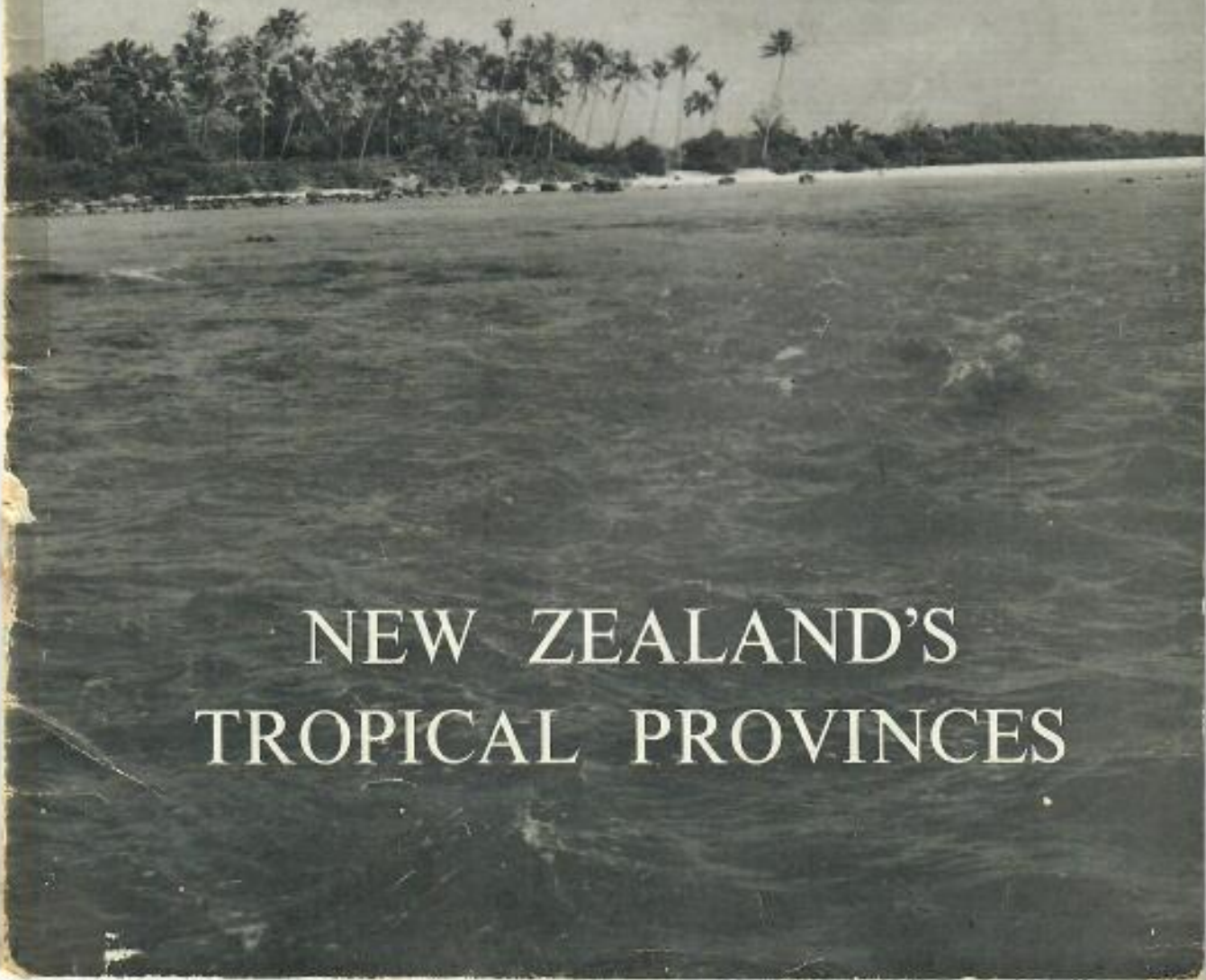


COOK ISLANDS

NIUE ISLAND

TOKELAUS



NEW ZEALAND'S
TROPICAL PROVINCES

FIGURES BEHIND THE FACTS

(As at 31 March 1959)

	Cook Islands	Niue	Tokelau
Area (acres)	57,210	64,028	2,500
Population (estimate)	17,654	4,781	1,774
Total of school rolls	4,550	1,190	535
Birth rate (per 1,000 population)	47.01	44.7	27.1
Death rate (per 1,000 population)	9.63	9.10	6.8
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	61.45	40.3	†
Total imports (1958)	£886,031	£152,107	£2,731
Total exports (1958)	£405,258	£56,785	£5,374
Copra exports (1958)	£48,486	£36,760	£5,374
Citrus exports (1958)	£112,927	Nil	Nil
Tomato exports (1958)	£53,676	Nil	Nil
Factory exports (1958)	£106,333	Nil	Nil
Pearl-shell exports (1958)	£49,580	Nil	Nil
Handcraft exports (1958)	Nil	£5,183	Nil
New Zealand Government aid (1958-59)	£365,425	£163,587	£7,930
Revenue within territory	£432,261	£149,980	£10,676
Total administration expenditure	£836,232	£284,632	£18,606
Education expenditure	£136,385	£33,496	£3,780
Education (per head of population)	£8.06	£7.30	£2.20
Health expenditure	£132,876	£39,360	£5,017
Education (per head of population)	£7.85	£8.31	£2.92
Savings-bank depositors	8,176	686	*
Total in deposits	£171,480	£23,997	*
Average deposit	£20.97	£34.98	*

† Figures not available.

* There are no post-office savings-bank facilities in the Tokelau Islands; islanders operate accounts at Apia Post Office, Western Samoa.

FOREWORD

This booklet's purpose is to help make better known New Zealand's island territories, and to describe what is being attempted to ease the long transition from a primitive pattern of life to inevitable integration with modern civilisation, on terms that preserve for the island peoples their fundamental human right to a dignified and prosperous happiness.

These isolated dependencies have rising populations and only limited areas of land to develop and live on. Yearly becomes more urgent the need to master the problems - in agricultural, economic, and social development, in education, health, and transport services, and in administration.

Recognising that islands prosperity - as a balanced mixture of traditional community life with the standards of modern urban development - is never likely to be entirely self-supporting, the New Zealand Government's administrative policy is straightforward. It is, fundamentally, a programme of continued assistance in management, health, education, and similar services as a basis on which island peoples can be progressively helped to help themselves.

Essential parts of this policy are that the people of New Zealand must appreciate fully their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, and that the islanders themselves, who look to New Zealand as a father, should increasingly undertake self-assistance and a measure of self-government.

This they are doing, through their village and island councils and, in the Cook Group, through their newly constituted elective Legislative Assembly, in the political field. In the economic field the development of self-help programmes, interest in agricultural research and



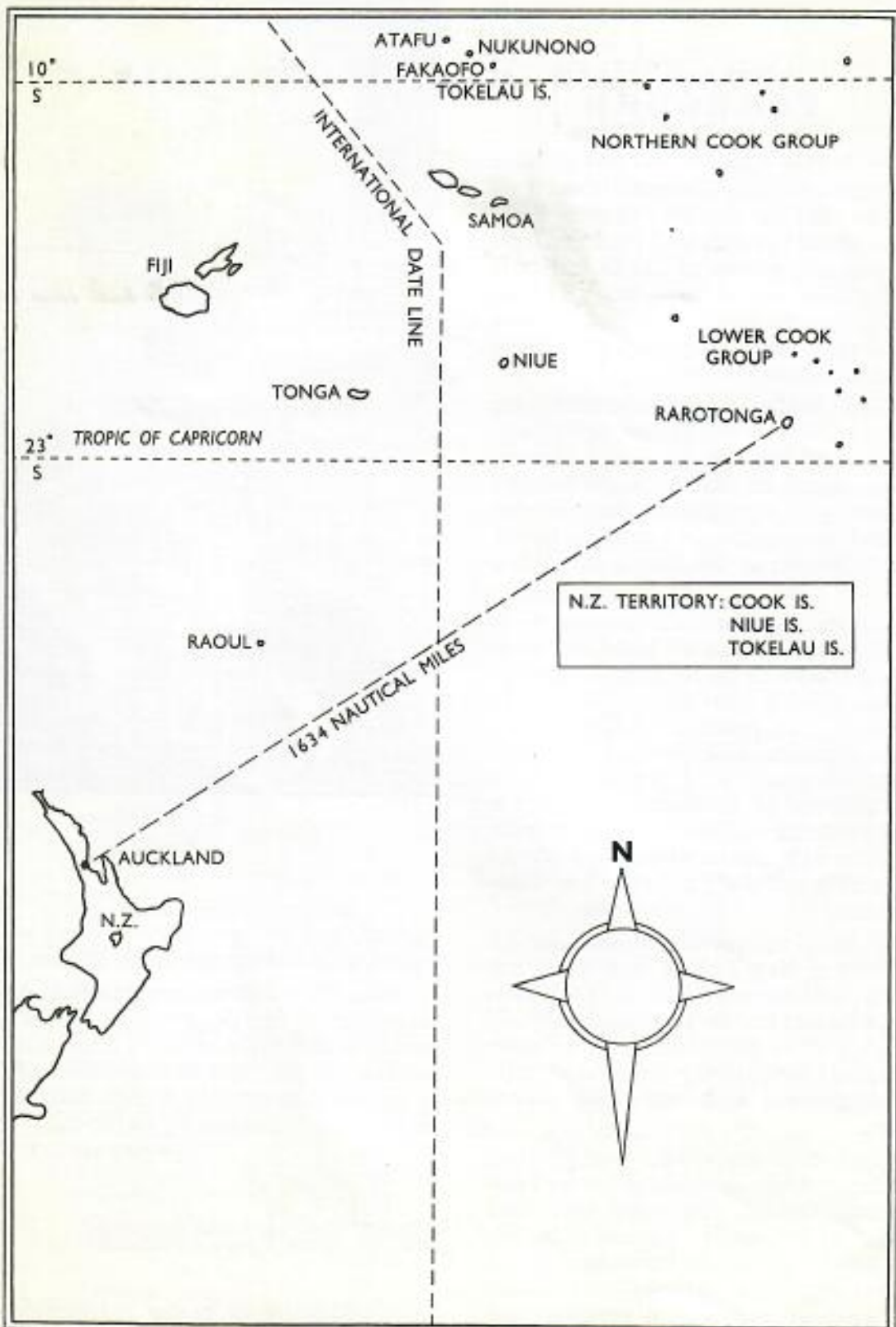
Hon. J. Mathison

method, and the popularity of the Co-operative Movement are happy pointers.

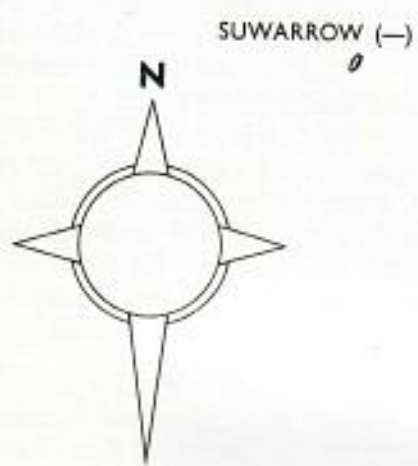
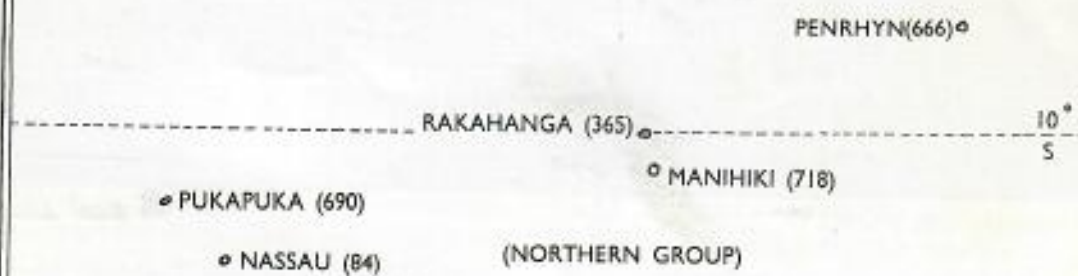
Within New Zealand, the people as a whole should be fully aware of islands' problems and potentialities. I trust this booklet will help, and to those who find it an encouragement to further study I commend the bibliography at the end.

