

can be little doubt why, from the mid 1920s, he began diligently to file away his correspondence and keep copies of his outgoing letters and other writings. He was, by this time, in the thick of the political turmoil and also an aspiring author and political commentator. He could therefore ill afford to lose or throw away any more material.

Hence, over seven-eighths of Westbrook's Papers relate to or were written during the last fifteen years of his life. This imbalance presents difficulties for the researcher because Westbrook tended to portray himself in an unduly flattering light and liked to reconstruct past events as he thought they ought to have been. Certainly this would allow one to see Westbrook as he viewed himself in his twilight years, but it is also easy to be misled. Westbrook was, most seriously, especially prone to falsifying his accounts of previous occurrences in order to authenticate his current assumptions. Thus the German administration of Samoa (1900-1914), which he frequently abused during its years of rule, was later written of in a most eulogistic strain the purpose being to blacken the New Zealand administration's image. This fact was too blatant to be missed by Westbrook's critics<sup>14</sup> but he is not so transparent on other matters, such as indentured Chinese labour and his feelings towards the British Military Administration.

#### *OFFICIAL PAPERS*

This section contains a disparate collection of material covering German, British military and New Zealand rule in Western Samoa plus some Papuan statutory papers. In view of this diversity, it is merely intended here to list some of the material whose presence is not indicated by the Westbrook Papers inventory. The list is very selective, though, and the criteria for inclusion are not so much the importance of a particular document as the fact that it is not readily available elsewhere. All official printed ordinances, debates and the like, of which there are many, are therefore excluded.

#### *Folder 3: Legislative Council Papers, 1924-27*

Reply to an address in Reply delivered by Toelupe at the Fono of Faipules, December 1926. Westbrook himself probably wrote this.

Letter from R. P. Berking, the President of the Planters' Association, to the Administrator and Legislative Council asking that Reparation Estates be released on freehold as an incentive to young planters. The first page is missing hence the date of writing is unknown.

Propositions for a Native Council. (n.d.) The subject matter of this document ranges far beyond native councils. Such matters as the water supply and Whit Monday are discussed.