

1946  
NEW ZEALAND

---

# COOK ISLANDS

[In continuation of parliamentary paper A-3, 1945]

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

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## MEMORANDUM

Wellington, 30th July, 1946.

I SUBMIT the report of the administration of the Government of the Cook Islands, including Niue, for the year ended 31st March, 1946.

Two outstanding facts appear in respect of the islands other than Niue :—

- (i) The number of Cook Islands Maori depositors in the Post Office Savings-bank at Rarotonga at 31st March was 4,026. This is almost double the number recorded on 31st March, 1942, *i.e.*, 2,113, which at that date was a record high figure. The total amount of their deposits is now over three times as much as in 1942, *i.e.*, £60,670, as compared with £19,006.
- (ii) In 1938 the percentage of imports comprising foodstuffs was 29·5. In 1945 the value of foodstuffs was 42·2 per cent. of the total of all importations.

In respect of Niue, the trade figures show that in 1938 the value of foodstuffs was 28 per cent., and in 1945, 35·5 per cent., of the total imports.

P. FRASER, Minister of Island Territories.

## I. INTRODUCTORY

The Cook Islands were proclaimed a British Protectorate in 1888. On the 11th June, 1901, under the provisions of the Colonial Boundaries Act, 1895, the Group was annexed to the British Empire and proclaimed part of New Zealand.

The island of Niue has been administered separately since 1903. A report upon Niue comprises the latter part of this report.

Excluding Niue, the Cook Group comprises fifteen islands, which, with a total land area of a little under 100 square miles, are scattered over an ocean area of approximately 850,000 square miles. The Group is enclosed on the west and east by the 167th and 156th meridians of west longitude respectively and on the north and south by the 8th and 23rd parallels of south latitude. Penrhyn, 9 degrees south of the Equator, is the most northerly island, while Mangaia, just north of the Tropic of Capricorn, is the most southerly island. Niue is situated at S. 19 degrees, W. 169 degrees 48 minutes, and has itself an area of 100 square miles.

The Cook Islands, other than Niue, divide naturally into the Southern or Lower Group and the Northern Group. Of the islands of the Lower Group, Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Atiu, Mitiaro, Mauke, and Mangaia are elevated and fertile, and these are the orange-producing islands, while Manuae and Takutea and the islands of the Northern Group, comprising Penrhyn, Manihiki, Rakahanga, Pukapuka, Palmerston, Nassau, and Suwarrow, are low-lying atolls. Rarotonga, the seat of administration, is 1,633 nautical miles from Auckland.

The whole of the Group lies within the hurricane zone and a number of destructive storms has been experienced, the latest of which occurred in January, 1946. From December to March is the "hurricane season," and it is during these months that there is the possibility of severe storms. This is also the rainy season and the climate is hot and humid at this period. From April to November the climate in the Lower Group islands is mild and equable. The average temperature in Rarotonga during the last thirty-five years was 74 degrees Fahrenheit, and the average annual rainfall in Rarotonga during the same period was 83.7 in.

On the 31st March, 1946, the Native population totalled 14,776, and, with 4,271 in Niue, the Native population of the Cook Islands was 19,047. The total population was 19,294.

Rarotonga is well watered by creeks and streams and all villages are supplied with water by a reticulation system; all the outer islands suffer from a lack of streams and wells, but water is provided from public tanks the number of which is being steadily increased.

## II. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(The following report does not refer to Niue; see page 17.)

Laws governing the whole of the Cook Islands are made by Act of the Parliament of New Zealand or by Orders in Council and regulations issued thereunder. Ordinances, restricted in their application to the islands where they are made, are passed by local Island Councils, of which there are ten. Ordinances require the assent of the Resident Commissioner, or they may be reserved for the signification of the Governor-General's pleasure. The Resident Commissioner in Rarotonga and the Resident Agents in the outer islands are the Presidents of the respective Island Councils, which consist in Rarotonga of elected, nominated, and *ex officio* members, and in the other islands of nominated and *ex officio* members. In practice, nominations are made only upon evidence of public choice, but amendments to law are under consideration with a view to providing that each Island Council shall consist only of *ex officio* and of elected members. In addition, it is hoped that during the 1946 session of Parliament measures will be introduced to provide for the formation of a Council of the whole of the Cook Islands, to contain elective representation.

In January, 1946, representations were made for increases in rates of wages by water-front workers at Rarotonga, who have intermittent employment when overseas vessels call. Their requests were met in part, but as they were not wholly satisfied a tribunal was appointed, to be presided over by Mr. J. A. Gilmour, S.M. The tribunal was first intended to meet in March, but owing to travel restrictions occasioned by the occurrence of cases of poliomyelitis it was postponed, and met in June—*i.e.*, after the period covered by this report.

The following legislative measures have been enacted since the last report :—

In New Zealand—

Statutes Amendment Act, 1945, section 13.

The Cook Islands Finance Emergency Regulations, 1944, Amendment No. 1 (Serial number 1945/52).

The Dependency Emergency Regulations (No. 2) 1939, Amendment No. 6 (Serial number 1945/128).

The Cook Islands Fruit Control Regulations 1937, Amendment No. 2 (Serial number 1946/32).

The Cook Islands Quarantine (Aircraft) Regulations 1946 (Serial number 1946/38).

In the Cook Islands—

Nil.

#### VISITS

His Excellency the Governor-General, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Cyril Newall, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G., C.B.E., A.M., and Lady Newall, accompanied by their staff, paid an official visit to the Cook Islands in August, 1945.

Official visits were paid to the Group by the Assistant Secretary of War Pensions, the Director of Education, the Superintendent of Schools (Western Samoa), the Director-General of Health, the Director Division of Nursing, the Inspector-General South Pacific Health Service, the Public Service Commissioner, and Judge Harvey of the New Zealand Native Land Court, accompanied in several cases by officers of their respective Departments.

### III. POSTAL AND RADIO

These Departments function in close liaison with the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department, and their technical officers are seconded from that Department, but financial and executive responsibility rests with the Cook Islands Administration.

Particulars of business dealt with are as follow :—

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Money-orders issued .. ..	£56,274	£59,016	£106,883	£86,230	£98,483
Money-orders paid .. ..	£6,681	£8,003	£27,210	£23,024	£13,640
Post Office Savings-bank deposits ..	£12,969	£18,892	£40,689	£44,949	£45,929
Post Office Savings-bank withdrawals	£14,249	£14,060	£23,629	£26,470	£38,150
Number of depositors as at 31st March	2,230	2,487	3,173	3,676	4,145
Amount held to their credit .. ..	£33,414	£39,083	£57,333	£77,408	£87,020
Number of Native depositors .. ..	2,113	2,361	3,037	3,553	4,026
Amount held to their credit .. ..	£19,006	£23,105	£39,929	£44,780	£60,670
Number of radio messages handled	4,698	6,778	7,895	9,170	12,125

## IV. PUBLIC FINANCE

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure since 1941-42 is shown hereunder :—

				Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.	Subsidy from New Zealand.	Final Surplus or Deficit.
				£	£	£	£	£
1941-42	..	..	..	25,395	46,951	21,556	24,000	+ 2,444
1942-43	..	..	..	29,748	47,857	19,109	19,000	+ 891
1943-44	..	..	..	40,818	59,798	18,980	27,000	+ 8,020
1944-45	..	..	..	40,228	67,770	27,542	27,000	— 542
1945-46	..	..	..	48,133	86,123	37,990	43,669	+ 5,679

In addition to the subsidies shown, direct grants from New Zealand provided £48,992 in 1944-45 for an airfield at Rarotonga, and £20,275 in the two years, 1944-46, for a tuberculosis sanatorium; a further £3,100 to complete the cost of the latter is to be provided in 1946-47.

