

Return of Criminal Cases for the Period 1st April, 1922, to 31st March, 1923.

Quarter ending	Sitting Days.	Persons charged	Convictions recorded.	Dismissed on Merits.	Withdrawn by leave of Court.
1922.					
June	32	238	208	22	8
September	37	141	126	10	5
December	40	181	139	32	10
1923.					
March	50	162	122	29	11
Totals	159	722	595	93	34

HIGH COURT OF WESTERN SAMOA, ALEIPATA DIVISION.

In respect of Civil Procedure for Period covering 1st April, 1922, to 31st March, 1923.

Number of days on which Court sat	35
Number of actions commenced	100
Number of actions heard	100
Number of judgments given	100

In respect of Criminal Proceedings for Period covering 1st April, 1922, to 31st March, 1923.

Number of days on which Court sat	14
Number of persons charged	17
Number of cases heard	17
Number of judgments given	17
Number of cases dismissed	8

LAND REGISTER, WESTERN SAMOA, AT APIA.

Return of Documents registered for the Period 1st April, 1922, to 31st March, 1923.

Conveyances	34
Mortgages	15
Discharges of mortgages	24
Leases	21
Miscellaneous	19
Total	113

HIGH COURT OF WESTERN SAMOA, AT APIA.

Return of Fines and Fees for the Period 1st April, 1922, to 31st March, 1923.

	£	s.	d.
Fines and costs, criminal cases	1,254	9	0
Fees in civil cases collected by means of stamps, including land registration	535	6	0
Total	£1,789	15	0

N.B.—Does not include fees collected at Savai'i, Aleipata, Native Department, and Chinese Department.

POLICE AND PRISONS.

The criminal statistics accompanying this report deal with all offences reported during 1922, and show an aggregate net increase of 188 on the figures for 1921. This increase, as will be seen from the tables, is mainly in minor offences.

The proportion of offences to the population was 1·98 per cent. as against 1·52 per cent. for the previous year.

The percentage of arrests or summonses resulting from the total offences reported during the year was 96 per cent.—the figures of the preceding year being 95 per cent.

So far there are no confirmed criminals here of the type known in New Zealand and other countries. The communal customs and habits of the Samoans are responsible for many of the petty thefts committed.

During the year advantage was taken of the resignation of the Inspector (for health reasons) to reduce the commissioned officers of the Police Department to two—viz., a Commissioner of Police and a Sub-Inspector. As the Force lacked a man trained and experienced in the investigation of crime and offences, a detective-sergeant was secured on loan from the New Zealand Police Department.