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**Title:** The South Sea Islands - Possibilities of Trade with New Zealand

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**In:** The Pamphlet Collection of Sir Robert Stout: Volume 82

**Publication details:**  
Victoria University of Wellington Library,  
Wellington

**Part of:** The Pamphlet Collection of Sir Robert Stout

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# THE PAMPHLET COLLECTION OF SIR ROBERT STOUT: VOLUME 82

## SAMOA (OR NAVIGATOR) GROUP

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## SAMOA (OR NAVIGATOR) GROUP.

### *I.—General Description.*

THE islands of Samoa, which are fourteen in number, lie about 500 miles to the northward of the Tonga Group—the sailing distance from Auckland being 1570 miles. Samoa is situated between 13° 27' and 14° 18' South latitude, 169° 28' and 172° 48' West longitude, and has a total area of 1650 square miles. Nine of the islands are inhabited, the remaining five being insignificant islets, unfit to support population. The principal islands are Savaii, Upolu, and Tutuila, and of these Savaii has the largest area, while Upolu is the most populous. The islands are mostly of volcanic origin, with circling or partly circling reefs. In these reefs there are a number of openings to splendid harbours. Of these, Pagopago, on the island of Tutuila, is believed to be the best harbour in the South Pacific. On Upolu, in addition to the good harbour of Apia, there are several excellent natural harbours, some of them safer and more capacious than Apia. The chief islands of this group being in close proximity to each other, and provided with so many first class harbours, offer unusual advantages for the prosecution of trade, which advantages are further enhanced by the position which the islands occupy in the pathway of steam communication between Australasia and San Francisco. The Government of Samoa is neither stable nor well defined. The native rule, under the reigning monarch, Malietoa Laupepa, is merely nominal, so far as the protection of life and property is concerned; but the chiefs exercise considerable authority over the people, and own a sort of allegiance to Malietoa. How wavering and uncertain this allegiance is may be inferred from the fact that at the present time the vice-king, Tamasese, is in open rebellion against the king's authority, and with 500 or 600 armed followers is in the field within ten miles of Apia, which town is under constant menace of attack. At Apia there is a European population of only 250, and there also are the most of the stores and business places, so that there is real danger to be apprehended; for though the great majority of the natives profess loyalty to Malietoa, it is hard to say how they would act if Tamasese and his gang commenced the work of blood, and showed the example of indiscriminate plundering. The danger is believed to be diminishing, but should a German war-ship in the meantime enter the harbour it is feared that the rebels would make an immediate descent upon the town, in the hope of receiving assistance from Germany. The English and American residents assert that Germany is inciting the rebellion, in order to obtain a pretext for annexing the



country; and it is pointed out, as something more than a coincidence, that on the very day that Tamasese took the field the Imperial flag of Germany was hoisted on the so-called fort at Mulinuu Point, where it has since been allowed to fly, in spite of the fact that the Consul's action has been repudiated by the German Government. King Malietoa, acting, I believe, on the advice of the British Consul and Rev. Mr. Phillips, has shown great forbearance in dealing with the rebels; he has not had recourse to arms to maintain his authority, and has not even deposed Tamasese from the position of vice-king. On the contrary, he is exhausting every conciliatory measure, and is using all his influence, and that successfully, to prevent his subjects from attacking the rebels or hauling down the heartily-hated German flag. In the interests of commerce, it is very much to be desired that an effective European Government should be established in Samoa; even German rule (which traders concur in describing as the worst possible) would be preferable to the present condition of incipient anarchy. I found the people most favourably disposed towards New Zealand and England, and the recent petitions for annexation, I believe, thoroughly represent the opinions of the majority of Samoans. Some years ago, it will be remembered, Samoa appealed for American protection, and a previous unsuccessful petition was forwarded praying for annexation to England, but though German influence is and has long been predominant in the group, the natives have never asked for German protection. The proposal which was mooted some time ago to make the country a British Crown Colony is very unpopular with the traders. When it was mentioned, a prominent American merchant exclaimed—"Save us from that, and rather let us join New Zealand." I would apologise for dwelling at such length on Samoan politics, but it appears to me that a stable Government is the first essential towards the extension of trade with these extensive, populous, and fertile, but most undeveloped islands. The Municipal Government of Apia is well organised and thoroughly effective for the management of the port, and for dealing with offences and disputes. The Municipal Board has six members, composed of the English, American and German Consuls for the time being, with one member nominated by each Consul. It exists under a Convention entered into by the Samoan Government with the Governments of Great Britain, the United States, and Germany, on 2nd September, 1879, and it is to be continued until such time as the Samoan Government is in a position to guarantee the security of life and property. The revenue of the Municipality is chiefly derived from licence fees (which are levied on publicans, store-keepers, and handicraftsmen