The following table gives details of revenue for each financial year for the past twenty years, together with expenditure on education, public health, and public works :—

Year.	Subsidies and Grants from New Zealand	Local Revenue.	Expenditure.	Amount spent on					
				Education.	Health.	Public Works.			
				£	£	£			
1925-26	..	..	..	11,589	22,768	33,416	8,163	7,119	7,384
1926-27	..	..	..	17,466	18,104	35,303	9,252	8,504	7,028
1927-28	..	..	..	16,544	18,998	34,488	8,793	7,995	4,310
1928-29	..	..	..	17,857	20,313	37,994	9,631	8,724	3,814
1929-30	..	..	..	16,919	19,107	34,739	8,613	7,331	4,368
1930-31	..	..	..	17,483	22,888	37,852	9,499	4,658	4,905
1931-32	..	..	..	17,464	25,430	40,582	7,730	5,534	5,217
1932-33	..	..	..	13,850	27,458	40,896	7,891	8,482	2,724
1933-34	..	..	..	11,013	25,518	38,744	8,800	8,155	2,742
1934-35	..	..	..	11,343	26,468	41,430	8,115	8,965	2,163
1935-36	..	..	..	15,568	24,989	40,692	8,786	6,548	2,093
1936-37	..	..	..	13,816	30,268	42,713	9,318	9,179	3,307
1937-38	..	..	..	11,000	45,599*	47,207	9,046	8,326	3,827
1938-39	..	..	..	22,112	27,967	58,016	9,306	12,380	5,995
1939-40	..	..	..	24,000	24,943	53,204	8,993	10,069	4,937
1940-41	..	..	..	24,000	26,889	48,345	9,332	10,940	3,709
1941-42	..	..	..	24,000	25,395	46,951	9,513	10,795	4,975
1942-43	..	..	..	19,000	29,748	47,857	8,989	10,421	2,967
1943-44	..	..	..	27,000	40,818	59,798	9,846	10,116	5,504
1944-45†	..	..	..	80,201	40,228	67,770	10,707	16,202	10,153
1945-46‡	..	..	..	43,669	48,142	86,123	14,800	16,615	8,711

\* Sale of new stamp issue accounted for increase of £16,705 over 1936-37 stamp sales. † £27,603 general services subsidy, £3,606 part cost of tuberculosis sanatorium, £48,992 airport at Rarotonga: total, £80,201. ‡ £27,000 general services subsidy, £16,669 part cost tuberculosis sanatorium.

## V. TRADE

The figures for this year show decreases in the values of both exports and imports. Although orange shipments increased, the demand for Native handicrafts (principally "hula" skirts and shell necklets) fell off to approximately one-quarter of the value of the exports of this nature during the preceding year. Tomato shipments were approximately the same as in 1944, but the prices realized showed a substantial decrease, largely due to the fruit arriving in New Zealand later in the year. The total value of

exports, nevertheless, was the second highest for any year since the regular calls of trans-Pacific vessels at Rarotonga were discontinued. Principal statistics for the last five calendar years are given below:—

*Cook Islands other than Niue*

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
IMPORTS VALUES					
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand .. .. .	66,870	54,767	91,598	124,161	123,245
Australia .. .. .	6,485	3,821	3,186	7,008	3,713
United Kingdom .. .. .	5,378	3,815	3,043	17,768	11,693
Canada .. .. .	729	166	58	622	135
United States of America .. .. .	2,430	4,353	7,403	4,541	2,876
Other .. .. .	5,176	1,867	1,917	1,130	2,408
	87,068	68,789	107,205	155,230	144,070
EXPORTS VALUES					
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand .. .. .	86,133	50,745	66,092	115,768	100,629
Australia .. .. .	760	122	52	1,290	1,172
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	..	..	25	5
Canada .. .. .	..	18,063*	..	..	..
United States of America .. .. .	..	..	4,176	2,868	2,883
Other .. .. .	284	373	6,025	6,879†	1,557
	87,177	69,303	76,345	126,830	106,246

\* Copra.

† Hawaii, £3,472.

*Quantities and Values of Principal Exports*

	1941.		1942.		1943.	
	Cases.	£	Cases.	£	Cases.	£
Citrus fruit .. .. .	124,508	60,588	52,763	26,905	45,352	25,925
Bananas .. .. .	17,319	7,504	9,419	4,313	4,825	2,232
	Boxes.		Boxes.		Boxes.	
Tomatoes .. .. .	17,168	6,866	12,966	8,429	23,481	22,188
Handicrafts, grassware, beads, &c. .. .. .	..	4,874	..	1,400	..	10,651
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Copra .. .. .	139	850	1,093	19,385	520	10,411
	Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.	
Orange-juice .. .. .	15,937	3,586	20,214	3,891	4,294	1,482
	1944.		1945.			
	Cases.	£	Cases.	£		
Citrus fruit .. .. .	45,220	26,152	74,334	45,411		
Bananas .. .. .	2,298	1,154	3,136	1,574		
	Boxes.		Boxes.			
Tomatoes .. .. .	37,751	35,978	35,375	27,320		
Handicrafts, grassware, beads, &c. .. .. .	..	41,756	..	10,881		
	Tons.		Tons.			
Copra .. .. .	747	15,269	563	12,936		
	Gallons.		Gallons.			
Orange-juice .. .. .	4,365	1,634	2,728	978		

## VI. MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

In accordance with the provisions of the Cook Islands Act, 1915, all Cook Islanders receive free medical and surgical treatment, both in their villages and in the hospital and the sanatorium. Native patients in the hospital and the sanatorium and all school-children receive free dental treatment.

The following summary shows the amounts expended on health services in recent years :—

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Amount expended .. ..	£10,795	£10,370	£10,116	£12,724	£14,535
Population .. ..	13,962	14,079	14,150	14,506	15,005
Amount per head .. ..	15s. 5d.	14s. 9d.	14s. 4d.	17s. 6d.	19s. 4d.

