

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY.

Enckel

52

F. 27/1/4.

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

18th August, 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter No. 2110/03/11.2 of the 28th July addressed to the Chief Lands Commissioner, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony on the subject of Soil Samples from Gardner Island and to inform you that further Samples will be secured in due course.

2. With regard to the alleged unsuitability of this soil for coconuts, several old Gilbertese with whom I spoke recently on Sydney and Hull Islands consider that coconuts would on the contrary, do well in this Soil owing to its ability to retain moisture.

3. The Sample sent from Gardner Island was taken from a portion of the island which is infested with thousands of sea birds.

4. The "buka" trees (*Pisonia grandis*) referred to in my predecessor's memorandum No. 27/1/4 of the 22nd May are the same as those referred to by me last year at Fanning Island when sending you soil samples of that island. The area covered by these trees at that island is known as and was referred to by me as the "green trees" area.

5. I shall be glad to supply any further information available to me which you may require.

PA

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. Enckel

The Director of Agriculture,
Suva,
Fiji.

District Officer.

Copy to: Chief Lands Commissioner, Tarawa Island.

BLR
49/1/48