

Page 2OBITUARY

407

a Floyd Hasting McCoy was born in 1897 and at the age of fifteen years left Pitcairn to go to sea. He served in ships with occasional breaks to return to his island home until the end of the Second World War. He then attended a School for Navigation and was awarded a First Mate's Certificate

Extract from *Pitcairn
Miscellany*

In 1947 he returned to settle on Pitcairn and brought with him his wife Vi. to whom he had been married in Australia in 1941.

b As a member of the community he has played a leading part both in the Church and the Government. He was a Sabbath School Teacher of many years standing and in the administration of the island he has served as an Assessor and over the past twelve years held the position of Inspector of Police.

October 1963

While in New Zealand on leave in 1952 he spent some time with the New Zealand Police Department studying police and court procedure.

c His knowledge of seamanship has been of great benefit to the island for he has navigated numerous trips to and from Oeno and Henderson Islands, and as a radio "ham" with the call-sign VR6AC he had a world wide association.

Our sympathy goes to his widow Vi.

ISLAND HAPPENINGS.

d 2nd. Margaret, while planting some flowers at her home stood on a rusty nail and the resulting trouble kept her off work for a week.

3rd. As Pastor Ferris was carrying Merian down from the Church to the Mission House after the usual Tuesday evening prayer meeting, he slipped and fractured his left leg. With the assistance of some of the men he was carried to his home where he was made as comfortable as possible.

e 6th The "Athenic" arrived from London. At the request of the Chief Magistrate and Mrs. Ferris, the ship's surgeon was brought ashore to attend to Pastor. Once a proper splint had been applied to the injured leg, the patient was transported out to the ship and accompanied by Mrs. Ferris and their daughter Merian, sailed for New Zealand. Also travelling out as patients were Floss Young and Elsie Young. Floss's two children, Glenda and Donald were also passengers. The island is certainly having a very bad run with sickness.

f The five tons of timber which "Corinthic" had been unable to land was on board and the men were fully occupied in unloading it during the long time the doctor was ashore. In addition there were two large boxes and the mail. All this added up to quite a quantity of cargo. It was not until after 4 Op.m. that the ship finally sailed and after 7 Op.m. that the cargo was landed and the boats hauled up.

The mail had then to be carted to the Post Office, sorted and distributed. As the bell had rung at 9.30a.m. calling the people to the 'Landing' it was a long and hard day. Fortunately the weather was fine and this made working conditions much easier.

g 10th Reynold and Melville were at the Sugar Mill grinding their cane and preparing molasses.

Brian celebrated his eighth birthday in a quiet way.

11th. The men were busy scraping the roof of the church in preparation for painting.

12th. Goats have once more been raiding gardens so a gang of the men have been out after them.

A party have also been busy painting the church roof.

h 13th. Christie when surveying his cabbage patch from the Edge spotted a goat amongst them. He was seen endeavouring to break a world record as he sprinted home for his rifle. His efforts were not in vain for he shot the culprit. Putting the carcass in his barrow he wheeled it over to Flora's where it was skinned.

The finishing touches have been made to the new Post Office.

408

Extract from *Pitcairn
Miscellany*

December 1963



PITCAIRN
MISCELLANY

Sponsored by the Pitcairn Island School.Vol. 5. No. 121st December 1963Monthly

EDITORIAL: At the end of this month Pitcairn is to welcome Mr. and Mrs. T. Reid Cowell. This visit is of vital importance to the future of the island for much will depend on the decisions that are made between you, the people of Pitcairn, and Mr. Cowell who as Commissioner, South Pacific Office, is the person on whom rests the responsibility of the island's welfare.

The shortness of his stay makes it imperative that you are fully prepared for his visit. This means giving considerable thought to the present needs of the island. Have you ever really thought about these matters: a. Is the present system of government on Pitcairn the most suitable for your needs?

b. Is the present method of administering the law the best we can have?

c. Are all the rules under Pitcairn Island Regulations 1940 still satisfactory for conditions today?

d. Can the steady decline in the population be arrested and the number of inhabitants restored to the level of some years ago?

Mr. Cowell's visit gives you your opportunity of discussing these or any other matters concerning your island. The success of his trip to Pitcairn will rest mainly with each and everyone here. He must have the feelings of the majority in whatever is being discussed and that can only happen if you all will say what is in your minds at the public meetings and NOT afterwards in little groups in the Square or in your homes.

It must be realised that South Pacific Office is not there to make laws, regulations and decisions which the officers think will suit Pitcairn, but legislation etc., which is required by you to meet your needs.

S.A. Kinder, Editor.

TO THE PEOPLE OF PITCAIRN

First of all I wish to thank the Magistrate for a welcome home message received onboard "Ceramic" which I deeply appreciated under such sad circumstances as my visit entailed, also to all those who made my visit such a happy one, "A big thank you." I feel happy in the thought that I was able to speak to my uncle, Floyd McCoy, and he remembered me and knew I was there on Pitcairn before he died.

To all those whose hospitality and kindness is so unlimited I say thank you all very much and may God bless you all.

To the leaders of the Church; may God guide and direct all you do and always build your faith and hope in Him as Director of All Things.

409. *Report on a Visit to Pitcairn Island 1963 - 1964*, T.R. Cowell

409

*Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell*

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REPORT ON

A VISIT TO PITCAIRN ISLAND

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FROM 31ST DECEMBER, 1963 TO 22ND JANUARY, 1964.

February 1964

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by

T.R. Cowell
Commissioner

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SOUTH PACIFIC OFFICE
Suva, Fiji
February, 1964

409

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

REPORT ON A VISIT TO PITCAIRN ISLAND FROM 31ST DECEMBER, 1963 TO
22ND JANUARY, 1964.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

February 1964

		<u>Page</u>
	Preface	
Part 1	Introduction	1 - 4
Part 2	General Observations on Pitcairn	5 - 6
Part 3	Recommendations approved by the Island Council	6 - 11
Part 4	Supplementary thoughts and recommendations.	11 -12
Part 5	Conclusion	13

Appendices

A.	Diary of main events	
B	Island Council Meeting and recommendations, 16th January, 1964.	
C.	Draft Rules for the Pitcairn Island Souvenir Agency.	
D.	Notes for Guidance of the Chief Magistrate and Council (revised version)	
E.	Summary of Recommendations.	

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PREFACE

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The arrangements made for a visit to Pitcairn in April 1962 on my way back to Suva from leave broke down and, for one good reason and another, it was not possible to set off again until December, 1963. Fortunately all went well the second time and, apart from three days of wondering whether the ship back had by-passed us or had been delayed by the disturbances at Panama, the visit went as planned.

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From the moment we jumped ashore at Bounty Bay until we left again the hospitality and warm friendliness never ceased. And since it persisted through official relationships the visit was one of the most enjoyable I have experienced.

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It is, natural that such a reception should have left a favourable impression but I have tried not to let it influence the report which follows. In particular, that the scale of Pitcairn and everything connected with it is very small has not been forgotten but it has not been thought necessary to keep on saying so. Pitcairn, however, is newsworthy and the press releases connected with my visit, which factually surveyed the island's problems, have been used in Britain, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Small though it may be, therefore, account must be taken of its news appeal when policy is being formulated.

I. INTRODUCTION

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

February 1964

Between 1960 and 1962, when the New Zealand Shipping Company completed the re-direction of its passenger ships to Tahiti, the population of Pitcairn fell from 140 to 90. That a relationship exists between the two events is evident but it is essential that there should be no misinterpretation of it. Pitcairn is not isolated - 45 ships called in 1963 - and the prime cause of the emigration was the disruption of the private economy.

2. The Panama Canal was opened in 1915, and when passenger ships on the New Zealand run began to call regularly at Pitcairn around 1920 the subsistence economy gradually declined. The sale of souvenirs to bored passengers provided an easily-earned cash income; the New Zealand Shipping and Shaw, Savill companies carried supplies free and otherwise cossetted the islanders; and the improved communications brought a flow of presents from numerous romantics overseas. The first set-back to this new-found "Bounty" occurred when the second world war interrupted passenger travel. From 227 in 1937 the population dropped to 120 in 1946 and it has since exceeded 150 on one occasion only. Emigration, mainly to New Zealand, which permits free entry and where employment is easily found by the sober and hard-working Pitcairners, has therefore been part of the island's demographic condition for the last generation.

3. A review of the situation was made late in 1962 (savingram No. 125 SOPAC of 20th December) when depopulation began to constitute a threat to the future of the island, in particular through the loss of able-bodied men to man the longboats which connect shore and ship:

"... .. It is still too early to say whether the latest trend is cyclical or permanent but one by-product of it has been that the output of handicrafts has adjusted itself to the decreased number of passenger ships that are calling. There is, also, some evidence that the more selective, export market for handicrafts, which is commonly exploited through "friends" overseas, is receiving increased attention although, naturally, the easier outlet through passenger-sales is preferred.

