

I. INTRODUCTORY

WESTERN SAMOA is comprised of two large islands, Upolu and Savai'i, and the small islands of Manono, Apolima, Fanuatapu, Namu'a, Nu'utele, Nu'ulua, and Nu'usaf'e'e. The Territory lies between the 13th and 15th degrees of south latitude and the 171st and 173rd degrees of west longitude.

Upolu and Savai'i are 45 miles and 46 miles long respectively, and are separated by Apolima strait, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles wide, in which are Manono and Apolima islets; the remainder of the islets are within or near the fringing reef surrounding Upolu and are not inhabited.

The islands of the group have a total area of 1,133 square miles and are mountainous in character, rising to elevations of 6,094 ft. in Savai'i and 3,608 ft. in Upolu. The large majority of the Samoans live in coastal villages, there being only 11 inland villages out of the total of 192 in the whole Territory.

The climate is mild and equable, the average temperatures during the last forty-four years showing a mean daily maximum of 84.7 degrees Fahrenheit, and a mean daily minimum of 73.8 degrees Fahrenheit, while the average annual rainfall for a period of fifty-four years is 112.39 in.

The Samoan population, ascertained by a census on the 25th September, 1945, was 62,422, and the non-Samoan population 5,775; total 68,197.

II. STATUS OF THE TERRITORY

The Territory is administered pursuant to a mandate conferred upon His Britannic Majesty, to be exercised on his behalf by the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand, and confirmed by the Council of the League of Nations on the 17th December, 1920.

In December, 1945, the Prime Minister announced that New Zealand would be agreeable to the application to the Territory of the trusteeship system established by the Charter of the United Nations. A decision to this effect was communicated to the General Assembly of the United Nations in January, 1946, and similarly to the final meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations in April, 1946.

III. STATUS OF THE POPULATION

The Native people of Western Samoa are described in documents of travel as "British-protected persons, Natives of the Mandated Territory of Western Samoa."

The provisions of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens (in New Zealand) Act, 1928, allow individual inhabitants of the Territory voluntarily to obtain British naturalization. Certificates of naturalization have been granted to 43 Native Samoans and to 65 Europeans, including children in both cases.

The law of the Territory provides generally that all persons of one-quarter or more non-Polynesian blood have the racial status of Europeans, but changes may be made voluntarily by registration. By the Samoa Registration of Europeans Regulations 1920, any person of less than full Samoan blood may be granted the status of a European; and the Samoan Status Ordinance 1934 makes provision whereby a person of European status and of not less than half Samoan blood may be granted Samoan status. During the year under review 6 persons took advantage of the regulations to register as Europeans, and 3 applied for Samoan status, making a total of 532 part-Samoans of Samoan status who have been registered as Europeans, and 24 part-Samoans of European status who have become Samoans, in terms of these enactments.