



TAHITI.

CONFIDENTIAL.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

8th May, 1913.

Sir,

In a letter dated the 17th March last and received on the 16th ultimo I have been informed by Captain Brooker, H.M.S. "Algerine", that he has transmitted to you a copy of his report on questions connected with Henderson and Pitcairn Islands.

2. I am forwarding to the Secretary of State by the mail of the 13th instant a copy of Captain Brooker's report, but I propose to defer taking any action on the recommendations which he has made until I receive your observations and Mr. Harcourt's instructions. I shall be glad, therefore, if you will submit to me your observations on Captain Brooker's report at your early convenience.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Bickham Scott,

High Commissioner.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul,

Tahiti.

PITCAIRN ISLAND.

Notes of interview with Mr. David Neild on

4th September, 1925.

1. Mr. Neild complained that the Pitcairn Islanders go aboard passing ships and order goods to be sent from New Zealand etc., and then when the goods arrive they will not pay for them. He stated that they are able to pay as, collectively, they take as much as £1,000 in a year from the sale of produce and curios to passing ships.

2. The people are adherents of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and contribute one-tenth of all their earnings to the Church. This money is sent to New Zealand. He stated that the Seventh Day Adventists in New Zealand really keep the wrong sabbath day owing to the arbitrary fixing of the 180 meridian (which they incorrectly do not take into consideration) the effect of which is to commence each day in the middle of the Pacific Ocean instead of on the rightful meridian, i.e. one intersecting Palestine. In consequence the sabbath kept by the Seventh Day Adventists in New Zealand is really not the seventh day but the sixth day. Therefore the contributions from Pitcairn should not go to New Zealand at all but to America where the right day is observed.

3. It appeared later that the Islanders had voted against him being allowed to return to the island, but, he explained, this was really a mistake as they had voted on both him and Fairclough at the same time and it was really Fairclough they did not desire on the island. He explained that the reason of his desire to return to the island is to marry the widow of the late Pastor Hare who was accidentally
killed

killed in 1921 on the occasion of Sir C.H.Rodwell's
visit to the island.

(Signed) H.Vaskess.

4th September, 1925.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

No. 1814.

27th October, 1925.

Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to transmit, for your information, some notes taken at an interview given by the Acting Secretary to Mr. David Neild who visited Suva on the 4th ultimo. His Excellency will be glad to receive any observations you may desire to offer on the statements made by Mr. Neild.

4.9.25.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. P. Mung

Acting Secretary to the High Commission.

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

No. 1814.

24th February, 1926.

Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 24th and 31st December last relating to the notes taken at an interview with Pastor David Nield and to inform you that His Excellency readily accepts your statement that there is no foundation for Pastor Nield's report that goods ordered from New Zealand and elsewhere are not paid for on arrival.

2. The wish of the residents on Pitcairn that permission should not be given to Pastor Nield to return to the Island has been noted by the High Commissioner.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Acting Secretary to the High Commission.

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.

Copy.

Pitcairn Island,
March 29, 1928.

Mr. Neeld.

Your letter dated 20/21 came safely to hand and also the other one you mentioned which I do not reply. There, a reason for me not replying because I might be saying sour things I do not wish to. but seeing you are anxious to hear from me I will let you know my mind.

First - you wrote me that I have some of Mr. Beaumont money and you wanted me to pay you for some of your books which he got from you. That is none of my business to pay you for what he owes you.

Last mail from England Mr. Beaumont send me a £1 note that does not look as if I owe him money.

2 nd. You mentioned about my dear sister Rose. The last time I was in N.Z. I heard a good deal about her. you remember the time you sent her home by the "Paparoa" well if I had known then what I know now she would ^{not} have gone back to you and may be she is alive still.

In regard to the books the ones got lost you wanted me to see about. It seems as if either you or David are not telling the truth. I ask him about it and he told me that he sent the money by the "Tamaroa" and he has a receipt from you.

You rember when I was in N.Z. I

ask

ask him about it and he told me that he sent the money by the "Tamaroa" and he has a receipt from you.

