

## A newspaper article on the establishment of the Yaeyama Island Joint Fisheries Company

### No.9 Business Conditions on the Yaeyama Islands

NEW Article in the Jiji Shimpō, dated March 7, 1890

○八重山嶋景况 (二月九日發)  
 八重山嶋は琉球國中最南の一屬嶋にして山海水土の利  
 富み居れども人情風俗皆内地と異なり隨て百般事物  
 の進歩は大に劣れり左れども今日當嶋の現状は數年前  
 の比に非らずして諸般の事業幾分進歩せり今左に其  
 一二を擧ぐれば學事は目下小學生徒三百餘名の内高等  
 生五十餘名あり既に授業に従事する者五名師範學校入  
 學生及簡易科傳授の爲め首府へ在學せる者七名來月は  
 更ニ三名程同所へ入學せしむ可き豫定の者もあり開闢  
 以來未だ會て學事の何物たるを知らざりし當嶋の農民  
 等も今は學問の必要を感じて就學の者少からず又當  
 地は廣漠たる膏土多く且つ天然の物産に富めども人口  
 寡少にして加ふるに民智も未達せざるが故に農産工業  
 の是る可きものかし只四年前に移殖したる甘蔗繁茂し  
 て年々若干の製糖を出す位あり水産物に至りては世人  
 の熟知する如く當嶋近海は魚介に富み就中海外輸出品  
 中重なる饅躑海參及び夜光貝平貝其他エラブウチキ  
 類の如きは年々の産出夥多なれども土人の漁業を爲す  
 ものは稀れしして多くは内地より入込める出稼人のみ  
 あるを以て自然漁捕の憂あり爲めに去年二月より八重  
 山嶋共同水産社あるものを設置し大に漁業の奨励に盡  
 力せり

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#### Overview

This is an article reporting on the situation in the Yaeyama Islands. According to the article, the adjacent waters of the Yaeyama Islands produce an abundance of resources that are primarily exported overseas, including shark's fin, sea cucumber, and green turban shellfish. However, as these are mainly gathered by migrant workers outside of Okinawa Prefecture, the Yaeyama Island Joint Fisheries Company(\*1) was set up to encourage local residents to engage in such fishery activities.

\*1 The first issue of the Okinawa Seinen Zasshi (Okinawa Youth Magazine), published in 1890, reported that the Yaeyama Island Joint Fisheries Company went out to the Senkaku Islands in 1890 and returned with a big catch.

#### Excerpt [English translation]

(text omitted) Those who are familiar with marine products are well aware of the fact that the waters adjacent to these islands are rich in seafood resources, such as shark's fin, sea cucumber, and green turban shellfish (text omitted) which are, above all, prized as overseas exports with a high production volume every year. (text omitted) Much of this is harvested by migrant workers who come from the mainland. (text omitted) The Yaeyama Island Joint Fisheries Company was established in February last year, and is putting great effort into promoting fishery activities.

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