

town of Suva. Thus I introduced myself to the proprietor and editor of the Suva Times, Mr. G. L. Griffiths, who subsequently showed me several small favors. James Stewart, colonial secretary, who sent me a package of government literature to my room, Mr. G. Gardner, who gave me access to the only library in the town, and a number of others. I also spent some time reading and copying in the library, and in the evening attended a debate in the library on the question, "Is war ever justifiable?" on which all concerned took the affirmative.

The town of Suva, the capital of Fiji, is pleasantly situated on the Suva bay, on the south coast of Viti Levu. The principal street called Victoria Parade faces the harbor and contains nearly all the business houses, while the residential part of the city occupies the rolling hillside which slopes westward to the bay.

The inhabitants consists of government officials, merchants and other business men, but the majority are Fijians, and there are also some Indians or coolies, imported as contract laborers, and some natives of the Solomon Islands, the Carolines and other groups; there is also a sprinkling of Samoans and Tongans. Nobody could tell me the exact number of inhabitants of Suva; but it appears not to exceed 2,500, of which about 800 are whites. Suva is distant from Sydney, Australia about 1,700 miles, from Auckland, New Zealand, 1,200 miles, from Honolulu, Hawaii, 2,700, and from New Caledonia about 650.

The Fiji group consists of two large islands, Viti Levu (Large Viti) and Vanua Levu (Large Land), and upwards of 250 smaller ones, ranging in size from over 200 square miles (Taviuni) down to islets consisting of an acre or less of barren rock. All the islands make up an area of 7,451 miles, of which 4,112 miles belong to the Viti Levu, the largest island of all. This island is about 97 miles long from east to west, and 67 miles across from north to south at its broadest part, and is oval in shape. Its climate varies very considerably in different parts; generally speaking, the southern and eastern districts and greater part of the interior receive plenty of rain, while the northern and western parts, especially the coast lands are considerably drier. The mountain ranges are highest in the interior, where they attain a mean height of about 3,000 feet. The southeast trade wind prevails for about two-thirds of the year; it comes from the ocean laden with moisture. The average yearly rainfall at Suva is about 105 inches; further inland and closer to the mountains it is 145 inches. The Siga Toka is the most important river in the middle and southern parts, and Rewa in the eastern half of the island. There are other rivers of less importance. The Rewa is by far the largest of all the rivers in the group. In the northeastern part of the mountain ranges on Viti Levu lie the sources of numerous water courses, most of which make direct for the north coast and from either the Wai-ni-Buka or the Wai-ni-Mala rivers. These after very tortuous courses of some thirty miles meet to form the Rewa. The length of this river is about fifty miles, and its general direction is toward the southeast; it drains about one fourth of the entire

island of Viti Levu. Vanua Levu, the second largest island in the Fijian group, contains an area of 2,432 square miles; the third in size is Taviuni with an area of 217 square miles. Both Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are very mountainous, the latter having peaks which rise to about 5,000 feet above sea level. They are, like the Hawaiian Islands, of volcanic origin, well wooded and extremely fertile. The east or weather side is the most luxuriant, and teems with a dense mass of vegetation, huge trees, innumerable creepers and epiphytial plants. No break occurs in the green mantle spread over hill and dale except where such is effected by man. On the sea side the aspect is very different. Here one meets with a fine grassy country which here and there is dotted with screw pines. The dense vegetation is thoroughly tropical in aspect. On the mountains at an elevation of about two thousand feet are found hollies and many other kinds of trees, with bright colored orchids and delicate ferns and mosses. There are many perfumed barks and woods, but sandal-wood is confined to the southwestern parts of Vanua Viti, where it has been scarce for many years. Rats are plentiful in Fiji, and were probably introduced by Europeans, and the dog, pig and fowl were domesticated when the islands were first visited by the whites. Birds are tolerably numerous, and resemble those of the Tonga and Samoa group. Lizards are comparatively abundant and varied, but there are only two kinds of snakes, where there are several kinds of tree frogs.

