



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	FAIRLEY, RIGBY AND CO. LTD.
ACCESSION NO	A.1972.0053
CATEGORY ACTIVITY	Business, organisations Timber growers Merchants, timber
DATE RANGE	1911-1920
SIZE OF COLLECTION	24 cm. (2 archives boxes)
HISTORICAL NOTE	Formed by Australians Frank and Louisa Fairley and an Englishman F.B. Rigby, the company began purchasing land in the Solomon Islands during 1912 for copra plantation. In late 1916, the company's name was changed to San Cristoval Estates Ltd. A timber concession of Vanikoro Island was first mooted in 1912, but was not finally taken out until March 1923. In 1925, the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company was formed by combining the timber assets of the San Cristoval Estates Ltd with working capital of the Kauri Timber Company. The copra plantations were excluded from this transaction and San Cristoval Estates continued to exploit them. The San Cristoval company's promoters persisted, but there was no bonanza for them in the Solomons. A decision to liquidate was taken in September 1937, but liquidation was not completed until January 1944. The Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company was liquidated in 1941, and the timber concession was carried on by the Vanikoro Branch of the Kauri Timber Company.
DATE OF TRANSFER	
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
DESCRIPTION	Legal and personal correspondence, accounting correspondence, general correspondence 1914-1920; accounts 1913-1920; shareholders' lists; agreements and prospectuses. Autograph copy of R G Casey's An Australian in India (1947) sent to Captain Mumford.
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	
NOTE ON LISTING	
LISTED BY DATE	

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME: FAIRLEY, RIGBY & CO. LTD.

ADDRESS: Defunct

TRANSFEROR:

DATE OF TRANSFER:

MAIN ACTIVITY: Copra and timber trade British Solomon Islands

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1911-1920

GENERAL NOTE: The company's main progenitors, Frank and Louisa Fairley, lived on a property at Woombye, Queensland, and later shifted to Melbourne.

Rigby's letters in 1912 make it clear that he was then initiating land purchases in the Solomons for copra planting. The company's name was changed to San Cristoval Estates Ltd in late 1916. A letter of Captain George Mumford refers to a change of name to San Cristoval Estates Ltd from Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. The latter name is shown on company letterheads for 1915.

A timber concession of Vanikoro Island was first mooted in 1912, but was not finally taken out until March 1923. In 1925 the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company was formed by combining the timber assets of the San Cristoval Estates Ltd with working capital of the Kauri Timber Company. The copra plantations were excluded from this transaction and San Cristoval Estates continued to exploit them.

The San Cristoval company's promoters persisted, but there was no bonanza for them in the Solomons. A decision to liquidate was taken in September 1937, but liquidation was not completed until January 1944. The Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company was liquidated in 1941, and the timber concession was carried on by the Vanikoro Branch of the Kauri Timber Company. See also Kauri Timber Company and Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company Collection.

BOX

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Class 1 CORRESPONDENCE LIST OF RECORDS

N.B. Legal correspondence appears in Class 2, routine accounts correspondence in Class 3.

Group 1 LETTERS FROM CAPT. GEORGE MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920

- 1/1/1 May 1914 Waimassie Estate, San Cristoval. Conditions at Waimassie Plantation; sickness among native employees; paucity of stores; ineffectiveness of Rigby; inactivity and disorder; sale of Mumford's boat to the company. Attached note denying any slight intended to Mr. Raff as manager.
- 1/1/2 21 May 1914 Boroni Estate, San Cristoval. Repayment of debt to Rigby; experience at plantation work; community wary of company's business approach; poor conditions of employment; work and labour supply at Boroni; qualities needed in dealing with natives; raid threat from 'bushmen'. Attached comments on "trading"; account of money owed to Mumford; description of theft at Boroni; Boroni work notes.
- 1/1/3 18 June 1914 Tulagi. Trip to Gavutu for stores; need for written authority during Rigby's absence; Raff's incompetence; schooner dilapidated; request for visit from Fairley.
- 1/1/4 18 June 1914 Tulagi. Repairs to schooner "Makira". Attached note on more economical methods of purchasing supplies.
- 1/1/5 19 June 1914 Gavutu. Company out of credit for stores; Mr. Raff's insecurity.
- 1/1/6 12 July 1914 Report on progress at Boroni Plantation - natives idle during his absence; daily work schedule, dysentery, labour shortages, Waimassie static; condition of pigs, mild monthly attacks of fever, requirements for Waimassie.
- 1/1/7 16 July 1914 Waimassie. Mumford has taken charge at Waimassie in an effort at keeping the native labourers. Encloses a letter from Raff describing the deteriorating situation at Waimassie.
- 1/1/8 July 1914 Boroni. Request for legal agreement defining his position in the company, as opposed to Rigby's "golden promises"; company's indebtedness to him.
- 1/1/9 August 1914 Boroni. Welcomes assurances of his status in the company - requests half salary in shares; supplies adequate; improved labour situation; "Makira" for sale; epidemic of serious dysentery. Attached list of stores at Boroni and monthly copra yields.
- 1/1/10 13 September 1914 Boroni. Rumours of war; shortages of stores; dysentery prevalent; planting; sickness - "This climate is a little hell"; salary - 50 pounds per annum and 50 shares; Raff "a bush lawyer - and worse".
- 1/1/11 25 December 1914 Boroni. Progress despite drought; planning and building; leaf blight; dysentery; cannibal raid by bushmen - "some of them will be getting in the road of my Winchester yet"; company providing less than half government-stipulated stores for employees.

Group 1 LETTERS FROM CAPT. MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920 cont.

- 1/1/12 18 April 1915 On the ketch "Naniu". "it is heartbreaking work trying to sail in these latitudes at this time of year"; need to hold stores for 6 months ahead; rations skimped; fever and dysentery; proposed sale of "Makira"; need to retrench labour because of high food prices.
- 1/1/13 23 May 1915 Boroni. 9,500 coconuts planted; need "to buy Boys from some recruiting craft" or else hire a "recruiter"; native raid.
- 1/1/14 June 1915 Natives' boycott of some plantations.
- 1/1/15 June 1915 "the lazy microbe" in the natives; drought, heat and crop failures; fever; threats from bushmen; E. Richardson; apologies for abruptness of letters; labour shortages; shortages in stores; vegetable crops.
- 1/1/16 10 June 1915 Boroni. Sale of the "Naniu".
- 1/1/17 July 1915 Boroni. Good rains and growth; associated illness; recruiting; general labour problems.
- 1/1/18 15 July 1915 Boroni. Reports request of negro trader, E. Richardson, that the company take over his leasehold at Maalu.
- 1/1/19 16 July 1915 Boroni. E. Richardson's land; dependence on local, not indentured labour; visit to Waimassie; native deaths; exorbitant food prices; constant fever; advantages and disadvantages of employing local labour; proposed visit to Australia.
- 1/1/20 20 July 1915 Boroni. Appreciative of Fairley's letters in isolated, often debilitated condition; sickness while nursing natives; need to discuss business affairs, especially provision of bulk stores; pride in Boroni's progress.
- 1/1/21 30 July 1915 Boroni. Abatement of illness; first flowers on one of their own plants; planting up to 10,000
- 1/1/22 31 July 1915 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Possible visit of Rigby; retention of the "Makira"; employees' wages; inadvisability of selling Waimassie; Maalu planting continuing; labour needs.
- 1/1/23 1 August 1915 Boroni. Inventory of arms at Boroni; Rigby's mismanagement; plantation costs; advisability of taking up Richardson's land.
- 1/1/24 3 August 1915 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Advice to purchase any available land round Makira.
- 1/1/25 10 August 1915 Boroni. Need to make decision on Richardson's land; "in a few years the Solomons are going to be rushed, and if so land will mean power and brass".

