

An extra traffic schedule with Wellington-Radio was commenced in July. The schedule is at 2.36 p.m. Rarotongan time, and operates from Mondays to Fridays inclusive. Traffic handled on the schedule has not, so far, warranted its continuance.

Twelve receiving licenses and one amateur transmitting license were issued during the year.

A total of 600,884 words, including 5,885 paid messages totalling 91,422 words, were handled by Radio-Rarotonga during the financial year. Revenue on account of messages sent and received and relayed by this station reached the record figure of £1,352 8s. 7d., compared with £875 7s. 2d. for the year 1935-36, an increase of £477 1s. 5d.

Free press service to the Lower Group stations accounted for 38,860 words, and free press received and posted for public information totalled 441,479 words, making a grand total of 480,339 words of press.

Weather reports from Aitutaki and Rarotonga transmitted to New Zealand amounted to 3,990 words, and this service will increase when erection of the Northern Group stations has been completed.

Free Naval messages handled totalled 586 words, and miscellaneous services totalled 14,504 words.

A free medical advice service to Resident Agents and nurses in the Lower Group was instituted in 1933 and has proved of great value. The calls have increased, and during the year under review over 10,000 words were handled by this station. Messages requesting advice have to be received and telephoned to the Medical Officer, who later telephones his reply, and this is then transmitted to the waiting station.

NORTHERN GROUP.

In 1930 the Post and Telegraph Department was asked to recommend a scheme whereby wireless communication could be established with islands of the Northern Cook Group. A scheme was proposed, but was held in abeyance until such time as more simplified and less costly apparatus could be supplied.

A modified scheme was submitted in May of last year and approved. The latter scheme provided for wind-driven units as the source of power supply for low-power sets at Penrhyn Island and Pukapuka, and a motor-driven unit with batteries for Manihiki, which would be of higher power. Pukapuka and Penrhyn Islands would communicate with Manihiki, and the latter station would act as the clearing-station for the Northern Group, and would also communicate direct with Radio-Rarotonga.

Material for the Manihiki and Penrhyn Islands' masts and aerials was forwarded during October and December of last year.

Delivery of apparatus for Manihiki-Radio was delayed, and the Penrhyn low-power unit was erected at the former station. Although of very low power, regular communication has been maintained since the station was officially opened on 10th March. Apparatus for Manihiki will arrive in April and will go forward by the first schooner.

Masts and aerials for Penrhyn-Radio are now being erected on that island, and it is understood that the radio-room in the new building has been completed. All apparatus for this station will also go forward by the first available schooner.

A schooner will leave Rarotonga for Pukapuka in June or July. It is intended to send material for masts, aerials, and all equipment to complete installation of apparatus at Pukapuka during that visit.

TRAINEES.

At present 5 Natives are being trained as wireless cadets at Radio-Rarotonga.

Of these, 4 are pupil teachers and 1 is a Native medical practitioner. When necessary, their services as wireless cadets, in addition to teaching and medical duties, will be utilized.

POLICE.

The strength of the Cook Islands Police Force remains unchanged from the 31st March, 1936, the forty-four members being distributed as under:—

Island.	Inspectors.	Sergeants.	Constables.	All Ranks.
Rarotonga	1 (European)	2	6	9
Aitutaki	..	1	6	7
Atiu	..	1	3	4
Mitiaro	..	1	2	3
Mauke	..	1	3	4
Mangaia	..	1	5	6
Penrhyn	..	..	3	3
Pukapuka	..	..	3	3
Manihiki and Rakahanga	..	1	4	5
Totals	1	8	35	44

Minor changes have taken place in the personnel of the Force throughout the Group.

The general conduct of all ranks has been very good; but at Rarotonga one member was dismissed, and another suspended for a short period, for neglect of duty.

The number of police cases dealt with in the High Court at Rarotonga during the year was 1,130, compared with 1,144 for the previous year. Of these cases, 1,061 convictions resulted, 18 cases were adjourned, 33 were withdrawn, and 18 dismissed.