

Proposed Expenditure on Public Works during the Year ending 31st March, 1918.

	£
School buildings, &c., Avarua	1,000
Roads and bridges	800
Rarotonga water-supply	600
Upkeep of buildings	150
Aitutaki water-supply, &c.	500
Tanks, Mangaia	30
„ Palmerston	125
„ Penrhyn (to complete payments)	60
„ Manihiki	70
Experimental farm	350
	<u>£3,685</u>

Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 8th June, 1917.

F. W. PLATTS,
Resident Commissioner.

REPORT OF REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT.

SIR,—

I have the honour to report as follows on the work of the High Court at Rarotonga during the year ended the 31st March, 1917 :—

The number of criminal cases has greatly increased, as is shown by the following table :—

	1916-17.			1915-16.
	Convictions.	Dismissals.	Totals.	Totals.
Offences against the person	33	4	37	47
„ property	27	30	57	70
„ liquor laws	410	16	426	274
„ regulations	83	18	101	131
„ public order	149	39	188	10
Other offences	50	52	102	27
Totals	752	159	911	559

The principal increases are in the convictions for bush-beer drinking and for wandering animals. The increase in the former is due, no doubt, to the appointment of permanent Native police and to the strict supervision and diligence of the European sergeant. As to the latter, the increase is due entirely to the repeal of the Wandering Animals Ordinance, under which the offender avoided the issue of a summons by the payment to a constable of the sum of 5s.

Civil cases : 152 civil cases were dealt with during the year, as against 112 for the preceding year. The increase is due, no doubt, to the repeal of the Private Debts Act.

The fees and fines collected during the year amounted to £578 12s. 6d. The fines outstanding amount to £55 1s. 10d.

The High Court Office was the medium for the collection of £780 13s. 6d.

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga. F. MITCHELL, Registrar.

REPORT OF REGISTRAR OF THE LAND COURT.

SIR,—

I have the honour to report as follows on the work of the Native Land Court for the year ended the 31st March, 1917 :—

The Court sat at Rarotonga on every available day from the 26th July, 1916, to the 12th March, 1917. During that period the following applications were disposed of : Investigation, 24 ; partition, 36 ; succession, 123 ; confirmation, 42 ; adoption, 19 ; amendment, 55 ; appointment of trustee, 55 ; miscellaneous, 8 : total, 362.

The fees collected during the year amount to £108 7s. 3d. The fees outstanding on the 31st March amount to £555 14s. 3d., made up as follows : Rarotonga, £435 16s. 3d. ; Aitutaki, £45 6s. ; Mauke, £73 12s. ; Mangaia, £1 : total, £555 14s. 3d. Owing to pressure of work the collection of these outstanding fees has had to stand over, but it is hoped that the greater part will be collected during the current year.

The applications awaiting sittings of the Court are as follows : Aitutaki, 324 ; Mauke, 39 ; Mangaia, 1 ; Atiu, 43 ; Mitiaro, 10 ; Penrhyn, 3 ; Rakahanga, 2 ; Manihiki, 5.

I have, &c.,
The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga. F. MITCHELL, Registrar.