

The increase in drunkenness, it may be desirable to explain, is more apparent than real; the number of offenders being 125, while in the previous year the number (fifty-six) represented groups of cases totalling 113 defendants.

In its civil jurisdiction the Court heard 188 cases, of which the following are particulars, as compared with the previous year:—

	1912-13.	1911-12.
Damages	25	..
Debt	24	9
Divorce	26	8
Breach of contract	6	2
Probate and administration	3	2
Miscellaneous	4	2
	<u>88</u>	<u>23</u>

The fees and fines collected and paid to the Treasury during the year amounted to,—

	1912-13.	1911-12.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Criminal jurisdiction	336 9 3	151 10 6
Civil jurisdiction	53 12 0	12 10 6
	<u>£390 1 3</u>	<u>£164 1 0</u>

Fines to the amount of £58 4s. 6d. are outstanding, and are being collected by instalments.

During the year five offenders were sent to Manuae Island to serve their terms of imprisonment.

I have, &c.,

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.

H. H. G. RALFE, Registrar.

COOK ISLANDS LAND-TITLES COURT.

SIR,—

Rarotonga, 7th May, 1913.

I have the honour to report as to the work of the Land-titles Court for the year ending 31st March, 1913, as follows:—

Fees.

The fees outstanding on the 31st March, 1912, amounted to £422 4s. Since that date fees have been imposed amounting to £445 7s. 6d., while the fees collected and paid into the Treasury amounted to £341 12s., leaving the amount of fees outstanding £528 4s. 6d., as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Rarotonga	259	10	0
Aitutaki	100	16	0
Mauke	130	0	0
Rakahanga	21	3	6
Mangaia	9	0	0
Mitiaro	5	5	0
Atiu	1	15	0
Manihiki	0	15	0
	<u>£528</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

The total amount of fees paid into the Treasury since the inception of the Court is £4,046 6s. 11d.

Sittings of the Court.

Sittings of the Court were held as follows: At Rarotonga, 72 days; at Aitutaki, 22 days; and at Mangaia, 7 days. Orders were made as follows: At Rarotonga—Investigation of title 16; partition, 28; confirmation of alienation, 15; amendment, 26; succession, 148; appointment of trustee, 1; probate, 1; restriction, 1: at Aitutaki—Investigation of title, 78; partition, 13; succession, 14; confirmation of alienation, 12; restriction, 1; amendment, 1: at Mangaia—Investigation of title, 2; confirmation of alienation, 2.

New Applications.

The following were lodged during the year: Rarotonga—Investigation of title, 7; partition, 9; succession, 12; exchange, 2; reinvestigation, 1; amendment, 1: Aitutaki—Investigation of title, 88; partition, 6; succession, 1; confirmation of alienation, 1.

The total number of applications awaiting a sitting of the Court is 373.

I have, &c.,

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.

H. H. G. RALFE, Registrar.