundaries in 1885, but their partition of the land was almost wholly an action on paper, for there had been little exploration of the interior. Each country in the years since has established a few trading and mission posts and plantations in the coast country and has set up the skeleton of a government, whose functioning, however, has had little effect in the interior.

The British portion of Papua has had the status of a territory of the federal government of Australia since 1906, and the recent action of the League of Nations in placing the former German New Guinea in Australian hands under mandate gives that commonwealth control of a little over half of the island's total area.

Strange Animal Life.

The animal life of the world's biggest tropical island, like that of neighboring Australia, is strange and bizarre in western eyes. In ancient geologic ages Papua and Australia were connected. Apparently for millions of years they have been separated entirely from the rest of the world, so that their animal types are a survival from the remote past. With the exception of the pig, which probably was brought from Asia relatively recently, all of the mammals of New Guinea are either marsupials which carry their young in pockets, like the opossum and the kangaroo, or are beasts that lay eggs like birds.

What New Guinea lacks in beasts of the field it makes up in birds of the air. As the home of hundreds of species of feathered creatures, it is more favored than many other portions of the earth's surface. Its dense tropical forests are alive with them—birds of almost every conceivable size and shape and of a bewildering combination of colors. Most striking of the many birds that count New Guinea their home is the gorgeously colored and beautifully formed bird-of-paradise. Most interesting is the romantic and ingenious hover-bird, which builds a "pleasure dome" solely as a place for its love-making.

GET SILO READY BEFORE FILLING

Paint Interior at Least Once in Three Years and See That Roof Is Water-Tight.

DOORS SHOULD FIT TIGHTLY

Hoops of Stave Structures Should Be Tightened and Any Defective Pieces of Wood Replaced—Air Will Spoil Silage.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

With the approach of the time for filling the silo, experts in the United States Department of Agriculture call attention to the desirability of putting silos in shape and making plans for filling which will save valuable time in the rush of work. Silos are a comparatively new feature of farm management, and in many cases have been built less substantially than some of the older forms of farm structures.

Silos Need Occasional Attention.

Even the best constructed silo will need some attention occasionally. Concrete silos, which are among the most expensive of construction, require the least attention as a general rule, but they will give better service if the inside is given a coat of special paint about once in three years. Paint for treating the interiors of silos is easily made of raw coal tar mixed with gasoline and applied with a tar brush. The roof should be inspected to see if it is water-tight, and the doors may well be looked over. They need to fit tight.

Wooden silos, either stave or board construction, require additional attention. The hoops of stave silos should be tightened and any defective pieces of wood replaced. In wood silos, particularly the cheaper ones and those of home make, there is always the likelihood of inlets for air, which will spoil the silage.

Careful attention should be paid to seeing that the machinery to be used in harvesting and moving the silage is in working condition. Corn harvesters and silo-filling machinery are frequently owned in partnership by several farmers, and of course arrangements need to be made in advance to see that all the owners get their corn in at the season when it is in best shape. In using the corn harvester the bundles should be made rather small. While this takes more time, the extra expense is more than offset by the ease in handling the bundles and feeding them into the silage cutter.

The corn ordinarily is hauled to the cutter on common, that hay racks. The low-wheeled wagon is much preferable to the high one. An understung rack can be constructed with comparative ease and will save much labor.

If the silage cutter and lifting machinery have not been selected, every effort should be made to get machinery which has sufficient or excess capacity.



A Low-Down Flat Wagon Saves Labor in Handling Corn When Filling Silo.

The mistake is often made of getting an outfit that is too small, thus making the operation of filling the silo very slow and interfering with the continuous employment of the entire force of men. A number of satisfactory silage cutters are on the market. The chief features to be considered in a cutter are that it is strongly made and will cut fine.

Harvest Corn Before Fully Ripe.

Ordinarily corn should be harvested for the silo about a week or ten days before it would be cut for silage; that is, when about 90 per cent of the kernels are dented and at least 75 per cent of the kernels are hardened so that no milk can be squeezed out. At this time the lower leaves on the stalk are turning yellow and the green corn fodder contains 65 or 70 per cent of moisture, which is sufficient for silage. Silage made from corn containing moisture enough for proper preservation is more palatable than that made from corn so mature as to require the addition of water.

CARING FOR ASPARAGUS BED

Good Plan to Clean It Off and Apply a Coating of Manure to Prevent Freezing.

If the asparagus bed has been cleaned off it will be in better shape in the spring if a good coating of manure is put on. This will keep the bed from freezing and thawing and will work in the fertilizer and get the soil in better shape for the plants in spring.

POTATO PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN STATES

Crop Commands Better Price Than in the North.

Owing to Wide Divergence of Seasonal Conditions, Coupled With Long Growing Season, Tubers Can Be Planted Any Time.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The importance of the potato crop in the South is due to its market value rather than its magnitude, for owing to the season in which it is harvested it commands a better price, usually, than the late crop in the North. The wide divergence of seasonal conditions in the South, coupled with a long-growing season, makes it possible to plant and harvest potatoes in some locality in practically every month in the year.

