

METEOROLOGICAL.

Summarized, the readings for 1919 are as follows: Barometer—Mean for year, 30·03. Thermometer—Highest, 96, in March; lowest, 61, in July; mean maximum, 85·66; mean minimum, 68·93. Rainfall—Rain fell on 108 days: total fall, 71·26 in.

On the 29th April, 1919, at 7.53 p.m., there was a severe earthquake, lasting five minutes, followed by a tidal wave which destroyed some seventy canoes. This was the disturbance which did considerable damage in the Tongan Group.

On the 17th and 18th January, 1920, what appears to have been the tail-end of a hurricane passed over Niue. The glass dropped very gradually, reaching 29·50 at 12.30 a.m. on the 17th January, when warnings were sent out to all the villages. There was a tremendous sea on the western side of the island that night, although the wind was from the east. At dawn it was a magnificent spectacle, but as the wind increased in violence the sea abated. A few canoes were lost, and the concrete surface was stripped from the Government jetty at Tukaiavi, Alofi, for about half its length. The blow commenced on the afternoon of the 17th and attained its maximum force during the early hours of the morning of the 18th. Throughout, the direction of the wind was east and south-east. The lowest recorded reading of the barometer was 29·26 at 2 a.m. on the 18th. Niue was extremely lucky in the small amount of damage done. The banana and bread-fruit crops were destroyed, and 1,220 coconut-trees and 107 leaf houses were blown down. Although a number of nuts were so damaged that they fell prematurely, I do not anticipate any great falling-off in the crop of copra for the coming year. As a result of extensive cleaning of the plantations there would have been an excellent crop but for the blow, while now I anticipate that it will reach the usual average.

POSTAL.

The following figures show the postal business transacted during the year: Money-orders—Issued, £318 18s. 8d.; paid, £646 10s. 8d. Savings-bank—Deposits, £1,880 9s.; withdrawals, £245 7s. 11d. Postal notes, &c.—Issued, £39 12s. 1½d.; paid, £21 10s. 8d. War pensions, soldiers' allotments, &c., paid, £676 18s. 6d. The Savings-bank deposits are the highest on record, and generally the volume of work compares favourably with previous years.

PEACE CELEBRATIONS.

It had been decided to make the planting of coconuts the main feature of the Peace celebrations, and the idea was most enthusiastically taken up by the Natives. Some of the Natives set apart a piece of land in their village as a Peace plantation, others planted along the roads, while some elected to plant individually in the usual plantations. In all over fifteen thousand nuts were planted, and the idea will probably be kept up on a smaller scale in future years. In addition, festivities were held in various villages, and returned soldiers played a big part in these. I may mention here that the returned men have also erected a fine monument in Alofi in memory of their fallen comrades.

I have, &c.,

GUY N. MORRIS,

Resident Commissioner.

The Hon. the Minister in Charge, Cook Islands Department, Wellington.

NIEU ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Statement of Revenue for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1920.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Customs duties	1,805	10	11	School fees	43	2	0
Aid to revenue	508	15	0	Emigration fees	24	0	0
Dog-tax	30	2	6	Copra-export duty	1,110	9	2½
High Court fees and fines	295	19	3	New Zealand Government contribution to			
Native Land Court	22	12	0	Medical Fund	450	0	0
Licenses	168	15	0	Balance in hand, 1st April, 1919	1,340	3	10½
Liquor-sales	264	19	11				
Registration fees	29	19	0				
Revenue from Post Office	1,808	16	4				
					£7,903	5	0

Statement of Expenditure for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1920.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Niue Island Council	53	15	0	Liquor purchased	140	0	1
Police	262	1	3	Niue Public Library	6	17	10
Prisoners—Food and supervision	101	16	8	Rent, officers' quarters	18	0	0
Medical supplies and assistance	486	19	3	Refund to New Zealand Government—			
Medical Officer—Local travelling-expenses	108	7	3	Salary of Mr. A. MacDonald	490	7	0
Resident Commissioner—Local travelling-expenses	107	11	10	Compensation for land acquired	33	0	0
Interpreting	58	14	0	Miscellaneous services	72	1	0
Printing and stationery	20	5	6				
Office fittings and requisites	11	8	1				
Tufukia School working-expenses	353	11	10	Cash in hand on 31st March,			
Maintenance, Government buildings	453	13	3	1920	1,613	5	0
Maintenance, reservoirs	42	5	11	Cash in Bank of New Zealand	2,628	3	9
Maintenance, jetty, &c.	27	1	8				
Maintenance, roads	800	9	11				
Furniture, officers' quarters	13	8	11				
					4,241	8	9
					£7,903	5	0