

1917.
NEW ZEALAND.

COOK AND OTHER ISLANDS.

[In continuation of Parliamentary Paper A.-3, 1916.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

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MEMORANDUM.

Cook Islands Department, Wellington, 27th June, 1917.

THE annual reports of the Resident Commissioners, of Rarotonga and Niue, are attached hereto.

From the reports of the Commissioners it will be seen that the conditions in the Islands have been much more favourable than those for the two previous years, and that trade and revenue has been fairly well maintained in spite of the drawbacks due to the lack of adequate shipping facilities.

The maintaining of adequate steamer connection with the Islands in order to preserve the trade with New Zealand is of the utmost importance, and any curtailment of the present service would be a serious blow to the prosperity of the Islands.

Educational matters are being well looked after, and additional facilities will be afforded as finances permit, particularly in Niue and in some of the outlying islands, where there is much yet to be done.

I wish also to make particular reference to the answer to the call of Empire made by the people of the Cook Islands and of Niue in the present great war. The members of the Niuean contingent, through adverse climatic conditions, had to be returned to their homes, but not without having first done valuable work on garrison duty in Egypt and afterwards on active service in France. The Rarotongans, having proved themselves more fitted to stand the climate, are still bravely playing their part on the western front and in Palestine.

The splendid manner in which the people of the Islands have responded in the present crisis is deserving of the highest commendation, and is one of which I am sure all true Britishers are proud, and their display of patriotism also furnishes further and unique evidence of the wonderful unity and loyalty of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen.

M. POMARE,
Minister for the Cook Islands.

COOK ISLANDS.

REPORT OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.

SIR,—

Rarotonga, 11th June, 1917.

In submitting my report for the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1917, I am glad to be able to say that we have experienced a fairly successful year. There has been no hurricane in any part of the Group. Trade and revenue have been fairly well maintained. The public health has improved, and the census shows that our population is no longer diminishing.

VISIT TO THE NORTHERN ISLANDS.

In September last, thanks to the courtesy of the London Missionary Society (who, through their representative here, the Rev. G. H. Eastman, very kindly provided me and other officers of the Administration with passages on the mission steamer "John Williams"), I was enabled to visit all the Northern Islands of the Group.

At Aitutaki, Manihiki, and Rakahanga many ruined houses still bear witness to the fury of the great hurricane of 1914. But the plantations at Aitutaki and the coconut-groves at the other islands have made a splendid recovery.

In this round of visits I travelled upwards of two thousand miles. Besides the usual Court work a great variety of public business was disposed of.

The people of all the islands except Pukapuka and Palmerston are prosperous and contented. In Penrhyn, Manihiki, and Rakahanga they seem to be very well off.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The public health of all the islands was satisfactory. Dr. Trotter, Assistant Medical Officer, accompanied me to some of the islands. He has since then visited all of them.

There are twenty-seven lepers in the Group, nearly all of whom are found in the extreme north, where the disease, introduced, it is believed, from Hawaii, first obtained a footing. Our Resident Agents at Aitutaki, Manihiki, and Penrhyn look as carefully as possible after the lepers under their care. It is manifest, however, that the patients are too scattered. After careful consideration it has been decided, on the recommendation of our Medical Officers, Dr. G. Pearce Baldwin and Dr. R. S. Trotter, to segregate at Penrhyn all leper patients from islands north of Aitutaki, whilst any cases at Aitutaki or from islands south of Aitutaki are to be dealt with there. Penrhyn is our most northerly island, seven hundred miles from Rarotonga. The uninhabited islands in its great lagoon offer special advantages as a site for a sanatorium. There are only three cases of leprosy at Aitutaki, and none at all in the islands of the Lower Group. There are grounds for hope that, with the closer isolation and better medical care that will result from the new scheme of segregation, the disease may eventually be stamped out.

At Penrhyn, Manihiki, and Palmerston the water-supply was deficient, although there is an ample rainfall. To remedy this we have just built two large storage tanks at Penrhyn, two at Manihiki, and another is being constructed at Palmerston.

The Chief Medical Officer's report is attached.

CENSUS.

The census of last year shows that the Maori population of these Islands is holding its own. In the following table are the figures of the three last census periods :—

	1906.		1911.		1916.	
	Whites and Half-castes living as Whites.	Natives and Half-castes living as Natives.	Whites and Half-castes living as Whites.	Natives and Half-castes living as Natives.	Whites and Half-castes living as Whites.	Natives and Half-castes living as Natives.
Rarotonga	107	2,334	139	2,620	163	2,913
Mangaia	8	1,523	5	1,466	4	1,241
Aitutaki	8	1,154	16	1,221	8	1,294
Atiu	4	914	2	810	4	1,752
Mauke	2	444	10	447	10	480
Mitiaro	2	208	1	198	1	236
Palmerston .. ..	..	82	..	107	..	1,190
Penrhyn	6	414	3	332	3	312
Manihiki	2	519	4	440	4	775
Rakahanga	1	351	..	315	..	..
Pukapuka .. ..	..	435	..	490	..	474
Totals	140	8,378	180	8,446	197	8,567

Of the Europeans, nearly all—about one hundred and fifty—reside at Rarotonga, where there are twelve engaged in planting and fourteen in commercial pursuits. With their families they number about a hundred persons. The remainder of the European population is chiefly made up of officers and others connected with the Administration and their families. We are never likely to have a very much larger settled white population, although Rarotonga must some day become a great winter resort for New-Zealanders.

It is increasingly difficult for intending settlers to lease land, every acre of which belongs to the Natives. The sale of Native lands is prohibited. There is no opening for white labour, and for successful planting capital is necessary.

Rarotonga has a Native population of 2,900.

A system of registration of births, deaths, and marriages is now in operation throughout the Group.

EDUCATION.

In Rarotonga we have two Native schools, one at Arorangi with 148 scholars, the other at Ngatangia with 194 scholars. A third school will shortly be built on a site generously presented to the Government by the chiefs and people of Avarua.

At Aitutaki (population 1,290), the island next in importance to Rarotonga, there is a large school at which 270 children are taught by Native teachers. At Palmerston Island a small school was opened last year.

The Administration intends as soon as possible to establish a school in each of the other islands of the Group. In the meantime the London Missionary Society is very considerably carrying on its schools in the outlying islands until we are in the position to take them over. The teaching of English, with reading, writing, and arithmetic, up to the requirements of the Fourth Standard, and a practical training in agriculture, woodwork, &c., is the present aim of our educational department.

To overcome the great difficulty of obtaining the necessary teachers for the smaller islands Native pupil-teachers are now being trained at Rarotonga.

Technical Education.—As 90 per cent of the Native boys are destined to become planters, the formation of an agricultural class was our first step in technical education. This class was opened last year under Mr. E. A. Reid. Its success has encouraged us to a further advance. A class for instruction in woodwork and manual training under Mr. W. C. Smith has just been established. A girls' class to teach home science is being arranged.

Scholarships.—Two places at St. Stephen's School, Auckland, for boys from these Islands are to be offered for competition this year. The provision of other similar scholarships, to be held at some of the institutions in New Zealand that provide higher education for Maori boys and girls, and of industrial scholarships by means of assisted apprenticeships in New Zealand (with attendance at a technical college) for boys who have passed through our technical school, is under consideration.

It is satisfactory to note the real appreciation by the Natives of the educational advantages offered to their children.

TRADE.

The figures relating to the trade of the Islands for the past year, shown in the comprehensive report of the Treasurer attached hereto, are quite satisfactory.

In the copra industry there was an increased output for better prices. At the Northern Islands, from which the bulk of it comes, the coconut crop is more promising than it has been for years, 1,120 tons of copra, valued at £28,000, were exported during the year. It is estimated that there will be a much larger harvest this year.

In round numbers, 94,000 cases of oranges (value, £16,000), 43,000 cases of bananas (£12,000), and 36,000 cases of tomatoes (£5,000) were shipped to New Zealand. Seven-eighths of all this fruit and produce, approximately worth £28,000, was grown by Native planters.

The fruit-export trade is capable of enormous expansion. In order to secure a steady increase in these products, and so to prepare for the expansion of trade coming after the war, we have passed an Ordinance requiring all Native planters to clear and plant their uncultivated lands. Inspectors have been appointed to see that the requirements of this Planting Ordinance are duly carried out. A similar Ordinance has been enacted at Aitutaki, and like measures will be placed before other Island Councils.

As much loss has resulted from the bad carrying-qualities of the Island orange and its susceptibility to fly and other blights, the question of obtaining the services of an expert, probably from Florida, U.S.A. (where an orange similar to the Island orange is grown), to report on the fruit industry of these Islands, and to advise as to the best methods of orange cultivation, packing, transport, and marketing, is under consideration.

