

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The value of our exports to the United States for the year ended 31st December, 1930, was £2,116,752, as compared with £3,653,327 for the previous year—a reduction of £1,536,575. Imports aggregated £7,571,460, as compared with £9,319,926 for the year ended 31st December, 1929—a reduction during 1930 of £1,748,466. The value of our export and import trade in each of the last five years, and also its importance relatively to total export and import trade, is shown in the table which follows:—

Year.				Exports.	Per Cent. of Total Exports.	Imports.	Per Cent. of Total Imports.
				£		£	
1926	..	..	..	3,818,232	8.43	10,000,507	20.05
1927	..	..	..	2,681,091	5.53	8,079,467	18.04
1928	..	..	..	4,260,315	7.58	8,204,197	18.28
1929	..	..	..	3,653,327	6.57	9,319,926	19.10
1930	..	..	..	2,116,752	4.71	7,571,460	17.60

Not only has the relative value of our exports to the United States declined in recent years, but the absolute value has also declined substantially. This is clearly indicated by the table which is given below, showing the values of the principal items exported from the Dominion to the United States during the last three calendar years.

—				1928.	1929.	1930.
				£	£	£
Hides, pelts, and skins	..	..	..	1,874,226	1,650,976	1,057,715
Sausage casings and skins	..	..	..	272,616	262,559	331,627
Wool	..	..	..	701,730	656,656	267,720
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	..	..	..	96,291	138,776	83,255
Kauri-gum	..	..	..	141,845	129,432	69,496
Grass and clover seeds	..	..	..	69,986	76,568	66,905
Frozen beef	..	..	..	358,345	242,972	15,659
Frozen mutton	..	..	..	14,210	13,391	..
Tallow	..	..	..	19,554	23,086	9,505
Butter	..	..	..	328,140	75,955	108
Cheese	..	..	..	24,508	14,829	13
Casein	..	..	..	3,739	324	111

As far as imports are concerned, the most important decrease occurred in regard to motor-vehicles and materials and parts for same. The recorded-value of this item in 1929 was £2,054,782, whereas in 1930 it only amounted to £839,356, a reduction of £1,215,426.

TRADE WITH THE EAST.

In accordance with a decision of the Government made some months ago, the New Zealand Trade and Tourist Commissioner in Australia left Sydney on the 23rd May last for the Dutch East Indies and Singapore for the purpose of ascertaining on behalf of the Government the prospects of marketing the products of this Dominion in the East, and also the prospects of developing tourist traffic between those countries and New Zealand.

There should be no insurmountable obstacle to a development of the markets both in the Dutch East Indies and Singapore for such of our exportable products as are required in those territories. The absence of a direct steamer service is a decided disadvantage, but this is a handicap that would probably be removed if the volume of our trade with those portions of the East could be developed to sufficiently large dimensions to warrant the inauguration of improved regular shipping facilities.

The value of our imports from those countries annually exceeds by a large margin the value of our exports. In 1929 and 1930, for instance, the values of exports from New Zealand to the Dutch East Indies were £19,191 and £13,029 respectively, while the values of imports into New Zealand from that source in the same years were £1,152,705 and £811,372 respectively. Butter was the principal item exported in each year, this being valued at £8,808 in 1929 and £6,530 in 1930.

The values of exports from New Zealand to the Straits Settlements (Singapore and Penang Islands, &c.) in 1929 and 1930 were £26,556 and £20,360. Imports into New Zealand from that source in the same two years aggregated £103,782 and £57,996. Here again butter was the principal item exported, the value recorded being £18,035 in 1929 and £16,778 in 1930. Dried, preserved, and condensed milk and cream was next in importance, being valued at £5,707 in 1929 and £2,114 in 1930.

It is obvious that a balance of trade more favourable to New Zealand than at present is highly desirable.

Amongst the commodities which it is hoped to market in increasing quantities in the East are butter; casein; dried, preserved and condensed milk; cheese; honey; and fruit. Our present sales of such products to the East are comparatively insignificant, but it is hoped that by carefully ascertaining market requirements, and by paying strict attention to such matters as packing, branding, and advertising appropriate to the East, New Zealand may be able to find in that part of the world an increasingly valuable outlet for her principal exportable products.