

### Missionaries' Addresses

- Rev. J. F. Goldie, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. A. H. Voyce, Buin Bay, South Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Rev. A. W. E. Silvester, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. C. T. J. Luxton, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. Trevor Shepherd, Teop, Buka Passage, New Guinea.
- Rev. A. H. Hall, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. G. A. R. Cornwell, Buka Passage, New Guinea.
- Dr. G. E. Hoult, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Mr. Bruce Cole, Roviana, Solomon Islands.
- Mr. Geo. G. Carter, M.A., Buin, South Bougainville, New Guinea.
- Mr. C. D. R. Palmer, Buin, South Bougainville, New Guinea.
- Mr. Grenville Voyce, c/o Rev. A. H. Voyce, South Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Sister Lina Jones, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Grace McDonald, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Effie Harkness, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Winifred Poole, Buka Passage, Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Sister Merle Carter, Buka Passage, Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Sister Lucy Money, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Eva Saunders, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Joyce McDonald, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.

ADD "METHODIST MISSION" IN EVERY CASE.

#### "THE OPEN DOOR"

Editor: Rev. A. H. SCRIVIN,  
Probert Chambers,  
Queen Street, Auckland.

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# The Open Door

The Missionary Organ  
of the  
Methodist Church  
of N.Z.

DECEMBER, 1949.

The Rev. J. F. Goldie.

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"

ST. PAUL

Price: ONE SHILLING per Annum.  
Posted, One Shilling and Threepence.

Foreign Mission Dept., P.O. Box 23W, Auckland.  
General Secretary—Rev. A. H. Scrivin.





Rev. A. W. E. Silvester.

ON  
FURLOUGH



Mrs. Silvester.

The Rev. John F. Goldie (see front cover), the Rev. A. W. E. and Mrs. Silvester, the Rev. Trevor and Mrs. Shepherd, and Sister Merle Carter (see inside back cover) are all on furlough and have been warmly welcomed back to New Zealand. The Rev. Usaia and Margaret Sotutu are also on furlough in Fiji, and they, too, are finding much joy in re-union with their people. We thank God for the splendid service rendered by these devoted workers and pray for them a happy and restful holiday. Both Mr. Goldie and Mr. Silvester expect to take short furloughs only, and will not be available for deputation work, but we look forward to hearing Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd and Sister Merle tell of their work at Kekesu.



Rev. Trevor and Mrs. Shepherd.



Rev. Usaia and Margaret Sotutu and family.

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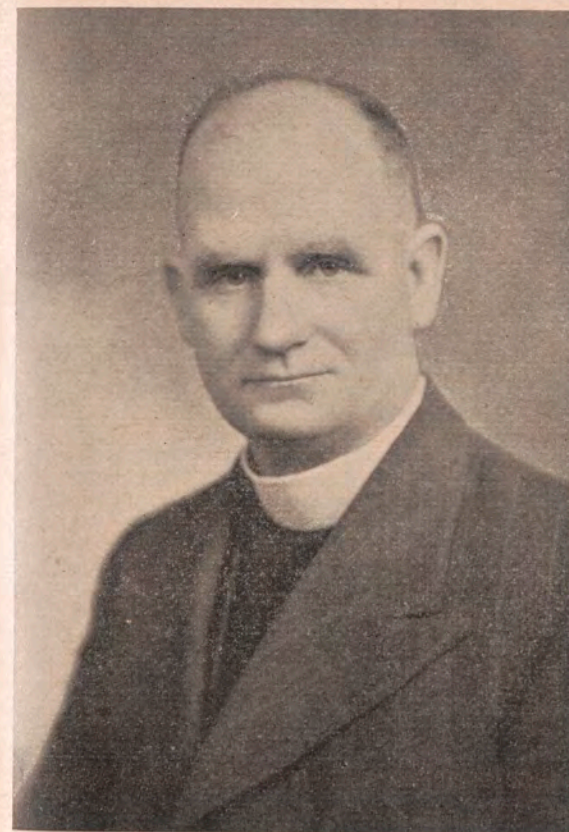
The Missionary Organ of  
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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

## Changing the Pilots



REV. H. K. BARTLETT, L.Th.

### GENERAL SECRETARY DESIGNATE.

By the unanimous vote of both the Board and the Conference, the Rev. H. K. Bartlett, L.Th., was designated for appointment at the 1950 Conference as General Secretary of the Foreign Mission Department. Mr. Bartlett had expressed his willingness to accept nomination and the Department of Methodist Overseas Missions in Australia has been most generous in its attitude regarding the appointment. At present Mr. Bartlett is Organising Secretary for Overseas Missions in South Australia, having been appointed to this office six years ago upon his return from fourteen years' missionary service in Papua — the last two years as Chairman of the District. Now in his mid-ministry, he will commend himself to New Zealand Methodism by his ability, experience and strong friendly personality. He and Mrs. Bartlett and their family of four are assured of a warm and abundant welcome both in New Zealand and the Solomons.

### CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE.

The Rev. J. R. Metcalfe has been designated by the Foreign Mission Board to succeed the Rev. J. F. Goldie as Chairman of the Solomon Islands District when the latter retires in 1951. He will assume this responsible office with the assurance of the goodwill of the Board and his colleagues on the Field. Mr. Metcalfe was appointed to the Solomons by the Australasian Board of Missions in 1920 and will have had more than thirty years of missionary experience when he takes over the Chairmanship.

Mrs. Metcalfe has had even longer missionary experience than her husband, and for the past thirty-three years has been one of our outstanding women workers of the Solomons. Together they will face a big and arduous task, but will be sustained by the prayers and practical support of the Home Church.

When the Revs. J. F. Goldie and A. H. Scrivin retire together early in 1951 they will have aggregated eighty-five years of active missionary service — the former forty-nine years and the latter thirty-six. Since New Zealand Methodism became associated with the Solomons there has been no change in the Chairmanship of the District and only one in the General Secretariat. With a double change impending at the 1950 Conference, action was necessary by the 1949 Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board and Conference with the following results:—



Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Metcalfe and Elizabeth.



## Extracts from the Chairman's Report for the Year 1949

The year has been a short one, as we will have to hold our Island Synod in August owing to alteration in date of Conference. August is the worst month of the year for us owing to the strong S.E. Trade winds and big seas. It is not an easy task to send boats to collect the members of Synod over a distance of 350 miles of rough seas and high winds. The period under review covers only nine months since my last report, but it has been a period full of important events. The most important of these, of course, was the coming of the Deputation from the Board of Missions. We were very glad indeed to see the brethren, and the visit of Mr. Gapper to the Field will certainly be helpful to him in his position of Treasurer and Accountant.

The work of the Mission has been carried on throughout the District very energetically and with much success ever since the return of the missionaries in 1944-45. Every department of our Mission is in full swing. No building material for permanent structures has been available either in Australia or New Zealand, but we are doing the work in temporary buildings and under great difficulties. In this we are in exactly the same position as every other Mission District, and every Government station in every part of the Pacific which had been in Japanese occupation during the war. We are living in native houses and doing our work in native buildings, but the Government Administrative centres are also in the same position.

**Spiritual Life.**—It is impossible to tabulate progress in the spiritual life of a church, but there has been a distinct lift in the District. Although the membership has not increased largely, there are many striking instances of loyalty to Christ and His church which give cause for thankfulness to God. Some of our lads in the Government service at Honiara keep the Sunday services and prayer meetings going there, and these means of Grace help to strengthen the faith and the courage of our young men who are under great temptation. Some of them were asked by the officials to organise a concert to raise funds for purchase of sports material. They were very courteous about it, but firmly refused on the ground their conscience would not allow them to do this, as this would be assisting Sunday sport. If it were for the hospital they would very gladly assist. In our travels recently we found in one of our larger villages that all the patients in the little Methodist hospital were people belonging to another Mission. The Methodist Medical Assistant had gathered them all in and was ministering to them in the spirit of Christ, as a Christian man should—although they had not been very friendly towards the people of our village. All round the Roviana Circuit the services and class meetings are well attended—many of the members coming long distances. There are evidences all round of intelligent faith, and growth in Grace, as well as an increasing knowledge of our Lord and Saviour.

**Educational.**—There is a keener desire than ever for knowledge, and happy youngsters are thronging our schools all round the District. The school at Roviana has now over 300 regular daily attendants, and it gives me a thrill to see the scores of happy children so eager to acquire knowledge. Like children in the white man's land their eyes sparkle with happiness and often with mischief, for they have learned what freedom from fear

means—so different from the children of years ago—the difference that Christ makes when He touches their young lives, and brings light, love, beauty and happiness into being for them. They begin to live in the highest and best sense of the word in spite of what some of the godless say that religion spoils them. We have now some 7328 scholars in our day schools and they are increasing all the time.

**Medical.**—We were all delighted to receive Dr. Hoult as a member of our Mission Staff. He will be stationed as Medical Superintendent of the Helena Goldie Hospital at Roviana, but, in the beautiful launch, "Cicely II," provided by the Women's Missionary Union, assisted so generously by the members of the Astley family, will also be able to visit all parts of our great district. We have been without a trained nurse at Roviana since the war, and now that the Government medical unit has been removed to Gizo, 35 miles away, the people are beginning to ask about the pledge of the Mission Board to maintain always a fully trained nurse at Roviana. The coming of the Doctor with Sister Grace McDonald to help him, will be a great boon. The Doctor's report speaks for itself.

**General.**—During the year we have been busy transporting the seventy large huts purchased from the American Disposals Board, from the Russell Group to Roviana, Bilua and Sasamanga. It has been a very costly business, but will give us a considerable quantity of good material for permanent buildings on the various stations. Now we need a couple of good Christian carpenters to erect these buildings.

