

THE SAMOA GIJAR

Registered for Commission through the Post as a Newspaper

No. 27

APIA, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1929

THE WAY—

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NATIONALISM.

BY CLAYMORE.

In previous articles I have drawn attention to the fact that with the birth and growth of the Mau there has sprung into being a National Spirit. Perhaps the position would be more correctly expressed by saying that the birth and growth of a national spirit, have, in the face of continued repression, resulted in the birth and growth of the Mau. Time was when Samoa thought and acted in terms of districts and villages. That time has passed. In this connection it is instructive to follow the train of thought working in the mind of M. Palacios, one of the Members of the Permanent Mandates Commission. On page 48 of the Minutes of the 13th Session he is reported as saying:—"It should be remembered that the "Mau" existed not only in Samoa under New Zealand Mandate, but also in American Samoa, and in other islands also. It would appear that this was perhaps a nationalist movement, due no doubt to historical and ancient causes." Clearly, M. Palacios sees deeper than those whose vision takes them no further than the stupid allegation that it is Nelson and his associates that have brought about the Mau and fostered its existence. Every one in Samoa knows quite well that this is nonsense. What had Nelson & Co. to do with the Mau in American Samoa? If Nelson was the cause of the Mau in Western Samoa, how is it that the Mau continues stronger than ever, notwithstanding Nelson's enforced absence for over a year and a half? M. Palacios proceeds: "Moreover, it was continually being demonstrated at the present time how movements that were believed in the beginning to be weak and artificial, suddenly triumphed, and how individuals who were considered to be undesirable, and were expelled and banished to-day, readily came into power on the morrow."

Not only is this true to-day, but it was true a long time ago. One remembers Cromwell, Pym, Hampden, Geo. Washington, Garibaldi, William Tell and numberless others.

On page 51 of the same report we find M. Palacios expressing his disagreement with the draft report. "He was afraid that if that text were adopted by the Commission,

ward in search of scape-goats, it fails to see in the hyaline what is plain to everyone else, namely, the re-born spirit of a Nation,—the spirit of a Nation re-born!

PASSING EVENTS

BY VAAI LELEI.

The most important event of last week in Samoa was the return of High Chief Tamasese from New Zealand, where he had undergone a sentence of six months in Mount Eden Gaol. It must have been a revelation for the tourists, who travelled with the Chief and his wife as far as Suva, to witness the home-coming of Tamasese upon his arrival from Pago Pago about two hours after the Tofua had anchored. The sight of the enthusiastic reception given to Tamasese and his wife by some thousands of people (all dressed in Mau colours or wearing Mau lavalavas) must have fully assured them that the Mau was no insignificant body. The only thing that marred his arrival was that before he left the ship which had brought him over from Pago Pago, he was served by the Chief Inspector of Police with two summonses in connection with non-payment of taxes. However, for the time-being, he carefully kept this matter away from the large body of Samoans who accorded him such a hearty welcome.

The Government newspaper Samoa Times describes the event as "The Home Coming of a Rebel," and endeavours to belittle the event by saying there were only 1200 who lined the beach front on the morning of the 17th. Kodaks were busy all the time, as well as a moving picture camera, which will show when the films are developed that the Mau assemblage numbered several thousand.

Soon after one o'clock a great feast and entertainment was held in honour of Tamasese's return to Vaimoso, his head-quarters, and there were at least present between five and six thousand people. All the tourists and fellow passengers of Tamasese on board of the Tofua were invited, in addition to a large number of townspeople and sympathisers with the Mau cause. This time those who possessed cameras were given a good opportunity to take snaps of dancers

CRIMINAL OFFENDERS.

On page 31 of the Minutes of the Thirteenth Session of the Permanent Mandates Commission appears the following statement:

"Sir James Parr wished to add one sentence. It was necessary for the New Zealand Parliament to pass an Act giving the Administration power to deal as criminal offenders with those who had agitated and stirred up the natives so as to hinder and prejudice the Government of the country. That power had been granted last year."

It is true that unfortunate citizens may be treated as "criminal offenders," but it must be remembered that a person cannot at law be an offender till after he has been proved to be one. Prior to that he is merely an accused person. Sir James very prudently and circumspectly refrained from telling the Commission that these citizens were treated as "accused persons," because that would not have been true. Accused persons are given a fair trial, and in the result many of them are found not to be offenders at all—"Not Guilty." But when it comes to political matters, trial is dispensed with. The objectionable political opponent may be treated as a "criminal offender"—right from the kick-off. It is a great idea.

ILLEGAL ORGANISATIONS.

On page 38 of the Minutes of the Thirteenth Session of the Permanent Mandates Commission appear the following notes:

"Lord Lugard asked whether any ordinance existed empowering the Administrator to declare an organisation to be an illegal organisation? Had

"Innocent"

SIR JOSEPH EXP

SAMOAN

"It was a mark."

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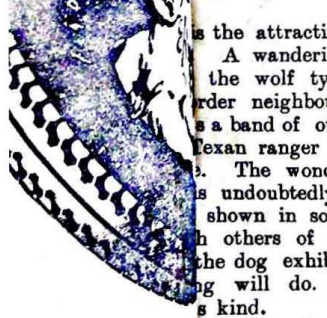
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absent for over a year and a half?
M. Palacios proceeds: "More-
over, it was continually being
demonstrated at the present time
how movements that were believed
in the beginning to be weak and
artificial, suddenly triumphed, and
how individuals who were con-
sidered to be undesirable, and were
expelled and banished to-day,
readily came into power on the
morrow."

