

territory. It is pleasing to report that since the survey was made considerable progress has been made in sales of New Zealand exportable lines, especially foodstuffs, and that the good will of the merchants in the British West Indies has been enhanced by the visit, and by the services rendered since by New Zealand shippers. The value of our export trade has more than doubled since the visit of the Trade Commissioner, having increased from £20,970 in 1933 to £42,228 in 1934.

Providing shipping services make regular connections, there is every prospect of establishing a relatively substantial trade with Jamaica particularly. In this island considerable improvement has been effected in handling and storing New Zealand butter, ensuring maintenance of even quality until it reaches the consumer.

Only a small section of what is known as the British West Indies has been investigated and visited—namely, Jamaica, Bermuda, and the Bahamas. There still remain several important British possessions in the group to exploit—notably the Leeward and Windward Islands, Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana. In the meantime, however, every endeavour is being made through reputable correspondents in these territories to secure trade for New Zealand. Jamaican merchants who are represented in the neighbouring islands are already performing a very useful service by introducing New Zealand lines.

Judged from the standpoint of butter alone, this new market is well worth study. The opinion has been expressed by the Trade Commissioner that New Zealand can capture the bulk of the trade in this commodity, whether it be sold in pats, bulk, or tin containers.

The success met with at Jamaica has stimulated the interest of traders in other islands and in countries bordering on the Caribbean Sea, but a special study should be made of the extent of competition, means and cost of transportation and storage for perishable goods, before the trade can be firmly established. It is strongly recommended that every endeavour should be made to extend this market and to cover the whole of the West Indies and adjacent colonies.

ISLAND TRADE.

Fiji.

Exports from New Zealand to Fiji in 1934 were valued at £85,493, as compared with £87,435 in 1933. Imports into the Dominion from Fiji fell from £84,877 in 1933 to £82,535 in 1934.

The value of both our export and import trade with Fiji in each of the past five calendar years is set out below for purposes of comparison. As will be readily observed, trade in each direction has shown a steady recession during that period.

Year ended 31st December,							Exports to Fiji.	Imports from Fiji.
							£	£
1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	110,033	200,877
1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	89,245	102,979
1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	88,693	106,041
1933	..	..	..	..	..	..	87,435	84,877
1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	85,493	82,535

Exports of New Zealand produce to Fiji consist of a fairly wide range of commodities, of which the following were some of the more important in 1934:—

Potted and preserved meats, £6,331; potatoes, £4,233; refined sugar, £4,203; tea, £4,442; tallow, £1,324; bacon and hams, £2,221; soap, £3,643; dried, preserved, and condensed milks, £743; confectionery, £650; sawn timber, £646; fresh apples and pears, £649; onions, £94; bags and sacks, £12,133; cinematograph films, £9,064.

Imports from Fiji consisted mainly of raw sugar and fresh fruits, the values of these items in 1934 being £8,286 and £69,323 respectively. Imports of raw sugar from this source have steadily diminished in recent years, our requirements being provided mainly by the Dutch East Indies and Cuba.

Imports of fresh fruit are represented mainly by bananas, which were valued at £66,021 in 1934.

Western Samoa.

The value of the total import and export trade of Western Samoa in each of the past five calendar years is shown in the following table:—

Year ended 31st December,					Imports into Samoa.	Exports from Samoa.	Total Trade.
					£	£	£
1930	..	..	..	..	275,355	284,515	559,870
1931	..	..	..	..	164,950	194,447	359,397
1932	..	..	..	..	150,902	183,028	333,930
1933	..	..	..	..	150,856	173,837	324,693
1934	..	..	..	..	92,784	128,117	220,901

Of the total value of importations in 1934, aggregating £92,784, the following proportions were obtained from the countries named: New Zealand, £33,171; Australia, £20,562; United Kingdom, £14,457; United States, £8,949; Fiji, £3,980; Dutch East Indies, £3,092; Japan, £3,038; Hong Kong, £2,532; Canada, £784; and India, £721. These ten countries together supplied 98.39 per cent. of the imports into Western Samoa during 1934.