

1935.
NEW ZEALAND.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

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

REPORT ON THE NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION, 1934-35.

FINANCE.

Niue has again experienced a difficult year, although the position improved somewhat towards the end of the period as a result of the increased prices obtainable for copra. Revenue for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1935, amounted to £14,633, an increase of £661 over the total for the previous year, while the expenditure totalled £14,048, as compared with £13,840 for the year ended 31st March, 1934. The operations for the year resulted in a surplus of £584, as compared with a surplus of £132 for the previous year.

Investments on behalf of the Administration by way of general reserve amounted to £3,706 on the 31st March, 1935, on which date the Administration held assets valued at £30,952.

TRADE.

Imports for the calendar year 1934 totalled £13,372 and exports £12,341. The figures for the previous year were £13,123 and £11,542. The total trade for the year 1934 amounted to £25,713, as compared with an average of £31,865 over the previous ten years.

The trade figures continue, of course, to reflect the decreased value of copra, though, as stated above, prices for this product improved considerably in the last quarter of the year. The total quantity of copra exported during the calendar year under review was only 125 tons, valued at £961, as compared with an average of 470 tons, valued at £7,850, over the previous ten years. The small quantity shipped is due largely to the low prices ruling, the Natives showing little inclination to prepare this commodity while it returns such low remuneration.

There has been an increase in the quantity of bananas shipped to New Zealand, the total for the calendar year being 28,393 cases, as compared with 24,596 cases for 1933, and this increase has undoubtedly assisted in the slightly improved trade position for the year under review.

The following table shows the quantities and values of the principal exports during the past ten years :—

Year.	Copra.		Bananas.		Baskets.		Hats.		Fungus.		Kumeras.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Cases.	£	Dozens.	£	Dozens.	£	lb.	£	Tons.	£
1925 ..	647	13,863	4,000	1,457	153	144	2,801	1,347	6,523	263	..	..
1926 ..	699	14,441	692	280	972	1,079	1,749	1,083	11,070	603	..	..
1927 ..	257	4,788	7,564	4,679	1,747	1,445	1,327	935	49,951	2,319	..	..
1928 ..	621	11,445	14,010	6,254	3,182	2,365	121	75	20,680	525	..	..
1929 ..	735	11,652	17,434	7,683	2,948	1,879	574	386	6,606	222	..	..
1930 ..	335	3,382	21,456	9,787	1,012	660	1,214	810	5,694	183	..	..
1931 ..	204	2,269	8,703	3,590	801	480	271	185	3,789	151	15	278
1932 ..	366	3,815	22,828	8,384	682	270	775	467	13,104	315	31	348
1933 ..	190	1,760	24,596	8,542	670	320	1,222	729	384	5	4	41
1934 ..	125	961	28,393	10,006	308	130	920	492	5,137	81	13	273

The principal items of import for the calendar year 1934 were as follows :—

Article.				Whence imported.				Value.	
								£	£
Apparel	New Zealand	407	—	525
				United Kingdom	..	..	113
				Other	..	..	5
Bicycles and parts	New Zealand	270	—	277
				United Kingdom	..	..	7
Biscuits	New Zealand	224	—	645
Boots and shoes	..	..	..	United Kingdom	..	..	4
Cotton piece-goods	New Zealand	682	—	228
				United Kingdom	..	..	373
				Other	..	..	53
Drugs	New Zealand	293	—	1,108
				Other	..	..	9
Fancy goods	New Zealand	179	—	302
				United Kingdom	..	..	29
				Australia..	..	..	3
				Other	..	..	3
Fish, preserved	New Zealand	235	—	214
				United States of America	..	..	28
				Other	..	..	11
Hardware	New Zealand	246	—	274
Meats, preserved	..	..	..	New Zealand	..	..	936
Motor-cars and parts	New Zealand	587	—	1,024
Oils: Benzine and kerosene	..	..	..	United States of America	..	..	39
				Other	..	..	18
Soap	New Zealand	247	—	644
Timber, shooks	..	..	..	New Zealand	..	..	524
Tobacco	New Zealand	378	—	904
				Australia..	..	..	2
				Other	..	..	152
Sundry	New Zealand	3,563	—	4,012
				United Kingdom	..	..	131
				Australia..	..	..	165
				United States of America	..	..	1
				Other	..	..	152
Total imports				£13,372		

The total trade of the island over the last ten years is set out in the following table :—

