

Our export and import trade with various parts of the East in the past three calendar years is shown below.

	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£
Exports to—			
Dutch East Indies	19,191	13,029	10,205
British Malaya	26,781	20,611	14,922
Burma	1,070	984	779
Ceylon	7,055	9,066	5,093
India	386,421	406,878	59,185
Hong Kong	12,745	14,085	14,165
China	36,348	36,493	17,625
Japan	428,577	154,741	267,899
Philippine Islands	19,342	12,491	5,414
Imports from—			
Dutch East Indies	1,152,705	811,372	848,216
British Malaya	122,721	79,382	56,949
Burma	20,938	25,443	10,459
Ceylon	923,748	704,759	617,042
India	766,756	637,832	392,088
Hong Kong	6,907	5,678	2,542
China	131,031	120,694	82,257
Japan	625,714	565,264	304,532
Philippine Islands	28,929	22,884	9,367

Although decreases are recorded above in exports to most Eastern countries for 1931, it is confidently expected that when economic conditions improve the efforts that are now being made to develop trade will bear fruit. The decrease in exports to India during the past year was due mainly to the fact that there were no shipments of gold to that country as in the two previous years.

OVERSEAS TRADE REPRESENTATION.

The Department's representation overseas has been further extended during the past year by the appointment of two additional honorary representatives. These are as follow : Mr. A. R. Hughes, Hong Kong Bank Buildings, Colombo, Ceylon, and Mr. S. Hutchison, Room 506, 23 Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai, China.

The Department is also represented in North China by Mr. L. A. L. Moore, 171 Victoria Road, Tientsin, who was appointed in an honorary capacity towards the end of 1930.

The services of these gentlemen, as of other Government representatives and honorary agents and correspondents of the Department in various parts of the world, are available to the business and commercial community of the Dominion. The question of the further extension of the Department's honorary representation in various directions is at present under consideration.

With the growing realization of the necessity for the opening-up of new markets and the development of existing ones, the number of calls upon the services of the Department's representatives abroad for the supply of trade and commercial information has steadily increased, and the value of such representatives has been correspondingly enhanced.

The services of the New Zealand Trade and Tourist Commissioners in Canada and Australia, two officers of the Department abroad engaged primarily in trade and tourist development work, must particularly be mentioned in this connection. Their services have been extensively availed of by the Department and by the commercial community both in New Zealand and overseas, and they have made every effort during the past year to increase the export trade of the Dominion with the countries in which they are located, and to further tourist traffic between those countries and New Zealand.

The attention of exporters and merchants in the Dominion is drawn to the facilities offered by the Government representatives, agents, and correspondents in various parts of the world. They are at the disposal of any person or firm desiring to extend trade relations with the countries concerned, and it is hoped that exporters and merchants in New Zealand will co-operate with the Department and with the Trade Commissioners or representatives concerned by utilizing to the fullest possible extent the services offered.

STORES CONTROL BOARD.

A representative of the Department continues to act on the Stores Control Board Advisory Committee. The value of the stores purchased by Departments of State during the year ended 31st March, 1932, was £2,715,215, against £4,286,803 for the previous financial year.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

The Department continues to be represented by honorary membership on the executive of the Chambers of Commerce in each of the chief centres.

The annual conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of New Zealand was held in Wellington last October. It is noteworthy to record that the triennial Congress of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire is to be held in Wellington next year. The forthcoming Congress is creating considerable interest in commercial circles throughout the Dominion.

MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Close co-operation has been maintained by the Department with the Manufacturers' Associations in the four centres. In each case the District Officer of the Department is associated with the executive and attends the usual business meetings of the association in an advisory capacity.

The Auckland Association in its forty-fifth annual report states that the membership now totals 303, the highest figure since its incorporation. A feature of the propaganda effort this year has been