Hospital statistics are tabulated hereunder :—

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
In-patients .. ..	355	405	570	446	469
Out-patients .. ..	4,556	12,541	8,574	8,603	6,895
Visits .. ..	1,020	1,915	1,382	1,374	1,145
Injections, all types .. ..	596	438	360	577	453
Anaesthetics—					
General .. ..	46	64	42	52	30
Local .. ..	184	340	152	336	377
Operations—					
Major .. ..	27	9	9	101	26
Minor .. ..	261	464	254	467	440
Confinements .. ..	42	24	30	63	43
Artificial pneumothorax .. ..	8	16	..	..	..
X-rays .. ..	68	173	31	39	77
Dental extractions .. ..	128	89	63	91	95

The Dental Department has treated patients as follows :—

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Extractions .. ..	1,339	953	1,130	1,533	1,713
Fillings .. ..	157	935	1,964	1,382	915
Cleaning, &c. .. ..	235	157	37	38	239

General health throughout the group has been good. In February and March, 1946, there was an outbreak of cerebro-spinal fever at Atiu; fifteen cases had occurred, and there had been eight deaths up to the 31st March. Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro also suffered epidemics of trachoma in February and March, 1946. The regular R.N.Z.A.F. plane made a special trip in March to drop medical supplies by parachute at Atiu and Mauke. In March, also, the Acting Chief Medical Officer made a special trip by launch to Atiu, where he advised regarding the treatment of the cases of cerebro-spinal fever, and a Native medical practitioner was left there till the outbreak had subsided.

Poliomyelitis made its first recorded appearance in the Group with four cases in Rarotonga; no deaths occurred, and in two cases slight paralysis resulted. Strict quarantine precautions prevented the spread of the disease to other islands of the Group. Ten cases of Weil's disease were reported in Rarotonga in April, 1945, and many cases of pneumonia occurred during the months of December, 1945, and January and February, 1946.

Filariasis is most prevalent in Rarotonga and Aitutaki: a mosquito-control scheme was inaugurated in Aitutaki in October, 1945, and this voluntary campaign has greatly reduced the mosquito pest there. In Rarotonga the educational propaganda commenced by Dr. E. P. Ellison has been carried on by his successor, and further measures are being taken towards the control of the mosquito pest there.

The Chief Medical Officer periodically inspects all general health and sanitary arrangements in the villages, the water-supplies and intakes, and general village cleanliness. Regular inspections of the schools are made by a Native medical practitioner and by the District Nurse.

The erection of the tuberculosis sanatorium at Rarotonga has been completed, and the sanatorium was officially opened on 13th December, 1945. The first patients were admitted in January, 1946, and there were eight undergoing treatment at 31st March, 1946.

The child welfare organization has continued its good work and Native interest in child welfare is being maintained at a high level. This important work is controlled by the District Nurse under the supervision of the Chief Medical Officer.

All school-children in Rarotonga have received regular dental treatment, and the Dental Officer visited Aitutaki and Mangaia, where he inspected all the school-children and gave necessary treatment. The Dental Officer returned to New Zealand in November on the completion of his term of service, and his replacement is now awaited. Meantime, the Dental Nurse is continuing the treatment of school-children in Rarotonga.

There are three students at the Central Medical School, Suva, one of whom is in his final year of training as a Native medical practitioner. One Cook Island ex-student, who graduated with distinction from the school at the end of 1939, enlisted for active service immediately on reaching New Zealand and proceeded to the Middle East in 1940. After serving overseas for over three years he returned to New Zealand and was granted a war concession bursary at the Otago Medical School, where he is now in his third year.

Dr. E. P. Ellison, O.B.E., retired on superannuation after sixteen years of service as Chief Medical Officer, and returned to New Zealand in December, 1945.

The distribution of medical and nursing staff throughout the Group is as follows:—

Rarotonga—

- Two European medical officers.
- Two Native medical practitioners.
- One Matron.
- One Sister in Charge (sanatorium).
- Two European Sisters.
- Nine Native nurses (hospital).
- Eight Native nurses (sanatorium).

Aitutaki—

- One Native medical practitioner.
- One Native nurse.
- One Native trainee.

Atiu—

- One Native nurse.

Mauke—

- One Native nurse.

Mangaia—

- One Native medical practitioner.
- One Native nurse.

Penrhyn—

- One Native medical practitioner.

Manihiki—

- One Native medical practitioner.

## VII. POPULATION

A census of the Group was taken on 25th September, 1945, and disclosed that the population had increased by 2,273 since the 1936 census. Natives increased by 2,297, but Europeans decreased by 24. Detailed figures are given in the table below :—

Island.	Europeans.		Natives.		Totals.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Rarotonga .. .. .	94	71	2,956	2,654	5,775
Mangaia .. .. .	4	3	930	907	1,844
Manke .. .. .	5	10	442	422	879
Mitiaro .. .. .	1	..	135	116	252
Atiu .. .. .	9	9	658	569	1,245
Aitutaki .. .. .	10	6	1,194	1,147	2,357
Palmerston .. .. .	..	..	34	31	65
Suwarrow .. .. .	3	..	2	..	5
Pukapuka .. .. .	1	..	331	330	662
Manihiki .. .. .	3	1	221	210	435
Rakahanga .. .. .	..	..	165	153	318
Penrhyn .. .. .	1	..	348	305	654
Manuae .. .. .	..	..	28	..	28
	131	100	7,444	6,844	14,519

As at 31st March, 1946, the population totalled 15,005, comprised of 7,843 males and 7,162 females.

## INFANT-MORTALITY

The following table shows the infant-mortality rate in the Group for the last five years :—

Year ending 31st March,	Deaths under One Year of Age.	Births.	Infant Death-rate per 1,000 Live Births.
1941-42 .. .. .	22	214	102·8
1942-43 .. .. .	22	231	95·2
1943-44 .. .. .	19	163	116·5
1944-45 .. .. .	15	199	75·4
1945-46 .. .. .	27	226	119·5

## VIII. EDUCATION

The work of this Department is in charge of an Education Officer from New Zealand, assisted by 7 European teachers, also from New Zealand, and by 118 local teachers and trainees.

There are twenty-four schools in the Group. Of these, eleven are Administration, seven are London Missionary Society, and six are Roman Catholic Mission Schools. The Administration assists education in the Northern group by subsidizing the local Mission schools.



The following table shows the schools in the Cook Islands, together with the numbers of pupils attending each during the past five years :—

Island.	School.	Roll Numbers.				
		1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
(a) GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS						
Rarotonga ..	Avarua (including European class)	390	390	415	432	437
	Arorangi .. ..	235	258	273	280	281
	Ngatangia .. ..	210	225	209	216	205
	Titikaveka .. ..	191	187	196	188	190
Aitutaki .. ..	Aarua .. ..	481	465	512	562	593
Atiu .. ..	Atiu .. ..	224	220	216	204	198
Mangaia .. ..	Oneroa .. ..	223	221	223	218	238
	Ivirua .. ..	116	109	105	106	138
	Tamarua .. ..	78	68	71	68	77
Mauke .. ..	Mauke .. ..	156	157	161	172	189
Pukapuka .. ..	Pukapuka .. ..	176	168	166	143	118
		2,480	2,468	2,547	2,589	2,664
(b) LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY SCHOOLS						
Mitiaro .. ..	Mitiaro .. ..	60	63	40	38	64
Manihiki .. ..	Tukao .. ..	24	26	18	22	18
	Tauhunu .. ..	66	65	54	52	44
Rakahanga .. ..	Rakahanga .. ..	64	61	64	64	64
Penrhyn .. ..	Omoka .. ..	77	75	89	89	122
	Tetautua .. ..	66	66	69	18	45
Palmerston .. ..	Palmerston .. ..	34	34	34	21	17
		391	390	368	304	374
(c) ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION SCHOOLS						
Rarotonga .. ..	St. Joseph's Convent .. ..	152	153	162	169	165
Atiu .. ..	Atiu Catholic .. ..	50	52	61	58	59
Mauke .. ..	Mauke Catholic .. ..	44	43	46	43	37
Manihiki .. ..	Tukao Catholic .. ..	20	20	22	20	20
	Tauhunu Catholic .. ..	16	16	9	8	8
Rakahanga .. ..	Rakahanga Catholic .. ..	33	33	19	8	8
		315	317	319	306	297
Grand totals .. ..	..	3,186	3,175	3,234	3,199	3,335

