No. 6.

No. 9.

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

Government House, Wellington, 15th September, 1897. Sir.-A.-1., 1898, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches No. 15/97, dated the enclosure to 21st August, and No. 11/97, dated the 10th August, 1897 (with six enclosures), which I have duly No. 9; No. 4. laid before my Ministers. The course you have adopted meets with their approval. Î have, &c.,

F. J. Moss, Esq., British Resident, Rarotonga.

RANFURLY.

No. 10.

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

Government House, Wellington, 15th September, 1897. SIR,-I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 13/97 (with two enclosures), dated the 21st August, 1897, which I have laid before my Ministers. They are quite satisfied with I have, &c., Ranfurly. your explanation.

F. J. Moss, Esq., British Resident, Rarotonga.

No. 11.

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

Cook Islands, British Residency, Rarotonga, 17th September, 1897. I have the honour to report that the Rarotonga Local Council was opened for its annual session on the 31st August, when the enclosed message from the Arikis (the Government) was presented. Your Excellency will observe that the subjects touched upon are important, and likely to develop much difference of opinion. The Council adjourned for a month, for their consideration in the several districts of the island. I have, &c.,

His Excellency the Earl of Ranfurly, K.C.M.G., Governor of New Zealand, &c.

FREDERICK J. Moss, British Resident.

Enclosures.

From the Arikis (the Government of Rarotonga) to the Barotonga Council.

WE lay before you, in this our opening message for the present session, a letter from the British Resident sent to us respecting the liquor-laws and the public schools. In laying that letter before you, we urge the necessity of your giving these questions the most full and careful consideration. Be not in haste over them, especially the public schools, which will affect not only the children now growing up, but those who are to come for generations after them. Make full inquiry, and, when you have decided what you think best to be done, let us know, and we will say whether we agree or do not agree with your views.

The Rarotonga Council.

As we have not yet been able to get the laws printed, it will be well to remind all the people of what the Council consists. This is the law which was passed on the 22nd September, 1893. The Council is divided into two parts—the Council of Arikis and that of the people. You are the Council of the people, and when you have agreed to anything it is to be brought to us. If we agree also, and the British Resident approves, then it is law. If we do not agree, then it falls to the ground.

The Government.

The Arikis of Rarotonga are not only a part of the Council, they are also the Government. As the Government we now speak to you, and say what has been done during the past year; and send you the British Resident's letter about the liquor and the schools, for your consideration.

The Revenue

for the year ending the 30th June, 1897, has been £763 5s. 1d., namely:-

Subsidies from 1	***	•••	£	s. 	d.	102	s. 0	d. 0			
Permits for liqu							•	•			
	•••	• • •	•••			192	2	0			
Others	•••					210	16	5			
								402	18	5	
Road-tax—											
Avarua	• • •			••		13	8	4			
Arorangi			• • •	***	• • •	0	0	0			
Takitumu	•••	•••			•••	0	0	0			
							13	8	4		