On the whole the year has been a good one. There have been many disappointments, but the blessings have outweighed these, and we look back on a year of progress in spite of our difficulties. The health of the European Staff has been good on the whole, although we regret the absence of Mr. Luxton who has been ordered South by the Doctor. I have to thank my fellow workers for their loyalty and devoted co-operation.

We thank God and face the future with confidence and Faith.

JOHN F. GOLDIE,

Chairman.

### The Season's Greetings

WE EXTEND TO OUR READERS  
HEARTY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
AND PRAY THAT, FOR YOU ALL,  
THE NEW YEAR WILL BE RICH  
IN SERVICE FOR THE KINGDOM  
AND IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE  
KING.

## From ANIMISM to "RAJAH YISU" (King Jesus)

J. Z. HODGE.

The following extract from a "World Dominion" article on one of the jungle tribes of India might well have been written of the primitive people of the Solomons and New Guinea whose animism filled them with constant fear.—Editor.

Once on a tour in Central India I lighted on an old Christian Bhil, a typical son of the jungle whose long working day was nearing its close. Sitting outside his humble shack of grass and bamboo, basking in the friendly sunshine, he gave my friend and myself a warm welcome. My Hindi was sufficient to engage him in conversation, during which he told us something of his stormy past when life was a losing battle with evil spirits, interfering petty officials, money-lenders and grinding poverty until Rajah Yisu (King Jesus) came and made all things new.

"What did Rajah Yisu do for you?" I asked him, and to my surprise he answered, "Rajah Yisu gave me bishram." That is a noble word derived from the Sanskrit and usually translated as peace or rest. But it means more than that: it carries the thought of deliverance from fear, the secret of victory, the happy ending of painful search in the discovery that King Jesus is both Saviour and Friend. As he spoke of bishram his weather-beaten features lighted up as if touched by a beam of glory breaking through from Immanuel's Land, and I saw with clearer vision what Whittier meant by "the beauty of Thy peace." This simple, unlettered son of the forest was "stayed upon Jehovah, finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest." Parting from him we "thanked God and took courage."

Who are these Bhils among whom the Gospel is winning many trophies today? Of Dravidian lineage and found mainly in Central India they number over two million and form an important segment of the twenty-five million aborigines, or tribal populations, who are distributed over large areas of Central India, Assam, Bihar, Orissa and South India.

These aborigines are not to be confused with what used to be called "untouchables" and are now classified as the "scheduled castes." Their proud claim to rank as the original inhabitants of the country is well founded. The religion of the aborigine is Animism, tempered by Hinduism. To quote Sir H. Risely:

"Animism conceives of man as passing through life surrounded by a ghostly company of powers, elements, tendencies—mostly impersonal in their character—shapeless phantoms of which no image can be made and no definite idea can be formed." It may be noted that these powers are, almost without exception, malevolent.

Like his fellow-aborigines, the non-Christian Bhil lives in a world of fear, surrounded by unseen foes. "Principalities and powers, mustering their unseemly array, wait for his unguarded hours," and the only guard he knows is propitiation, a policy of appeasement that has an element of magic in it.

We in this favoured isle cannot conceive how grim is the reign of terror established over the human mind by this belief in evil spirits. I recall a village in North India which, at our first contact, was dominated by this fear, so much so that the villagers were afraid to go out alone after dark, for to them every tree was the haunt of an evil spirit, waiting to pounce upon the traveller. The scene changed when Rajah Yisu came to the village. With His coming the dark clouds of fear lifted and the villagers went abroad at night with a song in their hearts and the Name of Yisu Masih on

their lips. Nowhere have I seen the power of Christ's Gospel so vividly manifested as in the victory it gives over fear in the mind of the Animist. The Bhil who has found in Christ his Saviour and Friend can sing better than we can:

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer's ear;  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
And drives away his fear.



An offering is being burnt in this structure on Bougainville to placate evil spirits.

## MORE MISSIONARY DAFFODIL BULBS

The Rev. W. W. Avery has a further supply of daffodil bulbs for sale in the interest of Overseas Missions. The quality of Mr. Avery's bulbs is well known and blooms from them are taking awards in most of the Spring Shows in New Zealand. Intending purchasers should make early application and enclose remittance with order to **Rev. W. W. Avery, 58 Elizabeth St., Timaru.**

Generous discount, in extra bulbs, on all orders of £1 or more. Price lists may be had from Mr. Avery upon request to the above address.

By purchasing these bulbs your garden will be beautified by some of the best blooms in New Zealand and the Kingdom of God extended in the Solomons.

**N.B.—Order early to avoid disappointment.**



## A Native Chief Takes Stock

The following review of some aspects of life to-day in the Solomons is by Silas Eto, who is Chief of his people and Mission Teacher at Kolobagea (also called Hobart), New Georgia. Silas is distinctly original in thought and of artistic temperament. He is deeply concerned for the spiritual and general well-being of his people and has great ability as a teacher. He has translated Wesley's "Twelve Rules of a Helper" into the Roviana language and keeps them in a prominent place in his home together with a portrait of John Wesley painted by himself. On the wall of his church, above the pulpit, he displayed the following challenge to his people, which also constitutes a fine declaration of faith:—

"Come on Hobart! let us all shelter beneath the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ which is for the blotting out of our sins and for the salvation of men who seek God by faith and in truth."—Editor.

Rev. A. H. Scrivin,

Dear Sir,

This is my letter to the New Zealand Methodist Church.

First I will tell you some of the weaknesses of the black-skinned people which keep the Church from being strong:

1. Too many denominations for the relatively few people. Some pride themselves, some are jealous, and so the people are not united as one.
2. Too many traders among people who have little money. One trader alone in a place would be better as he and his buyers would then help one another.
3. The Mission and Government, while both establishing work, pull two ways, so that the headman hardly knows which way to go, and becomes confused.



Silas Eto and his church.

4. Many of the dark-skinned people do not stick to a single job.

Those are our main weaknesses. We want you to help find remedies for them. My thoughts on the matter are summed up thus:—

1. One Christian denomination for the whole group of Solomon Islands.

2. One only company of native traders.
3. The Mission and Government to be co-operative.
4. The natives to stick to a job till they become dependable and can be transferred to another.

I am thankful to God for His love which brought to us the Gospel of peace. I now know it is worth more to me than a million gold coins of all the earth.

God's Spirit is with me. The Solomon Islands will come under the Cross of Jesus, my Lord and Saviour.

One day as I prayed I heard the Voice of Jesus saying:—

"I am the Light of the World, Silas, he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

My father in the Lotu, blessed is the name of God in the Solomon Islands.

I send my greetings to you.

### A PRAYER.

God of my heart, bless the Church in New Zealand, Australia, England and America, that it may o'ershadow Thy Church (still a child) in the Solomons Islands.

Blessed is Thy Name, O God, in all the earth, and in the hearts of Thy children in the Solomons.

Greetings to you all in the Church. May God be with us all.

I am,

SILAS ETO,

Your son in the Lotu.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD—OCT. 1949.

(Continued from page 4)

the name of the Rev. H. K. Bartlett, L.Th., of South Australia, for appointment at the 1950 Conference.

Mr. Bartlett entered the Ministry in 1929 and was appointed to Papua, of which District he became Chairman in 1943. Returning for health reasons to the home work in 1945, he was appointed Organising Secretary for Overseas Missions in South Australia, which office he still holds. The General Secretary for Overseas Missions in Australia (Rev. C. F. Gribble) regards Mr. Bartlett as one of their ablest men.

After a day and a half of intensive work another Annual Meeting concluded on a high note of thanksgiving to God for the privilege of sharing in the great work of His Kingdom Overseas.

## Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board Oct. 1949

To a remarkable degree the Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board deals with the 'big business' of the Church. The Board is comprised of forty-three members of whom thirty-two are resident in Auckland. Seven of the members are nominated by the M.W.M.U. and two by the Youth Department. The President of the Conference is Chairman ex-officio, and in his absence the Chairman of the Auckland District presides. The Chairman of the Solomon Islands District; four ministers, four laymen and two of the M.W.M.U. nominees, in various parts of New Zealand, outside of Auckland, constitute the distant members of the Board and usually attend the Annual Meeting only.

Income and Expenditure reported in October covered only eight months owing to alterations necessitated by the changed date of Conference. The most gratifying item of the Income totalling £24,331 was that of £3,824 from the Native Church in the Solomons.

The Balance Sheet revealed assets totalling £181,978. Nearly £40,000 of this large sum represents cash, stock, boats, etc. in the Solomons, and the balance represents funds held by the Board for specific purposes, including £73,404 for Rehabilitation. Since the establishment of the Rehabilitation Fund in 1942, £102,689 has been received and £29,285 expended. The Board learned with grave concern that no War Damage Compensation is to be paid in respect of the total loss of all our stations and equipment in the British Solomons. The United States Government has also repudiated any liability in this respect. The action of the Board and Conference in establishing the Rehabilitation Fund has thus been amply justified and we have double reason for gratitude for the response of the Church.

Of serious significance were the Estimates from the Field involving an expenditure for 1950 of £26,660. The Board was unable to budget for so much, and after allocating nearly £3,000 to special funds had to prune further to the extent of £2,700. Greatly increased costs and the ever-expanding work are the explanation of these big figures and they constitute a challenge to all.

**Greetings.**—The Native Church, the Missionaries and the Australian Board were remembered in special messages of love and goodwill which, incidentally, illustrate the wide scope of the Board's activities.

**Rehabilitation.**—The General Secretary outlined the steps already taken towards Rehabilitation. Some of the Russell Islands' buildings have been re-erected at Choiseul and material for three dispensaries have reached the Solomons. Cement, etc., has been landed on Bougainville. Mr. Bruce Cole (builder), after two years on Bougainville, is now in the British Solomons, and Mr. George Yearbury (builder) is leaving shortly for Bougainville.

