

1939.
NEW ZEALAND.

NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

REPORT ON THE NIUE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION, 1938-39.

FINANCE.

The estimated expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1939, was £20,460, the sum actually expended being £20,196 11s. 1d., or approximately £260 less than the amount authorized.

The estimated revenue was £16,871 and that actually received, £14,468 6s. 2d., the reduction being due mainly to adverse trade conditions and factors beyond the control of the Administration.

The deficit provided for was £3,589. Even though the amount expended did not exceed that authorized, as a result of the decrease in revenue the deficit actually amounted to £5,728 4s. 11d. This sum was provided from reserves held by the Administration.

Expenditure has been kept at an absolute minimum, and no new works or undertakings have been attempted.

TRADE.

Imports for the calendar year 1938 totalled £16,380 and exports, £15,045, a total trade value of £31,425. In the previous year the total trade amounted to £52,630.

The reduction was due to the fact that very little copra was made owing to the very low price obtainable, and also to the shortage of bananas available for shipment.

Copra.—Three hundred and ninety-five tons, valued at £3,500, were exported. The following were the local prices paid in the villages during 1938: January to April, £5 per ton; May to August, £3 per ton; September to December, £1 10s. per ton. Approximately four thousand coconuts are required to make one ton of copra. When the amount of labour involved in gathering these four thousand nuts, husking them, cutting out the kernel for copra, drying it, and taking it to the trader is considered it will be understood why little copra is being made. The price paid is very low, yet when the costs incurred by the merchants in transport, bagging, &c., are considered the price offered is as much or even more than can be expected while the market value remains at its present low level.

Bananas.—The shortage in the banana shipments was due to adverse weather conditions. Furthermore, much of the available land has already been planted, and the balance is not being planted as it should be, because it does not produce such good crops. This year exports amounted to 18,656 cases, valued at £6,500, whereas during the previous year 26,709 cases, valued at £10,283, were exported.

Kumeras.—A record quantity was shipped during the year. Altogether, 318½ tons, valued at £3,371, were exported, as compared with 123¼ tons, valued at £1,451, for the previous year, a record up to that period.

Hats and Baskets.—Hats exported constituted a record for several years, there being 1,043 dozen, valued at £483, shipped, the previous year the total being 694 dozen, valued at £254.

There was also a record for several years in the export of baskets, 436 dozen, valued at £400, were shipped, as compared with 167 dozen, valued at £92, the previous year.

The following table shows the quantities and values of the principal exports for the last ten years:—

Year.	Copra.		Bananas.		Baskets.		Hats.		Fungus.		Kumeras.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Cases.	£	Dozens.	£	Dozens.	£	lb.	£	Tons.	£
1929 ..	735	11,652	17,434	7,683	2,948	1,879	574	386	6,606	222
1930 ..	335	3,382	21,456	9,787	1,012	660	1,214	810	5,694	183
1931 ..	204	2,269	8,703	3,590	801	480	271	185	3,789	151	15	278
1932 ..	366	3,815	22,828	8,384	682	270	775	467	13,104	315	31	348
1933 ..	190	1,760	24,596	8,542	670	320	1,222	729	384	5	4	41
1934 ..	125	961	28,393	10,006	308	130	920	492	5,137	81	13	273
1935 ..	316	2,031	22,714	8,620	162	78	1,769	756	7,593	77	40	360
1936 ..	662	7,077	35,701	13,744	93	80	880	384	3,583	35	94	1,464
1937 ..	728	10,825	26,709	10,283	167	92	694	254	261	4	123	1,451
1938 ..	395	3,500	18,656	6,503	436	400	1,043	483	3,679	53	318	3,371