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\* See also Supplementary Report of the Department of Health, referred to above.

## STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT ON POLITICAL AGITATION.

The political unrest referred to in last year's report became greatly intensified during the year under review, and has led to a position of considerable difficulty and delicacy. As explained in last year's report, the committee formed in October, 1926, set itself to organize opposition to the Administration, and with the assistance at the outset of what was merely a small coterie of Natives gradually extended its influence. By unwarranted and unjustified criticism of the policy of the Administration, by large and empty statements to the Natives, by manipulation of the family system still existent among the Samoans, by a display of wealth, and by the influence through Native connections of certain members of the committee, the movement attained a momentum as unexpected as it was unjustified by the actual facts.

In the beginning of June, 1927, the Minister of External Affairs paid a visit to the Territory, and on the 11th June, after investigating the position for himself, met members of the committee, now considerably swollen in size, and a large gathering of apparently sympathetic Natives. Satisfied with the entire absence of any justification for the mischief already caused by the activities of the committee and its following, which had then become known as the "Mau," the Minister adopted a firm attitude and made it quite plain that the New Zealand Government would tolerate no tampering with the efforts on behalf of the Natives of the New Zealand Government and the Administration. The European members of the committee in particular were urged by the Minister to take no further part in the movement, and to do their utmost to remedy the harm that had already been done. The proceedings of the Minister's meeting with the committee are set out in detail in Parliamentary Paper A. 4B, 1927, which has already been published in New Zealand and forwarded to the League of Nations and to members of the Permanent Mandates Commission.

As it was apparent that the committee had no intention of ceasing its disruptive activities, the Minister, just prior to his departure from Samoa, warned certain members of the committee, on authority from New Zealand, that if they persisted in destroying the harmony of Western Samoa it might be necessary to deport them from the Territory. With the exception, however, of a formal