

1937.
NEW ZEALAND.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

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

REPORT ON THE NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION, 1936-37.

FINANCE.

THIS is the second year in the history of Niue that no subsidy has been required from New Zealand to enable this Administration to meet its obligations, though it has been necessary to utilize a portion of the Reserve Fund to meet a deficit of £2,419.

Receipts for the year, not taking into account amounts collected on behalf of N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare," amounted to £18,339, £3,434 in excess of the estimated revenue for the year and £2,930 more than the receipts for the previous year.

Payments for the year, excluding transactions on account of N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare," amounted to £20,806, which is £3,770 in excess of the original estimate of £17,336. Of this amount, £1,608 was capital expenditure and was added to the value of the assets.

After taking into account stocks, capital expenditure, sundry creditors, debtors, &c., the Income and Expenditure Account, which gives the true position for the year, shows an excess of expenditure over income of £1,409.

TRADE.

Imports for the calendar year 1936 totalled £24,662 and exports £22,992, the corresponding figures for the year 1935 being £15,288 and £12,076.

It is very gratifying to note that for the year under review the exports and imports have exceeded those of any previous year in the history of Niue, the total trade amounting to £47,654. The year 1919 shows a greater total, but this is accounted for by the fact that owing to shipping difficulties in 1918 caused by the Great War there was an accumulation of copra produced during that year but not shipped until 1919. No doubt the increased price of copra has been an important factor in the larger exports, but improved methods of plantation-management and the influences of the special agricultural activities are mainly responsible for this improvement. It must be pointed out, however, that this satisfactory result could not have been attained without the efficient service rendered to the Island by N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare."

Copra.—The increase in the price of copra acted as an incentive to the Natives to increase production, and, owing to the work performed in improving and cleaning plantations, the palms produced more nuts, which can now be found more readily. The quantity shipped this year was a record for the last seven years in copra exports, 662 tons, valued at £7,077, being shipped, as compared with 316 tons, valued at £2,031, for 1935.

Bananas.—The number of cases exported for the year 1936 was the highest yet recorded for Niue, 35,701 cases, valued at £13,744, being shipped, as compared with 22,714 cases, valued at £8,620, for the year 1935.

Kumeras.—Shipments of this commodity also established a record for the Island, 94 tons, valued at £1,464, being exported, whereas in 1935, 40 tons were shipped, valued at £360.

There is an ever-increasing demand for these kumeras owing to their flavour and wonderful keeping-qualities.

Fungus.—There is practically no demand for this commodity now, the low price obtainable practically prohibiting any exports. During the year only 3,583 lb., valued at £35, were exported, as compared with 7,593 lb., valued at £77, in 1935.

Hats and Baskets.—The demand for these items has been almost killed by foreign competition. The total quantity shipped in 1936 was 973 dozen, valued at £464, whereas in 1935 the quantity shipped was 1,931 dozen, valued at £834.

Miscellaneous.—Limes, lemons, oranges, granadillas, pawpaws, and pineapples have been shipped in small quantities. Niue limes are in great demand, and it is expected that in a few years large numbers will be exported. Efforts to market chillies and ginger have not met with much success.

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.	£
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
1935 ..	316	2,031	22,714	8,620	162	78	1,769	756	7,593	77	40	360
1936 ..	662	7,077	35,701	13,744	93	80	880	384	3,583	35	94	1,464

The principal items of import for the calendar year 1936 were as follows :—

Article.	Whence imported.			Value.	
				£	£
Apparel, n.e.i.	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	887	
	Japan .. ..	..	..	21	
	Other .. ..	..	..	15	923
Arms and ammunition	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	155	
	Other .. ..	..	..	82	237
Bags and sacks	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	87	
	Western Samoa .. ..	..	..	339	426
Bicycles and parts	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	876	
	Other .. ..	..	..	2	878
Biscuits	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	..	1,035
Boots and shoes	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	374	
	Other .. ..	..	..	5	
Confectionery	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	..	379
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	327
Cotton piece-goods	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	940	
	United Kingdom .. ..	..	..	298	
	Other .. ..	..	..	91	
	.. ..	..	..	..	1,329
Drapery, n.e.i.	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	192	
	United Kingdom .. ..	..	..	54	
	Other .. ..	..	..	8	
Drugs, n.e.i.	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	..	254
	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	299	310
	Other .. ..	..	..	44	
Fish, preserved	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	784	
	Other .. ..	..	..	142	343
Flour	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	60	
	Australia .. ..	..	..	274	926
	Other .. ..	..	..	10	
Hardware	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	..	344
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	441
Hosiery	New Zealand .. ..	..	..	193	
	Japan .. ..	..	..	42	
	Other .. ..	..	..	3	
	.. ..	..	..	..	238
Carried forward .. ..	.. ..	..	..	..	8,390

The principal items of import for the calendar year 1936—*continued*.

