

In January, 1946, representations were made for increases in rates of wages by water-front workers at Rarotonga, who have intermittent employment when overseas vessels call. Their requests were met in part, but as they were not wholly satisfied a tribunal was appointed, to be presided over by Mr. J. A. Gilmour, S.M. The tribunal was first intended to meet in March, but owing to travel restrictions occasioned by the occurrence of cases of poliomyelitis it was postponed, and met in June—*i.e.*, after the period covered by this report.

The following legislative measures have been enacted since the last report :—

In New Zealand—

Statutes Amendment Act, 1945, section 13.

The Cook Islands Finance Emergency Regulations, 1944, Amendment No. 1 (Serial number 1945/52).

The Dependency Emergency Regulations (No. 2) 1939, Amendment No. 6 (Serial number 1945/128).

The Cook Islands Fruit Control Regulations 1937, Amendment No. 2 (Serial number 1946/32).

The Cook Islands Quarantine (Aircraft) Regulations 1946 (Serial number 1946/38).

In the Cook Islands—

Nil.

VISITS

His Excellency the Governor-General, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Cyril Newall, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G., C.B.E., A.M., and Lady Newall, accompanied by their staff, paid an official visit to the Cook Islands in August, 1945.

Official visits were paid to the Group by the Assistant Secretary of War Pensions, the Director of Education, the Superintendent of Schools (Western Samoa), the Director-General of Health, the Director Division of Nursing, the Inspector-General South Pacific Health Service, the Public Service Commissioner, and Judge Harvey of the New Zealand Native Land Court, accompanied in several cases by officers of their respective Departments.

III. POSTAL AND RADIO

These Departments function in close liaison with the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department, and their technical officers are seconded from that Department, but financial and executive responsibility rests with the Cook Islands Administration.

Particulars of business dealt with are as follow :—

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Money-orders issued	£56,274	£59,016	£106,883	£86,230	£98,483
Money-orders paid	£6,681	£8,003	£27,210	£23,024	£13,640
Post Office Savings-bank deposits ..	£12,969	£18,892	£40,689	£44,949	£45,929
Post Office Savings-bank withdrawals	£14,249	£14,060	£23,629	£26,470	£38,150
Number of depositors as at 31st March	2,230	2,487	3,173	3,676	4,145
Amount held to their credit ..	£33,414	£39,083	£57,333	£77,408	£87,020
Number of Native depositors ..	2,113	2,361	3,037	3,553	4,026
Amount held to their credit ..	£19,006	£23,105	£39,929	£44,780	£60,670
Number of radio messages handled	4,698	6,778	7,895	9,170	12,125