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- Group 1 LETTERS FROM CAPT. MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920 cont.
- 1/1/26 22 August 1915 (to Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Need to blast boat passage at Boroni; good rains; labour costs; refitting "Makira" - mechanical costs and repairs; skilled labour costs for job; labour costs for Waimassie - need for overseer there; qualities of good overseer - "the paragon of an Overseer I have described is nearly extinct".
- 1/1/27 23 November 1915 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Sydney. Shortage of good seamen because of war.
- 1/1/28 28 November 1915 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Sydney. Ordering bulk stores; hiring seamen.
- 1/1/29 6 December 1915 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Sydney. Recruiting.
- 1/1/30 21 December 1915 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Gavutu. Price inflation because of war; signing on boys; Xmas parcels.
- 1/1/31 early January 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Malayta. Recruiting trip; gales and mechanical troubles; local labour or contract with professional recruiter preferable; the "Makira" - "I detest these little schooners".
- 1/1/32 5 February 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Hurricane damage to plantations; "paying off" boys; dysentery; settlement regarding Maalu; problems of simultaneous copra-trading and plantation management.
- 1/1/33 6 February 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Maalu estate impressive; need to give Richardson encouragement and financial incentive; competition with "new chums" in land-buying; Brisbane public wary of investment in the Solomons; glamorous future prospects, need for a developmental businessman - "I am only a practical man and a grafter".
- 1/1/34 13 February 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Direct communications between the Islands and San Francisco; urgent to buy land; discharging boys; eating into own funds on plantation expenses; local labour situation good; thankfully Rigby's whereabouts unknown.
- 1/1/35 8 February 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Adjustment of terms with Richardson; plea to give him "a fair deal, nothing more".
- 1/1/36 27 February 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Bulk stores; requests Mauritius beans, goats and trade tobacco; proposal to change Waimassie for Wai-Mari; sores.
- 1/1/37 February 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Approximate costs of running estate; local labour cheaper, and more available since Rigby's departure. Attached notes.
- 1/1/38 February 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Additional costs - tools, buildings, trading licence, upkeep of boats etc.
- 1/1/39 18 March 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Trading; freight savings.
- 1/1/40 20 March 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Trading profit imminent; enquiries about lease on Vanikoro - in Rigby's or the company's name?

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Group 1 LETTERS FROM CAPT. MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920 cont.

- 1/1/41 16 April 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Abandonment of proposed exchange of Waimassie and Wai-Mari; has reversed his opinion on Waimassie and is now favourable; trading licences; cash sales; copra prices.
- 1/1/42 16 April 1916 Additional supplies.
- 1/1/43 20 April 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Adjustments in accounts; shortage of company's cash. (This letter breaks off abruptly and may be incomplete).
- 1/1/44 23 April 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. "Fever galore"; plantation "A 1" and flowering prolifically; freight charges; the "Makira" - "she breaks my heart, and is more worry than a hundred plantations"; no offers to purchase the "Makira".
- 1/1/45 24 April 1916 (to Mr. McClintock, Shipwright, Tulagi) Boroni. Asking for quotation on repairs to hull of the "Makira".
- 1/1/46 26 April 1916 (to N. Wheatley, Kabiana) Informing him that he will consider offers for the "Makira".
- 1/1/47 26 May 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Troubles with Richardson who "imagines he is a second Solomon" and whose supreme ambition is to become a shareholder in the company, "the sort of customer that would shoot but be sorry directly after"; shortage of stores
- 1/1/48 May 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Urgent need to know legal relationship between E. Richardson and company; Richardson's involvement in incitement of natives. Encloses copy of letter from Mumford to Police Department, Tulagi, about this incident. Also encloses a copy of a tentative agreement with Richardson, establishing his relationship with the company. (Refer 2/5/1)
- 1/1/49 1 June 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. E. Richardson's misrepresentations and exaggerations regarding property at Maalu.
- 1/1/50 6 June 1916 Boroni, Master for "Makira"; precarious legal relationship with Richardson.
- 1/1/51 16 June 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Fever; rain; Richardson; hopes for "Makira"; stores; unreliability of shipping.
- 1/1/52 June 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Extent of planting on three properties; superiority of Waimassie.
- 1/1/53 June 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Arrival of stores; rice staple food; abatement of fever; request for calendar.
- 1/1/54 June 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Recapitulation of Richardson situation and suggestions to manoeuvre him into a malleable position; Malayta boy available to manage property. Letter dictated by Richardson to Mumford regarding settlement of his property enclosed (see document 1/3/27).

Group 1 LETTERS FROM CAPT. MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920 cont.

- 1/1/55 10 July 1916 Agreement by which Richardson's house and boat are signed over to the company for 40 pounds plus 50 shares in the company. Initialled by E. Richardson and witnessed by G. Mumford.
- 1/1/56 16 July 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Richardson's compliance although maintaining his dream of being a shareholder; trading results; labour problems.
- 1/1/57 16 July 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Richardson's property exchanged for shares. Attached list of stores and prices.
- 1/1/58 24 July 1916 Boroni. (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley)
- 1/1/59 28 July 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Stores; paying off labour; attached sheet defending purchase and profitability of purchasing goods for trading purposes.
- 1/1/60 Early July 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) "Maalu affairs No.2"; settlement being made with Richardson; advantages of employing him as manager in preference to a white man - owns own livestock, stove, etc., is fever-proof, permanent and doesn't expect holidays.
- 1/1/61 June-July 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. "Makira" costs; contents of present or "parcel" for recruits; difficulties for all vessels in fulfilling recruiting contracts.
- 1/1/62 July 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Employee methods of cheating the company; copra shortage; Richardson trading for his own benefit. Attached note itemising payments to Richardson, and company's indebtedness to him.
- 1/1/63 July 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Waimassie at a standstill; proposes its development as company headquarters; Richardson has painted an over-optimistic picture of Maalu's prospects; possibility of turning Boroni over to an overseer.
- 1/1/64 Early August 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Richardson a reformed character; Maalu being worked solely by local labour; conditions on adjoining property, Wai-Mari; purchase of Wai-Mari would result in compact property under San Cristoval Estates Ltd. management; high freight costs; temporary abandonment of local copra selling.
- 1/1/65 3 September 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Re-conditioning of the "Makira" - need for new engine; Boroni trees flowering and bearing; further planting; planting costs per acre, including labour; Wai-Mari store undermines success of Boroni store; possible legal moves on Wai-Mari.
- 1/1/66 Late September 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Persistent malaria - "I am seldom free of it...I must be saturated with it"; may need to be temporarily replaced by Fairley's nephew; copra production at Boroni within a year; Wai-Mari offer set aside, but still advocates its purchase; plagues of mosquitoes and incessant rain; debilitation.

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- Group 1. LETTERS FROM CAPT. MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920 cont.
- 1/1/67 26 September 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Tulagi hospital. Illness.
- 1/1/68 24-26 October 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Tulagi. Severe illness - need for specialised medical treatment; government reports unrest among "bushmen"; disappointment in unavailability of master for the "Makira"; no shipping available for copra; imminent return to Boroni; possible overseer available; his will; suitable doctors in Brisbane.
- 1/1/69 26 October 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Tulagi. Medical condition deteriorating, although he must return to Boroni with stores and to pacify the natives; will probably need to go to Brisbane for medical treatment - "I am deeply ashamed to be unwell like this".
- 1/1/70 8-30 November 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Encloses invoices for stores; small planters quitting because of their dependence on exorbitantly priced stores from Gavutu; 2 tons of copra waiting shipment at Boroni; Boroni near "bearing", therefore copra drying facilities will be needed; described equipment; Richardson's exemplary behaviour; labour needs; copies of accounts; stores.
- 1/1/71 1 December 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Sydney. Engagement of master for "Makira"; first option on Wai-Mari; Maalu rent due; purchase of stores; anxious to return to Boroni; assurance of loyalty; rising copra prices.
- 1/1/72 Early December 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Tulagi. Copy of diary entries from November to December to explain Mumford's medical position; recovery.
- 1/1/73 9 December 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira" at Makambo, Solomon Islands. Labour acquired; repairs to "Makira"; advice re delay sending stores, until prices recede; poor reputation of Australians with natives.
- 1/1/74 December 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". Boroni reaching the stage of being self-supporting.
- 1/1/75 December 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". Copra shed; need for proper manager's house.
- 1/1/76 18 December 1916 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". "Makira" ready, but still plagued by mechanical troubles. Attached memorandum December 1916 from the Acting Resident Commissioner to Mumford requiring a certificate from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies that the company's name has been changed from Fairley, Rigby Co. Ltd. to San Cristoval Estates Ltd.
- 1/1/77 January 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Labour costs; new agent engaged; enclosed statement of accounts; progress at Maalu; need to transport copra; skipper for "Makira" and assistant-overseer required.
- 1/1/78 7 February 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Additional repairs to "Makira" needed; proposal to plant swampy land at Boroni fever; need for reading matter.

