

ISLAND TRADE.

Fiji.

Exports from New Zealand to Fiji in 1933 were valued at £87,435, as compared with £88,693 in 1932. Imports into the Dominion from Fiji showed a reduction from £106,041 in 1932 to £84,877 in 1933.

The values of New Zealand's exports and imports to and from Fiji in each of the past five calendar years are set out below for purposes of comparison :—

Year ended 31st December,								Exports to Fiji.	Imports from Fiji.
								£	£
1929	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135,652	174,894
1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110,033	200,877
1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89,245	102,979
1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88,693	106,041
1933	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87,435	84,877

Exports of New Zealand produce to Fiji consist of a fairly wide range of commodities, of which the following were some of the more important in 1933 :—

Potted and preserved meats, £6,608; potatoes, £4,041; refined sugar, £3,327; tea, £3,017; tallow, £2,753; bacon and hams, £2,472; soap, £2,184; dried, preserved, and condensed milks, £1,256; confectionery, £1,042; sawn timber, £1,000; fresh apples and pears, £690; onions, £597.

Imports from Fiji consisted mainly of raw sugar and fresh fruits, the values of these items in 1933 being £20,003 and £59,974 respectively. Imports of raw sugar showed a considerable reduction when compared with 1932, in which year the value was £46,811. The other main sources of supply for this commodity in both years were the British East Indies and Cuba.

Imports of fresh fruit, consisting mainly of bananas, were valued at £54,830 in 1932, as compared with the figure shown above for 1933, £59,974.

Notwithstanding the adverse effect of the Ottawa Agreement upon certain preferential tariff advantages which New Zealand enjoyed over Australia, it is satisfactory to note that our exports to Fiji remain at a comparatively high level.

In January last Sir A. G. Murchison, the Governor of Fiji, visited the Dominion and advantage was taken to discuss with him matters relating to the further development of reciprocal trade between New Zealand and Fiji.

Western Samoa.

The value of the total import and export trade of Western Samoa in each of the past five calendar years is shown in the following table :—

Year ended 31st December,					Imports into Samoa.	Exports from Samoa.	Total Trade.
					£	£	£
1929	..	..	..	..	288,849	293,938	582,787
1930	..	..	..	..	275,355	284,515	559,870
1931	..	..	..	..	164,950	194,447	359,397
1932	..	..	..	..	150,902	183,028	333,930
1933	..	..	..	..	150,856	173,837	324,693

Of the total value of importations in 1933, aggregating £150,856, the following proportions were obtained from the countries named : New Zealand, £51,034; Australia, £33,643; United Kingdom, £30,762; United States, £12,117; Fiji, £6,802; Canada, £4,515; Japan, £3,613; British East Indies, £3,497. These eight countries together supplied 97·43 per cent. of the imports into Western Samoa during 1933.

Exports from Western Samoa in 1933, totalling £173,837, were shipped to the countries mentioned below, and to the extent indicated :—

	£
European countries (exact destination unknown)	.. .. 76,290
United Kingdom	.. .. 37,839
New Zealand	.. .. 28,125
United States	.. .. 27,638
Other countries	.. .. 3,945
Total	.. .. £173,837

As was the case in 1932, New Zealand ranks third in importance as a market for the products of this territory. The main commodity taken by New Zealand was again bananas, amounting to 81,983 cases valued at £26,999. In 1932 the corresponding value was £20,016. The balance of exports to New Zealand in 1933 mainly comprised cocoa-beans, valued at £932.