Provided our present steamer communication with New Zealand be not curtailed, our trade prospects for the year are excellent. Mr. Reid, our Chief Fruit Inspector, estimates the new season's crop at 200,000 cases.

REVENUE AND TAXATION.

We are quite financial. The year began with a credit balance of £1,684; we close with a balance in hand of £2,808.

Apart from Customs duties, which are practically the same as those of New Zealand, our people sit practically tax-free. Not even the war has altered this unique position amongst British communities.

In Rarotonga there is a small rate of 6d. in the pound on the annual letting-value of leasehold properties. This falls almost entirely upon the European residents. It averages less than £1 per head of the ratepayers.

There is also a levy of 2d. per case charged on all fruit exported. Originally a fumigation and inspection fee of 1d., it was increased last year to 2d. per case to provide necessary revenue. It is now a fruit-export tax. It falls principally on the Native planters, who, as we have seen, grow nearly all the fruit exported.

In a total revenue for the year of £9,710 the principal items are—Customs duties, £5,716; fruit-export tax (fumigation, &c.), £932; and postal stamps, £711.

WIRELESS INSTALLATION.

War conditions have, unfortunately, delayed the erection of this very necessary means of communication. We confidently expect the work to be commenced within the next few months.

As soon as the main station is completed we propose to link up the other fruit-exporting islands, Aitutaki, Mangaia, and Mauke, with Avarua. These islands will thus share with Rarotonga the advantages of wireless communication with the Dominion.

LOCAL LEGISLATION.

The Island Council of Rarotonga has passed measures for local rating, an improved breed of horses, the planting and cultivation of lands, land-drainage, water-supply, fruit-packing, and that variety of objects usually covered by city by-laws.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Until the Cook Islands Act, 1915, provided for the taking-over of the roads by the Administration the Natives were required, as necessity arose, to repair and to maintain the roads without pay. They were liable to fine and imprisonment if they refused to work. Landless Europeans were also subject to compulsory labour to repair the roads for several days in every year. They compromised by paying a small annual sum into the Treasury. As might be expected, this method of road-maintenance proved very unsatisfactory. Since the work has been undertaken by the Administration there has been a marked improvement in the state of the roads. The Main Road, with its bridges, is being thoroughly renovated; interior roads, untouched for many years, are being opened up: in short, a vigorous roads-and-bridges policy is being pursued. Satisfactory contracts have been made with several tapers and settlements for the upkeep of important sections of the main thoroughfare. I need scarcely add that the Natives duly appreciate the new conditions.

JUDICIAL.

The Native Land Court (Judge H. F. Ayson) has dealt with the several years' accumulation of work at Rarotonga. At present the Court is sitting at Aitutaki. The other islands will be visited in due course.

Sittings of the High Court were held at all the Northern Islands during my visit last year.

GENERAL.

At Rarotonga three new post-offices have been opened; a public market has been built; a telephone system has been initiated that will be extended to the outlying villages.

Drainage of swamp lands by co-operation between the Government and the landowners promises to restore to cultivation many acres of first-class land hitherto abandoned to floods.

The Arbor Day idea has been successfully introduced.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Efforts are being made to improve the methods and material of hat-manufacture—a Native home industry that has been languishing for some time. The Panama plant is being introduced from Central America. If it can be acclimatized there is no doubt that a great deal can be done to restore what was formerly a profitable trade.

I have, &c.,
F. W. PLATTS,
Resident Commissioner.

The Hon. Dr. Pomare, Minister for the Cook Islands, Wellington.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER.

SIR,—

I have the honour to present my annual report on the work of the Medical Department for the year 1916.

The number of patients admitted to the hospital, excluding 9 left from the previous year, was 100, of whom 5 died. The number of individuals treated as out-patients was 1,210, consisting of European males, 31; European females, 21; European male children, 6; European female children, 11; Native males, 342; Native females, 341; Native male children, 212; Native female children, 246. The number of attendances was 5,203.

The principal diseases treated were those of the organs of respiration, of the digestive system, of the skin and jaws. Considerable inconvenience has been caused, as in previous years, to patients and the staff by the want of a consulting-room. Owing to the whole of the space being occupied this cannot be provided in the present building. An annexe to the hospital is urgently needed. A plan of the suggested building was sent in by me in December, 1912.

During the year all the islands except Mitiaro and Mauke have been visited. A report on their condition has already been sent in to you. The principal feature to be noted is the increase in the number of lepers, indicating the urgent need of steps being taken for dealing with this disease, and of providing more frequent visits to those islands where the disease is present. In 1912 I found ten lepers, all of whom are dead. In 1914 Dr. Maclurkin reported fifteen lepers and four suspects. In 1916 Dr. Trotter found thirty-one lepers and five suspects. Considering the contagious nature of the disease and that a person may be infected for years without showing any symptoms, this increase is not altogether to be wondered at. Mr. Wilson, Resident Agent at Penrhyn, and who has lived there for about thirty years, has obtained for me the sex and relationship of seventy-four lepers, nearly all the cases which have occurred in Penrhyn. The first case came on a schooner with returned labourers from the Hawaiian Group some thirty-five to forty years ago, and as this vessel went on to Rakahanga and Manihiki, it is exceedingly probable that it conveyed the disease there also. The sexes are—forty males and thirty-three females. Nineteen of the cases are described as not related to previous cases. Some of these undoubtedly contracted the disease by living amongst or marrying persons who afterwards became lepers. There is one very striking case of a marriage when only one side was related to a leper: both parties appear in the list, and their fifteen children, one of these being born in the leper settlement. There are also several instances of adopted children, the adopting parents being lepers. Observations at the leper settlements in Hawaii, extending over a number of years and a large number of cases, show that a very small percentage of children born of leprous parents become lepers provided they are taken away from their parents in infancy, and that the longer they are left with their parents the greater is the percentage affected.

I regret to have to complain again of the want of regulations on public-health matters.

The Resident Commissioner.

I have, &c.,

G. PEARCE BALDWIN.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

SIR,—

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 2nd June, 1917.

I have the honour to forward herewith the annual statement of revenue and expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1917, and trade returns for the year ended 31st December, 1916.

The revenue for the period under review amounted to £9,710 5s. 8d., being an increase of £2,037 12s. 4d. over the previous year. Customs duties increased by £1,080, Fruit Inspection Account £749, Liquor Account £108, Water rates £88, High Court fees £191, and Land Court fees by £73.

The increase in Customs duties is not due to any expansion of trade, but to the increase of imports from the United States of America. Many articles formerly purchased in New Zealand are now imported direct from America.

During the year the inspection fees on fruit were raised from 1d. to 2d. per case.

The revenue, £9,710 5s. 8d., together with the cash balance of £1,684 7s. 11d. at the beginning of the year, made a total of £11,394 13s. 9d. available for financing the Administration.

The expenditure, as shown in the return attached, amounted to £8,585 18s. 7d.

One item which calls for attention is the amount of £635 expended in the destruction of rats. Although the Government had been offering 2d. per head for the destruction of this pest, it was only in October last that the Natives took it up, and as a result for the six months ended 31st March the Administration was called upon to pay out £635, equal to over 760,000 rats.

The balance in hand at the end of the year was £2,808 15s., compared with £1,684 7s. 11d. the preceding year.

Postal.—The business in this department has been well maintained. Money-orders numbering 983, value £12,132, were issued, and 880, value £9,737, were paid, the commission earned being £57 15s. Postal notes to the value of £374 were sold. Allotment warrants in favour of soldiers' dependants to the value of £3,057 were cashed. The deposits in the Savings-bank amounted to £2,788 18s. 9d., and the withdrawals to £686 11s. 3d.

Trade.—Imports, £58,478, show a decrease of £7,112, and exports, £68,146, an increase of £5,089 over the preceding year. At present the principal exports are copra, coconuts, oranges, bananas, and tomatoes.

The output of copra was 1,121 tons, compared with 773 tons the previous year. The yield for the coming season should be good, as there have been copious rains, and the palms are looking remarkably well on all the islands. America is now our principal market for this commodity, owing to shortage of tonnage for British ports.

Oranges to the number of 93,686 cases were exported, which is practically the same as the preceding year.

Bananas, 42,979 cases, show a falling-off of 18,891 cases. There should be an improvement during the present year, as the Natives have been planting extensively.

Tomatoes, 35,523 cases, weighing on an average 22 lb., exported, whereas 13,119 cases were sent away in 1915. The crop, however, was anything but a payable one to growers, chiefly owing to the irregular shipping service. Owing to the late arrival of steamers the fruit often lay in the sheds from three to five days before shipment, and arrived at its destination in a decayed condition.

