

1947
NEW ZEALAND

COOK ISLANDS

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

MEMORANDUM

Wellington, 22nd July, 1947.

I SUBMIT the report of the administration of the Government of the Cook Islands, including Niue, for the year ended 31st March, 1947.

In respect of the islands other than Niue, the enactment during the year of legislation providing for the establishment of a Legislative Council of the Cook Islands was a fact of outstanding importance to the people of the Cook Islands.

In respect of Niue, the year was marked by a record in trade turnover, total imports and exports being nearly 50 per cent. greater than in the preceding year.

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.

Niue Island, which is situated at S. 19 degrees, W. 169 degrees 48 minutes, has an area of 100 square miles. This island has been administered separately from the remainder of the Cook Group since 1903, and a report on the year's activities is included in the latter portion of this report.

Excluding Niue, there are fifteen islands in the Cook Group; these have a total land area of a little under 100 square miles and are scattered over approximately 850,000 square miles of ocean. The Group is bounded 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 Island, the most northerly of the Group, lies 9 degrees south of the Equator, while Mangaia, the most southerly island, is just north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

The Cook Islands, other than Niue, are divided naturally into the Southern, or Lower, Group and the Northern Group. In the Lower Group, Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Atiu, Mitiaro, Mauke, and Mangaia are elevated, fertile islands, and these produce oranges and other citrus fruit. Copra is the main product of Manuae and Takutea in the Lower Group and of the islands of the Northern Group—Penrhyn, Manihiki, Rakahanga, Pukapuka, Nassau, Suvarrow, and Palmerston—which are all low-lying atolls.

The whole of the Group lies within the hurricane zone, and a number of destructive storms have been experienced; the most serious of these in recent years occurred in February, 1935, in March, 1943, and in January, 1946. The hurricane season extends from December to March, both months inclusive, and it is at this time of the year that there is always the possibility of severe storms. No serious storms were experienced during the hurricane season just past. The hurricane season is also the rainy season, and during these months the climate is hot and humid. For the remainder of the year the climate in the Lower Group islands is mild and equable. The average temperature in Rarotonga during the last thirty-six years was 74.6 degrees Fahrenheit, and the average annual rainfall during the same period was 83.6 in.

Rarotonga, the seat of the Cook Islands Administration, is 1,633 nautical miles from Auckland. The island is well watered by creeks and streams, and all villages are supplied with water by means of a reticulation system. All the outer islands, however, suffer from a lack of streams and wells, and water is provided at all of them from public tanks. The number of tanks is being steadily increased.

On 31st March, 1947, the Native population totalled 14,570, and, with 4,328 in Niue, the Native population of the Cook Islands was 18,898. The European population of the Cook Islands was 251, and of Niue 25, giving a grand total of 19,174.

II. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(The following report does not include 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. These local 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 outlying islands are the Presidents of the respective Island Councils; the Resident Commissioner is an *ex officio* member of all Island Councils, and the Resident Agent of each island is

an *ex officio* member of the Council of that island. Membership of all the Councils has been altered by the Cook Islands Councils Regulations 1946, which provide for a greater measure of popular representation on all Island Councils. The Councils now consist partly of *ex officio* members (officials and the arikis or leading chiefs) and partly of elected members. General elections were held in all islands in March, and all Natives, being British subjects of or over the age of eighteen years and being ordinarily resident within the constituency, were entitled to vote in the election of the member for their constituency. There are now no nominated members on any Island Council.

The Cook Islands Amendment Act, 1946, contains provisions establishing for the Cook Islands (other than Niue) a Legislative Council to be called the Legislative Council of the Cook Islands. This Legislative Council is to consist of:—

- (a) Ten unofficial members who are members of Island Councils (other than that of Niue) to be elected by Island Councils.
- (b) Official members comprising the Resident Commissioner of Rarotonga and ten other members of the Cook Islands Public Service.

The Resident Commissioner will be the President of the Legislative Council and he will have a casting but not a deliberative vote. The enactments of the Legislative Council will be known as Ordinances of the Cook Islands. These Ordinances require the assent of the Resident Commissioner, and may be disallowed either wholly or in part by the Governor-General within one year after the assent of the Resident Commissioner has been given.

A Wages Tribunal, presided over by Mr. J. A. Gilmour, S.M., and consisting of three employers' representatives and three workers' representatives, sat in Rarotonga in June, 1946. The Tribunal recommended substantial increases in wages for all classes of workers; these were approved by the Right Honourable the Minister and put into effect by the agreement of all parties.

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

United Nations Act, 1946, section 4.

Finance Act, 1946, section 32.

Cook Islands Amendment Act, 1946.

The Cook Islands Council Regulations 1946 (Serial number 1946/180).

The Cook Islands Sea Carriage of Goods Order 1946 (Serial number 1946/194).

In the Cook Islands—
Nil.

SOUTH PACIFIC HEALTH SERVICE

The Cook Islands have been brought within the scope of the South Pacific Board of Health, which was established in September, 1946, by agreement between the Government of New Zealand, the Government of Fiji, and the Western Pacific High Commission. The functions of the Board, the headquarters of which are in Suva, are to assist and advise the participating Administrations on all health matters affecting the territories under their control.*

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

The Resident Commissioner attended a conference held at Canberra in January and February, 1947, to consider the establishment of a South Seas Regional Commission. This was convened by the Governments of Australia and of New Zealand, and, in addition to these, the Governments of France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States were represented.

* The agreement for the establishment of the South Pacific Health Service has been printed as parliamentary paper A-1, 1947.

The Conference prepared an agreement* establishing a South Pacific Commission, the functions of which are, broadly speaking, to give advice and assistance to the Governments concerned on measures designed to promote the economic and social rights and welfare of the inhabitants of the territories within its scope.

VISITS

In May, 1946 an official visit to Rarotonga was paid by Mr. A. G. Osborne, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, who was accompanied by the Secretary of Island Territories, Mr. C. G. R. McKay. The Resident Agents and representatives of the Island Councils of the Lower Group islands were present in Rarotonga for discussions with Mr. Osborne.