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Group 1 LETTERS FROM CAPT. MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920 cont.

- 1/1/79 26 February 1917, (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". Apologies for high expenses of plantation management; assurances that salary and reimbursement can wait; "the dreaded Sundays"; inadequacies of the "Makira"; stores.
- 1/1/80 26 February 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". Supplies.
- 1/1/81 4 March 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". Proposed repairs to the "Makira".
- 1/1/82 8 March 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". Need for money to buy off indentured labour.
- 1/1/83 10 March 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". Avoid taxing expenses; shares promised to Mumford can wait, even if he "never gets them".
- 1/1/84 April 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Lack of capital; list of priorities for expenditure; capital needed for Waimassie; (continued 15th and 22nd April). Need to employ more boys; deaths among natives giving rise to a "taboo" about the plantation; ready cash dwindling. Attached note "Skandia" engine proposed for the "Makira".
- 1/1/85 29 April 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Trade tobacco, rice and salmon needed; Maru Bay property for sale; thanks for offer of help in illness.
- 1/1/86 13 May 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". Copra sold at Aola for 19 pounds a ton; poor carrying capacity of the "Makira".
- 1/1/87 May-June 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Labour; stores priorities.
- 1/1/88 June 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Copra ready to sell; complaints regarding the "Makira"; no papers or news since 10th February; "Makira" leaking; sale of copra at Gavutu.
- 1/1/89 11 July 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". Needs 100 pounds; hopes for another copra sale; rapprochement with traders at Gavutu; shares have not arrived.
- 1/1/90 11-17 July 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". Copra sold; reduction in local account; payment of accounts, therefore financial stringency serious; repairs to the "Makira"; indispensability of Richardson; reduce supplies, until improvement in financial affairs; "excessive" account for the "Makira"; welcome arrival of gramophone.
- 1/1/91 August-September 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Thousands of trees flowering, but 12-18 months bearing needed before copra production possible; purchase of trade copra until Boroni is self-supporting; wages; government regulations re labour; problem of making the "nigs" spend at the store; trade tobacco sold for copra; estates for sale; proposal to sell Waimassie.

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- Group 1 LETTERS FROM CAPT. MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920 cont.
- 1/1/92 August 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Asks advice on building materials.
- 1/1/93 Early September 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Fertiliser and insecticides; no news of war since July; 5-6 tons of copra ready.
- 1/1/94 Late September 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. New copra store and smoke house; failure and sale of nearby property; its purchase by Malayta Co. who may wish to purchase Waimassie; (continued early - 10th October) "Makira" leaking - "in places a lead pencil will pierce the planks"; 100 pound cheque received for boys' wages.
- 1/1/95 September 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Anxiety regarding family in England; letters lost because of submarine warfare; severe earthquake in August; fever. Encloses letter from his niece in London to Mrs. Fairley describing her nursing experiences in London, food scarcity, regrets at not seeing uncle for years, deaths of close friends etc. Note from Mumford introducing his niece attached.
- 1/1/96 12 October 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Makira". "Makira" to be left at Aola for repairs; arrival of his and Richardson's shares; possibility of selling Maalu and/or Waimassie which is still undeveloped.
- 1/1/97 21 October 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Gavutu. Account at Levers; arrangements for copra sale; labour.
- 1/1/98 27 October 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Gavutu. Needs ready cash; copra may cover Levers account; stores.
- 1/1/99 11 December 1917 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Levers stores expensive; fever. Encloses copy of a letter of the same date to Nelson & Robertson; dealing in poor quality trade copra and disposing of it quickly; can expect copra from their own trees soon; list of stores needed.
- 1/1/100 10 January, 1918. (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. "the tamest Xmas ever I suffered. I banqueted solo on tinned ox cheek.... and thoroughly enjoyed it with the Gramophone hard at it alongside"; fever "will certainly be top dog in time"; brief account of affairs to the end of 1917; costs; copra bagged; "a touch of my old enemy coming on" (fever).
- 1/1/101 Undated (first page missing) Bulk stores cheaper from Sydney; need for suitable trade items especially tobacco and bright cloth; Richardson tractable, despite reduction in salary because of hard times. 5th Feb. Copra to Tulagi. 8th Feb. Boys paid off; accounts; trading licence; paucity of stores; copra prices down; the "Makira".

Group 1 LETTERS FROM CAPT. MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920 cont.

- 1/1/102 February 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Gavutu. Rubber cultivation not advisable for Waimassie because it would compound labour problems; can meet labour costs locally; coconuts not expected to give return for at least six years; trade goods unobtainable; food prices ruinous; the "Makira" - "it breaks me up to see her so neglected" - conditions and costs of re-vamping her; recruiting returns from boat; costs of bringing plantation into bearing; fever abated "or else I am so inoculated with it that there is no room for more".
- 1/1/103 23 February 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Gavutu. Expects return on Boronisoan; ample cash in hand; supplies needed; death of friend from malaria; suggestion that Maalu be sold to Capt. Poole, a friend; Boroni should be self-supporting by 1919 and profitable in 1920 or 21; received medicines from Dr. Woolrabe. Later: condition of the "Makira"; possible boat landing at Boroni; needs items such as Island prints, elastic belts and handkerchiefs, not scent, leather belts or tomahawks, for trade!
- 1/1/104 26 February 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Gavutu.
- 1/1/105 30 March 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Copra sold to Levers who "are noted for their unjust charges"; need for ship to call at Boroni to land stores and collect copra; after war, copra may be shipped directly to America; Waimassie may be taken from the company if it is not improved; Maalu neglected because of scarcity of local labour; Richardson given three months' notice; the bane of the "Makira" - "it is against my nature to abandon the poor old craft"; scarcity of trade copra because of shipping problems; trees at Boroni forming "distinct avenues"; stores needed; no fever.
- 1/1/106 14 April 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Freight problems; indifferent to non-arrival of shares; fresh meat; little fever; order for gramophone records.
- 1/1/107 5 May 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Ugi. "Makira" not worth any financial outlay; advice not to advertise for another partner in the company; clarifying misconceptions; proposed visit to Australia at Christmas.
- 1/1/108 11 May 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Letters are one of the things he longs for most; "Makira" worthless; approach to Levers regarding freight; Richardson's discharge; local labour plentiful; wants bacon - "the eternal tinned mystery gets monotonous"; assessment of ex-naval man proposed to join the company; suggests a third interest in Maalu for 3,000 pounds, which would cover cost of installing him and getting property operating.
- 1/1/109 Late May 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Levers account; leave employing another man until the war is over; list of stores; decision not to visit Australia.

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Group 1 LETTERS FROM CAPT. MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920 cont.

