

1935.
 NEW ZEALAND.

COOK ISLANDS.

[In continuation of Parliamentary Paper A.—3, 1934.]

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

REPORT OF COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

RAROTONGA.

FINANCE.

FOR the financial year ended 31st March, 1935, income (including assistance from Reserve Funds totalling £4,058 4s. 7d.) amounted to £37,811 9s. 4d., and expenditure (including depreciation, £2,154 7s. 5d., and hurricane reparation, £1,266 18s. 1d.) amounted to £39,519 12s. 10d., leaving an excess of expenditure over income of £1,708 3s. 6d.

Taking into account cash in hand at the beginning of the financial year (£767 15s. 2d.), and bringing all receipts (including £6,185 3s. 1d. from Fixed Deposits Accounts) and payments into account, the financial year ended with cash in hand amounting to £1,467 3s. 9d.

Subsidies from New Zealand Treasury were on account of public health and education only, and for the current year amounted to £11,343.

The total expenditure on these two services was £17,080 5s. 11d., towards which New Zealand granted £11,343. The local Administration found the balance of £5,737 5s. 11d., and also all other expenditure of the Administration of every kind amounting to £24,349 7s. 11d., a total expenditure from local funds of £30,086 13s. 10d.

—	Public Health.		Education.		All other Services.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Payments (including capital expenditure)	8,965	5 5	8,115	0 6	24,349	7 11	41,429	13 10*
Grants received from New Zealand ..	5,063	0 0	6,280	0 0	..		11,343	0 0
Found by Cook Islands Administration	3,902	5 5	1,835	0 6	24,349	7 11	30,086	13 10

* Including capital expenditure.

Detailed statements of income and expenditure, and balance-sheet, are printed on pages 17 and 18, Appendix A.

The balance-sheet takes into account the value (after writing off depreciation amounting to £2,154 7s. 5d.) of all Administration assets as at 31st March, 1935, and all liabilities, and shows an excess of assets amounting to £72,740 6s. 9d.

TRADE.

For the year ended 31st December, 1934, the value of exports was £59,307 (£73,983), and of imports £61,449 (£76,716), showing an excess of imports of £2,142. Previous year's corresponding figures in brackets.

Details are printed on page 19, Appendix B.

The following table illustrates how the trade of the Cook Islands has dropped during the years of depression :—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total. £
1925	130,609	151,939	282,548
1930	103,468	109,438	212,906
1931	69,260	79,945	149,205
1932	63,585	73,409	136,994
1933	76,716	73,983	150,699
1934	61,449	59,307	120,756

Copra Trade.—The price of copra has recently shown a rising tendency, but nevertheless the position of the market is very uncertain. The administration has endeavoured to assist the position of the producers by suspending the copra-tax for a further six months following the 31st March, 1935.

The following figures for the years 1928 to 1934 show how the value of copra trade in the Cook Islands has declined :—

Year.	Tons exported. £	Total Value. £	Year.	Tons exported. £	Total Value. £
1928 ..	1,770	33,071	1932 ..	1,294	12,340
1930 ..	2,143	23,478	1934 ..	963	4,899

Exports.—The following table shows the value of our main exports over the last five years :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Citrus fruit (Cases)	128,196	82,740	85,593	92,752	78,099
Bananas "	53,493	55,769	62,390	47,494	52,314
Tomatoes "	30,363	34,750	54,218	17,737	34,545
Copra (Tons)	2,143	1,546	1,294	1,545	963

Prices paid for oranges, bananas, and tomatoes last season were again very low and brought very little return to growers for the large amount of labour and expense involved in production.

Up to February last there were prospects of favourable crops of oranges in Rarotonga and the Lower Group Islands, and also of bananas in Rarotonga, but over 50 per cent. of oranges have been destroyed by the hurricane, and in Rarotonga 60 per cent. of the banana crop.

As a result of the hurricane, combined with the still-existing trade depression, there will be a small export of fruit this year, which will be followed by a corresponding drop in imports. On the whole, trade prospects for the year throughout the Group are very discouraging.

SHIPPING.

Overseas shipping at the Port of Avarua, Rorotonga, for the year ended 31st December, 1934, comprised a total of thirty-nine vessels, twenty-three being the San Francisco mail-steamers, five the Union Steamship Company's cargo-vessels, five local schooners, five miscellaneous, including s.s. "City of Los Angeles" (2), "Franconia," s.y. "Stella Polaris," a.s. "Tahitienne," and "La Korriganne."

MEDICAL.

Generally speaking, health conditions have been satisfactory throughout the year.

A mild epidemic of influenza occurred in October, 1934, and this affected the Lower Group Islands also. The wireless services were a great convenience in enabling Resident Agents and nurses to get advice from the Medical Officer in Rarotonga. There was a further outbreak of mild influenza in March, 1935.

Child-welfare.—The Committees have worked enthusiastically during the year. There is a definite improvement in the health of the children, and sick ones are being brought for treatment in earlier stages than before.

"*Au Vaine.*"—The "Au Vaine" (women's committees) continue their periodic inspections of their respective villages and plantations. This year the Titikaveka Village won the cup for most points in commercial and domestic planting, and for general hygiene. The all-round standard of the villages is improving from year to year.

School Inspection.—Schools have been regularly inspected, and general health has been satisfactory, although the condition of teeth leaves much to be desired.

Dental Clinic.—A qualified dentist is now employed at the Dental Clinic under an arrangement by which he gives half his time to dental work for school-children. The remainder of his time is devoted to private practice.

Leprosy.—The voyage of the N.Z.G.S. "Matai" through the Lower and Northern Groups to give relief to islands affected by the hurricane gave an opportunity, which has long been sought by the Administration, to remove all lepers to the Leper Asylum at Makogai.

A total of thirty lepers were removed from the Cook Group. Of this number, three were from Aitutaki, and the remaining twenty-seven from the Northern Group—Palmerston one, Penrhyn twenty, Rakahanga three, Manihiki three.

The position at Penrhyn in regard to leprosy has caused the Administration considerable anxiety, as this is the Island into which leprosy was first introduced from Honolulu very many years ago. Since

then the disease has spread insidiously and somewhat rapidly. On the two previous occasions on which lepers were removed from the Cook Islands to Makogai the majority came from Penrhyn (which is 750 miles north of Rarotonga), and the present occasion was no exception.

The Administration has under consideration a scheme by which all lepers throughout the Group will be removed to Penrhyn immediately each case is diagnosed and segregated there in one particular place under medical charge, and given treatment until such time as the leper colony can be removed to Fiji.

Staff.—Owing to the financial position it has been impossible for some years to adequately staff the medical services. For the whole Territory, comprising a land and sea area of 850,000 square miles and a population of 12,000, the staff consists of one medical officer, three registered nurses, two Native medical practitioners, and a handful of Native girls locally trained. Fortunately the health of the people, on the whole, is good, but with the medical officer confined more or less to Rarotonga it is impossible to give adequate attention to the health of the outlying islands.

Additional lads are in training at the Central Medical School, and will in time be available for work in the Outer Group, but it will be some years before any considerable assistance can be expected from this source.

During the year a relieving medical officer was able to make one trip through the Group.

Soil-sanitation and Water-supply.—Despite the straitened financial position for some years past the policy has been adopted of conserving funds to enable a soil-sanitation scheme to be carried out throughout the Lower Group. With the co-operation and financial assistance from the Rockefeller Foundation a three-year scheme was commenced in October, 1932. Its purpose was to provide fly-proof privy accommodation for every house, school, marae, and public place in all islands of the Lower Group.

With the assistance of the New Zealand Public Works Department a design, considered to be an improvement on all then known designs of Native privies, was drawn, and improved methods of manufacturing concrete slabs and “raisers” by means of moulds was decided upon, the finished product being made entirely of indestructible material—viz., concrete—with pressed metal lids and bolt hinges.

Mr. C. F. Cowley, of Wellington, was appointed to undertake the field work, and to his ability and energy, and the support of the Native people in freely undertaking the digging of pits, the scheme was completed with a considerable saving in time and in estimated cost.