Two shipments of fruit—one owing to the breakdown of the "Flora" in May last, and the other to the wreck of the "Maitai"—were lost. Had wireless been established the "Flora's" shipment would certainly have been saved.

Pearl-shell is being gathered at Manihiki, and stored there for shipment immediately there is a payable market.

The prospects for the present year appear bright. The only drawback may be the shipping services.

I have, &c.,

The Resident Commissioner.

W. J. STEVENSON,
Collector of Customs and Treasurer.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Revenue for the Year ended 31st March, 1917.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance, 1st April, 1916				1,684	7	11
Customs duties, Rarotonga	4,131	1	6			
New Zealand	1,585	8	4			
Traders' licenses	604	2	0			
Stamps	711	17	9			
Fees, Land Titles Court	108	7	3			
Fees and fines, High Court, Rarotonga	578	12	6			
R.M. Court, Aitutaki	47	15	0			
" Mangaia	28	5	0			
" Mauke	8	13	6			
" Atiu	3	19	8			
" Manihiki	59	4	10			
" Penrhyn	10	8	0			
Water rates, Avarua	194	8	0			
" Arorangi	93	18	0			
" Ngatangia	41	0	0			
" Matavera	40	14	6			
" Titikaveka	65	19	0			
" Muri	36	8	3			
Rents	132	10	0			
Shipping fees and forms	13	0	2			
Interest on deposit	40	0	0			
Road rates	38	0	0			
Post-card sales	0	16	4			
Hall licenses	3	5	0			
Fruit Fumigation and Inspection Account	Cr. 932	2	5			
Ammunition Account	Cr. 3	1	4			
Muri Water Account	Cr. 65	1	3			
Liquor Account	Cr. 124	15	1			
Miscellaneous	7	11	0			
				9,710	5	8
Total				£11,394	13	7

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 11th April, 1917.

Audited and found correct—A. G. CLARKE, Auditor.

W. J. STEVENSON, Treasurer.

Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March, 1917.

Service.	Voted.	Expended.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Registrar of High and Land Titles Courts	350 0 0	325 0 0
2. Engineer and Surveyor	200 0 0	275 0 0
3. Interpreter and Printer	275 0 0	186 16 1
4. Nurses, Hospital (two)	200 0 0	196 0 0
5. Foreman of Works	196 0 0	175 0 0
6. Draughtsman	175 0 0	150 0 0
7. Island allowance, Collector of Customs	150 0 0	90 0 0
8. Clerk, Land Office	90 0 0	97 11 8
9. " Registrar's Office	90 0 0	90 0 0
10. " Post Office	90 0 0	245 0 0
11. Resident Agent, Mangaia	245 0 0	220 0 0
12. " Atiu	220 0 0	21 12 2
13. " Aitutaki	220 0 0	220 0 0
14. " Mauke	220 0 0	200 0 0
15. " Penrhyn	220 0 0	50 0 0
16. " Rakahanga and Manihiki	200 0 0	122 0 0
17. Native Agent, Mitiaro	50 0 0	39 0 0
18. Native Police, Rarotonga	122 0 0	20 0 0
19. " Aitutaki	39 0 0	
20. " Mauke	20 0 0	

Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March, 1917—continued.

Service.						Voted.			Expended.		
						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
21.	Native Police, Atiu	..	..	..	..	20	0	0	20	0	0
22.	„ Mitiaro	..	..	..	..	15	0	0	15	0	0
23.	„ Rakahanga and Manihiki	..	..	..	..	40	0	0	26	5	0
24.	„ Penrhyn	..	..	..	..	20	0	0	21	1	0
25.	Native Assessor, Rakahanga	..	..	..	..	10	0	0	10	0	0
26.	Native Police, Mangaia	..	..	..	..	41	0	0	41	0	0
27.	Assistant Printer, Rarotonga	..	..	..	..	90	0	0	90	0	0
28.	Contingent expenditure, High Court	..	..	..	..	200	0	0	362	10	11
29.	„ General	..	..	..	..	400	0	0	413	17	2
30.	„ Land Court	..	..	..	..	150	0	0	68	12	10
31.	Head-money for destruction of flying-fox and rats	..	..	..	..	50	0	0	668	9	4
32.	Maintenance of lunatics	..	..	..	..	40	0	0	42	7	6
33.	Hospital supplies and attendance	..	..	..	..	900	0	0	1,177	7	1
34.	Maintenance of lepers	..	..	..	..	150	0	0	207	1	2
35.	Rents—										
	Wharf-site	..	..	..	..	£5	0	0			
	Post-office site	..	..	..	..	8	15	0			
	Registrar's house	..	..	..	..	12	0	0			
									25	15	0
36.	Subsidy, cool chamber	..	..	..	..	100	0	0	75	0	0
37.	„ boatman, Mangaia	..	..	..	..	10	0	0	10	0	0
38.	„ „ Aitutaki	..	..	..	..	9	0	0	9	0	0
39.	„ „ Atiu	..	..	..	..	3	0	0	3	0	0
40.	„ „ Mauke	..	..	..	..	6	0	0	6	0	0
41.	„ carrying mails in Group	..	..	..	..	30	0	0	30	0	0
42.	Roads and bridges	..	..	..	..	60	0	0	399	19	8
43.	Upkeep of Government buildings	..	..	..	..	150	0	0	317	8	6
44.	Experimental nursery	..	..	..	..	300	0	0	249	13	3
45.	Fresh-water tanks, Penrhyn	..	..	..	..	100	0	0	44	11	0
46.	„ Manihiki	..	..	..	..	100	0	0	19	15	7
47.	„ Mauke	..	..	..	..	200	0	0	..		
48.	„ Atiu	..	..	..	..	200	0	0	..		
49.	Fresh-water supply, Aitutaki	..	..	..	..	650	0	0	..		
50.	School-teachers' residence, Avarua	..	..	..	..	500	0	0	583	9	1
	Avarua water-supply	..	..	..	..	..			127	18	4
	Ngatangia water-supply	..	..	..	..	..			1	17	6
	Titikaveka water-supply	..	..	..	..	..			3	2	3
	Matavera water-supply	..	..	..	..	..			3	14	0
	Arorangi water-supply	..	..	..	..	..			9	4	0
	Whare Manuiri accommodation-house	..	..	..	..	..			60	3	5
	Ngatipa Furnishing Account	..	..	..	..	..			21	4	9
	Education Account	..	..	..	..	..			123	6	3
	Tutakimoa drain	..	..	..	..	..			71	16	6
	Nikao drain	..	..	..	..	..			1	4	0
	Schoolhouse, Avarua	..	..	..	..	..			102	5	10
	Public conveniences	..	..	..	..	..			12	9	9
	Police offices	..	..	..	..	..			44	8	3
	House allowance, Interpreter and Printer (seven months)	..	..	..	..	..			23	6	8
	Island allowance, sergeant of police (seven months)	..	..	..	..	..			14	11	8
	„ Registrar of Courts (three months)	..	..	..	..	..			12	10	0
						8,481	15	0	8,585	18	7
	Balance, including investments	..	..	..	..	..			2,808	15	0
									£11,394	13	7

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 11th April, 1917.

W. J. STEVENSON, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct, A. G. CLARKE, Auditor.

Details of Vote 29, General Contingent Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Overtime, Post-office	8	19	6
Rewards, detection of smuggling	1	0	0
Freight, soldiers' effects	3	16	10
Clearing foreshore	5	2	0
Food, Atiu recruits	12	15	6
Fencing, Aitutaki	2	19	0
Stationery	124	13	7

Details of Vote 29, General Contingent Expenditure—continued.

	£	s.	d.
Boatman, Rarotonga	29	1	6
Office fittings, Rarotonga	8	1	0
" Aitutaki	1	2	0
Customs tidewater	33	0	0
Boat repairs	2	4	9
Office-lighting	0	5	0
Photos " Maitai " wreck	0	5	0
Passage and carriage of effects, Resident Agent, Atiu	9	13	5
Mina birds	5	10	4
Flagstaff repairs	3	9	0
Conveniences, Mangaia	1	14	1
Special schooner charter, Mangaia	25	0	0
Carriage of food to Northern Islands	3	15	0
General average, " Flora "	2	12	6
Audit expenses	16	10	0
Bicycle allowance, Resident Agent, Mangaia	3	0	0
" " Atiu	2	15	0
Clock, Post-office	2	0	0
Aitutaki Wharf repairs	17	2	0
Passage interned prisoner of war	6	15	0
Wireless messages	3	14	5
Buggy-hire	1	12	0
Clerical assistance	1	0	0
Labour on Government grounds	10	4	0
Burial expenses, Ellis	2	10	4
Typewriter	12	10	0
Carriage mails " Cholita "	0	2	0
Printer's boy	19	14	6
Tree-planting	1	6	0
Washing office towels	0	5	0
Pig-pound	3	4	4
Stamps, letters to foreign countries	0	7	10
Travelling-expenses, Resident Commissioner	13	2	9
" Interpreter	3	3	0
Tank repairs, Aitutaki	0	8	0
Island literature purchased from Major Large	7	11	0
	<u>£413</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 11th April, 1917.