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and professional men of all kinds, clergymen excepted), and a tax of one per cent, on the value of all houses and lands, except churches, hospitals, and schools, within the town and district of Apia. Public-house licences cost from \$10 to \$12 per month, and store licences from \$12 to \$100 per annum on a graduated scale according to the amount of business done. Other licences range from \$3 per annum for clerks up to \$60 per annum for lawyers. The sale or supply of intoxicants to natives is strictly prohibited—a publican who offends twice having his licence immediately cancelled, while any other person supplying drink to a native is liable in a fine of \$25 or imprisonment for 30 days. Mr. Kelsall, Police Magistrate, holds a Court daily, if required, to deal with offences and disputes. The revenue of the Municipality last year was \$9,018 77<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>c., chiefly derived from pilotage, licence fees, and property tax, while the chief expenditure was for police and officials. The salaries embrace an allowance of \$220 a year to King Malietoa, which is given in recognition of his sovereign rights over Apia. The balance to credit at 1st January, 1885, was \$1,892, showing the Municipality to be in a healthy state, financially considered. England, Germany and the United States have each a Consular Agent resident at Apia. Mr. Churchward is Acting English Consul; Dr. Stuebel, German Consul; and Mr. Parker, Acting American Consul—Dr. Canisius, the United States Consul, having retired a short time ago. At Apia, near King Malietoa's residence, we saw that grim emblem of civilization, a gallows, but we were informed it is seldom used. Treaties of friendship have been concluded between the Samoan Government (consisting of the King, Vice-King, and two Legislative Chambers called the Taimua and Faipule) and the Governments of England, Germany and the United States. The German Consul a few weeks ago coerced the Samoan Government into making a further agreement specially favouring Germany, but the British representative is insisting upon England having equal privileges.

## ***II.—Population and Products.***

The Samoans are a handsomer and livelier people than the Tongans, to whom, however, they bear a great resemblance in physique and language; being, in fact, a branch of the same race. Several authorities are agreed that Samoa is the centre from which the Maori race became dispersed over the Pacific Ocean. As showing the common origin of the different people, and at the same time illustrating the differentiation of language, it may be pointed out that the word Savait (the name of the principal island of Samoa) is identical with Java, whence the Samoans came; with



Hawaii in the Sandwich Islands, and with Haapai in the Tonga group. Contrary to the rule elsewhere in the Pacific, the native population of Samoa is believed to be increasing, In 1872, the population was estimated at between 33,000 and 34,000, while at present there are believed to be 35,000 on the Islands. The intertribal wars were formerly the chief means of checking the growth of population, but since the wars have ceased the natural increase has been uninterrupted. The European population is nearly all concentrated on Upolu, at Apia and Fasetootai. The imported labourers and Chinese are also on this island. Appended are particulars of the native and foreign population :—

Samoan	35,000
English	160
German	110
French	4
Imported Polynesians	700
Chinese	24
Americans	12
Total	36,010

The natives wear but little clothing, and are altogether in a very primitive condition. They are all nominally Christians, 27,000 being claimed as adherents of the London Church Mission, 4,000 as Wesleyans, and 4,000 Roman Catholics. Work is their particular abomination, and cricketing their chief delight—as many as 200 a-side sometimes taking part in the imported English pastime. The only industry pursued by the men is the collection of copra, oranges, and bananas. The women are pretty industrious in their household duties, and in the manufacture of *tapa* (native cloth) and mats, which constitute the wealth of the Samoans. Nearly every woman has a sewing machine, chiefly of American make; many have two—a hand and a treadle machine; and a number of women hire themselves out to the storekeepers to make native dresses. Education is being spread among the people, through the agency of the missions already named. In connection with the London Missionary Society there are 198 boys' schools and 198 girls' schools, with a total of 8,220 pupils. The Bible is the chief reading book in all the schools, and the effect of Christian teaching has been to modify the savage customs and tribal jealousies of the natives, while their morals are also being slowly but surely improved. The Samoan language is most liquid and musical, well deserving the title of "The Italian of the Pacific." As a people



