

1939.
NEW ZEALAND.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

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

REPORT ON THE NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION, 1938-39.

FINANCE.

The estimated expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1939, was £20,460, the sum actually expended being £20,196 11s. 1d., or approximately £260 less than the amount authorized.

The estimated revenue was £16,871 and that actually received, £14,468 6s. 2d., the reduction being due mainly to adverse trade conditions and factors beyond the control of the Administration.

The deficit provided for was £3,589. Even though the amount expended did not exceed that authorized, as a result of the decrease in revenue the deficit actually amounted to £5,728 4s. 11d. This sum was provided from reserves held by the Administration.

Expenditure has been kept at an absolute minimum, and no new works or undertakings have been attempted.

TRADE.

Imports for the calendar year 1938 totalled £16,380 and exports, £15,045, a total trade value of £31,425. In the previous year the total trade amounted to £52,630.

The reduction was due to the fact that very little copra was made owing to the very low price obtainable, and also to the shortage of bananas available for shipment.

Copra.—Three hundred and ninety-five tons, valued at £3,500, were exported. The following were the local prices paid in the villages during 1938: January to April, £5 per ton; May to August, £3 per ton; September to December, £1 10s. per ton. Approximately four thousand coconuts are required to make one ton of copra. When the amount of labour involved in gathering these four thousand nuts, husking them, cutting out the kernel for copra, drying it, and taking it to the trader is considered it will be understood why little copra is being made. The price paid is very low, yet when the costs incurred by the merchants in transport, bagging, &c., are considered the price offered is as much or even more than can be expected while the market value remains at its present low level.

Bananas.—The shortage in the banana shipments was due to adverse weather conditions. Furthermore, much of the available land has already been planted, and the balance is not being planted as it should be, because it does not produce such good crops. This year exports amounted to 18,656 cases, valued at £6,500, whereas during the previous year 26,709 cases, valued at £10,283, were exported.

Kumeras.—A record quantity was shipped during the year. Altogether, 318½ tons, valued at £3,371, were exported, as compared with 123¼ tons, valued at £1,451, for the previous year, a record up to that period.

Hats and Baskets.—Hats exported constituted a record for several years, there being 1,043 dozen, valued at £483, shipped, the previous year the total being 694 dozen, valued at £254.

There was also a record for several years in the export of baskets, 436 dozen, valued at £400, were shipped, as compared with 167 dozen, valued at £92, the previous year.

The following table shows the quantities and values of the principal exports for the last 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.	£
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
1937 ..	728	10,825	26,709	10,283	167	92	694	254	261	4	123	1,451
1938 ..	395	3,500	18,656	6,503	436	400	1,043	483	3,679	53	318	3,371

The principal items of imports for the year 1938 were as follow :—

Article.	Whence imported.	Value.
		£ £
Arms, ammunition, and explosives	New Zealand .. ..	.. 257
Bags and sacks	New Zealand	392
	Western Samoa	39
		— 431
Cement	New Zealand .. ..	.. 280
Confectionery	New Zealand .. ..	.. 200
Drapery—		
Apparel, n.e.i.	New Zealand	334
	Western Samoa	4
	United Kingdom	11
	Canada	15
		— 364
Cotton piece-goods	New Zealand	305
	Western Samoa	79
	United Kingdom	510
	Japan	70
		— 964
Drapery, n.e.i.	New Zealand	467
	Western Samoa	9
	United Kingdom	80
		— 556
Drugs	New Zealand .. ..	.. 452
Fancy goods	New Zealand	359
	Western Samoa	22
	United Kingdom	26
	Australia	3
	American Samoa	1
		— 411
Hardware	New Zealand	465
	United Kingdom	45
	Western Samoa	3
	United States of America	6
		— 519
Instruments, musical	New Zealand .. ..	.. 224
Iron, galvanized, corrugated, roofing, &c.	New Zealand .. ..	.. 609
Motor-vehicles and bicycles	New Zealand	978
	United Kingdom	1
		— 979
Oil, benzine, and kerosene	New Zealand	614
	United States of America	93
		— 707
Paints and varnishes	New Zealand	201
	Western Samoa	6
		— 207
Provisions—		
Biscuits	New Zealand .. ..	.. 690
Fish, preserved	New Zealand	278
	Western Samoa	4
	Canada	149
	United States of America	167
		— 598
Flour	New Zealand	3
	Western Samoa	26
	Australia	216
		— 245
Meats, preserved and salted	New Zealand .. ..	.. 1,233
Milk, preserved	New Zealand .. ..	.. 268
Provisions, n.e.i.	New Zealand	621
	Western Samoa	12
		— 633
Rice	New Zealand	337
	Western Samoa	2
		— 339
Carried forward .. ..	.. ..	.. 11,166

The principal items of imports for the year 1938—*continued*.