W. J. STEVENSON, Treasurer.

Vote 28, High Court Contingent Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Travelling-allowance, police	39	17	0
Salary, cadet	12	0	0
Stable	4	6	8
Strong-room door (part cost)	21	2	0
Food for prisoners and police	36	17	0
Horse-feed	8	13	10
Passage, prisoners	12	3	6
Refunds fees and fines	0	18	6
Shoeing	1	10	6
Office overtime	3	4	0
Buggy-hire	0	6	9
Mileages	30	9	9
Stationery	1	13	5
Boot allowance, police sergeant	1	0	0
Rewards, police	13	17	0
Office fittings	6	11	5
Law reports	5	7	5
Uniforms	29	10	5
Cells	68	0	3
Travelling-expenses, Judge	13	2	9
" Interpreter	3	3	0
Interpreter, Atiu	3	0	0
" Mauke	3	0	0
" Aitutaki	6	0	0
Firearms	7	18	9
Lantern	0	4	6
Typewriter	16	0	6
Allowance, Acting-Registrar	12	12	0
	<u>£362</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 11th April, 1917.

W. J. STEVENSON, Treasurer.

Vote 30, Land Titles Court Contingent Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Labour	11	14	6
Buggy-hire	8	8	0
Stationery	0	15	11
Survey material	6	18	3
Judge's office fittings	15	14	5
Instruments	5	13	9
Strong-room door (part cost)	19	8	0
	£68	12	10

W. J. STEVENSON, Treasurer.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 11th April, 1917.

Liquor Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1917.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Stock on hand, 1st April, 1916	31	15	4	Sales	1,123	4	11
Supplies	605	17	10	Stock on hand at 31st March, 1917	138	17	1
Freight	51	8	10				
Duty	341	3	2				
Balance	231	16	10				
	£1,262	2	0		£1,262	2	0

Profit and Loss Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Stock at 1st April, 1917	138	17	1	Balance, 1st April, 1916	31	15	4
Cash to general revenue	124	15	1	Balance, 31st March, 1917	231	16	10
	£263	12	2		£263	12	2

W. J. STEVENSON, Treasurer.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 11th April, 1917.

Value of Exports for the Year ended 31st December, 1916.

Article.	Where exported.	Quantity.	Value.	Total.
Fruit, fresh—			£	£
Bananas	New Zealand	42,979 cases	12,980	
	"	405 kits	80	13,060
Lemons	"	55 cases	20	20
Oranges	"	93,686 "	16,350	16,350
Pineapples	"	3,214 "	320	320
Tomatoes	"	35,523 "	5,778	5,778
Cucumbers	"	344 "	61	61
N.o.e.	"	116 "	23	23
Coffee, raw	"	51,200 lb.	1,280	1,280
Copra	United Kingdom	383 tons	9,958	
	United States America	658 "	16,450	
	Tahiti	80 "	1,920	
		1,121 tons	28,328	28,328
Coconuts	New Zealand	102,760	514	
	United States America	157,920	721	
		260,680	1,235	1,235
Kumeras and taro	New Zealand	3,657 cases	1,174	1,174
Limejuice	"	360 gals.	42	42
Pearl-shell	United States America	9 tons	450	450
Hides	New Zealand	"	10	10
Carriages	"	"	15	15
				£68,146

W. J. STEVENSON, Collector of Customs.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 17th April, 1917.

Port of Rarotonga. —Value of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1916.

Article.	United Kingdom.	New Zealand.	United States of America.	Tahiti.	Other Places.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Agricultural produce n.o.e. ..	..	954	103	7	..	1,064
Animals (live) ..	..	221	..	7	..	228
Apparel, drapery, and silks, &c. . .	838	2,882	478	287	89	4,574
Bags and sacks ..	..	343	513	..	..	856
Biscuits and cabin bread ..	..	3,788	297	71	11	4,167
Bicycles, tricycles, motor-cars, &c. .	63	814	40	75	..	992
Boots and shoes ..	4	338	257	1	39	639
Butter and cheese ..	..	931	..	..	..	931
Building-material, timber, &c. ..	..	1,147	170	..	11	1,328
Cordage and twine ..	..	385	137	17	..	539
Cotton piece-goods ..	2,036	728	1,104	25	266	4,159
Drugs and chemicals ..	249	598	19	..	1	867
Fish, preserved ..	17	713	776	32	..	1,538
Flour ..	..	848	1,506	151	..	2,505
Fruit-boxes ..	..	7,653	..	..	..	7,653
Furniture ..	..	422	18	..	17	457
Hardware, tools, iron, &c. ..	181	1,778	321	13	14	2,307
Meats, frozen, &c. ..	..	6,743	..	62	..	6,805
Oils ..	..	337	774	127	24	1,262
Provisions n.o.e. ..	85	1,683	236	14	145	2,163
Rice ..	..	466	785	66	17	1,334
Soap ..	..	1,228	15	..	55	1,298
Stationery, books ..	..	522	40	4	14	580
Sugar ..	..	3,073	2	65	6	3,146
Tea and coffee ..	..	251	..	2	4	257
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes ..	..	1,004	..	2	219	1,225
Miscellaneous ..	307	3,707	650	541	399	5,604
Totals ..	3,780	43,557	8,241	1,569	1,331	58,478

Total Values of Imports and Exports for the Year ended 31st December, 1916.

IMPORTS.						£
New Zealand ..	..	..	..	..	..	43,557
United Kingdom ..	..	..	..	..	..	3,787
New South Wales ..	..	..	..	..	..	740
Victoria ..	..	..	..	..	..	174
Tonga ..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Canada ..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Queensland ..	..	..	..	..	..	44
South Africa ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fanning Island ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Japan ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sweden ..	..	..	..	..	..	260
United States of America ..	..	..	..	..	..	8,241
Tahiti ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,569
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	£58,478
EXPORTS.						£
New Zealand ..	..	..	..	..	..	38,647
United Kingdom ..	..	..	..	..	..	9,958
United States of America ..	..	..	..	..	..	17,621
Tahiti ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,920
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	£68,146

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 17th April, 1917.

W. J. STEVENSON,
Collector of Customs.

Total Values of Imports and Exports from the Year 1902 to 31st December, 1916.

IMPORTS.						Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
						£	£	£
1902	..	..	..	..	..	27,623	..	..
1903	..	..	..	..	..	34,866	7,263	..
1904	..	..	..	..	..	33,399	..	1,487
1905	..	..	..	..	..	36,993	3,594	..
1906	..	..	..	..	..	41,437	4,444	..
1907	..	..	..	..	..	50,756	9,314	..
1908	..	..	..	..	..	55,021	4,265	..
1909	..	..	..	..	..	67,737	12,716	..
1910	..	..	..	..	..	83,759	16,058	..
1911	..	..	..	..	..	89,623	5,828	..
1912	..	..	..	..	..	93,812	4,189	..
1913	..	..	..	..	..	110,283	16,421	..
1914	..	..	..	..	..	91,132	..	19,151
1915	..	..	..	..	..	65,590	..	25,542
1916	..	..	..	..	..	58,478	..	7,112

EXPORTS.						Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
						£	£	£
1902	..	..	..	..	..	34,821	..	..
1903	..	..	..	..	..	34,740	..	81
1904	..	..	..	..	..	38,248	3,508	..
1905	..	..	..	..	..	34,890	..	3,358
1906	..	..	..	..	..	45,925	11,035	..
1907	..	..	..	..	..	51,578	5,653	..
1908	..	..	..	..	..	60,652	9,024	..
1909	..	..	..	..	..	73,653	13,001	..
1910	..	..	..	..	..	90,749	17,096	..
1911	..	..	..	..	..	91,076	327	..
1912	..	..	..	..	..	101,708	10,632	..
1913	..	..	..	..	..	109,926	8,218	..
1914	..	..	..	..	..	77,512	..	32,414
1915	..	..	..	..	..	63,057	..	14,455
1916	..	..	..	..	..	68,146	5,089	..

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 17th April, 1917.

W. J. STEVENSON,
Collector of Customs.

Principal Exports from each Island in the Cook Group during the Year ended 31st December, 1916.