The dip in population has had an influence on the social economy of the island which we have been watching for the past two years. The community of 115 at 31st

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409

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

February 1964

a December, 1961 comprised 36 men, 33 women, 18 boys under sixteen
and 28 girls. The imbalance has not so far caused any serious social
problem but the shortage of able-bodied men has meant that there are
fewer to do essential communal duties (care of the community boats
is the most important one); attend to subsistence farming; carry out
b normal maintenance on public and private property; and manufacture
handicrafts for private profit. Measures were taken in 1961 to
compensate for the increasing amount of time each man had to devote
to community welfare by introducing payment for work done on the
maintenance of public buildings, and further alleviation was possible
under Colonial Development and Welfare projects. As a consequence,
c total government expenditure for local services (including allowances
for local-government employees) rose from \$1263 in 1959/60 to an
estimated \$2217 in 1962/63. There is a limit to much more expansion
on these lines without upsetting the traditional balance of the
economy and it is my intention to try to maintain the infusion of
d public funds at about the same level annually and, also, to press on
with projects, such as the Bounty Bay development, which will reduce
the demand on man-hours.

e On the social side, a scheme, under which the Islanders
can obtain loans or grants for medical attention in New Zealand, was
introduced in 1960 and, this year, a six-week visit by a doctor was
arranged which, according to a letter from the Chief Magistrate, saved
him \$300. It is my intention, if the visiting doctor's report sub-
stantiates the need and postulated benefit, to arrange for annual
visits, in which case there will be a continuing direct saving to the
private citizen."

f 4. Early in 1963 the Chief Magistrate (Mr John Christian)
visited Suva and the future of the island was discussed with him.
Obviously there were limits to the extent of his understanding of
the threat to the continued existence of the community and, generally
speaking, he was quite sure that depopulation would be reversed
g and that the private economy would recover. By April, however, a
clash of personality between the Chief Magistrate and the then
Government Adviser (a post held ex-officio by the Education Officer
on secondment from New Zealand) came to a head, and in June it was
necessary to send my Executive Officer (Ratu David Toganivalu) to
Pitcairn to restore the situation. The clash was symptomatic of
h increasing social uncertainty and on the eve of my departure for
Pitcairn (December, 1963) the situation was summarized in the
following terms:

409

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

February 1964

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"It is not possible to put the reasons for depopulation in any order but they include the steady improvement in education which enables Pitcairners to compete, on equal terms, in the unskilled and semi-skilled labour market in New Zealand; the reduction of the easy market in souvenirs following the withdrawal of the New Zealand Shipping Company's passenger vessels; the unsatisfactory land-tenure system to which I have referred in my note on constitutional reform; the projected nuclear tests in the Tuamotus; ineffectual local leadership, exacerbated by a clash of temperament with the present Government Adviser; and general dissatisfaction, which all these factors generate. I think we can take it as being certain, however, that serious though the situation is we can rule out completely any desire to evacuate Pitcairn for a third time.

At the end of October the native population was 85; it is some 60 persons less than it was three years ago; and there were only 16 males between the ages of 15 to 60. Manning the boats is, therefore, becoming very difficult and keeping the island clear of bush and weeds is being neglected.

Since 1959 we have improved the landing facilities at Bounty Bay, installed new radio equipment and built a new Post Office/Dispensary. These measures have helped to offset the loss in private earnings aboard ship and, the improvements to Bounty Bay have alleviated some of the pressure on manpower."

6. A further word on the failure of the local administration to respond to the challenge of depopulation is necessary. Historically, Pitcairn has had peaks of strong and confident leadership and valleys of depression when visits by outside administrators have been necessary to restore confidence and order.

Under the 1940 legislation, which has been amended only slightly since, executive authority is vested in an elected Chief Magistrate assisted by a Council composed of two elected Assessors, the elected Chairman of the Internal Committee, the Island Secretary, and one non-voting, advisory member appointed by the Governor. The Council is supported by an "Internal Committee", consisting of the Chairman and two members nominated by it. The Committee is, constitutionally, the Council's right arm but, in practice, because many duties are now performed by the "civil service" appointed by

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February 1964

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b the Governor under the Pitcairn Order in Council 1952, it largely
 concerns itself with public (community) work. The administrative
 organization reflects the constitution, but practice no longer
 conforms to theory and a series of ad hoc adjustments have blurred
 the line of authority. These changes are largely a consequence of
 natural progression for, even on Pitcairn, a more complex order
 exists now than in 1940. The principal causes have been better
 education, emigration, the development of the postal service and
 wireless communications, the greater use of mechanical and electrical
 equipment and the construction of modern public buildings; all of which
 have occurred within the last generation and which have changed the
 simple pattern of society.

c 7. Clearly, therefore, a review of the constitution and
 administrative organization could not be considered to be premature,
 particularly when the last thorough investigation on the Island was
 done, in 1954, shortly after the transfer of the central administration
 from the High Commissioner to the Governor of Fiji. It was not until
 the end of 1958, moreover, that the creation of the South Pacific
 Office restored continuity at the centre and the affairs of Pitcairn
 again began to receive coherent attention. Commenting on proposals in
 outline for reorganization the Acting Governor (Mr. P.D. Macdonald)
 wrote on 30th November, 1963:

d " ... it is impossible - never having been to Pitcairn -
 to pontificate several hundreds of miles away what should
 be done. Indeed I do not think it is even very easy to
 e say what lines you should work along. ... I would not
 shirk from more radical reorganization if that is possible
 and acceptable".

f (C.3/1/3
 p.26)

g 8. In summary form, therefore, the objectives of my visit
 were to examine the causes of depopulation paying particular attention
 to the private economy, and to consider whether reforms in the
 constitution and administrative organization might stimulate more
 effective, local leadership. In view of some of the recommendations
 which will be made later in the report it should perhaps be added
 that the public revenues of Pitcairn are sound and that, except
 for grants made under the Commonwealth Development & Welfare Acts,
 h no burden is carried by the British Treasury.

409

5.

Report on a Visit to

Pitcairn Island

1963 - 1964,

T.R. Cowell

February 1964

2. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON PITCAIRN.

9. Our welcome on Pitcairn was genuinely warm and it was evident that the whole population expected me "to put things straight". The community is equable in temperament and except for the Chief Magistrate, who was determined to have the relationship between himself and the Adviser defined, most of the matters brought forward were minor uncertainties of the moment. There was certainly no deep concern about depopulation: it existed, people had the right to leave and it would probably correct itself. Meanwhile life goes on, the daily work is done and even houses - many of them - are being steadily improved.

10. It has been suggested from time to time that the theology of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, to which all the islanders adhere, encourages an attitude of passivity. Certainly the Church gave no impression of being forceful in leadership but its apocalyptic doctrines do not seem to run very deep and even the Sabbath is violated when a ship arrives. It might be fairer to say that the Church suits the temperament of the people which, like that of so many other islands in the South Pacific, is unperturbed by fears for tomorrow.

11. It took some days of random talking, therefore, to find out whether there was a common will to save the community or contentment to watch it dwindle away until evacuation became the only solution. And it was during these talks that it became clear that guidance was needed and would be welcomed. The assessment of the causes of depopulation given in §4 was found to be substantially correct but an addition emerged which ought to have been anticipated. One of the principal attractions of life on Pitcairn is freedom from the time-check and the fall in the number of able-bodied men has thrown a more insistent burden on those who remain. This is the prime reason for the growing unpopularity of "public work" whether it is paid or unpaid and, consequently, our development program helped to create an attitude of "if I have to work to the clock I might as well do it in New Zealand where the pay is better". Although the private economy had been disrupted we had over-estimated the importance of economic reward in a society which fishes when the sea is calm; spends twenty-four hours intensively on handicrafts just before a ship arrives; and drops everything for a cricket match or a week's picnic on Oeno Island. It also emerged from these talks and subsequently that the community has little natural sense of organization. There

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409

Report on a Visit to
 Pitcairn Island
 1963 - 1964,
 T.R. Cowell

February 1964

a are far too many tracks to keep clear and the method of working
 them is wasteful; nearly every man is a jack-of-all-trades; there
 are patches of very fertile land under shifting cultivation all
 over the island; and it is doubtful that even the precious boats are
 maintained and manned as effectively as they might be. As a consequence
 every man and woman is busy from dawn until after dark and one soon
 b came to realize that the strict observance of the Sabbath as a day of
 rest is a social benefaction. The insouciance of spirit extends to
 government organization. The development program has been well carried
 out materially often with considerable sweat and toil; but its
 administration, accentuated by the difficulty of supply and local
 incomprehension of good management, has been an affliction. Even
 c greater care will have to be taken in planning in the future. If I have
 managed to convey an impression of delightful disorganization it is
 precisely correct. The island is classically improvident and its
 people are warm-hearted and generous. There are probably only two
 things that would deeply disturb them - a too sudden re-organization
 d of their life and evacuation.