Article.	Whence imported.				Value.	
					£	£
Brought forward .. ..					..	8,390
Iron, galvanized corrugated, roofing	New Zealand	..	..	..	504	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	20	
					—	524
Meats, preserved	New Zealand	..	..	..	..	2,252
Motor-cars and parts	New Zealand	..	..	..	744	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	30	
					—	774
Oils: Benzine and kerosene ..	New Zealand	..	..	..	..	826
Paint and varnish	New Zealand	..	..	..	..	221
Provisions, n.e.i.	New Zealand	..	..	..	1,156	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	3	
					—	1,159
Rice	New Zealand	..	..	..	338	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	48	
					—	386
Silk	New Zealand	..	..	..	1,221	
	Japan .. ..	..	..	..	114	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	1	
					—	1,336
Soap	New Zealand	..	..	..	384	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	2	
					—	386
Specie	New Zealand	..	..	..	..	1,700
Stationery and books	New Zealand	..	..	..	157	
	United Kingdom .. ..	..	..	..	103	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	5	
					—	265
Sugar	New Zealand	..	..	..	212	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	7	
					—	219
Timber, sawn	New Zealand	..	..	..	..	348
„ shooks	New Zealand	..	..	..	..	1,943
Tobacco	New Zealand	..	..	..	1,079	
	Australia .. ..	..	..	..	314	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	9	
					—	1,402
Tools	New Zealand	..	..	..	246	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	36	
					—	282
Sundry	New Zealand	..	..	..	1,982	
	Other .. ..	..	..	..	267	
					—	2,249
Total imports .. ..					..	24,662

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.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
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
1935	13,191	942	780	375	15,288	10,010	2,066	12,076	27,364
1936	22,280	609	649	1,124	24,662	15,915	7,077	22,992	47,654

* Island recovering from drought and storms.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Niueans are a peaceful and law-abiding people. Although Polynesians, in many ways they differ widely from the Natives of other Pacific Islands. They are contented and happy, and no problems concerned with Native administration have arisen during the year.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

During the year the Island has fortunately been free from any serious epidemics.

Twelve vessels have been isolated while in port on account of various epidemics at their previous ports of call, and the men actually employed thereon quarantined after completion of the work. This and the prohibition of immigrants from infected areas have been successful in keeping the island free from sickness.

The following is a summary of the work performed at the Hospital: Infectious diseases—Tuberculosis, 40; gonorrhoea, 72; yaws, 182; pneumonia, 7; typhoid fever, 3; conjunctivitis, 37; ringworm, 94; filariasis, 125; measles, 2; chicken-pox, 8; malaria, 1. Hospital and dispensary statistics—Remaining in hospital, 31st December, 1935, 2; admitted during the year, 176; discharged during the year, 165; died in hospital, 5; remaining in hospital, 31st December, 1936, 8; average number of days in hospital, 15.81; average number of beds occupied per day, 10.6; district out-patients, 5,287; dispensary out-patients, 2,177; special visits, 426; district special visits, 1,071; hospital dressings, 1,830; hospital out-patient dressings, 1,830. Operations—Major, 13; minor, 246; dental extractions, 233; dental fillings, 7. Injections—Bicreol and N.A.B., 625; Gonococcal vaccine, 309; peptone, 95; manganese, 72; tuberculin, 42; miscellaneous, 140.

Vital Statistics.—Births, 140, or 33.97 per 1,000 of population. Deaths, 74, or 17.95 per 1,000 of population. The following is an analysis of deaths by age-groups: Under 1 year, 12; 1 to 5 years, 3; 5 to 10 years, nil; 10 to 20 years, 2; 20 to 30 years, 4; 30 to 40 years, 5; 40 to 50 years, 5; 50 to 60 years, 9; over 60 years, 34.