J. Mathison

MINISTER OF ISLAND TERRITORIES

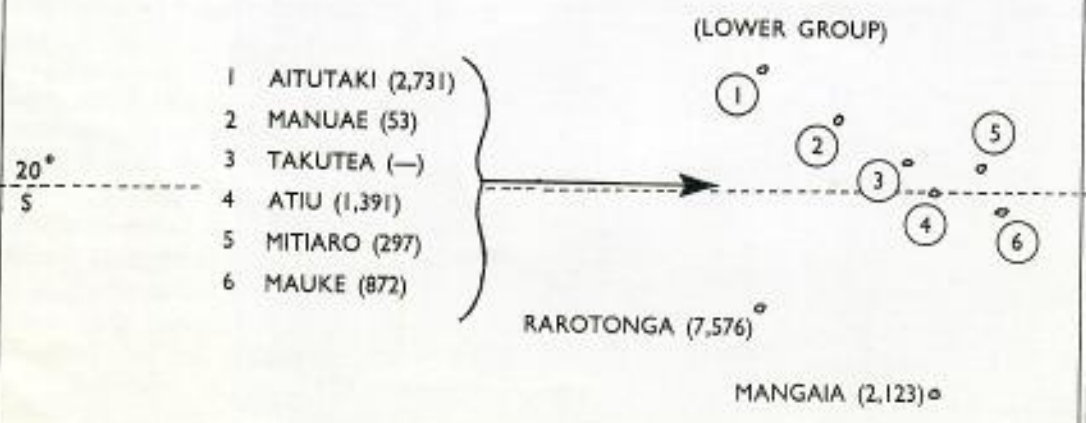


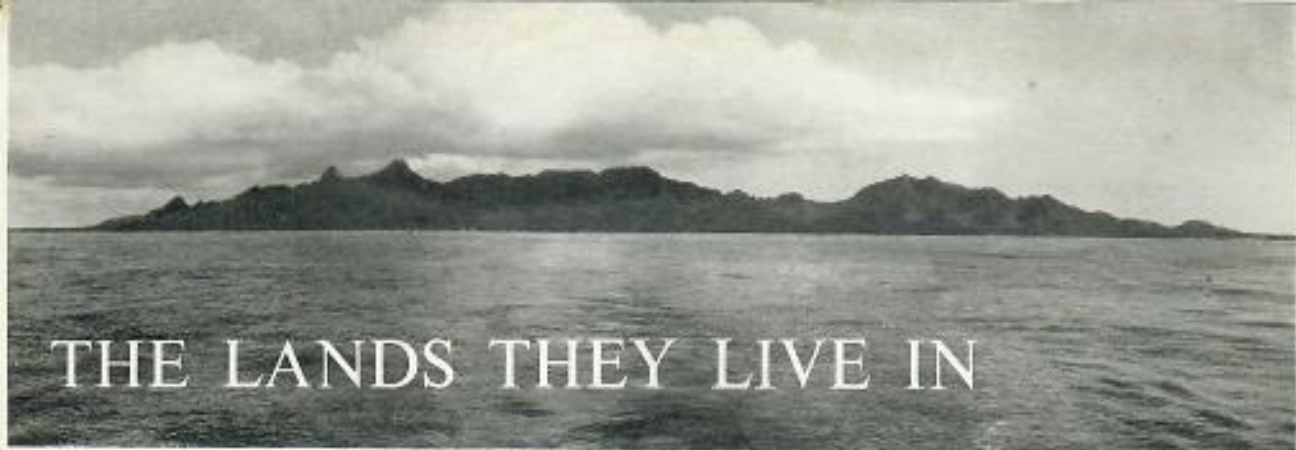
COOK IS. (Populations in brackets)



DISTANCES	
RAROTONGA TO:	
RAKAHANGA.....	674
PENRHYN.....	737
PUKAPUKA.....	714
SUWARROW.....	513
PALMERSTON.....	270
AITUTAKI.....	140
MAUKE.....	150
MANGAIA.....	110
(NAUTICAL MILES)	

PALMERSTON (88)





THE LANDS THEY LIVE IN

Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Throughout the central Pacific ocean are scattered "like confetti on a lake" thousands of islands that are either volcanic peaks or coral growth crowning submerged peaks. Those that are part of New Zealand all lie to the east of the International Date Line, and thus their local times are always a day behind New Zealand (Sunday in Auckland is Saturday in Rarotonga).

The 15 islands of the Cook Group have a total area of just under 90 square miles, and are scattered over 850,000 square miles of ocean - 15 degrees of latitude and 11 degrees of longitude. The most northerly atoll of the seven islands of the Northern Group, Penrhyn, is 9° from the Equator; the most southerly of the eight islands in the Lower Group, Mangaia, is just within the Tropic of Capricorn (23° south).

Some of the rolling country in the interior of Mangaia Island - 20 square miles in extent - is perhaps a little different from the popular conception of a tropical island.



The Northern Group, Penrhyn, Manihiki, Rakahanga, Pukapuka, Nassau, Suvarrow, and Palmerston, are all typical coral atolls, with islets rising from a reef encircling a lagoon. There is little soil among the coral sand and, while coconuts thrive and fish are plentiful, the range of other food crops is small.

In the Lower Group, Rarotonga (the administrative centre for both groups), Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangaia, Mauke, and Mitiaro are hilly or mountainous, with fertile lowlands suitable for tropical and subtropical crops of many kinds. Manuac and Takutea are sea-level atolls.

Isolated Niue Island, an elevated coral outcrop, is larger in area than all the Cook Islands together. Soil is fertile but not plentiful and the terrain, broken and rocky, makes cultivation arduous. The island is well wooded, with native forest producing adequate timber for local needs.

The Tokelau Islands are three atolls, each comprising a number of reef-bound islets, totalling in all less than 4 square miles. None is more than 10 to 15 ft above high-tide level, and the coarse coral sand is sufficient only to support coconut palms, pandanus (the leaves of which are plaited for many uses), and tauanave (a tree providing timber for hut building). Where composting is practised, taro, taamu, pawpaw, and bananas are grown.

The narrow reef encircling many of the islands offers few problems in transhipping cargo and passengers - on calm days.



Only at Penrhyn is there enclosed anchorage for ships. There are airfields at Rarotonga, Aitutaki, and Penrhyn with limited facilities, and suitable lagoon alighting areas for flying boats at Aitutaki, Penrhyn, and the three Tokelau atolls.

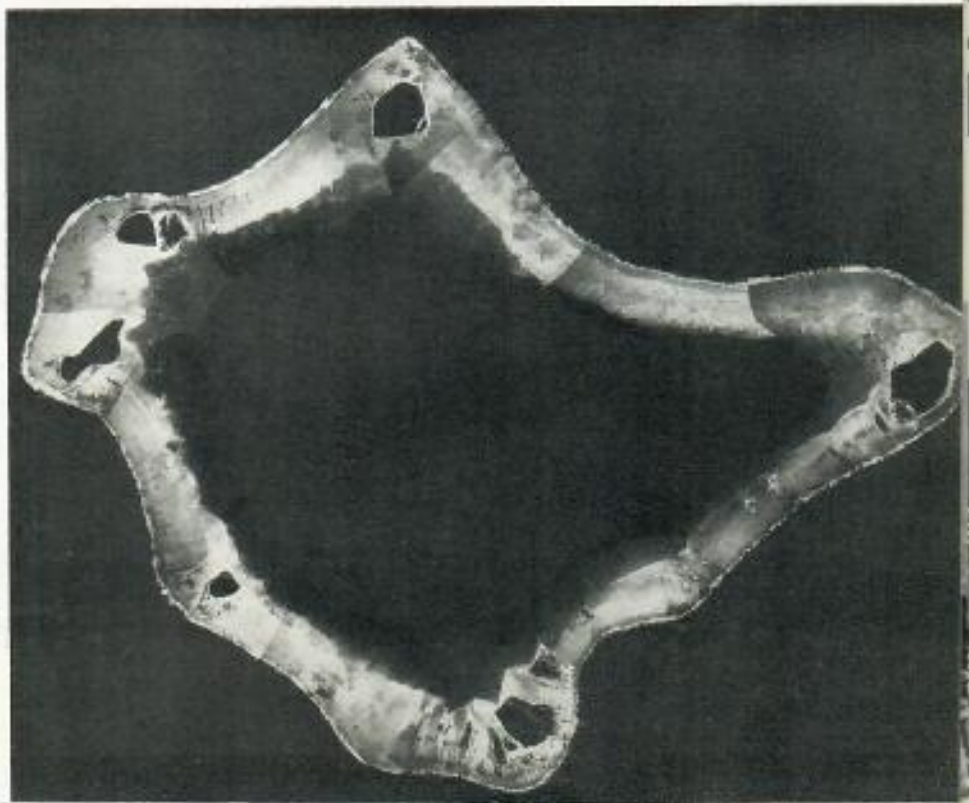
A Government motor vessel maintains a monthly service between Auckland and Rarotonga, with regular calls at Aitutaki, Atiu, and sometimes Mangaia and Mauke. The Union Company vessel *Tofua* calls monthly at Niue.

Other cargo vessels visit Rarotonga irregularly, and small islands traders maintain fairly frequent services between Rarotonga and other islands of the Cook Group.

All islands have radio communication facilities and for some years Aitutaki has been linked with Fiji, Samoa, and Tahiti by a Tasman Empire Airways flying-boat service due to end in 1960. Occasional visits are paid to Cook Group islands with suitable facilities by aircraft of New Zealand's Civil Aviation Administration and flying boats of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

The Tokelau Islands are visited about four times a year by Air Force flying boats, and a vessel chartered by the Administration also makes calls, at approximately three-month intervals, to deliver cargo and load copra.

Typical coral atoll and lagoon: Palmerston Island.



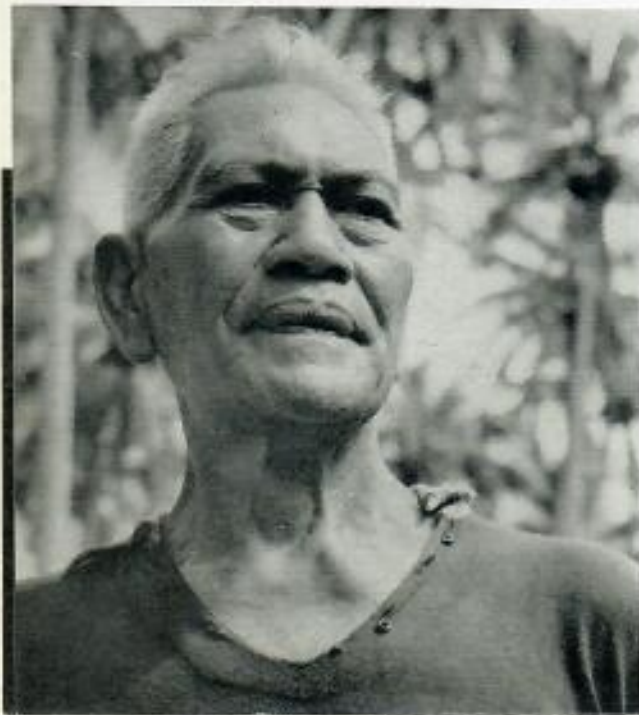
PEOPLE OF POLYNESIA

Splendid navigators, the Polynesians who inhabit the eastern islands of the Pacific are generally agreed to have come originally from Europe by way of Asia many centuries ago and, racially, are little different from the later inpouring of Europeans who followed the Pacific explorers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The Maori of the Cook Islands, the Niuean, and the Tokelau Islander are all Polynesians who have spread out over the Pacific through the centuries, and who have developed in their ocean environments different languages, different customs, and, for those who know them well, different physical appearance.

The Cook Islander is closely related to the New Zealand Maori. There is a strong resemblance between the two peoples in tradition, language, and custom, and many of the tribes in both regions are able to trace their descent back to a common ancestor.

Cook Islands elder.



Cook Islands school teacher.

According to the traditional history of Rarotonga, the island was settled by Karika from Samoa and Tangiia from Tahiti. The two warriors are said to have met at sea and, joining forces, landed an estimated 26 generations ago. Other islands of the Cook Group also trace their ancestry back in legend to the "Hawaiki" of the New Zealand Maori's lore.

Niue is believed to have been inhabited more than a thousand years, as a result of two principal migrations, one from Samoa and one from Tonga. Niuean language and customs show both eastern and western influence, while legends of Pukapuka in the Northern Cook Group tell of voyages to and from Niue. Traditions also record contacts with Aitutaki and Rarotonga, as well as further incursions from Tonga.

A "fair, golden-haired people" lived in the Tokelau Islands when Quiros, a Spanish navigator, visited them in 1606, but it is not known whether these were Polynesians who had been there many generations or whether they belonged to the general population movement still

going on through Micronesia into Polynesia. In the next two centuries they were absorbed or destroyed by the present inhabitants' ancestors, believed to have come from Samoa.

Today's Tokelau language, a local dialect, is still strongly influenced by Samoan, and there are strong similarities in arts and culture.

The population was greatly reduced between 1850 and 1870 by slave traffic, hundreds being carried away for South American plantation labour. No community in the south Pacific area has now, however, less contact with European influence than the people of the Tokelaus, who are as yet less involved therefore than the Cook Islands and Niue in changes of native ways of living and thinking.

In all New Zealand's tropical dependencies, the people are now without exception Christians, mostly adherents of the London Missionary Society (Congregationalists), but with considerable numbers owing allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church, Seventh-Day Adventists, and the Church of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons).

The current of Polynesian migration southward, with its historical peak the Maori colonisation of New Zealand in the fourteenth century, is today flowing again as strongly and steadily as it was 500 years ago, although not so noticeably now there is a New Zealand population approaching the two and a half million mark.

There are about 3,400 Cook Islanders and Niueans now living permanently in New Zealand, whither they are attracted by the prospects of greater opportunities and higher wages without always considering the effects of higher living costs and radical differences in mode of life.



Men of the Tokelaus.

The islanders come from environments that tend to be communal in outlook and based on strong social and religious structures. Adaptation as a minority group to New Zealand's laws and customs and money economy is not always easy, and the problems are complex, but the great majority make the transition quite satisfactorily.

Most live in Auckland or Wellington, employment presents no difficulties, there are no health problems, and only a few (who may gain disproportionate publicity) become involved in excessive drinking and gambling. It is hard in these cities to find adequate housing at reasonable rentals, however. The traditional islands sense of hospitality sometimes results in overcrowding by New Zealand standards.

CIVILISATION COMES



An island's transport comes ashore.

For many centuries the life of the islands was simple – “enough food for health and comfort, a little clothing especially for festive occasions, ornaments of wood, shell, and fishbone, and shelter from hurricane and rain”. There was no money system, and no need for it.

From the time of the “discovery” of the Pacific by Magellan early in the 1500s, however, the influence of European “civilisation” gradually and inevitably increased.

Expeditions were sent out for many reasons – commercial (to establish trade), political (to acquire territory), religious

(to convert the people to Christianity), and scientific – but no great changes in native ways of living and thinking occurred until the early part of the nineteenth century.

Since then Europeans in increasing numbers have revealed to the Polynesians new and much more complicated ways of life. Sealers, whalers, slave traders, runaway sailors, and convicts came first. Then followed missionaries and naval forces. Later still came European and Asiatic colonists and political representatives.

