

ISLAND TRADE.

Fiji.

The statistical returns of the trade and commerce of the Colony of Fiji for 1932 provide the following details of the values of imports, exports, and total trade of the colony for each of the past five calendar years :—

Year ended 31st December,						Imports into Fiji.	Exports from Fiji.	Total Trade.
						£	£	£
1928	..	..	..	..	..	1,483,169	2,701,251	4,184,420
1929	..	..	..	..	..	1,468,609	1,775,998	3,244,607
1930	..	..	..	..	..	1,219,184	1,484,526	2,703,710
1931	..	..	..	..	..	929,514	1,000,187	1,929,701
1932	..	..	..	..	..	857,346	1,698,964	2,556,310

The next table shows how the trade was principally distributed during 1932 :—

Country.						Imports into Fiji.	Exports from Fiji.	Total Trade.
						£	£	£
United Kingdom	..	..	..	..	..	250,748	847,053	1,097,801
Australia	..	..	..	..	..	317,046	50,078	367,124
Canada	..	..	..	..	..	25,675	530,365	556,040
India	..	..	..	..	..	33,944	208	34,152
New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	100,255	165,270	265,525
Japan	..	..	..	..	..	29,814	4,135	33,949
Dutch East Indies	..	..	..	..	..	22,633	..	22,633
United States	..	..	..	..	..	25,937	38,819	64,756

There was a marked increase in the colony's export trade with the United Kingdom in 1932 as compared with 1931, the percentage of total exports supplied in those years being 49·86 per cent. and 12·11 per cent. respectively. This increased trade with the United Kingdom was due to the fact that over 54 per cent. of sugar exported was absorbed by that country. Exports to other British possessions fell from 73·67 per cent. in 1931 to 45·74 per cent. in 1932, while exports to foreign countries dropped from 13·91 per cent. in 1931 to 4·27 per cent. in 1932.

The proportion of the total import trade of Fiji conducted with the undermentioned countries over the past five years was as follows :—

Country.			1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
			Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
United Kingdom	..	..	27·28	28·50	30·65	27·77	29·25
Australia	..	..	41·90	37·04	36·90	40·05	36·98
Canada	..	..	4·19	5·77	4·94	4·32	3·00
India	..	..	3·00	4·03	3·55	3·51	3·96
New Zealand	..	..	9·48	9·56	8·39	8·76	11·69
Japan	..	..	1·94	1·60	1·45	2·57	3·48
Dutch East Indies	..	..	0·80	1·41	1·80	2·16	2·64
United States	..	..	8·90	8·20	7·06	5·57	3·03

As will be readily observed, 11·69 per cent. of Fiji's imports in 1932 were obtained from New Zealand, this representing a satisfactory increase on the figure of 8·76 per cent. recorded for the previous year.

Imports into Fiji from New Zealand, amounting in 1932 to £100,255, consisted of a fairly wide range of commodities, of which the following were the most important: Bacon and hams, £2,791; bags and sacks, £16,183; drapery, £2,390; fresh fruit and vegetables, £7,584; grease and tallow, £4,599; hardware, £2,024; manure, £4,150; meats, £5,317; photographs and films, £22,888; soap (plain) £2,878; sugar, £2,472; and tea, £5,459.

Exports from Fiji to New Zealand in 1932 totalled £165,270, the principal items covered by this amount being bananas (£66,677), and raw sugar (£54,844).