

SESSION II.
1918.
NEW ZEALAND.

COOK AND OTHER ISLANDS.

[In continuation of Parliamentary Paper A.—3, 1917.]

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

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MEMORANDUM.

Cook Islands Administration, Wellington, 1st October, 1918.

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

The improvement in the financial conditions anticipated last year have been realized to some extent, but war conditions are still affecting progress in various directions. On the whole the reports may be regarded as satisfactory.

During the year additional drafts of men for military service have been sent forward from the Islands.

Substantial progress has been made in various public works, and the completion of the installation of "wireless" marks an important advance in the history of the Administration, which must have a marked effect on the future prosperity of the Islands.

Educational matters are being pressed on steadily, and a new school at Avarua, Rarotonga, has been opened, while provision is being made for opening schools at Mauke and Mangaia.

M. POMARE,
Minister for the Cook Islands.

COOK ISLANDS.

REPORT OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER OF RAROTONGA FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1918.

SIR,—

Rarotonga, 27th July, 1918.

During the past year we have made steady progress, in spite of the disadvantages of war conditions.

The following message from His Excellency the Governor-General to the people was translated into Maori and read in all the churches and in all the Island Councils throughout the group. It was greatly appreciated, and has done much to stimulate the fine feeling for the Empire that is universal in these islands.

“As the representative of His Majesty the King, I want to express to you the deep appreciation that I feel for all you have done in sending your sons to fight for the Empire. Your contributions have been splendid, and I hear nothing but praise of those men who are now actually in the fighting-line. Lady Liverpool and myself have never forgotten the warm welcome which you extended to us both in 1914; and we want now to congratulate all the workers who have laboured so whole-heartedly for patriotic objects since war broke out. To those who have returned sick and wounded we tender our warmest good wishes for a speedy recovery, and to those who have lost their loved ones we extend our deepest sympathy. May God watch over the people of the Cook Islands, and give them happiness and prosperity in the future.”

“LIVERPOOL, Governor-General.”

FINANCE.

The Treasurer's report shows that, notwithstanding an unusually heavy expenditure on public works and roads, and the increased general expenses resulting from the war, we have maintained a satisfactory financial position.

Our revenue, of £11,068 is higher by £1,357 than that of the previous year. Its principal items are—Customs duties, £5,489; stamps, £1,015; fees and fines, High Court, £1,167; fruit-inspection, £1,245.

On the debit side it will be seen that public works and roads cost us £3,775, as against £1,200, and the rat plague £1,160, as against £668 in 1916–17. Whilst our efforts to cope with this plague make no small drain upon our resources, the improved copra crop is regarded as some proof of their success. We closed the year with a credit balance of £1,262.

We are gradually strengthening and increasing our sources of revenue, and in regard to that we may look forward with confidence to the future.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department has had a busy year. Large concrete tanks for water-storage have been built at Palmerston Island, Penrhyn, and Manihiki. At Aitutaki new beacons have been erected, the wharf has been repaired, and improvements have been made in the water-supply. A new Courthouse has been built at Rakahanga. At Mangaia a comfortable Council Chamber and Courthouse, with mail-room, dispensary, &c., have been provided. At Rarotonga a large public school for Avarua district has been built, and the telephone service installed. In addition, there has been the usual upkeep of public buildings, the renewal of several bridges, and the maintenance of roads, &c.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

There have been several changes in the medical staff. After a long period of faithful service as Chief Medical Officer Dr. G. Pearce Baldwin resigned. Dr. R. S. Trotter has taken his place, and Dr. E. J. Moore is now Assistant Medical Officer, *vice* Dr. D. N. Matheson, who was, unfortunately, compelled to resign, owing to ill health.

Our medical service is impeded even more than other Departments by the absence of regular communication between the Islands; but notwithstanding this it has a very good year's work to its credit.

In the Northern Islands a general clean-up of the settlements, and the burning of a number of old and infected dwellings, has improved the hygienic conditions. Severe dengue fever at Mangaia, Mauke, and Aitutaki caused many deaths.

At Rarotonga the public health has been satisfactory. The number of leper patients in the isolation camps at Penrhyn, Rakahanga, and Aitutaki shows no increase. There have been no cases in the Southern Group.

Sister M. M. la Fontaine, a trained New Zealand nurse, has been appointed Island Nurse at Aitutaki, an important island of 1,200 inhabitants. Reports of her work show that she is dealing with upwards of seventy cases per week. Her services are evidently in great demand, and there is no doubt that they will prove of great advantage to the island.

If this promising experiment proves successful, proposals for the appointment of an Island Nurse to Mangaia, and to each of the other important islands of the Group, will be submitted for your approval.

EDUCATION.

We now have at Rarotonga three large schools and one side school, with a combined attendance of 550 Native children. The three head teachers recently appointed Mr. W. C. Smith (Avarua), Mr. H. D. Bannerman (Arorangi), and Mr. S. M. Mills (Takitumu) are assisted by ten other teachers and two pupil-teachers.

The Aitutaki School, with 240 pupils, under Mr. Geoffrey Henry, maintains its good record.

Two teachers have been appointed to Mauke, where a school will be opened in October. Arrangements are in progress for sending a teacher to Mangaia.

Satisfactory reports have been received from the school at Palmerston Island.

Technical Education. At Rarotonga the agricultural class is being successfully carried on by Mr. S. M. Mills, head teacher of Takitumu School, assisted by Mr. W. C. Berridge, the Officer in Charge of the Fruit Department. The woodwork and manual-training class, under Mr. W. C. Smith and Miss L. Smith, continues its excellent work. At all the schools, including Aitutaki, girls' classes for instruction in Native industries, such as hatmaking, basket and mat weaving, have been opened under Native teachers. A carpentry and ironwork class has been arranged for Aitutaki.

Scholarships. Three scholarships, entitling the holders to two years' free education at St. Stephen's School for Maori Boys at Auckland, will be allotted this year. A number of pupils have come to Rarotonga from other islands, and the attendance at all the schools shows a steady improvement.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Considering the world-wide shortage of tonnage, the Group has been remarkably well treated by the Union Steamship Company in the matter of shipping facilities.

Our imports, valued at £80,000, show an increase of £21,000 over last year's total. New Zealand supplied £62,000 worth, the United States (£14,000) being our next best customer. Owing to the inevitable curtailment of our shipping opportunities, our exports (chiefly copra, oranges, bananas, and tomatoes) fell from £68,000 (last year's total value) to £60,000.

The fruit and copra crop this year (1918) throughout the Group has been one of the best on record.

This season it is estimated that we will export from 150,000 to 200,000 cases of fruit to New Zealand; but with adequate shipping-space we could send away half a million cases.

These facts suggest that after the war, when such facilities are available with a return to normal freights, there will be an enormous expansion of trade between these Islands and New Zealand.

THE COURTS.

During the year Judge Ayson held a busy session of the Native Land Court at Aitutaki, and several years' accumulation of work was disposed of. The Court has also held a number of sittings at Rarotonga, where all arrears of work have now been cleared up. Mauke is to be the next scene of its labours. I am indebted to Judge Ayson for his assistance in taking the sittings of the High Court when he is not engaged in his own Court.

The High Court at Rarotonga dealt with 855 cases on the criminal side, and 76 civil cases.

During my visit, in November, to the islands of the Southern Group sittings of the High Court were held where necessary, and I also dealt with a variety of public matters. Of these I have already reported to you.

THE WAR.

The economic consequences of the war are being felt by our people with increasing severity. The cost of living continues to rise in a higher ratio even than it does in New Zealand, although as against that must be set our comparative immunity from taxation. Extremely high freights and greatly increased cost of fruit-cases have very seriously handicapped the planters. This season the Native growers have had to accept 1s. per case for oranges and bananas—the lowest price ever recorded.

THE COOK ISLANDS CONTINGENTS.

We have sent to the front four contingents, comprising 402 men. A special call for recruits early this year met with a most gratifying response, and regular drafts are now being sent to Narrow Neck Training-camp. A Cook Island soldier, Corporal George Karika, the son of one of our leading chiefs, Karika Ariki, has won the D.C.M. for distinguished conduct in the field. All their officers give good reports of the work and conduct of our boys at the front.

WIRELESS STATION.

The wireless station has been erected on the site at Rarotonga chosen four years ago. Mr. J. R. Smith was sent over in March last by the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department to supervise its construction. He has carried out his duties most satisfactorily, and well within the estimated time. By means of a temporary receiving plant set up immediately after his arrival Mr. Smith has been able to give us a daily bulletin of war news from the wireless stations at Awanui, Samoa, Honolulu, Fiji, and Tahiti. This, translated into Maori, is exhibited at the post-offices, where it is eagerly read by the Natives.