Coincident with this work the water-supply has been still further extended until on the Island every house in every village has water laid on, from a safe source of supply from the water-catchment areas.

Both these works will undoubtedly be important factors in improving the health and sanitation of the Island.

Yaws.—A constant campaign is being waged against yaws and other tropical diseases with satisfactory results.

Native Medical Practitioners.—Both these young men have been kept fully employed during the year, principally in the Lower and Northern Group Islands, although at times they are stationed at Rarotonga for experience and also to give some relief to the Medical Officer, who has to work single handed.

Resident Nurses are stationed at Aitutaki and at Mangaia, and their work, which is very arduous in these isolated tropical places, is of a very high order and is greatly appreciated by the inhabitants.

Port Health.—Pratique was granted to all vessels arriving at Rarotonga from outside the Group.

X-ray.—During the year an X-ray plant was installed at the Hospital at Rarotonga, and this has given general satisfaction throughout the Group.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table shows the births and deaths in each island of the Lower Group for the year ended 31st March, 1935; and of the Northern Group for the year ended 30th September, 1934:—

STATISTICAL RETURN SHOWING BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1935 (ISLANDS OF LOWER GROUP), AND FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1934 (NORTHERN GROUP ISLANDS).

Name of Islands.	Births.		Deaths.		Marriages.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Lower Group—					
Rarotonga	108	89	42	31	54
Aitutaki	44	41	25	29	10
Mangaia	29	30	7	7	8
Atiu	22	17	10	8	2
Mauke	16	11	4	7	2
Mitiaro	6	6	4	1	..
Northern Islands—					
Manihiki	6	13	6	1	2
Rakahanga	6	9	5	1	6
Penrhyn	4	9	2	6	4
Pukapuka	15	16	9	8	11
Totals	256	241	114	99	99

Of the deaths recorded, forty-two were under the age of one year, as compared with fifty-one for the previous year.

Attached hereto is a table showing deaths at different ages during the year :—

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS AS SHOWN IN ABOVE RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1935 (ISLANDS OF LOWER GROUP), AND FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1934 (NORTHERN GROUP ISLANDS).

Island.	Under 1 Year.		Under 5 Years.		Under 10 Years.		Under 15 Years.		Under 20 Years.		Over 20 Years.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Lower Group—														
Rarotonga	8	6	6	4	3	1	..	..	3	3	22	17	42	31
Aitutaki	3	8	5	2	2	2	..	2	1	3	14	12	25	29
Mangaia	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	5	7	7
Atiu	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	7	4	10	8
Mauke .. .. .	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	4	4	7
Mitiaro .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	4	1
Northern Islands—														
Manihiki	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	6	1
Rakahanga	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	5	1
Penrhyn	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	2	6
Pukapuka	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	6	9	8
Totals	19	23	14	7	5	3	..	4	7	7	69	55	114	99

MIGRATION.

The following return shows the migration to and from Rarotonga for the period 1st April, 1934, to 31st March, 1935 :—

Arrivals—Europeans : 95 males, 92 females. *Natives* : 22 males, 23 females.

Departures—Europeans : 86 males, 81 females. *Natives* : 15 males, 14 females.

EDUCATION.

The eighteen schools in the Cook Group controlled by the Administration are distributed as follows : Rarotonga, 4 ; Mangaia, 3 ; Aitutaki, 1 ; Atiu, 1 ; Mauke, 1 ; Pukapuka, 1 ; Mitiaro, 1* ; Penrhyn, 2* ; Manihiki, 2* ; Rakahanga, 1* ; Palmerston, 1* ; total, 18.

There are 2,367 children on the rolls of these schools (1,290 boys and 1,077 girls), with an average attendance of 89 per cent.

In addition to the Administration public schools, there are Roman Catholic schools at the following islands :—

	Roll.
Rarotonga	80
Atiu, 52 ; Mauke, 57 ; Mitiaro, 23 (Lower group)	132
Manihiki, 27 ; Rakahanga, 50 (Northern Group) ..	77
Total	389

Thus 2,756 children are being educated throughout the Cook Group.

Teaching Staff.—The total staff throughout the Group numbers seventy—thirteen being Europeans and the remainder are Native teachers.

There are European headmasters at each of the four schools in Rarotonga, and also at Aitutaki, Atiu, and at the main school in Mangaia.

The remaining eleven schools are staffed with Native headmasters and teachers.

The more important work undertaken in recent years has been—

(a) The construction of new courses of study for the pupils, in keeping with the conclusions arrived at by the conference of educational experts from New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, and Cook Islands held in Wellington in January, 1926. This is more fully dealt with in the annual report of 1926.

(b) The formation of classes for the instruction of Native teachers, the European staff of teachers being concentrated on this work, with the result that all Native teachers are now receiving regular instruction and training.

(c) The establishment at Avarua of a training college and normal school for Native teachers.

(d) The establishment, in 1930, at the Normal School at Avarua of a special class to enable the most promising pupils from all Cook Islands schools to reach proficiency standard without the necessity of going to New Zealand.

(e) The granting of a limited number of scholarships which enables pupils of outstanding ability to take up special courses of study in New Zealand in order to fit them for positions in the Cook Islands Public Service.

* Subsidized Mission schools.

At present there are ten scholarship pupils in training, as follows:—

Three boys at the Fiji Medical School ;
Six boys at Te Aute College ; and
One girl at Hukarere College.

The scholarship this year was won by a boy from Atiu.

New Rules and Syllabus.—In October last new rules for the management of public schools were made by the Minister for the Cook Islands, and also a new syllabus of instruction.

Under these rules school-age was reduced to mean any age between five and fourteen so that (with the exception of special cases) no child is to be retained on the roll after the end of the calendar year in which such child has attained its fourteenth birthday.

Notwithstanding this provision, the number of children on the rolls for 1935 is in excess of 1934, which is an indication of the rate at which the population of the Cook Islands is increasing.

The new syllabus of instruction tends towards the practical side and is designed to suit conditions obtaining for children living in these islands. All usual primary-school subjects are included, but special attention has been paid to the teaching of English, health, and tropical agriculture.

It was also borne in mind throughout the syllabus that most of the teaching is in the hands of Native teachers, and for this reason the syllabus is relatively simple and very definite.

School-buildings.—For the most part, schools are of the open-air type, which is the most suitable for tropical conditions.

During the recent hurricane heavy damage was done to many school-buildings. From latest reports, eight class-rooms are completely demolished, seven structurally damaged, and two residences structurally damaged. There was also much minor damage, and one school-ground was swept by the great waves and littered by tons of coral stones and debris. Where necessary, temporary accommodation is being utilized whilst reconstruction and repairs are being effected.

Pomare Medal.—There was the usual competition for the seven Pomare medals, which are presented every year to the best all-round pupil in each of the schools where there is a European headmaster.

Vernon Reed Shield.—This shield goes to the school showing the greatest proficiency in English for the year, and for 1934 was won by the Avarua School, Rarotonga.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Roads and Bridges.—The main road round the island has received constant attention throughout the year, as the surface, being of coral and gravel, requires continual replacement on account of the heavy rainfall and the effect of the heavy traffic.

Building up and widening has been carried out at several places, particularly at the Ruaau viaduct at Arorangi.

Prison labour is employed almost exclusively for roadwork.

Necessary repairs have been done to bridges and culverts on the main road, and also to the Avatiu Valley bridges.

The two main bridges in Avarua were seriously damaged by the hurricane, and are now in course of repair.

The Takuvaine Valley Road has been kept in repair, and extended into the valley.

Further work has also been done on the Ara Metua between Avatiu and Nikao.

Since the hurricane the Public Works trucks, staff, and most of the prison labour have been constantly engaged in clearing roads and Government properties of coral rock, stones, fallen trees, and debris, and in the reparation of Government buildings which sustained damage. A great deal of work is still to be done, and this will take many months to complete.

Government Buildings and Houses.—Up to the time of the hurricane, these were kept in repair and repainted where necessary.

