

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI.

9th August, 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that during discussions with the Resident Commissioner and Mr. H.E. Maude, the Officer in Charge of the Phoenix Islands Settlement Scheme, on my recent visit to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, it was suggested that a branch of the Colony postal service should be established in Canton Island in the Phoenix Group. Mr. Maude stated that for some time now the Acting Administrative Officer there had been receiving requests from stamp collectors and from the considerable United States population now resident in the island for supplies of Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony postage stamps. He has also received requests for the acceptance of ready-stamped envelopes and packets for postage, but he has been unable to comply as there is no British Post Office in the island. This demand will undoubtedly be largely increased in the near future in view of the proposed calls at the island of United States trans-Pacific air services.

2. In view of the obvious benefit to Colony revenue which would result from the establishment of British postal facilities in the island, I recommend for your approval the early establishment there of such facilities under the control of the Acting Administrative Officer. No extra expense would be involved. There is also the further consideration that postal matter emanating from Canton Island stamped with British stamps would show the public that the island is not an exclusive American territory.

3. I shall be glad to receive your approval by telegraph.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) H.C. Luke.
High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.