The main station will be in full operation by the end of August. The whole community—European as well as Maori—gratefully acknowledges the provision by the Government of New Zealand of this up-to-date means of communication with the outside world. Besides the special commercial benefits the station will bring to the Cook Islands—and these cannot be exaggerated—it is bound to have an important and ever-increasing Imperial value.

GENERAL.

The erection of the wireless station is the first important step in our programme of progressive development. The second is the improvement of the shipping service both within the Group and from the outside. That will come after the war. The third necessary step is the reorganization of the fruit trade.

Other works at present in the hands of the Public Works Department are the installation of a cold-storage plant, the extension of the telephone to the outlying settlements, the completion of the telephone exchange, and the alteration and enlargement of the Chief Post-office.

The advantages of cold storage are necessary for the maintenance of the health of the European community in a climate like ours. It is also expected that this provision will encourage our planters to devote more attention to cattle-raising.

The steady growth of public business, the telephone exchange, and the provision of private boxes necessitate alterations to the Post-office, which are to be undertaken as soon as possible.

I desire to thank the London Missionary Society and its representative, the Rev. H. Bond James, for their courtesy in granting to me and to other officers of the Administration passages on the "John Williams" round the Group; and again I have to express my appreciation of the substantial help the society continues to give the Administration in the extension of our education system.

To Mr. J. R. Smith, whose services I have already mentioned, we are much indebted for assistance and advice in connection with the telephone extension and the building of the cool store.

I beg to forward the reports of the Treasurer, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Registrar of Courts.

I have, &c.,

F. W. PLATTS, Resident Commissioner.

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

REPORT OF CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

I beg to present my report upon the health of the Islands for the year ending 31st March, 1918.

Rarotonga. There has been no serious outbreak of any epidemic disease during the year, and the general health of the islanders has been good. Eighty-eight patients were admitted to the hospital in the twelve months: the average stay in hospital was twenty-one days. 422 visits were made to Europeans on the island, and there were 380 attendances of Europeans at the hospital. 1,449 visits were paid to Maoris and 4,849 attendances given to them at the hospital.

Outer Islands. The following were visited by me during the year: Mangaia, Aitutaki (twice), Suvarrow, Manihiki (twice), Rakahanga (twice), Penrhyn, and Mitiaro. 2,162 visits and attendances were made in these islands, exclusive of visits to leper settlements. There has been a good deal of dengue in the outer islands. It was found impossible to visit Mauke, Manuae, Atiu, Palmerston, and Pukapuka, owing to difficulties of communication. A Government schooner of 50 tons with an auxiliary engine capable of doing 6 to 8 knots would help to solve this difficulty, or a hydro-aeroplane for the Northern Islands. A white captain and mate with a Maori crew would do for the schooner. A large white staff is not necessary.

Lepers.—One fresh case and two suspects have been isolated at Penrhyn and one fresh case and one suspect at Manihiki. There were no new cases at Rakahanga or Aitutaki. One boy died at Penrhyn and one woman at Manihiki. There was great difficulty in procuring medicine for treatment. It was found necessary, owing to increased price in foodstuffs, to increase the ration allowance. All appear to be comparatively comfortable.

General Remarks.—During the absence of Dr. Baldwin and myself the Matron in charge of the hospital Miss Sisley, did very good work among the people in Rarotonga.

I wish to record my appreciation of the kindness and courtesy extended to me by Dr. Baldwin whilst I was acting as Assistant Medical Officer under him. Considerable improvement has been made in regard to the water-supply in several of the islands, but Aitutaki is still in a somewhat unsatisfactory state in this respect; this matter is receiving attention.

Assistance was given to the islanders in Rakahanga and Manihiki to develop the food-supply.

I beg to thank the Resident Commissioner for the great assistance he has given to me in administrative work.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

SIR,—

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 10th July, 1918.

I have the honour to forward herewith the annual statement of revenue and expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1918, and the trade returns for the year ended 31st December, 1917.

The revenue for the period under review amounted to £11,068 0s. 2d., being an increase of £1,357 14s. 6d. over the previous year. Stamp-sales increased by £303, Land Court fees £416, High Court fees £431, Liquor Account £173, and Fruit-fumigation Account by £313. The only decreases worth noting are Customs duties, £226, and water rates, £63.

The revenue, £11,068 0s. 2d. plus the cash balance of £2,808 15s., made a total of £13,876 15s. 2d. for financing the Administration.

The balance in hand at the close of the year was £1,262 1s. 8d., compared with £2,808 15s. the preceding year.

Postal.—The business in this Department has been well up to the average. Money-orders to the number of 869, value £12,964, were issued in Rarotonga, and 618, value £7,107, paid, the commission earned being £67 7s. 6d. Postal notes, value £279 4s. 4d., were issued. Allotment warrants in favour of soldiers' dependants to the value of £5,681 were cashed. The deposits in the Savings-bank amounted to £2,378 10s., and withdrawals to £1,289 10s.

Trade. Imports, £80,061, show an increase of £21,500 over the previous year. Of this increase, £18,000 was with New Zealand. Exports at £60,190 show a decrease of £7,956 compared with the preceding year. The increase in the value of the imports is due to the rise in the cost of goods more than expansion of trade. The decline in the value of the exports is due solely to the shortage of shipping.

The copra crop for the year—1,550 tons—is the second highest on record, being beaten only by the output of 1911, when 1,695 tons were exported. This year, owing to the want of shipping-space, 850 tons were in store at the close of the season. Owing to the war, America is the only available market for this commodity.

In regard to fruit, the banana output doubled itself in comparison with the year 1916. During the period under review 75,000 cases and 5,000 kits were exported, as against 41,000 cases the previous year. The orange crop dropped from 93,000 cases to 63,000 cases. The tomato industry, which promised so well three years ago, is rapidly on the decline, due largely to want of shipping facilities. Slow irregular steamers with which the trade must be content for the present are out of the question for the marketing of tomatoes.

The crops for the coming season promise to be very heavy. Reports from all the islands indicate a large copra yield, and the banana and orange output will be good.

The installation of "wireless" will be of great assistance to the fruit trade, in advising arrival of steamers.

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

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Revenue for the Year ended 31st March, 1918.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance, 1st April, 1917				2,808	15	0
Customs duties, Rarotonga	4,129	15	0			
" New Zealand	1,360	4	5			
Traders' license fees	629	5	0			
Stamps	1,015	7	2			
Fees and fines, High Court, Rarotonga	757	3	4			
" Aitutaki	67	11	0			
" Mangaia	16	16	0			
" Mauke	74	0	0			
" Atiu	7	4	0			
" Mitiaro	5	8	0			
" Penrhyn	34	10	0			
" Manihiki and Rakahanga	175	3	0			
Fees, Land Court	524	16	10			
Water rates, Avarua	183	13	6			
" Arorangi	67	1	6			
" Ngatangia	34	2	0			
" Matavera	41	19	0			
" Titikaveka	48	12	0			
" Muri	34	2	0			
Shipping fees	11	9	11			
Hall licenses	5	0	0			
Interest on fixed deposit	35	0	0			
Rents	137	10	0			
Motor fees	11	0	0			
Road rates	5	16	0			
Fines, Customs Act	13	0	0			
Sale of uncustomed goods	3	7	6			
Liquor account, cash balance	297	8	9			
Ammunition Account, balance	30	1	1			
Fruit Fumigation and Inspection Account, cash balance	1,245	5	2			
Fees for registration of births, marriages, and deaths	35	6	0			
Miscellaneous	1	2	0			
				11,068	0	2
Total				£13,876	15	2

Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March, 1918.