The number of schools is the same as in previous years, but the school population increased by 136 over the preceding year's total. Attendances have been regular and satisfactory throughout the year.

The Director of Education, accompanied by the Superintendent of Technical Education and the Senior Inspector of Native Schools from New Zealand and the Superintendent and the Senior Native Inspector from Western Samoa, visited and inspected the schools in Rarotonga and Aitutaki during May, 1945. The Education Officer accompanied these officers to an Education Conference in Fiji; he also visited the schools in the Lower Group islands during the year.

In April, 1945, a two-weeks' refresher course for Native teachers was conducted in Rarotonga; the subjects dealt with were drawing, choral speaking, and dramatization. The instruction was given by the European staff, to whose keenness and enthusiasm the success of the course is to be attributed.

Because of the late completion of the 1944 examinations, the lack of transport facilities, and a shortage of European staff, it was not possible to conduct Teachers' Examinations in 1945. Seventy-nine Native teachers (of whom twelve have since left

the service) have obtained their Student Teachers' Certificates. Fifteen Native teachers have obtained their Cook Island Teachers' Certificates, while five more have only one subject left to complete this examination.

A mutual Improvement Club for Native teachers and a Cook Islands Native Teachers' Guild have been formed during the year.

Instruction in the Native language is to be added to the school syllabus, and reading material is now in course of preparation.

All school buildings throughout the Group have been kept in repair and minor improvements and additions have been made. At Atiu, three Native-built class-rooms have been rethatched, and screens have been provided for use in windy weather. At Aitutaki, three new class-rooms with cement walls and thatched roofs have been constructed to replace a large Native-built class-room which was destroyed by fire.

### IX. JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

The Cook Islands Act, 1915, prescribes the judiciary for the group.

There are a Judge and a Commissioner of the High Court in Rarotonga, and these officers also hold similar positions in the Native Land Court. The Resident Agents of the outer islands are Commissioners of the High Court.

High Court actions are summarized hereunder :—

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Civil judgments: Rarotonga	46	34	50	60	35
Divorces granted: Whole Group	20	10	26	15	13
Criminal convictions: Rarotonga	1,572	1,197	1,360	1,401	1,195

Native Land Court proceedings were as follows :—

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Applications heard .. ..	121	153	165	124	169
Orders made .. ..	88	158	161	115	159
Applications outstanding—					
Rarotonga .. ..	367	389	389	401	454
Outer islands .. ..	673	685	702	738	838

### X. POLICE

Details of police establishment as at 31st March, 1946 :—

—	Chief Officer.	Senior Sergeant.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Total.
Rarotonga .. ..	1	1	1	7	10
Aitutaki .. ..	..	..	1	6	7
Mangaia .. ..	..	..	1	5	6
Atiu .. ..	..	..	1	5	6
Mauke .. ..	..	..	1	3	4
Mitiaro .. ..	..	..	1	2	3
Manihiki .. ..	..	..	..	3	3
Rakahanga .. ..	..	1	..	2	3
Penrhyn .. ..	..	..	..	3	3
Pukapuka .. ..	..	..	..	3	3
Ten islands .. ..	1	2	6	39	48

The conduct of the Force has been good, and there are no special problems. Statistics appear under the preceding heading IX, and are contained in the separate reports on outer islands in the following pages.

## XI. SHIPPING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare" has continued to ply in the Cook Islands trade, but again the limited cargo space available proved inadequate for the needs of the Group. The year 1945 more nearly approached being a normal orange year, and it was arranged for s.s. "Waipahi" to make a special round trip to all islands to uplift the oranges available in excess of the capacity of the "Maui Pomare."

From April, 1945, to January, 1946, calls for cargoes were made by overseas vessels as follows:—

	Niue.	Rarotonga.	Outer Islands, Lower Cook Group.
"Maui Pomare" ..	5	9	4
"Matua" ..	3	..	..
"Yoho Park" ..	..	1	..
"Waipahi" ..	..	1	1

The "Maui Pomare" was withdrawn for annual refit and survey late in January, 1946, and Rarotonga and Niue then had no further service until April. From then to the end of June, 1946, it has been possible to arrange two calls of south-bound trans-Pacific vessels at Rarotonga, in addition to the service of the "Maui Pomare." During the present (1946) Cook Islands orange season, while the "Maui Pomare" has been filled to capacity, the Union Steam Ship Co., Ltd., have arranged calls of the "Matua" to Niue, as in 1945, although the islands on that vessel's regular itinerary could have supplied her with full cargoes.

Owing to storms during January of 1946 when orange-trees were in blossom, citrus cargoes for the current season are small. Replantings now being made, however, show concrete promise of reaching and probably exceeding the goal set, which is the 93,000 case per season average of the years 1938-40. This, with other products, will provide both encouragement and need for better shipping. The "Maui Pomare" was invaluable during the war years when no other vessel could be spared to maintain a service to the Cook Islands, but a more up-to-date and faster ship with greater capacity and ability to maintain a more frequent schedule is now required. The problem is complicated by the seasonal nature of the trade—a large cargo capacity is requisite during the orange season to uplift all oranges for the New Zealand market, while between orange seasons the Group is not able to furnish paying cargoes of other fruit or produce. During a recent visit to the Cook Islands by Mr. A. G. Osborne, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, he was able to announce that inquiries were being made in London for a vessel of considerably larger size than the "Maui Pomare" and with better facilities for cargo handling than those of this vessel, which are limited by her two hatches.

The "Maui Pomare" now operates completely free of engine troubles, though other repairs consume much time, and unsuitability of design accentuates the losses in serving these distant and widely separated islands. Yet it should be recorded that the "Maui Pomare" is providing for some of New Zealand's island dependencies a service that without her would have been much less satisfactory. Passengers and cargoes carried by the "Maui Pomare" during 1945 were:—

Passengers—			
To and from New Zealand	..	..	399
Inter-island	..	..	127
Cargo—			
Copra	..	..	1,081 tons.
Bananas	..	..	12,347 cases.
Parcel mails (baskets and other plaited ware)	..	..	1,527 bags.
Citrus fruits	..	..	43,459 cases.
Tomatoes	..	..	29,266 boxes.
General	..	..	4,854 tons.

