

3. The Resident Commissioner shall have power and authority—
- (a.) To obtain, by means of investigation under these regulations or otherwise, information as to the industries of the Cook Islands ;
 - (b.) To publish with respect to these industries, in such manner as he thinks fit, such information as he deems to be of advantage to the public ;
 - (c.) To exercise such other functions relative to those industries as may be lawfully conferred upon him.

4. (1.) The Resident Commissioner may, in pursuance of this clause, make an investigation into any matter whatsoever relative to any industry carried on or proposed to be carried on in the Cook Islands, or relative to any industry whatever carried on which may affect the industries of the Cook Islands, for the purpose of obtaining information which may be required for the due control, regulation, and maintenance of the industries of the Cook Islands ; the due observance, enforcement, or amendment of the laws relative thereto ; the discovery of breaches of those laws ; the prevention or suppression of monopolies, unfair competition, and other practices detrimental to the public welfare ; the proper regulation in the public interest of the prices of goods and the rates of services ; or for any other purpose relative to the industries of the Cook Islands.

(2.) For the purpose of any such investigation the Resident Commissioner may by order require any person, firm, or body corporate engaged or concerned or supposed to be engaged or concerned in any industry to answer in writing, within such time and in such form as the Resident Commissioner thinks fit, any questions which relate to that industry or to the connection of that person, firm, or body corporate therewith, or to any other matter within the purpose of these regulations.

(3.) For the purpose of such investigation the Resident Commissioner may by order require any person, firm, or body corporate engaged or concerned or supposed to be engaged or concerned in any industry to produce for his inspection, or of any officer or other person nominated by him in that behalf, any books or documents in the possession or control of that person, firm, or body corporate relative to any matter affecting that industry, and to allow copies of or extracts from such books or documents to be made by the person so inspecting them.

(4.) If default is made by any person, firm, or body corporate in obedience to any order of the Resident Commissioner under this clause, such person or body corporate, and each member of such firm, and every person who counsels, procures, or is otherwise knowingly concerned in such default, shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding £50.

(5.) Every person who deceives, obstructs, or attempts to deceive or obstruct the Resident Commissioner, or any other person nominated by him as aforesaid, in the conduct of such investigation shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding £50, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.

(6.) All information obtained by the Resident Commissioner, or any officer nominated by him as aforesaid, by means of any such investigation shall be treated as confidential, subject only to the right of publication expressly conferred upon the Resident Commissioner by these regulations.

5. So far as such publication is deemed by the Resident Commissioner to be expedient in the public interest, it shall be lawful for him from time to time to publish, in such manner as he thinks fit, any information obtained by him in the course of any investigation under these regulations, and any report, findings, recommendations, or comments made with respect thereto by the Resident Commissioner.

6. The publication of any such matter by the Resident Commissioner and the republication by any other person of any matter published by the Resident Commissioner, or of any part of such matter, shall be absolutely privileged, and the matter so published or republished shall be a lawful subject of comment within the meaning of the law of defamation, and no action shall be brought by any person for the publication or republication of such matter whether on the ground of defamation or otherwise.

7. The liability of any employer or principal to any fine for offences against these regulations committed by a servant or agent in the course of his employment shall be determined by the same principles as those which determine the liability of that employer or principal for civil injuries done by that servant or agent, and such offence shall be deemed to have been committed by the principal or employer accordingly.