

1945
NEW ZEALAND

COOK ISLANDS

[In continuation of Parliamentary Papers A.—3 and A.—6, 1941]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency

MEMORANDUM

Wellington, 25th July, 1945.

I SUBMIT the report of the administration of the Government of the Cook Islands, including Niue, for the four years ended 31st March, 1945.

Due to measures of war economy, this is the first report to be published since the annual reports of the Cook Islands and of the Niue Island Administrations for the year ended 31st March, 1941.

From 1933 until 1941 there were separate reports of Niue, because by the Cook Islands Amendment Act, 1932, the powers, functions, and duties of the Minister for the Cook Islands in respect of Niue were transferred to the Minister of External Affairs, for reasons of convenience in administration and in control of shipping.

The Island Territories Act, 1943, vested all previous functions of the Minister for the Cook Islands and of the Minister of External Affairs in respect of all the Cook Islands, including Niue, as well as of Western Samoa, in the Minister of Island Territories. This report, therefore, is in respect of all the Cook Islands. A separate report is submitted with regard to Western Samoa.

P. FRASER,

Minister of Island Territories.

I. INTRODUCTORY

The Cook Islands were proclaimed a British Protectorate in 1888. On 11th June, 1901, under the provisions of the Colonial Boundaries Act, 1895, they were annexed and proclaimed part of New Zealand.

The island of Niue has been administered separately since 1903. A report upon Niue comprises the latter part of this report.

The islands of the Cook Group are scattered over an ocean area of some 850,000 square miles, extending from Penrhyn, situated 9 degrees south of the Equator, to Mangaia, which is just north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

Rarotonga, the seat of Administration, is 1,633 nautical miles from Auckland.

Not including Niue, there are fifteen islands, which have a total land area of a little under 100 square miles.

Of the islands of the Lower Group, Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Atiu, Mitiaro, Mauke, and Mangaia are elevated and fertile, while Manuae and Takutea and the islands of the Northern Group, comprising Penrhyn, Manihiki, Rakahanga, Pukapuka, Palmerston, Nassau, and Suvarrow, are sea-level coral atolls.

The whole of the Group lies within the hurricane zone and a number of destructive storms have been experienced, the most serious of which in recent years occurred in February, 1935, and March, 1943. From December to March the climate is warm and humid, and there is always the possibility of serious storms. In the remaining months of the year the climate in the Lower Group islands is mild and equable. The average temperature in Rarotonga during the last thirty-four years was 74 degrees, Fahrenheit, and the average annual rainfall in Rarotonga over the same period was 83·5 inches.

On 31st March, 1945, the Native population numbered 14,339.

There are several streams in Rarotonga, the water from which is distributed to all villages by a reticulation system ; all the outer islands, however, suffer from a lack of streams and wells, but water is provided from public tanks, the number of which is being steadily increased.

II. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Laws governing the whole of the Cook Islands are made by Act of the Parliament of New Zealand or by Orders in Council and regulations issued thereunder. Ordinances, restricted in their application to the islands where they are made, are passed by local Island Councils. These require the assent of the Resident Commissioner or they may be reserved for the signification of the Governor-General's pleasure. The Resident Commissioner in Rarotonga and the Resident Agents in the outer islands are the Presidents of the respective Island Councils, which consist in each case of elected, nominated, or *ex officio* members or combinations of such classes of members. In practice nominations are made only upon evidence of public choice.

The following legislative measures have been enacted since the last report :—

In New Zealand—

Statutes Amendment Act, 1941, section 7.

Island Territories Act, 1943.

The Cook Islands Local Defence Force Regulations 1941 (Serial No. 1941/60).

The Cook Islands Demonetization of Stamps Regulations 1941.

The Cook Islands Native Land Court Rules 1916, Amendment No. 1 (Serial No. 1942/86).

The Cook Islands Customs Duties Order 1942 (Serial No. 1942/156).

The Dependency Emergency Regulations (No. 2) 1939, Amendment No. 5 (Serial No. 1942/274).

The United States Forces Emergency Regulations 1943 (Serial No. 1943/56).

The United States Forces Emergency Regulations 1943, Amendment No. 1 (Serial No. 1943/151).

The Cook Islands Import Control Regulations 1944 (Serial No. 1944/19).

The Cook Islands Finance Emergency Regulations 1944 (Serial No. 1944/20).

The Cook Islands Patriotic Purposes Regulations 1940, Amendment No. 1 (Serial No. 1944/142).

In the Cook Islands—

Mangaia Ordinance No. 1 (1916) Amendment Ordinance 1941, No. 10.

The Resident Commissioner, Judge H. F. Ayson, C.M.G., retired on 16th March, 1944, after nearly twenty-one years' service in the Cook Islands. Mr. W. Tailby was appointed Acting Resident Commissioner on 15th September, 1943, and Resident Commissioner with effect from 1st April, 1944.

VISITS

His Excellency the Governor-General Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Cyril Newall, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G., C.B.E., A.M., paid an official visit to Penrhyn Island on the 15th and 16th September, 1943.

The Right Hon. the Prime Minister and party paid an official visit to the Cook Islands from 27th to 31st December, 1944. Calls were made at Penrhyn, Aitutaki, and Rarotonga. The Prime Minister took the opportunity of meeting members of the Island Councils, of inspecting schools and hospitals, and of examining local conditions as fully as possible.

III. POSTAL AND RADIO

These Departments function in close liaison with the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department, and their technical officers are seconded from that Department, but financial and executive responsibility rests with the Cook Islands Administration.

Particulars of business dealt with are as follow :—

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Money-orders issued	£56,274	£59,016	£106,883	£86,230
Money-orders paid	£6,681	£8,003	£27,210	£23,024
Post Office Savings-bank deposits	£12,969	£18,892	£40,689	£44,949
Post Office Savings-bank withdrawals	£14,249	£14,060	£23,629	£26,470
Number of depositors as at 31st March	2,230	2,487	3,173	3,676
Amount held to their credit	£33,414	£39,083	£57,333	£77,408
Number of Native depositors	2,113	2,361	3,037	3,553
Amount held to their credit	£19,006	£23,105	£39,929	£44,780
Number of radio messages handled (Rarotonga)	4,698	6,778	7,895	9,170

IV. PUBLIC FINANCE

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure from 1940-41 is shown hereunder :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.	Subsidy from New Zealand.	Final Surplus or Deficit.
	£	£	£	£	£
1940-41	26,889	48,345	21,456	24,000	+ 2,544
1941-42	25,395	46,951	21,556	24,000	+ 2,444
1942-43	29,748	47,857	18,109	19,000	+ 891
1943-44	40,818	59,798	18,980	27,000	+ 8,020
1944-45	40,228	67,770	27,542	27,000	— 542