12. So far as one could ascertain at least three-quarters of
 the present population wish to remain on Pitcairn. They range from
 those who, like the Chief Magistrate, might refuse to leave at all to
 those who, for the sake of their children or the wish for a change,
 e might leave for short periods. It seems probable, too, that some of
 the recent emigrants intend to return although, so typically in
 character, no one seemed to know who or when. There is only one
 conclusion to be reached: we must assume that the island will carry
 on much as it is at present at least for a few more years. The
 recommendations in Part III are so based and they seek to create a
 f condition which will enable the Pitcairners to save their separate
 identity as a community if they have the will to do so.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE ISLAND COUNCIL

g 13. In addition to random talks, many of which took place on
 the shady bench in the village square, a series of planning discussions
 were held with the Chief Magistrate, Secretary, Chairman of the Internal
 Committee and Government Adviser. Two committee meetings of the Council
 were held, to which the Pastor and senior public servants were invited
 h as non-voting members, and a final plenary (Appendix "B") was followed
 by the traditional public meeting. The public meeting was deliberately
 left to the end so that the Council should not evade its duty to make

409

Report on a Visit to

Pitcairn Island

1963 - 1964,

T.R. Cowell

February 1964

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responsible decisions. In the explanatory notes on the resolutions of the plenary session of the Council (Appendix "B") which follow, comments made at the public meeting are recorded.

14. Resolution 1. The suggestion that a Souvenir Agency should be established on Pitcairn was first made when the Chief Magistrate visited Suva in February, 1962. Ratu David reported no progress (§65 of his report) and a draft sales brochure was taken to the island to convey a better idea of what was intended. When it was understood that an Agency would supplement and not supplant private trading the idea caught on. Draft rules were prepared (Appendix "C") for which the Governor's approval is sought. They have been kept simple deliberately and, indeed, are meant to provide only a basic organization which, it is hoped, may serve as an introduction to further organization of the economy on cooperative lines. Authority will be sought to pay for a sales brochure from public funds and for an initial capital grant to get the Agency going. Two types of publicity are proposed: in the commercial market through the South Pacific Commission's handicraft project and in the personal market, through the Agency's own brochure. I am extremely doubtful that Pitcairn can cope with the commercial market and believe that sales in the personal market through the post will prove to be suitable for an industry which itself is highly individualistic. Pastor Ferris strongly endorsed the establishment of the Agency at the Public Meeting and promised the assistance of the Church's world-wide organization in publicity.

15. Resolution 2: Pitcairn has had a democratically elected government since 1838 (p.12 of "A Guide to Pitcairn") and it may seem retrogressive to introduce nominated members in 1963. However, since the Council of five members generates little discussion and less leadership there is very good reason to enlarge it. A bigger Council, in the form recommended in the resolution, was used during my visit, the membership of which was:

Elected Members:

* Chief Magistrate
Chairman of the Internal
Committee
Assessor
Assessor

Nominated Members:

Island Secretary
Radio Officer
** Postmaster
** Mr Elwyn Christian

Advisory Members (non-voting)

Education Officer

** The Pastor

* Casting vote

** Nominated by the Council.

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16. Resolution 3: It may be unlikely that women will be elected as Assessors at present but; with the small population and many of the men holding offices under the Pitcairn Order in Council, the extension of eligibility to them is a necessary precaution. The principle was accepted with good-humour and even some appreciation that women might make good Assessors.

*Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell*

17. Resolution 4: The constitution does not prohibit the Council from admitting the public to its meetings. The Pitcairners are a literal folk however and the positive provision is desirable. Committee and plenary procedures were used during my visit.

February 1964

18. Resolution 5: The reduction in the residential qualification for the office of Assessor is designed to enable the Island to make earlier use of the services of new residents. It is of academic importance at present but the change might as well be made at the same time as that contained in Resolution 3 - eligibility of women.

19. Resolution 6: The extension of the Council's authority to make rules for town planning; plant and animal quarantine; the care of children and old people; and the conservation of land, soil and food supplies will be further examined in the context of a complete revision of the law.

20. Resolution 7: After the Chief Magistrate the most influential, elected officer on the Island is the Chairman of the Internal Committee who is responsible for the organization of all work. At present the Senior Assessor acts as Chief Magistrate when the latter is absent from duty, and discussion of the proposed change in committee was prolonged and at first inconclusive. A decision was deferred so that the matter could be discussed outside Committee and the change was unanimously approved at the next meeting.

21. Resolutions 8 & 9: The Chairman and two members nominated by the Council constitute the Internal Committee (see §6 above). The two resolutions seek to enlarge the Committee so that the persons holding works appointments (the engineer, electrician, landing supervisor, works supervisor and forester) are members of it and are subject to the authority of the (elected) Chairman. The change, in effect, seeks to create a unitary works organization without breaking with the tradition of the Internal Committee.

22. Resolutions 10 and 11: Although a smaller, better-paid administration would probably be more efficient, Pitcairn shows the preference of many small communities to spread employment as widely as possible. A curious element in this psychology is that as many families as possible should benefit from public employment even though its rewards might be less than those from an equivalent effort in private enterprise. The rates of allowances have always been fixed ad hoc and it has not been possible to rationalize them. A rough guide is that the basic wage on Pitcairn is 2/6d an hour and the Council has been advised that recommendations for future changes should be related to that wage, hours of work and responsibility. The cost of the changes in a full year, including payment for minor services from sundry and maintenance votes which are not covered by the resolutions, will be £354. Total expenditure on personal emoluments, including the contract salary of the Radio Officer but excluding the Education Officer and Resident Nurse, will be £1933 in 1964.

23. Resolution 12: During his visit to Suva in February 1963 the Chief Magistrate recommended the introduction of an old-age allowance. Ratu David recorded his discussions with the Council (§67 of his report) and the resolution completes action. My suggestion that a man and wife should receive £36 p.a. was rejected against the advice of the Chief Magistrate but, following a question asked in the public meeting, the Council will re-consider its decision. The question of a pension for incapacitation due to accident was also raised at the public meeting and I recommended that consideration should be deferred until an actual case arose.

24. Resolution 13. A compassionate grant (medical benefits) scheme under which two-thirds of the total cost of medical treatment in New Zealand is met from public funds was introduced in 1960. The resolution resolves difficulties in application which have arisen and does not affect the cost. The Director-General of Health for New Zealand, whom I saw in Wellington, is willing to consider a request that his department should arrange for Pitcairners to be treated in public hospitals and, if negotiations succeed, the services of the private consultant now used will be discontinued.

25. Resolution 14: Land tenure on Pitcairn has never been investigated and a summary of our knowledge of it is given at p.26 of "A Guide to Pitcairn". Ownership of land is still retained by Pitcairners who have lived overseas continuously for as long as 30 years, and the premise of the resolution is that they should decide

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whether they wish to retain their status as property owners on Pitcairn or forfeit their rights to trustees appointed by them. In the present state of the community, such a self-protective measure is essential and the proposal, which was deferred from the first committee meeting for consultation outside, won enthusiastic support. A move in committee to reduce the period of continuous absence from 10 to 5 years (14(c)) was withdrawn on my advice without a vote being taken. A further suggestion, that landowners with no direct descendants should consider willing part of their estates to the Crown in trust for Pitcairners who need land, aroused interest and some approval but it was not a suitable subject for a resolution. It is, however, a matter which could be kept alive in occasional correspondence. Approval of the principle of the resolution is sought before proceeding to consider legislation which will have to provide for a period of grace, possibly three years, for those persons who have already been continuously absent for more than 10 years.

26. Resolution 15: The estimates were discussed in detail with the Council and a fair copy is being prepared. Members were deeply interested in and expressed appreciation for the detailed examination.

27. Resolution 16: \$9000 has been made available to Pitcairn from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds for the period ending 31st March, 1966. Enquiries about the purchase of two crawler-tractors have already been made and the costing of additional work at Bounty Bay (14 (b)) is being done. A separate paper will be prepared on development planning as a whole but attention is invited to the reservation on the Council's program expressed in §30 below.

