Unusual Fishing Method

By Ronald Powell, Cook Islands

Many years ago I heard of a man (Charlie Seigel) who lived on Manihiki Island for several years and taught the people how to catch some unusual fish in very deep water. The people at that time did not know of the existence of this fish, which is eventually called a Parumarau. It is like the common Marau or Ku caught in the Cook Group at night by a trolled feather. The surface fish weigh two or three to the pound. Paru in Manihiki is the equivalent of the Vena or Uruvena of the lower Cook Group (the castor oil fish, or Ruvettus). The Parumarau is possibly one of the Berycidae family, but I am not at all sure of this.

Parumarau are caught in daylight in depths of from two to three hundred fathoms, but it is essential to get bottom first before the fish will strike. It is a large fish, weighing up to fifty or sixty pounds, and is reported excellent eating.

There are other similar questions on how the people of the community spend their money. The children surprised me with so many answers.

There are families who said that they did not know how much money they spend a day, a month or a year. Almost all families said that they had figured the money they spent, and that they didn’t know how to do it. Some families said that they did not care to know such things.

I knew that the people were spending lots of money for things that were unnecessary. They did not even know what they spent their money for. Sometimes I thought it was my job to do some explaining.

We had a good time studying the answers to the questions the children brought from the people, especially in our arithmetic period. We even made some teaching and learning materials for our own school. After some days of studying all this information in class, I arranged it into some kind of order. I had the children take the results we obtained from our study back to the people. We worked out roughly the amount of money each family spent a day, a week, a month and a year. By adding all families’ expenditure we found the amount spent by the whole community. Then we found the average.

Amount spent by each family. We may not have given them the exact amount of money they spent, but I am sure it was nearly correct.

After the experiment had taken place, and the people had learned that they were spending lots of money on unnecessary things, I heard that a more careful spending of money by some families had begun. I even heard from some people that they appreciated very much our explaining things they didn’t know anything about. They were also very glad seeing their children explaining things that no one had known about before.

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interesting—and perhaps unique—development in Western Samoa is the formation of a society to import ice cream and frozen foods for members who are individual shopkeepers.

The Society operates fully in accordance with co-operative principles, and has been instrumental in spreading more widely, knowledge of the principles and value of co-operation. This is particularly interesting in the light of the information already given of the conversion of individual enterprizes into co-operatives.

In the foregoing an indication has been given of various patterns and practices relative to retailing and marketing. In addition, it is believed that other aspects of the co-operative movement will not be overlooked.

The two saving and lending societies will, it is hoped, serve as models for others, while the reported introduction of a new copra-buying procedure by the Copra Board as from 1st January 1957 may encourage copra processing by societies.

Other developments will surely follow.