Owing to varying climatic conditions, due to both latitude and altitude, there are three distinct potato-crop seasons in the Southern states. These are the early or truck crop, the late or main crop, and the fall crop.



Grading Potatoes in Southern Field.

which last may be divided into a second crop and a fall crop proper. The early or truck crop is confined largely to well-defined production centers. Because practically all the early crop is marketed directly from the field when it is in more or less immature condition, the question of packages and of shipping facilities is important. This subject, and others of interest and value to southern potato growers, are discussed in Farmers' Bulletin 1205, entitled *Potato Production in the South*, just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. This bulletin may be obtained free upon application to the Division of Publications.

DURABILITY OF FENCE POSTS

Not Much Difference Between Split and Round If Heartwood and Sapwood Equal.

Some people believe split fence posts last longer than do round ones. Probably as large a number hold the opposite view. The forest products laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture says that one will last about as long as the other if the percentage of heartwood and sapwood is the same in both. If the percentage of sapwood is increased by splitting, the split post will be less durable, while if the percentage of heartwood is increased it will be more durable than the round one. Exceptions to this should be made if the posts are of spruce, hemlock or any of the true firs, whose heartwood and sapwood are about equally durable.

If the posts are to be treated with creosote or some other preservative, the round post is preferable to the split, because of the comparative ease with which the sapwood can be treated. Experiments at the laboratory demonstrate that the heartwood faces on split posts do not, as a rule, absorb the preservative as well as does the sapwood.

COOPERATIVE EGG MARKETING

Encouraged by Extension Workers and Is Saving Money for Farmers of Nebraska.

Co-operative marketing of eggs, which is being encouraged by extension workers of the University of Minnesota and county agricultural agents, is saving money for farmers of Nebraska. According to the extension news service of the Nebraska college of agriculture, six cents a dozen, or a total of \$85, was the gain made by farmers of Hamilton county by marketing their eggs co-operatively during April and May. The county agent and the farm bureau helped to collect the eggs at a central point and there grading, packing and shipping them.

CRICKETS CUT GRAIN TWINE

Insect Is Reported in Great Numbers and Doing Much Damage by Loosening Sheaves.

A warning against the crickets which chew the twine on grain sheaves and thus cause loss of the grain is issued by Stewart Lockwood, extension entomologist at the Agricultural college of North Dakota, who says the insect is being reported in great numbers throughout his section.

Use new sisal twine, if possible, says Mr. Lockwood. Otherwise, soak the twine in a solution of one part turpentine and one part pine tar, two or three days before using.



MRS. CARL LINDER
R. F. D. No. 2, Box 44,
Dassel, Minnesota

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Dolls for Greenland Kiddies. Dozens of American dolls are being taken by Capt. Donald B. MacMillan on his present trip to the Arctic to be distributed to the kiddies of Greenland.

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GREATNESS NOT ON SURFACE

Reporter Had Perceived Nothing to Indicate That His Companion Was a Man of Note.

Every one is entitled to one chuckle in days like these, just as every dog is entitled to one bite. Hence this story of Sinclair Lewis, which is being repeated with vicious enjoyment by a lot of the lowbrows.

It appears that Lewis was a guest at a dinner not long ago at which a number of newspaper men and other low forms of life were present. The guests were introduced to their hosts in this fashion:

"Gentlemen—this is Mr. Smith, Mr. Jones and Mr. Lewis."

Mr. Lewis sat next to a reporter. The reporter talked of politics, the next war, heat, Babe Ruth, the big fight and other bourgeois things and said no word of literature.

Mr. Lewis became first uneasy and then unhappy. When he could stand it no longer he turned to his neighbor with a gay laugh.

"Ha, ha!" said he. "You did not when we were introduced think that I was the fellow Sinclair Lewis, who wrote 'Main Street,' did you?"

"No," said the reporter.—Boston Globe.

Medium Was Right. "Divvy a bit do believe the messages these mediums are after getting from the dead," declared Dugan. "Ye can't be tellin' whether they're true or not." "More fool ye. Ye can, and I can prove it," contradicted Monahan. "By mistake I was reported killed entirely in the war, and one day me sister went to a medium who told her I was wishin' I was back on earth. And at that very time I was on a transport in a high sea, d'ye mind?"

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Impossible. Flubb—Do you understand your wife? Dubb—Not since I married her!

A man never tries to belittle other men unless he feels that they are superior to himself.

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A Question of Identity. The New Minister—"Do you know who I am, my little man?" Little Billie—"Certainly. Don't you know who you are?"

Red Cross Ball Blue should be used in every home. It makes clothes white as snow and never injures the fabric. All good grocers, 5c.—Advertisement.

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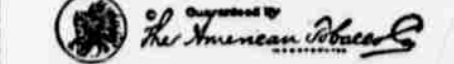
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