

1936.
NEW ZEALAND.

COOK ISLANDS.

[In continuation of Parliamentary Paper A.-3, 1935.]

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

REPORT OF COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

DEATH OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V.

THE intense and unswerving loyalty of the people of the Cook Islands and their devotion to the throne of Great Britain is well known, and it was with genuine sorrow that they learned of the death of their beloved Sovereign King George V.

As the sad news spread from Island to Island, even to remote Penrhyn which is 750 miles from Rarotonga, the Polynesian and European inhabitants combined to observe mourning and memorial services as in other parts of the Empire.

The ceremony of reading the Proclamation of the Accession of His Majesty King Edward VIII was carried out in due form in all the Islands of the Group, with the fullest expressions of renewed loyalty and devotion to the Throne.

FINANCE.

For the financial year ended 31st March, 1936, income amounted to £40,556 1s. 3d., and expenditure (including depreciation, £2,195 2s. 8d., and hurricane reparation, £3,519 9s. 8d.) amounted to £40,691 16s. 10d., leaving an excess of expenditure over income of £135 15s. 7d.

Taking into account cash in hand at the beginning of the year (£1,467 3s. 9d.) and bringing all receipts (including £1,475 18s. 2d. from Fixed Deposits Accounts) and all payments into account, the financial year ended with cash in hand amounting to £1,468 11s. 3d.

Subsidies from New Zealand Treasury on account of public health and education for the current year amounted to £11,038; and, in addition, a subsidy of £4,529 10s. 10d. was received on account of hurricane reparation.

The following table shows that the total expenditure on public health and education, two essential services to which the New Zealand Government is committed, was £15,334 13s. 11d., towards which New Zealand granted £11,038. The local Administration found the balance of £4,296 13s. 11d., and also all other expenditure of the Administration of every kind amounting to £27,695 7s. 5d., a total expenditure from local funds of £31,992 1s. 4d.

—	Public Health.		Education.		All other Services.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Payments (including capital expenditure)	6,548	9 2	8,786	4 9	27,695	7 5	*43,030	1 4
Grants received from New Zealand ..	5,000	0 0	6,038	0 0	..		11,038	0 0
Found by Cook Islands Administration	1,548	9 2	2,748	4 9	27,695	7 5	31,992	1 4

* Including capital expenditure.

Detailed statements of income and expenditure, and balance-sheet, are printed on pages 23 and 24, Appendix A.

The balance-sheet takes into account the value (after writing off depreciation amounting to £2,195 2s. 8d.) of all administration assets as at 31st March, 1936, and all liabilities, and shows an excess of assets amounting to £72,604 11s. 2d.

TRADE.

For the year ended 31st December, 1935, the value of exports was £53,599 (£59,307), and of imports £61,676 (£61,449), showing an excess of imports of £8,077. Previous year's corresponding figures in parentheses.

Details are printed on pages 25–31, Appendix B.

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

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total. £
1920	177,991	94,697	272,608
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
1935	61,676	53,599	115,275

Copra Trade.—Although the price of copra has recently shown a rising tendency, fluctuation points to an uncertain market.

In 1932 and 1933, the Administration assisted producers by reducing the copra-tax to 10s. per ton, and from 1st April, 1934, to date no tax has been imposed.

The following figures for the years 1928 to 1935 show how the value of copra trade in the Cook Islands has varied:—

Year.	Tons exported.	Total Value. £	Year.	Tons exported	Total Value. £
1928 ..	1,770	33,071	1934 ..	963	4,899
1930 ..	2,143	23,478	1935 ..	1,353	12,882
1932 ..	1,294	12,340			

Of the total of 1,353 tons exported in 1935, 995 tons went to the United States, 234 tons to the United Kingdom, and the balance 124 tons to France.

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

—	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Citrus fruit .. (Cases)	106,187	128,196	82,740	85,593	92,752	78,099	48,268*
Bananas	51,026	53,493	55,769	62,390	47,494	52,314	22,539
Tomatoes.. ..	51,685	30,363	34,750	54,218	17,737	34,545	62,383
Copra (Tons)	2,020	2,143	1,546	1,294	1,545	963	1,353

* The large drop in exports for the last year was due to the heavy destruction of crops by the hurricane of February, 1935, over 50 per cent. of oranges and over 60 per cent. of the banana crops being destroyed.

Prices paid for oranges, bananas, and tomatoes last season were again low, and brought an inadequate return to producers for the labour and expense involved in production.

There were very heavy plantings of tomatoes in Rarotonga last season, involving considerable expenditure of capital and labour, in an endeavour to compensate to some extent the hurricane losses of oranges and bananas. Although the bulk of the Cook Island tomatoes were shipped to New Zealand during that part of the year when the mainland could not supply this crop, it was found that the market easily became glutted, and it was not possible to obtain anything like a payable price.

Crop Prospects.—For the coming orange season the prospects in Rarotonga are for a rather light crop, as trees have not fully recovered since the hurricane. In the Lower Group Islands prospects are better and there should be almost an average crop.

In the cultivation of bananas a considerable amount of labour is involved, and it will probably be another twelve months before normal crops are available.

SHIPPING.

Overseas shipping at the Port of Avarua, Rarotonga, for the year ended 31st December, 1935, comprised a total of thirty-five vessels, twenty-six being the San Francisco mail steamers, six the Union Steamship Company's cargo vessels, one local schooner, the N.Z.G.S. "Matai," and one cruising ketch, "Te Rapunga."

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

When the Cook Islands were annexed to New Zealand in 1900—in the interests of the Native people—the Native inhabitants were regarded as a dying race.

The population (excluding Niue) was estimated to have decreased from 14,000 in 1823 (when the first missionaries came to Rarotonga) to 8,000 in 1900.

A heavy infant mortality, tropical diseases, and diseases introduced by Europeans and foreigners took a heavy toll of life.

Not only have the ravages of these afflictions been arrested, but modern medical science, improved hygienic conditions, the spread of education, the provision of a hospital and of efficient medical and nursing staffs have turned the tide, so that at the present time population is now increasing at a rate estimated at 20 per 1,000 per annum. It is estimated that the population of the Cook Group (excluding Niue) is now 12,000, which is a gain of 50 per cent. since New Zealand took over the Administration of the Islands. Two thousand of this gain has been in the last ten years.

Under the provisions of the Cook Islands Act, 1915, it is the duty of the Administration to provide in the Cook Islands such medical and surgical aid and attendance as may be reasonably required and is reasonably practicable, and gratuitous to the Native population.

The more important work carried out in the past ten years has been—

- (a) The removal of lepers to the central leper asylum at Makogai, Fiji, for segregation and curative treatment. (One hundred and twenty-two lepers have been transferred to Fiji, and of these over thirty have been cured and returned to their homes.)
The cost of the erection of hospital accommodation, transportation, maintenance, and treatment are necessarily high, which partly explains the increase in the Cook Islands medical vote.
- (b) The making of a tropical diseases and hookworm survey by Dr. S. M. Lambert of the Rockefeller Foundation in 1925. His valuable and interesting report is printed as an Appendix to the Cook Islands Annual Report of 1926.
Following this survey mass treatment for hookworm was given in all inhabited islands of the Group in the years 1926 to 1928, and systematic treatment has since taken place.
- (c) The carrying-out of a soil sanitation scheme in the years 1932 to 1934, the expense of which was borne by the New Zealand Government and the Cook Islands Treasury and subsidized by the Rockefeller Foundation.
Practically every house or place of habitation in Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Mangaia, Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro has been provided with a fly-proof pit-privy.
The scheme to date has involved the building of over two thousand privies.
In addition, all schools, maraes, and public places have been provided with sanitary conveniences.
The result has been that the spread of disease from ground-borne infection has been greatly reduced.
- (d) The carrying-out by Dr. Lambert of the Rockefeller Foundation of a tuberculosis survey.
- (e) The training of Native students at the Suva Medical School to enable them to qualify as Native medical practitioners.
(Three have already qualified, and are assisting in the medical work of the Group, and three more are in training.)
- (f) The extension of water-supplies in Rarotonga and the Group Islands.
- (g) The provision of a school dental clinic at Rarotonga. This was opened in 1926.
- (h) The importation of pedigree Saanem goats as the nucleus of herds in Rarotonga and Lower Group Islands, with the object of increasing and improving the milk-supply.
- (i) Extensions to the Hospital at Rarotonga, and the provision of an up-to-date outpatients department, including dressing-room, dispensary, laboratory, consulting-room, and dental clinic.
(A further extension of the hospital to provide for an additional twelve beds is now under construction.)
A new nurses' home, rendered necessary by the recent hurricane, has been built.
- (j) The provision at the hospital of an X-ray plant.
- (k) The establishment of "au vaine" or women's committees, to assist in improving hygienic conditions, and also child welfare committees, who are given lectures and are coached in the work they carry out.
- (l) The introduction of gambusia, a small fish that devours the larvæ of the mosquito. These were introduced into Rarotonga over eighteen months ago, and have been liberated in many places in Rarotonga and also in the Lower Group Islands. They have multiplied rapidly, and are assisting in bringing the mosquito pest under control.

Owing to the financial position it has been impossible for some years to adequately staff the medical services.

An assistant medical officer is to be attached to the administration for a period during the coming year.

For the whole territory, comprising a land and sea area of some 850,000 square miles, and a population of 12,000, the present staff consists of—

- One qualified medical officer ;
- One matron and one European nurse at the hospital at Rarotonga—the European nurse also doing district nursing ;
- Four Native probationers at the hospital ;
- Three Native medical practitioners who do duty at Rarotonga and throughout the Group ;
- One European nurse at Aitutaki ;
- One European nurse at Mangaia.

With the small staff which has been available much has been accomplished, but there is still a great deal more to do, and what we can still accomplish depends to a large extent on what funds can be made available for medical work, which to date has cost per head of population in the Cook Islands about one-half of the amount that is spent per head in New Zealand on medical and social services.

Leprosy.—This disease has caused the Administration considerable anxiety, especially at the Island of Penrhyn, where leprosy was first introduced from Honolulu many years ago.

Since then the disease has spread insidiously and somewhat rapidly, and the majority of the cases already transferred to Fiji came from Penrhyn, situated 750 miles north of Rarotonga.

The Government has approved the building of a segregation hospital at Penrhyn, which is to be placed in charge of one of the Native medical practitioners, and all cases in the Cook Group will immediately upon diagnosis be removed to this establishment for segregation and treatment, pending their removal to Fiji.

Tuberculosis.—This disease requires serious attention, especially in Rarotonga, where advanced cases are either taken into the General Hospital where there is little opportunity of isolating them from the other patients, or else they remain at their own homes where they are always a source of danger to the other members of the family.

The provision of a consumptive sanatorium appears to be the only way to meet the position, and it would be of great benefit as patients in the early stages of the disease could be scientifically treated, as well as isolated.

The provision of such an institution has necessarily been delayed on account of lack of funds.

The following are extracts from the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer (Dr. E. P. Ellison):—

RAROTONGA.

The general health has not been good. A shortage of staple foods following the hurricane lowered resistance to disease. The incidence of tuberculosis increased, and chicken-pox was epidemic. There have been four epidemics of influenza, some severe; an epidemic of summer diarrhœa—altogether the worst year in my experience.

Influenza occurred in April (mild), July (mild), September (severe), February, 1936 (severe).

Chicken-pox.—Numerous cases.

Leprosy.—One case discovered in Avarua in May.

Typhoid.—Five cases due to drinking contaminated well-water.

Paratyphoid B.—One case.

Summer diarrhœa and vomiting of infants occurred in December and January in many parts of the Island, but was fatal to four in Tutakimoa and three in Titikaveka where parents failed to report until cases were either dying or in a state of extreme exhaustion.

Trachoma.—One case.

Several cases of *pterygium*.

Yaws.—A few tertiary cases only. Disease practically wiped out in Rarotonga. Two primary cases—one from Mauke and one from Mitiaro.

Venereal Disease.—Twelve gonorrhœal cases have come voluntarily for treatment. A venereal disease clinic is always available.

Syphilis.—Three cases (not Cook Islanders). The frequent communication between Rarotonga and Tahiti is always a source of danger.

Rheumatic Fever.—A few cases only, but rheumatism in one form or another is fairly common.

Filariasis.—Prevalent; with periodic fevers leading often to hydroceles and abscesses.

Elephantiasis.—Several cases still to be seen. A more intensive anti-mosquito campaign is indicated. *Gambusia* have greatly reduced the mosquito nuisance in areas where taken.

Malaria, measles, diphtheria, scarlet fever, and infantile paralysis are not known. *Whooping-cough* is said to have occurred in the past.

Tuberculosis.—Sixteen cases died from it and many are seriously affected, some senile and many adolescent.

Insanity.—Two cases; one died, the other probably temporary.

Skin Infections.—Boils, carbuncles, occurring chiefly during the months of December, January, and February from lack of vegetables.

Scabies and *seborrhœa* are seen frequently.

Linchen and *Ringworm.*—Several cases.

Cancer is becoming more noticeable—three Maoris and one European. Of the Maoris two have European blood. It is very rarely that cancer is found in Maori of the full blood.