You remember when I was in N. Z. I ask you about some of those books and you dont want to let me have them. You remember as I was coming ashore from the "Remuera" I met you on the gang plank with some of your books and I said hello you are sending books to Pitcairn and I made the statement to you I could get along without your books well my word is my bond. I am still the same. I dont want to see any of those books under my roof. We have the mission books here selling like hot cakes, and also the people said that you spoil those books.

You infir that I am an dishonest man. You are the first man that think I am dishonest everyone whom I do a little business with. In England New Zealand and right here in Pitcairn known me to be straight.

Trusting that you will get these few lines alright.

Your A. H. Young.

The statements herein made are far from being correct, they are very misleading. David Nie

Copy.

"Villa Duval"

148 Tasman Street,
Wellington,

14th June, 1928.

To His Excellency
The High Commissioner
for the Western Pacific.
Suva, Fiji.

May it please Your Excellency to know that your Acting Secretary explained that your absence at the Solomon Islands prevented an interview when I stayed at Suva on my voyage to Vancouver in 1925. Since then I have had very strong impressions; that you should be informed concerning matters at Pitcairn Island.

Being the Husband of Rosalind Ameilia Young, the Author of the "Story of Pitcairn, and the Mutiny of the Bounty." A copy of which I presented to your Excellency, and one to your Secretary, and will now send another copy, by which you can refer to matters referred to in this letter.

In 1923, We both were broken down in health and the Doctor's advice was to rest. Then we decided to go to Pitcairn; early in 1924 we were landed there. Full particulars are recorded in the Book. Pages 275-280. My reception and generous treatment while on the Island for three months is recorded on pages 291-293.

This is given that your Excellency may understand that change which has taken place since then, which I believe is through the work of the S.D.A., Minister Robert Hare.

The Book. "The Story of Pitcairn &c"

was

was almost out of Print, and copies not to be obtained. So the Hon. Sec. of the Baptist Society., obtain some particulars from self and Mrs. Nield and published his book. But it was not acceptable. So I took it upon myself to have printed an edition of 2,000, for which I paid cash, When one of the readers on the Island saw it. He wrote offering 4/- a copy. I replied, I will supply them at 3/- per copy, Cash with order, this was accepted for some time, then they required supplies on Credit. Knowing the danger of loss in transmitting articles, I offered the books at 3/6 per copy. But that did not suit them, so while I was away, they obtained some on CREDIT. Two dozen were sent, and only ONE was paid for, the other was lost. So it was reported -- Loss 36/-.

I am now told that they are obtaining copies from U.S.A. being the Original Book, upon which the publishers had obtained the M.S.S and although sold seven prints no more than TRADE allowance was given to the Author. My publication has 40 pages in addition many Illustrations and particulars of later date, with Original Poems &c. THEN-That being printed in New Zealand, we think should have the Preference to the American Books. For I want to get clear of my stock of them.

To show the manifest change of the brother of my late wife. I will send you his Letter to me.

On the Tomb stone as seen on Page 285. I had two holes to which a plate bearing my name could be fixed; in the event of my death

death. But the great change which has taken place, as well as the landed property of my wife being claimed presents difficulties which prevent me from going there to enjoy the climate, so I am now Booked to sail for Niue, and may be to Apia. next week to escape the cold winter in N.Z. While Pitcairn Would have suited better.

I think it is my duty to call your Excellencies Attention to the conduct of the Islanders. I went aboard the ship going to Pitcairn. When the Barber said, "I have no time for the Pitcairners. Their religion is washed out." Another said that he was charged 5/- for a Pitcairn Book From

America. One Captain told me that they were charging Emigrants, 4d. each for oranges. Arnold Hare to whom you have given permission to go there, assured me that they were charging 4d each for oranges. I was also told they charge 5/- for a kit of Fruit.

In the day school, Two women are grandmothers, and the Teacher is also a Grandfather.