the Samoans are also the most courtly, being the only branch of the Maori race who have an expression (*faafetai*) for "thanks." There is rich volcanic soil throughout the principal islands of Samoa, and not less than two-thirds of the total area is suited for cultivation. The chief article of export is copra, and the cocoanut trees not only thrive on the coast of Upolu, but grow in luxuriance on elevated plateaux in the interior. Cotton and coffee are also cultivated to some extent—a coffee plantation which we visited on the land of the German Plantation Company being about Soo feet above the sea level. On the same estate there are miles of beautiful cocoanut groves, worked by imported labour. Samoa, and the island of Upolu more particularly, is splendidly adapted for the growth of all tropical products, while the elevated table-lands of the interior are suited for sub-tropical cultivation. Upolu is well watered from the hills, which here attain a height of 4,000 feet—many of them terminating in undoubted volcanic peaks. So far as cultivation is concerned, the edge of the land has only been nibbled at. The German planters have 6,000 acres in cultivation, and there is probably an equal area cultivated by British firms. The German lands referred to have been secured to the purchasers by a treaty negotiated between the German and Samoan Governments on 24th January, 1879. In addition German subjects lay claim to 90,000 acres of land embracing a large portion of the most fertile soil on Upolu; Americans claim 210,000 acres, and the English claims (chiefly those of Messrs. McArthur and Co., of Auckland) reach a total of 235,000 acres, nearly all on the island of Savaii. While there are no direct legal obstacles to the acquisition of land by Europeans in Samoa; such as obtain in Tonga, it will be apparent that real obstacles exist to settlement, most of the available land being already claimed, and even were the claimants willing to sell, the title would be very insecure. To illustrate this, I may instance the land upon which the most valuable property in Apia has been erected—the factory, store, and central offices of the German Plantation Company. This land, situated on Mulinuu Point, was purchased from the native owners (or some of them) many years ago, by Mr. Coe, an American merchant, who at one time acted as United States Consul at Apia. The claim was disputed by certain natives, and for six or seven years the question of ownership was allowed to remain in abeyance. At the end of that time, however, a trial was procured by the then American Consul, and Mr. Coe won on the plea that the counter claimants were illegitimate. With his title thus confirmed, Mr. Coe sold the land to Mr. Weber, manager of the German Plantation Company, but the validity of the title might still be disputed, as according to Samoan



law the ousted claimants had undoubted legal rights in the land—illegitimacy forming no bar to their claim. The French Roman Catholic Mission at Apia own a thousand acres of land to the rear of and in close proximity to the town, which is all cultivated. There are streams of water on Upolu and other islands quite sufficient to supply motive power to saw-mills, etc., and to float timber down from the hills. Over the whole of Samoa there are many valuable timber trees, which were well described in 1873 by Col. Steinberger, a special emissary of the United States Government. Among them are the *tamanu*, or native mahogany, a good-sized tree, the timber of which resembles cedar; the *fetau*, with white timber which turns red when exposed, and is hard, heavy, and suited for cabinet work; *gatae*, a fine large tree, with timber easily worked and suitable for house-building; *fau*, a valuable hardwood tree, used for making canoes and house-posts, while the fibre from the inner bark is finer and stronger than any other known; *maali*, yielding slate-coloured wood, hard but light, and suitable for house-building; *mamalaca*, a large straight tree, with timber white and tough, very suitable for ship-building and repairing; *toa* (or ironwood), a hard and durable timber; *tavai*, a good sawing timber, hard, fine, and straight; *ifi* (or chestnut), light-coloured, straight, and tough timber; *fau*, a small tree, but yielding light, dry, and easily-worked timber, suitable for building and general purposes; and the *anume*, a large tree, with very hard and durable timber, suitable for posts, piles, etc. All the trees named are, I believe, to be found in sufficient quantities and in such situations as to render them of great commercial value, and in addition to the local market for timber a large export trade might be developed. The fruits grown on these islands include the breadfruit, pine-apple, lime, orange, vi (Samoan apple), lime, banana, lemon, citron, mango, tamarind and guava, while the indigenous vegetables embrace several varieties of *taro*, eight distinct species of *yam*, besides indigo, nutmeg, ginger and pepper—the three last-named not being the articles of commerce, but growing wild. The soil and climate are well suited for the production of tobacco, vanilla, arrowroot, tea and cinchona. Sugar-cane is grown, but chiefly for thatching purposes, while it is occasionally chewed by the natives as food. Of mineral products, so far as is positively known, Samoa is almost utterly destitute. Garnets and opals are found in small quantities in the beds of streams and in crevices of the rocks, and there are believed to be large deposits of magnetic iron. In 1873 the English Consul at Apia took to New Zealand some specimens of auriferous quartz, alleged to have been found near the town by two residents named Bruce and Johnson; but there is considerable conflict of



