

REPORT.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Arthur William de Brito Savile, Earl of Liverpool, Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Member of the Royal Victorian Order, Knight of Grace of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Dominion of New Zealand and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the several matters and things referred to in the Commission, a copy of which is attached hereto, have the honour to submit the following report :—

We held our first meeting in Auckland on the 14th May, 1919, when it was decided that no evidence be taken prior to our arrival in Samoa, in the hope that we might thus gain the confidence of both the European and Native population.

We also considered it advisable that the question of taking evidence in public or in private (which had been left to the discretion of the Commission) should be settled on the spot by the witnesses themselves.

Colonel Logan, Administrator of Western Samoa, who was on furlough in Auckland, asked that his evidence be taken before our departure. The position being explained to him, he then asked to be allowed to hand in a statement. This statement was received but not read by the Commissioners; it was sealed up in the presence of Colonel Logan, who swore to the truth of its contents. He understood that if the meeting of witnesses previously mentioned decided that all evidence be taken in public, his statement would be read in open Court.

We left Auckland for Apia by the s.s. "Talune" on Saturday, the 17th May, and arrived at our destination on the 30th May, 1919 (Samoan time).

On our arrival, at a meeting of witnesses and persons interested, called by advertisement, it was unanimously decided that all evidence be taken in public, and that resolution, as far as possible, was carried out during the whole inquiry.

QUESTION NO. 1. *The circumstances and causes of the introduction of epidemic pneumonic influenza into the Islands of Western Samoa in or about the month of November, 1918, and of its extension in those islands.*

The whole of the evidence goes to prove that there was no epidemic pneumonic influenza in the Islands of Western Samoa prior to the arrival of the "Talune" from Auckland on Thursday, 7th November, 1918 (Samoan time); that the day following its arrival a lady passenger died of pneumonic influenza; that in two days after its arrival a male passenger, by the same steamer died of the same disease; that in seven days after its arrival pneumonic influenza was epidemic in Upolu; that it spread with amazing rapidity throughout Upolu, and later throughout Savaii, the other island of Western Samoa, distance from Upolu at the nearest point about twenty miles; that up to the 31st December, 1918, 7,542 persons died of influenza, or as a consequence of the prevalence of influenza. Particulars are detailed in the following table :—

WESTERN SAMOA.

			POPULATION.
1902	..	..	.. 32,815
1906	..	..	.. 34,962
1911	..	..	.. 34,063
1917	..	..	.. 37,223
1918 (30th September) ..	..	..	.. 38,302 sixteen years' increase, 5,487.
1918 (31st December) ..	..	..	.. 30,738—now decrease, 2,077.