## AIR SERVICE

A fortnightly air service between New Zealand and Rarotonga has been inaugurated; the first regular plane arrived in Rarotonga on the 26th May, 1945. The service has been maintained throughout the year with the exception of the month of December, when improved radio facilities were being installed in Rarotonga and Aitutaki to ensure uninterrupted communication with the aircraft during their flights between Western Samoa and Aitutaki. The air journey to Rarotonga from Whenuapai, New Zealand, takes three days, as the planes proceed via Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa, Tutuila, and Aitutaki. The same route is followed on the return journey to New Zealand.

The institution of this air service has made a great improvement in communications in the Group, particularly during the time when the steamer calls are less frequent; it has already proved its value in cases of illness and emergency. A recent reduction in fares will enable more people to use this swift means of travel between New Zealand and the Cook Islands.

## XII. METEOROLOGICAL

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
Total rainfall (inches) ..	56·88	76·99	79·59	64·76	90·02
Number of rainy days ..	115	131	112	116	233
Highest for any day (inches) ..	4·59	3·79	4·76	2·85	4·63
Date .. .. .	21st Jan.	5th Oct.	14th Oct.	22nd Feb.	11th Aug.
Highest temperature (F.) ..	87·5	89·5	88	87	88·5
Date .. .. .	16th Nov.	31st Mar.	27th Feb.	9th Mar.	15th Mar.
Lowest temperature (F.) ..	59	61	56	57	58·5
Date .. .. .	8th Sept.	9th Sept.	1st Sept.	12th Aug.	8th June.
Mean of maximum thermometer (F.)	79·08	81·3	81·4	80	80·9
Mean of minimum thermometer (F.)	70·24	71·2	70·4	69	70·3

Severe storm conditions were experienced in the Lower Group from the 11th to 15th January, 1946; the storm reached its peak on the 14th January, when it attained whole-gale force with gusts of hurricane strength at Aitutaki and Rarotonga. Considerable damage was done to export crops and Native food plantations at Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Atiu, and Mauke; some damage was also suffered at Mangaia and Mitiaro. Damage to buildings, however, was light at all islands and there were no serious injuries. N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare," leaving Rarotonga on 21st January, took additional food supplies to Mauke, Mitiaro, Atiu, Manuae, and Palmerston Island *en route* to Apia.

The rainfall for 1945 was the highest recorded since 1939.

## XIII. AGRICULTURE

The year has been marked by real progress towards the re-establishment of the citrus industry in the Cook Islands.

In Rarotonga fourteen new plots out of the fifty-five 1-acre plots established under citrus-replanting schemes between 1940 and 1944 came into bearing, and from these ninety-eight cases were actually shipped. More growers are beginning to take an interest in plots under these schemes, and further advances were made available, with the result that thirty of these plots are now in reasonably good order.

An orange-replanting scheme at Rarotonga for the establishment of one hundred plots each of 1 acre, with ninety trees per plot, under the control of and financed by the Administration, was approved, but made little progress owing to the growers' objection to leasing their land. During a visit to Rarotonga, Judge J. Harvey, of the Maori Land Court, made recommendations, along the lines followed in New Zealand in the development of Maori land, which amended the original scheme and overcame the

growers' objections. Fifty plots were established under the amended scheme up to the 31st March, 1946; applications for another forty-nine plots had been finalized. By the middle of May, 1946, seventy plots had been planted and land prepared for thirty more.

Work at the Administration citrus nurseries at Rarotonga has of necessity increased to keep pace with the demand for citrus trees; all large trees which were becoming overgrown have been issued to growers and the areas have been planted again with stock for budding. An additional 5 acres of leasehold land have been acquired for the extension of the citrus nurseries.

A citrus nursery has been established at Aitutaki for the propagation of budded orange-trees for planting under an Administration-fostered scheme similar to that in Rarotonga. The scheme has been explained to the Aitutaki growers; fifty-five applications for plots have been received, and there is every prospect of the full number of one hundred plots being established when the trees are available for issue.

During the orange season visits at the time of shipment were made to all Lower Group islands by the Director of Agriculture or his senior Native Fruit Inspector, and visits between shipping calls were made to Mauke and Mangaia. Advice in connection with the inspection of fruit and agricultural matters generally was given to growers.

Large quantities of tomatoes were planted, principally in Rarotonga, but the rainy weather damaged the crop and only 35,375 boxes were shipped. The prices realized, while still high, were below those obtained in 1944.

No interest is being shown in the re-establishment of banana plantations in the Group, and until adequate facilities for shipment can be made there is little ground for encouraging the banana industry.

In January, 1946, the Lower Group again suffered heavy loss of export and Native food crops as the result of the severe storm experienced. Mauke and Aitutaki suffered the heaviest damage; Rarotonga and Atiu orange crops were also damaged, but Mangaia escaped comparatively lightly. In consequence, there will be a serious diminution in the number of cases of oranges shipped from the Group during the 1946 season.

## LOWER GROUP ISLANDS

### RAROTONGA

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
Shipping calls during the year	10	9	8	13	13
High Court cases dealt with* ..	1,618	1,231	1,410	1,461	1,230
Cases of oranges exported ..	33,089	18,107	6,000	9,706	14,561
Boxes of tomatoes exported ..	13,991	12,966	23,460	37,751	35,096
Cases of bananas exported ..	17,319	9,419	4,825	2,298	3,136

\* For years ended 31st March, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946. Other items shown are for calendar years.

The air strip, 5,000 ft. in length, was completed during the year. The construction camp and buildings were converted into a house for the Aerodrome Maintenance Officer and into storehouses and workshops necessary for the operation of the air strip.

The New Zealand Public Works Department also completed the erection of the tuberculosis sanatorium.

The main road was damaged at Avarua and Ngatangia during the storm in January, 1946; repair work was commenced immediately, and was greatly facilitated by the use of the road-grader from the air strip. The formation and surface of the main road has been much improved by the use of this grader, and the road has been maintained in good

condition throughout the year. Subsidiary roads have been repaired and maintained, and part of the "old" main road has been reopened. The use of a bull-dozer and the grader from the air strip has enabled these works to be completed much more expeditiously and with more permanency than in the past.

Administration offices, school buildings, and residences have been repaired and painted where necessary. A new Native-style house has been erected at the hotel for the accommodation of visiting air crews. The roof of the domestic science class-room at the Arorangi School has been rethatched.

Only minor damage was caused to buildings by the storm in January, and repairs were quickly effected.

## AITUTAKI

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Shipping calls during year* ..	15	21	13	12	19
Cases of oranges exported ..	16,699	5,770	..	8,997	12,684
High Court cases dealt with ..	179	334	571	358	320

\* Shipping calls shown under these headings include both overseas vessels and inter-island schooners.

The health of the people has been good, although minor epidemics of gastro-enteritis in June and July, and of influenza in August and September, were experienced. A Native medical practitioner has been stationed at Aitutaki throughout the year. Medical Officers of the United States Army unit at Aitutaki have maintained their interest in the health of the population and have given most valuable assistance in support of the Administration's health services. Plans are under action for the provision of a completely new hospital.