Water-supplies.—As practically the whole of the inhabited area of Rarotonga has a reticulated supply, the chief concern is now the water-holes from which some people still draw—*e.g.*, Tupapa, where, following an outbreak of typhoid, some of these were closed.

Child-welfare.—Another year of praiseworthy voluntary work was completed and the cup awarded to Tukuvaive for the least number of deaths and most consistent work. The usual annual concert was held, followed some days later by Rarotonga's first baby show at Muri. Prizes were awarded for those under one year and those under two years. The movement seems firmly established.

Au-vaine.—This useful organization continues its periodic tukaka (inspection) of the villages and plantations. This involves a house-to-house inspection, both inside and outside, with a view to hygienic improvement, and attention is paid to proximity of pigs, wandering horses, &c.

Schools.—These have been inspected from time to time for outbreaks of chicken-pox and influenza. It was necessary to close schools on four occasions on account of affection amongst the teaching staff.

Pratique.—Twenty-nine vessels were inspected, of which three were not granted pratique. The trading schooners were inspected on departure for the outer and northern Groups and on arrival from the latter—in all nine times.

<i>Hospital—</i>						Totals.
<i>In-patients</i> for the year	..	..	..	..	..	268
Major operations performed	..	..	..	..	..	14
Confinements	..	..	..	..	..	7
Minor operations performed	..	..	..	..	..	49
Local anæsthetics	..	..	..	..	..	47
General anæsthetics	..	..	..	..	..	21
NAB injections	..	..	..	..	..	8
Antitetanic serum injections (a case of retained afterbirth)	..	..	..	..	..	8
<i>Out-patients</i> for the year	..	..	..	..	..	17,376
Confinements	..	..	..	..	..	93
Minor operations	..	..	..	..	..	429
Local anæsthetics	..	..	..	..	..	161
General anæsthetics	..	..	..	..	..	2
NAB injections	..	..	..	..	..	173
Bicreol injections	..	..	..	..	..	102
Antitetanic serum injections	..	..	..	..	..	37
Asthma injections	..	..	..	..	..	42
Antityphoid injections (T.A.B.)	..	..	..	..	..	23
Antigonococcol vaccine injections	..	..	..	..	..	12
Venereal disease	..	..	..	..	..	15
Worm treatments	..	..	..	..	..	82
Visits	..	..	..	..	..	1,572

AITUTAKI.

Miss Pierard, Resident Nurse, has done splendid work, and her efforts in the interests of public health are commendable. With the help of a N.M.P. during the months from June to September an anti-mosquito and general hygienic campaign was carried out in the endeavour to reduce filariasis, which is reported to be growing worse. The Resident Agent gave much help in this campaign. The nurse has also given close attention to the 400-odd school-children.

MANGAIA.

Nurse McGruther (part-time nurse) has, with the co-operation of her husband (Resident Agent), effected great changes on the Island. The housing has definitely improved—the type of house, while conserving the best characteristics of old, is built to conform with modern ideas. The health returns prove, too, that the people are in every way improved. The reduced infantile death-rate is remarkable. They now begin to receive the benefit of years of preventive medicine and prophylactic injections.

The figures available are as follows (six months only): General attendances—April, 1,233; May, 871; June, 578; July, 1,230; August, 1,060; September, 1,518: totals, 6,490. NAB injections, 29; bicreol injections 260.

ATIU.

The general health has been good, due chiefly to its isolation. It has chiefly been under the care of the Resident Agent, though during the months of March and April he was assisted by a N.M.P.

MAUKE.

Health good. Radiograms received regarding cases of tetanus and accidents. This island is attended to chiefly by a Resident Agent, save for brief calls by an N.M.P. *en route* elsewhere. A progressive people anxious to avail themselves of modern treatment. They propose building themselves a dispensary and cottage hospital.

MITIARO.

A N.M.P. visited the Island in May last and reported as follows: NAB injections, 147; bicreol injections, 100; local anæsthetics, 4; minor operations, 4; worm treatments, 14; confinement, 1; visits, 27.

Yaws noticed during the visit of the N.Z.G.S. "Matai" has now been eliminated.

PALMERSTON.

Palmerston was well when seen in March. No further reports available.

MANIHIKI AND RAKAHANGA.

General health good in both islands. The Au-Vaine in Rakahanga are a particularly active body and do much good work. The villages of these two islands are exceptionally clean.

PENRHYN.

Rid of its lepers in February, 1935, the remainder of the people will be able to breathe again more freely. I feel that many more are passing through the incubation period of the disease. The Resident Agent is doing much to clean up the two villages and improve the housing accommodation.

PUKAPUKA.

Lack of communication has been a serious drawback to the inhabitants who have to a large extent been forced back to their own staple foods to subsist. The general health is good. A great improvement is to be noticed in the housing and the general appearance of the people.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table shows the births and deaths in each island of the Lower Group for the year ended 31st March, 1936, and of the Northern Group for the year ended 30th September, 1935.

STATISTICAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1936 (ISLANDS OF LOWER GROUP), AND FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1935 (NORTHERN GROUP ISLANDS).

Island.	Births.		Deaths.		Marriages.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Lower Group—					
Rarotonga	104	112	56	52	40
Aitutaki	42	30	22	26	22
Mangaia	23	34	9	14	11
Atiu	21	16	15	15	10
Mauke	9	7	7	7	9
Mitiaro	6	7	4	1	3
Manihiki	8	8	10	5	3
Northern Islands—					
Rakahanga	7	8	2	1	1
Penrhyn	2	10	3	2	2
Pukapuka	13	8	6	7	8
Totals	235	240	134	130	109

470 births of Maoris, 258 deaths of Maoris, 212 increase.

Of the deaths recorded, sixty-one were under the age of one year, as compared with forty-two 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 ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1936 (ISLANDS OF LOWER GROUP), AND FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1935 (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	14	7	7	13	..	3	1	..	4	1	30	28	56	52
Aitutaki	8	6	3	3	..	4	1	1	2	1	8	11	22	26
Mangaia	3	4	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	9	9	14
Atiu	3	5	2	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	10	4	15	15
Mauke	4	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	6	7	7
Mitiaro	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	4	1
Northern Islands—														
Manihiki	2	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	6	3	10	5
Rakahanga .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	1
Penrhyn .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	3	2
Pukapuka	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	6	7
Totals	38	23	19	22	1	10	2	1	7	3	67	71	134	130

MIGRATION.

The following return shows the migration to and from Rarotonga for the period 1st April, 1935, to the 31st March, 1936 :—

Arrivals—Europeans : 146 males, 116 females. *Natives* : 40 males, 39 females.

Departures—Europeans : 140 males, 112 females. *Natives* : 28 males, 33 females.

EDUCATION.

As the year under review is the twentieth anniversary of the opening of the first Government school in the Cook Islands, it will not be out of place to review some of the principal achievements in educational matters during the past decade.

Prior to 1915 the only assistance towards education given by the Cook Islands Administration was a small grant to the London Missionary Society to assist in maintaining the Tereora School, which was a boarding-school for both boys and girls.

In Rarotonga and throughout the Cook Group the London Missionary Society had from early mission days made itself responsible for educating the Native people, and had established schools in every island of both the Lower Group and the Northern Group.

The pupils were taught in the vernacular, principally by Native pastors, and the teaching of English had not been introduced, except to a small extent in islands where a European Missionary was stationed.

In 1914 the New Zealand Government decided to introduce a system of education into the Cook Group, and to send European teachers to take over the schools. The London Missionary Society and the Natives agreed to hand over to the Government all school-buildings, and the land they were built on, for educational purposes.

The Cook Islands Act, 1915, empowered the Minister of the Cook Islands to establish such public schools in the Cook Islands as he might deem necessary for the education of the Native or other inhabitants thereof.

In 1916 regulations were made under the provisions of the Cook Islands Act, 1915, requiring all children between the ages of six and fourteen to attend school.

In 1915 the first public school was opened under a European teacher at Arorangi (Rarotonga) with an attendance of 113 pupils. Four boys and three girls knew a few words of English, and the remainder knew no English at all.

The importance of elementary agriculture and technical work was recognized from the commencement.

In 1916 a second school was opened at Ngatangia (Rarotonga) with 194 pupils, and at Avarua (Rarotonga) a third school with an attendance of 236 (roll now 500) was opened early in 1918. A large Native school was then in operation at the Island of Aitutaki, at which 270 pupils (roll now 450) were taught entirely by Native teachers.

A small Native school was also opened at Palmerston Island in 1918.

The teaching of English, reading, writing, and arithmetic up to the New Zealand requirements of Standard 4, and a practical training in agriculture, woodwork, &c., was then the aim of the Administration.

The cost of education in 1917 was £3,077.

Two years later—1919—the remaining islands of the Lower Group were being served by schools taught by Natives.

A technical school was established in Rarotonga with classes in agriculture, drawing, woodwork, and an advanced class in carpentry. In most of the schools classes were held for simple cookery, hat and basket weaving. Three scholarships for annual competition were granted at St. Stephens School for Maori boys in Auckland, and in addition four advanced pupils were apprenticed to trades in New Zealand.

In the year 1922 rules for the management of public schools and a school syllabus were brought into use. The syllabus embraced English, arithmetic, gardening, nature study, handicraft, health, singing, patriotism and citizenship, and moral and physical instruction.

There were then (1922) four Government schools in Rarotonga and four in the Lower Group, all under European teachers, with a total attendance of 1,300 pupils.

By 1925 the Northern Islands had been brought into the educational scheme through the medium of the London Missionary Society, which was annually subsidized to the extent of £500 for supplying Native teachers to carry on the work in these remote islands.

The cost in 1925 had risen to £9,301.

By 1928 the roll numbers throughout the Group had reached 2,146 pupils, and the system had reached a fair state of efficiency and completeness as the following extracts from the Annual Reports of the Cook Islands show :—

Annual Report 1926, Page 8 : “ The need for a comprehensive and co-ordinated policy for the education of Natives in the South Seas Islands has long been recognized, and advantage was taken of the presence in New Zealand during the year of educational experts from Fiji, Samoa, and the Cook Islands to confer with the authorities in New Zealand on this important subject. This conference was held in Wellington in January last, and after full discussion of all relevant matters the following policy was decided upon :—

“ (1) That instruction should be closely related to the Native environment and tradition.

“ (2) Nothing should be taught that is not serviceable to the Natives in their present social state, or is not likely to be serviceable in the near future.

- “(3) The system should aim to develop agriculture in its widest sense, and also the manual and domestic arts.
- “(4) The possibility of broadening and intensifying interest in village life by means of manual training, drawing and design, music and games, should be recognized.
- “(5) Prominence should be given to the teaching of hygiene.
- “(6) As far as practicable, instruction should be given in the English language and in the vernacular.
- “(7) That full and free scope be allowed for the observance of religious exercises.
- “(8) That, for a limited number selected by each Administration, special provision be made in the Islands for advanced classes that will enable students to proceed to New Zealand and undertake higher and professional courses.

“The Conference was unanimous in the opinion that training of Native teachers should be undertaken by the Government.”

Annual Report, 1927, Page 9: “Excellent progress has been made in educational matters, as will be seen by a perusal of the attached annual report of the Superintendent of Schools. The more important work undertaken was—

- “(1) 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, mentioned in last annual report, and well suited to the educational needs of this community. Agriculture has been made one of the main studies and good progress is shown. Woodwork is also undertaken in all schools.
- “(2) Classes for instruction of Native teachers have been established. The European staff has been increased and concentrated on this work, with the result that all Native teachers are now receiving regular instruction and training, and already there has been considerable improvement in their academic status.
- “(3) The most important development during the year was the establishment at the beginning of this year of a training college and normal school, in order to thoroughly train the Native teachers.

“This policy is absolutely sound, and when developed will give a regular supply of good reliable teachers capable of taking up work in any part of the Group. This will be of great benefit, particularly to the outlying islands of the Northern and Southern Groups.”

Annual Report, 1927, Page 10: “Taking into consideration the social state of the Natives—their environment, traditions, aims, the outlook for the future, and the other many and complex problems surrounding the development of a scheme of education suitable to their present needs, ability, and future prospects, the Administration is hopeful that at last a scheme which will give sound and satisfactory results of practical use to the community has been evolved.”

The cost in 1928 was £11,027.

A full European staff was operating in Rarotonga and the Lower Group, and a more or less efficient staff of Native teachers had been built up. From this time onward a gradual reduction in expenditure has been effected, firstly because it has been possible with the better training of Native teachers to replace a number of European assistant teachers by Native teachers, and secondly with the changes of the Government of the day and the depression in New Zealand making the finding of the necessary finance more and more difficult, the education services were required, in common with all other departments of the Administration, to bear a proportion of curtailment.

