

Ordinances of the Cook Islands, made by the Legislative Council of the Cook Islands—

The Mosquito Control Ordinance 1947, No. 1.

The Copra Ordinance 1947, No. 2.

Local Island Ordinances—

The Mangaia Ordinance 1947, No. 11, made in February, 1947, was disallowed by the Governor-General.

## 6. SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

Steady progress was made during the year in the preliminary organization of the South Pacific Commission. The broad objective of the Commission is the economic and social advancement of all the islands people of the South Pacific and the prosecution of scientific research under a wide common plan of regional co-operation, and many particular projects of vital interest to the people of the Cook Islands are already envisaged.

## 7. JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

The judiciary comprises a High Court, a Native Land Court, and a Native Appellate Court. The High Court exercises civil and criminal jurisdiction throughout the Cook Islands, and the Native Land Court is concerned largely with litigation on lands and titles. The High Court consists of a Judge and two Commissioners in Rarotonga and the Resident Agents in their capacity of Commissioners in the outer islands. There are two Judges of the Native Land Court (the senior Judge being also the Judge of the High Court), but there are no Commissioners at the present time.

The Native Appellate Court was established by the Cook Islands Amendment Act, 1946. This Court will sit in the Cook Islands and will hear appeals and applications for rehearings. Previously, appeals were to the Supreme Court of New Zealand, and in practice Natives were usually unable to exercise their right of appeal on account of the expense involved. Rules of the Appellate Court were gazetted during the year, and arrangements are in train for the first sitting.

High Court actions during the last five years are summarized as follows:—

—	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
Civil judgments: Rarotonga	50	60	35	51	42
Divorces granted: Whole Group	26	15	13	20	9
Criminal convictions: Rarotonga	1,360	1,401	1,195	1,179	1,762

Although there were numerous cases of assault, there was no recurrence of the more serious crimes dealt with in the previous year. Approximately 1,200 of the actions brought were for offences under legislative provisions governing the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor.

A summary of Native Land Court proceedings for the last five years is as follows:—

—	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
Applications heard .. ..	165	124	169	123	244
Orders made .. ..	161	115	159	99	192
Applications outstanding—					
Rarotonga .. ..	389	401	454	502	589
Outer Islands .. ..	702	738	838	858	988