

TABLE III.—IMPORTS into the COOK ISLANDS for the YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1894.
[Valued in Chilian dollars at 3s. each.]

	From New Zealand.	From Tahiti.	Total.
Animals	\$ 953	\$ 75	\$ 1,028
Clothing	3,994	3,480	7,474
Piece and fancy goods	21,626	23,146	44,772
Provisions	11,624	4,469	16,093
Breadstuffs	5,396	5,594	10,990
Groceries	9,310	2,081	11,391
Spirits	3,105	440	3,545
Wines	144	250	394
Beer	198	68	266
Lumber, manufactured and unmanufactured	12,408	5,348	17,756
Hardware	11,115	6,062	17,177
Tobacco	1,490	1,554	3,044
Other articles	6,311	9,316	15,627
Total, dollars	\$87,674	\$61,883	\$149,557
Total, pounds sterling	£13,151	£9,282	£22,433

Included in above are goods exported to islands beyond the Federation,—

Duty paid \$3,604
From bond 4,522

\$8,126 = £1,219

Specie imported,—

From Tahiti \$13,353 = £2,003
From New Zealand (British coin) 1,045

£3,048

No. 20.

Mr. F. J. Moss to His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

MY LORD,—

British Residency, Rarotonga, 12th February, 1895.

I have the honour to report that during the past year the Liquor Law has worked well in Rarotonga, and that drunkenness among the natives is very rare. During the orange season some of them stupefy themselves occasionally, by secretly drinking the fermented juice, prepared and consumed in the uninhabited bush. This is prohibited by law, and they are punished when discovered.

At Aitutaki, the local Government drew up a law authorising the issue of permits to buy liquor from vessels calling at the island. On a French schooner from Rurutu calling, they appointed a permit officer and at once brought the law, on the plea of urgency, into operation. They wrote informing me of what had been done—that the law was passed by nine out of eleven members in the Council, and approved by a vote of a great majority of the people.

I at once replied by a refusal to sanction the sale of liquor in any way in Aitutaki, as no effective control would be possible. At the same time I sent an official notification, to be shown by the Federal Revenue Officer to all masters of vessels, informing them that the local Government had no authority to issue permits, and that they were liable, under the Federal Revenue Regulations, to a fine of £45 for each offence, which fine would be strictly enforced if liquor were landed on the island. According to the regulations, the Collector of Revenue in Rarotonga is the only authority who can give a permit, and he, of course, is debarred from doing so where the local law is prohibitive, as it is in all the islands excepting Rarotonga.

The local Government of Aitutaki have since written expressing their great regret, have cancelled the appointment of a permit officer, and endeavoured to excuse themselves on the plea of anxiety to do away with the smuggling that is known to take place, and to make a revenue for the local Government. The affair may now therefore be regarded as ended, but seems to me of sufficient importance and sufficiently characteristic to be included in my report for your Excellency's information.

I have had trouble also at Mauke, where liquor has, I am informed, been landed, and have sent to that and all the islands of the Federation a copy of the notification to shipmasters which was sent to Aitutaki.

To prevent vessels calling at these islands without first coming to Rarotonga, and making it the only port of entry, would entail hardship altogether out of proportion with the evil to be remedied. Nor would it prevent smuggling to a certain extent, where the law of prohibition is enforced against the will of a large section, if not a considerable majority, of the people. The smuggling is on all accounts to be regretted; but, so long as no liquor can be stored and sold on shore, the mischief will be confined within very narrow limits.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency the Earl of Glasgow, G.C.M.G.,
Governor of New Zealand.

FREDERICK J. MOSS,
British Resident.

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