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TOPIC: THE SICKNESS WHICH STRUCK FIJI(1918) Investigator: Wille.

INTERVIEWED: Saiasi Nabuta.....Nailaga, Ba.

SUBJECT: THE BIG SICKNESS

In the year 1918, when I was thirteen years old, I still could remember what happen terribly in Fiji.

I was living in Muanikau in Suva when this terrifying sickness struck. I still could reember that it all started from an head-ache than to the back-ache. Just shortly after this, the patient will die.

In Suvavou during that year, there was a girl by the name of Merewalesi who died first. Shortly after her burial people at Kaunikuila in Suva died one after the other. Medicine and food are very source and assistance were given by some Europeans.

I knew that it was told that it was tabu to drink pure water. If anyone is going to drink water, he will surely die.

I heard that this sickness was like the neuphmonia. Prisoners at that time were told to dig ditches about one yard wide so to bury all the dead bodies. The bodies of the dead wer e not covered again - only the body to the soil and then buried. In a ditch, three bodies were placed

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together and thus buried.

During then, our parents told us to escape to Wailoku about six miles from Suva. We rode by horse-back. On our way we came to meet an open-lorry full loaded with dead bodies tied together like firewood. The lorry came, stopped at the ditch and unload all the dead bodies. This was near the place where the Chinese cemetery is right now. We went and stayed at Wailoku for about three weeks. When the sickness at Suva seems to shrinken we came back at Kaunikuila. As we came back we could see houses empty - all the household were dead. Some houses were left only with pets. I came to know later on that it is tabu too to eat sweet thing or drinking water will surely end your life. I could understand during that time, people were using the Government building and the boy's Grammar School for working.

I hear that this sickness was brought by a foreign ship. During this sickness toll, it is very late to prepare any Fijian medicine 'cause death struck now and then. As far as I'm concerned, I believe Merewalesi is only the DOLA NI BULUBULU(grave-openner). Because just after her burial, death struck violently. I notice that during this death toll, every young men and women and especially children were escape away from this sickness.

I believe this sickness was solely on God's purposes.

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I believe this is to divide the past from the present. Because of sickness and its toll, it will carry out the past. For those people who managed to live will start a new with good things.

I heard that this sickness also struck various islands in Fiji. From Naitasiri, I heard that people managed to live and escape this sickness because a KAU(herb) was found to be the remedy of this sickness.

From Nairukuruku, all people died survived by only two boys - one was 12 and the other is 8. The two boys dragged all the deads bodies from that village to a nearby ditch and bury them. They took care of sick while still alive and they cook food for them. People were dying one after the another. This was just after the World War in 1914.

Lorries were used to carry the dead bodies.

In this sickness, there is no change in human body physic. You don't get a bit thin but only a head-ache. For those people starting to have this sickness, they tend to be thirsty and wasted to drink water. Once they drink, they die.

I believe thats all I could say.

VINAKA.

LEGEND OF THE SICKNESS WHICH AFFECTED FIJI IN 1918.

Investigator: Willie.D

Interviewed: Saiasi Nabuta.....Nailoga, Ba

ULUTAGA: NA MATE LEVU KA TAUVI VITI MAI ENA YABAKI 1918.

- Ena yabaki 1918 au se qai yabaki tinikatolu kau kila tiko na ka e yaco tiko e Viti ena gauna koya. Keitou tiko mai Muanikau sa qai yaco mai na mate oqo, na kena i lakolako tekivu ga mai ena mosi ni ulu ka yaco yani kina dakuna sa lai mate sara. Ia e Suva ka tiko mai Suvavou ka yacana ko Merewalesi. Ni sa bulu e liu ko Merewalesi sa qai mate kece na tamata ka vakaitikotiko e Kaunikuila. Na tamata sa mate ga vakaveitalia, ia ena loma ni neitou tikotiko era sa veiwaliwali ga eke na kai valagi ka ra kauta tiko na wai ni mate kei na kakana. Ia na mate oqo e tabu sara ni dua veira ma gunuva na wai droka. Kevaka sa mani gunuva yani na wai droka sa na mate sara ga. Ia au rogoca ni mate oqo na vaka tu na Niumonia, keitou tiko e loma i Suva oqori sa qai dewa na mate. Ia na ogaoga ni mata ni tu ko ira na kaivesu mai Korovou sara qai kelia vakabalavu na sala ni wai me katu dua beka na kena veiwaki sa biu yani kina na tamata me bulu yani. Sa veitabatara ga na yago kei na qele. Mai na bulubulu ni kai China e

