

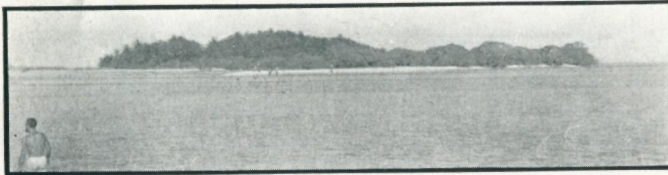
# Sesqui-Centennial of America in Eastern Pacific

**T**HIS YEAR of 1938 is the sesqui-centennial of the American Flag's first appearance in the Eastern Pacific—1788. Long before that year the ancestors of the American-Hawaiians and American-Samoans arrived in Polynesia, Balboa discovered the Great Ocean in 1513, and Magellan's ships sailed its blue waters in 1519-1521.

When that revolutionary American shot echoed round the world from Lexington on April 19, 1775, the Pacific was an almost unknown area to the million or so Americans. John Ledyard and other American-born, were with Captain James Cook when he discovered Hawaii in 1778. The *Empress of China* showed the Stars and Stripes in China waters of the Pacific in 1784. Four years later, in 1788, our Flag first



Swains Island



Palmyra Island

flew over Pacific seas east of the 180th meridian, in what is now the American sphere of influence.

Sailing from Boston in 1787 the *Columbia* and *Lady*



At French Frigate Shoals—Official U. S. Navy Photo



Dr. Gruening Sightsees Jarvis Island

*Washington* were the first United States vessels to pass round Cape Horn into the Pacific, in 1788. Parting company during the cruise they rejoined at Vancouver Island in the Spring of 1788. The *Columbia* arrived at Hawaii in 1789. However, it is probable that the American *Eleanora* arrived at Hawaii from Asia the same year but before the *Columbia*.

The first American warship to sail the Eastern Pacific was the frigate *Essex*—in 1813. In the following year the first war vessel of the United States arrived at Hawaii—the U. S. S. *Sir Andrew Hammond*. This was five years before the first American frigate—the *Congress*—visited the extreme Western Pacific. Down through the years many American warships and merchantmen showed our Flag in the Eastern Pacific, visiting ports and many islands.

These islands of the Eastern Pacific were esteemed almost valueless in the early years; but during the past half-century all have been claimed by some country. Aviation has enhanced their value. The United States possess many of them, including the numerous islands that form the Territory of Hawaii (of which Palmyra is part), Aleutians, Wake, Midway, Johnston, Baker, Howland, Jarvis and American Samoa (that includes Swains).

America appears to have excellent claims to other islands. Among them, as stated in this magazine last September, are Christmas Island and the Phoenix Group. Germany looks upon her former Pacific Islands as "lost property" which the "world will have to return." Of these, America is interested particularly in ex-German Samoa under mandate to New Zealand. It would be well if that territory, and every other island west of our coast and east of a curved line from Panama through Samoa to the Aleutians, were under the Stars and Stripes.

Much has occurred during the century and a half between 1788 and 1938; but this year probably will contain more important incidents than any before.

## Alien Fishermen

"Approximately 90 per cent of all the fresh fish sold in the Territory is caught by alien fishermen," said Governor W. R. Farrington in his Annual Report dated September 14, 1927, to the Secretary of the Interior. "How to man this industry with citizens is an approaching problem."