The costs over the past few years have been:—

For the Year ended	From Consolidated Funds.	From Rarotonga Treasury.	Total.
	£	£	£
31st March, 1928 .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	11,027
" 1931 .. .. .	.. .. . 10,139	.. .. . 252	10,391
" 1932 .. .. .	.. .. . 7,651	.. .. . 254	7,905
" 1933 .. .. .	.. .. . 8,300	.. .. . 251	8,551
" 1934 .. .. .	.. .. . 6,013	.. .. . 261	6,274
" 1935 .. .. .	.. .. . 6,280	.. .. . 223	6,503

It is part of the policy to select each year up to three of the most promising scholars in Rarotonga for a three-years course at Te Aute College for Maori Boys and at Hukarere College for the Maori Girls at Napier. Scholarships are given only for the number of youths and girls who can be absorbed into positions in the Cook Islands Administration service on their return.

It is believed that this intensive training where they are at all times in an environment where English is spoken; where they rub shoulders with their more enlightened Maori cousins and imbibe some of their ideals and traditions, and their widened outlook beyond the range of their small islands will assist succeeding generations more and more to replace the less senior European officials of the Administration, and in giving opportunities for the people more and more to govern themselves.

The result has so far been worth while—Native operators are now successfully running wireless stations (in conjunction with school teaching) in the Outer Islands, Native medical practitioners after some years at Te Aute have qualified at the Central Medical School at Suva and are working in the Group; a matriculated lad is attached to the staff in Rarotonga, and a number of the Native school-teachers are occupying more or less important positions.

At the present time 2,816 children are attending the various schools in the Cook Islands.

The following remarks of Sir Apirana Ngata, late Minister for the Cook Islands, in regard to education in the Cook Islands are of interest :—

Cook Islands Annual Report, 1932, Pages 1, 2, and 3: “The policy of New Zealand in the administration of the islands of the Cook Group was from the inception modelled on that of Native Affairs here; and their system of government, the sanitary regulations, and the method of determining land titles were based on New Zealand’s experience of the Maori branch of the Polynesian race.

“During the period from 1919–20 onwards there was a great expansion in the public services of the islands, especially in regard to education and health, the development of the island fruit trade, and postal and wireless facilities. In addition to administrative charges and salaries, large capital expenditure was devoted to the construction of schools, hospital buildings, wharves and landing facilities, wireless stations, roads, and the accommodation of officers.

“The great distance of these islands from New Zealand, their comparative isolation, and the difficulties of intercommunication among them have necessitated transplanting to them a larger measure of services than would be required in, say, a county or district on the mainland of New Zealand itself.

“The cost to the New Zealand Treasury in 1931–32 (apart from the m.v. “Maui Pomare”) was £23,852 for services rendered to 15,200 of its population, or £1 11s. 4·6d. per head, analysed as follows :—

	Per Head.		
	£	s.	d.
“ Education	0	12	9·3
“ Medical and Health .. .	0	7	9·0
“ Other services .. .	0	10	10·3
	<u>£1</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4·6</u>

“This compares more than favourably with many administrative areas in New Zealand, whether the services of the General Government or of local bodies are taken into consideration. (Note.—New Zealand’s contribution has in the last few years been considerably reduced.)

“The total expenditure by the State on education in New Zealand for 1931–32 was £3,409,877, equal to £2 5s. 1d. per head of mean population, or nearly four times as much as that in the Cook Group, and on medical and health services 14s. 7d. per head, or nearly twice as much as that in the Cook Group.

“Prior to 1915 Native education in the islands was almost entirely in the hands of the missionaries. It is true that the first Government school was established in Niue in 1911 under a European teacher. Rarotonga did not establish such a school until 1915. The cost to the New Zealand Treasury in 1915 was £373. In 1931–32, thirty Government and Mission schools had been established with a roll attendance of 2,887 pupils under fourteen European teachers and fifty-two Native Government teachers and a number of Mission teachers.

“The cost to the New Zealand Treasury for the financial year ended 31st March, 1932, was £9,732, or 12s. 9d. per head of population, or £3 7s. 5d. per head of the number receiving education. This may be compared with costs on the New Zealand mainland for 1930–31 as follows :—

“Cost of 8,133 pupils attending the Native schools (see Year-Book): £99,101, or £12 3s. 8d. per head. Cost of 227,165 pupils attending the primary schools (including Native schools): £2,636,520, or £11 12s. 1d. per head. Total cost of education: £4,101,933, or £2 15s. per head of population.

“On these figures the New Zealand taxpayer cannot complain that the white man’s burden in these islands is out of all proportion to what he bears in respect of the children of his own race or of that branch of the Polynesian race with which he has been more closely associated in New Zealand. European teachers in the schools of the Group are paid scale salaries as in New Zealand schools, with the necessary addition of tropical allowances. They are assisted by Native teachers, and in respect of the salaries of the latter no charge of extravagance can possibly be made. The average number of pupils per teacher in the Cook Islands schools is forty-four, which is considerably higher than the average number in New Zealand schools.

“New Zealand cannot now shirk the most important, the most far-reaching in implication and effect, the gravest task that any representative of white civilization can undertake in respect of a Native community. Experts may differ as to the method or standard or degree of education that should be aimed at. Governments may debate the wisdom of a “white collar” education or the safe extent of “English” in the curriculum. For good or for ill, the missionaries and the seamen, the traders and the tourists, and officers of the Government have brought the complicated problems of the great world to the reefs and atolls and to the beaches and palm-groves of the South Sea Islands, and their culture, with all its unrest and stirrings, its trials and tribulations, cannot now be barred by any device of man. To deny a sufficient education to the Polynesian tribes in these islands would not be humane; it would not be manly or sportsmanlike; it would not be worthy of decent British traditions. The Polynesian must be given a sporting chance to understand the world into which he has been projected and to fill his part therein efficiently; and civilization has not yet devised any better method than the patient impressing of itself upon the mentality of subject peoples

and the demonstration in manifold experience of what it demands in order that they may attain ease, confidence, and comfort in the new environment it weaves around them."

The following are extracts from the Annual Report of the Education Officer (Mr. A. McKenzie) for the year ended 31st March, 1936 :—

Schools, Attendances, &c.—There are eighteen schools maintained by the Administration in the Cook Group. The following table shows their distribution and roll numbers :—

Island.						Number of Schools.	Roll.
Rarotonga	..	..	..	..	..	4	1,005
Aitutaki	..	..	..	..	..	1	406
Mangaia	..	..	..	..	..	3	302
Atiu	..	..	..	..	..	1	189
Mauke	..	..	..	..	..	1	68
Pukapuka	..	..	..	..	..	1	161
*Mitiaro	..	..	..	..	..	1	27
*Penrhyn	..	..	..	..	..	2	122
*Manihiki	..	..	..	..	..	2	88
*Rakahanga	..	..	..	..	..	1	51
*Palmerston	..	..	..	..	..	1	30
						18	2,449

The schools marked " * " are subsidized Mission schools. Number of boys on rolls, 1,347 ; number of girls, 1,102.

In addition to the above, the Roman Catholics have six schools. Their location and roll numbers are :—

Island.						Roll.	Group.
Rarotonga	..	..	..	..	..	179	..
Mauke	..	..	..	..	..	52	Lower Group.
Atiu	..	..	..	..	..	44	Lower Group.
Mitiaro	..	..	..	..	..	23	Lower Group.
Manihiki	..	..	..	..	..	25	Northern Group.
Rakahanga	..	..	..	..	..	44	Northern Group.
						367	

Thus 2,816 children are being educated throughout the Cook Group.

The percentage of attendance in some schools was as high as 95, while that for the Group averaged 90.

Teaching Staff.—The total teaching staff is seventy-one. There are twelve European teachers and fifty-nine Native. The Europeans are trained and fully qualified. The Natives are all uncertificated teachers. Eleven schools are managed entirely by Native teachers. Three have a European headmaster with Native assistants. Four have a European headmaster and one European assistant, while the rest of the staff is Native. One European assistant is in charge of the European section of the Avarua School. This section is in reality a Grade I School.

Native Assistants.—These assistant teachers are bright, willing, and pleasant to work with. Although they have a good deal of natural ability, they lack initiative, due in part to the fact that none has been trained after the manner of a European teacher, and none has had the opportunity of seeing a fully-staffed European school in operation. The time is approaching when it would be an advantage to have a few college-trained Native teachers to form a nucleus in the Native staff.

Training Native Teachers.—Native teachers are usually chosen from the brightest boys in a school. European teachers regard the training of Native teachers as one of their most important duties. Since there are no secondary schools here, and since, as shown above, the European staff is a skeleton one, it is difficult to attain a high academic standard. For this reason much of the time is spent in obtaining a grasp in the principles of class-teaching, in organization, and in the technique of teaching. Special attention is given to the drawing out of time-tables, schemes of work, work-books, and to keeping registers and all school records accurately. Demonstration and blackboard lessons are also given, and teachers are expected to put these into practice when they return to their classes.

New Syllabus of Instruction.—This was put into practice for the first time during the year, and caused a great deal of interest among the Native teachers. The Syllabus of Instruction for Public Schools in the Cook Islands, issued in 1922, had served its purpose, and was replaced by a new syllabus more in keeping with modern educational views and practice. It has been framed to meet conditions that at present obtain, and, at the same time, is slightly in advance of immediate requirements. In

drawing out the syllabus, the fact that four-fifths of the teaching had to be done by Natives had never to be lost sight of. It has been stated previously that eleven schools are managed entirely by Natives. Because of this and since 80 per cent. of the teaching is done by uncertificated Native teachers, the new syllabus is simple and definite.

New Reading-books.—Not only has the Department introduced new regulations and a new Syllabus of Instruction, but also a modern course of physical education and new reading-books. Since these have either been put into practice or used during the year, there has been a general all-round standard of improvement.

The Curriculum.—All subjects in the course of study receive attention, but emphasis is placed on health, tropical agriculture, and English.

Health and Dental.—Except for the usual epidemics, there has been no serious sickness among the children, and health, generally speaking, has been satisfactory. Schools were visited by the doctor, the matron, and the dentist. Special cases were treated either at hospital or at the Dental Clinic.

Vernon Reed Shield.—This is competed for annually, and goes to the school showing the greatest proficiency in English. It was won by the Avarua School this year.

Pomare Medals.—These were presented during the year, and can be won only by the best all-round pupils where there is a European headmaster. Good character and natural leadership are taken into consideration, as well as work in and out of school.

Buildings.—This has been a year of major building operations. The hurricane took heavy toll and new buildings have taken the place of those swept away, while all structurally damaged ones have been renovated. On the island of Rarotonga alone, four substantial, open-air-type of schoolrooms have been erected, three being 60 ft. by 20 ft. and one 40 ft. by 20 ft.

Grounds.—These are well kept and in most cases ample. Special efforts have been made to beautify school-grounds and results have been encouraging. Work of this kind has helped to develop the aesthetic sense of pupils, many of whom took plants and seeds from school to plant in gardens around their homes.

REPARATION OF HURRICANE DAMAGE.

Last year's Annual Report sets out generally the damage done by the hurricane of February, 1935. During this year a great deal of construction and repair work has been undertaken (see illustrations, Appendix C).

The following schedule sets out works which have already been completed, and which involve an expenditure of approximately £6,636 to date :—

RAROTONGA.

Roads.—Road round island cleared of thousands of tons of rocks, stones, debris, and also fallen trees. Embankments and approaches to all bridges and culverts right round the island rebuilt.

Work on Sea-front at Avarua.—Building new boat-shed. Renewing and repairing leading beacons. Foreshore cleared of rocks, stones, fallen trees, and other debris. Extending reinforced concrete retaining wall on hotel foreshore for 200 ft. Refilling with rocks and stones behind old and new retaining walls—total length 460 ft.—and constructing apron of concrete reinforced with expanding metal behind walls for full length. Constructing reinforced concrete channel on Vaikapuangi stream from hotel bridge to sea. Constructing reinforced concrete retaining sea-wall at Kingsbury's corner—185 ft. by 10 ft. Repairs to wall protecting public conveniences from sea. Repairs to posts on road along the whole foreshore, wharf to Avatiu, and replacing connecting chains. Replanting hedges, trees, palms, and shrubs on foreshore.

Sea-front Road at Avarua and Bridges.—Repairing and widening Main Bridge (reinforced concrete) to width of roadway. Repairing and widening hotel bridge. Repairing approaches to Avatiu bridge ; repairing and widening Avatiu bridge with reinforced concrete to full width of roadway.

Telephone System.—Repairing and renewing telephone lines and re-erecting poles from Arorangi through Avarua to Titikaveka—distance 13 miles.

Schools.—*Arorangi* : Grounds cleared of rocks and debris. New classroom, 60 ft. by 20 ft., built to replace one destroyed. Repairing roofs of Main School and Infants' School and repairing both buildings.

Ngatangia : Grounds cleared of rocks and debris. New classroom, 60 ft. by 20 ft. built to replace three Native-built classrooms destroyed.

European School : Repairing building. Constructing three casement windows and erecting partitions.

Titikaveka : Re-roofing with corrugated iron, and building new sides.

Hospital Buildings and Doctor's Residence.—Grounds cleared of at least 1,000 tons of rocks, debris, and fallen trees, and remodelled. Old Nurses' Home demolished and a new Nurses' Home erected at a cost of over £1,000. Furniture renovated. New hospital kitchen built. Built on beach a retaining sea-wall of rock with reinforced concrete foot and concrete facing to protect hospital buildings and doctor's residence. Length of wall 500 ft. Back of wall filled in with rocks and sand, and levelled. New car-shed built.

