

The following table gives, in comparison with the similar table relative to exports, a rather striking view of this trade disparity :—

Value of New Zealand's Imports according to Country of Origin, 1925, 1926, and 1927.

	1925.	1926.	1927.
British Possessions, Protectorates, &c.—			
United Kingdom	£ 25,572,802	£ 22,827,406	£ 21,462,977
India and Ceylon	1,757,337	1,730,399	1,614,624
South African Union	113,950	140,021	122,597
Canada	3,916,237	3,431,533	2,737,401
Australia	5,249,493	4,625,200	3,870,636
Fiji	1,239,456	892,894	424,785
All other British countries	413,001	426,288	484,027
	38,262,276	34,073,741	30,717,047
Foreign Countries and Possessions—			
United States of America	8,885,265	10,000,507	8,077,066
France	918,572	814,929	891,499
Germany	500,475	673,472	838,600
Dutch East Indies	610,686	793,457	882,160
Japan	693,632	582,352	591,805
All other foreign countries	2,585,501	2,951,105	2,784,769
	14,194,131	15,815,822	14,065,899
Totals, all countries	52,456,407	49,889,563	44,782,946

These figures clearly show that while the total of our purchases from foreign countries is fairly well maintained, our buying from British countries has appreciably declined during recent years.

The percentages of our imports coming from the main countries of origin during the past three years have been as under :—

United Kingdom	1925.	1926.	1927.
United States of America	48.68	45.60	47.93
Australia	16.94	20.05	18.04
Canada	9.99	9.27	8.64
India and Ceylon	7.46	6.88	6.11
Fiji	3.36	3.57	3.61
France	2.36	1.79	0.95
Germany	1.75	1.63	1.99
Japan	0.95	1.35	1.87
Dutch East Indies	1.32	1.17	1.32
	1.16	1.59	1.97

BANKING RETURNS.

The banking returns as at the 31st March, 1928, record a marked improvement over the position disclosed by the returns of a year earlier. At the 31st March, 1927, advances were in excess of deposits by an amount of no less than £5,271,996. At the end of March in the current year this excess of advances had been changed into an excess of deposits of £3,887,926. In other words, the banking position may be said to have shown an improvement during the twelve months of £9,159,922. This substantial improvement in the banking position arises, of course, very largely from the improved state of the Dominion's export trade during the past twelve months, and from the fact that in May of 1927 the bank rates for overdrafts and for deposits were increased, the minimum overdraft rate being moved up from 6½ per cent. to 7 per cent.

The following table shows for the past seven years the deposits and advances as at the 31st March in each year :—

As at 31st March,	Deposits.	Advances.	Excess of	
			Advances.	Deposits.
	£	£	£	£
1922	40,360,390	46,491,315	6,130,925	..
1923	43,465,816	42,521,573	..	944,243
1924	47,033,293	44,403,524	..	2,629,769
1925	49,897,228	43,730,262	..	6,166,966
1926	47,302,480	48,285,142	982,662	..
1927	45,528,812	50,800,808	5,271,996	..
1928	49,958,293	46,070,367	..	3,887,926