Year.	Imports.					Exports.			Total Trade.
	New Zealand.	United Kingdom.	Australia.	Other.	Total Imports.	New Zealand.	Other.	Total Exports.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1925	14,953	2,056	1,550	188	18,747	17,320	109	17,429	36,176
1926	14,105	1,790	1,153	515	17,563	17,655	..	17,655	35,218
1927	10,896	2,003	878	229	14,006	14,290	60	14,350	28,356
1928	14,403	2,476	1,027	731	18,637	16,347	4,591	20,938	39,575
1929	14,688	2,866	880	673	19,107	13,449	8,757	22,206	41,313
1930	14,863	1,588	955	1,224	18,630	13,323	2,554	15,877	34,507
1931	8,958	961	678	910	11,507	5,186	2,005	7,191	18,698*
1932	11,568	2,424	360	404	14,756	10,820	3,167	13,987	28,743
1933	10,400	1,442	841	440	13,123	10,225	1,317	11,542	24,665
1934	11,888	658	515	311	13,372	11,342	999	12,341	25,713

* Island recovering from drought and storms.

SHIPPING.

Throughout the year the island has had a regular four-weekly service by the N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare." This is the only regular shipping service to Niue Island at the present time.

LEGISLATION.

No Ordinances were passed during the year by the Island Council. The following legislation affecting the island was passed in New Zealand :—

Part I, Finance Act (No. 2), 1934.

Customs Amendment : Duties in force in the Cook Islands (C. No. 125), 29th October, 1934.

Constitution of Island Council of Niue, Cook Islands, altered, 13th November, 1934.

Radio (Cook Islands Amendment) Regulations, 1934.

Cook Islands Treasury Regulations Amendment, 1934.

Cook Islands Treasury Regulations Amendment, 1935.

ISLAND COUNCIL.

The Island Council is established under the provisions of the Cook Islands Act, 1915. It consists of thirteen Native members, under the presidency of the Resident Commissioner, the Native members being appointed by the Governor-General. The Council has met frequently for the purpose of discussing matters affecting the welfare of the people.

HIGH COURT AND NATIVE LAND COURT.

Criminal cases heard during the year totalled 447, 402 convictions being entered. The majority of the offences were minor ones. There were 8 civil cases and 3 Native Land Court cases.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The medical work of the island is in the hands of a European medical officer and a European nurse, assisted by several Native trainees.

Throughout the year ended 31st December, 1934, the health of the people remained good, with only a few minor epidemics of colds in March, June, and December. The value of the newly completed quarantine station was fully demonstrated, it being utilized in connection with a case of cerebro-spinal meningitis and on several other occasions when it was found desirable to isolate Native labour working vessels from neighbouring territories suffering from outbreaks of influenza.

The following is a summary of the work performed at the hospital during the year : Admissions, 167 ; average length of stay, 19 days ; deaths, 2 ; out-patients, 3,523 ; visits, 1,033. Operations—Major, 7 ; minor, 92 ; dental extractions, 107. Injections—Bicreol, 116 ; novarsenobillon, 68.

Tuberculosis.—This disease continues to present the most serious health problem the Administration have to meet, 27 cases (pulmonary 17, glandular 7, meningeal 3) being reported during the year. Every effort is made to deal with the disease by education and to prevent its spread by isolation of sufferers.

Leprosy.—Two cases of leprosy were discovered, and the patients were transferred to the Leper Station at Makogai, Fiji.

Yaws.—This disease appears to be well under control, only 17 cases reporting for treatment during the year.

Filarial Disease.—A considerable portion of the population continues to suffer from microfilariasis, and the matter is one that is receiving the close attention of the Administration.

Gonorrhœa.—Forty-two cases were reported during the year, a considerable decrease on last year's figure of 150.

Typhoid Fever.—One case was discovered in May, and a second one, in the same district, in November. As a protective measure all European officials and members of the hospital staff were vaccinated. There was no further outbreak during the year.

Pneumococcal Meningitis.—One case reported.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.—One case reported.

POSTAL AND WIRELESS.

The total volume of postal business amounted to £9,882, as compared with £9,207 for 1933-34.

The radio plant has functioned satisfactorily and regular services have been maintained with New Zealand and Western Samoa. One hundred and eighty-seven messages were received and 230 despatched.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Barometer mean for the year, 29.936. Thermometer: Highest, 94 in March; lowest, 56 in July. Rainfall, 114.15 in.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Roads have been improved where possible, and three concrete tanks erected, but owing to the financial position no public works of any magnitude have been attempted.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture presents one of the most difficult problems the Niueans have to meet. The island is extremely rocky, with very little soil, and there are no streams.

