

Our principal exports to the United States in 1929 were as follows, the figures for the previous year, 1928, being given also :—

	1929.	1928.
	£	£
Hides, pelts, and skins	1,650,976	1,874,226
Wool	656,656	701,730
Frozen beef	242,972	358,345
Butter	75,955	328,140
Sausage casings and skins	262,559	272,616
Kauri-gum	129,432	141,845
Phormium fibre	138,776	96,291
Seeds	76,615	70,131
Gold	44,192	57,941

As regards our imports from the United States, the most important item in 1929 was motor-spirit and other mineral oils, which was valued at £2,348,413, as compared with £2,263,948 in 1928. Motor-vehicles, and materials and parts for same, was the next most important item, totalling £2,054,782 in 1929, as against £1,737,059 in 1928. The remainder of the trade covered a wide range of articles in which iron and steel goods, timber, sulphur, tobacco, fruits, cinematograph films, &c., figured prominently.

It is feared that the increased tariff on certain items recently introduced by the Tariff Bill in the United States will have a detrimental effect on the volume of exports from the Dominion.

TRADE WITH THE EAST.

The question of the development of our trade with the East has engaged the attention of the Department during the past year. The Department has co-operated with the Chambers of Commerce in this matter—particularly the Wellington Chamber—and in September last issued a bulletin upon the subject. A further and more detailed report is now being prepared, and will shortly be issued as a Departmental bulletin to Chambers of Commerce and business men interested in this particular trade. This latter report was compiled by Professor H. Belshaw, by arrangement with the Department, as a result of inquiries conducted by him on his visit to Japan towards the end of last year.

There seems to be no doubt but that the principal difficulty that stands in the way of the development of our trade with the East is the lack of adequate shipping facilities. A regular direct shipping service with refrigerated space would enable several of our products to find a remunerative market in, for instance, Japan and South China, where at the present time they are either wholly or comparatively unknown. The rapid growth of population in eastern Asiatic countries and the progressive adoption and assimilation of western ideas, habits, and tastes, both in regard to clothing and food, are factors that are bringing about an increasing demand for the products that New Zealand can supply.

The values of our import and export trade with the principal markets of the East are shown in the tables below :—

Value of Exports to Undermentioned Countries.

Country.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ceylon	484	947	1,764	4,221	7,055
Hong Kong	17,953	13,771	27,304	12,909	12,745
India	197,428	82,826	145,653	379,338	386,421
Straits Settlement	21,216	22,074	39,098	31,611	26,556
China	6,603	7,599	24,829	34,979	36,348
Japan	232,213	162,832	251,547	657,915	428,577
Philippine Islands	6,319	14,540	9,992	3,415	19,342
Dutch East Indies	8,016	17,208	22,745	13,939	19,191
Totals	490,232	321,797	522,932	1,138,327	936,235

Value of Imports from Undermentioned Countries (on Basis of Country of Origin).

Country.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ceylon	844,596	868,821	855,048	860,886	923,748
Hong Kong	17,819	18,610	5,006	7,176	6,907
India	912,741	861,578	759,829	782,144	766,756
Straits Settlement	75,745	71,638	80,931	88,501	103,782
China	121,043	116,822	107,547	129,533	131,031
Japan	693,632	582,352	591,963	576,495	625,714
Philippine Islands	51,508	40,992	37,187	30,825	28,929
Dutch East Indies	610,685	793,457	882,590	999,524	1,152,705
Totals	3,327,769	3,354,270	3,320,101	3,475,084	3,739,572