Service.	Voted.			Expended.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Engineer and Surveyor	325	0	0	335	0	0
2. Interpreter and Printer	275	0	0	275	0	0
3. Hospital Nurse	150	0	0	158	6	8
4. Foreman of Works	196	0	0	196	0	0
5. Draughtsman	175	0	0	175	0	0
6. Island allowance, Collector of Customs	150	0	0	150	0	0
7. „ Registrar of Courts	50	0	0	50	0	0
8. „ Sergeant of Police	25	0	0	10	19	4
9. Clerk, Land Office	90	0	0	90	0	0
10. „ Registrar's Office	113	0	0	113	0	0
11. „ Post-office	100	0	0	100	0	0
12. Cadet, Registrar's Office	36	0	0	33	0	0
13. Resident Agent, Mangaia	245	0	0	245	0	0
14. „ Atiu	220	0	0	220	0	0
15. „ Aitutaki	220	0	0	220	0	0
16. „ Penrhyn	220	0	0	220	0	0
17. „ Manihiki and Rakahanga	200	0	0	200	0	0
18. Native Agent, Mitiaro	50	0	0	50	0	0
19. Resident Agent, Pukapuka	200	0	0	201	13	4
20. Native Police, Rarotonga	195	0	0	195	17	2
21. „ Aitutaki	44	0	0	44	0	0
22. „ Mauke	20	0	0	19	0	0
23. „ Mitiaro	15	0	0	15	0	0
24. „ Penrhyn	21	0	0	17	0	0
25. „ Mangaia	41	0	0	41	0	0
26. „ Manihiki and Rakahanga	40	0	0	30	0	0
27. Native Assessor, Rakahanga	10	0	0	10	0	0
28. Contingent expenditure, High Court	360	0	0	293	3	1
29. „ general	400	0	0	624	6	7
30. „ Land Court	300	0	0	392	14	10
31. Head-money for destruction of flying-fox and rats	600	0	0	1,167	4	1
32. Maintenance of lunatics	120	0	0	138	9	3
33. „ lepers	200	0	0	270	2	1
34. Hospital supplies and attendance	1,000	0	0	1,161	17	9
35. Rents						
Wharf-site	£5	0	0			
Post-office site	8	15	0			
Registrar's house	12	0	0			
	25	15	0	23	17	6
36. Subsidy, Boatman, Mangaia	10	0	0	10	0	0
37. „ „ Aitutaki	9	0	0	9	0	0
38. „ „ Atiu	3	0	0	3	0	0
39. „ „ Mauke	6	0	0	6	0	0
40. „ carrying mails in Group	20	0	0	20	0	0
41. „ wireless station, Rarotonga	500	0	0	..		
42. Education	100	0	0	411	14	7
43. School-teacher, Palmerston Island	25	0	0	15	0	0
44. House allowance, Interpreter and Printer	40	0	0	40	0	0
45. Allowances, Registrars of Births, Marriages, and Deaths at Palmerston, Mitiaro, and Pukapuka	11	0	0	3	15	0
46. Postal services, Rarotonga	65	0	0	56	15	0
47. Native police, Atiu	20	0	0	20	0	0
48. Assistant Printer, Rarotonga	90	0	0	90	0	0
49. Experimental farm	350	0	0	234	13	5
50. Avarua School buildings	1,000	0	0	1,304	11	7
51. Roads and bridges	800	0	0	842	13	9
52. Rarotonga water-supply	600	0	0	487	15	3
53. Upkeep of Government buildings	150	0	0	236	0	0
54. Aitutaki water-supply	500	0	0	11	17	0
55. Tanks, Mangaia	30	0	0	28	8	11
56. „ Palmerston	125	0	0	115	2	7
57. „ Penrhyn	60	0	0	200	17	11
58. „ Manihiki	70	0	0	140	14	5
Whare, Manuiri .. .. .	..			34	2	4
Resident Agent, Mauke .. .. .	..			220	0	0
Market .. .. .	..			14	11	1

Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March, 1918—continued.

Service.	Voted.	Expended.
		£ s. d.
Land-resumption		108 18 7
Land-drainage		5 3 4
Printing-press		155 16 7
Telephone		56 5 0
Post-card Account <i>Dr.</i>		7 6 0
Aitutaki beacons		22 4 0
„ Wharf repairs		57 14 7
„ Courthouse repairs		43 4 11
Titekaveka house		23 13 1
Salary, Sergeant of Police		30 15 9
„ late Resident Agent, Atiu		18 7 2
Expenses returning Natives to Pukapuka		42 0 0
Totals	11,015 15 0	12,614 13 6
Balance, including investments		1,262 1 8
	11,015 15 0	13,876 15 2

Details of Vote 28, High Court Contingent Expenditure.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Travelling-allowances, police	37 1 0	Brought forward	169 8 8
Food, prisoners	24 5 0	Interpreter, Aitutaki	12 0 0
Meals, police	11 8 0	Lighting	0 11 6
Horse-feed	14 16 0	Furniture, Sergeant's residence	31 17 0
Shoeing	1 8 0	Transfer expenses, Sergeant Atkinson and family	35 14 8
Mileages	16 14 9	Passage in Group, Sergeant	7 2 6
Rewards, police	20 18 0	„ Sergeant Holmes to Auckland	10 10 0
Office overtime	2 0 0	„ Judge and Interpreter	15 0 0
Passages, prisoners	4 6 0	Freight on Sergeant's bicycle from Wellington	0 11 0
Witnesses' expenses	1 18 0	Labour	0 11 0
Passages, Mauke constables	4 0 0	Cheque exchanges	0 8 9
Acting-gaoler	11 0 0	Miscellaneous material	8 3 0
Uniforms, police	14 18 11	Salary constable, Atiu	1 5 0
Interpreter, Atiu	4 0 0		
„ Mauke	0 15 0	Total	£293 3 1
Carried forward	£169 8 8		

Details of Vote 29, General Contingent Expenditure.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Salary, assistant in printing-office	40 2 6	Brought forward	355 16 10
Bicycle allowance, Resident Agent, Atiu	3 0 0	Seeds purchased	0 3 9
„ „ Mangaia	3 0 0	New flagstaff, Rarotonga	13 19 11
Clerical assistance, Commissioner's office	7 0 0	Overtime, Post-office	7 4 6
Travelling-expenses, Resident Agent, Mauke	69 6 3	Alterations and fittings, Post-office, Rarotonga	21 15 5
Purchase of mynahs for Mauke	0 5 6	Boat-hire, Manihiki	2 2 0
Customs Tidewater	16 4 0	Furniture, Commissioner's office	1 14 0
Passage, Interpreter, to New Zealand	19 10 0	Tools, Mauke	5 7 9
Boatman, Rarotonga	24 7 0	„ Rarotonga	5 12 2
Rewards, detection of smuggling	5 5 0	Freight banana-plants, Manihiki	4 18 6
Overtime, Printer	6 10 0	Furniture and fittings, Registrar's office	6 9 0
Rat virus	5 1 4	„ Mauke offices	3 10 4
Collection of plants, Professor MacMillan Brown	1 0 0	Repairs, conveniences, Rarotonga	0 10 0
Freight, &c., rifles	1 2 2	Boat-repairs, Rarotonga	0 4 8
Car-hire	5 6 6	Furniture and fittings, Ngatipa	12 10 8
Travelling grant, Resident Agent, Pukapuka	15 0 0	Clearing Government grounds	16 14 3
Passages, prisoners of war	25 5 0	Travelling-allowance, Resident Commissioner	11 0 0
Collector Customs residence, fence repairs	1 17 8	„ Interpreter	11 0 0
Passage, soldier, to Aitutaki	1 5 0	Travelling-expenses, Resident Commissioner	2 0 0
„ „ Atiu	0 10 0	„ Interpreter	0 12 0
Passage Resident Agent, Pukapuka	16 18 0	Passage „ Interpreter and Resident Commissioner	15 0 0
Pukapuka offices, fittings	3 1 11	Repairs, Government offices, Aitutaki	2 7 6
Mangaia offices, clock	5 10 0	Clearing land occupied by Pukapuka Natives	0 12 0
Bibles, 3rd Rarotonga Contingent	19 15 0	Stationery	123 1 4
Travelling-expenses, members Island Council	45 0 0		
Audit expenses	14 14 0	Total	£624 6 7
Carried forward	£355 16 10		

Details of Vote 30, Contingent Expenditure Land Court.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Labour	61	11	0	Brought forward	308	5	0
Buggy-hire	2	2	0	Travelling-allowance, Clerk	20	13	0
Stationery	27	2	6	Bonus, Acting-Interpreter	10	0	0
Material	7	15	8	" Acting-Clerk	10	10	0
Travelling-expenses, Judge, in New Zealand	8	15	0	House allowance, Judge	26	13	4
" Judge and Interpreter	6	18	0	Office fittings, Aitutaki	10	7	0
" Surveyor and staff	13	1	10	Police allowance, Aitutaki, attending Court	3	15	0
Travelling-allowance, Judge	51	0	0	Office overtime	1	4	0
" Interpreter	50	18	6	Refund of fees	0	5	0
" Surveyor	58	7	6	Instrument repairs	1	2	6
" Assistant Surveyor	20	13	0				
Carried forward	£308	5	0	Total	£392	14	10

Statement of Liquor Account for Year ended 31st March, 1918.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Stock on hand, 1st April, 1917	138	17	11	Sales	1,520	8	8
Supplies	807	16	11	Exchanges recovered	2	7	3
Freight	69	13	9	Pillages recovered	7	1	0
Duty	324	17	6	Stock, 31st March, 1918	155	16	5
Labour and supervision	30	0	0				
Balance	314	7	3				
	£1,685	13	4		£1,685	13	4

