

PINEAPPLES

The departure of troops, together with increased plantings, enabled Fiji and Tonga to export much larger quantities than in recent years. Supplies of Australian pineapples should also be much larger now that allied troops have left. Unfortunately, however, the ships have not been available to bring these supplies to New Zealand, but it is anticipated that during the coming year much larger quantities will be imported.

Importations for the last two years were as follows :—

Source of Supply.	Year ended 31st March, 1945.		Year ended 31st March, 1946.	
	Cases.	Per- centage.	Cases.	Per- centage.
Australia	2,750	57·16	3,072	22·94
Tonga	761	15·82	4,229	31·60
Fiji	1,300	27·02	6,085	45·46
	4,811	..	13,386	..

KUMARAS

Owing to hurricanes and lack of shipping, Niue Island was not able to export any kumaras during the year which ended on 31st March, 1945. Nevertheless, the Natives have again taken up kumara-growing for export, and were able to make small shipments this year. With a regular shipping service it is expected that much larger quantities will be imported during the coming year.

The Division was able to arrange for two shipments of kumaras from Fiji and Tonga, but as the kumaras were found to be infested with the kumara weevil further importations were prohibited by the Department of Agriculture. Total importations were :—

Source of Supply.	Year ended 31st March, 1946.	
	50 lb. Bags.	Percentage.
Niue	449	20·72
Tonga	1,527	70·46
Fiji	191	8·82
	2,167	..

SUPPLIES TO SOUTH ISLAND

It has frequently been found difficult to supply the South Island expeditiously, owing to transport delays, and, in consequence, some deterioration has occurred. Proportionate to population, the South has, however, been well served, as these figures for year ended 31st March, 1946, reveal :—

	Total for New Zealand (Cases).	South Island.	
		Cases.	Percentage.
Bananas	269,592	72,910	27·0
Oranges	182,637	59,400	32·5
Grapefruit	7,766	1,800	23·2
Lemons	85,328	35,560	41·7
Pineapples	13,386	2,306	17·2