A European Head Teacher, with his wife as Infant-mistress, arrived in May, 1945, and assumed charge of Araura School. School buildings have been repaired, and three new class-rooms have been built in replacement of a large class-room which was destroyed by fire. Two new tanks have been erected to increase the school's water-supply.

A citrus nursery has been established; 7,000 seedlings have been successfully planted out and 2,000 young orange trees have been budded. Heavy plantings of arrowroot for export have been made and an abundance of Native food crops has also been planted.

All Administration buildings have been maintained in good repair and roads have been well kept. The Residency has been painted throughout and a new truck-shed with cement walls has been erected. Eleven circular tanks, each of 800 gallons capacity, have been built.

The United States Armed Forces have maintained a minimum establishment for the operation of the airfield; employment in maintenance work is afforded by it to local Native labour.

## ATIU

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Shipping calls during year ..	12	8	8	12	12
Cases of oranges exported ..	29,437	11,176	7,841	11,801	12,916
High Court cases dealt with ..	320	465	533	448	528

For ten months of the year the health of the people was good, but cerebro-spinal fever appeared in February and March, and there was an outbreak of trachoma in these months also (see Section VI—Medical and Public Health).

Three class-rooms were thatched towards the end of 1945, but all eight class-rooms had to be rethatched after the storm in January, 1946. Calico screens have been made, and these provide wind-breaks for six class-rooms.

A new concrete tank with a capacity of 10,000 gallons has been erected; a new road, 1½ miles long, from Manukea to Tumai has been made; Administration buildings have been kept in good condition; and improvements have also been effected at the main landing, Taunganui.

The orange crop and Native food plantations suffered damage during the storm in January, 1946; the orange shipments during 1946 will be reduced, but Native food plantations have been restored, and the Island Council is active in encouraging and supervising further plantings.

## MAUKE

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44. *	1944-45.	1945-46.
Shipping calls during year ..	11	8	11	10	11
Cases of oranges exported ..	16,961	9,196	10,101	9,097	6,530
High Court cases dealt with ..	244	85	141	80	65

The general health of the people has been good, but a widespread epidemic of trachoma occurred in February and March, 1946, which necessitated closing the schools to limit the spread of the disease. Women's committees ensure that houses and surroundings in the settlements are kept clean and tidy; the Resident Agent and Island Council regularly inspect the villages and houses.

The orange crop and Native food plantations suffered severe damage by storm in January, 1946, but the whole male population has since been busy replanting their food crops. Continuous planting of food crops in rotation is enforced by the Island Council.

Storm damage to buildings has been repaired and Administration buildings have been returned to good condition. A new concrete tank of 10,000 gallons capacity has been erected and all other tanks have been repaired and restored to usefulness. Main and settlement roads have been maintained and a good deal of work has been done on plantation roads.

The Resident Agent, Mr. David Brown, died suddenly in June, 1945. The island has been administered since then by the Island Council, with the Native wireless operator as Clerk in Charge.

## MITIARO

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Shipping calls during year ..	3	5	5	6	4
High Court cases dealt with ..	48	..	53	..	..

With the exception of an epidemic of trachoma in February and March, 1946, the general health of the population has been good.

Minor damage was done by the storm in January, 1946, and Native food plantations have been restored. No copra was made during the year; the entire crop of oranges, equivalent to approximately 540 cases, was sent by schooner to Rarotonga for conversion into orange-juice.

## MANGAIA

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Shipping calls during year ..	8	6	4	6	10
Cases of oranges exported ..	23,537	5,551	19,917	3,707	22,630
High Court cases dealt with ..	313	649	371	572	667

The general health has been good; twelve cases of chicken-pox occurred in July, 1945, and seventy-eight cases of influenza were treated in September, 1945. The Child Welfare Association continues to function successfully, and 181 children have been brought for examination and advice during the year.

School buildings and equipment have been kept in good order; a new house in readiness for the appointment of a Head Teacher has been completed.

Throughout the year the main road which encircles the island has been kept under repair; this entailed heavy work on the inland section between Tamarua and Ivirua, where heavy rains had washed out the road in many places. Administration buildings have been maintained in good order and repair work has been done where necessary.

The storm in January, 1946, caused little damage in Mangaia.

## NORTHERN GROUP ISLANDS

## PENRHYN

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Shipping calls during year ..	3	3	4	3	3
High Court cases dealt with ..	160	160	137	58	101

The general health has been good; there was a brief epidemic of influenza, but quarantine measures confined the outbreak to Omoka, and no cases were reported in Tetautua. There are four patients in the Te Sauma Leper Concentration Hospital. The Medical Officers of the United States Army at the airfield have again been very generous with medical assistance.

Administration buildings and roads have been kept in good order and the airfield continues to provide employment for a number of the people.

Six and a half tons of copra were exported during the year and 30 tons were awaiting shipment at the end of the year.

## MANIHIKI

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Shipping calls during year ..	4	9	5	4	4
Tons of copra exported ..	90	78½	184	144½	143½
High Court cases dealt with ..	138	85	132	48	49

The general health of the people has been satisfactory; thirty-one cases of enteric occurred during the first half of the year and there was a mild epidemic of influenza in the second half of the year. One case of leprosy has been isolated. Regular inspections of the schools and villages are made by the Native medical practitioner.

In addition to the copra, 10 tons of mother-of-pearl shell were exported during the year, and there were 50 tons of copra and 18 tons of mother-of-pearl shell awaiting shipment at the end of the year. A large number of hats and belts have also been exported, and there is a brisk demand for these Native handicrafts.



## RAKAHANGA

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Shipping calls during year ..	4	8	5	4	4
Tons of copra exported ..	108	36	164 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	74
High Court cases dealt with ..	39	147	57	39	..

The health of the people has been good ; the Native medical practitioner made an emergency trip from Manihiki to attend a surgical case with septic complications. The Health Committee has inspected the houses at regular intervals.

In addition to the copra exported, there were some 157 tons awaiting shipment at the end of the year. Native hats and belts have been exported, and more are awaiting the schooner.

The villages and roads have been kept clean.

## PUKAPUKA

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Shipping calls during year ..	1	2	4	1	1
Tons of copra exported ..	80	3	..	70	60
High Court cases dealt with ..	94	27	3	33	..

Radio telegraphic communication with Pukapuka failed in January, 1946. Upon the reopening of schooner communication after the hurricane season, arrangements were made to send a schooner from Rarotonga to take supplies and equipment to the island.

The health of the people was found to have been good and life was proceeding normally at Pukapuka.

## PALMERSTON

The health of the small population has been good ; medical advice has been given by radio, but it has not been possible for a medical officer to visit the island for some years. It is anticipated that there will be a schooner call shortly, and a Native medical practitioner will take the opportunity to make a visit. There have been two shipping calls during the year, and 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons of copra, some local timber, and Native handicrafts have been exported to Rarotonga.

