

1919.
NEW ZEALAND.

COOK AND OTHER ISLANDS.

[In continuation of Parliamentary Paper A.—3, 1918.]

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

MEMORANDUM.

Cook Islands Department, Wellington, 22nd August, 1919.

THE annual reports of the Resident Commissioners at Rarotonga and Niue are attached hereto, in which particulars of the operations for the year are fully set out.

The finances of the Administration are satisfactory notwithstanding the disabilities under which the Islands have laboured on account of the war, and the trade prospects are improving.

During the year the wireless station at Rarotonga was completed and opened for public use, and has proved a great convenience to the residents of the Islands.

Educational matters have received attention. A new school was opened at Avarua, Rarotonga, under a European teacher, making the third school in the island to be so established; and a school was opened at the Island of Mangaia also under a European teacher.

M. POMARE,
Minister for the Cook Islands.

COOK ISLANDS.

REPORT OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER OF RAROTONGA FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1919.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit the following report :—

Rarotonga, 1st July, 1919.

FINANCE.

For the past two years our revenue has steadily increased. This year it amounts to £13,846, an increase of £2,778 over last year's. The expenditure was £12,343 (last year, £12,614). We close the year with a credit balance of £2,785, as against £1,262 for the previous year.

TRADE AND TRADE PROSPECTS.

During the year our chief exports were 150,000 cases of fruit valued at £41,000 (as against 165,000 cases, of the value of £36,500, the previous year), and 1,750 tons of copra (£37,000) as against 700 tons valued at £19,000. The total value of our imports was £99,632, compared with £80,000 for the year before.

As much as other parts of the Empire—perhaps more, because of our geographical position—the Cook Islands have suffered from the economic pressure of the war, and especially from the dearth of

shipping. And in this respect the last six months, ended March, 1919, were the most disastrous we have experienced since the war began; but that was owing to the influenza epidemic here and in New Zealand, and to resultant labour difficulties.

Our fruit-export during that period sank to the lowest on record. This season we are doing much better; but, for all that, not more than one-third of the fruit crop of these Islands is being exported to New Zealand. The rest must rot on the trees because of the lack of shipping-space.

As shipping is released from war contracts the position will continue to improve. We can look forward at an early date to a cargo service to New Zealand that will carry every available case of fruit, say, 500,000 cases, instead of 150,000 cases, during the season. This must mean an unprecedented expansion of trade; and, as the fruit business is being so reorganized as to assure to the fruitgrower a profitable return for his produce, the outlook is a bright one.

DISPUTES BETWEEN TRADERS AND NATIVES.

During the past two years there have been repeated complaints by the Natives of the operations of combines. A combination of four or five traders has for a long time past been strong enough every season to fix the price the Natives must accept for their fruit.

It must be remembered that nearly all the fruit exported from the Islands—more than seven-eighths of the total output—is grown by the Native planters. The Natives complain that the prices fixed by these organizations have been unreasonably low, and that for a time last season, for example, the fruitgrowers had to accept 1s. a case. Similarly, a combination of the same traders has fixed and controlled the price of copra.

Hitherto, if the Natives objected, the traders have been able to reduce them to subjection by cutting off the supply of fruit-cases, copra-bags, &c.; and they have always held a stronger card in a practical monopoly of steamer and schooner space.

This feeling of resentment against the operations of these rings has been stronger since the return of the soldiers, and it reached a climax this season, which began in March. The fruit ring fixed the price at 2s. 6d. per case. The Native fruitgrowers have formed a ring of their own, and they declined to sell under 5s. per case. Neither party would alter its price. The Natives then decided to export their fruit themselves, but the traders met that decision by cutting off the supply of fruit-cases and by asserting a claim, based upon long usage, to the shipping-space.

Owing to want of capital, and of credit in New Zealand, the Natives have always been dependent upon the local traders for fruit-cases. They now complained to the Administration, and asked for help.

Upon inquiry it was found that these statements of the Natives were correct, and the Administration then assisted them to obtain a supply of cases and a share of the shipping-space. They were thus enabled to ship their own fruit directly to the agents selected by themselves. So far this new departure has had very satisfactory results for the Natives, for the fruit for which the buyers tried to make them take 2s. 6d. a case they cleared 10s. a case; in subsequent shipments they have done even better than that.

The same battle has been fought and won by the producers of New Zealand. It is a question of the interests of the whole Native population of the Group as against those of the four or five traders who have hitherto controlled the fruit and copra export trade of the Islands. When shipping-facilities are so increased, as they soon will be, that the Native grower is able to export the whole of his crop, this new trade arrangement will assure him a fair return for his labour and a fair share of the value of his produce. It will thus enable him to raise his standard of living and of comfort, which is sadly in need of improvement.

The islanders themselves are the real wealth of the Islands. To promote their general welfare, their health, their education, as well as their material prosperity, is the task of the Administration.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

I attach the report of the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. R. S. Trotter, which discloses a satisfactory state of the public health.

The appointment of Sister M. M. la Fontaine as nurse in charge of Aitutaki has proved so successful that similar appointments to other islands are now being considered. This is likely to be the solution of the difficult problem of providing skilled medical aid for the Natives of the outer islands.

Influenza, brought from Tahiti, broke out in September last year. Prompt and effective steps were taken to deal with it. The work of Dr. Moore, Assistant Medical Officer, who carried on until he was himself overcome by the disease, was beyond all praise. The nurse in charge of the hospital (Sister Sisley) and Dr. Storey (temporarily appointed during the absence of the Chief Medical Officer) also rendered excellent service. The thanks of the Administration are due to the European residents, particularly the ladies, who freely gave their services to the organization for fighting the epidemic.

Many deaths were caused by lack of proper feeding during the convalescent period. To prevent this a daily supply of nourishing food was provided for all the Native patients who required it. By this means many valuable lives were saved. In the course of five weeks there were forty-five deaths from influenza at Rarotonga, a death-rate of about 1½ per cent. of the population. To prevent the

spread of the disease to the other islands in the Group, where with no medical or nursing assistance available it was seen that the results would have been calamitous, all the mails and passenger traffic were suspended until the danger had passed. One result of the epidemic is the formation of classes at all the schools for teaching the elder girls plain cookery, including the preparation of simple foods for invalids.

EDUCATION.

Education in the Cook Islands was placed under the control of the Minister in 1916. Then there were three schools in the Group, two being in Rarotonga and one at Aitutaki. These had an attendance of 450 pupils under nine teachers. Since 1916 two new primary schools have been opened in Rarotonga—viz., Avarua and Titikaveka—one at Palmerston Island, one at Mauke, and one at Mangaia. There are now eight primary schools at work in the Group, and the ninth will be opened at Atiu this year. These primary schools have more than one thousand scholars being taught by twenty-six teachers.

A Technical School, also created since 1916, has been established at Avarua, with classes in agriculture, drawing, and woodwork, and an advanced class in carpentry. In most of the schools classes for simple cookery and for mat and basket weaving are held.

Three scholarships for annual competition, tenable for two years at St. Stephen's College, Auckland, and created by the Administration, were allotted this year. The first holders of these scholarships are now at the College. Reports of their work are highly satisfactory.

This year we have also sent to Wellington four advanced pupils, chosen from the Technical School, to be apprenticed to trades. They are under a bond to return to Rarotonga on the completion of their apprenticeship. By this method the Administration intends to secure the necessary supply of skilled Native artisans required for the Group.

SOLDIERS' RIOTS.

Unfortunately a number of the returned soldiers spoiled their otherwise excellent record by acts of violence and crime. On Saturday night, 7th March, ten or twelve of the men entered a tea-shop and smashed up the furniture and cookery and looted the premises. On the following night (Sunday) a crowd of about seventy men, nearly all returned soldiers, attacked one of the largest stores on the island. They burst open the doors and windows, smashed the shop-fittings, and looted or destroyed the contents. The same night they attacked and looted another store. They announced their intention of looting the remaining stores and the spirit-bond.