Visits to the Group were also paid by Dr. J. C. R. Buchanan, Inspector-General, South Pacific Health Service, Suva; Dr. F. S. Maclean, Director, Division of Public Hygiene, New Zealand Health Department; Dr. C. A. Taylor, Director, Division of Tuberculosis, New Zealand Health Department; Mr. W. Parsonage, Officer for Islands Education, Wellington; and Sir Leonard Isitt, Chairman of Directors, National Airways Corporation. Mr. D. W. Amos, of the Fiji Health Department, also visited Rarotonga in connection with anti-mosquito measures.

H.M.N.Z.S. "Arbutus" visited all inhabited islands of the Group except Palmerston in October, 1946; the Commander and his ship's company were given an enthusiastic and loyal welcome by the people of all the islands.

The Resident Commissioner visited Palmerston, Suvarrow, Manihiki, Pukapuka, and Nassau by schooner in July and August, 1946. In October he travelled through the Group in H.M.N.Z.S. "Arbutus," and also visited Makatea, where Cook Islanders are engaged in the phosphate industry.

III. POSTAL AND RADIO

These Departments function in close liaison with the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department, and their senior technical officers are seconded from that Department. Cook Islands Native telegraphists are in charge of all outer islands radio sub-stations, and are also employed in the Rarotonga Radio Station. In the outer islands the Resident Agents are the Postmasters of their respective islands. Financial and executive responsibility for the Postal and Radio Departments rests with the Cook Islands Administration.

In November, 1946, a money-order and savings-bank office was opened at Manihiki.

The operation of a second trading schooner within the Group has greatly improved the mail-service to and from the outer islands.

Particulars of business dealt with are set out below:—

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Money-orders issued	£59,016	£106,883	£86,230	£98,483	£99,012
Money-orders paid	£8,003	£27,210	£23,024	£13,640	£32,800
Post Office Savings-bank deposits ..	£18,892	£40,689	£44,949	£45,929	£60,778
Post Office Savings-bank withdrawals	£14,060	£23,629	£26,470	£38,150	£57,105
Number of depositors as at 31st March	2,487	3,173	3,676	4,145	4,489
Amount held to their credit	£39,083	£57,333	£77,408	£87,020	£92,714
Number of Native depositors	2,361	3,037	3,553	4,026	4,352
Amount held to their credit	£23,105	£39,929	£44,780	£60,670	£59,368
Number of radio messages handled	6,778	7,895	9,170	12,125	14,309

* Printed as parliamentary paper A-5, 1947.

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	71,247	31,019	27,000	- 4,019
1945-46	..	..	48,133	86,123	37,990	43,669	+ 5,679
1946-47	..	..	60,701	109,018	48,317	28,258	- 20,059

In addition to the subsidies shown, direct grants from New Zealand provided £48,992 in 1944-45 for an airfield at Rarotonga, and £23,375 in the three years 1944-47 for a tuberculosis sanatorium. War pensions, £425, and scholarships, £939, were provided by direct grants from New Zealand during 1946-47.

The following table gives details of revenue and expenditure 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.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£		
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	10,370	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	48,133	86,123	15,035	24,535	8,230
1946-47§	32,722	60,701	109,018	19,924	25,295	21,320

* Sale of new stamp issue accounted for increase of £16,705 over 1936-37 stamp sales.
 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.
 ‡ £28,258 general services subsidy, £3,100 part cost tuberculosis sanatorium, £1,364 war pensions and scholarships.
 § £27,603 general services

V. TRADE

During the calendar year 1946 imports were valued at £195,596 and exports £108,262, a total trade figure of £303,858. Citrus and banana shipments were adversely affected by a severe storm in January, 1946, but the quantity of tomatoes exported was almost double that of the previous year.

Principal statistics for the last five calendar years are given below:—

Cook Islands other than Niue

	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
IMPORTS VALUES					
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand	54,767	91,598	124,161	123,245	157,870
Australia	3,821	3,186	7,008	3,713	5,652
United Kingdom	3,815	3,043	17,768	11,693	18,504
Canada	166	58	622	135	1,191
United States of America	4,353	7,403	4,541	2,876	8,037
Other	1,867	1,917	1,130	2,408	4,342
Totals	68,789	107,205	155,230	144,070	195,596
EXPORTS VALUES					
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand	50,745	66,092	115,768	100,629	93,817
Australia	122	52	1,290	1,172	1,254
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	..	25	5	..
Canada	18,063*	..	..	..	40
United States of America .. .. .	..	4,176	2,868	2,883	12,565
Other	373	6,025	6,879†	1,557	586
Totals	69,303	76,345	126,830	106,246	108,262

* Copra. † Hawaii, £3,472.

Quantities and Values of Principal Exports

	1942.		1943.		1944.	
	Cases.	£	Cases.	£	Cases.	£
Citrus fruit	52,763	26,905	45,352	25,925	45,220	26,152
Bananas	9,419	4,313	4,825	2,232	2,298	1,154
	Boxes.		Boxes.		Boxes.	
Tomatoes	12,966	8,429	23,481	22,188	37,751	35,978
Handicrafts, grassware, beads, &c. .. .. .	..	1,400	..	10,651	..	41,756
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Copra	1,093	19,385	520	10,411	747	15,269
	Gallons.		Gallons.		Gallons.	
Orange-juice	20,214	3,891	4,294	1,482	4,365	1,634
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Pearl shell .. .. .	..	..	69	3,113	..	..
Manufactured goods .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	422
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Arrowroot	103	2,469	..	..	12	579
	1945.		1946.			
	Cases.	£	Cases.	£		
Citrus fruit	74,334	45,411	24,833	19,246		
Bananas	3,136	1,574	54	27		
	Boxes.		Boxes.			
Tomatoes	35,375	27,320	69,550	47,274		
Handicrafts, grassware, beads, &c. .. .. .	..	10,881	..	4,060		
	Tons.		Tons.			
Copra	563	12,936	617	16,107		
	Gallons.		Gallons.			
Orange-juice	2,728	978	..	..
	Tons.		Tons.			
Pearl shell	14	711	48	12,140		
Manufactured goods .. .. .	..	1,049	..	3,038		
	Tons.		Tons.			
Arrowroot	32	1,636	81	4,388		

VI. MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The staff of this Department consists of two European Medical Officers, seven Native medical practitioners, a Hospital Matron, three European Sisters, 26 Native nurses, a European Dental Officer, and two Native Dental Nurses. Six Native Inspectors are also employed on mosquito-control.

