

1941.
NEW ZEALAND.

COOK ISLANDS.

[In continuation of Parliamentary Paper A.—3, 1940.]

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

REPORT OF THE COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

(FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1941.)

FINANCE.

LOCAL revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1941, amounted to £26,889 and expenditure to £18,346.

Grants from the New Zealand Government amounted to £24,000.

The year closed with a cash balance of £3,894.

The Revenue Account and Balance-sheet for the year ended 31st March, 1941, are printed on page 8, Appendix A.

The Balance-sheet takes into account the value of all Administration assets as at 31st March, 1941, and all liabilities, and shows an excess of assets amounting to £78,417.

TRADE.

For the year ended 31st December, 1940, the value of exports was £90,397 and of imports £79,469, showing an excess of exports of £10,928. For the previous year the corresponding figures were: Exports, £56,689; imports, £73,559.

The export of oranges increased by 73,025 cases, and tomatoes increased by 19,973 boxes. Bananas decreased by 13,835 cases.

The following table illustrates the trend of trade in the Cook Islands from 1925 to date:—

Year.				Imports.	Exports.	Total.
				£	£	£
1925	..	..	..	130,609	151,939	282,548
1930	..	..	..	103,468	109,438	212,906
1931	..	..	..	69,260	79,945	149,205
1932	..	..	..	63,585	73,409	136,994
1933	..	..	..	76,716	73,983	150,699
1934	..	..	..	61,449	59,307	120,756
1935	..	..	..	61,676	53,599	115,275
1936	..	..	..	72,576	67,556	140,132
1937	..	..	..	86,534	86,333	172,867
1938	..	..	..	74,789	73,184	147,973
1939	..	..	..	73,559	56,689	130,248
1940	..	..	..	79,469	90,397	169,866

Exports.—The following table shows the quantities of main exports over the last seven years:—

—		1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Citrus fruit	.. (Cases)	78,099	48,268	75,390	69,369	94,852	55,058	130,068
Bananas	.. ..	52,314	22,539	49,431	39,910	45,209	46,265	32,430
Tomatoes	.. (Boxes)	34,545	62,383	38,546	34,390	15,442	10,860	30,833
Copra	.. (Tons)	963	1,353	689	1,629	908	912	100

Crop Prospects.—For the coming season the prospects in Rarotonga and in the Group Islands are for an exceedingly heavy orange crop. Owing to gales, however, on 1st January and 4th March, the banana crop suffered considerably, and shipments for the next season will be greatly reduced.

LEGISLATION.

The following legislation was passed in respect of the Group :—

- The Dependency Emergency Regulations (No. 2) 1939, Amendment No. 2.
- The Dependency Emergency Regulations (No. 2) 1939, Amendment No. 3.
- The Dependency Emergency Regulations (No. 2) 1939, Amendment No. 4.
- The Cook Islands Fruit Control Regulations 1937, Amendment No. 1.
- The Dependency Medical Appointments Emergency Regulations 1940.
- The Cook Islands Patriotic Purposes Regulations 1940.
- The Cook Islands Pearl Shell Fisheries Regulations Amendment 1941.

MEDICAL.

General Health.—General health was satisfactory, though influenza, fortunately mild in type, affected Rarotonga for six months of the year.

Visits.—Visits were paid by the Chief Medical Officer and the Assistant Medical Officer to most of the islands in the Group throughout the year.

Public Health.—House-to-house inspection has been carried out at regular intervals by the Chief Medical Officer and the District Nurse, who also made a thorough inspection of schools. The general hygiene of the whole population was good.

Child Welfare Association.—This body, comprised of fifteen committees, has continued its voluntary activities with commendable regularity and efficiency throughout the year.

Dental Department.—This was under the control of a European Dental Officer who returned to duties in New Zealand during the year, leaving a female Native assistant and a male cadet to carry on the work of dental care in Rarotonga. The European Dental Officer visited the Lower Group in April and treated some 666 cases, and the Native assistant made a further visit later in the year.

X-ray Department.—The X-ray plant continues to function well. During the year many exposures were taken, mainly for diagnostic purposes.

Extensions.—A morgue was erected by the Administration in March.