X-ray Building.—A room to house the new X-ray plant was built at the hospital, and the necessary fittings made.

An engine-room was also built, and water laid on.

Schools.—A new detached class-room, 40 ft. by 20 ft., was erected at the Titikaveka School.

Telephone System.—Up to the time of the hurricane in February this was kept in good repair.

The system was completely wrecked during the hurricane. A large number of poles was snapped off by the wind, and this, together with falling trees, completed the almost total loss of the telephone wires. A start was made immediately to reconstruct the telephone system, and at the 31st March it had been wholly restored in the main village of Avarua, and to the wireless station, three miles distant.

Fruit Inspection Office.—This building, which is on the foreshore, was wrecked by huge waves which swept over the protecting concrete retaining-wall. Work of reconstruction and repair is now well under way.

Water-supply.—During the year the water-supply extension from Avatiu to the wireless station was completed, and the system was further extended from the wireless station to connect with the Arorangi supply. This work involved the laying of three miles of new mains. In addition, the Arorangi main—one mile in length—was relaid with 4 in. pipes.

The Avarua and Arorangi supply systems are now linked up, and there is a continuous line of water-mains from the east end of Avarua to the south-west end of Arorangi, a distance of approximately eight miles.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Planting Statistics.—Planting statistics for the year are not available owing to severe damage to crops caused by the hurricane of February last, but from observations during the year it may be stated that general planting operations were normal and sufficient for the needs of the people. Replacement of damaged bananas has already commenced, while plantings of tomatoes and domestic crops promise to be heavy, as a natural result of the anxiety of the growers to balance to some extent the losses of banana and orange crops and the destruction of the bread-fruit crop.

Citrus.—Exports for the year were somewhat lower than for the previous season. Reports on the condition of the fruit were generally unsatisfactory. This was due to some extent to the unusually heavy rainfall during the year. The renovation activities in the plantations were not sufficiently advanced to give any definite promise of improvement in quality, which may show as the work progresses.

A considerable amount of work in the direction of pruning, thinning out, and destroying useless trees had been carried out up to the time of the hurricane, which has given that work a severe setback. Growers are becoming more interested in the work and are expected to recommence their activities when they have had a reasonable chance to replant other crops.

A number of areas of citrus plantings in ordered plantations and of good-quality trees, which have been established within the past few years, are progressing favourably, and small crops are already being produced. Areas such as these, which have received reasonable attention, are beginning to show the possibility of securing good results.

Bananas.—Exports from January to December, 1934, showed an increase over the previous year of approximately 13,000 cases.

Plantings during the year have been normal, but severe damage caused by the hurricane will considerably reduce the year's total exports.

Tomatoes.—Total exports during the year were 34,378 boxes, approximately double the quantity exported during the previous season. It is estimated that well over 10,000 boxes of tomatoes were not shipped owing to lack of steamers at suitable times.

Domestic Crops.—Ample domestic crops for ordinary requirements have been planted during the year.

Pineapples.—There is a fair return from local sales, but export of pines to New Zealand is not profitable.

Monthly Notes.—The following subjects were dealt with during the period:—

April, 1934 : Tomato Culture.

May, 1934 : Citrus Rust-mite.

June, 1934 : Orange Picking. Fruit Fly.

July, 1934 : Bananas. Export of Bananas.

August, 1934 : Clipped *v.* Pulled Oranges. Sooty Mould.

September, 1934 : Pruning and Renovation of Citrus Plantations.

October, 1934 : Windbreaks for Citrus Trees.

November, 1934 : Stem-end Rot in Citrus. Citrus Notes.

December, 1934 : South African Orange Crop.—How Quality is Safeguarded.

January, 1935 : Tomato Areas—Cleaning Up. Fruit Fly—Destruction of Host Fruits.

February, 1935 : Short Bananas.

March, 1935 : Fertilizers.

Fruit-inspection and Packing-sheds.—Grading of oranges was tightened up considerably last season, but reports still indicate that there is room for much improvement in the quality of the fruit. The poor quality of the oranges is not due entirely to faulty grading and packing. Fruit from poor trees cannot be expected to carry well. It is hoped that cleaning up the plantations and applying fertilizers and sprays will prove helpful.

All packing-sheds are in a satisfactory state of repair. Fortunately none suffered other than slight damage as a result of the hurricane.

The lidding-presses and roller conveyers in Avatiu and Arorangi sheds are doing very satisfactory work and are particularly useful during the orange season.

Prosecutions.—During the year twenty-four persons were prosecuted and fined for packing fruit below the required standards or for fraudulent packing of fruit intended for export.

Outer Islands.—One Inspector visited Atiu during the call of one steamer to assist with inspection of the orange shipment. While in Atiu noxious weeds were inspected and the areas cleaned up, and pruning instruction given.

Shipping services were unsatisfactory in the Group Islands, and consequently shipments were much below estimates.

Resident Agents were instructed by letter regarding the renovation of citrus plantations as at present under way in Rarotonga. Limited supplies of tools have been forwarded to these islands and a start has been made on pruning.

Citrus Experimental Work.—The new areas planted last year at Tatakimoa and at the Ngatipa Residency are both progressing favourably. Most of the trees at the Titikaveka area planted last year are growing well.

The value of spraying experiments carried out during the past year has been discounted by the damage caused to the trees by the recent hurricane. Most of the trees were badly damaged and are carrying little or no fruit.

Fertilizers.—The levy for manures collected since July, 1934, has amounted to a considerable sum, and a first shipment of manures, 60 tons, has been received for distribution.

Noxious Weeds.—During the year noxious weeds have been kept under control, very few new areas have been found, and improvements have been made in older areas. Some weeds are, however, proving very difficult to eradicate.

During the period fourteen persons were prosecuted and fined for failing to clear land of noxious weeds.

Experimental Nursery.—Spraying of citrus trees was carried out throughout the season until the time of the hurricane.

A total of 682 budded citrus trees were supplied to growers during the year. These were of various varieties, including European and Native varieties of oranges, and grape-fruit, lemons and tangerines, mainly on rough lemon stocks.

For some months during the rainy season it has been impossible to carry on with work in the nurseries owing to frequent flooding of the land.

During the year a supply of sour-orange seed was received from Australia. These have been planted and are making fair progress.

Two Kawau orange-trees received from the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture are making very good growth.

Raffia-palm seeds received and planted are now commencing to germinate.

Teak seedlings, which were severely set back by flooding shortly after they commenced to grow last year, are now doing somewhat better. There are only twenty-four trees.

Mangoes shipped to New Zealand again failed to return payable prices.

Grape-fruit meet with a ready local sale, and all the fruit remaining on the trees is being sold in Rarotonga.

Quantities of budwood have been supplied to growers to enable them to propagate their own trees.

The newly introduced Vei Mama bananas are growing well and have produced a number of heavy bunches. Some new shoots have been planted out and several distributed to growers for trial. This variety promises well, though there is a tendency in bunches ripening locally for the fruit to mature rather more rapidly than do other varieties.

Excelsa coffee-trees planted several years ago blossomed this year and a few fruits set. Unfortunately most of them dropped after the storm, but it is hoped that a few will hold and mature.

Miscellaneous plants have been sent to the Northern Group Islands in response to requests received.

HIGH COURT.

RAROTONGA.

Criminal Jurisdiction.—For the twelve months the Court dealt with 1,473 cases for criminal offences and breaches of regulations and local Ordinances.

Civil Jurisdiction.—Forty-two cases involving debt, damages, divorce, probate, &c., were disposed of.

GROUP.

The Chief Judge visited all Group islands on three occasions and dealt with all the more serious cases on the criminal side, which were reserved for hearing by him, and also disposed of several cases involving the assessment of compensation where land had been acquired for public purposes; and also all applications for divorce.

NATIVE LAND COURT.

Rarotonga.—During the year under review a sitting of the Court was held, commencing on the 21st September. At this sitting sundry applications were dealt with.

