

Return of Imports and Exports for the Twenty-six Years, 1903 to 1928, inclusive.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Value.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Value.
	£	£	£		£	£	£
1903 ..	8,001	7,862	15,863	1916 ..	9,512	3,379	12,891
1904 ..	6,707	7,016	13,723	1917 ..	13,079	9,400	22,479
1905 ..	5,698	9,868	15,566	1918 ..	17,258	16,537	33,795
1906 ..	6,707	8,724	15,431	1919 ..	21,733	35,977	57,710
1907 ..	8,491	7,955	16,446	1920 ..	20,524	13,140	33,664
1908 ..	6,458	7,107	13,565	1921 ..	26,339	16,721	43,060
1909 ..	10,047	12,203	22,250	1922 ..	15,418	15,122	30,540
1910 ..	9,182	12,112	21,294	1923 ..	18,388	13,227	31,615
1911 ..	9,838	12,047	21,885	1924 ..	16,798	14,608	31,406
1912 ..	19,119	15,709	34,828	1925 ..	18,747	17,429	36,176
1913 ..	13,761	12,170	25,931	1926 ..	17,563	17,655	35,218
1914 ..	11,200	9,503	20,703	1927 ..	14,006	14,350	28,356
1915 ..	9,678	8,130	17,808	1928 ..	18,637	20,938	39,575

Copra.—The export of copra, our main product, shows a big improvement on that of the previous three years, and is once again back to normal output. The palms have now fully recovered from the very severe setback they received during the drought conditions of 1925 and 1926.

Fruit.—During the year eight shipments, totalling 13,942 cases and 97 bunches of bananas, were made. The first two shipments made in the “Hinemoa”—i.e., February and March—were carried direct to the Auckland markets, and arrived in a ripe condition to a glutted market. The prices realized on these shipments were disastrous, and showed to the Natives a dead loss per case of 6s. on the first and 4s. on the second. The Natives were considerably disheartened by these severe losses. However, subsequent shipments by the “Maui Pomare” have proved more profitable, and the average net returns for same have been between 5s. and 6s. per case. The industry is steadily improving, and during the coming year we should be able, if space permits, to export 3,500 to 4,000 cases each trip of the “Maui Pomare.”

Cotton.—A further attempt to again reintroduce the cotton industry on Niue has been made, but the result has not been very encouraging. A sample of the lint obtained is being sent to the British Cotton-growers' Association, Manchester, for report thereon.

Fungus.—21,890 lb. were exported. The market has greatly been affected by the unsettled state of affairs in China. There is very little prospect of it improving in the near future.

Basketware.—There is still a good demand for this class of goods in New Zealand, and at present the demand exceeds the supply. 3,182½ dozen were exported during the year.

Hats.—This industry is practically dead, owing to the importations of large quantities of same from Italy. 121½ dozen were exported during the year.

HIGH COURT AND NATIVE LAND COURT.

Criminal cases for 1928 totalled 245, as against 207 in 1927. As usual, the majority of these were offences against morality, and there was very little that could be called serious crime. Fees and fines collected amounted to £92 13s. 6d. Civil work was negligible in quantity, there being only 14 actions.

In the Native Land Court, the only work before the Court was one application for adoption order, four applications for annulment of adoptions, and one application for confirmation of alienation of land, orders being granted in all cases.

NIUE ISLAND COUNCIL.

Four meetings of the Niue Island Council were held during the year, one in each quarter. No new Ordinances were passed.

The term of office of the old Council having expired, an election of new members took place on the 12th and 14th December.

There have been but very few complaints from the Natives and certainly none of a serious nature. It is very evident that the Niueans appreciate the assistance they have received from the New Zealand Government from time to time, particularly as to the steamer service and towards providing additional motor-lorries to assist in the carriage of fruit from the back villages, where most of the fruit is grown.