28. Resolution 17: The Chief Magistrate requested that the question of age in the law of carnal knowledge should be discussed. Until 1957 it was 14. He insisted that the change to 16 was instigated by a former Education Officer who had a daughter aged 14 and that, since the school-leaving age is 15, it was a family and not a government responsibility to protect girls in the year before marriage. The discussion included references to suspected offences under the present law which could not be taken to Court for lack of evidence. There was unanimous agreement that the law as it stands commands little public support and that attempts to apply it were a cause of social discontent. In the public meeting a question was

*Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell*

February 1964

asked whether there was any limitation on the time during which a charge could be laid. This question has come up before and has been noted for examination when a general revision of the laws is undertaken. It is pertinent to note at this point that the Chief Magistrate requested that the 1940 code of law, which he considers to be out of date should be revised. Recommendations on revision were made by a Fiji Magistrate (Mr D. McLoughlin) after a judicial visit in 1958 but, for good reasons, they have not yet been implemented.

4. SUPPLEMENTARY THOUGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

29. In addition to the resolutions of the Council which constitute my main recommendations a series of notes were left for the guidance of the Chief Magistrate and Council. They were written seriatim as points came up and are included in this Report as Appendix "D" so that they may be readily accessible for reference. Some of them explain the resolutions further but most deal with other aspects of administration. The following may be found to be of special interest:

- §1.8 concerning the nomination of government officials for elected posts;
- §2.3 concerning appointments;
- §2.7 concerning public and government work;
- §2.12 concerning police duties (this note was consequent upon the debate on carnal knowledge);
- §3.5 concerning re-afforestation;
- §4.3 concerning archives;
- §4.5 concerning roads; and
- §4.7 concerning the Otago University Archaeological Expedition.

30. It has been mentioned, in §14, that a cooperative organization might suit Pitcairn. I discussed the matter generally during my visit, with special reference to marketing souvenirs, retail trading, agriculture for domestic consumption and export and the supply of perishable produce to visiting ships. There was sufficient interest to warrant further action and it is proposed to seek advice from the South Pacific Commission's Cooperatives Specialist, particularly, to start with, on the provision of simple literature which explains the objectives and organization of a cooperative economy. In spite of the Council's recommendations on development (§27 above) it might be prudent, therefore, to reserve

a part of the funds available from Britain for a cooperatives project.

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

b 31. There may also be prospects for limited tourism, in spite of the difficulties in transport, and even for new settlement. It is recommended, therefore, that applications by persons to visit the Island should, in consultation with the Council, be prudently encouraged. I was particularly impressed by the way the community was stimulated by the archaeological expedition, not only through natural curiosity in the work but also by the contribution that half-a-dozen well-educated, sympathetic and vital young men made to the social life. It is possible too, that other universities and institutions would like to use Pitcairn for field work or that students would like to combine a holiday there with an opportunity to gain practical experience in their disciplines.

February 1964

d 32. On my return journey I was fortunate enough to meet in Wellington, the Chairmen of Shaw, Savill (J.A. MacConochie) the New Zealand Shipping Company (F.R. Harmer) and the Port Line (R.H. Senior) all of whom expressed willingness to help us with Pitcairn provided it could be clearly established that the island has a future. Mr MacConochie told me that in fifteen months' time Corinthic and Athenic would be converted to cargo carriers and that only two of his company's ships on the Panama run (Gothic and Ceramic) would retain passenger accommodation. He intimated that a subsidy might be required if they were to continue to call. Mr Harmer was doubtful that his passenger ships would again call at Pitcairn although he, and the others, were suprised when I told them that a diversion to Pitcairn on the run from Panama to Tahiti would add only 327 miles to the length of the voyage. Mr Senior considered that cargo vessels of the Port Line would continue to call occasionally and displayed some interest in a suggestion that cruise ships of Cunard, of which company he is a director, might include Pitcairn in their itineraries. I explained briefly that my visit held some promise that it might be possible to reorganize the economy co-operatively, and all three expressed interest in the island as a source of supply for fresh fruit and vegetables. It was suggested by Mr MacConochie that, if the Governor and Colonial Office agreed, the conversations should be resumed in London during my next leave, when I should give the companies a further assessment of Pitcairn's prospects and, in particular, an estimate of the minimum number of calls required from their passenger and cargo ships.

409

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

February 1964

13.

5. CONCLUSION

33. On one occasion during my visit the leader of the Otago University Archaeological Expedition, a social anthropologist, remarked that a social revolution was being initiated. I am not so sanguine for, although the recommendations approved by the Council could lead to considerable change and the community was clearly stimulated by my visit and grateful for it, it still has to be seen whether the will and ability to act exists. In this respect it was valuable that the new Education Officer accompanied me to Pitcairn, that he attended all discussions and that he displayed a lively and sympathetic interest in the problems we were seeking to solve.

34. Because the alternative to further guidance is to allow the island to drift towards evacuation - a policy which, given the romantic interest in Pitcairn, would be widely and severely criticized - I consider it is desirable to return next year on my way on leave. The objectives would be to consolidate this year's work; to initiate further advances in economic organization; to advise if further constitutional and administrative reform is desirable; and to conclude the long-deferred revision of the laws referred to in §28 above.



(Reid Cowell)
Commissioner

South Pacific Office,
Suva, Fiji.

February, 1964.

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APPENDIX "A"

409

Diary of main events.

Report on a Visit to

Pitcairn Island

1963 - 1964,

T.R. Cowell

February 1964

1963

a
December 21 Left Suva by air for Auckland

b
22 Arrived Auckland.

23 Burns, Philp: passage arrangements and stores.
W.A. Donald (of A.B. Donald and Etablissements
Donald): consular representation in French
Polynesia

c
F.A. Reeves (General Manager of T.E.A.L.):
consular representation in French Polynesia
(telephone).

24 Embarked "Ceramic". S.A. Kinder and J.F. Forster
(education officers, Pitcairn). Mr Forster
travelled to Pitcairn on "Ceramic" and
general talks continued throughout the
voyage.

d
F. Gathercole (leader, Otago University Archaeo-
logical Expedition). General discussions
on voyage with Mr Gathercole and other
members of the expedition.

e
29 Cruised off Rapa (French) 0700 hours. Calm and
clear morning.

31 Pitcairn sighted 0530 hours.
Two boats & launch pulled alongside "Ceramic"
0800 hours. Passengers (15) disembarked by
Jacob's ladder 0930 hours.

f
Landed Bounty Bay 1130 hours. Track wet
and slippery.

g
Lunch & tea with Mr. & Mrs Ivan Christian
whose house we rented.

Official welcome and entertainment in village
hall 2000 to 0100 (1st January) hours.

1964

h
January 1 Morning: Lunch with Pastor & Mrs. Ferris.
Afternoon: Christmas Tree on Village Square
Evening: Tea with Mr & Mrs Ivan Christian.

409

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

February 1964

- 2.
- 2 Morning: Settling in. Informal talks with Secretary and Mrs Ferris. a
- Afternoon: Talks with Chief Magistrate and Secretary. Inspected new Post Office/Dispensary - commendable work. Inspected School with Chief Magistrate and Education Officer. Termite infestation is very bad and we may have to consider reconstruction within next few years. b
- Evening: Tea with Chief Magistrate.
- 3 Morning: Campaign against cockroaches with D.D.T. and Dieldrin. Talks on medical matters with Mrs Ferris. c
- Afternoon: Official talks (Chief Magistrate, Secretary and Education Officer).
- 4 Morning: Attended Sabbath School and Church. Lunch with the Inspector of Police and Mrs Vernon Young. d
- Afternoon: Addressed the Young Men's Society.
- Evening: Film in Village Hall. e
- 5 Afternoon: Official talks.
- Evening: Tea with Chief Magistrate.
- 6 Evening: Council Meeting (1830 - 2330 hours). f
- 7 Morning & Council Meeting (1100 - 1745 hours).
- Afternoon : Drug stock-taking (Mrs Ferris and Mrs Cowell)
- Evening: Mr and Mrs Ivan Christian and family to tea.
- 8 Morning & Inspected and lunched at Radio Station. Impressed with work accomplished on new installation. g
- Afternoon: Tea with Chief Magistrate.
- Evening Film in Village Hall.
- 9 Afternoon Official talks. h
- Evening Meeting of Council sub-committee on Souvenir Trading (1830-2200 hours).

February 1964

3.

- a
- 10 Morning: Inspection of Bounty Bay and facilities and
main road with Chairman of the Internal
Committee.
- Afternoon: Official talks.
- b
- 11 Morning: Visit to Prison (empty) with Inspector of Police,
Church.
- Evening: Attended Young Men's Society - address by Mr.
Gathercole.
- c
- 12 Morning: Official talks.
- Afternoon: Inspection of Adamstown with Chief Magistrate
Mrs Ferris and Mrs Cowell.
- Evening: Dinner and discussions with Education Officer
and Mrs Worster.
- d
- 13 Morning & Cricket Match. Commissioner's VIII v Pitcairn IX.
Afternoon: Result after three innings - tie (not
deliberate).
- Evening: Tea with Inspector of Police & Mrs Young.
Slide show (Henderson and Oeno Islands)
in Village Hall.
- e
- 14 Morning: Discussion with Education Officer.
- Afternoon: Council Meeting (1330-1915 hours). Drug stock-
taking continued.
- Evening: Tea with Mr and Mrs Fred Christian.
- f
- 15 Morning: Review of office archives.
- Afternoon: Review of office archives and organization.
- Evening: Public dinner on Village Square (1730 hours).
Concert and presentation in Village Hall
(2000 hours).
- g
- 16 Morning: Plenary Session of Council (0800 hours) Public
Meeting (1000 hours).
Lunch with Island Secretary & Mrs Ben
Christian.
- h
- Afternoon: Visit to archaeological diggings.
Public sing-song and supper given by
Commissioner (1930 hours to midnight).
About 60 guests.