opinion as to the possibility of gold being found in Samoa. The contour of the hills favours the idea that they will prove gold-bearing, but their direction being east and west dispels the impression. Col. Steinberger (whose only fault in this matter seems to be that "he doth protest too much") declares unequivocally that there are *no minerals* in Samoa; and Dr. Graeffé, a German scientist, expresses the opinion that there are no minerals of value except iron. On the other hand, Sir Edward Belcher states that upon Rose Island, the most easterly of the Samoan group, there is a quartz dyke composed of micaceous shale; and Mr. Sterndale, who examined the interior of Upolu for indications of valuable minerals, found cliffs of micaceous clay 100 feet high and upwards, and beds of conglomerate similar to those which overlie gold deposits in other parts of the world. Mr. Sterndale, however, could find no quartz, and he agrees with Dr. Graeffé in holding that iron is the only mineral of value to be found in Samoa. I am not competent to say if that opinion is correct, but it goes without saying that, if gold should be found to exist in these islands, it would prove a tremendous stimulus to European colonisation and settlement.

### **III.—Commerce and Shipping.**

In submitting the statistics of shipping and commerce of Samoa, it is necessary to explain that the figures cannot pretend to be more than an approximation. This arises from several causes, the chief being the unreliable character of the German returns and the total want of statistics of the trade done by Messrs. McArthur and Co. at Fasetootai. One thing is perfectly clear, and that is that the trade is not only rapidly expanding, but is capable of being much more widely extended. In 1871 the imports were estimated at £25,000 and the exports at £45,000, whereas last year I calculate the value of imports at £48,263, and the value of exports at £79,456. showing a total of £127,000 as against £70,000, Or an increase of 81 per cent, within thirteen years. The table appended shows the import and export trade of Samoa, and the countries with which it is conducted :—

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS IN 1884.

<b>From and to</b>	<b>Imports.</b>	<b>Exports.</b>	<b>Total.</b>
England and Colonies	£30,982	£32,000	£62,982
Germany	15,409	45,456	60,865
America	1,872	2,000	3,872
Totals	£48,263	£79,456	£127,719





Let me give a single instance of how these figures are arrived at. The German Consul's return valued the export of cotton from the German plantations at £28,741; but as I was credibly informed that this represented three times the producing power of the plantations, I felt justified in dividing the sum by three. Of the English imports, which I have valued at over £30,000, probably £10,000 worth came from Sydney, £10,000 worth from New Zealand, and the rest direct from London. The British Consul's statistics, which only refer, however, to the port of Apia, gave the imports from New Zealand as £2,350 and the exports to that colony as £1,585. The chief articles of export from Samoa and their value, in the year 1884, were as follow :—

Copra	£69,076
Cotton	8,480
Shells and Fungus	800
Coffee	500
Fruits	600
Total	£79,456

My figures of the value of imports and exports do not include the movements of specie, which must be very considerable; indeed the difference of £30,000 between German imports and exports will to a great extent have been balanced by the introduction of several hundred-weights of that villainous "cast-iron" currency from South America, which here as elsewhere is found a very profitable thing for the German traders to invest in, as, according to a well-established law, it drives good money away, and places English and American traders at the mercy of their commercial rivals. The following table gives the shipping statistics of these islands for the year 1884 :—

SHIPPING STATISTICS, 1884.