At a special sitting lasting four days, from the 12th to 15th November, the Court dealt with an application for succession to the tribal title of "Tinomana Ariki," rendered vacant by the death of the late Tinomana Tuoro. The Ariki family, the Mataiapos, and the people of the district of Arorangi had failed to agree and settle the succession themselves according to custom, with the result that the matter came to Court. The case was keenly contested, the hearing created much interest, and much interesting and useful evidence was given and recorded. On the 15th November judgment was given by the Court, and succession was settled upon Tinomana John Pirangi (for life), and he has since occupied his seat on the Island Council. This decision has met with general approval in the district of Arorangi.

During the year thirty-three applications were dealt with, and orders made by the Court numbered sixty-one.

Group Islands.—During the year the Court sat at Aitutaki, Mangaia, Atiu, and Mauke and disposed of urgent applications.

At Atiu in October three applications for succession and two applications for confirmation of leases were dealt with, and orders made in all cases. The ownership of one parcel of land taken for public purposes was determined, and an order made, upon a reference from the High Court. The case for the succession to the tribal title of "Parua Ariki" came before the Court, and after a good deal of interesting evidence the dispute was settled satisfactorily, and an order made settling succession upon one, Moe.

At Mangaia the Court sat for the purpose of settling the ownership of three parcels of land taken for public purposes, the cases being instituted by reference from the High Court, where compensation is assessed. The ownership was settled in all cases, and three orders were made.

POST OFFICE.

During the year just ended all usual postal services and telegraphic services throughout the Cook Group were maintained.

Mail Services.—A satisfactory service is being maintained by the Marine Post-offices, the mails arriving at regular intervals and in good order.

Telephone Service.—This branch of the service suffered considerable damage during the hurricane experienced in February last, and a considerable quantity of material will be required to restore the circuits and provide an efficient service.

Savings-bank.—The summary of transactions in this branch of the work is as follows: Deposits—Ordinary, £9,708 10s. 8d.; Suspense Account, 5s.: total deposits, £9,708 15s. 8d. Withdrawals—Ordinary £11,277 13s. 3d.; dormant, £16 7s. 9d: total withdrawals, £11,294 1s. Excess of withdrawals over deposits, £1,585 5s. 4d.

Accounts.—Accounts opened during year, 199; accounts closed during year, 83: total number of accounts opened at 31st March, 1935, 1,341. Amount at credit, £23,227 18s. 1d., which is a decrease of £923 8s. 8d. for the year.

Money-orders.—Paid: Number of orders, 220; amount, £3,194 6s. 9d. Issued: Number of orders, 703; amount, £7,491 6s. 10d.; commission, £91 7s. 9d.

This section of the work shows a slight decrease in the number of transactions, and the amount, than the figures for the previous year.

Postal Notes.—Number of notes sold, 1,431; amount, £529 5s. 5d.; commission, £13 1s.

Postage Stamps.—Total sales (all sources), £659 7s. 4d. This figure shows a decrease of £349 2s. 9d. against the amount for the corresponding period last year.

Radiograms.—Forwarded: Number, 2,081; cash value, £1,017 9s. 2d. Received: Number, 1,982.

The cash value of messages shows an increase of £130 11s. 5d., which may be attributed to increased traffic during the recent hurricane.

WIRELESS.

With the exception of a period of two days, from the 27th to the 29th March, when Radio-Aitutaki was out of action, an efficient service has been maintained by the five radio stations under the control of this Administration.

A combined long-short wave 500 watt transmitter has replaced the obsolete 1½ kw. Marconi spark transmitter at this station.

All five radio stations in the Lower Cook Group are now equipped with valve transmitters. Those in use at Aitutaki, Atiu, Mauke, and Mangaia are low-power-valve transmitters, with dry batteries as the source of power-supply.

The disastrous storm which raged in the Lower Cook Group from the 7th to the 11th February caused seas to sweep through the grounds of the wireless station. Trees and bush were swept from the foreshore, and the station grounds and fences were damaged. All supporting stays on the northern and western foreshore masts were strained or broken and the masts rendered unsafe. The main umbrella aerial was broken, and schedules with the outer island and ship stations were carried out with the use of a temporary aerial. The short-wave aerial was also broken during the height of the storm on the Sunday night, but temporary repairs were effected immediately, thus enabling communication with New Zealand to be maintained. Overhaul of the outer masts and stays was completed in March, and it is anticipated that overhaul of the remaining outer masts, stays, and the steel tower will be completed by the end of April.

One amateur transmitting and fifteen radio-receiving licenses were issued during the year.

Four thousand one hundred and eighty-four paid messages, totalling 59,531 words, were handled by Radio-Rarotonga. In addition, forty-five free messages, totalling 1,700 words, were transmitted or received. Included in the latter total are free Naval messages and messages in connection with the visit of the N.Z.G.S. "Matai" during February and March.

Additional free services, including medical advice to the Lower Group Islands, amounted to 19,000 words. Of this total, 3,000 words were in connection with free medical advice to Atiu and Mauke, and 3,000 words were necessary during the storm period in February.

Two hundred and forty thousand words of free press were received during the year.

Radio-Rarotonga also maintained a thrice-weekly press service to the four Lower Group stations, 20,000 words of local and international news being supplied.

POLICE.

The strength of the police force at Rarotonga remains the same as last year—viz., one European Inspector, two Native sergeants, and six Native constables: total, nine.

In the outer islands there are thirty-six police officers stationed as follows: Aitutaki, seven; Atiu, four; Mitiaro, three; Mauke, four; Mangaia, six; Manihiki and Rakahanga, six; Penrhyn, three; Pukapuka, three. The police in the outer islands are all Natives and are under the immediate control of the Resident Agents. They have carried out their duties satisfactorily.

Prosecutions.—During the year 1,472 cases came before the High Court. Fines amounting to £964 5s. were imposed.

The previous year's figures were: Cases before the Court, 1,436; fines imposed, £992 8s. 6d.

Only three of the cases before the Court were of a serious nature—viz., burglary (two); indecent assault (one).

At the 31st March, 1935, there were seventeen prisoners in the Rarotonga Gaol serving sentences varying from two months to seven years.

The general conduct of both the European and Native population has been quite satisfactory, and major offences and crimes of violence have been absent during the year, excepting as above stated.

Civil Processes.—Thirty-eight civil summonses were served, and one writ of sale executed, during the year.

Motor Registration.—The annual licensing of motor-vehicles was commenced on 1st April, 1934, and since then 107 motor-vehicles have been licensed for use, and 28 new driving-licenses issued. Fees amounting to £247 12s. were collected, compared with £246 14s. 2d. for the previous year.

Dog Registration.—During the year sixty-six dogs were registered, as against sixty-two for the preceding twelve months.

Cinematograph Films Censorship.—One hundred and ten films were censored, and of this number five were rejected as unsuitable for exhibition to Native audiences, and parts were cut from nine others.

HURRICANE.

In February, 1935, Rarotonga and the Lower Group Islands, and Palmerston, experienced a hurricane, which resulted in much damage from the wind and the tremendous seas which accompanied the storm.

An unusual feature of the disturbance was the length of its duration. It commenced on Thursday, the 7th February, and did not abate until Monday, the 11th.

Rarotonga and Aitutaki were the two islands which suffered most damage, both in respect to buildings and to commercial and food crops.

Reconstruction and repairs to public buildings and property will involve an expenditure of approximately £5,500.

Privately-owned houses and property also sustained considerable damage. Houses built of native material can be comparatively cheaply rebuilt, but many of the Native-owned houses destroyed or damaged were permanently built structures with lime walls, sawn timber, and iron roofs.

Food crops were very seriously damaged in all the islands visited by the hurricane, and some of the staple articles of diet, such as breadfruit and taro and bananas, were completely wiped out.

Food crops will recover and will be normal again in about twelve months' time, but the problem is for the people to tide over that period.

Commercial crops also sustained much damage, and for some time exports of copra, oranges, and bananas will be very much reduced. There will be a consequent reduction in the earning and spending power of the people, who will have to go short of all luxuries and many of the ordinary necessities of life.