- 1/1/110 16 June 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Labour situation; stores; "No Tobacco, No Local Labour and No Trade Copra"; beneficial effects of Clements tonic.
- 1/1/111 25 September 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Encouraging news of the war; refuses his niece's suggestion to come to the Islands on the grounds that it would be "cruel"; advertisement for investor; "Makira".
- 1/1/112 Mid September 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Copra prices low; "When Rigby faded away in 1914..."; avenues of palms from the plantations can be seen a mile off; need for boat; excessive rain; "Lordly Levers"; smoking and drying copra.
- 1/1/113 September 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Fit and well; needs labour; natives superstitious about Maalu - they like a white man there; wants bacon - "tinned cat and dog at 30/- is deadly costly"; rations for boys; has received no letters or papers since May.
- 1/1/114 2 October, 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Islands, especially San Cristoval, are facing a boom; shares received; "the usual slight weekly touch of fever"; nearby estate for sale for 2,500 pounds; labour needs; daily routine; fever increasing.
- 1/1/115 21 October 1918, (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Copra prices down; rain; sale of Maalu would provide money for a recruiting ship and master; labour shortage; broken toe suffered while "expostulating with a tired coon" - self-doctored; another long Sunday.
- 1/1/116 4 November, 1918. (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Severe fever may force him to make a visit south; let down by recruiter.
- 1/1/117 Christmas 1918 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Fever; thanks for present; calendar arrived; favours idea of floating company; reassurances as to Boroni's value.
- 1/1/118 1 January, 1919. (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Welcomes decision to float company; proposed visit south; Richardson and family destitute, therefore suggests letting him live at Maalu; costs for planting Waimassie; launch and master needed; overseer's wages etc.; costs of house and craft; if Wai-ai purchased the company would own "one of the best and largest combined estates at the Solomons"; advantages in re-employing Richardson as manager - Maalu falling into neglect; Maru Bay estate for sale; accounts; fitness of Island climate for Europeans - ideal for temperate men of ordinary physique!
- 1/1/119 20 February 1919. (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Comments on floating a large company; 100 acres at Boroni near profitable bearing; stores charges.

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Group 1 LETTERS FROM CAPT. MUMFORD TO MR. FRANK FAIRLEY 1914-1920 cont.

- 1/1/120 Undated (1st page missing) Conditions of employing manager.
- 1/1/121 April 1919 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Arrival of stores; high charges at Gavutu; needs money for stores; will use his own money for wages; needs regular supply of stores, or the company's licence to hire labour may be cancelled.
- 1/1/122 May 1919 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Advice not to issue more shares in his name at present; labour shortage; house and copra sheds need repair.
- 1/1/123 30 May 1919 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Proposed visit of Corrigan to inspect and value their Island estates.
- 1/1/124 October 1919 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Another weary Sunday; had expected to be on the way to Melbourne; out of stores; no mail since early May; progress at Boroni; has used his own money to pay company accounts; copra ready for shipment.
- 1/1/125 18 July 1920 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Expects to be in Sydney in September; plantation affairs.
- 1/1/126 20 September, 1920 (to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Mindini". En route to Brisbane; death of friends from malaria; "I am already full up of travelling and hate the thought of having to stay in Sydney or Melbourne; and shall be very glad when I am on my way back to the Islands, I am like a lost dog away from them".
- 1/1/127 Undated to? Expressing the hope that their agents (Nelson & Robertson) will continue to purchase for the company.

Class 1. CORRESPONDENCE (CONTINUED)Group 2. LETTERS OF F.B. RIGBY

- 1/2/1 Undated. (to Frank Fairley) Gavutu. Payment of 100 pounds to Levers; comment on their bills.
5 February, 1912 Declaration by Rigby that goods bought on the company's behalf belong to Mrs. Fairley.
- 1/2/2 22 February 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Sydney. Acknowledges copy of agreement, cheque etc.; need for company account for him to draw on.
- 1/2/3 2 April 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Tulagi. Progress slow; new land laws.
- 1/2/4 12 April 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Tulagi. "Makira" still not arrived; Tulagi a "jail".
- 1/2/5 12 May 1912 (to Mrs. Fairley) Tulagi. Visit to Bogotu; crew deserted; Bogotu appalling - a missionary stronghold with deplorable results; natives execrable; ivory nuts and copra; death of missionary amongst indifferent natives; burial service; clash with trader, Dickenson; meets with natives at Makira to buy land; arranges to take over 400 acres at Kira-Kira bay - native village to be shifted; prospects of land at Tavatanna; fever.
- 1/2/6 Undated (to Frank Fairley) Orders goods.
- 1/2/7 14 May 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Gavutu. Fittings on the "Makira" bad; disillusion; licence to recruit 40 boys; drawn cheques for 813.3 pounds; hopes to make some money soon; aiming to keep expenses low.
- 1/2/8 28 July 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. August 1911 - March 1912 accounts attached.
- 1/2/9 1 August 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Accounts to August 1912 not completed - listlessness; money to be forwarded to England.
- 1/2/10 12 September 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Nine desertions - "worth 4 pound a head to us"; serious labour problems; threat from bushmen; "50 warriors" assembled to retaliate; fever; justifiable self-defence likely to result in manslaughter charge; asks to act as agent for Levers in getting Chinese Labourers; labour shortages make it inadvisable to open up another property; German Solomon Islands a better prospect - German government has "the niggers just where they ought to be"; planting under way; "I wish I had some good dogs - foxhounds or bloodhounds, the niggers would do little running away".
- 1/2/11 14 September 1912. (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Seven runaway labourers returned by missionary Drew.
- 1/2/12 14 September 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni.
- 1/2/13 15 September 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Order for stores.
- 1/2/14 27 October 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Lists cheques drawn.

Group 2. LETTERS OF F.B. RIGBY cont.

- 1/2/15 14 November 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Lists money received and expended.
- 1/2/16 14 November 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Draft being payment for ivory nuts.
- 1/2/17 14 November 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Wages for the crew of the "Makira". Attached note regarding expenses for Boroni, local accounts and accounts for the "Makira".
- 1/2/18 15 November 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Small financial matters.
- 1/2/19 21 November 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Desertion waning; 30 acres cleared; taro, yams, maize, bananas and potatoes planted; 350 plants ready; no legal obstacle in Solomon Islands to importation of Chinese labour - find out position in Sydney; Kira-Kira available; land at Ugi attracts; "Makira" trading and recruiting; labour position improving; trading increasing.
- 1/2/20 30 November 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. "Makira" gained 14 new recruits; employs E. Richardson, formerly a Lever's trader - "a West Indian nigger but a 'white man'"; arranged to buy copra from Richardson.
- 1/2/21 1 December 1912 (to Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. "I sometimes fear I am a little too impatient and over confident - still I act in this business with all due care and caution - I have endeavoured to keep all expenses as low as possible and to get good value for money outlaid - should we give up now it would entail considerable financial loss to yourself and to me a moral loss that I cannot readily express for having persuaded you to embark in this venture.... In my letters to you I deal with facts - there are no sham heroics or gallery play, I hope I am past that stage - if I say the natives are causing trouble I mean it...". Assurances of his application and economy; rising optimism; "Makira" crew worrying; need for a reliable man from England; Australian unreliable.
- 1/2/22 14-31 December 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. 36 acres cleared; 36 labourers working; planting per week; expects seed nuts; heavy ground "occasioned language that was considered unparliamentary until the Labourites came into being"; Kira-Kira for sale; problem of trying to run two properties; "Makira" activities showing profit; conflict of interests - recruiting labour interferes with collection of trade copra; "my standing orders are 'labour first' - 'trade second'"; Christmas roast pig and vegetables - feast and present for boys; German Solomons out of the question because of lack of funds; Christmas alone with fever; trader murdered; debilitating effects of fever; put manager on Boroni once it is established; sell "Makira"; could not stay for another seven years; visualises buying property adjoining Fairley's in Queensland, working it on a share basis, and visiting the Solomons occasionally.

BOX

1

Group 2. LETTERS OF F. B. RIGBY cont.