The Deputation to the Field had conferred with all workers re sites and buildings and brought back sketch plans and suggestions which had been referred to the Board's Building Committee. A sub-committee had conferred with an architect re plans for a standard house from which estimates of quantities, etc., could be prepared.

The Mission fleet has been fully restored. The "Roviana," "Mandalay," "Cicely II" and "Munda"

are giving excellent service. The "Daphne" overhaul is proceeding and delivery of a new engine is expected shortly. A new launch and two large dinghies have been presented to the Board and arrangements are in hand for their despatch to the Field. The new boat-slip at Skotolan is nearing completion.

Most important of all in connection with Rehabilitation is the general work of the Mission, and the Reports from the District indicate that this has been almost fully restored.

**Literature.**—The Rev. A. Blakemore reported on the circulation of the "Open Door" and "Lotu," which is about 6,600 and 8,800 respectively. The editors (Rev. A. H. Scrivin and Rev. A. A. Bensley) were thanked and re-appointed. Rev. A. Blakemore was also thanked and re-appointed as business manager. A special vote of thanks was accorded to Sister Edna White for her valuable help with the "Lotu." The Board expressed warm appreciation of the continuing splendid effort of the "Lotu" readers to raise £1,000 towards a new District Church in the Solomons.

Gratification was expressed at the publication of Methodist News in Bougainville by the Rev. A. H. Voyce and colleagues.

A new edition of the Biluan hymn and service book has been published, the proofs of which were read by the Rev. A. A. Bensley. A new edition of the Catechism, also in Biluan, has been generously duplicated free of charge by the Youth Department.

The outstanding literary effort of the year, however, has been the completion of the translation of the New Testament in the Roviana language by Sister Lina Jones, in addition to other valuable work, and a resolution of appreciation was carried with hearty unanimity.

**Reports,** remits, statistical returns, etc., from the Islands Synod received careful consideration, as did also recommendations from the N.Z. District Synods.

The Annual Report of the Board — extracts from which appear on other pages of this issue — contains much of inspiration and information, and various matters contained therein came under close review at the Meeting where it was adopted.

The M.W.M.U. Report was presented by Mrs. M. E. Virtue, the retiring Dominion President. The Board expressed in no uncertain way its warm appreciation of this elect lady and her Napier Executive who have rendered such high service during the past three years.

**General Secretaryship.**—The General Secretary outlined the investigations of the Board and its Special Committee in regard to his successor, drawing particular attention to the generous attitude of the Australian Board of Overseas Missions and its General Secretary, the Rev. C. F. Gribble, M.A., in respect of the Committee's approach to the Rev. H. K. Bartlett. Warm appreciation of the magnanimity of the Australian Board was expressed and the following resolution was carried unanimously, every member voting:—

This Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, having received the report of its special committee set up to consider the question of a successor to the Rev. A. H. Scrivin, unanimously nominates to the Conference

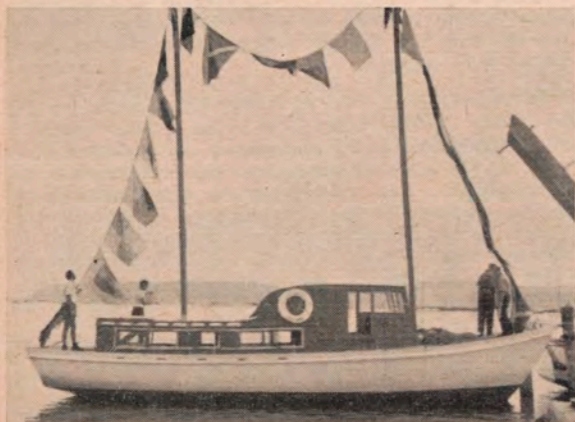
(Concluded bottom page 4)



## "CICELY II" goes into Commission

By Dr. G. E. HOULT.

Following our arrival in Gizo by the L.S.T. "Rawhiti" a good deal of time was consumed in the clearing of cargo, included in which were building materials for three dispensaries as requested by the Lepers' Trust Board. After a few days at Bilua fully occupied by the medical work there, a note was received from Paramata, about 25 miles away, where Silas Lezetuni is



"Cicely II" immediately after launching.

the teacher. Silas had been to the head-station for the Thanksgiving and was enquiring about a dispensary for Paramata, and shortly after his return, a young girl was injured in a hut used for storing a canoe while sheltering from a raging storm. She was very fortunate not to have been killed when the hut collapsed as the canoe was damaged not a little. Silas bandaged up the wound after applying an antiseptic dressing and then the girl was put to bed awaiting our arrival. A native came nearly half way by canoe but could not complete the distance in this way owing to heavy seas, but, by walking and running along the beach, he brought news of the child in urgent need. At first evidence of dawn a boy arrived to awaken me and prepare food and soon after this we were on board to have a brief Lotu and then away. Three hours later we reached the village and found the girl well cared for. After a brief inspection of the village, followed by a meal as quickly as could be arranged, we got the girl aboard—as well as several others needing attention—for Bilua where we arrived between three and four p.m. An operation revealed a slight crack in the bone and all layers of the scalp were lacerated, but the wound was reasonably clean. The repair was thoroughly routine and no complications followed the operation, and when convalescence was satisfactory the patient was considered

fit enough to have a course of treatment for yaws, from which she was also suffering.

This was the initial commission of the "Cicely II" in the Work of Mercy for which she was sent and she admirably rose to the occasion. Into a fairly heavy beam sea, which caused a good deal of roll, she steadily and quite quickly ate up the sea miles to reach her destination in record time for the run. The vessel amply justified the faith of the M.W.M.U. and the generosity of its contributors. Lessons were learned in the need for developing a quick means of communication if possible, as more than 24 hours were lost in hearing of the accident and reaching the scene when it needed only three or four hours to do the lot if radio had been possible as it is hoped in the future, by having a pedal type of set at strategic points.

While at Paramata opportunity was taken to examine the proposed site for a dispensary near the new church. It is agreed it would be a good site as the coast makes difficult any quick contact by canoe as the South East season brings months of unsettled weather along that part with heavy seas. Quite a number of villages could be served from this area if suitable dresser boys are provided as we hope in the near future.

With this trip over a few more days elapsed at Bilua before the vessel was again off to Munda to pick up Synod representatives, for Sasamunga on Choiseul where it was expected to spend about two weeks. But that was only my idea when I left Bilua, as seven weeks later finds me still away from the base after several interesting trips up round our north Solomon stations in an endeavour to be of medical assistance to some of our Missionary population, mainly the white section. In this life one is quite unable to predict where the pursuit of the cause of ill-health will lead one next, but with an efficient staff, a good vessel and good communication we trust our usefulness will increase with each contact.



Official Group at Launching.

## Mission Board's Appreciation of Retiring Missionaries

REV. C. T. J. LUXTON.

With very deep regret the Board grants approval to Mr. Luxton's immediate return to the Home work—regret not only because of his ill-health but also because



of the great loss to the Work occasioned by his retirement from the Field. Appointed in 1939, Mr. Luxton has rendered very valuable service to Buka where our work has developed considerably under his leadership. High commendation from Government officials has been given on a number of occasions recently in respect to school and other work at Skotolan and Petats.

With the exception of Mr. Goldie, Mr. Luxton was the first man back on the Field after the War and did splendid work in preparing the way for other members of the Staff by erecting temporary houses, hospitals, etc. His station on Buka was the first in the District to get back to more or less normal pre-war conditions. When the "Daphne" was the only open-sea boat in commission she was under Mr. Luxton's care and rendered remarkable service to the District.

Owing to the claims of five young children, Mrs. Luxton was unable to accompany her husband when he returned from furlough in October, 1948, but until then she had nobly supported him in all his arduous work. The grave of their little daughter Moyna and the love of the Buka people will keep their hearts very much in the work to which they have ten of the best years of their lives.

\* \* \* \*

SISTER LINA JONES.

Upon her retirement from the Field after 26 years of very able and devoted service, the Board extends to Sister Lina Jones its deep appreciation and sincere thanks, and warmly congratulates her upon the outstanding success of her work. Her contribution to the

Educational side of the Work has been unequalled in the history of the Mission and her gifts of organisation and spiritual leadership have been of a high order. She has also rendered great service as a translator, and her final achievement of completing the translation of the New Testament into the Roviana language is probably her greatest contribution of all. She has recently received the corrected proofs of "The Stories of Jesus and the Apostles," has prepared a further edition of the Roviana Hymn Book, and has revised the Roviana Dictionary. Her retirement constitutes a grave loss to the District, but we rejoice in the knowledge that the



large number of Native teachers she has helped to train and the thousands of scholars she has taught will continue as living witnesses of the love of God she has proclaimed in all her service.

### GRAVE FINANCIAL PROBLEM AND HOW TO SOLVE IT.

The saddest and most difficult task of the Foreign Mission Board, at its recent Annual Meeting, was that of reducing the Solomon Islands District Estimates for 1950 by more than £5,500. With the urgent need and large opportunities of the Work before them, the Synod estimated £26,660 as the amount required to meet the situation. But, even by straining its resources, the Board could only grant £21,074. An extra 1d. per week on the part of 25,000 members would avoid this drastic cut. 1d. per week! Half the price of a newspaper; half the price of the ordinary postage stamp; a sum so small that almost its only use to-day is in the public telephone; **AND YET**, for the lack of it, the work of the Kingdom of God is seriously hindered! **For the Master's sake please give us that extra 1d. per week.**



## M.W.M.U. CONFERENCE, 1949

By MRS. F. GANDERTON.

When we reflect on the warmth of the welcome of Blenheim Methodists and friends, the bright sunny days, and the beautiful church buildings at our disposal for our times of fellowship, we are very grateful for Conference days spent under such ideal conditions.