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

The following summary shows the amount expended on health services during the past five years :—

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Amount expended	£10,370	£10,116	£16,202	£24,535	£25,295
Population	14,079	14,150	14,506	15,005	14,821
Amount per head	14s. 9d.	14s. 4d.	£1 2s. 4d.	£1 12s. 8d.	£1 14s. 2d.

Hospital statistics for the same period are tabulated hereunder :—

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
In-patients	405	570	446	469	638
Out-patients	12,541	8,574	8,603	6,895	9,029
Visits	1,915	1,382	1,374	1,145	2,016
Injections, all types	438	360	577	453	348
Anæsthetics—					
General	64	42	52	30	99
Local	340	152	336	377	53
Operations—					
Major	9	9	101	26	43
Minor	464	254	467	440	109
Confinements	24	30	63	43	29
Artificial pneumothorax	16	..	..	..	12
X-rays	173	31	39	77	248
Dental extractions	89	63	91	95	32

The Dental Department has treated patients as follows :—

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Extractions	953	1,130	1,533	1,713	828
Fillings	935	1,964	1,382	915	489
Cleaning, &c.	157	37	38	239	1,622

General health throughout the Group has been good. The outbreaks of poliomyelitis in Rarotonga, cerebro-spinal fever in Atiu, and trachoma in Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro mentioned in the last report died down early in the year under review. In June and July, 1946, influenza became epidemic in Rarotonga, and there were also some cases of chicken-pox and meningitis. A second wave of influenza occurred in August and a third wave in October, but neither of these was as severe as the first wave. In February and March, 1947, there was an epidemic of Bornholm disease or epidemic pleurodynia; the number of cases is not known, but it was widespread, and, fortunately, there was no mortality.

The Director, Division of Public Hygiene, New Zealand Department of Health, inspected Rarotonga and all other islands of the Lower Group in September.

Tuberculosis continues to be the main medical problem. The new sanatorium is in full operation and provides valuable training for Native nurses in the proper methods of handling tuberculosis cases. Patients themselves are taught how to live in their

own villages after discharge without danger to themselves or to their families. In September, 1946, the Director, Division of Tuberculosis, New Zealand Department of Health, visited Rarotonga and gave valuable advice both on preventive measures and on the treatment of this scourge. A beginning has been made in Rarotonga to estimate the gross incidence of tuberculosis by means of the Mantoux test, and search is being made for early cases among the contacts of the known cases.

Filariasis is prevalent in Rarotonga, Aitutaki, and Pukapuka. In September, 1946, Mr. D. W. Amos, of the Fiji Health Department, arrived in Rarotonga accompanied by a Fijian Native Inspector, and stayed three months to make a mosquito survey and to train six local men in anti-mosquito measures. Each of these trainees is now in charge of a district in Rarotonga, and it is hoped that later it will be possible for some of them to visit the outer islands and inaugurate mosquito-control measures there. A Native youth has been brought to Rarotonga from Pukapuka for training as a dresser and in mosquito-control work. On the completion of his training he will return to Pukapuka to take charge of health work there until a resident Native medical practitioner can be spared for that island.

The Medical Department periodically inspects all villages and water-supplies and intakes. Regular inspections of the schools by a Native medical practitioner and the District Nurse are carried out. The District Nurse is in charge of child-welfare work, and changes have been made in the form of village control with a view to increasing the local interest in this work. All islands of the Group have been visited by a European Medical Officer during the year.

All school-children in Rarotonga have received regular dental treatment, but, owing to the time-lapse between the departure of one Dental Officer and the arrival of his successor, it has not yet been possible to continue the work in the outer islands.

One Cook Islands student graduated from the Central Medical School, Suva, at the end of 1946; this addition to the staff will enable a Native medical practitioner to be located at Mauke.

Dr. Farquhar Matheson arrived in Rarotonga in July, 1946, on appointment as Chief Medical Officer.

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

Rarotonga—

- Two European medical officers.
- Three Native medical practitioners (one to go to Mauke later in the year).
- One Matron.
- One Sister in Charge (sanatorium).
- Two European Sisters.
- Twenty Native Nurses (Hospital and Sanatorium).

Aitutaki—

- One Native medical practitioner.
- One Native nurse.
- One Native assistant nurse.

Atiu—

- One Native nurse.
- One Native trainee.

Mauke—

- One Native nurse.

Mangaia—

- One Native medical practitioner.
- One Native nurse.

Penrhyn—

- One Native medical practitioner.

Manihiki—

- One Native medical practitioner.

VII. POPULATION

Detailed figures of the estimated population as at the 31st March, 1947, are given in the table below:—

Island.	Males.		Females.		Totals.
	Europeans.	Natives.	Europeans.	Natives.	
Rarotonga	112	2,988	81	2,642	5,823
Mangaia	6	955	1	939	1,901
Mauke	7	446	3	430	886
Mitiaro	1	140	..	120	261
Atiu	3	679	2	584	1,268
Aitutaki	12	1,256	7	1,183	2,458
Palmerston .. ..	..	33	..	31	64
Suwarrow .. ..	..	3	..	..	3
Pukapuka	5	337	1	330	673
Manihiki	5	215	4	231	455
Rakahanga .. ..	..	171	..	151	322
Penrhyn	1	357	..	321	679
Manuae .. ..	..	18	..	10	28
Totals	152	7,598	99	6,972	
	7,750		7,071		14,821

INFANT-MORTALITY

Deaths (Cook Islanders) at Different Ages, Year ended 31st March, 1947

	Number of Deaths.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
Under 1 week	24	6.89
1 week to 1 month	13	3.73
1 month to 3 months	10	2.87
3 months to 6 months	17	4.89
6 months to 12 months	17	4.89
1 year to 2 years	21	6.03
2 years to 3 years	5	1.44
3 years to 4 years	5	1.44
4 years to 5 years	4	1.15
5 years to 10 years	7	2.01
Over 10 years	225	64.66
Totals	348	100.00

