

THE TONGAS

The essay "The Tongas," which following in full, is the prize winning contribution in the essay writing contest recently conducted by the B. P. O. Elks of this city. It was written by Miss Celia Isensten, a pupil in the Palling school of Portland.

When I was first requested to make a flag and write an essay on Tonga, on a whole I did not like the idea. I would have preferred to write on some country more widely known, for instance, Poland, Ireland or Holland; but now I am exceedingly glad as it has taught others besides myself a good many things we could not have learned otherwise.

In looking up Tonga I found that there were two countries of that name, one a group of beautiful Polynesian islands in the South sea, the other a little country in the northern corner of Zululand in South Africa both of these countries are under British protection and being unable to find to which of these countries my flag belonged, I have ventured to write on both.

The Tonga islands were discovered by Tasman in 1643 but were named the Friendly Islands by Captain Cook because of the pleasant sociable ways of the natives.

There are about one hundred and fifty of these islands in number but only about one-fifth of these are inhabited. Some of these are volcanic and when a serious earthquake occurs, these may rise and disappear at any time.

The majority of these islands are very fertile, but the people while willing and eager to learn and imitate are too lazy to work and seem to lack the qualities necessary to independent and enduring success.

Although they have a native king of their own, their laws are made by a legislative assembly which meets at Nukualofa the capital. Half the members are elected by the people, the other half being noblemen. Altogether their government greatly resembles that of Great Britain.

Most of the natives are Christianized, the majority of them are Methodists, while the rest are Roman Catholics. They are fine musicians, their only musical instrument being wooden drums, but their voices are wonderful and to hear them sing would be worth

while going to Tonga. They are fine people, very intelligent and smart, but as I said before, were too lazy to do much good in building up and making Tonga one of the leading nations of the world.

Tongaland in South Africa is just as interesting as the other but as little is known of either of these, I am merely stating what to my judgment, seems the most interesting facts.

It was taken over by the British in 1778 during the reign of Queen Victoria and added to the list of its many colonial possessions. Like the people of the Tonga islands they have a chief or king to help govern them and very unlike the people of the Tonga islands they are industrious and willing to work in fact, they think it a disgrace for an able-bodied man to shirk his duty.

Two languages, the Tshobana and the Zulu are spoken. The native language is the former but all the "males" and many of the women speak Zulu. Indeed they are proud to speak it for many of them nearly disdain their own dialect and claim Zulu blood. This weakness prevails first because the Zulus have a big name among the tribes and secondly, because Tonga means coward.

British Tongaland is the most beautiful district in South Africa, but is very unhealthful for Europeans. The seasons are practically two in number, the wet and the dry seasons.

This little country is marvelously rich in its fruit trees. Perhaps there are fifty varieties and fruit with coffee form the chief exports.

The people are a chocolate-brown in color and do not resemble the negro for their kinky hair. They live in small huts called kraals, each man owning as many as is necessary for his family. When a man is of age he may choose one or many wives and for each of these he must pay the annual wife tax \$3.26 to the father of the bride. If the wife does not suit the husband after their marriage, he may send her back to her father and demand back his money.

They have not been quick in accepting Christianity and are not a bright and intelligent as the people of the Tonga islands but altogether they are the most delightful and interesting people I have ever had the pleasure of studying.

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P. T. Shelley 1.50
J. E. Sinclair 1.50
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Fred Schwartz 2.20
John Strucken 2.20
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Mrs. A. E. Cahill 2.40
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J. R. Kelso 3.05
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O. K. Cole 10.00
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W. E. Niles 1.40
E. Bailey 1.20
George Gardner 1.20
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W. Cornel I 16.00
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M. V. Thomas 7.50
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Iva Harrington 1.70
J. E. Pomeroy 19.05
F. L. Mack 25.60
P. T. Shelley 1.50
P. T. Shelley 1.50
J. E. Sinclair 1.50
C. R. Aylsworth 2.70
E. L. Thompson 2.20
Fred Schwartz 2.20
John Strucken 2.20
A. E. Cahill 2.40
Mrs. A. E. Cahill 2.40
L. C. Hubbard 10.45
J. R. Kelso 3.05
S. Riley 6.50
O. K. Cole 10.00
Mike Long 3.40
D. E. Frost 1.70
Wm. Griffith 1.70
W. J. Wilson 10.00
F. W. McKechnie 14.50
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Frank Smalley 1.50
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E. T. Mass 1.20
H. J. Tietz 1.50
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E. H. Cooper 10.00
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Iva Harrington 1.70
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P. T. Shelley 1.50
J. E. Sinclair 1.50
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Fred Schwartz 2.20
John Strucken 2.20
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Mrs. A. E. Cahill 2.40
L. C. Hubbard 10.45
J. R. Kelso 3.05
S. Riley 6.50
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Mike Long 3.40
D. E. Frost 1.70
Wm. Griffith 1.70
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J. Gorbett 8.00
E. H. Cooper 10.00
W. E. Niles 1.40
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Ira Flynn 41.00
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