Article.				Whence imported.			Value.	
							£	£
Brought forward .. ..				.. ..			..	11,166
Sugar				New Zealand .. ..			..	237
Soap				New Zealand .. ..			..	319
Timber, sawn				New Zealand			216	
				Western Samoa			17	
							—	233
Timber, shooks				New Zealand .. ..			..	1,212
Tobacco				New Zealand			1,109	
				Australia			532	
				Western Samoa			12	
							—	1,653
Miscellaneous				New Zealand			1,417	
				Western Samoa			78	
				Australia			63	
				United Kingdom			2	
							—	1,560
Total							—	16,380

Summary.

				£					£
New Zealand .. ..	..	..	14,080		Japan .. ..	..	..	70	
Australia .. ..	..	..	815		American Samoa .. ..	..	..	1	
United Kingdom .. ..	..	..	671						
Western Samoa .. ..	..	..	296		Total .. ..	..	..	£16,380	
United States of America .. ..	..	..	266						
Canada .. ..	..	..	181						

The total trade of the island for 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.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
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
1937 .. ..	..	26,142	840	855	1,472	29,309	12,469	10,852	23,321	52,630
1938 .. ..	..	3,850	87	236	182	4,355	11,479	3,566	15,045	31,425

* Island recovering from drought and storms.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Niucans are among the best workers in the Pacific. This is mainly due to the difficulties they experience in growing their food-supplies, there being very little soil available.

The Island is only 64,000 acres in extent. Three-quarters of this area is covered with bush growing among rocks, so that the population of 4,276 people have to obtain all their requirements from about 16,000 acres of land, half of which is practically worked out. There are no secondary industries to help them and little paid employment offering.

The London Missionary Society is the only Church organization in Niue, and practically all the Natives are members. The Society does excellent work with its one European Missionary.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The £2,468 spent on the medical services has assisted to maintain the health of the people, who receive free medical treatment in their villages and at the hospital.

The nursing staff at the hospital consists of one European Matron and five Niue nurses.

The following is a summary of the work performed at the hospital, but, in addition, each village is visited weekly by the Medical Officer, and at such other times as he is summoned :—

(1) Infectious Diseases—			(3) Hospital and Dispensary— <i>continued</i> .		
(a) Tuberculosis	..	15	Average number of days in hospital		
(b) Gonorrhœa	..	27	per patient ..	20·26	
(c) Yaws	..	528	Daily average bed state	10·43	
(d) Pneumonia and broncho-			District out-patients	9,345	
pneumonia	..	21	Dispensary out-patients	3,367	
(e) Conjunctivitis	..	225	Special visits	1,011	
(f) Ringworm	..	112	Special district visits	816	
(g) Varicella	..	2	In-patient dressings	3,956	
(2) Endemic Diseases—			Out-patient dressings	5,364	
(a) Filariasis	..	82	Operations—		
(b) Myositis tropica	..	8	Major	0	
(3) Hospital and Dispensary—			Minor	86	
In hospital, 1st January, 1938	..	12	Dental extractions	127	
Admitted during year	..	161	Injections: N.A.B. and Bisoxyl	1,417	
Discharged during year	..	167	Confinements	15	
Died in hospital during year	..	1	Anæsthetics—		
Remaining in hospital, 31st			General	20	
December, 1938	..	5	Local	54	

General.—A somewhat severe epidemic of bronchial catarrh, complicated in some cases by pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia, visited the Island at the end of July, and lasted for five weeks. It was characterized by a sudden onset, high fever, and the duration of the lung complications, which in some instances took six to eight weeks to clear up. There were, however, only four deaths, all being of patients under two years of age. It is probable that the disorder was brought here from Western Samoa, where it was epidemic at the time.

The Government and Mission schools were closed during the greater part of the epidemic. Apart from this outbreak, the health of the people was good.

Inspection of Schools.—Owing to frequent reports of the prevalence of yaws amongst the school-children it was decided to inspect them all.

The work was commenced at the end of September and completed in October. In all, 762 children were examined, and of these, 550 had yaws in some form, and practically all had enlarged epitrochlear glands. It was decided to give each of the 550 infected children three injections of N.A.B. at weekly intervals. At the end of the year, owing to the school holidays, the pupils of Tufukia School only had been injected, but it was intended that the work should be resumed towards the end of February. The results should prove interesting.

This Department has functioned very satisfactorily, the work being greatly appreciated by all concerned. There has been a very marked improvement in the health of the Natives.

EDUCATION.

This service is carried out by the Administration and the London Missionary Society, there being at present two schools controlled by the former and ten by the Mission.

The Administration has commenced the erection of a new school at Mutalau, and it is hoped to have this functioning before long.

The £2,159 spent by the Administration includes a subsidy of £500 paid to the London Missionary Society to assist them in their school-work.

The average roll strength of the two Administration schools was 388, and the average attendance 88 per cent., the figures for the Mission schools being 522 and 89·5 per cent.

The educational system is being carried out on modern methods as far as they can be applied to local conditions, and is producing good results, both Administration and Mission working in perfect harmony.

PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT.

Buildings.—No new buildings were erected during the year, as it was considered advisable to concentrate on carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to the existing buildings.

