

of Greenland is mostly mountainous, except in Pearyland in the north, and Greenland has few areas with the type of flat lake-dotted terrain of Finland and large areas of Alaska and Canada.

"Greenland's whole center ice cap pro-

vides excellent emergency landing fields for airplanes," Dr. Stefansson states. "This region used to be mistakenly rated a danger zone. Actually, it is a zone of safety."

Science News Letter, May 18, 1940

GEOGRAPHY

Fate Of 60,000,000 Natives Hangs On Belgian And Dutch

Belgium's Foreign Domain Is Concentrated in Africa But Holland's Lies in West as Well as in East Indies

FATE of nearly 60,000,000 natives in Belgian and Dutch colonies hangs in the balance as a result of German invasion of the two mother countries.

With Belgium and Netherlands caught up in Europe's total war, "protection" of large and important holdings in Africa, East Indies and America creates a new international problem. Queen Wilhelmina's domain includes islands and South American mainland only a few hundred miles from the Panama Canal.

Concentrated in Africa, Belgium's foreign domain consists of the Belgian Congo, a million square miles of equatorial territory rich in copper, rubber, cotton, cocoa, palm oil, and gold. Eighty-five times the size of Belgium itself, this vast possession is surrounded by holdings of Portugal, France, and Britain. Its coast is a mere 25-mile strip along the Atlantic.

Besides this valuable Congo colony, Belgium is responsible also for an adjoining corner of Tanganyika, a portion of Germany's former colonies assigned to Belgian mandate after the World War. Britain, which ceded this area to Belgium in return for World War assistance, has exchanged economic advantages there with the Belgians and would be most concerned over any change in its status.

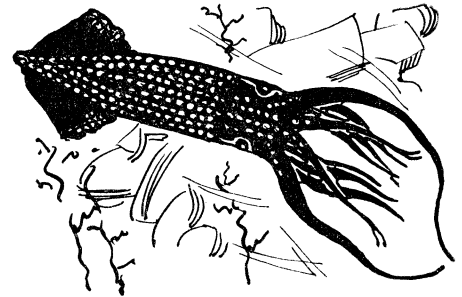
More scattered but totaling an almost equally impressive area, the Netherlands colonies are all in the tropics; and, with the one important exception of Dutch Guiana in South America, the Dutch colonies are islands. Small Holland in Europe controls some 50,000,000 Javanese, Balinese, Sumatrans, and other natives of the East Indies.

The Netherlands holds a large part of New Guinea, one of the world's largest islands, and one which the Dutch have until recently been content to hold without intensive exploitation. Fear of Japan's encroachment on the East Indies is seen as the reason for Dutch activity to plant rubber, coffee, and kapok in New Guinea and to demonstrate a concern for using, as well as holding, the land.

In the shadow of the Monroe Doctrine, and short flying distance from the Panama Canal, lie the Dutch West Indies consisting of several islands off Venezuela, also the mainland colony of Dutch Guiana, in South America.

Holland's colonies figure in world trade in such valuable lines as tin, rubber, oil, quinine, spices, indigo, sugar, coffee, and tea.

Science News Letter, May 25, 1940



Living Lanterns

OCEANIC abysses and other un-sunned parts of the world are not wholly without light. In these dark places there are numerous creatures that carry their own lanterns, and have eyes sufficiently sensitive to see by this dim light of their own providing. These carriers of cold light are described in a new book by Prof. E. Newton Harvey.

Not only in the ocean's depths but also in our own upper world of air and earth are there nocturnal creatures that light their own dark ways. Almost every large class of animals, and two great groups of plants, have representatives in the shining ranks reviewed by the Princeton biologist. Bacteria, fungi, protozoa, jellyfish, up to insects, squid and fish, all are represented.

Some, like the bacteria, have no way of turning their light on or off, and so shine with a constant glow, but most of them either flash at more or less determinable intervals (like the familiar fireflies) or burst into a glow when disturbed, like the one-celled animals that swarm in the sea during periods when the water "burns" at night.

There are certain forms without "power-plants" of their own that make use of the light-producing powers of smaller creatures, notably bacteria. One remarkable case which Prof. Harvey describes is that of two related genera of tropical fish. Below each eye, in these fishes, is a light organ apparently specially designed for growing masses of luminous bacteria. This organ has a rich blood supply, opaque screens to protect other tissues of the fish from the light, and a mechanism for turning the light on and off.

Not always, however, is the presence of luminous bacteria beneficial to the ani-

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