

The banana export industry, which had lapsed during the previous two years on account of the impossibility of inducing the Niueans to load or handle the fruit on the Sabbath, revived this year with a shipment of 1,008 cases in December. Arrangements have now been made to avoid Sunday work on the fruit in future, but a full revival of the trade cannot be expected for at least another twelve months, by which time the newly planted banana suckers will be bearing.

The value of the exports of plaited ware slightly exceeded that for the previous year, though the number of parcels shipped was considerably lower. Owing to the limited shipping space available, traders chose to ship hats to their markets rather than baskets, which, because of their bulkiness, are comparatively unprofitable. Importations of head-gear into New Zealand from other sources, however, have reduced the market for the Niue product.

VISITS

His Excellency the Governor-General, Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Cyril Freyberg, V.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., LL.D., and Lady Freyberg, accompanied by their staff, paid an official visit to Niue on 12th July, 1948.

Two visits were paid to the island by Mr. F. R. J. Davies, Officer for Islands Education. Miss M. P. Dennehy, of the New Zealand Education Department, also paid a short visit to the island.

Messrs. K. McL. Baxter and W. B. Richards, of the New Zealand Federation of Labour, visited the island on 19th August, 1948, to discuss the formation of an industrial union.

Mr. F. L. Hunter, of the New Zealand Marketing Department, visited Niue on 27th March, 1949, in connection with the banana trade of the island.

The late Mr. Guy N. Morris, a retired Stipendiary Magistrate and a former Resident Commissioner, visited the island in November, 1948, to conduct a retrial of a Niuean convicted on a charge of attempted rape.

APPENDIX I—METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

A summary of the observations recorded at the radio station at Alofi for the year ended 31st December, 1948, and a comparison with the previous four years, is contained in the following table:—

—	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Total rainfall (inches) ..	71·55	80·80	93·94	72·09	94·54
Number of rainy days ..	158	210	206	220	148
Highest for any day (inches) ..	5·15	3·60	4·50	2·34	9·99
Date of highest rainfall ..	29th Jan.	23rd Apr.	15th Dec.	29th Oct.	31st Oct.
Highest temperature (F.) ..	90·0	92·0	90·8	90·2	91·0
Date of highest temperature ..	13, 17, 19, 25, 28th Mar.	22nd Mar.	28th Mar.	20th Mar.	8th Oct.
Lowest temperature (F.) ..	58·5	57·0	60·2	57·5	58·4
Date of lowest temperature ..	28th Aug.	6th June	27th June	26th Aug.	19th Sept.
Mean of maximum thermometer (F.)	82·4	82·27	82·28	82·173	81·82
Mean of minimum thermometer (F.)	69·3	70·3	70·16	71·023	69·285

There were no periods of serious drought during the year, and there was no storm damage to plantations or food crops. Niue is included in the system by which islands receive hurricane warnings from the Fiji Meteorological Service, and maintains six weather schedules with that office daily.