For twenty-four hours the settlement was at the mercy of the rioters. By Monday night, 9th March, however, we had formed a strong body of Native special constables, a number of the better-behaved soldiers had placed themselves under their officers, and practically every white man on the island had offered his services and was sworn in as a special constable. This force was disposed for the protection of the Government buildings, the stores, the gaol, and, later, for the suppression of disorder in the outlying settlements.

We had a most trying fortnight until the danger of further outbreaks was past. A special session of the High Court dealt with various charges arising out of the riots against twenty alleged offenders, of whom twelve were convicted and sentenced. There is no doubt that this prompt vindication of the law did a great deal to bring the men to their senses.

The causes of the outbreak were drink, the apparent absence of any force that could restrain the men, and the alleged grievances of the soldiers against the traders.

At Rarotonga the returned soldiers have now quite settled down as law-abiding citizens. In the outlying islands some of the soldiers have made threats of violence towards the traders, but there has been no breach of the peace.

HIGH COURT AND NATIVE LAND COURT.

The High Court has had a particularly heavy year. Besides the usual sittings, a special session was held at Rarotonga to deal with the soldiers' riots, and the Court visited the outer islands when required. Its work continues to expand. In 1913 the High Court dealt with 360 cases; the total for 1917 was 623 cases, and for last year 673 cases.

Mr. S. Savage, who has had a long and valuable experience in the Courts, was appointed Registrar of the High Court in August last.

The Native Land Court has cleared off the arrears of business that had accumulated prior to the appointment of Judge Ayson. This year it will sit at Atiu and at Mauke.

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

In 1916 there was one post-office in Rarotonga. We now have a main post-office at Avarua, with three branch offices at Arorangi, Ngatangia, and Titikaveka respectively; a wireless-telegraph station, commercially successful beyond all anticipation (from its opening in September, 1918, to the 31st March, 1919, it dealt with 720 messages, representing charges to the value of £1,087); and a telephone system linking up all the Native settlements with Avarua, which is now being extended to business places and residences. We have provided pillar-boxes in the outskirts of Avarua and post-office boxes at the post-office.

The volume of the postal business continues to grow. In 1908 it was £17,139; in 1913 it was £65,074; in 1918 it was £84,339.

The telephone subscription is £5 per annum for a business wire and £2 10s. for a private-house connection, with no limit to distance. The fee for a post-office box is 6s. per annum.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department has again had a busy year. The dwellinghouses for the wireless operators are almost completed.

Additional schoolrooms have been built at Avarua and at Arorangi. The cool store has been built and is in operation. It has already proved a great boon to the European residents, by enabling them to obtain fresh meat and butter, &c.

Private boxes have been provided at the Chief Post-office, all of which are let. The Government buildings and roads and bridges at Rarotonga have been kept in repair.

The Administration is devoting special attention to the development of the more backward islands of the Group, and especially to Atiu and Mangaia. Atiu has just been surveyed. Its roads are being laid off. To secure an adequate water-supply a number of large tanks and bathing-places are being built. At Mangaia arrangements for the building of a new open-air schoolroom, and another large cargo-shed, have been completed. At Mauke a new school and teacher's residence are being built. At Aitutaki further improvements of the water-supply are being made.

GENERAL.

Navigating-light.—A powerful light to assist navigation is to be placed on the wireless tower.

Harbour-improvement.—A proposal to lay down a large mooring-buoy that will facilitate the loading and discharge of vessels at Avarua is under consideration.

Public Library.—A circulating library will be opened shortly at Rarotonga.

I have, &c.,

F. W. PLATTS, Resident Commissioner.

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

REPORT OF CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

Rarotonga, 3rd April, 1919.

I beg to present my report for the year ended 31st March, 1919.

Upon the Island of Rarotonga 475 visits were made to Europeans, and in addition there were 486 attendances by Europeans at the Hospital; the corresponding figures for Maoris are 1,483 and 5,698. This gives a total of 8,142 visits and attendances for the year. The heaviest months for visits and attendances upon Europeans were November, with 153; October, with 113; and December, with 112; the months in which these were lowest were August, with 41; and April, with 48. The heaviest visiting months amongst the Maoris were September, with 310 visits; March, with 240; and August, with 187. The months with lowest number of visits were—Amongst Europeans, February, with 15; August, with 19; and June, with 23. Amongst Maoris, February, with 32; October, with 36; and June, with 44.

During the latter part of August and the first part of September there was an outbreak of infective catarrh resembling a mild form of influenza. This was the only sickness in epidemic form during the year.

The Assistant Medical Officer, Dr. Moore, unfortunately was laid off duty by illness during the epidemic, and a considerable increase of work devolved upon the Matron of the Hospital, Miss Sisley. The Administration was able to secure the services of Dr. Storey, who helped to tide us over the difficulty, I being away myself on duty in the out-islands.

Dr. Matheson, former Assistant Medical Officer, had, unfortunately, for health reasons, to leave the island in May after six months service. It is quite a mistake to think that a man who is not physically strong can stand the work in these Islands, and it is not advisable to send men who are not strong and healthy to attempt to do the work. The position is similar in regard to nurses.

The conditions of living for Europeans in these Islands are by no means ideal. There is too much need for living upon tinned foods, and there is a great scarcity of green vegetables.

The Administration is attempting to remedy the one evil for Rarotonga only; the other appears to be largely a matter for the white people themselves so far as the islands of the Group are concerned. In the northern islands the position is much worse, and not so much can be done in either case as in the Group.

During the year all the islands were visited by me with the exception of Takutea, which is uninhabited. Dr. Matheson visited Aitutaki, and Dr. Moore paid visits to Mangaia, Atiu, Mauke, and Aitutaki. The Resident Nurse at Aitutaki, Miss la Fontaine, appears to be doing good work on the island. There was no special outbreak of sickness on any of the outer islands.

As a whole the Island settlements were found to be comparatively clean with the exception of those at Atiu, where some of the houses and their surroundings left considerable room for improvement in the matter of cleanliness.

Encouragement is being given to the people to live more upon their plantations and less in the settlements, and many are doing so with markedly good results from a health point of view. Many cases of incipient phthisis under this plan have done well. There is less tendency, too, for the spread of numerous contagious diseases in this method of living, as there is not so much indiscriminate visiting as in the settlements. The chief drawback to plantation life, in the northern islands particularly, is the difficulty of getting a good potable water, but so far as water for drinking purposes is concerned this does not much matter, as the people mostly drink the water of nuts. The water-supply in Atiu needs to be supplemented, as does that in Aitutaki. In most of the other islands the drinking-water supply is now satisfactory, except during lengthened periods of drought. Much improvement in the domestic supply in several of the islands could be effected were the people taught how to build tanks with material ready to hand supplemented by the addition of small quantities of cement and alum, as not every one can afford to buy iron tanks.

A much healthier class of house is being built in the northern islands than has been the fashion in former years. This should help to mitigate the ravages of tuberculosis.

It was found impossible to make any lengthy stay on any of the outer islands with the exception of Pukapuka, owing to the difficulties experienced in arranging connections with the schooners. This is inevitable to a great extent so long as Government is dependent upon ordinary trading-vessels for the transport of its officers. It is to be hoped that with three schooners trading amongst the islands next year journeys may be so arranged that greater facilities for longer stays at particular islands may be afforded to the Medical Officers.

It seems advisable that the Chief Medical Officer, whilst visiting islands which it is impossible for the Resident Commissioner or the Land Court Judge to visit, should be invested with the powers of a Deputy Commissioner to facilitate the transaction of public business.

Efforts have been made, with success, to increase the Native food-supply in the northern islands, and more work of this nature is to be attempted in the coming year.

During the year 1,475 visits and attendances were made in the outer islands.

In the interests of the health of the islanders it was found advisable to curtail the movements of the passengers and crews of vessels trading in these islands. This involved a considerable amount of work as regards the inspection of vessels coming to or leaving the Port of Rarotonga. All vessels were inspected.