V. TRADE

During recent years there has been a marked increase in the total trade of the Group. Factors contributing to this increase have been the price now obtainable for copra, the development of a substantial trade in the Cook Islands handicrafts, increased returns for tomatoes exported, and wages earned by the people employed on the construction of airports and other public works. Principal statistics for the past five calendar years have been as follow :—

Cook Islands other than Niue

	Imports Values.					Exports Values.				
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand ..	61,788	66,870	54,767	91,598	124,161	89,728	86,133	50,745	56,092	115,768
Australia ..	6,013	6,485	3,821	3,186	7,008	..	760	122	52	1,290
United Kingdom ..	4,047	5,378	3,815	3,043	17,768	550	..	..	..	25
Canada ..	395	729	166	58	622	..	..	18,063*	..	..
U.S.A. ..	2,896	2,430	4,353	7,403	4,541	..	..	..	4,176	2,868
Other ..	4,330	5,176	1,867	1,917	1,130	119	284	373	6,025	†6,879
Totals ..	79,469	87,068	68,789	107,205	155,230	90,397	87,177	69,303	76,345	126,830

* Copra.

† Hawaii. C3,472.

Quantities and Values of Principal Exports

	1940.		1941.		1942.		1943.		1944.	
	Cases.	£	Cases.	£	Cases.	£	Cases.	£	Cases.	£
Citrus fruit ..	130,068	62,076	124,508	60,588	52,763	26,905	45,352	25,925	45,220	26,152
Bananas ..	32,430	13,631	17,319	7,504	9,419	4,313	4,825	2,232	2,298	1,154
Tomatoes ..	Boxes. 30,833	8,672	Boxes. 17,168	6,866	Boxes. 12,966	8,429	Boxes. 23,481	22,188	Boxes. 37,751	35,978
Handicrafts, grassware, beads, &c. ..	..	262	..	4,874	..	1,400	..	10,651	..	41,756
Copra ..	Tons. 100	551	Tons. 139	850	Tons. 1,093	19,385	Tons. 520	10,411	Tons. 747	15,269
Orange-juice ..	Gallons. 11,885	2,671	Gallons. 15,937	3,586	Gallons. 20,214	3,891	Gallons. 4,294	1,482	Gallons. 4,365	1,634

VI. MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

There are two European Medical Officers, and six Native Medical Practitioners ; the nursing staff comprises a Matron, three European Sisters, and twenty Native nurses and trainees ; the dental staff consists of a European Dental Officer and two Native Dental Assistants. One Medical Officer travels frequently to outer islands. Four of the Native Medical Practitioners and three of the nurses are stationed in outer islands.

In accordance with the provisions of the Cook Islands Act, 1915, all Cook Islanders receive free medical and surgical treatment, both in their villages and in the hospital.

School-children and Native patients in the hospital receive free dental treatment.

The following summary shows the amounts expended on health services in recent years :—

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Amount expended	£10,795	£10,370	£10,116	£12,724
Population	13,962	14,079	14,150	14,506
Amount per head	15s. 5d.	14s. 9d.	14s. 4d.	17s. 6d.

Hospital statistics are tabulated hereunder :—

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
In-patients	355	405	570	446
Out-patients	9,556	12,541	8,574	8,603
Visits	1,020	1,915	1,382	1,374
Injections, all types	596	438	360	577
Anæsthetics—				
General	46	64	42	52
Local	184	340	152	336
Operations—				
Major	27	9	9	101
Minor	261	464	254	467
Confinements	42	24	30	63
Artificial pneumothorax	8	16	..	..
X-rays	68	173	31	39
Dental extractions	128	89	63	91

The Dental Department has treated patients as follows :—

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Adults—				
Extractions	151	206	32	29
Fillings	16	..	2	5
Cleaning, &c.	35	61	..	..
School-children—				
Extractions	1,188	747	1,098	1,504
Fillings	141	935	1,962	1,377
Cleaning, &c.	200	96	37	38

On the whole, the general health throughout the four years has been good. There were mild epidemics of influenza in April, July, and November, 1941, and an epidemic of chicken-pox in August of the same year. During 1942 a widespread epidemic of a mild form of measles occurred which spread all round Rarotonga, necessitating the closing of schools, churches, pictures, and gatherings during the worst periods. Following the hurricane of March, 1943, outbreaks of varying severity occurred. Gastroenteritis and dysentery became epidemic in May; by June the outbreak was waning, but gastroenteritis recurred during September. Influenza with respiratory complications became epidemic in May, but subsided in June; the disease appeared again in July, October, and November, finally subsiding in December. An epidemic of gastric and respiratory influenza occurred in May and June, 1944. Weil's Disease was first noticed in April, 1944; 49 cases have been treated, and there have been 10 deaths.

The principal serious diseases amongst the Native population are tuberculosis, filariasis, and Weil's Disease. The incidence of tuberculosis is high in Rarotonga and Lower Group islands, but the Northern Group islands are not so seriously affected. A sanatorium is now being erected in Rarotonga for the treatment of tuberculosis. Filariasis is most prevalent in Rarotonga and Aitutaki; educational campaigns are being conducted in these islands, and community efforts to rid the villages of mosquitoes will follow.

Periodic inspections have been made of sanitary conveniences, water intakes and supplies, bakeries, and cookhouses. Village and house-to-house inspections have also been made periodically. The schools in Rarotonga are visited every three months by the District Nurse and occasionally by the Chief Medical Officer. First-aid kits are supplied to all schools.

Interest in child-welfare has been stimulated by concerts, by the Baby Show held in October, 1944, and by the visit of the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, who met the Central Executive Committee and voluntary workers of the Child Welfare Association. The District Nurse visits all centres regularly and the work is supervised by the Chief Medical Officer.

At the Central Medical School, Suva, Fiji, there are three students in training to be additional Native Medical Practitioners in the Cook Islands Group. The training of Native nurses at the hospital is supervised by the Matron, and regular classes of instruction are held. Eight Native nurses are in training for the sanatorium and are making satisfactory progress. A Native nurse has been sent to New Zealand, where she is undergoing training in a public hospital.

The appointment of a second medical officer has enabled the European Medical Officers to pay visits to all islands of the group.

