

each other. (For Westbrook's letter to the Chief Justice explaining his part in the affair see Westbrook to Woodward, 14 July 1929, folder 38.)

Two letters between O. F. Nelson and M. J. Savage, dated December 1935, regarding Nelson's return to Samoa.

Folder 10: Speeches and Addresses, 1923-31

Westbrook's reply to the Administrator's article published in the *Samoa Times*, 3 September 1926. This appears to be a report, perhaps for the Citizens' Committee. Westbrook has also made handwritten comments in the margins.¹⁶

CORRESPONDENCE

Because of, or perhaps in spite of, his deficiencies as a public speaker, Westbrook was a prolific and often effective writer. During the last twenty years of his life, he wrote up his reminiscences, frequently contributed to newspapers, drafted many reports and wrote hundreds of letters about Samoan affairs to his numerous acquaintances. These letters are of two types. Firstly there are those to various officials in the Administration and to unsympathetic politicians in New Zealand and, secondly, a greater volume of correspondence to allies, sympathisers and potential supporters in New Zealand and elsewhere.

His letters to the Administration officials, which comprise a tiny proportion of his Papers, are usually an injudicious blend of criticisms and defence of his own actions. They reveal Westbrook to be a public figure of uneven merit and of far greater complexity than Newton Rowe suggests when he remarked that Westbrook's comments on current events were 'more or less pertinent'.¹⁷ In reality Westbrook's letters reveal him to be capable, either alternately or at the same time, of petty, selfish and ill-founded criticism and of thoughtful, perceptive and constructive comment. It is difficult, for example, to ascertain the extent to which Westbrook was guided by self-interest that masqueraded, amongst other things, as an idealistic concern for British justice. The negative qualities of his letters to officials, together with the very irritating tone about them, did nothing to help Westbrook or the cause he supported. Especially galling must have been the sanctimonious manner in which he upgraded his expertise. Nevertheless, when publicly attacked he was capable of very effective rejoinder which could have given no joy to the recipient. As he wrote, in wrath, to Richardson:

Take for instance the fact of you accusing me of heading a riot, at the same time refusing to give your source of information, to enable me to take proceedings against those who were evidently stuffing you with a lot of lies. You and your officials are the cause