Hospital.—The in-patients treated at the Hospital during the year numbered seventy-seven, with an average stay of twenty-one days in the Hospital. There were four deaths. The cost of drugs and appliances was a heavy item of expenditure, and many drugs and appliances were unprocurable.

Leprosy.—There has been no spread of this disease during the year. One case is isolated locally, as none of the trading-vessels can be induced to transport it to one of the segregation areas.

I am indebted to the Resident Commissioner, the Land Court Judge, the Treasurer, and other officials for help in various administrative matters. Their courtesy and willingness to help were all that could be desired.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT S. TROTTER, C.M., M.D., D.Hy., &c.,
Chief Medical Officer.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

The revenue for the period under review amounted to £13,846 17s. 9d., being an increase of £2,778 17s. 7d. over the previous year. Customs duties show an increase of £1,218, stamp-sales £842, and Liquor Account £245. A new item of income—export duty on copra—produced revenue to the extent of £1,380. High Court fees and fines decreased by £412, Land Court £384, and Fruit-fumigation Account by £266.

The postal business is steadily increasing. Money-orders to the number of 948, value £18,273, were issued, and 586, value £8,119, were cashed, the commission earned being £78 11s. 3d. Postal notes to the value of £298 were issued. In the Savings-bank the deposits amounted to £1,837 and the withdrawals £197.

Soldiers' allotment warrants to the value of £8,852 were cashed, and in addition £5,757 as soldiers' pay was distributed on behalf of the Defence Department.

The wireless station was opened for traffic in September, and is quite a convenience to traders and fruit-shippers. The arrival of steamers is now timed to the hour, and the waste of fruit which was so heavy in the past is now avoided. During the six months 371 messages, of 6,396 words, value £521 1s. 9d., were despatched, and 349 messages, of 6,221 words, value £566 3s. 1d., were received.

Trade.—The overseas trade for the year is valued at £182,340, showing an increase of £42,089 compared with the previous year. The imports totalled £99,632, and the exports £82,708, showing increases of £19,571 and £22,518 respectively.

Copra and fruit—oranges, bananas, and tomatoes—were the main products for export. The orange output increased by 14,901 cases, but the bananas decreased 14,901 cases and the tomatoes by 10,484 cases. Had it not been for the influenza epidemic the export of bananas would have been much greater. The "Flora," which connects with Auckland, did not take any fruit from the Cook Islands between the 31st October and the 23rd April, and with the exception of a few small shipments by mail-steamers to Wellington the whole of the banana production during that period was lost for export.

The tomato shipments fell from 16,804 cases to 6,330 cases. This industry promised well a few years ago, but growers having suffered severe reverses through lack of shipping-facilities do not feel inclined to plant extensively at present. 1,752 tons of copra were exported, the whole of which practically went to America. Much of it had been on hand from the previous year owing to scarcity of shipping. Freights on this article are still very high; and although the Armistice was signed over six months ago, and freight rates to almost all parts of the world were reduced immediately after, the Cook Islands still pays the war-freight rate by subsidized mail-steamers on both inward and outward cargo.

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

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Revenue for the Year ended 31st March, 1919.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance, 1st April, 1918				1,262	1	8
Customs duties, Rarotonga	5,515	1	6			
" New Zealand	1,192	17	9			
Export duties	1,379	16	3			
Trading-license fees	600	15	0			
Stamps	1,856	10	4			
Fees and fines, High Court, Rarotonga	362	7	6			
" " Aitutaki	69	13	0			
" " Mangaia	100	2	6			
" " Mauke	90	3	0			
" " Atiu	6	9	0			
" " Manihiki	102	2	0			
" " Penrhyn	24	14	0			
Fees, Land Court	140	14	9			
Water rates, Avarua	194	18	8			
" Arorangi	77	14	0			
" Ngatangia	39	6	0			
" Matavera	39	7	0			
" Titikaveka	54	17	0			
" Muri	26	16	0			
Shipping fees	15	15	1			
Marriage fees	37	17	11			
Motor-vehicle fees	23	19	2			
Hall licenses	5	0	0			
Road rates	171	5	6			
Interest on fixed deposit	35	0	0			
Rents	144	7	0			
Fruit Fumigation and Inspection Account, cash balance	979	6	11			
Ammunition Account, cash balance	2	6	8			
Muri Water Account, cash balance	4	3	6			
Liquor Account, cash balance	542	13	1			
Miscellaneous	10	17	8			
				13,846	17	9
Total				£15,108	19	5

Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March, 1919.

Service.	Voted.			Expended.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Engineer and Surveyor	355	0	0	355	0	0
2. Interpreter and Printer	275	0	0	212	10	0
3. Hospital Nurse	175	0	0	180	12	9
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	20	16	8
8. " Sergeant of Police	25	0	0	27	7	6
9. Clerk, Land Office	90	0	0	100	0	0
10. " Registrar's Office	113	0	0	120	0	0
11. " Post Office	113	0	0	98	5	0
12. " "	100	0	0	106	13	4
13. Cadet, Registrar's Office	36	0	0	45	6	8
14. Clerk, Commissioner's Office	100	0	0	80	6	8
15. Resident Agent, Mangaia	245	0	0	232	10	0
16. " Atiu	220	0	0	220	0	0
17. " Aitutaki	220	0	0	220	0	0
18. " Penrhyn	220	0	0	220	0	0
19. " Rakahanga and Manihiki	200	0	0	200	0	0
20. " Pukapuka	220	0	0	230	0	0
21. " Mauke	220	0	0	241	5	0
22. Native Agent, Mitiaro	50	0	0	50	0	0
23. Native police, Rarotonga	218	0	0	214	19	0
24. " Aitutaki	44	0	0	42	10	0
25. " Mauke	20	0	0	20	0	0
26. " Mitiaro	15	0	0	15	0	0
27. " Penrhyn	21	0	0	17	0	0
28. " Mangaia	41	0	0	41	0	0
29. " Rakahanga and Manihiki	30	0	0	30	0	0
30. " Atiu	20	0	0	21	5	0
31. Native Assessor, Rakahanga	10	0	0	14	3	4
32. Maintenance of lunatics	180	0	0	148	17	6
33. " lepers	270	0	0	109	13	2
34. Hospital supplies and attendance	1,000	0	0	1,183	6	3
35. Rents—	£	s.	d.			
Wharf-site	8	15	0			
Post-office site	5	0	0			
Registrar's house	12	0	0			
				25	15	0
36. Contingent expenditure, General	500	0	0	890	9	8
37. " High Court	300	0	0	192	18	3
38. " Land Court	300	0	0	156	7	9
39. " Education	400	0	0	560	7	8
40. Subsidy, boatman, Mangaia	10	0	0	10	0	0
41. " " Aitutaki	9	0	0	9	15	0
42. " " Atiu	3	0	0	3	0	0
43. " " Mauke	6	0	0	6	0	0
44. " carrying mails in Group	30	0	0	30	0	0
45. " wireless station, Rarotonga	500	0	0			
46. " destruction flying-fox and rats	800	0	0	470	3	7
47. House allowance, Interpreter and Printer	40	0	0	30	0	0
48. Assistant Printer	90	0	0	108	0	0
49. Allowances, Registrars of Births and Deaths at Mitiaro, Palmerston, and Pukapuka	11	0	0			
50. Postal and telephone services	200	0	0	253	5	0
51. Cool store, machinery and buildings	1,000	0	0	1,347	13	5
52. School-buildings	500	0	0	639	19	11
53. Experimental farm	350	0	0	287	19	3
54. Upkeep of Government buildings	150	0	0	155	17	10
55. Roads and bridges	800	0	0	706	9	0
Avarua Water Account, Dr.				37	10	2
Matavera Water Account, Dr.				3	3	0
Ngatangia Water Account, Dr.				8	0	6
Titikaveka Water Account, Dr.				4	3	1
Arorangi Water Account, Dr.				15	1	7
Motor-truck Account, Dr.				264	0	7

Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March, 1919—continued.

