

X. JUDICIAL ORGANIZATION

The Samoa Act, 1921, and the Native Land and Titles Protection Ordinance 1934 prescribe the judiciary for the Territory.

There are a Chief Judge, four Commissioners of the High Court, three Native Associate Judges, and fourteen District Native Judges.

The three Native Associate Judges in the High Court have jurisdiction pursuant to section 67 of the Samoa Act, and are associated with the Chief Judge in weekly sittings of the High Court in Apia. They are also members of the Native Land and Titles Court. Only three of the fourteen District Native Judges held Court in their districts during the year.

SUMMARY OF HIGH COURT ACTIONS

—					1946.	1947
Civil judgments	..	..	..	..	42	54
Civil actions struck out	..	..	..	..	9	17
Divorces granted	..	..	..	..	21	19
Criminal convictions	..	..	..	..	1,187	1,617
Total fines	..	..	..	..	£824	£1,524

PROCEEDINGS OF NATIVE LAND AND TITLES COURT

—					Year ended 31st March,	
					1946.	1947.
Number of sittings	..	..	..	..	2	1
Number of sitting-days	..	..	..	..	69	11
Petitions dealt with	..	..	..	..	56	12
Number of persons attending	..	..	..	..	2,403	929

SUMMARY OF NATIVE DISTRICT JUDGES' COURTS

—					Upolu.	Savai'i.
<i>Criminal</i>						
Number of sittings	..	..	..	..	65	3
Number of cases dealt with	..	..	..	..	65	3
Convictions recorded	..	..	..	..	10	3
Total fines inflicted	..	..	..	..	£4	£2
<i>Civil</i>						
Number of sittings	..	..	..	..	21	7
Number of actions filed	..	..	..	..	21	7
Judgments given	..	..	..	..	7	7

XI. POLICE AND PRISONS

During the year the European strength of the Police Force was reduced by 3, there now being 3 full-Europeans engaged. The part-European staff is now 5, while the Samoan strength has been increased by 1 to 57. In addition, 1 European, 1 part-Samoan, and 1 Samoan are employed on clerical duties.

Two of the European staff returned to New Zealand on the expiration of their terms. By the death in November, 1946, of the Inspector of Police, Mr. A. L. Braisby, the Administration suffered a very great loss. Inspector Braisby had spent twenty-seven years in the Police Force in the Territory,