

OCEANICA NO. 4

Olongapol, P. I., Nov. 11, 1919.
Editor News:

We steamed seven days to the French group of islands called "The Marquesas." The one we put in was called "Taiohae," and the city of a hundred population called "Neukahiva."

None of us had a feeling of loneliness as we dropped anchor and prepared to visit the city of Neukahiva, the capitol city of this group.

As our little boat nosed its way thru the breakers toward the landing we could imagine ourselves in a great amphitheatre shut in on three sides by high mountains which rise from the sea to a height of over three thousand feet at some places. Along the beach we could see a thin pile of bamboo cottages almost entirely hid by the beautiful tropical foliage found in these latitudes. On the small landing we could see some twenty natives, who had come down to welcome us.

Only sailing ships of the "three Master" type visited there, so we at once understood the natives interest in our little boat. Some five years ago three men-of-war of our type put in at this port, flying the red, black and white colors of the German empire, but bent on an entirely different mission. These were the cruisers, "Schornhorst," "Gneissau" and "Nurburg."

As we landed we were approached by an American and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Sterling, who have been missionaries on the island under the Seventh Day Adventist church, for the past twelve years. They were recent comers, however, to these islands, having come from the Society group, of which I shall tell you in my next letter.

We had no sooner landed than they began to tell us of the German ships. At the outbreak of the war the three cruisers mentioned escaped from the port of Tsing-Tao with Admiral Von Spee in command. After bombarding the town of Pateet, island of Taheete group of Society, they proceeded to this port. The German admiral landed with a party of sailors and captured all French stores plus ten thousand

francs (about \$1500.) They also took everything they could find in the way of souvenirs. They outclass Americans in this accomplishment. Von Spee ordered everything paid for that was taken from the natives and made every man behave himself and not plunder, a trait not obsolete with that nationality. The French governor was taken prisoner with his servants.

"Let us visit Mrs. Sterling," said Mr. Fisher. "She can tell more of the island's history and lore than anyone, for she has resided at this place for forty-three years."

As we walked down the beach we stooped to take the picture of a native chief and his wife. He is a native Marquesian, who are now so rare on the island. He was broad-shouldered, every muscle of limb well developed and a physique any American might envy. As we beheld him a feeling of sadness crept over us, for we saw in him one of the finest types of a fast disappearing race. His wife was young and attractive as any Russian beauty. As she stood by his side as we photographed them they presented a most wonderful picture of former island life.

I am no judge of babies, in fact, very miserable in their presence, but I must say the one the chief had sleeping snugly on his straw mat far surpassed in beauty most American children.

Several hundred yards further we came to Mrs. Fischer's home. "Tell us something of your island," we said.

To this she replied: "Ah, the customs of the people are mostly forgotten since the death of the late chief. The history of the islands is also very sad."

"About 1862 a terrible scourge of smallpox swept the island, carrying away one quarter of the population. Since my arrival in 1876, ships have put in here and left diseases of all varieties, which have done their work well. The old Marquesian will soon be no more. What you see now is a mixture of what drifted in from Society, Hawaii or the Paumotuans." She also told us of Robt. Louis Stevenson's visit and that of Jack London, the writer.

REPUBLICANS, NOTICE!

To the Republicans of Marion County:

A convention of the republicans of Marion County is hereby called to meet at the Court House in Jasper, on the 7th of February, 1920, at 12:30 P. M., for the purpose of electing delegates to the convention of the republicans of the Third Congressional District of Tennessee, to be held in Chattanooga April 30, 1920, to elect two delegates and two alternate delegates to the National Republican Convention, and to nominate an elector for the Third Congressional District, and to transact such other business as may come before the convention.

J. G. LANKESTER,
Chairman Congressional Com. Marion County.

The Republicans of Marion county are also called in mass convention immediately after the adjournment of the above called county convention on February 7th, 1920, at the court house in Jasper, for the purpose of electing delegates to the State Republican Convention to be held in Chattanooga on April 14th, 1920, to elect four delegates and four alternate delegates to the National Convention and to nominate two electors for the State-at-large.

L. P. BREWFR,
Chairman Republican Ex. Com. Marion County.

She called our attention to a Paepae, which are big stones weighing sometimes many tons and collected for one or two purposes, house foundation or to hold sacred dances upon. It is here the Marquesian priests would come and prostrate themselves for a day during certain periods of the year.

As we were returning to the ship we passed a native mixing some white substance in a bowl. Upon inquiry we found out that it was the bread fruit upon which the natives live. It is to them what the rice is to Japanese and flour to us. To preserve it the natives bury it. After it is buried sometime it rots, but that makes little difference to the owner. He digs it up, mixes it with other fruit and eats it with an apparent relish.

At the back of the church is the Marquesian College for Girls at which some twenty attend of ages ranging from 6 to 16. Their native dress is worn and consists of a highly decorated straw hat and a white dress or something of the kind. I suppose the decorated hat is to counterbalance their large bare feet. A peculiar thing in regard to their educational system is that all girls are kept in school at Neukahiva until they are sixteen, while the boys are kept in school

across the island until the same age. They see little of one another until after marriage.