Profit and Loss Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Stock on hand, 1st April, 1918	155	16	5	Balance, 1st April, 1917	138	17	11
Cash to general revenue	297	8	9	Balance, 1st April, 1918	314	7	3
	£453	5	2		£453	5	2

Details of Receipts and Expenditure, Fruit Fumigation and Inspection Account, for the Year ended 31st March, 1918.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Inspection and fumigation fees	1,521	6	2	Labour	219	18	0
Registration of brands	3	10	0	Island-allowance, Inspector	43	6	8
Fruit-buyers' license	123	5	0	Chemicals and materials	19	6	11
				Bicycle allowances	2	11	0
				Travelling-allowance, Inspector	22	6	0
				Passage, Inspector	13	0	0
				Compensation claim	5	0	0
				Noxious-weeds Inspectors	24	0	0
				Buggy-hire	5	15	0
				Inspector's residence, furniture and repairs	44	19	5
				Banana-plants	2	13	0
				Balance to general revenue	1,245	5	2
	£1,648	1	2		£1,648	1	2

W. J. STEVENSON, Treasurer.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 18th April, 1918.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Estimated Expenditure for the Year ending 31st March, 1919.

	£	s.	d.
1. Engineer and Surveyor	355	0	0
2. Interpreter and Printer	275	0	0
3. Hospital Nurse	175	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	113	0	0
12. „ „	100	0	0
13. Cadet, Registrar's Office	36	0	0
14. Clerk, Commissioner's Office	100	0	0
15. Resident Agent, Mangaia	245	0	0
16. „ Atiu	220	0	0
17. „ Aitutaki	220	0	0
18. „ Penrhyn	220	0	0
19. „ Rakahanga and Manihiki	200	0	0
20. „ Pukapuka	220	0	0
21. „ Mauke	220	0	0
22. Native Agent, Mitiaro	50	0	0
23. Native police, Rarotonga	218	0	0
24. „ Aitutaki	44	0	0
25. „ Mauke	20	0	0
26. „ Mitiaro	15	0	0
27. „ Penrhyn	21	0	0
28. „ Mangaia	41	0	0
29. „ Rakahanga and Manihiki	30	0	0
30. „ Atiu	20	0	0
31. Native Assessor, Rakahanga	10	0	0
32. Maintenance of lunatics	180	0	0
33. „ lepers	270	0	0
34. Hospital supplies and attendance	1,000	0	0
35. Rents—			
Wharf site	5	0	0
Post-office site	8	15	0
Registrar's house	12	0	0
36. Contingent expenditure—General	500	0	0
37. „ High Court	300	0	0
38. „ Land Court	300	0	0
39. „ Education	400	0	0
40. Subsidy, boatman, Mangaia	10	0	0
41. „ „ Aitutaki	9	0	0
42. „ „ Atiu	3	0	0
43. „ „ Mauke	6	0	0
44. „ carrying mails in Group	30	0	0
45. „ wireless station, Rarotonga	500	0	0
46. „ Destruction flying-fox and rats	800	0	0
47. House allowance, Interpreter and Printer	40	0	0
48. Assistant Printer	90	0	0
49. Allowances, Registrars of Births and Deaths at Mitiaro, Palmers- ton, and Pukapuka	11	0	0
50. Postal and telephone services, Rarotonga	200	0	0
51. Cool store, machinery and buildings	1,000	0	0
52. School buildings	500	0	0
53. Experimental farm	350	0	0
54. Upkeep of Government buildings	150	0	0
55. Roads and bridges	800	0	0
	<u>£11,451</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>

F. W. PLATTS, Resident Commissioner.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Port of Rarotonga.—Value of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1917.

Article.	Country whence imported.				Value.	Total Value.
					£	£
Agricultural produce n.o.e.	New Zealand				1,037	
	New South Wales				2	
	United States America				55	
	Tahiti				1	
Animals, living—						1,095
Ducks	New Zealand				3	3
Fowls	"				9	9
Horses	"				133	
	Tahiti				10	143
Sheep	New Zealand				23	23
Apparel and slops	"				2,267	
	United Kingdom				149	
	New South Wales				19	
	British New Guinea				5	
	United States America				522	
	Japan				75	
						3,037
Arms, ammunition, and explosives	New Zealand .. ..				..	101
Bacon and hams .. ..	" .. ..				..	180
Bags and sacks	"				915	
	United States America				326	
						1,241
Bamboo for hatmaking	Tahiti .. ..				..	180
Beer and stout	New Zealand .. ..				..	246
Beverages, non-alcoholic	"				53	
	United States America				1	
	Tahiti				4	
						58
Biscuits and cabin-bread	New Zealand				4,530	
	New South Wales				4	
	United States America				95	
	Tahiti				113	
						4,742
Bicycles, tricycles, and motor-cars	New Zealand				893	
	United Kingdom				161	
	United States America				509	
	Tahiti				30	
						1,593
Boots and shoes	New Zealand				500	
	New South Wales				1	
	United States America				235	
						736
Building material n.o.e.	New Zealand				505	
	New South Wales				125	
	United States America				27	
						657
Butter and cheese	New Zealand				1,363	
	United States America				8	
						1,371
Carriages and parts of same	New Zealand				31	
	United States America				365	
	Tahiti				13	
						409
Cinematographs and hire of films	New Zealand				126	
	United Kingdom				5	
	New South Wales				65	
	Tahiti				283	
						479
Cement	New Zealand				475	
	Tahiti				1	
						476
Coal	New Zealand .. ..				..	107
Confectionery	"				268	
	United States America				18	
						286
Cordage and twine	New Zealand				585	
	New South Wales				7	
	United States America				194	
	Tahiti				21	
						807

Port of Rarotonga.—Value of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1917—continued.

Article.	Country whence imported.	Value.	Total Value.
		£	£
Cotton piece-goods	New Zealand	1,452	6,134
	New South Wales	243	
	United Kingdom	2,560	
	British New Guinea	2	
	United States America	1,807	
	Tahiti	70	
Drapery n.o.e.	New Zealand	2,858	3,494
	United Kingdom	414	
	United States America	173	
	Tahiti	49	
Drugs and chemicals	New Zealand	528	640
	United Kingdom	15	
	New South Wales	12	
	Victoria	1	
	United States America	83	
	Tahiti	1	
Earthenware and glassware	New Zealand	269	348
	United Kingdom	6	
	United States America	73	
Fancy goods and toys	New Zealand	319	471
	United Kingdom	15	
	New South Wales	25	
	British New Guinea	4	
	United States America	108	
Fish, preserved	New Zealand	638	1,266
	United States America	628	
Flour	New Zealand	3,657	5,871
	United States America	2,214	
Fruit, fresh, n.o.e.	United States America	141
Furniture	New Zealand	477	523
	United Kingdom	3	
	New South Wales	12	
	British New Guinea	7	
	Ocean Islands	4	
	United States America	20	
Hardware n.o.e.	New Zealand	1,615	2,124
	United Kingdom	30	
	New South Wales	30	
	British New Guinea	1	
	United States America	446	
	Tahiti	2	
Hats	New Zealand	167	229
	United Kingdom	44	
	New South Wales	1	
	United States America	17	
Hosiery	New Zealand	97	317
	United Kingdom	125	
	Fiji	1	
	United States America	25	
	Japan	69	
Hops	New Zealand	25
Instruments, musical	292	306
	United States America	14	
Iron—			
Bar, bolt, and rod	New Zealand	46
Galvanized corrugated sheet	305
Pipes	211	383
	New South Wales	172	

Port of Rarotonga.—Value of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1917—continued.

