

CENSUS.

A census was taken on the 20th April, 1926, and gives the following figures :—

Island.	Native Population.			Population other than Native.			Totals.		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
Aitutaki	720	609	1,417	7	7	14	727	704	1,431
Atiu	474	450	924	5	4	9	479	454	933
Mangaia	636	605	1,241	7	1	8	643	606	1,249
Manihiki	214	199	413	3	..	3	217	199	416
Manuae and Te-Au-o-Tu ..	21	..	21	1	..	1	22	..	22
Mauke	263	233	496	8	7	15	271	240	511
Mitiaro	113	123	236	2	..	2	115	123	238
Palmerston	48	49	97	..	..	..	48	49	97
Penrhyn	201	189	390	3	2	5	204	191	395
Pakapuka	266	244	510	9	7	16	275	251	526
Rakahanga	172	153	325	1	1	2	173	154	327
Raroronga	1,969	1,762	3,731	122	83	205	2,091	1,845	3,936
Totals, Cook and Northern Islands	5,097	4,704	9,801	168	112	280	5,265	4,816	10,081

It will be seen from the following comparative table that our population is steadily increasing, the increase since last census being 622.

Island.	1906.	1911.	1916.	1921.	1926.
Aitutaki	1,162	1,237	1,302	1,373	1,431
Atiu	918	812	759	837	933
Mangaia	1,531	1,471	1,245	1,230	1,249
Manihiki	521	444	493	432	416
Manuae and Te Au-o-Tu ..	..	29	23	..	22
Mauke	446	457	490	578	511
Mitiaro	210	199	237	207	238
Palmerston	82	107	90	83	97
Penrhyn	420	335	326	376	395
Pukapuka	435	490	474	530	526
Rakahanga	352	315	295	310	327
Rarotonga	2,441	2,759	3,064	3,503	3,936
Suvarrow	..	..	7	..	..
Totals	8,518	8,655	8,805	9,459	10,081

EDUCATION.

Excellent progress has been made this year in educational matters, as will be seen by a perusal of the attached annual report of the Superintendent of Schools.

The more important work undertaken was—

- (1) The construction of new courses of study for the pupils in keeping with the conclusions arrived at by the Conference of educational experts from New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, and Cook Islands, mentioned in last annual report, and well suited to the educational needs of this community. Agriculture has been made one of the main studies and good progress is shown. Woodwork is also undertaken in all schools.
- (2) Classes for instruction of Native teachers have been established. The European staff has been increased and concentrated on this work, with the result that all Native teachers are now receiving regular instruction and training, and already there has been considerable improvement in their academic status.
- (3) The most important development during the year was the establishment at the beginning of this year of a training college and normal school, in order to thoroughly train the Native teachers.

This policy is absolutely sound, and when developed will give a regular supply of good reliable teachers capable of taking up work in any part of the Group. This will be of great benefit particularly to the outlying islands of the Northern and Southern Groups.

In July and August last there was a visit of inspection by Mr. J. A. Valentine, until recently a Senior Inspector of the New Zealand Education Department. He visited the schools in Rarotonga and in all