Service.	Voted.	Expended.
		£ s. d.
Titikaveka cottage	32 10 3
Whare, Manuiri Hotel	46 18 6
Peace celebrations	77 5 0
Aitutaki wharf, beacon and shed	41 8 7
„ Courthouse	6 8 9
Atiu, tanks	12 14 9
Compensation for land	14 5 8
Registrar of Courts	99 18 0
Aitutaki Nurse Account, <i>Dr.</i>	97 7 5
Mauke landing	13 1 10
Meat and Ice Account (oil fuel on hand)	175 4 8
Bonus, officers	155 6 0
“ Inverness ” crew, clothing	12 2 0
		12,343 10 9
Balance, including investments	2,765 8 8
Total	£15,108 19 5

Details of Vote 36, General Contingent Expenditure.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Salary, assistant in Printing Office	35 10 6	Public conveniences	2 0 0
Clerical assistance, Resident Commissioner's Office	38 12 6	Maori dictionary	10 4 8
Clearing and planting Government grounds	36 7 3	Post-office material	2 2 5
Stationery	120 1 1	Tools and repairs	5 14 0
Passages and travelling-expenses, Resident Agent, Pukapuka	78 5 0	Boat-repairs	2 12 7
Bicycle allowance, Resident Agent, Atiu	3 0 0	Collector of Customs, residence, fittings	6 12 0
„ „ Mangaia	3 0 0	Photographs	3 13 11
Special services, “ John Williams ”	36 0 0	Flags	7 11 5
Travelling-allowance, Resident Commissioner, while visiting New Zealand	20 0 0	Post-office, lighting	2 8 0
Travelling allowance and expenses, Resident Commissioner in Cook Islands	33 8 7	Rewards, smuggling	1 10 0
Transfer expenses, Resident Agent, Mangaia	30 9 0	Celebrations, peace and returned soldiers	21 4 0
„ „ Aitutaki	29 17 0	Exhibition exhibits	12 10 3
„ „ Mauke	40 7 6	Mangaia offices, fittings	2 16 1
Passage, Resident Commissioner in Group	17 5 0	Mauke office, fittings	2 6 0
„ Interpreter in Group	17 5 0	Overtime, Post-office	19 6 0
Wireless messages	41 17 0	Boatmen, Rarotonga	28 10 0
Travelling-expenses, members Island Council	45 0 0	Rifles, cleaning, &c.	1 9 0
Customs tidewaiter	20 12 0	Furniture purchased	24 10 3
Acting Resident Agent, Aitutaki	10 0 0	Aitutaki Island Council badges	4 17 11
Number-discs for motor vehicles	1 14 3	Lime-kiln, Aitutaki	1 11 2
Mauke war bonds	0 16 0	Typewriter	15 17 0
Donation of fruit to French soldiers	2 0 0	Passage, clerk, to Wellington	6 15 0
Discount on stamps sold	0 9 6	Travelling-allowance, clerk, to Wellington	2 0 0
Ngatipa furnishings	19 8 9	Fruit for passing vessels	0 15 0
Travelling-allowance, interpreter	7 6 6	Flagstaff repairs, Rarotonga	0 10 0
Expenses opening wireless station	2 10 0	Part passage, motor-driver	10 0 0
			£890 9 8

Details of Vote 37, Contingent Expenditure, High Court.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Travelling-allowance, police	30 13 9	Interpreter, Atiu	6 15 0
Travelling-expenses, sergeant	6 0 6	Bonus, police, Atiu	3 0 0
Travelling-allowance, Registrar	0 12 0	Mileages	5 4 6
Uniforms	22 4 2	Refund fees	0 5 0
Prison supplies	2 17 8	Typewriter-repairs	0 12 6
Rewards, police	15 14 0	Lighting	0 12 0
Food, prisoners and police	58 3 4	Furniture	2 8 5
Bicycle allowances	9 0 0		
Law reports	2 7 3		£201 8 3
Passages, prisoners	3 10 0	Less refund passage, Registrar	8 10 0
Buggy-hire	0 8 0		
Stationery	11 0 2		£192 18 3
Interpreter, Mangaia	8 0 0		
„ Aitutaki	12 0 0		

Details of Vote, Contingent Expenditure, Land Court.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Material	52	14	10	Overtime	3	6	0
Labour	39	1	0	Instrument-repairs	0	2	6
House allowance, Judge	23	6	8	Freight, material, Atiu	1	9	6
Passage, Judge	19	10	0				
„ surveyors	15	0	0				
Office fittings	1	1	3				
Buggy-hire	0	16	0				
					<u>£156</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>

Details of Receipts and Expenditure, Fruit Fumigation and Inspection Account, for Year ended 31st March, 1919.

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Inspection and fumigation fees	1,168	0	5	Bicycle allowance	3	10	0
Fruit-buyers' licenses	94	0	0	Labour	123	19	0
Sale of jars	1	5	0	Noxious-weed Inspectors	28	0	0
Registration of brands	1	15	0	Material	12	14	3
Sale of fruit	1	10	4	House-repairs	0	4	6
Refund, passage	14	8	11	Chemicals	21	17	1
				Inspector, Mangaia	1	4	0
				„ Aitutaki	4	10	0
				Island allowance, Inspector	83	6	8
				Passage, Inspector	13	0	0
				Fruit-cases	5	16	8
				Wireless messages	3	9	2
				Fumigation, rats	0	1	5
					<u>£301</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
				Balance to general revenue	979	6	11
Total	<u>£1,280</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>£1,280</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>

Statement of Liquor Account for Year ended 31st March, 1919.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Stock on hand, 1st April, 1918	155	16	5	Sales	1,750	12	0
Supplies	783	19	0	Pillages recovered	25	10	10
Duty	384	13	0	Stock on hand, 31st March, 1919	80	10	10
Freight	64	17	9				
Balance	467	7	6				
	<u>£1,856</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>£1,856</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>

Profit and Loss Account

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Stock on hand, 1st April, 1919	80	10	10	Stock on hand, 1st April, 1918	155	16	5
Cash transferred to the general revenue	542	13	1	Balance, 31st March, 1919	467	7	6
	<u>£623</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>£623</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>

W. J. STEVENSON,
Treasurer and Licensing Officer.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 27th May, 1919.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Estimated Expenditure for the Year ending 31st March, 1920.

	£	s.	d.
1. Engineer and Surveyor	370	0	0
2. Interpreter and Printer	150	0	0
3. Hospital Nurse, Rarotonga	175	0	0
4. „ Aitutaki (half salary)	100	0	0
5. Foreman of Works	210	0	0
6. Draughtsman	175	0	0
7. Island allowance, Collector of Customs	125	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	300	0	0
16. „ Atiu	220	0	0
17. „ Aitutaki	300	0	0
18. „ Penrhyn	220	0	0
19. „ Manihiki and Rakahanga	200	0	0
20. „ Pukapuka	220	0	0
21. „ Mauke	300	0	0
22. Native Agent, Mitiaro	60	0	0
23. Native police, Rarotonga	218	0	0
24. „ Aitutaki	60	0	0
25. „ Mauke	30	0	0
26. „ Mitiaro	15	0	0
27. „ Penrhyn	21	0	0
28. „ Mangaia	41	0	0
29. „ Manihiki and Rakahanga	30	0	0
30. „ Atiu	30	0	0
31. Native Assessor, Rakahanga	20	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	500	0	0
40. Subsidy, boatman, Mangaia	10	0	0
41. „ „ Aitutaki	15	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 of flying-fox and rats	800	0	0
47. Assistant Printer	108	0	0
48. Allowances, Registrars of Births and Deaths at Mitiaro, Palmers- ton, and Pukapuka	11	0	0
49. Postal and telephone service, Rarotonga	200	0	0
50. School buildings	500	0	0
51. Experimental farm	350	0	0
52. Upkeep of Government buildings	150	0	0
53. Roads and bridges	800	0	0
54. Atiu water-supply	250	0	0
55. „ Residency	600	0	0
56. „ school-teacher's residence	500	0	0
57. Aitutaki road subsidy	50	0	0
	<u>£11,125</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>

F. W. PLATTS,
Resident Commissioner.

Rarotonga, 29th July, 1919.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Port of Rarotonga.—Value of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1918.