Hospital :—

In-patients	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	282
Out-patients	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,829
Treatment—																		
(a) Injections—																		
(1) Anti-tetanic serum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
(2) Bicrool	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
(3) Colloidal calcium	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
(4) Gonococcal vaccine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(5) Novarsenobinzol	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	274
(6) Staphylococcal vaccine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
(7) Prontosil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(b) Anaesthetics—																		
(1) General	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
(2) Local	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
(c) Operations—																		
(1) Major	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
(2) Minor	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	231
(d) Confinements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
(e) Artificial pneumothorax	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
(f) X-ray	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
(g) Miscarriages and abortions (conducted)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
(h) Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	904

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Estimated Population, 31st March, 1940.			Births for Year ended 31st March, 1941.		Deaths for Year ended 31st March, 1941.		Arrivals and Departures for Year ended 31st March, 1941.				Estimated Population, 31st March, 1941.			Marriages for Year ended 31st March, 1941.
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Arrivals.		Departures.		M.	F.	Total.	
								M.	F.	M.	F.				
Rarotonga	2,932	2,595	5,527	110	111	42	38	69	46	53	41	3,016	2,673	5,689	36
Aitutaki	1,009	940	1,949	48	34	14	11	..	..	..	..	1,043	963	2,006	20
Mangaia	845	774	1,619	34	46	21	16	..	..	..	..	858	804	1,662	11
Atiu	621	545	1,166	25	25	18	12	..	..	..	..	628	558	1,186	9
Mauke	394	339	733	18	19	4	6	..	..	..	..	408	352	760	13
Mitiaro	163	136	299	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	163	136	299	..
Penrhyn	262	249	511	10	8	2	3	..	..	..	..	270	254	524	4
Manihiki	267	281	548	10	9	5	6	..	..	..	..	272	284	556	11
Rakahanga	165	162	327	6	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	170	159	329	1
Pukapuka	350	336	686	14	13	3	8	..	..	..	..	361	341	702	6
Totals	7,008	6,357	13,365	275	266	110	104	69	46	53	41	7,189	6,524	13,713	111

* No returns received.

EDUCATION.

The following are the schools in the Cook Islands, together with the number of children attending each:—

Island.	School.	Roll Number.
<i>(a) Government Schools.</i>		
Rarotonga	Avarua (including European side school)	411
	Arorangi	223
	Ngatangia	207
	Titikaveka	172
Aitutaki	Araura	488
Atiu	Atiu	227
Mangaia	Oneroa	228
	Ivirua	101
	Tamarua	71
Mauke	Mauke	148
Pukapuka	Pukapuka	172
		2,448
<i>(b) London Missionary Society Schools.</i>		
Mitiaro	Mitiaro	58
Manihiki	Tukao	18
	Tauhunu	59
Rakahanga	Rakahanga	61
Penrhyn	Omoka	53
	Tetautua	58
Palmerston	Palmerston	34
		341
<i>(c) Roman Catholic Mission Schools.</i>		
Rarotonga	St. Joseph's Convent	147
Atiu	Atiu Catholic	48
Mauke	Mauke Catholic	64
Mitiaro	Mitiaro Catholic	25
Manihiki	Tukao Catholic	20
	Tauhunu Catholic	15
Rakahanga	Rakahanga Catholic	33
		352
Total		3,141

The total school population shows an increase of 51 over last year's figures; attendance has been regular and satisfactory.

Staff.—There has been no major change in the Native staff, and the Native teachers continue to do good work.

Health.—The health of the school-children has been generally good.

Training of Native Teachers.—The training of Native teachers has been continued systematically, and preparation for the Teachers' Certificate Examination is proceeding satisfactorily. A course in first aid is being held at Rarotonga by the Chief Medical Officer. Later in the year an examination will be held to enable Native teachers to qualify for the St. John Ambulance Association's Certificate in First Aid.

Patriotic Effort.—The schools have assisted wholeheartedly in the Cook Islands patriotic effort.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Roads.—The main road has been kept in good order. Foreshore posts at Avarua were damaged during the storm on 4th March, and these have been repaired. *Tapere* (subsidiary) roads have been maintained, as usual, by the districts concerned, and the Administration has assisted with food and the use of trucks.