Yaws.—The notifications for yaws are probably of more serious import than any other figures. While a few of the 182 cases notified have been treated for tertiary symptoms, the majority have required treatment for yaws in the infective stage, where in many cases the ulcers have been superimposed upon unhealed cuts and abrasions, the infection being spread sometimes by direct contact, but more often by flies. It is hoped that the campaign now being conducted for cleaning up the island and further propaganda work will result in fewer flies in the village areas at least, and consequently fewer cases of yaws.

Gonorrhoea.—The number of cases notified would indicate a spread in this disease, but this is not so. Actual acute cases seen are not numerous, but many chronic cases are being notified through the co-operation of the Administration in sending for examination all persons charged with adultery.

Tuberculosis.—This disease in its pulmonary, glandular, and general manifestations is ever present among these people and is a big problem. Last year fifteen deaths, or 20.27 per cent. of the total, were due to the ravages of the tubercle bacillus, and of these fifteen, seven, or 46.6 per cent., were in the age-group of 20–40 years, which should be the most active and most useful period of a man's life, and this represents a big economic loss. The experiment conducted during the past year at the Lord Liverpool Hospital of treating early cases of tuberculosis on modified sanatorium lines has proved worth while. Six cases, of which five were pulmonary and one a combination of pulmonary and glandular, have been admitted, and all have shown marked improvement during their residence in the shelter. One case, an unsuitable patient, died some months after discharge from hospital with visceral complications, but the other five are fit and well at present and able to take an active part in the community life. In the case of a patient with T.B. adenitis, routine treatment was supplemented by injections of old tuberculin emulsion, otherwise there is nothing in the treatment of these cases that cannot be conducted by the Natives in their own homes. Lack of ventilation and overcrowding of sleeping-quarters are responsible in part for the spread and advance of the disease and can only be overcome by education and the demonstration of the advantages of the mode of living as conducted in the T.B. shelters at hospital.

Death-rate.—The vital statistics show a very high infant mortality, being at the rate of 79.13 per 1,000 live-births, and indicate the need for more extensive educational work among the Natives, principally along the lines of correct infant-feeding. The majority of deaths are wholly attributable to incorrect feeding of the infants; for when the child reaches the age of five to six months, or sometimes earlier, depending upon the wealth of the parents, the mothers may have to go out to the plantations working and the child is weaned in part, its principal diet being boiled taro, which has been previously masticated by some adult whose teeth and mouth are in a very unhealthy state. There is therefore little cause for wonder that the children suffer from malnutrition and digestive disorders and are backward in dentition and general development. The Natives are slowly growing accustomed to the use of "Glaxo," which is found to be a useful substitute in the majority of cases where supplementary diet is required, and the use of taro for a child under one year is discouraged as much as possible. Nevertheless, constant supervision and education are essential to eradicate this Native custom, which is responsible for such a large proportion of infant deaths, as well as laying the foundation of weak constitutions, which readily succumb to other infections, particularly tuberculosis, in later life. The largest group of deaths is among people over sixty years of age, in the majority of cases the cause of death being stated only as "senile decay." In many cases the Medical Officer does not see them prior to death, or has been called in a day or so before death is expected in order to facilitate the relatives obtaining a death-certificate. Following Native custom, these old people, enfeebled through years rather than by any organic disease, are usually placed in an old tumbledown leaf hut, when they or their relatives consider the end near at hand. There they await death, which oft-times is hastened by the wish to die and by abstinence from food and drink. The treatment of these people presents a problem, for which the only solution apparent is the improvement of their surroundings and living conditions and more kindly attention on the part of the relatives.

Nursing Staff.—During the past year two Niue girls were chosen to go to Apia Hospital, there to receive a three years' nursing training, at the completion of which they will return to Niue to work among their own people. Encouraging reports have been received from time to time of their progress,

and they should, on completion of their training, prove very useful additions to the nursing services of Niue. The question of sending further trainees must be considered, in order to keep up the staff, and probably it will be advisable to send one trainee every two years.

EDUCATION.

Educational activities have been carried on in a very satisfactory manner, especially considering the comparatively small expenditure in this direction. It is highly desirable that the education appropriation be increased as soon as funds are available.

