

boundaries, and at Atiu, Mauke and Mitiaro the soil is held more by the tribe than by the individual, but the general effect is much the same as at Mangaia, for there are no landless men on those islands.

Another benefit, which the Cook Islands will derive from the annexations, will be the assistance offered by the Government of New Zealand to enable them to purchase a schooner with auxiliary engines, in order to develop the trade of the Group. Hitherto it has been the lot of Mangaia, Atiu and Mauke to be absolutely at the mercy of one firm, who have given what ever it pleased them to give for the produce of those islands, and seeing that Atiu and Mauke can be depended on to supply oranges in

It was therefore a matter of extreme satisfaction to the Maoris of the Group when the Hon. the Premier of New Zealand expressed his intention to assist them in the purchase of a vessel, which would not only reduce the cost of freight and passengers fares, but would also break down the monopoly that had crushed the life out of some of the best and most fertile of our islands. This offer of the Hon. the Premier contains a direct benefit for the Maoris, and an indirect one for New Zealand, for the money advanced will be repaid in four years, and the trade of the Group largely increased by the export of produce that has hitherto lain waste.

There is one other matter in which the Cook Islands may expect to gain largely,



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October and November, at the time when they are most in demand. It will be readily understood that the two islands have suffered severely by reason of this monopoly.

viz., by the transference of the governing power into the hands of Europeans, for it is a peculiarity of the Polynesian that he will perform no useful act until he is compelled