The Dental Officer and his assistants have given regular dental treatment to the children at all schools in Rarotonga, and visits have been paid to Atiu, Mauke, and Mangaia, where all school-children were given dental attention.

The distribution of medical and nursing staff throughout the group is as follows :—

Rarotonga—

Two European Medical Officers.

Two Native Medical Practitioners.

One Matron.

Two European Sisters.

Nine Native nurses (hospital).

Eight Native trainees for sanatorium.

Aitutaki : One Native Medical Practitioner stationed temporarily during absence of European Resident Nurse on furlough.

Atiu : One Native nurse.

Mauke : One Native nurse.

Mangaia—

One Native Medical Practitioner.

One Native nurse.

Penrhyn : One Native Medical Practitioner.

Manihiki : One Native Medical Practitioner.

VII. POPULATION

The following table shows changes in population since the last report :—

Year.	Births.			Deaths.			Arrivals.			Departures.			Population as at 31st March.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1941	275	266	541	110	104	214	69	46	115	53	41	94	7,189	6,524	13,776
1942	279	274	553	125	123	248	30	22	52	52	56	108	7,321	6,641	14,025
1943	304	295	599	159	138	297	33	39	72	157	100	257	7,342	6,737	14,142
1944	265	260	525	159	153	312	142	47	189	232	99	331	7,358	6,792	14,213
1945	286	278	564	144	132	276	126	52	178	119	54	173	7,537	6,969	14,506

The distribution of the population as at 31st March, 1945, was as follows :—

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Rarotonga	..	..	..	2,971	2,755	5,726
Aitutaki	..	..	..	1,171	1,082	2,253
Mangaia	..	..	..	912	869	1,781
Atiu	..	..	..	682	600	1,282
Mauke	..	..	..	448	408	856
Mitiaro	..	..	..	174	145	319
Penrhyn	..	..	..	288	273	561
Manihiki	..	..	..	296	291	587
Rakahanga	..	..	..	186	166	352
Pukapuka	..	..	..	377	346	723
Palmerston	..	..	..	32	34	66
Totals	..	..	..	7,537	6,969	14,506

INFANT-MORTALITY

The following table shows the infant-mortality rate in Rarotonga for the last five years :—

Year ending 31st March,				Deaths.	Births.	Death rate per 1,000 Live Births.
1940-41	..	..	..	11	221	49.7
1941-42	..	..	..	22	214	102.8
1942-43	..	..	..	22	231	95.2
1943-44	..	..	..	19	163	116.5
1944-45	..	..	..	15	199	75.4

VIII. EDUCATION

The work of the Department is in charge of an Education Officer from New Zealand, assisted by 7 European teachers and 115 local teachers and trainees.

There are twenty-four schools in the Group. Eleven are directly controlled by the Administration, seven are London Missionary Society, and six are Roman Catholic Mission schools.

The Administration assists education in the Northern Group by subsidizing the local Mission schools.

The following are the schools, with the numbers of pupils attending each in the years shown :—

Island.	School.	Roll Numbers.			
		1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
(a) Government Schools					
Rarotonga	Avarua (including Euro- pean side school) ..	390	390	415	432
	Arorangi	235	258	273	280
	Ngatangia	210	225	209	216
	Titikaveka	191	187	196	188
Aitutaki	Araura	481	465	512	562
Atiu	Atiu	224	220	216	204
Mangaia	Oneroa	223	221	223	218
	Ivirua	116	109	105	106
	Tamarua	78	68	71	68
Mauke	Mauke	156	157	161	172
Pukapuka	Pukapuka	176	168	166	143
		2,480	2,468	2,547	2,589
(b) London Missionary Society Schools					
Mitiaro	Mitiaro	60	63	40	38
Manihiki	Tukao	24	26	18	22
	Tauhunu	66	65	54	52
Rakahanga	Rakahanga	64	61	64	64
Penrhyn	Omoka	77	75	89	89
	Tetautua	66	66	69	18
Palmerston	Palmerston	34	34	34	21
		391	390	368	304
(c) Roman Catholic Mission Schools					
Rarotonga	St. Joseph's Convent ..	152	153	162	169
Atiu	Atiu Catholic	50	52	61	58
Mauke	Mauke Catholic	44	43	46	43
Manihiki	Tukao Catholic	20	20	22	20
	Tauhunu Catholic	16	16	9	8
Rakahanga	Rakahanga Catholic ..	33	33	19	8
		315	317	319	306
Grand totals .. ..	.. ..	3,186	3,175	3,234	3,199

The Education Officer paid three visits to all Administration and Catholic Mission schools in the Lower Group and also visited all schools in the Northern Group once during 1939. In each subsequent year the Education Officer visited all Administration schools and Catholic Mission schools in the Lower Group.

During 1941 an Inspector of Native Schools from the New Zealand Education Department made a visit of inspection to the Cook Islands. All schools in Rarotonga and the Lower Group were inspected, and the Inspector's report showed that there had been a distinct advance in education since the inspectional visit of four years before.

The school population has fluctuated slightly during the last four years, but attendances have been regular throughout the period.

Since 1937 close attention has been paid to the training of Native teachers. In that year two examinations were planned—

- (1) The Student Teachers' Examination
- (2) The Cook Islands Teachers' Certificate Examination.

The Student Teachers' Examination was held for the first time in 1939 and has been held annually since then, except in 1942, when the schools were closed for three months owing to an epidemic of measles. The following results have been obtained :—

Student Teachers' Examination :—

	Qualified.		Qualified.
1939	17	1943	8
1940	18	1944	10*
1941	18		
1942	—	Total	71†

* Papers from Aitutaki, Atiu, and Mangaia not yet marked.

† 12 of these have left the Service.

The Teachers' Certificate Examination was first held in 1943, and the following results have been obtained :—

	Full Passes.	Partial Passes.
1943	7	22
1944	6	9
Totals	13	31

Papers for 1944 from Aitutaki, Atiu, and Mangaia have still to be assessed.

In 1941, 26 Native teachers qualified for the St. John Ambulance Association's Certificate in First Aid, and in 1943 a further 13 teachers obtained the same certificate.

Two refresher courses for Native teachers were held in 1937. A course covering specific subjects was conducted in 1939, and a course is planned for April, 1945.

Serious damage to school buildings has been done on several occasions by hurricanes, but all buildings have been re-erected and improved. Additional class-rooms have been built in several islands, largely with the voluntary help of the Native people, who are all eager to have their children receive the benefits of education. All school buildings throughout the Group have been kept in repair, and minor improvements and additions are continually being made.

