

# TELLS OF PAPUA'S STRANGE CUSTOMS

### Males Must Pass Examination or Be Killed.

### Cannibalism Is Still Practiced in Some Parts of New Guinea.

Francis H. Hammond, a civil engineer on his way home to London from Austria and the Southern Seas via San Francisco and New York, related that one of the most interesting countries he had visited on his travels was Papua, British New Guinea, where he spent some time visiting friends and studying the natives.

There were thousands of these people living in the forests and highlands back from the coast who had never seen a white man, the resident officials told him, and they believe that the world ends over the tops of their mountains.

The natives lead their own lives under severe codes. Mr. Hammond continued, and practiced homicide, headhunting, and cannibalism, except in the districts governed by British officers who have persuaded them to give up their savage traditions and adopt civilized methods.

"In most other lands the young girls are kept secluded until it is time for them to come out at 18 and make their debut in society, but in New Guinea things are different," said Mr. Hammond. "When a boy reaches the age of 15 he is taken away from the contact and influence of the women of his family, and put through a severe course of training to equip him to play a man's part in life."

"The course includes religion, hygiene, the laws of his tribe, and the art of warfare as it is practiced in New Guinea. At different stages he is examined by the elders in council, and if he does not satisfy them that he will carry himself ably and do his duty as a man he is killed. Before the candidate is passed into manhood he must go out and kill a man of another tribe, and after that he is allowed for the first time to look for a wife."

"If he fails to kill an enemy he cannot marry, mix in society, or wear the coveted heraldic decoration which is the sign that the wearer has become a man."

"The Cannibals believe that ghosts control the supply of food, and that by eating the body of their victim they get the soul essence which remains in it after death and thus absorb the dead man's qualities. When a native is told that he must not collect any more heads he asks how he will be able to propitiate his ghosts, as he had been accustomed to do by offering a head on a platter."

"The doctrine of turning the other cheek to the smiter sounds strange to them. The people in the mountains work hard cultivating their land, especially the women. If a chief feels very friendly toward a stranger he offers him a roast of dog, which is considered a great delicacy in New Guinea."

"Petroleum has been discovered and the country is rich in minerals."

and the strong healthy natives work well under the tutelage of a small number of British officials who live away in the interior in the midst of these wild men and women, contenting themselves with the fact that they are doing their bit toward building up their great empire that Kipling has written so much about."

Mr. Hammond said the ordinary method of travel through Papua was in chairs attached to long poles which are borne on the shoulders of the sturdy natives, who keep up a steady pace of five miles an hour when the going is good.

There are many shrines built of human bones on the mountainsides, and there are still thousands of head hunters and cannibals in the interior of New Guinea who have never seen a white man and might hesitate about eating one if they had the opportunity.

In many of the villages it has been the custom, for as long as the natives have any reason to sprinkle the walls of a new house with fresh human blood to bring luck to those who are about to occupy it.

Practically only a small portion of Papua is under the control of the British officials, but in certain centers the natives have become so civilized that they celebrate Christmas and look forward especially to the presents and the plum pudding.—New York Times.

## BEAUTY IN AUTOMOBILES IS DEMANDED BY WOMEN

### The Motor Car of Today Is Fashioned to Please the Fair Sex.

"The beauty of the present-day motor car is directly due to feminine influence," declares J. I. Farley, president of the Auburn Automobile company, manufacturers of the Auburn beauty six. "In the purchase of a motor car the women of the family are usually the deciding factors. The daughter of the family, especially, exerts a great deal of influence in selection."

"Women actually demand beauty in their motor cars. They expect mechanical excellence—they assume that the better grade of motor cars will take them to their destinations without trouble. The actual determining factor in their choice is the design, finish and appointments of their cars. Progressive manufacturers immediately responded to this demand. A survey of the 1920 exhibits is ample proof of this response."

"The Auburn 'beauty six,' for instance, represents the present-day conception of motor car construction. It is smart and graceful in design, the lines are flowing and unbroken. The doors are square and wide-opening, the low running boards sweep without a break into the molded full-crown fenders."

"In appointments the Auburn is especially smart. The windows are covered with curtains of richly corded silk. The fittings in both the open and closed models are nickel-plated of chaste design. The instruments are mounted on an instrument board of polished wood placed before the driver. The upholstery of the Auburn open models is of French plaid leather (without buttons.) The makers of today avoid all decoration

which tends toward the ultra-modern or the gaudy. Restrained colors, in finish and appointments of plain design—in short, smart simplicity—is the present aim.

"Men formerly cared little about the comfort of a car. What they demanded was a car that would run for at least a reasonable distance without repair. Observe the interior of any of the newest models. You will find that one of woman's demands is comfort. You see the yielding springs, the soft, well-cushioned seats, the adjustable foot rail—all for milady's comfort. The deep-recessed pockets in the sides of the door are very convenient for gloves and veils, and other indispensable feminine accessories."

"With women driving more and more," continued Mr. Farley, "there is also a demand for dependable performance. Consequently, when you inspect a modern motor car you find a reliable, powerful motor, a chassis built to stand the road strain, and equipped with efficient springs for easy riding comfort, and a body of smart design, rich appointments and gleaming finish. The feminine influence in motor car building has really been a stimulus to manufacturers, for the new exhibits reveal cars which combine all of the desirable features that women demand. The Auburn 'beauty-six' is an excellent example of the results that have been accomplished in the creation of a motor car possessing the beauty and comfort that women—the keenest judges—so insistently demand."

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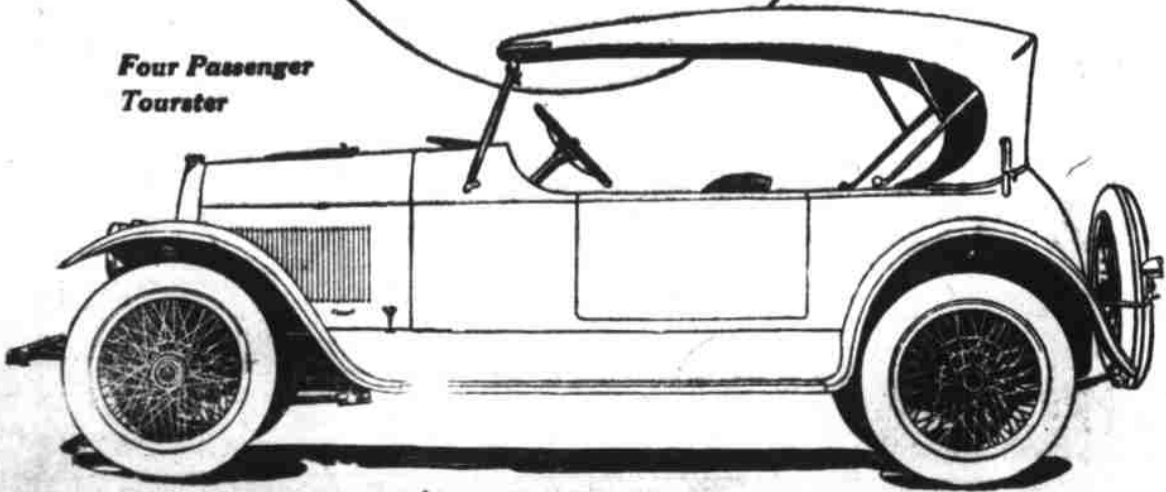
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