The following table shows the infant-mortality rate:—

Year.	Total Number of Deaths under One Year.	Total Number of Births.	Death-rate per 1,000 Births.
1938-39	58	536	108.22
1939-40	50	504	99.2
1940-41	40	541	73.92
1941-42	74	553	123.27
1942-43	78	599	130.18
1943-44	68	525	129.45
1944-45	63	564	111.7
1945-46	65	567	114.59
1946-47	81	574	141.1

VIII. EDUCATION

The work of this Department is in charge of an Education officer, seconded from New Zealand, assisted by 8 European teachers, also from New Zealand, and by 127 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.				
		1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
(a) GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS						
Rarotonga	Avarua (including European class)	390	415	432	437	502
	Arorangi	258	273	280	281	269
	Ngatangia	225	209	216	205	230
	Titikaveka	187	196	188	190	199
Aitutaki	Araura	465	512	562	593	604
Atiu	Atiu	220	216	204	198	221
Mangaia	Oneroa	221	223	218	238	270
	Ivirua	109	105	106	138	146
	Tamarua	68	71	68	77	79
Mauke	Mauke	157	161	172	189	177
Pukapuka	Pukapuka	168	166	143	118	127
Totals		2,468	2,547	2,589	2,664	2,824
(b) LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY SCHOOLS						
Mitiaro	Mitiaro	63	40	38	64	22
Manihiki	Tukao	26	18	22	18	19
	Tauhunu	65	54	52	44	45
Rakahanga	Rakahanga	61	64	64	64	114
Penrhyn	Omoka	75	89	89	122	115
	Tetautua	66	69	18	45	36
Palmerston	Palmerston	34	34	21	17	20
Totals		390	368	304	374	371
(c) ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION SCHOOLS						
Rarotonga	St. Joseph's Convent	153	162	169	165	165
Atiu	Atiu Catholic	52	61	58	59	71
Mauke	Mauke Catholic	43	46	43	37	41
Manihiki	Tukao Catholic	20	22	20	20	22
	Tauhunu Catholic	16	9	8	8	8
Rakahanga	Rakahanga Catholic	33	19	8	8	12
Totals		317	319	306	297	319
Grand totals		3,175	3,234	3,199	3,335	3,514

The number of schools is the same as in previous years, but the school population increased by 179 over the total for 1945. Attendances have been regular and satisfactory throughout the year.

Mr. A. McKenzie has been appointed Education Officer in succession to Mr. R. Walker, who resigned early in 1946. A new European Head Teacher has commenced duty at the Ngatangia School, Rarotonga, and a new European Head Teacher and an Infant-mistress have been appointed to Mangaia.

The Officer for Islands Education, Wellington, paid a brief visit to Rarotonga in June, 1946. During the year the Education Officer visited the schools at Aitutaki (twice) and at Atiu and Mauke.

Four pupils were sent to New Zealand in 1946 to take up scholarships made available by the Government, but one returned for health reasons. Another four pupils were granted scholarships in New Zealand in January, 1947.

Two Native teachers were sent to New Zealand in January, 1947, for a four months' observation course in Native schools.

Five film-strip projectors, one movie-sound film-projector, and a considerable quantity of other educational material and apparatus have been received from a special grant provided by the New Zealand Government.

Social studies have been added to the school curriculum, and instruction in the Cook Islands Maori language is now given for one hour per week. Three text-books in the Native language are in use, and as more are produced the weekly period of instruction will be increased.

A scheme for the provision of free milk for the children in the Rarotonga schools has been approved and will be extended as soon as possible to the outer islands schools.

A site for a proposed training-school at Tereora, Rarotonga, has been obtained, and work on the preparation of plans for the buildings has been commenced.

All school buildings throughout the Group have been maintained in good order and repair, and minor additions and improvements have been made. At Avarua School, Rarotonga, four new Native-style class-rooms have been erected and other Native-style class-rooms in the Rarotonga schools have been rethatched.

IX. JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

The Cook Islands Act, 1915, prescribes the judiciary for the Group. The Cook Islands Amendment Act, 1946, establishes a Native Appellate Court of the Cook Islands; this will enable appeals from the decisions of the Native Land Court and rehearings of earlier cases to be heard in the Cook Islands instead of in New Zealand.

There are a Judge and two Commissioners of the High Court in Rarotonga, while the Resident Agents of the outer islands are also Commissioners of the High Court. The Native Land Court comprises a senior Judge (who is also the Judge of the High Court) and another Judge, but no Commissioners at present. The Judges of the Native Land Court of the Cook Islands, and Judges of the Native Land Court of New Zealand, are the Judges of the Native Appellate Court of the Cook Islands.

High Court actions during the past five years are summarized hereunder:—

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Civil judgments: Rarotonga	34	50	60	35	51
Divorces granted: Whole Group	10	26	15	13	20
Criminal convictions: Rarotonga	1,197	1,360	1,401	1,195	1,179

Native Land Court proceedings during the same period were as follows:—

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Applications heard	153	165	124	169	123
Orders made	158	161	115	159	99
Applications outstanding—					
Rarotonga	389	389	401	454	502
Other islands	685	702	738	838	858

X. POLICE

Details of police establishment as at the 31st March, 1947, are as follows:—

—	Chief Officer.	Senior Sergeant.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Total.
Rarotonga	1	1	1	8	11
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	40	49

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" continues to be the mainstay of the shipping service between New Zealand and the Cook Islands. In 1946, owing to the damage done to crops by the storm in January, the vessel was able to cope with all citrus fruit available for shipment. The Government also arranged for special calls at Rarotonga by trans-Pacific ships to uplift cargoes of tomatoes, copra, and arrowroot beyond the capacity of the "Maui Pomare." The "Maui Pomare" was withdrawn in January, 1947, for her annual survey and overhaul, and was to return to the service in April.

The "Maui Pomare" proved invaluable during the war years when there was no other vessel available for the Cook Islands service, but a faster and more modern ship, with greater carrying-capacity and ability to maintain a more frequent service, is now required. The provision of adequate shipping facilities is undoubtedly the most serious problem confronting the Group at the present time, but this is complicated by the seasonal nature of the trade. During the orange season large quantities of fruit are available for shipment, but for the remainder of the year payable cargoes of other fruit and of produce are not offering.

AIR SERVICE

A fortnightly air service between New Zealand and Rarotonga is maintained regularly and has effected a great improvement in communications, particularly during the first quarter of the year, when the "Maui Pomare" is laid up for refit. The service has also proved of great value in cases of emergency and of medical necessity.