Article.	Country whence imported.	Value.	Total Value.
Iron— <i>continued.</i>		£	£
Wire	New Zealand	60	
	United States America	98	
			158
Jewellery	New Zealand	203	
	Tahiti	84	
	United States America	16	
			303
Machines—			
Electric	New Zealand	51	
	New South Wales	244	
			295
Printing	New Zealand	111	
	New South Wales	42	
			153
Sewing	New Zealand	42	
	New South Wales	14	
	United States America	111	
	British New Guinea	4	
	Tahiti	32	
			203
Matches	New Zealand	423	
	Sweden	183	
			606
Meats—			
Frozen	New Zealand .. .. .	..	149
Potted and preserved .. .. .	„ .. .. .	..	7,000
Salted .. .. .	„ .. .. .	..	728
Milk, preserved	„	390	
	United States America	12	
			402
Nails	New Zealand	542	
	New South Wales	8	
	United States America	206	
			756
Oil—			
Kerosene and benzine	New Zealand	260	
	United States America	693	
	Tahiti	112	
	New South Wales	20	
			1,085
Other kinds	New Zealand	220	
	New South Wales	15	
	United States America	53	
	Tahiti	2	
			290
Paints and varnish	New Zealand	360	
	New South Wales	32	
	United States America	182	
	Tahiti	3	
			577
Perfumery and toilet preparations	New Zealand	38	
	United Kingdom	11	
	United States America	33	
			82
Photographic goods	New Zealand .. .. .	..	79
Provisions n.o.e.	„	1,682	
	United Kingdom	23	
	Victoria	23	
	United States America	252	
	Tahiti	2	
			1,982
Peanuts	New Zealand .. .. .	..	192
Rice	„	628	
	New South Wales	6	
	United States America	415	
	Tahiti	40	
			1,089
Saddlery and harness	New Zealand	75	
	United States America	165	
			240
Seeds and plants	New Zealand	72	
	United Kingdom	14	
	Queensland	68	
			154

Port of Rarotonga.—Value of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1917—continued.

Article.	Country whence imported.	Value.	Total Value.
		£	£
Silks	New Zealand	203	352
	United Kingdom	56	
	Japan	93	
Soap	New Zealand	1,857	1,894
	New South Wales	30	
	United States America	7	
Specie (silver)	New Zealand	895	901
	Tahiti	6	
Spirits —	New Zealand	11
	Brandy	5	
	Geneva and gin	23	
Rum	United Kingdom	30
	Methylated .. .. .	..
	Perfumed	5	
Whisky	United States America	2	22
	Tahiti	15	
	New Zealand	260	
Stationery and books	United States America	104	364
	New Zealand	718	
	United Kingdom	2	
Sugar	New South Wales	18	812
	Fiji	10	
	United States America	64	
Tea and coffee	New Zealand	3,504	3,506
	United States America	2	
	New Zealand .. .. .	..
Timber—	New Zealand	922	1,360
	Sawn	132	
	United States America	305	
Fruit-box	Tahiti	1	10,863
	New Zealand .. .. .	..
	United States America	1,104	
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes	New South Wales	310	1,425
	Tahiti	11	
	New Zealand	87	
Tools	United Kingdom	33	290
	British New Guinea	8	
	United States America	162	
Wines—	New Zealand	25	84
	Claret	7	
	United States America	52	
Other kinds	New Zealand	25	32
	Victoria	7	
	New Zealand	158	
Woodenware	New South Wales	7	186
	United States America	20	
	Tahiti	1	
Miscellaneous	New Zealand	375	473
	United Kingdom	52	
	Queensland	12	
Total	United States America	11	80,061
	Tahiti	23	
	

<i>Summary.</i>							£
New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	..	61,931
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,748
New South Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,596
Victoria	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Queensland	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
British New Guinea	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Fiji	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Ocean Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,092
Tahiti	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,110
Japan	..	..	..	..	..	..	237
Sweden	..	..	..	..	..	..	183
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>£80,061</u>

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 18th April, 1918.

W. J. STEVENSON,
Collector of Customs.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Value of Exports for the Year ended 31st December, 1917.

Article.	Where exported.	Quantity.	Value.	Total.
Fruit, fresh—			£	£
Bananas	New Zealand	78,101 cases	21,500	22,125
	"	4,995 kits	625	
Lemons	"	699 cases	..	350
Oranges	"	62,968 "	..	11,025
Pineapples	"	5,532 "	..	540
Tomatoes	"	16,804 "	..	2,520
Cucumbers	"	113 "	..	18
Not otherwise enumerated	"	73 "	..	10
Coffee, raw	"	7,800 lb.	195	315
	Tahiti	4,400 "	120	
Copra	New Zealand	12,200 lb.	..	18,939
	United States America	122 tons	2,806	
	Tahiti	487 "	13,610	
		87 "	2,523	
Coconuts	New Zealand	696 tons.	..	1,414
	United States America	128,200 No.	514	
		180,000 "	900	250
Kumaras and taro	New Zealand	308,200 No.	..	
Limejuice	"	984 cases	..	11
Pearl-shell	United States America	220 gallons	..	2,600
Potatoes	New Zealand	65 tons	..	37
Cotton-piece goods	United States America	109 cases	..	36
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	<u>60,190</u>

<i>Summary.</i>							£
New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	..	40,401
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,146
Tahiti	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,643
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>£60,190</u>

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 18th April, 1918.

W. J. STEVENSON,
Collector of Customs.

Principal Exports from each Island in the Cook Group during the Year ended 31st December, 1917.

	Bananas.	Bananas.	Oranges.	Pines.	Tomatoes.	Fruit.	Cucumber and Beans.	Lemons.	Kumaras and Taro.	Coconuts.	Limejuice.	Potatoes.	Copra.	Pearl-shell.	Coffee.
	Cases.	Kits.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	No.	Gals.	Cases.	Tons.	Tons.	lb.
Rarotonga	75,004	4,995	38,683	11	16,804	73	113	699	559	307,000	220	109	177	..	..
Aitutaki ..	1,777	..	7,608	5,521	..	..	..	..	..	1,200	..	..	144	..	..
Mangaia ..	1,282	..	4,177	..	..	..	..	..	425	..	..	..	103	..	12,200
Atiu ..	27	..	2,258	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	150	..	..
Mauke ..	11	..	10,302	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136	..	..
Mitiaro ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70	..	..
Manuae ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71	..	..
Penrhyn ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	183	..	..
Rakahanga ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	150	22	..
Manihiki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	293	30	..
Palmerston ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..
Suvarrow ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	..
Pukapuka ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	..	..
Total ..	78,101	4,995	62,968	5,532	16,804	73	113	699	984	308,200	220	109	1,550*	52	12,200

* 850 tons in store at Rarotonga, 31st December, 1917.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 18th April, 1918.

W. J. STEVENSON,
Collector of Customs.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT OF THE COOK ISLANDS.

SIR,—

Rarotonga, 31st March, 1918.

I have the honour to report as follows in regard to the work of the High Court at Rarotonga.

The Court dealt with 855 cases on the criminal side and with 76 civil cases during the year.

Most of the former were for breaches of the liquor laws.

The police, under Sergeant W. Blake, displayed a praiseworthy activity in dealing with offenders.

The fees and fines collected amounted to £578 12s. 6d., leaving £55 1s. 10d. outstanding.

F. MITCHELL, Registrar.

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Return of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the Cook Islands for the Year ended 31st March, 1918.

Island.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
Rarotonga	110	77	34
Aitutaki	34	40	22
Mangaia	57	104	15
Mauke	24	31	3
Atiu	33	29	14
Penrhyn (four months)	6	7	5
Manihiki (six months) ..	11	10	7
Rakahanga (six months)	3	2	1
Mitiaro (seven months) ..	4	3	1
Pukapuka (no returns) ..	..	..	..
Totals	282	303	102

F. MITCHELL, Registrar.

NIUE ISLAND.

REPORT OF DEPUTY RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.

SIR,—

Niue Island, 11th April, 1918.

I have the honour to submit for your consideration a report on the work of the Niue Administration for the year ended 31st March, 1918.

FINANCE.

The accompanying statement of receipts (marked "A") shows that the revenue derived from all sources amounted to £2,787 2s. 11½d., which, added to the balance of £1,047 11s. 3d. from the preceding year, made a sum of £3,834 14s. 2½d. available for use during the year under notice. Compared with the year 1916-17 this gives an increase in receipts of £1,039 19s. 4½d., which is mainly due to the payment of £553 10s. contributed by the Natives under the Aid to Revenue Ordinance. A very pleasing feature, too, is the fact that with the exception of one there is an increase under every head of the revenue.

TRADE.

During the year ended 31st December, 1917, the value of exports amounted to £9,400, as against £3,379 for 1916. This great increase is strong evidence of the grand recovery the island has made after the disastrous hurricane of 1915 and the subsequent drought. There was nothing during the year to give the island a set-back, consequently everything grew well. Of this amount, copra to the value of £7,634 was sent to New Zealand; but there is one regrettable feature in connection with the trade of this island—the means of getting stuff away are nothing like adequate enough. The "Awanui" came down only five times. As she can take away at the most only 75 tons every trip, there was left awaiting shipment at the close of the year no less than 280 tons of copra. Had this been taken away the value of the exports would have amounted to over £15,000, an increase of 66½ per cent. on what was actually shipped. Conditions like these are most discouraging to the traders, who, far remote from a market and having to pay high freights quite incommensurate with the returns and advantages they obtain, are able to get away only a modicum of what they buy. When these conditions exist little trading is done, for when Natives know that traders cannot get the produce away they will let the nuts rot rather than dry copra for low prices. The island now is in a flourishing condition from a growing point of view, but it will never be so commercially and financially while high freights and an unsatisfactory service, such as we have now, exist. It must be noted that unless the copra can be shipped things are at a standstill and every one suffers. Low freights, a more frequent service, or a larger boat at stated intervals are the remedies for the evils existing at the present time.