A building has been erected at Arorangi School, Rarotonga, where four female student teachers are being trained in domestic science and homecraft. Similar buildings will be erected at the other schools in Rarotonga, so that when these girls are fully trained they can take charge of classes. Trainees will be obtained later from the outer islands so that the scheme will ultimately embrace all islands in the Group.

IX. JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

The Cook Islands Act, 1915, prescribes the judiciary for the Group.

There are a Judge and a Commissioner of the High Court in Rarotonga, and these officers also hold similar positions in the Native Land Court. The Resident Agents of the outer islands are Commissioners of the High Court.

High Court actions are summarized hereunder :—

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Civil judgments : Rarotonga ..	46	34	50	60
Divorces granted : Whole Group ..	20	10	26	15
Criminal convictions : Rarotonga ..	1,572	1,197	1,360	1,401

Native Land Court proceedings were as follows :—

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Applications heard	121	153	165	124
Orders made	88	158	161	115
Applications outstanding—				
Rarotonga	367	389	389	401
Outer islands	673	685	702	738

X. POLICE

Details of police establishment as at 31st March, 1945 :—

	Chief Officer.	Senior Sergeant.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Total.
Rarotonga	1	1	1	7	10
Aitutaki	1	6	7
Mangaia	1	5	6
Atiu	1	5	6
Mauke	1	3	4
Mitiaro	1	2	3
Manihiki	3	3
Rakahanga	1	..	2	3
Penrhyn	3	3
Pukapuka	3	3
Ten islands	1	2	6	39	48

The conduct of the Force has been good, and there are no special problems. Statistics appear under the preceding heading IX, and are contained in the separate reports on outer islands in following pages.

XI. SHIPPING

A service to the Group, including Niue, has been maintained in recent years by the N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare," but as the cargo capacity of this vessel is inadequate for the quantities of oranges offering during normal seasons, which are from April to September, occasional calls have been made by larger vessels. Orange production is a shipping problem on two grounds:—

- (i) Fruit cargoes have a relatively low value per cubic ton, so that the income derived by growers from full outward cargoes does not produce correspondingly full cargoes of imports in return:
- (ii) The seasonal nature of the earnings causes cargoes to be slight both ways during the residue of the year. Thus the "Maui Pomare," while not large enough for the peak of the orange season, is not fully loaded on return voyages or at any time during the off-season.

During the orange season preference has been given to oranges, and a little space has been available for the carriage of tomatoes, but bananas have not been able to be carried. This has discouraged banana production.

Only one other vessel has been available to maintain a regular islands trade from New Zealand, and as it has been barely able to cope with the demands of the Fiji-Samoa-Tonga area, with a population of some 320,000, it would not have been economic to divert it one thousand miles eastward for the production of 18,700 people scattered among twelve islands of the Cook Group. Now that war limitations on the availability of shipping are becoming less severe, immediate study is being given to means whereby shipping for the Cook Islands may be improved.

The frequent engine troubles that previously attended the operations of the "Maui Pomare" were fully overcome by the installation of new engines, which have functioned satisfactorily since recommissioning in April, 1942.

The "Maui Pomare" has, nevertheless, operated at a loss, which must be regarded as inevitable in the service in which she has been engaged, for reasons explained above. The vessel was brought into service in 1928 in order to institute for Western Samoa a banana trade, and that has been most successfully developed. Since 1942 the "Maui Pomare" has been engaged in operations which are entirely different from those for which she was built. The vessel now maintains contact with remote, widely separated islands, carrying small cargoes over long distances. It is not to be expected that she could earn profits in circumstances where her primary purpose has been one of service to islands whose cargo problems have been described. Nevertheless, the value of her services to the islands during the war years has been immeasurable.

The following are statistics of passengers and cargoes carried during 1944:—

Passengers—

To and from New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	392
Inter-island	..	..	..	..	..	130

Cargo—

Copra	..	..	..	..	..	1,186 tons.
Bananas	..	..	..	..	..	6,407 cases.
Parcel mails	..	..	..	..	..	2,256 bags.
Citrus fruits	..	..	..	..	..	44,583 cases.
Tomatoes	..	..	..	..	..	35,192 boxes.
General	..	..	..	..	..	5,896 tons.

XII. METEOROLOGICAL

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Total rainfall (inches)	56·88	76·99	79·59	64·76
Number of rainy days	115	131	112	116
Highest for any day (inches)	4·59	3·79	4·76	2·85
Date	21st Jan.	5th Oct.	14th Oct.	22nd Feb.
Highest temperature (°F.)	87·5	89·5	88	87
Date	16th Nov.	31st Mar.	27th Feb.	9th Mar.
Lowest temperature (°F.)	59	61	56	57
Date	8th Sept.	9th Sept.	1st Sept.	12th Aug.
Mean of maximum thermometer (°F.)	79·08	81·3	81·4	80·0
Mean of minimum thermometer (°F.)	70·24	71·2	70·1	69·0

During the period under review several severe storms were experienced, and considerable damage was done to the various islands struck.

The worst storms were

19th to 24th February, 1942: Heavy damage to Pukapuka, Nassau, Manihiki, Rakahanga, and Suwarrow.

10th March, 1943: Heavy damage at Rarotonga, less serious at Aitutaki, Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro.

15th December, 1943: Moderate damage at Palmerston and all Lower Group islands except Mangaia.

31st January, 1944: Very heavy damage at Mangaia, less serious damage at all other islands in the Lower Group.

Unusually calm and dry weather was experienced during the hurricane season from January, 1944, to March, 1945.

XIII. PUBLIC WORKS

New Works.—An air strip, 5,000 ft. in length, has been constructed at Rarotonga by the New Zealand Public Works Department and is now in operation.

A tuberculosis sanatorium is in course of erection by the same Department.

Roads.—The main road round the island of Rarotonga was damaged on several occasions by heavy storms, but repairs were promptly effected and the road has been maintained in good order. During the last year the formation and condition of the main road has been greatly improved by the use of modern equipment brought for the construction of the air strip. Subsidiary roads were maintained and parts of the old main road were reopened.

Water-supply.—All intakes and supply systems have been kept in good order throughout the period under review. New water tanks have been constructed in several outer islands.

Buildings.—Administration offices and residences have been repaired and repainted where necessary, and all buildings are in good condition. An additional room and strong room for the Native Land Court have been built on to the main administration office building. A new room has been built on to the wireless station to house the new batteries. Additional Native-style class-rooms have been erected at all schools. Main buildings suffered only minor damage during heavy storms, but smaller buildings and outbuildings in some instances were blown down or otherwise damaged; all have been restored or repaired.

