

"mates" to produce a worth-while job of work.

Occasionally one would come across a true individualist, and he would be the ideal man to specialize in one or two departments of boat-building. One such trainee, the author recalls, specialized in spar-making, another in caulking, and so on. When a specialist *did* develop, he was usually a first-class man in his field.

#### Trainees Always Appreciative

One sometimes hears the remark that, among Pacific islanders, a sense of gratitude for a teacher's efforts is noticeable by its absence. After many years of technical teaching among Papuans and some periods of lecturing in various island groups, the author cannot in any way subscribe to this view. He has always found pupils eager to learn, and

most humble and apologetic for mistakes made on the job. And never were politeness and gratitude ever lacking.

#### Pacific School Of Boat-Building Needed

In conclusion, the author feels that at Kwato and elsewhere the Pacific Island people have amply demonstrated their ability to learn the art of building wooden boats. The need for wooden vessels throughout the Pacific is still as great as ever, and selected students under proper tuition would reflect every credit on those responsible for the establishment of a "school" for boat-building.

The selected students or trainees would be better regarded as potential teachers, for they could then be encouraged to spread their knowledge in their own districts. All this would take con-

siderable time, but the general benefit to the Pacific Island people would be enormous.

#### New Secretary-General Assumes Duties At SPC Headquarters

MR. T. R. Smith, the new Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, arrived in New Caledonia by air on March 7. He was met at Tontouta airport by Dr. Emile Massal, Acting Secretary-General, and representatives of the New Caledonian Government.

On his way to New Caledonia Mr. Smith visited the Commission's offices in Sydney. He spent two days in Canberra, A.C.T., where he conferred with Australian officials and representatives of other member governments of the South Pacific Commission.

## New Introduction Of Edible Pond Fish From Philippines

*The introduction of carefully-selected species of edible pond fish to Pacific territories for stocking inland waters forms an important part of the Commission's long-term programme for the development of fisheries in the region. In October 1955 the Commission imported by air from the Philippines an experimental consignment of tilapia. They quickly multiplied, and successful transplantings have since been made to many Pacific territories. Last January a second similar transfer of fingerlings took place, of four further species of edible pond fish. A brief account of the operation appears below.*



Mr. H. van Pel, South Pacific Commission fisheries officer, holding a carp from the experimental consignment of fingerlings he brought by air with him from Manila to New Caledonia last January.

**A**ROUND three hundred fingerlings of four different species of edible pond fish arrived in New Caledonia by air on Saturday, January 18. They had been flown over five thousand miles from the Philippines in the care of South Pacific Commission fisheries officer H. van Pel.

They have been released temporarily in two experimental fish ponds maintained for the Commission at the Port Laguerre farm school near Nouméa. Later this year they will be transferred to fish ponds being prepared by the Forestry Department of New Caledonia.

During their long journey the fingerlings were carried in plastic bags of water supported in cardboard cartons. To avoid subjecting them to extremes of cold and air pressure, Mr. van Pel kept them with

him in the pressurized cabin of the airliner.

The four species in the consignment were carp, sepat, dalag and gourami. All are popular eating fish in South Asian countries, where they are widely grown in rice padi, artificial ponds or natural waters.

Over the next two years Mr. van Pel will study their rate of growth, breeding rate and general suitability for introduction to other South Pacific territories. Species which adapt themselves successfully will be transplanted to other Pacific islands, where they will provide a new source of protein for islanders not now receiving sufficient in their diets. The stocking of natural waters is the primary aim for which these fish were introduced.

An earlier introduction of another popular edible pond fish in South Asian countries—the tilapia—has proved highly successful. In October 1955 Mr. van Pel transported a consignment of tilapia fingerlings from Manila to New Caledonia by air. They quickly multiplied, and successful transplantings were made to other territories. Including several introductions made from other sources, tilapia are now being grown for food in specially-made ponds and natural waters in New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Papua and New Guinea, Netherlands New Guinea, Cook Islands, Western Samoa, American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, and the United States Trust Territory.