

CUSTOMS AND MARINE DEPARTMENT.

The trade statistics for the calendar year 1928 show a considerable increase, and create a record since the abnormal years of 1919 and 1920. The total trade was £748,728, an increase of £108,381 over the year 1927.

REVENUE.

The total amount collected by the Department during the financial year amounted to £88,308, as compared with £78,580 for the financial year 1927–28, an increase of £9,728. The following headings show increases in revenue: Import duties, £8,859 (which includes the new Port and Customs service tax, amounting to £6,024 7s. 1d.); shipping fees, £378; lease of sheds, wharfages, &c., £1,017; taxes, £295; other receipts, including sale of medicinal liquor, £638; and a decrease is shown in export duties, £1,459, owing to a rebate being granted on duty of rubber due to the low price in the markets.

The following are the receipts under the principal headings, showing a comparison with the year 1927–28:—

—				1927–28.	1928–29.	Increase.	Decrease.
				£	£	£	£
Import duties	..	..	..	46,855	55,714	8,859	..
Export duties—							
Copra	..	..	..	13,849	14,031		
Cocoa	..	..	..	1,614	1,639		
Rubber	..	..	..	1,666	..		
Bêche-de-mer	..	..	..	13	13		
				17,142	15,683	..	1,459
Shipping fees	..	..	..	2,121	2,499	378	..
Lease sheds, wharfage, &c...	..	..	..	1,059	2,076	1,017	..
Taxes	..	..	..	9,511	9,806	295	..
Miscellaneous, including sale of medicinal liquor				1,892	2,530	638	..
Totals	..	..	..	78,580	88,308	11,187	1,459
Less	..	..	..	..	..	1,459	
Net increase	..	..	..	..	..	9,728	

CUSTOMS STATISTICS.

Statistics dealing with the trade, commerce, and shipping of the Port of Apia for the calendar year 1928 have been published.

Imports.

The total value of imports for the calendar year 1928 was £326,553, as compared with £304,369 for the year 1927, an increase of £22,184. The following table shows the countries whence imported, with a comparison for 1927:—

Countries.				1927.		1928.	
				Value.	Percentage.	Value.	Percentage.
				£		£	
United Kingdom	..	..	..	62,893	20.6	71,253	21.8
New Zealand	..	..	..	88,889	29.2	96,412	29.5
Australia	..	..	..	68,700	22.5	68,426	21.0
United States of America	..	..	..	51,345	16.8	49,606	15.2
Other countries	..	..	..	32,542	10.9	40,856	12.5
Total	..	..	..	304,369	100.0	326,553	100.0

The principal items (taken from the Trade Report) which may be commented on are:—Increases: (1) Drapery, £6,432—United Kingdom, £5,048; New Zealand, £2,650; and decline from Australia of £1,884. (2) Fancy goods, £1,596—principally United Kingdom and United States of America. (3) Metal manufactures, £2,460—United Kingdom and Australia. (4) Oils, lubricating, £1,214—United States of America and New Zealand. (5) Biscuits, £1,586—Fiji. (6) Preserved fish, £2,063—Canada. (7) Flour, £1,210—Australia. (8) Meats in tins, £1,075—New Zealand. (9) Rice, unmilled, £1,714—Australia. (10) Vehicles, including motor-cars, £3,074—Canada, £2,077, balance United