

“Australian burr is now almost eradicated from the island. Lantana is causing little trouble, except in isolated patches. Pitati mama gives a great deal of trouble, and when growing amongst bush and scrub is hard to eradicate. Three large areas of this weed have been cleared, and the land ploughed. Elephant's-foot is proving very expensive to eradicate. One large coconut plantation is almost covered with this weed, and over £50 has been spent this season in an endeavour to clean it out.”

METEOROLOGICAL.

The total rainfall at Avarua (Rarotonga) for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1928, was 74·98 in., the highest fall recorded for twenty-four hours being 9·46 in. on the 9th December, 1927. The highest reading of the Fahrenheit thermometer in the shade at 9 a.m. was 91°, on the 20th January; and the lowest was 54°, on the 17th September. For the twelve-months period the mean of the maximum was 81·9°, and the mean of the minimum 69·1°.

REPORT OF THE NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

FINANCE.

The financial year commenced with a credit balance of £1,875 9s. 9d. Revenue for the year amounted to £6,055 1s. 3d., the main items being New Zealand grant of £1,750; Customs duties, £1,546 13s. 8d.; stamp sales, £770 3s. 5d.; Aid to Revenue, £443 10s.; and copra export duty, £310 18s. Expenditure amounted to £6,435 15s. 7d., leaving a credit balance at the 31st March, 1928, of £1,494 15s. 5d. The estimated revenue for the coming year is £4,835, and the expenditure £5,665.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the Year ended 31st March, 1928.

<i>Revenue.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward, 1st April, 1927 ..	1,875	9	9	Ammunition	40	3	6
Aid to revenue	443	10	0	Benzine	228	14	11
Ammunition	139	13	1	Education—			
Benzine	195	8	10	Government schools	391	16	11
Bond storage	1	2	1	London Missionary Society schools, sub-			
Copra export duty	310	18	0	sidized	500	0	0
Customs	1,546	13	8	Foreman, Public Works	275	0	0
Dox-tax	34	17	0	Fruit-inspection fees	5	2	6
Education subsidy, London Missionary				Fruit-case Account	460	15	2
Society	500	0	0	Furniture, Government residences	11	12	10
Fruit-case Account	171	8	6	Government buildings	71	18	5
Government buildings—Grant	1,000	0	0	Interpreters	148	6	3
Fruit-inspection fees	45	13	4	Jetty	145	3	9
High Court—Fees and fines	84	2	0	Landing Account	27	18	4
Landing Account	27	18	4	Leper Account	3	1	0
Licenses	163	0	0	Liquor	3	12	1
Liquor	55	1	5	Medical service	1,920	7	0
Medical services—Subsidy	250	0	0	Miscellaneous services	311	4	8
Native Land Court	0	15	0	Niue Island Council	48	10	0
Public Works, <i>credit</i>	154	3	11	Police	425	16	10
Registration fees	13	10	0	Prisoners	227	8	1
Stamp-sales	770	3	5	Printing and stationery	200	10	4
Superannuation	17	7	6	Public works	160	0	1
Transport	129	15	2	Rent, officer's quarters	33	0	0
				Reservoirs	33	18	0
				Roads	128	17	1
				Superannuation	42	12	6
				Transport	399	3	7
				Wireless	191	1	9
				Balance—			
				Cash in hand	1,048	7	7
				Cash in Bank of New Zealand	446	7	10
	£7,930	11	0		£7,930	11	0

Audit.—An audit of the Administration accounts was carried out by the New Zealand Audit Department, during September and October last.

SHIPPING.

Fourteen vessels visited Niue during the year. The N.Z.G.S. “Hinemoa” made eight trips to Niue from Auckland. The London Missionary Society’s “John Williams,” called once, the s.s. “Petricola” called twice, and the s.s. “Pulpit Point,” “Hauraki,” and “Wairuna” once each, in passing to pick up mails. The H.M.S. “Veronica” paid her annual visit on the 2nd July. Three vessels passed within sight of the island—the s.s. “Hauraki” twice, and the s.s. “Plume” once—but owing to the rough state of sea and boat-passage, it was impossible to despatch mails by them.