Island.	Bananas.		Oranges.	Pines.	Tomatoes.	Fruit n.o.e.	Cucumbers.	Copra.	Kumatas.	Coconuts.	Limejuice.	Coffee.	Lemons.
	Cases.	Kits.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Tons.	Cases.	No.	Gals.	Lb.	Cases.
Rarotonga	40,963	405	73,348	161	35,523	116	344	170	1,249	255,480	360	17,000	55
Aitutaki	894	..	2,106	3,026	..	..	..	99	505	5,200	..	..	..
Mangaia	1,120	..	6,089	27	1	1	..	18	1,903	..	..	34,200	..
Atiu	..	..	5,716	..	..	..	..	27	..	..	..	..	..
Mauke	2	..	6,427	..	..	..	..	86	..	..	..	..	..
Mitiaro	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manuae	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62	..	..	..	..	..
Penryhn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	201	..	..	..	..	..
Rakahanga	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	173	..	..	..	..	..
Manihiki	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	261	..	..	..	..	..
Palmerston	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	..	..	..	..	..
Suwarrow	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pukapuka	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	42,979	405	93,686	3,214	35,524	117	344	1,121	3,657	260,680	360	51,200	55

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 17th April, 1917.

W. J. STEVENSON,
Collector of Customs.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

SIR,—

Rarotonga, 5th June, 1917.

I have the honour to inform you that I have audited the accounts of the Cook Islands Administration for the year ended 31st March, 1917, and find them to be correct.

I have also audited the books of the High Court and Land Titles Court and find that all moneys received have been duly accounted for.

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.

A. G. CLARKE, Auditor.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Estimated Expenditure for the Year ending 31st March, 1918.

	£	s.	d.
1. Engineer and Surveyor	325	0	0
2. Interpreter and Printer	275	0	0
3. Hospital nurse	150	0	0
4. Foreman of Works	196	0	0
5. Draughtsman	175	0	0
6. Island allowance, Collector of Customs	150	0	0
7. „ Registrar of Courts	50	0	0
8. „ Sergeant of Police	25	0	0
9. Clerk, Land Office	90	0	0
10. „ Registrar's Office	113	0	0
11. „ Post Office	100	0	0
12. Cadet, Registrar's Office	36	0	0
13. Resident Agent, Mangaia	245	0	0
14. „ Atiu	220	0	0
15. „ Aitutaki	220	0	0
16. „ Penrhyn	220	0	0
17. „ Rakahanga and Manihiki	200	0	0
18. Native Agent, Mitiaro	50	0	0
19. Resident Agent, Pukapuka	200	0	0
20. Native police, Rarotonga	195	0	0
21. „ Aitutaki	44	0	0
22. „ Mauke	20	0	0
23. „ Mitiaro	15	0	0
24. „ Penrhyn	21	0	0
25. „ Mangaia	41	0	0
26. „ Rakahanga and Manihiki	40	0	0
27. Native Assessor, Rakahanga and Manihiki	10	0	0
28. Contingent expenditure, High Court	360	0	0
29. „ General	400	0	0
30. „ Land Court	300	0	0
31. Head-money for destruction of flying-foxes and rats	600	0	0
32. Maintenance of lunatics	120	0	0
33. „ lepers	200	0	0
34. Hospital supplies and attendants	1,000	0	0
35. Rents—			
Wharf-site	5	0	0
Post-office	8	15	0
Registrar's house	12	0	0
		25	15 0
36. Subsidy, boatman, Mangaia	10	0	0
37. „ „ Aitutaki	9	0	0
38. „ „ Atiu	3	0	0
39. „ „ Mauke	6	0	0
40. „ Carrying mails in Group	20	0	0
41. „ wireless station, Rarotonga	500	0	0
42. Education—Salaries and material for technical school	100	0	0
43. „ „ Salary, Schoolmaster at Palmerston (twenty months)	25	0	0
44. House allowance, Interpreter and Printer	40	0	0
45. Allowances, Registrars of Births and Deaths at Mitiaro, Palmerston, and Pukapuka	11	0	0
46. Postal services, Rarotonga	65	0	0
47. Native police, Atiu	20	0	0
48. Assistant Printer, Rarotonga	90	0	0
		7,330	15 0
Estimated public-works expenditure as per schedule	3,685	0	0
Total	£11,005	15	0

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 8th June, 1917.

F. W. PLATTS,
Resident Commissioner.

Proposed Expenditure on Public Works during the Year ending 31st March, 1918.

	£
School buildings, &c., Avarua	1,000
Roads and bridges	800
Rarotonga water-supply	600
Upkeep of buildings	150
Aitutaki water-supply, &c.	500
Tanks, Mangaia	30
„ Palmerston	125
„ Penrhyn (to complete payments)	60
„ Manihiki	70
Experimental farm	350
	<u>£3,685</u>

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 8th June, 1917.

F. W. PLATTS,
Resident Commissioner.

REPORT OF REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT.

SIR,—

I have the honour to report as follows on the work of the High Court at Rarotonga during the year ended the 31st March, 1917 :—

The number of criminal cases has greatly increased, as is shown by the following table :—

	1916-17.			1915-16.
	Convictions.	Dismissals.	Totals.	Totals.
Offences against the person	33	4	37	47
„ property	27	30	57	70
„ liquor laws	410	16	426	274
„ regulations	83	18	101	131
„ public order	149	39	188	10
Other offences	50	52	102	27
Totals	752	159	911	559

The principal increases are in the convictions for bush-beer drinking and for wandering animals. The increase in the former is due, no doubt, to the appointment of permanent Native police and to the strict supervision and diligence of the European sergeant. As to the latter, the increase is due entirely to the repeal of the Wandering Animals Ordinance, under which the offender avoided the issue of a summons by the payment to a constable of the sum of 5s.

Civil cases : 152 civil cases were dealt with during the year, as against 112 for the preceding year. The increase is due, no doubt, to the repeal of the Private Debts Act.

The fees and fines collected during the year amounted to £578 12s. 6d. The fines outstanding amount to £55 1s. 10d.

The High Court Office was the medium for the collection of £780 13s. 6d.

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.

F. MITCHELL, Registrar.

REPORT OF REGISTRAR OF THE LAND COURT.

SIR,—

I have the honour to report as follows on the work of the Native Land Court for the year ended the 31st March, 1917 :—

The Court sat at Rarotonga on every available day from the 26th July, 1916, to the 12th March, 1917. During that period the following applications were disposed of : Investigation, 24 ; partition, 36 ; succession, 123 ; confirmation, 42 ; adoption, 19 ; amendment, 55 ; appointment of trustee, 55 ; miscellaneous, 8 : total, 362.

The fees collected during the year amount to £108 7s. 3d. The fees outstanding on the 31st March amount to £555 14s. 3d., made up as follows : Rarotonga, £435 16s. 3d. ; Aitutaki, £45 6s. ; Mauke, £73 12s. ; Mangaia, £1 : total, £555 14s. 3d. Owing to pressure of work the collection of these outstanding fees has had to stand over, but it is hoped that the greater part will be collected during the current year.

The applications awaiting sittings of the Court are as follows : Aitutaki, 324 ; Mauke, 39 ; Mangaia, 1 ; Atiu, 43 ; Mitiaro, 10 ; Penrhyn, 3 ; Rakahanga, 2 ; Manihiki, 5.

I have, &c.,

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.

F. MITCHELL, Registrar.

REPORT OF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS, ETC.

SIR,—
The following are the vital statistics for the year ended the 31st December, 1916 :—

Island and Village.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
Rarotonga	127	113	50
Aitutaki	69	50	15
Mangaia	43	41	5
Penrhyn	3	4	2
Manihiki (six months)	8	13	..
Rakahanga (six months)	5	8	2
Atiu	29	22	6
Pukapuka, Mauke, and Mitiaro (no returns).			
Totals	284	251	80

The above figures have been obtained mainly from the registers of the London Missionary and other societies ; but, as registration with these societies is not compulsory, it is very doubtful whether the figures are at all complete. Owing to the delay in the supply of registers, &c., the Administration could not take over the registration until the 1st April, 1917. The new system, however, is now working in all the islands except Pukapuka, with which island there has been no communication for some months.

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.F. MITCHELL, Registrar.

NIUE ISLAND.

REPORT OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.

SIR,—

Cook Islands Administration, Niue, 2nd April, 1917.

I have the honour to report as follows on the work of this Administration for the year ended 31st March, 1917 :—

FINANCE.

The revenue derived from all sources amounted to £2,067 12s. 6d., and the expenditure to £1,747 3s. 7d. As compared with the year 1915-16 the revenue shows an increase of £153 16s. 7d. and the expenditure a reduction of £346 15s. 4d. The balance at credit of the Administration, which stood at £727 0s. 4d. on the 1st April, 1916, was £1,047 11s. 3d. on the 31st March, 1917.