In his opening remarks at the reception to Delegates of the Conference in Wesley Church on the evening of 10th October, the Chairman of the District, Rev. H. G. Brown, paid an inspiring tribute to the members of the M.W.M.U. Unions generally, as we know them to-day, are formed for the express purpose of benefiting their individual members, but, said the Chairman, the Methodist Women's Missionary Union was unique in the sense that its members, out of love and devotion to Jesus Christ, were banded together for the benefit of others. The great purpose of this Union is that our Maori people and those in the Solomon Islands shall have the glad news of the Gospel and the opportunity of coming under its saving grace.

All present felt the warmth of the welcome and greetings on behalf of the citizens and sister societies of Blenheim, given by the Mayor, his wife and other speakers.

Mrs. Virtue, our Dominion President, expressed the gratitude of all delegates and visitors, and we were favoured with beautiful musical items from the Ladies' Fellowship Choir and Miss J. Osborne.

Everyone felt very much at home with old friends and new as we gathered in the adjoining hall for a social time and partook of the specially good things to eat which the ladies had provided.

We would like to make special mention of the beauty of the decorations, which gave inspiration to our meetings in church and hall during our various sessions. Also, we recall with pleasure the gift of boxes of flowers to our three retiring Dominion Officers. Blenheim very impressively "Said it with Flowers."

The time spent in real fellowship together at Conference, when various members led our devotions, when we all joined in singing our hymns with heart and voice, and when we listened to choirs and soloists sweetly and sympathetically render musical items, will long remain a hallowed memory.

Mrs. Virtue opened and presided over the Business sessions of Conference and reminded the 103 delegates present of the joy to be found in working together for the extension of the Kingdom, and quoted those lines so familiar to all—

"Go labour on, spend and be spent  
Thy Joy to do the Master's will."

Every member of Conference was later challenged by the theme of our President's address, "The Methodist Woman, her Heritage and Responsibility," and given much food for thought as Mrs. Virtue stressed the need to-day, as perhaps never before, for consecrated Christian women, in the Church, the Home and the Business World. We are called of Christ to a great Missionary work in every sphere of life, and He alone is our true Leader and Guide. Remembering that prayer is the power behind our work, we are called to make every Auxiliary a Christian Fellowship. We were urged to take the following questionnaire back to our Auxiliaries:



The M.W.M.U. Conference Group — Blenheim, 1949.

### Why should I study Missions?

Because a study of Missions will increase my faith in Christ. Missions are God at work. Because I must be intelligent on Missions in order to stimulate others.

### Why should I give to Missions?

Because it is the best paying investment of money. Because I am a steward of the money God has entrusted to me. Because it is God's will that missionaries should go and that I should help to send them.

### Why should I pray for Missions?

Because the world needs prayer. Because missions have always prospered as believing prayer has increased. Because I am told by Christ to pray.

These memorable words concluded the address—

"Thy life was given for me, Thy blood, O Lord was shed  
That I might ransomed be, and quickened from the dead

Thy life was given for me, What have I given for Thee?"

Delegates were privileged to see two films, prior to the Missionary Rally, one depicting the dedication and launching of "Cicely II" and the other a coloured film taken at the time of the farewell of Dr. and Mrs. Rutter and giving vivid glimpses of the beauty of various parts of the Solomons, and also a Solomon Island Double Wedding.

At the Missionary Rally we were very much impressed by the vital message of Rev. G. I. Laurenson, on the importance of missionary work to-day for a lost world. Because of the growing indifference of people to-day, every member of the Church is called upon by God to obey the missionary command to "Go and preach the Gospel."



The outgoing executive officers:—Mrs. T. Rowe (Secretary), Mrs. M. E. Virtue (President), Mrs. A. Bruce (Treasurer).

Rev. A. H. Scrivin, in thanking the members of the M.W.M.U. for the wonderful gift of the mercy ship, the "Cicely II" impressed our minds with the idea of God's appreciation. This boat had been handed over, fully paid for, to the Mission staff—the gift of another launch had been made to the Board—and it had been possible to purchase at reduced cost, a towing boat and punt, very necessary for rehabilitation work in the Solomons. All this was evidence of the appreciation of what the women of the M.W.M.U. had attempted in faith, and God's multiplying of their gifts and service.

During the Conference sessions both the above gentlemen gave vivid descriptions of the work being accomplished by our Sisters working among the Maori folk and serving in the Solomons, and expressed the deep gratitude of the respective Mission Boards they represented, for the great encouragement and help given through the prayerful and sacrificial support of our members.

In connection with the work of the Home Field, Rev. Laurenson, in expressing delight regarding the decision of Conference to make our Special Objective this year "Four new cars for Four Home Sisters" told us of the great concern this matter of adequate transport means for our Sisters, had given his Board and he outlined the many difficulties pertaining to the whole situation. This our Objective, is a most needy and worthy one and we are confident that God will again honour our every endeavour in this cause.

It was with great interest that we listened to Sister Mavis Dickie, as she unfolded to us her experiences, her joys and her problems, in the great work she is doing in the Taranaki District. Such service is typical of that being rendered by all our Home Sisters and of which we were glad to hear in their individual reports.



The incoming executive officers:—Mrs. W. R. Featherston (Secretary), Mrs. T. Hallam (President), Mrs. D. Cockerell (Treasurer).



We also heard with grateful hearts of the service being given by our teaching and nursing Sisters in the Solomons and Rev. Scrivin was able to verify this because of his very recent visit to the Islands. Personal tributes were made to the Sisters, the fruits of whose labours were evident in the various parts of the Solomons.

Once again the Stamp money was allocated in such a way as to benefit all our Workers and give them added assistance, and this matter came in for many words of appreciation in the Sisters' reports, as did the sending of used clothing to the Home Sisters, and the wonderful work of Sister Edna White of Auckland in forwarding many cases and parcels of essential supplies overseas.

It was very fitting that we should rise and sing the Doxology after the Financial statement had been submitted, as all present felt very deeply our heart-felt thanks to Almighty God for His wonderful experience in the hearts of all our women throughout New Zealand, which had been the inspiration of their desire to

give and give again, in the cause of the extension of His Kingdom.

Yet another time of reviewing the ever increasing activity of the M.W.M.U. came to a close and we commended all to the One Who at all times is our All Sufficiency. As the Officers of our New Executive came to the time of taking over the work, our hearts went up in gratitude to God for the faithful service of all, who before them, had laid it down and again we commended to His loving care those who will go on in faith to direct the affairs of the M.W.M.U. relying on the Grace and Power of God.

In the spirit of deep joy and devotion the whole congregation, which filled the entire church, came together to partake of the Holy Communion, and just as was felt at the commencement of Conference, there was a "Hush of Expectation" as we stood at the threshold of another year of service in the great Missionary Cause of our Church.

Prayer changes things.  
Pray, without ceasing pray.

## Onehunga Centenary and Missionary Association

As Onehunga Methodism approaches its centenary celebrations of March, 1950, it draws attention in its monthly magazine to a close link with the late Dr. George Brown of missionary fame, as quoted below. Onehunga has been singularly fortunate in its missionary associations in that, on four occasions within the last 50 years its superintendent minister has been one who had rendered long and valuable service overseas and was thus able to bring to his people the wider vision—Revs. W. Slade, S. J. Gibson, E. S. Harkness and the present minister, Rev. E. C. Leadley.

### Rev. George Brown, D.D.

In the first decade of our church life in Onehunga, a young man arrived from the North of England who seemed to be making a failure of his life, but who became possibly the greatest of the missionaries of the Pacific.

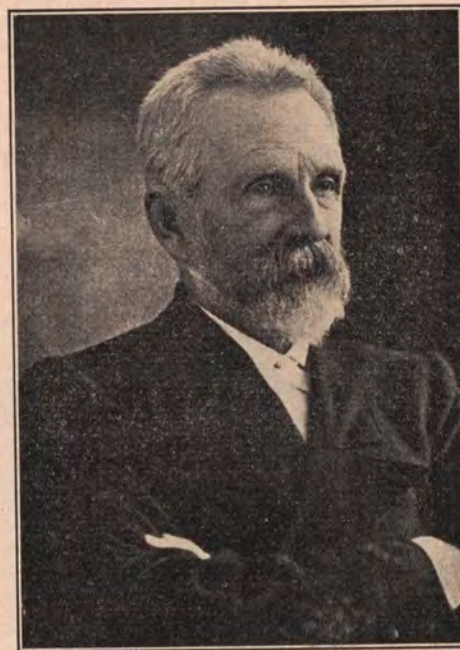
George Brown came to the home of his aunt, Mrs. T. Buddle; her sister was George's mother, but had died when he was only five. His father, a Christian man holding high place in the civic life of Darlington, had placed his son severally in a doctor's surgery, in a chemist's shop, and then in a draper's shop. From the last, George ran away to sea, and was working on a coastal schooner.

His father succeeded in following him up, but at his son's earnest request arranged for him to join the crew of a larger vessel, and on one of his first voyages they took soldiers to the Crimea. The roughness of the work and conditions did not daunt George, but as he broke his leg he was left in a hospital in Canada. Other adventures followed and eventually he returned home. He felt that he could not settle in England, and so a passage to New Zealand was arranged. A fellow passenger was Bishop Selwyn, and with him, George took up the study of Maori.

In Onehunga he was introduced into a truly Christian home where every member lived a life which made George long for a personal knowledge of their Lord and Master.

Mr. Brown became a local preacher, and then was asked to allow his name to go forward as a candidate for the ministry. He was eventually accepted, and at his

request was sent as a missionary to Samoa. On being accepted, he married a Miss Wallis, and she proved in every way a worthy help-meet.



