

N. Z. DONS LONG TROUSERS :

CANBERRA AGREEMENT MARKS

NEW AGE IN PACIFIC AFFAIRS.

IN this, his third article, the " Gook ", a well known writer on international affairs now attached to an Allied Force, discusses the importance of the Canberra Agreement, and what it may mean to you.

SGT. SAVED FROM
INSANITY. WO II
S. MITCHINSON ARR-
IVED IN TIME .

WE learnt this week that our poetic Sgt., Peter Wingfield, went into a tailspin which led him, in his own words " to the brink of insanity ", when WO-II S. Mitchinson arrived in time to effect a brilliant save. When approached on the incident Capt. W.P. Boyd, CO of the Detachment, had no comment to make beyond a vague reference to " poetry ". Ray Barnaby is thought to have let the " cat out of the bag " by hinting that Peter had been reading his own poems. Having read several of Peter's poems, we can assure our readers that we suffered no ill effects. A reasonable explanation of the temporary lapse (we hasten to assure our readers that the lapse was purely temporary) from sanity was no more than a passing mood. At the moment Peter is eagerly anticipating his return to N.Z. , and an early departure to the European Front.

" KANAKA JEWELLER " Jim Paterson-Kane has joined the " Naciuli Numbakulis " ; Alan Mattews, Rupert Robbie, & Norm Matthews and Co. Effect on designs feared by old K. J's.

THE almost superior disdain with which N. Z. and Australia looked across the Tasman at each other has always struck me as a peculiar type of suburban snobbery. Separated by thousands of miles from the home of your civilisation, having little in common with Europe, and less with the rigid customs of the old world, you nevertheless made little of the heritage you had in common; you rarely pooled your experience on Pacific affairs, and you gave little thought to your Pacific neighbours . To an outsider, such isolation is difficult to understand, and it was so deeprooted that it took a world war to draw you together.

WHAT OF TOMORROW ?

IT is interesting to speculate on the extent to which you will cooperate in matters of mutual interest in the future. One does not have to be an expert in power politics to know that the New Zealand and Australia that emerge from this war will be far removed from what they were in the pre-war days. Your isolation is gone. The rise of the Asiatic people across the Pacific should indicate to you that the world your children will inherit will be much more difficult and complex than it was in 1939. You will find that Social Security legislation & the 40 hour week, important as they have been, will have to take second place to far bigger questions.

A HISTORIC DAY

JANUARY 21 1944.

THE Chicago " Tribune " described the Canberra Agreement as " ambitious . It is more than that; it is moulded on the heroic scale and touch with classical greatness. The region covers from New Guinea to the Gilberts, and from the Gilberts to the Chatham Islands. The arc in square miles makes New Zealand look like a village park, and the number of people involved reduces N.Z. population to a pin point by comparison. Nevertheless N.Z. and Australia have undertaken to act as Godfathers to this vast area and group of peoples who differ amongst themselves -- in history and culture. The experience of the Kiwis in the South Pacific area should give them some conception of the gap that separates New Zealand's social life from that of the islanders.

THE COST.

THE two Govts. will be advised by a " South Seas Regional Commission which will deal with all matters of trade, native and military strategy. This means that New Zealand will have to divert some of the best of her administrators from domestic affairs to that of the Commission; she will have to devote a portion of her national income to the Islands, and not expect material returns for the outlay for some years; she will have to supply her quota of an navy and air force for a number of years. She will have to supply engineers and workmen to construct roads and buildings. This may lead to a decrease in social legislation or perhaps a lowering of the standard of living. It will certainly mean a more serious approach to your social and economic affairs. If your average citizen in the future de
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