So far as the Administration is concerned, it has not only to face a large expenditure on account of reparation of damage to public property and services, but the decreased trade of the Group will be reflected in the loss of ordinary revenue under several headings, the principal being Customs duties, fruit-inspection fees, and trading licenses.

In addition to this, the Administration will be responsible to see that the people in the islands affected are assisted with sufficient sustenance until their ordinary food-supplies are rehabilitated.

Losses to commercial and food crops are summarized in the following table:—

Island.	Oranges.	Bananas.	Coconuts.	Bread-fruit.	Taro.	Kumara.	Yams.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Rarotonga	30	60	40	90	50	30	..
Aitutaki	95	100	70	100	100	50	100
Mauke	50	100	30	100	30	30	..
Mangaia	50	15	20	80	15	10	..
Atiu	40	30	30	90	30	30	..
Mitiaro	70	80	75	..	60	75	..
Palmerston	Total loss of all foodstuffs.						

The hurricane left the Administration and the people in the islands most affected a stupendous task in the reconstruction and repair of buildings, replanting of both food and commercial crops, and general clearing and cleaning up.

During the terrifying night of Sunday, the 10th February, when the storm was at its height, with the wind roaring at hurricane force and tremendous seas rolling inland, and no one could foretell what the end was going to be, there was not a single instance of panic, but on the contrary there were several cases where conspicuous courage was exhibited, and above all there was a spirit of helpfulness and co-operation.

After the storm abated the Natives in every island voluntarily came out to a man to assist in clearing the roads and public properties of the thousands of tons of coral rock, stones, and sand thrown up by the seas, fallen trees, and other debris.

School buildings at Atiu and Aitutaki, which had been built of native timbers and material, were replaced without extra cost to the Administration.

When the roads and other public services were restored, the Natives then turned their attention to the replanting of their food and commercial crops, and are cheerfully carrying on until better times return.

The hurricane was responsible for the death of Mr. C. J. Bouchier, Director of Agriculture. On the Sunday morning Mr. Bouchier was engaged in rescuing his records when he was caught in a heavy wave, with the result that he sustained a compound fracture of his right leg, which it was found necessary to amputate a few days later. In spite of all possible medical skill and attention, Mr. Bouchier succumbed to his injuries on the 20th February.

The death of Mr. Bouchier, who left a wife and six young children, is much deplored. He was a very capable and energetic official, and he will be difficult to replace.

The New Zealand Government placed the N.Z.G.S. "Matai" at the disposal of the Cook Islands Administration, enabling Mr. S. J. Smith, Secretary of the Cook Islands Department, and the Resident Commissioner (Judge H. F. Ayson) to make a survey of hurricane damage throughout both the Lower and Northern Cook Groups, and in order to carry emergency food and medical supplies to the inhabitants. The vessel called at every island throughout the whole Group, and, where necessary, landed relief supplies; and, as the Chief Medical Officer was aboard, the opportunity was taken to give medical attention in necessary cases.

Advantage was also taken of the voyage of the "Matai" to remove lepers from the Cook Group to the Leper Asylum at Fiji.

The New Zealand Government's action in despatching its own steamer to assist during a time when the people of the Cook Islands were in distress has done an immense amount of good in cementing that feeling of affection and loyalty that the Cook Islands people have invariably shown towards the Dominion since the annexation of the Group in 1900.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The total rainfall at Avarua, Rarotonga, for the year ended 31st March, 1935, was 102.49 in.

The heaviest rainfall in twenty-four hours was 9.53 in. on 1st December. The previous heaviest rainfall registered was 9.46 in. on 9th November, 1927.

The highest reading of the Fahrenheit thermometer in the shade was 88° on 11th April, 1934. The lowest was 54° on 29th May.

The mean of the maximum thermometer was 79°, and the mean of the minimum was 64.8°.

The lowest reading of the barometer was 28.973 in. on the night of 10th February, during the hurricane.

The average rainfall for the last ten years (from 1925 to 1934 inclusive) was 82.18 in.

SOUTHERN COOK GROUP.

AITUTAKI.

The following are extracts from the report of the Resident Agent :—

Health.—The health of the island has been generally satisfactory, with the exception of an epidemic of influenza which broke out early in December, 1934, and lasted for six weeks. Children were particularly affected.

Three visits—of a day each—were paid by Medical Officers during the year—viz., on 15th June and 24th July, 1934, and 6th March, 1935.

Tuberculosis is prevalent, and the majority of deaths of adults can be attributed to this disease.

The Resident Nurse is now making an individual inspection of each school-child, and, by taking two classes per week, each child is under inspection once in every month. Medical-history sheets are being made recording full particulars of each child.

A weekly inspection is also held of each village, including all habitations.

The following is a summary of medical work done by the Resident Nurse :—

	Visits.
Out-patients Department	16,511
Dressings at Out-patients Department and homes	8,670
Special visits to patients at their homes	2,435
Maternity cases attended	64
Injections of bicreol	697
Injections of N.A.B.	98
Minor operations	35
Dental: Extractions	903

A small cottage hospital (containing three rooms), for the accommodation of urgent and serious cases, was opened last September. The building is constructed entirely of native timbers and

materials, with a concrete foundation. The work of construction was a voluntary effort on the part of the Native people of Aitutaki, and is an evidence of their appreciation of the medical services being provided by the Administration.

Trade.—Imports—General, 118½ tons; sawn timber, 2¼ tons; fruit cases, 86 tons: total, 206¾ tons.

Exports—Fruit: 9,310 cases oranges; copra, 282 tons; arrowroot, 6 tons.

The highest price paid to growers for oranges—fruit alone—was 2s. 3d., and the average price was 2s., per case.

Planting of Lands.—All inhabitants planted food crops steadily during the year and had sufficient foodstuffs for their needs until same were destroyed by the hurricane. Immediately after the hurricane, replanting commenced and is still being vigorously carried on, but it will be several months before supplies are back to normal.

A considerable amount of work was carried out in connection with the pruning and cleaning-up of orange trees and plantations.

Members of the Island Council, and the Police, made regular inspections of plantations.

School.—As the appointment of a new European headmaster was postponed for some fifteen months, the work of the Araura School was conducted by a committee of three of the senior Native teachers.

The number of children on the roll is now 421, which is a small decrease from last year, due to the fact that the new school rules have reduced school-age by one year.

High Court.—On the criminal side 298 cases were dealt with, as against 252 cases during the previous year. As usual, most of the cases were of a minor nature.

Public Works.—Owing to the financial shortage, only necessary repair works have been undertaken.

Roads have been maintained in good order.

The railway wharf trucks have been overhauled and repaired. The damage to the wharf caused by the hurricane is being repaired, but this will take some considerable time, as approximately 300 ft. has to be rebuilt and the whole of the main deck requires concreting.

At the school the damage caused by the hurricane is being gradually repaired, but there still remains a large amount of reconstruction and repair work to be done.

During the last week in February the people of the island erected four new open-air class-rooms to replace those demolished by the hurricane. These are of native timbers, with nikau roofs.

Island Council.—There were five meetings of the Island Council, four ordinary and one special, held during the year. No new Ordinances were passed.

The meeting held on 22nd October coincided with a visit of the Resident Commissioner, and this gave the Council an opportunity of bringing matters of importance before him.

A special meeting held on the 6th March was on the occasion of the visit of the Secretary for the Cook Islands and the Resident Commissioner, by the "Matai," bringing the island relief supplies of food.

The Arikis, Members of Council, and people of the Island placed on record their heartfelt thanks to the Government of New Zealand for the ready response and generous gift of food-supplies to relieve immediate wants of the people caused by the loss of practically all native food-supplies in the hurricane.

Meteorological.—Barometer: Highest for year (calendar), 30.090, August, 1934; lowest for year (calendar), 29.629, March, 1934. Temperature: Highest maximum, 87.1, January, 1934; lowest minimum, 63.3, November, 1934. Total rainfall for year, 37.15 in. Maximum rainfall in one day, 2.10 in. on 10th December, 1934.