As no public works were carried out during the past year the expenditure represents the ordinary recurring expenses of the Administration. Full particulars of the receipts and expenditure will be found in statements A and B and the several supporting statements which are herewith.

TRADE.

The total value of the imports for the year 1916 is £9,512 and the exports £3,379. These figures are the smallest recorded since the Government was instituted.

The island has not yet recovered from the effects of the disastrous hurricane of January, 1915, and the subsequent drought. During the greater part of the year 1915 and the whole of 1916 the ordinary Native foods were extremely scarce; consequently the coconuts which otherwise would have been turned into copra and exported were consumed as food. Altogether the Niueans have passed through a very trying period, but, thanks to an abnormally large rainfall, the island has made an excellent recovery, and at the time of writing there is an exceptionally heavy crop of nuts on the trees, and everything points to a speedy return to prosperous times.

Returns of the imports and exports for the year are attached hereto.

SUBSIDIZED SCHOONER SERVICE.

At the beginning of 1916 a new contract was entered into for the service by schooner between Auckland and Niue direct. The contract, which is for two years, provides for six round voyages from Auckland to Niue and back to Auckland each year. Unfortunately the "Kereru," the ship appointed to carry out the contract, was practically destroyed by fire at Auckland in January, 1916, and owing to the delay in securing and refitting the "Awanui" that schooner was late in leaving Auckland on the first voyage. Consequently the ship was able to complete only five voyages instead of six. During normal times, when trade is flourishing, this would have meant a great loss to the traders and people of Niue, but happening as it did during the very slack period no great inconvenience has been occasioned. However, the missing of the sixth trip has meant that the people of Niue have been cut off from all communication with the outside world for a period of over four months.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year no new works were commenced. It is proposed, however, to erect a small prison in Alofi in the course of a month or two at an estimated cost of £500. This work would have been commenced earlier, but owing to the contract schooner not making the sixth voyage at the end of last year the necessary material could not be procured.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

During the year all necessary repairs to Government buildings have been made, and the buildings painted.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Sixty-seven persons, including nine Europeans, left Niue for other places, while 182, including fourteen Europeans, arrived in Niue. Apart from those engaged in military services the movements of Natives were very small.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following is the total number of births, deaths, and marriages registered during the year 1916-17 and the four preceding years :—

Year.						Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1912-13	..	..	..	..	..	106	99	45
1913-14	..	..	..	..	..	94	80	48
1914-15	..	..	..	..	..	93	73	70
1915-16	..	..	..	..	..	94	100	41
1916-17	..	..	..	..	..	82	128	63

It will be noticed that the number of births is smaller than usual. This may be accounted for by the fact that a large number of the young men of the island were away on active service. The number of deaths recorded is much larger than usual, and is undoubtedly due to a very large extent to the excessively wet year that has been experienced.

THE HIGH COURT AND THE NATIVE LAND COURT.

In the civil jurisdiction of the High Court fourteen cases of divorce were dealt with, there being practically no other business. 126 criminal cases were dealt with. Fees and fines amounted to £52 7s. The Niueans do not appear to be so fond of litigation as the Natives in some of the other islands.

As regards the Native Land Court, only one case has been heard and determined so far. In the absence of a surveyor, not much practical progress is possible.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

Attached will be found a report made by Dr. Barraclough, the Medical Officer, on the health of the people of the island. As regards the doctor's remarks about the hospital for Niue, I may say that I hope to recommend the acquirement of a piece of land situated on the high land above the Village of Alofi. The piece of land I refer to was recommended to me by Dr. Dawson, when that gentleman was Medical Officer here, as a very suitable site for a hospital. I have shown Dr. Barraclough the site referred to, and he has also approved of it, provided the land is of sufficient area—say, 5 to 6 acres. It is pre-eminently the most central and convenient place for a hospital, and the land has never been put to much use by the Native owner. If after a careful inspection it is found that sufficient area is available I will recommend that the land be compulsorily acquired under the Cook Islands Act. Even if it is not possible at the present time to find the necessary money for the erection and maintenance of a hospital, it will be a step in the right direction to have the site ready.

ESTIMATES FOR 1917-18.

I attach hereto my estimates of the expenditure for the current year. They have been put as low as possible, consistent with efficiency. You will observe that a sum of £300 is set apart for the maintenance of roads. That represents the expenditure of the estimated receipts under Local Ordinance No. 6.

If the land required for prison, police, and hospital purposes is acquired during this year I estimate the sum of £325 will be required for compensation to the owners of the land.

It is very difficult to frame an estimate of the probable revenue for the current year, as so much depends on the success or otherwise of the coconut crop. However, provided that everything goes along well, I estimate that the total revenue will amount to £2,800.

I have, &c.,

H. CORNWALL,

Resident Commissioner.

The Hon. Minister for the Cook Islands.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF DR. HERBERT BARRACLOUGH, M.B., MEDICAL OFFICER, NIUE ISLAND.

Alofi, Niue, 2nd April, 1917.

I have the honour to present my report on the medical state of the Island of Niue during the nine months which have elapsed since my arrival here on the 30th June, 1916.

During this period there has been a very large amount of sickness on the island—more, I am assured on good authority, than there has been at any one time in the past thirty years. This has very considerably raised the numbers attended to at the dispensary and the visits paid to patients in their own homes. At the dispensary the number of consultations or of medicines issued reached the high total of 10,948, and there were in addition 2,554 visits paid. This latter figure includes all those seen and attended to during my periodical visits to the outlying villages. All the outside villages have been frequently visited, though, on account of the incidence of sickness, some have at different times received more of my attention than others. The largely increased sickness during the last three months of the year 1916 was mainly of a general character, though at one time it almost assumed the proportions of an outbreak of epidemic pneumonia. Also a large proportion of chronic cases swelled the mortality. In November, for instance, there were twenty deaths, not less than 75 per cent. being due to chronic diseases. The cause of this outbreak was undoubtedly the abnormally heavy rainfall—14·60 in. and 13·96 in. falling in November and December respectively. This, as is usual, badly affected the old people, 36 per cent. of the deaths during those two months being due to old age or diseases incident thereto.

Tuberculosis.—This fell disease, the white man's curse, seems likely to become the brown man's curse also. During the past nine months fourteen deaths occurred from this cause. Besides these there are many cases under treatment which are doing well, the disease having been detected at an early stage. This is always difficult to do, as the Niuean will not take the trouble to come and see the doctor until discomfort or pain compel him to do so. The problem of what is to be done to fight this terrible disease is beset with great difficulty. Vigorous measures will certainly have to be taken ere long to cope with the evil.

Malignant Disease.—This is slowly but surely laying its deadly grip upon the island, there having been five deaths from cancer and two from sarcoma during the past nine months. There are also three cases of cancer at present under observation.

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Resident Commissioner.

The Hon. Minister for the Cook Islands.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF DR. HERBERT BARRACLOUGH, M.B., MEDICAL OFFICER, NIUE ISLAND.

Alofi, Niue, 2nd April, 1917.

I have the honour to present my report on the medical state of the Island of Niue during the nine months which have elapsed since my arrival here on the 30th June, 1916.

During this period there has been a very large amount of sickness on the island—more, I am assured on good authority, than there has been at any one time in the past thirty years. This has very considerably raised the numbers attended to at the dispensary and the visits paid to patients in their own homes. At the dispensary the number of consultations or of medicines issued reached the high total of 10,948, and there were in addition 2,554 visits paid. This latter figure includes all those seen and attended to during my periodical visits to the outlying villages. All the outside villages have been frequently visited, though, on account of the incidence of sickness, some have at different times received more of my attention than others. The largely increased sickness during the last three months of the year 1916 was mainly of a general character, though at one time it almost assumed the proportions of an outbreak of epidemic pneumonia. Also a large proportion of chronic cases swelled the mortality. In November, for instance, there were twenty deaths, not less than 75 per cent. being due to chronic diseases. The cause of this outbreak was undoubtedly the abnormally heavy rainfall—14·60 in. and 13·96 in. falling in November and December respectively. This, as is usual, badly affected the old people, 36 per cent. of the deaths during those two months being due to old age or diseases incident thereto.

Tuberculosis.—This fell disease, the white man's curse, seems likely to become the brown man's curse also. During the past nine months fourteen deaths occurred from this cause. Besides these there are many cases under treatment which are doing well, the disease having been detected at an early stage. This is always difficult to do, as the Niuean will not take the trouble to come and see the doctor until discomfort or pain compel him to do so. The problem of what is to be done to fight this terrible disease is beset with great difficulty. Vigorous measures will certainly have to be taken ere long to cope with the evil.