Bridges and Culverts.—All bridges and culverts were attended to during the year. One new concrete culvert was built in the Arorangi *tapere* road.

Water-supply.—All intakes and supply systems have been kept in good order during the year.

Buildings.—Government buildings have been kept in good repair, and where necessary repainting has been carried out.

A morgue has been built at the hospital.

For the fruit-control scheme, sixteen gassing-rooms were erected.

Transport.—All Administration vehicles were kept in good running-order.

AGRICULTURE.

Citrus.—It is apparent that growers, after viewing the results of pruning over the past three or four years, are becoming convinced that pruning of orange-trees is beneficial. The result is that most of the trees were pruned during the past year.

Prior to the high winds which were experienced during the month of March the trees were looking in first-class condition and it was generally conceded that they had at last recovered from the effects of the 1935 hurricane. The high winds were responsible for the loss of approximately 10,000 cases of mature fruit which otherwise would have been available for shipment.

All Rarotonga oranges will be gassed and debuttioned in future, and sixteen gassing-rooms have been erected at the seven district packing-sheds and will be ready for the first shipments of the 1941 season.

Bananas.—The high quality of bananas being shipped from Rarotonga was maintained during the past year. The objections raised by growers at the inception of wharf inspection have disappeared, and the work is running systematically and smoothly.

Plantings, however, for the past eighteen months have been at a standstill, due to several factors.

Nursery Work and Replanting Scheme.—Work at the Takuvaine Nursery has of necessity been slowed down, due to the fact that growers are hesitant in coming into the citrus-replanting scheme.

Tomatoes.—Many plants were lost during the early part of the year due to heavy rains, but subsequent plantings grew well.

Domestic Crops.—The planting of domestic crops have been sufficient for the needs of the population. During the year consignments of kumeras were made to the Internal Marketing Department.

Outer Islands.—Six gassing-rooms were erected at Aitutaki and Atiu, and all shipments of oranges from these islands were treated with ethylene gas and debuttioned.

Six rooms were also erected at Mauke, and these will be available for use during the 1941 orange season.

HIGH COURT.

Criminal Jurisdiction.—During the year under review a total of 1,323 cases were dealt with on the criminal side; 144 cases were for animal trespass.

No cases of a really serious nature were brought before the Court.

Civil Jurisdiction.—Civil cases brought before the Court numbered 42.

Outer Islands.—Returns of Court work in the various islands of the Group are received as communication permits, and the work appears to be kept up to date. No serious offences have been reported.

NATIVE LAND COURT.

Court Sittings.—Following on from the 31st March, 1940, the Native Land Court, under Judge McCarthy, continued its work in Aitutaki until the 25th June, when it adjourned to Rarotonga.

The Court commenced its sitting in Rarotonga on the 8th July, 1940, and up to the 31st March, 1941, had disposed of 416 applications, making 379 orders.

Applications and Fees.—Ninety-six new applications affecting land in Aitutaki and 319 new applications affecting land in Rarotonga were received during the year.

Records.—All orders made at Aitutaki have now been drawn up and checked, but before the freehold orders and partition orders can be signed, plans must be endorsed thereon. This entails the making of over 900 plans. The survey diagrams have been completed, and the original survey plans have been forwarded to Wellington for copying. When all the orders have been signed, the registers will require to be brought up to date.

POST OFFICE.

The usual services have been maintained at Rarotonga and at all post-offices throughout the Group.

Post Office Savings-bank.—The summary of transactions in this branch is as follows:—

					£
Deposits, ordinary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	16,728
Withdrawals, ordinary .. .. .	..	..	..	..	14,865
					<hr/>
Excess of deposits over withdrawals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£1,863
					<hr/> <hr/>

Inward savings-bank transfers amounted to £4,381 and outward to £3,893; interest credited to depositors was £932, as compared with £848 last year.

The total amount at credit of 2,129 depositors on 31st March was £33,777, as against £30,982 in 2,010 accounts last year.

Postal Notes.—Number of notes issued, 932; value of notes issued, £410.

Money-orders.—Number of orders issued, 1,966; value of orders issued, £45,072; number of orders paid, 319; value of orders paid, £3,221.

