

**Government Reports
Are Not Always Dry.**

READ THIS ONE ON PAPUA.
LONDON.—(By Canadian Press)—One would scarcely expect to find a fascinating record of strange languages, strange feasts, and strange superstitions in a Government report upon statistics and other more or less dry material, but the annual report of the Territory of Papua which was recently issued by the Australian Government combines statements about the curious customs of the Papuans along with the statistics. "The soul of a banana" is one of the quaint themes to be found in the pages of the report. The banana is one of the staple foods of the Papuan, and "Devasi" is its soul and receives most pious worship. Before the garden is cultivated the family join together to propitiate Devasi, who is ever present. "Devasi," they sing, "we wish to make our garden, and we supplicate you to make it a success and bear much food." A feast follows and then the soil is tilled and the banana plants, which are handled carefully and gently, are planted. Devasi is pleased and says, "My father looks after me well and is kind and good to me, and I will grow and produce much food for him." Devasi never dies, but when the banana plant, the body of Devasi, is killed by being cut down, the soul transmigrates to a new banana shoot of the deceased parent stalk. But this transmigration takes place only if the parent stalk has been kindly treated. Should Devasi be dissatisfied he migrates to another garden.

BATTLING WITH THE WIND.
Of much more dramatic character is the practice of the Motu tribe who battle with the fierce Gubas—the gales which precede the setting in of the northwest winds. The Guba appears in the northwest as a huge bank of clouds which moves with terrible swiftness towards the villages. To quell the storm an old man carrying a coconut-leaf torch ready for lighting a firestick, a knife and a small parcel of powdered cinnamon, goes forth from his house. With raised hands he makes movements as if to push the storm inside. As these efforts fail, he takes the cinnamon, fills his mouth with it, and spits it at the storm. This also having failed, he lights his torch, brandishes it at the Guba and chants an incantation at the same time. Finally, when the spitting and brandishing and the incantation have failed to conquer the storm, he grasps his knife and as the tempest bursts upon him with roaring wind and flashing of lightning the old man strikes out, stabbing and chanting his defiance. The Guba, however, is not at all dismayed by this display of antagonism but keeps on his way of destruction, even when the old man's fellow villagers rally forth with all kinds of weapons to supplement his efforts in battling with the Guba. They swing their tomahawks and with spear and knife they slash and stab the furious storm, and they hurl stones and brandish torches and beat drums at the foe, but the Guba passes on and leaves ruin and wreckage in its wake. Still the Motu repeat these tactics when the next Guba appears, and the next, and the next, and occasionally the storm does but little damage.

NEW NAMES FOR DANCES.
This Government report on Papua contains descriptions of an "aeroplane dance," led by a native who carried a toy monoplane bought at Thursday Island, and of a "quarantine dance," in which the performers imitated the symptoms made so tragically familiar during the epidemic of Spanish influenza, which swept the South Seas in 1918. There are enthralling accounts of native expeditions into unknown regions and up uncharted rivers, told with the unassuming simplicity of the man who looks on such things as all in the day's work. The statistics in the report do not make such quite pleasant reading. It has been a bad year for Papua. The fall in the price of copra—the dried and broken kernel of the coconut—and the fall in the price of rubber has brought financial distress. The Lieut-Governor, Judge J. H. P. Murray, says: "Had it not been for the generosity of the Commonwealth in increasing the subsidy from £20,000 to £50,000 we should have been in serious financial difficulties." Even the strictly official section of the report has its picturesque side. From a description of the valuable work carried out by members of the Rockefeller Institute in combating hookworm and malaria, it turns to a vivid picture of a fever-stricken native lying on his back while the tribal doctors squeezed his stomach, their consultants beat drums and sang loud chants, and an old woman blew into the patient's ears "to drive the demon away." It is related that in spite of all this the patient made a good recovery.

