

The following table sets out the quantities and values of the principal exports over the period of the last five years :—

Year.	Copra.		Bananas.		Kumaras.		Plaited Ware : Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Tons.	£	Cases.	£	Tons.	£	£
1945 .. ..	415	9,986	7,662	4,141	10	141	14,683
1946 .. ..	352	10,179	9,346	5,335	20	292	19,652
1947 .. ..	695	28,505	..	..	..	..	15,797
1948 .. ..	572	29,571	1,008	660	..	..	16,262
1949 .. ..	893	43,843	3,328	1,724	..	..	6,080

The record shipment of copra from the territory and the high price it commands have been the two main factors which have contributed to the island's continuing prosperity. The price of copra is regulated by a nine years' contract with the United Kingdom Ministry of Food. During the past year the planting of young palms has been considerably increased and growers have given greater attention to the care of their coconut plantations.

The number of cases of bananas shipped was disappointingly small, but increased plantings have been carried out and it is hoped that larger shipments will be made at the end of 1950 when the new shoots come into bearing.

The large drop in Native plaited ware exports this year may very well be due to the renewal of competitive imports from foreign countries into New Zealand, as pointed out in last year's report. Hat exports, which were the chief object of concern in this connection, have dropped from 7,992 dozen in 1948 to 842 dozen in 1949.

Exports of both basketware and table-mats improved during the year, but in no way made up for the tremendous drop in the export of hats.

The New Zealand Customs Tariff is in force and there is free trade between the territory and New Zealand. Local duties are, however, imposed on cotton piece-goods, sugar, and twist tobacco, irrespective of their countries of origin.

## APPENDIX I—METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

A summary of the observations recorded at the radio station at Alofi for the year ended 31st December, 1949, and a comparison with the previous four years is contained in the following table :—

—	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
Total rainfall (inches) ..	80·80	93·94	71·09	94·67	67·05
Number of rainy days ..	177	187	189	149	187
Highest fall for any day (inches)	3·60	4·50	3·72	9·99	8·09
Date of occurrence ..	23 Apr.	15 Dec.	17 May	31st Oct.	1 Jan.
Highest temperature (° F.) ..	92·0	90·8	90·2	91·0	88·4
Date of occurrence ..	22 Mar.	28 Mar.	20 Mar.	6 Oct.	21 Feb.
Lowest temperature (° F.) ..	57·0	60·2	57·5	58·4	58·2
Date of occurrence ..	6 June	27 June	26 Aug.	19 Sept.	21 July
Mean of maximum temperature (° F.)	82·3	82·3	82·2	81·8	82·7
Mean of minimum temperature (° F.)	70·3	70·2	70·5	69·2	70·1