

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Laws are made by Act of the New Zealand Parliament, or regulations issued thereunder, or by Ordinance passed by the local Island Council. This body meets periodically under the presidency of the Resident Commissioner, and consists at present of thirteen Native members appointed by the Governor-General, and representing all villages.

The only legislative measures enacted especially for Niue since the last report were the Niue Fish Amendment Ordinance 1943, the Niue Fish Amendment Ordinance 1943, No. 2, and the Niue Fruit Control Regulations 1945 (Serial No. 1945/12). The last-mentioned provided regulations for the conduct by the local Administration of the export of bananas and kumaras, which has continued for some years.

The Resident Commissioner, Mr. J. P. McMahon-Box, retired on account of ill health on 24th November, 1943. Mr. C. H. W. Larsen was appointed Acting Resident Commissioner on 28th December, 1943, and Resident Commissioner with effect from 14th April, 1944.

VISIT

The Right Hon. the Prime Minister and party paid an official visit to Niue on Tuesday, 2nd January, 1945. The party proceeded by car through every village on the island, and calls were made at the Lord Liverpool Hospital and various schools.

POSTAL AND RADIO

These services, as in the other Cook Islands, are maintained to New Zealand standards. Business dealt with at Niue has been as follows :—

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Money-orders issued	6,518 5 3	8,765 12 1	5,799 2 9	1,931 18 10
Money-orders paid	545 6 4	681 4 11	1,675 5 0	2,081 15 11
Post Office Savings-bank deposits	3,150 1 0	4,043 11 0	3,968 12 0	3,096 12 0
Post Office Savings-bank withdrawals	297 7 1	195 14 0	262 10 6	696 6 6
Number of radio messages handled	861	1,048	1,515	1,755

NOTE.—Other Post Office Savings-bank details are not available, as accounts are kept with those of the Auckland district and are not segregated.

PUBLIC FINANCE

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure from 1940-41 is shown below :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.	Subsidy from New Zealand.	Final Surplus or Deficit.
	£	£	£	£	£
1940-41	7,580	13,628	6,048	5,000	—1,048
1941-42	6,465	17,201	10,736	10,000	— 736
1942-43	11,252	16,397	5,145	10,000	+4,855
1943-44	10,342	18,187	7,845	10,000	+2,155
1944-45	12,096	18,900	6,804	10,000	+3,196

TRADE

Higher returns for copra and an increase in the amount exported have played an important part in swelling the trade figures in recent years. Increases in the value of bananas, baskets, and table mats exported, and greater imports of biscuits, cotton goods, tobacco, and motor-cars also contributed to a record total trade figure for the calendar year 1943. A storm early in 1944 did much destruction to crops, and caused the full kumara crop to be consumed for food. Statistics for the past five calendar years are as follow :—

	Imports Values.					Exports Values.				
	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand	16,016	13,561	23,544	29,881	25,140	16,994	11,149	18,644	29,908	21,909
Australia	550	699	584	223	871	..	9	828	298	1,307
United Kingdom	715	332	235	115	2,453	..	..	..	..	..
U.S.A.	810	899	1,995	1,692	181	..	..	..	..	..
Western Samoa	44	212	..	140	1,106	67	15	1,249	527	..
Other	1,618	1,124	86	19	303	3,177*	..	1,620	..	35
Totals	19,753	16,827	26,444	32,070	30,054	20,238	11,173	22,341	30,733	23,251

* Copra to Mexico.