Wireless Station.—Clearing away rocks, fallen trees, and debris ; remodelling grounds, inlevelly and planting grass and shrubs. Repairing main and outer masts and aeriels. Painting all buildings and masts. Erecting fence. Replanting hedges.

Water-works.—New septic tanks and sumps constructed at hospital, Chief Medical Officer's residence, Nurses' Home, and "Ngatipa." All pipes, taps, &c., of houses on sea-front overhauled. Strainers at all intakes of water-supply systems cleared.

Drains.—Cleared drains from Tutakimoa and Maraerenga through Experimental Farm to sea.

Administration Offices.—Clearing away rocks, stones, and debris; top-dressing with soil, and replanting grass and hedges. Repairing concrete walls.

Hotel Rarotonga.—Grounds cleared of rocks, stones, and debris; top-dressing with soil, and planting grass and hedges. Repairing concrete wall and fences.

Customs Residence.—Clearing away rocks, stones, and debris; top-dressing with soil and replanting hedges. New ceiling for front veranda. Repairing concrete wall.

The grass and hedges are growing well, and these three properties have something of their appearance prior to the hurricane.

Fruit Department Building.—Reconstructing Fruit Inspection buildings and making new office.

Soldiers Memorial.—Constructing concrete combing round memorial and replanting grass.

Residence, Director of Agriculture.—Extending concrete wall, and rebuilding fences. Replanting hedges.

Freezer.—Repairs to walls and ceiling of freezing-chambers, and partly insulating. Ice-tank repaired.

Buildings repainted throughout.—Hospital, "Ngatipa" residency, Hotel Rarotonga, C.M.O.'s residence, wireless residences (both), Customs officer's residence, Director of Agriculture's residence, Administration offices, Fruit Inspection offices, boat-shed, public conveniences, European school, wireless-station.

Work still to be completed.—Boat-slip, hospital out-buildings, freezer (reconstruction of both freezing-chambers and re-insulation), minor repair work.

GROUP ISLANDS.

Aitutaki.—Repairs to Residency and Nurse's Home; roads repaired; repairs to wharf and cargo shed; repairs to roof of main school, including new iron, reconstruction of two classrooms in wood with iron roofs, and repairs to schoolmaster's residence; rebuilding four Native-built classrooms completely destroyed and timbers smashed; school material replaced—desks, blackboards, slates, &c.; new tanks for Residency, Nurse's Home, and Dispensary.

Atiu.—Repairs to school-buildings; repairs to landing-place and cargo-shed (cement, iron, and timber supplied); Residency repainted; two new tanks.

Mauke.—Repairs to landing-place and cargo-shed (cement, iron, and timber supplied).

Mangaiia.—Vaiteitei packing-shed reconstructed; repairs to landing-place.

Palmerston.—Timber and iron supplied for re-roofing church which is catchment-area for public tanks.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Roads and Bridges.—The maintenance of roads is always a heavy item, the greatest expense being the continual replacement of the coral and gravel surfaces necessary on account of the frequent heavy rains and the pulverizing effect of heavy traffic.

The great increase of motor traffic in recent years has necessitated considerable expenditure in the casing of corners and widening of roads, and the replacing with stronger structures the larger wooden bridges—most of which were built thirty years ago for light wagon traffic—and the small bridges with reinforced concrete culverts.

During the year the main road has been kept in repair, and in some places widened.

The Parekura-Tapere road has been widened for its full length, including the concrete culvert near the tennis-court.

Assistance has been given in reconstructing and widening the Ara Metua between the Avatui Road and Tutakimoa, and it is hoped that next year this road will be opened up right through to Takuvaine, as it will be of considerable convenience to the public.

The Administration maintains the main road right round the island, and is responsible for the provision and repair of all bridges and culverts thereon.

In regard to the Ara Metua and Tapere roads serving properties almost exclusively occupied by Natives, the policy is to assist the Natives (who pay no road-tax, and are not liable to render any services in connection with roads) to keep these roads in repair by grants of food and supplies, and the provision of bridges and culverts. The Administration similarly assists where drainage works are necessary.

Water-supply.—All supply systems to the various villages have been maintained in good order. Water is supplied from five different intakes, and is available to every house in the main village of Avarua, and in the six villages around the island.

Although the circumference of Rarotonga is twenty-one miles, there are thirty-one miles and a half of water-mains, and the supply pipes to the various houses are additional.

Government Buildings.—Throughout the whole Group Government buildings have been kept in good repair, and many minor improvements made.

Desks and cupboards have been made for various schools.

Old London Missionary Society's Schoolroom at Arorangi.—As this had fallen into disrepair it was demolished by the Public Works Department, and the stone used for new buildings, and the repair and widening of roads.

AGRICULTURE.

During the year the Assistant Director of the Horticultural Branch of the New Zealand Agriculture Department, Mr. W. T. Goodwin, was seconded for duty *vice* the late Director of Agriculture who died as a result of an accident sustained in the hurricane of 1935, and the following are extracts from his annual report:—

Citrus.—Most of the citrus trees throughout the island which suffered badly as a result of the hurricane experienced at the latter end of the preceding year are now making fairly good recovery. Although the citrus fruit crop is comparatively light, the new growth of wood gives good promise for a return to more or less normal conditions in future years. The low prices prevailing do not provide any particular incentive for the Native producers to take the interest in their trees that might be expected, but with an improvement in market conditions better results in that direction should be obtained.

The pruning and renovation of many of the trees on the islands growing under wild conditions in the bush is a question about which one has an open mind. In many instances this work attendant with that of spraying, manuring, and other cultural practices is an almost impracticable proposition.

If the Islands are to successfully compete in the commercial fruit trade with other countries, more modern practices of culture and preparation for market will no doubt have to be introduced, and it is my opinion that the present haphazard methods of production will have to be superseded eventually by the laying-out of new plantations to be established in conformity with modern practices.

This may be done gradually in order to have plantations coming on to take the place of the trees now becoming decadent and which may be expected to depreciate year by year.

Bananas.—The planting of bananas was undertaken to some extent after the hurricane and throughout the year, and many of these plants are now coming into fruit, with the result that the production of bananas in the immediate future may be expected to be maintained at about the normal over the last five or six years.

The total export of bananas for the period was 22,539 cases, 22,458 from Rarotonga and 81 from Aitutaki, which represents a considerable reduction on fore-running years, and many be largely attributed to the damage done during the hurricane, which resulted in light shipments during the early part of the year.

Tomatoes.—Considerable plantings were made of tomatoes after the hurricane damage as a supplementary crop to replace losses suffered by other crops. Low prices, however, experienced before all the crops had matured, caused many of the planters to neglect their plantations which reduced the crop accordingly.

Notwithstanding this, 62,383 boxes of tomatoes were exported, approaching double the quantity shipped the previous season.

Coconuts.—Coconut palms generally are thriving well. The export of nuts in the husk and otherwise has amounted to a total of 1,028 packages (mostly sacks)—1,003 from Rarotonga and 25 from Aitutaki. In addition a number of loose nuts were exported through the Parcels Post Branch.

Copra-making has not been very extensive throughout the year. The total quantity of copra exported being 1,353 tons from the whole Group, for the period under review.

Domestic Crops.—Increased plantings of products for local consumption such as taro, kumaras, yams, melons, &c., were made after the hurricane season, and these served to tide the Native population over a lean export season, which, together with the low price returns, reduced the island income considerably from outside sources.

Planting Statistics.—A tabulated list of plantings in the island of Rarotonga for the year, compiled from statistical information obtained at half-yearly periods, is attached hereto.

Noxious Weeds.—Due to the general upset of agricultural work in the early part of the year noxious weeds, in some instances, got rather out of hand. Inspections have been duly made and warning notices issued with the result that in most places a general cleaning up is now being made.

Rat Menace.—The question of dealing with the rat pest on the island has been given special attention and steps are being taken to try the effect of various rat poison baits under controlled conditions with a full realization that safety to human life must be given first consideration as a precautionary measure.

Manure Levy.—The levy for the purpose of supplying manure to the Native fruitgrowers at Rarotonga to benefit their respective crops has been collected on all fruit exported with the exception of three shipments.

A distribution of manure purchased by means of this special fund was made earlier in the year and another 57 tons has just come to hand for further distribution.

Packing-sheds.—The packing-sheds have been kept in good order, and all fruit grown by Native producers has been passed through these sheds for grading and packing under supervision of the inspectors. As funds allow it is hoped that increased facilities for this work will be made available.

Registration of Fruitgrowers.—All fruitgrowers on the Island of Rarotonga have been registered and an up-to-date system of recording the registrations has been installed.

Steps are now being taken for a registration of fruitgrowers on the Island of Mauke.

Every registered fruitgrower is supplied with a registered number stamp for marking each case of fruit grown by him for export.

Organization of Fruit Industry.—The fruitgrowers of Rarotonga have recently organized themselves into a producers' association known as the Rarotonga Growers' Association.

Marketing of Fruit.—An organized effort to improve marketing conditions and increase the ultimate return to producers has recently been made in the form of a petition by the primary producers to have a Board established, on similar lines to the New Zealand Fruit Export Control Board, to attend to the marketing of fruit directly on growers' account. This petition has been forwarded for presentation to Parliament.

Outer Islands.—During the month of November last I had the opportunity of visiting the Islands of Mangaia, Mauke, Atiu, Mitiaro, and Aitutaki.

General observations in the brief time at my disposal indicate that considerable improvement could be effected in fruit cultural methods in these islands also.

Discussion with the Native producers evidenced considerable dissatisfaction prevailing with respect to prices received for fruit during the past season which ranged from 1s. 3d. to 3s. per case net to the grower for oranges ex packing-shed.

The inspection staff has carried out the work of inspection in a generally satisfactory manner. Where occasion arises inspectors are changed from shed to shed, a system that tends towards widening their individual experience and facilitates a system of uniformity which is not so readily obtainable where individuals are confined to one shed for any lengthy period.

The fruit-grading regulations appear to require considerable revision, and it is hoped to make recommendations in that direction at an early opportunity. At the present time there is practically no provision made in the regulations for quality grading.

Some trouble has been experienced lately in connection with the condition of fruit on arrival in New Zealand. This trouble appears to be an old standing one, and in my opinion is due very largely to transport conditions and, until facilities for cold storage at some stage of the transportation between packing-shed and market is provided, will always be likely to recur in this trade.

Experimental Farm and Nursery.—

A portion of Section B has been made available for school-ground purposes upon which new school buildings are being erected.

Fortunately for the nursery area there have been few heavy rains during the hot weather, consequently the section has not been flooded seriously this season.

Most of the citrus and other trees on the section have recovered well from the hurricane effects, but a number of old avocado pear trees have died.

A considerable number of rough lemon, and smaller numbers of sour orange and sweet orange, citrus stocks have been planted out. A few of these are sufficiently advanced and budding has commenced. A very small number of budded lemon and orange trees are ready for distribution. Only very small distributions have been made.

Two Kawau orange trees from New Zealand are making good growth, especially that planted at Ngatipa.

The Ngatipa and Tutakimoa sections planted to citrus several years ago are making fair progress, although several replacements have been necessary at Ngatipa. Shelter on the boundaries at Ngatipa is growing, and the bananas between the tree rows for protection will shortly be unnecessary. Better cultivation will then be possible.

The Veimama banana plants recently introduced produce fine bunches, but produce few shoots and consequently the number has not increased appreciably.

The three Saanen goats are healthy. About twenty females have been brought in by various owners for service during the past six months. Some of those served previously have produced kids, a proportion of which very strongly resemble the imported parent in appearance, although it is yet too early to know what production of milk will be.

Tung oil trees have not grown well. This applies also to a few which were grown by people outside the nursery.

Mangosteen, pecan nut, and nutmeg trees have not made very satisfactory progress.

Some of the Excelsa coffee trees have made very good growth and are at present carrying a light crop of immature berries. From the comparative growth of individual trees it is obvious that these trees require good drainage and only light shading for part of the day. Trees in such conditions are the ones growing best and carrying crops.

Very few of the imported raffia palm seeds have germinated, and it is now found that most of the remaining seeds have rotted in the beds. Those which germinated are making satisfactory progress.

Teak seedlings which were planted out are growing well. A further supply of seed will be planted shortly when the land is ready.

A considerable number of mango seedlings are ready for inarching.

Seeds of the cascara tree, *Albizzia Lopantha* (for shelter purposes), and tobacco (six varieties) have germinated and will shortly be ready for transplanting to nursery or permanent rows.

A fair supply of ornamental seedlings is available in the half-shade houses. A number of these will be used for the Wireless Station grounds and for replacements on the foreshore, Government grounds, &c.

Distributions of various plants from the Farm to local people have not been large in the last six months. Requests for supplies of plants and seeds to go to the Islands of Lower and Northern Groups have been met and supplies forwarded.

Grapefruit are maturing on the Farm, but the supply is small and will not be likely to exceed local demand.

PLANTING STATISTICS, RAROTONGA, FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1936.