During the year under review there has been no shortage of Native food, owing partly to the satisfactory rains, but mainly to the enforcement of the laws regarding planting and weeding.

Weeding of coconut plantations has been considerably neglected of late years, and as a natural result crops have deteriorated. However, much work in this direction has now been carried out, and there is a marked improvement in both the quantity and quality of the nuts.

The Administration maintain a demonstration and experimental plantation, which has proved of very great educational value to the Niueans. Waste and useless land was selected in order to demonstrate fully what could be done in agriculture as a result of adopting up-to-date methods in the care and treatment of the soil. The results have been very satisfactory, and there are indications that the people realize the advisability of altering their methods, though naturally it will be some time before great changes in this important subject will become general.

The importance of the scheme cannot be overestimated, for not only does it affect the food-supplies of the people, but it also has an important bearing on the increased production of commercial fruit, to which the island must look if it is to be self-supporting.

For the year under review it has not been necessary for the hospital to purchase taro, ample supplies having been available from the Government experimental plantation. Similarly, sufficient pandanus has been grown there to enable the school to be relieved of the necessity for buying material for basketware, &c.

The total area available is about 30 acres, but so far only half of this has been used, 10 acres being put in grass, the balance being in coconuts, citrus fruit, taro, pandanus, breadfruit, pawpaws, bananas, pineapples, mangoes, &c.

There are no cattle on the island, but goats have been imported, so that a milk-supply will in time be available for Europeans and the sick.

A great deal of attention has been given to pigs, as they are the main source of meat-supplies for the inhabitants. For a considerable number of years no fresh blood had been imported and the stock had deteriorated to a very great extent. However, as the result of the generous action of several New Zealand donors, to whom reference was made in the last annual report, a number of pure-bred animals have been imported, and the stock has improved considerably.

EDUCATION.

The Administration maintain two schools, under a European headmaster, the combined average roll number being 270. The work of the year has been satisfactorily performed. The importance of agriculture is not overlooked in the schools, and regular instruction is given at the Administration experimental and demonstration plantation. The boys work on the plantation for half a day each week and while there receive short talks on agricultural subjects and are usually shown, on the ground, what is being discussed. They receive instruction in planting, spraying, care of horses, feeding of pigs, and such other matters as will come into their daily lives.

Technical classes are carried on, instruction being given in woodwork, concreting, &c.

In addition to the Government schools, ten others are maintained by the London Missionary Society, who receive a small Government subsidy. The combined roll number was 470.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Total at 1st January, 1934.		Births.		Deaths.		Arrivals.		Departures.		Total at 31st December, 1934.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1,887	2,036	69	77	34	39	25	19	27	25	1,920	2,068

It is worthy of note that the population at the 31st December, 1934, was the highest since 1900, when it totalled 4,015, and this position has been reached only six years after the lowest point for the period—namely, 3,747 on the 31st December, 1928.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1935.

<i>Expenditure.</i>				<i>Income.</i>			
<i>Dr.</i>				<i>Cr.</i>			
£ s. d.				£ s. d.			

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1935.

Liabilities.				Assets.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Accumulated funds, 1st April, 1934 ..	27,277	3	10	Land	1,070	0	0
Excess of expenditure over income..	57	2	3	Additions	10	0	0
Reserve Fund				Buildings	10,415	2	7
				Depreciation	260	7	7
				Additions	10,154	15	0
					80	7	1
				Reservoirs	1,087	7	9
				Depreciation	26	3	8
				Additions	1,061	4	1
					127	0	4
				Plant and tools	3,550	8	9
				Depreciation	266	5	6
				Additions	3,284	3	3
					265	2	0
				Office furniture and equipment	503	0	1
				Depreciation	25	3	0
				Additions	477	17	1
					36	12	2
				Household furniture, &c.	1,573	14	9
				Depreciation	118	0	9
				Additions	1,455	14	0
					55	6	6
				Motor-vehicles	978	4	7
				Depreciation	195	12	11
				Additions	782	11	8
					0	12	8
				Boats	478	16	7
				Depreciation	119	14	2
				Additions	359	2	5
					10	18	4
				Stores on hand			
				Suspense Account, "Maui Pomare" ..			
				Investments			
				Cash in bank, Wellington	3,798	7	8
				Cash in transit	644	18	0
				Cash in hand, Niue	636	8	1

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