- 1/2/23 1 January 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Woodford, the Resident Commissioner (an incompetent who sports dyed hair and corsets) requires a list of their recruits; two groups from Makira have not been registered at Tulagi.
- 1/2/24 7 January 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Personal affairs - anxiety for family, sickness, lack of clothes - "I have worn out 20 pairs of boots and shoes since leaving China", proposed visit to England and will accept replacement if Fairley wishes; will see to leasing the "Makira"; Philps, a recent employee, an asset; prospects on a good property.
- 1/2/25 10 January 1913 (to Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Thanks for reading matter; dysentery.
- 1/2/26 11 January 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Order for grass seeds and other crops; the "Makira" returned, with cargo, without recruits; dogs have not yet arrived.
- 1/2/27 7 February 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. "Makira" out recruiting; Woodford amenable; freight costs; plans to abandon trading; labour shortage; letterhead; other crops; Woolrabe's visit; cheques drawn.
- 1/2/28 7 February 1913 (to Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. Plantation news; leaf beetle; gift of English potatoes - now repellent! called by boys to dispose of an evil spirit; pet parrakeet making him jumpy; sweet potatoes and convolvulus; wild boar caught; wild bananas.
- 1/2/29 14 February 1913 (or March?) (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Possible employment of Captain Mumford who is lonely and wants to work for the company, wounded in China "1900 dust up", has had experience as a plantation manager in the New Hebrides; proposes exchange of his craft for 500 pounds in shares; salary of 100 pounds per annum in cash and shares; the "Makira" for sale.
- 1/2/30 10 March 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Waimutu (?) Request for money; dysentery; awaiting Mumford's decision regarding employment with the company; has had experience with Mamara (?) and Levers.
- 1/2/31 12 May 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Discusses incident in which the master of the "Makira" has been embroiled with the authorities; he has also been stealing; his deportation to Fiji; Woodford's advice re crops; fever; illness amongst natives; wild pig; crops flourishing. Newspaper cutting (paper not named) 17 April, 1913 describing the incident in which the master of the "Makira" has been charged with shooting at natives. Probably enclosed with the above letter. [missing?]
- 1/2/32 13 May 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Inadequacies of Freshwater, a recent employee - spends his time reading the "Catholic Advocate" and has delusions about brotherhood with the blacks.

Group 2. LETTERS OF F. B. RIGBY cont.

- 1/2/33 16 May 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Twenty labourers have absconded; Mumford's offer of employment accepted; offer of 1,500 acres close to Paumau mission station; wages; difficulties in keeping accounts in manner satisfactory to conventional auditor.
- 1/2/34 21 May 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Gavutu. Application for 1,500 acres near Paumau; cocoa plants; recruiting with Mumford; paying off Lever's & Burns Philp.
- 1/2/35 23 May 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Aola. Australian duties on timber; ill; permission to buy Paumau property on company account; Muscovy ducks.
- 1/2/36 24 May 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Aola. Planting coffee considered; contract for purchase of seed.
- 1/2/37 September 1913 (to Mrs. Fairley) Brisbane. Thanks for hospitality; fever.
- 1/2/38 September 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Health poor.
- 1/2/39 5 September 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Brisbane. Cannon ready; transport difficulties.
- 1/2/40 16 September 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Brisbane. Cannon smuggled aboard; fever; asking situation of accounts because heavy purchasing needed.
- 1/2/41 September 1913. (to Frank Fairley) Sydney. Insurance of the "Makira"; proposed timber venture would need large capitalisation, maintain discreet silence.
- 1/2/42 September 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Hiring of Thomas Dyos; arrange agreement, wages etc.
- 1/2/43 15 October 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Sydney. Medical report; Mumford reports scarcity of labour; purchase of pigs and geese to take back to the Islands; first mention of Waimassie; taking cheap toys for the boys.
- 1/2/44 21 October 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Pinkumba (?) Scarcity of labour.
- 1/2/45 1 November 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Enclosing accounts with Burns Philp; profitability of trading uncertain, but acts as counterbalance and heavy developmental expenses.
- 1/2/46 14 November 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Gavutu. White labour worse than native labour; thieving and murder.
- 1/2/47 14 November 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Solomon Islands. Recruiting; trouble with Freshwater; departure of Philp; labour situation good; prices; recruiting expensive.

Group 2. LETTERS OF F. B. RIGBY cont.

- 1/2/48 26 November 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Solomon Islands. Freshwater's sloth, misdemeanours and misrepresentations (has spread rumours of the company's liquidation); remonstrates with Freshwater.
- 1/2/49 27 November 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Solomon Islands. Account at Gavutu high; Mumford out recruiting to reduce account; labour hard to handle; ample potatoes; progress at Boroni.
- 1/2/50 27 November 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Labour prices rising rapidly; Freshwater's time almost up; recruiting costs high; thieving cook boy eaten.
- 1/2/51 24 December 1913. Application to the directors for home leave.
- 1/2/52 27 December 1913 (to Frank Fairley) 100 acres planted at Boroni; Mumford satisfactory; work on Waimassie to start soon; employment of Dyos.
- 1/2/53 Note undated from Rigby to ? regarding 200 pounds to be remitted to Sydney for Gavutu account.
- 1/2/54 2 February 1914 (to?) Tulagi. Repayment for Freshwater.
- 1/2/55 4 February 1914 (to Frank Fairley) Gavutu. "Makira's" register; land for sale.
- 1/2/56 4 February 1914 (letter signed by Rigby, Gavutu repayment of 100 pounds to Levers).
- 1/2/57 14 Junes 1914 (to Frank Fairley) Melbourne. "Makira" offered for sale; reports of W.I. proposition floated in England; similar prospectus for Fairley for Vanikoro; Woodford on leave; if New Hebrides group becomes all British, so may Vanikoro which will put them in a good position; obligations to labour; Waimassie needs to be kept up; ill health; expects advertisement to go well despite fall in copra prices and elections.
- 1/2/58 11 July 1913 Letter signed by Rigby authorising payment of 105.2.6 pounds to Levers. Receipt for this amount. [initials]

Class 1. CORRESPONDENCE (CONTINUED)Group 3. MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS1/3/1 E. R. NICOLSON

1/3/1/1 13 December 1911 to "Louie" (Mrs. Fairley). Comments on the recipient's proposal to form a limited liability company for pineapple growing.

1/3/1/2 4 May 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Scrip for shares arrived, but not countersigned by the secretary.

1/3/1/3 24 September 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Corowa. Shares forwarded to Woolrabe; good wishes for venture.

1/3/1/4 2 September 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Corowa. Regarding share scrip for Woolrabe.

1/3/1/5 12 September 1913 Notes share scrip sent; Fairley's visit to Nicolson.

1/3/1/6 2 October 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Corowa. Refers back to matters brought up in letters of 2 September 1913 and 12 September 1913.

1/3/2 F.W. WOOLRABE

1/3/2/1 20 September 1912 (to Mrs. Fairley) Solicitor not interested in Rigby's proposals - too risky, whole project dependent on Rigby's competence.

1/3/2/2 20 January 1913 Woolrabe to Fairley - telegram

1/3/2/3 21 January 1913 (to Mrs. Fairley)

1/3/2/4 25 February 1913 Woolrabe to Fairley - telegram

1/3/2/5 31 March 1913 (to Mrs. Fairley) Tulagi. Option on land 700 miles from Boroni; the "Makira" needed; planting costs; labour difficulties - Dutch will not release Javanese; further applications for land; "Makira" expenses. Encloses handwritten copy of Regulations of German New Guinea, including the Solomon Islands.

1/3/2/6 Undated (to Mrs. Fairley) Corowa.

1/3/2/7 9 May 1913 (copy) (to F.B. Rigby) Woombye. Re raising more capital.

1/3/2/8 12 May 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Re changing the articles of Fairley Rigby Co.