The island peoples became confused; not all the newcomers lived and thought in the same way. Often their ideas and habits and exhortations were quite contradictory. Without realising what was happening, islanders began gradually to lose some of their traditional way of life and acquired new customs they did not properly understand. No longer in isolation, they began to be tied to, and to take part in, a bustling commercial world of facts rather than ideas.

These changes meant, above all, that one of the foundations on which their traditional pattern of life was built – that each family group could produce virtually all the material things it needed – was

Films are always popular with the island peoples, though cinemas bear little resemblance to the picture theatres of more sophisticated regions.



undermined. The islanders developed a desire for far more goods – tools, cotton stuffs, and new foods among them. Their economic pattern changed rapidly when they turned to selling their labour or products in order to be able to buy their new wants.

Impact with European diseases and ways of life to which they were unaccustomed also brought about a large-scale decline in population, as among the Maoris of New Zealand; but today there has developed a rapid recovery in the numbers of native island peoples.

The problems facing New Zealand in the administration of her Pacific dependencies are the product of three factors.

One is the beneficent policy behind health and education services which, despite their occasional failure to match intentions, have lengthened life spans and reduced disease while spreading a universal fundamental appreciation of the European outlook.

Another is the combination of a mushrooming juvenile population (partly the result of modern health and education services) with limited living room and an irresistible urge for improved and changed living standards.



Each major island has its own locally recruited police force.

A third is the restriction imposed by nature on adequate and economic transport and communications by modern standards.

Inevitably the adjustment of islands life to European standards will continue. With half the population of New Zealand dependencies in the Pacific now at school or still too young for it, and no likelihood of any slackening in the population increase, the next 10 years will be crucial in determining how adequate is the present pattern for the future development of tropic New Zealand and a full life – by new standards – for its Polynesian peoples.



All are churchgoers.

THE COOK ISLANDS

TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS

Descendant of great navigators, the Maori of the Cook Islands is again embarking on a voyage to a new world, leaving behind some of the old social organisation of Polynesia for the new order of trade and a money economy.

Traditional island modes of living were already undergoing change under the impact of contacts with European life when the Cook Islands became part of New Zealand in 1901. As their social development has progressed, the people have exercised an increasing measure of local self-government, leading at the end of 1958 to the first meeting of an almost fully elective Legislative Assembly empowered to control the expenditure of all revenue derived within the territory.

General control continues to be exercised, through the Minister of Island Territories and his Resident Commissioner, by the New Zealand Government, which subsidises administration costs with grants now averaging about £400,000 a year, and at the same time aids the people's desire to preserve Polynesian customs, usages, and culture.

In efforts to bring islands health and education to New Zealand standards, and to develop the highest possible degree of economic self-sufficiency, the role of the Administration has changed from

"benevolent paternalism" to the encouragement of local initiative and increasing participation by the people in their own affairs – a policy of aided self-help.

Through a scholarship scheme by which selected boys and girls are given secondary school and university education in New Zealand, Government policy is aimed at developing an increasing participation by Cook Islanders in the Administration as well as the Legislature.

In respecting traditional family land ownership and tenure, the Administration faces twin economic problems. One is to ensure that basic food production keeps pace with population increase, on limited areas of fertile land (particularly in the outer islands). The other is to organise and encourage an expansion of acceptable exports to produce a satisfactory income in the changing economy. In these, research and education play important parts.

As agriculture is a fundamental factor in export revenue, largely from perishable fruits, the wide dispersal and comparative isolation of the islands create special economic difficulties, the most obvious of which is transport. The only regular sea service is that linking the southern islands with New Zealand, for which the ageing *Maui Pomare* is shortly to be replaced



The lagoon from which, tradition says, the canoes set out on the principal Maori migration to New Zealand in the fourteenth century.

by the *Moana Roa*, now being built in Scotland. Inter-island transport is mostly dependent on irregular trips by small, privately owned vessels.

In these circumstances, large-scale New Zealand financial aid has been, and will continue to be, essential for humanitarian reasons. This tendency, in the relaxed tempo of islands life, to regard the Administration as a paternal source of bounty (along with some unconscious reluctance to adopt the responsibilities as well as the amenities of increasing Europeanisation) poses further problems. One way in which these are being tackled is by encouragement of the Cooperative Movement, which is spreading gradually through the larger islands in an atmosphere of controlled enthusiasm.

Poised between ancient custom and modern economic pressures, in the need to produce adequate food and also a surplus to trade for what only the outside world can supply, the Cook Islands have already developed the nucleus of secondary industry. This is at present confined to a clothing factory and the organised manufacture on a small scale of paua-shell jewellery, both on Rarotonga, where the opening in 1960 of a cool store for citrus exports awaiting shipment will offer further opportunities for employment and industry.

At the same time a balance has to be maintained between the need, on one hand, to absorb the available energies of an increasing population, and on the other, to avoid the dangers of uneven and unsettling variation in individual incomes, particularly as between individual islands.

Another factor of importance in Cook Islands development is migration, which as of old is as much a quest for wider horizons as it is the result of the enticement offered by apparently better living standards in New Zealand. Nearly 2,500 Cook Islanders now live in New Zealand - compared with approximately 17,500 in the Cook Islands - and a tendency for people from the outer islands to migrate to Rarotonga, where they have no land, also has a bearing on development policy.

Anxious to ensure orderly progress, the New Zealand Government in 1955 invited Professor H. Belshaw of Victoria University and Mr V. D. Stace of the Reserve Bank to prepare "A Programme for Economic Development in the Cook Islands". The main recommendations of their comprehensive survey, adopted as a broad approach to the problems, aim at encouraging the increasing participation of the Cook Islands people in developing the Groups' limited economic potential.

Clothing exports from this Rarotonga factory to New Zealand totalled £350,000 in its first five-year period.





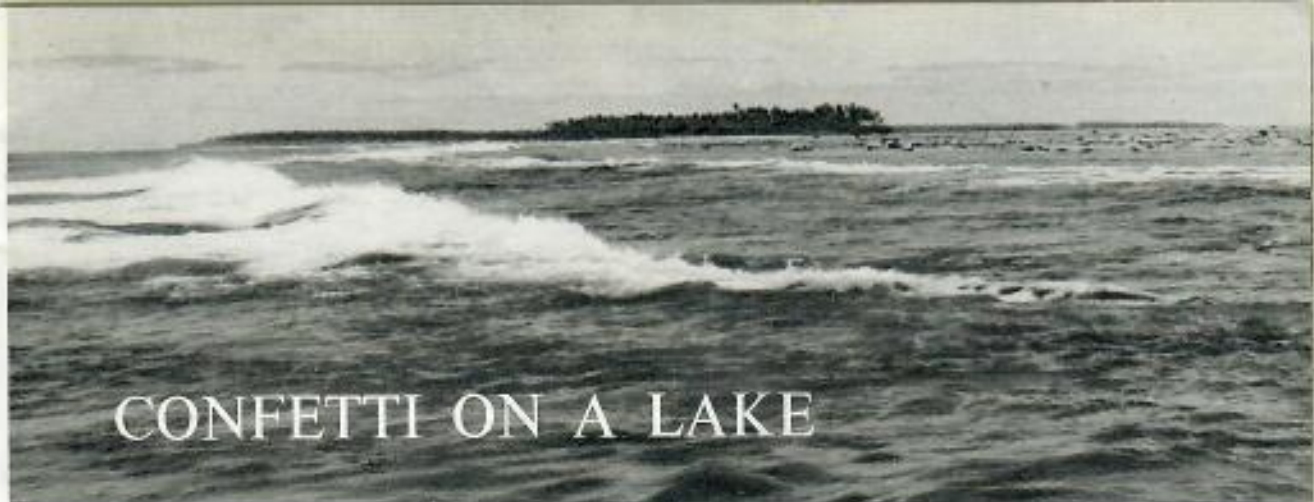
The "Welcome" signs are permanent on Aitutaki's waterfront sheds, but islands hospitality is not confined to words.

In 1956 the Government invited Dr C. C. Aikman, Professor of Constitutional Law, Victoria University of Wellington, to make a survey of the constitutional implications of the economic plan. His recommendation, "that immediate political development should be in the direction of giving greater autonomy and responsibility to representative institutions in the Territory itself", was adopted in the Cook Islands Amendment Act 1957, which provides for an elected Legislative Assembly.

Many of the economic proposals are being put into effect as opportunity permits, according to the extent of funds made available by the New Zealand Parliament. Time, and the extent to which the Cook Islanders themselves undertake to participate in development, will alone indicate the success of the sincere efforts being made to solve the intricate social, administrative, and political, as well as economic, questions involved.

Maori operators have taken over transmission duties on all islands.





CONFETTI ON A LAKE

Approach to Aitutaki.

The most scattered of all south Pacific territories, the Cook Islands form two comparatively distinctive groups. The southern or lower group of eight islands comprises 85 per cent of the land area and holds 85 per cent of the population; all except one are potentially large exporters of surplus tropical produce.

The widely spread northern atolls grow little more than life's necessities but could, with organised effort, sustain a more regular income from copra, while mother-of-pearl shell has been in recent years a fruitful source of revenue, and will continue to be with wise management of the lagoon sources.

The main islands of the groups are:

LOWER GROUP

Rarotonga (16,602 acres, 7,576 people): With a magnificent skyline of volcanic peaks rising more than 2,000 ft, Rarotonga is one of the most beautiful islands in the Pacific. Home of two-fifths of the Cook Islanders, it is headquarters of the Administration, main port of call for shipping services, and location of the central cool store for the islands' perishable fruit exports. The Legislative Assembly meets here and the Administration-owned Rarotonga Hotel is the only tourist accommodation in the group.

Mangaia (12,700 acres, 2,123 people): Lying 110 miles south-east of Rarotonga, Mangaia has large areas of unused fertile

Avarua, administrative centre of the Cooks, and main port, has a grand backdrop of volcanic peaks and ridges.





Mangaia girls carry taro home from the swamps.

soil which, when properly developed on lines being encouraged by the Administration, will greatly increase exports and prosperity and make the island the market garden for heavily populated Rarotonga (which has only 3,000 acres of cultivable land for its 7,500 people). Only just within the tropical zone, Mangaia has the most temperate climate of the group and is particularly suited to the growing of pineapples and coffee.

Atiu (6,654 acres, 1,391 people): North-east 116 miles from Rarotonga, Atiu has areas of heathland which are suitable for

At one corner of Aitutaki's lagoon, twin wartime airstrips are still serviceable.



afforestation with albizzia trees, quick-growing to provide timber. It also has fertile valleys suitable for all kinds of tropical fruit and food. Two fine experimental farms demonstrate agricultural methods to the islanders, who are enthusiastically adopting cooperative methods in marketing and in purchasing agricultural needs.

Mauke (4,552 acres, 872 people): Fifty miles east-south-east of Atiu, Mauke is the easternmost part of New Zealand. Like Rarotonga, Atiu, and Aitutaki, Mauke is participating in the citrus replanting scheme and also has adequate supplies of timber.

Aitutaki (4,461 acres, 2,731 people): Lying 140 miles north of Rarotonga, Aitutaki is unusual in the main islands of the Lower Cook Group in being a chain of islets, one volcanic, round a fine lagoon; it has both a two-runway airfield and a flying-boat alighting area. An American air base in World War II, Aitutaki is taking some time to recover from the impact of a dollar basis of values, but is now rehabilitating itself in health, village hygiene, and industrious cultivation, particularly of oranges and tomatoes, and is the scene of a brisk rebuilding scheme. A demonstration farm has been established.

Mitiaro (2,529 acres, 297 people): About 30 miles east-north-east of Atiu and 140 miles north-east of Rarotonga, Mitiaro is a low-lying coral reef with only a small area of good soil. Exports of copra and oranges could be improved, and Mitiaro specialities are sandalwood and an eel (itiki) found nowhere else.

Manuae (1,524 acres, 53 people) is a twin-islet atoll enclosing a lagoon, midway between Atiu and Aitutaki. Leased by a private firm which employs hired labour from other islands, Manuae produces more copra than any other Lower Group island except Aitutaki.

Takutea (302 acres), an uninhabited atoll 16 miles north-west of Atiu, is worked by the people of Atiu as a copra plantation.

NORTHERN GROUP

Penrhyn (2,432 acres, 666 people), exactly 9° south latitude, 737 miles almost due north of Rarotonga, has a lagoon of 108 square miles, one of the largest in the Pacific. The only island in the Group where small vessels may secure an inner anchorage in comparative safety, Penrhyn was a wartime air base and has both a long runway and a flying-boat anchorage. Main products are copra and mother-of-pearl shell.

Manihiki (1,344 acres, 718 people) is 650 miles almost north of Rarotonga and 190 miles west-south-west of Penrhyn. Probably the loveliest atoll of the Northern Cooks, it has fine coconut groves and produces high-quality pearl shell, the standard of which is kept up by occasional closing of the lagoon to divers.

Rakahanga (960 acres, 365 people), 25 miles north of Manihiki, is the main copra-exporting atoll of the Northern Group, averaging 190 tons annually for the past five years - half a ton for each man, woman, and child.

Pukapuka (1,250 acres, 690 people), most isolated of the whole Cook Group, is 715 miles north-west of Rarotonga and 285 miles almost due west of Manihiki. According to legend Pukapuka is peopled by descendants of the voyagers of one canoe of the fourteenth-century Maori migration to New Zealand. Returning to Rarotonga, the canoe was blown off course. The Pukapukans have somewhat different customs and dialect from those of other islands of the Group, and they also have a tradition of contacts with Niue.

Nassau (300 acres, 84 people) is a formerly unpopulated coconut plantation bought by the people of Pukapuka through the New Zealand Government from the proceeds of copra sales. Forty miles south of Pukapuka, it is inhabited by working parties only during the "winter" months.

