

## ORANGES

This year the equivalent of 183,270 export cases was received from all sources of supply, as compared with 189,317 cases imported last year and 460,000 cases distributed in 1939. After making provision for civilian and Armed Services, hospital patients, and other essential needs such as those of invalids and Plunket Societies, the remainder of the fruit was proportionately distributed to consumers throughout the Dominion. Importations into New Zealand from 1939 up to the present year are as follows :—

	Year ended 31st March,							
	1939.		1940.		1941.		1942.	
	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.
Australia	295,780	64.3	216,300	61.8	243,215	62.4	214,713	64.2
Cook Islands	96,600	21.0	54,250	15.5	127,028	32.6	119,213	35.7
Jamaica ..	57,500	12.5	79,450	22.7	11,257	2.9	..	..
U.S.A. ..	10,120	2.2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fiji ..	..	..	..	..	8,035	2.1	160	} 0.1
Pitcairn ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	
	460,000	..	350,000	..	389,535	..	334,197	..

	Year ended 31st March,							
	1943.		1944.		1945.			
	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.	Cases.	Per Cent.
Australia ..	..	..	121,342	70.95	145,516	76.86	129,786	70.82
Cook Islands	..	..	49,680	29.05	43,801	23.14	42,776	23.34
Jamaica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,708	5.84
U.S.A. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fiji ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pitcairn ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			171,022	..	189,317	..	183,270	..

Orange crops in the Commonwealth of Australia were below normal. At the same time, the Australian Government was committed to meeting the requirements of the Armed Forces for citrus juices, using 25 per cent. of the orange crop for this purpose. Recognizing New Zealand's need of oranges, the Australian authorities approved the export of 200,000 bushel cases for the year. Similar conditions and quantities are expected next year.

Although the quantities of oranges exported by the Cook Islands have been reduced by hurricane conditions, &c., the general improvement in quality has been maintained and losses on arrival disclosed a marked decrease on the results of inspections of a few years ago. According to present forecasts, shipments from the Cook Islands next season will exceed this year's figures.