The late Rev. Dr. G. Brown.

After some years of service at Samoa, the urge to evangelise heathen islands was with him, and the Mission Board appointed him as pioneer, first to New Britain and then to New Guinea. Year after year, fresh mission-stations were opened and more and more people living in heathen darkness were brought into the light and liberty of the Gospel.

A book on Mr. Brown's life by a leading Sydney journalist bears the richly deserved title "The Black Knight of the Pacific."

## The BIBLE in a NATION'S LIFE

Address by the REV. JOHN FOSTER, D.D.

I am always glad that William Tindale stands so well on the window at Bible House. Most of the sonorous English of the Authorized Version reaches back to the earlier work of Tindale. What incomparable style had the writers of English under the Tudors! The Tudors—Henry VIII—it was for him Tindale prayed at the stake: "Lord, open the king of England's eyes!" That was in 1536. Two years later his prayer was answered—or if Henry's eyes were not wholly opened, at any rate he had issued a royal injunction that "one book of the whole Bible of the largest volume, in English," should be set up in every parish church "whereas your parishioners may most commodiously resort to the same and read it"



The open Bible in the Parish Church.

Soon there was to be an open Bible not only in every parish church but in many a devout home.

It seems to be our British way that, when we get something, we have an urge to pass it on. It was so when Christianity first reached our islands. A.D. 597 is the date alike of St. Columba's death and of the coming of St. Augustine. Britain was then a mission-field. Pass on 100 years and it has become a base for missions. Last summer I was passing through Utrecht, and there at the crossroads I saw a great new granite statue of a monk on a warhorse, Willibrord, Apostle of the Netherlands, the first to bring the Gospel there in the year 690. All Holland knows him. Alas, I found many who did not realize that he was an Englishman. But then, most of his fellow-countrymen do not know him at all! And to Willibrord in a few years' time comes another Englishman, Winfrid, also called Boniface of Crediton, and he is the first to carry the Gospel into Germany. You see, within the first 100 years, the mission field had become the base, and was sending out its own missionaries for the conversion of all Northern Europe.

A thousand years further on, with the English Bible in 1538, the same thing happened: within the first century we begin to pass it on. Again the man concerned is all too little known in our histories, John Eliot. He did not belong to the original Pilgrim Fathers of 1620, but, a Cambridge graduate of Puritan sympathies, he followed them in 1631.

A few months ago I was reading an old book by Robert Millar, 'Minister of the Gospel at Paisley,' (A history of the propagation of Christianity and the overthrow of Paganism).

He writes to try to stir the Church of Scotland to do something for foreign missions, and the year it is written in is 1723—seventy years before William Carey's Enquiry. In it he mentions John Eliot and his work for the American Indians. He writes, "He took care also to translate the Bible into the Indian language. . . . It is the only Bible that was ever printed in America from the foundation of the world. A copy whereof I have seen in the library of the College of Glasgow." What I want you to notice is that, having got the Bible into our own language, we are not long in doing something about it for others too. Within the century we produce the first Protestant missionary, and he spends a large part of his working lifetime putting the whole Bible into the language of the Red Indian.

I mentioned William Carey, and it was with him in 1792 that the modern missionary movement proper began. To name him as its first major figure is to call your attention to one who is the greatest figure in Bible translation in all the Church's twenty centuries. This century and a half is the greatest period ever. And, under God, the greatest part played in all this great achievement belongs to this oldest and greatest of the Bible Societies.

I find small inspiration in the minutes of most committees, but that first meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, 1804, is an exception. Why, it shows a power of understatement that even Winston Churchill himself might envy! Listen to this, from men founding a Bible Society while their country is on the eve of invasion: "If the present period is not the most auspicious for such undertakings, neither is there any danger of its being fatal to them. . . . It should also be remembered that the present is the only period of which we are sure." What times they were! What men they were! They would have us rather say, what a God they served!

We meet knowing the crisis of our own times. China is on the hearts of many—for this half-century, since the Boxer riots, the land most open to the Gospel—and now is it to become again the land of the closed door? Let me remind you of one thing: one of the most spectacular successes I know in missionary history came when China was a closed land. Only one or two Protestant missionaries had a foothold on the threshold. They kept justifying their continuance in such cramped conditions by saying to their supporters at home, "No, we can't get it. We can't travel. We can't preach. But we can disseminate tracts and Scripture portions—and you never know." You never know! In the year 1834 a young Chinese was given a bundle of four books on the street. I've been reading them recently. I had no idea that a single copy had survived until the L.M.S. kindly lent me them from its archives. They are whole chapters of Scripture, with interspersed simple exhortation. The young Chinese had had no contact with a missionary. This printed word was at first all he had to go on. In his country home he organised a group called "The Society of God Worshipers." The group grew. Soon the countryside was up in arms, the movement became a rebellion, and the rebels aimed

(Continued bottom page 10)



## From a South Seas Diary

First published in 1945 under the above title, this book by Sir Harry Luke was compiled from his diary written when he was Governor of Fiji and High Com-



A Glimpse of Roviana Lagoon.

missioner for the Western Pacific. The following is an extract dealing with a visit paid to our District Training Institution at Roviana:—

"Left by air at 8 a.m. for the Roviana Lagoon, which is not a lagoon in the atoll sense but a large

area of water at the western and southern side of New Georgia, dotted with innumerable small islands, most of them covered with coconut plantations. The sight from the air was singularly beautiful. Landed in New Georgia at Kokeqolo (pronounced Kokengolo), the training and educational centre in the Solomon Islands of the Methodist Church. Here the veteran Dr. Goldie, who has seen New Georgia change from a country of fierce head-hunters to be the background of this flourishing Mission School and Training Centre, took us around and told stories of his early days here which seem difficult to reconcile with what he now has to show. But he gave chapter and verse for each of his remarkable reminiscences. Among other somewhat grim pieces justificatives he produced the skull of one of the head-hunted, on which had been super-imposed in modelled clay a stylized version of the features of the deceased, topped by a realistic wig made of coconut matting. It may have been due to my imagination, but Dr. Goldie seemed to derive a certain consolation from the fact that the original owner of the head had been a convert of the Anglican Mission.

Anyone who thinks that the jet-black negroid sons of head-hunters are not capable of being turned into useful and intelligent citizens would modify his view if he could have seen these hundreds of keen, alert students in the big assembly hall of the school, where I spoke to them before we went away. The noise they made as they sang "God Save the King" in full-throated harmony nearly lifted the roof off the hall. Some of them are budding teachers, others Native Medical Practitioners to be; and I brought up with me in the "Vita" one of their best alumni, John Wesley Kere, who has now qualified as a N.M.P. after winning the prizes for general proficiency in studies and athletics and the British Medical Association's gold medal for surgery at the Central Medical School in Suva."

## NEW CHURCH at KEKESU OPENED

By the REV. TREVOR SHEPHERD.

Saturday, 17th August, was a big day for us, it being the opening date of our new Church. A rough sketch is enclosed, so you will see something of the hard work we did. It was wet and no visitors came. Gloria, Alys and I were the only Europeans present, and there was only one visiting native, but about 700 local folk attended. The Church was big enough to hold them all, and could have held a few more. It was a thrill to preach to such a crowd. The Church looked really nice with all its greenery for decoration, covering up the very obvious faults in construction. The communion rail is a piece of bush timber, squared off with axes, etc., stained with mangrove bark juice and polished. I have seen better, but it is a worthy effort. The floor of the chancel is 5 ply sheets, all stained, while the front of the pulpit is plaited bamboo with different colours in it and a cross worked into each of its eight sides. The floor of the main body of the Church is sand. One day about 300 people came and carried sand from the beach and covered the floor about 6 inches deep with it. They sit in the sand and quite like it. Its a good idea as far as children go as they find lots of things to amuse themselves with.

It's a thrill to be going home knowing that our Church is completed. At least we have built a house for these people to worship in, we have done our best to teach them how to worship, and I'm sure they will carry on very well while we are absent from them. It was a real thrill also to administer the communion last Sunday morning, in the Church which I had planned, with a communion rail and trimmings like I always wanted when I dreamed golden dreams in College. It's a nice feeling! There were about 100 communicants. There comes a deep satisfaction out of doing something and making something from the raw stuff of nature and humanity. Try it chaps!

## THE BIBLE IN A NATION'S LIFE.

(Continued from page 11)

at overthrowing the corrupt and foreign Manchu Dynasty. The young Chinese who had started "The Society of God Worshippers" was proclaimed Emperor. His armies took Nanking. And the name of the new Dynasty was "The Kingdom of Heaven of Great Peace." They aimed at nothing less than setting up a Christian China. One American missionary wrote, "It is an opportunity such as comes not once in a thousand years." It nearly happened, and happened when the door was closed, and on the street a Chinese youth was handed some chapters of the Scriptures.

## FOREIGN MISSION DEPARTMENT

### Extracts from the Annual Report, 1949

While drawing attention to the considerable difficulties still to be overcome, the Reports from the Field, almost without exception, strike a high note of real achievement. They express thankfulness to God for what the Chairman describes as a distinct lift in the spiritual life of the District and for many striking instances of loyalty to Christ and His Church. Extracts from these Reports will be published later and will provide inspiration and challenge for the Home Church.

#### Native Church.

The 1949 Islands Synod reports 11,242 members—senior and junior; 7,328 scholars in our day schools; 17,444 adherents—an increase for the year of 198 members, 216 scholars and 35 adherents. The spiritual leadership, school teaching, child welfare, etc., etc., for such a large and constantly growing flock is the big task in which 6 native ministers and 306 catechists and teachers are engaged. They are all too few for the task by reason of the war years when the college and schools were destroyed and the present lack of facilities, which prevents, for the time being, our training more than one-third of those offering. Fortunately the work does not cease in a village where a teacher is not available. The deputation from the Board was in such village recently—a large and important one—where the services and class meetings were being conducted by the stewards and local preachers, and the school by the senior scholars.

