

I have the honour to submit for your information a table of the exports and imports of these islands from the year 1892 to 1905, inclusive:—

Year.	Imports, Value. £	Exports, Value. £
1892	16,249	20,337
1893	19,284	19,668
1894	22,435	20,665
1895	23,269	20,138
1896	23,068	16,819
1897	26,861	24,132
1898	18,155	12,617
1899	13,555	14,219
1900	21,181	22,379
1901	24,864	27,819
1902	27,623	34,821
1903	34,886	34,740
1904	33,399	38,248
1905	36,993	34,890

With reference to the proposal to establish a fortnightly steam service between Rarotonga and New Zealand ports, calling alternately at Auckland and Wellington, I have the honour to point out that it is by no means certain that such a service would benefit these islands, except perhaps during the months of May, June, and July. The present arrangements for the transport of island produce are really supplementary to the Fiji trade, neither service interfering directly with the other. It is, however, felt that the second steamer may disorganize a system that has worked very smoothly for the last two or three years, and that at least one of our shipments must come into conflict with that of Fiji, to the detriment of all parties. If this should prove to be the case—and I do not see how it can be avoided—the planters, both European and Native, will cease to ship by that boat.

Lest my report on the trade of these islands should appear to be pessimistic, I may say that we are at least twice as well off as we were five years ago, and the habits of industry lately developed by the Native inhabitants insure a continuance of the present prosperity.

LANDS AND SURVEYS.

The past year has been a very busy one, both in the matter of surveys and investigations of title. The Court has held sittings at Rakahanga, Manihiki, and Rarotonga on forty-six days, and during the same period has made 213 orders on investigation of title, and thirteen other orders. In every instance the survey of the block investigated has been previously made by Mr. Connal, and the Court orders are now ready for issue on payment of the fees.

The fees imposed by the Court during the year have been as follows:—

Island.	Court Fees.			Survey Fees.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Rarotonga	241	10	0	352	0	0	593	10	0
Rakahanga	19	10	0	21	5	0	40	15	0
Total	261	0	0	373	5	0	634	5	0

The total amount of fees collected and paid into the Treasury for the year ending the 31st March, 1906, has been £330 6s. 2d., and the following fees were outstanding on the same date:—

	£	s.	d.
Rarotonga	730	15	6
Aitutaki	164	5	0
Mauke	33	15	0
Mangaia	16	5	0
Mitiaro	6	0	0
Atiu	5	5	0
Rakahanga	22	12	0
Manihiki	0	15	0
Total	£979	12	6

In accordance with your instructions, steps have been taken to obtain payment of all fees that have been outstanding for two years and upwards.

I have the honour to forward under separate cover the plans of the following islands: Rarotonga, Manuae, Aitutaki, Takutea, Mauke, and Rakahanga, as also a general plan of the Group, which, if lithographed, would prove of great service to sailors cruising among these islands. These plans will show the lands already surveyed and awarded to Native owners, the roads taken, and all other information that may be required. It will be seen that the district under the jurisdiction of Makea has almost all been surveyed and passed through the Court, and, I am happy to say, with but little opposition or friction.

In this island it has been necessary to encourage the occupiers of the land to survey and pass the same through the Land Titles Court, to the end that the oppressive mana Ariki might be ascertained and restrained within proper limits. In the early days of the Court in this island it soon became apparent to me that the people were afraid to oppose the claims of the great chiefs, even where they knew them to be unfounded. They therefore allowed the Arikis and others to seize lands that did not belong to them. In every instance in which an Ariki has been the claimant I