Malignant Disease.—This is slowly but surely laying its deadly grip upon the island, there having been five deaths from cancer and two from sarcoma during the past nine months. There are also three cases of cancer at present under observation.

Skin-diseases.—These are almost entirely parasitic in nature. The various species of the genus *Tinea* abound. Scabies is much rarer, though possibly many cases of this disease are concealed by the patients. The commonest skin-disease, however, is pityriasis, on the east of the island especially. Lichen is not uncommon.

Eye-diseases.—This island would be a “happy hunting-ground” for an opthamologist. Chronic conjunctivitis is the commonest of all. Out of a large number of these latter cases examined I have been unable to find an undoubted case of trachoma.

Leprosy.—Two leprosy scares were started by Natives, the alleged victims being near relatives of the leper who died here over a year ago. One proved to be incipient elephantiasis and the other a mild case of ichthyosis. It can be positively asserted that there is no leprosy on the island at the present time.

Tropical Diseases.—The only two diseases of this class indigenous to Niue are yaws and filariasis—that is, elephantiasis. The question of the prevalence of yaws brings up the eternal problem of the relationship of the specific form of the disease to syphilis. Suffice it to say that the eruption is absolutely atypical, and a differential diagnosis between the two diseases is always difficult and often impossible. As, however, the same treatment is as efficient for one as for the other, this is not of much practical importance. There are a few cases of elephantiasis spread over the island, but their number relatively or absolutely is not great.

Heat-stroke and Heat-apoplexy.—Five cases of this nature occurred during the past few months. Two died, one in the bush at night, before my assistance could be obtained; one resulted in a temporary attack of insanity; one in total blindness, but the sight of one eye has recovered; one at present under treatment and apparently improving has retro-ocular hemorrhage, with the blindness of one eye.

Hospital.—I most earnestly draw your attention to the great need of hospital accommodation, even on a small scale, in Niue. It is an undoubted fact that during the severe sickness which has covered the island during the past few months many lives could have been saved by skilled nursing and hospital treatment. Even without these conveniences many recoveries have occurred in Alofi, where the patients were under my constant observation, who would have undoubtedly died in the outlying villages. Also, major operations, such as abdominal sections, could not be performed in Native houses. I know that nothing can be done until after the close of the war, but I can only hope that the first *post bellum* estimates of the Cook Islands Department will include a grant for the much-needed hospital on the Island of Niue.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Statement of Revenue for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1917.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1st April, 1916—Balance forward				727	0	4
Customs duties	1,247	15	1			
Dog-tax	2	5	0			
High Court fines and fees	52	7	0			
Native Land Court fees	4	10	0			
Interest on investments	35	0	0			
Licenses	124	17	9			
Liquor-sales	52	7	6			
Medical aid and attendance	4	18	6			
Registration fees	17	16	0			
School fees	15	4	6			
Shipping fees	1	1	0			
Stamp-sales	108	8	6			
Sundry receipts	1	11	0			
Contributions to Medical Fund—						
New Zealand Government	208	0	0			
Niue Natives	191	12	8			
	399	12	8			
				2,067	14	6
Total revenue				£2,794	14	10

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX, Treasurer.
H. CORNWALL, Resident Commissioner.

Niue, 2nd April, 1917.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Statement of Expenditure for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1917.

	£	s.	d.
Councillors	32	17	3
Togia, late President of Niue Council	48	15	8
Magistrates, Native	8	18	10
Police, Native	68	14	8
Officer in Charge of Police, local travelling-expenses	15	3	11
Police officer's quarters, rent of	10	5	0
Prisoners, food for	66	14	11
„ supervision of	66	13	3
Dispenser	51	12	3
Medical supplies and assistance	533	14	4
Medical Officer, local travelling-expenses	103	5	11
Interpreter	42	10	0
Translation of laws	11	0	0
Printing and stationery	42	17	6
Office fittings and requisites	33	4	9
Public library	1	0	2
Tufukia School, working-expenses	163	12	8
„ extra desks, &c.	55	9	2
Maintenance and upkeep of Government buildings	235	14	10
„ of reservoirs	4	4	6
„ of jetty, boats, &c.	2	5	10
Miscellaneous services	82	1	7
Erection of stable	11	16	8
Furniture for Government buildings	1	9	6
Clearing prison-site	1	16	0
Liquor purchased	54	4	5
Total expenditure	1,747	3	7

Balance, 31st March, 1917—

	£	s.	d.
Cash in hand	727	7	10
Current account, Bank of New Zealand	320	3	5
	1,047	11	3
	£2,794	14	10

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX, Treasurer.
H. CORNWALL, Resident Commissioner.

Niue, 2nd April, 1917.

Estimated Expenditure for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1918.

	£	s.	d.
Councillors	55	0	0
Police officer, European	180	0	0
Police, Native	100	0	0
Food for prisoners	50	0	0
Supervision of prisoners on labour works	60	0	0
Medical supplies and assistance	500	0	0
Medical Officer, local travelling	90	0	0
Interpreter	60	0	0
Translation of laws	40	0	0
Printing and stationery	50	0	0
Office fittings, &c.	20	0	0
Tufukia School, working-expenses	250	0	0
„ extra furniture	25	0	0
Maintenance and upkeep of Government buildings	75	0	0
„ of reservoirs	10	0	0
„ of jetty, boats, &c.	10	0	0
Miscellaneous services	75	0	0
Purchase of liquor	50	0	0
Maintenance of roads	300	0	0
Erection of prison	500	0	0
Taking of land for prison and police purposes	175	0	0
„ hospital purposes	150	0	0
	£2,825	0	0

H. CORNWALL,
Resident Commissioner.

Niue, 2nd April, 1917.

Principal Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1916.

	From New Zealand.	From Australia.	From other Places.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Agricultural produce	50	19	..	69
Animals—horses	30	..	31	61
Apparel and slops	539	45	19	603
Bicycles	121	7	..	128
Biscuits	806	4	..	810
Boots and shoes	170	1	..	171
Butter and cheese	176	1	..	177
Cotton piece-goods	1,034	155	70	1,259
Drapery	184	17	5	206
Drugs and chemicals	640	2	..	642
Fish, preserved	233	..	..	233
Flour	182	5	..	187
Furniture and joinery	255	..	..	255
Hardware	211	7	..	218
Matches	134	..	..	134
Meats, preserved and salted	584	..	..	584
Milk, preserved	105	1	..	106
Oil, kerosene, and benzine	176	3	..	179
Perfumery	97	1	2	100
Rice	401	2	..	403
Soap	204	..	..	204
Stationery and books	91	6	2	99
Sugar	106	2	..	108
Timber, sawn	175	..	..	175
Tinware	64	..	..	64
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes	744	16	..	760
Miscellaneous	1,422	155	..	1,577
Totals	8,934	449	129	9,512

Exports for the Year ended 31st December, 1916.

To New Zealand.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Copra	87 tons	1,196
Fungus	63,246 lb.	1,297
Hats	1,278 dozen	600
Other goods .. .. .	..	286
Total .. .. .	..	£3,379

ORDINANCES.

No. 1.—THE NIUE COPRA ORDINANCE, 1916.

AN ORDINANCE to regulate the Making and Selling of Copra in Niue.

BE IT ENACTED by the Island Council of Niue in Council assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Niue Copra Ordinance, 1916.

2. (1.) It is forbidden for any person to make, sell, purchase, or have in his possession copra made from immature coconuts.

(2.) For the purposes of this section “immature coconuts” means coconuts that have not ripened on and fallen naturally from the tree.

3. It is forbidden for any person to sell, purchase, export, or have in his possession stored ready for export,—

(a.) Copra that is not properly dried:

(b.) Copra that is dirty or rotten:

(c.) Copra affected by contact with fresh water.

4. Every officer of police may at any time during business hours visit the premises of any trader or exporter of copra and examine the copra therein stored, and may at any time visit any place where copra is being dried. Any officer of police may seize any copra which in his opinion does not comply with the provisions of this Ordinance.

5. Any copra the cause of any conviction may be confiscated and destroyed by an order of the High Court.

6. Every one is liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds who infringes any of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Passed by the Island Council of Niue, this thirty-first day of October, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-Box,
Clerk of the Island Council of Niue.

Assented to on behalf of the Governor, this thirty-first day of October, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

[L.S.]

H. CORNWALL,
Resident Commissioner of Niue.

NO. 2.—THE NIUE TRADERS' HOURS OF BUSINESS ORDINANCE, 1916.

AN ORDINANCE to regulate the Hours of Business of Licensed Traders in Niue.

BE IT ENACTED by the Island Council of Niue in Council assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Niue Traders' Hours of Business Ordinance, 1916.

