

## SAMOA.

*Reigning King.*—Malietao Laupepa, restored November 9, 1889.

Group of 14 volcanic islands in the South Pacific, the chief of which are Upolu, Savaii, and Tutuila. At a Samoan conference at Berlin in 1889, at which Great Britain, Germany, and the United States were represented, an Act was signed (June 14), guaranteeing the neutrality of the islands, in which the citizens of the three signatory Powers have equal rights of residence, trade, and personal protection. The three Powers recognise the independence of the Samoan Government, and the free rights of the natives to elect their chief or king, and choose the form of government according to their own laws and customs. A supreme court is established, consisting of one judge, who shall be styled Chief Justice of Samoa. Mr. Conrad Cederkrantz (late assistant judge at Stockholm) has been appointed by the King of Sweden and Norway as provided by the Treaty. To this Court shall be referred (1) all civil suits concerning real property situated in Samoa, and all rights affecting the same; (2) all civil suits of any kind between natives and foreigners, or between foreigners of different nationalities; (3) all crimes and offences committed by natives against foreigners, or committed by such foreigners as are not subject to any consular jurisdiction.

All future alienation of lands is prohibited, with certain specified exceptions. A local administration is provided for the municipal district of Apia.

Apia in the island of Upolu is the capital and centre of government.

Area, 1,701 square miles; population, about 36,000, of which 16,600 in Upolu, 12,500 in Savaii, 3,750 in Tutuila. The natives are Polynesians, and there are about 300 whites. The natives are all Christians (Protestant and Roman Catholics), and schools are attached to the churches. The trade is in the hands of German and British firms, and British trade is increasing. Imports, 1883, 93,607*l.*; exports, 52,074*l.*; imports, 1887, 87,000*l.*; exports, 71,340*l.*; imports, 1890 (only collected May 15 to December 31), 43,626*l.* (of which 25,799*l.* were British); exports, 20,509. Chief imports, haberdashery, trinkets, lumber, galvanised roofing, and tinned provisions; chief exports, copra, cotton, and coffee. In 1888 371 vessels (228 German) entered the port of Apia, in 1890 61 (33 British) excluding men-of-war and coasting vessels.

*British Consul.*—T. B. Cusack-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

The Berlin Treaty made the American coinage the standard of exchange in Samoa. Chilian dollars are almost exclusively in circulation, 7 Chilian dollars being the equivalent of 1*l.*

Regular communication is maintained every twenty-eight days by the North German Lloyd steamer *Lübeck*, from Sydney, Australia, *via* Tonga; the Union Company of New Zealand's steamer *Wainui*, from Auckland, N.Z., *via* Tonga, and the same company's through mail steamers from San Francisco to Auckland, which now call at Apia. Letters *via* San Francisco and New York reach England in about twenty-eight days or *via* Australia in about sixty days. Messrs. Donald and Edenborough's steamer *Richmond* calls every six weeks *via* Tonga.

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