Telephone Service.—The telephone system has given satisfactory service during the year.

Cook Islands Postage and Revenue Stamps.—Revenue derived from the sale of stamps from all sources amounted to £1,194.

WIRELESS.

Rarotonga Radio.—Paid radio telegrams numbering 5,265 and totalling 120,312 words were handled during the year by Rarotonga Radio, and receipts amounted to £1,605.

The total revenue from radio messages for all stations was approximately £2,280.

POLICE.

The total strength of the Police Force remained at 47. The conduct of the police during the year has been on the whole satisfactory.

Prosecutions in the High Court numbered 1,323, compared with 1,356 in the previous year.

Fines totalling £1,021 were imposed and £339 collected. Unpaid fines are worked out on public works.

One hundred and ninety-five dogs were registered, £97 being collected in registration fees.

Seventy-nine cinematograph films totalling 433,066 ft. were censored during the year. Five of these were rejected as unsuitable, while cuts were made in others.

The sum of £227 was collected as fees in connection with motor-vehicle registrations.

Twenty-eight civil summonses were served, and 7 writs of sale executed by the Chief Officer of Police as Bailiff of the High Court.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The total rainfall at the Radio-station, Rarotonga, for the year ended 31st December, 1940, was 68.55 in.

The heaviest rainfall in twenty-four hours was 4.78 in. on the 13th August. The previous heaviest rainfall registered was 9.63 in. on the 10th December, 1936.

The highest reading of the Fahrenheit thermometer in the shade was 90 degrees on the 11th February. The lowest reading was 56.5 degrees on the 12th July.

The mean of the maximum thermometer for the year was 79.28 degrees and the mean of the minimum thermometer 69.78 degrees.

The lowest reading of the barometer was 29.68 on the 13th January, 1940.

LOWER COOK ISLANDS.

AITUTAKI.

Trade.—Altogether 13,721 cases of oranges and 51 tons of kumeras were exported.

High Court.—Criminal cases for the year totalled 175, and none was of a serious nature. There were no civil cases.

Health.—The general health of the people has been satisfactory.

Public Works.—All roads and Administration property have been kept in good order and condition.

Education.—The school roll at 31st March was 487, and work has proceeded satisfactorily during the year.

Planting.—Planting has been heavy and ample Native foodstuffs are provided for.

ATIU.

Mr. D. Brown, Resident Agent, transferred to Mauke in April, and his position was filled by Mr. W. N. A. Allison, Resident Agent-Headmaster.

Trade.—A total of 22,136 cases of oranges was exported during the season.

High Court.—Minor criminal cases numbering 425 were dealt with during the year. One short session of the Native Land Court was held.

Health.—The health of the people has been satisfactory.

Public Works.—One two-room school building was completed and rethatched. Three separate rooms, each 20 ft. by 30 ft., were also constructed.

The main roads have been kept in good repair, and the water-supply and Administration buildings are in good order.

Education.—Attendance and work at the schools has been good, and a school band has been organized.

Planting.—Planting has been good and the people have increased their cultivation of taro, kumera and other Native foodstuffs.

MAUKE.

Captain E. C. Vellenoweth resigned the position of Resident Agent, and he was succeeded by Mr. D. Brown, Resident Agent at Atiu, in April.

Trade.—A record number of 24,824 cases of oranges was exported for the season. No copra was made during the past year.

High Court.—Court was held at regular intervals and 145 minor cases dealt with. Six civil cases were heard.

Health.—The health of the people has been good and there have been no epidemics during the year.

Public Works. All Administration buildings are in good condition with the exception of the cargo-shed, which needs reroofing.

A new Native house for the Native Head Teacher has been erected.

The concrete slipway at the main landing was destroyed by the gale on 4th March and will need repairing.

Water-supply and roads have been kept in good order.

Education.—The school is in charge of a Native Head Teacher and work is proceeding satisfactorily. The attendance is steadily increasing.

Planting.—Planting of lands has been very good and there is an abundance of foodstuffs.

MITIARO.

The general health of the people has been good and there have been no cases requiring urgent medical attention. A Native Medical Practitioner visited the island during the year.

Planting of crops has been heavy and there are ample supplies of Native foodstuffs.

