

Future of Gardner Island.

- (a) Apart from the initial expenses of occupying the island, Gardner has cost the government the sum of £153, to the 30th June, leaving a balance of £140 in hand.
- (b) Practical experience has shown that, owing to the enormous trees which cover most of the island, the clearing and planting operations will take at least 3 years. The actual work of clearing and planting the outlying areas only really began on the 19th June, as previous to that date the small occupation party was engaged on:-

- (1) Clearing the village site area and adjoining lands as far as the south point of the lagoon channel;
- (2) Building the houses necessary for the settlement;
- (3) Digging some 30 wells;
- (4) Assisting the New Zealand Survey party;
- (5) Constructing the 10,000 gallon cement cistern.

I am quite satisfied with the way they have worked up to date.

- (c) If the government is prepared to carry on with the settlement of the island the work could be greatly speeded up by the transfer of Mr. J. W. Jones to Gardner Island. He is familiar with this class of work and can be guaranteed to extract the maximum possible work out of any native labourer. He could probably complete the work in half the time that it would take without supervision, i.e. in about $1\frac{1}{2}$ years.

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