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AMERICAN SAMOA

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The Samoan group of islands extends in latitude from $130^{\circ} 26'$ to $14^{\circ} 22'$ S., and in longitude from $168^{\circ} 10'$ to $172^{\circ} 43'$ W., being about 2700 miles east of the northern tip of Australia and 2200 miles south of the Hawaiian Islands.

Prior to 1899 the interests of the United States, Great Britain, and Germany in the Samoan Islands had been the subject of misunderstanding and controversy for many years. In that year, a treaty between the three interested nations was signed, by which the Samoan Islands west of longitude 171° W. were allocated to Germany and those east of this line to the United States.

American Samoa comprises the Island of Tutuila and all other islands of the Samoan group east of longitude 171° W., including Rose Island, Tau, Olosega, Ofu and Aunuu. The Islands of Tau, Olosega, and Ofu are generally known as the Manua Group, and the Island of Aunuu is administered as a part of the Eastern District of the Island of Tutuila. Rose Island is an uninhabited coral atoll, of no practical value. By Joint Resolution of Congress approved March 4, 1925, the sovereignty of the United States was extended to Swains Island, which lies 210 miles to the northward of Tutuila, and the island was made a part of American Samoa.

On February 19, 1900, the President, by Executive Order, placed the islands of American Samoa under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Navy. On April 17, 1900, the High Chiefs of Tutuila voluntarily ceded the Islands of Tutuila and Aunuu to the United States. The islands of the Manua Group were ceded to the United States by their Chiefs on July 16, 1904. President Theodore Roosevelt acknowledged the cession of the islands by their chiefs and sent a watch, a medal and a diploma to each signer of the deeds of cession. Congress accepted the islands under a Joint Resolution approved February 20, 1929.

The former German islands are now mandated to New Zealand.

The islands of American Samoa are of volcanic formation and mountainous, rising in places abruptly from the sea. The Island of Tutuila is of irregular shape, about 18 miles long and from 5 to 6 miles wide in the widest part, containing approximately 40 square miles of land. A mountain range extends nearly the whole length of the island, with spurs on either side and indentations of deep valleys. Except at the foot of the mountains along the coast, and a broad fertile plain in the southwestern part of the island, there is very little level land. Pago-Pago Bay, the safest and best harbor in the South Seas, has its entrance to the southward and nearly cuts the island in two.

The climate of the islands is tropical but equable. From May to November strong southwest winds blow, during the other months the winds are variable. Severe gales and occasional hurricanes have been experienced.

In 1899, 1903, 1913, 1915, 1926, 1931, and 1936 hurricanes swept the islands with great damage to property and food crops and, except in 1931 and 1936, some loss of life. Destruction of property and crops was so great in 1915, 1926 and 1931 as to necessitate appropriations from Congress and Red Cross relief. During the month of January 1939 (hurricane season) a tropical storm narrowly missed Tutuila but this area was subjected to heavy torrential rains. During the period from 13 to 19 January, 54.3 inches of rain fell in the vicinity of the Naval Station with a record high of 18.3 inches on 16 January. Considerable damage resulted due to numerous landslides. The rainy season extends from December to March. The average yearly rainfall for 39 years was 194.0 inches. The temperature is highest during the summer months, December to February; coolest in the winter months, June to August. The yearly temperature ranges from 90° to 70° Fahrenheit.

The soil of the islands is of two kinds - clay and sand. In the valleys it is alluvial and quite fertile for growing tropical fruits. Due to the heavy rainfall the soil on hillsides is thin and there is no subsoil. Certain elements necessary to temperate zone plant life were apparently burned out at the formation of these islands. The soil is quite "spotted", i.e., in certain localities one kind of vegetable will grow well and only a short distance away the same vegetable will not thrive. This is due chiefly to the various altitudes of the tillable portions of the land surface, the nature of the soil and the degree of protection from salt air. In addition to the tropical fruits and vegetables native to Samoa the following have been found by experiment to do fairly well here: tropical corn (Guam corn has given best results - American field and sweet corns do not thrive) sweet potatoes, radishes, string beans, okra, peanuts, turnips, mustard, rutabaga, cucumbers, and peas. Tomatoes, cabbage, egg plant and lettuce can be grown in certain localities but the land requires fertilizer or chemical treatment and the plants require great care with frequent spraying. The citrus fruits that grow fairly well here are oranges, limes, lemons, grapefruit, and tangerines. The following species of nut trees have recently been introduced into American Samoa and while the trees are growing well, it is too early to predict what the result will be: macadamia, lichi, pili, cashew, English walnut, and Malabar chestnuts. A great variety of tropical fruit trees has been obtained from Hawaii and the Philippine Islands by the Department of Agriculture and these trees are growing at the experimental farms. The list includes carambola, longan, French cherries, rose apples, Kei apples, star apples, Brazil cherries, loquat, African manasteen, mabolo, tamarinds, dates, Liberian, Java and Arabian coffee, fifteen varieties of avocado and two kinds of hardwood, teak and narra. The most important product of the soil is copra, the dried meat of the coconut. The coconut tree gives meat, drink and shelter to the Samoans. It grows wherever planted, begins to bear nuts in about five years, and matures in seven years. The tree grows to be very tall and is very strong. The roots form a dense network extending many yards from the trees, enabling them to withstand the heavy trade winds. Copra is the principal export from American Samoa, the principal market being San Francisco, where the oil is expressed from it. This oil is used in the manufacture of coconut butters of various kinds, soaps, salad oil, and for other purposes.