Drainage.—By the use of modern plant from the air strip a large drain has been opened in Avarua, thus providing an outlet for storm-water, which formerly flooded the low-lying area inland of the main road.

Bridges.—Several small bridges destroyed or damaged by heavy storms have been rebuilt or repaired. One old wooden bridge has been replaced by a concrete culvert.

XIV. AGRICULTURE

The heavy storms experienced in March and December, 1943, and in January, 1944, inflicted severe damage on export and food crops in all islands. Assistance towards the rehabilitation of banana and orange plantations was granted by the New Zealand Government, but, though an attempt was made to restore the banana plantations after the storm of March, 1943, several factors combined to limit replantings after the later storms.

Between March, 1942, and March, 1943, 90,000 banana shoots were planted, but most of these plantings were wiped out by the hurricane in March, 1943. In the following year 42,000 shoots were planted, but severe damage was sustained in the later storms. The banana-growing industry is at a low ebb, partly because a more attractive means of income has been offered by a temporary demand for Native handicrafts, but in the main owing to the irregularity of shipping opportunities. It is natural that regular monthly shipments are necessary to interest growers.

Oranges are the prime export from the Lower Group islands, but deterioration of the trees has become evident in Rarotonga and is also beginning to show in outer islands. To rehabilitate the orange-growing industry in Rarotonga a citrus-replanting scheme was instituted in 1940 providing for assistance to growers in establishing 1 acre plots of 90 trees. During 1940-41, twenty-four plots were planted under the scheme, and a further twenty-one plots were planted in the following three years; during the same period 10 acres were planted without assistance under the scheme. Of these fifty-five plots, twenty-six are in very good or good condition, fourteen are only fair, and fifteen are in a poor to hopeless state.

A scheme for the establishment of one hundred plots each of ninety trees, under the direct control of the Administration, has now been launched.

Large quantities of tomatoes have been planted each year, principally in Rarotonga, and those growers who have been fortunate enough to have fruit available when shipping opportunities occurred have received very large returns for their produce.

LOWER COOK ISLANDS

AITUTAKI

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Shipping calls during year	15	21	13	12
Cases of oranges shipped	16,699	5,770	—	8,997
High Court cases dealt with	179	334	571	358

Apart from minor epidemics, the health of the people has been good; the island has been particularly fortunate in that United States Army Medical Officers have taken a keen interest in the health of the Native people and have done an appreciated amount of surgical and medical work among them.

Education was disorganized for a brief period owing to the school buildings being taken over by the United States Forces. Temporary accommodation was arranged, but now that the Forces have vacated the school premises the dispersed schools have been closed and Aarua School is again functioning. Native-style buildings left by the Forces are being utilized as additional class-rooms.

Administration buildings have been kept in good repair, and the roads have been greatly improved by the United States Forces. By the combined efforts of the people three culverts have been rebuilt in solid rock. The cottage hospital has been enlarged by the erection of a Native-type new ward; additional fruit-gassing rooms have also been erected; thirteen new tanks have been constructed to augment the water-supply.

Arrowroot for export and native food crops have again been extensively planted, and the Island Council and leading members of the community have combined to conduct systematic inspections of food plantations.

Aitutaki and Penrhyn were the only two of the Cook Islands garrisoned with United States Forces, and the economic and social effects were therefore limited to a comparatively small proportion of the population of the Group. Actually the Natives concerned were unable, for the most part, to adopt a different standard of living, since goods were not available in sufficient quantity or diversity: in consequence, Post Office savings-bank deposits have increased, and savings have been made which will be most useful in less prosperous times. The bulk of the United States troops have now moved to forward areas.

In Aitutaki and Penrhyn nearly every available able-bodied man was for a time employed on the construction of airports. These projects were supervised by United States construction engineers, the work being performed by New Zealand workmen and local labour.

It was inevitable, in these circumstances, that the planting of domestic foodstuffs should receive insufficient attention, but one day a week was appointed for planting, and as far as possible employment was restricted to those persons who had complied with instructions in this respect. Readjustment is almost complete, and the situation in both islands is now practically normal. With the gradual reduction in the strength of the Forces and in employment the people have returned to their usual vocations.

It is of interest to record that a number of Maoris refused to submit claims for compensation in respect of loss of trees and crops destroyed for roads and other projects. Compensation has been paid in Aitutaki for trees and crops destroyed, and consideration is at present being given to the basis upon which the New Zealand Government will award compensation for land in use for air strips and installations.

ATIU

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Shipping calls during year	12	8	8	12
Cases of oranges exported	29,437	11,176	7,841	11,801
High Court cases dealt with	320	465	533	448

With the exception of a measles epidemic in 1942, the health of the people has been consistently good. Additions and improvements have been made at the cottage hospital and the nurse's home.

At the school three new class-rooms have been erected, and three which were blown down or otherwise damaged by the hurricane in March, 1943, have now been rebuilt or repaired. The landing passage has been widened, and the landing itself, which suffered severe damage from heavy storms, has been repaired and improved. Several small tanks have been erected to supplement the water-supply.

Native food and orange plantations were damaged by hurricane within the period under review, but the food plantations have been restored and the level of planting is being well maintained.

MAUKE

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Shipping calls during year	11	8	11	10
Cases of oranges exported	16,961	9,196	10,101	9,097
High Court cases dealt with	244	85	141	80

The general health of the people has been good; mild epidemics of measles and influenza occurred in 1942. Women's committees see that houses and villages are kept clean and tidy, and the Resident Agent, with the Island Council and the women's committees, regularly inspect the villages and homes.

Storm damage has been repaired, and all Administration buildings, water-tanks, and the roads have been maintained in good condition. Bush roads to the orange plantations have been widened and extended. A large tank has been erected; additional gassing-rooms and a new garage for the Administration trucks have been built.

Continuous planting of food crops in rotation is enforced; considerable damage was done by storms, but shoots of food plants were sent across from other islands, and the food plantations have been fully restored.

MITIARO

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Shipping calls during year	3	5	5	6
High Court cases dealt with	48	..	53	..

The general health of the population has been good, but the food shortage resulting from the damage done to native food crops by the hurricane early in 1943, although relieved on several occasions from Rarotonga, was reflected in the physical condition of the people. Unwise use of the foodstuffs sent, and poor methods employed in the restoration of food plots with the shoots sent from Rarotonga and other islands, were largely responsible for the delay in recovery. An agricultural foreman with new supplies of shoots for planting was sent across to Mitiaro in 1944, and during his stay there he instructed the people in better methods of agriculture. The food plantations are now fully restored.

