

The following table illustrates the trend of trade in the Cook Islands from 1925 to date :—

Year				Imports.	Exports.	Total.
				£	£	£
1925	..	..	..	130,609	151,939	282,548
1930	..	..	..	103,468	109,438	212,906
1931	..	..	..	69,260	79,945	149,205
1932	..	..	..	63,585	73,409	136,994
1933	..	..	..	76,716	73,983	150,699
1934	..	..	..	61,449	59,307	120,756
1935	..	..	..	61,676	53,599	115,275
1936	..	..	..	72,576	67,556	140,132
1937	..	..	..	86,534	86,333	172,867
1938	..	..	..	74,789	73,184	147,973

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

—		1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Citrus fruit	.. (Cases)	85,593	92,752	78,099	48,268	75,390	69,369	94,852
Bananas ..	.. „	62,390	47,494	52,314	22,539	49,431	39,910	45,209
Tomatoes..	.. „	54,218	17,737	34,545	62,383	38,546	34,390	15,442
Copra ..	.. (Tons)	1,294	1,545	963	1,353	689	1,629	908

Crop Prospects.—For the coming season the prospects in Rarotonga and in the Group Islands are for a light orange crop.

SHIPPING.

Overseas shipping at the Port of Avarua, Rarotonga, for the period under review comprised a total of twenty-eight vessels, as follows: Union Steam Ship Co.'s cargo-vessels, 1; Union Steam Ship Co.'s m.v. "Matua," 13; American cargo-vessels, 3; cruising vessels, 6; local schooners, 5.

LEGISLATION.

The only legislation passed in respect of the Group was the Order in Council dated 30th January, 1939, relating to the departure of persons from the Cook Islands.

MEDICAL.

There was an epidemic of influenza in May, and an outbreak of measles assumed epidemic proportions during the months of July and August, waning in September. No other serious outbreaks of sickness occurred.

Pratique.—On twenty-three occasions overseas vessels were inspected on arrival and pratique granted, except twice when measles occurred amongst the crew and twice on account of measles ashore.

The epidemic of measles dislocated the usual itinerary of the trading schooners and it was necessary to enforce strict precautions lest the disease be carried to uninfected islands. The auxiliary schooner "Tiare Taporo" had, previous to the discovery of measles in Rarotonga, taken the disease to Aitutaki, Penrhyn, and Manihiki. In all, it was necessary to examine these schooners sixteen times.

An epidemic, chiefly of rubella, broke out during the first week of July, and all schools, churches, Sunday schools and the picture-theatre were closed and gatherings prohibited. The schools were soon converted into temporary hospitals and quarantine stations. Many Europeans gave their assistance freely in the control of these hospitals, and numerous Maori male orderlies and female nurses (chiefly from the child-welfare organization) were offering. The ancient organization of Arikis, Mataiapos, and Rangatiras was appealed to, to supply Native foods, fish, and firewood. Stores contributed a great deal in the matter of food, &c., so that when all was working smoothly the call on the Government funds was not strained.

Dr. Rose was the sole assistant to the Chief Medical Officer until the arrival of Dr. Dawson, Medical Officer of Health of New Zealand, who remained one month.

Though the epidemic was generally of a mild type, there were several cases which ran high temperatures and threatened respiratory complications. No deaths occurred, however, and great credit is due to the close and continuous attention and careful watch maintained night and day by the medical officers, the nursing staff, and voluntary workers.

Fortunately, within two months the epidemic abated and restrictions were removed.

Staff.—Dr. Rose was appointed Assistant Medical Officer, and commenced duties on the 23rd May, 1938. The Chief Medical Officer was engaged chiefly in Rarotonga, but visited Mangaia and Aitutaki in August, and Mangaia, Mauke, and Atiu in September. He left in September for New Zealand and Fiji to connect with the "Tui Cakau," primarily to collect lepers from Pukapuka, Manihiki, Penrhyn, and Samoa and transport them to Makogai; he returned to New Zealand by R.M.S. "Niagara," and arrived back in Rarotonga on the 19th November.