Citrus, 1,118; bananas, 202,355; tomatoes, 1,715,820; taro, 487,362; kumeras, 391,427; yams, 6,772; arrowroot, 40,918; pineapples, 9,733; breadfruit, 48.

HIGH COURT.

RAROTONGA.

Criminal Jurisdiction.—For the twelve months the Court dealt with 1,144 cases for criminal offences, and breaches of regulations and local Ordinances as follows:—

HIGH COURT.—CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

Analysis of Cases heard during the Year ended 31st March, 1936.

Burglary	4
Theft	69
Receiving stolen property	1
Conversion to own use	1
Assault	11
Indecent assault	3
Carnal knowledge—girl under fifteen years	1
Adultery (by married persons)	4
Gaming by Natives	6
Perjury	1
Escaping from lawful custody	10
Forgery	1
False pretences	1
Wilful mischief to property	7
Provoking breach of the peace	2
Disorderly conduct in public place	4
Furious driving	1
Obscene language in public place	1
Obstructing the police	1
Animal trespass	190
Drunkenness	3
Wilful trespass	14
Manufacturing intoxicating liquor	32
Attempt to manufacture intoxicating liquor	1
Consuming intoxicating liquor (Natives)	599
Giving intoxicating liquor to Natives.. .. .	1
Permitting liquor to be consumed by Natives.. .. .	2
Breaches of local Ordinances and regulations as follows:—	
Cohabiting	32
Failing to register dog	24
Failing to secure animal	1
Tethering an animal upon public place	3
Keeping pig in settlement	14
Loitering at night after 10 p.m.	52
Riding bicycle at night without a light	23
Driving motor-car in state of intoxication	1
Open tea-shop after 10 p.m.	2
Throwing stone	2
Urinate in public place	1
Breach of Fruit Regulations	5
Breach of Motor-vehicles Ordinances	7
Breach of Fishing Regulations	4
Breach of District Improvements Ordinance, 1918	2
Total	1,144
How dealt with:—	
Convicted and sentenced to imprisonment	62
Convicted and fined	878
Convicted and discharged	62
Convicted and ordered to come up for sentence if called upon	43
Convicted and motor-drivers' license cancelled	1
Cases withdrawn	58
Cases dismissed	17
Cases adjourned <i>sine die</i>	11
Cases adjourned to next month	12
Total	1,144

The work of the High Court in Group Islands is not incorporated in the above, but is shown in the reports, set out later, relating to the various islands.

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

GROUP.

During the year the Chief Judge periodically visited all Lower Group Islands and dealt with the more serious cases on the criminal side which were reserved for hearing by him, and also all civil cases and applications for divorce.

In Rarotonga and the Lower Group Islands all criminal and civil work is up to date.

NATIVE LAND COURT.

Two short sittings of the Court were held at Rarotonga during the year, and there were also sittings at Aitutaki, Atiu, and Mauke during visits to these islands by the Chief Judge, when the more important and urgent cases were heard. In all thirty cases were disposed of.

Owing to the fact that the Land Court Judge is also the Resident Commissioner and the Chief Judge of the High Court, and has twelve inhabited islands to attend to, and to visit as often as he can, it is not possible to satisfactorily cope with all the Land Court work, although as much time as possible is devoted to it.

During the last five or six years the average number of cases dealt with at Rarotonga has been between fifty and sixty. In addition Courts have been held at Group Islands each year wherever and whenever possible.

To have a regular sitting for any length of time at a Group Island is a difficult matter, as the services of the Deputy Registrar and Interpreter, and the Surveyor (who is also Public Works officer) are necessary, which causes dislocation of services to a considerable extent at headquarters in Rarotonga.

In the year under review the great amount of extra work falling upon the Resident Commissioner's Department on account of hurricane reconstruction made regular Land Court work impossible, but apart from regular sittings many land disputes have been temporarily settled between the parties by conference at the Court office.

In addition considerable time has been spent in clearing up and putting the Land Court records and titles already issued into better order.

POST-OFFICE.

GROUP OFFICES.

During the early part of December opportunity was taken by the Postmaster of a rapid schooner trip around the Lower Group (Aitutaki excluded) to inspect the offices, and to instruct the several Postmasters' in the correct procedure of accounting and the preparation of forms, &c. Particular attention was given to money-order and savings-bank work, and to postal work in general. The visit should benefit the Postmasters concerned, and simplify the duties required of them.

TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Lines.—The telephone lines to the outer villages, and to the Wireless Station are in good order and condition, and practically free from faults. These lines were reconstructed after the hurricane experienced in February, 1935.

MAIL SERVICES.

A satisfactory service is being maintained by the Royal Mail Steamers, mails arriving on regular days and in good order and condition.

POST-OFFICE SAVINGS-BANK.

The summary of transactions in this branch is as follows: Deposits, £15,125 7s. 5d.; withdrawals, £12,894 15s. 4d.; excess of deposits over withdrawals, £2,230 12s. 1d.

In view of the exceptional increase in deposits for this financial year, the following comparative table shows the number of transactions and amounts for the years 1928-36:—

TABLE OF SAVINGS-BANK BUSINESS TRANSACTED IN THE RAROTONGA POSTAL DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1936, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE YEARS 1928-36.

Year.	Amount of Deposits.			Amount of Withdrawals.			Excess of Deposits.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1928-29	13,235	4	8	11,159	8	0	2,075	16	8
1929-30	12,584	10	7	11,491	14	8	1,092	15	11
1930-31	14,898	4	8	17,923	13	5	3,025	3	4*
1931-32	13,932	1	3	14,628	6	1	696	4	10*
1932-33	10,925	17	5	11,900	10	9	974	13	4*
1933-34	12,458	3	8	11,238	11	6	1,219	12	2
1934-35	9,708	10	8	11,277	13	3	1,569	2	7*
1935-36	15,125	7	5	12,894	15	4	2,230	12	1

* Excess of withdrawals.

ACCOUNTS.

Savings-bank accounts opened during the year, 164 ; savings-bank accounts closed during the year, 89 ; total number of accounts open, 1,416 ; amount at credit to depositors, £26,128 2s. 8d.

POSTAL NOTES.

Number of notes issued, 1,590 ; value, £585 13s. ; commission, £14 14s. 10d.

MONEY-ORDERS.

Money-orders paid : Number of orders, 277 ; amount, £2,598 17s. 6d. Issued : Number of orders, 812 ; amount, £9,330 1s. 3d. ; commission, £84 7s. 5d.

REPATRIATION OF OLD BANK-NOTES AND SILVER COINAGE.

The repatriation of Australian and English silver coinage and trading-bank notes was undertaken by the Post-office, and during the year £1,176 in silver and £5,000 in trading-bank notes was remitted to the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department. The silver was forwarded in exchange for New Zealand silver currency.

Considerable work was involved in effecting the change-over, but it may now be said that the bulk of the old currency has been returned to New Zealand.

COOK ISLANDS POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS.

Total sales (all sources), £3,167 12s. 10d. This figure shows an increase of £2,508 5s. 3d. over the total sales for the year ended 31st March, 1935.

To commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Accession to the Throne of His late Majesty King George V arrangements were made to suitably overprint three stamp denominations, 1d., 2½d., and 6d. These stamps were placed on sale from the 7th May to the 6th August, inclusive. The increase in the total sales for the financial year is attributable to this issue.

A further change in Cook Islands stamps was the reprinting, on watermarked paper, of the 2d., 6d., and 1s. values, replacing stamps of the same values printed on unwatermarked paper. The latter printing was withdrawn from sale on the 31st March, 1936.

WIRELESS.

Besides the parent station at Rarotonga, there are substations at Aitutaki, Mangaia, Atiu, and Mauke in the Lower Group and during the year efficient services have been maintained by all stations.

At the present time there is no communication by radio with the Northern Group, but the early establishment of stations at Penrhyn, Manihiki, and Pukapuka is under consideration.

These islands are respectively 737, 650, and 715 miles from Rarotonga, and the provision of wireless services would be a boon to the residents and also to shipping.

The Superintendent of Radio, Rarotonga, made a visit of inspection during the year to the substations at Aitutaki, Atiu, and Mauke, which showed that all apparatus was being kept in good condition.

On the 14th January a night letter-telegram service was introduced. This service permits sending cheap-rate telegrams between New Zealand and Group stations and *vice versa*. During the last two months the service has become popular and it should, in the future, prove an additional source of revenue.

A reduction was made in the charges for Christmas and New Year greetings telegrams for the 1935-36 season. Reduction in charges for this class of message did not result in an increase in revenue.

One radio transmitting license and fourteen radio receiving licenses were issued during the year.

Three thousand nine hundred and eighty paid messages totalling 57,097 words were handled for 1935-36 and revenue for the year totalled £872 7s. 5d. compared with £942 15s. 1d. for the previous year. The decrease in revenue was caused by a poor fruit season following the hurricane in February, 1935.

Twenty free Naval messages of 735 words were transmitted or received. Additional free services totalled 14,000 words, including 2,000 words of medical advice to Resident Agents and nurses in the Lower Group.

Approximately 40,000 words of free press were transmitted to the four substations, the thrice weekly service keeping residents in close touch with events of local and international interest.

Over 420,000 words of free press were received at Radio Rarotonga during the year. Of this total approximately 140,000 words were received from Wellington Radio, and the balance from other stations sending international free press bulletins.

Overhaul of the main steel tower, outer masts, and stays at Radio Rarotonga was completed in May. The masts and the aerial systems are in first-class order.

Painting of the station buildings and residence was completed in September.

POLICE.

The following are extracts from the Annual Report of the Chief Officer of Police for the year just ended :—

The strength of the Cook Islands Police Force remains unchanged from the 31st March, 1935. The total strength being one European and forty-three Native members, distributed as under :—

—	Inspectors.	Sergeants.	Constables.	All Ranks.
Rarotonga	1 (European)	2	6	9
Aitutaki	1	6	7
Atiu	1	3	4
Mitiaro	1	2	3
Mauke	1	3	4
Mangaia	1	5	6
Penrhyn	3	3
Pukapuka	3	3
Manahiki and Rakahanga	5	5
Totals	1	7	36	44

The Chief Officer of Police is the only European Officer.

During the year the general conduct of all ranks has been very satisfactory.

The number of police cases dealt with in the High Court, at Rarotonga, for the past year were 1,144, compared with 1,472 for the previous year. Of these cases 1,046 convictions resulted, 24 cases were adjourned to the ensuing year, 17 cases were dismissed, and 57 cases were withdrawn.

Serious crime increased slightly, there being four cases of burglary, three cases of indecent assault, one case of perjury, and one case of forgery.

The number of theft cases for the year were double that of the previous year, being sixty-nine as against thirty-two cases for 1935.

There was a marked decrease in the number of cases of consuming intoxicating liquor, there being 599 cases (1936), compared with 754 (1935).

The above-mentioned variation in the numbers of cases may be attributed to the aftermath of the hurricane of February, 1935, for this caused considerable hardships on the island; food and money has been very scarce amongst the Natives since that time.

In the more serious crimes involving dishonesty, with one exception, there were mitigating circumstances, which detracted from the criminality of the cases.

Motor-vehicle Registration and Licensing.—The annual licensing of motor-vehicles was commenced on the 1st April, 1935, since when ninety-five motor-vehicles have been licensed, five new motor-vehicles have been registered, and thirty driver licenses issued. Fees amounting to £230 16s. 8d. were collected this year, compared with £247 12s. for the previous year.

Registration of Dogs.—During the year ending on 31st March, 1936, thirty-four dogs were registered and £17 collected in connection therewith, as compared with sixty-six dogs registered and £33 collected during the previous year.

Cinematograph Films Censorship.—Eighty-five films were censored during the year, and of this number seven were rejected as being unsuitable for exhibition in the Cook Islands.

Gaol.—There are seventeen prisoners in the gaol at the present time serving sentences varying from two months to seven years. Nine prisoners belong to Rarotonga, seven are from Mauke, and one from Mangaia. Five prisoners have been released on parol. All the above-mentioned prisoners are employed, during week-days, on public works.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The total rainfall at Avarua, Rarotonga, for the year ended 31st March, 1936, was 74.28 in.

The heaviest rainfall in twenty-four hours was 3.10 in. on 27th August. The previous heaviest rainfall registered was 9.46 in. on 9th November, 1927.

The highest reading of the Fahrenheit thermometer in the shade was 91 degrees on the 9th May, 1935. The lowest was 57 degrees on the 26th July, 1935.

The mean of the maximum thermometer was 80.5, and the mean of the minimum thermometer was 69.5 degrees.

The lowest reading of the barometer was 29.747 in. on 1st April, 1935, and 28th February, 1936.

SOUTHERN COOK GROUP.

AITUTAKI.

The following are extracts from the Annual Report of the Resident Agent for the year ended 31st March, 1936 :—

Health.—The health of the Island has been satisfactory, with the exception of two epidemics of influenza in June and July. Children mostly were affected.

The Chief Medical Officer was unable to visit the Island during the year, but a Native medical practitioner assisted the Resident Nurse from June to August.