2. (1.) The following hours of business shall be observed by traders, and no trader shall carry on the business of buying, selling, and bartering at other hours: Week-days, except Wednesdays, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, from 7 a.m. to noon.

(2.) Nothing herein contained shall hinder a trader from attending to the landing and shipping of goods at other than the appointed hours of business when a ship is in port.

3. (1.) The following days shall be observed as holidays by traders and their employees, and no business of any kind whatever shall be carried on on those days: New Year's Day, 2nd January, Good Friday, Easter Monday, the Sovereign's birthday, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day.

(2.) When New Year's Day, or 2nd January, or Christmas Day, or Boxing Day falls on a Sunday, then the Monday and Tuesday following that Sunday shall be observed as holidays; also when the Sovereign's birthday falls on a Sunday the following Monday shall be observed as a holiday.

4. Every one is liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds who infringes any of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Passed by the Island Council of Niue, this thirty-first day of October, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-Box,
Clerk of the Island Council of Niue.

Assented to on behalf of the Governor, this thirty-first day of October, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

[L.S.]

H. CORNWALL,
Resident Commissioner of Niue.

NO. 3.—THE NIUE FISH-PROTECTION ORDINANCE, 1916.

AN ORDINANCE to impose Restrictions upon the Practice of destroying Fish by Means of Explosives.

BE IT ENACTED by the Island Council of Niue in Council assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Niue Fish-protection Ordinance, 1916.

2. Every person who uses dynamite or other explosive substance to catch or destroy fish in the waters surrounding Niue is liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

3. Every person who accompanies or assists any person using dynamite or other explosive substance to catch or destroy fish as aforesaid shall be held to be guilty of the principal offence.

Passed by the Island Council of Niue, this fourteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-Box,
Clerk of the Island Council of Niue.

Assented to on behalf of the Governor, this fourteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

[L.S.]

H. CORNWALL,
Resident Commissioner of Niue.

NO. 4.—THE NIUE TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDINANCE, 1916

AN ORDINANCE to make Provision for the Regulation of Traffic on the Roads of Niue.

BE IT ENACTED by the Island Council of Niue in Council assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Niue Traffic Regulation Ordinance, 1916.

2. (1.) Every one is liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds who does any of the following things on a road :—

- (a.) Drives an entire horse or any savage or dangerous animal loose.
- (b.) Drives any vehicle in his charge without having reins to guide the horse or other animal drawing the same.
- (c.) Allows any vehicle drawn by a horse or other animal to proceed along a road without the horse or other animal being led or controlled by reins.
- (d.) Does not keep any vehicle driven or propelled, or animal ridden or led by him, on the left or near side of the road when meeting, and on the right or off side when passing, another vehicle or animal, or does not leave a reasonable portion of the road for any vehicle or animal passing him.
- (e.) Drives or rides any vehicle in his charge after one hour after sunset and before one hour before sunrise without exhibiting a light on such vehicle.
- (f.) Having charge of a vehicle to which a horse or other animal is attached, leaves such vehicle unattended without the horse being tied up or at least one of the wheels of such vehicle being securely fastened.
- (g.) Causes or allows any timber or other heavy material not being wholly raised above the ground on wheels to be dragged on the road.

(2.) In this Ordinance, if not inconsistent with the context, “vehicle” means any wheeled vehicle drawn by a horse or other animal or other means, or propelled by any mechanical means, and includes bicycles and tricycles.

Passed by the Island Council of Niue, this fourteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX,
Clerk of the Island Council of Niue.

Assented to on behalf of the Governor, this fourteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

[L.S.]

H. CORNWALL,
Resident Commissioner of Niue.

NO. 5.—THE NIUE DOG REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, 1916.

AN ORDINANCE to provide for the Registration of Dogs in Niue.

BE IT ENACTED by the Island Council of Niue in Council assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Niue Dog Registration Ordinance, 1916.
2. Subject to the conditions hereinafter contained, any person who keeps a dog of a greater age than six months shall pay to the Government a registration fee of five shillings per annum, and such registration fee shall become payable at the Government Office, Alofi, on the first day of April in each and every year.
3. Any person who keeps a dog and fails to pay the registration fee on or before the thirtieth day of April of the year in which such registration fee becomes payable shall be liable to a fine not exceeding three pounds over and above the amount of any fee payable in respect of the registration of a dog.
4. In respect to every first registration made after the month of September in any year there shall be payable only one-half of the registration fee.
5. Until payment of the appropriate fee the registration shall not be deemed to have been duly made.
6. There shall be supplied to every person who registers a dog a dog-collar bearing a metal label affixed thereto, such label having marked thereon the registered number and the year for which the same is issued.
7. Duplicate collars shall be issued on payment of the original cost thereof on affirmation that the original has been lost or stolen.
8. The name and residence of every person who procures a collar shall be entered in a register-book to be kept for that purpose at the Government Office, and opposite the name shall be registered the number of each collar purchased by such person, and a description of the dog by which such collar is to be worn.
9. Every person who wilfully inserts or omits, or wilfully causes or permits to be inserted or omitted, in any such description any matter or thing contrary to, or for the purpose of concealment, the truth is liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.
10. Where the ownership of a dog is changed the registration of such dog shall continue good, and the registration collar shall, upon the application of the new owner, remain with the dog; but the name of the new owner of such dog shall, upon application by him, be entered in the register-book in substitution of the name of the previous owner thereof without payment of any fee; and thereupon, for the purpose of this Ordinance, such new owner shall take the place of the previous owner.
11. Dogs without collars having the proper registration labels thereon shall *prima facie* be deemed to be unregistered; and any person upon whose land such dog is found, or his agent, or any person duly authorized by the Government, may destroy any such dog.
12. Every one who falsely makes or counterfeits, or, knowing the same to be counterfeit, purchases, uses, or has in his possession, any label resembling or apparently intended to resemble or pass for a metal label supplied at the Government Office under this Ordinance is for every such offence liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds.

13. Every person who, after the thirtieth day of April in every year, has in his following or keep any dog wearing a label issued in any previous year, which dog has not been registered for the then current year, is liable to a fine not exceeding three pounds.

14. Every person who has in his following or keep any dog wearing a label issued in respect to another dog is liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

15. This Ordinance shall come into operation on the first day of April, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

Passed by the Island Council of Niue, this fourteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX,
Clerk of the Island Council of Niue.

Assented to on behalf of the Governor, this fourteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

[L.S.]

H. CORNWALL,
Resident Commissioner of Niue.

NO. 6.—THE NIUE AID TO REVENUE ORDINANCE, 1916.

AN ORDINANCE to provide for the Collection of Additional Revenue and the Appropriation of the same.

BE IT ENACTED by the Island Council of Niue in Council assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Niue Aid to Revenue Ordinance, 1916.

2. Every male Native who is over the age of eighteen years shall pay to the Government an annual contribution amounting to ten shillings.

3. Such contribution shall become payable at the Government Office, Alofi, on the first day of July in each year.

4. In the case of every person who does not pay such contribution within a period of thirty days from the date when such contribution becomes payable there shall be paid, by way of penalty, a sum of five shillings over and above the amount of such contribution.

5. In the case of every person liable under this Ordinance who makes default in the payment of any contribution, such contribution and penalty shall be recoverable in the High Court by the Treasurer of Niue, on behalf of the Crown, by suit in his official name.

6. The Treasurer of Niue shall keep a roll of all male Natives, showing their ages, places of abode, and any other particulars that may be necessary for the proper carrying-out of the provisions of this Ordinance; and such Treasurer shall also keep a register of those Natives who make payments, showing the amount of contribution and penalty (if any) paid by each contributor and the year for which the contribution was paid.

7. The Treasurer of Niue shall at the time of payment hand to every person who pays a contribution or penalty under this Ordinance a receipt for the amount so paid, and the production of such receipt by a contributor shall be regarded as conclusive evidence of the payment by him of such contribution or penalty.

8. In the case of any dispute as to the age of any male Native, the Treasurer of Niue shall refer the matter to the Resident Commissioner, who, after hearing evidence on the subject, shall decide the matter, and his decision thereon shall be regarded as final.

9. The revenue derived from contributions and penalties collected under the authority of this Ordinance shall be appropriated annually as follows:—

(a.) A sum of two hundred pounds as a subsidy towards the cost of the Niue Medical Service; and

(b.) The balance shall be expended on maintaining the public roads.

10. This Ordinance shall come into operation on the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and shall cease to have any force or effect after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and twenty.

Passed by the Island Council of Niue, this fourteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX,
Clerk of the Island Council of Niue.

Assented to on behalf of the Governor, this fourteenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

[L.S.]

H. CORNWALL,
Resident Commissioner of Niue.

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