

## 198. Half-yearly return of Island Court for 30 June 1938

198

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2327/36  
Pitcairn Island June 30, 1938

Returns of local court for 1/2 year ending June 30, 1938.

Half-yearly return of  
Island Court for 30  
June 1938

b

Feb. 2. case of Sammy and Grant young for defaming the  
government. Rhoda for falsely charging my boys.

Fined. Each £1. Ivan £2. work in Public service each.

30 June 1938

c

Feb. 7. case of Morris and Laura for taking money  
badly Prosecutor

Fined. Laura 1 month imprisonment  
Morris 1 year under bond.

d

March. 7. case of Annor using defaming words.  
Herbert Young Prosecutor.

Fined. £1. worked on Public service.

e

April 18. case of Sterling defaming Council.  
badly Prosecutor

Fined £2. worked on Public service.

f

April 27. case of Annor and 4 boys Walter, Watson, Lyndon, curly  
Edna Prosecutor. for interfering in her home.

Boys warned not to do it again. and dismissed.

Richard Edgar Christian  
Chief Magistrate

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Andrew Young Secy.

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199

Pitcairn Isl.  
Sept 9, 1938

E. Young to WPHC

High Commissioner  
Western Pacific  
Suva Fiji

9 September 1938

Dear Sir;

Kindly excuse this letter being sent personal, as if it is returned to the magistrate here, I might as well get off the island, prejudice would be so bitter against me.

The condition of things on this island is simply deplorable & I believe the higher authorities should clean up the place.

I've lived in most of the large cities in America & have done social service work yet I've never seen such low moral standards. The people are worse than out & out heathen since they've had the chance of & claim civilization. A few are truly civilized yet some are so very heathen altho all claim Christianity.

True none of them are educated, not even the magistrate. I do not believe a native here could pass the complete test of the third year of primary school.

This case of typhoid will help explain what I mean –

The grandchild of R.E. Christian (magistrate) died several months ago. The week after her death another woman came down with the same illness. Dr. Wilson of the R.M.S. *Arawa* came ashore and diagnosed the case as typhoid, notifying all ships

(over)

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2585/38

Pitcairn Isl.  
Sept. 9, 1938

199

E. Young to WPHC

9 September 1938

High Commissioner  
Western Pacific  
Suva Fiji  
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(29)

RECEIVED  
11 OCT 1938  
W.P.H.C.

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199

E. Young to WPHC

9 September 1938

passing here that typhoid was ashore. There has been no other doctor here since; yet the magistrate and the wireless operator have broadcast to the world that there is not & has not been typhoid here & that at the time they were talking on the air there we no sickness on the island. At the time this happened both of these men knew a girl eighteen years old was at the point of death with this same sickness that these other two had had & that a young man was just recovering from it. This girl is still very ill altho her fever has broken. We now have a case of something very much like walking typhoid now. The man (nephew-in-law to the magistrate) has been ill about five weeks.

A couple of weeks ago the R.M.S. *Tainui* called here & R.E. Christian (magistrate) called every one together who were going out to the ship & said that any one informing the ship's doctor or any one else that there was sickness ashore would never be allowed to go aboard another ship.

He is not our dictator & I see no reason why people be forbidden to tell the truth.

After ship service had been opened here again Roy Clark (the man who had nursed three of these cases & was still nursing one deliberately went from the bedside of this girl to the Post Office to help

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9 September 1938

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199

E. Young to WPHC

9 September 1938

R.E. Christian, post master as well as magistrate, with the work. He (Roy Clark) canceled all the mail with the date stamp. This man is an American & better educated therefore knows better. He did this to regain prestige which had been so ruthlessly taken because it has been his own immediate family, son, daughter & sister-in-law who have been ill.

The terrible amount of illegitimates is appalling. The average is at least one out of every five. So many real young girls have one, two, or more children. A girl nineteen has just had her third child, out of wed-lock, another fifteen is to have her second child in about two months. Roy Clark's daughter who has been ill between six & seven weeks with this other fever is also to have an illegitimate child soon. There is a great amount of pride in these illegitimates. In fact the island is glad of them. In a public meeting a few months ago the magistrate made this statement – "These children of the night have saved our island."

I have never seen anything quite so silly as the way the land here was registered. It ought to be investigated also.

These people claim to be Seventh-Day-

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2585/38

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E. Young to WPHC

9 September 1938

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These people claim to be Seventh-Day

E. Young to WPHC

9 September 1938

Adventists. I am one & my father is S.D.A. minister. I am proud of my religion but people are certainly no Seventh-Day Adventists. We believe in the ten commandments. They only believe in the fourth & only that as long as a ship is not off shore. I hope the missionaries & school teacher will help soon.

I have talked with Mr Ward & he agrees with me that the situation is really deplorable & that there is need of outside help, also that you should know of the internal affairs here.

Couldn't you send a man here from the outside to replace the native magistrate. Even on so small a place as Pitcairn it takes some education and intelligence to govern the people.

Please do not send this letter to the magistrate. If you do so, it will be necessary for me to leave here, even tho my husband is a native.

I have been here over a year & have given this an unbiased attention. I have no ill will to the people but they are such kind, hospitable folk that it seems a pity for them to remain in such dire ignorance in such an

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9 September 1938

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199

E. Young to WPHC

enlightened world.