Still they will send to Ministers of the S.D.A., in N.Z. large sums of money while they are Teaching the observance of a different Sabbath day to what they keep in Pitcairn. I think it is advisable for a Resident Magistrate to be located there, and one who can instruct them in Fruit and vegetable growing. There is a Resident Magistrate at NORFOLK Island. The residence of Arnold Hare and family will have some good effect upon them I hope, He does not claim

to

to be a Member of the S.D.A. Domination.
But would most surely advise your Excellency
to make a personal visit and make enquiries
into the Matters which I have very hastily
placed before you.

Under another cover, I will send
Some printed matter which will be an eye
opener, if carefully read to see the real
state of things on the Island and people.
Which I trust you will preserve, or RETURN.

Your Excellency may know from the
interest and the outlay I made, that I have
the best interest of the Island at heart, and
desire to help them all I can.

I am your obedient Servant,

(Signed) David Nield.

As I expect to be away on the Islands Niue and
Samoa, I may not have any reply from you
soon. D.N.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,

SUVA, FIJI,

11th September, 1928.

No. 1902.

Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to forward a copy of a letter from Mr. D. Nield dealing with certain matters connected with Pitcairn Island.

2. His Excellency will be glad to receive any observations you may care to offer on the matters dealt with by Mr. Nield.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Acting Secretary to the High Commission.

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.

14.6.28.

COPY

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

No. 998.

16th April, 1935.

Sir,

I am directed by the Assistant High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th March, relative to certain matters concerning Pitcairn Island.

2. With regard to your suggestion that the residents of Pitcairn Island should receive royalty on cinematograph films dealing with the island, I am to state that, in the case of films in the making of which any of the people take part, the terms on which they assist are a matter for prior agreement between the people concerned and the film producer. In the absence of any such agreement there is no power to compel the owner of the film to pay any royalty.

3. In the case of other films dealing with the island there is no power to make any claim on the producer or owner

for

F.A. McCoy, Esquire,
13 Elizabeth Street,
Wellington, E.I.,
New Zealand.

for royalty.

4. His Honour agrees that the provision of medical attention for the people of Pitcairn Island is most desirable, and I am to state that this question has for years past received careful consideration. The difficulty is to find the money to meet the cost.

5. Copies of your letter and this reply are being forwarded to the Chief Magistrate in Pitcairn Island.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. Vaskess

Secretary to the High Commission.

13 Elizabeth Street,
Wellington, E.I.,
25th March, 1935.

COPY

High Commissioner,
Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji.

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform and to draw your attention concerning Pitcairn Island, for which I am going to stress the point for your highness' consideration for I being an Islander after coming away have learn to know things differently, so here it goes, two years ago Mr. Chas. Chauvel and party went to the Island and took a travelling picture called "The Wake of the Bounty." I met them here in Wellington and gave them lots of particulars which they required to have, and was here to meet them upon arrival, well after being there on the hospitality of the people more or less for one month they came back, well the picture was a success, our folks got nothing out of it (Pitcairn) for which I am displeased about it as I told Mr. Chauvel. The people should have charged royalty, and now I have heard from home and also seen adverts in the Pictures. A syndicate in California who have built a ship called the "Bounty" launch last year and will soon if not on the way already be sailing as far as I could follow up to Pitcairn to act the play "Mutiny of the Bounty"

Bounty" it is time that our people should be cared for and get something out of it. A charge before landing to act the play or "royalty" of so much on the pictures as I feel it is time to act in that way. I trust that Your Highness would consider the matter seriously, our folks need money well as anywhere else in the world, the play is not being done for the pleasure of it, it is a well paying concern. There are hundreds of necessities in life our people have to use on getting from the world outside. They send when can here to N.Z. to Panama Canal and even to England for their goods. I attend to lots of goods for our folks this end when required, I have our folks at heart, and will always do until I return as long as I could be of service. Not many tourists cross our way since the slump four years ago. I have worked up a good interest for our oranges as that is the only fruit we have could travel for any length of time in the season. I have done it four years. Auckland and Wellington buyers are always keen to get it of course we don't produce a big lot etc. Turners and Growers in Auckland last months are asking me to hurry up and try to get the oranges down as they will be short on account of the hurricane in the Cook Group. We don't have a big lot on the island but could raise a few more if they go in for it.