As in the case of exports, the value of imports has materially risen. Goods to the value of £13,079, against £9,572 for 1916, were shipped to Niue.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The first annual payment under the Aid to Revenue Ordinance on the part of every male Native over the age of eighteen became due during the months of July and October last. Consequently, on receipt of a sufficiently large sum from this source a start was made with the repairing of the roads. The first road attended to was that portion of the Alofi-Liku Road called Motutapu, extending from Mana Corner to the top of Peta Hill. The amount paid for the work, £373 13s. 9d., was £20 3s. 9d. in excess of that collected for the purpose, but to complete the specified portion of the work the latter sum was paid out of the general funds of the Administration. The amount collected under the Ordinance is not sufficient for the amount of roadwork to be done. With such an amount as mentioned above it is possible to do only a small portion of the work; then the rest of the roads have to wait till the next payment is due. In the meantime the already bad roads are getting worse, while the parts repaired are suffering from lack of funds. On this island, where it is necessary to cart the copra—the staple product—good roads are absolutely necessary. Bad roads hamper trade considerably. May I suggest, then, that the Department give the Administration assistance in the direction of granting it a subsidy of £1 for £1 of the amount contributed under the Ordinance. There is at present a very bad piece of road which requires urgent attention. I see no way of being able to repair it until the next payment of the tax is due.

By means of prison labour other roads have been efficiently repaired, but the labour of this form is very restricted.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

During the year all necessary repairs to Government buildings were made. These were in all cases small and unimportant.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

During the nine months of the year ended 31st December, 1917, thirty-one persons, including seven Europeans, arrived in Niue from New Zealand, Australia, Rarotonga, and Papua. There left Niue during the same period for New Zealand and Samoa thirty-nine persons, including thirteen Europeans.

It is only the restricted service that prevents a greater outgoing, for these people, especially the young men, are very anxious to travel to other islands—not, unfortunately, with the intention of returning to Niue. Restrictions will need to be placed upon them, for the work of this island would be greatly hampered were all the young men allowed to go.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following is the number of births, deaths, and marriages registered during the nine months of the year ended 31st December, 1917, as well as for the five 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
1917 ..	100	137	37

METEOROLOGICAL.

The following is a summary of the meteorological readings taken during the year 1917:—

Temperature (in shade): Highest, 96° F., in January; lowest, 59° F., in July. Mean maximum for the year, 84·46° F.; mean minimum for the year, 68·24° F.

Rainfall: Number of days on which rain fell, 202; fall for the year, 85·17 in.

EDUCATION.

Tufukia School was the only Government school on the island during the year 1917. Taking everything into consideration, very fair progress was evidenced. At the beginning of the year there were 246 pupils, comprising 154 boys and 92 girls. During this year 3 girls and 5 boys were admitted. Before the end of the year 44 of these—22 girls and 22 boys—were withdrawn, leaving 210 pupils on the rolls on the 31st December. When school re-opened on the 21st January of this year 20 boys and 3 girls were admitted, so that on the 31st March, 1918, there were 233 pupils belonging to the school. During the year the average attendance was 126·5 boys and 72·25 girls, totalling 202·75, which in the face of an epidemic of whooping-cough and subsequent period of general acute illness, during both of which the school remained open, may be considered satisfactory.

On the whole the staff has done very good work. Miss Kerisome and Mr. Cowan especially are to be highly commended for their efforts and their loyalty to the school and Administration.

The time has come, though, when village schools should be opened. A European teacher with, say, his wife as mistress could do splendid work in this connection, training the small children from the age of six and keeping them about them till they reach the age of fourteen years.

Some means of commencing on a small scale in this direction should be adopted as soon as possible.

LOCAL ORDINANCES.

During the year three Ordinances have been passed by the Island Council, namely—

7. An Ordinance to amend the Niue Aid to Revenue Ordinance, 1916.
8. An Ordinance to provide for the Regular Cleaning and Weeding of the Public Roads.
9. An Ordinance to provide for the Regular Cleaning-up of all Coconut Plantations.

HIGH COURT AND NATIVE LAND COURT.

During the nine months, 1917, 142 criminal cases were dealt with in the High Court: Adultery, 49; offences against the person, 37; theft and offences against property, 16; libel, 8; drunkenness, 1; miscellaneous, 31.

The civil cases comprised: Divorce, 8; recovery of debt, 2. The fees and fines paid amounted to £55 8s.

The work of the Native Land Court was mainly in the direction of ordering adoptions, there being only one other case—the determining of the ownership of a piece of land at Utuko taken over by the Administration. The fees collected amounted to £4 2s.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO WAR FUNDS.

Although cut off from regular communication with the outside world, still the good people of this island do not forget their more unfortunate brethren fighting and struggling for them in the great world war. During the year several contributions of money and goods were sent from Niue to patriotic funds in New Zealand. A sum of £40 was remitted as the result of a function held by a number of ladies in August.

Towards the end of the year the Natives made a spontaneous offering of over £50 to the War Fund. In addition they despatched two cases of Niuean goods to be disposed of in New Zealand for the same purpose.

The greatest credit is due to one and all who so willingly worked and so generously gave in the great cause.

ESTIMATES FOR 1918-19.

As the new Resident Commissioner has not yet arrived, I venture to attach the estimates for the year. Naturally, I have made them as low as I consider advisable. Compared with those of last year they vary slightly, because I took as my guide generally the amount of actual expenditure under the different heads during that year. The estimated expenditure for the year 1918-19 is £2,010. The revenue is expected to reach £3,000.

SHIPPING.

In addition to the trips made by the "Awanui," the "Manua" made three trips and took away a considerable quantity of copra.

There is one matter in connection with the visits of ships to Niue requiring attention. At present all and sundry seem to be able to go aboard a ship in port at their own sweet will and pleasure. It would be most desirable to enforce the War Regulation under which no one can board a ship without a permit signed by the Resident Commissioner.

RHINOCEROS-BEETLE.

Prior to the coming of the "Manua," and since her first trip to Niue, many fears were expressed that her advent would result in the introduction of the dreaded rhinoceros-beetle into this island, but the Administration has not been lax in this matter. First of all, the great need for the Ordinance relating to the cleaning-up of the coconut plantations was clearly shown to the people, who were urged for their own sakes to obey strictly the Ordinance. Then the Biological Department in New Zealand, and the Agricultural Department of Samoa, under military occupation, were communicated with and asked to forward specimens of the beetle in all stages of its growth, as well as all literature dealing with the dreaded pest and its destruction. Moreover, this Administration arranged with the Administrator of Samoa that all luggage and articles of any kind whatsoever shall be thoroughly fumigated before being shipped to Niue. Every article coming off the ship from Samoa is put into the bond in Niue and thoroughly examined and searched. No plants, soil, vegetables, and other things of like nature are allowed to be landed. The Natives and the Department may rest assured that the Administration will do its utmost to keep out the beetle, but the Natives must help the Administration in every way.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

I append a copy of the report of the Medical Officer for the year ended 31st December last, which speaks for itself.

With reference to the section "Visits and Dispensary," I have suggested to the Medical Officer that medicines and drugs be given only to those people whom he has examined and found to require them—in short, that no free medicine be given without his prescription. If other things are required they should be paid for.

The crying need of this island is a well-equipped hospital where acute cases can be properly attended to.

I have, &c.,

J. C. EVISON,

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

Deputy Resident Commissioner.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER, NIUE.

Alofi, 11th April, 1918.

I have the honour to lay before you my annual report for 1917.

Visits and Dispensary.—During the year I paid 3,265 visits to patients in their own homes, and the numbers for the dispensary were 14,942. In connection with the latter I cannot forbear drawing your attention to the utterly futile nature of much of this work save in time of severe sickness. Many Natives look upon the dispensary as a store, and will ask for things which they see, quite ignorant of what they are used for; but these, as you may imagine, are summarily dismissed. Others come with the most trifling ailments which need no treatment at all. I have thoroughly reorganized this Department, made strict regulations, and closed the dispensary twice a week; but with the enormous amount of prophylactic work to be done on the island I am still much hampered by these petty details. I really believe a small nominal charge for medicine, save in case of real illness, would obviate much of this trouble.