Article.	Country whence imported.	Value.	Total Value.
Agricultural produce, n.o.e.	New Zealand	£ 906	£
	United States America	53	
			959
Animals, living—			
Ducks	New Zealand .. ..	..	6
Fowls .. ..	.. ..	..	9
Horses .. ..	.. ..	21	
	Tahiti	9	
			30
Pigs	New Zealand .. ..	..	9
Sheep .. ..	.. ..	..	24
Apparel and slops .. ..	.. ..	2,705	
	United Kingdom	360	
	United States America	930	
	Tahiti	361	
	Japan	5	
			4,361
Arms, ammunition, and explosives ..	New Zealand .. ..	..	214
Arrowroot	Tahiti .. ..	..	3
Bacon and hams	New Zealand .. ..	..	248
Bags and sacks .. ..	.. ..	1,081	
	United States America	153	
	Tahiti	9	
			1,243
Bamboo for hatmaking	Tahiti .. ..	..	271
Beer and stout	New Zealand .. ..	..	210
Beverages, non-alcoholic .. ..	.. ..	..	63
Bicycles, tricycles, and motor-cars ..	.. ..	1,478	
	United Kingdom	109	
	New South Wales	13	
	United States America	1,957	
	Tahiti	242	
			3,799
Biscuits and cabin-bread	New Zealand .. ..	..	4,622
Boots and shoes .. ..	.. ..	279	
	United Kingdom	1	
	New South Wales	68	
	United States America	382	
	Tahiti	11	
			741
Building material, n.o.e.	New Zealand	721	
	United States America	38	
			759
Butter and cheese	New Zealand .. ..	..	1,411
Carriages and parts of same .. ..	.. ..	2	
	United States America	686	
			688
Cement	New Zealand .. ..	..	927
Cinematographs, parts, and hire of films ..	.. ..	158	
	New South Wales	50	
	Tahiti	280	
			488
Coal	New Zealand .. ..	..	140
Confectionery .. ..	.. ..	256	
	United States America	2	
			258
Cordage and twine	New Zealand	529	
	United States America	133	
	Tahiti	30	
			692
Cotton piece-goods	New Zealand	2,517	
	United Kingdom	6,485	
	New South Wales	3	
	United States America	3,906	
			12,911
Drapery, n.o.e.	New Zealand	2,183	
	United Kingdom	1,110	
	France	194	
	United States America	678	
	Tahiti	10	
			4,175

Port of Rarotonga.—Value of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1918—continued.

Article.	Country whence imported.	Value.	Total Value.
		£	£
Drugs and chemicals	New Zealand	719	1,010
	United Kingdom	5	
	New South Wales	145	
	United States America	138	
	Tahiti	3	
Earthenware and glassware	New Zealand	366	453
	United States America	87	
Fancy goods and toys	New Zealand	169	385
	United Kingdom	9	
	United States America	182	
	Tahiti	25	
Fertilizers	New Zealand	26
Fish, preserved	1,172	2,410
	British Columbia	316	
	United States America	922	
Flour	New Zealand	4,067	4,312
	New South Wales	9	
	Victoria	200	
	United States America	36	
Furniture	New Zealand	963	1,005
	United States America	25	
	Tahiti	17	
Hardware	New Zealand	1,280	1,963
	United Kingdom	76	
	New South Wales	9	
	United States America	598	
Hats	New Zealand	200	265
	United Kingdom	24	
	United States America	41	
Hops	New Zealand	18
Instruments, musical	140
Iron—	163
	New Zealand .. .. .	..
	Galvanized, corrugated .. .. .	..
	Wire	52	
	United States America	111	242
Jewellery	New Zealand	105	
	United Kingdom	30	
	United States America	30	
	Tahiti	77	
Machinery—	159
	Diving	50	
	Victoria	109	18
Electric	New Zealand .. .. .	..
Freezing	787
Printing	New South Wales	222
Sewing	108	129
	United States America	6	
	Tahiti	15	
Matches	New Zealand	502	725
	Sweden	223	
Meats—	37
	Frozen .. .. .	..
	Potted and preserved .. .. .	..
	Salted .. .. .	..
	
Milk, preserved	395
Nails	485	936
	United States America	451	

Port of Rarotonga.—Value of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1918—continued.

Article.	Country whence imported.			Value.	Total Value.
				£	£
Oils—					
Kerosene and benzine	New Zealand	184	2,104
	United States America .. ..	..	..	1,708
	Tahiti .. ..	..	..	212
Other kinds	New Zealand	268	352
	United States America .. ..	..	..	78
	Tahiti .. ..	..	..	6
Paints and varnish	New Zealand	288	502
	United States America .. ..	..	..	211
	Tahiti .. ..	..	..	3
Perfumery and toilet preparations ..	New Zealand	7	49
	United States America .. ..	..	..	42
Photographic goods	New Zealand	261	273
	United States America .. ..	..	..	9
	Tahiti .. ..	..	..	3
Plants, trees, and shrubs	New Zealand	42	70
	Queensland .. ..	..	..	28
Provisions, n.o.c.	New Zealand	1,770	2,051
	Victoria .. ..	..	..	14
	New South Wales .. ..	..	..	20
	United States America .. ..	..	..	247
Rice	New Zealand	186	1,267
	United States America .. ..	..	..	603
	Tahiti .. ..	..	..	478
Saddlery and harness	New Zealand	79	240
	United States America .. ..	..	..	155
	Tahiti .. ..	..	..	6
Silks	New Zealand	60	93
	United States America .. ..	..	..	33
Soap	New Zealand	1,600
Specie, silver	1,400
Spirits—					
Brandy	New Zealand	49	74
	New South Wales .. ..	..	..	25
Methylated	New Zealand	14	21
	United States America .. ..	..	..	7
Perfumed	United Kingdom	70	118
	Tahiti .. ..	..	..	48
Whisky	New Zealand	311	448
	Canada .. ..	..	..	137
Stationery and books	New Zealand	936	1,103
	United Kingdom .. ..	..	..	8
	New South Wales .. ..	..	..	35
	United States America .. ..	..	..	116
	Tahiti .. ..	..	..	8
Sugar	New Zealand	2,743	2,747
	United States America .. ..	..	..	1
	New South Wales .. ..	..	..	3
Tea and coffee	New Zealand	296	299
	United States America .. ..	..	..	3

Port of Rarotonga.—Value of Imports for the Year ended 31st December, 1918—continued.

Article.	Country whence imported.	Value.	Total Value.
		£	£
Timber— Sawn	New Zealand	1,032	1,698
	United States America	307	
	Tahiti	359	
Fruit-box	New Zealand	15,725
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes	1,730	2,317
	New South Wales	587	
Tools	New Zealand	129	328
	United Kingdom	96	
	New South Wales	4	
	United States America	99	
Wines— Claret	New Zealand	69	135
	United States America	66	
Port	New Zealand	8	58
	New South Wales	22	
	United States America	28	
Sparkling	New South Wales	8
Woodenware	New Zealand	361	436
	United States America	66	
	Tahiti	9	
Miscellaneous	New Zealand	249	349
	United Kingdom	91	
	Tahiti	9	
Total	£99,632

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Value of Exports for the Year ended 31st December, 1918.