We had a good season last year but this one will not be so good. It just shows that as time modernize that we will have to get up into line to a certain degree, as pertaining to needs that we have to get from the island just a few articles that you must get cash to purchase, iron roofing, cooking utensils, soap, latches, clothing material, kerosene, thread and flour, etc., I am writing from one who knows. I have been in all kinds of societies here in N.Z. and it is amazing to listen to discussions and questions put to one about the island and how we could live free from want but as I have stated we cannot get everything there, and another point I want to stress is that the island needs a Medical Attendant or a Doctor. For the last five years there has been fifteen deaths and honestly I would say that about 45 per cent would have been alive still if we only have a Doctor there. The island is more or less sad to say, decreasing, more deaths so far than births in the last five years. While the scientific yacht "Zaca" was there in December for ten days the Dr. performed six operations, and two cases would have proved fatal but by luck a Dr. was there at the moment, these are facts, that was left by the Doctor on the island. If some way and means could and should from the people, that comes to take pictures

-1-

pictures. By that way could send one of our young men out here to a University to study for a Doctor for which the island needs. Why I came away at the first is to get an engine and dynamo to run our small wireless. I got it and sent it home. I stayed on as our people in a big way needed some one over here to tend to their interests etc. Hoping that this letter will act and receive your utmost attention in the matter presented. When you come into so called civilization you find lots of defects and feel as though our island is far behind. If I am intruding upon your rights please pardon me.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) F.M. McCoy.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

No. 998.

16th April, 1935.

Sir,

I am directed by the Assistant High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to forward a copy of a letter received from Mr. F.H. McCoy, together with a copy of my reply.

2. With regard to the provision of medical attention for the people of Pitcairn Island, I am to state that a proposal is at present under consideration to select a suitable Pitcairn youth and train him at the Central Medical School at Suva for service in the island. The course at the Central Medical School occupies four years and costs approximately £100 a year. In addition it is probable that the selected youth would have to spend two or three years in a preparatory school before entering the Central Medical School.

3. It will readily be realised that
the

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.

25. 3. 35.

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the difficulty in the way of such a scheme is the expense involved, and I am to enquire whether you can suggest any practicable means of meeting that expense.

4. It will be observed that in the enclosed letter Mr. McCoy refers to the shipment of oranges to the New Zealand market. His Honour suggests that you should take up the question of increasing the production of oranges for that market by a vigorous policy of planting up all available land in the island with trees of a type that will produce the most suitable and attractive fruit for the market referred to.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary to the High Commission.

COPY

SHAW SAVILL AND ALBION COMPANY, LIMITED.

Wellington, C.I., N.Z.

No. 4203.

25th July, 1938.

The Secretary,
The High Commissioner for the Western
Pacific,
Suva, Fiji.

Dear Sir,

We confirm interchange of cables as follows, in reference to an alleged outbreak of typhoid at Pitcairn Island:-

From Suva: 23/7/38.

"Chief Magistrate of Pitcairn Island denies rumours of typhoid epidemic which he states has caused ships to avoid Island fullstop High Commissioner would be grateful if usual calls of passing ships might be resumed unless Health Department New Zealand has definite information of outbreak Secretary High Commission. "

To Suva: 25/7/38.

"Replying to your telegram of 23rd vessels resumed full communication Pitcairn stop Reports very much exaggerated position as only one vessel both Lines missed call on account of report typhoid cases which our "Arawa" surgeon landed to investigate but could not definitely confirm diagnosis stop Only reasonable precautions were adopted stop Two other vessels could not call purely owing lack of time."

In amplifying our reply we enclose copies of the radio messages which led to our taking the action we did in conference with
the

the General Manager of the New Zealand Shipping Company.