<b>Nationality.</b>	<b>Ships.</b>	<b>Tonnage.</b>	<b>Remarks.</b>
English and Co. lonial	42	9,073	Of the 42 voyages made by English ships, probably 28 were by New Zealand
German	17	10,830	schooners, which would allow the seven
American	7	1,831	New Zealand vessels engaged in the trade
Totals	66	21,734	to make four voyages each in the year.

**IV.—Trade and Industry.**



There are 26 stores licensed in Apia, but as many of these are Chinese cookshops and retail stores, I only mention the principal, in the order of importance—once more explaining that the name of McArthur and Co. does not appear in the list because their business is carried on in another part of the island :—

GERMAN Plantagen and Handels Gesellschaft (two stores)

GERMAN Ruge Co.

ENGLISH Dean

AMERICAN Wightman Bros.

AMERICAN Moors Bros,

AMERICAN Parker

AMERICAN Greysmühl, Crawford and Co.

GERMAN Krause

ENGLISH C. Woods (two stores)

FRENCH E. St. Foy

The 26 stores are divided among the following nationalities :—German, 6; Chinese, 6; English, 5; American, 5; French, 2; Swedish, 2. To give an idea of the busy industrial condition of Apia, I may mention that last year licences were taken out by the following :—Carpenters, 23; clerks, 19; cooks, 6; overseers, 4; blacksmiths, 4; bakers, 3; surveyors, 2; and one each, engineer, butcher, photographer, lawyer (Mr. Hetherington), sailmaker, boatman, auctioneer (Mr. Alvord, an American), barber, tailor, and cooper. There are five hotels in Apia (for the most part mere drinking shanties, though at the International fair lodgings can be obtained), and the licence fees are 10 dollars per month if the sales are under 250 dollars per month; and 12 dollars when the sales exceed that sum. There were formerly six hotels, but the licence of one had been summarily cancelled for a contravention. I could not obtain an estimate of the capital invested by different nationalities, but the debts registered at Apia are as under :—

British Debts	£25,859
German Debts	58,000
American Debts (estimated)	8,000

Although German interests are undoubtedly paramount at Apia, I was pleased to find that while English coinage is driven out of circulation, they have not been able to stop the conquering march of the English language. Our robust Anglo-Saxon speech is the "Open Sesame" to every

understanding.—that of the Samoan, Chinese, French and German alike. The German firms keep their books in English, and the many clerks whom they employ are of no use until they have pretty well mastered our language. This supremacy of tongue, arising from the so-called English defect of speaking no language but our own, is sure to produce great and beneficial results in Samoa and elsewhere in the Pacific; for natives respect a white man in proportion to the tenacity with which he adheres to his mother-tongue, and lose their respect for him, as a rule, when he makes himself one of themselves by adopting their language.

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### ***V.—Interchange with New Zealand.***

The remarks which I made on this head with regard to Tonga apply with very little modification to Samoa. So far as the port of Apia is concerned, they apply with added force in one respect. Competition, which is said to be the life of trade, threatens here to be the death of New Zealand trade, unless our Island traders are aroused to a full sense of the situation. If they realise that business in Apia is (to liken little things to great) as keenly cut as it is in Queen Street, they will have gained an important step in advance. San Francisco is here our great commercial rival, outstripping us in flour, biscuits, and timber. Some Auckland biscuits are consumed, but the Californian are preferred as being whiter, lighter, crisper and bulkier. Biscuit can be bought in San Francisco at 7s. per 40 lb. tin, and Mr. Parker "calculated" that, by chartering a vessel and bringing a deck load of timber, he could land merchandise in Apia at a cost of £2 5s. to £2 10s. per ton. These American store-keepers are keen traders and are in no way swayed by patriotism in their choice of a market to purchase in. Thus, one of them informed me that he recently bought a large stock of kerosene in Sydney, because he found it was a few cents cheaper there than in San Francisco. They all show a decided preference for New Zealand preserved meats, potatoes, and onions. One of the principal German traders (Mr. Ruge) complained that the Americans were completely cutting up prices in Apia, so that he could purchase goods almost as cheaply there as in San Francisco. Mr. Ruge preferred the Sydney tinned meats to those of Auckland, because with the former he got a twelve months' guarantee, and in the event of any of the meat going bad it was immediately replaced. He did not think that the German line of mail steamers would do anything to develop German trade with Samoa; he certainly would send no copra by them. I visited a large new store, which is nearly finished, belonging to the American firm of Moors Brothers. It is built of Californian red-wood, and Mr. H. J. Moors