The people of the Western Solomons have real initiative and capacity, these qualities being found to a marked degree among the chiefs and teachers. Sometimes the chief is also the pastor-teacher. The potentiality of these people when won for Christ and trained for Christian leadership is truly great and should be constantly in the thought and prayer of the Home Church.

#### Staff.

Word is to hand from the Rev. J. F. Goldie that he will apply for superannuation at the 1950 Conference. He will then have been Chairman of the Solomon Islands District for more than 48 years and in the active ministry for 53 years. He is requesting that he be permitted next year to concentrate on preparing the translation of the New Testament, recently completed by Sister Lina Jones, for printing and publication. When the time of his retirement comes it will be difficult to express adequate appreciation of the great service rendered by him to the Kingdom of God in the Solomons.

It is with deep regret we report the retirement from the Field, on medical advice, of the Rev. C. T. Luxton, a year earlier than had been anticipated. He has rendered fine service since his appointment to the Field in 1939, very ably assisted by Mrs. Luxton. They will be greatly missed by the people they have loved and served so well.

Sister Lina Jones is also bidding farewell to the work and people she has served with such ability and devotion for twenty-six years. She has crowned this long term by completing the translation of the New Testament into Roviana, and the revision of the hymn book and catechism.

The loss of so many valuable and experienced workers is serious, but there is cause for gratitude in yet fur-

ther response to the Divine call for more reapers in the harvest field of the Solomons. The appointment of Dr. G. E. Houlst, Nurse Eva Saunders, and Messrs. G. G. Carter and C. D. R. Palmer was reported last year, but it is during this year that they have taken up their appointments on the Field, where they have been warmly welcomed. The Rev. Gordon Cornwell was appointed to Buka by the Conference Executive Committee last February, and With Mrs. Cornwell, who is a triple certificate nurse, was inducted to his charge at a very impressive service at Buka during the visit of the Deputation and the Chairman of the District. In July, Miss Joyce McDonald, a daughter of the Parsonage, was appointed by the Board as a teaching Sister, and left for the Field in August with Sister Grace McDonald, who, in view of the urgent need, has generously agreed to return for a further two years. It is hoped that Nurses Davinia Clark, Joan Brooking and Jessie Grant, who have been accepted by the Board, will be ready to sail early in 1950, and that two teachers who are under a sense of God's call will also soon be ready for the Field. Other enquiries have been received regarding work in the Solomons which encourages us to believe that the call of the Native Church "Come over and help us," is not falling on deaf ears.

#### Education.

An important Education Conference was held at Honiara in March preparatory to the drafting by the Government of Regulations governing education in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. Our Society was represented by the Chairman of the District, who does not seem very happy about the subsequent draft proposals. The Conference was between representatives of the Government and the missionary societies operating in the Protectorate. It was recognised that Missions had been entirely responsible for education hitherto, and that the Government could not attempt to found primary schools or even secondary schools at present, but they may establish a technical school for vocational training for Government service. The Government also proposes to send selected students to its teacher-training college at Suva. The representatives of the missionary societies operating in the Protectorate are alive to the vital importance of retaining control of their schools in order to safeguard the spiritual development of the scholars—the most important phase of true education, but largely, if not entirely, neglected in Government-controlled schools.

The Papua-New Guinea Administration has continued its policy of close collaboration with our staff on Bougainville and Buka and has made substantial grants. The reports from this Circuit, while rejoicing in definite progress, emphasise that adequate qualified staff is essential for the maintenance and extension of such vitally important work. More trained teachers, both European and Native, are urgently needed.

Resolutions of the Islands Synod covering Village Schools, Circuit Institutions and the District Institution, express profound gratitude to God for continued and extending usefulness of these centres of learning, for the eagerness of scholars and students both to learn and to serve, and for the fact that this section of the work, in spite of serious disabilities of inadequate buildings and equipment, has been substantially rehabilitated.

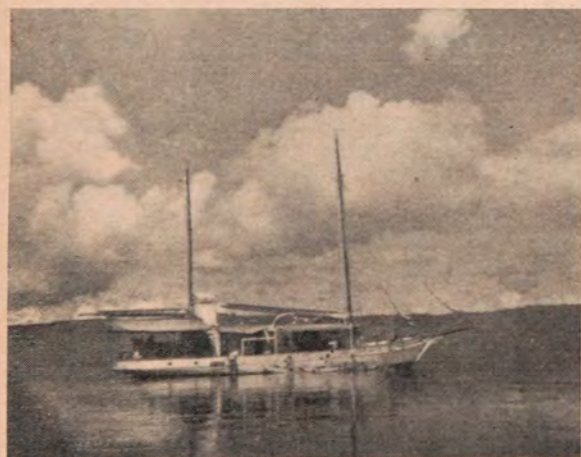


**Medical.**

The period under review has been a very broken one for Dr. G. E. Hault, owing to a long delay in Sydney and a subsequent return to New Zealand for urgent family reasons. He has, however, visited the whole district and is fully alive to the bigness and urgency of the task to which he has been called. He writes enthusiastically about the suitability of the "Cicely II" and is very proud of the boat and grateful to those who gave her. He is also grateful to the Lepers' Trust Board for the new dispensaries and its substantial financial assistance. He stressed the immediate need for suitable hospital buildings and more nurses.

Severe epidemics in several parts of the District have thrown additional strain on the Nurses and their Native staff. The almost astronomical figures of patients and treatments are evidence of the work accomplished. As always these devoted workers have responded nobly, but not without scathe to themselves, several of them having been on the sick list. Mrs. Cornwell has done almost full-time nursing work, and the wives of all other missionaries have rendered great service.

At a Conference of the missionaries and the deputation, important decisions were reached regarding sites and order of priority, etc., in connection with the re-building programme. The recommendations of this conference have been approved by the Board, which has set up a special committee to confer with an architect and others with a view to putting the work in hand at the earliest possible moment. Shortage of materials, however, is still a major problem.



Auxiliary Ketch "Roviana."

Together with a further generous grant of £1,500, there has come from the Lepers' Trust Board the request that we make the utmost endeavour to erect and equip several dispensaries in the immediate future from funds allocated by it. We have been fortunate in securing materials, permits and transport at short notice for three such buildings, and plaques are to be affixed indicating they are the gift of the Lepers' Trust Board. Since 1942 we have received £7,250 from this fine organisation which is doing so much to ameliorate suffering and cleanse the lepers of the South Pacific.

A further interesting item in connection with the re-building programme is that certain objectives are provided for by funds held in trust as follows:—

District Girls' School—£4,073 from M.W.M.U.

Schools, etc., Vella Lavella—£546 from Occupation Forces during the War.

Sisters' Home, Kekusu (Teop)—£930 from M.W.M.U.

Rev. Don Alley Memorial Hospital—£1,500.

Rev. Don Alley Memorial School—£1,500.

Sister Eliz. Common Memorial Hospital—£1,700.

Mr. Geo. Yeabury, whose offer of service as a builder was accepted by the Board in 1948, has left for the Field. The District is appealing for more builders in the near future.

**M.W.M.U.**

With the Missionary Women of New Zealand there is no looking back. Every year marks progress for which the Native Church and the Mission Board are profoundly thankful. Support of the Sisters on the Field and of much of their work has been generously maintained, and outstanding service rendered by the Union's Box Organiser—Sister Edna White.

Reference has been made to the M.W.M.U. "Special Effort" for 1949, which took the shape of a new boat for the Doctor and Nurses. It is doubtful whether any similar effort has ever captured the imagination and sympathy of the Union as this beautiful gift, for which the Board once again extends its grateful thanks to the M.W.M.U. and Mr. and Mrs. John Astley.

As Mrs. M. E. Virtue and her Executive hand over the reins of Dominion Office, the Board desires to congratulate them upon a splendid term of service for the Kingdom, and to thank them for their very loyal and able co-operation during the past three years. They have worthily maintained the high tradition of the Office and will have the joy and satisfaction of knowing that their work has been abundantly blessed of God. To Mrs. Hallam and her Christchurch Executive the Board extends hearty congratulations upon their appointment to the highest office of their Union and looks forward to close and happy fellowship with them.

**Youth Department.**

The 7,000 day-scholars of our Methodist schools in the Solomons and the thousands of Youth beyond school age are linked with the Methodist Youth of New Zealand in a fine fellowship. This sense of kinship is more highly developed in some circuits than in others, and it is the Board's earnest desire that in every Youth Council, every Bible Class and every Sunday School a yet stronger link with the Solomons may be forged.

The Board extends its sincere thanks to the Youth Directors and all associated with them in keeping the Missionary vision and challenge before the young life of the Church.

**Conclusion.**

This report is closed on a note of thanksgiving to Almighty God for His grace and guidance and for granting us, as a Board, the privilege of sharing the joyous tasks of bringing in His Kingdom Overseas. To Him be the praise and the glory.

E. T. OLDS, Chairman.

A. H. SCRIVIN, General Secretary.

**PERSONAL and GENERAL****REV. J. F. GOLDIE.**

The veteran Chairman of the Solomon Islands District, whose recent photograph appears on the front cover of this issue, received a warm welcome at the Napier Conference. He was the Overseas speaker at the Missionary Demonstration and was accorded a great ovation both before and after a powerful address in which he outlined the present situation in the Solomons, emphasising the amazing transformation of the people wrought by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He also held the deep interest of the Conference when speaking to the adoption of the Mission Board's Report.