409

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

February 1964

- 4.
- 17 Morning: Walk around Pitcairn with Chief Magistrate (0830-1400 hours).
Evening: Tea with Mr and Mrs Warren Christian. a
- 18 Morning: Church. Chief Magistrate in bed with influenza. b
Afternoon: Bounty Bay to inspect drainage and track to the Edge.
- 19 Morning & Survey of possible new road route from the Edge
Afternoon: to the Radio Station with expedition surveyor (Mr. Knight), Education Officer and Radio Officer (1100 - 1500 hours). c
- 20 Morning: U.S. Supply ship "Wyandotte" called (1200-1500 hours). Confined to quarters with influenza. d
- 21 Confined to quarters. d
- 22 0800 hours Final check in Secretary's Office.
1230 hours Left Bounty Bay.
1400 hours Boarded "Athenic"
1600 hours Sailed from Pitcairn. e
- 23-30 At Sea.
- 31 Morning: Docked at Wellington.
Afternoon: Called on Acting British High Commissioner and staff. Travel arrangements. f

February

- 1 Saturday - no work in New Zealand.
- 2 Sunday - no work in New Zealand. Called on N.Z. Senior Commissioner on S.P.C./Mr J. McEwen). g
3. Travel arrangements. Islands Education Office. Department of Island Territories.
- 4 Freight Manager, Shaw, Savill and Albion. N.Z. Joint Intelligence Bureau. Director-General of Health, Secretary, Department of External Affairs. h
- 5 Breakfast on "Athenic" with Chairmen of Shaw Savill, New Zealand Shipping Coy and Port Line. Islands Education Office. Left Wellington for Fiji via Auckland.

APPENDIX "B"

409

PITCAIRN ISLANDS

I.C.3/Jan.64.

ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING 16TH JANUARY, 1964

Report on a Visit to

Pitcairn Island

1963 - 1964,

T.R. Cowell

Agenda

Chief Magistrate declares open the plenary session of the Council.

Mr C. Warren
Mr P. Young

1. The Council resolves that a Pitcairn Souvenir Agency shall be established under the provisions of section 6 (1) (j) of the Pitcairn Island Regulations, and that a Committee shall be appointed to examine the organisation of the Agency. Members of the Committee shall be Messrs Christie Warren, Elwyn Christian, Oscar Clark, and Tom Christian.

February 1964

Chief Magistrate
Mr C. Warren

2. The Council resolves that section 4 of the Pitcairn Island Regulations shall be amended to provide for the establishment of an Island Council consisting of four elected members; four official members, of whom two shall be appointed annually by the Governor on the advice of the Council and two shall be appointed annually by the Council; and two advisory members one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor and one shall be appointed by the Council.

Mr P. Young
Mr W. Young

3. The Council resolves that section 13(3) of the Pitcairn Island Regulations shall be amended to permit women to be nominated as candidates for the post of Assessor.

Chief Magistrate
Mr C. Warren

4. The Council resolves that provision shall be made in the Pitcairn Regulations for plenary meetings of the Council to be held in public.

Mr W. Young
Mr P. Young

5. The Council resolves that section 10 of the Pitcairn Island Regulations shall be amended to reduce the residential qualifications for Assessors from twenty-one to five years.

Chief Magistrate:
Mr C. Warren

6. The Council resolves that section 6 of the Pitcairn Island Regulations shall be amended to extend the Council's authority to make rules for town planning; plant and animal quarantine; the care of children and old people; and the conservation of land, soil and food supplies. And that necessary amendments shall be made in the text of other sections of the Regulations.

Mr C. Warren
Mr W. Young

7. The Council resolves that Section 3 of the Pitcairn Island Regulations shall be amended to provide for the Chairman of the Internal Committee to act as Chief Magistrate during the Chief Magistrate's absence from duty.

409

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

February 1964

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|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Mr C. Warren
Mr W. Young | 8. The Council resolves that section 7 of the Pitcairn Island Regulations shall be amended to provide for the Council to appoint as many members of the Internal Committee as it may from time to time, with the approval of the Governor, decide. | a |
| Chief Magistrate
Mr C. Warren | 9. The Council resolves that with the effect from the coming into force of Section 7 of the Pitcairn Island Regulations as amended, the Governor shall be requested to approve an Internal Committee of five members. (Note; the Council should consider this matter from time to time and recommend any changes it may consider to be necessary). | b |
| Mr P. Young
Mr W. Young | 10. The Council resolves that the Governor shall be requested to approve the following changes in the Pitcairn Island establishment with effect from 1st January, 1964.

(a) Assessors to be paid £36 p.a. each
(b) Secretary, Postmaster and Chairman to be paid £120 p.a. each.
(c) Assistant Radio Operator, Engineer and Electrician to be paid £84 p.a. each.
(d) A Forester, Landing Supervisor and Works Supervisor to be appointed and paid £60 p.a. each.
(e) An assistant Nurse to be appointed and paid £48 p.a.
(f) Assistant Secretary to be paid £60 p.a. provided that while Mr Bert Christian holds the post he shall receive an additional personal allowance of £12 p.a. | c

d

e |
| Mr P. Young
Mr C. Warren | 11. The Council resolves that with effect from 1st January, 1964 the Governor shall be requested to make financial provision in the annual estimates to provide for:

(a) payment of the School Groundsman at the rate of £36 p.a.; and
(b) payment of the members of the School Committee appointed by the Council and the Church at the rate of £30 p.a. each in recognition of their responsibility for carrying out minor maintenance at the school. | f

g |
| Chief Magistrate
Mr W. Young | 12. The Council resolves that with effect from 1st January, 1964 the Governor shall be requested to make financial provision in the annual estimates to provide for the payment of an old-age pension at the rate of £2 a month to persons who: | h |

3.

- (a) are 60 years of age and have been domiciled in Pitcairn Island for 10 consecutive years prior to making application; and
- (b) have been declared in writing to be handicapped in the planting of food and the making of souvenirs by the Medical Officer; and
- (c) have inadequate private means to support themselves.

In the case of incapacitated dependants of a person holding an established post the pension shall be at the rate of £1 a month.

In the case of married persons both alive only the husband shall be eligible to apply for a pension.

February 1964

Mr W. Young
 Mr C. Warren

13. The Council resolves to request the Governor to amend the Compassionate Grants scheme to provide that only permanent residents of Pitcairn Island shall benefit from it and that no benefit shall be granted if an applicant, fails to return to Pitcairn Island to reside within 12 months of his being declared fit to return by a qualified Medical Officer.

Chief Magistrate
 Mr C. Warren

14. The Council resolves that the Governor should be requested to enact a law to provide that:

- (a) a landowner who leaves Pitcairn must appoint a caretaker approved by the Island Court;
- (b) all fruits and crops planted by the caretaker should remain his property;
- (c) if the owner does not live on Pitcairn for one year in 10 the caretaker should become the owner; and
- (d) if the owner fails to appoint a caretaker the Island Court may do so;

And that a similar law should be enacted in respect of house property.

Mr P. Young
 Chief Magistrate

15. The Council resolves that the revised estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1963/64 and the draft estimates for 1964/65 as presented by the Chief Magistrate and amended by the Council should be transmitted to the Governor.

Mr C. Warren
 Mr W. Young

16. The Council notes that the British Government is prepared to make available to Pitcairn Island the sum of £9,000 for development purposes for the period ending 31st

409

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

February 1964

4.

March, 1966; expresses its thanks for this promise of assistance and recommends to the Governor that priority should be given to-

- (a) the purchase of two crawler-tractors one of which should be equipped with an angle-dozer and circular saw and attachment;
- (b) the construction of a repair shed, a boat shed for "Dumpy" and completion of the skidway.
- (c) the purchase of a new generator for the Radio Station sufficient to run the two transmitters and transfer of the present generator to Adamstown for a public lighting supply.
- (d) the purchase of two donkeys; and
- (e) intensification of re-afforestation.

And requests the Governor to proceed with planning.

Chief Magistrate
Mr P. Young

17. The Council resolves that the Governor be requested to amend s.65 of the Pitcairn Island Regulations to reduce the age set down in the law of carnal knowledge from 16 years to 15 years.