Suwarrow (600 acres, unpopulated) is 513 miles north-west of Rarotonga and

17



On dome-shaped Atiu, cooperative society enthusiasm produces better-quality copra - and bigger incomes.

108 miles south-west of Manihiki, a series of islets encircling a lagoon capable of being made into a useful harbour. It is a sanctuary for sea birds.

Palmerston (1,000 acres, 88 people) lies 270 miles north-west of Rarotonga, and is populated mainly by descendants of William Marsters, a British sailor who settled there with his Maori family. It is believed to be the "San Pablo" which was the first island to be discovered by Magellan in his pioneer penetration of the Pacific in the early sixteenth century.

Lacking proper harbours, the Cook Islanders perform prodigious feats of cargo shifting on boat days: At the anchorage at Atiu.



THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

The beautiful lagoon of Ngatangia, Rarotonga (photograph on page 12), was the legendary gathering point for the principal Maori migration to New Zealand in the fourteenth century and, although contact by the island group with New Zealand was later lost, the languages maintain a close affinity.

Captain James Cook, R.N., was the first European to find the southern islands. On his second Pacific voyage, in 1773, he discovered Mangaia, Aitutaki, Atiu, Takutea, Mitiaro, and Manuae, and rediscovered Palmerston, though he landed on none of them. On his third voyage, in 1777, he landed at Mangaia, Atiu, Takutea, and Palmerston.

The mutineers of HMS *Bounty* are believed to have called at Rarotonga in 1778, and HMS *Cumberland* in 1814; local legend says Rarotonga's orange trees were introduced by the *Bounty*. One Captain Goodenough is also thought, from records elsewhere, to have visited Rarotonga in 1821. It was Rev. John Williams of the London Missionary Society, however, who made the first real contact between European and Maori on Rarotonga, in 1823, when he also discovered Mauke.

For more than 60 years the southern group of islands was virtually governed by missionaries, until a British protectorate was established in 1888. The first Resident, Mr F. J. Moss, set up a Federal Parliament of the Cook Islands, and the missionary code, whose emphasis was on morals, was replaced by a simplified code of British civil law, in which there remained, however, considerable evidence of the former missionary rule.

The Northern Group islands were discovered piecemeal.

Rakahanga was sighted by the Spaniard, Mendana, in 1595 and was visited by the

Russian, Bellingshausen, in 1820. The Spanish explorer, Quiros, landed on Manihiki in 1606 and the island was rediscovered by an American, Captain Patrickson, in 1822.

Pukapuka was discovered by HMS *Dolphin* (Captain Byron) in 1765 and Penrhyn by HMS *Lady Penrhyn* (Captain Sever) in 1788.

Suvarrow (Suvarov) was first recorded by a Russian-American company's ship in 1814, but the existence of lime-concrete buildings indicated earlier occupation. Nassau was sighted in 1835 by an American, Captain Sampson, but was probably known earlier to whalers as Mitchell or Newport Island.

Both Pukapuka and Penrhyn were raided by Peruvian slave traders in the 1860s, and the populations considerably reduced.

In the late 1880s most of the Northern Group atolls were individually annexed by British naval vessels, and the stage was set for the Cook Islands' formal inclusion in 1901 within the colony of New Zealand, which already exercised control through the Resident. Each island continued self-government in local affairs following the declaration of the British protectorate in 1888, but a Federal Executive Council, set up on the establishment of the elective Parliament in 1891, became a nominal government.

It was composed of the ariki, or chiefs, who were also the principal landowners. A leading chief, Queen Makea, Ariki of Avarua, Rarotonga, was nominal head of the Government. A Supreme Court was established and laws were made which, among other things, regulated liquor sales and imposed duties on imports. All laws and administrative actions were subject to the approval of the Resident, who was also Chief Justice.

1900-ACCESSION

New Zealand had been interested in the Cook Islands for many years before they were included within her boundaries. The main trade of the group was with New Zealand; there was the racial kinship between the Cook Island Maoris and the New Zealand Maoris; the islanders for many years had expressed a desire to become part of the British Empire.

Finally, New Zealand statesmen were alarmed by the thought of some foreign power gaining possession of a group so uncomfortably close to New Zealand; Germany had annexed Western Samoa in 1899. The Premier, Richard John Seddon, went to the islands to see for himself, and shortly after his return there began the train of events which led to the formal inclusion of the Cook Islands "within the territorial boundaries of New Zealand".

The first step was a petition, urging annexation, addressed to Lord Ranfurly, then Governor of New Zealand. It began as follows:

"We, the Ariki of Rarotonga, together with Ngamaru Ariki, who represents the three islands of Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro,

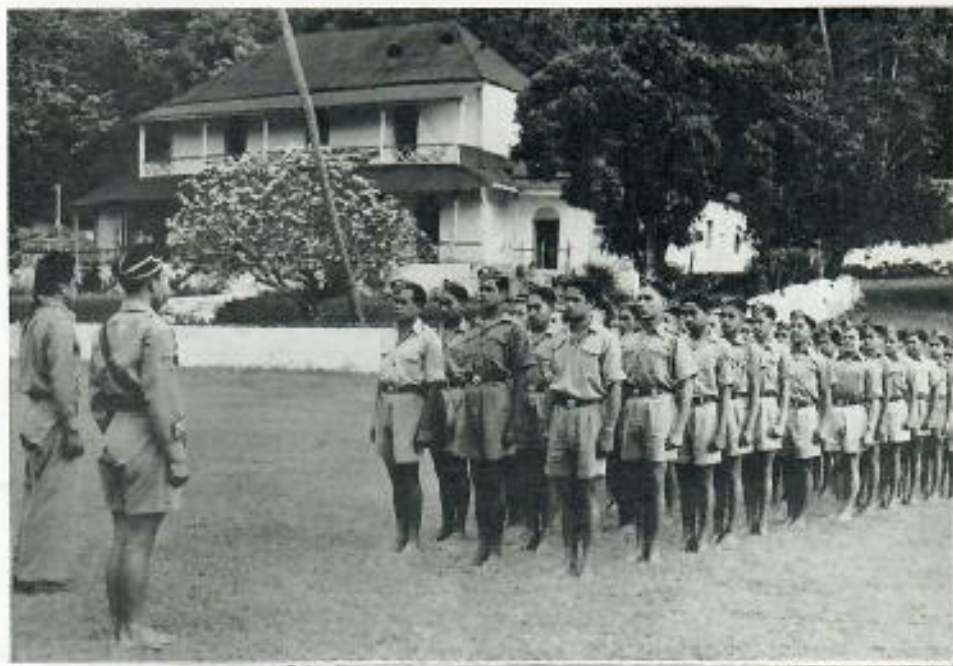
being assembled in Council, do hereby petition His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand to annex the islands of Rarotonga, Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro to the British Empire."

The petition continued that whereas the Cook Islanders were of the same race as the Maoris of New Zealand, and that all their trade was with New Zealand, they were willing to become part and portion of the British colony, as New Zealand then was. The petition also suggested inclusion of other islands in the group.

The deeds of cession of the Lower Group islands were eventually signed by the ariki in October 1900. Aitutaki was the subject of a separate arrangement, its people maintaining that their island was annexed to Britain in 1891, though no record of this has ever been found.

An Imperial Order in Council issued in May 1901 extended the boundaries of the colony of New Zealand to include all 15 Cook Islands, and this Order in Council was formally applied by a Proclamation, issued in Auckland, to come into force on 11 June 1901.

Boys' Brigade parade in the grounds of Rarotonga's oldest building - London Missionary Society headquarters, now standing more than 100 years.



THE TWENTIETH CENTURY



An RNZAF transport Hastings arrives on Rarotonga.

A formidable array of political, social, and economic problems faced the New Zealand Government and the first Resident Commissioner of its new territories, Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Gudgeon.

The Cook Islanders, particularly the Rarotongans, were emerging from a primitive style of life but had no firm new social organisation. Inter-island differences and transport problems hampered the operation of the federal parliamentary system. Attempted aggregation of land by some of the leading chiefs in the face of established custom was a threat to internal

peace, and exports of coffee, cotton, oranges, and bananas were bringing returns scarcely enough to pay for packing and freight.

The population had fallen to about half of the numbers estimated by missionaries 50 years earlier. There was no organised health service and schools existed only where missionaries had been able to establish them.

The history of New Zealand administration of the Cook Islands from 1901 to the present is the story of the efforts made to overcome these political, economic, health,



Islands women have skill, patience, and thoroughness as weavers of mats, baskets, and hats of a high standard of workmanship.

and education problems – efforts hampered by:

- The impact of two world wars and a depression on New Zealand's ability to provide adequate funds;
- The islands' own limited resources;
- The limited awareness among New Zealanders of the Group and its life; and
- The constant insufficiency of expert administrative and specialist staff.

Progress has also been slower than the ideal because development of health, education, social, and economic improvement has been so interwoven; because ambitious plans have often been braked by the realities of human nature; and because the islanders' full cooperation has often been made hesitant through their incomplete understanding of how to dovetail a modern way of living into a traditional tropic economy.

However imperfect some aspects of administration have been – in spite of no absence of good will at any time – basically the New Zealand Government's approach to Cook Islands problems has been founded on a definition of land ownership, crystallised originally by the Federal Parliament in 1894:

"The land is owned by the tribe, but its use is with the family which occupies that

land. Selling of land has always been prohibited in the Cook Islands. No Maori may sell to another Maori, or to a foreigner."

Policy has always been to preserve Maori custom by prohibiting the sale of land; where leases are given, the Native Land Court ensures that the Maori owner retains the use of enough land to maintain his family. Today, throughout the Cook Islands, all have land interests and thus retain their basic human dignity; even those who have migrated from one island to another, or to New Zealand, retain this sharing in tribal or family ownership. Even though this system is unsuited to fully efficient production for export, the prohibition of sales of land means that all have family holdings as the basis for the growing of their own food.

On this foundation of land security has been built the whole structure of development in the past 60 years. That population increases in that time have been disproportionately concentrated on Rarotonga and Aitutaki is but another of the problems that constantly arise. Yet to be solved, too, is the question – in European legal practice – of how to gain security for home-building loans without disturbing the titles to the land on which new dwellings are to be built.

*Though tractors
are being used
more and more in
Southern Group
agriculture, horses
still have their
uses.*





Today's Cook Islands youth - the family leaders of tomorrow - combine modern style and ancient tradition in a thorough training for whatever the future holds for them: Aitutaki senior pupils perform the Dance of Ru, the islands navigator-discoverer.

ISLANDS LIFE TODAY

The population of the Cook Islands at a census in 1906 was 8,518. The estimated population at 31 March 1959 was 17,654, with almost 2,500 other Cook Islanders living in New Zealand.

Most of this increase has taken place since 1926, when the total was 10,082. Today more than half the Cook Islanders are either at school or under school age.

This rapid multiplication of mouths, indicative of the development of health services prolonging life, also emphasises how success in one direction brings more problems in others - such as the need to expand education services and facilities,

Old-type schools such as this, on Atiu, are airy but ill lit and hard to maintain, and are being replaced by longer-lasting buildings of modern style.



and a reduction in revenue-gaining surplus produce for export simultaneously with an increasing demand for imported goods.

Within the next 10 years, for the first time, the main factor in Cook Islands life will be a new generation of young adults. They will have had, unlike their parents and grandparents, a complete education, in modified European style to suit islands requirements, with special provision for instruction in Cooperative Movements, agricultural and domestic sciences. They will be seeking to apply that education in gainful occupation, in employment, business or administration, or in increasingly efficient agricultural production for extra variety in food and for more income-producing exports.

The Cook Islanders have adopted European ways in proportion to their contacts with Europeans, while retaining a large measure of their ancient culture and tradition, most strongly preserved in the more remote islands.

Although English is the spoken and written language of the schools beyond the primer stages, Maori is the language of village talk. Normal dress throughout



Rarotonga's sanatorium, centre of treatment for the whole Group, is helping to win the fight against tuberculosis.

the group is cotton frocks for the women, and cotton shirts and drill trousers or shorts for the men, with something better for ceremonial occasions and church-going. Simple uniforms are general for school children. Only on festive occasions are the traditional grass skirts seen, though the wearing of flower "eis" (leis) is common.

The basis of the community is the tribe, the "kopu tangata" (family of people), and within the family are grades of authority and rank under the ariki (leader). In olden times he (or she) had powers of life and death, of levying tribute, and of organising daily life. In such bodies as the island councils, representative of the villages, the ariki have virtually permanent and automatic membership. Elected by families of noble birth from among their own members, ariki are not hereditary, though in practice this is the usual course.

Next in authority are the mataiapo (elders), whose titles customarily descend to their heirs, and the rangatira (nobles), who are either members of ariki families or outstanding men honoured by an ariki. These are the executives and counsellors of the ariki's village administration, which is self-contained within the framework of law and island council ordinance or bylaw.

The vigorous growth of population figures – despite an infant mortality rate higher than that of the Maori people in New Zealand but decreasing under the impact of education in hygiene – is an

illustration of the achievements of the health services.

Under the Cook Islands Act 1915 all Maoris have free medical and surgical treatment, and all hospital patients and school children have free dental treatment.

The total medical staff numbers 125, of whom only seven are Europeans. The Maori staff includes 16 assistant medical officers, 24 trained nurses, 30 nurse trainees, 18 mosquito inspectors, four public health inspectors, seven male nurses,

Continued on page 26

Maori doctors and nurses play a big part in the islands' health services.



*Packing oranges for
New Zealand's dinner
tables (right); weaving baskets
in the sun (below).*



WORK DAYS

*Catching seafood for an
islands dinner table
(above); building in
the modern style (left).*





Cook Islanders need little excuse to display their traditional rhythm in colourful costume (left); they have their star performers, too (below).