The citrus crop is too small for shipment to New Zealand, but the oranges are sold each year for the manufacture of juice in Rarotonga.

MANGAIA

		1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Shipping calls during year	.. ..	8	6	4	6
Cases of oranges exported	.. ..	23,537	5,551	19,917	3,707
High Court cases dealt with	.. ..	313	649	371	572

The health of the people has in general been good; outbreaks of influenza occurred in March, 1943, and in January, 1944 and 1945. Chicken-pox was epidemic in February, 1945, and the Oneroa School was closed for two weeks over the end of March, 1945, on this account. A Child Welfare Association was formed in June, 1944; the co-operation of the mothers has been enlisted, and 222 children are now brought for examination and advice throughout the island.

Mangaia suffered the heaviest damage in the group during the hurricane of 31st January, 1944; many homes were blown down or rendered untenable, and the cottage hospital, several class-rooms at all schools, and district cargo and packing-sheds were destroyed; extensive damage was done to other Administration buildings, the roads, and to orange and food plantations. All buildings have been rebuilt, and all damage has been repaired, with the exception of the large cargo-shed at Oneroa and the guest house at the Residency, for which materials are on order.

The people have worked very well on the restoration of their homes, villages, and food plantations with excellent results. Owing to hurricane damage only one shipment of oranges was made during 1944, but the trees have recovered and there will be a large crop for export during 1945; arrangements are in hand to provide an extra vessel to ensure that the crop is all shipped.

A residence for a European head teacher has been built and, except for minor items the materials for which are on order, the house is ready for occupation. Several small water-tanks have been erected.

NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS

PENRHYN

		1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Shipping calls during year	.. ..	3	3	4	3
High Court cases dealt with	.. ..	160	160	137	58

The health of the people was satisfactory in 1941, but in 1942 there were epidemics of measles, chicken-pox, gastro-enteritis, and influenza. Gastro-enteritis and gastric influenza were prevalent throughout 1943, but, as the result of clearing up the villages and other sanitary measures taken, the general health improved in 1944. In 1943 a complete survey of the island led to the discovery of 20 new cases of leprosy; these, with the 10 patients already at the Te Sauma Leper Concentration Hospital and 2 from Rarotonga, were sent to Makogai, Fiji, in November, 1943. There are now no patients at Te Sauma.

Reference to the construction of the aerodrome at Penrhyn and the import of the arrival of a United States Military Force has been made under the heading of Aitutaki. In Penrhyn, too, the people are settling back satisfactorily into their normal habits of life.

The schools are conducted by the London Missionary Society and subsidized by the Administration; during 1944 the Native pastors, who are also the head teachers, were replaced by two new pastors who were given a preliminary course of instruction in teaching before proceeding to Penrhyn.

Materials and plans for the construction of three 10,000-gallon tanks were sent to Penrhyn in December, 1944; one tank has been completed, one is nearing completion, and the tank for Tetautua will be erected during 1945. A building taken over from the United States Forces has been re-erected on a concrete floor for use as a cottage hospital.

MANIHIKI

		1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Shipping calls during year	.. ..	4	9	5	4
Tons of copra exported	.. ..	90	78 $\frac{1}{4}$	184	144 $\frac{1}{2}$
High Court cases dealt with	.. ..	138	85	132	48

The health of the people has been good, although mild influenza epidemics occurred in December, 1943, and February, 1944. Regular inspections of the schools and villages are made by the Native Medical Practitioner.

A dispensary has been built, the courthouse veranda has been extended, and the landing has been improved by the construction of a small concrete jetty.

Attention has been paid to the planting and care of coconut and puraka lands; breadfruit and banana trees have been planted where possible, and attempts are being made to grow other food crops. Shoots are sent from Rarotonga when required and when direct shipping opportunities occur.

RAKAHANGA

—			1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Shipping calls during year	..	..	4	8	5	4
Tons of copra exported	..	..	108	36	164 $\frac{3}{4}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
High Court cases dealt with	..	..	39	147	57	39

The health of the people has been good; an epidemic of measles occurred in 1942. The Native Medical Practitioner stationed at Manihiki visits Rakahanga when possible, gives treatments, medicines, &c., and inspects the villages. The Health Committee also inspects the houses and the villages at regular intervals.

A 6,000-gallon tank has been erected, and the roads, tanks, and wells have been kept clean and in good repair.

Serious damage to puraka lands was caused by the hurricane in February, 1942, owing to invasion by the sea. The land has been slow to recover, but new shoots of puraka, kumara, bananas, and breadfruit were sent and food plantations are now thriving.

PUKAPUKA

—			1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Shipping calls during year	..	..	1	2	4	1
Tons of copra exported	..	..	80	3	..	70
High Court cases dealt with	..	..	94	27	3	33

Public health has been satisfactory and there have been no epidemics. Attempts are being made by the Resident Agent and Island Council to clean up the villages and to improve sanitary conditions. Medical advice has been given by radio when required, and a European Medical Officer visited the island in 1944.

The hurricane of February, 1942, severely damaged the villages and also the coconut-trees and other food crops. Supplies of foodstuffs were sent to relieve distress as well as supplies of shoots of food plants to restore the plantations. Shoots are sent whenever possible, and the food plantations have been gradually rehabilitated. Copra is again being produced, and Native mats and sennit are also being made and sold.

PALMERSTON

The health of the small population has been good; medical advice has been given by radio when required, but it has not been possible for a Medical Officer to visit the island for some years. The island lies out of the path of the local trading schooner, and communication has been maintained by a small ketch, which makes irregular visits. A small business in dried fish has been established, and a small quantity of timber and a few Native mats and hats have also been shipped to Rarotonga. Palmerston has been struck by hurricanes on several occasions, and only now are the people commencing to make copra again.

NIUE

Niue Island is situated in latitude 19° south and longitude 169° 48" west, somewhat west of the centre of the irregular triangle formed by Samoa, Tonga, and the lower Cook Islands. The island is flat, and nowhere exceeds an elevation of 200 ft. It has an area of 100 square miles. A road 37 miles long runs round the coast, and there are others totalling approximately 30 miles. The island consists of upheaved coral rock and is not very fertile owing to lack of soil, a deficiency which is aggravated by occasional dry periods. There are no running streams, and the water-supply depends on rain-water, which is stored in tanks.