There is a good supply of water and the people are erecting new tanks.

MANGALA.

Trade.—A total of 33,161 cases of oranges was shipped during the year, this being the largest exportation ever made in one season; 2,456 boxes of tomatoes and 121 cases of bananas were also shipped. No coffee or copra was exported.

High Court.—A total of 938 cases of a non-serious nature were dealt with.

Health.—The general health of the people has been very good, and the Native Medical Practitioner has been doing excellent work.

Public Works.—All roads and buildings have been kept in good repair. The people have been busy during the hurricane season in improving and widening the main road between Oneroa and Atuakoro.

The storm on 4th March damaged the landings at Oneroa and Atuakoro, but the people repaired most of the damage before commencement of the fruit season.

Education.—The attendance of the pupils has been good and satisfactory progress is being maintained.

Planting of Lands.—Planting of lands continues to be good and there are more than ample supplies of foodstuffs available.

NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS.

PENRHYN.

Trade.—The year has been an exceptionally poor one for the people, the only exports for the twelve months being 12 tons of copra. No pipi pearls were exported, and local sales amounted to approximately £120. Local sales of pearl shell amounted to £42, and there were no exports of this commodity. The average earnings of the Native population for the period under review amounted to only £1 0s. 10d. per head.

High Court.—There were 224 criminal cases during the year, none of which was of a serious nature. Most of the cases were for thieving, caused mainly by the poverty of the people.

Health.—There were no epidemics during the year and the health of the people has been good.

During the year 20 leper patients were transferred to the Central Leper Station, Makogai, Fiji.

Public Works.—All Government buildings have been kept in good order.

A breakwater was erected on the Omoka sea beach, and this proved its worth during the heavy gale of 29th December.

Village roads have been kept in good condition, and the tank water-supply has also been kept in good order.

Education.—Attendance and work at the two London Missionary Society's subsidized schools have been satisfactory.

Planting.—The heavy gale on 29th December caused considerable loss of coconut trees and nuts, and the swamping of the large puraka plantations on the Islet of Tepuka spoiled the whole crop. Breadfruit trees and other crops were also damaged. However, a subsequent heavy rainfall has done much to revive the trees.

General.—The gale on 29th December also caused the destruction of approximately two-thirds of the Native houses and the stone wharves at Te Tautua Village.

At the Omoka Village about one-third of the Native dwellings were destroyed. Fortunately there was no loss of life during the blow.

MANIHIKI.

Trade.—During the year 67 tons of copra were shipped, which is a quarter of the normal production and a serious decrease on previous years. No pearl shell was exported.

During December a start was made on the manufacture of hats, shopping-baskets, table-mats, and other Native handicrafts for the New Zealand market.

High Court.—For the twelve months the Court dealt with 121 cases for criminal offences, none of a serious nature.

Health.—There were no epidemics during the year and the health of the people has been good. The usual frequent inspections of the villages were made, and all dwellings have been kept clean and periodically disinfected.

Two lepers were sent to Makogai during the year.

Public Works.—The water-supply has been kept in good order and roads have been repaired. Work was continued in blasting a passage in the coral reef for small boats from the ocean to the lagoon.

A cutter has been built, and is used by the Resident Agent for his visits to Rakahanga.

All Government property has been kept in good repair.

Education.—School work and attendance throughout the year have been satisfactory.

Planting.—Good attention has been paid to the care and planting of coconut lands. Breadfruit and bananas were planted whenever possible, and attempts to grow kumeras and other island foodstuffs have been made. The Department of Agriculture in Rarotonga kept the island well supplied with plants, and shipped 8 tons of soil.

RAKAHANGA.

Trade.—During the year 80 tons of copra were shipped, which is about half the normal production.

High Court.—There were 82 criminal cases for the period under review, none of which was of a serious nature.

Health.—No epidemics were experienced during the year and the health of the people has been good. An inspection of the villages was made by the Resident Agent each time he visited the island, and all houses have been cleaned out and disinfected periodically.

During the year two lepers were removed to Makogai.

Public Works.—The Courthouse roof was rethatched and a large lime-kiln made for use in general repairs to public buildings. The water-supply and roads have been kept in good order.

Education.—School work and attendance were satisfactory throughout the year.