PLAY DAYS

Song and dance appeal to the island's beauty (above); and the legendary story of the giant footprint in the reef always fascinates the children (right).





Toothbrush drill in the lagoon: children of Aitutaki.

12 dressers and nursing aides, and seven technicians.

The dental staff comprises a New Zealand dental officer and dental nurse and 11 Maori trained or semi-trained staff, stationed as yet on only four of the 15 islands, though visits to the others are made regularly from Rarotonga.

The history of the Cook Islands health service is the record of a long combat, not always with the fullest cooperation from some of the people, with tropical diseases; of a slow process of education in hygienic living conditions, in scientific feeding of infants, and in producing by better agriculture a balanced, adequate diet; and of

the training of Cook Islanders to be doctors, nurses, and public health officers in their own communities.

The islands were lucky to have among their early New Zealand advisers such famous Maori scholars and doctors as Sir Peter Buck (Te Rangihiroa) and Sir Maui Pomare. Their mana did much to increase islanders' confidence in European medicine, though even now the health education programme has to be conducted with great patience if it is to secure essential cooperation.

Of the five great bodily tribulations of Pacific islands communities, yaws has been conquered and leprosy is almost mastered.



Four features of Cook Islands life in one picture: the village church; its function as source of water as well as spiritual food; the simplicity of out-of-school clothing for the young; and the effect on physique of a diet not too well balanced.

The three main medical foes remaining, tuberculosis, worm infestation, and filariasis, are all under attack by modern scientific methods.

For tuberculosis treatment, a central sanatorium exists on Rarotonga; for prevention, modern vaccine techniques are employed, along with general education in sanitation, home hygiene, and diet patterns. Worm infestation, arising from contact with soiled ground, is being attacked by an insistence on civilised sanitary practices allied with modern clinical methods that have already been the subject of "pilot" experiment. Filariasis, caused by the presence in the blood stream of mosquito-borne microorganisms, and liable to develop into the hideous swelling of elephantiasis, is being fought by a scheme of mosquito control by trained islanders, along with drug treatment.

In all aspects of the health services, the prime need is to secure the complete cooperation of the island peoples in the proved methods adopted. When this cooperation exists fully, Cook Islands communities will be free from major health problems.

Education is the key to this, along with extension of health services and campaigns to the outlying islands when there are enough trained people to provide resident staff for all.

Critics sometimes say that available resources are centred too much on Rarotonga. Whereas Rarotonga's population was in 1906 only 28.6 per cent of the Cook Islands total, by 1959 it had risen to 42.9 per cent, and medical services there have kept pace. It is also felt desirable to centralise rather than to disperse specialist facilities, and the full value of this policy could be more easily seen if communications with outer islands were more frequent and regular.



No need for adjustable chairs - just any old log, a pair of clippers, and a mutual-aid programme.

Mosquito-control campaigns are beginning to make progress against filariasis and its chronic development, elephantiasis.



EDUCATION FOR THE NEW WORLD

Today Cook Islands education is free and compulsory between the ages of six and 16 years. The Administration provides on the 15 islands 21 primary schools, one post-primary school and a teachers' training college; the Roman Catholic mission six schools (one with a post-primary section); and the Seventh-Day Adventist Mission one (primary and post-primary). These are attended by 4,550 children—more than a quarter of the population.

When the Group became New Zealand territory in 1901 the only schools were those run by missionaries, who had not the resources to cater for all children. Thus there are many more elderly Cook Islanders who have had little formal education.

The basis of a system introduced in 1915 was that New Zealand should pay teachers' salaries and the islanders provide sites, buildings, equipment, and materials, with existing mission schools incorporated into the system by agreement. This scheme was extended into the northern islands in 1923 by subsidising mission schools.

The early syllabus provided for education on New Zealand lines to Standard Four, with emphasis on English, arithmetic, reading, writing, and practical agriculture; at that time Government

policy saw a purely agricultural future for the Cook Islands. No provision was made then for higher education and only some leading families sent their children to New Zealand post-primary boarding schools.

Nowadays all primary schools conducted by the Administration, except one, are staffed entirely by Maori teachers, education is to Standard Six, there are accelerate schools for selected pupils on six islands, and English is the teaching and working language.

The Mission schools follow, in the main, the Administration syllabus and, as with private schools in New Zealand, are registered and inspected on the same basis as public schools. The syllabus for all is based generally on that of New Zealand, with recently increased emphasis on nature study and agricultural training.

Tereora College on Rarotonga, attended by 180 pupils from all 12 inhabited islands, covers Forms II, III, and IV. Students able to undertake New Zealand School Certificate or University Entrance work are selected under a Government scholarship scheme for further education at New Zealand secondary schools. In a three-year course at Nikao Teachers' Training College, 94 students from 10



Islands school girls become expert in making their favourite simple cotton frocks.



The airy classrooms of Tereora College, Rarotonga, are the centre of post-primary education for the whole Cook Group.

islands were in 1959 preparing to take their places in the island schools, and a scheme has been introduced under which teachers with some experience spend periods at New Zealand schools and training colleges. In addition to the scholarship scheme for secondary school pupils, the Group also sends students regularly to Avelé Agricultural College in Western Samoa.

Many communities in the Group have set up school committees or parent-teacher associations, whose contributions for the purchase of extra school equipment are subsidised by the Administration. Schools in Rarotonga, Atiu, Mangaia, and Aitutaki have started savings societies for their pupils.

Adult education services are supplied by the Administration's Social Development Department, which uses radio broadcasts, a monthly newspaper, films, and tape recordings to help the work of youth clubs and village community centres.

A recent development throughout the Cook Islands school system has been the introduction of lessons in the principles of the Cooperative Movement, which is now a certificated part of the Nikao College teachers' syllabus. Because the proper management of cooperative societies appears likely to be a big factor in the economic development of the Group, only qualified teachers may undertake instruction in Cooperation in the primary schools.

29

THE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The Cook Islands' first bachelor of arts gained his degree in New Zealand at the end of 1958 after a secondary and university education under the Government scholarship scheme. Under this, initiated in 1946, the fees, boarding charges, and clothing and transport expenses of selected students are paid. The total number of students is now 77, including one who qualified as a solicitor in 1959.

Basically the scholarships carry the student to the School Certificate stage, but no limit to further education has been set for promising boys or girls.

On Mangaia, a working bee clears scrub as a first step to establishing a school demonstration farm.



HOW GROUP IS GOVERNED

Cook Islanders have a very large say in their own government, in the affairs of the Group as a whole, as well as in the administration of each island.

A major political step forward was taken in 1958 by setting up an enlarged, elected Legislative Assembly with considerable financial powers, to replace the Legislative Council established in 1946, which was composed equally of Government appointees and the nominees of island councils.

New Zealand's Minister of Island Territories has the responsibility for the political and administrative direction of the Group; with him is associated the Department of Island Territories. Local administration is under a Resident Commissioner stationed on Rarotonga, with a Resident Agent on each of the larger outlying islands.

The former Legislative Council could make ordinances (bylaws) for peace, order, and good government, needing the Resident Commissioner's consent, could pass resolutions on proposed Government expenditure, but could not appropriate or spend public revenue.

Following the Government's adoption in 1956 of a plan for economic development, Professor C. C. Aikman, Professor of Constitutional Law at Victoria University, Wellington, was asked to survey

the programme's constitutional implications. His recommendations, that the Cook Islands people should have more say in their affairs, were embodied in the Cook Islands Amendment Act 1957, which provided for an elected Legislative Assembly with increased powers. Elections took place throughout the islands and the first session of the Assembly was held in November and December 1958. It consists of:

- Fourteen members elected by secret ballot under a system of universal suffrage (Rarotonga, four; Aitutaki, two; Atiu, Mangaia, Manihiki, Mauke, Mitiaro, Penrhyn, Pukapuka, and Rakahanga, one each - with electors on the remaining islands included in one or other of these constituencies).
- Seven members (in each case a member of the electing island council) to be elected by the island councils of Rarotonga (four), Aitutaki, Atiu, and Mangaia (one each).
- One member elected by all European electors of the Cook Islands.
- The Secretary to the Government; the Treasurer; and not more than two other official members appointed by the Resident Commissioner, who is himself entitled by the Act to preside over the Assembly.



New administration headquarters buildings are being erected year by year to designs aiming at comfort and efficiency.

*European officers
become fewer and
fewer as Cook
Islanders are trained
to handle their own
affairs.*



The Assembly may not legislate on defence, external affairs, or the title of the Crown to land, but it has control over the spending of all revenue collected in or derived from the Group, and of some specified grants from the New Zealand Government. Its ordinances must be assented to by the Resident Commissioner before they become law.

The work of the Executive Government, under the Resident Commissioner and the Official Secretary, is carried on by 13 departments - Agriculture, Education, Health, Justice, Police, Post Office, Electric Power, Public Works, Radio, Social Development and Cooperatives, Survey, Treasury, and Customs.

As from 1 April 1959 an Executive Committee has been established to "confer with and advise" the Resident Commissioner in his administration. Of not more than eight members, the committee is appointed by the Resident Commissioner from elected members of the Legislative Assembly and employees of the Cook Islands Public Service, with the Resident Commissioner as president.

The Assembly itself is to be elected at three-year intervals.

In each of the main islands there is an island council with *ex officio* members (the Resident Commissioner or the Resident Agent and island ariki) and elected members, varying in number between three on Mitiaro and nine on Rarotonga, although steps are being taken to re-

constitute the councils of other islands and give them powers to impose charges (except Customs duties), establish village councils, and borrow money for works or services.

In most cases the heads of the departments of Executive Government are European officers seconded from the New Zealand Public Service, but it is Government policy that Cook Islanders should take an increasing share in the Administration. The aim is to use the services of scholarship students educated in New Zealand, and at Central Medical School, together with those boys and girls educated at Tereora College and Nikao Training College, to replace overseas officers wherever possible.

In addition to the seconding of officers from New Zealand, the Government of New Zealand also provides assistance from its departmental sources, particularly in agriculture, education, health, justice, works, post and telegraph, scientific and industrial research, and through the Government Stores Board.

The Cook Islands also benefit from regional agreements between New Zealand and other Governments covering such organisations as the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Health Service, and the Central Medical School in Fiji, where the Government of the colony also makes available to Cook Islands students valuable training in many aspects of service and administration.

THE ECONOMIC FUTURE

Through leadership, instruction, and example Cook Islands health and education standards have improved progressively, enabling the Maori people to help themselves increasingly. Under the present organisation, health and education will continue to improve and, with experience, the Cook Islanders will take an ever-extending part in the management of the life of the Group.

Economic development must, however, keep pace. Without adequate food and income, a balanced level of exports and imports, and satisfying occupations for the increasing numbers leaving school, there can be neither financial prosperity nor social happiness.

Emigration to New Zealand relieves some of the pressure on the Group's limited living room and fertile land, but the tendency of many from outlying islands to settle, landless, on Rarotonga has not helped.

Some encouragement to secondary industry, with development of means to preserve perishable crops, could provide extra employment and desirable diversification, but the basic need, recognised in Government policy, is to secure more efficient use of the limited agricultural land areas.

With more reliance on modern agricultural methods, demonstrated on model farms and plots, with increased mechanisation and improved inter-island and export transport and cargo-handling facilities, the Cooks' soil and coconut plantations are capable of sustaining a population twice to three times the present numbers, while maintaining substantial exports.

The background to this is a well-organised and diligent community life - economic as well as political responsibility in increasing measure. A most important incentive is likely to be the controlled development of the Cooperative Movement, which under experienced guidance

has already spread throughout Rarotonga and is growing on Aitutaki, Atiu, and Mangaia.

At 31 March 1959, 41 societies were in existence: a central Cooperative Union, or bank; 22 village thrift-and-credit clubs; 13 school savings societies; two processing and marketing societies; one youth club; one consumer cooperative; and one Government-employee thrift-and-loan club. A big proportion of the loans granted was for agricultural improvements.

Cooperation, wisely expanded on firm foundations, can play a vital part in Cook Islands economic development, in which important factors are the revived citrus industry, a rejuvenation of staple copra exports, vigorous attention to growing trade in tomatoes and pineapples, and increased attention to diversified crops such as mangoes, taro, avocados, peanuts, and coffee.

Visitors with world-wide experience of tropical agriculture confirm that there is more than ample scope for a greatly improved revenue from industrious, planned cultivation; the many expert agriculturists in the Administration staff year by year see an increasing acceptance of their demonstrations and advice and a spreading skill, particularly among the younger islanders.

Copra: By far the greatest area of Cook Islands land is in coconuts, a staple article of islands diet and husbandry as well as the source of copra export revenue, which could be increased greatly by more systematic attention to proper drying for good quality. More than 28,000 acres of the Group's 57,000 acres (at least 10,000 acres of which is not cultivable) is devoted to coconuts, compared with 1,400 acres in bananas, and 800 acres each for citrus plantations and tomato plots.

The instinctive reluctance of the older islands people to destroy a coconut palm, even though it is past producing useful

nuts, has led to a deterioration in quantity and in copra quality, this in turn resulting in lower prices and an unfavourable comparison with returns from citrus and tomatoes when considering the labour involved.

The rapid increase in population makes urgent a plentiful supply of quality nuts for home consumption, and a steady campaign is going on for methodical replanting with improved strains of palms, as yet without much cooperation. Increasing revenue recently from fruit exports is being offset to a large extent by decreasing returns from copra.

The inauguration of cooperative copra marketing by Rarotonga and Atiu producers, allied with an educational drive for modern ways of plantation management, will, it is hoped, spur voluntary efforts to match the copra production from the privately managed island of Manuae. There, average annual exports in the past five years have been 150 tons, equal to the total exports from Rarotonga, Mangaia, Mauke, Mitiaro, Atiu, and Takutea. Only Aitutaki in the Southern Group, averaging 250 tons a year, enjoys the kind of copra income that could be earned on other islands.

