

trader, and has thereby secured for the natives a price that will induce them to cultivate their plantations, with the result that since America instituted this system the output of copra has been increased ninefold. The American authorities call for tenders for the output, and accept the highest tender.

New Zealand sent a Parliamentary party to inspect Samoa. To these a booklet was presented, entitled, "Samoa's Problems" "A series of reports compiled by the Citizens' Committee, appointed by the citizens of British Western Samoa, at a public meeting held in the Market Hall, Apia, on January 26, 1920, in view of the forthcoming visit of the New Zealand Parliamentary Party." A few quotations from that booklet will be illuminating, and coming from the people who are asking for Indentured Labour, cannot be prejudiced against it. What could more clearly show that indentured labour is wanted not to develop Samoa, but to fill the planters' pockets, than the following paragraph:—

"We would also lay great stress upon the fact that with the present price paid for copra, a native and his wife can (if they are in want of money), by cutting out 400lbs. of dry copra, an easy task, earn in one day more than the planters could afford to pay them in a month."

If every two free labourers can earn a month's wages by one day's easy work, it is an easy calculation to find out what the planter expects to put in his own pocket. They earn their month's wages in a day; every other day of the month they work for the planter's gain. As to the type of labourer required after setting forth that they were trying to get Chinese coolies the report goes on that failing Chinese labour, "our only other hope of securing sufficient labour is from Dutch East Indies." Then is inserted the following report from a German planter who has lived some years in Sumatra:—"I will give you some particulars about my experience in Sumatra during six years' work on plantations with Javanese and Chinese labour. . . . We had in Sumatra only indentured labour. As indentured labour you can get men and women married or single, as required. They will find each other and live together. The Javanese works at least as well as the Chinese nowadays, and he will be cheaper. In any case, Javanese labourers are far

easier to satisfy than Chinese. Rice, dry fish, and cocoanut oil, will be their staple food, and if sometimes fresh meat is added, they will be very satisfied. In Sumatra these people supplied their own food, and got only wages, which were, during my stay, very low. Men, 6 guilden per month (about 10s pre-war), women 3½ guilden (5s 10d). . . . The Javanese is far easier to treat than Chinese. He still has respect for the white race. . . . Now as to the location from whence to take the Javanese. The further from Batavia and Soerabaga the better. The Batavians, the so-called Sudanese, are too far advanced in culture, and want any amount of privileges, but the people far in the interior are very harmless, and will learn quickly."

This extract scarcely needs comment. Evidently these "gentlemen" want labourers who don't ask for privileges; who are not advanced in culture; who will take low wages and inferior food; in short, poor savages, too weak and friendless to defend themselves, and who can easily be exploited for the gain of their employer.

Surely Christian women of New Zealand will not permit this iniquity under our own flag. If Chinese coolies are secured it means race pollution, as these men form temporary unions with Samoan women, and go back to their own wives in China, leaving half-caste children with the worst characters of both races.

Indian coolies cannot be obtained. The Indian Government has stopped recruiting its people because of the great abuses in Fiji and elsewhere. The British Government, after its experiences with indentured labour in Fiji, South Africa, etc., has abandoned the system. Now our New Zealand Government has been allowed, we believe on their own request, to try indentured labour in Samoa.

If this Government cannot develop Samoa with free labour, instead of begging permission to try a brand of slavery, they should send to America for a man to show them how America increases production with free labour. Free labour will develop Samoa, but free labour will not allow the planter to pocket the proceeds of the labourer's month's work and return him the price of one day's work. By free labour, not development, but dividends suffer.

This is but another phase of the fight between God and Mammon. For greed

of gold we forced opium upon China, let us not allow this mistake to be repeated. We women of New Zealand are the keepers of our Samoan sisters. Let us not allow them to be degraded by an influx of Chinese coolies. Let us heed the words of the "Modern Isaiah":

"He's true to God who's true to man;  
Wherever wrong is done,  
To the humblest and the weakest,  
'Neath the all-beholding sun,  
That wrong is also done to us;  
And they are slaves most base,  
Whose love of right is for themselves,  
And not for all their race."

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#### WORTH NOTING.

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The American Minister to Siam announces that in deference to the will of the American people his quarters will be dry, and no wine will be offered to diplomats.

The "Union Signal" publishes signed statements by the Mayors of Oregon, Detroit, Spokane, Atlanta, and Tacoma, declaring that since Prohibition came into effect their cities have increased in population, decreased in crime, bank deposits largely increased, and number of families needing charitable aid largely decreased. Drunkenness is so uncommon as to be almost entirely eliminated.

St. Lawrence County had an overcrowded gaol—70 in space meant for 30—and suggestion was made to enlarge. Another suggestion, which was carried out, was to empty the gaol by voting Prohibition. They rapidly dropped till at last only five prisoners were there from a county with a population of 93,000. Instead of building a 100,000 dollar gaol, they are now wondering what to do with the old gaol.

Mrs Phillips, representing the Stratford Committee, is the only lady delegate to the School Committees' Association Conference.

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A certain Ohio brewery, recently converted into a malted milk plant, now employs 278 men, where formerly only 78 were engaged. The business has been changed and the plant enlarged at very little expense. Some one remarked to the head of the concern, who was expressing his satisfaction at the change in his business, "You feed babies now instead of starve them." "I guess you are right," was the reply.