

Month,	Total Engine-running Time.	Monthly Consumption Crude Oil.	Consumption per Hour.
1922.	Hrs. Mins.	Gallons.	Gallons.
April .. ..	44 45	228	5.0
May .. ..	58 30	251	4.3
June .. ..	60 0	292	4.8
July .. ..	54 15	259	4.8
August .. ..	50 45	244	4.7
September .. ..	57 30	316	5.3
October .. ..	72 0	345	4.8
November .. ..	72 0	360	5.0
December .. ..	67 45	470	6.9
1923.			
January .. ..	64 30	422	6.5
February .. ..	63 30	436	6.8
March .. ..	63 15	420	6.6

The following is a summary of the traffic handled during the year :—

TRAFFIC HANDLED BY APIA RADIO, 1ST APRIL, 1922, TO 31ST MARCH, 1923.

Month.	Forwarded.		Received.		Transmits.	
	Messages.	Words.	Messages.	Words.	Messages.	Words.
1922.						
April .. ..	212	2,103	232	2,286	658	6,503
May .. ..	244	2,725	255	2,659	724	7,325
June .. ..	192	1,911	226	2,116	795	8,319
July .. ..	270	2,908	259	2,601	757	7,136
August .. ..	304	3,428	278	2,856	794	8,021
September .. ..	256	2,808	238	2,210	624	5,972
October .. ..	244	2,642	259	2,721	763	7,140
November .. ..	250	2,488	263	2,653	735	6,621
December .. ..	329	3,102	273	2,489	651	6,579
1923.						
January .. ..	224	2,392	235	2,079	643	5,303
February .. ..	176	1,808	222	1,747	610	5,465
March .. ..	246	2,762	235	2,508	752	7,615
Totals .. ..	2,947	31,077	2,975	28,925	8,606	81,999

The amount earned by Apia was £3,372 1s. 8d.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

A survey of the events of the past year as affecting the agricultural interests of Samoa affords ground for not a little satisfaction, inasmuch as distinct progress has been achieved in several directions, while there has been a steady reaction from the depressed market conditions of the previous year.

COPRA.

Quite the most remarkable feature of the past twelve months has been the extraordinary increase in the copra export, as revealed in the trade statistics supplied by the Customs Department. The advance could hardly have been anticipated in view of the depressed state of the market and the consequent low price received by the producer throughout the first nine months of the year.

Although in the early part of the year values were at their lowest, the Department did everything in its power to encourage the increase of output, both the European Inspectors and the Pulefaatoagas (Native Land Inspectors) bringing all possible influence to bear on the Samoans to clear their plantations of fallen nuts and to cut the copra. Nevertheless, much of the crop goes to waste through nuts being left to rot on the ground.

In order to further increase the export of copra to any considerable extent it is necessary to (1) increase the number of coconut palms, and (2) ensure that that part of the crop which is now wasted shall be utilized.

As regards (1), the Department is closely concerning itself with the encouragement of new cultivations (as far as is consistent with the duty required from the Samoans of keeping their lands clean) with very gratifying results, as will be seen from the figures as to new plantings contained in the accompanying table. As to (2), the Inspectors—Native and European—endeavour to impress on the Samoans the desirability of removing all fallen nuts from their plantations. This is also necessary to ensure clean cultivation, for if the nuts are allowed to remain where they fall they take root and grow, choking up the neighbouring palms, with the result that the trees affected by this negligence do not bear as they should, or at all.