SECOND LARGEST ISLAND.
Papua, formerly known as British New Guinea, is the second largest island in the world, and lies some eighty miles to the north of Queensland. Its greatest length is 1,490 miles and it has a maximum breadth of 430 miles, containing about 215,000 square miles. There are about 200 islands lying near Papua and these form part of the Papuan territory which is administered by the Australian Commonwealth. The estimated native population is

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250,000 out of a total population of 1,000,000. Papua is mountainous and a large part of the country consists of forests. The climate is favorable to the cultivation of all tropical products. The chief exports are copra, rubber, hemp and gold and copper ore.

Bibby's Soap wears well and gives good service down to the smallest piece.—Feb 22, 11

Airman Falls 19,000 Feet, Landing Safely.

Number and unconscious from the cold and his eyes frozen, Lt. James D. Summers, a pilot of the first pursuit group at Beltridg field, Mount Clemens, Mich., fell with his airplane from an altitude of 19,000 feet to within 400 feet of the ground—a drop of nearly four miles—before he recovered his senses, righted his plane and landed safely.

Summers was out with several other aviators. A "patrol" of seven planes was maintained at a height of 19,000 feet. The thermometers on the planes registered 20 degrees below zero.

Suddenly Summers' plane fell, apparently out of control. The entire group was over Canadian territory. The other aviators rushed to the spot where they expected Summers to fall. They saw that his plane had become righted and was landing without disaster.

Summers was almost unconscious and exhausted when his fellow aviators reached him. Army surgeons said vital optic nerves and others had become frozen suddenly, and that unconsciousness must have followed in a few seconds. The thawing of those nerves at a lower altitude, they said, probably restored his senses.

"At 19,000 feet my motor was running smoothly and everything was apparently going well, but the intense cold seemed to chill me through and through," Summers said to-day. "I was making about 175 miles an hour. Suddenly it appeared as if everything was hazy, and then numbness set in. In a half crazy way I started working the controls. Then everything went dark.

"Suddenly I came to and found myself dropping rapidly and swirling about four hundred feet from the ground out of control. Somehow I got my ship out of the fall and—here I am."

That Summers was able to bring his ship out of the fall so close to the ground after the terrific speed gained in such a descent was considered to be an amazing feat.

The wide belt appears on a dress of reps vritie—a new material—and ends in a huge bow at the left side. Lately every sort of narrow belt has been used—the wide girdle is a distinct relief.

The newest sweater reaches the hips and is worn without a belt. It may be a combination of colors in a fancy design or a plain color in a plain stitch—but it is generally of the slip-over sort.

Bathing suits are most colorful and fantastic. Ruffled pantalettes, embroidered circles in green, blue, yellow, rose and white, black satin bindings and worsted flowers are a few of the characteristics.

The blouse-jacket, planned to wear with pleated and wool skirts is of great importance in the spring wardrobe. The revers are often of contrasting color and the sleeves may be short or three-quarter length.

RIGHT SIDE UP.

It's sometimes hard for a young scout to wear a cheer-up grin when one has warts and boils without a nudge and doubt within. And yet I know it is absurd the frown of gloom to wear; when all the precincts have been heard, we're right side up with care. Ods pods, how often have I cried, when evil threatened me, "The tall must journey with the hide—no comfort do I see; here's where my Waterloo I meet, disaster's in the air," but morning found me good as wheat, and right side up with care.

One year I lost my house, my business went to smash; I had to seek my halldome, to raise a little cash; and prophets raised their doleful cry, "He's down for keeps, we swear," but next year I was stacking high, and right side up with care. I've walked the wintry streets by night, and had no place to sneeze; I had no wienewurst to bite, and I wore frozen shoes; and when I thought 'twas time to die, in some sequestered lair, the luck would change and once more I was right side up with care. So, after sampling loads of grief, I'd comfort, the forlorn affliction's little night is brief, for cometh in the morn. The wailing winds all soon will cease; this dirge of despair, to-morrow will be such as grass, and right side up with care.

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Corns G



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