

Fiji.

The latest figures available are for 1923, and in that year 41 per cent. of the total trade of Fiji was done with New Zealand. This market, like the Samoan market, is one that requires the close attention of New Zealand manufacturers and merchants. There is direct shipping, as is indicated by the fact that New Zealand takes anything from 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the exports of Fiji, chiefly sugar and tropical fruits. The shipping facilities, therefore, for return cargo are available at regular intervals.

The following goods supplied by Australia could, in large measure, be conveniently and competitively supplied by New Zealand. It should be noted that trade in these goods amounts to £110,000 from Australia and only £12,000 from New Zealand.

	Australia.	New Zealand.
	£	£
Biscuits	10,000	84
Boots and shoes	3,500	600
Brushware	1,000	180
Candles	140	30
Cement (United Kingdom £6,000)	700	365
Coal	36,000	13
Confectionery	2,300	2,000
Cordage and ropes	5,000	700
Fruit, fresh	1,300	400
Fruit, preserved	2,700	260
Furniture	1,500	80
Jams	2,400	60
Leatherware	6,200	606
Agricultural machinery (United States of America £10,000)	7,000	250
Manures	18,000	2,600
Matches	2,160	20
Milk, condensed	3,200	2,200
Oatmeal	300	180
Linseed-oil	300	40
Pickles	700	70
Soaps	3,400	1,030
Tar	850	100
Twine	960	80
Vinegar	270	20
Totals	£109,820	£11,962

JAVA AND THE EAST.

The Department has persisted in its efforts to interest exporters and manufacturers in the possibilities of trade with Java. The difficulties experienced in engendering practical interest in the proposal are very great, mainly due to the apathy shown in the setting-up of local organizations to examine the facts and provide the funds to exploit this market thoroughly. The Department has shown its willingness on all occasions to co-operate with and advise any firm or organization as to the trade possibilities. A private company with headquarters at Auckland has been formed to develop trade relations between New Zealand and Java. This company provides a definite New Zealand organization with expert officers through which primary producers and manufacturers may export their produce to the East. The company is favourably situated to import all Eastern products into New Zealand. A tour of the main centres to interview possible exporters has been undertaken, and an earnest endeavour made to arrange for preliminary consignments to try out the Javan market. In conjunction with the industrialists of New Zealand, an effort will also be made to have a New Zealand stand at the next Sourabaya Fair to be held at the latter part of this year.

During the year the Department has made several appointments of honorary trade representatives. Mr. H. C. Tennent is now acting on the Dominion's behalf at Honolulu, Hawaii; the British Chamber of Commerce at Marseilles, France; and Mr. B. R. Avery at Johannesburg. Trade representatives are also acting in Belgium (Antwerp), India (Calcutta), and South Africa (Durban). The paid officers of the Government, Messrs. W. A. James at Vancouver and H. Stephenson Smith at San Francisco, continue to supply the Department with valuable information concerning trade matters in respect of the countries they represent, whilst Messrs. H. J. Manson (Melbourne) and W. R. Blow (Sydney) are in constant touch with the Department in regard to Commonwealth trade and industries.

COMMERCIAL TRUSTS ACT.

During the year the Attorney-General took action under the Commercial Trusts Act, 1910, against a number of firms engaged in the production and distribution of flour. This action involved the Department in a great deal of work in the preparation and presentation of the case for the Crown. The case was heard in Dunedin in November, 1924. The hearing occupied ten days, during which over thirty witnesses appeared for the Crown and twelve for the defence. Considerable public interest was manifested throughout the hearing. The case for the Crown was conducted by Mr. F. B. Adams,