In inquiry of the island's value, we were told that they export 3000 tons of copra (inside of the coconut) a year. That is the best in the Pacific.

Vanilla beans flourish, also grapefruit, guavas, bananas, oranges and limes. As yet no minerals have been found.

In 1813 Capt. Porter visited these islands and since then it has been very seldom that an American has had the good fortune to visit them.

Our visit here caused a general holiday and great rejoicing of the French natives.

Next week I will tell of the Society group of islands, named for a geographical society that first surveyed them.

J. D. CONDRA,
Ph. M. I. U. S. N.
U. S. S. "So. Dakota,"
Care P. M. San Francisco.

BOOTLEGGER WHO SHOT SHERIFF CAPTURED

Charles Thomas, the alleged bootlegger who shot Sheriff G. W. Copping in the shoulder with a shotgun about two months ago, at a houseboat near South Pittsburg, while resisting arrest, was captured last week in Alabama. He was brought to Jasper for trial, and was bound to court in the sum of \$5000. This not being secured he was taken to Chattanooga to remain in the Hamilton county jail, as the Marion jail is not secure.

Wheat Crop Limited.

The wheat harvest in Marion this year will be limited. On account of the warm fall extending up into the winter period, wheat remained in a sappy stage after coming up, with the result that when the freezes struck it suddenly it perished. There will be only a third stand on many of the fields planted. The acreage has been greatly reduced, also, and Marion will not have much wheat to offer in 1920.

Public Schools Close.

A large number of the county schools, including the local one, close this week. The funds are exhausted and the children will get no more schooling until next fall.

OFFICERS: T. G. GARRETT, Vice-Pres.
F. A. KELLY, Cashier.
S. H. ALEXANDER, Pres.

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NEGRO VOTERS NOW ORGANIZED

Will Endeavor To Have Negro Voters Vote Their Own Ballot In Coming Elections.

The first negro political organization ever made in Marion was formed Saturday when leading representatives of the colored race met at the court house, Jasper, and formed the Marion County Colored Voters Association.

A. F. Shockley, of Jasper, was elected chairman, and J. W. Astrapp, of South Pittsburg, secretary. The former is a leading negro educator, while the later is a physician of ability.

The attendance was made up principally of colored teachers, and property owners of the county, and was a very representative one.

The object of the organization is to properly place the negro vote in the coming elections, by urging colored voters to pay their poll taxes before the limit set by law. This is to discountenance the possible purchase of negro votes by designing politicians.

Strong resolutions were adopted condemning the waste and extravagance at Washington, commending the action of the Republican congress in cutting down appropriations, and condemning the proposed league of nations as un-American and against American interests.

D. A. Tate of South Pittsburg, head of the Marion County public schools, who is now laying plans for the erection of a commodious colored high school, to take the place of the one destroyed by fire at South Pittsburg last year, was endorsed as a delegate to the Chicago convention, and delegates were endorsed for the various state conventions.

The organization was made permanent, and each district will be represented by not less than five members.

The administration of county affairs by Sheriff Copping, Judge Brewer, and Trustee Rogers was endorsed, especially to their kindness to the colored race.

The following is the organization by districts:

2nd District—Fred Hembree, chairman, Cecil Prigmore, Walter Springs, Eugene Westmoreland, John Devins, John Shores.

3rd District—Arthur Hayworth, Chairman, Walter Shelton, J. P. Springs, Will Gordon, Scott Steward.

7th District—R. B. Roberson, Chairman, B. D. McReynolds, M. Goodman, Wm. Roberson, Ed Thurman, Taylor Spears, Rev. N. D. Smith.

8th District—Alfred Greer, Chairman, Fred Greer.

11th District—John Williams, chairman, Garfield Gains, Worth Johnson, Campbell Harris, Walter Gains, Cement Plant—P. P. Jones, chairman, Wm. Clay, Ed James, Nyatte Waites, Clifford Brown.

14th District—Rans Hight, chairman, Jim Pendergass, Joe Carpenter, Cass Hight, Will Singleton, Hal Cummins, John Layne, Bob Scales.

16th District—Luther Cummins, chairman, Jack Hill, Will Douglas, Charley Wilkerson, John Wooten, Nod Marbury, Jarrett Cummins, Alex. Stapler, W. J. Astrapp, John Council, W. H. Douglass.

TO PLACE COTTON ACREAGE

A meeting will be held at Killian Schoolhouse Saturday night, Jan. 24, for the purpose of placing cotton acreage. This is the beginning of a movement to secure cotton acreage in Marion county sufficient to warrant the installation of a cotton gin. Every community should hold similar meetings at once and secure this enterprise. Report your acreage to the News and we will see that the proper parties get it.

Increased Size.

Dunlap, Jan. 17. - The Tribune, published here, has increased in size from six-folio to seven-folio. Its subscription price has been advanced to \$1.50.



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