

For His Excellency's Decision.

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Services of Mr. G. B. Gallagher.

- (a) It is respectfully urged that the services of Mr. G. B. Gallagher are essential to the Phoenix Islands Settlement Scheme at any rate until the Lands Settlement of Sydney Island is completed. This officer has proved to be exceptionally suited to the work and the success of the scheme up to dated is no small measure due to him. The land settlement of Sydney Island, as well as the general supervision of the island, have been in his hands from the commencement, and I know of no other officer who could take on the work. Experience has shown that it is essential to have two Administrative Officers engaged on the work, as the choosing and dispatching of the settlers, coupled with the considerable clerical and Treasury work, is a full time task for one official.
- (b) At the same time it is strongly urged that Mr. Gallagher should be granted an allowance while actually living the Phoenix Islands, as has been the custom with other officers. He was sent to the Phoenix Islands at very short notice, which necessitated him leaving his stores and effects at Funafuti. His work is of extremely trying nature and he has necessarily to live under isolated and primitive pioneering conditions such as fall to the lot of no other official in the Pacific. These conditions have undoubtedly affected his health more than he would care to admit, though it is to be hoped that a short ^{as} story in the comparative civilization of the Gilbert and Ellice Groups will restore him to complete physical fitness.

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