Planting.—The planting of land has received much care and attention, and the island has received a good supply of plants from the Department of Agriculture in Rarotonga.

PUKAPUKA.

Owing to the lack of communication, this report is for the twelve months ended 30th September, 1940.

Trade.—Seventy tons of copra were exported, a drop of 50 tons from the previous year.

High Court.—During the year 104 minor cases were dealt with.

Health.—The health of the people has been good, and there were no epidemics. Two serious cases were dealt with from Rarotonga by radio.

Education.—The roll at the end of the year totalled 83 boys and 61 girls. Pupils attend regularly and good progress is being made.

Planting.—Planting has continued steadily during the year and there is an ample supply of Native-grown food.

Public Works.—All Administration buildings and property have been kept in good order and condition.

PALMERSTON ISLAND.

Trade.—Approximately 25 tons of copra were shipped.

Health.—The Chief Medical Officer visited the island and reported that the health of the people and the general hygiene was good.

Gambusia (mosquito-eating fish) flourished in the five taro patches and no mosquitoes were evident and there were few flies.

The water-supply is ample. A concrete tank of 3,000 gallons capacity was erected during the year.

Education.—The London Missionary Society has a Government subsidized school on the island, and satisfactory progress by the pupils has been made.

Planting.—There is no shortage of Native foodstuffs, and considerable work has been done by the people in extending their taro patches.

Breadfruit and paw-paw trees are being carefully cultivated, and many are in bearing.

The total population is 59.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1941.

<i>Expenditure.</i>				<i>Revenue.</i>			
	£	£		£	£		£
Administration	6,629		Agriculture	2,327			
Agriculture	2,053		Education	200			
Education	9,332		Health	137			
Health	10,940		Justice	1,339			
Justice	2,434		Police and prisons	337			
Police and prisons	1,387		Post Office and telephones	3,107			
Post Office and telephones	2,818		Public works	129			
Public works	3,709		Treasury and Customs	17,230			
Treasury and Customs	6,103		Wireless	2,268			
Wireless	2,209						
		47,614					27,074
Amount required to adjust Bad Debts Reserve to the required figure		41	Grants-in-aid, New Zealand Government				24,000
Balance of Revenue Account		3,416					
		<u>£51,074</u>					<u>£51,074</u>

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1941.

<i>Liabilities.</i>				<i>Assets.</i>			
	£				£		£
Accumulated funds	78,417		Land	9,913			
Sundry creditors	1,043		Waterworks, Rarotonga	4,930			
Sundry deposits—		£	Watertanks, outer islands	1,897			
Held in Treasury	1,255		Buildings	36,465			
In departmental trust accounts	784		Telephone system	467			
		2,039	Plant and machinery	8,805			
Lepers' Transport Reserve	1,115		Launches and boats, &c.	622			
Balance of Revenue Account	3,416		Motor and other vehicles	1,217			
			Furniture and fittings	4,556			
			Mechanical office appliances	223			
			Medical and technical instruments and equipment	682			
			Libraries	91			
			Loose tools	515			
			Live-stock	15			
			Consumable stores	3,861			
			Investments—				
			Cash in Cook Islands Administration Account, Wellington—Ordinary Revenue: Lepers' Transport Reserve	1,115			
			Cash in Post Office Savings-bank, Rarotonga: Deposits Account	883			
				<u>1,998</u>			
			Sundry debtors, ordinary	5,435			
			Less reserve for bad and doubtful debts	747			
				<u>4,688</u>			
			Sundry advances	35			
			Cash and bank balances—				
			Cash in hand, Rarotonga Treasury	314			
			Cash in hands of Resident Agents	1,131			
			Cash in Reserve Bank of New Zealand—				
			Cook Islands Administration Account	3,682			
			Less Lepers' Transport Reserve as above	1,115			
				<u>2,567</u>			
			Cook Islands Treasury Account	254			
			Deposits held in Departmental Trust Accounts	784			
				<u>5,050</u>			
		<u>£86,030</u>					<u>£86,030</u>

Approximate Cost of Paper. Preparation, not given; printing (545 copies), £12.

By Authority: E. V. PAUL, Government Printer, Wellington.—1941.