

## No. 28.

SIR,—

Cook and other Islands Administration, Wellington, 8th July, 1904.

See A.—3,  
1904,  
No. 196.

I beg to return herewith Ordinance No. 1 of the Island Council of Manihiki (an Ordinance to regulate Village Life within the Island of Manihiki), duly assented to by His Excellency the Governor.

I have, &amp;c.,

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.

C. H. MILLS.

## No. 29.

SIR,—

Cook and other Islands Administration, Wellington, 9th July, 1904.

See A.—3,  
1904,  
No. 169.

In further reference to your report for the year ending the 31st March, 1904, I must congratulate you on the very satisfactory condition of things which is disclosed by the facts and figures you have submitted.

With a credit balance of £3,000 the Island Administration may face the future with some confidence, and, considering that more than £3,000 has been expended during the past two years on public works—items which presumably will be non-recurring—the prospects of the Administration may be regarded as most satisfactory.

I am glad to note that you have made provision on the current year's estimates for the erection of four very necessary bridges, as well as for the drainage of the Maraerenga Lagoon. I have no doubt that these works will, directly or indirectly, amply repay the expenditure.

You are authorised to expend £100 this year in planting the Island of Takutea, if you can see your way to go on with the scheme suggested in your letter of the 4th April, 1903.

Matters connected with the "Countess of Ranfurly" have been fully dealt with in recent correspondence, and I trust you will have no further anxiety in respect to the vessel.

I am pleased with the character and extent of the work done by the Land Titles Court, and note that considerable areas are under lease to Europeans. There can be no doubt as to the desirability of having the waste lands of the island settled by industrious Europeans of good character, and it is gratifying to know that this is to some extent being accomplished, particularly in view of your assurance that the granting of leases to Europeans involves neither injury nor hardship to the Natives.

On the subject of education your report contains much that is encouraging, and I approve of your proposal to increase the subsidy to Tereora School from £125 to £200 per annum. This, I assume, means £4 per head of the present maximum of fifty scholars, instead of £2 10s. as at present. I wrote you on the subject of education last mail.

The question of pearl-shell fishing is, as you are aware, being dealt with by legislation this session.

I am sorry that the vital statistics of the Group are not more satisfactory, but note that the large number of deaths is accounted for by an epidemic of measles. Probably, under normal conditions, your report under this head would have been much better. I notice that for the previous year the births and deaths were practically equal.

Careful consideration will be given to the various important suggestions contained in your report. Some of them will have to be submitted to Cabinet, and in any cases where legislative action is necessary, provision will be made in the Bill to be introduced this year. As a general rule, I think it is better that Islands legislation should emanate from the local Councils, but I recognise there are cases in which an Act of the New Zealand Parliament is necessary.

I have, &amp;c.,

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.

C. H. MILLS.

## No. 30.

SIR,—

Cook and other Islands Administration, Wellington, 9th July, 1904.

No. 1.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th May, No. 199/N, forwarding Ordinances Nos. 12 and 13 of the Niue Island Council. No. 13, "The Suppression of Immorality Ordinance," has been sent on to the Attorney-General for his approval, and when this has been given it will be forwarded for the assent of His Excellency the Governor.

As to No. 12, "The Niue Island Traders' License Ordinance, 1904," you had not, of course, when framing it, received my letter of the 21st May, in which I mentioned, for the consideration of the Council, my views on the subject of fees for wholesale and retail licenses. Irrespective of this, however, I return the Ordinance herewith for reconsideration as to section 8, which provides for the issue of special licenses. This, to my mind, would tend to encourage and extend the liquor traffic. In consideration of the largely signed petition from the Natives of Niue, praying that the importation of liquor into the island should be prohibited, I should like to arrange, as soon as possible, that all liquor required in Niue shall be imported by the Government, and disposed of under a system of State control, so that Europeans could only obtain liquor for themselves in limited quantities, and would not be allowed to sell it at all. I have given the matter serious consideration, and fully realise the difficulties that surround it. In the meantime, it will be advisable to let the traders know what is contemplated, and I wish you also to carefully guard the distribution of any liquor that may be on the island now. As to section 8 of the Ordinance, it had better be omitted altogether.

I have, &amp;c.,

The Resident Commissioner, Niue.

C. H. MILLS.