

MEMORANDUM.

On the reconstruction of the Ministry in August, 1906, the administration of the Cook and other Islands was placed under my control; and to facilitate the transaction of business I have appointed Mr. Waldegrave, Under-Secretary for Justice, to have charge of the Island departmental affairs.

The annual reports of the Resident Commissioners at Rarotonga and Niue, together with a selection from the correspondence, are attached hereto.

During the recess I have had the advantage of conferring personally with the Resident Commissioners, and of discussing with them many matters of interest to the Islands.

1. CENSUS.—A census of the population of the Islands was taken last year, and particulars thereof are given in the annexed Table A. As this is the first occasion on which the figures have been compiled with any measure of accuracy, no true comparison can be made with the returns of previous years.

The returns of a census taken in 1902 are given in Table B.

TABLE A.—POPULATION OF COOK AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDS NOW INCLUDED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COLONY.—1906.

	Whites, and Half-castes living as Whites.	Natives, and Half-castes living as Natives.	Total.	Absentees.*
Rarotonga	107 ^(a)	2,334	2,441	..
Mangaia	8 ^(b)	1,523	1,531	..
Atiu	4 ^(c)	914	918	..
Aitutaki	8 ^(d)	1,154	1,162	82
Mauke (or Parry Island)	2 ^(e)	444	446	10
Mitiaro	2 ^(f)	208	210	..
Total Cook Group	131	6,577	6,708	92*
Niue (or Savage Island)	21 ^(g)	3,801	3,822	580
Palmerston	..	82	82	..
Penrhyn (or Tongareva)	6 ^(h)	414	420	..
Manihiki	2 ⁽ⁱ⁾	519	521	22
Rakahanga	1 ^(k)	351	352	50
Danger (or Pukapuka)	..	435	435	32
Total other islands	30	5,602	5,632	684*
Total population of Pacific islands	161	12,179	12,340	776*

* Absent in ships or at the guano islands, &c.

^(a) Birthplaces.—United Kingdom, 28; New Zealand, 23; Australia, 6; Tasmania, 3; Rarotonga, 10; France, 8; Germany, 5; Sweden, 1; Cape Verde Islands, 2; United States America, 8; Holland, 1; Portugal, 2; Society Group, 1; Hong Kong, 6; Jamaica, 2; Manila, 1.

^(b) Birthplaces.—United Kingdom, 5; New Zealand, 2; Rarotonga, 1.

^(c) Birthplaces.—Australia, 1; Hong Kong, 2; Austria, 1.

^(d) Birthplaces.—United Kingdom, 4; New Zealand, 1; Jamaica, 1; Norway, 1; Aitutaki, 1.

^(e) Birthplaces.—France, 1; Germany, 1.

^(f) Birthplaces.—Cape Verde Islands, 1; Hong Kong, 1.

^(g) Birthplaces not stated.

^(h) Birthplaces.—United Kingdom, 5; United States America, 1.

⁽ⁱ⁾ Birthplaces.—United Kingdom, 1; Australia, 1.

^(k) Birthplaces.—United Kingdom, 1.

SUMMARY OF BIRTHPLACES.—United Kingdom, 44; New Zealand, 26; Australia, 8; Tasmania, 3; Rarotonga, 11; France, 9; Germany, 6; Sweden, 1; Cape Verde Islands, 3; United States America, 9; Holland, 1; Portugal, 2; Society Group, 1; Hong Kong, 9; Jamaica, 3; Manila, 1; Norway, 1; Aitutaki, 1; Austria, 1; not stated, 21 (on Niue Island): Total, 161.