## NIUE

Niue Island is situated apart from the other islands of the Cook Group, being somewhat west of the centre of the irregular triangle formed by Samoa, Tonga, and the lower Cook Islands. Niue became a part of New Zealand at the time when, under the provisions of the Colonial Boundaries Act, 1895, the boundaries of New Zealand were extended in June, 1901, to include the Cook Islands. Niue has a separate Administration in charge of a Resident Commissioner, who is responsible directly to the Minister of Island Territories.

Niue has an area of 100 square miles, nowhere exceeding an elevation of 200 ft., and is without natural fresh water. A road thirty-seven miles long encircles the island, and other roads total approximately thirty miles. The island consists of upheaved coral rock, and is not very fertile owing to lack of soil.

The climate is mild and equable ; the mean annual temperature during the last thirty-four years was 76·79 degrees Fahrenheit, and the average annual rainfall for the same period 79·13 in.

The Native population on 31st March, 1946, was 4,271.

## 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. It consists of thirteen members appointed by the Governor-General and representing all villages on the island.

The only Ordinance passed during the year was the Niue Aid to Revenue Ordinance 1945. This Ordinance amends and consolidates the Aid to Revenue Ordinance previously in force.

## VISIT

His Excellency the Governor-General, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Cyril Newall, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G., C.B.E., A.M., paid an official visit to Niue on 31st July, 1945. His Excellency was accompanied by Lady Newall and staff.

## POSTAL AND RADIO

A summary of transactions in these branches is as follows:—

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Money-orders issued .. ..	£6,518	£8,766	£5,799	£1,932	£7,177
Money-orders paid .. ..	£545	£681	£1,675	£2,082	£3,781
Post Office Savings-bank deposits ..	£3,150	£4,044	£3,969	£3,097	£8,709
Post Office Savings-bank withdrawals	£297	£196	£263	£696	£1,359
Number of radio messages handled ..	861	1,048	1,515	1,755	2,001

Other Savings-bank details are not available, as the accounts are kept in the Auckland Chief Post-office and are not segregated. The apparent large increase in net deposits may give a false impression. Withdrawals shown above are those made in Niue. As Niue is only a branch office, however, withdrawals can also be made in Auckland.

Technical assistance in the running and maintenance of radio equipment is given by the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department. Acting on that Department's recommendation, a new Diesel alternator was installed at the radio station during the year.

## PUBLIC FINANCE

Exclusive of subsidy from the New Zealand Treasury, income for the year was £14,590. Expenditure totalled £25,123. Subsidy received was £7,755, leaving a net deficit of £2,778. Depreciation and other writings-off totalling £1,424 are included in the expenditure.

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for the last five years is as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.	Subsidy.	Final Surplus or Deficit.
	£	£	£	£	£
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
1945-46 .. ..	14,590	25,123	10,533	7,755	— 2,778

The main items of revenue for the year were stamp sales, £7,747; Customs import duties, £1,485; and income-tax, £1,400. The large amount of revenue received from stamp sales is mainly due to the philatelic demand for island stamps.

## TRADE

Total trade has remained at a high level, and although not as high as in 1943, which was a record year, is considerably higher than in 1944. Statistics for the last five calendar years are as follows:—

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
<b>IMPORTS VALUES</b>					
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand .. ..	13,561	23,544	29,881	25,140	23,620
Australia .. ..	699	584	223	871	251
United Kingdom .. ..	332	235	115	2,453	2,935
United States of America .. ..	899	1,995	1,692	181	10
Western Samoa .. ..	212	..	140	1,106	116
Other .. ..	1,124	86	19	303	40
Totals .. ..	16,827	26,444	32,070	30,054	26,972
<b>EXPORTS VALUES</b>					
New Zealand .. ..	11,149	18,644	29,908	21,909	27,674
Australia .. ..	9	828	298	1,307	1,662
Western Samoa .. ..	15	1,249	527	..	..
Other .. ..	..	1,620	..	35	132
Totals .. ..	11,173	22,341	30,733	23,251	29,468

*Quantities and Values of Principal Exports*

	1941.		1942.		1943.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Copra .. ..	50	336	338	4,091	422	8,543
Bananas .. ..	2,287	943	9,847	4,207	15,473	8,049
Kumaras .. ..	210	2,871	474	6,509	113	1,363
Native plaited ware .. ..	..	6,460	..	7,434	..	12,692
	1944.		1945.			
Copra .. ..	617	13,274	415	9,986		
Bananas .. ..	1,200	626	7,662	4,141		
Kumaras .. ..	..	..	10	141		
Native plaited ware .. ..	..	8,977	..	14,683		

The imports are the usual items of island trade, and the only particularly noteworthy feature is the increased quantity of imports, mainly cotton goods now being received from the United Kingdom.

Banana-production is now recovering from the set-back caused by the storm in 1944. The New Zealand market is again accepting Niue kumaras, and an attempt is being made to revive the trade. Exports of plaited ware reached their highest level to date in 1945, a notable feature being the considerable quantities exported to Australia.

## MEDICAL AND DENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The staff at 31st March, 1946, consisted of one European medical officer, one Native medical practitioner (on loan from Western Samoa), one European matron, one European District Nurse, three Niuean nurses, and two Niuean dental officers.

All medical and dental treatment, including hospitalization, is provided free of charge to Natives.

The following is a comparative table showing amounts expended on health services over the last five financial years:—

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Amount expended .. .. .	£3,050	£3,755	£3,900	£3,656	£5,305
Population .. .. .	4,468	4,434	4,242	4,200	4,289
Amount per head of population	13s. 8d.	16s. 11d.	18s. 5d.	17s. 5d.	£1 4s. 9d.

A summary of the work performed at the hospital and during the weekly and other visits to villages is set out below:—

—	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
<b>(1) Infectious diseases—</b>					
(a) Tuberculosis ..	20	30	28	11	26
(b) Gonorrhoea ..	21	45	107	21	44
(c) Yaws ..	905	939	863	713	1,038
(d) Pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia	4	7	178	25	29
(e) Conjunctivitis ..	103	128	156	17	104
(f) Ringworm ..	109	133	418	37	146
(g) Varicella ..	2	7	16	1	25
(h) Typhoid ..	1	27	33	15	13
(i) Leprosy ..	2	2	2	1	1
(j) Infectious jaundice	..	..	..	78	112
(k) Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	3
(l) Intestinal parasites	..	..	..	..	150
(m) Scabies ..	..	..	..	..	166
<b>(2) Endemic diseases—</b>					
(a) Filariasis ..	Very prevalent	Very prevalent	Very prevalent	207	181
(b) Myositis tropica ..	6	3	10	6	6
<b>(3) Hospital and dispensary—</b>					
Admissions for year ..	173	118	116	76	71
Average number of days in hospital per patient	28.98	123.39	32.5	28	11.29
Daily average bed state	13.94	39.88	9.95	8.13	4.55
District out-patients ..	19,814	21,422	29,062	29,811	} 23,024
Dispensary out-patients	2,794	2,365	1,802	2,984	
Special visits ..	613	1,661	4,421	2,124	2,205
Operations ..	30	10	Nil	75	369
Dental extractions ..	131	136	134	130	221
Injections, N.A.B., T.A.B., &c.	4,527	3,869	10,159	844	4,301
Confinements ..	23	15	18	23	20
<b>Anæsthetics—</b>					
General ..	23	8	10	..	2
Local ..	116	120	220	149	315

On 30th June, 1945, a visit was paid to Niue by a party of medical officers, including Dr. M. H. Watt, Director-General of Health, and Dr. J. C. R. Buchanan, Inspector-General of South Pacific Medical Services. A complete tour of the island was made, and the party inspected medical facilities and Native living conditions and discussed local health problems.

