

The Public Service

At present the majority of the senior positions are filled by officers recruited in New Zealand for service with the Cook Islands Administration. Local Maoris and Europeans are also employed, the majority of the employees being Maori. It is hoped that in the future more of the higher positions will be filled by Cook Islanders at present being educated in New Zealand under a Government scholarship scheme.

Penal Administration

As at the 31st March, 1949, the Police Force in the Group consisted of the following officers:—

Island.	Chief Officer.	Senior Sergeant.	Sergeant.	Constables.	Totals.
Rarotonga	1	1	1	8	11
Aitutaki	..	..	1	6	7
Mangaia	..	..	1	5	6
Atiu	..	..	1	5	6
Mauke	..	..	1	3	4
Mitiaro	..	..	1	2	3
Manihiki	..	..	..	3	3
Rakahanga	..	1	..	2	3
Penrhyn	..	..	..	3	3
Pukapuka	..	..	..	3	3
Totals	1	2	6	40	49

The Force is recruited in the Group, the only European being the Chief Officer.

The conduct of the Force has been good, but it was necessary to dismiss one constable at Rarotonga.

There has been no serious crime in the area during the last twelve months—the number of prosecutions brought by the police in the period was 1,475. The party of New Zealand police brought to Rarotonga during 1947 to assist in dealing with the industrial disputes has returned to New Zealand with the exception of one Sergeant and one constable.

The Police Force is responsible for the censoring of films, and during the year 167 films were censored and 8 were rejected as unsuitable for exhibition and several others were cut.

A total of 261 dogs were registered during the period, the fees collected totalling £130 10s.

Licence fees for motor-vehicles amounting to £212 10s. were collected during the year:—

	£	s.	d.
Annual licences—46 motor-trucks, 20 motor-cars, and 26 motor-cycles)	152	10	0
13 passenger licences	16	10	0
8 changes of ownership	2	0	0
118 motor-driver's licences	29	10	0
23 registrations	12	0	0
	<u>£212</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>

E. HUMAN RIGHTS

Where statutory law does not provide, the common law of England as at 1840 applies. Statutory law gives the people the protection of certiorari, habeas corpus, and also affords peculiar protection of land and contractual relationship.