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9 September 1938

I know that over a year ago there was a representative sent here from Fiji but especial care was taken that he should not see too much. The people are smart enough for that. I hope he saw any way. I was not here until after he left.

b

There are so many things that need investigating & cleaning up. Enforcement of law is one of them. Petty larceny means nothing. The people go into different homes & help themselves & unless they are unpopular are excused & let go.

c

There is a feeble minded man here who is really dangerous. This man robbed the post office of seven pounds last year. He was arrested & convicted & got one month in the jail here. He should be sent away to a feeble minded home or insane asylum. Every few months he is convicted of robbery. So badly does this continue that half the time the things will be taken from him & nothing done about it. He has threatened a number of lives. So far he has only killed animals. One day his temper will take a human life.

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I will appreciate it if you will favor me with a reply also please do not think

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2585/38

199

Young to WPHC

September 1938

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199

E. Young to WPHC

this letter is written because of any ill will. It is not. I simply am interested in seeing this island bettered so that it will be a pride instead of a disgrace to the crown.

9 September 1938

Sincerely Yours

Mrs Edna C. Young

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E. Young to WPHC

9 September 1938

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Sincerely yours  
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200

Chief Magistrate  
(R.E. Christian) to  
WPHC

Pitcairn Island  
Nov 22, 1938

To His Excellency  
High Commissioner for Western Pacific

22 November 1938

Sir,

Yours of August 22<sup>nd</sup> received,  
concerning the affairs of Morris Warren under bounds for year,  
Morris Warren is a regular theaf going in houses and stealing most  
anything he could get his hands on, he has been imprisoned many  
times and it does him no good so his own mother ask me not to  
allow him any where on the island unless with some of his folks,  
Morris is one of those Illigitmate man on the island he is about 35  
years of age and his mother nor any of her folks could controle him,  
so far by keeping him under this way we have less trouble with him,

I am you most humble Servant

Richard Edgar Christian

Chief Magistrate

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200. Chief Magistrate (R.E. Christian) to WPHC

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Chief Magistrate  
(R.E. Christian) to  
WPHC

22 November 1938

2327/36

Pitcairn Island  
Nov 22. 1938.

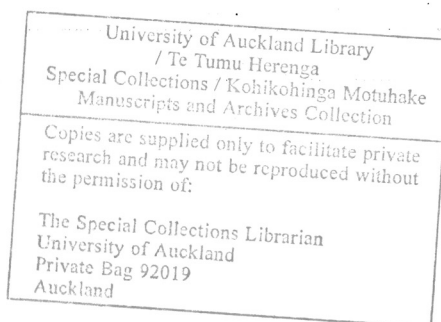
20  
 To His Excellency  
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19  
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 of those illigitimate man on the island he is about 35-years  
 of age and his mother nor any of her folks could control  
 him, so far by keeping him under this way we have less  
 trouble with him.

I am your most humble servant  
 Richard Edgar Christian  
 Chief Magistrate.



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## 201. Return of Public Gatherings for half-year to 30 June 1939

201

Return of Public  
Gatherings for  
half-year to  
30 June 1939

30 June 1939

2327/36  
Returns of the Public gatherings held for the half year ending  
June 30, 1939

239  
Jan. 11, 1939

This meeting was held for the purpose of reading laws and regulations of Pitcairn Island. Also a letter from the high commissioner was read in regards to strangers coming on the island.

Meeting dismissed.

Feb. 2

Another meeting was held by the chief magistrate in regards to the welfare of the island.

Meeting dismissed.

Feb. 20

This meeting is for the purpose of reading the school regulations to the people and also a letter from the high commissioner.

Meeting dismissed.

Apr. 11

This meeting was held by the chief magistrate to see if the people are willing to pay 1/ shilling each for some coffin boards de- to call for 1/ shilling per head also another letter from the high commissioner was read.

Meeting dismissed

A.H. Young Chief Magistrate

V.S. Young Secretary.

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*Returns of Counsel Sitting at Pitcairn Island for ½ year ending  
June 30<sup>th</sup> 1940*

Extract from return  
of Island Council  
meetings for  
half-year to  
30 June 1940

30 June 1940

Jan. 1. 1940. This sitting was held for the purpose of listening to the arrangement of the Internal Committee for the year 1940 everything was approved of by the counsel.

The name of Henry Young was chosen as Police-man.

Jan. 14. Public gathering to read the Administration, Local Laws, and Regulation, of Pitcairn Island.

Feb. 21. This meeting was held to discuss certain plans which the committee want to do pass through the counsel for approval certain plans fall through and approved.

In this gathering Selwyn Warren was also chosen as Policeman.

March. 17. Complaints have come to my notice that different one's property have been abused. In what way can we stop it.

March. 18. Public meeting was to find out why the boys want to go to Oeno. Decide to let them go with the understanding it will be benefit for every body.

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## 202. Extract from return of Island Council meetings for half-year to 30 June 1940

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Extract from return  
of Island Council  
meetings for  
half-year to  
30 June 1940

30 June 1940

Returns of counsel sitting at Pitcairn Island for the year ending  
June 30<sup>th</sup> 1940. (31a)

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