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said it was preferred solely because the ants very soon destroy the kauri. He complained that Auckland flour and other goods were too dear, and he showed a large pile of flour and biscuits which he feared were unsaleable. He declined delivery of some New Zealand produce consigned to him by the *Janet Nicoll* on this trip and asked that it should be taken on to Tahiti. His firm would take goods for sale on commission, charging 5 per cent, on sales, and 2½ per cent, for storage if the goods were on hand for more than a month. He praised Auckland cheese, but said there was but a trifling demand for that article. Mr. Dean, a leading English trader, said the currency difficulty prevented him doing more business with the colonies. He got all his soap from Sydney, as he found the Auckland soap shrunk too much. I learned that there was no market for New Zealand live stock or frozen meat. Cattle thrive splendidly on Upolu, and fresh beef sells at rod. per lb. The natives here, as elsewhere do not eat mutton, and there is no demand for it. The only butcher in the place is a Chinaman, and there is doubtless a good opening for an English butcher. A patent difficulty in the way of trade between New Zealand and Samoa is the question of return freights to the colony. There are no fruits to export, nor any other product for which there is a market in New Zealand, and it is found unprofitable to send the copra for transshipment to England, because of the extra freight and the loss through handling. This difficulty has been solved by Messrs. McArthur & Co., who ship the copra direct from Fasetootai to England, and send back their New Zealand schooners in ballast. I was informed that this firm are importing largely and increasingly from New Zealand, and that they are inflicting great damage on the German houses by their competition in the export of copra. It seems only on the lines adopted by Messrs. McArthur & Co. that an extension of trade between New Zealand and Samoa is possible, unless another solution should be found in the erection of works to extract the oil from the copra and manufacture oil-cake in Auckland. The feasibility of the latter is open to serious doubt, when the cheapness of freights to Europe, and the higher cost of machinery and labour in the colony, are taken into consideration.

### ***VI.—Currency and Exchange.***

The Samoan group has a more debased currency than any of the other Islands, for Bolivian dollars and half-dollars, which are not accepted elsewhere, divide the field with Chilian money. The Sydney Mint assay of 60 Bolivian half-dollars is as follows :—Average weight, 43/100 oz.; average fineness, 6,684 in 10,000; average value, 1s. 6d. These half-

dollars, worth only is. 6d., pass current in Samoa at 2s., and the trader who cannot take copra must accept this money in payment of his goods. Here, as at Tonga, this wretched condition of things is due to the instrumentality of the German traders, who make a considerable profit by the import and exchange of debased coinage. There is no legal tender fixed by Government, but the German traders, who do the whole exchange business, give a premium of 5 per cent, on English money, and charge a discount of 1 per cent, extra on Bolivian money as compared with Chilian. The rates at which exchange can be effected are subject to no fixed law. Repeated efforts have been made by the English and American traders, assisted by the missionaries, to banish this miserable apology for money; but the Germans, backed by a natural law and encouraged by the prospect of gain, have hitherto been able to resist all the influence or effort put forth in that direction. I would suggest that a branch bank from New Zealand might do a lucrative business at Apia, and would do much to extend the trade of England and the Colonies with this group of islands.

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### ***VII.—Shipping: Charges, etc.***

There is a public wharf at Apia, but as it does not extend into deep water, cargo has to be loaded and unloaded in boats or barges. There are no wharf charges, nor are there any Customs duties leviable in Samoa. Pilotage is at the rate of \$1 per foot in and \$1 per foot out; while a fixed charge of \$5 is made for moving a vessel from one part of the harbour to another. The owner, captain, or supercargo of every vessel entering the harbour for trading purposes must take out a trading licence, the cost of which is \$10, within 24 hours; failing to do so, liability to a fine of \$200 is incurred. The quarantine fees are as follow; —For vessels not exceeding 50 tons, 50 cents; over 50 and under 100 tons, \$1; over 100 tons, \$1 for every 100 tons or fraction thereof. These fees are payable by all vessels entering the port from anywhere beyond Samoa, whether infected or not. When the pilot boards a vessel under the quarantine regulations he is to receive a fee of at least \$5 pilotage. To ship or land cargo at Apia will cost about 2S. 6d, per ton, but it might be done cheaper by hiring a punt at £1 per day. The harbour is safe except during hurricanes; but I was informed that there had only been one hurricane at Apia during the last sixteen years.

