

Land Titles Investigating Commission. Summary of work (briefed).

The Land Titles Investigating Commission met twice during the month of January to hear claims from natives of Fefan and Eot. Practically all claims submitted to the Commission have been pending for about twenty years. The natives complain that the Japanese made no provision for their settlement. The Japanese attempted to collect and destroy all written evidence of rights to real estate, including deeds made out by the Germans, with the result that the best remaining source of information is the statements of the elders of the island on which the disputed land is located. Work on the determination of land ownership on Moen Island is practically complete. The information obtained from this work includes the location of any certain parcel of land, the owner, and the size of the land. The Chiefs and secretaries of the villages have been able to submit a detailed map of land ownership in their villages. As was mentioned in a previous report, the chiefs of the other islands in the Truk Atoll had been requested to commence the collection of similar data. Such data is now in the process of compilation and preliminary results will be obtainable for some of the islands during February. An attempt is being made to settle all questions involving land belonging to persons not native to the area. At the present time the only persons in this category are the missionaries in the Truk Atoll and the neighboring islands. It is hoped that this task will be completed in the near future.