The northern atolls, limited to copra for their export income except for mother-of-

pearl shell from Penrhyn and Manihiki in open seasons, maintain a much higher production level - 580 tons a year among them for the past five years.

There is no doubt that copra production throughout the Cook Group could be increased greatly, even from the present plantations, which could be utilised more fully and cared for more diligently. There is, however, a preponderance everywhere of old trees, and the Administration is stressing the need to replant.

In addition, much educational work is directed at securing a higher quality of copra, mainly in the erection and demonstration of improved types of driers.

Citrus: Even before 1900 there was a flourishing trade in oranges between the main islands of the Southern Group and New Zealand. The fruit was introduced by early missionaries - if not, according to Rarotongan legend, by the mutineers of HMS *Bounty* - and seedling trees sprang up in luxurious growth.

To overcome the problem of declining and poor-quality production from the aged and untended "wild" trees, the Government introduced in 1937 a Citrus Replanting Scheme under which first exports were made in 1945. Nurseries were established to provide high-bearing trees of two

Cheaply-built copra driers, fueled mostly by waste husks, produce better quality and higher prices than sun-drying methods which are affected by rain.



selected and suitable varieties, Late Valencia and a hybrid local type named Rarotonga Seedless. Model plantations were encouraged in the four islands of Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Mauke, and Atiu.

The plantations are run on the same lines as in commercial orange-growing countries elsewhere and the scheme is under the control of the Cook Islands Director of Agriculture, who has had much citrus experience in Jamaica. Trees supplied for the plantations from Government nurseries produce fruit in their fifth year, compared with the 10 years "bush" trees take to reach productivity.

The Department of Agriculture prepares the land, plants the trees and their shelter belts, plants cover crops, sprays, prunes, manures, cultivates, and maintains each plantation until it is in production. Costs (reduced through economies possible in overall organisation) are charged to the owner of the land, who pays nothing until his plantation is bringing in revenue, when a percentage is deducted from his receipts each year. Increasing numbers of growers are now maintaining their own plots under the direction of the Department's officers.

As production increases, many plots are becoming debt-free, but most owners continue to rely on the Department for the essential services of discing and spraying. As the scheme progresses added emphasis is being placed on the picking and packing for export of only selected high-quality fruit.

Today the orange crop is the most profitable steady export from the islands, having been exceeded in total value over the past five years (1954 to 1958 inclusive) only by the fluctuating returns for supplies of mother-of-pearl shell, while it is well ahead of copra, tomatoes, and manufactured goods from Rarotonga's clothing factory.

Cook Islands orange exports (all to New Zealand) are regarded in Government policy as an essential contribution to New Zealand's citrus fruit supplies. They still contain a proportion of fruit from wild

trees, but year by year this percentage is decreasing.

There were, in 1959, 450 acres in model plantations under the replanting scheme, with a total of 40,000 trees, and 330 acres (22,000 trees) in native or private plantations not part of the scheme. Of these latter orchards it is not expected that more than a quarter will play a significant part in future exports.

Experience over the past 15 years has proved that the economic success of the scheme depends on the enthusiasm with which plot owners follow expert advice, and on the provision of adequate cool-store accommodation and sea transport to ensure high, even quality without wastage. Gassing rooms, allied with a debuttoning technique to prevent spoiling, exist at all packing sheds, and a cool store at Avarua, Rarotonga, which will be the central export depot, will be operating by the start of the 1960 season. It will contain modern equipment for washing, polishing, and waxing citrus fruit. A new Government vessel for the Cook Islands trade is now under construction for delivery late in 1960.

The Government guarantees the purchase and shipping of all fruit of satisfactory quality and condition, at a price negotiated each year. A Fruit Advisory Committee, comprising the Resident Commissioner, the Director of Agriculture, three elected Maori members from Rarotonga, and one elected European member, exists to advise the Commissioner in promoting the interests of the producers.

By mid-1959 the New Zealand Government had made available for the development of the Cook Islands citrus trade a total of £394,000 in loans and £48,000 in grants. The loans included £146,000 advances to growers, £110,000 for cultivation equipment and other general purposes, and £136,000 towards the cost of the £212,000 central cool store; the grants cover the cost of establishing nurseries and the scheme's annual operating expenses.

Tomatoes: Encouraged by quick returns, by increased availability of extra shipping to New Zealand, and the fact that the Cook Islands harvest occurs at the end of the New Zealand season, Rarotonga in particular and Aitutaki, Mangaia, and Atiu to a lesser extent have in the five years to the end of 1958 earned £360,000 by the export of 420,000 boxes of tomatoes.

The use of fertiliser and spray increased as growers appreciated that careful management meant larger crops, but enthusiasm fell away in 1957 when 109,000 boxes realised only £65,000, after 96,000 boxes had brought £101,000 the year before. The result was that only 72,000 boxes were marketed in 1958—a commentary on the islands grower's approach to the economic "law of supply and demand".

Pineapples: Though the fruit grows well throughout the Southern Group, Mangaia is the only island where pineapples have been produced in recent years on a commercial basis. There, exports in 1954-55-56 totalled 60,000 cases for a return of £47,000, but the uncertainty of shipping, the remoteness of Mangaia, and the perishable nature of the fruit once it is mature have combined to produce some disappointing returns. Growers' resultant lack of enthusiasm for painstaking cultivation consequently reduced production, quality, and therefore revenue from this source, but extensive replantings are now planned.

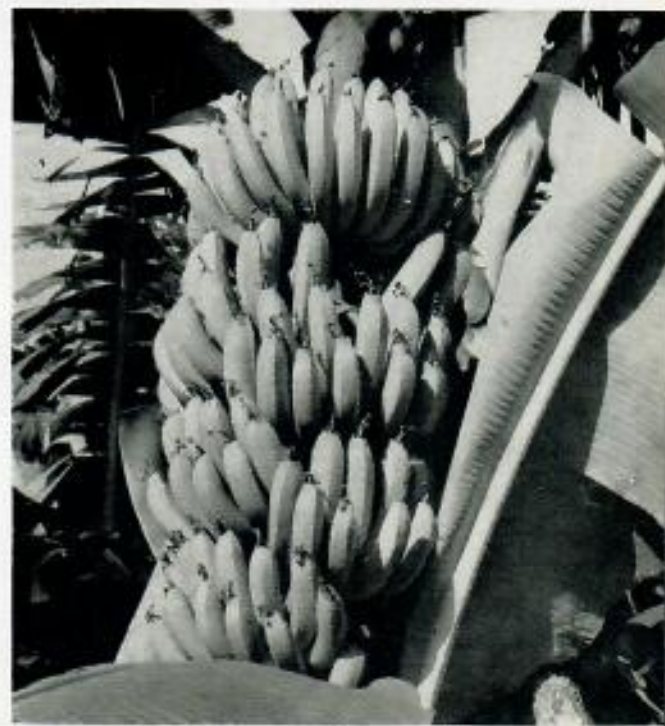
Bananas: The Cook Islands' pre-war banana trade with New Zealand fell away because of irregular wartime shipping and, although large quantities of the fruit are grown for home consumption, exports have never been revived in bulk in view of greater concentration on citrus and tomato trade, and because of lesser returns and difficulties of transport. Adequate supplies are also available to New Zealand from Western Samoa, Fiji, and Tonga.

Pearl Shell: In the past five years, 1954-58, a thousand tons of mother-of-pearl shell has been produced from the lagoons at Penrhyn and Manihiki islands, for a total export return of £493,400. The price of shell rose from £256 a ton in 1954 to £380, £681, and £794 in successive years and fell to £511 in 1958, when the Manihiki lagoon had to be closed for conservation reasons.

Since then the price of shell has again fallen severely and it appears unlikely that these islands will enjoy such large cash incomes in future. One result may be a greater reliance on traditional diets rather than on imported foodstuffs and therefore improved health.

Industry: Becoming more important each year in Rarotonga's economy is manufacturing. More than 100 Maori women and girls are employed in a locally owned and managed clothing factory, which is engaged entirely on making garments for the New Zealand trade. Export values for the most recent five-year period have been: 1954, £43,483; 1955, £59,266; 1956, £64,396; 1957, £84,109; 1958, £96,089.

Bananas ripened on the bunch are a staple article of diet, much sweeter than those that have to be picked green for export.





Official encouragement of housing improvements has resulted in many "then and now" contrasts as provided by this modern house replacing a substandard dwelling (bottom of page).

A New Zealand manufacturing jeweller employs local staff in another Rarotonga factory making jewellery and gift articles of paua shell, silver, and native woods for New Zealand marketing, the value of export trade having risen from £6,363 in 1957 to £10,244 in 1958.

Employees belong to the Cook Islands Industrial Union of Workers, affiliated to the New Zealand Federation of Labour. All other wage earners, apart from those in the Cook Islands Public Service, belong to this union. Wages are at a lower level than in New Zealand, because of the lower cost of living in an island community, but rates are reviewed frequently, and a general reinvestigation of industrial conditions was begun early in 1959.

Woven handcraft articles - hats, belts, baskets, and mats principally - are made from pandanus and coconut-palm leaf on a domestic basis only.



Cooperatives: Cook Islanders have in the past been eager to establish cooperatives, which suit their traditional community organisation, but lack of experience in some past attempts brought disappointments and some feeling of distrust.

During 1955 the appointment to the staff of the Social Development Department of an experienced cooperatives organiser enabled a fresh start to be made, and by mid-1959 the growth and consolidation of the movement was continuing successfully. There are 41 societies now in existence on Rarotonga, Atiu, and Mangaia, including a central financial institution (the Cooperative Union), village thrift-and-credit societies, thrift-and-loan, processing and marketing, and consumers' societies, youth clubs, and school savings clubs. On Atiu and Mangaia copra is being processed and marketed cooperatively, and on Aitutaki several families are working together to build new homes. A Government loans scheme exists for salaried members of the Public Service who belong to one cooperative thrift society, for home-building purposes. Many loans are also made by the village societies, mainly for agricultural improvements and housing; repayment by instalments is regular and very rarely are repayments overdue.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Traditional songs and dances, sport, youth organisations, radio, adult education, and simple newspapers all have their place in the modern life of the Cook Islands, and films, both for educational and entertainment purposes, are as popular there as anywhere else.

Apart from the traditional village and family community life, many church and youth organisations exist. Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and Boys' Brigade units exist on most islands, and a feature of ceremonial occasions is often the participation of small brass bands of Boys' Brigade members. Youth clubs for young men and young women also exist, apart from village community centre activities such as Women's Institutes in which older people are prominent.

The Cook Islander, like all Polynesian people, is an enthusiast for sport, and regular competitions exist in Rugby football, cricket, and tennis in particular.

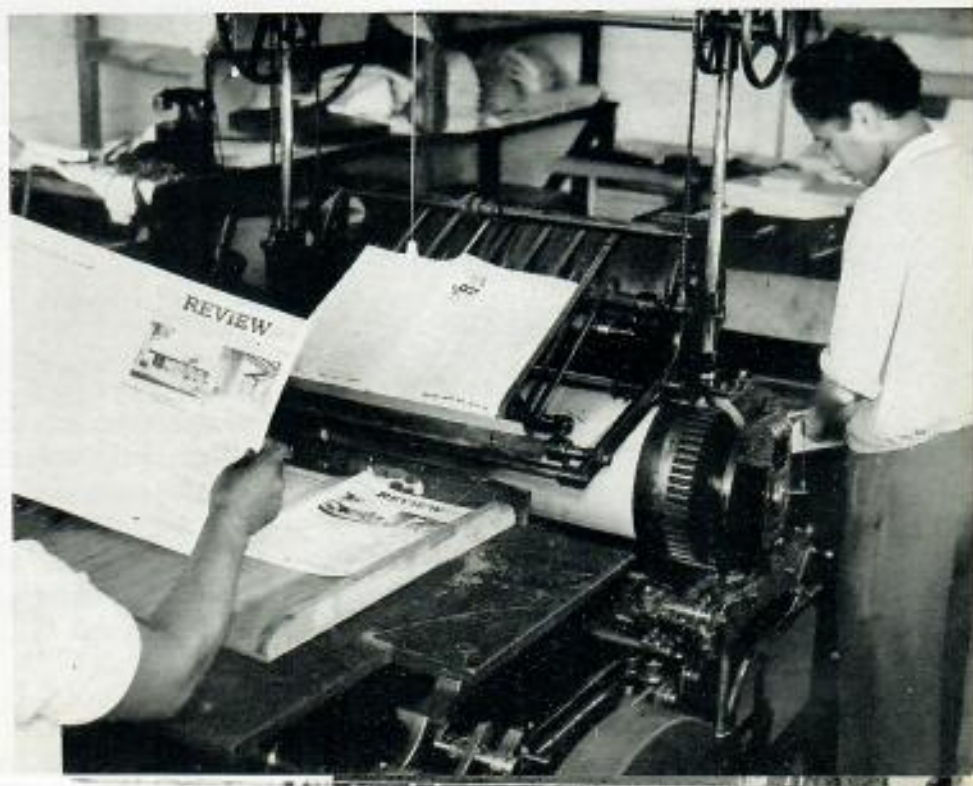
Cultural activities include the recording of Maori legends and historical incidents, traditional songs and dances. A Maori grammar recently published by Very Rev.

Fr Floribert van Lier, Ss. Cc., has been officially adopted, and the Savage dictionary prepared by a committee chaired by the Director of Education is being printed by the Administration. A travelling arts and crafts specialist teacher visits the schools of Rarotonga and, as transport allows, other islands. Rarotonga has a small public library open to all who pay a small membership fee.

