

hostess, said Mr. West. This third man will be called the flight engineer. He will be thoroughly familiar with the mechanical function of the entire plane. Seated in the cockpit behind the co-

pilot, the flight engineer will have his own instrument panel and will relieve the pilots from much detail outside the navigation of the plane.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

ANTHROPOLOGY

Has Lost Pale-Face Tribe Been Traced to New Guinea?

DISCOVERY of a new tribe of light-skinned natives, in the treacherous depths of New Guinea, is stirring anthropologists to ask:

Did roving seafarers, some primitive branch of the white race, find their way to New Guinea in the South Pacific, there to lose themselves in the heart of an island jungle?

That this did happen long ago, giving pale-face ancestry to a tribe that now numbers some 50,000 people, is the conviction of Jack Hides, discoverer of the tribe. These people in their lost world still live in the Stone Age. But they are not benighted savages. They raise spinach—much discussed vegetable in civilized circles. And they seemed extraordinarily healthy to their discoverer.

Mr. Hides, who brought this tribe of the interior to scientific notice, is a resident magistrate of New Guinea. His discovery, he finds, has awakened much interest among anthropologists. It suggested that New Guinea was settled by both whites and blacks—some branch of the Indo-European race, as well as the negroid people from Asia.

To Science Service, Mr. Hides gave the following description of how the unknown people impressed him:

"These people were short in stature. They were light-skinned, something similar to the Malays. They had large mops of brown-tinged hair, high cheek bones, and yet rather good features. They were bow and arrow people, and made beautiful axes of stone. They call themselves the Tarifuroro.

"Their methods of agriculture were the best I had ever seen. Their terraced gardens of an unusual squareness, marked off by pretty hedges of croton and hibiscus, were not unlike the Chinese market gardens we see in Australia.

"They grow sugar cane, ginger, bananas, sweet potatoes, spinach, mimica, and native asparagus. There were no taro or yams. They often brought us pretty baskets of brown salt, which they

obtained by burning logs of certain wood.

"I believe that farther to the westward of these people in the adjoining valley, which is even larger than the Tarifuroro, we will find an even larger population, and a more clearly defined Asiatic type.

"My reason for stating this is, as I traveled eastward across the Tari and Purari tableland, I found the light-skinned people merging into the darker-skinned Papuans, until just before I crossed the limestone barrier again, I found the real black Papuan men using the same methods of agriculture as the light-skinned Tarifuroro. It rather suggested to me that, at one time, these light-skinned people inhabited the whole of this tableland and were driven back westwards by the more virile Papuans."

Mr. Hides found the light-skinned tribe when he made an exploring journey, accompanied by a patrol officer, nine native policemen and 28 native carriers. Traveling up the Strickland River in a schooner, and thence up an unknown river to its source in dugout canoes, the party then climbed a difficult limestone barrier and found themselves on a high plateau inhabited by unknown thousands of New Guineans.

Doubt Expressed

It is not necessary to picture a white invasion of New Guinea, to account for the natives seen by Mr. Hides.

This is the view taken by an anthropologist noted for his studies of pygmies in New Guinea mountains. Matthew W. Stirling, chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology, says:

"There is an anthropological theory that an early wave of white migration swept across southern Asia to the Pacific. It is not impossible, if this be true, that traces of it might be discovered in the East Indies. Such an explanation has been offered for the Ainus of Japan and for the Polynesians.



OLD DOUBT

Mr. Howard shown examining the fossil horns of a musk ox-like animal and a stone weapon point found near the skull. Such inconclusive discoveries in various parts of America have long puzzled scientists. They could not agree whether ancient hunters were present when this kind of game roamed the country, or whether coincidence brought blade and beast near together.

"It is my opinion, however, that Mr. Hides probably encountered a new branch of the short-statured, light-skinned mountain peoples of the interior of New Guinea and passed from these to eastward toward the decidedly black-skinned Melanesians and was impressed by the contrast in skin color."

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PHYSIOLOGY

Illinois Giant Reported To Be Still Growing

HHEIGHT: 8 feet, 3¼ inches; weight: 395 pounds; still growing.

That is the amazing record of 18-year-old Robert Wadlow of Alton, Ill., according to the latest authoritative medical record. The measurements, based on the boy's own testimony and hospital records, are given by Dr. Charles D. Humberd of Barnard, Mo., (*Journal, American Medical Association*, Feb. 13). In the medical report, the young Illinois giant's identity is concealed by the initials, R. W.

The great Barnum laid down minimum requirements for giants in his famous sideshows. But he required a mere 7 feet, 2 inches. The Illinois giant already exceeds this modest requirement