The air service between Aitutaki and Rarotonga has become very popular with the Cook Islanders and is always well patronized. Indeed, special flights have been required to cope with the number of passengers desiring to travel between the two islands. The service is also being increasingly used by passengers to and from New Zealand.

Passengers proceed by Sunderland flying-boat from Auckland to Fiji, and thence by Dakota planes via Tonga, Western Samoa, Tutuila, and Aitutaki to Rarotonga, the air journey from New Zealand taking three days. The same route is followed on the return journey, but the trip takes five days, as there is a break of two days in Fiji awaiting the connection with the flying-boat.

XII. METEOROLOGICAL

—	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Total rainfall (inches) ..	76·99	79·59	64·76	90·02	84·2
Number of rainy days ..	131	112	116	233	207
Highest for any day (inches) ..	3·79	4·76	2·85	4·63	3·6
Date	5 Oct.	14 Oct.	22 Feb.	11 Aug.	10 Mar.
Highest temperature (F.) ..	89·5	88	87	88·5	90·2
Date	31 Mar.	27 Feb.	9 Mar.	15 Mar.	19 Jan.
Lowest temperature (F.) ..	61	56	57	58·5	58·0
Date	9 Sept.	1 Sept.	12 Aug.	8 June	10 July.
Mean of maximum thermometer (F.)	81·3	81·4	80	80·9	81
Mean of minimum thermometer (F.)	71·2	70·4	69	70·3	69·3

This year the Group escaped serious storms, and the weather during the "hurricane season" was unusually calm. Two warnings of storms which might possibly visit the Cook Islands were received, but the storms, fortunately, took a different course.

XIII. AGRICULTURE

Progress towards the re-establishment of the citrus industry continues to be maintained. Eighty-four plots have been established under the orange replanting scheme; the majority of these plots are of ninety trees planted in one and a half acres of land, a few are smaller owing to the smaller area available. One plot is ready for planting, and applications for twenty-nine other plots have been finalized. On the whole, the plots are doing exceptionally well and the young trees are well advanced for the length of time they have been planted.

During the year 8,700 budded orange-trees were distributed; in addition, there are 730 young budded trees now ready for distribution, and a further 1,500 plants are ready for budding now and will be available for distribution in November, 1947. There are also 20,000 seedlings which have been recently transplanted, and 40,000 seedlings yet to be transplanted.

The citrus-replanting scheme has been extended to Aitutaki, and some 2,100 budded orange-trees have been planted out in plots. The citrus nursery at Aitutaki has been restocked with seedlings sent from Rarotonga, and a further distribution of budded orange-trees will be made during 1947. The establishment of the full number of one hundred plots will be completed as soon as the young trees are available.

It is hoped that it will be possible to establish citrus seedling nurseries in Atiu and Mauke during 1947.

Citrus shipments from the whole Group have been small during 1946 owing to the damage sustained during the severe storm experienced in January. Prospects for 1947 after a calm "hurricane season" are however, much better.

Tomatoes were extensively planted to make up for the loss of the citrus crop, and a record total of 78,761 boxes was shipped.

The few remaining banana plantations were partially wiped out by the storm in January, 1946, and until shipping prospects improve there is little hope of interesting growers in re-establishing this industry. The Administration has established nurseries for the propagation of banana-shoots so that when it is possible to revive the industry shoots will be available for the replanting scheme.

In Aitutaki, arrowroot has been extensively cultivated, and 81 tons have been processed and exported. Mangaia shipped 708 cases of pineapples to New Zealand. The extension of these industries may well assist in providing cargo during the lean period between orange seasons.

Copra-production has increased, and Penrhyn and Aitutaki have recommenced the export of this commodity.

The outer islands rely to a much greater extent on native food crops than Rarotonga does, but greater interest has been evinced in these crops during the year in Rarotonga, with the result that there has been no shortage of native vegetable foods.

LOWER GROUP ISLANDS

RAROTONGA

	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Shipping calls during the year	9	8	13	13	12
Cases of oranges exported ..	18,107	6,000	9,706	14,561	4,790
Boxes of tomatoes exported ..	12,966	23,460	37,751	35,096	78,761
Cases of bananas exported ..	9,419	4,825	2,298	3,136	54
High Court cases dealt with ..	1,231	1,410	1,461	1,230	1,270

Administration offices, school buildings, and residences have been maintained in good order; minor additions and improvements have also been made.

The main road round the island has been kept in good order, and subsidiary roads have also been repaired and maintained. The bulldozer and grader from the air strip have materially assisted in road repairs, and the formation and surface of the roads have been greatly improved by their use.

Two large bridges have been replaced, and other smaller bridges have been rebuilt or replaced by culverts.

The air strip has been maintained in good order, and improvements to the buildings have been effected.

AITUTAKI

	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Shipping calls during year* ..	21	13	12	19	21
Cases of oranges exported ..	5,770	..	8,997	12,684	1,000
High Court cases dealt with ..	334	571	358	320	366

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

On the whole, the health of the people has been good, but there were epidemics of influenza, running in waves from June to November, and of meningitis in July and August. Gastro-enteritis was widespread during the whole of the year. A Native medical practitioner has been stationed at Aitutaki throughout the year, and the Medical Officers of the United States Army unit gave valuable assistance until the force was finally evacuated early in September.

The school roll now totals 604 pupils. One new Native-style class-room has been erected during the year, and other school buildings have been maintained in good order and condition.

Only one shipment, of 1,000 cases, of oranges was made during the year, and it does not appear likely that there will be any fruit for export during the 1947 season. The citrus nursery is in a flourishing condition; some 2,100 budded orange-trees have already been planted out, and it is anticipated that sufficient trees to complete the first 100 plots, each of 35 trees, will be available from the nursery by December, 1947. During 1946 81 tons of arrowroot and 185 tons of copra were exported.

The Administration buildings have been maintained in good repair, and the roads have been kept in order.

On 1st September, 1946, the United States Army unit was evacuated from Aitutaki, and control of the air base passed to the Aerodromes Branch, New Zealand Public Works Department. Officers from that Department assisted by local Native labour now maintain the air strip.

