

ships getting alongside the cantilever, and no fewer than seven freighters were waiting off the island.

The two enemy raiders got among the freighters and in three days sank five ships totalling more than twenty-five thousand tons. Why so much tonnage was allowed to concentrate without protection at a time when German raiders were known to be in the vicinity has never been explained. But more was to follow. The raiders went on to Emirau Island, where they landed survivors from these ships and from others sunk around the coast of New Zealand. The Nanyo Maru then returned to Nauru to shell the cantilever equipment, but fortunately did not shell the residential area, and no lives were lost. Two days after the attack on Pearl Harbour a year later, Nauru received the first of many bombings, and shortly afterwards most of the European residents were evacuated.

Nauru has a population of about 2,700, consisting of 1,900 native inhabitants, about 600 Chinese who had been introduced for the working of the phosphate deposits, and a handful of natives of other Pacific islands. In times of peace the administrative control of the island is in the hands of an Administrator.

With the end of the war early steps will no doubt be taken to restore Nauru's phosphate undertakings. Owing to the uneven nature of the outcrops of coralliferous limestone it has never been possible to measure accurately the extent of the deposits, but it is estimated that there are between fifty and ninety million tons of phosphate rock available. How soon these resources can again be tapped remains to be seen, but it is a matter of the utmost importance to the New Zealand farmer and, indirectly, to the people of the Dominion as a whole.

What's New in Science.

A new soap which will produce a lather in sea water or hard cold water, sufficient for shaving, is expected to have wide civilian use.

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Your train ticket is printed while you wait by a new machine soon to be installed in American stations. It eliminates the necessity for carrying stocks of tickets for various destinations.

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Gas turbine engines for aircraft, approaching as much as 10,000 horsepower are envisaged within the next decade by G. W. Vaughan, president of the Wright Aeronautical Corporation. On a giant transport plane of the future the gas turbine engine may mean a saving of as much as 8,000 lbs. over present types of engines permitting about 40 more passengers to be carried, or nearly four extra tons of cargo.

Speeds as high as 60 knots are said to have been attained by a novel aeroboot designed by a Swedish engineer. The craft, which resembles a small sea-going "flying wing" in appearance, is a test model for a much larger vessel of 110 tons powered with 3,500 h.p. engines.

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Dinosaur footprints found in Bandera, Texas, are estimated at 120,000,000 years old. The Dinosaur, a prehistoric reptile of some 30 tons at full growth, was known to have been a good swimmer but it was thought that his massive bulk did not encourage him to much activity on land. Now, experts who have examined the footprints consider that these mammoths may have been equally at home on land.