

Breaches of local ordinances and regulations—

Cohabiting	4
Failing to register dogs	30
Keeping pigs in settlements	24
Failing to secure animals	1
Tethering animals in a public place	18
Using profane language	1
Loitering at night upon a public place after 10 p.m.	25
Shooting indigenous birds	1
Riding bicycle at night without a light	33
Furious riding	12
Breach of Fruit Regulations	13
Sunday trading	4
Breach of Education Regulations	4
Total	1,251

How dealt with—

Convicted and sentenced to imprisonment	31
Convicted and fined	1,112
Convicted and discharged	66
Convicted and ordered to come up for sentence if called on	23
Cases withdrawn	6
Cases dismissed	10
Cases adjourned <i>sine die</i>	3
Total	1,251

Civil Jurisdiction—

Actions for debt	12
Actions for divorce	9
Applications for affiliation and maintenance	2
Application for letters of administration	1
Application to assess compensation	1
Application for possession	1
Total	26

General.—Owing to the outbreak of measles, no Court sittings were held during the months of July and August. Returns of Court work in the various Islands of the Group have been received periodically as communication permitted and the work appears to have been kept well up to date. With the exception of one case of attempted murder at Pukapuka, which was heard by Judge Morling of Samoa, no really serious offences were reported.

Chief Judge H. F. Ayson, after twelve months in New Zealand, returned to Rarotonga in July, 1938, and since that date he has taken the majority of cases brought before the High Court. Prior to Judge Ayson's return, Court sittings were taken by Mr. Savage, Commissioner, or, where the case was outside a Commissioner's jurisdiction, by Mr. S. J. Smith, Acting Chief Judge.

NATIVE LAND COURT.

From June, 1937, when Judge Ayson, Chief Judge of the Native Land Court, left for New Zealand, until July, 1938, when he returned to Rarotonga, the Cook Islands were left without the services of a resident Judge.

Mr. A. McCarthy, late of Samoa and now Registrar of the Supreme Court, Invercargill, has been appointed a Judge of the Native Land Court of the Cook Islands, and is expected to arrive in Rarotonga early in the new year, when arrears of work will be undertaken.

The position of applications pending is much the same as set out in last year's report, but it is to be expected that many more applications will be lodged when the Land Court resumes its sittings.

Records.—Steady progress has been maintained with the reconstruction of records. All orders with the exception of a few which require further looking into have now been drawn up, checked, signed, sealed, and filed.

The new Aitutaki registers have been checked from the minute books and all available documents, and they now record the true position of each investigated title.

The new registers for Rarotonga are now being typed.

It will be necessary at some future date to have plans endorsed on all the old investigation orders so as to avoid the necessity of going to the Survey Office for plans when a title is being searched. The same remark applies to all of Judge Gudgeon's orders in all Islands of the Group.