ATIU

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Shipping calls during year ..	8	8	12	12	11
Cases of oranges exported ..	11,176	8,841	11,801	12,916	3,979
High Court cases dealt with ..	465	533	448	528	442

The health of the people has been good ; the outbreaks of cerebro-spinal meningitis and trachoma subsided early in the year, and since then there have been the usual mid-year epidemics of influenza and gastro-enteritis.

Administration buildings and school buildings have been kept in good condition, and further improvements have been effected at the main landing at Tauganui.

The orange crop suffered severe damage in the storm of January, 1946, and only two shipments were made during the year. Prospects are brighter for 1947. Native food plantations also suffered, but the Island Council was instrumental in encouraging and supervising replantings. Work will be commenced in 1947 on the establishment of a citrus nursery for the propagation of orange seedlings for distribution.

MAUKE

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Shipping calls during year ..	8	11	10	11	11
Cases of oranges exported ..	9,196	10,101	9,097	6,530	1,502
High Court cases dealt with ..	85	141	80	65	102

The epidemic of trachoma died out early in the year, and otherwise the health of the people is reported as being good. The Women's Committees continue to be active in the cleaning and tidying of settlements and of the houses and surroundings ; the Resident Agent and Island Council also regularly inspect the villages and houses.

The orange crop suffered severe damage during the storm in January, 1946, and only one small shipment of 1,502 cases was made during the year. Native food crops also suffered severe damage in the same storm, but under the direction of the Island Council the whole male population has been fully employed in restoring the plantations, with very good results.

Administration and school buildings are in good condition and have been painted inside and out during the year. Water-tanks are in good order, and one new lime-tank has been erected at the radio station. A motor-garage has also been built. Roads have been repaired and improved.

Mr. S. N. Abley assumed duty as Resident Agent at Mauke in August, 1946. Unfortunately, he became seriously ill in February and was brought to Rarotonga from whence he was taken by air to hospital at Suva, where he died. Since his departure the island has been administered by the Island Council, with the Native wireless operator as Clerk in Charge.

MITIARO

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Shipping calls during year ..	5	5	6	4	5
High Court cases dealt with ..	..	53	..	..	..

The epidemic of trachoma terminated early in the year, and since then the health of the people has been good.

Crops suffered minor damage during the storm in January, 1946 ; native food plantations have been restored, but there were not sufficient oranges left to warrant transportation to Rarotonga for juicing.

MANGAIA

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Shipping calls during year ..	6	4	6	10	13
Cases of oranges exported ..	5,551	19,917	3,707	22,630	11,018
High Court cases dealt with ..	649	371	572	667	517

The general health of the population has been good ; influenza was epidemic during the middle of the year. The Child Welfare Association is now firmly established, and the present attendance at the clinic is 204.

Administration and school buildings have been maintained in good order and condition. Roads have been kept in repair, but the arrival of plant and equipment from New Zealand is awaited so that major improvements on the roads may be commenced.

It was thought that the storm in January, 1946, had caused little damage in Mangaia, but the reduced number of cases of oranges exported is evidence that damage was greater than was at first anticipated. During the year 1,220 boxes of tomatoes and 708 cases of pineapples were exported, while over 30,000 new pineapple-plants have been set out.

NORTHERN GROUP ISLANDS

PENRHYN

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Shipping calls during year ..	3	4	3	3	6
High Court cases dealt with ..	160	137	58	101	142

The general health of the people has been good.

Administration buildings and roads have been kept in good repair, and a considerable number of improvements and additions have been made during the year.

The United States Army unit evacuated from Penrhyn in September, 1946, and the people are rapidly returning to their normal mode of living. The production of copra has recommenced, and the islands are being cleaned up systematically. Forty-three tons of copra have been shipped, and 35 tons were awaiting shipment at the end of the year. Shipments of mother-of-pearl shell for the year amount to 37 tons, and there were approximately 20 tons awaiting shipment at the close of the year.

MANIHIKI

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Shipping calls during year ..	9	5	4	4	13
Tons of copra exported ..	78 $\frac{1}{4}$	184	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
High Court cases dealt with ..	85	132	48	49	133

The general health of the people has been good ; influenza was epidemic during September and October. The Native medical practitioner has carried out weekly inspections of the villages and has encouraged the people to keep their houses and their surroundings clean.

In addition to the copra shipped during the year, some 55 tons were awaiting shipment at the close of the year. During the year 63 tons of mother-of-pearl shell were also exported. A few hats have been exported, but other articles of Native handicrafts are not being made. The high wages being paid to divers and the high price for pearl-shell have made the production of Native handicrafts unattractive to the people.

RAKAHANGA

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Shipping calls during year ..	8	5	4	4	10
Tons of copra exported ..	36	164 $\frac{3}{4}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	74	163
High Court cases dealt with ..	147	57	39	..	9

The health of the people has been good ; the Native medical practitioner from Manihiki visited Rakahanga twice during the year and gave treatment where necessary. He also made general inspections of the village, as well as house-to-house inspections. The local Health Committee has inspected the houses at regular intervals.

In addition to the copra shipped during the year, there were 120 tons awaiting shipment at the end of the year. A brisk trade has been done in Native hats, and it is estimated that approximately 2,000 hats were exported during the year.

PUKAPUKA

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Shipping calls during year ..	2	4	1	1	2
Tons of copra exported ..	3	..	70	60	80
High Court cases dealt with ..	27	3	33	..	..

The general health of the people has been good, but there appears to be a high incidence of filariasis in this island. A Native youth has been brought to Rarotonga for training as a dresser, and he is also being instructed in mosquito-control measures ; it is anticipated that he will return to Pukapuka towards the end of 1947.

In addition to the copra exported, there were 73 tons awaiting shipment on the 31st March, 1947.

PALMERSTON

The health of the small population has been good ; medical advice has been given by radio, and medical officers have visited the island twice during the year. There have been three shipping calls during the year, and 20 tons of copra, some native 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 population on 31st March, 1947, was 4,303 Natives and 25 Europeans, a total of 4,328.

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 of thirteen members appointed by the Governor-General and representing all villages on the Island.

The usual quarterly meetings of the Island Council were held during the year. No local ordinances were passed.

The following legislative measures with application to Niue were enacted in New Zealand since the last report :—

United Nations Act, 1946, Section 4.