The Fiji Archipelago lies east of the New Hebrides, between 16° and 20° south latitude and 177° longitude east and 178° west of Greenwich. The 180th meridian passes through the group, and nearly through the centre of the island of Taviuni; but all the inhabitants keep the same time for convenience sake, the eastern group conforming to that which obtains on the main islands which are west of the meridian named. Fiji has many good natural harbors. Each one is surrounded with a barrier reef, through which numerous openings lead to safe anchorage, protected by a natural breakwater.

Fiji is one of Great Britain's crown colonies, the affairs of which are administered by a governor, appointed by the Crown and Executive Council. There is also a legislative council under the presidency of the governor, composed of the chief justice and other heads of departments as official members, and an equal number of unofficial members. The present governor, Sir John B. Thurston, is an old resident of Fiji, but new as to title. He is well liked by some and hated by others; but as "His Excellency" is absent from the islands at present, I have been unable to see him and thus form an opinion from his personal acquaintance.

The population of the colony according to the official census taken April 5, 1891, was 121,180. Of these 2,036 were Europeans, 1,076 half-castes, 6,468 Indians, 2,267 Polynesians (mostly from the Solomon Islands and Caroline group), 105,800 Fijians, 2,219 Rotumans, and 314 others. According to a census taken in 1881, the native population then numbered 114,748. This shows a decrease in ten years of 8,948; but it is claimed that the census of 1891 is not correct, that there are more natives

than the returns showed. "The decrease," according to a statement made in a hand book to Fiji published by the government in 1892, "is due almost entirely to the high morality among the infants, the precise cause of which it is difficult to specify. Among other reasons advanced are the comparatively weak maternal feeling of Fijian women, the introduction of new diseases, such as measles, whooping-cough, influenza, etc., with which the natives cannot cope, and the disappearance of many of their old necessities and social customs which tended to ensure the close care of infant children."

"The Fijians are a well made, stalwart race, differing in color according to the location in which they live. The mountaineers show the frizzed hair and dark color of the Melanesian, while their neighbors on the coast betray a strong mixture of Malayo-Polynesian blood."

"In character they have been described as full of contradictions, but perhaps the unfavorable opinion of them is due to the fact that they are incapable of feeling any enduring gratitude or lasting attachment. On the other hand, they are very tractable, docile, and hospitable; and in war, when following their chiefs or European leaders, they have shown themselves brave and loyal."

"They have now all embraced the outward observances of Christianity. Having few wants, and blessed by nature with the means of supplying them, they are not spurred on to exertion by the want of money, and they dislike prolonged and sustained work; but in their own fashion they are industrious."

"They are by nature intensely conservative, and slow to discard their own customs in favor of those of civilized peoples; but the gradual use of European articles for which money must be procured has of late years led many of them to seek work on the plantations, and the supply of native labor is at all times equal to the demand. For clearing new ground or shipping cargo, they are by some settlers preferred to coolie (Indian) or Polynesian laborers."

"The government has aimed at disturbing their social and political organization as little as possible, and has hitherto most successfully controlled the people through their chiefs. The native laws are administered by native agents under supervision of European officers, and, although native officials make mistakes, the people on the whole have shown themselves worthy of being allowed a share in their own government. It would be impossible, without incurring enormous expense, to replace the chiefs by white officials, and the experiment would be unsuccessful. The non-recognition by the government of the leading chiefs would not abate their influence in the least, and, in place of the loyal assistance they now render to the government, they might become the foci for discontent and opposition."

"At the present time there is not a more law-abiding community in the world than these former savages; and, with greater attention to sanitary matters and the attainment of a higher moral standard, it is hoped and believed that the Fijians will be an exception to the alleged rule—that before the white race the dark must decay and disappear."

"Certain changes in the habits and in the food of the people must however be