MANGAIA.

The following are extracts from the report of the Resident Agent:—

Health.—Health conditions generally have remained good throughout the year.

For the year, 9,225 cases were treated, and in addition 161 injections were given for yaws.

Trade.—There was a marked improvement in the trade for the year. Thirteen thousand cases of oranges were shipped, and realized 3s. 1d. per case for fruit alone. There were 78 tons of copra exported, and 900 lb. of coffee.

Schools.—The new year was commenced under the new Education Rules.

The work in the three schools has gone along satisfactorily.

The following are the school rolls: Oneroa, 148; Tamarua, 47; Ivirua, 105; total, 300.

Public Works.—A new tank was erected at Tavaenga in August. Tavaenga is the largest village in the Island, and this second tank is very much appreciated.

Soil Sanitation: This is a service for which whole-hearted appreciation and willing co-operation has been shown by the people, being a gratifying change from the general attitude towards Government help of taking everything for granted. The scheme on this island is an unqualified success.

The road right round the island was officially opened during the year, thus bringing to a successful termination an effort lasting several years. This road is seventeen miles in length, and it required a great deal of work to put the already constructed part of the road into repair and to construct the remaining five miles required to connect up the villages of Tamarua and Ivirua. Some very difficult and rocky country had to be traversed, and several viaducts and culverts were necessary. This work, which was rendered more difficult on account of the primitive tools available, reflects great credit upon the people of Mangaia, who have given their labour voluntarily.

High Court.—The following cases were dealt with: Criminal jurisdiction, 1,525—mostly breaches of regulations and local Ordinances; civil jurisdiction, 12.

General.—The people are happy and contented. There is no shortage of native foods. Tennis has been taken up enthusiastically and provides a healthy diversion in which men and women, young, middle-aged, and old, can take part.

Flower-gardens are being made in all the villages, and a sense of pride in the home and the village is being evidenced by these and other attempts at beautifying.

ATIU.

The following are extracts from the report of the Acting Resident Agent:—

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

Village inspections have been carried out during the year, at regular intervals, by the Resident Agent and members of the Island Council.

A Native medical practitioner was stationed in the Island in August, 1934, and again during March, 1935.

Work in connection with the soil-sanitation scheme was completed during the year. Two hundred latrines were installed. The people fully appreciate the value of this scheme from a health point of view.

Vital Statistics.—An unofficial census of the population of the Island was taken on the 28th December, 1934, with the following result:—

Village.	Male.	Female.
Teenui	174	150
Mapumai	74	69
Ngatiarua	51	50
Tengatangi	80	78
Arcora	156	154
Totals	535	501

Total population, 1,036.

Trade.—Trade conditions during the year have been anything but good, and there is a scarcity of ready money on the Island.

Owing to lack of shipping facilities less than 3,000 cases of oranges were shipped for the season, and thousands of cases of excellent fruit were allowed to rot.

Owing to the low price of copra, very little copra was made. During the month of March the local traders announced that they were buying at $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound, hence the Natives are now busy making copra whilst this price is offering. Exports: Cases of oranges, 2,983; copra, 1 ton 6 cwt.

Public Works.—The road leading from the settlements to the Taunganui Landing has been kept in good repair. Owing to the steepness of this road in certain places and to its being formed mainly of a red-clay soil it necessarily has to have frequent attention, especially after heavy rains, which scour the steep parts considerably. The gravelling of this road has greatly improved it.

The Tapere roads leading to the landings at Vaipiaki, Matai, and Tekau-roa have been cleared and made available for vehicular traffic as far as the Makatea Belt. This work was undertaken by the people of the different Taperes concerned. When necessary, prison labour is used to keep these roads clear.

Extensive damage was done at the Taunganui Landing by the heavy seas during the recent hurricane. The approach from the beach was swept out, and the cargo-shed was also damaged. Temporary repairs have been effected.

Government buildings have been kept in good repair.

Planting of Lands.—Planting of food crops has been satisfactory, and the people have an abundance of food, which the recent hurricane did not damage to any great extent, with the exception of breadfruit-trees.

Atiu has been able to give assistance to Aitutaki in the way of cuttings of kumara, arrowroot, and taro.

High Court.—Three hundred and eight cases were dealt with on the criminal side.

Meteorological.—The total rainfall at Atiu for the year ended 31st March was 79.87 in. The heaviest rainfall in twenty-four hours was 4.25 in. on the 25th March, 1935.

Island Council.—Seventeen meetings of the Council were held to discuss matters affecting the welfare of the people of Atiu.

MAUKE.

The following are extracts from the annual report of the Resident Agent :—

Health.—Apart from an epidemic of influenza, which was of rather a serious nature, health conditions, generally speaking, have been satisfactory. The influenza epidemic commenced in November, and it was necessary for some time to close all schools and churches, and to prohibit public meetings.

A Native medical practitioner was sent over from Rarotonga, and he remained on the island until February.

Trade.—Exports : 5,650 cases of oranges and 125 tons of copra.

Orange exports could have been considerably increased if shipping had been available, but for some years we have had to rely almost entirely on casual calls of trans-Pacific cargo-steamers.

Planting of Lands.—Since the hurricane the people have made a big effort to rehabilitate their food-supplies, and in a little over six weeks they had planted 50,000 kumara plants, 3,000 arrowroot, 2,000 taro, 9,000 yams, 870 bananas, and 600 tarotarua.

Public Works.—All roads, public buildings, and fences have been maintained in good order.

High Court.—Fifty-three cases have been dealt with on the criminal side, and thirteen civil cases heard.

NORTHERN COOK GROUP.

PENRHYN.

The following are extracts from the report of the Resident Agent. Owing to lack of communication the report is for the year ended 31st December, 1934 :—

Health.—Apart from the incidence of leprosy, health conditions have been reasonably satisfactory throughout the year.

A Native medical practitioner arrived here from Rarotonga in December, 1933, and carried out work until his departure in March, 1934. This was the first medical attention received by Penrhyn since the last visit of a Medical Officer in October, 1930, and was much appreciated by the people.

Dr. W. C. Macknight, Acting Chief Medical Officer, visited the island for a few days at the end of July, 1934. He then went on to Manihiki, and on his return journey to Rarotonga he again had the opportunity of paying a short visit to Penrhyn, which permitted him to inspect the villages, to examine the school-children, and also to give attention to lepers.

The transport of lepers to the Makogai Leper Station is much desired in order that proper treatment can be received before the cases become too far advanced.

Village inspections have been carried out regularly, and this has resulted in considerable improvement in their cleanliness.

Trade.—The local trading schooners “Tiare Taporo” and “Tagua” made seven calls at the island during the year.

Copra shipped amounted to only 71½ tons, as against 173 tons for 1932 and 164 tons for 1933. Lack of rain during the first nine months of the year resulted in very poor crops of coconuts, and this, combined with the low price paid for copra, was responsible for the large falling-off in exports for this year.

Hatmaking is on the increase, and this year six hundred locally-made hats resulted in a return of £300.

No mother-of-pearl shell has been exported for the past twelve months, due to the fact that the low price of shell in London precludes any inducement to trade in this commodity. The lagoon abounds in mother-of-pearl shell, and, in order to encourage the industry, the Administration has since 1928 thrown both lagoon reserves open for both machine and naked diving. Nevertheless, the small price which trading firms are able to offer in an attempt to revive the trade to some extent has resulted in only a small amount of diving being done.

The pipi pearls industry has declined for some considerable time on account of the poor prices obtainable in London and on the Continent. Supplies of pearls from other fisheries throughout the world, and also the competition from culture pearls, have decreased the demand for the pipi pearl.

Planting of Lands.—Although planting of food crops has been regularly undertaken, the results this year have been poor on account of the low rainfall.

Particular attention has been paid to puraka, bread-fruit, pawpaws, and bananas, and the sufficient rains of the last three months have revived plantings considerably.

High Court.—Sixty-five cases for minor offences were brought before the Court during the year, and resulted in fifty-eight convictions.