Without a privately owned newspaper, the Cook Islands has a cyclostyled daily press sheet which publishes local notices and items of islands, New Zealand, and world news.

Through the Maori-language School Journal teachers are encouraged to write articles in the vernacular on all topics suitable for school reading matter. The monthly *Cook Islands Review* features articles on all subjects of general islands interest. A start has been made on a radio service for the Cook Group through an hour's broadcast once a week from Radio ZK-1ZA Rarotonga, and it is hoped to develop an extended service which will include regular broadcasts to schools.

The Cook Islands Review is distributed monthly, and a modest printing plant produces simple books as well as a daily news sheet with topical illustrations.



TRANSPORT AND RADIO

Since wartime needs brought about the development of airfields on Rarotonga, Aitutaki, and Penrhyn, the Cook Islands have had an air link with the outside world. In early post-war years the New Zealand National Airways Corporation maintained a landplane service into Rarotonga. Since 1952 Tasman Empire Airways "Coral Route" flying boats have flown regularly between Fiji and Tahiti, with calls at Aitutaki and Western Samoa.

The scattered and isolated location of the Cook Islands, and their distance from New Zealand, make shipping services a difficult economic proposition in view of the comparatively limited trade available. For many years work has been going on as fast as money is available to blast reef passages for the surf boats which transport cargo to and from ships anchored outside the coral reefs encircling all the islands.

"Slung out" at Rarotonga: Without harbours where ocean-going vessels can tie up, loading and unloading passengers and cargo in the Cook Islands calls for improvisation and agility.



Inter-island transport of passengers and cargo is provided by a few small privately owned vessels. Apart from the monthly visits by the *Maui Pomare* to Rarotonga and, at intervals, other islands of the Southern Group, extra calls by cargo steamers are made at Rarotonga from time to time to uplift produce for New Zealand.

No road transport service exists in the Cook Islands, except for three school buses on Rarotonga, where the majority of the islands' motor vehicles operate. The total fleet comprises 116 cars (six Government-owned), 198 trucks (32 Government-owned), 75 motor cycles, and 13 jeep-type vehicles. There are also many bicycles – and a total of nearly 1,700 horses, few of which show any sign of thoroughbred ancestry.

Normal postal and post-office services operate throughout the Cook Islands, with Maori staff under the supervision of administrative and technical officers from the New Zealand Post Office. Radio communications naturally play an important part in communications.

A parent radio station at Rarotonga maintains links with Wellington and other principal Pacific centres as well as with 12 substations in the outer islands. Two-way radio-telephone contact is kept with all aircraft in the area, with continuous watch on marine radio wavelengths.

There is a daily morse-code service of news to the outer islands, except on Sundays, with special emphasis on the movements of small trading vessels, which are of particular interest. Many hundreds of thousands of words are handled annually by the radio service, and postal traffic, inward and outward, in letters, parcels, newspapers, and packets, exceeds 280,000 items a year.

A 24-hour-a-day telephone service operates on Rarotonga, and Aitutaki has a small exchange.

COOK ISLANDS ROUND-UP

The mean annual temperature on Rarotonga is 73·6°, with July and August the coolest months. In the past five years (1954-58) annual rainfall has averaged 83 in.

In the islands of the Northern Group the danger of drought is met by erection of concrete storage tanks; on 10 islands these have a total capacity (1959) of 1,023,000 gallons, an average of 128 gallons a head. Both Rarotonga and Aitutaki have reticulated water serving some villages.

Weather-reporting stations are established on eight islands.

According to the 1956 census, 13,069 Cook Islanders belong to the London Missionary Society, 1,854 to the Roman Catholic Church, 908 are Seventh-Day Adventists, and 751 are affiliated with other religious organisations.

Members of the Cook Islands Public Service at 31 March 1959 totalled 821, 739 of them locally appointed and 82 "imported" officers.

Of the total area of 47,498 acres of the six main islands of the Southern Group - Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangaia, Mauke, and Mitiaro - only 9,523 acres are suitable for annual or tree-borne crops, and another 16,453 acres for tree crops only. The remaining 21,522 acres (45 per cent of the six islands' total area) is too steep or is harsh and unfertile ground.

In the whole of the Cook Islands, the estimated acreage in various main crops is: coconuts, 28,250 acres; bananas, 1,380; citrus, 767; tomatoes, 800; taro, 400; manioc (arrowroot), 325; pineapples, 250; kumara, 200; and yams, 50. Some crops, such as bananas or tomatoes, may be grown in coconut plantations.

The islands have, according to a live-stock census in March 1959, 263 cattle (some are slaughtered by private owners for fresh meat, but practically no milk is produced), 10,649 pigs, and 2,244 goats.

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There are no sheep. A large agricultural show is held on Rarotonga each year.

Apart from income tax, levied on all permanent residents (1957, £42,189; 1958, £20,497), there is no direct taxation of the Maori community. Duties are levied on imports and on exports of pearl shell and copra.

Of 4,851 Cook Islands men over 15 years of age (at the 1956 census), 2,803 were planters, 405 labourers, 158 pearl-shell divers, and 128 fishermen. In industry were 185 in transport and communications, 125 in trades, 172 in commerce, and 20 in domestic service. There were 460 in public administration and professions (including 146 teachers and 70 clerks). Of the 4,245 women over 15, 3,755 were housewives, 135 were employed on domestic duties, 178 were teachers or nurses, and 98 in other paid work (including factory production).

Since an "aided self-help" building subsidy scheme was introduced in July 1957, 93 applications from homebuilders were received in two years; in 58 cases a grant of £50 worth of roofing material was made.

Children in Cook Islands schools are taught in Maori for their first two years; thereafter in English.

The Cook Islander needs little excuse to don garlands of flowers and join in informal merriment. This village group has a more definite purpose - raising money for a local community cause, a common practice.



NIUE

-ISOLATED COMMUNITY



An increasing part is being played in islands administration by representative local councils. Here Niue Island Council meets the Minister of Island Territories, Hon. J. Mathison, and visiting officials.

Isolated Niue Island, part of no recognised group, is 300 miles east of Tonga, 350 miles south-east of Samoa, and 580 miles west of Rarotonga. Just over 100 square miles in extent, 13 miles long and 11 miles wide, it has no harbour in its reef-encircled, precipitous coastline and no airfield.

A coral cap upon volcanic basalt rock, Niue has a coastal terrace about 90 ft high and its inland plateau is about 220 ft. Seven of the island's 12 villages are on the western side of the lower terrace and the remaining five on the north, east, and south sides of the upper terrace. They are linked by a 40-mile ring road which roughly follows the coast, and three other roads spread out from Alofi, the administrative centre, across the island.

Niue has no running streams or surface water. About 8,000 acres of its total area (64,900 acres) is in forest that includes adequate millable timber. The rocky nature of Niue makes all agriculture difficult and most of the arable land exists in pockets of soil among the coral. Another 8,000 acres supports only scrub and fern. Of the 48,000 acres available for the 4,780 people much is in poor condition and must lie fallow after being worked out in past years.

This cultivation is believed to have begun more than 1,000 years ago. European knowledge of Niue dates back only to Captain James Cook's discovery of it in 1774. Rev. John Williams was, in 1830, the first of several missionaries to make temporary visits until 1846, when a Niuean named Peniamina returned home after some years of Christian teaching in Samoa. The major part in the introduction of Christianity to Niue was taken, however, by Paulo, a Samoan teacher trained by the London Missionary Society, who landed on the island in 1849.

When the first European resident missionary, Rev. W. G. Lawes, arrived in 1861 he found Niue without an avowed heathen, and the whole population living peacefully under Paulo's influence.

Three times, in 1887, 1898, and 1899, the Niueans petitioned Queen Victoria for British protection before the Union Jack was hoisted in April 1900. Later that year Lord Ranfurly, Governor of New Zealand, visited Niue to proclaim British sovereignty and in June 1901 the island was annexed to New Zealand by a Proclamation at Auckland by HRH the Duke of Cornwall and York. The first Resident Agent, Mr S. Percy Smith, arrived in September of that year.

Though so isolated, Niue has a remarkably diverse admixture of races from other

parts of the Pacific, including Papua, Tonga, Samoa, the Ellice Islands, Fiji, and the Marshall Islands. This is the result of many Niuean pastors having married while serving in overseas missions, and because the Niuean is such a good worker that his labour is much sought after in other regions. There are Niuean colonies in other Pacific islands, as well as in Auckland, New Zealand.

The Niuean language is a distinct Polynesian dialect, related to Tongan and Samoan, but with some traces of eastern Polynesian tongues. Many adults have little knowledge of the English language but most of the young people are bilingual, English being the school tongue after the primer stages, in which the vernacular is used.

Today every locally born resident of Niue intending to leave the island must have a permit from the Resident Commissioner (a regulation introduced by the Niue Island Council). This is to ensure that the emigrant, usually seeking wider opportunities in New Zealand, has first arranged accommodation and can support himself on arrival until he gets work; and to avoid the possibility of a family man with over-ambitious ideas leaving behind a wife and family and being unable to save enough money for them to follow him within a reasonable time.

The island's internal social structure is unlike that of most Polynesian communities. Apart from a general division of the people into groups, Motu in the north and

Tafti in the south (possibly the vestiges of ancient migrations from Samoa and Tonga), there is no tribal system.

The village community is based on the family, the head of each family, the patu, having a voice in village affairs, which are largely centred around church activities.

It is probably because of this social structure that Niue Island Council has become an important part of administration under Government policy of helping the Niueans to help themselves. The laws administered by the Resident Commissioner and his staff are applied either by authority of Acts of the New Zealand Parliament or by ordinances passed by the Island Council.

Local village government is largely in the hands of its councillor and the village constable and local affairs are usually discussed at meetings of the patus under the leadership of the councillor.

The majority of positions in the Administration is held by Niueans, and wherever possible vacancies are filled as they arise by Niueans. There are fewer than 60 Europeans resident on the island, and the Administration staff is made up of 25 Europeans and 184 Niueans.

Because of the poor, rocky soil, the Niuean has always had to work hard and has thus become industrious and resourceful. Sometimes considered dour, he is shy with Europeans, generally speaking, but rarely anything but good-natured, courteous, and hospitable.

Niue's public works depot is an example of the islanders' ability as builders with concrete blocks.



HOW THE NIUEANS LIVE

The prosperity of Niue's families depends, beyond the food crops they raise for themselves, on exports of copra, plaited basketware, bananas, and kumara, all of which they are able to produce, with little financial assistance, in enough quantity to improve slowly their standard of living.

As in the Cook Islands, revenue from exports and other sources is insufficient to meet the cost of maintaining public services. The yearly gap between revenue and expenditure is met by subsidies from the New Zealand Government.

The Administration internal revenue comes from income tax (New Zealand rates apply), dog tax, copra export tax, import duties, and a wharfage charge on imports. The Island Council's revenue comprises a head tax of £1 a year on all male Niueans between 18 and 60 years, who also pay 2s. 6d. a year each into a fund to care for old people.

All land is held by families and can neither be sold nor passed by will, but passes to the children on the death of either parent, or if there are no children reverts to the family group.

A staple food is taro, and small plots are cultivated by all families. Yams and arrowroot are widely grown, and pawpaw, bananas, and coconuts are also important items in the Niuean diet.

The rocky ground and lack of surface water makes Niue unsuitable for cattle and horses, and the few there are do not thrive.

Pigs total about 500 but because pork is esteemed for special occasions the numbers do not increase. Fowls are plentiful but the poultry census remains fairly static for the same reason.

Coconuts grow well, particularly on the lower terrace in a belt almost encircling the island, and, unlike those of many other islands, the plantations include a fair proportion of young palms.

Bananas grow freely but in plots that are too small for best management. Large quantities of kumara are exported to New Zealand, and limes grow prolifically, though the New Zealand demand for them falls short of what their quality deserves.

Most villages have access to areas of forest containing excellent timber trees. Although it will be many years before this supply is exhausted, a reforestation programme has been started to rehabilitate areas of exhausted soil. The Administration has a well equipped sawmill.

"Boat day", the monthly call by the Union Company's *Tofua*, is the feature of Niuean life as, apart from the island's radio station, it is almost the only link with the outside world. There is a small telephone exchange, and an electricity scheme limited to Administration services in Alofi and about 70 private consumers. Normal post-office services exist and the Administration issues fortnightly a cyclo-styled newspaper, the *Niue Newsletter*.



As in all Pacific Islands, Niue enthusiasm for education is such that classes go on even when the school has been blown away by a hurricane.

NIUE SOCIAL SERVICES



Cooperative working bees are a feature of Niue life: men of a village gather coral for the concrete base of a communal water tank.

Unlike many Pacific communities, Niue has never had, so far as is known, female chiefs or leaders, but today women have more voice in village affairs. All girls now attend schools and have the same opportunities for higher education as boys; most of Niue's school teachers are women and present-day custom permits the wives in some families to have almost as much authority as their husbands in the management of the home.

All Niueans share in free medical and dental care, including hospital services, and all staff except for the chief medical officer, hospital matron, and sisters are locally born. The emphasis placed on maternity services, ante-natal clinics, and child care is reflected in a low infant mortality rate and a continuing increase in the number of home confinements, an indication of confidence.

Excellent progress has been made in the control of tuberculosis, and filariasis has ceased to be a major health problem.

All Niue children must attend school between the ages of six and 14, and may continue if they wish to complete Standard Six. Selected pupils receive post-primary training at Niue College.

There are seven primary schools for the 12 villages, all staffed by Niuean teachers. Niue College, a side school, and a teacher training college are staffed by New Zealand certificated teachers.

The syllabus is based broadly on that of New Zealand, with emphasis on agriculture, woodwork, sewing, weaving, and health, and special attention to Niuean language and culture.

In addition to the fortnightly newsletter, a daily news sheet compiled from Radio New Zealand and other broadcast news sessions is distributed, and New Zealand's Country Library Service provides Niue with books for a circulating library.