Pulmonary tuberculosis is still prevalent, and the majority of deaths can be attributed to this cause.

The Resident Nurse pays special attention to the school-children and makes regular visits to the school where each child is kept under observation and all necessary treatments are given. A weekly inspection is made of each village.

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

	Visits.
Out-patients Department	24,027
Dressings at Out-patients Department and homes	12,631
Special visits to patients at their homes	2,838
Maternity cases attended	81
Injections of bicreol	1,947
Injections of N.A.B.	306
Minor operations	368
Dental: Extractions	689

Vital Statistics: Births—Males, 42; females, 30: total, 72. Deaths—Males, 22; females, 26: total, 48. Marriages, 22.

Trade.—Imports—General, 159½ tons; timber (shooks), 15 tons; sawn timber, 29½ tons: total, 204 tons.

Exports—Fruit: 5,533 cases oranges; copra, 391 tons; arrowroot, 1½ tons.

Trade has been poor owing to the destruction of crops by the hurricane, but we were very fortunate in having a late crop of oranges in October, which totalled 5,280 cases.

The price paid for the fruit only was 2s. 6d. per case.

The prospects for the coming season are bright, and it is estimated that the output will be approximately 20,000 cases.

The coconut palms are bearing well, and there should be a good crop, which should be ready for making into copra in September next.

Planting of Lands.—All Natives have been busily engaged replanting their lands since the hurricane, and they now have more than sufficient supplies of all foods.

School.—The present roll at the Araua School shows 256 boys and 216 girls, a total of 472 pupils.

Teachers' Classes are being held regularly, and a great deal of time is being devoted to school method.

Steady progress is being maintained, and the results are good.

In addition to the ordinary school subjects special attention is being paid to agriculture and sewing.

High Court.—On the criminal side 342 cases dealt with as against 298 cases during the previous year. As usual, most of the cases were of a minor nature.

Public Works.—Considerable reconstruction and repair work were rendered necessary owing to the enormous damage caused by the hurricane in February, 1935.

All Government buildings and properties are once again in good order.

All roads have been maintained and kept in good order.

A concrete tank has been erected at Vaimaru Spring for the water-supply to the Residency and Nurse's Home. All village wells have been thoroughly cleaned out and the pumps overhauled.

The wireless aerial has been overhauled.

The three boats have been overhauled, repaired, and painted.

Island Council.—There were four meetings of the Island Council held during the year. No new Ordinances were passed.

During the visits of the Resident Commissioner the Council were afforded opportunities of bringing forward any matters of importance.

Meteorological.—Barometer: Highest for year (calendar), 30.097, August, 1935; lowest for year (calendar), 28.719, February, 1935. Temperature: Highest maximum, 90.0, February, 1935; lowest minimum, 61.0, June, 1935. Total rainfall for year, 41.76 in. Maximum rainfall in one day, 3.0 in. on 10th February, 1935.

MAUKE.

The following are extracts from the Annual Report of the Resident Agent, for the year ended 31st March, 1936 :—

Health.—The general health of the people has been good.

The mosquito-eating fish (gambusia) introduced here last year have been liberated in all the fresh-water swamps on the Island and have increased by millions, and have greatly reduced the mosquito pest.

Water-supply.—All public tanks on the Island have been cleaned out and whitewashed inside and outside. Six new cement and lime tanks have been built. The people provided the labour and the cement and timber were supplied by the Administration. They will be of great benefit to the people as they will give an extra 23,000 gallons of fresh water. Three private tanks have also been completed.

Public Works.—All buildings, fences, &c., have been kept in good repair.

About half a mile of new road has been formed inland.

Blasting of rock at the two passages has been carried out and the approach at Angataura has been widened.

Trade.—Sixty-five tons of copra and 15,494 cases of oranges were exported. Eleven hundred cases of oranges were crushed for juice.

Four new packing-sheds have been built, at the landing-place, of Native materials.

Domestic Crops.—Considerable crops have been planted and there is no risk of a shortage.

Orange Crops.—The indications are for a good orange crop this year, and if steamers call at the proper time about eighteen thousand cases of oranges should be available.

MITIARO.

Mitiaro, with an area of 2,500 acres, and a population of 230, lies 140 miles north-east of Rarotonga. There are large areas of makatea, or coral rock, and swamps so that the area of cultivable land is not large.

The only export is copra, and although the Island grows good oranges, the quantity is not sufficient to warrant calls of the cargo steamer.

Until his death at the beginning of 1935 the Island was in charge of Tou Ariki, but it is now administered by the Resident Agent of Mauke, which Island is some twenty-five miles distant.

An Island Council has recently been constituted, and that body takes charge of affairs during the absence of the Resident Agent.

NORTHERN COOK GROUP.

PENRHYN.

The following are extracts from the Report of the Acting Resident Agent for the year ended 31st December, 1935 :—

Health.—In July and August, and again during the latter part of September and October, there were rather severe epidemics of influenza, from which seven deaths resulted, but apart from that health conditions have been satisfactory during the year.

On her hurricane relief cruise the N.Z.G.S. " Matai " arrived on the 11th March, and sailed again the next day.

Dr. Ellison, Chief Medical Officer, was aboard, and in the short time at his disposal he attended to the medical cases requiring the attention of a doctor. Twenty-one leper patients were embarked for the Makogai Central Leper Asylum.

Once again the Island is clear of leper cases, but as more are bound to occur in the future throughout the Cook Group the Administration proposes to erect a segregation camp on one of the motus in the lagoon, where our cases in the Cook Group can be isolated and receive treatment prior to their removal to Fiji.

Considerable attention is paid to the cleanliness of the two villages, and regular inspections take place. Every three months each habitation is disinfected with Jeyes fluid.

In the village of Te Tautua a number of old and insanitary houses have been demolished.

Vital Statistics.—Births—Males, 3; females, 13: total, 16. Deaths—Males, 4; females, 7: total 11. Marriages, 2.

Population.—An unofficial census taken in December gives a total population of 452, of which 238 are males and 214 females.

Trade and Shipping.—The trade of the Island was as usual maintained by the trading auxiliary schooners " Tiare Taporo " and " Tagua " which made calls at irregular intervals.

Exports for the year were—Pearl shell, 12 tons 2 cwt., value, £115; copra, 35 tons 8 cwt., value, £127 10s.; hats, 300, value £150: total, £392 10s.

There was a big drop in the export of copra, as the following table shows: 1932, 173 tons; 1933, 164 tons; 1934, 71 tons; 1935, 35 tons.

The cause of the drop was due principally to the abnormal absence of rain, but to some extent also to the very low price being paid. It was as low as $\frac{1}{3}$ d. per pound (£1 3s. 4d. per ton) in the earlier part of the year, but later rose to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound (£2 6s. 8d. per ton).

As it takes 5,000 nuts to make a ton of copra, and also a considerable amount of work, it pays the people better to keep the nuts for food.

The small quantity of mother of pearl shell which has been exported for the past twelve months is due to the fact that the low price of shell in London offers little inducement to trade in this commodity. There is an abundance of mother of pearl shell in the lagoon, 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 amount of shell being exported is negligible on account of the low price offering due to the fact that there is practically no demand in London for the black edged shell produced in Penrhyn and Manihiki.

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

Planting of Lands.—During the year the people paid a great deal of attention to the cleaning and planting of their lands. New breadfruit-trees, coconuts, bananas, taro, maniotā, and puraka plants were planted. The Island is well planted with coconut-trees and the lagoon abounds with fish, so that the inhabitants have a plentiful food-supply.

Public Works.—The stone breastwork above the waterfront at Omaka, which was destroyed by heavy seas, has been rebuilt.

The breastwork at the Village of Te Tautua has been put into good repair, and extended.

The four 5,000 gallon water-tanks at Omaka and Te Tautua have been kept clean and in good repair.

Roads have been kept in good order.

The Residency and Government Buildings have been kept in good repair and painted.

High Court.—There has been an entire absence of any serious offences, and during the year only forty-seven informations for breach of regulations and the local Ordinances were laid, resulting in forty-four convictions, and the infliction of small penalties.

Island Council.—Three meetings of the Island Council were held during the year, and matters affecting the welfare of the Island were discussed and satisfactorily decided upon.

Tanco Vaevae was appointed to the Council in place of Hare, an old and respected member who died in 1934.

Schools.—At the London Missionary Society's subsidized schools at Omoka and Te Tautua work and attendances throughout the year were satisfactory. Rolls are—Omoka, 67; and Te Tautua, 52: total, 119.

Rat Pest.—By means of systematic trapping for the last few years the rat pest has been successfully coped with.

General.—Mr. S. J. Smith, Secretary for the Cook Islands, visited the Island in the N.Z.G.S. "Matai" on the 11th and 12th March last.

H.M.S. "Dunedin" made a call on 24th July, 1935.

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 twelve months ended 30th September, 1935.

Health.—For the year under review health conditions have been quite satisfactory.

Mr. S. J. Smith, Secretary for the Cook Islands, accompanied by Dr. Ellison, Chief Medical Officer, paid a short visit in the N.Z.G.S. "Matai" on 15th March, 1935, when *en route* to Fiji to disembark the Cook Islands lepers.

H.M.S. "Dunedin" visited the Island on 25th June, 1935, and H.M.S. "Diomedea" on 29th July, 1935, and in each case the Surgeon Commander, in the short time at his disposal, attended to urgent cases.

Vital Statistics: Births—males, 13; females, 8; total, 21. Deaths—males, 11; females, 2; total, 13. Marriages, 7.

Trade.—Owing to Apia being a port of entry for Pukapuka, and to the fact that the only trading store for some years was owned by Burns, Philp, and Company, there was again this year no direct communication with headquarters at Rarotonga.

Now that this store has been closed it is hoped that it may be possible to have Apia cut out as a port of entry, so that trade and communication may be opened up again direct with Rarotonga.

The advantages are obvious, and we would also be free from the risk of having the rhinoceros beetle introduced.

Trade this year has been maintained by the schooner "Makoa" which made two trips and shipped 78½ tons of copra which is a drop on last year's figures due to the low price being paid to the producer.

High Court.—There were seven sittings at which seventy cases, involving only minor offences, were dealt with, and forty-three convictions recorded.

Police.—The Native constables carried out their duties satisfactorily. Puluata, an old member of the Force, died on 30th March, 1935, and Beni, an Island Council Member, appointed to the vacancy.

Island Council.—Six meetings were held during the year, when various matters of interest to the Island were discussed. Owing to the resignation of Beni, Tamuta was appointed a member of the Council.

School.—The roll at the end of the year was ninety boys and fifty-eight girls. Pupils attended regularly and made satisfactory progress.

PALMERSTON.

This Island⁷ (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 ninety 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.

At the time Marsters the elder went to Palmerston he was legally married to a Native woman of Penrhyn. He also took his wife's sister with him, and lived with both women. Later he took a third woman from Penrhyn. By these three women there are three separate families, each having a head.

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 his issue.

The head of the family from the first or legal wife is William Marsters the second, who is still alive. He is an old man of seventy-three, 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.

There is practically no inbreeding in spite of the fact that all three families have been brought up together. Marriages are all with people from other Islands, principally Penrhyn, Manihiki, Rakahanga, and Aitutaki. The present inhabitants are strong and healthy.

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 hurricane of February, 1935, again completely wiped out all coconuts and ground crops, and left the inhabitants dependent almost entirely upon fish.

The N.Z.G.S. "Matai," which was chartered to make a survey of the Cook Group and carry relief supplies of food, arrived in time to relieve the necessities of the people.

The London Missionary Society (subsidized by the Government) maintains a school on the Island.

A large concrete tank erected by the Administration provides an adequate water-supply.

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 under lease, 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.

MANIHIKI AND RAKAHANGA.

No report is available on account of the death of the Resident Agent, Captain John McCulloch, on 17th January, 1936.

MANGAIA AND ATIU.

No reports are available, as there have been no mails from these Islands since the hurricane season.

APPENDIX B.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

RETURN OF IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1935.