Not only is this true to-day, but
it was true a long time ago. One
remembers Cromwell, Pym, Hamp-
den, Geo. Washington, Garibaldi,
William Tell and numberless others.

On page 51 of the same report
we find M. Palacios expressing his
disagreement with the draft report.
"He was afraid that if that text
were adopted by the Commission,
universal opinion would interpret
it as encouraging further deporta-
tions, a more extensive suppression
of privileges and the placing of
additional obstacles in the way of
presenting petitions, a more active
centralisation and absorption of
property and persons and the
strangling of any nationalist move-
ment, however weak, by the
severest methods. The system of
suppression might in fact become
more severe in the islands of Samoa,
under the League of Nations man-
date, than in those which were
exclusively colonies and under the
national control of other Powers."

Clearly M. Palacios is under no
misapprehension as to either the
present facts or future possibilities
of the case. He sees the growth
of Nationalistic ideas, and realises
that "the troubles had been due to
complex causes." (P. 52).

On page 53 he is reported as
follows:—"He felt bound to observe
that for the majority of the Com-
mission the Samoan question was a
police question; he considered it in
quite another light." These words
will no doubt appeal to the minds
of most earnest Europeans in Sa-
moa. They will certainly appeal to
the hearts of most New Zealanders
in their own country, that is if the
words are ever brought to their
notice,—which is extremely doubt-
ful.

M. Palacios continues:—"In the
opinion of the Commission, there
were only three or four people
involved; with this he did not
agree. The Commission thought
that the Administration ought to
have acted with more vigour, while
his attitude was that if it were
desirable to show severity, in cases
of crime, it was necessary not to
suppress opinion, but to enter on a
well-considered and well-direct-
ed path of conciliation."

Well said, indeed! But un-
fortunately authority is unable to
see it this way. Authority WILL
have it that Authority itself cannot
possibly be in the wrong. If there
is any trouble, it must be the fault
of someone else. Consequently
while Authority is groping ground-

morning of the 17th. Kodaks were
busy all the time, as well as a
moving picture camera, which will
show when the films are developed
that the Mau assemblage numbered
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five and six thousand people. All
the tourists and fellow passengers of
Tamasese on board of the Tofua
were invited, in addition to a large
number of townspeople and
sympathisers with the Mau cause.
This time those who possessed
cameras were given a good
opportunity to take snaps of dancers
and Samoans enjoying themselves.
All who met the young chief and
his wife speak very highly of them,
and I was told by one lady and her
sister that they will never forget
their visit to Samoa and the great
hospitality extended to them.

It is to be hoped that the Medical
Department have ere this revised
their figures regarding the number
of deaths in Samoa caused by the
influenza epidemic, as it is far more
serious than they have reported.
It is no use disguising the fact that
although in a milder form than in
1918, when Samoa lost about one
quarter of its population, that
the death rate (from influenza)
during the past seven or eight
weeks has been far more than the
average.

We hear that Mr. Philip Wild,
treasurer, will be leaving for New
Zealand by the Maui Pomare.
This is regretted in many quarters,
as he is one of the few officials who
has become popular by taking a
keen interest in the advance and
development of the young people.
He has been receiving a round of
farewells given by various clubs of
the young people's sports clubs.
The withdrawal of any official from
Samoa who has endeavoured to
contribute to the happiness of the
community is to be regretted.
Of others who thought their official
positions so important that it was
not necessary for them to identify
themselves with the community,
it is idle to comment on, as they
are but shadows that come and go.

PICTURES !
PICTURES !
MARKET HALL

COMPLETE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME
EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY

Admission : : : 1s. & 2s.
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kick-off. It is a great idea.

ILLEGAL ORGANISATIONS.

On page 38 of the Minutes
of the Thirteenth Session of the
Permanent Mandates
Commission appear the fol-
lowing notes:

"Lord Lugard asked whether
any ordinance existed em-
powering the Administrator to
declare an organisation to be
an illegal organisation? Had
the Mau ever been declared
to be an illegal organisation?
"Sir George Richardson said it
had not formally been declared
an illegal organisation. The
last Maintenance of Authority
Ordinance provided that the
Administrator could take ac-
tion against any illegal organi-
sation, but did not legally
define the word "Mau." He
did not remember whether the
"Mau" was specifically men-
tioned in a proclamation he
had issued when that Ordinance
was passed.
"Sir James Parr said he thought
that action could only be taken
against individuals."

On page 42 of the same re-
port, Sir James Parr refers to

"... the illicit organisation
known as the Mau . . . His
Government would be glad if
the Commission would go so
far as to say that this illicit
organisation should cease, and
he invited the Commission to
say in its report that it agreed
with the Royal Commission
that it was no use for the
Mandatory Power to en-
deavour to function with the
Mau functioning against it."

The Mandates Commission
apparently failed to respond
to that invitation.

So there we are—that is to
say, where are we? Sir George
Richardson says the Mau is
not an illegal body. Sir James
Parr follows suit, but later,
with his notable agility in
such matters, says that it is
an "illicit" organisation. "Il-
licit" of course means "pro-
hibited, unlawful." The Royal
Commission did not say it
was an unlawful body and
the Mandates Commission
does not seem to be prepared
to make a pronouncement on
the subject. Does anyone
else want to have a shot at
it?

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