

60. TRADE AND SHIPPING

Niue is a port of call for two vessels maintaining a shipping service between New Zealand, Cook Islands, Samoa, and Fiji. For this and economic and political reasons practically all the trade of the island is directed to New Zealand, apart from normal inter-island trade on the shipping route. There were fifteen shipping calls during the year ended 31st December, 1947, including eleven calls by regular cargo and passenger vessels. Except for the period February to May, a more or less regular service was maintained by the N.Z.G.M.V. "Maui Pomare" and the Union Steam Ship Co.'s m.v. "Matua."

Exclusive of parcel-mail, inward cargo handled at the port of Alofi totalled 1,216 tons and outward cargo 795 tons. In addition, 2,119 bags of parcel-mail containing Native plaited ware were shipped. The average cargo handled on each call showed an increase over the previous year.

Ninety-eight passengers disembarked and 172 embarked, both exceeding the previous year's figures.

H.M.N.Z.S. "Arbutus" visited Niue on 2nd and 3rd June, 1947. A suitable programme of entertainment was arranged for the officers and men.

Both imports and exports reached a record level in 1947. The largest contributing factor was the high price of copra, which was again increased during the year.

Comparative statistics for the last five years are as follows:—

Country of Origin.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
IMPORTS VALUES					
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand	29,881	25,140	23,620	37,984	52,290
Australia	223	871	251	643	1,485
United Kingdom	115	2,453	2,935	6,503	1,721
United States of America	1,692	181	10	730	..
Western Samoa	140	1,106	116	21	1,074
Other	19	303	40	796*	2,226†
Totals	32,070	30,054	26,972	46,677	58,796
EXPORTS VALUES					
New Zealand	29,908	21,909	27,674	29,721	42,266
Australia	298	1,307	1,662	6,142	2,926
Western Samoa	527	..	..	..	399
Other	..	35	132	10	..
Totals	30,733	23,251	29,468	35,873	45,591

* Includes India, £585.

† Includes Rarotonga, £1,070.

Quantities and Values of Principal Exports

Item.	1943.		1944.		1945.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Copra	422	8,543	617	13,272	415	9,986
	Cases.		Cases.		Cases.	
Bananas	15,473	8,049	1,200	626	7,662	4,141
	Tons.				Tons.	
Kumaras	113	1,363	..	..	10	141
Native plaited ware ..	..	12,692	..	8,977	..	14,683