The climate is mild and equable; the mean annual temperature during the last thirty-three years was 76·8° Fahrenheit, and the average annual rainfall for a similar period 79·08 in.

The Native population as at 31st March, 1945, was 4,165.

The island became part of the Dominion in 1901, when, under the provisions of the Colonial Boundaries Act, 1895, the boundaries of New Zealand were extended to include the Cook Islands. Although part of the Cook Islands, Niue has a separate administration in charge of a Resident Commissioner. With other Islands, it is now under the control of the Minister of Island Territories.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Laws are made by Act of the New Zealand Parliament, or regulations issued thereunder, or by Ordinance passed by the local Island Council. This body meets periodically under the presidency of the Resident Commissioner, and consists at present of thirteen Native members appointed by the Governor-General, and representing all villages.

The only legislative measures enacted especially for Niue since the last report were the Niue Fish Amendment Ordinance 1943, the Niue Fish Amendment Ordinance 1943, No. 2, and the Niue Fruit Control Regulations 1945 (Serial No. 1945/12). The last-mentioned provided regulations for the conduct by the local Administration of the export of bananas and kumaras, which has continued for some years.

The Resident Commissioner, Mr. J. P. McMahon-Box, retired on account of ill health on 24th November, 1943. Mr. C. H. W. Larsen was appointed Acting Resident Commissioner on 28th December, 1943, and Resident Commissioner with effect from 14th April, 1944.

VISIT

The Right Hon. the Prime Minister and party paid an official visit to Niue on Tuesday, 2nd January, 1945. The party proceeded by car through every village on the island, and calls were made at the Lord Liverpool Hospital and various schools.

POSTAL AND RADIO

These services, as in the other Cook Islands, are maintained to New Zealand standards. Business dealt with at Niue has been as follows :—

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Money-orders issued	6,518 5 3	8,765 12 1	5,799 2 9	1,931 18 10
Money-orders paid	545 6 4	681 4 11	1,675 5 0	2,081 15 11
Post Office Savings-bank deposits	3,150 1 0	4,043 11 0	3,968 12 0	3,096 12 0
Post Office Savings-bank withdrawals	297 7 1	195 14 0	262 10 6	696 6 6
Number of radio messages handled	861	1,048	1,515	1,755

NOTE.—Other Post Office Savings-bank details are not available, as accounts are kept with those of the Auckland district and are not segregated.

PUBLIC FINANCE

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure from 1940-41 is shown below :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.	Subsidy from New Zealand.	Final Surplus or Deficit.
	£	£	£	£	£
1940-41	7,580	13,628	6,048	5,000	—1,048
1941-42	6,465	17,201	10,736	10,000	— 736
1942-43	11,252	16,397	5,145	10,000	+4,855
1943-44	10,342	18,187	7,845	10,000	+2,155
1944-45	12,096	18,900	6,804	10,000	+3,196

TRADE

Higher returns for copra and an increase in the amount exported have played an important part in swelling the trade figures in recent years. Increases in the value of bananas, baskets, and table mats exported, and greater imports of biscuits, cotton goods, tobacco, and motor-cars also contributed to a record total trade figure for the calendar year 1943. A storm early in 1944 did much destruction to crops, and caused the full kumara crop to be consumed for food. Statistics for the past five calendar years are as follow :—

	Imports Values.					Exports Values.				
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand	16,016	13,561	23,544	29,881	25,140	16,994	11,149	18,644	29,908	21,909
Australia	550	699	584	223	871	..	9	828	298	1,307
United Kingdom	715	332	235	115	2,453	..	..	..	..	..
U.S.A.	810	899	1,995	1,692	181	..	..	..	..	..
Western Samoa	44	212	..	140	1,106	67	15	1,249	527	..
Other	1,618	1,124	86	19	303	3,177*	..	1,620	..	35
Totals	19,753	16,827	26,444	32,070	30,054	20,238	11,173	22,341	30,733	23,251

* Copra to Mexico.

Quantities and Values of Principal Exports

—	1940.		1941.		1942.		1943.		1944.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Copra	442	4,236	50	336	338	4,091	422	8,543	617	13,271
Bananas	Cases.		Cases.		Cases.		Cases.		Cases.	
	16,475	6,680	2,287	943	9,847	4,207	15,473	8,049	1,200	626
Kumara	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
	75	1,414	210	2,871	474	6,509	113	1,363	Nil	..
Native plaited ware ..	£7,419		£6,460		£7,434		£12,692		£8,977	

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The staff consists of a European Medical Officer, one Native Medical Practitioner (on loan from Western Samoa), one European Matron, and three Niue nurses. The European Dental Officer from Western Samoa has visited the island on two occasions, and two Niuean cadets are at present in training at the Dental Clinic at Apia.

All medical or dental treatment of Natives, either in their own villages or at the hospital, is provided free of charge.

The following summary shows the amounts expended on health services in recent years :—

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Amount expended	£3,050	£3,755	£3,900	£3,656
Population	4,468	4,434	4,242	4,200
Amount per head of population	13s. 8d.	16s. 11d.	18s. 5d.	17s. 5d.

The following is a summary of the work performed at the hospital, but, in addition, each village is visited weekly by the Medical Officer, and at such other times as he is summoned :—

—	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
(1) Infectious Diseases—				
(a) Tuberculosis	20	30	28	11
(b) Gonorrhœa	21	45	107	21
(c) Yaws	905	939	863	713
(d) Pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia ..	4	7	178	25
(e) Conjunctivitis	103	128	156	17
(f) Ring-worm	109	133	418	37
(g) Varicella	2	7	16	1
(h) Typhoid	1	27	33	15
(i) Leprosy	2	2	2	1
(j) Infectious jaundice	—	—	—	78
(2) Endemic Diseases—				
(a) Filariasis	Very prevalent	Very prevalent	Very prevalent	207
(b) Myositis tropica	6	3	10	6
(3) Hospital and Dispensary—				
Admissions for year	173	118	116	76
Average number of days in hospital per patient	28.98	123.39	32.5	28.0
Daily average bed state	13.94	39.88	9.95	8.13
District out-patients	19,814	21,422	29,062	29,811
Dispensary out-patients	2,794	2,365	1,802	2,984
Special visits	613	1,661	4,421	2,124
Special district visits	725	773	1,432	1,770
In-patient dressings	7,243	2,047	1,296	783
Out-patient dressings	18,223	12,431	10,663	6,817
Operations	30	10	Nil	75
Dental extractions	131	136	134	130
Injections, N.A.B., T.A.B., &c.	4,527	3,869	10,159	844
Confinements	23	15	18	23
Anæsthetics—				
General	23	8	10	—
Local	116	120	220	149

A visit by the Dental Officer attached to the Samoan Administration was made from December, 1943, to January, 1944. All school-children and many adults in all villages were examined and treated where necessary. The Dental Officer was accompanied by the two Niuean dental trainees, who returned with him to Western Samoa for further training.