A growing source of income for the Samoan people is the manufacture and sale of native curios such as floor mats, table mats, wood carvings, tapa cloth, etc. These find a ready market in Hawaii and the United States. During the past year products of this type valued at \$55,581.53 were exported through Customs.

The amount of copra sold varies (1750 tons in 1924 to 357 tons in 1931) with the rise and fall of the prevailing market price for that product, and particularly is affected by hurricanes previously mentioned. The price of copra varies widely (\$156.80 in 1920 to \$30.55 in 1932) because of the competitive trade of other oil-producing products. As a matter of policy, a contract is awarded for the sale of copra when advantage can be taken of a favorable market price, otherwise it is sold on consignment as is done at present.

The Samoan live stock comprises cattle, horses, and pigs. Cattle thrive well and are of great value in keeping down the luxuriant growth of weeds and grass. The number of cattle is increasing, although it is still small. A great many pigs are raised by the natives, being in great demand for feasts. A good-sized pig for such occasions is worth about \$50.00. No sheep are found there, as the natives will not eat mutton.

There are no factories of any kind. A few boats are built, but no power machinery is used. There are a few stores handling goods available for native use. No fuel is obtainable, but there is a limited supply of gasoline in the stores.

The natives of American Samoa are Polynesian and closely akin to the Kanakas of Hawaii and the Maoris of New Zealand. At the taking of the sixteenth decennial census on April 1, 1940, the population was reported as 12,908. The following tables indicate blood extraction and location of the inhabitants:

Polynesians (including those of part Polynesian blood)	12,607
Caucasians attached to the Naval Station	263
Caucasians with permanent residence in American Samoa	31
Japanese	4
Chinese	1
Filipinos	2
Tutuila (including Naval Station)	10,164
Manu's Group (Ofu, Olosega and Ta'u Islands)	2,597
Swain's Island	147

The present population represents an increase of approximately 127% over that of 1900, which was estimated at 5,679. This is attributed principally to the cessation of internecine warfare, the Public Health Department's program of education in sanitation and hygiene, and establishment of free medical facilities for the natives.

The sanitation of the islands under American administration is carefully watched, and progress is as continuous as funds will admit. There are no civilian physicians, as the native population is treated without cost and the foreign element is much too small to maintain an independent practitioner of medicine or dentistry.

The islands of American Samoa are under the administration of a naval officer who is appointed by the President of the United States as Governor of American Samoa, and who also has orders from the Secretary of the Navy as Commandant of the Naval Station, Tutuila. The seat of the government is Pago Pago, located on the bay bearing that name. The Governor is assisted in his administration by several officials: an Attorney General, a naval officer with legal experience who supervises the native district governors, county chiefs and police, and who acts as prosecutor in all felony cases and in all actions in law and equity in which the government is a party or has any interest, and is authorized to prosecute, or intervene in, an appropriate court proceeding, as the next friend of a Cestui que trust, ward, legatee, devisee, or heir, as the case may be, whenever he has good reason to believe that there has been fraud, misconduct or neglect injurious to the trust or estate; a Chief Justice, an American civilian of suitable qualifications; a Chief Customs Officer, a naval officer appointed to this duty by the Governor; a Public Works Officer of the Naval Station, acting in the same capacity in the Island Government, an Island Treasurer, and officer of the Supply Corps of the Navy, and who also acts as supply officer of the Naval Station; a Cashier of the Bank of American Samoa, and officer of the Supply Corps of the Navy, and who also acts as Disbursing and Commissary Officer of the Naval Station; a Public Health Officer, who is the senior medical officer of the Naval Station, and has charge of the Samoan Hospital and outlying dispensaries in addition to his naval duties; and the Director of Education, who is a naval chaplain.