1/3/2/9 18 May 1913 (to Mrs. Fairley) Re building quote for company building on the Island

1/3/2/10 27 May 1913 (to Mrs. Fairley) Corowa. Re purchase of Solomon Islands rubber shares.

BOX

Group 3. MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS cont.

1/3/2 F.W. WOOLRABE cont.

- 1/3/2/11 1 June 1913 (to Mrs. Fairley) Snow; election.
- 1/3/2/12 16 June 1913 (to Mrs. Fairley) On board the "Shropshire". Re Rigby's purchase of Wai-ai; accept Lever's terms.
- 1/3/2/13 18 July 1913 (to Mrs. Fairley) London. Lukewarm on agreement with Captain Mumford; prefers to raise mortgage, rather than issuing additional shares.
- 1/3/2/14 24 July 1913 (to Frank Fairley) London. Disapproves terms with Mumford.
- 1/3/2/15 17 October 1913 (to Frank Fairley) London. Re Rigby's release from his agreement with the company; proposes to give him six months leave - acceptable?; agreement with Mumford has already cut into company funds.
- 1/3/2/16 8 January 1914 (to Frank Fairley) London. Argues through satisfactory recompense for Rigby - 300 shares plus 100 pounds seems a fair settlement; Rigby the victim of bad luck, but was aware of the risks he was taking; by comparison the Fairley's risked ruin and nearly accomplished it!
- 1/3/2/17 27 February 1914 (to Mrs. Fairley) Inadvisability of floating money.
- 1/3/2/18 10 March 1914 (to Frank Fairley) Advisable to sell the "Makira" which would then leave the company without a recruiting craft.
- 1/3/2/19 22 June 1914 (to Frank Fairley) Rigby seriously ill with blackwater fever; flotation of company.

1/3/3 FRANK FAIRLEY

- 1/3/3/1 2 October 1912 Probably Fairley (to Lever Bros. Sydney) Requests their advice as to the merits of importing Chinese labour into the Islands; Fairley and Rigby both have experience of China and the Chinese; Rigby has several hundred coolies readily available; Lever's preparedness to participate in the scheme?
- 1/3/3/2 13 February 1913 (to F.B. Rigby) Woombye. Land planted well below estimates; Island accounts confused; confidence in Rigby's judgment diminishing.
- 1/3/3/3 15 February 1913 (to Bank of Australasia) Draft for 100 pounds to cover cheque; company should have been give a chance to cover cheque.
- 1/3/3/4 15 February 1913 (to Lever's) Apologies for bounced cheque and assurances that the situation will not recur.
- 1/3/3/5 25 July 1913 (to Levers) Re cheque for 200 pounds; no need to take up their offer of paying off boys.
- 1/3/3/6 27 November 1913 (to F.B. Rigby) Copy of a letter regarding alterations in Rigby's legal agreement with the company; remonstrates with Rigby and rebuts his complaints.

Group 3. MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS cont.1/3/3 FRANK FAIRLEY cont.

- 1/3/3/7 27 June 1914 Copy of a letter to Norman Ross (Levers, Gavutu) Requests report on Boroni and Waimassie because of possible flotation of company.
- 1/3/3/8 23 July 1914 (to Levers) Re large outstanding account; Rigby's illness; raising funds to cover money owed.
- 1/3/3/9 Undated. Two pages of pencilled jottings in Fairley's handwriting regarding labour and financial situation on Island properties.
- 1/3/3/10 5 September 1914 (to Burns Philp) Re refund to Fairley Rigby Company of Eric Raff's return fare Refer 3/3/14- 3/3/22.
- 1/3/3/11 1 September 1914 (to Lever's) Enclosing cheque for 288.0.0 pounds.
- 1/3/3/12 Undated. Handwritten jottings in Fairley's (?) handwriting. Expenses. [unclear]
- 1/3/3/13 Rough copy of telegram re lease of Wai-ai
- 1/3/3/14 20 November 1915 Drafted by Mumford on behalf of S.C.E.L. to Messrs. Nelson & Robertson, Shipping and Commission Agents, Sydney, regarding shipments of copra.
- 1/3/3/15 20 November 1916 Rough copy of letter drafted by Mumford on behalf of S.C.E.L. to P. Dickenson & Co. regarding repayment of E. Richardson's debt to Dickenson.
- 1/3/4 H.L. FRESHWATER
- 1/3/4/1 21 February 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Tulagi. Safe arrival in the Islands; awaiting the "Makira" before proceeding to Boroni.
- 1/3/4/2 24 March 1913 (to Frank Fairley) On board the "Makira". Philp leaves ship; adjusting to new conditions.
- 1/3/4/3 22 June 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Boroni. Isolation; clearing land; description of terrain; has to work with boys to pace them; Rigby suffering persistent fever and is leaving for Sydney to recuperate.
- 1/3/4/4 September 1913 (to Mr. & Mrs. Fairley) Boroni. "Makira" back with 14 recruits; life at Boroni; hopes for Rigby's recovery.
- 1/3/4/5 5 November 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Gavutu. Dismissed by Rigby for not repairing the "Makira"; cannot take blame.
- 1/3/4/6 26 February 1914 (to Frank Fairley) Hawthorn. Acknowledging cheque.

Group 3. MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS cont.

- 1/3/5 Name illegible. 10 July 1912 Chinkiang, China to Frank Fairley. Characteristics of copra planters: "the usual stamp of Tucker mate who isolates himself on an island to grow and collect Copra, is a man that takes a deal of watching...Climatic conditions and drink usually fixed them"; Solomon Islanders "treacherous"; camphor wood and dugong fishing; advice to keep partner sane - plenty of papers and books.
- 1/3/6/1 Captain Burrows (?) Undated. (to Frank Fairley) Introducing H.L. Freshwater as competent to fulfil a position in Papua for Fairley. Fairley's handwritten comments on the back.
- 1/3/6/2 Captain Burrows (?) (to Frank Fairley) Requesting to know if Freshwater is dismissed or not. 22 June 1913.
- 1/3/7 R. Rigby 4 October 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Manchester. Acknowledgement of cheque.
- 1/3/8 R. WARDLE (Solicitor, London) to Lt. G. Molock, London
- 1/3/8/1 7 March 1913 Recommends Capt. Wardle, DSO, for employment in the tropics. Quotes him: "I can handle niggers and am salted to malaria".
- 1/3/8/2 19 March 1913 (to G. Molock) Further enquiries regarding possible tropical employment for Capt. Wardle.
- 1/3/8/3 27 June 1913 R. Wardle, London to Frank Fairley Re non-employment of Capt. Wardle
- 1/3/8/4 Telegram Wardle to Fairley
- 1/3/9 J. Henderson (government analyst) Brisbane to F.W. Woolrabe 29 April 1913 Re enquiries on alcohol for power engines.
- 1/3/10 J. Campbell (J. Campbell & Sons Ltd.) 6 May 1913 Re cost of 'ready to erect' buildings
- 1/3/11 Wood (?) Kamerunga State Nursery to Frank Fairley 6 May 1913 Re prices and availability of cocoa and vanilla seeds.
- 1/3/12 Jas. Hardie & Co. to Frank Fairley 12 May 1913 Building quote.

BOX

Group 3. MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS cont.