Roads.—There has been a great improvement in the roads. Expenditure for the year was heavy, but after the roads have been put in order maintenance will not be very great.

The improved surfaces have reduced considerably the work of keeping transport in good order.

Water-supply.—The people rely entirely on rain for their water-supply, and it is very necessary that the reservoirs should be increased considerably. During the year a few additional tanks were erected, and others were maintained in good repair. It is proposed during the coming year to concentrate on building more tanks.

Transport.—The Administration have five trucks and four cars, besides four trailers. The former were used mainly in connection with the transport of bananas and on road work.

AGRICULTURE.

This department has progressed satisfactorily. Since practically 100 per cent. of the population depend on their plantations, the importance of this department will be appreciated. During the year cattle, pigs, fowls, geese, and pea-fowls were imported. There has been an improvement in the stock in the villages.

There is very little soil available—only a few inches—the subsoil being very pure carbonate of lime, the rest up-heaved coral rock. These factors make it difficult for the Natives to obtain adequate food-supplies, especially as it has been the practice for very many years to burn all rubbish or anything likely to produce soil. It is considered that this subject is one of the most important in the school curriculum, and one morning in each week the boys of Tufukia School receive practical agricultural instruction at the Administration plantation. It is hoped that as time goes on this procedure will have beneficial results.

HIGH COURT AND NATIVE LAND COURT.

All offences were of a minor nature, indicating that the Niueans are a law-abiding people. During the year 898 cases were dealt with.

ISLAND COUNCIL.

Each village elects a member to the Island Council to assist the Resident Commissioner in his duties.

There are no chiefs in Niue, and the Councillors provide the usual channel of communication between the Resident Commissioner and the people.

LEGISLATION.

No new laws were passed during the year, as those in existence were found to be adequate.

WIRELESS.

One European officer controls this department, assisted by a Niuean boy.

Inward Traffic.—Three hundred and twelve messages, containing 5,117 words, were received, as compared with 329 messages, containing 5,321 words, the previous year.

Outward Traffic.—Three hundred and eighty-three messages, containing 6,228 words, were despatched, as compared with 392 messages, containing 6,746 words, the previous year.

The service has been very satisfactory, the station having been kept in operation without any breakdowns, despite the fact that the plant is not an up-to-date one.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The total rainfall for the year was 77.42 in., as compared with 53.70 in. for 1937. There has been an average fall of 81.15 in. per annum for the past thirty-three years.

The average maximum thermometer for the whole year was 85.7, the highest ever recorded. The mean average temperature for the whole year was 78.2, also the highest on record.

SHIPPING.

The New Zealand Government's motor-vessel "Maui Pomare" called each month. This vessel has provided the only regular shipping communication with the outside world.

The importance of the service to Niue cannot be overestimated. If it were not available, it would be impossible to ship fruit, and instead of this Island being self-supporting, as it has been over the past few years, it would have required substantial assistance from the Consolidated Fund each year.

During the year the ship "Sonora" called and took away copra.

The yacht "Ngataki" also visited the Island during its cruise.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Native population is now 4,276, an increase during the year of 61. There were 152 births and 89 deaths.

Population Table.

Population at 1st January, 1938.			Births during 1938.			Deaths during 1938.			Arrivals during 1938.			Departures during 1938.			Population at 31st December, 1938.		
M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
2,053	2,162	4,215	83	69	152	37	52	89	64	49	113	65	50	115	2,098	2,178	4,276

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1939.

<i>Expenditure.</i>			<i>Revenue.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Agriculture Department	572	7 1	Aid to Revenue	483	0 0
Accident to Sekavani Head	121	7 11	Ammunition	3	4 5
Audit	29	18 6	Bond storage	0	6 6
Education Department	2,165	1 9	Copra export duty	295	0 0
Interpreters and office staff	209	14 7	Customs duties	2,823	13 11
Island Council	71	13 0	Dog-tax fees	51	14 6
Jetty	156	5 3	Fruit-cases	21	19 6
Landing	15	13 0	Fumigation fees	1	17 6
Lepers	117	12 4	High Court fees and fines	190	19 0
Medical Department	2,603	5 3	Interest	334	3 3
Miscellaneous services	69	10 10	Licenses	128	15 0
Native Land Court	8	11 1	Liquor	8	12 4
Police Department	388	17 4	Registration fees	17	7 0
Printing	109	17 9	Stamps	2,016	19 9
Prisons Department	265	18 0	Stock supplies	11	10 5
Public Works Department	541	13 3	Transport Department	231	13 11
Residency	83	16 4	Excess of expenditure over revenue	5,814	5 1
Resident Commissioner's Department	464	9 8			
Roads	1,829	4 4			
Survey Department	147	10 3			
Treasury Department	539	10 6			
Water-supply Department	99	5 1			
Wireless Department	465	8 4			
Depreciation	1,358	10 8			
	£12,435	2 1		£12,435	2 1

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1939.

[illegible]

N.B.—These accounts are subject to audit.

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