European Deaths.—I very deeply regret to have to record two European deaths during the year. On the 12th March the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Cowan, of the Tufukia School, died from convulsions. The other carried with it a severe and irreparable loss to myself: after an illness of seven weeks Mrs. Barraclough died from acute yellow atrophy of the liver on the 30th May.

Native Deaths. There has been a heavy death-rate during the year, totalling for the twelve months, January to December, 164. The two quarters in which sickness was most rife were the first and third. In the first quarter the whooping-cough epidemic accounted for much of the sickness. During Mrs. Barraclough's long illness there was, fortunately, very little sickness in the island, so that I was enabled to devote my sole attention to her. But immediately after the tragic end a furious outbreak of sickness broke over the island, only two villages being practically exempt. Your Medical Officer was vainly attempting to do the work of three men, as may be exemplified by the fact that in the eight weeks following the 3rd June I paid 750 visits, had 3,300 at the dispensary (on one occasion 153 in one day), and visited different outside villages on 41 occasions. Even then I had to leave much undone. The diseases were of a most varied character, but in two villages it assumed the dimensions of an outbreak of epidemic pneumonia. As regards the causes of death, there is one outstanding feature which should allay any alarm which might otherwise arise as to the high death-rate: 54 per cent. were due solely to chronic diseases, and in 14 per cent. of the acute cases an underlying chronic disease played such a leading part that, in the great majority of cases, death would not have occurred if the patient had been otherwise healthy.

Whooping-cough and its Sequela. As I noted in my last annual report, there was a fairly severe outbreak of this disease in the early months of the year. I circularized the Natives on the subject, and the advice thus given appears to have been followed in a most exemplary manner. I particularly warned them of the dangers of tuberculosis as a sequela, with the result that only two out of the large number of cases died from this sequela, two others dying from broncho-pneumonia. There were ten deaths directly due to whooping-cough. Of these, eight succumbed at the most dangerous age—one year old and under (six under one year), the other two being five and six years old respectively.

Senility.—There were twenty-nine deaths from senile decay and senile cardiac degeneration during the year. In some cases a mild attack of some acute disease has proved too much for a degenerated heart. There is, however, much premature senility in Niue. The people themselves speak of a man being old at forty, but undoubtedly the average Niuean is an old man at fifty, and this applies not only to his general appearance and state of health, but his heart and blood-vessels are those of an old man. This is undoubtedly due to the ever-present syphilitic poison which has sapped the once vigorous race of Niue.

Heat-apoplexy.—There have been six cases directly attributable to this cause, and five when it was a contributory factor. In children it is contracted by rushing about in the heat of the sun, and in adults by working bareheaded on a hot day in the bush. It frequently takes the absolutely fatal form of pontine hæmorrhage. I have recently sent out a circular advising as to the best means of preventing this catastrophe.

Syphilis. There has been no active form of this disease in Niue for many years, and even tertiary forms are only found in middle-aged or old people. Congenital syphilis, however, abounds, and there are many horrible cases. These, however, have mostly to be sought for, as they bury themselves in the bush and often are never heard of until some one comes in for a burial order. This disease, however, is very largely responsible for the quite modern physical deterioration of the Niueans.

Tuberculosis. Last year I uttered a strong warning note as to the increase of this scourge in Niue, and this year that note must be doubled. There have been no less than twenty-six deaths from this cause during 1917. Eighteen of these were chronic and six acute pulmonary cases, one abdominal, and one, strumous marasmus, in an infant. Most of the cases came under my care too late for treatment, and though acute cases are too rapid for effective treatment, several which I saw early enough are now nearly recovered. I have formulated a scheme for utilizing the quarantine-station grounds as a sanatorium, and in this climate the necessary shelters could be erected at comparatively little cost, which could be borne almost, if not quite, entirely by the Niue Administration. I am in hopes that this work will be put in hand as soon as possible after the arrival of the new Resident Commissioner. To add to my contention that something must be done I may say that this year, 1918, up to date (11th April) there have been fourteen deaths from tuberculosis of various forms.

Malignant Disease.—Once more I have to note the continued presence of this fearful disease. Among the deaths occur nine cases—eight carcinomata and one sarcoma. The organs affected were—four pylorus; one lower lip, jaw, and neck-glands; two mamma; one pancreas; one sarcoma (parotid). One case is at present under palliative treatment for carcinoma of mamma and lung.

Cardiac Disease. In my last year's report I drew attention to a widespread cardiac weakness among the Niueans. This has still more forcibly been impressed upon me during the past year. Among the deaths occur the following: Cardiac asthma, 1; cardiac dilatation, 2; angina pectoris, 2; cardiac debility (as a very potent secondary cause), 9; fatty heart, 2; fatty degeneration, 1. There have been some deaths during the year due directly to abnormal gaseous products of digestion pressing upwards on a weakened or diseased heart. The Niueans are voracious eaters, and are therefore very subject to fermentative gastro-intestinal troubles, often of an extreme kind. Flatulence, a trifling disease elsewhere, has to be looked upon with a serious eye in Niue. It is especially fatal in stout women with fatty hearts, who habitually overfeed themselves and take very little exercise.

Rheumatism.—I have but little to add to what I said last year of the almost universal prevalence of muscular rheumatism. There is, however, an acute form of muscular rheumatism which I have never seen described which undoubtedly exists in Niue. It is associated with high fever, frequently patches of myositis, and in the most severe cases marked myocarditis, which last is extremely fatal. There have been seven deaths from this cause during the year.

Asthma.—Chronic bronchial asthma is very common. These cases would be very amenable to treatment in the projected sanatorium.

Acute Pneumonia.—I only refer again to this disease for a specific purpose. It (with enteric) is *par excellence* a disease in which thorough nursing and the constant attention of a medical man are an absolute necessity. Two villages were severely affected by the disease, there being fourteen cases in each. One was the home village of Alofi and the other the outside village of Liku (nine miles and a half), until recently (the repairs having just been completed), owing to the shocking state of the road, the most inaccessible of the villages. With sickness all over the island a second visit to Liku could not be paid within at least three days. There were seven deaths from acute pneumonia in Liku (50 per cent.), whilst in Alofi, with the same number of cases, there was not one single death. If this result can be achieved without trained nursing or convenience, but simply because the cases were under my own eye and could be visited two or three times a day, what could not be done with a fully equipped hospital?

Diarrhoea.—There have been a few deaths from acute diarrhoea of various forms—cholera nostras, cholera infantum, acute enteric catarrh, &c. The village of Hakupu seems particularly prone to this trouble in a very severe form, though the reason is obscure.

Influenza.—We have always this with us, and undoubtedly even a mild attack in old people is very fatal. It is very depressant to the heart, and if, as so often happens here, there is any weakness of that organ the results are liable to be disastrous. There were four deaths from this cause in 1917.

Babies. This is one of the greatest and most difficult problems in Niue. The preservation of infant-life is an absolute necessity here, but it is fraught with very great difficulties. Many of these children are born syphilitic and require special attention. The question of feeding is robbed of many of its difficulties by the fact that the vast majority of the women suckle their infants. If prevented by disease, paucity of milk, or death of the mother, if there is a wet-nurse available they will employ one. Such a wet-nurse should be examined by the Medical Officer. In two cases I have done so and found them satisfactory. The babies, however, are weaned too young—at three months as a rule. Then the trouble begins, as they are at once fed on taro, which is made soft by chewing and then put into the child's mouth. When one considers the total neglect of the hygiene of the adult Niue mouth one can imagine the result. The great trouble is that fresh milk is unobtainable, as there are no cows on the island. Goats' milk would be useful, but could only be used to a very limited extent owing to the scarcity of goats. The only two native products that could be utilized are arrowroot and banana-flour. Teaching the Natives the use and manufacture of banana-flour would be very advantageous. I have long studied how to make use of the very limited means at our disposal. I hope soon to issue a code of rules for infant-feeding for circulation through the island. But far better would it be if the New Zealand Government could send us a generally trained nurse, with special Plunket training as a *sine qua non*, who could assist the Medical Officer in his work, look after the babies, and instruct the mothers.

Lymphangitis. There is a disease called by the Natives *pata* which is very common. It consists of a localized inflammation of the skin, often covering a considerable area, with much infiltration of subcutaneous tissue. It is really a lymphangitis, and though deaths are stated to have occurred, none such have come under my notice, it being very amenable to treatment unless neglected.