Requests are continually being made for further Administration schools to be opened and for an increase in the subsidy to the Mission schools, but it is not possible at present to divert any further Administration funds in this direction.

The average roll of the two Administration schools is 320.75, with the average attendance 298. There has been an increase of 8 per cent. in the average roll strength.

Excellent work is done by the technical school. This is a special feature of the educational system, handicraft and sewing classes and teachers' classes being carried on regularly.

Cleanliness is a maxim that by practice is taught daily. To assist in elimination of sickness each pupil has an individual towel and handkerchief.

The ten London Missionary Society subsidized schools are doing excellent work, though handicapped by shortage of funds.

Their subsidy has been increased from £225 to the original sum of £500.

The roll strength of the ten schools is 481, with an average attendance of 444.1.

PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT.

Owing to the financial position and to the lack of a qualified staff these Departments have laboured under great difficulties, but there are many indications of improvement. There is only one European official to supervise the Departments and, owing to lack of knowledge on the part of his staff, he has to do most of the work himself, instead of supervising the activities of his assistants.

However, a number of young men are being trained by him and the headmaster, and in time it is hoped the position will be considerably easier.

Roads.—These are in a very unsatisfactory state, but it is hoped to improve them during the next few years. Undoubtedly more money will have to be spent on them in the future if the present activities continue. At present transport expenses are greatly increased owing to the poor state of the roads, and any money spent on them will soon reduce the Administration transport costs. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the necessity for improving the roads very considerably, and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to make funds available. During the last few years the Niueans have been improving their village roads at no expense to the Administration except for their midday meal of biscuits. They have completed about 14½ miles most satisfactorily, but there is still much to be done.

Water-supply.—The people rely entirely on rain for their water-supply, and as the rainfall has been as low as 0.76 in. in one month and the rainy days in another month only seven, it will be realized that with over four thousand people all relying on tanks this is an important matter and one demanding continual expenditure to ensure protection against disaster should a very dry season occur. During the last few years tanks have been built as far as funds have permitted, but the present position is far from satisfactory. However, it is hoped that during the next few years the position will be considerably improved. Public buildings are being kept in order, but owing to greater activities and increases in the European staff more money must be spent during the coming year. Export and import sheds require repairs and extensions to bring them up to requirements.

Maintaining boats in a proper state of repair is very difficult owing to there not being a suitable place to keep them when not in use. However, a scheme is being considered which it is hoped will eventually overcome this difficulty.

Transport.—Plant has been increased and is now satisfactory, though it will always be a problem owing to the lack of knowledge on the part of the drivers. However, a few young men are receiving special instruction daily from the engineer in charge, and in time there will be a marked improvement. Old trucks which had to be used because of the shortage, and which were the cause of considerable expense and trouble to keep in running-order, have now been discarded.

AGRICULTURE.

That this important subject is receiving very careful attention is shown by the record output of copra, bananas, and kumeras.

It is realized that the agricultural methods of the people can be improved by practical demonstration only, and consequently areas have been selected from the poorest soils, cultivated, and cropped to demonstrate what can be done even under very adverse conditions.

The Natives are encouraged to visit these plantations and have the methods explained to them. School-boys, labour, and prisoners do the work on these areas, great care being taken to explain the reasons for the methods used.

Well-bred pigs, goats, and poultry are imported each year, and the results are most encouraging. If the present methods are carried on for the next few years there is no doubt that the Native food-supply will increase, as also will their exports.

The interest taken in this important branch of the Administration activities is very encouraging.

The census shows that there are in Niue: Horses, 87; goats, 8; pigs, 2,000 (approximately); fowls, 713; ducks, 136; dogs, 237; cats, 438. There are no cattle on the Island.

HIGH COURT AND NATIVE LAND COURT.

Criminal cases dealt with during the year numbered 466, as compared with 432 for 1935–36. These were almost all very minor offences as the Natives are exceptionally law-abiding.

There were only 11 civil cases.

The Native Land Court has dealt with 40 land disputes during this year and 11 adoptions. This is a record for many years. There are sufficient cases still to be heard to keep a Judge and a Surveyor fully occupied for many months.

ISLAND COUNCIL.

Quarterly meetings have been held and many matters of local interest discussed.

LEGISLATION.

