

COURTS.

Native Land Court.—The sitting of the Native Land Court commenced on the 22nd March, 1937, was continued into the year under review, and was finally adjourned on the 17th June. During the period 1st April to 17th June, 242 applications were disposed of in the following manner :—

	Ordered.	Dismissed.
For Succession	170	13
For Investigation of title	1	1
For Amendment of title	6	20
For Partition	2	3
For Injunction .. .. .	..	1
For Adoption	8	6
For Confirmation	3	1
For Tribal title	4	1
For Atinga .. .. .	..	2
	194	48

In addition to the above, a number of orders were made in the ordinary course of the Court's activities and a number of applications were partly dealt with and adjourned for further evidence.

A complete check of all the registers of the Group has now been made, and the following is a summary of applications pending :—

	Investigation of Title.	Relinquishing.	Amendment of Title.	Definition of Relative Interests.	Partition.	Injunctions.	Confirmation of Alienation.	Succession.	Exchange.	Adoptions.	Tribal Titles.	Trustees.	Totals.
Rarotonga	21	5	59	8	103	8	12	209	..	10	23	1	459
Aitutaki	264	1	11	..	16	..	10	59	4	8	..	..	373
Mangaia	6	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	18	..	..	26
Atiu	59	2	..	..	1	..	..	6	..	5	..	..	73
Mauke	7	..	9	..	13	..	1	107	..	2	1	..	140
Mitiaro	13	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	15
Manihiki	28	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	7	..	..	36
Rakahanga	40	..	3	..	..	..	1	9	..	4	..	..	57
Penrhyn	34	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	5	..	..	41
Pukapuka	11	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	..	..	17
	483	8	83	8	133	8	32	390	4	63	24	1	1,237

The above figure—1,237—discloses the urgent necessity for the appointment of a Native Land Court Judge to deal with matters before the Court.

The filing of Native Land Court orders has been completed as far as possible—the system being the same as that used in the Native Land Court in New Zealand—but there are still some hundreds of orders to be prepared. This work is now in hand and good progress is being made.

Criminal Jurisdiction.—During the year a total of 1,236 cases were dealt with on the criminal side, and an analysis of the offences follows :—

Burglary	3
Theft	55
Receiving stolen property	3
Causing actual bodily harm	6
Assault	15
Carnal knowledge—girl under fifteen years	1
Abduction	1
Adultery (by married persons)	8
False pretences	4
Wilful mischief to property	4
Provoking breach of the peace	4
Furious driving	1
Animal trespass	145
Drunkenness	2
Wilful trespass	7
Contempt of Court	5
Escaping from lawful custody	15
Disorderly conduct in public place	1
Affrays	2
Manufacturing intoxicating liquor	22
Consuming intoxicating liquor	798
Giving intoxicating liquor to Native	1
Driving motor-truck in state of intoxication	1
Using threatening behaviour	4