Article.	Where exported.	Quantity.	Value.	Total Value.
			£	£
Fruit, fresh— Bananas	New Zealand	60,645 cases	16,677	17,617
	.. .. .	7,550 kits	940	
Lemons .. .. .	.. .. .	117 cases	..	46
Oranges .. .. .	.. .. .	84,061 ..	..	21,015
Pineapples .. .. .	.. .. .	81 ..	..	24
Tomatoes .. .. .	.. .. .	6,320 ..	..	2,528
Not otherwise enumerated .. .. .	.. .. .	48 ..	..	15
Coffee, raw .. .. .	.. .. .	8 tons	..	390
Copra .. .. .	.. .. .	5 ..	95	37,224
	United States America	1,442 ..	31,724	
	Tahiti	305 ..	5,405	
Coconuts .. .. .	.. .. .	1,752 tons.	..	1,300
	New Zealand	150,800 No.	1,130	
	United States America	25,000 ..	170	
Kumaras and taro .. .. .	.. .. .	175,800 No.	..	20
	New Zealand	65 cases	..	
Limejuice .. .. .	.. .. .	500 gallons	..	39
Pearl-shell	United States America	35 tons	..	2,450
Cattle	Tahiti	3 No.	..	40
Total .. .. .	.. .. .	..	..	£82,708

Total Values of Imports and Exports for the Year ended 31st December, 1918.

IMPORTS.					£
New Zealand .. .. .	..	..	..	..	70,773
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	..	..	..	8,474
New South Wales .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1,331
Victoria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	323
Queensland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	28
Canada .. .. .	..	..	..	..	137
British Columbia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	316
Tahiti .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2,504
France .. .. .	..	..	..	..	194
Japan .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5
Sweden .. .. .	..	..	..	..	223
United States of America .. .. .	..	..	..	..	15,324
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	<u>£99,632</u>

EXPORTS.					£
New Zealand .. .. .	..	..	..	..	42,919
Tahiti .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5,445
United States of America .. .. .	..	..	..	..	34,344
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	<u>£82,708</u>

Total Values of Imports and Exports from the Year 1902 to the 31st December, 1918.

Year.					Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
					IMPORTS.		
					£	£	£
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 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	67,739	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
1917 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	80,061	21,583	..
1918 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	99,632	19,571	..
					EXPORTS.		
					£	£	£
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	..
1917 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	60,190	..	7,956
1918 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	82,708	22,518	..

Principal Exports from each Island in the Cook Group during Year ended 31st December, 1918

	Bananas.	Bananas.	Oranges.	Pines.	Tomatoes.	Fruit.	Cucumbers and Beans.	Lemons.	Kumatas and Taro.	Coconuts.	Linejuice.	Potatoes.	Copra.	Pearl-shell.	Co-fee.
	Cases.	Kits.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	No.	Gals.	Cases.	Tons.	Tons.	lb.
Rarotonga	60,645	7,742	65,923	19	6,320	48	..	117	65	175,800	500	..	747	..	..
Aitutaki	8	8,862	62	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200	..	..
Mangaia	1,020	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59	..	20,000
Atiu	2,240	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106	..	3,000
Mauke	6,016	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	147	..	..
Mitiaro	60	..	..
Manuae	13	..	..
Penrhyn	96	..	..
Rakahanga	88	..	..
Manihiki	128	..	..
Palmerston	69	..	..
Suwarrow	6	..	..
Pukapuka	33	..	..
Totals ..	60,645	7,750	84,061	81	6,320	48	..	117	65	175,800	500	..	1,752	..	23,000

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 27th May, 1919.

W. J. STEVENSON,
Collector of Customs.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the Cook Islands for the Year ended 31st March, 1919.

Island.						Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
Rarotonga	..	..	..	..	..	128	106	31
Aitutaki	..	..	..	..	..	38	9	11
Mangaia	..	..	..	..	..	45	32	3
Atiu	..	..	..	..	..	29	21	..
Mauke (nine months)	..	..	..	..	..	16	4	..
Mitiaro (nine months)	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..
Manihiki (nine months)	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Rakahanga (nine months)	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1
Pukapuka (nine months)	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	1
Palmerston (nine months)	..	..	..	..	..	9	4	..
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	287	185	47

S. SAVAGE, Registrar.

NIUE ISLAND.

REPORT OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER.

SIR,—

Niue, 2nd April, 1919.

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my report on the work of the Niue Island Administration for the year ended 31st March, 1919.

FINANCE.

The accompanying statement of receipts (marked "A") shows that the revenue for the year amounted to £3,604 1s. 2d., a record in the history of the Administration. The expenditure (see statement marked "B") amounted to £3,110 19s. 1d., the balance in hand being £1,340 3s. 10½d., an increase of £493 2s. 1d. for the year. An estimate of the expenditure for the coming year (marked "C") is attached. I consider that the revenue should reach £4,000.

TRADE.

Exports for the year ended 31st December, 1918, amounted to £16,537, which is also a record for the island. The high price paid for copra, of which 600 tons were exported during the year, was mainly responsible. A further 700 tons await shipment, and it is to be hoped that the incoming year will bring greatly increased shipping-facilities for dealing with this and other island products. Present appearances point to another satisfactory yield of copra, and the commercial prosperity of the island during 1919–20 depends largely on whether the copra is to be allowed to rot here in the sheds or to find its way to the markets as soon as it becomes available. Imports for 1918 amounted to £17,258, of which £14,782 came from New Zealand. The increase on the figures for the previous year is £4,179. Detailed returns of exports and imports were forwarded to you at 31st December, 1918.

SHIPPING.

Besides five trips made by the contract schooner "Awanui," the "Rira" and the "Manua" made one trip each during the year and loaded copra. The London Missionary Society steamer "John Williams" paid two visits to Niue during the year, and H.M.A.S. "Fantome" called once.

It is with great regret that I have to record the wreck of the "Awanui" at Alofi on the morning of the 11th January, 1919. A strong westerly came up suddenly during the previous night, and with it the heaviest sea of the year. Both the vessel's cables parted, and she drifted on to the reef. No lives were lost, and a considerable quantity of cargo, stores, and fittings was saved. The wreck, to my mind, emphasizes two points: First, the contract schooner—or, indeed, any schooner calling here regularly—should carry an auxiliary engine; second, the necessity exists here for wireless or some other means of communication with the outside world. Despite attempts to attract the attention of passing ships I was unable for a period of almost three months to transmit any information as to the wreck or the fate of the crew. On the 31st March the steamer "Dawn," under instruction from the New Zealand Government, arrived and took off the European members of the crew.

ROADS.

On my arrival in May, 1918, I found that the condition of the roads in the island varied considerably. While there were long stretches in excellent repair, four or five miles of the arterial roads across the island were barely fit for vehicular traffic, while minor repairs were required on another thirty miles of road. The Natives contributed £328 towards roadwork during the year, and it was obvious that the Administration would have to find at least another £200 to cope with the work. I made an arrangement through the Island Council under which the villages concerned were to do the work under a Government foreman at a rate of £15 a mile, with an additional £5 a mile where special difficulties existed. In addition there were expenses of supervision, dynamite, tools, and compensation for coconuts destroyed in widening the roads. So far about nine miles of road have been re-formed under this system, and it appears to be working well. The roads have been widened to 16 ft., and all overhanging bush has been cut well back. The year's programme has not been completed, the expenditure so far being only £303, and I have therefore put the estimate for the coming year at £700.

The roads re-formed are—Liku-Alofi Road, Liku to Mana corner, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles; Fatiau to the Avatele-Hakupu Road, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles; Hakupu-Alofi Road (still in progress), $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

When the whole of the roads have been brought to a certain standard of repair I consider that it will be advisable to keep a small permanent gang of roadmen regularly at work on them. Both from the medical and the commercial point of view good roads are of the first importance in Niue, and if revenue permits I hope to be within an approachable distance of completion of this work by the end of the coming year.

OTHER PUBLIC WORKS.

The steps and track leading up from the jetty have been concreted during the year. These were in a very dilapidated condition, and were dangerous in places. Two new leading-beacons have been erected, the old ones having been destroyed by a gale some time before my arrival. A mast from the "Awanui" has been utilized to provide a fine flagstaff at Alofi, while the old one has been set up at Tufukia School. The residence of the police officer, which was a very old Native building and had long outlived its usefulness, has been pulled down, and a new house is practically completed. Two long stone walls coated with punga have been built by prison labour at dangerous spots on the main road in Alofi Village. In addition all necessary repairs to Government buildings, reservoirs, &c., have been effected.

