

Send

Office of the Administrative Officer,
Phoenix Islands District,
Canton Island.

48

22nd May, 1948.

F. 27/1/4.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward you, air-mail under separate cover, a sample for analysis (rather less than 5 lbs. weight) of soil taken from around the roots of a tree, known to us as "Buka", and which flourishes on parts of Gardener Island, in the Phoenix Group. This analysis has been requested by the Chief Lands Commissioner, in Tarawa.

2. The Chief Lands Commissioner has been informed that areas where "Buka" trees have been established, are most poisonous for coconuts. The areas in which "Buka" grow, seem otherwise very fertile. The coconut-planting operations at Gardener are, in the "Buka" areas, suspended until this vital point is cleared up. The particular sample which is being sent to you, was taken from just inside the fringe of the "Buka" forest which is growing on that portion of Gardener Island known as "Rutiran". (For the extra note of the C.L.C.: about 80 yards deeper than the "Babai" pits, which you would have seen).

3. I would be grateful if the results of your analysis could be sent direct to the Chief Lands Commissioner, in Tarawa, with a copy to this Office.

4. If the present sample is not sufficient for your purposes, this Office holds about a further 3 lbs. weight of the "Buka" soil, which could be also forwarded to you.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. N.
The Director of Agriculture,
Department of Agriculture,
Suva, Fiji.

[Signature]
Administrative Officer.

(copy to C.L.C., Tarawa)