

On the other hand the proportion of our imports from European countries, with the exception of Belgium, showed substantial reductions.

In considering the importance of the United Kingdom as a market for New Zealand products it must be borne in mind that a not inconsiderable part of our exports is sent thither merely as a convenient depot for subsequent sale and shipment to the Continent of Europe and to America. This is partly due to the absence of direct shipping facilities. The latest figures are not yet available, but in 1933 the total of such re-exports of New Zealand produce was £5,264,804, and the figures for later years probably show a larger volume of re-exports of New Zealand produce from the United Kingdom to the European countries and America.

The strong sentiment prevailing in the Dominion towards closer trade relations with the Empire, and more particularly with the United Kingdom, continues to be indicated in a practical manner by the maintenance of the percentage of our imports which are the produce of Empire countries. The proportion of our imports from the United Kingdom increased very slightly, from 50·38 per cent. in 1934 to 50·39 per cent. in 1935; imports from Canada over the two years increased from 6·70 per cent. to 6·75 per cent. In 1933 the percentage of Canadian goods was only 4·95 per cent. of the total. Imports from Australia in 1934 were 10·33 of the total, and the percentage in 1935 had increased to 10·90.

The total percentage of our imports derived from Empire countries in 1935 was 73·31.

TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

The value of our trade with Australia in each of the past five calendar years is shown in the table below :—

Year ended 31st December,			Exports to Australia.	Imports from Australia.	Total Trade.
			£(N.Z.)	£(N.Z.)	£(N.Z.)
1931	..	..	1,157,403	2,073,361	3,240,764
1932	..	..	1,444,860	2,368,293	3,813,153
1933	..	..	1,393,311	2,576,092	3,969,403
1934	..	..	1,882,516	3,238,124	5,120,640
1935	..	..	1,781,811	3,955,677	5,737,488

The value of New Zealand exports to Australia declined in 1935 by £100,705, and the value of our imports from that country increased by £717,553. Prior to 1935 Australia was second only to the United Kingdom as a buyer of New Zealand goods, but second place has now been assumed by the United States, which purchased £2,468,071 worth of goods from us in 1935.

The Trade Commissioner at Sydney has devoted considerable attention to the development of our export trade, and from time to time has submitted reports on trade activities and inquiries from potential buyers of New Zealand goods. Wherever possible exporters and importers in New Zealand have been put in touch with buyers and sellers of a number of products in Australia, and in a number of cases business has followed as a result of the efforts of the Trade Commissioner and the Department.

The following table covering the past two calendar years shows the nature of the commodities that enter into our export trade with the Commonwealth, and the quantities and values of the principal items :—

Commodity.			1934.		1935.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Timber, sawn	..	Sup. ft.	33,205,938	£(N.Z.) 305,615	37,608,594	£(N.Z.) 347,960
<i>Phormium tenax</i> (New Zealand hemp)	Tons		2,607	36,750	2,419	36,932
Tow	..	..	500	4,179	401	3,312
Grass and clover seeds	..	Cwt.	18,292	49,885	20,725	54,596
Peas	..	Centals	19,883	19,436	26,017	22,489
Oats	..	..	3,051	1,307	1,968	915
Fish, frozen	..	Cwt.	47,552	93,422	49,253	108,178
Sugar of milk	..	Lb.	371,920	9,942	288,960	7,752
Wool	..	..	8,098,596	331,980	8,213,554	216,861
Tallow	..	Tons	678	11,681	149	3,499
Sausage-casings	..	Lb.	248,245	13,447	301,380	18,827
Hides, pelts, and skins—						
Calf-skins	..	No.	337,964	63,027	178,806	40,060
Cattle-hides	..	..	139,971	183,517	116,889	144,737
Sheep-skins, without wool	..	..	217,533	14,521	293,745	21,847
Sheep-skins, with wool	..	..	578	141	2,196	484
Pumice and sandstone	..	Tons	2,279	6,179	3,124	8,296
Gold—Bar, dust, ingot, and sheet		Oz.	24,736	190,974	30,645	246,279