

ANNUAL REPORT
 TO
 THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS
 ON THE
 Administration of the South Sea Islands
 under Japanese Mandate
 FOR
 THE YEAR 1935.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I. POSITION AND AREA.

The South Sea Islands under Japanese Mandate are situated on the one hand between 130 Long. E. and 175 Long. E., and on the other between 0 Lat. N. and 22 Lat. N., and comprise more than 1,400 islands, islets, and reefs scattered over a vast expanse of water extending for about 1,300 miles from south to north, and about 2,700 miles from east to west. The area of land is very small, the total being 2,149 square kilometres. (These figures are quoted from existing records; a new survey of land is under way).

The number and area of the islands are as follows:—

Group	No. of Islands	Area (square kilometres)
Mariana	14	639
Caroline	549	1,320
Marshall	60	190
Total	623	2,149

N. B.—(1) The 60 islands of the Marshall Group comprise 895 reefs.

(2) As for the numbers of inhabited and uninhabited islands in the Territory, no detailed investigation has as yet been made, but according to rough investigation made in 1922 they are as follows:

Inhabited islands	131
Uninhabited islands	492

The principal islands and their areas are as follows:—

Island	Area (Square kilometres)
Saipan in the Mariana Group	185
Tinian " " " "	98
Rota " " " "	125
Yap in the West Caroline Group	216
Palau Proper (Baobeltaob) in the West Caroline Group.	370
Angaur " " " " " "	8
Spring Island in the East Caroline Group	22
Summer Island " " " "	9
Wednesday Island " " " "	23
Ponape " " " "	375
Kusaie " " " "	116
Jaluit in the Marshall Group	8

II. WEATHER.

(1) General Remarks.

The Islands are situated in the so-called tropical zone, but being small in size and being constantly blown by winds from the sea throughout the year, as well as being frequently visited by squalls, the heat is much tempered. The temperature is fairly uniform, seldom rising above 30 degrees or falling below 20 degrees, and the mean temperature registering from 26 to 28 degrees. It has been observed that the difference between the highest temperature and the lowest on a normal day is about 5 degrees.

The Territory is where the typhoons that frequently visit Japan Proper and Taiwan originate, but here the low pressures remain in an incipient stage, seldom developing into violent winds. Nevertheless, the territory being so vast, here and there on rare occasions damages are done by local storms. During 1935 winds with a velocity of some 30 metres were encountered twice in Saipan District and twice in Truk District.

The rainfall is very great throughout the Territory, registering normally between 2,000 and 4,000 millimetres, while in Ponape, the wettest spot, it exceeds 5,000 millimetres.

Generally, July-September may be considered as the wet season and January-March as the dry, but the condition of rainfall varies according to year and place and is by no means the same every year. Rain generally comes down in the form of squalls and rarely lasts long.

As the Islands lie scattered over a vast expanse of water, the direction of the wind varies according to the different islands. Usually, however, the north-easterly trade-wind blows between November and the following April, while between May and October the direction of the trade-wind is mostly south-westerly.

(2) Meteorological Observatory.

In 1922, the Government established the South Seas Bureau Meteorological Observatory in Korror Island in the Palau Group which has since been engaged, under the direction of the Director of the South Seas Bureau, in the observation and investigation of meteorological phenomena, tides, earthquakes, terrestrial magnetism, and atmospheric currents in the upper strata. (Vide "Regulations for the Organization of the South Seas Bureau" in the appended "Laws and Regulations").

Since its establishment, the equipment of the Observatory has every year been improved. It has now detached stations in Saipan Island, Ponape Island and Summer Island of the Truk Group, and also in Jaluit for the purpose of the observation of meteorological phenomena in general in these localities. Furthermore, rain-gauge stations have been established at various places for the purpose of climatic investigations. The Observatory daily broadcasts through the Palau Post Office the weather conditions prevailing at Saipan, Yap, Palau and Ponape to vessels navigating the adjacent seas and warns them of coming storms.