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- vakababa tu kina edua na sala ni wai mera qai biu yani kina na tamata ka ra qai bulu yani. Kevaka e titobu me tolu na tamata qai bulu. Eratou sa qai tukuna na neitou qase me keitou sa dro ki Wailoku. Keitou sa vodo Ose mai kaunikuila me keitou muria na vale ni lialia keitou sotakaya na 'open lorry' era sa bini tu kina na yago ni tamata ra qai vesu tu yani ena dali. Mevaka ga na lori usa buka, keitou sa qai raica sobu yani nai keli ni sa dodo tu ka keitou sa raica sara na tamata era sa veidavoni tu ekeya. Voleka kina nai bulubulu sa tuva ekeya na tamata volekata na vela ni veivesu ena kedra sa yatuni mai na tamata. Keitou sa qai lako sara yani ki Wailoku ka yacova sara na gauna sa qai malumu mai kina na mate. Keitou tiko mai keya oti e macawa tolu sa qai malumu va alailai na mate. Keitou sa qai lecu tale sai, ni keitou lako mai keitou sa qai vodo mai me keitou gole mai ki Suva. Ni keitou sa muria cake da lako yani kinadua na vale sa davo koto ga kina edua na koli. Ia ko ira na kena i taukei era sa mate. Dua tale natobu ni mate koya me kakua ni kania edua na kakana kamikamica, mevaka na maqo kei fanapiu. Ia ni ko sa gunu wai tale ga sa oti sara eke na nomu bula.

Au kila ga ni vanua era dau vakayagataki me vale ni mate Na boy's grammar school vata na vale ni tabacakacaka,

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- me sa lai biu kina na yago ni tamata mate baleta na kena sa oso mai na vale ni bula. Oqori na ka au vakayalotaka, na mate levu oqo e mosi ga mai na ulu lai mosi sara na dakumu.
- Rawa ni talanoataka mada na kena dewa mai ki Viti ?
- E kauta mai edua na waqa, sa qai mai dewa. Ena gauna sa dewa kina na mate oqo sa qai mai caka tiko na kena vakadikevi. Ia na mate sa dewa oti, koya gona ena gauna oqo ni qai lako mai edua na waqa ena kele tu mada yani e Nukulau lai laurai mada mai vakavuniwai ko ira na lewena vata na waqa sa oti e rua na siga sa qai rawa ni gole mai na waqa ki Suva.
- Eso beka wai vaka viti e bau caka me kene i wali ?
- Ena gauna e yaco kina mate sa bera ga na kena vakayagataki na wai ni mate. E tekivuna sara ga mai ko Merewalesi sa veitarataravi sara ga yani na mate. Vaka e kena dola ni bulubulu koya na gone yalewa koya, sara veitarataravi sara ga yani. Ia au rawa ni tukuna na gone yalewa kei na cauravou vata kina na gone lailai ka ra rawa ni bula mai na mate koya. E vaka sara e lewa ni Valou mera vakarusai ko ira na ka ca, mera tauyavutaki tale ko ira na ka vinaka. Ni so e lako mai veiyanuyanu era mai talanoataka na yanuyanu oqo. Mai Naitasiri e qai vakabulai ira edua na kau. Ni sa oti na mate oqo sa qai rogo mai edua na ka. Mai Nairukuruku dua na gone yabaki tinikasua ka dua e yabaki walu, koi rau ga oqo era veibulu rau veikani.

- Koi rau sara ga ogo erau dreta mai na yagoni tamata ka rau mai buluta. Erau lai kauta mai na kakana e veikau rau mai vakasaqa, ia kevaka edua na mate drau dreta ga yani ki sala ni wai rau lai buluta yani. Ena bogi erau moce, ia na vuniwai vavalagi ga era vukea na mate ogo. Ogo e veitauvi tiko ni sa oti mai nai valu ena yabaki 1914 ko Merika kei Japani, nai karua ni valu ni vuravura. Era sa mate ga mai vakayauyau ga mai na tamata, era qera ga mai na tamata. E sega ni wili rawa ena kena levu ni tamata mate, ni sa vodo ga vaka na lori dau uasa baka sa dua na ka. Na mate ogo sega ni vaka eso na mate mera lila mai sega. E mosi ga mai na ulu qai dua na ka nodra via gunu wai, ni ra sa gunu wai ga yani sa oti talega ekeya. E rawa ni gunuva yani na wai ni mate mevaka beka ni wai gaga, baleta gona ni ra gunu wai droka yani era mate yani. Sai koya ga ogo na levu ni noqu talanoa.

S A O T I