

MICRONESIA.

MICRONESIA - the " sea of small islands " Bounded on the south by the equator, and fills in the sea-stretch from the Philippines to the 180th meridian, The Mediterranean could be fitted into it. (See Map in Mess)

DISCOVERED - by Spanish in middle of 16th century. Sold to Germany in 1899 for \$4,500.00.

GROUPS - chief are Marianas, Caroline, Marshall, Pelew. Total number of islands, islets and reefs number 2,550 - of these 1,400 are of varying importance.

1885 - Germans hoisted flag at YAP - Western Carolines - and claimed adjacent territory. Spain protested. Pope called in to settle dispute. Germany obtained trade rights.

1898 - GUAM - largest of Mari-
ianne Group ceded to U.S.A. by Spain.

1919 - PEACE Conference handed Micronesia over to Japan under mandate system. Justification largely on ground that Japs stepped in to islands in 1914.

NATIVES - when Japan took over population was around 50,000. 1938 increase amounted to only 300.

1920 there were 3,671 Japs.
1938 they numbered 60,000.

AFTER - Japan's withdrawal from League in 1935 she announced that no other nations would be allowed to control the islands. Consequently the Marshall, Mariannas, Pelew and Caroline Islands have been closed to Europeans.

JAPANESE POLICY - one of vigorous economic and social development.

1935 - estimated that 56% of native children receiving education.

1916 - only about 60 acres of land under sugar. By 1930 there were two sugar factories each crushing 1,200 tons of sugar annually.

INDUSTRIAL - all undertakings under thumb of SOUTH SEA DEVELOPMENT CO. Entirely Japanese.

THIS - company runs its own electric power plant; owns all the factories; leases land from the Govt.; releases it to workers; has exclusive right to make liquor which it exports to Japan

PRODUCTS - as well as sugar there is coffee growing. Established 1927 phosphatic ore companies export 60,000 tons out every year. 32,000 acres devoted to production of corn, tobacco, rice, pineapples & oranges.

ADMINISTRATIIN - divided into six administrative districts under civil officials. Executive power rests with Director under supervision of Prime Minister of Japan. Judiciary deals with appeals. Offences against police regulations are not accepted as grounds for appeal.

NATIVE - labour not employed in administrative duties by Japanese. Exception - appointment of village " chiefs " and assistants who are very minor spokes in the wheel.

NEWSPAPERS - several in territory. Published in Japanese only. No secret societies allowed. Natives not allowed to consume liquor containing more than 3% alcohol

COMMUNICATIONS - no information available on roads. A radio station at YAP (See Next Week's issue). There are several wireless stations in the territory. Japanese postal system well organised.

RELIGION - Japanese encouraged various christian denominations to christianise natives. Buddhist religion well represented.

NATIVE - population may roughly be divided into Kanakas and Chamorres. The latter were so named by Magellan and means " one who cuts his hair ". From information available, it seems that scholars are divided on question of groups origne. It is thought they have polynesian strain with dash of Japanese samurai, Spanish and Portuguese. They are said to be intelligent, with light skins and well cast features. Regarded as devout Roman Catholics.

NEXT WEEK : YAP.. TRU C...JAP

BASES.

This is not a HOME ISSUE?