I propose to enlarge the jetty considerably during the coming year so as to permit of the stacking of copra at the waterside in readiness for shipping. At present only one boat at a time can load or unload at the jetty, and this requires alteration. When the price of corrugated iron and cement is more normal I propose to duplicate the reservoirs in the larger villages. The Native water-supply, particularly in those villages which are not actually on the coast, is a long way from adequate.

POPULATION.

During the year 1918 eighty-one persons, including fifteen Europeans, arrived in Niue, while 133 persons, including eight Europeans, left. It will be noticed that the Native population suffered to the extent of fifty-nine through migration.

The following is the number of births, deaths, and marriages registered during 1918 as well as for the five preceding years :—

Year.					Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1913-14	..	..	..	..	94	80	48
1914-15	..	..	..	..	93	73	70
1915-16	..	..	..	..	94	100	41
1916-17	..	..	..	..	82	128	63
1917 (nine months only)	..	..	..	..	100	137	37
1918	..	..	..	..	95	178	43

The excess of deaths over births was eighty-three. Adding the migration deficiency we find that the Native population decreased by 142 during the year, and this I consider the most unsatisfactory feature that I have to report. The Niue Island Council at my instigation passed an Ordinance making a fee of £1 payable by any intending Native emigrant, and this has had an appreciable effect, but it is at best a makeshift. I have endeavoured to explain to the people that this exodus of the best of their young men and women spells ultimate extinction, but the Niueans are not capable of looking very far ahead, and it is difficult to make the danger real to them.

EDUCATION.

It will be necessary to extend the education scheme of the island as soon as possible, and as a first step I propose to open a school at Hakupu and to send one of the European teachers from Tufukia School to take charge of it. The Hakupu people have presented a piece of land to the Administration for this purpose, and have already cleared it. They have also undertaken to build a school at their own expense and to my specifications. It is abundantly evident to me that no school here could be left in charge of a Native. Even should the knowledge and the ability to instruct be present, a Native without supervision cannot be entrusted with the maintenance of discipline. Five or six schools would be necessary to cater completely for the children of the island, so that a considerable expense in salaries of European teachers would be involved before education could be placed on a proper footing in Niue.

The report of the headmaster at Tufukia is enclosed. Very satisfactory work has been done during the year by the staff, and the Natives continue to show a lively appreciation of the benefits of education.

HIGH COURT AND NATIVE LAND COURT.

During the year 190 criminal cases were dealt with in the High Court: Adultery, 46; libel, 6; offences against the person, &c., 90; theft and offences against property, 13; miscellaneous, 35. The civil cases comprised: Debt, 4; divorce, 14. Fees and fines amounted to £197 9s. 3d.

As regards the Native Land Court, practically no work has been done during the past year, only seven adoptions being granted. It is impossible to deal with the granting of titles without the services of a surveyor. Land disputes are common, and these can only be settled in a temporary fashion at present. The position will become more acute as time goes on, and I therefore trust that this matter will not be allowed to rest in its present position. In view of the amount of work involved I consider that it would be more satisfactory to appoint a separate Judge of the Native Land Court, as has been done in the other islands. While the surveyor was in Niue it would be necessary to hold Native Land Court sittings almost continuously, and my other duties would naturally suffer.

ORDINANCES.

Four meetings of the Island Council were held during the past year, and the following Ordinances were passed :—

No. 10.—An Ordinance to prohibit the Sale of Dry Coconuts in Niue.

No. 11.—An Ordinance to impose Restrictions upon the Emigration of Natives from Niue.

No. 12.—An Ordinance to provide for Better Sanitation in Niue.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Summarized, the readings for 1918 are as follows: Barometer—Mean for year, 30.04. Thermometer—Highest, 94, in March and November; lowest, 60, in July; mean maximum, 84.59; mean minimum, 70.33. Rainfall—Rain fell on 156 days; total fall, 71.36 in.

POSTAL.

The following figures show the postal business transacted during the year: Money-orders—Issued, £1,145 6s. 7d.; paid, £481 6s. 9d. Savings-bank—Deposits, £598 9s. 6d.; withdrawals, £229 12s. 11d. Postal notes, &c.—Issued, £52 5s. 3d.; paid, £7 2s. 6d. War pensions, soldiers' allotments, &c., paid, £991 6s. 1d.

THE WAR.

A second Niue Contingent was in training when news of the Armistice reached us. These men, who were to have gone to Palestine, were very keen to give a good account of themselves, and doubtless they would have fared better in health than the former Contingent did in France.

Steps are being taken to celebrate Peace Day in a fitting manner. Besides speeches and festivities in the various villages, every person on the island will plant a coconut, and these trees will serve as a constant reminder to the people of the war and its significance. For even in this little

island outpost the war has left its effects. There is the sadness of lonely Niuean graves in countries the names of which were hardly known hitherto to the Natives; but among the people there is also a wider knowledge of the world and of the meaning of civilization, a pride in the nation to which they belong, and an assurance that our flag is no mere empty symbol, our Empire no vain boast.

I have, &c.,

GUY N. MORRIS,

Resident Commissioner.

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

REPORT OF SCHOOL-TEACHER.

I have the honour to lay before you a report on Tufukia School for the year ended 31st March, 1919.

Roll Number.—At the end of March, 1918, the number of pupils in attendance was 155 boys and 78 girls, totalling 233 pupils. During the year just closing 13 boys and 11 girls were admitted, but 14 boys and 6 girls were withdrawn during the same period; thus there are left at date 154 boys and 83 girls, totalling 237 pupils.

Attendance.—During the year the average daily attendance was as follows: 125·85 boys and 68·37 girls, totalling 194·22. This works out to be 88·8 per cent. of the average school roll for the year. On the face of it this seems an unsatisfactory state of affairs, but when one considers the amount of minor sickness there is among the young folk; the want of appreciation of their responsibilities by the parents in connection with educational matters; the failure to recognize, by the parents, the future value their education will be to the young; the quite different conditions in a schoolroom from what the children are used to otherwise in their own free and easy modes of life and thought; and the heavy rains at certain parts of the year, then one has not far to seek for the main causes of the great difference between the actual roll number and the average attendance. Moreover, a great many of the pupils come from villages distant four to seven miles from the school, to which they walk every morning to commence the day's work at 7 o'clock.

A very pleasing feature of the attendance for the year ended 31st December last was the fact that no less than twenty-one pupils were awarded a prize each for having attended every half-day the school was opened, some of the prize-takers being pupils from the outside villages aforementioned.

Progress.—Despite the many disabilities under which we labour, and the many interruptions we were subjected to during the year, the general rate of progress was maintained. At the beginning of the year under review I was unable to give undivided attention to my school-work owing to the duties pertaining to the position of Resident Commissioner falling to my lot. I was able, though, to control the school and do a great amount of teaching; but in a school of this description, more so than in a white school, to carry things to a successful issue one requires to have his whole mind on school work and affairs. Then, on the 19th November last, Mr. Cowan, the first assistant, left for Rarotonga and New Zealand on holiday leave, and has not yet returned. Moreover, with a Native staff, the members of which have to be trained daily in both general knowledge and methods of teaching, you cannot expect the best of work. But with all the drawbacks there is much to be thankful for as a result of our labours. The pupils are certainly making headway, and the time has come when a wider and more solid curriculum of work can be undertaken. It is very gratifying to hear from visitors, as well as from those residents on the island who are competent of judging, of the very great difference apparent between the pupils attending the school and the children in the rest of the island, not only in looks, bearing, and health, but also in general knowledge, intelligence, and manners.

