

## VI. NOTES. REVEGETATION OF KRAKATAU

Some news was received on the revegetation of Krakatau, and the small new cone, Anak Krakatau (Krakatau Jr) as visited by a party in August 1951.

Krakatau. The camp was made in the SE. corner of the island. In several places the old substratum has been traced, and in the basal layer of the ash covers, which attain sometimes 30 m thickness, remains are found of former woody shore vegetation. Bases of tree trunks have partly been buried in their upright position. Some of these are charred, and have apparently been burned during the eruption; others are not charred, or have been charred only very superficially.

Both on Krakatau and Verlaten Eiland temporary fields have been made recently by the people.

Krakatau Jr. Since 1939 activity of the crater has been low, or very local at the base of the ash cone according to Mr Petroeschewsky (Chron. Nat. 105, 1949, 247). The altitude of the cone is still about 120 m. The slopes are very rugged, with deep ravines and gullies. The Barringtonia vegetation at 1-2 m above sealevel is well developed; Casuarina equisetifolia is reaching a height of 8-10 metres. Other treelets found are of Terminalia catappa, Morinda citrifolia, Calophyllum inophyllum, Pandanus, and coconuts.

The slopes are very bare, with local Saccharum spontaneum; in the ravines Nephrolepis and in many places mosses (but inconspicuous) were observed. Towards the summit the surface is wholly bare.

The botanical situation is apparently exactly the same as in 1949 on which Dr L. van der Pijl has reported (cf. Chron. Nat. 105, 1949, p. 283-285).

The facts are exceptionally interesting, for a comparison with Krakatau Sr shows that Krakatau Jr is exceedingly slow in its new vegetation, as on Krakatau Sr the new vegetation of the slopes and even of the summit cone set in few years after the eruptions of 1883, though specially, as has been stated by Verbeek, in the gullies where the old surface had been exposed. This comparison shows that it is possible that diaspores of the original vegetation on Krakatau Sr had survived, and took part in the revegetation. It will be of importance to make, in future, regularly inventarisations of the gradual increase of the flora.

C.G.G.J. van Steenis