

4. Traders shall in all cases keep the record required by section fifteen of "The Au Empowering Act, 1899," and shall be liable to a fine of twenty shillings for any neglect of this provision.

5. The provisions of section two of this Ordinance shall continue in force even after the *rahui* over cocoanuts have been removed by notice in the *Cook Islands Gazette*, subject also to the following additional restrictions:—

(a.) That no nuts shall be purchased from any person who would appear to be under the age of sixteen years.

(b.) All nuts shall be paid for in coin, whether Chili or British, and shall not be bartered for tea, biscuit, or other goods.

6. This Ordinance shall apply to the Islands of Mangaia, Rarotonga, Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro, but shall not apply to Aitutaki until adopted by resolution of the Council of that island.

Ordinance passed unanimously, 14th December, 1901.

S. SAVAGE, Clerk to Council.

[Assented to 21st March, 1902.]

ORDINANCE No. 4.

WHEREAS it has hitherto been the custom to take and export from the Island of Penrhyn small and immature shell, to the injury of this valuable industry, and it is expedient to prevent the same, and generally to regulate this industry within the Pacific islands now included within the boundaries of New Zealand: And whereas the eighth section of the Cook and other Islands Government Act gives power to the Federal Council to make laws for the government and welfare of all the said islands and the people thereof:

Be it enacted,—

1. From and after the passing of this Ordinance no shell shall be removed from any of the waters of the lagoon, or exported from any of the said islands, unless such shell shall be of a diameter of not less than four and a half inches.

Any person convicted of a breach of this section shall, on conviction, be liable to a penalty of not exceeding twenty pounds sterling.

2. Any trader or other person who shall purchase shell of a less diameter than the four and a half inches before mentioned shall, on conviction, be liable to a penalty of not exceeding ten pounds.

3. It shall be the duty of the Resident Agent at Penrhyn to examine all shell before it is packed in boxes for export, and to facilitate this inspection every trader shall give due notice to the Resident Agent before packing any shell; and any person neglecting to give the required notice shall be liable to a fine of not exceeding five pounds.

4. The Customs Officer or Resident Agent at Penrhyn may inspect shell in any shed or warehouse at any time that he may consider it expedient to do so, and may make such local regulations as to his inspection as may be found necessary and shall be approved by the Resident Commissioner.

5. It shall not be lawful for any person to buy pearl-shell on the Islands of Penrhyn, Manihiki, or Rakahanga unless he shall have been duly licensed as a pearl-shell trader. Any person infringing this section shall be liable to a penalty of ten pounds, in addition to license fee.

6. The license fee shall be five pounds per annum from the first of July in each year, and shall be issued by the Collector of Customs at Penrhyn.

7. All shell shall be cleaned, as far as may be done, in the waters of the lagoon, in order that the small shells and spawn may be returned to the shell-beds.

8. The Customs Officer at Penrhyn may hear and decide all cases under this Ordinance, and may confiscate all shell under the four and a half inches before mentioned, provided that each act of confiscation shall be reported to the Resident Commissioner for his instructions.

9. Any trader may appeal against a decision of the Customs Officer to the High Court by giving that officer notice of appeal in writing, at the same time paying the fine into his hands.

10. It shall not be lawful for the owners of the lagoon, or any part thereof, to lease the same to any one man to the exclusion of the remaining traders. Any such lease shall be null and void.

11. The Resident Commissioner may, in the interest of the native owners, close a lagoon, or any part thereof, for a period not exceeding two years, and any person who shall take shell within the preserved limits during the continuance of the *rahui* shall be liable to a fine, on conviction, of not exceeding twenty pounds.

12. In default of the payment of any fine imposed under this Ordinance, a Judge of the High Court may order imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding six months.

Passed on Monday, the 10th March, 1902.

MAKEA.

TINOMANA.

NGAMARU.

PA.

W. E. GUDGEON, Resident Commissioner

[Assented to 3rd April, 1902.]

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, nil; printing (1,200 copies), £1 5s.

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1902.

Price 3d.]