

I.—INTRODUCTORY.

Particular reference has been made in this report to the matters considered by the Permanent Mandates Commission during the examination in its twenty-sixth session of the report for 1933-34. The information required by members has been indexed, and particulars will be found hereunder :—

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Western Samoa lies between latitudes 13° and 15° south, and longitudes 171° and 173° west, and consists of the two main islands, Upolu and Savai'i, and the smaller islets of Apolima, Manono, Fanuatapu, Namua, Nu'utele, Nu'ulua, and Nu'usafe'e.

The Group has a linear disposition in a direction from west-north-west to east-south-east, along which line Savai'i has a length of forty-seven miles, its greatest breadth being twenty-seven miles ; the Apolima Strait occupies about eight miles, and Upolu has a length of forty-seven miles, its greatest breadth being only fifteen miles.

All the islands are mountainous, rising to heights of 6,094 ft. in Savai'i and 3,608 ft. in Upolu, the Native population living for the most part in villages along the seaboard. The total area is 1,133 square miles. The climate is mild and equable throughout the year. The average temperature during the last ten years has been 79·4° Fahrenheit ; the average annual rainfall for the same period was 117·76 in. The Native population is 49,501. The non-Native population is 3,586.

II.—STATUS OF THE TERRITORY.

The Territory is administered pursuant to a mandate conferred upon His Britannic Majesty, to be exercised on his behalf by the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand, and confirmed by the Council of the League of Nations on the 17th December, 1920.

III.—STATUS OF THE POPULATION.

Native inhabitants of Western Samoa are defined in documents of travel as " British protected persons, Natives of Western Samoa."

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Council of the League of Nations on the 23rd April, 1923, provision for individual inhabitants of the Territory voluntarily to obtain British naturalization was enacted. These provisions were contained in the British Nationality and Status of Aliens (in New Zealand) Act, 1923, which has now been repealed and replaced by the British Nationality and Status of Aliens (in New Zealand) Act, 1928.

Since 1923, certificates of naturalization have been granted to sixteen Native Samoans and to fourteen others.

IV.—INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

(a) INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

The General International Conventions that have been applied to Western Samoa were described in the report for 1931-32 (page 24). There have been no additions during the year under review.

A list of Bi-lateral Agreements extended to the Territory was published in the minutes of the twenty-second session of the Permanent Mandates Commission (page 72), and additions are shown hereunder :—

Extradition Treaties between the United Kingdom and the States of Iraq, Portugal, and San Marino.

Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States of America relative to the disposal of real and personal property, signed on the 2nd March, 1899.

Trade Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand signed at Canberra on the 5th September, 1933 (in part).