Prior to Conference, Mr. Goldie met the Foreign Mission Board in Auckland when matters of major importance concerning the Solomons were discussed. He flew to Sydney on 16th November and was met by two of his daughters who took him to Melbourne by car. After a brief furlough he expects to return to the Field in February and return to Australia a year later as a supernumerary after 49 years in the Solomons and 54 years in the active ministry.

\* \* \* \*

**REV. FRANK H. WOODFIELD.**

The latest addition to the ministerial staff in the Solomons is the Rev. Frank H. Woodfield, who was appointed and ordained at the recent Conference. It is probable he will accompany the Chairman to the Field in February and has been designated as the latter's assistant. In addition to three years' training at Trinity Theological College, Mr. Woodfield has other qualifications fitting him for very useful missionary service. He is a trained carpenter and builder; has studied navigation and engineering; has been a very successful officer in The Boys' Brigade, and above all, has a deep sense of God's call to missionary service.

\* \* \* \*

**MR. G. H. J. YEABURY.**

After several delays, Mr. George Yearbury sailed for the Solomons per the "Southern Cross" on 29th Nov. by the courtesy of the Bishop of Melanesia. He will be engaged in the re-building programme on Bougainville where a big task awaits him. He is an experienced tradesman and a valuable aspect of his work will be that of training the natives. In going to this work he is responding to a definite call of God and will, we are confident, be sustained by the prayers of many people here in New Zealand.

\* \* \* \*

**CONFERENCE AT PORT MORESBY.**

From Nov. 29th until about 12th Dec. representatives of the Papua-New Guinea Administration and various Christian Missions were gathered in conference at Port Moresby to discuss Education, Medical and Social Services and other important matters relating to the well-being of the native people. The Rev. A. H. Voyce represented our Mission and was accompanied on the journey by Mrs. Voyce. They travelled, as guests of the Government, by air all the way from Buin to Port Moresby and back. We hope to publish later some account of this important Conference.

**KEKESU-TEOP.**

During the furlough of the Rev. Trevor and Mrs. Shepherd and Sister Merle Carter, Mr. Grenville Voyce is rendering some assistance at Kekesu.

\* \* \* \*

**KOAU-BUIN.**

The Director of Education for Papua-New Guinea Territories has visited Koau. Although his schedule was upset by transport difficulties, he was able to visit all classes at work, and he seemed to be pleased with what he saw. This was followed by a brief school assembly when the Rev. A. H. Voyce welcomed Mr. Groves and Mr. Boisen, who accompanied him to the station. J. Ahai, a senior College boy, then spoke on behalf of the staff and students, in a speech which drew very favourable comment from the Director on account of the excellence of its English. Mr. Groves spoke briefly, telling of his pleasure in being able to come to see the school, and gave a message of cheer and encouragement.

There was not time for the Director to see the various aspects of craft work, but he was able to see a "mon" made on the station, which was being used to ferry passengers to and from the flying boat. Senior boys spelt out the word KOAU on the beach as the plane took off, in token of farewell.

\* \* \* \*

**SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE.**

The first triennial South Pacific Conference, which is auxiliary to the South Pacific Commission, is to be held in Suva in April, 1950. Representatives comprised predominantly of native peoples will attend the Conference from the following territories:—Papua, New Guinea, Nauru, New Caledonia and Dependencies, French Oceania, Netherlands New Guinea, Western Samoa, Cook Islands including Niue, Fiji, British Solomon Islands, Gilbert Islands, Ellice Islands, American Samoa, New Hebrides, Tokelau Islands, Kingdom of Tonga. The Agenda is as follows:—

1. Opening by Chairman.
2. Election of General Committee.
3. Statement by Secretary-General.
4. Statement by Deputy Chairman, Research Council.
5. Public Health;
  - (A) Mosquito Control,
  - (B) The Healthy Village.
6. Social Development;
  - (A) The Village School.
  - (B) Vocational Training,
  - (C) Co-operative Societies.
7. Economic Development;
  - (A) Fisheries Methods,
  - (B) Improvement and diversification of food and export crops.
8. Proposals for Second South Pacific Conference.
9. Report to South Pacific Commission.



## WOMEN'S PAGES.

## M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's  
Missionary Union of  
New Zealand.

221 Cambridge Terrace,  
Christchurch, C.1.  
November, 1949.

Dear "Open Door" Friends,

To write letters to you through the medium of this fine Missionary Magazine is something very new to me indeed. Some of you I know so well; many of you I have met at various times and places; to those of you whom I have not met I look forward with pleasure to doing so during my term as President of the Methodist Women's Mission Union. One thing I feel sure we are all one at heart in our interest in the Missionary cause and our desire for the extension of God's Kingdom on Earth.

I think you would like me to say a big thank you to Mrs. Virtue, our Past President, for the excellent way in which she has kept us up-to-date with Missionary matters through this column.

In the early days of October the M.W.M.U. Conference was held in Blenheim. Happy memories are still fresh in the minds of those privileged to be present. What a wonderful year we have had. How richly God has blessed all our efforts. What a joy it has been to Auxiliary members to have shared in sending the Cicely II. on the errand of mercy in the Solomons. I am sure Doctor Hoult and the nurses will be very proud of her. As we listened to the various reports of our work, all telling of progress, our hearts were filled with thankfulness to God for His goodness. I wish you could have heard the members of Conference sing Hymn 686, "Lift up your hearts," and 968, "Yes, God is good"; certainly our M.W.M.U. women have not lost the art of singing hymns. The Blenheim Auxiliary and friends showered hospitality upon their guests, and Wesley Church, beautiful and dignified, made a very fitting centre. While the Marlborough countryside, decked in springtime freshness, spoke of God's rich renewals; in the quietness of Wesley Church, large bowls of Arum lilies breathed out their message of purity, grace, and the consistent love of the Maker of all things. These mountain-top experiences not only give us opportunity to consider business but a clearer vision of the great need for consecrated workers to become God's Kingdom builders both at home and overseas.

Over the past twenty-five years or more Sister Lina Jones has given valuable service in the educational work in our overseas mission; the ability to translate the Scriptures as well as school text books, etc., has been just one of her great contributions to the work. The time has arrived when Sister Lina wishes to lay down the work she has so dearly loved. While we regret to lose so valuable a worker, our thoughts and prayers go out to Sister in this time of uprooting and settling down again.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Rev. C. T. Luxton who, owing to ill-health, finds it necessary to retire from overseas work. Let us remember the people of the Solomons as they sustain the shock of losing those whom they have grown to love and revere. As the M.W.M.U. representative I will be attending the Church Conference held in Napier this year. At the

Missionary Rally the speakers are to be the Revs. J. F. Goldie, A. W. E. Silvester and H. A. Darvill. The name of Goldie brings a thrill of pride to every Methodist as we remember the long years of sacrifice and self-giving to the winning of the Solomons for Christ. Rev. A. W. E. Silvester, too, has given magnificent service in Vella Lavella; together they will give news of the Solomons. The Rev. H. A. Darvill will bring news of the work among the Maori people.

Let us remind readers that the M.W.M.U. still collect used stamps; the fund from this source gives valuable help to all our workers. This year we have taken the added responsibility of two more Sisters in the Maori Mission and two more in the Overseas field. Our Special Objective for the year is "Four new cars for four Home Sisters."

By the time this letter reaches you the Christmas season will be very near. Let us approach it in the "Spirit of thankfulness to God for His unlimited blessings," and as we meditate upon the Gift of Jesus coming as a little child let us pray that Christmas time may bring to the people of the Solomons, the Maoris and ourselves, a deeper understanding of God's great love for all mankind.

Greetings to you all.

Yours in the Missionary Service,  
LILIAN HALLAM.

\* \* \* \*

**Southland District Council** held its annual meeting in Invercargill, 23 delegates being present, Mrs. Brown presiding. After the devotional period and usual business letters of thanks were received—one from Sister Edna for used linen and the other from Sister Yearbury for sacks of clothing. Baby clothes were particularly acceptable. Sister Yearbury, from the proceeds of sale of old clothes, has bought a sewing machine to help her in her work in the sewing classes for Maori girls. After the adoption of the annual report and balance sheet the election of officers was held. Mrs. Head becomes new president. Mrs. S. Brown, who has been a loved leader and president since council began, was presented with a sheaf of flowers, and a member from each auxiliary spoke in appreciation of her work. She will be remembered in the prayers of the Southland ladies as she journeys abroad.

**Northland District Council.** Annual meeting was held on Aug. 16th. The ladies of the Kawa Kawa Auxiliary led the devotional period, their theme being Christian Fellowship. President Mrs. Silk welcomed delegates. All Auxiliaries except Te Kopuru were represented and four of the Home Sisters were present. An invitation to hold the 1950 M.W.M.U. Conference in Whangarei was forwarded to Dominion Executive. Reports from various departments showed progress and an increase in membership. With the election of officers one change was made. Mrs. Hills, who has held office for 6½ years, resigned, Mrs. Simpkin being elected in her place.

**Waitemata District Council** held its first annual meeting at Takapuna, representatives being present

from Birkenhead, Northcote, Devonport, Takapuna and Leigh. Executive members met at 10.30 a.m. Reports showed a steady progress in all departments. Membership has increased to 226, including 22 gleaners. Receipts and payments for the year amounted to £364/17/2. The election of officers resulted in little change in personnel. Secretaries and treasurers were given instructions regarding parcels for Sisters and general duties. President Mrs. Chappell then spoke to us, spurring us on to fresh service at home and abroad.

**Thames Valley District Council.** A short Executive meeting was held at 10 a.m. followed by the general meeting. Roll call showed that Eastport Rd., Matamata, Te Aroha, Morrinsville, Thames, Springdale, Paeroa and Hauraki Plains Auxiliaries were represented. Receipts and payments for the quarter totalled £245/6/8. A letter was received from Whakatane Auxiliary declaring their wish to become a gleaners' group in the meantime. President read an appeal from the "Methodist Times" for old spectacles which can sometimes be used by our Doctor overseas. On her retirement from office Mrs. Eastwood was presented with a spray of flowers and a book. Rev. A. Penn presided over the annual meeting. Following the election of officers a short communion service was held for re-dedication of officers for the coming year.