The only Ordinance passed was the renewal of the Aid-to-revenue Ordinance whereby each male over eighteen years has to pay a tax of 10s. per annum, this being devoted to medical services and roads.

WIRELESS.

This Department has functioned splendidly in spite of the semi-tropical conditions and the difficulty experienced in obtaining parts for replacements.

Traffic.—Inwards 351 messages, containing 6,661 words; outwards 469 messages, containing 7,781 words. This represents a considerable increase over that of 1935, and indicates the increasing usefulness of the radio service.

POSTAL.

Postal business totalled £11,790, a record for this Department. Savings-bank deposits decreased by £132.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The total rainfall for this year was 90.39 in., as compared with 99.77 in. for 1935–36.

Rain fell on 197 days during the year and was fairly evenly distributed in the various months, except for November, when there were only seven days rain, totalling 2.19 in.

The average rainfall since 1906 has been 82.16 in.

The total rainfall for 1936 was 8.23 in. above the average for the past thirty-one years.

VISITS.

Yacht “Stranger” and H.M.S. “Dunedin” visited Niue during the year.

SHIPPING.

The monthly calls of N.Z.G.M.V. “Maui Pomare” have proved of the greatest value to Niue. This vessel provides the only regular means of obtaining supplies and shipping produce, and the continuance of this service is of the utmost importance to this Island.

The inward cargo tonnage during the year amounted to 1,112 tons and the outward to 2,473, as compared with 708 and 1,663 tons for 1935.

VITAL STATISTICS.

A census was taken during the year, and the numbers obtained then, with the alterations since to the end of the year, show the present population to be 4,121. This is a record for Niue since 1900, the date when the first population statistics were obtained by the Administration. This is a very satisfactory position and demonstrates the beneficial results of New Zealand’s administration of this Island.

Births during the year were 140 and the deaths 74, as compared with births 171 and deaths 82 for 1935.

NIUE ADMINISTRATION.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1937.

<i>Expenditure.</i>				<i>Income.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Agriculture Department	1,619	9	7	Agriculture Department	1,751	7	11
Ammunition	248	19	9	Aid to revenue	461	14	0
Benzine	817	9	4	Ammunition	312	15	0
Customs	1	19	6	Benzine	886	5	10
Education Department	2,137	18	5	Bond storage	0	6	6
Fruit-cases	3,125	18	8	Copra duty	418	6	0
Fumigation	2	14	0	Customs duties	2,633	15	11
High Court (refunds)	3	3	0	Dog-tax	50	5	0
Interpreters, &c.	158	18	0	Education Department	300	8	2
Island Council	71	15	0	Fruit-cases	3,356	15	1
Jetty, boats, &c.	64	16	5	High Court fees, &c.	194	4	6
Landing	1,068	9	9	Interest on investments	152	4	2
Lepers: Maintenance, &c.	200	11	11	Interpreters, &c.	0	9	0
Liquor	95	0	0	Landing	1,495	12	5
Medical Department	2,144	8	6	Licenses	160	0	0
Miscellaneous services	52	7	2	Liquor	172	6	6
Native Land Court: Advisors	11	16	0	Medical Department	23	0	8
Police Department	474	2	10	Miscellaneous services	2	16	0
Printing, &c.	46	11	3	Native Land Court Fees, &c.	14	0	0
Prison Department	291	11	3	Police Department	0	5	0
Public Works Department	1,108	8	2	Printing, &c.	20	4	0
Registration (refunds)	0	5	0	Public Works Department	865	3	11
Residency	112	16	6	Registration, &c., fees	14	10	0
Resident Commissioner's Department	535	4	4	Residency	3	0	0
Roads	621	4	11	Resident Commissioner	58	7	11
Stamps, printing, &c.	245	15	4	Stamp sales	1,537	19	0
Stock supplies	377	11	1	Stock supplies	432	0	0
Transport Department	2,224	0	6	Transport Department	2,685	4	0
Treasury Department	668	2	8	Treasury Department	0	16	4
Water-supply	83	1	1	Wireless Department	281	14	0
Wireless Department	569	6	7	Transfer from Reserve Fund	500	0	0
Depreciation	1,011	10	9	Excess of expenditure over income	1,409	10	5
	£20,195	7	3		£20,195	7	3

