

	Public Health.		Education.		All other Services.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Payments (including capital expenditure)	8,411	16 9	8,875	10 2	25,527	16 8	42,815	3 7
Grants received from New Zealand ..	5,000	0 0	6,013	0 0	..		11,013	0 0
Found by Cook Islands Administration	3,411	16 9	2,862	10 2	25,527	16 8	31,802	3 7

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

The balance-sheet takes into account the value (after writing off depreciation amounting to £2,181 2s. 4d.) of all Administration assets as at 31st March, 1934, and all liabilities, and shows an excess of assets amounting to £74,448 10s. 3d.

TRADE.

For the year ended 31st December, 1933, the value of exports was £73,983, and of imports £76,716, showing an excess of imports of £2,733. For the previous year the corresponding figures were exports £73,409, and imports £63,585.

Details are printed on page 17, Appendix B.

The following table illustrates the manner in which the trade of the Cook Islands has dropped during the years of depression:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1920	177,991	94,697	272,608
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

Copra Trade.—The price of copra has steadily dropped lower and lower until at the present time it pays neither the producer to make it nor the trading firms to handle it. The Northern Islands, where copra is practically the only export, will be seriously affected unless there is an immediate improvement. As a means of helping the situation the copra-tax has been suspended until 31st March, 1935, when the position is to be reviewed.

The following figures for the years 1928 to 1933 show how the value of copra exported from the Cook Islands has declined:—

Year.	Tons exported.	Total Value.	Year.	Tons exported.	Total Value.
		£			£
1928	1,770	33,071	1931	1,546	11,677
1929	2,020	28,648	1932	1,294	12,340
1930	2,143	23,478	1933	1,545	13,513

Pearl Shell.—Efforts are being made to revive the pearl-shell industry at Penrhyn and Manihiki, but at present the position is doubtful.

Orange Trade.—The embargo against Australian fruit should have the effect of assisting the Cook Islands orange trade, and producers have been encouraged to put a great deal of work into the scientific cultivation of their citrus plantations. For the coming season there are prospects of a good crop at Rarotonga, but reports from Group Islands indicate a light yield.

Bananas.—So far as the banana trade is concerned, the position is not encouraging, as prices to producers continue to be low in spite of the voluntary quota system of supplies to New Zealand markets in force.

Tomatoes.—Last season was a disastrous one for tomato-growers, as, owing to adverse weather conditions, a large proportion of the crop was lost. The export was 17,700 cases as against 54,200 cases for the previous year. Heavy plantings are expected for the coming season.

Shipping.—The Cook Islands fruit trade will always be under a very severe handicap until ships with insulated space are provided for the service. A reduction in freights is also long overdue.

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

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Citrus fruits (Cases)	123,021	142,315	106,187	128,196	82,740	85,593	92,752
Bananas ..	45,470	47,410	51,026	53,493	55,769	62,390	47,494
Tomatoes ..	41,080	51,955	52,685	30,263	34,750	54,218	17,737
Copra (Tons)	1,676	1,770	2,020	2,143	1,546	1,294	1,545