Youth organisations include Boys' and Girls' Life Brigades in most villages under the London Missionary Society, and Boy Scouts have been organised in three villages. Inter-village cricket is played and a keen interest in softball is developing.

Wherever there are supplies of coral rock and wood fuel as well, the islanders are assured of plentiful coral lime for building in durable concrete. Huge piles of rock are stacked round dry timber and a slow fire gradually reduces the coral to building lime.



IT'S AN ILL WIND

●
NEW HOMES
RISE FROM
GALE RUINS



The ruins of Alofi church, which had withstood all storms for more than 100 years.

Although Niue's records show that 62 in. of rain fell in 1957, compared with an average of 79 in. a year for the past 30 years, only 18 in. fell in the nine months from May 1957 to January 1958. By that time there were practically no taros left and banana growth was at a standstill, while the few taro shoots remaining could not be planted out until the 1958 season.

The Niueans had only just recovered from the effects of this drought when they were struck by another disaster, this time as dramatic in its suddenness as the drought had been a strain on their fortitude.

One of the most intense hurricanes experienced in the south Pacific swept the island, reaching its peak on 26 February 1959 and finally passing at 5 a.m. on 27 February after a night of terror. Winds of between 50 and 80 miles an hour were experienced for the full period, and reached 120 miles an hour at the peak.

Of Niue's 770 houses, 480 were either blown away or wrecked as roofing iron peeled away and framing lifted. Torrential rain, and salt spray whipped off the ocean, soaked every home and contaminated water supplies. As the gale moved round the compass, homes that had withstood the onslaught from one

direction collapsed when attacked from another.

Whole villages were completely devastated; only two churches escaped destruction; trees were uprooted everywhere; food crops were severely damaged, with an immediate threat of semi-starvation; dozens of people crowded into each of the one- and two-roomed houses remaining. Miraculously, no one was killed or even injured, beyond minor cuts and bruises, although some dwellings literally fell in around the occupants.

One of these was the large home of a village pastor, who with his wife and several children emerged unhurt. In another house, crowded with refugees, a baby was born at the height of the hurricane.

Tents from New Zealand were flown 1,600 miles in a Royal New Zealand Air Force transport "air-drop". A United States Navy icebreaker on its way from the Antarctic to America via New Zealand called in at Niue with emergency food and clothing. A relief fund opened by the New Zealand Government in collaboration with the Red Cross and CORSO realised over £35,000 in gifts of money, clothing, and food from the United States, Canada, Britain, and Europe, as well as New Zealand and Pacific islands.

Houses in Vaiea village are a pattern for new construction throughout Niue.



By mid-1959 a programme to replace wrecked Administration buildings and schools, and to build 514 new homes, was under way as a cooperative effort by Government and people, financed by a Government suspensory loan plan, with building supplies purchased in bulk and construction undertaken by village teams under supervision of New Zealand foremen.

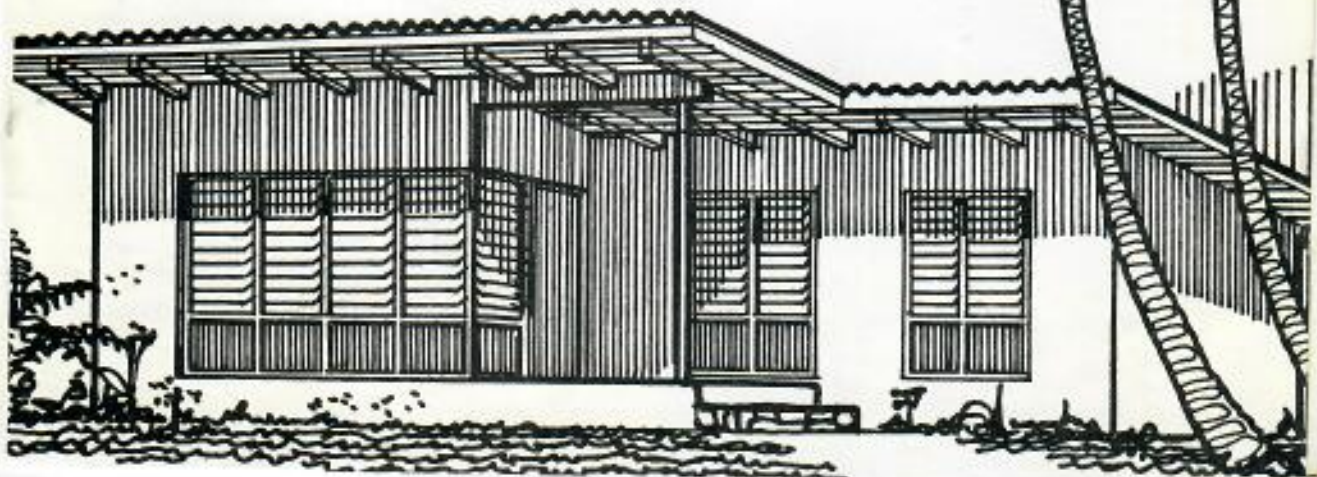
Another hurricane struck Niue Island in January 1960, again damaging churches and homes but without seriously affecting food supplies.

A feature of Niue administration for some years has been the increasing participation of the people of the island in the management of their own affairs under an "aided self-help" programme. One manifestation of this has been the development of a new village, Vaiea, with homes built to proved designs. Because

these houses all withstood the hurricanes without damage, the rehousing programme is based on a variety of similar designs, thus meriting the active cooperation of the Niuean, who is traditionally industrious and will deny himself much in order to have a dwelling of which he can be proud.

Niue's hurricanes, like many ill winds, proved to be a blessing in disguise; once the rebuilding plan is completed, the people of Niue ought to be the best-housed in the Pacific.

More than 500 new loan-aided homes are being built on Niue to a range of designs such as this.





THE TOKELAUS - EQUATORIAL N.Z.

Ceremonial fleet of Fakafo canoes greets a visiting flying boat.

In this little-known New Zealand community there are 1,774 citizens, who have no public debt, may not sell their land, have no prisons, and provide their labour free to erect public buildings and maintain their few roads. They have no motor vehicles, not even a bicycle, no newspapers, and only one telephone. No Pacific community has had less contact with European influence.

These people of the Tokelaus are British subjects and New Zealand citizens. Their three atolls, Fakafo, Nukunono, and Atafu, lie within 10° of the Equator, roughly 300 miles north of Western Samoa and an average of 50 miles apart.

Each atoll consists of several tiny islets on a coral reef encircling a lagoon. On Nukunono and Atafu only one islet

On tiny Nukunono Island in the Tokelaus - northernmost New Zealand - missionaries show their neat school on the edge of the surf to New Zealand's Minister of Island Territories, who makes a periodical tour of inspection of the dependencies.



is occupied and on Fakafo, which became overcrowded, the neighbouring islet on the reef, Fanuafala, has become a "suburb" of 40 families. The largest islet is Nukunono - 4 miles long and 300 yards wide.

Copra is the main source of Tokelau income apart from the Group's own set of three postage stamps, which are popular with collectors. Each atoll has a radio station to maintain outside contact, apart from signalling daily weather reports to Apia, Western Samoa.

Government receiving sets are installed in all four villages and their schools, and full use is made of educational and other broadcasts from Radio 2AP, Apia.

The Tokelau people take great pride in the appearance of their homes which, together with village paths and grounds, are kept in immaculate order. Their large canoes, used to catch plentiful supplies of the fish, which, with coconuts, are the staple diet, are made of "pre-fabricated" slabs of local timber sewn together with coconut-fibre thread. Any section damaged on a reef crossing can thus be easily replaced.

Fowls are plentiful and also pigs, which are fattened on coconuts for special occasions. Though to Europeans the Tokelau diet might seem restricted, health statistics indicate that nutritional values are good, with breadfruit in season, a coarse type of taro, bananas, and eggs.

The islanders export some carved wood-work and plaited ware, being famous for the quality of their woven mats, but sun-dried copra, the meat of the coconut, is the staple export. For this they have a kind of guaranteed price – a stabilisation fund, built up from a levy on exports, which at 31 March 1959 totalled £5,085, invested in New Zealand securities.

Village women's committees meet monthly to study child welfare, and play a big part in community life. All local public services are attended to on each atoll by appointed Tokelau officials.

These officials are the faipule, chief representative of the Government, and also the magistrate or fa'amasino, the village mayor, the pulenu'u; the village clerk, the failautusi; and medical, agricultural, police, radio, and postal officers.

Only two Europeans reside permanently in the Tokelaus, a Catholic priest and a mission sister on Nukunono, and visits are paid at intervals by an Administrative Officer, based at Samoa, who is responsible to the New Zealand High Commissioner of Western Samoa in his capacity as Administrator of the Tokelau Islands.

KNOWN FOR 350 YEARS

After the first recorded European discovery in 1606, it was not until 1765 that Atafu was visited by Commodore John Byron in the British naval vessel *Dolphin*. It was revisited in 1791 by Captain E. Edwards in HMS *Pandora* during a search for the mutineers of HMS *Bounty*; Nukunono was also found on this occasion. Fakaofu was not visited until the 1840s by French and United States vessels.

All three atolls became a British protectorate in 1877, with formal declarations at each atoll in 1889. The islands were annexed in 1916 to become part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony of Great Britain, which asked New Zealand to take over administration in 1925.

The people of the Tokelaus have cultural and linguistic ties with Samoa, strengthened in recent years by the introduction of the Bible in the Samoan language and the appointment of Samoan pastors, medical practitioners, nurses, and teachers to positions in the islands.

The inhabitants are all Christians, those on Fakaofu and Atafu being adherents of the London Missionary Society and on Nukunono all Roman Catholics.

The islands' revenue is derived principally from an export duty on copra,

Customs duty on all imports, and the sale of postage stamps. It is insufficient to meet expenditure on health, education, and administration services, and the annual deficit is met by New Zealand Government subsidies.

Imports in the four years 1954–58 have averaged £2,862 a year, almost wholly in flour, sugar, rice, kerosene, and, to a less extent, tobacco.

A Samoan medical practitioner on each atoll has the training to cope with the great majority of cases, and can quickly obtain advice from Apia by radio. Each of the three small hospitals is staffed by Tokelau nursing aids, the best of whom are sent to Apia for a full nursing training. The medical practitioner also has the help of the village women's committees, with much influence on village health and sanitation.

No disease is a serious problem in the Tokelaus, where yaws and filaria are present, but not extensive.

Attendance at all schools in the group is close to 100 per cent. Government schools exist on Atafu and Fakaofu, while that on Nukunono is conducted by the Roman Catholic priest with the aid of one of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary.

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DIRECTORY

(As at 1 January 1960)

Minister of Island Territories: Hon. J. Mathison, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.
Private Secretary: Mr L. J. Davis.

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Assistant Secretary: Mr A. O. Dare, ACCTS. PROF.
Legal Officer: Mr W. E. Wilson, LL.M.
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Senior Clerk (Staffing and Records): Mr J. M. Whitta.
Accountant: Mr A. E. Webb, A.R.A.N.Z.
G.m.v. Maui Pomare: Captain J. Hare.

Cook Islands Administration

Resident Commissioner: Mr G. Nevill.
Secretary to Government and Deputy Resident Commissioner: Mr L. K. Pitt.
Treasurer: Mr F. H. Reeves.
Legislative Assembly: Makea Nui Teremoana Ariki, C.B.E., Makea Karika Takau Margaret Ariki, Areora Ira, Napa T. Napa, W. Watson, D. C. Brown, T. J. Browne, Glassie Strickland (Rarotonga); Tuakeu Puna, Urikore Cummings, Kau Mapu (Aitutaki); Tearikivaine Maka Kea, Vaine Rere (Atiu); Pokino Aberchama, Ngatupuna Matepi (Mangaia); Tihau Napara (Manihiki); Dave Niovara (Mauke); Tama Tetava (Mitiaro); Tangaroa Tangaroa (Penrhyn); Ine Rutera (Pukapuka); Toka Mataiao (Rakahanga); F. M. Bateson (Rarotonga, European elected member); L. K. Pitt (Secretary to Government); F. H. Reeves (Treasurer); M. B. Baker (Director of Agriculture, official member appointed by Resident Commissioner); and R. D. McEwan (Director of Education, official member appointed by Resident Commissioner). The Resident Commissioner (Mr G. Nevill) is president of the Assembly *ex officio*.
Resident Agents: Aitutaki, Mr R. G. Thorby; Atiu, Mr I. Robertson; Mangaia, Mr J. H. Webb; Mauke, Mr G. W. A. Perks; Manihiki-Rakahanga, Mr S. G. O'Bryan; Pukapuka-Nassau, Mr Tipuia Tiro; Penrhyn, Mr J. J. McCauley. Mr N. Marsters is Government Agent on Palmerston Island, and on other inhabited islands the Administration is represented by a clerk in charge.

Niue Island

Resident Commissioner: Mr D. W. R. Heatley, M.B.E.
Treasurer and Deputy Resident Commissioner: Mr J. R. Springford.
Island Council: R. Rex, Peika, Tauchetagalao, Talaiti, Liuvaie, Farani Nogotau, Eti Fekonoi, Puleuka, Laniti, Fereti, Lagigie, Panikitau, A. Strickland. The Resident Commissioner (Mr D. W. R. Heatley) is president of the Council *ex officio*.

Tokelau Islands

Administrator: Mr G. R. Powles, C.M.G. (High Commissioner for Western Samoa).
Administrative Officer: Mr H. L. Webber.

Back Cover: Facets of Cook Islands life. From left, top to bottom: old-style "cookhouse" - modern building methods; skilled industry (plastering) - laughing leisure; "boat day" cooperation - everyday scenery (Mt Ikurangi from the Residency, Rarotonga).