A District Nurse to take charge of child welfare work was appointed during the year. A shortage of transport, now overcome, prevented full development of this work for some time.

The two Niuean dental cadets previously training in Western Samoa returned to Niue in November, 1945, and commenced work immediately in temporary quarters. Erection of the dental-clinic building was begun as soon as materials came to hand and it is now practically completed.

As a result of the offer of a very generous donation towards the cost of an x-ray plant by Mrs. M. Collins, a local resident who was the first European nurse in Niue, the provision of the necessary equipment and a suitable building to house it is now proceeding.

#### EDUCATION

The Administration maintains three schools, which are under the control of a European Headmaster. Some forty Niuean teachers and assistants are employed.

In addition, the London Missionary Society maintains schools in the villages in which there are no Administration schools. A subsidy of £500 per annum is paid to the society.

Roll numbers of Administration and Mission schools at 31st December, 1945, and the previous four years were as follows :—

—	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
Administration schools ..	656	740	778	686	679
London Missionary Society schools	363	370	388	427	506
Totals .. ..	1,019	1,110	1,166	1,113	1,185

During the year a visit was paid to Niue by a party of education officers, headed by Dr. C. E. Beeby, Director of Education. Administration and Mission schools were inspected and local education matters were discussed.

As a result of recommendations made by Dr. Beeby and party, it is now proposed, with the agreement of the Mission, to replace the present nine Mission schools with four strategically placed Administration schools. The change-over is expected to be spread over a short period of years.

#### JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

The Resident Commissioner of Niue is also Judge of the High Court and Judge of the Native Land Court. Another officer is Commissioner of the Native Land Court. Following is a summary of proceedings for the years 1941–45 :—

#### *High Court*

—	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
Criminal convictions ..	760	593	539	566	629
Civil judgments .. ..	2	6	1	3	Nil
Divorces granted .. ..	7	9	12	7	8

Offences for which convictions were recorded during the year were mainly of a minor nature. One Niuean was charged with murder. The case was brought to trial in January, 1946, and a verdict of manslaughter resulted.

No sittings of the Native Land Court were held during the year. A proposed increase in the judiciary staff will release an officer for this work.

The police establishment at 31st March, 1946, was as follows: 1 European police officer in charge; 1 Native sergeant; 12 Native constables. There is a constable for each village of the island. Besides police work, the village constables undertake a number of other duties and generally act as liaison officers between the Administration and the village people. The general standard of efficiency of the Native police is not high, but is showing some improvement.

#### POPULATION

A census of Niue was taken on 25th September, 1945. The last census prior to that date was in 1936.

The population as determined by the census was as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans .. .. .	13	9	22
Natives .. .. .	2,044	2,187	4,231
Total .. .. .	2,057	2,196	4,253

The estimated population on 31st December, 1944, had been 4,200.

These figures show an increase in population of 149 since the 1936 census. Various factors have contributed to keeping the population almost stationary. The lack of areas of fertile and workable soil probably will always be a limiting factor on the population of Niue, and many of the people have left to seek employment elsewhere. There was also an excess of deaths over births during 1943 and 1944 due to sickness recorded in the last report, but the situation now shows improvement.

A summary of births and deaths during the year ended 31st December, 1945, is as follows:—

Births .. .. .	160
Deaths .. .. .	101
Births per 1,000 of population .. .. .	37·42
Deaths per 1,000 of population .. .. .	23·62
Infant mortality per 1,000 births .. .. .	118·7

The estimated population on 31st March, 1946, was 4,289, comprised of 4,271 Natives and 18 Europeans.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

This Department is in charge of a part-Niuean.

Considerable extensions were made to the jetty at the Alofi Landing during the year. The work now completed enables two lighters to be handled in the channel instead of one only as previously. Additional space for the handling of cargo and the storage of boats is also provided.

Work on the erection of the dental-clinic building was begun before the end of 1945, and although there have been some delays due to shortage of materials, the building is now practically completed and is already in use.

Attention was given to the complete renovation of the hospital buildings and the Chief Medical Officer's residence. Other buildings were maintained in good repair.

A beginning was made on extensive road repairs in January, 1946, and work continued until March. Weather conditions in these months are the most suitable for road-work, having regard to the materials used. Improvement of existing roads and opening up of new roads, especially to "bush" plantations, is essential for development of the banana trade, which must be the main stand-by in normal times.

All boats have been maintained in good repair. A launch was purchased during the year for the purpose of towing lighters. A hand-operated capstan was installed on the jetty during the year and has effected considerable savings in time and labour.

The Transport Department also is in charge of a part-Niuean. It is responsible for the maintenance of twelve motor-vehicles, one marine engine, and one stationary engine. All vehicles were second-hand when received in Niue, and with spare parts difficult to obtain promptly, it has been a considerable problem at times to keep them all in reasonable running-order. The Administration operates the only trucks at present in running-order on the island, and is consequently called upon to do a considerable amount of carting outside its own activities. Two second-hand trucks and one second-hand car were purchased during the year.

#### METEOROLOGICAL

—	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
Total rainfall (inches) ..	50·67	71·35	64·79	71·55	80·80
Number of rainy days ..	114	149	146	158	210
Highest for any day (inches) ..	6·04	6·15	2·94	5·15	3·60
Date .. ..	2 Mar.	20 Sept.	20 Oct.	29 Jan.	23 Apr.
Highest temperature (F.) ..	94·0	92·0	94·0	90·0	92·0
Date .. ..	30 Mar.	26 Jan.	11, 12, 14, 15, 25 Feb. ; 3 Nov.	13, 17, 19, 25, 28 Mar.	22 Mar.
Lowest temperature (F.) ..	60·0	60·0	58·0	58·5	57·0
Date .. ..	26 Aug.	10 Oct.	17 July	28 Aug.	6 June
Mean of maximum thermometer (F.)	83·9	83·1	84·5	82·4	82·27
Mean of minimum thermometer (F.)	69·8	70·3	69·77	69·3	70·3

Rainfall for 1945 was normal, and as it was spread over the whole year there were no periods of serious drought. No storms sufficiently serious to damage plantations noticeably were experienced.

#### SHIPPING

There were fifteen shipping calls during the year ended 31st December, 1945, including eleven by regular cargo and passenger vessels and three by schooners. The N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare" maintained a regular service, except during the winter months, when the "Matua" made three calls.

Inward cargo handled totalled 503 tons and outward cargo 931 tons, exclusive of parcel-mail; 130 passengers disembarked and 127 embarked.

