

Enclosure.

No. 1.—A LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE GOOD GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS.
(June, 1891.)

It is hereby enacted by the British Resident and the representatives of the several islands of the Cook Group, namely, those islands that are included within the British Protectorate, and the Island of Aitutaki, now in Council assembled :

1. *Local Government.*—That each island shall continue to govern itself as much as possible, subject to the condition that all laws hereafter made by the local Government shall not be valid until formally approved by the British Resident for the time being, who shall also state the day when such law so approved shall come into operation.

2. *Parliament.*—That the representatives of the several islands, duly elected, and now assembled in Council at Avarua, in the island of Rarotonga, hereby constitute the first General Council of the Cook Islands, which shall hereafter be styled “the Parliament” of the Cook Islands.

3. That the Parliament shall be responsible for the peace, order, and good government of the Cook Islands, and by it shall be undertaken all good works which cannot be done by the people of any island separately.

4. That all laws made by the Parliament shall be expressed as made by the British Resident and the Parliament of the Cook Islands, and shall not be valid till formally approved by the British Resident, who shall also state the day when each of the said laws shall come into operation.

5. That, unless and until otherwise provided by Parliament, the number of representative districts and the number of members assigned to each shall continue as at present, namely, Rarotonga, three members; Mangaia, three members; Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro, three members; and Aitutaki three members.

6. That in each of the said districts the people shall elect their members to the Parliament in such manner as the local laws of the district may direct.

7. That the Parliament shall meet at Avarua, in the Island of Rarotonga, at 10 a.m. on the 15th day of June in every year, and when the day falls on Sunday the day following shall be substituted.

8. That the Parliament shall at each yearly meeting elect one of its members to be chairman for the year.

9. *The Government.*—That an Executive Council is hereby appointed to carry out the laws made by the Parliament, and to look after the well-being of the Islands when Parliament is not in session. That this Council shall be styled “the Government” of the Cook Islands.

10. That the Government may at any time call a special meeting of the Parliament, giving 30 days’ notice of such meeting. The notice to date from the date of publication.

11. That with the Government shall rest the power of reducing or remitting any penalties imposed under laws passed by the Parliament; but such power shall only be exercised with the approval of the British Resident.

12. That all *Arikis* of the Cook Islands shall be *ex-officio* members of the Government.

13. That Makea Takau is hereby appointed Chief of the Government, and is to administer it under the laws of the Parliament and subject to the approval of the British Resident. All letters or other public documents issued by the Government are to be signed by the said Makea Takau.

14. That any appointments to public office shall be expressed as made subject to the approval of Parliament, and shall be submitted for its consideration at the first opportunity.

15. *Fixed Appropriations.*—That out of any revenue raised by authority of the Parliament the sum of 1,560 dollars shall be appropriated yearly as follows: (a.) To each of the four representative districts, to be expended by the local Governments of such districts for public purposes, 300 dollars. (b.) To each member of the Parliament for his personal use, 30 dollars.

16. All laws made by the Parliament shall be in English and in Maori, and whenever doubts arise as to the meaning of the Maori the English version shall take effect.

17. *Additional Clauses.*—Whenever persons fined under any law of the Parliament neglect to pay or are unable to pay such fines, the Court shall substitute such labour with or without imprisonment, as it may deem most suitable.

18. The posting of laws or notices in any public place appointed by the Government shall be sufficient promulgation thereof.

Te Pou,
Chairman of Parliament.

Approved for the islands of the Protectorate—

FREDERICK J. MOSS,
British Resident,

June 5, 1891.

Approved for Aitutaki until Her Majesty’s pleasure is made known—

FREDERICK J. MOSS,
British Resident,

June 5, 1891.

This Act to come into immediate operation.

FREDERICK J. MOSS,
British Resident,

June 5, 1891.