

The following statement shows the coal trade, shipping, and financial statistics of Westport Harbour for each year since the Department has had control of the port :—

Year.	Net Tonnage of Shipping entered.	Tonnage of Coal shipped.	Expenditure.		Revenue.		Financial Result.		
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
1921-22 ..	273,706	480,873	63,950	1 10	25,836	19 3	Deficit	38,113	2 7
1922-23 ..	332,401	573,487	50,738	17 5	38,700	8 1	„	12,038	9 4
1923-24 ..	275,762	442,070	46,619	1 11	42,285	7 4	„	4,333	14 7
1924-25 ..	334,827	556,669	44,666	14 0	50,378	11 0	Surplus	5,711	17 0
1925-26 ..	386,669	552,949	51,909	4 11	57,539	12 11	„	5,630	8 0
1926-27 ..	459,670	637,165	52,769	12 6	62,976	13 10	„	10,207	1 4
1927-28 ..	466,021	623,256	65,828	1 7	65,909	8 1	„	81	6 6
1928-29 ..	458,712	604,778	68,871	13 0	64,214	5 6	Deficit	4,657	7 6
1929-30 ..	479,623	625,835	64,877	10 5	66,274	17 3	Surplus	1,397	6 10
1930-31 ..	352,228	513,503	53,436	16 9	53,013	2 11	Deficit	423	13 10
1931-32 ..	234,936	336,873	46,803	2 4	34,602	12 9	„	12,200	9 7
1932-33 ..	223,936	282,163	40,974	8 9	30,516	6 1	„	10,458	2 8
1933-34 ..	240,132	280,080	39,783	7 4	30,886	13 9	„	8,896	13 7
1934-35 ..	253,041	291,449	39,011	8 8	30,773	2 5	„	8,238	6 3
1935-36 ..	260,111	295,067	41,480	16 9	30,891	0 7	„	10,589	16 2
1936-37 ..	257,506	345,507	41,785	2 7	34,300	11 1	„	7,484	11 6
1937-38 ..	288,621	425,779	48,263	2 11	41,206	17 3	„	7,056	5 8

It will be seen that the finances show a satisfactory year under the circumstances, and it is clear that the coal-export trade is the predominating factor in the financial success, or otherwise, of this harbour from year to year. With a still further expansion of the coal exports all charges—including working-expenses, interest on loans, interest on advances from the Consolidated Fund, and sinking-fund payments—should be met.

The Department still encourages the bunkering of vessels at Westport by reduced port dues on vessels calling for bunkering purposes only. The following summary shows the number of vessels which called at Westport for bunkering purposes only since 1927-28, with the quantity of bunker coal taken :—

Year.	Number of Vessels.		Quantity of Bunker Coal taken.
			Tons.
1925-26 .. ..	20		..
1926-27 .. ..	44		..
1927-28 .. ..	51		54,993
1928-29 .. ..	54		54,083
1929-30 .. ..	57		61,546
1930-31 .. ..	24		25,969
1931-32 .. ..	10		7,637
1932-33 .. ..	7		6,872
1933-34 .. ..	14		12,703
1934-35 .. ..	21		16,376
1935-36 .. ..	34		20,647
1936-37 .. ..	23		22,039
1937-38 .. ..	31		24,824

*Kaipara Harbour.*—A full-time Harbourmaster is in charge of this port, which is controlled by the Marine Department. This vast harbour requires a great deal of attention to lights, buoys, &c., and during the year a new and up-to-date launch for this purpose has been built in Auckland to the specifications prepared by technical officers of the Department. The Harbourmaster also acts in the capacity of Customs officer.

*Picton Harbour.*—At Picton the Harbourmaster controls the harbour and foreshores and acts as Customs officer, and his services are required for the pilotage of the intercolonial vessels which frequent this port from time to time. Repairs to the Harbourmaster's residence and general maintenance of the harbour facilities have been carried out during the year.

#### HARBOUR-WORKS.

The following work in connection with minor harbours has been carried out during the year :—

*Awanui Harbour.*—Siltation of the upper tidal reaches of the Awanui River was seriously interfering with navigation, and to enable shallow-draught vessels to regularly work the tides dredging work was carried out with a Sauermann slack-line cableway excavator. Altogether some 13,500 cubic yards of silt was removed, and this improvement enables vessels to maintain regular sailings without difficulty.