Drugs.—The continued high price of these articles has much inflated the cost of our medical service, and has rendered an economy necessary which to a certain extent has hampered one's work, though no limit has been placed upon my requests by the generosity of the Administration, to whose many kindnesses I am deeply indebted. One could almost wish that this question of the inflated price of drugs should be submitted to the Commissioners for just regulation.

Insanity. There have been a few sporadic cases of temporary insanity during the year. One case of chronic delusional mania died from the exhaustion contingent on her disease, and another subject to recurrent mania died from bodily disease but was not insane at the time of his death.

Burial Orders.—The system of burial orders has proved very successful, but there are still a fair number of deaths reported from outside villages without previous medical attention. These are always fully investigated, but I cannot but regret the omission in the Cook Islands Act of any provision for the appointment of a Coroner. It is always in our power to hold a magisterial inquiry, but I think that if a specific officer were appointed, and a public inquiry held into all cases of death without medical attention, it would not only have a salutary effect, but would enable the Medical Officer to give valuable advice relative to cases similar to the one under investigation. This matter really lies outside my province, but as it closely affects my work I venture to put it forward as a tentative proposal.

For the extremely valuable assistance you, Sir, have given me at all times I am truly grateful.

The Deputy Resident Commissioner, Niue.

HERBERT BARRACLOUGH, M.B.,
Medical Officer.

A.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Statement of Revenue for the Year ended 31st March, 1918.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1st April, 1917— Balance forward				1,047	11	3
Customs duties	1,508	12	11			
Aid to revenue	553	10	0			
Dog-tax	23	18	9			
High Court fees and fines	80	18	0			
Native Land Court fees	7	2	0			
Licenses	176	5	0			
Liquor-sales	77	17	10			
Medical aid and attendance	1	4	6			
Registration fees	28	7	0			
Revenue from Postal Department	220	3	7½			
School fees	45	11	0			
Shipping fees	2	9	0			
Refund—Salary of Chief Officer of Police	61	3	4			
				2,787	2	11½
				£3,834	14	2½

Niue, 6th April, 1918.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX, Treasurer.

J. C. EVISON, Deputy Resident Commissioner.

B.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Statement of Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March, 1918.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Councillors	13	15	0			
Police, European	68	3	4			
Police, Native	119	14	3			
Police, local travelling-expenses	17	2	3			
Police Officer's quarters, rent of	4	5	0			
Police, uniforms and equipment	13	18	3			
Prison labour, food for	78	11	3			
Prison labour, supervision of	38	18	0			
Medical supplies and assistance (Schedule C)	483	15	5			
Medical Officer, local travelling-expenses (Schedule D)	123	14	5			
Interpreter	68	4	6			
Translation of laws	20	10	0			
Printing and stationery	78	3	3			
Office fittings and requisites	10	12	1			
Public library	9	3	1			
Officers' quarters, rent of	31	10	0			
Tufukia School working-expenses (Schedule E)	255	12	2			
Maintenance and upkeep of Government buildings	97	17	4			
Maintenance of reservoirs and tanks	31	15	3			
Maintenance of jetty, boats, &c.	1	18	6			
Miscellaneous services (Schedule F)	98	7	8			
Erection of stable	1	9	0			
Erection of prison	661	9	2			
Furniture for officers' quarters	22	17	0			
Maintenance of roads	373	13	9			
Liquor purchased	49	2	6			
Compensation for land acquired	113	0	0			
War bonus	100	10	0			
				2,987	12	5
Balance, 31st March, 1918—						
Cash in hand	696	5	3½			
Current Account, Bank of New Zealand	150	16	6			
				847	1	9½
				£3,834	14	2½

Niue, 6th April, 1918.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX, Treasurer.

J. C. EVISON, Deputy Resident Commissioner.

C.

Details of Item "Medical Supplies and Assistance."

	£	s.	d.
Drugs	446	2	4
Instruments and appliances	4	19	9
Transport	13	4	8
Interpreter	8	5	6
Charring and cleaning	9	0	0
Hospital expenses	2	3	2
	<u>£483</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5</u>

E.

Details of Item "Tufukia School—Working-expenses."

	£	s.	d.
Native assistant teachers	191	10	6
Teachers' local travelling-expenses	2	3	10
Caretaker	34	5	2
Printing and stationery	21	19	8
School furniture	0	15	0
School prizes	3	8	0
Cleaning	1	10	0
	<u>£255</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>

D.

Details of Item "Medical Officer—Local Travelling-expenses."

	£	s.	d.
Purchase of horse	34	1	7
Horse-hire	2	18	0
Horse-feed	56	12	4
Harness	15	0	6
Groom	12	7	0
Horse-shoeing	2	4	3
Sundries	0	10	9
	<u>£123</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>

F.

Details of Item "Miscellaneous Services."

	£	s.	d.
Boat-crew	7	18	6
Food for Councillors and labourers	7	3	9
Native assistance	15	18	2
Bicycle repairs and sundries	4	14	11
Travelling-expenses, Resident Commissioner	48	9	6
Locker at bond	2	1	6
Porterage	1	18	0
Dog-collars	10	3	4
	<u>£98</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>

G.

Statement of Liquor Account for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1918.

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Cr.</i>	£	s.	d.
1st April, 1917—Stock	18	5	0	Sales	77	17	10
Supplies	33	17	6	Stock, 31st March, 1918	1	15	0
Duty	11	15	11				
Freight	2	12	7				
Landing	0	16	6				
Balance	12	5	4				
	<u>£79</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>		<u>£79</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
31st March, 1918—Stock	1	15	0	Balance, 1st April, 1917	18	5	0
31st March, 1917—Loss brought forward	1	16	11	Balance, 31st March, 1918	12	5	4
Profit	26	18	5				
	<u>£30</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>£30</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>

Niue, 10th April, 1918.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX, Treasurer.
J. C. EVISON, Deputy Resident Commissioner.

II.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Estimated Expenditure for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1919.

	£	s.	d.
Councillors	55	0	0
Police, Native	125	0	0
Food for prisoners	75	0	0
Supervision of prisoners on labour works	50	0	0
Medical supplies and assistance	500	0	0
Medical Officer, local travelling	90	0	0
Interpreter	60	0	0
Native assistant	30	0	0
Printing and stationery	60	0	0
Office fittings	20	0	0
Tufukia School working-expenses	275	0	0
Maintenance and upkeep of Government buildings	100	0	0
Maintenance of reservoirs	10	0	0
Maintenance of jetty and boats, &c.	10	0	0
Miscellaneous services	100	0	0
Furniture for officers' quarters	25	0	0
Maintenance of roads	375	0	0
Purchase of liquor	50	0	0
	<u>£2,010</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

10th April, 1918

J. C. EVISON, Deputy Resident Commissioner.

I.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Return of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1917.

	From New Zealand.	From Australia.	From other Places.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Agricultural produce	98	20	..	118
Animals—Horses	33	..	..	33
Apparel and slops	1,029	10	18	1,057
Bags and sacks	304	..	..	304
Bicycles and parts of	141	..	..	141
Biscuits	584	..	..	584
Boots and shoes	149	..	1	150
Butter and cheese	156	..	..	156
Carriages and parts of	104	..	..	104
Cement	169	..	..	169
Cordage and twine	95	..	8	103
Cotton piece-goods	1,701	176	110	1,987
Drapery n.o.e.	244	3	5	252
Drugs and chemicals	562	5	..	567
Fancy goods and toys	105	..	..	105
Fish, preserved	379	..	..	379
Flour	184	70	..	254
Furniture and joinery	102	9	..	111
Hardware	228	11	..	239
Lace	89	..	28	117
Matches	324	..	..	324
Meats, preserved	1,034	3	..	1,037
Meats, salted	216	..	..	216
Milk, preserved	86	..	..	86
Oils, kerosene, &c.	294	15	..	309
Perfumery and toilet preparations	180	11	..	191
Rice	90	1	..	91
Saddlery and harness	100	..	..	100
Soap	439	1	..	440
Specie	814	..	..	814
Stationery, books, &c.	105	5	..	110
Sugar	114	4	..	118
Tea, coffee, and cocoa	50	..	..	50
Timber, sawn	293	..	..	293
Tinware	73	1	..	74
Tobacco-pipes, &c.	649	130	..	779
Miscellaneous	1,065	36	16	1,117
Totals	12,382	511	186	13,079

J.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Exports for the Year ended 31st December, 1917.

To New Zealand.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Brushware	10,087 lb.	108
Copra	309 tons	7,634
Fungus	16,234 lb.	336
Hats	1,848 doz.	1,170
Other goods .. .. .	..	152
Total .. .. .	..	9,400

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (750 copies), £26.

By Authority : MARCUS F. MARKS, Government Printer, Wellington.—1918.

Price 9d.]