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APPENDIX "C"

Draft Rules for the Pitcairn Island
Souvenir Agency.

Made by the Island Council under s.b(j) of the Pitcairn Islands
Regulations, 1940

*Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell*

1. A Public Agency shall be established which shall be known as the Pitcairn Souvenir Agency.
2. The purpose of the Agency shall be to foster and develop the making and marketing of souvenirs made by Pitcairn Islanders living on Pitcairn Island.
3. The Chief Magistrate shall be President of the Agency and the Government Auditor shall be Auditor ex officio.
4. A Governing Committee of five members shall be elected annually by the People of Pitcairn Island, according to the procedure for elections of Assessors as laid down in Part III of the Pitcairn Island Regulations, at a time designated by the Island Council. Men and women shall be eligible to serve on the Committee.
5. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman.
6. The Committee shall appoint a Secretary or such other officers not being members of the Committee as it may decide. The Committee, with the approval of the Island Council, may fix rates of pay for such officers.
7. The Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the Agency and in particular shall ensure:
 - a. that the quality and workmanship of all souvenirs offered to the Agency are of a high standard;
 - b. that all orders addressed to it are properly recorded and are promptly filled, or the money returned;
 - c. that except with the prior consent of the Island Council, only orders which are accompanied by cash, British Postal Orders or International Money Order are accepted;
 - d. that a correct price list, administrations post and packings included, is published from time to time;
 - e. that accounts and correspondence are properly kept to the satisfaction of the Auditor;
 - f. that a quarterly report on the transaction of the Agency is submitted to the Island Council.
8. Any profits of the Agency may be used for any community purpose approved by the Island Council.

February 1964

Report on a Visit to

Pitcairn Island

1963 - 1964,

T.R. Cowell

February 1964

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9. All decisions of the Committee or of any General Meeting shall be made by a simple majority vote.
10. The Island Council may require the Committee to provide any information it needs to satisfy itself that the Agency's affairs are being properly conducted and may make any additional rules it considers necessary to ensure that it is so conducted.
11. An Annual General Meeting of the Committee shall be held in..... of each year at which all electors are entitled to be present and vote. Special General Meetings may be called at any time by order of the Island Council.

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APPENDIX "D"

Notes for Guidance of the Chief Magistrate and Council

January, 1964

A. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

- 1.1 Changes in Regulations concerning the membership of the Island Council and the Internal Committee. I.C. 3/January 64 resolutions 2 and 9.

The changes we have proposed do not take legal effect until the Governor has signed a new Ordinance. In the meantime you may, by administrative action, adopt the new procedures. It is quite proper to do so since no law is being broken but, in the case of the Council, only the Chief Magistrate, Chairman, the Assessors and Secretary may vote until the Law is changed.

- 1.2. Elections etc. (I.C.3/January 64 resolutions 3,5, and 7).
 None of these changes can be made until the Governor has signed a new Ordinance.

- 1.3. Powers of the Council to make new Rules. (I.C. 3/January 64 resolution 6). These powers cannot be exercised until the Governor has signed a new Ordinance.

- 1.4. Plenary and Committee Meetings of the Council. (I.C. 3/Jan 64 resolution 4.)

- (a) Public or plenary meetings are not forbidden by law and this resolution is meant to make this clear. Plenary meetings may be held now. The public may not, of course, speak. It is the duty of the elected members of the Council to put forward the views of the public.
- (b) When the Council wishes to debate matters in private it should resolve that "The Council shall move into Committee". The public must then leave the Council Chamber. In Committee, the Chief Magistrate may vacate the chair and a new Chairman may be elected. There are two types of Committee:
- (i) Committee of the Whole, attended by all members;
- (ii) Special Committees, appointed to examine special matters e.g. finance. Three members should be sufficient on special committees.

Resolutions passed by any Committee must be presented to and approved by the Council in plenary Session before they become Council Resolutions. Remember that the Chief Magistrate must be in the Chair at plenary meetings.

February 1964

February 1964

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(c) Do not be afraid to appoint Committees. They can work out plans and recommendations and save the full Council a lot of time. Committees elect their own Chairman and he reports their findings to the Council.

1.5. Internal Committee:

The Chairman will be responsible to the Council for the supervision of the work of the Engineer, Electrician, Landing Supervisor, Works Supervisor and Forester. Together with the Chairman these officers will constitute the Internal Committee. Remember that the Internal Committee is appointed by the Council and that it is responsible through the Chairman to the Chief Magistrate and Council. Any member of the Council can raise matters concerning the Internal Committee in Council and the Chairman must answer the questions.

1.6. Council and Other Government Officers: Members of the Council in the same way can raise matters concerning any other Government Officers. The appropriate member should reply e.g. the Postmaster about postal matters; the Radio Officer about telecommunications; and the Secretary about finance and general administration.

1.7. Elected Members of the Council and their duties to the Public: As elected members of the Council, the Assessors and the Chairman should keep a close eye on the work of the Government and its officers. They should make a point of checking that work is properly done and ask questions in the Council if they are not satisfied. They are the spokesmen for the public in the Council and should ask questions on behalf of any elector who wishes to have questions asked or who has ideas or opinions he or she wishes to have expressed.

1.8. Nomination of Government Officials for Elected Posts: Section 13 of the Pitcairn Regulations establishes the right of male citizens to stand for elected office. Any Government official, therefore, may stand for an elected office but if he should be elected he must at once resign his official post. I have considered whether Government officials should be required to resign at the time they accept nomination for an elected office but have concluded that, because the offices of Chief Magistrate and Chairman in particular are so important, it is the Island's best interests that no person should be discouraged from standing for election.

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February 1964

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B. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- a
- 2.1. Executive Control: The Chief Magistrate is the Island's Chief Executive Officer (s.8 of the Pitcairn Island Regulations) and all Government officials are responsible to him for the proper performance of their duties.
- b
- 2.2. Hours of Work: The Chief Magistrate in Council shall, as may be necessary, lay down hours of work for all Government Officials and allocate duties. The Secretary's office should be open at least one hour each day from Sunday to Thursday and the Post Office at least twice a week.
- c
- 2.3. Appointments: Unless otherwise provided by law all Government Officials hold their appointments during Her Majesty's pleasure (Since the Chief Magistrate, Chairman and Assessors are elected by the people this condition does not apply to them). The Chief Magistrate in Council may act in the name of the Governor to make appointments (provided the Governor has approved the post and there is financial provision) and enforce discipline. The Governor must be informed, through the Commissioner, of all such appointments and of any suspension or dismissal from office.
- d
- 2.4. Any Government Official may be called upon by the Governor or the Chief Magistrate in Council to perform any duties.
- e
- 2.5. The Council should review the establishment from time to time and may recommend to the Governor alterations in it, in conditions of service and in pay. It is very doubtful that the Secretary's Office needs three officers. While the Assistant Secretary is away an attempt should be made to run the office with the Secretary and Typist. If the Council finds that the Typist has additional work to do it can recommend an increase in her pay, possibly to 248 p.a. The duties allocated during Ratu David's visit in July, 1963 should be regarded as a guide: they do not mean that an official is required to do certain duties only and is entitled to refuse to do others - see preceding notes.
- f
- 2.6. The Secretary is responsible for seeing that the Pitcairn Island Financial Instructions and Conditions of Service are properly followed.
- g
- 2.7. Public and Government Work: It is the aim of Government to reduce the amount of public work to a minimum. As far as possible all new construction and the routine maintenance of Government buildings, installations, launches and engines will be done by paid contract or by Government officials in the course of their duties as the case may be. When the tractors reach the Island the main roads from the Landing to Puluu and from the Landing to the Radio Station will be maintained
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Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

February 1964

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by the Government. The principal public work will then be (a) maintenance of tracks as defined by the Council (b) maintenance of the cemetery (c) rock-clearance at Bounty Bay and (d) maintenance of the long-boats. The Council may, of course, call upon men to do other public work if circumstances or needs require it.