- 1/3/13/1 Chas. Rose. Part of a letter undated re possible employment.
- 1/3/13/2 Chas. Rose to Frank Fairley 28 December 1913 Re his son.
- 1/3/14 G. Weston (metal merchant) to Fairley, Rigby Co. Ltd. 12 August 1913 Re signal cannon requested by Rigby.
- 1/3/15 Lamb, Powell & Co. Ltd. to Fairley, Rigby Co. Ltd. 13 August 1913 Re kerosene carburettor.
- 1/3/16 W.W. Burnett, Queensland, to Frank Fairley 29 September 1913 Re Freshwater's job; suggests replacement.
- 1/3/17 F. Rigby to Frank Fairley 26 February 1914 Wants to know if F. Rigby (his son?) is still alive.
- 1/3/18 E. RAFF
- 1/3/18/1 29 April 1914 (to Frank Fairley) Gavutu. Asking Fairley to pay two accounts in Australia for him.
- 1/3/18/2 6 May 1914 (to Frank Fairley) Gavutu. Disgruntled; company's reputation bad because of Rigby's unbusiness-like methods; resulting difficulty in getting credit; food poor; wants wages paid monthly; Fairley should visit the Island to see the true state of affairs.
- 1/3/18/3 22 June 1914 (to Frank Fairley) Telegram. Company 600 pounds down.
- 1/3/19 Arthur Cot (?) to Frank Fairley Thanks for offer of employment, but is refusing. 27 May 1914
- 1/3/20 ? Gould to Frank Fairley 24 June 1914
- 1/3/21 Dad (?) to Dora (?) 10 August 1914 (Possibly Arthur Ashton Shorter, Solicitor, Sydney) Mr. Fairley's float unlikely to succeed.
- 1/3/22 Walter Mansfield (W. Mansfield & Co., Engineers) to Mrs. Fairley Re disposing of "coconut properties" 1 October 1914
- 1/3/23 G. Alexander (Colonial Coconut and Produce Agency Ltd.) to Frank Fairley. Re information on coconut properties for investment. 6 November 1914.
- 1/3/24 J. E. Philp, Tasmania, to Frank Fairley. Re his dismissal by Rigby and non-payment of salary. 6 December 1913

BOX

1

Group 3. MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS cont.

- 1/3/25 Incomplete letter. Undated. Unsigned. Advice re floating company and prospects.

- 1/3/26 Ellen Mumford to ? (address C/- Mrs. Wade) Enquiries after her brother-in-law, Capt. Mumford. 22 December 1917

- 1/3/27 "Dick" (E. Richardson) to Frank Fairley. Requesting to stay at Maalu, and suggesting that the company take over his land (coconut plantation, house and boat) in return for shares in the company. Written for Richardson who was illiterate by Capt. Mumford. July 1916. Refer 1/1/52.

- 1/3/28 D. Cunningham to Capt. Mumford regarding repairs to the schooner "Makira"; unable to undertake repairs; suggests alternative shipwright.
23 March 1916

- 1/3/29 4 December 1912 (?) to Frank Fairley re purchase of dogs.

Class 2. LEGAL - AGREEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, ACCOUNTS2/1 ATTHOW & MCGREGOR (SOLICITORS, BRISBANE)

- 2/1/1 4 December 1911 (to Frank Fairley). Advice to form limited liability company, not enter into a deed of partnership; Resident Commissioner Woodford probably objects to public companies which may exploit the Islands.
- 2/1/2 December 1912. Other correspondence re above. Share register ready; their account; copies of Article of Association; share certificates sent; accident to the "Makira" and company's liability and obligations to seamen involved; employment agreements.
- 2/1/3 29 May 1912. Certificate of Incorporation sent.
- 2/1/4 Rough copies of some letters from Frank Fairley to Atthow & McGregor re the above matters.
- 2/1/5 January 1913. Atthow & McGregor to Mr. and Mrs. Fairley. Correspondence and receipts. Including registration of the "Makira"; number of shares held by Woolrabe; company income tax returns; anomalies in share register; agreements with employees (e.g. Freshwater Woolrabe's power of attorney).

2/2 J.E. PHILP AND F.B. RIGBY

- 2/2/1 14 January 1912 Agreement regarding Philp's employment on the "Makira" or the plantations - wages, duration, return passage, starting 14 January 1912.
- 2/2/2 1 March 1912. Handwritten agreement between the above re 10% bonus to Philp on trading abroad the "Makira" (excepting the headquarters station).

2/3 HANDWRITTEN NOTE OF SHARES ISSUED TO MRS. FAIRLEY AND F.W. WOOLRABE2/4 E. RAFF AND FAIRLEY, RIGBY & CO. LTD.

- 6 January 1914 Copy of agreement (incomplete) between the above.

2/5 E. RICHARDSON AND SAN CRISTOVAL ESTATES LTD.

- 2/5/1 January 1916. Agreement between the above regarding terms of transfer of Richardson's lease to the company in return for payment of his debt and employment; his terms of employment by the company. Refer 1/1/47.
- 2/5/2 January 1916. Sample of copy of proposed agreement between E. Richardson and S.C.E.L. Almost identical to 1.
- 2/5/3 10 July 1916 Agreement by which Richardson's house and boat are signed over to the company for 40-50 pounds worth of shares in the company. Initialled by E. R. Witnessed by G. Mumford.

2

Class 3. ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING CORRESPONDENCE3/1 BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, SYDNEY

- 3/1/1 13 March 1912 (to Mrs. Louisa Fairley) Stating that cheques amounting to 373.3.0 pounds have been deposited in the account of Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd.
- 3/1/2 29 March 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Re Rigby's withdrawal of portion of the above amount.
- 3/1/3 Letter accompanying specimen signature form for the Bank of N.S.W.
- 3/1/4 12 March 1912 Bank of Australasia to F. B. Rigby. Companies account opened.
- 3/1/5 20 February 1913 Bank of Australasia to Frank Fairley. Re bounced cheque (refer 1/3/3/3-4); state of company's account.
- 3/1/6 29 April 1914. E.S. & A. Bank to Frank Fairley accepting the company's account.
- 3/1/7 23 May 1914. E.S. & A. Bank to Frank Fairley.
- 3/1/8 27 June, 1914. E.S. & A. Bank to Frank Fairley re power of attorney.
- 3/1/9 17 July 1914. E.S. & A. Bank to Frank Fairley. 200 pounds forwarded to Lever's.
- 3/1/10 Unsigned letter from Fairley, Rigby & Co.Ltd., Woombye, Qld., to the Manager of the Bank of Australasia, Sydney, stating that F.B. Rigby has drawn 10 pounds of the amount mentioned.
- 3/1/11 28 August 1912 Bank of Australasia to Fairley, Rigby Co.Ltd. regarding money debited to the company's account.

3/2 R.G. GROOM (ACCOUNTANT) BRISBANE

- 3/2/1 7 February 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Re account books for San Cristoval Estates Ltd.
- 3/2/2 12 February 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Re company's account books.
- 3/2/3 29 April 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Can now complete company's accounts.
- 3/2/4 3 May 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Re company's accounts.
- 3/2/5 9 July 1914 (to Frank Fairley) Commenting on a statement of the company's receipts and payments which is enclosed.
- 3/2/6 28 April 1915 (to Frank Fairley) 2nd page of letter only.

2

Class 3. ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING CORRESPONDENCE cont.3/3 BURNS PHILP

- 3/3/1 19 November 1913 Account and receipt for Eric Raff's passage.
- 3/3/2 27 March 1912 (to Frank Fairley) Re sailing timetables.
- 3/3/3 May and August 1912 Accounts to Rigby.
- 3/3/4 23 September 1912 (to F.B. Rigby) Re unpaid cheque
- 3/3/5 September and October 1912 (to F.B. Rigby) Six accounts.
- 3/3/6 Undated. Receipt to F.B. Rigby.
- 3/3/7 28 January 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Re sailing services.
- 3/3/8 5 February 1913 (to Frank Fairley) Re Freshwater's passage.
- 3/3/9 31 December 1913 Account to F.B. Rigby.
- 3/3/10 17 April 1914 (to F.B. Rigby) Re Rigby's account and dishonoured cheques.
- 3/3/11 17 April 1914 (Account to Rigby)
- 3/3/12 6 June 1914 (to F. B. Rigby) Re clearing up of matters mentioned in 10.
- 3/3/13 1914 Receipts and accounts, 2 unpaid cheques (Refer 10.?)
- 3/3/14 29 August 1914 (to F.B. Rigby) Re Eric Raff's return fare.
- 3/3/15 22 October 1914 (to F.B. Rigby) Re refund of above.
- 3/3/16 14 April 1915 February and March 1915 2 accounts to F.B. Rigby.
- 3/3/17 14 April 1915 (to F.B. Rigby) re refund of Raff's return passage.
- 3/3/18 19 April 1915 (to Capt. Mumford) Notification of parcel; bill and receipt for this.
- 3/3/19 10 May 1915 (to F.B. Rigby) Re 18.
- 3/3/20 8 June 1915 Receipt for Raff's refunded passage money.
- 3/3/21 9 June 1915 (to F.B. Rigby) Letter regarding money refunded by Mrs. Raff on her son's behalf.
- 3/3/22 12 July 1916 (to San Cristoval Estates Ltd.) Re unpaid portion of fare money in 1911
- 3/3/23 28 December 1916 (to Frank Fairley) Statement of S.C.E.L. account.

