

THE TIMES, Thursday, May 25, 1922

FUTURE OF THE NEW HEBRIDES

EVILS OF DUAL CONTROL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

MELBOURNE, MAY 23.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, which has important missionary stations in the New Hebrides, has passed resolutions stating that conditions in the islands under the condominium are deplorable and that the Federal Government should press for British control.

It was asserted that affairs in the islands were going from bad to worse and that settlers were looking past Australia to Great Britain, which realized the seriousness of the situation. Complaints were made that it was impossible to induce Mr. Hughes to interest himself in the islands. These grievances are of long standing with the Presbyterian Church.

* The new Hebrides, situated between Fiji and Australia, have been since 1906 under the joint administration of British and French officials. The system has admittedly worked badly, both in the interests of the natives and of the white inhabitants, and proposals for ending the condominium have been made on several occasions. Recently there was an offer to transfer to Australian hands the interests of a large commercial undertaking at present controlled by French capital.