

Port of Apia, Samoa.—Return of Exports for the Calendar Year 1919.

Article.	Country to which exported.	Rate of Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Total Value.	Duty.
Cocoa	Australia	£2 per ton..	401 tons	£ 39,489	£ 81,110	£ s. d. 1,640 14 2
	New Zealand	" ..	217 "	22,503		
	United States America	" ..	202 "	19,118		
			820 tons			
Copra	United States America	10s. per ton	16,356 tons	449,917	449,917	8,178 5 11
Hides	Australia	Free ..	900 tons	840	1,040	..
	New Zealand	" ..	250 "	200		
			1,150 tons			
Kava	United States America	Free ..	2,587 lb.	125	125	..
Papain	Canada	Free ..	332 lb.	175	295	..
	United States America	" ..	261 "	120		
			593 lb.			
Pineapples (preserved)	United States America	Free ..	40 doz.	13	13	..
				532,500	532,500	9,819 0 1

The following table shows the amount of revenue the Government have derived from a purely agricultural source through the export duty:—

Year.	Cocoa-beans (£2 per Ton).	Copra (10s. per Ton).	Rubber (1½d. per Pound).	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1916	1,466 9 10	2,950 16 10	667 0 5	5,084 7 1
1917	2,413 13 1	4,496 0 4	977 13 6	7,887 6 11
1918	1,589 11 2	4,684 19 2	233 10 2	6,508 0 6
1919	1,640 14 2	8,178 5 11	..	9,819 0 1
Totals	7,110 8 3	20,310 2 3	1,878 4 1	29,298 14 7

This substantial addition to the Government revenue was collected at a time when we were labouring under great difficulties. Owing to the war the cost of provisions and labour had increased enormously, and money was tight. We were fighting with all the resources at our disposal the dreaded rhinoceros-beetle and cocoa-canker, which were ravaging our trees and threatening our very existence.

We were put to considerable expense by the Government, who in the first instance treated us with scant consideration. Our Chinese hospital, which had been erected in a central position for the convenience of the plantations, and furnished with the medicines and equipment necessary for our purpose at considerable expense, was closed by the Government, and we were forced to send our men to the Government hospital, which was not conveniently situated. Again, our labour barracks, which had previously been considered to fulfill all requirements, were found unsuitable for the accommodation of our labour force, and we were compelled to make additions or erect new buildings; this in spite of the fact that the health of our men had been universally good, and building-material was scarce and the price inflated. To add to our difficulties, the forced repatriation of our labour at the prohibitive cost we were called upon to pay was almost the last straw. Many of us, after having at great expense rebuilt or erected new buildings in conformation with the new regulations, found, on account of the forced repatriation, it was impossible to utilize them fully. Was this the time to tax us?

To the causes we have enumerated and the labour shortage we mainly attribute the bankruptcy of some of our largest companies. And we have been requested to petition you as to the possibility of the return of at least a part of the prohibitive repatriation fees which we were called upon to pay.

In support of our statement we give the following information, obtained from the manager of one of our largest companies, showing how, through these causes, they have been reduced from the employment in 1915 of 294 labourers to 12 labourers in 1920; and an output of 69,383 lb. of rubber in 1917 to nil in 1919; and an output of 138 tons 10 cwt. 12 lb. of cocoa in 1916 to 20 odd tons in 1919.

Following are particulars of the Upolu Rubber and Cacao Estates, Limited:—

Upolu Rubber and Cacao Estates (Limited).—Tanumapua and Alisa Estates.—Labour Particulars and Crop Returns from 1915 to 1919.

Total area of properties, 2,510 acres; area under cultivation, 1,103 acres.

Year.	Number of Coolies on the Estates.	Coolie Unit Cost per Day (includes Repatriation Charges).	Cost per Acre, Old Clean Weeding.	Rubber Crop.	Cocoa Crop.	Cost of Repatriation to China per Coolie.
		s. d.	s. d.	lb.	Tons cwt. lb.	£ s. d.
1915 ..	294	1 9	2 1	41,129	80 3 87	(18/8/15) 9 16 6
1916 ..	206	2 6½	2 4	53,496	138 10 12	(10/9/16) 13 2 8
1917 ..	207	2 10½	2 8½	69,383	80 9 85	(10/2/17) 16 10 0
1918 ..	140	5 5½	9 3½	34,913	43 9 2	(22/1/18) 20 9 3
1919 ..	31	*	No clean weeding	None	20 9 92	(20/9/18) 24 0 0
1920 ..	12	4 1	"	"	..	Repatriation due on 3/1/19 and 31/7/19, but postponed to 1920, when coolies had changed employers.

* This does not include repatriation charges.