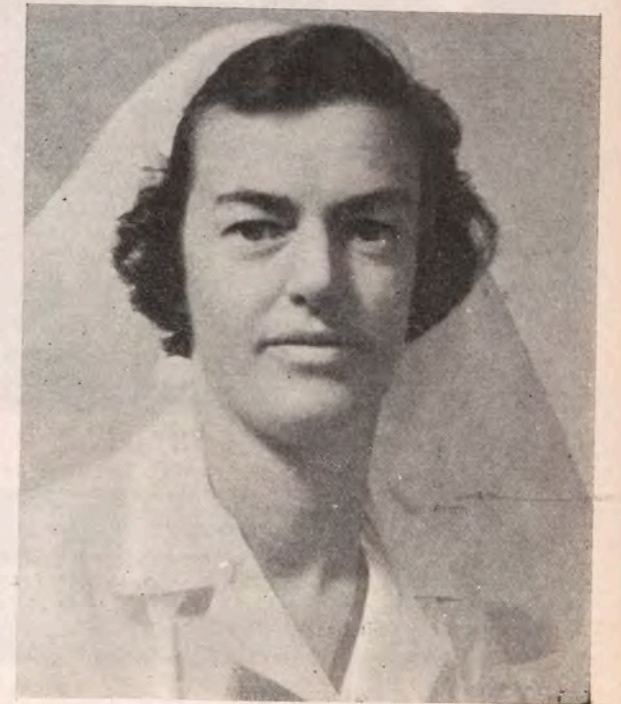
**Wellington District Council.** Annual meeting was held at Wesley Church on Aug. 12th. The President led the devotions, taking her thoughts from two texts, "Cast not away therefore your confidence" and "His word was in mine heart as a burning fire." Mrs. J. A. Bruce took the chair for election of officers. Secretary Mrs. Trembarth resigned for health reasons. Mrs. Allon Carr was elected to take her place. The annual report presented by Mrs. Trembarth showed steady progress in the work throughout the District. Thirty-five sacks of clothing have been sent to the Sister allocated to us. The treasurer's report showed the year's income as £945/10/2. Of this £140/1/1 was received from the sale of used stamps.

**Nelson-Marlborough District Council.** Annual meeting commenced with a Communion Service held in St. John's, Nelson, conducted by Revs. H. Brown, A. K. Petch and C. Blair. President Mrs. L. G. White presided over the business meeting. Forty-one delegates answered the Roll Call, 14 having travelled from Blenheim. The Secretary presented the 5th Annual Report. Four council meetings have been held. We now have 217 members and one new Auxiliary, **Stoke**, which has divided from Richmond and starts with 14 members. The Treasurer's statement showed an increase of £178/12/7 over last year. This included an anonymous gift of £100 to Special Objective. The election of officers resulted in three changes. Mrs. Peter, on her retirement from office of secretary, was presented with a bouquet and Mrs. Green, formerly of Dunedin, becomes the new Secretary.

Mrs. C. Blair led the afternoon devotions, after which reports were received from Auxiliaries. Mrs. White then gave the meeting over to 6 ladies who entertained with music and songs of other lands: Norway (harp music and songs by Mrs. F. Mitchell), Negro Spirituals (Mrs. M. A. Nightingale), Scottish songs (Mrs. H. Millar), Irish (Mrs. Jones), Maori (Mrs. A. Watson), and Jewish (Mrs. Noble).

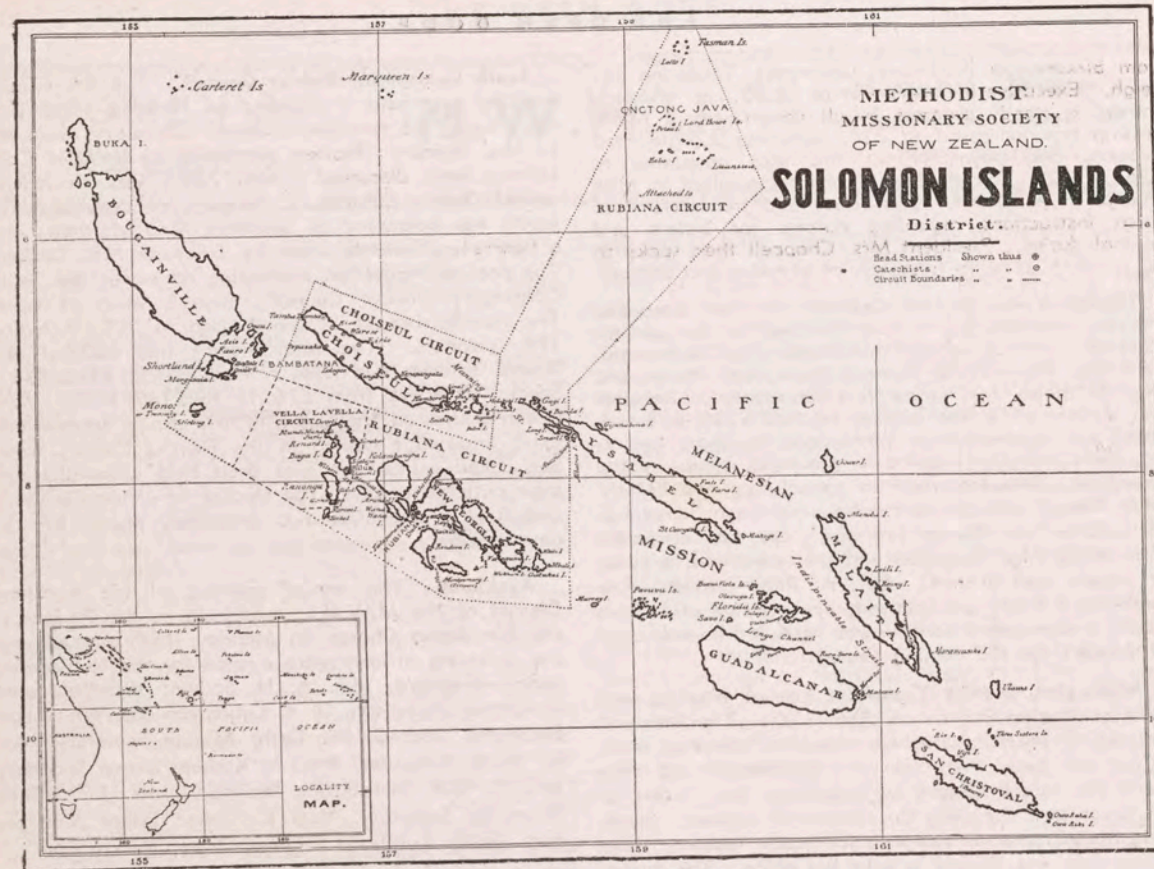
**South Canterbury District Council.** The 5th annual meeting was held in Timaru on Monday, Aug. 8th, there being 36 members present. Devotions were led by Mrs. Sherson. Matters pertaining to Blenheim Conference were discussed. Mrs. Avery was elected to attend South Canterbury Synod. A comprehensive report was presented by Secretary Mrs. Matthews and a heartening balance sheet by Treasurer Mrs. Darling. The president gave an interesting review of the South Canterbury District Council's first 5 years of work. The membership of 279 had risen to 385, including 108 gleaners. The total income had doubled and Sisters' salaries had risen from £201 to £273/8/11. Special Objective from £16/16 to £149/2/10. Mrs. Osborne stressed the value of friendships formed and extra knowledge gained in the District Council work. She asked officers to give their help cheerfully and their criticism kindly. The election of officers followed and Rev. Blight offered a dedicatory prayer for the new officers.

**Auckland.** The annual meeting of the Auckland District of the M.W.M.U. was held in the Parlour of the Pitt Street Church on Monday, 15th August, and the following officers were elected for the forthcoming year:—President, Mrs. A. H. Scrivin; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Nicholson, G. R. Laurenson and Whitehead; Secretary, Mrs. C. W. Firth; Minute Secretary, Mrs. B. Verry; Treasurer, Mrs. A. K. Lee; Stamp Secretary, Mrs. C. Gill; Distributing Secretary, Mrs. J. A. Sims; Gleanings Secretary, Miss K. Caley; Depot Manager, Mrs. Good; Kurahuna Representative, Miss Pearce.



Sister Merle Carter.





### Missionaries' Addresses

- Rev. J. F. Goldie, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. A. H. Voyce, Buin Bay, South Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Rev. A. W. E. Silvester, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. Trevor Shepherd, Teop, Buka Passage, New Guinea.
- Rev. A. H. Hall, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. G. A. R. Cornwell, Buka Passage, New Guinea.
- Rev. F. H. Woodfield, Roviana, New Georgia, Solomon Islands.
- Dr. G. E. Hault, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Mr. Bruce Cole, Roviana, Solomon Islands.
- Mr. Geo. G. Carter, M.A., Buin, South Bougainville, New Guinea.
- Mr. C. D. R. Palmer, Buin, South Bougainville, New Guinea.
- Mr. G. H. J. Yearbury, Buin, South Bougainville, New Guinea.
- Mr. Grenville Voyce, c/o Rev. A. H. Voyce, South Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Sister Grace McDonald, Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Effie Harkness, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Winifred Poole, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Merle Carter, Buka Passage, Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Sister Lucy Money, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Eva Saunders, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Joyce McDonald, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.

ADD "METHODIST MISSION" IN EVERY CASE.

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 Dominion President M.W.M.U.

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