

No. 158.

Wellington, 27th March, 1905.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit you a draft of regulations under "The Licensing Acts Amendment Act, 1904," applicable to Niue, which, without being unnecessarily drastic, will, I think, enable the Niue Administration to preserve complete control over liquor imported into that island. You will observe that I have limited the quantity of spirits that may be obtained by any one individual to two bottles in one week.

My previous experience convinces me that this quantity is sufficient for ordinary requirements.

I assume that it will be necessary to collate these regulations with those to be framed by the Resident Commissioner for the Cook Islands. Any alteration in them should, however, be avoided if possible.

I have, &c.,

C. F. MAXWELL,

Resident Commissioner, Niue.

The Hon. C. H. Mills, Minister administering the Cook and other Islands, Wellington.

No. 159.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 29th March, 1905.

SIR,—

I have the honour to inform you that the actual damage done by the hurricane of the 14th January last is confined to the three islands of Aitutaki, Manuae, and Mangaia.

At the former island the damage done is extensive, as the chief food-supply is derived from the breadfruit-trees, and many of these have been uprooted. Perhaps one-third of the oranges have been blown off the trees, and the cocoanuts have suffered to this extent, that we must expect a loss of 150 tons of copra for the season. The people will not, however, be very short of food, as they will take advantage of the Malden Island labour to send away about fifty of their young men. At Manuae, the soil being a light coral sand, at least a thousand full-grown cocoa-palms have been levelled with the ground, and the young plantations damaged. In ordinary years this island produces nearly 80 tons of copra, but 20 tons will be the utmost that can be expected for the present season.

Mangaia, although it received the full force of the hurricane, has not been seriously damaged except in the matter of banana-trees, and that many of the cocoa-palms have been stripped of their nuts. As I have before reported, the food-supply of the people will not suffer greatly, as they live chiefly on taro. Probably the copra-crop for the season will not be more than 50 tons. In ordinary years this island produces 110 tons.

From Mr. Cameron's reports on the condition of Aitutaki I gather that arrangements have been made with a local firm to supply rice and biscuit to the Araura School until the Native food-supply is available, and the people can find food for themselves during this time of scarcity. I may mention that the people of Matavera have asked me to take a supply of food free to Aitutaki, and I have promised to do so.

I have, &c.,

W. E. GUDGEON,

Resident Commissioner.

The Hon. C. H. Mills, Minister administering the Islands, Wellington.

No. 160.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 30th March, 1905.

SIR,—

I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Mathews, manager for Messrs. Donald and Edenborough, has interviewed me this day on the subject of a cool-chamber in which meat can be preserved for island consumption, and I have promised to use any influence I may have to secure a grant of £50 per annum in aid of this most important industry.

I would point out for your consideration that the Sanatorium cannot be a success unless we provide wholesome food, and that we need not expect that visitors from Australia, New Zealand, or America will be content to live on tinned meats.

At present we cannot kill a bullock because the small population will not take more than 100 lb., and the remainder is unfit to eat in twelve hours. Hence it appears to me that the success of the Sanatorium depends on the freezing-chamber. I ask therefore for your approval.

I have, &c.,

W. E. GUDGEON,

Resident Commissioner.

The Hon. C. H. Mills, Minister administering the Islands, Wellington.

No. 161.

Rarotonga, 30th March, 1905.

SIR,—

No. 148.

In continuation of my letter No. 22, N.Z., I have the honour to report that some of the lands in dispute between Karika and her people and Makea and her people have come before the Land Titles Court, and the occupants of land have clearly proved their right, subject only to the ancient obligation of providing food and work for the building and repair of the Ariki's house.

The decision of the Court has given the most intense satisfaction to the whole island, and the result has so far been that we shall have to hear more than a hundred cases within the next two