Finance Act, 1946, Section 32.

Cook Islands Amendment Act, 1946.

The Cook Islands Sea Carriage of Goods Order 1946 (Serial number 1946/194).

VISIT

H.M.N.Z.S. "Arbutus" visited Niue on 14th to 16th November, 1946. A suitable programme of entertainment for the officers and men was carried out.

POSTAL AND RADIO

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

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Money-orders issued	£8,766	£5,799	£1,932	£7,177	£9,531
Money-orders paid	£681	£1,675	£2,082	£3,781	£4,894
Post Office Savings-bank deposits ..	£4,044	£3,969	£3,097	£8,709	£4,501
Post Office Savings-bank withdrawals	£196	£263	£696	£1,359	£972
Number of radio messages handled ..	1,048	1,515	1,755	2,001	2,346

Niue is a branch office of the Auckland Post-office Savings-bank, where the accounts are kept, but not segregated. Hence the figures given above relate only to local transactions in Niue, and it is not possible to give an accurate indication of the total transactions for the year.

Technical assistance in the running and maintenance of radio equipment is given by the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department.

Approval was given towards the end of 1946 for the installation of a single-wire telephone system to connect the thirteen villages of Niue. The Native population supplied free all telephone-poles required, all labour necessary to complete the installation, and also agreed to the removal of coconut and other trees where necessary without compensation. The services of a technician were made available by the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department, and work was commenced in January, 1947.

PUBLIC FINANCE

Exclusive of subsidy from the New Zealand Treasury, income for the year was £28,726. Expenditure totalled £32,387. Subsidy received was £5,000, leaving a net surplus of £1,339. Depreciation and other writings-off totalling £1,627 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.
	£	£	£	£	£
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
1946-47	28,726	32,387	3,661	5,000	+ 1,339

The main items of revenue for the year were stamp sales, £20,190; Customs import duties, £2,182; and income-tax, £1,581. The large amount of revenue received from stamp sales is mainly due to the philatelic demand for island stamps.

TRADE

A record level was reached for both imports and exports in 1946. Contributing factors were increases in the price of copra, greater exports of plaited ware, and increased expenditure by the Administration.

Comparative statistics for the last five calendar years are as follows:—

Country of Origin.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
IMPORTS VALUES					
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand	23,544	29,881	25,140	23,620	37,984
Australia	584	223	871	251	643
United Kingdom	235	115	2,453	2,935	6,503
United States of America	1,995	1,692	181	10	730
Western Samoa .. .. .	..	140	1,106	116	21
Other	86	19	303	40	796*
Totals	26,444	32,070	30,054	26,972	46,677
EXPORTS VALUES					
New Zealand	18,644	29,908	21,909	27,674	29,721
Australia	828	298	1,307	1,662	6,142
Western Samoa	1,249	527	..	..	..
Other	1,620	..	35	132	10
Totals	22,341	30,733	23,251	29,468	35,873

* Includes India, £585.

Quantities and Values of Principal Exports

Item.	1942.		1943.		1944.	
Copra	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
	338	4,091	422	8,543	617	13,274
Bananas	Cases.		Cases.		Cases.	
	9,847	4,207	15,473	8,049	1,200	626
Kumaras	Tons.		Tons.			
	474	6,509	113	1,363	..	..
Native plaited ware		£		£		£
	..	7,434	..	12,692	..	8,977
Item.	1945.		1946.			
Copra	Tons.	£	Tons.	£		
	415	9,986	352	10,179		
Bananas	Cases.		Cases.			
	7,662	4,141	9,346	5,335		
Kumaras	Tons.		Tons.			
	10	141	20	292		
Native plaited ware		£		£		
	..	14,683	..	19,652		

The large increase in total imports is notable, as is also the greatly increased value of imports from the United Kingdom. The latter consisted almost exclusively of cotton piece-goods of all kinds. The U.S.A. supplied some twist tobacco, and India some copra-sacks during the year.

Copra.—Although there has been no increase in the average annual production of this item, successive increases in the f.o.b. price have more than doubled the Island's income from this source in the past five years.

Native Plaited Ware.—Although there were shipping difficulties during the year, the value of Native plaited ware exported shows a substantial increase over the 1945 figure, which was the previous record. Most of the increase is due to the large quantities exported to Australia.

MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The staff at 31st March, 1947, consisted of one European Medical Officer, one Native medical practitioner (on loan from Western Samoa), one European Matron, one European nurse, five Native nurses, including two on loan from Western Samoa, and two Niuean Dental Officers. In addition, there were two Native dispensary assistants and one Native dental clinic assistant.

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

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

—	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Amount expended	£3,755	£3,900	£3,656	£5,305	£8,211
Population	4,434	4,242	4,200	4,271	4,328
Amount per head of population	16s. 11d.	18s. 5d.	17s. 5d.	£1 4s. 9d.	£1 17s. 11d.

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

—	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
(1) Infectious diseases—					
(a) Tuberculosis ..	30	28	11	26	13
(b) Gonorrhœa ..	45	107	21	44	171
(c) Yaws ..	939	863	713	1,038	1,173
(d) Pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia	7	178	25	29	41
(e) Conjunctivitis ..	128	156	17	104	148
(f) Ringworm ..	133	418	37	146	55
(g) Varicella ..	7	16	1	25	5
(h) Typhoid ..	27	33	15	13	12
(i) Leprosy ..	2	2	1	1	2
(j) Infectious jaundice	..	..	78	112	49
(k) Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	3	2
(l) Intestinal parasites	..	..	..	150	155
(m) Scabies ..	..	..	..	166	163
(2) Endemic diseases—					
(a) Filariasis ..	Very prevalent	Very prevalent	207	181	120
(b) Myositis tropica ..	3	10	6	6	60
(3) Hospital and dispensary—					
Admissions for year ..	118	116	76	71	139
Average number of days in hospital per patient	123·39	32·5	28	11·29	10
Daily average bed state	39·88	9·95	8·13	4·55	6
District out-patients ..	21,422	29,062	29,811	} 23,024	21,839
Dispensary out-patients	2,365	1,802	2,984		
Special visits ..	1,661	4,421	2,124	2,205	1,891
Operations ..	10	Nil	75	369	137
Dental extractions ..	136	134	130	221	950
Injections, N.A.B., T.A.B., &c.	3,869	10,159	844	4,301	6,828
Confinements ..	15	18	23	20	63
Anæsthetics—					
General ..	8	10	..	2	21
Local ..	120	220	149	315	134

In March, 1947, there was an outbreak of broncho-pneumonia, of which there were 335 cases with eight deaths, in a period of just over three weeks. By isolation of villages as they became infected the epidemic was kept under control, and concluded on 30th March.