- 2.8. Assistance for Government Officers: The pay of Government Officials is calculated in terms of normal duties. If major work has to be done (e.g. a major overhaul of engines or the re-painting of buildings) assistance may be paid for. As far as possible any such assistance should be paid for on contract, payment being made when the contract is completed to the satisfaction of the Chief Magistrate. Maintenance and minor works votes may be used for this purpose, and the Chairman should try to ensure that persons not in Government employ get the first opportunity to work provided that they have the necessary skill.
- 2.9. Use of Government Votes and Materials: Maintenance and Minor Works and Sundry Votes may be used for payments for labour as well as for materials. Notes in the Annual Estimates are meant as a guide to show how the total money voted under any one item has been arrived at, but if the amount spent on one service is not used, the balance may supplement the other service or services under the same item. Materials in stock for any Government service may be used on any other Service approved by the Chief Magistrate provided they are replaced e.g. if roofing iron is bought for the school and the Education Officer does not need it immediately it may be used on any other government building provided it is replaced from the appropriate vote in the same financial year.
- 2.10. Official Records: Official correspondence, books, registers or other documents may be kept only in the following places and in the charge of the following persons:
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Educational | School, Education Officer |
| Postal | Post Office, Postmaster |
| Telecommunications | Radio Station, Radio Officer |
| Administrative | Secretary's Office, Secretary |
| Medical | Dispensary, Medical Officer |
- All other official records (including service manuals and police and immigration records) must be kept in the Secretary's Office.
- 2.11. Office Accommodation: The Secretary's Office is to be enlarged and, if necessary, office accommodation should be provided in it for the Inspector of Police and for the Chairman. The staff of the Secretary's office should perform any secretarial functions required by these or other Government Officers.

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February 1964

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2.12. Police Duties: A good set of notes for the Inspector of Police has already been prepared by Mr McFoughlin of which a copy is on record in the Secretary's Office. Except in the case of Regulation 66 (Adultery) it is the duty of the Inspector of Police to make inquiries about any offence of which he has knowledge. Members of the Council should make it clear to the public that the law is there to help the community to live peaceably together and that it is everyone's duty to cooperate with the Police and the Law. It is not reasonable to expect the Police and the Law to come to one's help in time of trouble if help is not willingly given in return. The Law cannot be better than the community it serves. The Laws are made by the Governor in consultation with the Council and if they do not meet the community's needs the Council should recommend changes. In performing this function the Council should take account of the opinions of its Police Officer. The Council, in particular therefore, must help the Inspector of Police when he needs help for he is only trying to see that laws the Council has agreed to are obeyed. In the performance of his duties the Inspector of Police should exercise compassion and common sense, for his object is not to oppress but to help the Community to live a peaceful and prosperous life.

C. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- 3.1. Fuel: I shall see if any arrangements can be made in New Zealand about Government fuel supplies. Until you hear from me you should make your own arrangements.
- 3.2. Roads: Mr Knight should be consulted about roads for the tractors before he leaves the island. He has some interesting ideas. (See also Note 4.5.)
- 3.3. Rock Samples: I have asked Mr Carter, who is looking out for water for us, to take samples of rock to New Zealand for testing for use in concrete making. I shall report the results.
- 3.4. Landing and Works Supervisors: I have discussed the duties of these men with the Chairman. As a guide I think they should be given the following responsibilities -
- Landing: Routine maintenance of and minor works on the hulls of launches.
 - Routine maintenance of and minor works on all buildings on the landing; skidway; jetty; derrick; flying-fox cable; flying-fox shed; and store shed.
 - Routine maintenance of and minor works on the road and

409

Report on a Visit to

Pitcairn Island

1963 - 1964,

T.R. Cowell

February 1964

6.

drains from the Landing to the Edge.

Works: Routine maintenance of and minor works on the Court House; Post-Office/Dispensary; Square; Prison; and the road and drains on the road from the Edge to Pulau.

- 3.5. Forestry: I should like regular reports from the Forester. Before any trees are planted you should obtain written consent from the landowner to plant, and recognition that the trees will be marked "P" to indicate that they are Government Property. In return the landowner will be entitled to an additional share when the trees are mature and are cut and distributed by the Council.
- 3.6. Souvenir Agency: I shall take action on producing the sales brochure and on having the draft rules for the Agency put into order. In the meantime the Council Committee should start examining prices so that a price list can be prepared. A single price for each article is essential. The Council Committee should also prepare a plan of organisation.
- 3.7. John Adam's Grave: As discussed this grave should be put in order this year and a caretaker should be appointed at £12 p.a. to keep it and the path to it in proper repair. All costs should be debited to the Sundry Works vote and a Special Warrant should be applied for quoting savings. The Island Council should appoint a caretaker formally at its next meeting.
- 3.8. Estate of Fanie Christian: I have handed all my papers to the Government Adviser. The Council should appoint a trustee for the property who should follow the legal advice given. All interested parties should be asked to agree that the Council should attempt to decide the question of succession. Let me know the result. I shall check on court jurisdiction in Suva and write to you.
- 3.9. Life-Jackets: Arrangements should be made to test the life-jackets at frequent intervals. The place where they are stored should be sprayed once in each six months with dieldrin or D.D.T. Please include a note on this in the monthly reports.
- 3.10. Spraying of Government Offices: The Secretary's Office, Post Office, Dispensary and Library should be sprayed with dieldrin or D.D.T. once in each six months. The insides of all cupboards should be painted with dieldrin. Underneath the Court House should also be sprayed. Consult the Medical Officer on this work which can be done by the Works Supervisor.

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February 1964

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3.11. Adamstown: The tour of inspection with Mrs Ferris was very interesting and it was seen that many houses are undergoing repair and improvement. I shall make inquiries in Suva about local treatment for termite which may help to retard the damage done. It looks as if it may be necessary to introduce rules to reduce the number of cockroaches and mosquitoes and I shall enquire about this in Suva also. It would be a great help to cleanliness if all chickens were fenced. Several householders spoke to me about all of these things.

3.12. Gun Licences: S.77 of the Pitcairn Island Regulations is not clear. It seems that the best course is to follow your old practice of one licence for each person who owns a gun or guns; that each gun must be registered; that anyone who borrows a gun from another person must have a licence and must inform the police; and that if the owner of a gun wishes, say, his wife to carry his gun occasionally he should buy her a licence also. The purpose of the law is to keep trace of where firearms are and make sure that they do not get into careless hands. If people cooperate sensibly with the police there should be no trouble.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

4.1. Navigation. The Island Council might like to consider offering a prize of £10 to any person on Pitcairn who obtains a certificate in navigation before Pastor Ferris leaves. I suggest this might be discussed at the next meeting.

4.2. Minor Works to be done.

- (a) Steps to square. Obtain Pastor's written approval to build on Church land.
- (b) Partition in centre room of Dispensary/Post Office block.
- (c) Enlargement of Secretary's Office.
- (d) Construction of "pigeon holes" for files in Secretary's Office.
- (e) Construction of table for Council Meetings.

I think these works could be finished by 31st March, 1964. Any work which the Works Overseer cannot do himself should be done by contract.

409

Report on a Visit to
Pitcairn Island
1963 - 1964,
T.R. Cowell

February 1964

8.

- 4.3. Archives. The records in the Secretary's Office have been examined and instructions have been left on File A.3/3 - Archives, General. Mr Knight will photograph the two old Lands Registers. Further instructions will be sent from Suva.
- 4.4. Telegrams. It is better to make copies of telegrams issued and received on good quality paper for filing. The ordinary forms in use by the radio station are too flimsy for permanent record.
- 4.5. Roads. Read with §3.2. Messrs Knight, Forster, T.C. Christian and I inspected the Eme Fence road to Kulianda on 19th January. If we are to provide roads for rubber-wheeled transport at a later date it seems best to develop the present track at the lower end; cross, and continue on the far side until near the head of the valley; cross back again to join the old New Zealand track, sweeping round to join the Auto Valley - McCoy's Valley road to Taro Ground. This seems to be by far the best route from the Edge to the Radio Station. It would be the easiest to maintain and would also open up some good, flat agricultural land. The first need is to cut a foot-track up the south side of Eme Fence so as to give access for surveying a suitable road. Mr Forster can explain what is needed and I should like the Council to prepare an estimate of cost for the cutting of the foot-track by contract. Please let me know the result.
- 4.6. Organization. I have noticed that although we have opened the Secretary's Office for public business from 0700 to 0800 hours Sunday to Thursday, the Secretary still has to chase around for information. This seems to be a waste of time and other Government Officers should make a point of calling at the office regularly or, at least, of telephoning the Secretary.
- If this advice is followed it should be possible to avoid some of the last-minute rushes before the mail closes and lead to better administration.
- 4.7. Archaeological Expedition. If the Council approves, up to \$100 may be granted to Mr Gathercole's expedition to be used for the payment of labour. Charge Miscellaneous - Archaeology. An additional member of the expedition, Mr Garth Rogers will arrive on "Gothic". Provided he has a medical clearance there is no objection to his landing.