Health.—Although there has been no outbreak of serious illness during the year, still the attendance has been greatly affected by numerous minor cases of sickness. During the third quarter there was a mild outbreak of scabies, which necessitated the isolation of quite a number of the pupils for a lengthy period. The very prompt and energetic measures adopted by the Medical Officer in connection with it prevented the spread of this disease throughout the school. His very great interest in the health and welfare of the pupils of the school is a great aid to me in my work. He is ever available to attend to the children. I hereby extend to him my heartiest and sincerest thanks for his kindness in this direction.

There is one pleasing feature in regard to this section of the school interests, and that is the general health of the children has vastly improved since they came to school. This is very apparent to outsiders, who frequently comment upon the healthy and happy appearance of the pupils of the school. This desirable state of affairs is due mainly to the lessons on health given by the members of the staff and the Medical Officer. For some little time past the latter gentleman has been coming up every week, and delivering a lecturette to the whole of the pupils. On two or three subsequent days the gist of his remarks is put upon the blackboard in simple English, and thoroughly explained in English and Niue, assisted by examples, stories, pictures, and drawings. The children then write the lessons in their best writing, learn it, and say it to the teachers. They also are set to draw the incidental pictures and drawings. The thing about it, though, that appeals to me most as a teacher is that, though the most of the matter has been taught by the school staff and learnt before, my statements are in this manner backed up by the one who speaks with authority on these matters. This scheme is capable of great usefulness in the future life of these boys and girls.

I have, &c.,

J. C. EVISON, Headmaster.

A.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Statement of Revenue for the Year ended 31st March, 1919.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1st April, 1918—Balance forward				847	1	9½
Customs duties	1,666	13	11			
Aid to revenue	528	10	0			
Dog-tax	29	7	6			
High Court fees and fines	197	9	3			
Native Land Court fees	1	2	0			
Licenses	188	15	0			
Liquor-sales	305	4	8			
Medical aid and attendance	6	5	0			
Registration fees	14	14	0			
Revenue from Postal Department	270	12	11½			
School fees	44	2	0			
Emigration fees	38	0	0			
Copra-export duty	281	9	10½			
Shipping fees	1	15	0			
Refund of war bonus overpaid	30	0	0			
				3,604	1	2
				£4,451	2	11½

Alofi, Niue, 1st April, 1919

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX, Treasurer.
 GUY N. MORRIS, Resident Commissioner.

B.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Statement of Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March, 1919.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Niue Island Council	63	15	0			
Native police	187	19	0			
Prisoners, food and supervision	131	2	6			
Medical supplies and assistance	678	6	0			
Medical Officer, local travelling-expenses	105	11	4			
Resident Commissioner, local travelling-expenses	108	3	0			
Interpreting and translation of laws	78	9	3			
Printing and stationery	75	6	8			
Office fittings and requisites	57	10	3			
Tufukia School working-expenses	281	17	1			
Maintenance, Government buildings	377	6	1			
Maintenance, reservoirs and tanks	50	14	3			
Maintenance, jetty, boat, &c.	120	7	0			
Furniture for officers' quarters	59	3	2			
Maintenance, roads	303	16	1			
Liquor purchased	270	7	6			
Public library	8	17	2			
Rent of officers' quarters	18	0	0			
Compensation for land acquired	40	10	0			
Miscellaneous services	93	17	9			
				3,110	19	1
Balance at 31st March, 1919—						
Cash in hand	1,231	12	1½			
Current Account, Bank of New Zealand	108	11	9			
				1,340	3	10½
				£4,451	2	11½

Details of Item "Medical Supplies and Assistance."

	£	s.	d.
Drugs	624	13	11
Instruments and appliances	12	3	9
Invalid foods	4	19	11
Transport of drugs, &c.	27	8	5
Charring and cleaning	9	0	0
	<u>£678</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>

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

	£	s.	d.
Native assistant teachers	214	12	11
Caretaker	36	0	0
Printing and stationery	22	11	3
School prizes	5	12	11
Disinfectant	2	10	0
School-bell	0	10	0
	<u>£281</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>1</u>

Details of Item "Miscellaneous Services."

	£	s.	d.
Boat's crew	7	18	6
Locker-bond	1	6	3
Native assistance	29	9	11
Notice-boards for villages	1	5	0
Carriage of mails	4	13	10
Labourers, food for	8	8	2
Dog-collars	13	17	1
Porterage	3	8	6
Passage of prisoner from Samoa	2	0	0
Handcarts—repairs, &c.	8	7	9
Niue Contingent—			
Instructing	3	8	0
Food for	9	14	9
	<u>£93</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>

Alofi, Niue, 1st April, 1919.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX, Treasurer.
GUY N. MORRIS, Resident Commissioner.

C.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Estimated Expenditure for the Year ending 31st March, 1920.

	£
Niue Island Council	55
Native police—Salaries, special duties, and equipment	200
Prisoners—Food and supervision	150
Medical supplies and assistance	450
Medical Officer—Local travelling-expenses	80
Resident Commissioner—Local travelling-expenses	80
Interpreting and translation of laws	100
Printing and stationery	75
Office fittings and requisites	25
Tufukia School working-expenses	350
Maintenance, Government buildings	150
Maintenance, reservoirs, &c.	50
Maintenance, jetty, &c.	120
Miscellaneous services	75
Furniture, officers' quarters	25
Maintenance, roads	700
Purchase of liquor	200
Public library	10
Rent of officers' quarters	20
Refund of salary, A. MacDonald, to New Zealand Government	490
	<u>£3,405</u>

Alofi, Niue, 1st April, 1919.

JOSEPH P. McMAHON-BOX, Treasurer.
GUY N. MORRIS, Resident Commissioner.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Return of Imports for Year ended 31st December, 1918.

	From New Zealand.	From Australia	From Samoa.	From other Places.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Agricultural produce	136	29	2	..	167
Animals, horses	50	28	..	..	78
Apparel and slops	1,101	28	77	203	1,409
Bags and sacks	404	..	..	..	404
Bicycles and parts	252	..	55	..	307
Biscuits	869	4	..	..	873
Boots and shoes	111	..	6	..	117
Butter and cheese	130	..	..	..	130
Carriages and parts	122	..	..	48	170
Cement	39	..	..	..	39
Cordage and twine	98	..	4	1	103
Cotton piece-goods	2,832	86	423	72	3,413
Drapery, &c.	770	131	15	5	921
Drugs	653	7	..	..	660
Fancy goods	159	..	20	..	179
Fish, preserved	791	..	71	..	862
Flour	200	3	..	..	203
Fruits, dried, fresh, and preserved	59	..	105	5	169
Furniture, &c.	122	..	..	..	122
Hardware	387	10	3	16	416
Musical instruments, &c.	97	30	..	..	127
Matches	433	..	25	..	458
Meats, preserved	1,186	..	..	..	1,299
Meats, salted	113	..	..	..	..
Milks, preserved	89	..	..	..	89
Oil, kerosene, &c.	160	3	70	78	311
Perfumery and toilet preparations	138	..	10	..	148
Rice	200	1	7	..	208
Rugs	200	..	..	6	206
Saddlery and harness	95	..	..	..	95
Soap	345	17	..	..	362
Specie	398	..	550	..	948
Stationery and books, &c.	137	33	1	..	171
Sugar	136	2	8	..	146
Tea, coffee, and cocoa	52	..	..	..	52
Timber, sawn	73	13	..	..	86
Tobacco pipes, &c.	958	75	5	1	1,039
Miscellaneous	686	55	20	10	771
Totals	14,781	555	1,477	445	17,258

Exports for Year ended 31st December, 1918.

	Quantity.	New Zealand.	Samoa.	Aus- tralia.	Total.
		£	£	£	£
Copra	393½ tons	9,265	..	..	..
	206¼ „	..	4,646	..	..
	599¾ „	..	..	..	13,911
Fungus	2,804 lb.	46	..	..	..
	1,786 lb.	..	49	..	..
	4,590 lb.	..	..	..	95
Hats	2,752 doz.	1,731
	26 „	..	18
	2,778 „	1,749
Other goods	272	504	6	782
Totals	11,314	5,217	6	16,537

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