

*Population of Niue, 1875 to 1900.*

District.	1875.	1884.	1887.	1891.	1895.	1900.
Alofi ... ..	954	836	798	767	855	813
Tamakautoga ... ..	1,046	417	369	347	337	317
Avatele ... ..		697	425	402	415	447
Fatiau ... ..		...	182	147	136	120
Hakupu ... ..	742	834	731	637	640	641
Liku ... ..	433	499	485	473	490	458
Tamalagau ... ..	261	290	261	290	253	257
Mutalau ... ..	656	684	633	645	603	586
Tamahatokula ... ..	1,255	342	341	314	276	275
Uhomotu ... ..		584	486	467	473	477
Makefu ... ..		314	306	274	296	236
Students, &c....	102	76	72	88	80	49
Total ... ..	5,454	5,573	5,089	4,851	4,854	4,676

Of the present population no less than 561 persons are now absent from the island, either as sailors or labourers on other Pacific islands.

*Imports and Exports.*

The necessity for the presence of a reliable European officer in each of the larger islands is shown, in the case of Aitutaki, by the revenue actually received from the hands of Mr. Large, and which would never have come to hand had the collection been left to the native officials. The receipts for the year ending the 3rd December, 1900, have been: Trade licenses, £45 10s.; Customs duties, £81 4s. 8d.; postal, £8 5s.; Court fees and fines, £70 4s. 9d.: total, £205 4s. 5d.

The following statements show the comparative value of the imports and exports of the Cook Islands from the year 1892 to date:—

Year.	From New Zealand. £	From Tahiti. £	Other Places. £	Total. £
1892 ... ..	10,998	5,251	...	16,249
1893 ... ..	10,200	9,084	...	19,284
1894 ... ..	13,152	9,283	...	22,435
1895 ... ..	16,861	6,408	...	23,269
1896 ... ..	17,167	5,911	...	23,068
1897 ... ..	22,455	4,406	...	26,861
1898 ... ..	15,332	2,323	...	18,155
1899 ... ..	9,768	2,330	1,457	13,555
1900 ... ..	17,700	2,230	1,251	21,181

The value of the exports for the same period is as follows:—

Year.	From Cook Islands. £	From other Places. £	Total. £
1892 ... ..	15,394	4,943	20,337
1893 ... ..	18,703	905	19,668
1894 ... ..	18,937	1,728	20,665
1895 ... ..	19,084	1,054	20,138
1896 ... ..	15,486	1,333	16,819
1897 ... ..	21,751	2,381	24,132
1898 ... ..	11,209	1,408	12,617
1899 ... ..	11,199	3,020	14,219
1900 ... ..	19,310	3,069	22,379

I have also the honour to forward for Your Lordship's information returns supplied to me by the Customs officer at the Port of Avarua. Table II. itemises the articles imported into the Cook Islands for the year ending the 31st December, 1900, Table III. specifies the number and value of each article of export, and Table IV. is a return of the shipping entered in and out of the Port of Rarotonga for the past year.

In addition to the foregoing, I beg to submit for your information a return showing the exact amount of liquor issued from the Government bond during the past year. The significance of this return lies in the fact that there are not at the present time ten hard drinkers on the island, and therefore it is absolutely absurd to suppose that the foreign element could consume the liquor shown as sold. I must therefore conclude that the Maoris are responsible for the consumption of at least half of the spirits shown on this return, and that they receive the forbidden liquor through the aid of the foreign residents.

W. E. GUDGEON,  
British Resident.