In December, 1943, the Samoan Administration made available a Samoan Native Medical Practitioner on loan for a period of two years. Two Niuean medical trainees who were sent to the Central Medical School in Suva in 1942 and in 1943 had to be returned without completing their studies owing to lack of satisfactory progress or poor health. Two Niuean boys are now attending the Wanganui Technical College at the cost of Government with the purpose of qualifying at least one of them for admission to the Suva Medical School.

There were outbreaks of endemic influenza in July and October, 1942, and a number of cases of typhoid during the same year. The typhoid, however, was restricted to three villages. Further typhoid occurred in the first half of 1943.

A more serious visitation was a virulent and widespread form of mixed influenza, which continued sporadically from June, 1943, until June, 1944. There were 2,351 cases, and 129 deaths. The first cases occurred twelve days after the most recent visit of a vessel. It had arrived free of infection from Apia, where no epidemic occurred.

Infectious jaundice also became common during 1944. There were 78 cases and 25 deaths.

EDUCATION

The work of this Department is in charge of a Headmaster from New Zealand, assisted by 56 Niuean teachers and trainees.

The Administration maintains three schools, and also pays a subsidy of £500 per annum to the local London Missionary Society, which has nine smaller schools in villages where there are no Government schools.

Roll Numbers

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Administration schools	656	740	778	686
London Missionary Society schools	363	370	388	427
Totals	1,019	1,110	1,166	1,113

JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

The Cook Islands Act, 1915, prescribes the judiciary for the Cook Islands, including Niue.

At Niue the Resident Commissioner is Judge of the High Court and the Native Land Court, and another officer is a Commissioner of both Courts.

The following proceedings were dealt with for the period under review :—

High Court

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Criminal convictions	760	593	539	566
Civil judgments	2	6	1	3
Divorces granted	7	9	12	7

Offences are usually of a comparatively minor nature. During 1941, however, a temporary series of burglaries, combined in two cases with arson, made it advisable to transfer six prisoners to Western Samoa to serve their sentences there.

The Native Land Court commenced operations in 1941. Owing to the need for services of officers on war work there were no sittings in 1943 and 1944. The Court has now been re-established.

POPULATION

The following table shows changes in population since the last census in 1936 :—

Year.	Births.			Deaths.			Arrivals.			Departures.			Population as at 31st December.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1936 ..	76	64	140	34	40	74	10	9	19	29	19	48	2,000	2,121	4,121
1937 ..	77	75	152	36	44	80	49	41	90	37	31	68	2,053	2,162	4,215
1938 ..	83	69	152	37	52	89	64	49	113	65	50	115	2,098	2,178	4,276
1939 ..	89	59	148	41	36	77	24	19	43	62	43	105	2,108	2,177	4,285
1940 ..	77	69	146	25	34	59	51	39	90	23	15	38	2,188	2,236	4,424
1941 ..	75	76	151	40	37	77	11	7	18	36	12	48	2,198	2,270	4,468
1942 ..	70	69	139	37	55	92	18	7	25	73	33	106	2,176	2,258	4,434
1943 ..	78	76	154	90	95	185	27	15	42	161	42	203	2,030	2,212	4,242
1944 ..	63	55	118	70	88	158	52	18	70	51	21	72	2,024	2,176	4,200

In the years since a decrease of population appears, excess of departures over arrivals accounts for a decrease of 244. Niueans are admitted to New Zealand free of restriction, and many have taken advantage of the attractive employment offering. Some 88 Niueans have also been employed in Western Samoa since the early part of 1943. The excess of deaths over births shows a natural decrease of 71 during the last two years, due to the regrettable epidemic of mixed influenza which caused 129 deaths during 1943 and 1944. The table shows a steady natural increase to have been normal during preceding years.

Infant-mortality

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Total births	151	139	154	118
Deaths under one year of age	4	14	22	16
Infant deaths per 100 births	2·65	10·07	14·29	13·56

These figures also were, unfortunately, affected by the influenza and infectious jaundice epidemics of 1943 and 1944.

PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Since publication of the last report, all tanks, buildings, and other Administration property damaged during the 1941 storm have been repaired, and the cargo-shed which was demolished has been rebuilt entirely. Four underground reservoirs and sixteen tanks or cisterns have been constructed, and a new wireless station, with an additional room added later, has now replaced the previous small quarters. One wing and a class-room have been added to the Tufukia School, and an annex to the European staff quarters at the hospital.

The boats used for lightering from overseas vessels were thoroughly overhauled during 1944, and trucks and other motor-vehicles are receiving general overhaul as opportunity offers.

During 1941-42 a large portion of the road connecting Mutalau and Avatele round the east side of the island was surfaced with coral rock. Owing to increasing difficulties in securing supplies of benzine, little road work has been done lately, and after recent drought conditions priority has been given to water-supply construction.

METEOROLOGICAL

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Total rainfall (inches)	50·67	71·35	64·79	71·55
Number of rainy days	114	149	146	158
Highest for any day (inches)	6·04	6·15	2·94	5·15
Date	2nd Mar.	20th Sept.	20th Oct.	29th Jan.
Highest temperature (°F.)	94·0	92·0	94·0	90·0
Date	30th Mar.	26th Jan.	{ 11, 12, 14, 15, and 25 Feb. 3 Nov.	{ 13, 17, 19, 25, and 28 Mar.
Lowest temperature (°F.)	60·0	60·0	58·0	58·5
Date	26th Aug.	10th Oct.	17th July	28th Aug.
Mean of maximum thermometer (°F.)	83·9	83·1	84·5	82·4
Mean of minimum thermometer (°F.)	69·8	70·3	69·77	69·3

The very low rainfall in 1941 resulted in semi-drought conditions practically the whole year, and this had a serious effect on crops and vegetation.

A heavy storm swept over the island on 31st January, 1944. Fortunately, no lives were lost and damage to property was slight. Coconuts and bananas, however, suffered considerably, resulting in reduced exports for several months.

SHIPPING

The N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare" has maintained a fairly regular service to the island, supplemented by occasional calls of larger vessels. Government schooners have also called at intervals to lift cargoes of copra.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (565 copies), £35)