N. B.—The Jaluit station was established in June, 1935.

III. STATUS OF THE TERRITORY.

There exists no specific organic law laying down or defining the status of the Territory, which is administered as an integral portion of the Japanese Empire in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of the Treaty of Peace signed at Versailles on June 28th, 1919, between the Allied and Associated Powers and Germany, as well as the Mandate of December 17th, 1920. (Vide Chap. I. "Laws and Regulations" annexed to this Report).

IV. STATUS OF THE NATIVE INHABITANTS OF THE TERRITORY.

The natives living in the Territory are called "Inhabitants of the Islands" and have a status different from that of Japanese subjects. None of them may acquire the status of Japanese subjects except voluntarily through naturalization or marriage.

Since the Territory came under Japanese administration three Kanaka women acquired the status of Japanese subjects. They are the wives of the Japanese, have children and have gone through all necessary procedures for census registration.

N. B.—The following is an extract from Japanese Law concerning naturalization.

Article 5. An alien acquires Japanese nationality in the following cases:

- (1)—(4) (Omitted.)
- (5) By becoming naturalized.

Article 7. An alien may become naturalized with the permission of the Minister of the Interior.

The Minister of the Interior cannot permit naturalization, except in the case of persons fulfilling the following conditions :

- (1) Having had a domicile in Japan for five or more years consecutively.
- (2) Being of full twenty years of age or more, and having legal capacity by the law of his or her country.
- (3) Being of good character.
- (4) Having sufficient property, or ability, to secure an independent livelihood.
- (5) Having no nationality, or when he or she would lose his or her nationality in consequence of the acquisition of Japanese nationality.

Article 8. The wife of an alien cannot be naturalized, except in conjunction with her husband.

Article 9. The aliens mentioned below, if they are actually in possession of a domicile in Japan, may become naturalized, although they may not have satisfied condition number 1 of paragraph 2 of Article 7 :

- (1) Those whose fathers or mothers were Japanese.
- (2) Those whose wives were Japanese.
- (3) Those born in Japan.
- (4) Those who have had places of residence in Japan for ten years or more, consecutively.

The persons mentioned in number 1 to 3, inclusive, of the preceding paragraph, cannot become naturalized unless they have possessed places of residence in Japan for three years or more, consecutively ; but if the father, or the mother, of a person mentioned in number 3 was born in Japan, this rule does not apply.

Article 10. In cases where the father, or the mother, of an alien is a Japanese, if the alien in question is in actual possession of a domicile in Japan, he or she may become naturalized, although he or she may not have satisfied the conditions mentioned in numbers 1, 2 and 4 of paragraph 2 of Article 7.

Article 11. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 7, the Minister of the Interior may, subject to the Imperial sanction, permit the naturalization of an alien who has rendered specially meritorious services to Japan.

Article 13. The wife of a person who acquires Japanese nationality acquires Japanese nationality in conjunction with her husband.

The provisions of the preceding paragraph do not apply when the law of the wife's country contains provisions which are contrary thereto.

Article 14. If the wife of a person who has acquired Japanese nation-

ality has not acquired Japanese nationality in accordance with the provision of the preceding article, she may become naturalized although she may not have fulfilled the conditions of paragraph 2 of Article 7.

Article 15. The child of a person who acquires Japanese nationality acquires Japanese nationality in conjunction with its father or its mother, if it is a minor according to the law of its own country.

The provisions of the preceding paragraph do not apply when the law of the child's country contains provision which are contrary thereto.

V. EXTERIOR RELATIONS OF THE TERRITORY.

The Territory has no special foreign relations except that shipping services are maintained and mail matters exchanged between Jaluit and Gilbert Island, under British rule, between the Ponape group and Palau and New Guinea, under Australian Mandate, between Palau and Dutch Celebes, the Philippines and Mindanao and between Saipan and Guam, under American rule.