

Postal.—The business in this Department has been well up to the average. Money-orders to the number of 869, value £12,964, were issued in Rarotonga, and 618, value £7,107, paid, the commission earned being £67 7s. 6d. Postal notes, value £279 4s. 4d., were issued. Allotment warrants in favour of soldiers' dependants to the value of £5,681 were cashed. The deposits in the Savings-bank amounted to £2,378 10s., and withdrawals to £1,289 10s.

Trade. Imports, £80,061, show an increase of £21,500 over the previous year. Of this increase, £18,000 was with New Zealand. Exports at £60,190 show a decrease of £7,956 compared with the preceding year. The increase in the value of the imports is due to the rise in the cost of goods more than expansion of trade. The decline in the value of the exports is due solely to the shortage of shipping.

The copra crop for the year—1,550 tons—is the second highest on record, being beaten only by the output of 1911, when 1,695 tons were exported. This year, owing to the want of shipping-space, 850 tons were in store at the close of the season. Owing to the war, America is the only available market for this commodity.

In regard to fruit, the banana output doubled itself in comparison with the year 1916. During the period under review 75,000 cases and 5,000 kits were exported, as against 41,000 cases the previous year. The orange crop dropped from 93,000 cases to 63,000 cases. The tomato industry, which promised so well three years ago, is rapidly on the decline, due largely to want of shipping facilities. Slow irregular steamers with which the trade must be content for the present are out of the question for the marketing of tomatoes.

The crops for the coming season promise to be very heavy. Reports from all the islands indicate a large copra yield, and the banana and orange output will be good.

The installation of "wireless" will be of great assistance to the fruit trade, in advising arrival of steamers.

W. J. STEVENSON,
Collector of Customs and Treasurer.

The Resident Commissioner, Rarotonga.

COOK ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION.

Revenue for the Year ended 31st March, 1918.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance, 1st April, 1917	..	..	..	2,808	15	0
Customs duties, Rarotonga	4,129	15	0			
" New Zealand	1,360	4	5			
Traders' license fees	629	5	0			
Stamps	1,015	7	2			
Fees and fines, High Court, Rarotonga	757	3	4			
" Aitutaki	67	11	0			
" Mangaia	16	16	0			
" Mauke	74	0	0			
" Atiu	7	4	0			
" Mitiaro	5	8	0			
" Penrhyn	34	10	0			
" Manihiki and Rakahanga	175	3	0			
Fees, Land Court	524	16	10			
Water rates, Avarua	183	13	6			
" Arorangi	67	1	6			
" Ngatangia	34	2	0			
" Matavera	41	19	0			
" Titikaveka	48	12	0			
" Muri	34	2	0			
Shipping fees	11	9	11			
Hall licenses	5	0	0			
Interest on fixed deposit	35	0	0			
Rents	137	10	0			
Motor fees	11	0	0			
Road rates	5	16	0			
Fines, Customs Act	13	0	0			
Sale of uncustomed goods	3	7	6			
Liquor account, cash balance	297	8	9			
Ammunition Account, balance	30	1	1			
Fruit Fumigation and Inspection Account, cash balance	1,245	5	2			
Fees for registration of births, marriages, and deaths	35	6	0			
Miscellaneous	1	2	0			
				11,068	0	2
Total				£13,876	15	2