

Statistician, Wellington, but I give hereunder a few comparisons with the countings made in Niue in the years 1902 and 1906, which may be found interesting :—

	Census, 1911.	Census, 1906.	Census, 1902.
Under five years—			
Males	201	252	352
Females	191	240	312
Five years and under fifteen years—			
Males	439	528	502
Females	358	430	424
Fifteen years and over—			
Males	1,215	978	1,039
Females	1,539	1,373	1,422
Total males	1,855	1,758	1,893
Total females	2,088	2,043	2,158
Total population	3,943	3,801	4,051
Europeans (including half-castes living as Europeans) included in the above totals—			
Males	22	18	15
Females	15	4	8
Total	37	22	23

The latest figures disclose an increase of 142 in the population of the island since 1906. Of this increase the gain from natural causes amounts to 32 only, while the excess of arrivals over departures accounts for 110. That the excess of births over deaths should be so small is not surprising when it is remembered that tuberculosis and syphilis were introduced to Niue some thirty-five years ago, and until the past year the people have not had the advantage of a qualified medical man. It is surprising, in the circumstances, that there has been a natural increase at all.

A census of the live-stock and coconuts was taken on the same day. The figures for the first-named item, which are regarded as fairly accurate, are—295 horses, 1,949 pigs, 149 dogs, and 12,517 head of poultry. The count of the coconut-trees is referred to under the heading “Trade Prospects.”

METEOROLOGICAL.

The following is a summary of the meteorological readings for the year 1911 :—

Temperature in Shade.							Rainfall.	
Highest.	Month.	Lowest.	Month.	Mean Maximum for Year.	Mean Minimum for Year.	Mean Range for Year.	Number of Days. on which Rain fell.	Fall for the Year.
Deg. Fahr. 96	February.	Deg. Fahr. 57	July and August.	Deg. Fahr. 85	Deg. Fahr. 68·7	Deg. Fahr. 16·2	144	Inches. 77·55

The rainfall during the months of October, November, and December was the lowest recorded in those months for many years, the fall in that period being only 7·08 in., or about 15 in. below the average. The total rainfall for the year was also considerably below the average. As a consequence of the very light rainfall in the latter part of the year the taro crop failed, and for the past few months the Natives have been rather short of food. However, good rains fell during the early part of this year, and there will be plenty of food coming in shortly.

A phenomenally heavy sea was experienced at Niue on the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th January. The waves were of great height, it being estimated that many of them rose well over 30 ft. before they broke on the reef. The most noteworthy feature of the disturbance was the almost total absence of heavy winds, as at no period of the storm did the wind exceed in strength what is usually termed a fresh breeze. This was undoubtedly the same disturbance that wrought such destruction in the Haapai, Fiji, and other islands in the Pacific. Very little damage was caused in Niue. The lowest barometer-reading recorded during the disturbance was 29·63.

SUBSIDIZED SERVICE.

The three-years contract for a service by sailing-ship of not less than 80 tons, which was commenced in the year 1909, expired with the last voyage of the “Kereru” in December. For some time past, owing to the growth of the trade of Niue, it has been found that the “Kereru” was much too small to carry away all the produce offering. Latterly nearly every voyage cargo was shut out, and with the high prices ruling for copra during the past year there has been much dissatisfaction among the trading community at not being able to get their produce to the markets within a reasonable time.