There were no civil cases.

Island Council.—Three meetings were held, when various island matters were discussed and decided. No new Ordinances were passed.

Hare, a very old and much respected Council member, died in November, 1934.

Schools.—Satisfactory work continues to be carried out at the subsidized London Missionary Society's schools at Omoka and Tetautua. Rolls are as follow: Omoka, 61; Tetautua, 58: total, 119.

Census.—An unofficial census of the island was made in September, and showed the population to be 285 males and 224 females, total 509, which is an increase of 114 over the census made in March, 1926, which gave the total of 395.

MANIHIKI AND RAKAHANGA.

The following are extracts from the report of the Resident Agent. Owing to lack of communication the report is for the year ended 31st December, 1934:—

Health.—General health conditions have been satisfactory during the year.

The Acting Chief Medical Officer paid a short visit to these islands in the month of August, and a Native medical practitioner was stationed here for the hurricane season—viz., from December to March.

Trade.—All trading to these islands was done by schooner, and trade returns are as follow:—

Exports.—Copra: Rakahanga, 200 tons; Manihiki, 187 tons: total, 387 tons, as compared with 450 tons for the previous year.

Imports.—Manihiki, £540 14s.; Rakahanga, £340 3s. 8d., making a total of £880 17s. 8d., as against a total of £1,403 for the previous year.

The above figures are an indication of how trade is continuing to fall off.

The lagoon at Manihiki was opened for diving during 1934, and about 7 tons of shell were lifted, but none was exported owing to lack of market.

Planting of Lands.—In recent years there has been a very marked improvement in the living-conditions at these islands owing to quite a considerable quantity and variety of foodstuffs now being produced through the Administration sending up breadfruit-trees, banana-shoots, taro, arrowroot, and other food plants for distribution to the people, and which are greatly appreciated and which go far to replace the former monotonous diet of coconuts and fish.

Puraka is also being largely cultivated now, and considerable new areas have been planted out.

Experiments are being made in the planting of avocado pears and Brazilian cherries, with satisfactory results so far.

Planting of coconuts is also receiving attention, as the people are dependent on coconuts for many purposes. Owing to the depression, the Natives are unable to buy kerosene, and they are using coconut-oil for lighting-purposes with lamps ingeniously made out of bottles and jars.

Public Works.—In both islands the Government buildings, roads, and the concrete water-tanks have been kept in good repair.

During the coming year it is proposed to build a cargo-shed of native materials at the Tauhunu Landing-place.

Schools.—At the subsidized London Missionary Society's schools (two at Manihiki and one at Rakahanga) attendances and work were both satisfactory. The average attendances were: Tauhunu, 62; Tukao, 32; Rakahanga, 47.

High Court.—In Manihiki the total number of cases heard for criminal offences and for breaches of local Ordinances was seventy-five, whilst at Rakahanga twenty-two cases were heard.

Police.—There are three Police officers in each island. Offences committed have been of a minor nature, and law and order have been well maintained.

Island Councils.—In each island there have been two meetings of the Council during the year, when matters of local importance were dealt with. Council members take an intelligent interest in Administration activities, and are at all times ready and willing to assist in any work for the benefit of the community.

General.—No severe storms occurred during the year. For the first nine months of the year very little rain fell, and in consequence the output of copra for 1935 will be adversely affected. However, since September there has been a plentiful rainfall, and the coconut-trees are recovering and should be bearing heavily again towards the end of 1935.

Owing to the low price of copra the Natives in both islands are using coconuts to a far greater extent than formerly for food purposes in place of converting them into copra, and this also has had the effect of reducing the output of copra.

Efficient transportation by motor-boat is badly needed here both for use in the lagoon at Manihiki, in making visits to Tukao, to the Rahu lands, and to supervise shell diving, and also for trips to Rakahanga, which is 24 miles distant by the open sea. At present, trips are made in open sailing-boats when conditions are favourable, but there is always considerable risk.

PUKAPUKA.

The following are extracts from the report of the Resident Agent at Pukapuka. Owing to lack of communication on account of the hurricane season this report is for the year ended 30th September, 1934 :—

Health.—Health conditions have been satisfactory throughout the year, although it was not possible for a Medical Officer to visit the island.

In October a Native medical practitioner from Samoa visited Pukapuka, but, although he was able to stay only five days, he was able in that time to carry out a fair amount of medical work, and the visit was greatly appreciated by the inhabitants.

Trade.—Again this year there was no direct communication with Rarotonga, and only two schooner calls were made from Samoa.

Copra exported amounted to 89 tons. This is a considerable drop from last year, when 125 tons were exported. The depression in trade has resulted in our people being hard up for money with which to buy clothes and other necessities.

Planting of Lands.—The people have responded to the call to keep on planting as much native food as possible in order to tide them over the bad times, and in consequence there have been considerable new plantings of puraka and taro. Coconuts, breadfruit, pawpaws, and bananas have also received attention.

High Court.—Seven sittings of the Court dealt with thirty-six cases. These were mostly for breaches of regulations and local Ordinances.

Island Council.—Five meetings of the Council were held during the year, when various matters affecting island affairs were discussed.

School.—There are 155 children on the roll, who take a keen interest in their work and who attend regularly. Parents are finding very great difficulty in providing clothes for children to attend school, and unless conditions improve there is a danger that attendances will fall off considerably.

PALMERSTON.

This island (which consists of a number of motus of a total area of about 1,000 acres) lies 270 miles to the north-west of Rarotonga.

It is inhabited by about 100 descendants of William Marsters, the elder, who went to Palmerston in 1862 to manage the island for one, Brander, a trader. As Brander did not return, Marsters remained on in occupation of the island, but without a title thereto.

William Marsters, the elder, was granted a lease of Palmerston by the Crown in 1892.

He died in 1899. Subsequently a lease was granted in favour of all the issue of William Marsters, the elder.

The present head of the family is William Marsters, the second, who is still alive. He is an old man of seventy-two, and is the recognized head of the island.

The present lease of the island is to the three heads of the families in trust for all the descendants of William Marsters, the elder.

Palmerston is an unfortunate island so far as hurricanes are concerned.

In 1914 there was a hurricane. At the end of March, 1926, the island was completely devastated. Heavy gales damaged the island again in February, 1931. The recent (1935) hurricane again completely wiped out all coconuts and ground crops, and left the inhabitants dependent almost entirely upon fish.

It was fortunate for the islanders that the N.Z.G.S. " Matai " was chartered to make a cruise of the Cook Group, as she arrived in time to land relief supplies of food and relieve the necessities of the people.

SUWARROW.

This island, over which British sovereignty was proclaimed on the 22nd April, 1889, contains an estimated area of 600 acres. It was first occupied by Messrs. Lever Bros., who carried on operations in pearl-shell diving and experimented in the planting of gold-lipped shell from Torres Straits, but without success.

The hurricane of 1914 completely spoiled the island so far as pearl-shell was concerned, and a great deal of damage was also done to coconut plantations on several of the motus.

The island, which is 513 miles north-west of Rarotonga and which is at present leased to A. B. Donald, Ltd., produces very little copra at the present time.

On account of the fact that there is a safe passage through the reef, a portion of the island was many years ago declared an Admiralty reserve.

The island is a sanctuary for sea-birds, which are very numerous, and there is also good fishing in the lagoon and round the coast.

NASSAU.

Nassau lies about forty-five miles south of Pukapuka, and contains an area of a little over 300 acres. It is owned by the Samoa Shipping and Trading Co., Ltd., and is well planted with coconuts.

APPENDIX B.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

RETURN OF IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1934.

