

The number of *Pulenu'u* (village rulers) on the staff during the year was 115, and the number of *Pulefa'atoaga* (Lands Inspectors) was 15.

No major changes in general administration have been brought into operation during the year, but commencing from the 1st April, 1935, the duties of *Pulefa'atoaga* are being merged in the duties of the *Pulenu'u* and village chiefs. The services of the 15 *Pulefa'atoaga* are being dispensed with, and the numbers of *Pulenu'u* are to be increased up to an additional 30. Progress in the matter will be dealt with in next year's report.

Berlin Treaty.—The position relating to the Berlin Treaty of 1889 and the fact that it was annulled by the Treaty of 1899 has been fully explained to the Samoans on many occasions. Early in 1934 a comprehensive statement thereon was published in the *Savali*, the official organ of the Administration, which is printed in the Samoan language, and distributed free of charge to every Native family in Western Samoa.

The meeting referred to on page 122 of the minutes of the twenty-sixth session of the Permanent Mandates Commission was held on the 15th day of March, 1934, all sections of the Samoan people being represented. The Mau committee made a request to the Administrator that the alleged grievances, a list of which had previously been supplied, be not referred to or dealt with in any way, consequently there was little to do, and no finality was reached.

TRADE.

The trade turnover shows a total of £220,901 as compared with £324,693 for the previous calendar year, a decrease of almost 32 per cent. During the last quarter of the financial year ending 31st March, 1935, there was a marked rise in the value of copra and also an increase in the value of cocoa. The price paid to growers for bananas, 4s. 6d. per case, is very satisfactory, and remained the same during the whole year. During the last three months of the financial year there was an increased shipment of 4,000 cases of bananas per month. Consequent upon these improvements in all the main products of the Territory the year ended on a very buoyant note, with the outlook for the future brighter than at any period during the last three years.

FINANCE.

The financial year closed with a surplus for the year of £2,303, detailed particulars being given in the chapter on Public Finance.

PERSONS OF PART SAMOAN BLOOD.

Every endeavour is made by the Administration to safeguard the interests of that comparatively large portion of the community which is of part Samoan blood. Considerable use is made of such persons in the Administration Service, and, indeed, in private employment, while a special endeavour has been made to throw open for settlement by this class of citizen suitable areas of Crown land, of which there is ample available, and as the value of tropical products improves it may be expected that this avenue of activities will become increasingly popular. Those part Europeans who possess land are assured of a home and food, and in that respect become as independent as Samoans. To meet the case of those whose blood is not predominantly Samoan provision has been made in the Samoan Status Ordinance, 1934, for reversion to Samoan status where they so desire, for instance, to resume their rights to Samoan lands. There is no special problem concerning women of part Samoan blood.

VISITS.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester honoured the Territory with a visit on the 6th and 7th February, 1935, and received a warm welcome from all sections of the community, both European and Native.

In June, 1934, the Governor of American Samoa paid a visit to the Territory, a reciprocal visit being paid shortly afterwards by the Administrator.

H.M.S. "Dunedin" and H.M.S. "Laburnum," of the New Zealand Division of the Royal Navy, called at Apia towards the end of June, 1934, while engaged in their usual annual cruises to the islands of the South Pacific.

POSTAL AND RADIO.

There have been three overseas mails, both inward and outward, each four weeks, providing two connections with New Zealand and one each with Fiji, Australia, and European and American countries.

A small increase in the volume of mail matter was recorded during the year. The value of money-orders paid at Apia was £5,185 as compared with £5,522 for the previous year, and there was also a slight decrease in the value of postal-notes and British postal-orders. Deposits in the Post Office Savings-bank exceeded withdrawals by £3,822, while the amount held on the 31st March, 1935, at the credit of 1,564 depositors was £40,697 (including interest, £1,071).

A further decline was shown in radio traffic, the number of messages sent being 7,535 and receipts £1,547, as compared with 8,744 and £1,773 respectively for the preceding year. This was due largely to the fact that early in September, 1934, New Zealand commenced handling Papeete traffic direct instead of through Apia Radio as formerly.

LANDS AND SURVEY.

The members of the Department were fully occupied during the year in field work and other miscellaneous duties, amongst which may be mentioned the investigation of 109 Native village cemeteries, and surveys in connection with the Native Land and Titles Commission.