

Be it enacted,—

1. The Short Title of this Ordinance shall be "The Protection of Property Ordinance."
 2. This Ordinance shall apply to the Island of Rarotonga, but may, by resolution of the Federal Council, be made to apply to any island in the Federation.

3. In any case where it shall be proved before the Chief Judge of the High Court that property has been stolen or maliciously destroyed, and that there is reasonable cause to believe that the offenders are being screened or protected by the people of any Tapere, the Chief Judge aforesaid may ascertain the value of the property stolen or destroyed, and may impose a fine on one or more Taperes equivalent in value to the said property and the costs of the suit.

4. The Chief Judge of the High Court may order the Mataiapo of any Tapere to collect the fine imposed and pay it into the Court within the period named by the Court, and any person who shall neglect or refuse to carry out the order of the Court, or shall obstruct the collection of the fine, shall be guilty of contempt of Court and liable to fourteen days' imprisonment with hard labour, or a fine not exceeding twenty shillings.

5. Any person who shall be found trespassing on the land of another without the permission of the owner or occupier shall, unless he or she can show sufficient reason for the trespass, be liable to a fine of not exceeding forty shillings, or in default one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

6. In any instance where it shall be shown that a landowner has been persistently annoyed by petty larcenies or malicious injury to his property, the Chief Judge of the High Court may call upon the Ariki of the district to call out the able-bodied inhabitants of the adjoining Tapere and fence in the land of the injured person with the ordinary wall of coral rock.

Ordinance passed unanimously at 10 a.m., 14th December, 1901.

S. SAVAGE, Clerk to Council.

COOK ISLANDS, RAROTONGA.—ORDINANCE No. 3.

WHEREAS many thousands of cocoanuts are stolen every year within the Cook Islands, and it is expedient that restrictions should be placed on the sale of this stolen property to Maori and Chinese tea-shops :

Be it enacted,—

1. The Short Title of this Ordinance shall be "The Sale of Cocoanuts Restriction Ordinance."

2. During the continuance of a *rahui* over the cocoa-palms of any island it shall not be lawful to sell any of the nuts thereof except by permission of a policeman, who may either signify in writing that the vendors are the rightful owners of the nuts, or attend the traders personally to authorise the sale.

Any Maori infringing the provisions of this section shall be liable to a fine of ten shillings, or in default hard labour for ten days.

Any European committing an offence against this section shall be liable to be fined five pounds and have his license cancelled.

3. Any policeman appealed to under the provisions of the last section shall satisfy himself that the person in possession of the nuts had come by them lawfully before he shall give his consent.

4. Traders shall in all cases keep the record required by section fifteen of "The Au Empowering Act, 1899," and shall be liable to a fine of twenty shillings for any neglect of this provision.

5. The provisions of section two of this Ordinance shall continue in force even after the *rahui* over cocoanuts have been removed by notice in the *Cook Islands Gazette*, subject also to the following additional restrictions :—

(a.) That no nuts shall be purchased from any person who would appear to be under the age of sixteen years.

(b.) All nuts shall be paid for in coin, whether Chili or British, and shall not be bartered for tea, biscuit, or other goods.

6. This Ordinance shall apply to the Islands of Mangaia, Rarotonga, Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro, but shall not apply to Aitutaki until adopted by resolution of the Council of that island.

Ordinance passed unanimously, 14th December, 1901.

S. SAVAGE, Clerk to Council.

No. 67.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

New Plymouth, 9th January, 1901.

I have the honour to report my arrival here this morning from Niue, which island I left on the 26th December by the schooner "Ysabel," and joined the steamer "Manapouri" at Tonga on the 2nd instant, arriving at Auckland on the 7th instant.

Up to the time of my departure from Niue the Government schooner "Countess of Ranfurly" had not arrived, consequently Mr. Maxwell (who I have since learnt is to succeed me) had not arrived. But I left him a long memorandum with respect to the matters most important for him to become acquainted with.

At the time of my leaving everything was working smoothly and well, and the new system of government in full working-order. But if my successor is delayed for any length of time it will have a bad effect, and no doubt there will be a retrograde movement. So far as I can gather, however, Mr. Maxwell ought ere this to have arrived at Niue.

I propose to furnish very shortly a report setting out at length what has been done up to the time of my departure in continuation of previous reports.

I have, &c.,

S. PERCY SMITH.

His Excellency the Governor, Wellington.