

PREPARING FOR CHURCH SURVEY



The co-operation of churches in conducting a house-to-house survey in the northern suburbs this weekend showed that churches were ready to work together in order to carry out their pastoral duties more satisfactorily, the Rt. Rev. Bishop K. J. Clements said yesterday.

Bishop Clements, who is the Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, said this step was a sign of good relations, as such co-operation would not have been considered in the past.

The Catholic Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn, Archbishop Eris O'Brien, said yesterday a further evidence of such relationships between the churches could also be identified by the fact that the archbishop would speak today at the Church of England Library on the subject of the Ecumenical Council.

In the picture above are some of the volunteer helpers, preparing the instructions at All Saints yesterday for about 300 visitors who will make the survey.

PRINCESS BACK
LONDON, Wednesday (A.P.).—Princess Alexandra and her husband, Mr. Angus Ogilvy will fly home tomorrow from their Spanish honeymoon, the Evening News reported.

Nauruans Likely To Settle Curtis Island

Curtis Island, off the Queensland coast, is likely to become the new home of the 2,500 people of Nauru.

Three Nauruan officials discussed plans for the resettlement of their people with the Australian Director of Nauru Resettlement, Mr. R. Marsh, in Canberra yesterday.

The Nauruans, councillors A. Bernicke, R. Gadabu, and A. Bop, accompanied Mr. Marsh on an inspection of Curtis Island, near Rockhampton, and Fraser Island, near Maryborough, last week.

The people of Nauru are to be resettled in or near Australia before the rich phosphate deposits of their present island home become exhausted in about 25 years time.

The Nauruans' prosperity depends on revenue from the phosphate deposits.

Offer

Two years ago, the Government offered the Nauruans Australian citizenship and resettlement in a model village on the Australian mainland.

The Nauruans, however, rejected the offer because they felt integration into the Australian community would destroy their racial identity.

Some of them pressed for

Nauru itself to be rehabilitated, which would involve an extensive revegetation programme.

As an alternative, the Government has proposed the resettlement of the Nauruans on an island off the Queensland coast.

The Government believes this will be an acceptable and realistic compromise.

The plan has to be approved by the United Nations Trusteeship Council, the Queensland Government and the New Zealand and British Governments as well as the Nauruans.

Report

New Zealand and Britain are partners with Australia in the agreement under which the British Phosphate Commission works the Nauru phosphate deposits.

The head chief of Nauru, Hammer De Roburt, is at present in New York for a meeting of the U.N. Trusteeship Council.

As a member of the Australian delegation, he is expected to report to the council on the progress of negotiations for the establishment of a new home for his people.

Australian officials believe of the two islands inspected by the Nauruans last week, Curtis Island is more likely to be available.

Curtis Island has a climate and environment similar to that of Nauru, but is about 20 times larger in area.

The island's 180 square miles include four grazing properties — two leasehold and two freehold.

It has no roads, but is reported to be fertile, with adequate rain and good fishing in the surrounding waters.

The Rockhampton and district Research and Promotion Bureau has already told the Commonwealth and State Governments, it would welcome the resettlement of the Nauruans on Curtis Island.

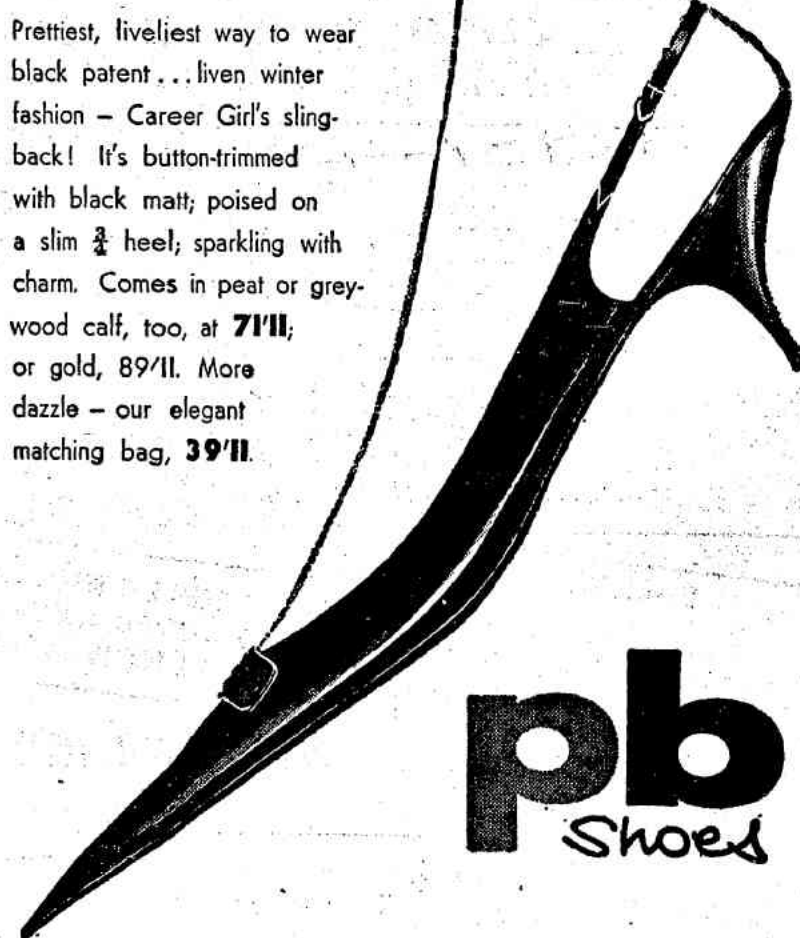
Fraser Island, three times the size of Curtis Island, is unlikely to be made available by the Queensland Government because it has extensive timber resources and established timber industry.

The cost of resettling the Nauruans in Australian territory has been estimated at £4 million, of which about one-third would be for housing.



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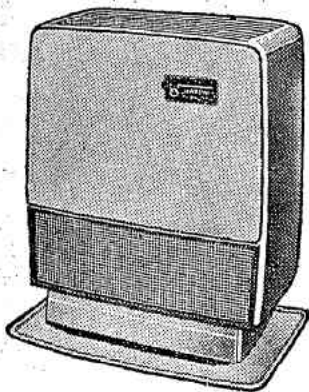
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