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ANNUAL REPORT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE YEAR 1930-31.

The Annual Report on Western Samoa for the year 1930-31 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, and (5) charts and map.

I. HONOURS.

The honour of being appointed an Honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire was conferred on Malietoa Tanumafili in the New Year honours for 1931. This is the first occasion on which any Samoan has received such an honour, and it has given great satisfaction to the community.

II. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Two sessions of the Council have been held during the year, but the legislation dealt with has been mainly in the direction of consolidating the existing law. I thank the elected members, Messrs. A. W. Johnston and S. H. Meredith, for the help they have given me, and for the counsel and advice they have so willingly offered at all times, as well as for their careful attention to the business of the Council. I also thank Malietoa and Mata'afa for their valuable assistance, and for their advice on Native matters, which has been of great service to me.

III. LEGISLATION.

His Honour the Chief Judge, Mr. J. H. Luxford, has been busy throughout the year in making a thorough scrutiny of the law in force in the Territory, with a view to simplifying and completing it. The work done already is of great value.

IV. FINANCE.

The year has been a difficult one from the financial point of view. Adjustments have been in progress between the Administration and the Reparation Estates, with a view to separating their assets, and, in particular, the Engineering and Transport Department, including the hydro-electric scheme, was purchased by the Administration at a cost exceeding £26,000. Other large non-recurring items of expenditure have been met, such as the purchase of a reserve south of Vailima from the Estates—partly for school purposes and partly for scenery-preservation. A further area has been bought from the Estates adjoining the prison farm, and some smaller pieces of land for compensation and other purposes. In addition, the full cost of the police for the year and all local expenses incurred in connection with the stay of H.M.S. "Dunedin" early in 1930 have been met by the Samoan Treasury. At the same time, the revenue has tended to fall, and rigid economy has had to be practised. In view of these extraordinary demands for expenditure, the results of the year's financial operations are very satisfactory.