

A comparative summary of export and import statistics by countries of origin and destination is as follows :—

—	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
<i>Exports, by Country of Destination</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand	100,629	93,817	149,323	155,584	165,033
Australia	1,172	1,254	6,951
United States of America	2,883	12,565	245	514	48,903
Other	1,562	626	2,006	..	84
Totals	106,246	108,262	158,525	156,098	214,020
<i>Imports, by Country of Origin</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand	123,245	157,870	201,769	226,427	212,329
Australia	3,713	5,652	5,301	8,208	7,845
United Kingdom	11,693	18,504	23,647	48,814	68,510
Canada	135	1,191	2,743	2,872	6,818
United States of America	2,876	8,037	16,501	7,353	11,590
Other	2,408	4,342	3,282	6,175	8,445
Totals	144,070	195,596	253,243	299,849	315,537

The New Zealand Customs Tariff applies to the Cook Islands, with additional special duties on sugar, cotton piece-goods (except calico), linen piece-goods, piece-goods of mixed linen and cotton, and black twist tobacco. During the war period, import, finance, and price controls were instituted and have been kept in force. Import licences are required for certain goods imported from New Zealand and for all goods imported from other countries. A contract has been concluded during the year with the United Kingdom Ministry of Food for the sale of copra produced in the Group. The contract is for a nine-year period from 1st January, 1949, and will have a stabilizing effect on the Group's economy.

I. INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Numerous capital development and construction schemes have been planned or carried out during the year. In 1945 a decision was made to re-equip and modernize the Rarotonga Radio Station. Reconstruction began three years later, and was completed in August last. In December a modern telephone system was installed on Rarotonga. Outer villages were linked with Avarua and a new manual exchange put in operation. The Rarotonga electric-power scheme is nearing completion, and is already supplying power to part of the Avarua area. As labour and equipment become free from concluded projects, work will proceed on the Tereora Training and Secondary School, urgently required staff residences, and other capital construction.

In outer islands the progress of development programmes is handicapped by problems of transport of technicians, equipment, and materials. Comprehensive plans exist for the rebuilding of schools and dispensaries, and for improvements in reef passages and boat landings. New radio equipment is on order for several islands, and radio-telephone equipment for Penrhyn and Manihiki awaits transport from Rarotonga. A new hospital is planned for Aitutaki, and an extensive roading programme is being carried out on Mangaia.