Routine inspection of villages for public-health purposes was carried out by the police in conjunction with the Chief Medical Officer. During the past few years there has been, as a result of the frequent inspections, a noticeable improvement in general village cleanliness and hygiene.

There has been considerable expenditure during the year on new medical equipment, and as a result the hospital is now fairly well equipped to deal with the requirements of the Island.

EDUCATION

The Administration maintains three schools, which are under the control of a European Education Officer. Some 46 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, 1946, and the previous four years were as follows:—

—	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Administration schools ..	740	778	686	679	667
London Missionary Society schools	370	388	427	506	521
Totals	1,110	1,166	1,113	1,185	1,118

The proposal to replace the Mission schools with four new Administration schools is being proceeded with, and the first two of these schools are expected to be erected during 1947.

Two Niuean boys who were being educated in New Zealand at the expense of the Administration have now proceeded to the Central Medical School in Suva, for training as Native medical practitioners. Under the general scheme for scholarships for the Island Territories two Niuean boys proceeded to New Zealand early in 1947.

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 1942-46:—

High Court

—	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Criminal convictions ..	593	539	566	629	400
Civil judgments	6	1	3	Nil	1
Divorces granted	9	12	7	8	14

Offences for which convictions were recorded during the year were mainly of a minor nature. There were two convictions on charges of causing grievous bodily harm. No sittings of the Native Land Court were held during the year.

POLICE

The police establishment at 31st March, 1947, was as follows: 1 European police officer in charge, 1 Native sergeant, and 12 Native constables. There is a constable for each village of the Island, with two constables in Alofi, the main village, which falls naturally into sections. The Native constables undertake a number of duties outside ordinary police work, and, generally speaking, act as liaison officers between the Administration and the people. Following the appointment of a trained police officer the general standard of efficiency is now showing marked improvement. Periodical instruction in all phases of police work is being given.

POPULATION

The estimated population at 31st March, 1947, was as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans	18	7	25
Natives	2,082	2,221	4,303
Total	2,100	2,228	4,328

A summary of births and deaths during the calendar year 1946 is as under:—

Births	165
Deaths	80
Births per 1,000 of population	37·97
Deaths per 1,000 of population	18·41
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	84·8

The excess of births over deaths is notable when compared with more recent years. The infant-mortality rate also shows decided improvement.

PUBLIC WORKS

This Department is in charge of a part-Niuean. During most of the year, however, supervisory assistance has been given by one of the senior administrative officers.

New works dealt with have been the final completion of the dental clinic building and the laying-down of the foundation for the x-ray block.

The usual maintenance of buildings has been carried out. Special attention has been given to the Residency and main Office building and two of the other residences. Repairs to village water-supplies have been carried out, and catchment areas in several cases have been completely rebuilt.

Work on the roads has been proceeded with throughout the year, but has been mainly confined to widening and straightening in the Makefu and Lakepa districts. This work was temporarily suspended for part of the year owing to the use of vehicles and labour on the installation of the telephone system.

All boats have been maintained in good repair, but the oldest boat has now reached the stage where it requires replacement.

TRANSPORT

For the greater part of the year this Department was in charge of a part-Niuean. A European mechanic was appointed and took up duties in January, 1947. Difficulties in the adequate maintenance of the motor-vehicles and other engines are still being experienced on account of delays in receiving spare parts and also a lack of essential workshop facilities. This latter is being gradually remedied.

In addition to twelve motor-vehicles, the Transport Department is responsible for the maintenance of the launch-engine, the Diesel engines at the wireless station, and the engine which is stationed at the hospital to supply lights and power for the x-ray plant.

METEOROLOGICAL

—	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Total rainfall (inches) ..	71·35	64·79	71·55	80·80	93·94
Number of rainy days ..	149	146	158	210	206
Highest for any day (inches) ..	6·15	2·94	5·15	3·60	4·50
Date	20th Sept.	20th Oct.	29th Jan.	23rd Apr.	15th Dec.
Highest temperature (F.) ..	92·0	94·0	90·0	92·0	90·8
Date	26th Jan.	11, 12, 14, 15, 25 Feb. ; 3 Nov.	13, 17, 19, 25, 28 Mar.	22nd Mar.	28th Mar
Lowest temperature (F.) ..	60·0	58·0	58·5	57·0	60·2
Date	10th Oct.	17th July	28th Aug.	6th June.	27th June.
Mean of maximum thermometer (F.)	83·1	84·5	82·4	82·27	82·28
Mean of minimum thermometer (F.)	70·3	69·77	69·3	70·3	70·16

Rainfall for 1946 was greater than normal, and as it was spread over the whole year there were no periods of serious drought.

A severe storm, with winds of hurricane force and very heavy seas, was experienced on 27th December, 1946. Fortunately the storm was of a reasonably short duration, approximately twelve hours. Lowest barometer reading was 29·224 in. Some damage was done to buildings, particularly on the northern side of the island. Bananas and coconut trees were extensively damaged, but other food crops were not greatly affected.

The system of issuing hurricane warnings from the Meteorological Office in Fiji, which had recently been put into operation, proved its value, as it gave information regarding the probable path and intensity of the storm and enabled all possible precautions to be taken before it reached Niue.

SHIPPING

There were thirteen shipping calls during the year ended 31st December, 1946, including ten calls by regular cargo and passenger vessels. Except for the period February to April, a regular and frequent shipping service was maintained by the N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare" and the Union Steam Ship Co.'s M.V. "Matua."

Exclusive of parcel-mail, inward cargo handled at the port of Alofi totalled 901 tons and outward cargo 965 tons. Also 3,560 bags of parcel-mail, containing Native plaited ware, were shipped. The average cargo handled on each call showed a considerable increase over the previous year; 89 passengers disembarked and 105 embarked.