Article.	Whence imported.	Value.
		£ £
Agricultural produce	New Zealand	547
	United States of America	48
	Australia	5

		600
Animals, live	New Zealand .. .. .	..
Apparel	New Zealand	1,520
	United Kingdom	230
	France	9
	Australia	7
	Japan	257
	United States of America	15
	Tahiti	2
	Fiji	2
		2,042
Arms, ammunition, &c.	New Zealand .. .. .	..
Articles of textile	New Zealand	200
	United Kingdom	315
	Japan	32
	United States of America	2
		549
Bacon and hams	New Zealand .. .. .	..
Bags and sacks	New Zealand	516
	United States of America	445
		961
Bamboo	Tahiti .. .. .	..
Beer	New Zealand .. .. .	..
Beverages, non-alcoholic	New Zealand .. .. .	..
	New Zealand	948
Bicycles	United States of America	49
	United Kingdom	802
	Canada	101
	Japan	17
	Australia	1
		1,918
Biscuits and bread	New Zealand	1,291
	Australia	1

		1,292
Boots and shoes	New Zealand	452
	United Kingdom	55
	Australia	12
	Tahiti	1
	Hong Kong	2
	Japan	114

		636
Brushware	New Zealand	94
	United States of America	4
	United Kingdom	4

		102
Building-materials n.e.i.	New Zealand	486
	United Kingdom	1
	Australia	31

		518
Butter	New Zealand .. .. .	..
Carriageware	New Zealand	8
	Australia	98
	United States of America	17
		123
Cement	New Zealand	958
	United States of America	2
	Australia	25

		985
Cinema goods	New Zealand
Coal	New Zealand	45
	Tahiti	1

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RETURN OF IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1935—*continued.*

Article.	Whence imported.	Value.	
		£	£
Hardware	New Zealand	1,484	
	United States of America	45	
	United Kingdom	240	
	Germany	8	
	Sweden	11	
	Japan	9	
	Australia	15	
	Norway	15	
	Canada	22	
			1,849
Hats and caps	United Kingdom	14	
	United States of America	1	
	New Zealand	2	
			17
Hosiery	New Zealand		1
Hops	New Zealand		70
Instruments, musical	New Zealand	173	
	United Kingdom	29	
	United States of America	35	
	Japan	5	
	Australia	59	
	Tahiti	1	
Iron, bar	New Zealand	136	
	Australia	15	
			151
Iron, galvanized	New Zealand	723	
	United Kingdom	60	
	Australia	28	
	United States of America	4	
			815
Iron pipes	New Zealand		139
Iron, wire	New Zealand	109	
	United States of America	18	
	Australia	12	
	United Kingdom	28	
			167
Jewellery	United States of America	7	
	Czecho-Slovakia	9	
	New Zealand	17	
	Germany	5	
	United Kingdom	1	
			39
Leatherware	New Zealand		36
Machinery, sewing	New Zealand	28	
	United Kingdom	14	
	Australia	2	
	United States of America	9	
Machinery n.e.i.	New Zealand	212	
	United Kingdom	5	
	United States of America	81	
			298
Machinery, electric	New Zealand	673	
	United States of America	280	
	United Kingdom	50	
	Australia	57	
			1,060
Matches	United Kingdom	359	
	New Zealand	122	
			481
Meat, preserved	New Zealand	5,710	
	United States of America	3	
			5,713
Meat, salted	New Zealand		157
Meat, frozen	New Zealand		679
Milk, preserved	New Zealand	424	
	United States of America	2	
			426

RETURN OF IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1935—*continued.*

Article.	Whence imported.	Value.	
		£	£
Nails	New Zealand	469	
	Australia	21	
			490
Oil, kerosene, &c.	New Zealand	97	
	United States of America	1,304	
	Russia	12	
	Dutch East Indies	34	
			1,447
Oil n.e.i.	New Zealand	246	
	United States of America	247	
	United Kingdom	147	
	Australia	1	
			641
Paints	New Zealand	724	
	United States of America	105	
	United Kingdom	310	
	Australia	2	
			1,141
Paper, wrapping	New Zealand	675	
	France	12	
	Australia	35	
			722
Perfumery	New Zealand	9	
	United Kingdom	39	
	Tahiti	2	
	Japan	1	
			51
Photographic goods	New Zealand	18	
	United States of America	9	
			27
Plants and seeds	New Zealand	68	
	United States of America	3	
	Australia	102	
			173
Provisions n.e.i.	New Zealand	2,029	
	United States of America	80	
	Australia	142	
	United Kingdom	43	
	Switzerland	1	
			2,295
Rice	New Zealand	98	
	Australia	783	
	Burma	18	
			899
Saddlery	New Zealand	92	
	United States of America	8	
			100
Silk	New Zealand	320	
	Japan	532	
	Australia	14	
	United Kingdom	38	
	France	1	
			905
Soap	New Zealand	1,244	
	United Kingdom	2	
	Tahiti	4	
			1,250
Spirits—			
	Whisky	United Kingdom	37
	Brandy	France	17
	Gin	United Kingdom	23
	Rum	Australia	69
		France	109
	British West Indies	27	
			282
Spirits, methylated	New Zealand		39

RETURN OF IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1935—*continued.*

Article.					Whence imported.			Value.	
								£	£
Stationery	New Zealand	668	741	
					United States of America .. ..	..	20	
					United Kingdom .. ..	..	51	
					Australia .. ..	..	1	
					Japan .. ..	..	1	
Sugar	New Zealand	2,340	
Tea, coffee, and cocoa	New Zealand	453	490	
					India .. ..	..	19	
					Australia .. ..	..	2	
					Java .. ..	..	16	
Timber, sawn	New Zealand	789	1,036	
					United States of America .. ..	..	245	
					Australia .. ..	..	2	
Timber, shooks	New Zealand	6,103	6,243	
					United States of America .. ..	..	140	
Tobacco	New Zealand	2,113	2,716	
					United States of America .. ..	..	486	
					Australia .. ..	..	31	
					Tahiti .. ..	..	4	
					United Kingdom .. ..	..	82	
Toilet preparations	New Zealand	83	145	
					United Kingdom .. ..	..	55	
					Singapore .. ..	..	1	
					Tahiti .. ..	..	5	
					United States of America .. ..	..	1	
Tools	New Zealand	284	573	
					United States of America .. ..	..	41	
					United Kingdom .. ..	..	172	
					Germany .. ..	..	13	
					Australia .. ..	..	63	
Wine—	Australia	78	168	
					Port .. ..	..	14	
					White .. ..	..	17	
					France .. ..	..	20	
					Claret .. ..	..	20	
Woodenware	New Zealand	162	251	
					United States of America .. ..	..	52	
					Australia .. ..	..	37	
Miscellaneous	New Zealand	172	223	
					United States of America .. ..	..	19	
					United Kingdom .. ..	..	32	
					Total	..	£61,676		

Summary.

	£		£
New Zealand	43,566	Dutch East Indies	34
United Kingdom	5,759	Russia	12
United States of America	4,468	Hong Kong	2
Australia	6,057	Singapore	1
Japan	1,071	Tahiti	41
Canada	195	Belgium	10
India	40	Fiji	2
France	201	Norway	15
Czecho-Slovakia	28	Switzerland	8
Siberia	36	British West Indies	27
Sweden	23	Java	16
Burma	18		
Spain	14	Total	<u>£61,676</u>
Germany	32		

RETURN OF EXPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1935.

Article.	Exported to	Quantity.	Value.
			£
Oranges	New Zealand	48,268 cases ..	19,947
Bananas	New Zealand	22,539 cases ..	8,130
Tomatoes	New Zealand	62,311 boxes ..	10,673
	Tahiti	72 boxes ..	14
		62,383 boxes ..	10,687
Lemons	New Zealand	117 boxes ..	75
Mandarines	New Zealand	397 boxes ..	106
Grapefruit	New Zealand	30 cases ..	10
Mangoes	New Zealand	10 cases ..	3
Avocado pears	New Zealand	2 cases ..	1
Kumeras	New Zealand	120 sacks ..	32
Taro	New Zealand	5 packages	2
Pineapples	New Zealand	13 cases ..	3
Mixed fruit	New Zealand	32 cases ..	8
Dried bananas	New Zealand	2 cases ..	6
Orange-juice	New Zealand	927 cases ..	1,116
Coconuts	New Zealand	1,047 sacks ..	315
	United States of America	356 packages	46
		1,403 packages	361
Coconuts husks	New Zealand	14 bags ..	2
Coffee beans	New Zealand	3 cwt. ..	15
Arrowroot	New Zealand	Tons cwt. qrs. lb.	
		1 3 2 9	38

RETURN OF EXPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1935—*continued.*

Article.	Exported to	Quantity.	Value.
Pearl	United Kingdom..	..	£ 175
Copra	United States of America ..	Tons cwt. qrs. lb. 995 4 0 0	10,033
	United Kingdom ..	234 0 0 0	1,638
	France	124 1 0 0	1,211
		1,353 5 0 0	12,882
	Total .. ..	..	£53,599

Group Cargo Tonnages.

Total Group cargo tonnage inward: 3,730 tons (by measurement). Total Group cargo tonnage outward: 5,771 tons (by measurement); 1,355 tons (by weight, copra).

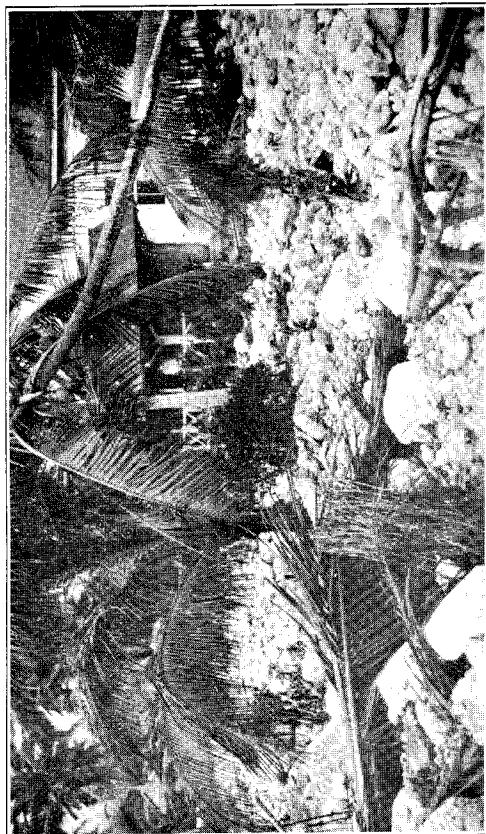
<i>Summary.</i>							£
New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	..	40,482
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,813
United States of America	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,079
Tahiti	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
France	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,211
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	£53,599

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (500 copies, including illustrations) £45.

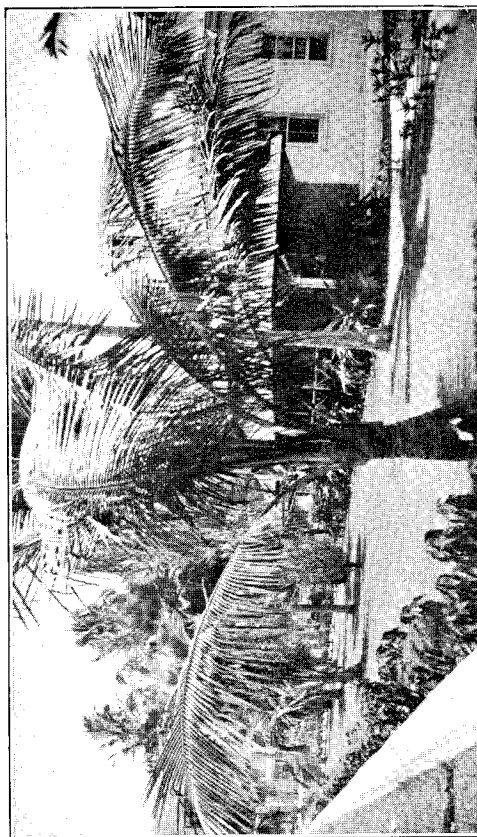
By Authority: G. H. LONEY, Government Printer, Wellington—1936.

Price 1s.]

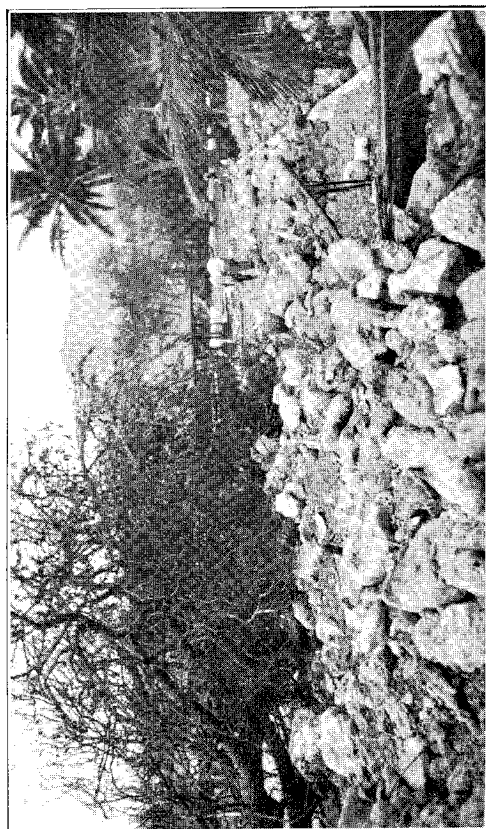
HURRICANE DAMAGE, FEBRUARY, 1935—AND RESTORATION, FEBRUARY, 1936.



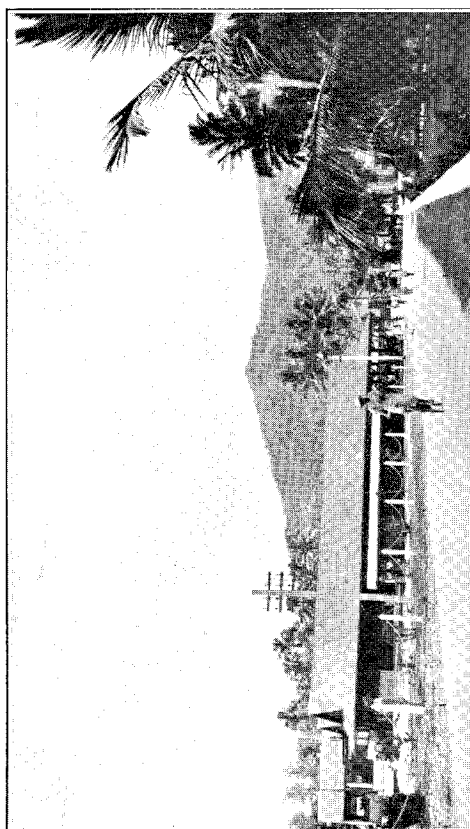
SCENE NEAR GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AFTER THE RECENT HURRICANE.



