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

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE YEAR 1928–29.

THE Annual Report on Western Samoa for the year 1928–29 is submitted in similar form to those of previous years. It comprises (1) the Administrator's covering remarks, (2) departmental reports, (3) answers to the League of Nations questionnaire, (4) answers to special inquiries by the Permanent Mandates Commission, (5) legislation, and (6) charts, photographs, and maps.

I. ADMINISTRATOR.

Major-General Sir George Richardson, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., left Samoa on the 6th April, 1928, and Colonel S. S. Allen, C.M.G., D.S.O., arrived on the 3rd May, 1928.

II. OFFICIAL VISITS.

Messrs. P. D. N. Verschaffelt, Public Service Commissioner, A. D. Park, Assistant Secretary to the Treasury, and C. A. Berendsen, Secretary for External Affairs, visited Samoa and remained for a period of some four weeks in November and December. They subsequently presented to the Minister of External Affairs a report on the finances and staff of the Administration, and made numerous recommendations for a reduction in expenditure, a simplification of the finances, and an improvement in staff. This report, which was generally endorsed by the Administrator, was approved by the Government, and steps are being taken to put into effect the majority of the recommendations as opportunity offers. The report was confined to the machinery of the Administration, and did not touch upon the political situation.

III. TRADE.

A remarkable increase in trade for the calendar year 1928 is shown, and prices have continued fairly satisfactory for the principal export commodities. The total trade for the year was £748,728 (made up of imports, £326,553, and exports, £422,175), as against a total of £640,347 for 1927 (made up of imports, £304,369, and exports, £335,978). The climatic conditions for island produce have been favourable.

IV. NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Native unrest continues, and the Mau organization still contains some two-thirds of the Native population. This is reflected in the revenue from Native taxes, which has produced for the year ended 31st March, 1929, the sum of £6,343 out of an estimated return of £19,400. In spite of the diminution in Native tax receipts, the activities of the Administration on behalf of the Samoan population by way of education and medical treatment have been fully maintained.