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Class 3. ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING CORRESPONDENCE cont.3/4 JUSTUS SCHARFF LTD. (IMPORT AND EXPORT AGENTS)

(This group has yet to be itemized)

3/4/1 1912 Correspondence, statements and receipts to Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. Including insurance and sailing of the "Makira" to the Solomon Islands. (Departed 18/3/12?)

3/4/2 1913-1914 Correspondence, statements and receipts to Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. Includes matters such as the ordering of novels and dogs for Capt. Mumford; transactions regarding the sale of copra, ivory nuts, trocas shells etc. on the company's behalf; the "Makira's" engine; engagement of employees; timber; purchase of a small brass cannon; stores ordered (including pilgrim print, embroidered lavas, Clima handkerchiefs, pigs, anchors, windlasses, smelling salts, cartridges, cascara, belladonna, mouth organs, panama hats, etc.)

3/5 MALAYTA COMPANY (This group has yet to be itemized)

Several accounts for 1914.

3/6 LEVER'S PACIFIC PLANTATIONS LTD.

3/6/1 10 February 1913 General Mgr. Lever's, to Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. re bounced cheque. Refer 1/3/3/4; 3/1/5.

3/6/2 17 February 1913 Gen. Mgr. Lever's, Sydney, to Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. Thanks for sorting out matter of dishonoured cheque; assurances as to their confidence in the company.

3/6/3 23 April 1913 Lever's to Frank Fairley. Re sailings of "Kulambangra".

3/6/4 19 May 1913 Lever's to Frank Fairley. Re 400 pounds in Gavutu for paying off Fairley Rigby employees.

3/6/5 28 May 1913 Frank Fairley to Lever's. Accepting terms offered in 4. above.

3/6/6 21 July 1913 Lever's to Fairley Rigby & Co. Ltd. Forwarding accompanying draft of 11 July 1913, authorising payment to Lever's of 105.2.6 pounds Refer 1/2/58 (missing?)

3/6/7 28 July 1913 Lever's to Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. Re cheque for 200 pounds to cover 6. above.

3/6/8 Copies of telegrams from Frank Fairley to F.W. Woolrabe re company's inability to meet Lever's demands and seeking a loan or guarantee regarding the sum required.

3/6/9 9 March 1914 Lever's to Frank Fairley acknowledging cheque.

3/6/10 25 August 1914 W.A. Newlands (Lever's, Gavutu) to Frank Fairley re scarcity of stores.

3/6/11 1913 and 1914 Several accounts from Lever's to Fairley, Rigby.

3/6/12 4 September 1914 Lever's receipt to Fairley, Rigby for payment of 287.5.6 pounds.

BOX

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Class 3. ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING CORRESPONDENCE cont.

3/7 CATHOLIC MISSION, RUA SURA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

3/7/1 Account 21 April 1914 (?) for 1000 seed nuts.

3/7/2 29 October 1914 Procurator, Catholic Mission to Frank Fairley re Rigby's unpaid bill for seed nuts.

3/8 KODAK

Account to Frank Fairley 23 August 1912

3/9 ANGUS & ROBERTSON LTD.

1 September 1913 Invoice and receipt to Frank Fairley.

3/10 HOLLIS BROS.

3/10/1 14 July 1914 to Frank Fairley. Account

3/10/2 20 September 1914 Letter of acknowledgement and receipt for l. above.

3/11 CHAS. O'REILLY

7 July 1915 Account to Frank Fairley.

3/12 FRANK FAIRLEY'S ROUGH ACCOUNTING NOTES

3/12/1 Two pages of pencilled accounts. Undated.

3/12/2 Handwritten list of items of "income and outgo" trading accounts of Fairley Rigby & Co. Ltd.

3/12/3 2 February 1914 Cheque Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. to H.L. Freshwater.

3/12/4 7 January 1913 Fairley's list of cheques paid out on company's behalf.

3/13 M. DONALD MACKEY (KINDAR LTD.)

3/13/1 12 March 1913 Acknowledgement from Kindar Ltd. to Frank Fairley that 9 native labourers from Malayta have been received from Fairley Rigby.

3/13/2 4 August 1915 To Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. 120 pounds for 12 recruits. Credited to Lever's.

3/14 MISCELLANEOUS

3/14/1 Invoice for rubber stamp for Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd.

3/14/2 Acknowledgement of payment of wages to Philp from company.

Box

2

Class 3. ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING CORRESPONDENCE cont.

3/14 MISCELLANEOUS cont.

3/14/3 12 March 1920 Receipt for 10 pounds..

3/14/4 13 May 1914 G. Mumford to E. Kapp. Receipt for 40 pounds.

3/14/5 29 April 1914 Steele Buffet (?) to E. Raff. Receipt for 4 pounds
being payment for 4 cases of benzine.

3/14/6 15 June 1914 Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. to E. Kapp. Receipt for
9.17.6 pounds.

3/14/7 22 July 1914 Steele Buffet (?) to E. Raff acknowledging receipt
of one case of trade tobacco.

BOX

2

Class 4. MISCELLANEOUS - PRINTED MATERIAL, SHARE LIST, PROSPECTUS, ETC.

- 4/1 Prospectus of the West Indian Coconut (Copra) and Produce Estates Ltd. 1912.
- 4/2 Typewritten statement of resolutions of directors' meeting of Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. 8 March 1912 (incomplete).
- 4/3 Notification of sailing times of the "Kulambangra" to Solomon Islands; and covering letter.
- 4/4 Copy of printed Summary of Capital and Shares form pencilled in by Frank Fairley for Fairley, Rigby & Co. Ltd. 10,000 1 pound shares. Names of shareholders inked in. 16 September 1913.
- 4/5 2 copies of sailing times of the "Kulambangra" 1914.
- 4/6 2 copies of a typewritten report of A. Berwin & Co. Ltd. on copra. 6 June 1914.
- 4/7 Newspaper cutting from "The Brisbane Courier" containing abridged prospectus of the Oro Bay Plantations Ltd. 14 July 1914.
- 4/8 Customs form. 5 July 1915.
- 4/9 2 registered letter receipts.
- 4/10 Purdon & Featherstone, ship builders, Hobart. Sketch of ship.
- 4/11 Copy of the charter of the ketch "Makira" by H. Jacobsen from Capt. Mumford. 30 pounds charter for 3 months; guarantee loss up to vessel's value of 700 pounds and to make good any damage. 16 July 1917.
- 4/12 Slip of paper attached to legal agreement with Richardson itemising stores to be ordered from Sydney.
- 4/13 Printed circular of the Solomon Islands Planters' & Traders' Association setting out aims, intended activities, conditions of membership. 1 June 1914.
- 4/14 Typewritten copy of Schedule of Rations to be Supplied to Labourers Indentured under the Provisions of the Solomon's (Labour) Regulation 1910. Issued by the Resident Commissioner, Tulagi. 7 February 1914.