

VII.—DIRECT TAXES.

The direct taxes are—

	Received	
	1933-34.	1934-35.
	£	£
(a) Personal tax of £1 5s. per annum payable by male adult Europeans	664	1,009
(b) Graduated salary-tax, from £1 on £200-£300, to £30 over £1,500 ..	427	405
(c) Building-tax, 1 per cent. per annum of capital value of European buildings	2,274	2,524

In addition there are the usual motor-vehicle licenses, water rates, and similar fees.

VIII.—INDIRECT TAXES.

The principal revenue of the Territory is derived from Customs duties—see the annual reports on “Trade, Commerce, and Shipping”—store and copra house and other taxes as set out in the Revenue Ordinance, 1929, and the port and shipping fees defined in the Port Control Ordinance, 1932. The law as to stamp duties was brought up to date in the Stamp Duty Ordinance, 1932.

Imports in 1934 were 72·4 per cent. of the value of exports, as compared with 86·8 per cent. in 1933. This decrease was due to acute economic conditions prevailing during the year, imports and exports showing a decrease on the previous year's figures of £58,072 and £45,720 respectively.

IX.—TRADE.

The trade figures for the calendar year 1934 show a decrease of 31·97 per cent. as compared with those of the previous year, but during the last quarter of the financial year—that is, the months of January, February, and March, 1935—there was a marked improvement in trade conditions in the Territory. The average price for South Seas copra on the London market for the whole of the year 1934 was £7 17s. 6d. per ton, but in January and February, 1935, this rose suddenly and the price to growers doubled. During 1934 cocoa was difficult to sell, the market at most times being overloaded and the price falling as low as £1 12s. 6d. per hundredweight. During recent months there has been an increased demand, and sales are being effected at from £40 to £45 per ton.

The price of bananas has been very satisfactory throughout. During the year negotiations were carried out between the Governments of New Zealand and Fiji resulting in an increase of nearly one-third in the quantity of bananas to be shipped from Samoa during the year 1935. The increased shipments commenced in January, and the extra money in circulation as a result thereof has greatly improved trading conditions.

As mentioned in last year's report, the export duty on cocoa was remitted temporarily, and two remissions, amounting to a total of £1 per ton, were granted off the export duty on copra. The export duty on cocoa has not yet been restored, but the full duty on copra was again brought into operation on the 1st March, 1935.

The following return shows the principal exports, and the total values of the exports, imports, and total trade of the Territory for recent years :—

Calendar Year.		Exports.						Imports.	Total Trade.
		Copra.		Cocoa.		Bananas.		Total Value.	
		Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Cases.	Value.		
			£		£		£	£	£
1927	..	11,665	242,672	792	48,216	..	..	335,978	640,347
1928	..	15,939	319,259	959	69,507	22,815	11,219	422,175	748,728
1929	..	12,941	205,330	677	46,286	53,652	24,640	293,938	582,787
1930	..	12,385	166,221	1,007	61,294	95,867	44,259	284,515	559,870
1931	..	11,062	109,220	620	35,284	85,231	39,022	194,447	359,397
1932	..	10,879	103,698	825	49,712	66,715	26,016	183,028	333,936
1933	..	11,526	101,347	899	41,813	81,983	26,999	173,837	324,693
1934	..	8,948	60,654	1,027	29,488	96,225	35,796	128,117	220,901