The report of typhoid evidently emanated from the Islanders themselves in the first instance, and in view of the large number of inward passengers for New Zealand on the "Akaroa", and until we had some further information, we considered it inadvisable for the "Akaroa" to run any risk in calling at Pitcairn. At the same time we had the "Mataroa" on the point of sailing with two passengers to land at Pitcairn (Missionaries), and the Commander was instructed to land these people and their baggage, and at the same time allow no Islanders on board or any other communication with the shore; and here again we think that the precaution, in view of the "Mataroa's" large passenger list homeward and her calling at the Panama Canal, was amply justified, especially as such epidemics in an isolated community as that, might be expected to spread very rapidly, and bearing in mind the possibility of a "carrier" amongst the population who might conceivably, quite innocently, come on board the ship and spread the infection.

The "Akaroa" was the only vessel of our Line that did not call, the two New Zealand Shipping Company passenger vessels omitting the call at Pitcairn Island, we understand, because of lack of time.

It will, of course, be appreciated that whilst we endeavour to maintain communication with Pitcairn Island, both for the sake of the Islanders and as a break in the journey for the benefit of passengers, there can be no commitment on our part to call regularly at the Island when weather or circumstances, such as lack of time, render this inadvisable.

Unfortunately the radio installation at the Island seems to have been used in this instance to spread rather alarmist rumours, as a report relayed here from America, which appeared in the Press, would have seemed to indicate that the Island was absolutely isolated and that the population as a result were starving, which of course was ridiculous. No doubt the Islanders, alarmed at the loss of trade with the "Mataroa," and the non-call of the "Akaroa" and the two New Zealand Shipping Company liners (for quite different reasons, as explained above) made the most of the case that they could to inspire sympathy, but it appears, happily, that there have been no more cases of typhoid, and accordingly the status quo has been resumed.

Yours faithfully,

Shaw, Savill and Albion Company, Ltd.
(Signed) E. V. Bevan,
Assistant Manager.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

No. 2585.

30th August, 1938.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to state that he has been in telegraphic correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies during July on the subject of certain exaggerated reports which have appeared in many newspapers in various countries of a rumoured typhoid outbreak in Pitcairn Island and of the alleged starvation of the inhabitants because, as a consequence of the rumour of typhoid, the island has been avoided by passing ships.

2. In addition to the telegraphic correspondence with the Secretary of State the High Commissioner also received telegraphic enquiries from newspaper companies and others both in America and England relative to the rumours. Telegraphic enquiries in the matter were addressed to the Wellington offices of the Shaw Savill, and Albion Company, Limited, and the New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, and I enclose a copy of a letter received from the former Company.

25. 7. 38.

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.



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Read

3. His Excellency desires you to report the circumstances which gave rise to the rumour, and instructs you to state what messages were sent out from Pitcairn Island concerning the matter and by whom.

4. His Excellency instructs me to impress upon you the importance of the avoidance at all times of sending from Pitcairn Island exaggerated or inaccurate reports or statements; and he trusts that you realize, as is stated in the enclosure, that there is no commitment which enforces the shipping companies to call at Pitcairn Island at all and that the Islanders are dependent upon their good will alone for the calls.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary to the High Commission.

Telegram.

From:- The Navy Office, Wellington,

To:- The Chief Magistrate, Pitcairn Island.

High Commissioner for the Western Pacific is concerned at Press Reports alleging serious shortage of supplies on island and requests information of present position.

1242/28

CROWN
STANDARD
AGENTS

Telegram.

From:- His Excellency the High Commissioner, Suva, Fiji,

To:- The Chief Magistrate, Pitcairn Island.

CROWN
STANDARD
AGENTS

Glad to learn whether you have adequate food supplies still on hand.

High Commissioner.

CROWN
STANDARD
AGENTS

CROWN
STANDARD
AGENTS

Telegram.

From:- The Chief Magistrate, Pitcairn Island,

To:- His Excellency the High Commissioner, Suva, Fiji.

Estimate that normal food supplies in hand is still 3 - 4 weeks.

Chief Magistrate.
