

The following table illustrates the trend of trade in the Cook Islands and how it dropped during the years of depression :—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total. £
1925	130,609	151,939	282,548
1930	103,468	109,438	212,906
1931	69,260	79,945	149,205
1932	63,585	73,409	136,994
1933	76,716	73,983	150,699
1934	61,449	59,307	120,756
1935	61,676	53,599	115,275
1936	72,576	67,556	140,132

The figures show an increase in trade for the year under review as a result of the general improvement in economic conditions.

Copra Trade.—Although the price of copra showed a steady rise until January, 1937, it has since gradually dropped, and at the present time the state of the market is uncertain.

In 1932 and 1933 the Administration assisted producers by reducing the copra-tax to 10s. per ton, and from 1st April, 1934, to 31st December, 1936, no tax at all was collected. The copra-tax of £1 per ton was reimposed as from 1st January, 1937.

The following figures for the years 1928 to 1936 show how the value of the copra trade in the Cook Islands has fluctuated :—

Year.	Tons Exported.	Total Value. £	Year.	Tons Exported.	Total Value. £
1928 ..	1,770	33,071	1934 ..	963	4,899
1930 ..	2,143	23,478	1935 ..	1,353	12,882
1932 ..	1,294	12,340	1936 ..	689	7,458

Of the total of 689 tons exported in 1936, 353 tons were shipped to the United States, 273½ tons to the United Kingdom, and the balance, 62½ tons, to New Zealand.

The small amount exported in 1936 was due to the fact that 664 tons of copra was delayed until January, 1937, owing to lack of shipping.

Exports.—The following table shows the quantities of main exports over the last seven years :—

—	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Citrus fruit .. (Cases)	128,196	82,740	85,593	92,752	78,099	48,268*	75,390
Bananas	53,493	55,769	62,390	47,494	52,314	22,539*	49,431
Tomatoes.. ..	30,363	34,750	54,218	17,737	34,545	62,383	38,546
Copra (Tons)	2,143	1,546	1,294	1,545	963	1,353	689

* Reduced exports due to the effects of a heavy hurricane in February, 1935.

Crop Prospects.—For the coming season the prospects in Rarotonga are for a light orange crop. In the Lower Group Islands prospects are better and there should be an average to heavy crop.

SHIPPING.

Overseas shipping at the Port of Avarua, Rarotonga, for the year ended 31st December, 1936, comprised a total of thirty-four vessels, twenty-three being the San Francisco mail steamers, eight the Union Steamship Company's cargo vessels, one local schooner, and two cruising vessels.

In December, 1936, the Union Steamship Co., Ltd., discontinued the Wellington—San Francisco mail-steamer service, with the result that Rarotonga is now dependent upon the regular monthly calls of m.v. "Matua" and occasional visits by trans-Pacific cargo vessels.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

A full survey of the work carried out in regard to health matters in the Cook Islands from the time of the annexation in 1900 to the present time is set out in last year's annual report.

The following are extracts from the annual report of the Chief Medical Officer :—

RAROTONGA.

On the whole the general health has not been good.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis has been high, attributable to the food deprivation following the hurricane of 1935.

There were outbreaks of enteric, influenza, and of chicken-pox, and a few cases of summer diarrhoea occurred.

Influenza occurred in May and June (mild), and in August, September, and January (severe).

The more serious forms were introduced from Tahiti by the San Francisco mail steamers.

Enteric.—Paratyphoid B: 11 cases from Ngatangiia.

Typhoid.—Seven cases, mostly from Avarua, occurred in spite of the improved privies.

Typhoid-anti-bacillus inoculation has been carried out extensively as a preventive measure.

Leprosy.—One leper died in December, and one case was discovered and isolated in January.

Tuberculosis.—This is the scourge of the Island. Death-rate 36 per 10,000. In spite of these high figures there have been remarkable recoveries, which bear out Dr. Lambert's figures showing a fair