Article.	Whence imported.	Value.		
		£	£	
Agricultural produce	New Zealand	471		
	United States of America	39		
	Australia	1		
	Tabiti	2		
			513	
Animals, live	New Zealand	35		
	Australia	58		
			93	
Apparel	New Zealand	1,812		
	United Kingdom	168		
	Australia	19		
	Holland	6		
	Fiji	2		
	United States of America	8		
	China	8		
	Japan	212		
	Italy	1		
	France	2		
			2,238	
Arms, ammunition, &c.	New Zealand .. .. .	..	74
	New Zealand	626		
Articles of textile not being apparel, &c.	United Kingdom	613		
	Japan	348		
	Switzerland	11		
	Holland	2		
	Canada	1		
	United States of America	1		
	Australia	14		
	Austria	2		
				1,618
	Bacon and hams	New Zealand	190	
United States of America		8		
			198	
Bags and sacks	New Zealand	311		
	United States of America	11		
			322	
Bamboo	Tahiti .. .. .	..	43
Beer	New Zealand .. .. .	..	136
Beverages, non-alcoholic	New Zealand .. .. .	..	58
Bicycles and motors	New Zealand	947		
	United States of America	127		
	United Kingdom	338		
	Canada	95		
	Japan	2		
			1,509	
Biscuits and bread	New Zealand	1,154		
	Fiji	23		
			1,177	
Boots and shoes	New Zealand	645		
	United Kingdom	39		
	British Malaya	25		
	Australia	10		
	United States of America	4		
	Japan	37		
			760	
Brushware	New Zealand	46		
	United States of America	1		
			47	
Building-materials n.e.i.	New Zealand	140		
	Australia	32		
			172	

RETURN OF IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1934—*continued.*

Article.	Whence imported.	Value.	
		£	£
Hardware	New Zealand	1,322	
	United Kingdom	183	
	United States of America	66	
	Norway	13	
	Germany	18	
	Australia	18	
	India	19	
	Japan	1	
			1,640
Hats and caps	New Zealand	5	
	United Kingdom	8	
			13
Hosiery	United Kingdom .. .. .	..	1
	New Zealand .. .. .	..	47
Hops	New Zealand	130	
Instruments, musical	United Kingdom	30	
	United States of America	22	
	Holland	2	
	Australia	10	
	France	2	
Iron, bar	New Zealand .. .. .	..	76
	New Zealand	457	
Iron, galvanized	Australia	25	
			482
Iron pipes	New Zealand .. .. .	..	198
	New Zealand	99	
Iron, wire	United Kingdom	23	
	United States of America	3	
	Australia	15	
Jewellery	New Zealand	30	
	United States of America	5	
	United Kingdom	6	
	Japan	11	
	Czecho-Slovakia	5	
	Switzerland	7	
			64
Leatherware	New Zealand	37	
	United States of America	1	
			38
Machinery, sewing	New Zealand	26	
	United States of America	6	
	United Kingdom	3	
	Australia	1	
			36
Machinery n.e.i.	New Zealand	279	
	United States of America	38	
	United Kingdom	49	
	Germany	5	
	Switzerland	7	
	Australia	25	
			403
Machinery, electric	New Zealand	65	
	United States of America	317	
	United Kingdom	20	
	Australia	207	
	Japan	1	
	Tahiti	3	
			613
Matches	New Zealand	124	
	United Kingdom	360	
	China	2	
			486
Meat, preserved	New Zealand	7,047	
	United States of America	1	
			7,048

RETURN OF IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1934—*continued.*

Article.	Whence imported.	Value.	
		£	£
Spirits, methylated	New Zealand	36	
	United States of America	2	
			38
Stationery	New Zealand	715	
	United Kingdom	39	
	United States of America	16	
	Holland	4	
	Australia	3	
	Tahiti	1	
			778
Sugar	New Zealand .. .. .	..	2,065
Tea, coffee, and cocoa	New Zealand	335	
	Ceylon	14	
	Australia	1	
	India	9	
			359
Timber, sawn	New Zealand	616	
	United States of America	54	
	Australia	89	
	Canada	227	
			986
Timber, shooks	New Zealand .. .. .	..	8,800
Tobacco	New Zealand	2,807	
	United Kingdom	203	
	United States of America	215	
	Tahiti	21	
	France	107	
	Australia	67	
			3,420
Toilet preparations	New Zealand	113	
	United Kingdom	84	
	Australia	25	
	Hong Kong	15	
	Italy	3	
			240
Tools	New Zealand	114	
	United States of America	53	
	United Kingdom	72	
	Germany	36	
	France	2	
	Australia	22	
			299
Wine— Claret	New Zealand	3	
	Australia	8	
	France	11	
Port	Australia	90	
	Spain	7	
White	France	17	
			136
Woodenware	New Zealand	111	
	United States of America	4	
	Spain	39	
	Australia	45	
	India	2	
			201
Miscellaneous	New Zealand	27	
	United States of America	29	
	Canada	3	
	Tahiti	14	
	Australia	1	
			74
	Total		£61,449

Summary.

				£					£
New Zealand	..	..	..	46,214	Switzerland	..	..	..	26
United Kingdom	..	..	..	4,809	British Malaya	..	..	..	25
Australia	..	..	..	4,458	Spain	..	..	..	21
United States of America	..	..	..	3,477	Holland	..	..	..	18
Japan	..	..	..	1,050	Norway	..	..	..	16
Canada	..	..	..	433	Hong Kong	..	..	..	15
France	..	..	..	212	Ceylon	..	..	..	14
Sweden	..	..	..	123	China	..	..	..	10
India	..	..	..	110	Czecho-Slovakia	..	..	..	6
Tahiti	..	..	..	96	Italy	..	..	..	4
Germany	..	..	..	89	Belgium	..	..	..	3
Dutch East Indies	..	..	..	60	Austria	..	..	..	2
Russia	..	..	..	50					
Fiji	..	..	..	44	Total	..	..	..	£61,449
British Guiana	..	..	..	38					
Burma	..	..	..	26					

RETURN OF EXPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1934.

Article.	Exported to			Quantity.	Value.			
Oranges	New Zealand	..	..	78,099 cases	£ 25,918
Bananas	New Zealand	..	..	52,314 cases	16,771
Tomatoes	New Zealand	..	..	34,495 boxes	8,816
				Tahiti	..	..	50 boxes	12
							34,545 boxes	8,828
Lemons	New Zealand	..	..	32 9cases	180
Mandarines	New Zealand	..	..	283 cases	85
Grapefruit	New Zealand	..	..	19 cases	7
Avocado pears	New Zealand	..	..	6 boxes	2
Pawpaws	New Zealand	..	..	6 cases	2
Mangoes	New Zealand	..	..	39 cases	16
Pineapples	New Zealand	..	..	5 cases	2
Kumeras	New Zealand	..	..	24 packages	7
Taro	New Zealand	..	..	21 packages	6
				Tahiti	..	..	5 cases	1
							26 packages	7
Coconuts	New Zealand	..	..	1,287 sacks	385
				United States of America	..	..	240 packages	44
							1,527 packages	429
Dried bananas	New Zealand	..	..	7 cases	23
Coconut husks	New Zealand	..	..	44 sacks	8
Orange-juice	New Zealand	..	..	1,115 cases	1,295
Arrowroot	New Zealand	..	..	Tons cwt. qr. lb. 1 5 2 23	41

RETURN OF EXPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1934—*continued.*

Article.	Exported to	Quantity.				Value.
		Tons	cwt.	qr.	lb.	£
Coffee beans	New Zealand	2	19	0	0	192
	Tahiti	2	2	2	0	160
		5	1	2	0	352
Copra	France	423	13	3	13	2,170
	United States of America	229	0	0	0	1,176
	United Kingdom	171	17	0	0	859
	Western Samoa	138	14	1	2	694
		963	5	0	15	4,899
Hats	Tahiti					200
Pearls	United Kingdom					235
	Total					£59,307

							<i>Summary.</i>	£
New Zealand							53,756	
France							2,170	
United States of America							1,220	
United Kingdom							1,094	
Western Samoa							694	
Tahiti							373	
Total							£59,307	

Group Cargo Tonnages.

Total Group cargo tonnage inward : 3,774½ tons (by measurement). Total Group cargo tonnage outward : 8,354 tons (by measurement) ; 969¾ tons (by weight, arrowroot, coffee beans, and copra).

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given ; printing (560 copies), £30.

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