Despite the low prices paid for this commodity, the export is the largest for some years past. A further recent reduction in price, however, will no doubt reflect seriously on the coming year's exports, growers preferring to use the copra for domestic purposes to offering it for sale at the extremely low prices offering.

Exports.—The following table shows the quantities of main exports over the last seven years:—

		1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Citrus fruit Bananas Tomatoes Copra	(Cases) ,, ,, (Tons)	82,740 $55,769$ $34,750$ $1,546$	85,593 62,390 54,218 1,294	92,752 47,494 17,737 1,545	78,099 52,314 34,545 963	48,268* 22,539* 62,383 1,353	1 ,	69,369 39,910 34,390 1,629

^{*} Reduced exports due to the effect of hurricane.

SHIPPING.

Overseas shipping at the Port of Avarua, Rarotonga, for the period under review comprised a total of twenty-six vessels, as follows: Union Steam Ship Co.'s cargo-vessels, 5; Union Steam Ship Co.'s m.v. "Matua," 12; American cargo-vessels, 1; cruising vessels, 5; local schooners, 3.

FINANCE.

For the financial year ended 31st March, 1938, income amounted to £56,598 12s. 4d., and expenditure to £47,207 5s. 9d., showing a surplus of income over expenditure of £9,391 6s. 7d. Subsidies from the New Zealand Treasury on account of medical, hospital, and educational services amounted to £11,000, this amount being included in the above figures.

Assets, including cash in hand, as at 31st March, amounted to £121,841 0s. 9d. This includes an amount of £30,000 made available by loan from the New Zealand Treasury as working-capital for the handling and exporting of oranges and bananas under Government control, and is shown in the balance-sheet as a loan to the Fruit Control Department.

Detailed statements of income and expenditure and balance-sheet are printed on pages 15, and 16, Appendix A.

Fruit-control Finance.—Government control of the handling, exporting, and marketing of all oranges from the Cook Islands came into operation from 1st May, 1937, under the authority of the Cook Islands Fruit Control Regulations 1937.

The year's operations (as at 31st March, 1938) resulted in a surplus of £461–11s. 10d., in addition to which there is a Reserve Fund of £252–12s. 3d. and an amount standing to the credit of a Growers' Debt Redemption Fund of £936–8s.

The balance-sheet shows assets valued at £34,793 1s. 3d. Details of accounts and balance-sheet are printed on page 16, Appendix Λ .

	Medical.							
Hospital—								
In-patients		• •				• •		287
Out-patients								18,937
${ m Treatment}$								
(a) Inject	ions							
(1)								89
(2)		ı (asthma)						15
(3)	Colloidal	calcium						76
(4)		ol vaccine						90
(5)	Novaisen							607
(6)		oid bacillus						1,470
(7)		eoccol vacci	$_{ m ne}$					14
(b) Anæst								
(1)	$\operatorname{General}$. ,						33
	Local							190
(c) Operat	ions—							
	Major			, .				15
	Minor							358
(d) Confin	\mathbf{ements}							89
		trea t ment						236
	nasal exan	$_{ m ninations}$						61
(g) X-ray								22
(h) Visits								1,390