Reid Cowell
(Reid Cowell)
Commissioner for
Pitcairn Island

Adamstown,
January, 1964

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APPENDIX "B"

Summary of Recommendations

1. That a Souvenir Agency should be established under s.6 (1)(j) of the Pitcairn Island Regulations (§14).
2. That the Island Council should be re-constituted to provide for four elected members, four official members, and two, non-voting advisory members (§15).
3. That women should be eligible for nomination as Assessors (§16).
4. That provision should be made in the Pitcairn Regulations for plenary meetings of the Council to be held in public (§17).
5. That the residential qualification for the office of Assessor should be reduced from 21 to 5 years (§18).
6. That the Island Council's authority to make rules should be extended to include town planning; plant and animal quarantine; the care of children and old people; and the conservation of land, soil and food supplies (§19).
7. That the Chairman of the Internal Committee should act as Chief Magistrate when the Chief Magistrate is absent from duty (§20).
8. That the Internal Committee should be re-constituted (§21).
9. That certain changes should be made in the Pitcairn Island establishment and in the rates of allowances of officials (§22).
10. That an old-age pension scheme should be introduced (§23).
11. That the compassionate grants (medical benefits) scheme should be amended (§24).
12. That legislation should be enacted to impose conditions on absentee owners of land and houses (§25).
13. That the revised estimates for 1963/64 and the draft estimates for 1964/65 be transmitted to the Governor (§26).

February 1964

Report on a Visit to

Pitcairn Island

1963 - 1964,

T.R. Cowell

February 1964

2.

14. That the Governor should proceed with the planning of the development program for the period ending 31st March 1966, taking account of the Council's views on the order of priority (§§27 and 32).
15. That s.65 of the Pitcairn Island Regulations be amended to reduce the age set down in the law of carnal knowledge from 16 years to 15 years (§28).
16. That various matters of special interest may be found in Appendix "D" (§29).
17. That further steps should be taken to examine the practicability of re-organizing the economy of Pitcairn Island on cooperative lines (§30).
18. That limited tourism and new settlement should be encouraged (§31).
19. That the Commissioner for Pitcairn Island should continue discussions on sea communications with the Chairmen of the New Zealand Shipping, Shew Savill, and Port Line Companies on his next leave (§32).
20. That the Commissioner for Pitcairn should visit the island again on his way on leave in 1965 (§34).

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APPENDIX "F"

I.C.1/Jan.64

ADDENDUM TO COMMISSIONER'S REPORT OF
PITCAIRN ISLAND

ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING 6TH JANUARY, 1964

AGENDA

February 1964

Item

- 1 Opening of meeting by Chief Magistrate. Resolution to move into Committee.
- 2 Introductory statement by the Commissioner for Pitcairn Island.
- 3 Formation of a public Souvenir Agency.
- 4 Development of other markets: Photographs.
Market gardening.
General Agriculture.
Shells.
Tourism.
- 5 Constitutional Reform:
 - (a) Re-constitution of council to provide for -
 - 4 Elected Members as at present
 - 4 Official Members - 2 appointed by Governor
2 appointed by Council
 - 2 Advisory Members - 1 appointed by Governor
1 appointed by Council

Regulation No.4 will have to be amended.
 - (b) Open nominations as Assessors to women (Regulation No.13(3)).
 - (c) Provide for open meetings of Council. Discussion of Committee Procedure.
 - (d) Discussion of residential qualification for nominations for Assessors (Regulation No.10) Reduce period to 5 years.
 - (e) Extension of Council's legislative authority to cover town planning; plant and animal quarantine; the care of children and old people (see Regulation No.52.); and the conservation of land; soil and food supplies.
 - (f) Discussion of deputy to Chief Magistrate. At present the Senior Assessor acts in the absence or incapacity of the Chief Magistrate.

409

Report on a Visit to

Pitcairn Island

1963 - 1964,

T.R. Cowell

February 1964

2.

6. Administrative Reform:

Re-constitution of the Internal Committee to provide for a Committee consisting of -

The Chairman (elected)

Engineer

Electrician

Works Supervisor (one of the present members)

Marine Supervisor (one of the present members)

Forester (new post)

and such others as may be required from time to time.

All members of the Committee would be nominated by the Council and all would come under the direction of the Chairman.

7. Appointments and Allowances:

(a) The following proposals are made to the Council:

Assessors raise pay from £15 p.a. to £36 p.a.

Engineer " " " £45 p.a. to £60 p.a.

Electrician " " " £45 p.a. to £60 p.a.

Forester new appointment at £60 p.a.

Assistant Nurse new appointment £48 p.a.

Assistant Secretary establish allowance at £60 p.a.

Secretary raise pay from £105 to £120 p.a.

Postmaster raise pay from £105 to £120 p.a.

Chairman raise pay from £75 to £120 p.a.

(b) In addition, the following unestablished posts are recommended:

School Groundsman : £36 p.a. Duties to cut grass at Pulau and at Pastor's house every 10 days. To be paid from new Sundries Vote under Head 11.

School Committee. Members, except Chief Magistrate, to be paid £30 p.a. from Head 11 Sundries.

Public Square Cleaner : £12 p.a. from Head VII Sundries.

Agricultural Storeman: £12 p.a. from Head VIII.2.

Old Age Pensions. £24 p.a. single; £36 p.a. for man and wife if both are incapacitated.

The conditions should be that:

- (a) the applicant has been resident on Pitcairn Island for 10 consecutive years prior to making application;

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February 1964

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- (b) the applicant is handicapped in the planting of food and the making of souvenirs;
- (c) the medical officer has issued a certificate of handicap; and
- (d) the applicant has insufficient private means to maintain himself or herself.

In the case of incapacitated dependants of a person holding an established post the pension should be at half the above rates.

- (d) Appointments and Allowances approved by the Council to be effective from 1st January, 1964.

Attention is invited to the Appendix to this Agenda setting down the proposed rates of pay, the net cost of which would be £258 in a full year.

- 8. Use of Maintenance and Labour votes.
The Council should see that maintenance and labour votes are used so that all members of the Community get a share of the money.
Priority should be given to those families which do not have a source of income from public funds but care should be taken that unskilled persons are not employed on jobs requiring skill. The Chairman should watch this for the Council.
- 9. Amendments to Medical Benefits Scheme.
- 10. Land Tenure.
Discussion of proposal that a law should be enacted to provide that:
 - (a) a landowner who leaves Pitcairn must appoint a caretaker approved by the Island Court;
 - (b) All fruits and crops planted by the caretaker remain his property;
 - (c) if the owner does not live on Pitcairn for one year in 10 the Crown or caretaker should become the owner;
 - (d) if an owner fails to appoint a caretaker the Court may do so;
 - (e) Similar rules to apply to houses.
- 11. Other Business.

409

Report on a Visit to

Pitcairn Island

1963 - 1964,

T.R. Cowell

February 1964

Agenda of 6th JanuaryAllowances

<u>Post</u>	<u>Proposed Allowances.</u>	<u>Present Allowance.</u>
	£	£
Chief Magistrate	195	195
Chairmen	120	75
Secretary	120	105
Postmaster	120	105
Inspector of Police	90	90
Asst. Radio Operator	72	72
Asst. Secretary	60 + 12 Personal Allowance	72
Asst. Postmaster	60	60
Engineer	60	45
Electrician	60	45
Works Overseer	60	60
Landing Overseer	60	60
Forester	60	-
Asst. Nurse	48	-
Assessor	36	15
Typist	36	36
Reserve Radio Operator	36	36
Agriculturalist	-	105
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Agricultural Storeman	12	12
Members, School Committee. (2)	30	-
School Grounds	36	-
Public Cleaning	12	-
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Old Age Pension.		
Single	24	-
Double	36	-
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APPENDIX "G"

I.C.2/Jan.64

ADDENDUM TO COMMISSIONER'S REPORT ON
PITCAIRN ISLAND

ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING 14TH JANUARY, 1964

AGENDA

Item

- 1 Opening of meeting by the Chief Magistrate.
Confirmation of Minutes of previous meetings.
- 2 Appointment of Mr Wilks Young as Assessor in place of Mr Elwyn Christian. Resigned.
- 3 Monthly Reports.
- 4 Applications for Compassionate Grants.
- 5 Revision of Postal Rates.
- 6 Naming of locality after Captain Jones.
- 7 Other Business (including a resolution to move into committee)
- 8 Further consideration of Agenda Item 5 (f) of I.C.1/Jan.64 - discussion of Deputy to the Chief Magistrate.
- 9 Further consideration of Agenda Item 10 of I.C.1/Jan.64 - Land Tenure.
- 10 Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.
- 11 Discussion of Ordinance No.1 of 1960 on the control of goats. It is suggested that any goats not penned and branded should be regarded as being public goats; that certain areas should be prohibited to goats; and that public hunts should be organised at least twice a year.
- 12 Discussion of Development Program.
- 13 Discussion of Regulation 65 - Carnal Knowledge.
- 14 Discussion of Regulation 73 - rock carvings with special reference to the export of pre-historic artefacts.
- 15 Discussion of licences - gun (s.77 of regulations.)
- 16 Other Business - Navigation Lights & Life-jackets.
- Stamps.

Note: Conclusions on items 11 and 14 were deferred.

February 1964