

VII.—DIRECT TAXES.

Under the Revenue Amendment Ordinance, 1936, the personal tax of £1 5s. payable by male adult Europeans of eighteen years of age and over was abolished, with effect from 1st April, 1936.

The direct taxes now are—

	Received	
	1935-36.	1936-37.
	£	£
(a) Graduated salary-tax, from £1 on £200-£300 to £30 over £1,500 ..	363	325
(b) Building-tax, 1 per cent. per annum of capital value of European buildings	2,596	2,469

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

VIII.—INDIRECT TAXES.

The principal revenue of the country is derived from Customs duties (see the annual reports on "Trade, Commerce, and Shipping"), store, copra-house, and other taxes as set out in the Revenue Ordinance, 1929, and port and shipping fees defined in the Port Control Ordinance, 1932. Stamp duties are also collected in accordance with the provisions of the Stamp Duty Ordinance, 1932.

Imports in 1936 were 63.44 per cent. of the value of exports, as compared with 71.72 per cent. in 1935.

IX.—TRADE.

The trade figures for the calendar year 1936 showed an increase of 32.37 per cent. over those of 1935. Imports increased by £31,263 and exports by £73,957, the increase in copra and cocoa prices being mainly responsible for the satisfactory position. The price of copra rose from £13 17s. 6d. per ton on the London market at the beginning of 1936 to £21 2s. 6d. at the end of the year. The total exported during 1936 was 13,014 tons, as compared with 12,501 tons for 1935.

Cocoa prices displayed an upward tendency in 1936, rising from £45 per ton in January to £70 in December, and favourable weather conditions permitted an export of 1,065 tons as against the 1935 total of 576 tons.

A new record was reached in banana shipments during the year, 128,045 cases (4,573 tons) being sent to the New Zealand market, the total value being £46,737. The price to growers was increased to 5s. per case, 6d. more than in the previous year.

Rubber also showed a satisfactory increase, 51 tons valued at £3,408 being shipped as compared with 25 tons (worth £1,372) in 1935. The price in London rose over the period from 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. to 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound.

The following return shows the principal exports, and the total value 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.	Tons.	Value.			Total Value.
			£		£		£	£	£	
1927	..	11,665	242,672	792	48,216	..	..	335,978	304,369	640,347
1928	..	15,989	319,259	959	69,507	815	11,219	422,175	326,553	748,728
1929	..	12,941	205,330	677	46,286	1,916	24,640	293,938	288,849	582,787
1930	..	12,285	166,221	1,007	61,294	3,424	44,259	284,515	275,355	559,870
1931	..	11,062	109,220	620	35,284	3,044	39,022	194,447	164,950	359,397
1932	..	10,879	108,698	825	49,712	2,383	20,016	183,028	150,902	333,930
1933	..	11,526	101,347	899	41,813	2,928	26,999	173,837	150,856	324,693
1934	..	8,948	60,654	1,027	29,498	3,437	35,796	128,117	92,784	220,901
1935	..	12,501	108,695	576	19,639	3,893	38,146	189,298	135,757	325,055
1936	..	13,014	156,873	1,065	46,607	4,573	46,737	263,255	167,020	430,275

The destinations of the three main exports during 1936 were as follows⁽¹⁾ :—

Country.				Copra.	Cocoa.	Bananas.
				Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	..	..	..	3,032	536	..
New Zealand	..	..	..	..	76	4,573
Australia	..	..	..	..	5	..
United States of America	..	..	..	561	166	..
European ports (exact destination unknown)	..	..	..	6,872	282	..
Canada	..	..	..	84	..	..
Holland	..	..	..	1,159	..	..
Mexico	..	..	..	1,306	..	..
Totals	..	..	..	13,014	1,065	4,573

⁽¹⁾ See minutes of the Thirtieth Session of the Permanent Mandates Commission, page 121.