### ***VIII.—The Labour Question.***

As the Samoans will not work, it is only by means of imported labour that the resources of Samoa can be developed at present. In the future, when the people have parted with their lands, *and there is a settled Government strong enough to uphold the rights of property*, I have not the slightest doubt that the natives of these islands will prove most active and docile labourers. They seem naturally quick and restless, and have not that settled air of contented idleness which marks other natives. Meanwhile, the most of the work on the plantations is done by Polynesian labour imported from the Gilbert, Kingsmill, and New Hebrides Groups. There are in all about 700 of these "bondsmen" employed on Upolu; and at the time of my visit the German Plantation Company were in trouble over a cargo of 140 New Hebrides "boys" who were alleged to have been partly kidnapped and partly brought to Samoa under false pretences. Some of them who could speak English stated that they were engaged for three years to serve on English plantations in Queensland, and only found on arrival at Apia that they had been bound to serve five years on German plantations on Upolu. The "labour traffic," as conducted under most stringent regulations, appears very little removed from the old system of slavery, with all its horrors; and while the genius of Commerce is calling aloud, "Let the Island trade be developed," the spirit of Humanity makes bold reply, "Let the Island trade perish if it cannot be developed save at the cost of murder and outrage—of the blood, and groans, and tears of our fellow men!" The *modus operandi* in the case under notice was as follows :—The French New Hebrides Company having contracted to supply a thousand labourers for German plantations in Samoa, employed a certain Captain Proctor (an American with a "Bully Hayes" reputation) to collect the boys. With a well-aimed schooner and crew, Proctor went to one of the New Hebrides Islands, engaged as many natives as he could on the pretence of faking them to Queensland, and made up his quota by sending his crew ashore "blackbirding"—this being a pleasant euphemism for the most blackguardly and cowardly practice of knocking the luckless natives senseless with clubs, binding them securely, and dragging them unwilling slaves on board the schooner. A body of natives having attempted rescue or retaliation, Proctor fired on them repeatedly from a big gun which was on the schooner's deck, killing and wounding a number of them. Such was the story told to the British Consul at Apia by some of the unfortunate boys, and it was corroborated in some important particulars by a Tahitian sailor who formed one of the crew. It appears to me that voluntary labour, Chinese or Coolie—perhaps even Portuguese or Italian—might be obtained for these Islands, in any number desired, and

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thus the brutal and brutalising labour traffic might be abolished. At the same time I must confess that the imported labourers I saw at work appeared quite comfortable; they were not in any way "driven;" and I have independent testimony that they all improve in physique and strength after a short stay on the plantations.

### ***IX.—Tourist and Invalid traffic.***

These Islands should prove a popular tourist resort, from their variety and beauty of landscape, combining ocean, woodland, winding vales, silvery streams, and towering mountain peaks clothed in evergreen verdure; from their pleasant and equable winter climate, and from the fact that here the natives are to be seen dwelling in their primitive condition, or nearly so, which is by no means the case at Tonga, Rarotonga, or Tahiti. Hotels are established, which could easily be adapted to accommodate travellers, if any wished to spend the winter months at Apia. Until there are means provided for lodging invalids in some mountain sanatorium, such had better not visit Samoa. Natives and sometimes European residents suffer from eye diseases, and at two of the native houses at which I called I found the head of the house down with a kind of low fever, which did not, however, prevent their asking sufficiently high prices for certain articles of native manufacture which they wished to "trade." The atmosphere of Apia was the least desirable of any place included in our trip, but on the hills behind the town it was much more pleasant.

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### ***X.—Acclimatisation.***

There are no indigenous plants or animals which it would be possible and desirable to acclimatise in New Zealand. I saw some splendid herds of cattle feeding in the cocoa-nut groves, where they not only get fat, but render useful service in keeping down all weeds and undergrowth about the trees. The horses are a small and not very useful breed, but they fulfil all present requirements.

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