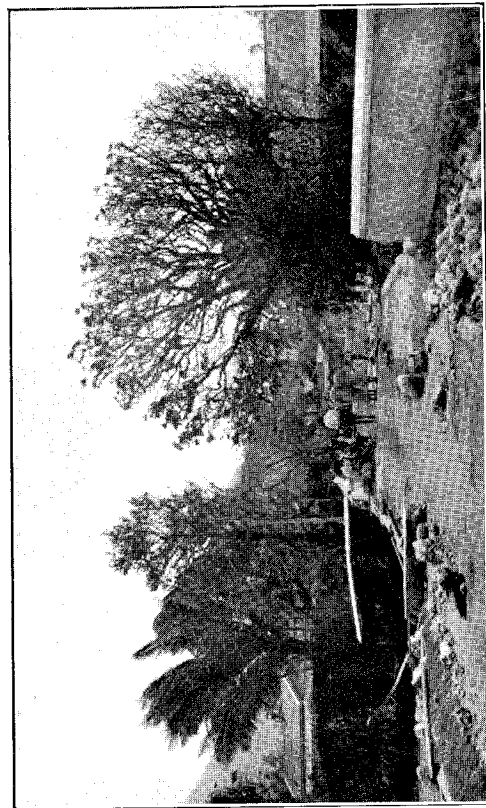
THE SAME AS RESTORED.



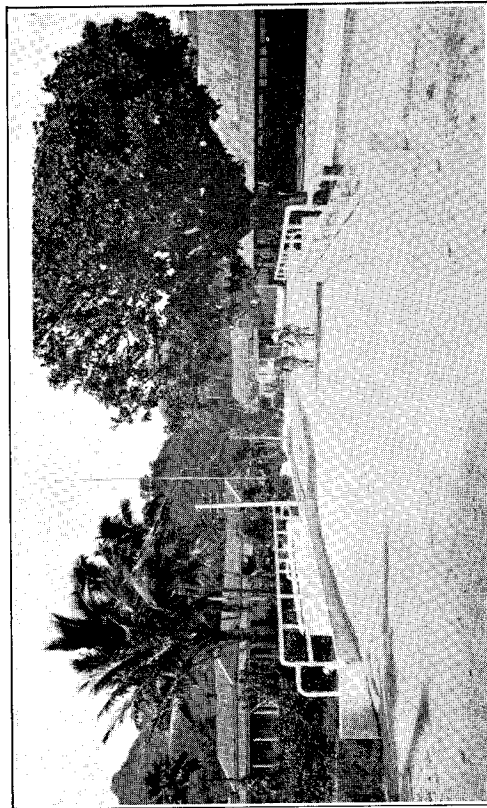
THE MAIN ROAD IN FRONT OF HOTEL RAROTONGA AFTER THE RECENT HURRICANE.



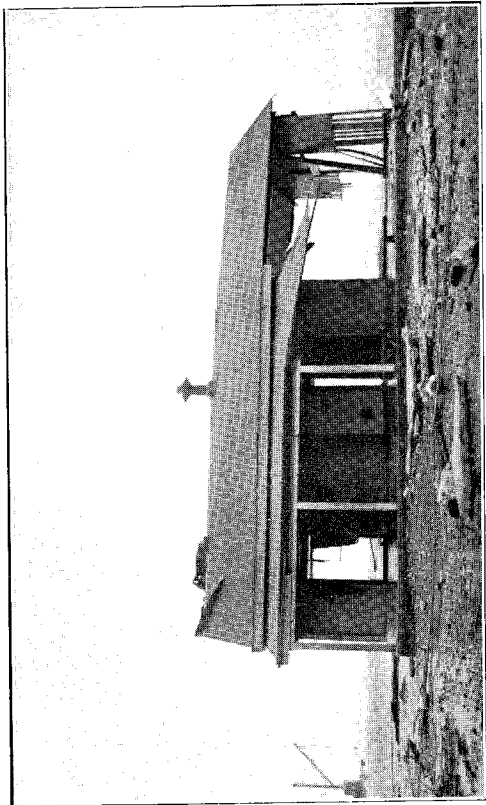
THE SAME AS RESTORED.



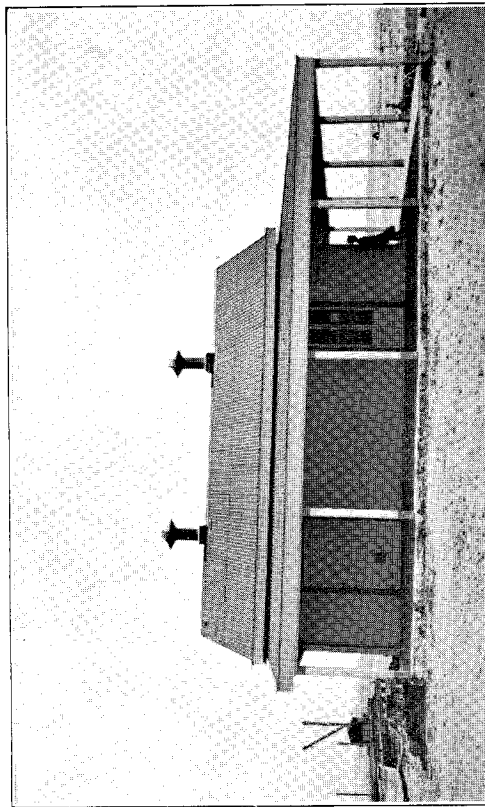
A VIEW OF MAIN ROAD PASSING IN FRONT OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS SHOWING THE "NGAMARU" CONCRETE BRIDGE DESTROYED.



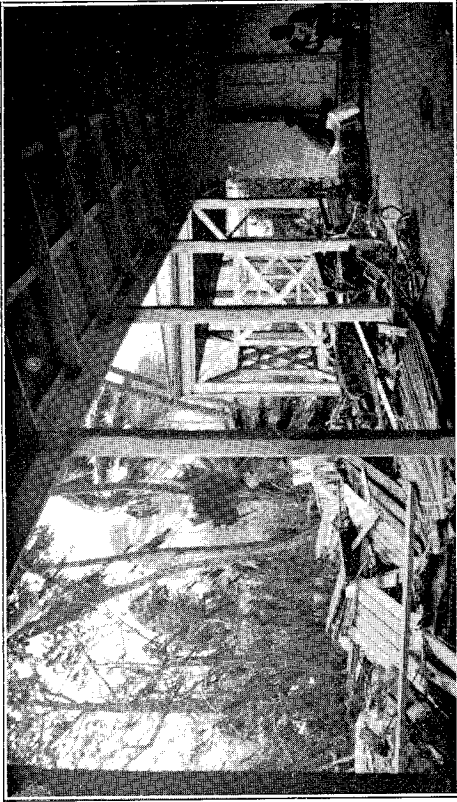
THE SAME AS RESTORED.



THE FUMIGATOR AND FRUIT INSPECTOR'S OFFICE AFTER THE RECENT HURRICANE.



THE SAME AS RESTORED.



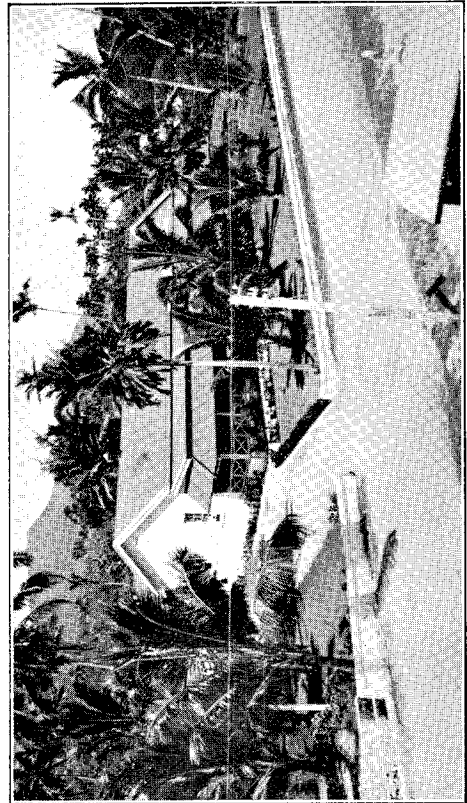
SCENE IN FRONT OF RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AFTER THE RECENT HURRICANE.



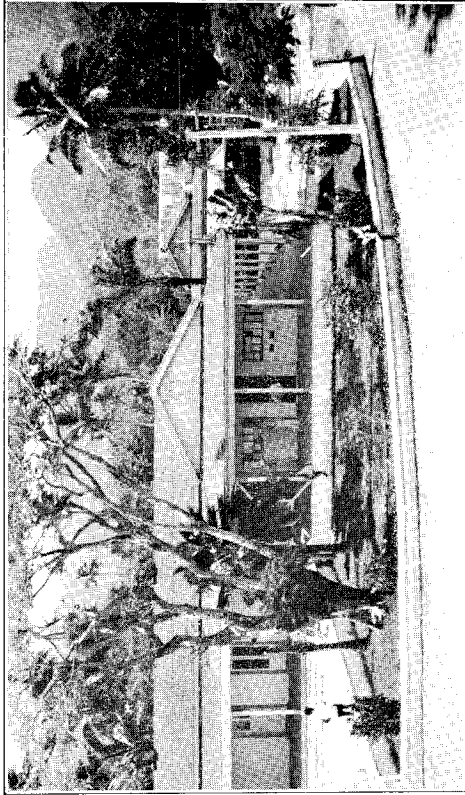
THE SAME AS RESTORED.



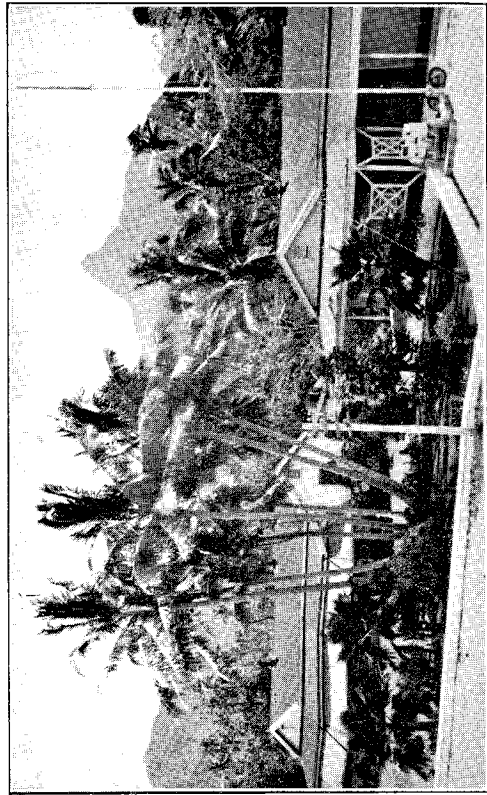
A GENERAL MAIN-ROAD VIEW IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL KAROTONGA AFTER THE RECENT HURRICANE.



THE SAME AS RESTORED.



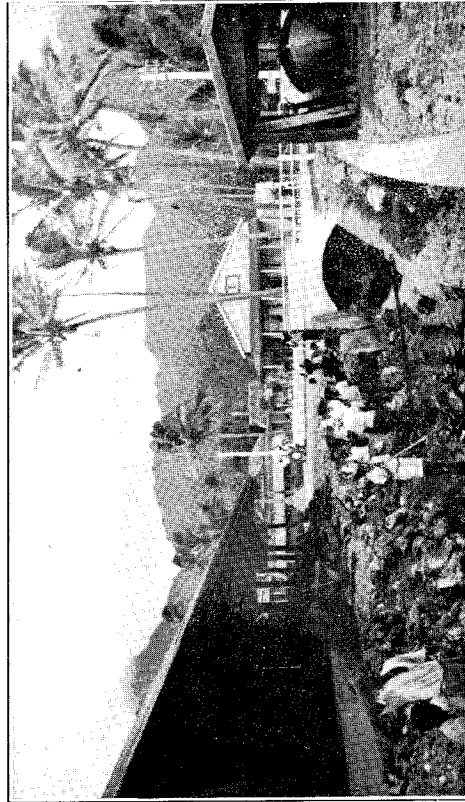
THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, AVARUA.



VIEW SHOWING PART OF GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND TREASURER'S RESIDENCE.



A MAIN-ROAD SCENE, AVARUA, JUST WEST OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.



VIEW SHOWING NEW CONCRETE CHANNEL BEING MADE (VAIKAPUANGAI CREEK).