

The summaries for the year from 1892 (the first regular supply) to the year 1897 are as follows:—

Imports of Spirits and Wines and Beer.

					Spirits. £	Wines. £	Beer. £
1892	...	...	...	...	324	25	153
1893	...	...	...	...	407	55	89
1894	...	...	...	...	531	59	40
1895	...	...	...	...	481	77	27
1896	...	...	...	...	552	67	96
1897	...	...	...	...	449	88	132
					£2,744	371	537

Since the end of August last it was necessary for me to advise the Licensing Officer (Mr. Garnier) to refuse recognising the mouthpieces of the Arikis, and especially Tepou and Te Rangi, to accept their supply to the natives from the Licensing Officer. This refusal was taken by the Licensing Officer, and the course pursued by him was to receive the signature of the Arikis personally. The Arikis and their mouthpieces have resented this action of the Licensing Officer and been greatly indignant. They insist upon the dismissal by the Rarotonga Council of the Licensing Officer, but, as British Resident, I feel it my duty to ratify the action of the Licensing Officer completely.

Supplies of spirituous liquors have been thus stopped to natives since the 1st September, 1897. The supply of banana, orange, and pineapple has been secretly made with much increase, and done much harm, but neither myself nor the Licensing Officer has received any power for their interference.

I have, &c.,

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

FREDERICK J. MOSS,
British Resident.

No. 18.

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

MY LORD,—

Cook Islands, British Residency, Rarotonga, 8th January, 1898.

I have the honour to enclose, for your Excellency's information, the trade report for the Cook Islands for the year ending 31st December, 1897.

I have, &c.,

FREDERICK J. MOSS,
British Resident.

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

Enclosure.

REPORT OF THE TRADE OF THE COOK ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

Shipping and Navigation.

Table I., showing the report of shipping at the Port of Rarotonga, indicates that the steamer "Richmond" has been purchased by the Union Steamship Company, which confines its use of the "Upolu" alone. The companies' steamer is now used regularly for twenty-eight days from Auckland to several of the Cook Islands, shipping occasionally its oranges and other produce, as well as to Papeete and several of the Society Islands at various opportunities for shipment to Auckland. The Union Company gives all useful opportunities for facilities to natives for the shipment of produce on speculating sales on their individual enterprises. The Union Company has also built a very useful and effectual wharf, with adequate large stores and wharf sheds, for supply shipments to the regular steamer, in the Avarua small harbour, which has become the central object for all trade to the steamers..

Exports.

Table II. gives in detail the exports for 1897, showing the total of Cook Islands produce, amounting to the unusual sum of £2,175 ls., together with a further shipment of £2,381 of pearl-shell and other produce received from Penrhyn and other places. The export of Cook Islands coffee has reached for the year to the value of £10,754, much in excess of any previous year's supply. In addition to the exports stated in Table IIa., full particulars are stated of shipments for the years 1892 to 1897 for values to New Zealand and to Tahiti respectively. The totals of Cook Islands produce and of others sent to the Cook Islands from Penrhyn and the external islands are as follows (summarised):—

				Cook Islands Produce. £	From Penrhyn and Others. £	Total. £
1892	...	...	...	15,394	4,943	20,337
1893	...	...	...	18,763	905	19,668
1894	...	...	...	18,937	1,728	20,665
1895	...	...	...	19,084	1,054	20,138
1896	...	...	...	15,486	1,333	16,819
1897	...	...	...	21,751	2,381	24,132
				£109,415	£12,344	£121,759