The Constitution of the United States does not extend to American Samoa, and the Federal Laws of the United States do not extend except as specified in a few instances. The "Codification of the Regulations and Orders for the Government of American Samoa" constitute the written law of this dependency. These regulations are amended from time to time as found necessary by the Governor.

The judicial power of American Samoa is vested in a High Court, six district courts and village courts. The High Court consists of the Chief Justice and two associate judges. The associate judges are chosen by the Chief Justice from among the native judges.

For administration purposes, American Samoa is divided into three districts, the Eastern, Western and Manua districts. Each district is administered by a native district governor appointed by the Governor. The districts are again divided into counties, each administered by a chief, who is appointed by the Governor.

American Samoa is United States territory. It is not a customs collection district, and importations into these islands are not governed by the United States Custom Regulations. All imports from foreign countries, including the United States, are subject to an ad valorem duty

of 15%, except certain items subject to specific duty and those on the free list. Importers of dutiable goods are required to pay an import license fee equal to 1% of the value of such goods imported.

The school system consists of a Board of Education, a Director of Education, a Superintendent of Education (a civilian who receives a salary of \$250.00 per month), a Supervising Principal (Samoan) and a Secretary of Education. There are 74 teachers, of whom 7 are white (average salary for white teachers, \$77 per month, average salary for native teachers \$16 per month). There are 35 schools. The cost of the schools now averages about \$22,780.00 per year. Thirteen of the 35 schools now established have 3 grades; 4 have 4 grades, 13 have 6 grades, and 4 extend to the ninth grade. In addition to these classes a normal school course is given each year for teachers and prospective teachers. The average student enrollment, for the year 1939-40 was 2,770. Information concerning teaching positions should be obtained direct from the Director of Education. However, it is believed that applicants should not be encouraged to look hopefully in this direction since a large proportion of the teaching personnel is native Samoan.

A Department of Native Industry is maintained for the purpose of developing the native arts and crafts among the native Samoans. The principal articles exported are floor mats, table mats, tapa cloths, hula skirts, and wood carvings of native boats and kava bowls. Efforts are constantly being made to increase the markets for those products. Orders placed with the Department of Native Industry are filled direct by the Department, or are distributed among the local exporters for shipment. All arts and crafts are made entirely by hand of materials grown locally, and strict supervision insures a high quality of workmanship. The money received by the native Samoans for this work enables them to meet annual taxes and helps to establish a higher standard of living. There is a steady increase in the demand for the products of the Department of Native Industry throughout a widening market.

A bank was established by the Government of American Samoa on May 19, 1914, the primary object being to provide a safe place for the people of American Samoa to deposit their monies. The bank carries on a general banking business. The officers of the bank are officials of the Island Government. No officer of the bank receives a salary as such except the Assistant Cashier who is elected by the Board of Directors and receives a salary of \$250.00 per month. One Samoan clerk is employed by the bank.

When the American flag was raised all the land was communally owned by family groups, except for a few small tracts owned by foreigners whose titles thereto had been established between 1890 and 1899. From the beginning of its ownership of American Samoa, the United States Government has realized that the basis of the natives' prosperity, health, and happiness was founded largely upon their continued ownership and cultivation of lands held by them, and has pursued a policy of "Samoan lands for Samoans". The laws of American Samoa accordingly provide that there shall be no alienation to a nonnative of land held by natives. These

lands may, however, be leased to nonnatives, with the sanction of the Governor, for a term not to exceed 40 years, for any purpose except for the extraction of minerals and the cutting of timber.

The government does not favor immigration into these islands, as there is little opportunity for newcomers to make a living there, and it desires to conserve the islands for the native Samoans.

A cash deposit of \$200.00 is required of all persons who enter American Samoa with the purpose of remaining. This deposit will be returned at the end of a year, or in case of earlier departure, or may be used by the Governor at any time to defray the expense of maintenance or deportation of depositor.

There is one small hotel in Pago Pago, the accommodations of which are very crude. The Matson Navigation Company maintains a four-weeks' schedule between San Francisco, Honolulu, Pago Pago, Suva, Fiji, and Sydney, Australia, carrying passengers, mail and freight.

The "O Le Fa'ateru" is a free monthly gazette and newspaper published by the Government of American Samoa, printed with adjoining columns of Samoan and English. It contains new regulations and instructions together with information of local interest.

A publication containing more detailed information on American Samoa, entitled "American Samoa, a General Report by the Governor", may be procured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 30 cents per copy.

(Revised July 1, 1940)